



Annual Report 2018

The Youth Congress
MY VOTE
My Voice



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Acronyms

AMADPOC	Africa Migration and Development Policy Center
CFLI	Canada Fund for Local Initiatives ,
CBO	Community Based Organization
EAI	East Africa Institute
FASPAR	Facilitating Social Participation of Palestinian Refugees
FBO	Faith Based Organizations
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HURISA	Human Rights Institute of South Africa
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
KCDF	Kenya Community Development Foundation
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KHRC	Kenya Human Rights Commission
MPSYGA	Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs,
MUYOG	Marurui Youth Organisation Group
MS	Mobilizing Support
NCC	Nairobi City County
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SA	South Africa
TV	Television
TYC	The Youth Congress
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme,
UN	United Nations
YEMESA	Youth Employment and Migration in East and South Africa
YEN	Young Entrepreneurs Network

Acknowledgement

The Young Congress wishes to acknowledge the enormous contribution from our network of youth organizations and friends of The Youth Congress.

We treasure the work and dedication of the staff, interns, volunteers and the guidance of the Advisory Council/Board who ensured successful implementation of the programs.

The staff

Raphael Obonyo (Convener)
Henry Ogola (Programmes Coordinator)
Halima Osman (Programme Officer)
Christine Osongo (Finance Officer)
Fredrick Mwangi (Program Associates)

Finally, we greatly appreciate all our partners for their support, particularly; Ford Foundation, Canadian High Commission- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN- Habitat , Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), The Aga Khan University- East Africa Institute (EAI), Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs, Kenya Private Sector Alliance(KEPSA) and Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) among others.

Asante Sana.

Message from Convener

I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report which marks the 10th Year of The Youth Congress. The year 2018 was very busy and exciting for The Youth Congress, and we made great strides in the implementation of our strategic plan. This report gives overview of the some of the activities implemented and achievements in the year.

Hosting of the 4th National Youth Leaders Convention was significant milestone. The Convention was held under the theme "Create an inclusive society and promote cohesion: a call to action by the Youth". The National Youth Leaders Convention coincided with the 10th anniversary of The Youth Congress, and provided a platform for the launch of the Organization's County Youth Representatives, and the release of the organization's new strategic plan (2017-2020). The forum proposed resolutions on some of the actions required to create an inclusive society and promote cohesion.

In terms of lead role as a convener and premier youth organization, The Youth Congress Co-Steered the Youth Executives Platform, a caucus that brings together representatives of the Youth Serving Organizations. This has enhanced coordination and information sharing.

Also, The Youth Congress rolled out a life changing project for the youth in the informal settlements. The project sought to improve Youth Livelihood through Access to Opportunities and Participation in the County Budget Processes. In particular, the project sought to improve the livelihood of young men and women in the informal settlement coaching and mentorship on business development, financial support, links to financial and training institutions, and access to markets.

The Youth Congress is looking forward to building on the foundations laid in the last ten years. We look forward to amplifying youth voice, articulating youth issues coherently and expanding youth leadership, participation and economic empowerment.

Raphael Obonyo

Message from Chair

The Youth Congress is undoubtedly a premier youth organization in Kenya, and in Africa. The organization represents enormous value and strength of young people.

The Youth Congress was created in 2007 as a response to exclusion and marginalization of young people in Kenya. The organization emerged and has continued to evolve and grow in strength as the real youth agent. Over the last decade, The Youth Congress has worked to raise pertinent issues that affect young people, develop viable solutions to address youth needs and concerns and enhance youth development through an array of strategic projects.

Over the years, the organization has grown to play a vital role not only in Kenya, but in the continent. Today, The Youth Congress is appreciated as a strong youth voice and a strategic partner across Africa and beyond, be it to government, private sector, youth organizations, and United Nations or development agencies.

