PAC UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

University students as Outreach Youth Champions in Enhancement of Food Security: Challenges and Lessons from the Enhancing Community Food Security through Outreach Youth Champions (EFSOYC) Pilot Project

Lucy Kathuri-Ogola[1], Joan Kabaria-Muriithi[2], Martin Irungu[3], Stephen Muchiri[4], Stephen Murathe[5], Charlene A. VanLeeuwen[6]

[1,2] School of Public Health and Applied Human Science, Department of Population Reproductive Health and Community Resource Management, Kenyatta University; [3,4] Empower and Serve Kenya;

[5] Enhancing Community Food Security in Urban and Rural Areas through Outreach Youth Champions Project, Kenyatta University; [6] Teaching and Learning Centre Coordinator, University of Prince Edward Island.

[1]KATHURI.LUCY@ku.ac.ke, [2]MURIITHI.JOAN@ku.ac.ke, [6]cvanleeuwen@upei.ca, [5]steveahar@gmail.com, [4]muchiri.stephen43@gmail.com, [3]martinwaithakah@gmail.com.

Abstract - *The Enhancing Community Food Security in Urban and Rural Areas through Outreach Youth Champions (EFSOYC) pilot project focused on promoting agri-social enterprise initiatives targeting highly food insecure farming households in Kenyan communities. In pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, the project sought to leverage the potential of youth, specifically university finalist students, as Outreach Youth Champions (OYCs), to drive food security efforts in their local communities through highly innovative and participatory initiatives. The pilot project deployed sixteen (16) competitively selected OYCs to urban and rural communities to promote sustainable activities along the agricultural value chain through training on effective agri-social enterprise practices, initiating agri-social-enterprises, and farmer saving groups/cooperatives, and championing value addition strategies. The 16 participating OYCs underwent three weeks of intense training in preparation for implementing agri-social enterprise in three Kenyan counties - two semi-arid areas and one urban area for seven months. Initiatives included; shade nets, sack vertical gardening, soil-less farming (hydroponics) as well as food storage and preservation projects, specifically solar cold rooms and food dryers. Approximately 187 households benefitted from the OYCs initiatives, which promoted innovative, sustainable food security practices, improved livelihoods, and capacity building through training. Implementation challenges were related to team formation, mobility in project sites, and community engagement. Lessons learned related to the strength in pairing the novice entrepreneurs, adaptability and resilience of youth, and the value of adopting a participatory approach throughout the project to enhance community engagement for project ownership and sustainability. Despite the challenges experienced in the pilot EFSOYC project, adoption and integration of the OYC model as a graduate transition pathway from institutions of higher learning to the labor market is a plausible option in Kenya and beyond.*

Keywords: Food Security, Innovative agri-social enterprises, Sustainable Development Goals, Outreach Youth Champions.

Introduction

The transition from higher education to employment is one of the personal developmental milestones for youth. However, youth employment has worsened in recent years and statistics

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

indicate that globally, there are presently 71 million young people who are unemployed, and many millions more are in hazardous or informal work (UN, 2018). If the mismatch between youth unemployment and the availability of job opportunities persists, the vulnerability of youth in Low and middle-Income Countries (LMICs) is likely to be exacerbated (Barford, Coombe, & Proefke, 2021). The agriculture sector employs more than 40 percent of the total population and 70 percent of the rural population; however, agricultural productivity has stagnated in recent years (USAID, 2021).

Despite predictions that they are destined to disappear, smallholder farms or family farms are still estimated to number more than 500 million worldwide, and 98 percent of all the world's farm units (White, 2019). However, smallholder farmers and agricultural enterprises continue to face challenges growing their businesses and improving the quality of agricultural goods (USAID, 2021). In Africa and most LMICs, agriculture is not regarded as a viable employment option for youth who have graduated from university or college (Filmer, 2014). Involvement in agricultural activities is mainly viewed as a reserve of older rural folks, those who never went to school or did not complete schooling (Njura et al, 2020). According to FAO (2021), the agricultural sector singularly contributes to approximately a third of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Additionally, Kenya's agriculture is predominantly small-scale farming and is on farms averaging 0.2–3ha, mostly on a subsistence basis. Small-scale operations account for over 70% of agricultural production and meet about 75% of the national food demand. Therefore, the most important reason for supporting small-scale farming is its critical role in achieving food security, particularly for those who are vulnerable to chronic hunger or food poverty (Njenga, 2016). Getting rural households to actively participate in small-scale agricultural activities for subsistence farming can play a vital role in minimizing the vulnerability to hunger in rural food-insecure households. (Ginindza & Mpandeli, 2020).

