



Exploring Available Youth Opportunities In Mvita Constituency

About Us

Kigoda Pwani is a youth-led organisation that is working on transformative change in Kenya's Coastal communities. Our goal of sustainable development is built on three objectives:



Community development



Economic empowerment



Environmental awareness

We are currently working on workforce development as a way of countering violent extremism through youth engagement in community development. The team is made up of the following:



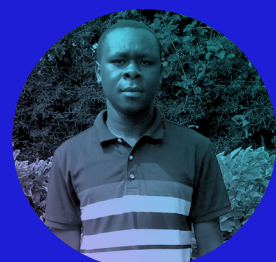
Ashley Cherop is a student at Bandari Maritime Academy pursuing Marine engineering. She has represented the school at the recent Youth And the blue Economy conference held in Mombasa. She is an active sportswoman involved in rugby at Mombasa Rugby Football Club. She is a member of Kigoda Pwani and is part of the Jijulishe Jiwezeshe project team.

Eugene Ralak is a 2nd-year student at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic taking a certificate course in ICT. He is passionate about ensuring youth are aware of their purpose in the community and help them go after these opportunities. He is a member of Kigoda Pwani and is part of the Jijulishe Jiwezeshe project team.



Isabel Opondo is a Programme Assistant at S.A.F.E. Kenya and the project lead at Kigoda Pwani for the Jijulishe Jiwezeshe project. She is also pursuing a degree in Environmental Planning and Management. Isabel has experience in safeguarding capacity building and in developing environmental and safeguarding policies for organisations that work in community development.

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Acknowledgement

This research would not have been possible without the assistance of Dr Fridah Simba and Mr Amon Matuga who have provided technical support in writing this report. The team at HURIA have been supportive in linking us with different civil society organisations (CSOs) and we are especially thankful to Agnes Mwambila for this. The team is also grateful to our coach Joseph Nazareth for his encouragement throughout the project. Our eternal gratitude goes to the Young Cities team for believing in us and giving us the opportunity to implement our project for the betterment of our community. A big thank you to Anisa Harrasy for her patience and guidance through every step of the process. We at Kigoda Pwani have learned so much from her. To our family and friends that continue to support us, Asanteni.

Introduction

Over 200 million young people are unemployed or underemployed.¹ Large numbers of youth enter the job market every year, and an estimated 600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030 just to keep pace with the growth of the global working-age population.² The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of decent work in achieving sustainable development, and SDG 8 specifically recognizes the need for a global strategy to address youth employment issues and substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.³ Solutions for Youth Employment require a multi-stakeholder coalition that includes public sector, private sector, and civil society actors that aims to provide leadership and resources for catalytic action to increase the number of young people engaged in productive work.

This report summarises research into youth employment and opportunities in Mvita Sub-County in Mombasa, Kenya. The survey was part of a youth-led project to map job opportunities in Mvita in order to create a comprehensive list of prospects and spotlight gaps that may limit young job seekers. The project sought to increase awareness amongst youth, civic society and local governance of barriers and opportunities and informed a wider effort to get more young people employed and engaged. The project team has published these findings in hope that they may help guide more work on this critical topic in Mvita and across Kenya.

This research was conducted using a descriptive research design through which 124 young people, aged 18-25 were surveyed using Google Forms.

¹ World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2020: Insufficient paid work affects almost half a billion people, new ILO report shows

² SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all – SDG Compass

³ Methodology for SDG indicator 8.b.1 on youth employment – ILO

Research Findings

Survey Respondents

- 1 Gender:** The survey strove for gender equality in its responses to ensure the sample was representative. Ultimately, a small majority (50.4%) of respondents were female, while 48.8% of respondents were male.
- 2 Education:** The majority of survey respondents were form four leavers (43.2%). 22.4% attained a certificate and 16.8% were diploma holders (16.8%).
- 3 Employment:** 88% of the youths who participated in the online survey were unemployed with the 70.4 %, who were employed earning a salary of less than 5,000 Kenyan Shillings per month. The unemployed youths indicated that they were ready and willing to be enlightened on available opportunities whether business opportunities or employment opportunities.