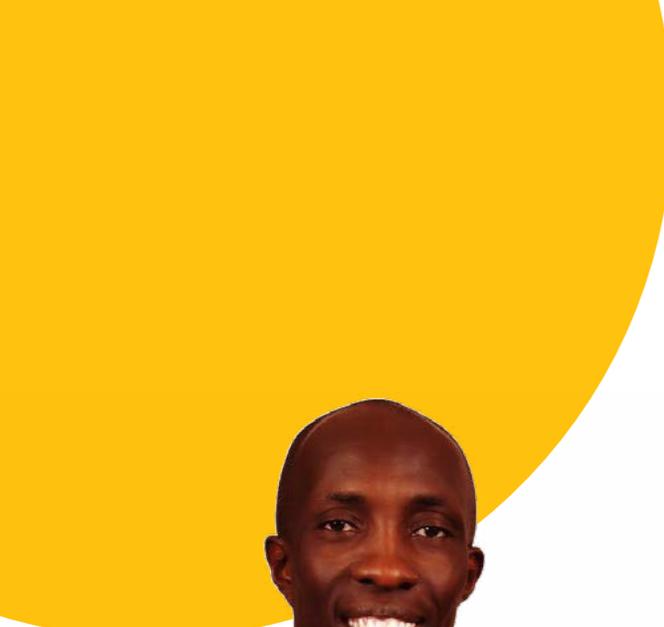
Also, The Youth Congress implemented a youth and elections project that sought to galvanize young people across the country into taking positive action before, during and after elections. The initiative created space and a common platform for young people to put themselves and their issues at the centre of the General Elections - it called for youth of diverse background, united by their experiences and bold vision for Kenya to participate fully in all efforts in the elections.

To ensure that our generation and future generations steer communities and counties to greater heights, The Youth Congress inaugurated a mentorship and leadership program.

As we mark our 10th anniversary, I would like to thank all our stakeholders for their support and invaluable role in translating our objectives and strategies to reality.

We look back with pride at our achievements and look forward to consolidating the gains we have made and build on our track record. We hope and seek to make greater contribution to the youth constituency that we serve.

Caren Wakoli



Part 1



Introduction

1.1 Origin & Identity

The Youth Congress is a registered youth serving Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) providing young people in Kenya with platform to articulate their issues, explore opportunities for youth participation and leadership to effectively address their interests and concerns and engage young people in social, economic and political development.

It originated in the run-up to the 2007 general elections in Kenya as part of the efforts by youth to seek development and emancipation through political accountability. Just before the elections, the youth of Kasarani Constituency in Nairobi developed the Kasarani People's Manifesto, which parliamentary and civic candidates had to sign as a show of their commitment to work with the constituents in bringing real development. Subsequent events led to formation and consolidation of The Youth Congress, which has evolved and is currently present in a number of urban settlements and in different parts of Kenya.

1.2 Our Vision

An inclusive society in which the youth enjoy all their human rights and apply their agency.

1.3 Our Mission

To provide a platform for the youth to improve their status and realize their full potential.

1.4 Our Strategic Objectives

- Meaningful participation of youth in policy-making and implementation.
- Meaningful youth participation in leadership and governance processes.
- An empowered youth population benefiting from available opportunities and utilizing their skills and talents for economic development.
- An effectively governed and managed organization with adequate resources to deliver its programmes.

1.5 Programmes

The Youth Congress organizes its work in four thematic focus; Policy and Research, Youth and Leadership, Youth Entrepreneurship, Talent and Innovation and Institutional Development as described below:

1 Policy & Research

The programme aims to realise meaningful participation of youth in policy-making and implementation. Its expected outputs are: Improved knowledge on existing policies and their effect on the youth; one stop information centre on the state of the youth in Kenya; co-ordinated advocacy initiatives on youth issues; and increased youth participation in policy making and advocacy.