According to FAO (2021), nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020 – an increase of almost 320 million people in just one year. Of the 2.37 billion people facing moderate or severe food insecurity, half (1.2 billion) are found in Asia, one-third (799 million) in Africa, and 11 percent (267 million) in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the World Food Programme (2021), about 16 million Kenyans, or one-third of the country's population live below the international poverty line, with 35.6% living on less than 1.90 US dollars

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

a day. This notwithstanding, the agricultural sector is the backbone of the Kenyan economy, contributing approximately 33 percent of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (USAID, 2021). Despite this, the country still faces severe food insecurity problems. Several factors compound this situation in rural and urban areas including climate change resulting in drought, famine, and floods, high cost of farm inputs, high food prices, ineffective farming methods, inaccessibility to markets, limited access to financial resources and farm inputs, lack of diversification, lack of access to land, and inadequate knowledge of urban agricultural practices (Speranza, Kiteme & Wiesmann (2008).

The Enhancing Community Food Security in Urban and Rural Areas through Outreach Youth Champions (EFSOYC) project is aimed at contributing to the food security pillar of the Kenyan government's Big Four Agenda (Government of Kenya, 2017). It was also informed by the Kenya Vision 2030, which aims at transforming Kenya into a middle-income country (Government of Kenya, 2007). Additionally, in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (UN, 2015) the EFSOYC project sought to initiate innovative agri-social enterprises in a bid for sustainable solutions to enhance food security in the participating households. Further, EFSOYC project activities responded to the eradication of hunger and achieving food security as one of six distinct priority areas by Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024). This innovative and highly participatory pilot project aimed to enhance food security and improve livelihoods in urban and rural areas through agri-social enterprise initiatives by 2020 with a target of scaling up to other areas. The EFSOYC project targeted 160 food insecure farming households using Outreach Youth Champions (OYC) in three counties in Kenya.

Literature Review

In the recent past, African countries have undoubtedly seen an upsurge of research interest and policy recommendations directed toward youth (International Development Research Centre, 2015; Losch, 2016; World Bank, 2018). Youth, especially those in rural areas, have been of particular interest for two main reasons. First, agriculture is one of the greatest sectors of opportunity for the youth (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, 2015). Secondly, for many years projected in the future, the majority of youth will continue residing in rural and semi-urban areas (Filmer & Fox, 2014). Further research has indicated that if not well managed, the increasing youth population could become a demographic challenge that will shove weak and food-insecure countries over the precipice of collapsing (Food & Agriculture Organization, 2017).

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

Various governments and agencies have shown the need to invest in young people as an approach to attain food security and increase economic growth (African Economic Outlook, 2017). Currently, dialogues revolving around youth and food security are gaining attention. However, youth are more often than not an underutilized economic resource. Therefore, the capacity of youth in Africa could be utilized to enhance food security in the region. This could entail utilizing youth attitudes, capabilities, characteristics, qualities, abilities, and motivations in life. Further, AGRA (2015) states that youth are more receptive to new ideas as compared to older adults. In addition, Batcherman & Khan (2015) indicate that as long as more young people join and remain in the agricultural sector, then many more agricultural innovations will take place. However, youth tend to be hesitant to engage in agriculture yet it is the main economic activity of Kenya (Sitawa, Mugasia & Songoro, 2016). This may have implications on food security, unemployment, and underemployment and may undermine the government's efforts to drive economic growth through agriculture; (Afande et al., 2015).

