STATE OF THE YOUTH
Welcome to the State of the Youth Report

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JIACTIVATE is an initiative that aims to capture and elevate the voice of Kenyan youth beyond the 2017 General Elections. The initiative provides a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including political parties, Government, private sector and civil society, can contribute to youth development in Kenya.

Before the 2017 general election, based on the fact that the youth lack a platform to voice their agenda and set terms for tackling the socio-economic challenges they face, a campaign was conducted by JIACTIVATE, a nationwide social movement by and for the youth, seeking to empower them to actively participate in matters pertaining to their destiny and find a sense of responsibility for their country.

Young people all over the country were asked to cite key challenges in a survey commissioned by JIACTIVATE and conducted by Geo Poll, an international research firm. They resoundingly settled on four things: Corruption, Unemployment, Healthcare and Food security. These ‘Top Four’ issues informed the drafting of the JIACTIVATE Youth Declaration.

We recently concluded the second phase; the JIACTIVATE County Youth Engagement, also known as JIACTIVATE Mtaa, which offered the youth a platform to interact with their leaders in respective counties.

The exhaustive campaign dubbed JIACTIVATE Mtaa, conducted between February and Mid-April 2018, saw the youth visit 17 counties to conduct successful engagement forums between leaders and county youth. Over past year, we have engaged more 150,000 youth countrywide.

The second phase of the JIACTIVATE initiative also included a countrywide survey on how the four challenges could be mitigated to improve the socio-economic status of the youth. More than 1282 youth drawn from the Nairobi, Central, Eastern, Rift Valley, Western, Nyanza, North Eastern and Coast Region participated in the survey.

The findings herein are therefore regionally balanced and representative of the aspirations and needs of the Kenyan youth. The Status of the Youth Report will thus form a basis for the youth to tap opportunities available in devolved units and other national government initiatives such as the Big Four Agenda. This report covers pertinent issues raised by the youth in the devolved government units; such as lack of substantial education or awareness on key issues regarding devolution and continued exclusion of the youth at the county level in decision making and policy formulation processes.

As the majority stakeholders in the nations’ future, the youth have not only share the socio-economic challenges that they face, but they have also proffered recommendations on how to tackle priority challenges such as unemployment, access to healthcare, food security and corruption.

In our research, we have exhaustively consulted other stakeholders in government, private sector and the civil society who are crucial to the realisation of the aspirations of Kenyan youth. We have also analysed the findings of these stakeholders on issues raised by the youth in JIACTIVATE surveys, in order to establish areas of synergy.

We strongly believe that this shared quest for youth empowerment will only be realised through collaborative effort.

Ms. Sheenan Mbau,
The Chairperson, JIACTIVATE
The State of the Youth is a culmination of a long drawn process that kicked off with a survey commissioned by JIACTIVATE and conducted by Geo Poll, an international research company, to establish the foremost challenges encumbering the realisation of the Kenyan youth’s aspirations and socio-economic needs.

With the survey having established that unemployment, access to healthcare, corruption and food security as the top issues affecting the youth, JIACTIVATE seeks to give the youth a voice to address these challenges at the national and county level through participating in policy formulation and implementation.

Over the past one year, JIACTIVATE has reached more than 150,000 youth countrywide. In a survey conducted after the first phase of the initiative, 80% of the respondents said that they had heard of JIACTIVATE before with Nyeri and Kajiado recording the highest awareness rates at 95% and 86% respectively.

The State of the Youth Report is derived from 451 female and 774 male respondents from across the country who shared how unemployment, lack of access to healthcare, corruption and food insecurity were affecting the country in general, but the impact of these issues at the county level.

Besides enumerating how these challenges were affecting the youth in devolved units, they also made recommendations on how various stakeholders through concerted efforts can help eradicate or alleviate the said challenges.

The JIACTIVATE initiative thus advocates for policy propositions that will tackle challenges facing the youth by integrating broad-based strategies that can provide the youth meaningful opportunities to realise their dreams and aspirations.

This document therefore provides a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including political parties, government, private sector and civil society, will contribute to socio-economic empowerment of Kenyan youth.

The youth, now more than ever, have a historical opportunity to shape the Kenya they want. Significant proportions of the Kenyan youth who are productive and energetic remain unemployed, and continue to suffer from lack of access to quality healthcare and adequate support. The responsibility of ensuring that the dreams and aspirations of the youth are realised lies with a multiplicity of stakeholders; including politicians, captains of industry, the civil society and the youth themselves.

Most of the respondents cited the word “empowered” in the context of being better informed or aware when asked how JIACTIVATE made them feel. Majority of the respondents (54%) identified JIACTIVATE as a forum whose objective was to create awareness, educate or inform them of/on multiple issues facing them. 34% looked at JIACTIVATE as a forum that gives them an opportunity to be heard and participate in resolving issues affecting them.

Through JIACTIVATE survey findings, the youth are in a position to drive policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the delivery of effective services and ensuring quality outcomes for the youth. The purpose of these policy initiatives is to put in place clear policy aims and objectives, with accompanying actions that are specific, measurable, achievable, and realistic, which will result in quality outputs and outcomes.

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**Executive Summary**

The State of the Youth is a culmination of a long drawn process that kicked off with a survey commissioned by JIACTIVATE and conducted by Geo Poll, an international research company, to establish the foremost challenges encumbering the realisation of the Kenyan youth’s aspirations and socio-economic needs.

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About 60% of those aware of the initiative had heard about JIACTIVATE on social media being Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube.

The youth’s impact and participation in decision making should thus be equal to their numerical strength. The median age in Kenya is estimated to be 19 years, and about 80% of Kenya’s population is below 35 years. This means that out of a population of about 46 million, a total of 36.8 million are under the age of 35.

Kenya is thus a demographically young nation.

The youth, now more than ever, have a historical opportunity to shape the Kenya they want. Significant proportions of the Kenyan youth who are productive and energetic remain unemployed, and continue to suffer from lack of access to quality healthcare and adequate support. The responsibility of ensuring that the dreams and aspirations of the youth are realised lies with a multiplicity of stakeholders; including politicians, captains of industry, the civil society and the youth themselves.

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Over 20% of Kenya’s population is aged between 15-24 years old. This is above the world’s and Africa’s average of 16% and 19% respectively. The rapid youth population bulge is not commensurate to the jobs created by the economy, a situation that the youth have identified as a significant factor in their substandard livelihoods.

According to the survey conducted by JIACTIVATE at the county government level, 31% of the respondents said that they did casual jobs to meet their daily expenses, 15% owned small businesses while 14% depended on family for financial support.

An estimated 700,000 young people enter the job market every year. The challenge then becomes expanding and growing the economy to generate sufficient opportunities for subsequent generations of youth who graduate into the labour market.

Results of the JIACTIVATE survey further show that the 36% of the respondents encouraged youth entrepreneurship as an alternative to formal employment, 13% encouraged their fellow youth to venture into agriculture while another 9% said there was need to train the youth on business and technical skills.

