



AFRICA
YOUTH
TRUST

ORGANIZATION

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ABOUT AFRICA YOUTH TRUST

Africa Youth Trust (AYT) is an independent, non-partisan development and advocacy organization established in 2005 to spearhead a youth-led development model in Kenya and Africa. Registered in Kenya as a trust under the Trustee (Perpetual Succession) Act, AYT was founded by a group of young people dedicated to addressing youth unemployment and poverty.

Committed to promoting youth empowerment and fostering equitable societies, AYT collaborates strategically with stakeholders while emphasizing inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. The organization operates under four key pillars: Youth and Good Governance, Livelihoods Resilience, Gender Equality, and Women Empowerment. These pillars guide AYT's efforts to pioneer a women and youth-led development model in Kenya, with the aim of replicating this approach across other African countries.

OUR WORK

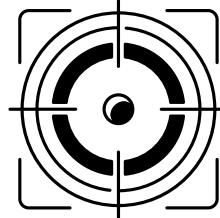
By combining research and outreach to our network members, AYT works to enrich democratic dialogue and ensure youth engagement in National and Regional affairs. AYT offers evidence-based policy analysis via policy briefs, guidebooks and policy related commentary to the youth development partners, the private sector, Parliament and Government. AYT has formed National and Regional networks of youth action partners who we work with to advance advocacy agenda and support youth-led approaches towards development. Our program components include research, technical assistance, advocacy, policy formulation & analysis and support to National and Regional mechanisms.

MISSION AND VISION



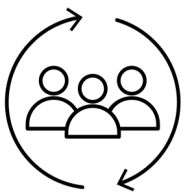
Mission

We exist to harness the productive energies of youth towards peace, equity and prosperity within and across communities in Africa.



Vision

A developed and well governed Africa drawing on the energies of all her children.



Core Values

Our core values are transparency, accountability, impact, solidarity, inclusivity, excellence, creativity, and openness. These values underpin everything we do and guide our actions and decisions.



Philosophy

AYT believes that;

- Youth are essential agents and creators of change in the society.
- Youth are capable of being at the forefront of affecting change for the good of all in society.
- Every youth deserves a chance to actively participate in development

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

At Africa Youth Trust, we have carefully crafted our strategic priorities to serve as the guiding beacons on our journey of empowerment and transformation.



Youth And Good Governance

This is a strategic initiative that focuses on promoting the youth active participation and meaningful involvement in the governance processes and systems at the national and regional level to promote transparency, and advocate for accountability in leadership.



Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

We seek to create a society where all individuals, regardless of their gender, have equal rights, opportunities, and access to resources and decision-making processes.



Livelihoods Resilience

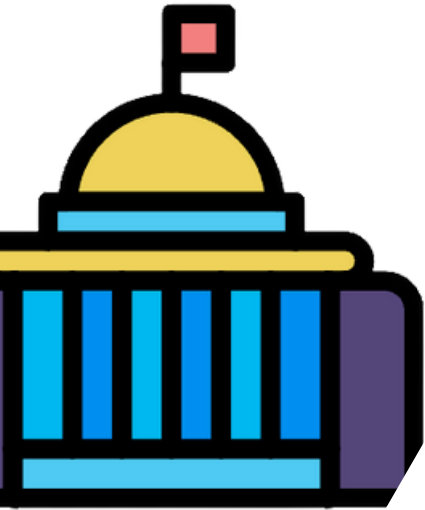
This is a comprehensive pillar that focuses on equipping young people with the necessary skills, resources, and support to build resilient livelihoods in withstanding and recover from economic, environment and social shock.



Climate Smart Agriculture

This supports innovative approaches to agricultural practices that aims to address the challenges posed by climate change while promoting sustainable and resilient food production systems

YOUTH AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



Within this pillar, our focus is on achieving "Enhanced Youth Engagement in Good Governance." Our aim is to empower youth to become active citizens, decision-makers, and leaders who drive positive change and contribute to the development of inclusive and accountable governance systems.