To the 2019 census, the youth constitute 29% of the total Kenyan population (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). Challenges faced by youth in the urban and rural setups of Kenya are similar, these include; lack of access to farming land; limited financial resources to buy farm inputs and implements; lack of agricultural activity diversification; low recognition of agricultural activities; inadequate knowledge about best practices in agriculture and poor accessibility to markets which are among the contributing factors to food insecurity in the country (Ofunya, Maina, & Maina, 2015).

In as much as the opportunities and challenges of the increasing youth population can be identified and acknowledged, the EFSOYC project focused on the beneficial side of the dichotomy. In this research project, the youth bulge is viewed as a major prospect of a promising future. If planned well with the main national and community players supporting it, this could be an opportune time for Kenya, Africa, and other LMICs economies to set up measures that will propel them to benefit from this demographic dividend (Bloom et al., 2017). If appropriate ventures are put in place, many agricultural-related opportunities will open up for youth. Partnered with the right investments and policies aimed at youth, across sub-Saharan Africa this dividend could be as much as one-third of the region's current GDP, for up to 30 years (Oxfam, 2016). Further, through innovative ventures in agribusiness, youth prominence can be marshaled, incentivized, invigorated, and endowed for socio-economic transformation (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, 2015).

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

Materials and Methods

The EFSOYC project piloted the OYC model as an alternative transition pathway for university students into the labor market. The research project employed a descriptive research design that applied a mixed-methods approach, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data. The research design enabled the measurement of changes in OYC and household data vis-à-vis the study variables over the project intervention period through statistical methods. The project was implemented in three counties and 8 project sites in Kenya namely: Nairobi, Kajiado, and Makueni counties. These counties offered both rural, urban, and semi-arid orientations. Such parameters have been shown in the past to have strong influences on agricultural-related activities (Njura, Kubai, Taaliu & Khakame, 2020).

Purposive selection of the project implementation counties and the sites included areas that provided urban poor and semi-arid contexts with food-insecure households. The selection was also purposive due to their urban and semi-arid characteristics. These areas had distinct food security and climatic challenges that rendered them ideal for the pilot project. In Nairobi County, the focus was on the urban poor populations with small or no arable land for farming. Nairobi County sites were Kayole, Maringo area in Makadara, and Njathaini area in Githurai. Kajiado County was the second project target area with its semi-arid climate with an annual average rainfall of 300 – 900 mm and largely pastoralist communities. The project sites in Kajiado were Isinya Town, Kajiado Township and Ewuaso Kedong'. The third project target area was Makueni County, another semi-arid area. The project sites in Makueni County were Wote Market in Wote Town and Kitise area in Kathonzweni.

The target population for this research project was 16 competitively selected final-year university students in the transition from college to work who underwent an intensive fifteen (15) day training to become OYCs. A manual developed by experts and the project team was used to adequately train the OYCs. Consequently, after the training, the OYCs were deployed to their communities to conduct a community entry exercise and to establish a rapport with the "would-be" beneficiaries. This was followed by co-designing of the innovative ideas with guidance from the project team. Thereafter, the paired OYCs were deployed to deliver training and coaching to their local communities on agri-social enterprises, agricultural value chain-related enterprises, farmers saving groups and cooperatives, and common access to markets strategies. The OYCs purposively recruited a total of 187 households who were enrolled in the project. Questionnaires were used to

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

collect data in the field from the OYCs and participating households using the Commcare case management mobile platform (https://www.dimagi.com/commcare). Quantitative data were analyzed using frequencies and percentages while qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. Content analysis was applicable for this project since it allowed making replicable and valid inferences from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use (Krippendorff, 2004). Additionally, using codes induced from the data concepts can be identified about information-related activities that were of particular interest to the researchers to contextualize the identified phenomena (Zhang & Wildemuth, 2009). Data was transcribed and trees generated. The analyzed quantitative data is presented using graphs. The qualitative data are presented thematically.

Ethical approval was sought from Kenyatta University Ethics Review Committee (KU-ERC). In addition, a research permit was obtained from the National Commission of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). Informed consent was sought from all study participants to ensure voluntary participation and inform participants of their right to withdraw from participation at any point without penalties or privileges. For data collection and analysis, numbers were used instead of the names of the participants to ensure anonymity and confidentiality.

