



Newsletter



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The Nyeri County Youth Development Policy 2023: A Snapshot



Story by Governor's Press Unit - Compiled by Barbara Wambui

H.E the Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, PhD., EGH together with his Deputy, H.E Kinani-ri Waroe led Nyeri County's Youth, staff, state and development partners, stakeholders and citizens in officially launching The Nyeri County Youth Development Policy 2023 amid great pomp and fanfare, during a colorful celebration held at The Moi Nyeri Complex School.

The pivotal role of the Department on Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services led by CECM Esther Ndung'u in the realization of this milestone cannot be denied. According to Esther, "This Policy's transformative agenda seeks to address the needs of Nyeri County's Youth population by incorporating their issues into all County policies, programmes and plans, thus ensuring that their voices and concerns are adequately addressed."

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Policy Theme: “Linking Nyeri Youth to Sustainable Growth through Innovation”

The Youth Policy is informed by the need for a strategic approach to address the challenges facing the youth in Nyeri County.

The Policy hopes to address issues affecting the youth by providing broad based objectives and strategies that will be implemented to give them meaningful opportunities to reach maximum potential.

It also provides a framework on which all programs and sectoral policies will base their efforts to mainstream issues affecting the youth at all levels, including accountability mechanisms for the County.

The main goal of the Policy is to empower the youth to participate and contribute to the socio-economic development of the County, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1-5 & 8, which are:

- SDG 1 - No Poverty i.e End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.
- SGD 2: Zero Hunger i.e End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- SGD 3: Good Health and Well-being i.e Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SGD 4: Quality Education i.e Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SGD 5: Gender Equality i.e Achieve gender equality and empower all girls and women.
- SGD 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth i.e Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Nyeri Youth Population:

According to the 2019 Kenya National Bureau of statistics, Nyeri County's population is 759,164 persons (Male 374,288 being 49.3% and female 384,845 being 51.7%)

The total number of youth is 203,400 comprising of 100,847 Male and 102,553 females

This account for about 27% of the overall population.

A large portion of the population is young people (youth bulge)

This youth population is significant for economic and social opportunities if gainfully engaged, hence the need to empower and create more opportunities for them.

Challenges posed by the youth bulge:

1. Unemployment and under-employment
2. Skills mismatch
3. Limited access to resources
4. Drugs and substance abuse
5. Limited start-up capital

Strength of Nyeri County's youth population:

1. Aptitude and high literacy level
2. Energetic
3. Creative
4. Innovative
5. Tech-savvy



The Policy Process:

The County Government of Nyeri in partnership with World Vision and Africa Youth Transformation held youth public participation on the Policy across the 8 sub-counties.

The exercise took place from 13th to 22nd September 2021, and provided the Nyeri youth with an opportunity to integrate their voices, share their views, proposals into the Policy, which then informed the final draft.

The Policy document was taken through a validation process by the stakeholders and the County Executive Committee, after which it was submitted to the County Assembly for approval. The County Assembly ratified the Nyeri County Youth Policy on 7th December, 2023.

The Policy's Thematic Areas (Priority Areas):

The Policy has identified key thematic areas that shall direct programs and activities, which include:

- I. Health and Well-being: (specifically)
 - a) Mental Health:
 - b) Drug and Substance Abuse
 - c) Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
 - d) Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- II. Labour and Employment:
Empower youth to participate and contribute to the socio-economic development through sustainable livelihoods and decent work.
- III. Education, Training, and Skills Development:
Assist youth in attaining the knowledge, skills and

experiences required to enable them to effectively participate in County development and society as a whole.

IV. Leadership and Governance:

Enhance youth inclusion and engagement at the planning, decision making, and implementation and evaluation levels of all youth development programmes.

V. Social Inclusion and Social Justice:

Strengthen mentorship and role modelling programs among the Youth in Nyeri County.

VI. Entrepreneurship Development:

Introduce and expose the youth to SME start-up programs for self-employment and economic growth and development.

VII. Arts, Sports, Culture, and Talent Development:

Support the youth in identifying and nurturing talents. That is, fostering growth in artistic, cultural, and sports fields, and supporting talent development.

VIII. Agriculture and Agribusiness:

Transform Agriculture and Agribusiness to make it attractive to the youth.

IX. Environmental Sustainability for Climate Action:

Promote environmental education and active participation of youth in environmental management for sustainable development.