### How do you cover your daily expenses? (All respondents)

- Casual labour: 31%
- Small business owner: 15%
- Family support: 14%
- Small scale farming: 7%
- Gambling/betting: 5%
- Self employment: 5%
- Savings from employment: 5%
- Informal employment: 5%
- Formal employment: 4%
- Part-time employment: 2%
- Creative arts/sports: 2%
- Borrowing: 1%
- Volunteer jobs: 1%
The informal sector accounts for 83% of the employed people in Kenya as per the 2017 economic survey. Generally, unemployment rates in rural areas are much lower than those in urban areas. This is partly because many young people migrate to urban areas to look for employment.

In the JIACTIVATE survey, the youth in Nairobi led calls for their peers to adopt entrepreneurship with 40% of the respondents citing it as an alternative to formal employment. This view was also mirrored in other regions such as Coast, North Eastern, Nyanza and Central Kenya.

Kenya has been recording a steady economic growth over the last few years. Unfortunately, this growth has not translated into more job creation hence poverty reduction, and economic inequality in the country remains a challenge. The high unemployment rate amongst the Kenyan youth has been mainly attributed to the rapid population growth and the economy’s inability to create enough quality jobs, lack of appropriate labour market skills, job discrimination, corruption, low levels of education attainment among other reasons. The government plans to create over 1.3 million jobs annually and there is dire need for a new approach. Like in other economies, Kenya’s employment landscape is segmented into two main categories: formal and informal. The formal sector accommodates only a few of the Kenya's youth population while the remaining population are left to scramble for the remaining opportunities in the informal sector which generally lacks proper framework to protect the labour force.

How would you create more job opportunities in your community? (All respondents)

- Encourage youth entrepreneurship as an alternative to formal employment 36 %
- Encourage youth to venture into agriculture 13 %
- Training youth on business and technical skills 9 %
- Provide funds/capital to support youth entrepreneurship 6 %
- Encourage the formation of youth groups for entrepreneurship/agricultural opportunities 6 %
- Encourage youth to take advantage of informal employment opportunities 5 %
- Educate the youth on how to nurture, commercialise talent/creative skills 4 %
- Create awareness of business/employment opportunities available 4 %
- Build new/revamp collapsed industries/infrastructure to provide employment opportunities for the youth 3 %
- Offer business mentorship services to youth 2 %
- Creating community based income generating projects 2 %
- Employ youth in my own enterprise 2 %
- Offer volunteer opportunities for the youth 1 %
- Giving access to good education opportunities 1 %
- Youth participation in policy making on issues related to employment 0.8 %
- Dealing with corruption to eliminate misuse of public resources 0.6 %
- Construct youth polytechnics and vocational training centres 0.6 %
- Government support to youth enterprises/innovation 0.5 %
- Electing leaders who understand employment issues faced by the youth 0.5 %
- Creating an enabling environment to support youth businesses 0.5 %
- Giving youth priority in employment 0.2 %
- Develop partnerships between corporates and Government to support youth enterprises 0.2 %
- Take up employment opportunities in marginalised areas 0.1 %
- Create employment opportunities in public service 0.1 %
- Change education curriculum to emphasise on entrepreneurship rather than formal employment 0.1 %

How would you create more job opportunities in your community? (Nairobi)

- Create awareness of business/employment opportunities available 40 %
- Encourage the formation of youth groups for entrepreneurship/agricultural opportunities 11 %
- Encourage youth to take advantage of informal employment opportunities 8 %
- Creating community based income generating projects 6 %
- Build new/revamp collapsed industries/infrastructure to provide employment opportunities for the youth 6 %
- Government support to youth enterprises/innovation 6 %
- Giving access to good education opportunities 4 %
- Electing leaders who understand employment issues faced by the youth 4 %
- Construct youth polytechnics and vocational training centres 3 %
- Employ youth in my own enterprise 3 %
- Develop partnerships between corporates and Government to support youth enterprises 2 %
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- Dealing with corruption to eliminate misuse of public resources 0.6 %
- Change education curriculum to emphasise on entrepreneurship rather than formal employment 0.6 %
Factors leading to unemployment in Kenya

Skills mismatch

Slightly more than 9% of the total respondents in the JIACTIVATE survey said there was a need to equip the youth with business and technical skills. They observed that Kenyan youth are missing out on the little available job opportunities because they lack the required skills.

There currently exists a manifest mismatch between graduates from learning institutions and the human resource needs in the real economy. A report on youth unemployment in Kenya commissioned by the World Bank noted the attempts to close the skills gap are currently bogged down by lack of business experience on the part of the trainers and curricular problems.

The government through the ministry of Industrialisation has noted that there is a mismatch between available technical skills and the market demand due to a weak linkage between training institutions and the labour market.

The World Bank observed that attempts to close the skills gap are currently bogged down by lack of business experience on the part of the trainers and inadequate training curricula which lack sufficient integration with the formal Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system.

Discrimination in Job allocation

The study further shows that youth faced challenges in accessing job opportunities based on different biases; such as geographical challenges and concentration of job opportunities in the cities and urban areas.

Where job opportunities were available, they were allocated unfairly to family members or tribesmen, those who offer bribes or given to people from different areas who have the skills. Further, youth in marginalised areas often faced additional difficulties as most have to grapple with lack of access to education, skills, and training.

Youths have also reported discrimination in cases where jobs put age or experience limits. A research by non-profit organisation Mzalendo, reported that youth felt that there was need to introduce non-discrimination clauses to remove expressions such as ‘over ten years’ experience required or clauses that job applicants should be between the ‘ages of 35 and 45’ in the job advertisements. The youth feel these clauses discriminate them from the job market.

Recommendations

Lack of entrepreneurial skills to create new jobs

While learning institutions continue to produce graduates, most fail to secure jobs and are ill-prepared to even start their own ventures. Real entrepreneurship requires management skills hence expecting young people to become entrepreneurs without proper training in management is an impractical approach.

According to a report by UNESCO, titled Tackling Youth Unemployment through TVET, attributes this challenge to the fact that most curriculums are not designed to offer in-the-job trainings. These programs need to be revised as they have failed to produce the envisaged results.

Corruption

In Kenya, corruption directly affects youth employment as it forms obstacles towards the employment of capable youths. Research show that youths felt that their employment prospects are compromised by corruption and that the youths do not access the necessary basic services they need. Among the most common complaints most youths have raised include; nepotism, bribery and irregularities in the appointment of job candidates.

The recruitment of Kenya police for instance is one of the examples of how youths are locked out of opportunities. Such exercise has been marred with cases of extortion and favouritism. This has seen deserving candidates locked out of chances of joining the military.

Encourage informal employment

Slightly more than 9% of the total respondents in the JIACTIVATE survey said the need for youth labour participation is integral in attainment of these ambitious plans in view of the fact that the government plans to create 1.3 million manufacturing jobs by 2022. 36% of the youth surveyed suggested that one of the key ways to eliminate youth unemployment would be to encourage youth entrepreneurship as an alternative to formal employment.