Results

The results of the project as shown in Table 1, Figure 1, and Figure 2 indicate that OYCs employed innovative agri-social enterprise ideas to enhance food security in rural and urban communities.

Table 1:

Outputs of the Enhancing Community Food Security through Outreach Youth Champions (EFSOYC) Pilot Project.

ITEM	COUNT
Number of innovations selected	8
Number of Youth Champions	16
Savings and Credit groups formed	11
Number of members	182
Amounts Saved by groups	USD 450
Amounts advanced as loans	USD 60
Assistance in group formation & registration	3 groups
Proof of innovation adoption	94% of the households
Increase in food production	21% of the households

Figure 1

Number of households recruited by the OYCs, by gender

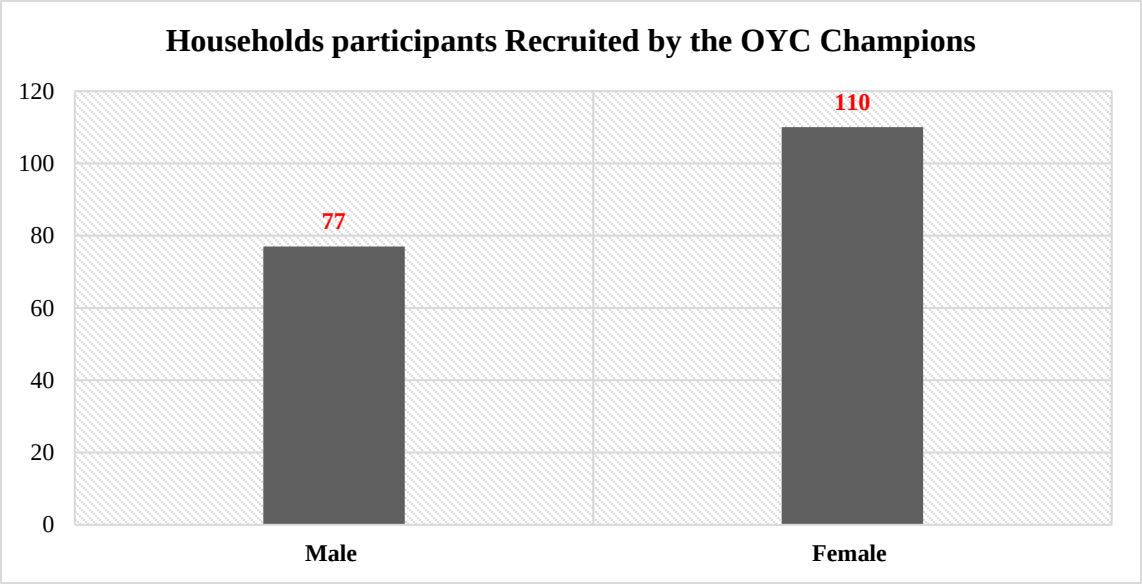
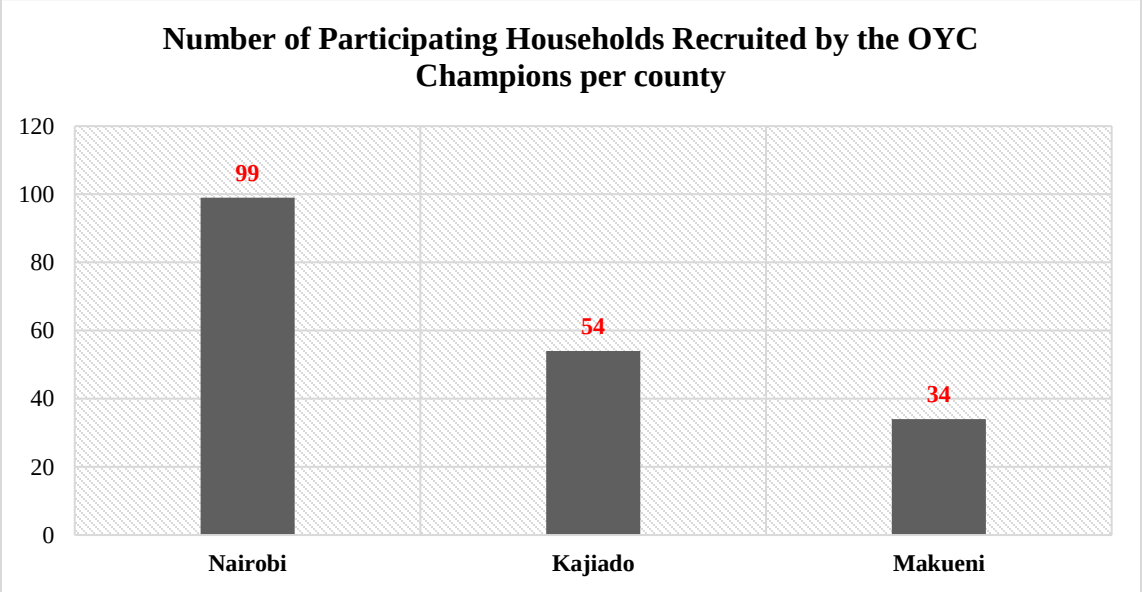