X. ICT and Innovation:

Promote access and positive use of ICT and Innovation

XI. Patriotism and Volunteerism:

Instill in youth a clear sense of National identity and respect for national principles and values.

XII. Radicalization and Prevention of Violent Extremism:

Curb radicalization and Counter Violent Extremism

Nyeri County Government has also developed various youth empowerment initiatives over time to address Youth challenges, namely:

1: Youth Internship programme

This is one of Governor Dr. Kahiga's anchor programs for youth empowerment through provision of skills and experience to fresh graduates. It has successfully graduated 1,000 youths since its inception and is now on the 6th Cohort.

2: Youth, Women and PWDs empowerment programmes

Part of the ward specific projects aimed at empowering groups with business development merchandise as a source of earning their livelihoods. Over 200 youth groups have benefited

3: Skills development at our VTCs

Nyeri County has invested in its VTCs to provide hands-on skills training to our youth in, for example, leather production, as well as continuing to establish strategic partnerships that provide supplementary skills training and tools to the graduates.

4: Provision of conducive business environment and incentives to investors

Business Processing Outsourcing – Nyeri County is a growing hub for BPOs with two having set up base in Nyeri; ONQ and JITU currently employ over 700 youth in various call centres.

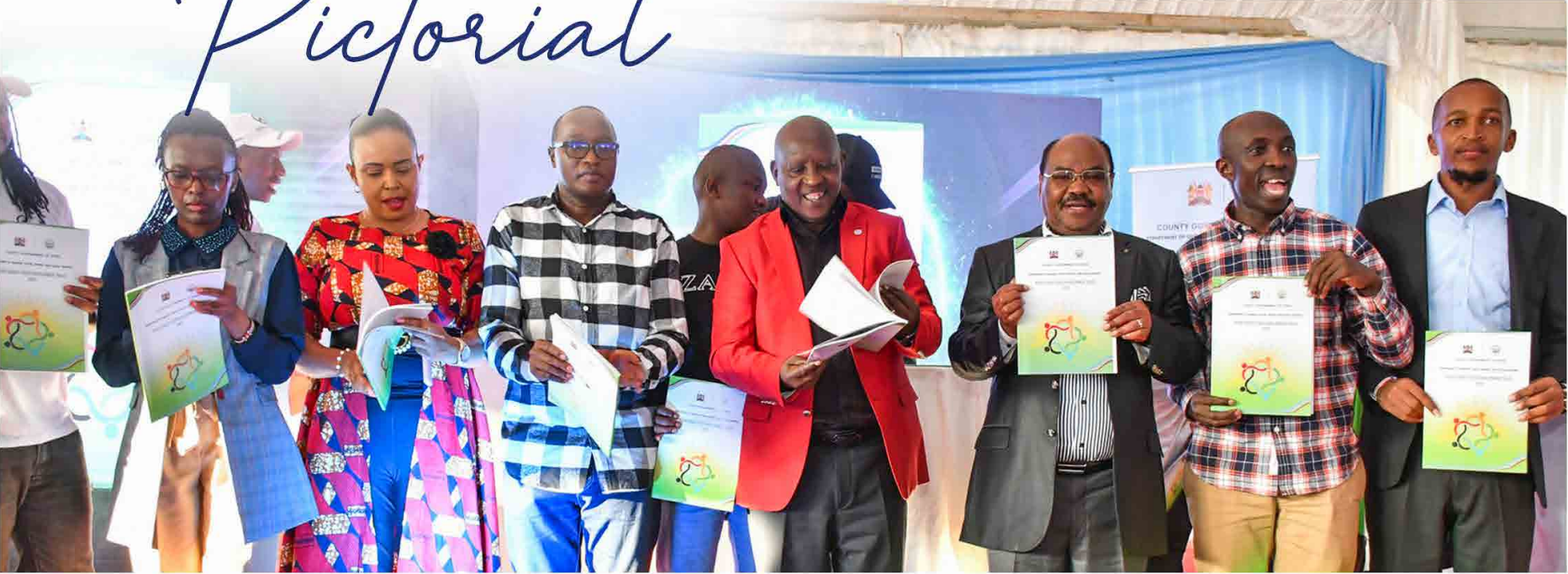
NYERI COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LAUNCH

Pictorial



NYERI COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LAUNCH

Pictorial



Public Participation at Ndumanu and Gitunduti Settlements ahead of Title Deed Issuance