2 Youth & Leadership

The programme aims to realise meaningful youth participation in leadership and governance processes, and to build the next generation of youth leaders with vision and values. Its expected outputs are: youth in leadership positions and processes; increased awareness and capacity of youth to engage in leadership and governance processes; and youth actively promoting ethical leadership.

3 Youth Entrepreneurship, Talent and Innovation

The programme aims to realise an empowered youth population benefiting from available opportunities and utilizing their skills and talents for economic development. Its expected outputs are: young people equipped with entrepreneurial skills; young people linked to financial opportunities and markets; talent realization and utilization by the youth; and partnerships and alliances built to advance youth economic development.

4 Institutional Development

The programme aims to realise an effectively governed and managed organization with adequate resources to deliver its programmes. Its expected outputs are: adequate resources for smooth and effective implementation of activities; a staff complement that is competent, passionate, determined and responsive to youth values and agenda; functional partnerships and networks; inclusive, participatory and gender responsive programmes; management systems, guideline and policies developed and implemented; and functional and inclusive management and governance systems.

1.6 Our Strategic Approaches

- Capabilities approaches to youth rights.
- Mainstreaming of youth in all processes.
- Community-based work focused on root causes of poverty and marginalisation.
- Information sharing, generation of knowledge and nurturing of skills.
- Partnership with individuals, groups and organizations with a shared vision.
- Reliance on unity, social cohesion and collective action amongst the youth.
- Promotion of equity and equality.
- Inclusive and gender-responsive programmes and practices



1.7 Our Values

Independence

Direction based on internal principles and organs.

Relevance

Coping with the emerging trends and applying innovation to address them.

Volunteerism

Reliance on the intrinsic motivation of members.

Integrity

Honesty, accountability, transparency and professionalism in all undertakings.