For most youths featured in the survey, entrepreneurship can be a route to employment—a way to perhaps work around corrupt structures and hierarchical systems of traditional office jobs. Most youths also view entrepreneurship as a way to create employment in their community. Respondents of the survey also pointed out the need to encourage more youth to join vocational trainings to acquire skills that can help them start up self-employment and get employed in different companies: Engage in farming especially planting fresh crops, rearing poultry.

Ronald Otieno, a youth in Kisumu encouraged “more youth to join vocational trainings to acquire skills that can help them start up self-employment and get employed in different companies: Engage in farming especially planting fresh crops; Rearing poultry.”
Create an enabling environment to support youth businesses

There is need to create business friendly environment for the youth. Starting a business should be hustle free. Financing and access to financial market remain the key challenges for youths looking to set up business. Youths feel that there is need to create more avenues to provide capital. Bureaucratic bottle necks should also be eliminated as these tend to lock out youths in accessing funds. Kenya is ranked 9th easiest place to do business in Africa and this ought to improve as it seeks to see more youths drawn into entrepreneurship.

Change of curriculum

It is notable that TVET education that is demand driven has the capability to lead the development of the country and its youths in addition to promoting entrepreneurship culture. Kenya’s education system is largely theoretical and examination rather than practical oriented. Through an intensive campaign to improve the technical institutions, the government and private sector can raise the quality of training in technical institutions. This would include ensuring that technical institutions are available in every ward in the country to ensure more people have access to them.
In early 2018, Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC) released the results of a corruption perception survey conducted in 2016 in which graft was listed as the third biggest problem that faces Kenya after poverty and unemployment in that order. Of the people interviewed by EACC in the survey, 22% of respondents said corruption was the biggest problem in the country after unemployment and poverty at 36% and 30% of total respondents respectively.

To compound the situation, the government has been unable to cut down the level of corruption within its arms in spite of the legal and financial resources it has invested to fight the vice. In its latest annual report (2016-2017), EACC says there are three main reasons why it has been unable to cut down corruption in government.

While there has been a slight improvement in Kenya’s corruption index in 2017, graft remains one of the biggest challenges the country has to deal with as it aspires to be a modern middle-income country with a higher quality of life.

During the JIACTIVATE survey, the youth had varying definitions of corruption by the unanimous on the need to eradicate the vice. While 49% of total respondents believe that corruption means giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favors, 15% and 14% think of it as misuse of resources/public funds and illegal acquisition of public resources respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In your community, what does corruption mean? (All respondents)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misuse of public resource/funds</td>
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<td>Illegal acquisition of public resources</td>
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<td>Abuse of power by those in authority</td>
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<td>Unfair treatment/favouritism</td>
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<td>Unequal distribution of resources &amp; services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dishonesty/lack of integrity</td>
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<td>Illegal activities</td>
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Of the total respondents of the JIACTIVATE survey, 43% thought that educating/sensitizing population on the effects of corruption would end corruption in the community. However, 15% believed that personal and collective responsibility would end corruption while 13% of the respondents believe corruption would end if we elected ethical leaders with high standards of integrity.

The enormity of the problem of corruption is best illustrated by Kenyans own view on the biggest problem in the country. In terms of institutional policy and legal framework, the commission argues that its work is hampered by lack of a national anti-corruption policy as well as lack of powers to enforce its corruption prevention recommendations. It also blames the expansion of its mandate and politicization of its leadership and integrity mandate. Further, it says there is an entrenched culture of corruption in Kenya’s public service while the process of mutual legal assistance is too long thus hampering its work of tracing corruption footprints. The commission also says society condones corruption and unethical conduct further complicating its work. In terms of prosecution, the commission blames the slow court processes and adverse decisions for making its work impossible.
Youths in Kenya make up more than 80% of the population and thus more likely to be hurt by acts of corruption. Government’s own statistics show that 30% of government spending which equivalent to Sh600 billion is lost through corruption. This in effect means that the government is unable to deliver services to the public such as health care, education and security effectively. It also means that government spending on infrastructure is shunted of thus spurring fewer jobs for the youths than intended.

In addition to feeling the pinch of the pilferage of taxpayer funds, the youth also suffer the instances of bribery in government offices. About 1.5% of the respondents called for the developments of systems that discourage corruptions such as increased support, and infrastructure to have the EACC collaborate with the judiciary to hear and address corruption cases affecting youth.

EACC perception survey found that of all its respondents, 46% had paid bribes to government officials. Most of the government offices where bribes were demanded before services were delivered, deal directly with youth issues. An analysis of the services for which bribes were demanded shows that 80.3% of the respondents had been asked to pay a bribe for a service that was youth related. Such services included application for national identification, reporting a crime to the police, seeking medical attention, law enforcement on traffic, and application for college.

In Nairobi; 47% of respondents understood corruption to mean giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours, while 19% defined it as illegal acquisition of public resources. 11% of the total respondents in Nairobi thought of corruption as misuse of public resources/funds.

Overall, the survey showed that there is a general lack of knowledge of the global or national working definition of corruption among the youths in the country. The fragmentation of the definition was even more pronounced.

The national survey by JIACTIVATE to gauge the Kenyan youth’s understanding of corruption and mitigation strategies found that although Kenyan youths may not agree on the definition of corruption in their communities, they all agree it is a vice that needs to be eradicated.

Jeff Huther, Jeff and Shah, Anwar in Anti-corruption Policies and Programs define corruption as “... an act done with intent to give some advantage inconsistent with official duty and the rights of others. It includes bribery but is more comprehensive because an act may be corruptly done, though the advantage to be derived from it may be offered by another.”

Empirical Evidence from GMM Approach published in September 2016 lays bare the connection between unemployment of the youth and corruption. In the paper, the authors compared projected corruption indices of countries against youth unemployment rates and found that youth unemployment rate increased as a country’s score on the corruption index decreased.

Bechir Bouzid, the author of the paper, noted that when accounting for the reverse causality, an increase in rent seeking behavior among government officials when giving a public good (e.g. job opportunity in public sector) increase the employment rate among young and educated job seekers, concludes Bechir Bouzid who wrote the paper.

Bouzid also observed that in absence of efficient way of control and monitoring mechanism, the proliferation of those practices forces growing segments of the workforce either to join the crowd and pay the price to secure the job or be left out of the official labour market and turn to informal market.

The JIACTIVATE survey established that Kenyan youths define corruption in fragments. Asked what corruption meant to youths in their communities, 49% of the respondents said corruption means giving or receiving bribes in exchange for favours while 15% said it is misuse of public resources or funds. Another 14% said corruption is illegal acquisition of public resources.