Through this initiative, we create platforms, opportunities, and resources for young people to engage with governance structures, institutions, and policies. We firmly believe that by amplifying youth voices and perspectives, we can address the unique challenges and aspirations of the youth population, ultimately fostering more responsive, transparent and effective governance.

To achieve these goals, we employ various approaches such as capacity building, advocacy and mentorship. These strategies help equip young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to participate in decision-making processes, promote transparency and accountability, and advocate for policies that address their needs and priorities

By strengthening youth engagement in good governance, we strive to cultivate a generation of informed and empowered citizens who actively contribute to shaping their societies and building a brighter future for all.



Projects Implemented

Mashariki Youth Campaign The Mashariki Youth Campaign promotes youth engagement in accelerating East African Community (EAC) integration. This project empowers youth to influence policy formation and strengthens regional youth structures. Partners for this initiative include various youth networks and EAC bodies.

EAC Women, Peace, and Security

Focused on implementing UNSCR 1325, this project champions women's equal participation in peace and security efforts across the East African region. We collaborate with EAC and other stakeholders to drive this initiative.

The East African Youth Human Rights and Democracy (EAYHRD) Promoting democracy and human rights through youth participation in the East African Community, we focus on youth-centered laws and policies, advocating for freedoms such as expression, association, and information. In partnership with regional youth organizations, we successfully champion human rights and democratic processes.

The East Africa Youth Network (EAYN) The East Africa Youth Network (EAYN) is a forum that advocates for youth issues within the EAC agenda. Comprising youth-serving organizations and national youth councils, this network aims to ensure holistic youth involvement in regional processes, with us serving as the convener for civil society under the EAYN.

Parliamentary Support Programme Our Parliamentary Support Programme enables youth to engage directly with Kenya's National Assembly in the law-making process through parliamentary committees and the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA).

Civic Education Program (CEP) The Civic Education Program raises awareness and mobilizes youth around governance issues. We empower youth with knowledge about governance and civic duties. We have conducted civic education on election processes, the Kenya National Youth Council Election Guidelines, and the 2010 Constitution of Kenya.



Projects Implemented

Youth Action Against Corruption (YAAC) The Youth Action Against Corruption project promotes youth involvement in fighting corruption through advocacy and institutional reforms. We have published the "Guide to Youth Action Against Corruption" and, with initial support from USAID through Pact Kenya, built youth capacity to champion institutional reforms and service delivery.

Youth Action on State Accountability (YASAP) We work with youth networks, key ministries, and duty bearers to create safe spaces for youth engagement with regional mechanisms such as the AU, EAC, and IGAD in this project. Partnering with Save the Children International, we advocate for children's and youth rights, addressing shrinking civic spaces for civil society organizations in Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa.

CSO's Development Effectiveness (CSO DE) Our work in Development Effectiveness shifts the global conversation from Aid Effectiveness to development outcomes that create tangible and sustainable changes. We collaborate with Plan International to ensure development effectiveness aligns with economic and social growth targets.

Ugatuji na Usawa Our project, "Ugatuji na Usawa: Bila Ufisadi," leverages feminist approaches to tackle corruption in county governments. We aim to raise awareness of the gendered impact of corruption and empower women in anti-corruption efforts, with support from the Global Fund for Women.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality and women empowerment are key pillars in our mission. They encompass the principles and actions aimed at creating a society where all individuals have equal rights and opportunities as well as access to resources. We strive to challenge systemic discrimination, biases, and inequalities faced by women and girls in various aspects of life.

Our work in gender equality involves promoting equal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. We address gender-based violence and discrimination, and advocate for women's rights and participation in decision-making processes. By fostering women empowerment, we enable women to realize their full potential and exercise agency over their lives.

Women empowerment is not only a matter of human rights but also contributes to sustainable development. It leads to more inclusive and diverse societies, improved social and economic outcomes, and a fairer world for all. We implement policies, advocate for reforms, support women's leadership, and challenge gender stereotypes to create a gender- equitable and inclusive society.

