



Kenya Youth Network

About the Network

Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) is a youth-led network in Kenya focusing on improving the lives, livelihoods and futures of young people across the country.

The network brings together over 300 young people from 12 counties to promote and champion youth voices.

Whether that's ensuring fair and inclusive representation in national policymaking, holding those in power to account where they fall short of their obligations, or advocating for the future of the planet, young people are finding the tools and confidence to make themselves heard.

Amplifying youth voices

Young people in Kenya face challenges in having their needs represented in policymaking at country level, but a network of young volunteers is working to change that. They're putting pressure on county policymakers to align with the national youth policy, and plan for long-term interventions rather than short-term solutions on the issues that matter to young Kenyans.

Youth champions use tools such as a participatory budget analysis and community scorecards to identify where commitments to youth development are not being upheld, and ensure marginalized youth voices, needs, and aspirations are heard and included in policymaking.

In February 2022, the Nairobi City County Government Youth Policy was launched. This provides a framework for youth development in the county and a significant step forward in the realization of young people's rights. The policy provides

a 2% allocation of the annual county budget for youth programs. To make sure these programs provide real value to young Kenyans, the policy also establishes a youth advisory committee and provides for key interventions around 12 priority areas.

Climate change

Climate change massively impacts food systems, and the growing techniques farmers use have the power to help, hinder or be hindered by changes to the environment.

Climate youth champions ran awareness and training webinars for young people on agroecology, as well as conducting research on the state of food systems, and generating plans and priorities to secure the future of food and farming in Kenya.

130 community members trained in organic farming

“We organised training on organic farming for 130 community members in rural Nandi. We collaborated with the Nandi County government through the Ministry of Agriculture. They provided an expert in the field to train the community on ways of farming that are better for the environment and our health.” says Fridah Okomo, a Kenyan Youth Champion.

Fridah also represented VSO and her fellow youth during Africa Climate Week, sharing youth priorities, solutions, and key demands with African government leaders ahead of COP26. She also represented young people and VSO through a virtual COP26 event, advocating for the importance of youth in climate change.



There is urgent need to give youths a seat at the table in climate policymaking.

Youths should be included in the design of climate policies and given a chance to be equal stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Fridah Okomo
Youth Champion



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