Story & Photo - Kenneth Ngatia

The Department of Lands Director who also doubles up as the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program II (KISIP 2) County Coordinator led the team of County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT), The Geosurv Systems Limited (The Consultant) & the

National Land Commission in conducting a successful public participation and sensitization at Ndumanu and Gitunduti Settlements in Magutu ward, Mathira East sub-county. During the meeting, the public were educated on the regularization process

which involves:
a. Development of a Local Physical & Land Use Development Plan for the settlement intended to guide the use of land, which is a limited resource, to ensure maximum benefits.
b. Fixed Surveying & physical placement of beacons to

demarcate the plots as per the plan.
c. Issuance of titles.
The residents from the two settlements are set to receive title deeds in the ongoing implementation of project activities under KISIP's 2, Component 1.1 - Tenure Regularization.

Under KISIP 1, over 700 title deeds were issued to Ihwagi, Miiri, Ngorano, Gikaibei, Githeri, Kiaruhui, Mweiga (Gikomo/Kiawara), Kiamwathi, Njogui-ni among other settlements.

WSPU Korea Parliamentary Delegation visits Nyeri

Story - Barbara Wambui
Photo - Kennedy Karanja

H.E Deputy Governor David Kinaniri on behalf of H.E Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga held a meeting with the World Scouts Parliamentary Union (WSPU) Korean parliamentary delegation who paid a courtesy call to his office.

The visitors led by Member of Parliament Gyuback AHN and accompanied by Trade and Tourism CECM Diana Kendi are on a six-day visit to Kenya as part of preparations for next year's Global General Assembly meeting of WSPU which Kenya is set to host. The WSPU team led by Executive Director Pop-pins Misoi also introduced

members of the inter-governmental team comprising parliamentarians from Korea, Canada, Poland as well as Kenya who are tasked with the upcoming preparations. While contributing to

discussions Kenya's planning committee Chair Wilberforce Oundo (MP, Funyula) emphasized the importance and impact that ongoing support has had in terms of legislation, budgeting, guidance re-

garding this key event, reiterating both the national government's and Nyeri County's support towards a vibrant WSPU chapter not only for the county but for Kenya as a whole. While making his remarks

Korean Ambassador YEO highlighted the unity in diversity exhibited in terms of countries represented in the task force.

KDSP II Implementation in Nyeri County



The implementation of the World Bank’s Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP II) has been on course in Nyeri County since its inception in March of this year, with a baseline data collection session held today that will guide in formulating annual targets for

the county for the next four years. A robust team from the State Department of Devolution led by Peter Akwala who is the KRA 1 focal person engaged with the county officers (mostly County Program Implementation Unit) involved in the KDSP

II implementation. The team had earlier paid a courtesy call to the Office of the Deputy Governor H.E David Kinaniri and held fruitful deliberations on Nyeri’s trajectory on matters KDSP, noting that this is one of the inaugural major programs under devo-

lution and as such, there is a need for the vision, goals and objectives of devolution to be attained through it. While poring through the parameters captured in the three Key Results Areas (KRAs), the teams deliberated on the gains so far

and earmarked the areas for enhancement. The three KRAs are:

- Sustainable Financing and Expenditure Management;
- Intergovernmental Coordination, Institutional Performance, and Human Resource Management;
- Oversight, Participation, and Accountability.

As a county, we have an immense passion for the Kenya Devolution Support Program due to the benefits derived from KDSP 1. We benefited from investment grants which enabled us to construct a 175-bed level 4 hospital in Narumoru. In the Annual Capacity Assessment of FY 2018/2019, we were declared number 2 overall and the following FY 2019/2020 declared number 1 jointly with three other counties. As such, the passion Nyeri County attaches to the Kenya Devolution Support Program cannot be overemphasized.

Outspan’s 13th Graduation Ceremony



H.E Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, PhD., EGH accompanied by Deputy Governor H.E. David Kinaniri joined Prof. Eng. P.N. Kioni, Outspan Executive Director Dr. G.M. Kiruhi, Outspan Medical College Principal Dr. Lydia Muthoni, esteemed graduands, guests

and the entire Outspan Medical College fraternity in celebrating their 13th Graduation Ceremony. 472 graduands honed their skills in vast specialities such as Nursing, Health Records and Information Technology, Nutrition, Clinical Medicine, Psychology, Perioper-

ative Theatre Technology, Health Support Assistance among others. While congratulating the class of 2024, Governor Dr. Kahiga urged them to grow in their professional careers, incorporating the expertise and skills that they have inculcated and sharp-

ened during study. The County Government of Nyeri recognises the profound impact and contribution that both the Outspan Medical College and the Outspan Teaching and Referral Hospital have had not just within but also beyond our County in providing

quality healthcare. Hearty congratulations to the class of 2024! Go forth and soar in your chosen careers and success in the pursuit of your professional growth. Pongezi.