Society organizations, communities, and individuals, we work towards building a future where gender equality is a reality, and women and girls can thrive and contribute to a better world for everyone.



Projects Implemented



Equal Status and Human Rights of Women in East Africa (EAHUWO) This project aimed to strengthen knowledge of international human rights standards, particularly around equality and non-discrimination. By empowering professionals working on women's human rights, we contributed to advancing gender equality across the Eastern African region. We partnered with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) to achieve this goal.

The EAC Women Peace and Security Network (EAWPSN) Through this initiative, we established a regional network of civil society organizations to advocate for the role of women in peace and security. The EAWPSN ensures that EAC policy frameworks fully recognize and support women's roles in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding, thus improving the factors that influence women's security in the region.

Young Women in Governance (YWIG) This project promotes the active engagement of young women in governance and development. Piloted in Nairobi, Kiambu, and Machakos Counties, it equips young women to take on leadership roles and participate in decision-making processes. We implemented YWIG with the support of UN Women.

The Safe and Friendly Cities for All (SAFCA) Initiative This initiative focuses on urban safety, implemented in 8 cities globally, including Nairobi. In partnership with UNICEF, UN Habitat, and UN Women, we work with municipal leaders and local organizations to promote safety and empowerment for women, youth, and children through inclusive urban planning, management, and governance.

She Can In partnership with Action Aid Kenya and funded by DFID, this project works within the Mukuru informal settlements to improve the safety, mobility, and access to justice for vulnerable women and girls. By organizing collective action against Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), we advocate for gender-responsive public spaces and policies, demanding State accountability.

Projects Implemented



This project focuses on improving safety, mobility, and access to justice for vulnerable women and girls in Nairobi's Mukuru informal settlements. By organizing collective action against Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), we advocate for gender-responsive public spaces and policies, while holding the State accountable

Access to Justice This initiative helps survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Nairobi's Mukuru informal settlements access legal aid, medical, and psychosocial support through an SMS platform ('HELP' to 21094). The platform ensures survivors receive the necessary assistance for justice and recovery. We collaborate with Action Aid Kenya to implement this initiative.

Young Urban Women (YUW) With a network of 4,000 young urban women in Nairobi and Mombasa, we advocate for policies that address economic security and gender-responsive public services. This project empowers women and girls to engage in advocacy at the local, national, and global levels, influencing policy changes.

LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE

Our Livelihoods Resilience pillar is dedicated to empowering youth to build resilient livelihoods that can withstand challenges and uncertainties. We believe in equipping young people with the necessary skills, resources, and support to navigate the ever-changing landscape of work and entrepreneurship. Through comprehensive training programs and mentorship, we help young individuals develop their entrepreneurial mindset, enhance their business acumen, and explore viable income-generating opportunities.

At the heart of our approach is the recognition that resilience goes beyond economic aspects. We address the multidimensional nature of resilience by emphasizing the importance of social connections and psychological well-being. Our programs foster a sense of community and provide platforms for young entrepreneurs to network, collaborate, and share knowledge. We believe that social support networks and a positive mindset are critical in overcoming challenges and adapting to evolving circumstances.

By integrating resilience principles into youth livelihoods, we aim to create lasting impact and contribute to the long-term success of young entrepreneurs. We provide access to resources, facilitate market linkages, and offer ongoing mentorship to help young people sustain and grow their businesses. Through our efforts, we strive to foster not only individual success but also the economic growth and resilience of communities at large. Together, we can empower youth to build livelihoods that thrive in the face of adversity and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.





Projects Implemented

Youth Employment Initiative of Nairobi (YEIN) Focused on enhancing youth employability and entrepreneurship, this project offers training, capacity building, and networking opportunities for young people in Nairobi. It promotes sustainable livelihoods through skills development and connections to employment opportunities. The initiative is delivered in collaboration with FIC and the One Stop Youth Centre - Nairobi, with funding from DANIDA.