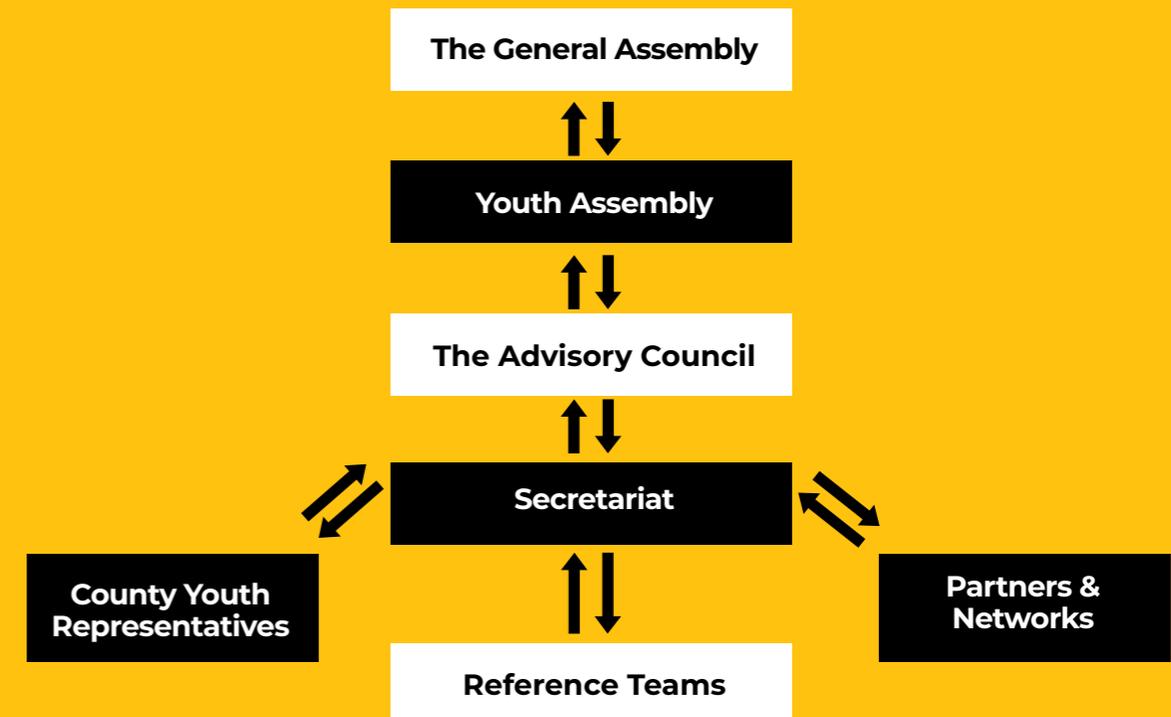
Non-discrimination

Inclusion of and respect for all regardless of natural, political, social, cultural, religion, economic or other distinction.

Resilience

Determination and passion in all pursuits.

Organization Structure





Programmes

The Youth Congress has organized its work around four thematic areas; Policy and Research; Youth and Leadership; Youth Entrepreneurship, Talent and Innovation and Institutional Development.

2.1 Policy & Research

The flagship activities implemented and achievements under the Policy and Research programme, included;

2.1.1 National Youth Policy Review Process

The Youth Congress has been in the forefront championing for review of the National Youth Policy (2007) to conform to the new realities and the Constitution of Kenya (2010). This has been through spearheading process that included; published and distributed copies of Youth Policy-Kenya: Framework for Youth Participation in Policy-Making, articles on newspapers, discussions on Radio and Television. This were tools used to engage Cabinet Secretary and Ministry to initiate the policy review process.

The Youth Congress was appointed to the policy review committee (committee formed by Ministry of Public Services, Youth and Gender Affairs bringing together stakeholders to spearhead the review process). The Youth Congress participated in the policy planning and drafting

meetings, consultative meetings at counties and stakeholder's validation forums. The organization also submitted to the review team a Memorandum (youth views from its membership and networks) and comments on the draft policy.

The final reviewed policy- National Youth Development Policy (2019) has been submitted to the Cabinet for approval and implementation. The policy provides a frame for government programming and engagement with youth for development.

2.1.2 Youth participation in research

The Youth Congress participated in the Youth Employment and Migration in East and South Africa (YEMESA) study conducted by Africa Migration and Development Policy Center (AMADPOC). It seconded ten enumerators who were trained and engaged to collect data in the mapped counties across Kenya. The finding of the study will inform youth programming by county and national government, youth serving organizations and development partners. It has helped The Youth Congress to develop contact for networks and synergy in youth agenda. It enhances evidence-based engagement with stakeholders.

2.2 Youth & Leadership

The flagship activities implemented and achievements under the Youth and Leadership Programme, included;

2.2.1 Youth & Elections

The Youth Congress ran three main campaigns toward the 8 August, 2017 general election to enhance youth participation in electoral processes in Kenya. These campaigns were: @VijanaTutokeleze (call for youth to register and vote), @Not2Young2Run (call for youth to contest for leadership-elective positions) and @Youth-4PeaceKe (call youth as agent of peace towards, during and after the elections). The Youth Congress continued with these campaigns due to the nullification of the presidential election and subsequent election on 26 October 2017. The purpose was to engage duty bearers (IEBC) and sensitize youth to exercise their civic duty by registering for identification and voter cards and maintain peace towards free, fair and credible elections. There was noted increase in the number of young people registered as voters and contested for elective posts. The Youth Congress was represented in the IEBC Youth Advisory Committee (inform engagement of youth in elections).

2.2.2 National Youth Leaders Convention 2018

The Youth Congress convened the third National Youth Leaders Convention on April 19, 2018 at Utalii Hotel, Nairobi. The Convention brought together more than 200 youth leaders and other interest groups from the 47 Counties, county and national government, development partners, Civil Society Organization, Academia and Private Sector among others to discuss and explore solutions to youth challenges. The Convention theme was; "Create an inclusive society and promote cohesion: a call to action by the Youth". The key thematic areas for working session were; Inclusive Economy -Youth Economic Empowerment; Leadership – New Generation of Leaders and Ethnicity, Security, Human Rights and Cohesion. These was done with support from partners that included; Ford Foundation, Canadian High Commission- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Aga Khan University- East Africa Institute (EAI), Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs and Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Kenya Private Sector Alliance(KEPSA), Africa Migration and Development Policy Center (AMADPOC) among others.

