



## United Nations - Generation Unlimited Kenya Quarterly Situation Report June 2020



Figure 1 Youth from Vijana Bila Ukabila promoting peace in Informal settlements. Photo Courtesy UNDP

### Introduction

Kenya's population is very young with close to 50% being under 18 years, and 30 million (63%) being under 24 years (KNBS, 2019). Despite recent improvements in the country, there are still challenges for young people still face challenging in accessing skills and employment. Kenya is also a frontrunner Generation Unlimited (GenU) country, and the Government has finalized a GenU roadmap based on the findings of a study supported by UNICEF. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the entire UN system is providing technical support to the Government to operationalize GenU Kenya which is led by the Office of the President. The Ministry of ICT and Youth, and its leadership, are key catalysts to realizing the vision of GenU Kenya.

This report summarizes actions undertaken and supported by UN agencies in the second quarter of 2020 for Generation Unlimited (GenU) in Kenya. The actions have been categorized around GenU's seven (7) strategic priorities. In addition, a Plus One category is included which describes broader UN efforts that aim to ensure healthier and safer lives for adolescents and young people. These enablers underpin the success of GenU Kenya.

Thirteen (13) UN agencies contributed to this quarter's report. Below is a sampling of key findings and the annex outlines the detailed contributions from each agency. Out of all the programmes and interventions received from the agencies, the Situation Report (SitRep) focuses on those that show promise of being scaled up and/or being replicated.

### **Priority Plus: Enable healthier and safer lives for Adolescents and Young People (AYP)**

To put youth as the driving force behind COVID19 prevention in their communities, an emphasis on sensitization, digital content distribution through social media, mentorship, technical and financial support and risks was the priority in Q2 of 2020. Through bulk SMS, infographics, comics, reflector jackets and online campaigns, UNFPA reached 72,000 youth (18-35 years old) with information on how to prevent COVID19 during a nationwide youth sensitization campaign in partnership with the National Youth Service (NYS), the Boda Safety Association and UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel. To ensure that refugee youth are aware of how to prevent the COVID19 pandemic, UNHCR disseminated information via WhatsApp and phone messages, as well as through a network of community youth leaders (37 in Nairobi, and 11 in Nakuru and Mombasa). In Dadaab, 150 young people formed outreach committees to reach persons with special needs and share information on COVID19.

Health Care Workers (HCW) at youth-oriented facilities also received sensitization to ensure continuity in the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services to young people. A global youth and sports webinar for Africa in response to COVID-19, under the theme "*Harnessing the Power of Sport in a time of Crisis: Engaging African Youth in the Fight against COVID-19 and beyond*" took place in April with the aim of using sport to build bridges among the youth and their communities during the COVID19 period of closures and limited movement.

To raise the profile of the importance the need to pay special attention to the refugee population during the COVID19 pandemic context, UNHCR and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) engaged refugee athletes in a global virtual workout to inspire healthy living across the world as a way of countering COVID-19, under the theme, 'Stay Healthy , Stay Strong, Stay Active With The #Olympicday Workout. Three refugee athletes who competed at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, joined other top athletes in the world's largest 24-hour digital Olympic workout. The event was organized on 23 June 2020.

As part of scaling up quality HIV service delivery for Adolescents and Young People, the UN supported National AIDS Control Council (NACC) and National AIDS and STI Control Program (NASOP) provided training and testing services to the AYP population. The results from the HIV testing revealed that out of 349,079 HIV testing services (10-24) and 111,369 family planning uptakes, 42% of new HIV infection occurred among adolescent and young people.

Moving forward, UNICEF and government partners have finalized plans to enhance outreach activities for and with young people and community health volunteers to improve knowledge on COVID19 prevention in the context of HIV and SRHR. The planned interventions to be launched in July will also focus on mental health and psychosocial support services in 24 counties targeting 50,000 AYP.

Life skills training for AYP with a focus on the risks associated with drugs and substance abuse, sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness; and prevention of violent conflict will be conducted in the third quarter of 2020.



**Priority I: Ensure secondary school transmits skills that young people need for the future of work.**

As part of promoting a culture of lawfulness and the rule of law in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, the Education for Justice programme was conducted in learning institutions with UNODC support. The training equipped AYP with 21st century skills including critical and creative

thinking, problem solving, analytical reasoning, and teamwork/collaboration that are in line with the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). One of the most interesting outcomes of this program was the establishment of Justice Clubs in the participating high schools. 600 young people participated in the Education for Justice Program. Kenya National Debate Council and UNDOC partnered in the delivery of the Education for Justice Program; and ILO, IFC, MoE, KICD, Garissa, Turkana County Governments worked with UNDOC in the scaling up of CBC core competencies.

In an effort to ensure continuity of learning for refugee children during COVID19 in Kalobeyei settlement, Dadaab and Kakuma camp, UNHCR supported radio lessons that delivered pre-recorded KICD content and interactive live sessions with teachers, reaching over 75,000 learners and is procuring an additional 5,000 radios to increase access to digital resources.

UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in scaling up the implementation of the new CBC core competencies of Communication and Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Imagination and Creativity, Citizenship, Digital Literacy, Learning to Learn, and Self Efficacy. Mentorship and Community Service Learning is part of the Competency Based Curricula in Kenya but has not been elaborated.

UNICEF is also working with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to develop guidelines and resources for these two curricula. By August, UNICEF will have 4 partners in Kakuma and Dadaab testing the implementation of the curricula in refugee and host communities. Teachers and community resource persons will be trained to provide mentorship, particularly for vulnerable girls and to increase participation in STEM subjects, including digital literacy. 8,000 learners are targeted for the implementation of this pilot initiative that can be later scaled nationwide.

**Priority II: Provide young people outside the school system with opportunities for training and skills development.**

Agribusiness has huge potential to provide jobs for young people and help improve food and nutrition security in different communities. WFP provided technical mentorship in agribusiness value chain inputs and equipment in an effort to increase the number of self-employed youths in agribusiness: 3,366 youth from Makueni, Baringo and Marsabit received mentorship and equipment for agribusiness. The Departments of Youth & Gender, Agriculture & Livestock, Nutrition, Trade & Co-operatives in the county governments and development were key partners to support the agricultural activities.

UNHCR has been working with partners to provide technical and vocational training to refugees and members of the host community. In Kakuma, earlier in the year, 2,222 youth people, including 697 women, were enrolled in various three-year training programmes implemented in partnership with Don Bosco, including woodwork, tailoring, masonry, mechanical engineering and computer skills. Due to COVID-19, theoretical classes are now offered online.

**Priority III: Improve market linkages between job seekers and employment opportunities, as well as access to quality-decent work opportunities for young people. This would include job matching, internships and other forms of apprenticeship and providing market driven/relevant skills**



Under this priority, ILO focused on a review of the Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) curricula in TVETs to strengthen the capacity of instructors to develop relevant training programmes and entrepreneurship skills based on a labor market assessment. 32 instructors and 50 trainees were trained, and this model has the potential to scale up and be replicated across instructors and

TVETs nationally.

UNHCR in collaboration with UNDP, the Government of Japan and Toyota Kenya continued to support refugee youth participating in the project ‘Building Resilience through Skills Development for Youth in Kenya’. This is a one-year project which was launched in February 2020 and aims to increase the participants’ knowledge of the latest automotive technology. This project is in its pilot phase. However, the Government of Japan and UNDP have committed to scaling it up.

Furthermore, since 2019, UNHCR is engaging refugee youth in Nairobi and Kakuma under the UNV programme. Despite its limited scope, this initiative has provided valuable professional

experience to refugee youth and has given them an opportunity to contribute to refugee youth-programming.

#### **Priority IV: Ensure access to quality-decent work opportunities for young people.**

Like Priority II, the WFP provided access to quality work opportunities for young people through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) as a sustainable alternative to rural urban migration i.e.,

- Supporting youth with agribusiness value chains inputs and equipment;
- Supporting County Govts in development of youth empowerment policies;
- Supporting gender equality and equity in youth projects initiatives; and
- Establishment of Youth Savings & Loans Associations (YVSLA) and table banking in youth groups and linkage to financial service providers.

Interventions carried out in Baringo, Garissa, Makueni and Marsabit counties to ensure access to decent work opportunities reached more than 3,000 youth. The main partners in involving young people in agricultural productivity were the county government technical departments (Youth & Gender, Agriculture & Livestock, Nutrition, Trade & Co-operatives), the Governors offices, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis (KIPPRA) and development partners.

In addition, through FAO funded interventions in Kiambu county, a total of 1,439 youth were trained provided support to start their agricultural enterprises. The initiative focuses on building capacity on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), improving agricultural productivity, linking young people to the market, inclusive financing, mentoring and coaching on entrepreneurship.

UNHCR also continued to support mentorship initiatives with partners through a series of virtual workshops targeting youth-led refugee organizations in Nairobi reaching 35 members of the different refugee-led organizations.

The Food & Nutrition Security Window of the SDG Partnership Platform, the GoK, and UN RCO co-created, and supported the recent launch of the Agriculture Sector Network (ASNET). This has been formed through a strong partnership of KEPSA, KNCCI & the SDG Partnership Platform, with support from the Business Advocacy Fund (BAF), with over 400 stakeholders in the sector. It aims to be the private sector umbrella body and voice of the agriculture, livestock, fisheries sector in Kenya to partner with National & County Governments, development partners and stakeholders to revolutionize the agriculture sector for growth, inclusive wealth and jobs creation especially for the Youth who represent the precious demographic dividend potential. A Youth in Agriculture group under ASNET has been constituted to focus on skills training and livelihoods across multiple value chains in partnership with SDG Partnership Platform. Agriculture is one of 10 sectors identified by the new multi-stakeholder Finance, Trade & Investment Network (FINTRINET) Platform chaired by KEPSA and Deputized by the SDG Partnership Platform to accelerate economic recovery and future growth with a focus on skills training and livelihoods especially for Youth to blend human, financial and intellectual capital for Kenya's economic recovery.