HFG Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) This project economically empowers youth in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nakuru to contribute to the 50% reduction in HIV prevalence. It integrates employment initiatives to improve youth livelihoods and health outcomes. The project is implemented in partnership with Hope World Wide Kenya, HIV Free Generation Kenya, and is supported by USAID.

Decent Work and Labour Rights in East Africa This initiative empowers youth in Mombasa and Kisumu by enhancing their employment prospects and raising awareness of labor market opportunities. It also engages stakeholders to promote decent work conditions. The program is implemented in partnership with FIC.

Shared Futures This program combats interfaith violence and addresses the root causes of violent extremism by empowering youth and local communities in Mombasa and Kwale. It also promotes youth employment by providing 10,000 youth with information on opportunities, training, and entrepreneurship. The program fosters cooperation among stakeholders to support youth employment in the region.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Our Climate Smart Agriculture pillar focuses on promoting sustainable and resilient farming practices in response to climate change. We integrate climate science, technology, and traditional knowledge to optimize agricultural production while minimizing environmental impact. By using climate-resilient crop varieties, efficient water management, soil conservation techniques, and precision agriculture, farmers can enhance productivity and adapt to climate-related risks such as droughts and floods.

In addition, we advocate for sustainable resource management including agroforestry, organic farming, and integrated pest management. These practices minimize chemical use, protect biodiversity, and improve soil health, ensuring the long-term sustainability of agricultural systems. We also prioritize knowledge sharing, capacity building, and farmer-to-farmer learning to empower farmers with the necessary skills and information to implement climate-smart practices effectively.

Our goal is to create resilient and productive agricultural systems that contribute to food security, poverty reduction, and community well-being in the face of climate change. By embracing Climate Smart Agriculture, we can adapt to climate challenges, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and foster sustainable development for a brighter future.





Projects Implemented

Civic Engagement Alliance. We strengthen civil society's capacity to address inequality and injustice, creating conditions for just economic, social, and political development in Kenya. Focusing on women, youth, and people with disabilities, we promote climate-smart agriculture and proactive conservation to improve livelihoods and support sustainable development for vulnerable communities. We implement this project in partnership with ICCO Cooperation and Edukans, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Our Achievements and Impact

Highlighting our notable achievements that have made a significant impact and brought us closer to our goals. Our impact is tangible, improving lives and empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

Anti-Corruption And Youth Action

Our efforts in the fight against corruption have empowered youth to be active players in ensuring transparency and accountability. Through strategic partnerships, we spearheaded social audits of the Kenya National Integrity System, giving young people the tools to hold public institutions accountable. We took a leading role in shaping national discourse on corruption by organizing the First National Conference on Youth Action Against Corruption. Additionally, the "Guide to Youth Action Against Corruption," which we published in 2009, continues to be a vital resource, equipping youth with effective strategies to combat corruption. Building on this legacy, the Ugatuzi na Usawa Project in Mombasa has embraced feminist approaches to tackle corruption, fostering transparency, accountability, and citizen-led governance processes. Our advocacy has left a lasting impact, with key amendments to the National Youth Council Act and the Constitution of Kenya ensuring that youth priorities are embedded in national policies.



Youth and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Our commitment to addressing gender-based violence has transformed the lives of hundreds of survivors. The Survivor Support Network we established provides critical legal, medical, and psychosocial assistance to those affected by Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). With over 500 survivors supported and counting, we have made strides in creating safer spaces for vulnerable groups. Our innovative multilingual SMS platform (21094), developed in partnership with ActionAid Kenya, has opened avenues for survivors to report GBV anonymously, resulting in over 5,000 cases being flagged and addressed. We have also invested in building the capacity of law enforcement, training 300 police officers on GBV prevention and response to ensure that survivors receive the support they deserve.