Figure 2

Households participants Recruited by the Outreach Youth Champions per County



Through the eight (8) initiatives, the participating OYCs recruited 187 households whose members

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

benefitted from the adaptive training and knowledge transfer. As a result, 63.2% of the households demonstrated enhanced practice of innovative agricultural food security value chain initiatives with 59.5% crop and livestock yields having increased by at least 15% while the post-harvest loss was reduced by 8% in the targeted households.

Further, through the guidance of the OYCs initiatives household beneficiaries formed farmers' groups. Eleven (11) Saving and Credit groups were formed constituting a membership of 194 individuals (88 male, 106 female). The groups had already attained a total contribution of Kshs. 68,224 and advanced Kshs. 45,600 micro-credits of value. Another key result was that food security and livelihoods among the participating households were enhanced through coaching and training from the OYC initiatives. These initiatives eventually upscaled to sustainable enterprises, youth-led groups, or community-based organizations (CBOs). Out of the eight initiatives, one was registered as CBO, another as a youth group and the other was registered as a Self-help group for women.

Additionally, the EFSOYC Project used different strategies to create awareness and educate community members regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number two (SDG 2) including the EFSOYC project website social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube; and presentations at workshops and dissemination forums. This deliberate effort by the project led to the OYCs showing a good demonstration of understanding SDG 2. This was evident in their initiatives, which were well aligned with the project's specific objectives. Members of the participating households demonstrated an 85% increase in awareness of SDG 2, this led them to stay committed to pursuing food security activities at the household level.

The EFSOYC project achieved several milestones in the enhancement of food security among participating households. However, there were challenges experienced during its implementation. These included: team formation; mobility within the project sites and issues associated with Community engagement – in particular, entry and expectations and formation of farmers' groups. The challenges notwithstanding, key lessons were learned from the EFSOYC project. These lessons include the power of pairing of OYCs, mobility within the project sites, and adopting a participatory approach throughout the project to enhance community engagement for project ownership and sustainability.

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

Discussion

Lessons learned

Three key lessons were learned from the EFSOYC project. First, with regards to team formation, there is strength in pairing the novice entrepreneurs. The benefits of pairing included enhanced bargaining power by the OYCs leading to more acceptability of project initiatives by the community, division of labor for the initial implementation and the OYCs learned to embrace personality differences, which is key for community work. Additionally, for OYC teams whose members were from different academic backgrounds of study, pairing enhanced the synergy of the team since they leveraged each other's strengths, experiences, and capabilities.

Second, regarding mobility within the project sites, given a chance, university youth can get out of their comfort zone and successfully drive food security efforts in various contexts including hard-to-reach areas. This portrays the adaptability and resilience of youth. For instance, one OYC had to learn how to ride a motorcycle to enhance his mobility within the project site.