In your community, what does corruption mean? (Nairobi)

- Giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours: 47%
- Illegal acquisition of public resources: 19%
- Misuse of public resources/funds: 11%
- Unfair treatment/favouritism: 5%
- Abuse of power by those in authority: 8%
- Illegal activities: 4%
- Unequal distribution of resources and services: 4%
- Dishonesty/lack of integrity: 2%

In Nairobi, 47% of respondents understood corruption to mean giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours, while 19% defined it as illegal acquisition of public resources. 11% of the total respondents in Nairobi thought of corruption as misuse of public resources/funds.
In Central Kenya, 47% of the respondents define corruption as giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours while 17% define corruption as illegal acquisition of public resources. Of the total respondents, 10% define corruption as abuse of power by those in positions of authority.

A significant 38% of the respondents in Eastern define corruption as giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours while 19% defined it as misuse of public resources/funds. 17% of the total respondents would define corruption as unfair treatment/favouritism.

Rift Valley had the highest number of youths who believed that corruption is giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours, at 59% of the respondents from the region. 17% in the region define corruption as illegal acquisition of public resources while 11% of total respondents define corruption as misuse of public resources/funds.

53% of respondents from the Coast define corruption as giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours while 19% define corruption as illegal acquisition of public resources. Of the total respondents, 10% define corruption as misuse of public resources/funds.
In your community, what does corruption mean?
(Nyanza)

- Giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours: 40%
- Misuse of public resources/funds: 20%
- Illegal acquisition of public resources: 10%
- Abuse of power by those in authority: 9%
- Unequal distribution of resources and services: 8%
- Unfair treatment/favouritism: 8%
- Illegal activities: 3%
- Dishonesty/lack of integrity: 2%

42% of the youth in North Eastern believe corruption is giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours while 30% define corruption as misuse of public resources/funds. Of the respondents, 11% defined corruption as illegal acquisition of public resources.

The majority of youths in Western, 53% of the respondents define corruption as giving/receiving bribes in exchange for favours. 19% define corruption as misuse of public resources/funds and 12% of all respondents defined corruption as illegal acquisition of public resources.

Mitigating corruption

Overall, the youth who responded to the survey questions felt that the solution to the corruption menace lay in three broad strategies.

Asked how they will end corruption in their communities, 43% of the respondents thought that educating/sensitizing population on the effects of corruption would end corruption in the community. On the other hand, 15% believe that personal and collective responsibility would end corruption while 13% of the respondents believe corruption would end if we elected ethical leaders with high standards of integrity.

At the regional level, the pattern of thoughts was almost even with the exception of Eastern. Eastern had the highest number of respondents at 53% who felt that educating and sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would end the vice. Of the total respondents, 16% in Eastern said that reporting corruption cases would end corruption while 11% said electing ethical leaders with high standards of integrity would be their way of ending corruption.

How would you end corruption in your community? (All respondents)

- Educate/sensitize the community on its negative effects: 43%
- Personal/collective responsibility: 15%
- Elect ethical leaders with high standards of integrity: 13%
- Prosecute those involved with the vice: 10%
- Report corruption cases: 10%
- Encourage transparency and accountability: 4%
- Develop systems that discourage corruption: 2%
- Equitable distribution of resources: 2%
- Create employment opportunities: 1%
- Promote fairness in public offices: 1%
- Create awareness on rights and responsibilities: 0.4%
- Develop laws criminalizing corruption: 0.3%
- Audit government officials: 0.2%
- Adequate employment compensation: 0.2%
- Involve the youth in the anti-corruption policy making phase: 0.1%

How would you end corruption in your community? (Eastern)

- Educate/sensitize the community on its negative effects: 53%
- Elect ethical leaders with high standards of integrity: 11%
- Prosecute those involved with the vice: 7%
- Promote fairness in public offices: 3%
- Create employment opportunities: 1%
- Audit government officials: 1%
In Nairobi, 37% of respondents believe that educating/sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would be an effective way of ending corruption. On the other hand, 17% said personal and collective responsibility would be their preferred method of ending corruption. Electing ethical leaders with high standards of integrity was identified by 16% of respondents as a means of ending corruption.

Central Kenya had the lowest number of youth, at 32% who believed that educating and sensitizing the public on the effects of corruption would kill the vice. Personal and collective responsibility was named by 22% of the respondents as how they would end corruption, while 19% said that they would prosecute those involved in cases of corruption.

In the Coastal region 53% of respondents felt educating/sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would end corruption while 16% of respondents said reporting corruption cases would be effective. 11% said electing ethical leaders with high standards of integrity would be their way of ending corruption.

Of the total respondents from Rift Valley, 48% thought educating/sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would end corruption while 16% of respondents said ending corruption is a personal and collective responsibility.

In Nyanza 43% of respondents said that educating/sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would end corruption. 14% said that electing ethical leaders with high standards of integrity would assist end corruption.

Majority of representatives in North Eastern, 39% said educating/sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would end corruption while 18% believe that prosecuting corrupt people would assist end corruption. Electing ethical leaders with high standards of integrity would end corruption according to 12% of respondents.

38% of respondents from Western said educating/sensitizing the population on the effects of corruption would end corruption while 18% said personal and collective responsibility would play a role in ending corruption. A similar proportion of total respondents said electing ethical leaders with high standards of integrity would end corruption.

In general, the survey shows that although youth may be ignorant on the proper working definition of corruption, they have a general understanding on strategies that could be employed to fight the vice. Besides the three broad strategies of fighting the menace, the youth also had other recommendations on how to end the vice. However, only small numbers of the respondents made such recommendations.

Among the recommendations that were made by a small number of respondents is the need for increased transparency for corrupt case hearings. This, they said, could include introduction of Jury hearing in order to involve the public and the media fraternity in the fight against the vice which would help in creating awareness around corruption.

The respondents also recommended increased involvement of independent audit firms to provide transparent audit reports on youth-specific funding allocations and services.

Increased support, and infrastructure to have the EACC collaborate with the judiciary to hear and address corruption cases affecting youth was also recommended as an effective way to fight corruption.

Further recommendations
HEALTHCARE

Challenges youth face when accessing medical services in Kenya

Insufficient health facilities and repressive costs of medical services are the main issues preventing youth in Kenya from accessing proper healthcare, according to a survey by JIACTIVATE.

In the countrywide survey, 32% of youth cited inadequacy of medical facilities as the biggest challenge when seeking treatment. In addition, 27% of the youth interviewed identified high cost of medical care as the other deterrent. A further 17% found it difficult to seek professional medical care due to the inaccessibility of medical facilities, brought about by impassable roads, and poor public transport service networks.

What difficulties do you face when accessing healthcare/medical services? (All respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient medical facilities</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High cost of healthcare</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaccessible medical facilities</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorly trained medical personnel</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprofessional medical personnel</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrupt medical personnel</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poorly run medical facilities</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
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Unaffordable services

In a country where the monthly spend per household stands at Shs.3,252 (rural) and Shs.5,995 (urban), the youth hope that the government can alleviate their suffering by investing more in facilities providing health services and health education.

Sexual health remains a key area of focus for the youth, and in the study, a vast majority of the respondents claimed a dire need for clinics and other facilities dealing with sexually transmitted disease treatment and education.