Policy Development Contributions

Our work in policy development has been instrumental in shaping youth-focused and gender-responsive frameworks across the region. We contributed to the development of -

Our Achievements and Impact

the EAC Youth Engagement Policy as well as its review in 2024, ensuring that it remains aligned with the evolving needs of young people across the East African Community.

We have made significant contributions to the Nairobi County Internship Policy, advocating for inclusive structures that provide equitable opportunities for young people to access internships and gain meaningful workplace experience.

We played a pivotal role in advancing the National Care Work Policy, which highlights the value of unpaid care work and advocates for policies that recognize, reduce, and redistribute care responsibilities. This policy is particularly critical for women, as it addresses structural barriers that hinder their economic participation and emphasizes the need for gender-responsive public services.

We have also been part of the development of the National Women Economic Empowerment Policy, a transformative framework aimed at creating enabling environments for women to access economic opportunities, enhance their livelihoods, and achieve financial independence. Through this policy, we championed strategies that integrate women into the economy, promote equal access to resources, and address systemic inequalities that hinder their progress.

Strengthening Youth Linkages

Committed to empowering youth at the local level, we established key partnerships to connect young people with government opportunities. By signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mombasa and Kwale Counties, we have opened doors for youth engagement with county governments, creating pathways for local collaboration and ensuring that young people are at the forefront of regional development efforts.

Women's Empowerment

Our efforts in women's empowerment have sparked a powerful feminist movement, with over 4,000 young women advocating for policies that protect bodily integrity and promote economic security. In February 2019, we hosted the Young Urban Women Global Movement Participatory Peer Review Summit, strengthening the global network of young women and amplifying their voices. To deepen this advocacy, we established a vibrant young feminist movement in Kenya, championing improved policies on bodily integrity and economic security. We have also facilitated the development of a comprehensive curriculum covering Decent Work, Economic Security, Bodily Integrity, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Unpaid Care Work, and Gender-Responsive Public Services in collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and ActionAid.

Civic Education and Regional Advocacy

Our civic education initiatives have had a far-reaching impact, engaging 457,709 youth during the National Civic Education Program for the 2010 Constitution of Kenya referendum. We were also instrumental in forming the Horn of Africa Youth Network through the first-ever youth consultative forum. We have been key contributors to policy development, proposing amendments to the National Employment Bill through a Civil Society Working Group, in partnership with the Kenya Young Parliamentary Association. Our work has influenced significant policy frameworks, including the EAC and IGAD youth policies, Nairobi County Internship Policy, and the National Care Work and Women Economic Empowerment policies.



Our Achievements and Impact

Youth Engagement and Employment

Through targeted youth engagement initiatives, we've reached 257,000 youth, linking them to labor market opportunities. Our training programs have equipped 15,000 youth with employability skills and 9,520 with business and entrepreneurship knowledge across various counties. Beyond training, we've mentored 20,000 young people, connecting them with microfinance institutions and the Youth Fund. Our youth advocacy also reached the regional level, as demonstrated by hosting the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and East African Youth full assembly meeting, mainstreaming youth issues within the East African Community (EAC)

Empowering Youth for Resilience and Economic Security

Over 3,000 youth in Mombasa and Kwale Counties have been equipped with employability skills, entrepreneurship training, and vocational expertise, building their resilience against violent extremism. Our support goes beyond training, as we have provided seed funding to entrepreneurial groups, reinforcing economic security and fostering sustainable livelihoods for young people in these regions.

Advocacy and Regional Processes

Our advocacy extends to children's and youth rights across Eastern and Southern Africa, where we've actively engaged in regional processes, including the SADC Capacity Building workshop. By strengthening relationships with youth networks and fostering collaborations with governments and organizations, we continue to enhance youth engagement and policy influence at both regional and international levels.

Further, we engage with AU organs, including the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and ECOSOCC, to provide recommendations for the draft model law on Gender Equality and Equity, ensuring that gender considerations are prioritized within legislative frameworks. Our focus on gender-responsive public services is reflected in the development of scorecards to monitor progress within county governments, promoting accountability and inclusivity across service delivery systems.



