



Members from two youth groups from Migori County successfully raised enough capital to lease farmland for kale production after receiving agribusiness training from K-YES. They join more than 45,000 young Kenyans who have gained new or better employment following USAID assistance. Photo: USAID

KENYA

KENYA YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PROGRAM (K-YES)

One third of Kenya's population is between 15-34 years old and are struggling to find meaningful employment. This untapped demographic of young Kenyans transitioning into their productive working years presents public and private sector stakeholders with both a challenge and an opportunity.

USAID's K-YES program provides motivated but disenfranchised youth the skills and support needed to be competitive and successful in gaining employment. Through the program, participants are connected to labor market information, financial institutions, and 21st century employability skills, enabling them to make informed decisions about their careers. With skills and vocational training designed in coordination with local industry and government, K-YES focuses on building local relationships and capacity to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of education and employment outcomes.

OUR WORK

K-YES fosters partnerships between young people and the public and private sectors to design and develop mutually beneficial vocational training for increased economic competitiveness and better jobs. K-YES offers a fast-track to employment for youth (ages 18-35) who do not have a high school diploma. Program objectives include:

- Engagement with Kenyan institutions to ensure alignment of USAID youth activities with the national and county youth agenda
- Improved technical and vocational skills training
- Targeted opportunities for entrepreneurship
- Increased access to financial services, labor market information, and career guidance
- Gender equitable approaches to employment
- Sustainability through partnership

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2015, K-YES has:

- Supported more than 45,540 youth to gain new or better employment.
- Offered more than 291,790 youth access to youth-friendly financial services, market-relevant job and business skills, up-to-date labor market information, and youth mentorship networks.
- Established 122 new public-private partnerships in key sectors, increasing value for both youth employment outcomes and businesses.
- Established Youth Employment Compacts between the public and private sectors in nine counties to align skills training and workforce development with county-level economic growth strategies as part of Kenya's journey to self-reliance.

BUDGET: \$21.9 million

DURATION: 2015-2020

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:

Bungoma, Garissa, Kericho, Kisii, Kwale, Migori, Nairobi, Nyeri, and West Pokot counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

RTI International

KEY PARTNERS

- International Rescue Committee
- Land O'Lakes International
- McKinsey & Company
- Mobile Accord
- National Youth Bunge Association
- Resonance

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