KISIP II Ongoing Evaluation of Informal Settlements



Story & Photo by
Kenneth Ngatia

The Second Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP II) with representatives from the World Bank led by Eng. Michael Ngari, National Project Coordinating Team (NPCT) under Eng. Michael Nthiani, County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT) led by Lands CECM Hon.

Ndirangu Gachunia visited the five informal settlements in Nyeri County to monitor and evaluate the progress of the ongoing projects under KISIP II. The settlements are Kiamwathi and Chorong'i in Ruring'u ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Kiawara in Rware ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Mweiga in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county and Ihwagi in Iria-ini ward, Mathira East sub-county.

KISIP II, a five-year project, is a development project financed by the World Bank, the Government of Kenya and other development partners to systematically scale up the work of KISIP I and reach more settlements and population through the provision of basic infrastructure such as high masts, upgrading of access roads, water and sanitation services, footpaths among others in participating urban informal settle-

ments and to strengthen institutional capacity for slum upgrading in Kenya. Plans are also underway to issue title deeds to Gitunduti and Ndumanu settlements in Magutu ward, Mathira East sub-county. Under KISIP I, over 700 title deeds were issued to Ihwagi, Miiri, Ngorano, Gikaibei, Githeri, Kiaruhui, Mweiga (Gikomo/Kiawara), Kiamwathi, Njoguini among other settlements. KISIP II has already in-

stalled 30-metres high mast-public security lights in all the five settlements earmarked for upgrading. As a result, businesses have thrived more due to extended operating hours and security has been enhanced in these areas. Earlier on, the teams had paid a courtesy call to Nyeri Governor, H.E Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, PhD., E.G.H.



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Courtesy Call Meeting to Boost Nyeri's BPO Prospects



Story - Rozina Gathoni & Cyprian Muriithi

A stakeholders' engagement meeting in Nyeri brought together key players in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector including Jitu Technologies Chief Operations Officer Mr. Mark Allen, ONQ President Mr. Sean Hammerle, New Frontier CEO Ms. Tracey Scheffler, Teach2Give Country Director Mr. Martin Ndirangu, KEPSA, the County Government of Nyeri, the Ministry of

ICT and Digital Economy, KNCCI, and private investors. Discussions focused on fostering public-private partnerships to strengthen the region's BPO ecosystem by leveraging technology, workforce training, and infrastructure development. Challenges such as limited internet access, skill gaps, high operational costs, and regulatory barriers were discussed, with stakeholders proposing solutions like tax incentives, enhanced ICT infrastructure, and streamlined regulations. The Ministry of ICT

pledged to collaborate with county governments and the private sector to implement these measures and drive BPO growth in the region. Nyeri County is home to two BPOs currently providing digital jobs to its youth. ONQ is a worldwide healthcare outsourcing and tech company that specialises in labour solutions while JITU Kenya is a software technology provider that offers scalable remote software engineers to businesses. A new entrant - New Frontier BPO - is set to touch base in Nyeri soon.

The session also featured insights from industry leaders and Government officials. New Frontier CEO Ms. Tracey Scheffler emphasized global trends and the role of infrastructure and workforce readiness. Jay Duff stressed the importance of mentorship and internship programs like Teach2Give for talent development, while Prof. Eng. Ndirangu Kioni discussed research and innovation opportunities, including collaborations with American companies and platforms like Origin Labs. Mark E. Allen highlighted technol-

ogy's transformative role in BPO operations, while Martin M. Ndirangu focused on Teach2Give's mentorship programs. Janet Muthoni advocated for youth entrepreneurship and strategies to attract international BPO companies, and Emiphas Muchangi explored Kenya's digital economy's impact on BPO growth. County Secretary Benjamin Gachichio and Gender CECM Esther M. Ndungu outlined youth employment and entrepreneurship initiatives. Trade Chief Officer George Mwangi discussed Nyeri's investment readiness, while Mary N. Kerema, detailed the government's vision for digital transformation and job creation. On workforce development, Dr. Ehud Gachugu shared youth employment and skill enhancement initiatives, while Judith Nyakwara and Michael Mutisya presented the Ajira Digital Program's success in improving employability. These contributions underscored the need for a collaborative approach to position Nyeri as a leading BPO destination.