Publications, Milestones, and Strategic Partnerships

Publications made by AYT

Our publications serve as key resources to inform and guide youth and stakeholders on various critical issues. The *Action Guide on Youth Engagement in Public Policy* promotes active participation and accountability, empowering youth to influence decision-making. Through the EAC Women, Peace, and Security Project, we've supported the implementation of UNSCR 1325, emphasizing women's role in peace and security. Our *Guide to Youth Action Against Corruption* provides a detailed understanding of corruption and offers practical strategies to combat it. Additionally, the *Gender Mainstreaming in East Africa* publication outlines best practices for integrating gender perspectives into regional initiatives.



Milestones

Our milestones reflect significant strides in advocacy and youth empowerment. Partnering with youth action groups, we have conducted anti-corruption social audits, evaluating the Kenya National Integrity System and promoting transparency. The First National Conference on Youth Action Against Corruption marked a key moment in addressing critical issues of transparency, accountability, and integrity. Furthermore, our advocacy efforts successfully led to amendments in the National Youth Council Act in May 2009, ensuring that the law aligns with the needs and aspirations of the youth.



Strategic Affiliations

National GBV Technical Working Group Nairobi County (GBV)
Technical Working Group Sub County (GBV)
Technical Working Group (Embakasi East Constituency)
Pwani County GBV Technical Working Group
National Social Economic & Financial Inclusion Technical Working Group
Kwale County Engagement Forum on CVE
Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network (CSPEN)
Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)
East African Youth Network (EAYN)
Kenya National Chamber of Commerce Industry
East African Civil Society Forum (EACSOFF)
Youth Serving Organization's (YSO) Consortium.



OUR PARTNERS



Uraia

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GOPA
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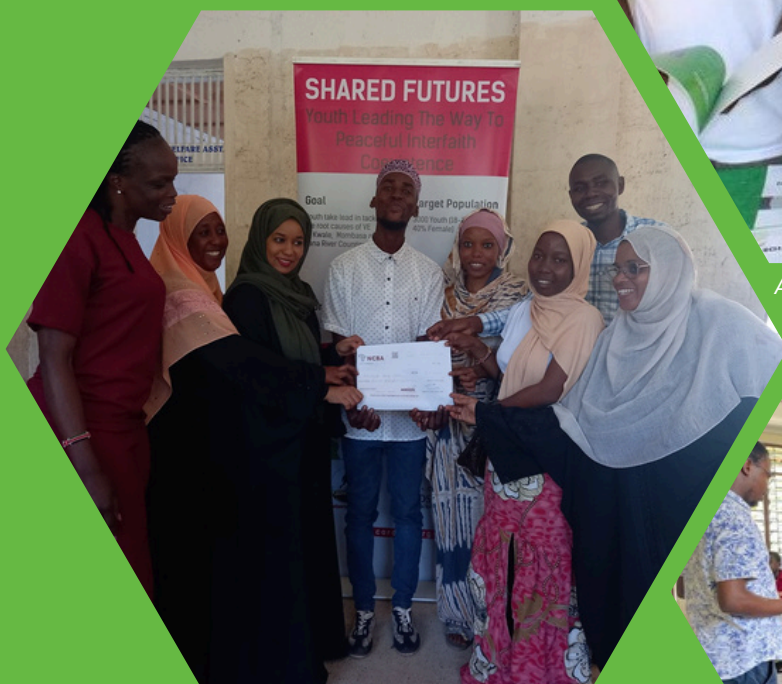
PHOTO GALLERY



Survivor support network in Mukuru, Nairobi.



AYT Mombasa team showcase our work at a booth during International Youth Day celebrations.



Shiners Art Group receives their seed capital cheque from AYT.



AYT Trainer of Trainees speaking at Employability Training at Shiraz TVET, Kwale.



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