Third, adopting a participatory approach throughout the project enhances community engagement for project ownership and sustainability. In addition, the use of existing community structures, like youth/women groups and community gatekeepers like was the case for the EFSOYC project, enhancing community entry and buy-in. It is also imperative to explain the project objectives at the community entry stage to gain buy-in from the community. This aids to develop a common understanding among the project participants as well avoid unrealistic expectations.

Challenges Experienced During Project Implementation

Regarding ***team formation,*** the OYCs were required to respond to the call for proposals and work in pairs. Since the OYCs were novices, the pairing ensured that the team members supported each other. The pairing was largely advantageous in the implementation of initiatives. However, some of the paired teams did not gel well during the project implementation. This was mainly due to personality clashes. This resulted in challenges related to; the slow commencement of team initiatives by the affected OYCs, low team cohesiveness, disjointed reporting on progress and messaging to the communities, and one team member taking up a larger burden of the implementation. ***Mobility within the project sites*** emerged as another challenge in the implementation of the EFSOYC project. Most of the initiatives were in hard-to-reach areas making

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

it difficult for the youth to traverse the communities. Due to the poor infrastructure and difficult terrain, some of the OYCs faced difficulties in sourcing materials and supplies for their initiatives.

Another challenge experienced was ***Community engagement.*** This challenge occurred at the community entry stage. One reason for this was that university students were perceived by the community members as being "special" persons who should not engage in agriculture. Consequently, it took longer than expected for some of the community members to "warm-up" to the initiatives of the OYC, requiring greater efforts to establish rapport and trust during the early stages of the project. Further, resistance to the adoption of alternative livelihood options by some community members also hampered smooth community entry by the OYCs. This was due to the "fixed" mindsets of some community members on certain livelihood options.

High expectations of the project by community members also affected community engagement. Some community members anticipated quick-fix solutions to enhance food security in their households including handouts as opposed to capacity enhancement. However, after participating in the project, the community members appreciated the benefits and took ownership of the initiatives.

Conclusion

The EFSOYC project built a network of youth leaders and change agents as champions in promoting best agri-social enterprise practices and food security initiatives in urban and rural communities. As a result, the project contributed to the enhancement of food security for urban and rural communities as well as creating a network of youth leaders driving food security efforts in their communities.

The implementation of the EFSOYC project experienced some challenges. However, the implementation of the project was successful and there were lessons learned. We envisage that the lessons and experiences garnered from the EFSOYC project in the foregoing sections will inform similar projects going forward. In effect, we conclude that the adoption and integration of the OYC model as a graduate transition pathway from institutions of higher learning to the labor market is a plausible option in Kenya and beyond.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing the following recommendations are presented:

1. That pairing of students from different academic backgrounds is a highly recommended strategy when working with novice OYCs for the enhancement of project implementation and the development of their interpersonal communication capacities.
2. Projects should leverage the resilience and adaptability of youth to drive change and innovations including those focusing on food security enhancement in the hard-to-reach areas.
3. When working with graduating university students, the likelihood is that they may lack adequate prior experience in community engagement. This is likely to present challenges that may affect project implementation, especially at the community entry stage. Bridging their entry-level technical capacity, as illuminated by the piloting of the OYC model, with relevant training, continuous mentorship and coaching is key to the successful development of OYCs.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge funding for this project provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Ethical Clearance (Provide Committee number)

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no competing or conflict of interests

References

Ofunya, A.F., Maina, W. A., & Maina, P. M. (2015). Youth engagement in Agriculture in Kenya: Challenges and Prospects, *Journal of Culture, Society and Development, 7*, 4-19. https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.972.6946&rep=rep1&type=pdf

African Economic Outlook. (2017). *African Economic Outlook 2017: Entrepreneurship and Industrialisation*. OECD Publishing. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/african-economic-outlook-2017_aeo-2017-en

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. (2015). Africa Agriculture Status Report 2015: Youth in agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/africa-agriculture-status-report-2015-youth-agriculture-sub-saharan-africa

Barford, A., Coombe, R., & Proefke, R. (2021). Against the odds: young people's high aspirations and societal contributions amid a decent work shortage. *Geoforum*, *121*, 162-172. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.02.011