#### **Priority V: Foster broad-based entrepreneurship as a mindset and a livelihood**

To prevent violent extremism amongst youth at risk of radicalization, UNDP provided training in alternative livelihoods for youth groups. 52 youth groups in the coastal counties of Kilifi, Kwale

and Tana River and 12 youth groups in Marsabit and Mandera Counties received training and business start-up kits. The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and National Steering Committee (NSC) partnered with UNDP to build resilience amongst this group of youth. UNDP continues to be intensively involved in discussions with young people and their organizations on how to boost their contribution to securing a more peaceful future and continues to advocate for the positive role that youth can play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

**Priority VI: Ensure equitable access to education, training, entrepreneurship, employment and civic participation and civic engagement**

ILO in partnership with the TVET Curriculum Development, Assessment and Certification Council (TVET CDACC), completed a review of the Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) curricula to be implemented nationally. Through this partnership, 50 instructors and trainees across TVETs accessed online training programs and equipped with relevant skills aligned to the labor market needs.

UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, and Konza Technopolis launched an innovation challenge, addressing entrepreneurship targeting innovative young people with ideas in the areas of (i) health care systems, (ii) food systems and (iii) dignified work. A total of 316 submissions were received from 47 counties for the innovation challenge. 53% of the submissions were in the health care systems category, 28% in the dignified work and 19% food systems. Three winners were selected and Startup Suite, emerged as the overall winner with an online project managing system on payments through mobile money, offering services in Swahili.

To address the gap in research that can shape policy around women's economic empowerment and SGBV, 16 graduate students from the University of Nairobi received funding from UNWOMEN to carry out their Master research in three broad areas: Women's Health, Women's Economic Empowerment and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) under the Students Grants Programme. 14 out of 16 students graduated; and the second phase of the programme will cover June to December 2020.

In Kakuma refugee camp, UNHCR has assisted four young refugees obtain scholarships to a university in Costa Rica, and three to high schools in Europe and elsewhere in Africa.

**Priority VII: Equip young people as problem-solvers and engaged members of the society**

The two '*One Stop Youth Centers*' established by UNHABITAT and municipal counties of Nairobi and Kilifi offering training in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and entrepreneurship were each used as hubs to prevent the spread of COVID 19 as part of their mandate to strengthen the capacity of cities to engage youth in local decision making and city development strategies. Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) actively engaged the youth in the Nairobi informal settlements in COVID19 preventive measures.

Handwashing facilities were installed in Mathare, Kibera, Nairobi CBD and Kilifi with 50,000 people reached in Mathare, 175,000 in Kibera and 150,000 in the Nairobi Central Business District

(CBD). SHOFSCO upscaled the installation of handwashing facilities in Kibera and bus terminuses and markets across Nairobi impacting 37% of the targeted population.

UNHCR supported refugee-led organizations in Nairobi, Nakuru and Mombasa with 300 kg of soap distributed to 313 vulnerable members of the community with refugee youth raising funds to purchase additional materials reaching over 500 individuals from refugees and members of the host community. 1,300 members of the scout movement in Dadaab, installed hand washing stations in the camp.

On-going engagement with young people in Kenya includes the work of Ms. Cynthia Nafula Nyongesa, influencer, Youth Ambassador for Kenya to the GenU Board (August 2019 to date) and member of the Genu Young Peoples' Action Team (YPAT). She hosts topical discussions on her social media pages including on Twitter (13,100 followers), Instagram (8,500 followers), FaceBook (5K followers) and on her blog 'Cynthia Untamed' which has 4,000 unique visitors every month. From March 2020 to date, the interactions between her and young people on digital platforms have been dominated by conversations around COVID19, and young peoples' experiences. The #FORYOU campaign video developed and by refugee youth and supported by UNHCR reached over 800,000 views on Facebook and 49,000 views on Twitter resulting in the campaign being adopted by WHO and UNFPA.

Moving forward, UNICEF Kenya is involved in the development of the regional African Youth Marketplace (YOMA) – a virtual platform that matches young people to self-development opportunities. Through YOMA, young volunteers will participate in community-based services in different areas; and in return, they are given recognition for their voluntary work, and provided with access to training opportunities. Discussions are ongoing with the Government on how to adopt the YOMA model for Kenya within the Ajira Digital Program. An advisory group is proposed in collaboration with Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs to lead the strategy in localizing YOMA to the Kenyan market context. Initial user testing and feedback on the YOMA platform from 250 volunteers will be consolidated into the final platform before the proposed launch in Kenya in Q3 of 2020.