They (youth) want more education around sexual health. Youth, in lower SEG (social-economic group) areas in particular, admitted not knowing much about sexual health and preventative STD measures. There are many myths surrounding these topics and young women in particular are unsure what to believe.

They want more sexual health clinics. Young people (Nairobi being the exception here) felt unsure where to go for sexual screening and reported fearing stigma and judgment if anyone caught them there. They expressed that if sexual health clinics became ‘the norm’, then maybe it would become more acceptable to be seen there.

Healthcare gap

There are 8400 health facilities in Kenya, 10% of which are in Nairobi. This means that 50% of Kenya’s population lives outside the five-kilometre radius to a hospital recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). From the data, there are just two health facilities per 10,000 people, in a country that has 22 doctors and 108 nurses for every 100,000 people. Kenya’s Bungoma in Western region is the most underserved county in the country with one facility per 10,000 people. The World Health Organization places the minimum standard of health care providers at 230 doctors and nurses per 100,000 people.

Prohibitive costs of medical care, further worsened by a lack of jobs and unfriendly medical schemes, were also shown to contribute to the poor access to health services. The state-run medical insurance facility, the National Hospital Insurance Fund, requires a contribution of Shs.500 per month, an amount that is vastly unrealizable by casual laborers and those without jobs.

From the findings in the JIACTIVE survey, 31% of the participants said that they worked casual jobs to meet their daily expenses, while 15% owned small businesses. Another 14% said they depended on family financial support.

The 2017 Human Development Index, a United Nations (UN) tool used to measure a country’s overall achievement in its social and economic dimensions, further confirms that the unemployment rate among Kenyans of working age now stands at 39% and income inequality at 33%.

With Kenya’s population growing by 2.5% every year, it is estimated that nine million more jobseekers will join the market by 2025. This means added pressure on the existing health facilities and providers especially as the prevalence rate of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) among young people increases, a situation made critical by the lack of awareness of the behavioral options leading to exposure.

In Kenya, the main risk factors for NCDs are exposure to tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and harmful use of alcohol. A study by the Centre for the Study of Adolescents (CSA) indicates that 5% of young men aged 15-24 years smoke cigarettes. The research also emphasises the fact that Kenya is facing an increasing NCD and infectious disease burden amongst its youth.
Youth inclusion

Furthermore, and following the outcome of the study, researchers recommended an increased investment in research and analysis on youth health as well as a rise in youth representation and engagement in policy drafting, planning and implementation.

Encouraging youth participation in the monitoring and evaluation processes of projects and strategies dealing with their health challenges, with a minimum of 50% representation, was also advised as one of the ways to ensure that the issues facing this important population group were well tackled.

The survey established that continued investment in basic health services (hospitals, maternity care and ambulances) will continue to pay dividends – helping youth treat avoidable illnesses or complications that might otherwise impact their civic and social participation. Incentivisation or other measures to extend quality care into poorer, rural areas will be welcomed.

Manpower increase

The Ministry of Health, aware of the pain that poor health service provision brings about, is looking to tackle the shortage of 42,800 health workers by increasing the recruitment of health workers, reviewing health worker salaries and by strengthening human resource policies and practices.

Currently, there are 63,000 health workers including 20,981 nurses, 3,284 clinical officers, 2,286 medical officers, 405 dentists, 1104 pharmacists, 293 radiologists and 22 radiation protection personnel. A total of 34,625 officers work in other departments.

To improve access to health facilities, it remains imperative that the road system be upgraded. Kenya has a road network of about 177,800 km out of which only 63,575 km is classified. The classified road network has increased by just 600 km per annum since independence, leaving access to critical facilities, among them hospitals, a perennial challenge.

Non-state players

The private sector, too, can productively contribute to an improvement in the provision of accessible healthcare services for Kenya’s youth.

Franchise clinics, for instance, if well targeted to the youth can be a viable avenue for the provision of health services to the youth, while still maintaining business viability. Franchise clinics have been confirmed to expand family planning services elsewhere in the world, and it is a model that can be productively exploited to improve youth health in Kenya.

An evaluation of Pakistan’s Green Star and the Biruh Tesfa system in Ethiopia, found these franchises to offer a lot more services than other private providers, in some cases almost as many as governmental clinics.

Other Studies in Kenya and Madagascar have also confirmed that training franchisees on youth-friendly principles and including young people in their marketing strategies can increase modern contraceptive use.

These, and various, other strategies can be successfully used to provide better health care services in a country where almost 80% of the population is under 35 years.
Recommendations

The youth made a case for increased investment in research and analysis on youth health and improved youth representation in the Ministry of Health whom based on merit, can speak to issues that affect the youth. There was an observation that there is minimal youth representation and engagement in drafting of policy, planning and implementation. This recommended youth representation should also cover the areas of monitoring and evaluation processes.

The respondents of the survey were also of the opinion that 50% of the representation (people involved in decision making) should be youth representatives throughout the process. There is also need for the creation and increase of target specific and evidence based (sexual and reproductive health and rights) SRHR campaigns aimed at promoting safe sex.

To adhere to these the recommendations, there is need to criminalize drug distributors and establish stringent and transparent policy.

The youth also called for the establishment of efficient guidance, counseling and rehabilitation curriculum. Further to the establishment of this curriculum, the Kenyan youth strongly pushed for guidance and counseling to be independent of learning institutions and religious bodies and should be a trained employee of the Ministry of Health at county Government.

Often, youth fail to visit counselors because of the fact their private information will be divulged to third parties. They therefore called for strict client - patient confidentiality in youth friendly service delivery centres. They also encouraged county governments to take the lead in the establishments of counseling and rehabilitation centres. Of note is that youth also held the view that there should be standardisation of the guidance and counseling offered in faith based organisations. This is to enable the youth seeking these services to receive same quality of service and also for incorporation of youth friendliness.
FOOD SECURITY

Youth participation in agriculture

The agricultural sector remains the largest employer in the country, accounting for 60% of the total employment. Over 80% of the population, especially youth living in rural areas derive their livelihoods mainly from agricultural related activities. This is why the country and policy makers should prioritise agriculture as an important tool for promoting the country's food security.

While the agricultural sector continues to emerge as the second largest foreign exchange earner in the Kenyan economy, the youth population has opted to give agriculture a wide berth in pursuit of the uncertain white collar job opportunities in urban centres and cities. The demographic challenges, coupled with environmental epidemics such as drought and famine, as well as human activity, have caused ripple effects on the country’s food basket, depriving a section of Kenyans access food.

A survey conducted by JIACTIVATE established that most Kenyan youths were confronted by high food/commodity prices as well as water and food shortage due to the effects of drought. Of the total respondents interviewed, 34% complained of high commodity/food prices while 28% were affected by shortage of water and food during the period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How has the recent/current drought affected you? (All respondents)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High food commodity prices</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and food shortage</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of livestock</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise in cost of living</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low food production</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of lives/starvation</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of livestock</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise in school dropout rate</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deterioration in health</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration from homes</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insecurity</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power rationing</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not affected</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of property</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of farming methods</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationally, food security is gradually declining driven by persistent high staple food prices and dwindling supplies in the face of increased demand. Maize being staple food due to the food preferences is in short supply and most households have limited choices of other food stuffs.