The convention report with recommendations had been submitted to the duty bearers and follow up done for action – inform policy and programme. It enhanced youth collective voice and contribution to cohesion and participation on national conversations to advance youth agenda. It also created a platform for partnership, network and collective youth voice.



2.2.3 Training new generation of leaders

The Youth Congress continue to make contribution to develop new generation of leaders through training and mentorship with the target being young leaders at learning institutions- student leader and young leaders out of school- community based and faith-based organizations, sports and other spaces of leadership. It has developed a guide-Youth Mentorship and Leadership; Developing Leader. The Youth Congress has conducted training for secondary school leaders from schools in Nairobi City County. It aims to inject ethical and accountable leaders to address the decay as demonstrated by high level of corruption and impunity in the country. The Youth Congress use and share this resource for training new generation of leaders.

2.2.4 Knowledge generation and dissemination

The Youth Congress has published resource material to advance the youth agenda, this included; Youth Policy-Kenya: Framework for Youth Participation in Policy-Making, Youth Mentorship and Leadership; Developing Leader, Youth Economic Development Model- How to Support the Young Entrepreneurs in the informal settlements. It also development and dissemination of Information Briefs (Info-Briefs) on thematic youth issues, including; Youth unemployment in Kenya: What must be done...; We face a catastrophic crisis of leadership: Youth must provide change, Has devolution benefited the youth?. The publications have been uploaded on The Youth Congress website for free access and use. This has enhanced informed engagement by the youth in political and socio-economic development process in Kenya.

2.3 Youth Entrepreneurship, Talent & Innovation

The flagship activities implemented and achievements under the Youth Entrepreneurship, Talent and Innovation Programme, included;

2.3.1 Youth Entrepreneurship support

The Youth Congress supported ten young entrepreneur groups in Ruaraka Sub-County, Nairobi City County (NCC). This was through a call and vetting of business proposals. The groups were supported with equipment and items as per their proposal in line with the available resources. The ten groups have 151 members. This has generated income, employment and improved livelihood for 139 young people in the urban settlement. It also led to formation of Young Entrepreneurs Network(YEN).The support is tabulated below:

Youth Entrepreneurship support	
Group/Enterprise	Support Requested & Supported
Better Life Development Organization	● 1 Television (TV) 49" ● TV wall stand
Jitahidi Youth Group	● 1 Television (TV) 40" ● 1 Hooper ● TV wall stand
Nala Trendy Salon and School	● 2 Hair Dryers ● 5 Dummies
Bidii Yetu Youth Group	● 100 Plastic chairs
Babadogo Initiative & Transforming Youths	● Carwash Machine
T.Area Development Youth Group	● Carwash Machine
Disabled Empowerment Society of Kenya (DIESK)	● 2 Sewing Machines & Dress making Materials
Better Living Empowerment Program	● 1 Chicken Hatcher ● Battery ● Solar panel
Downstream Youth Group	● Carwash Machine
Grogon B Reformers Self Help Group	● 5,000 litters water tanks ● Mounting material for the tank- Iron sheet & Timber

The groups stories have been documented in the report- Youth Economic Development Model- How to Support the Young Entrepreneurs in Informal Settlements and highlighted by the media under the topics- Crime does not pay-Young reformed robbers find new life in entrepreneurship(Monday April 9, 2018 DN2 Page 23,24,25 and County News-Nairobi); Stories on Entrepreneurship support-Better Life Youth Development Youth Organization and Nala Trendy Hair Salon(The Daily Nation Friday November 24, 2017- Network Page 7).