Betcherman, G., & Khan, T. (2015). *Youth employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Taking stock of the evidence and knowledge gaps*. International Development Research Centre. https://media.africaportal.org/documents/Youth_Employment_Sub-

Saharan_Africa_WEB_FINAL.pdf

Bloom, D.E., Kuhn, M., & Prettner, K. (2017). Africa's prospects for enjoying a demographic dividend. *Journal of Demographic Economics*. *83,* 63–76. https://www.nber.org/papers/w22560

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2021). *Kenya at a glance, The agricultural sector in Kenya*. http://www.fao.org/kenya/fao-in-kenya/kenya-at-a-glance/en/.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2017). The future of food and agriculture–trends and challenges. *Annual Report*, *296*. http://www.fao.org/3/i6583e/i6583e.pdf

Filmer, D., & Fox, L. (2014). *Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Agence Française de Développement and World Bank. https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-regional-studies/publication/youth-employment-in-sub-saharan-africa

Ginindza S. N. H. & Mpandeli, N.S. (June 2020). *The role of Small Scale Farmers in Ensuring Food Security in Africa.* DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.91694

Government of Kenya. (2017). *The Big Four" – Immediate priorities and actions: Specific priorities for the new term*. http://cn.invest.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Government-of-Kenya-Big-Four-Plan.pdf

Government of Kenya. (2007). *Kenya Vision 2030. Popular Version* https://nairobi.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Kenya-Vision-2030.pdf

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. (2019). Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019. Nairobi, Kenya.

Krippendorff, K. (2004). *Content analysis: An introduction to its methodology* (2nd ed.). Sage.

Losch, B. (2016). *Structural transformation to boost youth labor demand in Sub-Saharan Africa: the role of agriculture, rural areas, and territorial development*. Employment Working Paper No. 204. International Labour Organization (ILO). https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_533993.pdf

Njenga M. (2016). *Small-scale farmers are key to food security.* https://routetofood.org/small-scale-farmers-are-the-key-to-food-security-in-Kenya/#:~:text=Small%2Dscale%20farming%20is%20the,of%20micro%20and%20small%20enterprises

Njura, H. J, Kubai, K.I, Taaliu, S.T, & Khakame, K.S. (2020). The relationship between agricultural teaching approaches and food security in Kenya. *Education Research International:* Volume 2020, Article ID 8847864, doi.org/10.1155/2020/8847864

Oxfam. (2016). *Briefing paper on youth and inequality: time to support youth as agents of their future*. Available at: https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/bp-youth-inequality-global-120816-en_0.pdf)

Speranza, C. I., Kiteme, B., & Wiesmann, U. (2008). Droughts and famines: the underlying factors and the causal links among agro-pastoral households in semi-arid Makueni district, Kenya. *Global Environmental Change*, *18*(1), 220-233. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2007.05.001

Sitawa, M., Mugasia, E., & Songoro, A. (2016). *Challenges faced by youth engaging in agriculture. A study of peri-urban Kiambu in Kenya*. GRIN Verlag. https://www.grin.com/document/343332

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2018). *World youth report: Youth and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. United Nations Publications.

ISSN: 2413-7847 VOL. 3, N0. 2, (2021)

https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf.

UN General Assembly. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 21, A/RES/70/1, https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b6e3e44.html.

USAID. (2021). *Kenya Agriculture and Food Security Fact Sheet.* https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Kenya_Agriculture_and_Food_Security_2021.pdf

White, B. (2019). Rural youth, today and tomorrow. *Rural Development Reports.* International Fund for Agricultural Development *(IFAD). https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41187395/08_White_2019+RDR+BACKGROUND+PAPER.pdf/8c891caa-12f1-783e-3b88-7e2b903c66de*

World Bank. (2018). *World Development Report 2018: Learning to s*. worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018

World Food Programme. (2021). *Kenya.* https://www.wfp.org/countries/kenya

Zhang, Y., & Wildemuth, B. M. (2009). *Unstructured interviews.* Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science, 222-231. https://iucat.iu.edu/iusb/8061359