The country’s food security challenges are attributable to several factors, including frequent droughts in various parts of the country, high cost of farm inputs which consequently leads to high cost of domestic food production and displacement of farmers in fertile land during political upheavals as happened in 2008. Inflated global food prices and low purchasing power for the greater population which is largely the youth are key contributors to food insecurity.

This is despite the fact that the agricultural sector is undoubtedly the mainstay of the country’s economy contributing over 20% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 27% of GDP indirectly through linkages with manufacturing, distribution and other service related sectors. The survey conducted by JIACTIVATE showed that youth in rural areas consider agricultural ventures a way of creating employment.

Why youth ingenuity should be tapped to sustain food security in Kenya

Investment in agriculture

This is an urgent call to the government to increase research, improve infrastructure and investment on long-term intensive campaigns to build awareness among the youth on the benefits of agriculture and agribusiness. The move would largely absorb the bulging youth population into constructive agribusiness ventures.

Through partnership with more development partners, the Kenyan government could open windows for funding in the agricultural sector and more youths, a majority of who are in the urban centres, would be attracted to more flexible mechanisms for finance and credit which is tailored to the needs of young entrepreneurs, and small-scale agriculture in the devolved units. More than 10% of respondents to the JIACTIVATE survey said there was need to encourage the youth to venture into agribusiness.

With quite a number of youth groups already benefiting from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, establishing incentives or waivers around greenhouse farming would ensure that there’s enough food production throughout the year for youth as well as reintroduce modern farming methods that are more likely to attract more youths into agribusiness. The fund has to date disbursed more than Kshs 6.5 billion loans to over 200,000 youth enterprises.
Recommendations

With only 20% of Kenyan land suitable for farming, it’s imperative that government makes it mandatory for land owners in arable land areas to ensure that their land is not idle. This can easily be achieved through encouraging policymakers to implement laws that compel owners of unused land to pay higher taxes on the properties should they fail to either cultivate them or lease to investors, a move that would increase productivity potential.

On the other hand 45% of respondents in the JIACTIVATE survey said they would put emphasis on water and environmental conservation. Another 14% said that they would adopt irrigation to reduce reliance on rain fed agriculture.

Policymakers should, thus, increase infrastructure and investment in youth groups engaged in enhancing food security and tree planting, while supporting mechanisms that discourage deforestation. More focus should be laid on irrigation to reduce reliance on rain fed agriculture. Indeed, 15% of respondents in Nairobi said that they would want to see irrigation adopted to reduce reliance on rain fed agriculture.

How would you stop the effects of drought in your community? (Nairobi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopt irrigation to reduce the reliance on rain fed agriculture</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote food crop farming to increase food security</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drilling boreholes in drought prevalent areas</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage youth to engage in agriculture</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government/corporate/NGO offer assistance to drought</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting drought resistance crops</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control prices of food and basic commodities</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase funding to agriculture to boost food production</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide financial assistance to mitigate against the effects of drought</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage urban to rural migration to provide food migration</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect leaders who understand the problems faced by the community</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
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To achieve a sustainable, food secure Kenya, government will have to engage more constructive mechanisms that involve young people’s ingenuity, entrepreneurship skills and human capital in the agricultural sector. Kenya for a long period pursued the goal of attaining self-sufficiency in food commodities that include maize, wheat, rice, beans, milk and meat.

Attainment of self-sufficiency however does not automatically imply that household food security is achieved. According to the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, empirical evidence shows that solving the food security issue from production (Supply side) point of view, while overlooking the purchasing power (demand side) of the people, does not solve the food security problem, with regard to accessibility of sufficient food by vulnerable groups such as the youth.

As a result of poor transport, high fuel prices and market infrastructure, food either does not reach those who need it most (from surplus regions) or reaches them at excessively high prices. In their recommendations, the youth emphasized that there was an urgent need to transform agricultural sector into a profitable economic activity capable of attracting private investment, providing gainful employment for the youth and availing sufficient food which meets the dietary needs of the youth and the nation at large.

With the global population projected to increase from the current 7.3 billion to about 9.15 billion by 2050, and the youth population (10-24 years) from 1.8 billion to 2 billion, young people would be an essential factor of global agricultural production, which Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) estimates to increase by 50% in 2050 to sustain nutritional needs.

According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the average age of a farmer in Kenya is 60 years; this despite the unemployment rate that stands at approximately 40% in the country. The 2009 census shows that out of a population of approximately 38 million people, youth (15-35 years) and children (0-14 years) together represent 78% of the population. An estimated 64% of the youth are unemployed in the country.

Youth surveyed in the JIACTIVATE Report called on the Government to institute mechanism to encourage youth involvement in the agricultural sector across the value chain by promoting the establishment of youth cooperatives and availing public land to youth. Progressively, the youth will also need access to markets for youth engaged in agriculture at home, within the East African Community and beyond to increase the likelihood of business sustainability and maximize the contribution to strengthening the economy.
Devolution

Devolution and the role of the youth in decentralised governments

Kenya has a decentralized Government system since 2010. The main objective of devolution was to distribute power and national resources across the administrative units. While there are marked successes in the early years of its implementation, there are also challenges with limited youth participation a key shortcoming for the devolved units.

According to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, 51% of Kenya’s electorate is between 18-35 years old. The percentage is expected to considerably grow over the next five years as trends show that the youth is becoming more receptive to civic education.

On the back of the increasingly worrying unemployment rate, stakeholders have observed that more and more youth are looking for alternative avenues to better their lives rather than completely lean on the scarce employment opportunities. In as much as devolution has opened up the political space and cascaded the political goodwill to the grassroots, there is still a dire need for the youth to collaborate and develop mechanisms of accessing these opportunities which include the attendant economic resources within the decentralized governance structures.

Attempts at decentralization have however, yielded little benefits to the youth, a phenomenon that can be attributed to the absence of political will and limited knowledge of how devolved systems work among the youth. Both the national and county governments need to actively execute their obligatory role in youth empowerment and employment creation in accordance with the law.

This study established that there is little understanding of the term devolution amongst the youth and the general roles of elected leaders in the devolved system are not spelt out.

However, devolution is undoubtedly transforming the once dormant villages and rural centers into robust economic units as the injection of funds stirs development of local infrastructure. While the youth need to be sensitized and informed on how to tap emerging opportunities, policy makers also need to invest in creating awareness about opportunities for the youth in devolved governance structures.

Youth and devolution - Current Status

A SMS survey by JIACTIVATE concluded that 25% of those surveyed had correct/full information of the meaning of devolution while 7% of them had a clue about what the term means but do not fully comprehend it. The survey concluded that there is little understanding of the term devolution and the general roles of elected leaders in the devolved system. About 40% of those surveyed have wrong interpretation of devolution while another 23% do not understand it.