2.3.2 Ideation, Coaching and Mentorship

The Youth Congress has conducted three training, mentorship and coaching session each of about 35 youth. Is a platform for youth to interact engage and build relationship with mentors and coaches for their business. About 10 Trainers/mentors have been involved in the process at various sessions. The Trainers/mentors identified experience and interest included; urban agribusiness, Salon and Beauty, Hawking and Boutique, Communication and Marketing, Financial Management, Leadership among others. This has built network and skills for young entrepreneurs for business development.

2.3.3 Exchange & Learning

The Youth Congress has hosted and sent representatives to exchange and learning programs within and outside the country. It included; visit to Marurui Youth Organisation Group (MUYOG) and other urban settlements, participation in Youth Camp in Norway, visit to Republic of South Africa and host of youth delegation from SA in youth exchange, sharing and learning project by Fahamu, Kenya and HURISA, South Africa (Human Rights Institute of South Africa); visit by members of Abahlali Base Mjondolo from South Africa (6 members); visit by The Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation in Zimbabwe; and visit by Palestinian youth (22) through the GIZ project- Facilitating Social Participation of Palestinian Refugees (FASPAR) in Lebanon. These exchanges and learning created exposure and partnerships between the organizations.



2.4 Institutional Development

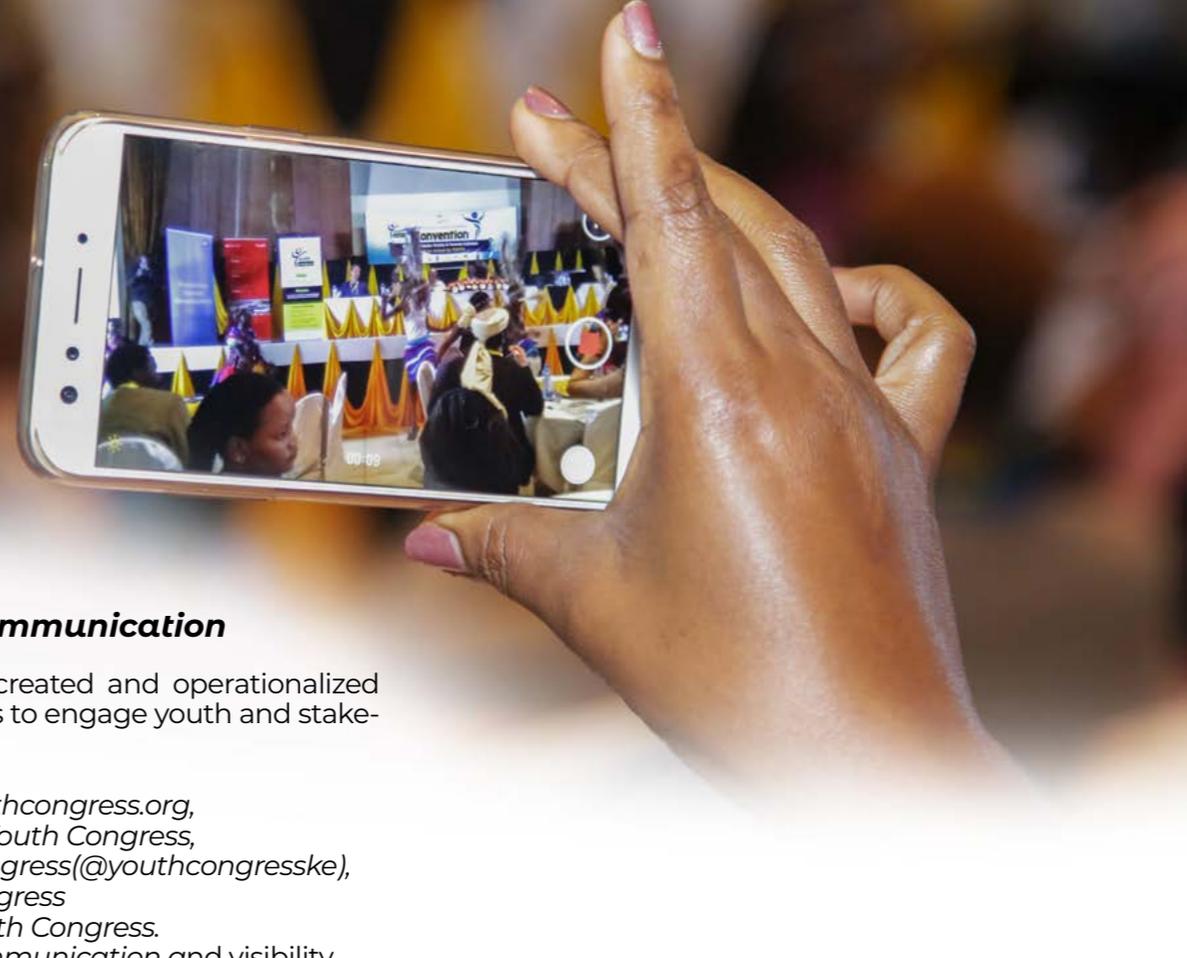
The flagship activities implemented and achievements under the Institutional Development, included;