Youth Interests

The survey sought to understand which opportunities young people were most interested in. Respondents were most interested in opportunities in the following industries:

| Category | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------|
| Food Industry | 16.9% |
| Salon and Barber Shop | 15.3% |
| ICT Services | 12.9% |
| Tourism Sector | 12.9% |
| Transport Industry | 12.1% |
| Government Jobs | 10.5% |
| Welding/Garage/Repairs | 7.3% |
| Cleaning Services | 6.5% |
| Fishing | 5.6% |



Overcoming Employment Challenges

Youth people in Mvita face various challenges in accessing available opportunities. Some of the most serious challenges include:

| Challenges | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Lack of Requisite business Skills | 25% |
| Lack of Funds for Capital | 20.2% |
| Costly Business License | 16.9% |
| Lack of Information on Opportunities | 16.1% |
| Corruption in Employment | 14.5% |
| Security Challenges | 7.3% |
| Total | 100% |

In order to overcome these challenges and access employment opportunities, the young people surveyed indicated that they would want the following interventions:

| Interventions | Percentage |
|--|-------------|
| Entrepreneurship training | 29.8% |
| Organize More Training | 20.2% |
| Financing of start-up business | 16.9% |
| Career fair mentorship | 12.1% |
| Cheaper business loans | 8.1% |
| Cheaper licenses for start-ups | 7.3% |
| Access to information on Opportunities | 5.6% |
| Total | 100% |

When asked if the County government was doing enough to support youth employment, the respondents were split. Only a narrow majority (53.8%) indicated that Mvita constituency supports youth entrepreneurship programs and has deployed a reasonable number of mentors to assist youths by introducing the skills mtaani aspect in Mvita constituency.

Most (77.6%) indicated that they felt they had enough skills to seek employment while 12% felt they did not and 10.4 % were neutral on the issue. **Survey respondents were most interested in training in the following skills:**

- 1 Skills required to run one's own business, including entrepreneurship (26.6%) and business (15.3%),
- 2 Skills for specific trades, such as salon/barber (16.1%) and ICT (10.5%),
- 3 Project-based skills that would enable them to work for themselves, or in a variety of jobs, including: tender/supply (14.6%), financial management (6.5%) and creativity/innovation (3.2%).

Where Youth Find Information

One of the major challenges that young people face in finding work is knowing where to find opportunities and information about available positions. This can be particularly difficult for a young person looking for their first job or for someone who does not have a lot of experience searching for jobs. Therefore, **an important step in solving youth unemployment is making sure young people know where to find information about opportunities and know where and how to apply.** To help bridge this gap, the study sought to understand where young people look for information about jobs and employment. The young people surveyed find information in the following places:

- 1 Through social media, including: Facebook (21.8%), WhatsApp (23.4%) and LinkedIn (15.3%)
- 2 Through print media, including newspaper advertisements (14.5%)
- 3 Online on websites or in emails (7.4%)
- 4 Through their own networks and connections (5.6%)

The majority of young people find information about employment online, specifically through social media. This finding is important for employers looking to hire youth, government offices who are working to reduce youth unemployment and all other actors working on youth employment in Mvita and across Kenya.

Recommendations

Base on these results, the research offers the following recommendations to help address youth unemployment and get more young people actively engaged in the economy.

- 1 Youth need better access to information, meaningful consultation and more chances to pursue appropriate employment opportunities. **Information should be published on channels where youth actively seek information**, including social media, SMS and print media.
- 2 Young people need more **training opportunities** to build employment skills in the fields in which they are most interested. Training should include general work skills, specific trade skills and skills for project and business management. Training programmes should always consult youth to find out which skills they are most interested in.
- 3 Youth unemployment will require **a cross-sectorial response**. This project mapped opportunities and found that there are many different institutions and organisations working to support youth employment, including schools/colleges, youth groups, privates companies, NGO's, government departments and church/mosques, all of which are actively involved in the provision of trainings aimed at sensitizing youths on available opportunities. These efforts should be coordinated to have the greatest impact.
- 4 **The media should also be encouraged to play a facilitative role** in bringing information to young people and promoting awareness of youth opportunities.
- 5 There should be **youth-specific support** to overcome unemployment and youth business start-ups should be exempted from costly and discouraging business permits.



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January 2021

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