The youth (aged 18-34) constitute approximately 80% of Kenya’s total population. Yet they do not play an active role in management of affairs that primarily affect them at both the national and county levels. This is perhaps one of the greatest impediments to the development of the country as those tasked with solving the country’s challenges do not fully understand the issues faced by the youth in the first place.

The youth are poorly represented in positions of authority and decision making at both national and county levels. The big question therefore is why are the youth left out of devolution, or rather, how can they fully benefit from devolution?

The main reasons for this are lack of information/
education, participation and representation. This means that there exists a huge gap in youth awareness on devolution (what is it? how it works? what are its benefits?) In terms of participation, challenges exist in direct representation (youth not represented in elective positions) or access to forums through which their voices can be heard.

A report by Chrispine Oduor & Abraham Rugo Muriu titled "Opportunities for Youth to Engage in Devolved Governance and Economic Development in Kenya" identifies reasons for lack of youth participation in governance:

- Inadequate education and training that fail to prepare the youth adequately to participate in decision-making. Training (TVET) system.
- Lack of direct access to institutional systems and structures within government, impedes youth ability to contribute during the formulation of public policies and programs.
- Perception among the youth that their voice would not be heard.
- Lack of information on available avenues for participation in governance.
- Governance issue to be tackled may seem too big for the youth such that they opt not to engage. Also the issue being tackled may not be of interest to the youth.

**Key findings from the report**

Total Sample - 678

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
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About 80% of the respondents said that they had heard of JIACTIVATE before, with Nyeri and Kajiado recording the highest awareness rates at 95% and 86% respectively. The lowest awareness rate was recorded in Kisumu at seventy two %. Of the total respondents, 6% of those aware had heard about JIACTIVATE on social media with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube the most popular social media sites mentioned.
Kenyan youth and their views on devolution and governance

What do you understand by devolution?

The survey attempted to find out what the respondents understood by devolution in terms of delegation of power from the national to county government and the oversight on management of the County Governments.

Of those surveyed, 8% saw the County Governments as largely responsible for the management of County affairs with minimal oversight by the national Government. This essentially means that the national Government is seen as playing a minor or non-existent role in the management of County affairs.

What is your role as a citizen in policy and governance?

Majority of the respondents saw themselves as largely playing an economic role in society with 27% indicating that creation of wealth through payment of taxes was their primary role. Another twenty three and twenty one percent look at their role as participation in civil activities such as voting and petitioning their leaders for failing in their mandates.
What is your role as a citizen in Policy and Governance?

Creating wealth to the benefit of all by paying taxes, the chief source of income for the government 27%

Attending meetings by government officials and other leaders and also participating meaningfully in civic activities e.g. elections 23%

Recalling and calling to action to facilitate the impeachment of leaders when they fail to fulfill their mandate or engage in illegalities and irregularities 21%

All the above 18%

Pointing out to government where it is failing in its services to its people 9%

Help create and maintain a fair society for all Kenyans 1%

Do the youth understand the roles of those in elected positions?

What is the role of your Member of County Assembly (MCA)?

Almost half of the respondents understand that their MCA’s play an intermediary role, that is between the public and the County Governments. 20% look at MCAs role as executive and involving the management of funds and implementation of development projects.

What is the role of your Member of Parliament (MP)?

Members of parliament play multiple roles according to the respondents. Top amongst these roles was them playing the role of a representative of the people (33% of respondents). 6% of the respondents look at the role of an MP as deliberating on and resolving issues of their constituents. 15% see the MPs as playing a legislative role as enacting laws in parliament. MP’s also play an oversight role in the allocation and management of national financial funds according to 14% of respondents.
What is your role of your MP?

To represent the people of the constituencies and special interests in the National Assembly

To deliberate on and resolve issues of concern to the people

To enact legislation

To exercise oversight over national revenue and its expenditure

To determine the allocation of national revenue between the levels of government

All the above

To approve declarations of war and extensions of states of emergency

What is the role of your Governor?

Governors are accountable for the management and use of county resources according to 21% of respondents. Another 18% each see the role of Governors as promoting citizen participation in development of their counties, the development of county plans and policies as well as diligent execution of roles as per their constitutional mandate.

To be accountable for the management and use of the county resources

To promote and facilitate citizen participation in the development of policies and plans, and delivery of services in the county

To submit county plans and policies to the county assembly for approval

Execute functions diligently and exercise the authority that the constitution and the law provides

Perform state functions within the county that the President may assign from time to time on the basis of mutual consultations

All the above

Do the youth hold their elected representatives accountable?

How confident are you to hold your leaders accountable?

The youth are confident enough to hold their leaders accountable with 56% of respondents giving a score of 6 or higher as to whether they were confident enough to hold their leaders accountable.

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest), how confident are you to hold your leaders accountable?

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

21%

18%

18%

18%

14%

14%

6%

2%
Half of the respondents who said that they would hold their leaders accountable cited that they would do so by monitoring performance, continuously interacting and consultations with their leaders to ensure that they delivered their election pledges. Another 32% said that they would be actively involved in public participation in forums and directly involvement in development projects.

“By going back to their manifestos and holding them accountable for the promises they gave and haven’t delivered, when they don’t deliver we kick them out in the next elections.” Charles - (Male Kajiado)

“Public participation where you raise issues of concern, Hold forums where I engage the leaders directly, Influencing the public not to vote them in the next elections when they don’t perform”. Joseph (Male - Machakos)

Leader absenteeism, lack of transparency and accountability as well as corruption were common responses amongst respondents when asked why they would not hold their leader accountable. 33% indicated that they wouldn’t because their leaders are unavailable and do not provide a platform to engage with the people. Lack of information on Governance was indicated by 26% of the youth as another reason why they do not have the confidence to hold their leaders accountable.

“Sometimes it’s difficult because they are not ready to openly give information. This is a very big challenge.” Elvis (Male - Kajiado)

“Some of our leaders don’t consider us after they have been elected e.g I haven’t seen anything done since elections.” Kevin (Male - Kisumu)
In light of the findings, youth participation in the
development of socio-economic policies should not be
demed as a favor to them, but a constitutional imperative.
Undoubtedly, one of devolution’s biggest hamstrings
has been the unpreparedness that characterized the
process, with the benefits being eclipsed by confusion
and misinformation.
Decentralization has been pivotal in the push for youth
emancipation, with the county governments required
to nominate members to represent special interests
including those of the youth. That notwithstanding,
young people are yet to comprehend the potential
impact of devolution on their lives.
Article 98 of the 2010 Constitution stipulates that the
senate must have at least two members, one man and
one woman, representing the interests of the youth. But
unbridled political patronage has led to the exclusion of
the youth as wheeler dealers dominate the county level
power echelons.
The fact that Kenya’s median age is estimated to be 19
years, and about 80% of Kenya’s population is below 35
years, indicates the proportion of the youth that should
hold leadership positions at the county level.
Unlike women and persons with disability who have held
the bull by the horn when shortchanged, the youth have
lacked both the financial muscle and structured forums
within which to drive their agenda. Through initiatives
such as JIACTIVATE, the youth can now press both elected
and appointed leaders at the county level to address
issues dear to them such as education, unemployment
and development of the counties.
Youth empowerment is important as a driver of their
participation in devolution. The youth therefore gave
recommendations on how to bolster their participation
in order to realise socio-political empowerment.