2.4.1 Recruitment and Retention of staffs

The Youth Congress has recruited and retained four staffs, namely; Executive Director, Programme Coordinator, Finance Officer and Programme Office. The team has been complemented by the support of Interns, Volunteers and network coordinators for the day-to-day operation of the organization- secretariat. Additionally, the organization have engaged various consultants on need basis.

2.4.2 Staff capacity development

The Youth Congress members of staff have participated in various national and global forums for exposure and learning. The training included; on Tax compliance organized by Ford Foundation, Local Fundraising and trained-CtGA Training – the Mobilizing Support (MS) starters module and participated in Durable Development Conference both organized by KCDF. This has built capacity of the staffs in these areas, provided exposure and learning.



2.4.3 Media & Communication

The Youth Congress created and operationalized social media platforms to engage youth and stakeholders, that include;

Website: www.theyouthcongress.org,
 Facebook Page: The Youth Congress,
 Twitter: The Youth Congress(@youthcongresske),
 Instagram: Youth Congress
 YouTube channel: Youth Congress.
 This has enhance communication and visibility.

Its programmes have been highlighted in mainstream media, publication on topical youth issues – Tackling youth unemployment- Innovation , counties now the area to seek jobs ((Daily Nation Monday July 16,2018); Crime does not pay-Young reformed robbers find new life in entrepreneurship(Monday April 9, 2018 DN2 Page 23,24,25 and County News-Nairobi); Stories on Entrepreneurship supported by The Youth Congress-Better Life Youth Development Youth Organization and Nala Trendy Hair Salon(The Daily Nation Friday November 24, 2017- Network Page 7) among others. These has highlighted youth issues and created forum for engagement with duty bearers, youth and other stakeholder and an inspiration to other young people and initiatives on job creation and improving of livelihood spearheaded by youth for the youth.

2.4.4 Returns & compliance

The organization has gone through and assessment by Viwango Certification and produced a report highlighting organization strength and weaknesses in capacity areas, that included; legal and statutory requirements, Identity, Governance, Work programming and Planning, Management system and Policy, Resource mobilisation and utilisation, Partnership and External relationship and organisation culture and leadership. The organisation is working to improve on it weakness and to sustain areas of strength and make them better. It has done annual returns to NGOs Coordination Board, Audited account, Tax compliance and regular reports for accountability and credibility.