Nyeri VTCs Sensitization Forum

Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

H.E Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga officially opened a meeting at the Old Municipal Hall that brought together Department of Education staff, 26 Vocational Training Centre (VTC) Managers, and BOM Chairpersons drawn from various Nyeri VTCs. Education CECM Margaret Macharia led the delegates through a day-long training and sensitization session featuring presentations from the National Employment Authority (NEA), the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and Department of Education officials. While addressing the as-



sembly the Governor reminded those present that an institution was like its leader and for an institution to grow and develop so must its leadership, through continuous learning. One should also be creative and innovative in seek-

ing ways to generate own-source revenue, strive to make each institution competitive, streamline internal efficiencies, and offer courses that are relevant, marketable, and tailor-made for Nyeri's citizens. He further encouraged all

Managers present to continually improve themselves through training so as to better manage both human resources and other resources so as to best serve the students and residents of Nyeri County. He also emphasized the importance

of having good working relations between Managers and their Chairs, and even with their leaders such as MCAs for optimum service delivery and problem-solving.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Accident Crash Victims #WDoR2024

Story by Rozina Gathoni, Cyprian Muriithi



The County Government of Nyeri joined the rest of the country in commemorating the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Crash Victims (WDoR), observed annually on the third Sunday of November, which aims to honor those who died or suffered injuries in road crashes, while at the same time advocating for enhanced road safety measures. This year's commemoration held on 17th November 2024, in Nyeri County, highlighted the theme of supporting affected families, raising awareness of the impact of traffic crashes, and promoting evidence-based actions to prevent future road accidents. Planned activities targeted critical risk factors such as speeding and reckless driving, alongside offering free medical check-ups for drivers

and advancing road safety campaigns. Notably, the Department of Gender also joined the initiative, reflecting a broader focus on inclusivity by addressing the social and familial impacts of road crashes, particularly on women and children affected by these tragedies. The event began with a march around Nyeri town to create awareness, culminating at place at Whispers Park. Invitees included the County Government of Nyeri and stakeholders such as St John's Ambulance, the Kenya Red Cross, The President's Award-DEKUT, 2NK and 4NTE transport saccos and various Driving Schools, who actively participated. During the commemoration, the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) emphasized the need for collaborative ef-

forts across national and local levels, proposing measures such as tree planting, free vehicle inspections, and safety workshops to promote safer road use. The involvement of the stakeholders underscores the importance of addressing the holistic impacts of road crashes, recognizing how vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected. NTSA further acknowledged the crucial role of local leadership and stakeholders in championing these initiatives, fostering greater awareness, and committing to actions that will reduce road traffic injuries and fatalities. Disaster Management Director Col.(Rtd) Lucas Teimuge emphasised on the adherence to road signs and avoiding drunk driving.



NGAO Sensitization on SHA

Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

The County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H. E the Governor, Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, in collaboration with the Social Health Authority (SHA) and the Ministry of Interior, Mathira West Sub-County, held a one-day sensitization session for all National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) officers in the sub-county. This session aimed to equip chiefs and sub-chiefs with essential knowledge about SHA and its benefits. NGAO officers play a crucial role in community sensitization and mobilization. This forum is particularly timely, as SHA registration is currently a priority. The SHA will fulfill its mandate through three key funds:

1. Primary Health Care Fund (PHC): Services under this fund are available free of charge in level 2 and 3 health facilities for registered individuals, regardless of payment status.

2. Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF): Similar to NHIF, this fund pools resources to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage, including outpatient, inpatient, maternal, renal, medical imaging, and surgical services in level 4 to level 6 hospitals.