Recommendations

How can the youth participate
and benefit from devolution?

For starters, the Government has to provide meaningful
access to information on civic education and duties. This
is because the youth remain largely unaware of civic duties
and responsibilities.

For the youth to be represented at all levels of Government,
both local and national, they must actively participate in
the appointment of their leaders, including the Directorate
of Youth. All appointees must have a clear, measurable
and proven track record of leadership and command of the
position/office they will be holding. The youth must also be
adequately educated on the pertinent political processes.
This will equip the youth with a transparent, free and fair
insight into the election process of each candidate in their
local and national Government.
The said education and awareness programmes should be
youth friendly and backed by mentorship that enhances
decision making leadership capacity. Each political party
should have a rule in their organisation to represent youth,
women and people with different abilities.

Equally, the youth have to be proactive in actively seeking
elective positions at national and county levels. They
should also participate in public forums where they are
given the opportunity to talk about issues affecting them
and provide solutions to resolve these issues.
They should play an oversight role to ensure that national/
county resources are not mismanaged by elected leaders.
The youth that are already knowledgeable on their
civic duties and socio-economic opportunities within
devolved government units ought to play a leading role in
communities they live in providing information about their
rights and how they can influence policy for their ultimate
benefit.
The National Youth Forum on Devolution (2014) identified
the following issues as integral in ensuring that the youth
benefit from devolution. For instance, there should be
formation and consolidation of a National Youth Network to
follow up the implementation of the constitution especially
devolution. They can proactively organise county forums
and initiatives on devolution and develop a mechanism for
youth engagement with various partners on devolution.
Most popular platforms through which Youth learnt about JIACTIVATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube)</td>
<td>66 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shujaaz</td>
<td>18 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass electronic media (Radio/Television)</td>
<td>9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth group</td>
<td>1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Red Cross</td>
<td>1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JIACTIVATE forum</td>
<td>1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other forums/seminars</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature club</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What does JIACTIVATE mean to you?

(How does JIACTIVATE make you feel? How would you like to continue engaging with JIACTIVATE?)

Most of the respondents cited the word “empowered” in the context of being better informed or aware when asked how JIACTIVATE made them feel. Majority of the respondents (54%) identified JIACTIVATE as a forum whose objective was to create awareness, educate or inform them of/multiple issues facing them. 34% looked at JIACTIVATE as a forum that gives them an opportunity to be heard and participate in resolving issues affecting them. JIACTIVATE also plays a role in educating the youth on Governance and leadership according to 7% of the respondents.

“JIACTIVATE makes me free to share my problems with my fellow youths and get solutions to these problems.” Mackline (Female - Kisumu)

“It’s an organisation that is concerned about development and acts as a key stakeholder in solving the issues that affect youth directly. It makes me feel proud and gives me the opportunity to speak out my mind regardless of age, beliefs, ethnicity and mental capacity as a youth.” Yvonne (Female - Busia)

"JIACTIVATE is a Social movement by and for the youth that act as an oversight on what our leaders do and how the youth can be represented." Mandela (Siaya - Male)
Leaders are unavailable and do not provide a platform to engage with the people 33%
Lack of information/transparency 26%
Leaders are corrupt and are not held accountable by the people for their performance as elected representatives 18%
Youth pessimistic about their ability to make leaders accountable 9%
Youth are not given access/opportunity to hold their leaders accountable 6%
Leaders should not be held accountable solely but also the people who elect them should be 5%
Youth lack the confidence & awareness to speak out on issues that affect them 3%

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how does JIACTIVATE help you understand your county government access points?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With scores of four and five, 85% of respondents felt that JIACTIVATE has helped them understand the youth’s County Government access points.
How does JIACTIVATE help you understand the roles of county leaders?

Similarly another eighty five % of respondents felt that JIACTIVATE has helped the youth understand the roles of county leaders. This could be attributed to the JIACTIVATE forums that have improved youth understanding of the roles played by their elective leaders.

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how does JIACTIVATE help you understand the roles of county leaders?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>69 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does JIACTIVATE motivate you to take action and engage in governance?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>69 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how easy is it to participate in JIACTIVATE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>72 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does JIACTIVATE offer you a safe place to share your thoughts on issues that affect you?

More than 80% of respondents find it easy to participate in JIACTIVATE. This essentially shows the effectiveness of JIACTIVATE as a youth forum in terms of enabling participation in matters concerning the youth.
How meaningful is your engagement with JIACTIVATE?

More than 86% of the respondents find their engagement with JIACTIVATE meaningful. This means that JIACTIVATE meets their expectations in terms of its objectives of creating youth awareness in various matters and enabling their participation and resolving matters that affect them.

How does JIACTIVATE reflect how you feel as a young person?

The survey confirmed the effectiveness of the initiative, as 89% of respondents feel that JIACTIVATE reflects how they feel as young people. This means that JIACTIVATE provides a platform through which they can express themselves.

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how meaningful is your engagement with JIACTIVATE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how does JIACTIVATE reflect how you feel as a young person?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How would you rate your willingness to continue engaging with JIACTIVATE?

Over 90% showed a willingness to continue working with JIACTIVATE. The youth look for forums that not only create awareness on matters that affect them but also give them an opportunity to share thoughts on what affects them and how to resolve them. This is essentially what JIACTIVATE does and therefore explains why majority of them would continue to engage with JIACTIVATE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How would you rate JIACTIVATE’S inclusiveness?

With 89% giving a rating of four and five, we observe that the youth rate JIACTIVATE’s inclusiveness highly. This could be explained by the youth’s need for a platform that allows them to share their thoughts on matters that affect them and also promoting the need for the youth to be directly involved in solving matters that affect them at all levels.

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how would you rate JIACTIVATE’S inclusiveness?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How would you rate the JIACTIVATE declaration and its reflection on the issues that affect you and how you would want them solved?

The youth rated JIACTIVATE’s declaration and its reflection on issues affecting them and how they wanted these issues solved. Eighty nine % gave JIACTIVATE scores of four or five.

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), how would you rate the JIACTIVATE declaration and its reflection on the issues that affect you and how you would want them solved?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How do you want to continue engaging with JIACTIVATE?

More than 60% said that they would wish to continue engaging with JIACTIVATE through their forums and events with another 26% indicating social media as their preferred interaction medium.

How do you want to continue engaging with JIACTIVATE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participating in JIACTIVATE forums/events</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media interactions</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join the JIACTIVATE team</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass media communication</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joining maisha youth</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>