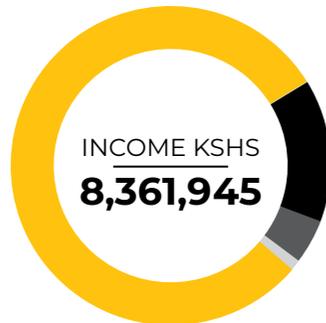
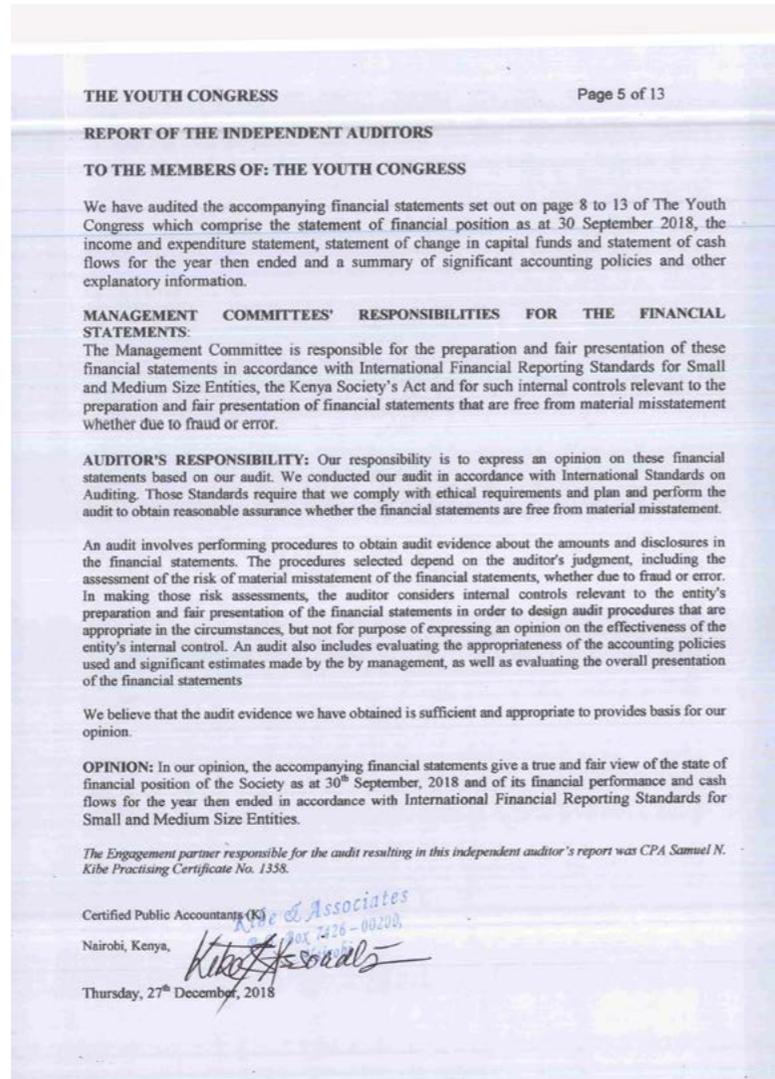


Partners

Partners	Project/Activity
Ford Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Next Generation Leaders: Growing youth to be leaders and active citizens National Youth Leaders Convention 2018
Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Youth Livelihoods through Access to Opportunities, and Participation in County Budget Processes
Canadian High Commission-Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Leaders Convention 2018
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Leaders Convention 2018
Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Leaders Convention 2018
Kenya Human Rights Commission(KHRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Leaders Convention 2018 Strategic Planning
Fahamu-Networks for Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange and Learning program to Republic of South Africa and Norway
The Aga Khan University-East Africa Institute (EAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Leaders Convention 2018
Kenya Private Sector Alliance(KEPSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Leaders Convention 2018
Our Youth Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptualization, planning and implementation of The Youth Congress programs

Part 4

Financial Report



6,911,075	Ford Foundation
1,136,758	KCDF
250,112	Canadian High Commission
64,000	The Agha Khan Foundation



5,453,756	Programme Costs
1,248,825	Administrative Costs
1,659,364	Balance



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