3. Emergency, Chronic, and Critical Illness Fund (ECCIF): This fund offers free emergency care to all Kenyans and supports individuals with chronic conditions such as cancer or kidney disease, helping to prevent financial strain due to treatment costs. SHA registration in Nyeri County remains the lead nationally and is ongoing through the following methods:

- Self-registration by dialing *147#
- Web-based registration through the SHA platform;
- Assisted registration by Community Health Promoters

(CHPs). The Department is committed to ensuring that all Nyeri residents are registered under the SHA, aiming to alleviate the financial burden on patients and promote Universal Health Care (UHC). The DCC, Mr. Titus Murei, expressed his gratitude for the forum, highlighting its importance, and pledged his support in reaching every community member with SHA information. He encouraged NGAO officers to actively raise awareness within their communities. The MOH, Alexander Mwai, thanked the SHA team for their efforts in conducting the sensitization and acknowledged NGAO's partnership, expressing hope that they will become strong advocates for SHA in the community. Together, we are building a healthier, more resilient Nyeri.



Capacity Building Workshop for Nyeri Worker Cooperatives

Story & Photo - Stepahmie Wanjiru

The County Government of Nyeri, in partnership with Global Communities under the Worker Co-operative Incubator Program, successfully hosted a 5-day capacity-building workshop aimed at strengthening worker cooperative societies in the region. The training brought together participants from worker cooperatives across Nyeri and Nairobi counties, providing them with invaluable tools and strategies to enhance their operational and economic capabilities. Key partners like the Democracy at Work Institute (DAWI) and the Co-oper-



ative University of Kenya joined in to share their expertise, fostering rich discussions and exchange of best practices. On the final day, Trade CECM Diana Kendi com-

mended the dedication of all participants and stressed the pivotal role that cooperatives play in local economic development. She encouraged them to leverage the knowledge gained

during the workshop to drive productivity, improve livelihoods, and build sustainable, resilient communities. The trainees were also issued certificates for their resilience throughout

the training. This workshop marks a significant milestone in the ongoing journey to empower cooperatives and ensure a brighter, more prosperous future for all.



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

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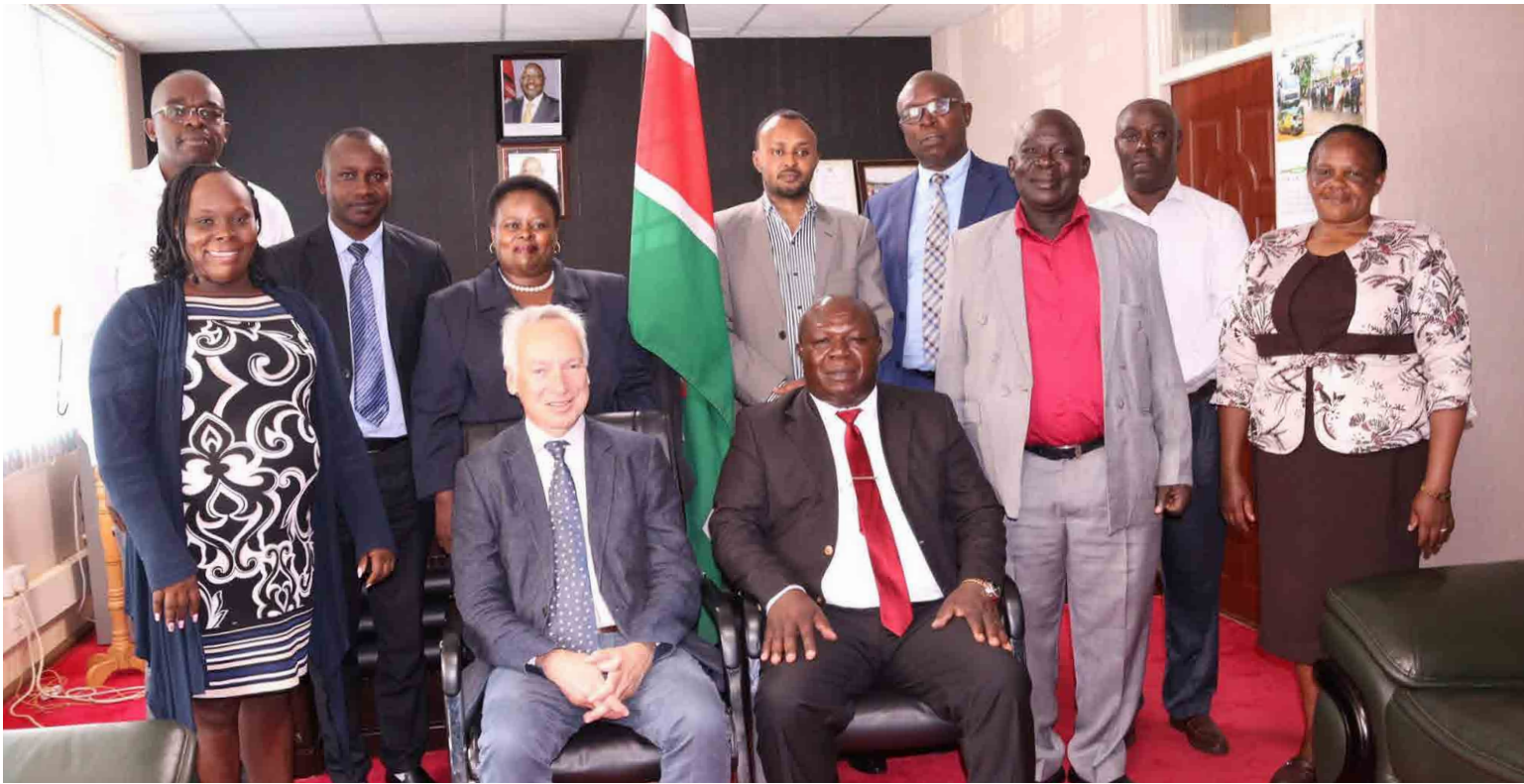
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Partnership to Strengthen Mental Health Services

Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

The County Executive Committee Member for Health, Dr. J.M. Kiragu hosted a delegation from KMTC Mathari Campus, KMTC Nyeri, Kisii University and the East London Foundation Trust (ELFT). The visit discussed the implementation of a project to build capacity of non-specialist health workers in integrating mental health care into their services. The project is funded by a grant received by KMTC Mathari and ELFT, and it leverages the World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Care Pathway Tool that seeks to improve outcomes in managing physical and mental health conditions. The program is being implemented in Nyeri, Machakos, and Kisii Counties, chosen for their advanced



oncology and mental health units, hospice centers, and their role as practical learning hubs for KMTC students. In Nyeri County, the initiative commenced with identification and training of 5 trainers, who are currently cascading the training to 20 health work-

ers selected from different county hospitals. The 4-day training was held at KMTC Nyeri Campus. Under the leadership of His Excellency Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, the County Government of Nyeri continues to nurture local and international partner-

ships, creating valuable opportunities for the county's healthcare system. The CECM-Health, Dr. Kiragu, congratulated the team on securing the grant for this impactful project. He emphasized the critical role of addressing mental health, which has be-

come a significant burden in healthcare. Dr. Kiragu assured his full support during the project's implementation, especially in ensuring service delivery at all points of care.

CHPs Sensitization on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

In recognition of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week, observed from 18th to 24th November annually, themed, 'EDUCATE.ADOVOCATE.ACT NOW', the Department of Health Services, in partnership with Amref Health Africa in Kenya - Project THRIVE that is funded by Moderna Charitable Foun-

dation, has launched a series of sensitization sessions for Community Health Promoters (CHPs) across the county. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, no longer respond to medicines designed to kill them. This resistance is often fueled by the misuse of antibiotics, such as:

- Purchasing and using antibiotics over the counter without professional advice;

- Sharing antibiotics;
- Failing to complete prescribed doses;
- Using antibiotics to treat infections not caused by bacteria.

AMR poses a significant threat to public health, leading to: Prolonged and expensive hospitalizations, loss of productivity, economic strain on households and communities, and increased mortality rates; thus the need for harnessed efforts across all the stakeholders in Health

towards this fight against AMR. Community Health Promoters are vital in delivering health services at the grassroots level. These sensitization sessions aim to empower CHPs with accurate knowledge about AMR, enabling them to educate households during their routine visits and promote responsible antibiotic use. Amref Health Africa has been instrumental in advancing primary health initiatives in

Nyeri County, particularly in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Through capacity building for healthcare workers, offering essential health services as well as supporting community health outreaches, Amref continues to enhance the county's healthcare system. Together, we can build healthier communities and combat the growing threat of AMR. Let's use antibiotics responsibly for a safer, healthier future.



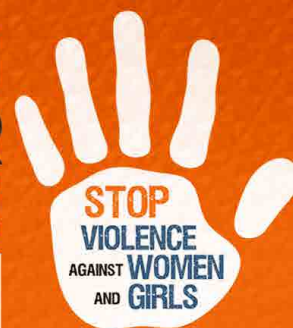
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16

**DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER
BASED VIOLENCE**

25TH NOV-10TH DEC, 2024



**THEME: UNITE TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS**