



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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## Acronyms & Abbreviations

<b>AFCTA</b>	Africa Free Trade Area
<b>C.B.O.</b>	Community Based Organisation
<b>C.G.T.N.</b>	China Global Television Network
<b>C.H.R.I.P.S.</b>	Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies
<b>C.I.D.P.</b>	County Integrated Development Plan
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus of 2019
<b>I.E.B.C.</b>	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
<b>K.B.C.</b>	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
<b>K.C.D.F.</b>	Kenya Community Development Foundation
<b>K.T.N.</b>	Kenya Television Network
<b>K.Y.D.P.</b>	Kenya Youth Development Policy
<b>KAS</b>	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
<b>N.E.D.</b>	National Endowment for Democracy
<b>N.G.C.D.F.</b>	National Government Constituency Development Fund
<b>N.G.O</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>N.T.V</b>	Nation Television
<b>N.Y.S</b>	National Youth Service
<b>O.R.P.P</b>	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
<b>S.A.C.C.O</b>	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization
<b>S.D.G</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>S.E.K.E.B</b>	South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc
<b>S.H.G</b>	Self Help Group
<b>S.M.E</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises



## Acknowledgment

The Youth Congress is grateful for the contribution of our members, networks, and youth-serving organisations that have worked and inspired us in this period.

We are indebted to the staff, interns, volunteers, and the guidance of the Advisory Council/Board that contributed to the success.

### The team at the Secretariat includes;

Raphael Obonyo – Convener and Executive Director  
 Henry Ogola - Co-convener and Programme Coordinator  
 Halima Osman - Programme Officer  
 Christine Osongo – Finance Officer  
 Charles Waweru – Programme Associate

Finally, we are grateful to our partners for their support, especially The Ford Foundation, Kenya Community Development Foundation (K.C.D.F.), Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (K.A.S.), and other partners.

## Executive Summary

The Youth Congress is glad to release the 2022 Annual Report, which summarises the activities of 2021. The report covers activities between October 2021 and September 2022. The Youth Congress fulfilled its responsibilities to the community, partners, and other stakeholders as Kenya's economy began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The country prepared to hold a transitional General Election.

The report provides an overview of the community engagements and projects planned and implemented as part of The Youth Congress Strategic Plan (2022-2025), which outlines the organisation's aim to be the premier youth-serving organisation in Kenya and the region.

As will become apparent, all the programmes launched throughout the period targeted achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, The Youth Congress increased its efforts in its operations and programmes to promote equality, inclusiveness, and diversity. The post-COVID-19 pandemic era is the most crucial time in history for championing these three fundamental principles.

The subsequent report is broken into the following four sections:

### Part One

**Organizational Profile**  
Offers a brief profile of The Youth Congress;

### Part Two

**Repositioning Youth Leadership for an Inclusive World**  
Highlights the activities and strategies deployed within each Programme component of The Youth Congress to realise the objectives of the projects within the broader framework of its three core thematic areas of Youth, Governance and Leadership; Youth Economic Empowerment, and Institutional Development;

### Part Three

**Partnerships and Collaborations**  
Mention of entities that offered technical and financial support to The Youth Congress;

### Part Four

**Fiscal Responsibility**  
Highlights the auditor's report and income/expenditure outlook for the period.

## Message from the Convener

Youth in Kenya are disproportionately impacted by exclusion from economic and political growth. With more than 70% of the population under 35, young people are the country's future and its most vulnerable inhabitants. Youth will undoubtedly determine the destiny of our counties and nation; the future of Kenya is in their hands.

The Youth Congress adheres to the fact that youth empowerment is crucial for development and that empowered youth are potent agents of change. Youth are vital in the quest for a better Kenya and tomorrow, as they create better prospects for themselves and their communities and advocate for the desired future.

We are totally committed to harnessing kids' imagination, emerging talent, and potential to work alongside them to realise their full potential and enjoy all human rights. This yearly report highlights a portion of our work with adolescents across the nation. We have assisted in equipping kids with entrepreneurial skills and tools and constructing youth capabilities and leadership alliances. Specifically, the Youth Leagues have engaged the Youth Congress, allowing us to hear and engage youth at their levels and places - their thoughts, concerns, and vision.

Thank you to all of our partners for fueling the organisation's efforts and ensuring no young person is left behind.

We shall continue to do our best for the generations of today and tomorrow.

Thank you.



**Raphael Obonyo**  
Convener

**“The success of the Youth constituents is pegged on their ability to support one another in every endeavor”**



# Part 1

## 1.0 Organizational Profile

### 1.1 Origin & Identity

The Youth Congress is a registered, youth-serving Non-Governmental Organization that provides young people with a platform to articulate their issues, explore opportunities for participation and leadership to address their interests, concerns, aspiration effectively, and engage young people in the social, economic, and political process for development.

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

### 1.2 Our Values

Independence	Direction based on internal principles & organs
<b>Integrity</b>	Honesty, accountability, transparency and professionalism in all undertakings
<b>Volunteerism</b>	Reliance on the intrinsic motivation of members
<b>Non-discrimination</b>	Inclusion of and respect for all regardless of natural, political, social, cultural, religion, economic or other distinction
<b>Relevance</b>	Coping with the emerging trends and applying innovation to address them.
<b>Resilience</b>	Determination and passion in all pursuits.

### 1.3 Our Theory of Change

While unemployment is considered the single most serious challenge facing the youth in Kenya, the capacity to address the problem remains a key concern because of inadequate information, limited support from key actors, poor access to opportunities and exclusion from leadership and decision-making.

The result is a population of frustrated youth who end up in crime, drug abuse, prostitution, early and forced marriages, unplanned pregnancies, sexual abuses such as female genital mutilation and other anti-social activities. These youth cannot realise their potential and apply their talents, skills, innovation and energies. As this happens, the cycle of poverty becomes vicious, and youth continue to be demoralised and dependent as degeneration becomes the norm.

The major causes of this situation include unequal distribution of resources and opportunities; exclusionist policies and practices; ethnically skewed and utilitarian politics; mismatch between formal education and the labour market; non-prioritisation of the youth perspective in development; and employment of wrong approaches to youth rights and development. The ultimate change the Youth Congress envisages is characterised by: empowered youth; ethical governance systems; pro-youth policies and legislation that are fully implemented; and adequate access to relevant information. The key actors required to catalyse this change are the youth, C.S.O.s, the national and county governments, youth-focused institutions, the cooperate sector, research and institutions of higher learning, community-based structures and systems, the mass media and political actors.

As a catalyst of change, the Youth Congress agency lies in influencing policy and legislation, proactivity, generation and adaptation of practical models, knowledge generation and sharing, an extension of frontiers of opportunity beyond national borders, capacity development and inclusive processes. Other meaningful ways of realising the desired change are: working in alliance with like-minded actors; partnerships with the mass media; mentorship; and transformation of youth initiatives into movements.

The initiatives are predicated on the assumptions that: better organisation makes it easier to air youth issues; inclusion of the youth provides an opportunity to raise their concerns, demands and aspirations and develop solutions; networking generates collective strength; information ignites grounded action, and successful youth initiatives provide models for replication.

The Youth Congress is best positioned to champion the change because of several factors. First, it is led by and works with passionate youth determined to make a difference. Second, it has a track record of working in and with disadvantaged communities and hence is non-elitist in its orientation and approaches. Third, it has established youth leagues with elected county coordinators to engage the county governments and regional economic blocs. Fourth, it is well connected to actors that believe in its agency. The firm conviction informs the Youth Congress work that youth are not only a problem or people with a problem but people with immense potential.

### 1.4 Our Niche

TYC is a self-driven, community rooted and human rights based movement of the youth for the youth. It serves as a reliable youth agent, especially for young people in deprived communities who bear the brunt of exclusion and impoverishment. It addresses the diverse political, social, economic and cultural concerns of the youth through passion, intellectualism, professionalism and role modeling. TYC relies on community-based mobilisers to build its membership and access communities. At the same time, it blends and interacts with the government and corporate world without compromising its focus on needy communities.

#### 1.5 Our Vision

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

#### 1.6 Our Mission

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

### 1.7 Our Strategic Objectives

- Meaningful youth participation in leadership and governance processes;
- Meaningful youth empowerment to enable contribution to a more prosperous and stable society and;
- An inclusive, vibrant and effectively governed and managed organisation with adequate resources to achieve its goals across the 47 counties of Kenya.

### 1.8 Programmes

#### 1.8.1 Youth, Governance and Leadership

The youth are disenfranchised in the country's decision-making, governance and leadership.

The Programme seeks to realise meaningful young participation in leadership and governance processes and to develop the next generation of visionary and value-driven youth leaders. Young in leadership roles and functions, enhanced understanding and capacity to participate in leadership and governance processes, and youth actively supporting ethical leadership are among the intended outcomes.

#### 1.8.2 Youth Economic Empowerment

Youth unemployment is a significant problem in Kenya because of sluggish economic growth and a theory-based education system. This results in perpetual dependency, crime, substance abuse and addiction, and poor living standards.

The objective of the Programme is to ensure that an empowered youth population takes advantage of opportunities and uses their skills and abilities for economic growth. Youth equipped with entrepreneurial skills, youth connected to financial options and markets, youth realising and utilising their talents, and partnerships and alliances formed to boost youth economic development are anticipated outcomes.

## 1.10 Our Organizational Structure

Level	Implementation Mandate
<b>The General Assembly</b>	The General Assembly consists of representatives of the various organs of The Youth Congress. These include: Secretariat, Advisory Council, Youth Assembly and partners. The General Assembly defines the overall direction and mandate of The Youth Congress
<b>Youth Assembly</b>	This consists of representatives of the various youth organisations, forums and networks that work with The Youth Congress Youth Leagues. It facilitates mobilization, organization and communication within The Youth Congress and beyond.
<b>The Advisory Council</b>	The Advisory Council serves as the Board to The Youth Congress. It consists of selected persons with expertise in different fields, who provide strategic advice, guidance, mentorship and oversight to The Youth Congress on behalf of the General Assembly
<b>The Secretariat</b>	The Youth Congress has a core human complement of staff namely: Convener/Executive Director, Co-convener/Programme Coordinator, Finance Manager, Programme officer and assistants, Administration staff and other team members. The secretariat is responsible for the management of the organisation's routine affairs and reports to the Advisory Council and the membership. Inclusion, gender balance, commitment to gender equality and technical expertise on gender issues are considered in the recruitment of staff and consultants.
<b>Reference Teams</b>	These are ad hoc teams constituted to provide technical services and assistance to The Youth Congress and specific matters. They consist of specialists, interest groups and selected individuals.
<b>Partners and Networks</b>	These are individuals and organizations that share and support The Youth Congress. They include; NGOs, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), governments, private sector and development agencies.

### 1.8.3 Institutional Development

The Youth Congress has survived into its second decade of existence. This attests to its resilience and relevance. However, it still needs to strengthen itself:

The Program seeks to establish a well-governed and managed organisation with sufficient resources to implement its Program. Its expected outputs include adequate resources for the smooth and efficient implementation of activities; a staff complement that is competent, passionate, determined, and responsive to youth values and agenda; functional partnerships and networks; an inclusive, participatory, and gender-responsive programme; developed and implemented management systems, guidelines, policies, and inclusive management and governance systems.

### 1.9 Our Strategic Approaches

- Capabilities approach youth rights.
- Mainstreaming of youth in all processes.
- Community-based work focused on the root causes of poverty and marginalization.
- 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 Programme and practices.





## Part 2

## 2.0 Repositioning Youth Leadership for an Inclusive World

The Youth Congress has organised its work around three thematic areas; Youth, Governance and Leadership, Youth Economic Empowerment, and Institutional Development.

### 2.1 Youth, Governance and Leadership

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

#### 2.1.1 Youth Leagues: Cementing the Pillars of Youth Engagement

In Kenya, many young people demand greater participation in the country's socioeconomic transition. With their burgeoning vigour, creativity, and optimism, Kenyan youth must be appropriately organised by forming caucuses that amplify their views. This should be an answer to this say, 'Kenya is among the countries where a small number of organised groups rule a large number of disorganised groups' and 'the difference between an army and a mob is organisation.'

In this regard, The Youth Congress has formed youth leagues in Kenya. This was informed by the development of The Youth Congress Manifesto and Manual for Youth League in Kenya, which give a clear theory of change, values that member organisations subscribe to and what they advocate for. The formation was through an open online call to express interest in youth formations to members of The Youth Congress–Youth Leagues in Kenya. The applicants were assessed, and shortlisted groups were admitted to the league.

This youth formation includes C.B.O., companies, trusts, N.G.O., Assemblies, S.H.G., SACCO, Unions, Associations etc. The Youth Leagues wish to give an image of youth that will channel the energies the diverse youngsters possess towards forming a voice that would drive socio-economic changes from the local to the national level. However, young people must be organised and disciplined to achieve this objective. Organising is crucial to the success of any constituency, especially young people. Youth have been used and mistreated for a long time, and their efforts and numbers have been disregarded. Therefore, for The Youth Congress, discipline and honesty are as fundamental a demand as the fight for greater freedom that we are waging. Members of The Youth Congress and organisations members of the youth leagues must subscribe to the following:



i.	Adherence to The Youth Congress values and vision in advancing the youth agency
ii.	Support the ideas of the Youth Leagues and The Youth Congress and place themselves under its overall discipline
iii.	Carry out decisions, duties, and resolutions with diligence
iv.	Organize, participate and contribute positively to all County Youth League and The Youth Congress activities and to contribute to the strengthening of the organic unity of the youth movement
v.	Rally youth to support and unite behind the Country Youth Leagues and actively participate in the creation of a united, non-racial, de-ethnicized, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous Kenya
vi.	Protect the Youth League and the Youth Congress mandate at all times by exercising maximum vigilance
vii.	Exercise discipline and exemplary behavior at all times and maintain harmonious relations with all members of the Youth League and the community in general
viii.	Combat all forms of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, and other forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, clan, and sex, as well as combating factionalism and malicious gossip within our ranks
ix.	Initiate and participate in activities aimed at promoting national values, solidarity, cohesion, peace, and social Justice
x.	Promote gender agenda, inclusion, equality, and effective distribution of authority and accountability between men and women in the youth movement
xi.	Respect to the Rule of Law, the Constitution of Kenya, and other related laws

The Youth Congress - Youth Leagues purposed to have a continuous engagement to assess the member organisations' progress on matters to do with youth engagement with county governments. The Youth Congress has convened coordinators' quarterly meetings for continued engagement and feedback. The Youth Congress has since convened the second and third-quarter meetings via Zoom. Through such engagements, the member organisations were able to share ideas of how outfits could prepare the youth in the run-up to the 2022 General Elections. In particular, the discussion was held on civic education (voter registration and informed voting) and election monitoring.

### 2.1.2 Youth & Elections: Foundations for a Resilient Democratic Society

The Youth Congress engaged in and sponsored several projects to enhance youth involvement in the election process.

The Youth Congress conducted an Elect Youth 2022 Initiative survey and shared the findings with the stakeholders. The survey was initiated to find, mobilise, and provide broad support for young candidates for political office. In November 2021, the project was launched, attracting 204 responders throughout 39 counties and all electoral seats. During the electioneering period, the programme shall also aim to enhance the applicants' capacity as peace ambassadors.



After the 30-day application window closed in December 2021, The Youth Congress released the results of the replies at the Radisson Blue Hotel in Nairobi before holding a forum of applicants from Nyeri County.

The Youth Congress launched the Register to Vote Initiative to encourage residents, especially youth, to register to vote in the General Election during the I.E.B.C.'s Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration exercise from January 17 to February 6, 2022.

In addition, the Youth Congress launched the Citizens for Change Initiative in January 2022 to mobilise, organise, and empower citizens, especially youth, to participate meaningfully and actively in the 2022 General Elections and beyond.

In February 2022, The Youth Congress conducted a consultative forum for young activists interested in running for office to examine their requirements and determine how best to transfer their activism abilities into political ones.

The Youth Congress sponsored a virtual training (Election Laws & Regulations Technical Workshop) in May 2022 for hundreds of young candidates in the upcoming general election. The virtual workshop brought facilitators from the I.E.B.C. and O.R.P.P.

The Youth Congress was also incorporated into the I.E.B.C. Youth Coordinating Committee, whose mission was to engage youth organisations in collaboration and institutional commitments to boost voter registration and education for the General Election of 2022. January 2022 saw the Young Women Candidates Workshop organised by N.E.D. and attended by O.R.P.P., I.E.B.C., and other groups such as the Youth Congress. The workshop's purpose was to engage and train young women representing all 81 political parties, some of whom are running for office in the upcoming general election.

The Youth Congress and Youth Leagues embarked on developing the Kenya Youth Manifesto to comprehend two essential topics on youth and elections: What the Youth

Need from Elected Leaders? and the Factors that Influence their Choice of Candidates across the various elective seats. The opinions were solicited via a Google form between May 1 and May 17, 2022. In total, 995 randomly selected youths participated in the survey. According to 70.4% of respondents, employment prospects were the top priority for the youth. In addition to business opportunities (58.1%), educational support (43.7%) was also a top priority. However, only 8.9% were interested in online job opportunities through the Ajira Digital Program. County Youth League coordinators did an enumeration of youth needs and aspirations; this was developed into a report shared with the major political coalition- Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya Coalition and Kenya Kwanza.

The Youth Congress was keen to ensure that the electorate participated constructively in political debates. Through a series of cross-sectoral collaborations and partnerships, the Youth Congress positioned itself as a youth agent while it carried out its mission. The Youth Congress was a member of the Coalition of Peaceful Election in Kenya, launched in June 2022. The coalition created a forum that promotes peaceful elections and urged all Kenyans to maintain the country's continuing peace. Multipartyism should be about intellectual rivalry, not violence. Before elections, the programme urged for issue-based campaigns devoid of character assassination and cyber-bullying, particularly towards women candidates. Members of all political parties were encouraged to commit to and ensure peaceful campaigning, and party leaders were urged to demonstrate their commitment by disarming their youth wings. The alliance pledged to continue educating political party leaders on fostering a climate favourable to peaceful elections. At all levels, the parties were urged to ensure the involvement of women, men, and youth on an equal basis.

In July 2022, the Canadian High Commission hosted Ms President 2022. The programme aimed to foster women's leadership and assist them in realising their potential to transform their societies. Ms President is an amusing, enlightening, and thought-provoking reality television programme that aims to demonstrate to a national audience the leadership capacity and capability of women. Ms President seeks to alter Kenyans' perceptions and attitudes regarding women's leadership in communities and the nation. The Youth Congress was privileged to play a role in the event.

Also, in July 2022, the Youth Congress participated in the #MimiMkenya Peace Concert held in Nakuru. Together with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of Kenya and the European Centre for Electoral Support, the Nation Media Group organised the event. Mercy Masika, Evelyn Wanjiru, Nadia Mukami, Sauti Sol, Octopizzo, Trio Mio, and DJ Joe Mfalme performed at the show. Using local personalities, Kenyans were encouraged to participate in peaceful elections.

The Youth Congress dispatched a full-fledged short-term Election Observation Mission to the 2022 Kenya General Elections, consisting of 28 short-term youth observers selected primarily from the youth leagues. The Youth Congress was credited with monitoring general elections at the national tallying centre-Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi. Twenty-eight youth election observers monitored 18 counties. The team concluded that the 2022 General Elections were highly contested and that the campaign was more peaceful than prior elections.

### 2.1.3 Youth Leadership Championing Socioeconomic Changes at the Counties

The Youth Congress was among the stakeholders engaged by the Nairobi City County -department of youth in developing the third Nairobi C.I.D.P. (2023-2027) during the Nairobi City County C.I.D.P. Stakeholder Forums. The C.I.D.P. is a plan developed by all counties to guide growth over five years. The Public Finance Management Act of 2012 prohibits the appropriation of public monies outside a county's planning framework. The C.I.D.P. should include information on development priorities that informs the annual budget process, including drafting annual development plans, annual county fiscal strategy papers, and annual budget estimates.

The Youth Congress has been a leading advocate for the execution of the National Youth Policy (2019). The Youth Congress actively contributed to the Nairobi City Council Youth Policy publication in February 2022, which followed extensive consultations with stakeholders. The Youth Congress engaged in a validation exercise for the Nyeri County Youth Policy in the same month.

### 2.1.4 Knowledge Generation and Dissemination

In March 2022, C.H.R.I.P.S. organised Youth Inclusion and Violence Prevention Research, in which The Youth Congress participated. The research project evaluated the extent to which the N.Y.S. Community Cohorts Programme in Mathare and Kibera has contributed to the participation of youth in economic life and governance, as well as the influence of this inclusion on violence in Nairobi. Using the N.Y.S. as a case study, the research has given new insights into the impact of adolescent empowerment programmes on inclusion and violence prevention and reduction at the local level, guiding comparable interventions aimed at kids in informal settlements. The study contributed to broader scholarly concerns of youth empowerment and participation in Africa, as well as the extent to which economic incentives and motivations contribute to violence prevention and reduction.

Poland hosted the World Urban Forum in June 2022. In the session titled "Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future," the Youth Congress was represented by Raphael Obonyo, who was among the panellist on the forum. The World Urban Forum (W.U.F.) is the foremost global forum on urban sustainability. The United Nations founded the World Urban Forum (W.U.F.) in 2001 to investigate one of the most urgent global issues: growing urbanisation and its effects on communities, cities, economies, climate change, and policies.

The Youth Congress had the opportunity of participating in the 2022 General Election Media Coverage through panel talks at K.T.N., NTV, KBC, and CGTN TV, among others. Kenyan media have traditionally viewed elections as both a challenge and an opportunity for growth. In 2007, the media was held partially responsible for inciting and intensifying the post-election violence that erupted in several parts of the country. In 2013, the media was accused of avoiding content that could stoke ethnic tensions and incite violence. The term 'Githeri Media' was coined in 2017 in response to what many viewed as the media's preoccupation with trivial topics, and it is being used to ridicule journalists today. For 2022, the Youth Congress intended to ensure that the 'fourth estate' fulfilled its role in constructing resilient democracies by disseminating reliable information to the general public.



## 2.2 Youth Economic Empowerment

The flagship activities implemented and achievements under the Youth Economic Empowerment Programme included;

### 2.2.1 Inclusive Economies: Youth Entrepreneurship Support

The Youth Congress assisted 12 young entrepreneur groups in the Mathare and Korogocho Nairobi City County informal settlements via an online call for group proposals and a review of business plans, groups visited, and shortlisted groups supported. The groups were supported with items for income for a livelihood that included carwash machines, hatchers, dyes and other saloon equipment, televisions, and refrigerators, among other items. The programme has provided more than 500 youth households with livelihood and an improved standard of living to limit their involvement in crime and violence in Kenya and beyond.

### 2.2.2 Youth Entrepreneurship Summit 2022: Peer to Peer review, exploring partnership and linkages for business growth

In May 2022, The Youth Congress hosted more than 60 small and medium enterprises at the Youth Entrepreneurship Summit 2022. The purpose of the summit was to educate youth about opportunities and possibilities in business by engaging them in conversations, discussions, and workshops on entrepreneurship, finance, leadership, mentorship, community involvement, and decision-making, as well as allowing them to network with professionals and diverse stakeholders to discover unique insights that can assist young entrepreneurs in achieving their goals. Experts, decision-makers, and representatives of youth entrepreneurial

organisations who have received support from The Youth Congress in cooperation with the Kenya Community Development Foundation were among the participants. Secretary of Youth Affairs Raymond Ochieng, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Youth Enterprise Fund, Nairobi City County, and Botswana's Yandile Nuku graced the summit.

### 2.2.3 Building Economies through Nurturing Youth Talent

The Youth Congress convened the ARTS Summit in July 2022 to embark on an ambitious plan of mapping and linking youth talent to other stakeholders who need technical and financial support to promote their sustainability and contribution to the national economy.

### 2.2.4 Exchange & Learning

The Youth Congress participated in the February 2022 webinar, AfCFTA Opportunities for Young African Entrepreneurs, organised by the AfCFTA. The discussion was part of Africa Renewal's attempts to increase awareness among African nations about major concerns related to free trade. The speakers in the forum included Dr Joy Kategwa - a trade law and policy specialist, Special Advisor to the Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP, and one of the architects of the #AfCFTA, w the event's guest speaker. Raphael Obonyo of The Youth Congress hosted the discussion. The webinar explored how free trade might benefit young African entrepreneurs.

### 2.2.5 Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit: Exploring bussing opportunities and building regional alliance

The Youth Congress was represented by Raphael Obonyo, among the panellists in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit in April of 2022 hosted in Botswana. The conference brought together more than 600 entrepreneurs from over 40 nations, leveraging the potential of entrepreneurial capitalism on a continent whose rise will help define the 21st century. The newest and next generation of leaders were inspired by leaders and innovators from every sector, emphasising sustainability and unleashing the continent's growth potential. Local musicians, chefs, and businesspeople offered the sounds, cuisine, and pillars of the local cultural experience in conjunction with unparalleled networking and pitching possibilities.

### 2.2.6 Korea- East Africa Startup Conference: Lessons and opportunity for collaboration across the globe

The Youth Congress participated in the Korea- East Africa Startup Conference held in June 2022. The event offered a one-on-one Business consultation meeting between Korea, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania's enterprises and stakeholders. The session provided a platform to share experiences and lessons from different countries. The youth have a critical role to play in innovation, creativity and start-up of S.M.E.s for job creation and poverty reduction.

### 2.2.7 YouthConnect Africa Summit

In Ghana in October 2021, the Youth Congress participated in the YouthConnect Africa Summit. The summit focused on Africa's post-pandemic socioeconomic context and the roles of Africa's youth, governments, private sector, and development partners in rebuilding jointly.

### 2.2.8 7th Annual Devolution Conference

The Young Congress advocated for youth issues at the 7th Annual Devolution Conference, held in Makeni County in November 2021. A delegation from the S.E.K.E.B. Youth League represented the Youth Congress. The meeting provided opportunities for expanded participation, particularly for young people. The Youth Congress youth leagues in S.E.K.E.B. are already in talks with the county governments regarding their involvement in the S.E.K.E.B. development plans.

## 2.3 Institutional Development

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

### 2.3.1 Recruitment and Retention of Staff

The Youth Congress has employed and retained the Executive Director, Programme Coordinator, Finance Officer, Programme Office, and Programme Associate. The organisation's secretariat is augmented by Interns, Volunteers, and County youth league coordinators. Additionally, the organisation has engaged several consultants based on requirements.

### 2.3.2 Staff Capacity Development

The Youth Congress endeavoured to fully implement its policies, such as Human Resource Policy, Finance Policy and Gender Policy. For example, the Gender Policy enhances the capacity of staff on gender mainstreaming in all its programmes. Gender equality is internationally acknowledged as a human rights pillar established in the Kenyan Constitution. Having a gender policy reflects the Youth Congress' dedication to the vision of an inclusive, discrimination-free society. It integrates the Youth Congress with the goals of its development partners and provides a framework for integrating gender into all of the Youth Congress' activity.

The Youth Congress reviewed her Strategic Plan (2017 – 2020) and developed and published a new plan for 2022-2025 through a very consultative engagement with its membership. The engagement was sort to repurpose its programmes post-COVID-19 pandemic period and a global society increasingly interested in C.S.Os campaigning for Sustainable Development Goals. The current Strategic Plan (2022-2025), whose most notable modification was a refocus on the Youth Congress theme areas. Dr Okumba Miruka served as the exercise's principal consultant.

The Youth Congress team has participated in numerous national and international events for **capacity-building**. For instance, in October 2021, K.C.D.F. provided webinar sessions on **Online Fundraising and Donor Relations Management**.

### 2.3.3 Strategic Communication: Change Mind, Change Future

The Youth Congress created and operationalised social media platforms to engage youth and stakeholders, including

**Website:** www.theyouthcongress.org, **Facebook Page:** The Youth Congress,

**Twitter:** @youthcongresske, **Instagram:** Youth Congress, and **YouTube:** Youth Congress. These platforms have enhanced communication and visibility.

In addition, the Youth Congress has published various articles in national, regional, and global periodicals, as highlighted below:

Name of Article	Theme	Periodical/ Publisher	Date of Publication
COVID-19 has exacerbated Africa's problem of youth unemployment	COVID 19	Good Governance in Africa	6-Oct-21
Support young aspirants to win national elections	Youth & Elections	Nation Africa	15-Nov-21
We should run as others walk	County Governments	Siaya County News	20-Nov-21
"Slow death" of civil society, blow to the rule of law	Governance	Nation Africa	7-Dec-21
Africa's Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to boost the creative industry, generate jobs for the youth	Trade	UNAfrica Renewal	8-Dec-21
Youth must stand up for human rights and democracy	Human Rights	Nation Africa	10-Dec-21
Protect digital space ahead of 2022 polls.	Human Rights	Nation Africa	17-Dec-21
Why our leaders have flopped in tackling disasters	Governance	Nation Africa	23-Dec-21
Make informed choices	Governance	Nation Africa	5-Jan-22
Why counties must now improve their resource collection	County Governments	Standard Newspaper	16-Jan-22
How the Private sector can support the achievements of COP26	Climate Action	Good Governance in Africa	1-Feb-22
Back young women eyeing political leadership	Gender	Business Daily Africa	4-Feb-22
Back young women politicians	Gender	Nation Africa	9-Feb-22

Name of Article	Theme	Periodical/ Publisher	Date of Publication
Youth must know polls determine their future	Youth & Elections	Standard Newspaper	19-Feb-22
Streamline running of boda bodas	Governance	Nation Africa	16-Mar-22
Our next president must act on jobs and graft	Employment	Standard Newspaper	4-Apr-22
It's time the government addressed the high cost of living	Governance	Nation Africa	7-Dec-21
Affordable healthcare should be at the top of the State's priorities	Healthcare	Standard Newspaper	11-May-22
Include youth in policies on urban growth	Governance	Nation Africa	16-May-22
Pave more roads for women into politics and top leadership	Gender	Nation Africa	1-Jun-22
We need a 'Marshall Plan' to tackle youth unemployment	Employment	Standard Newspaper	20-Jul-22
Next government must not shortchange youth	Governance	Standard Newspaper	27-Jul-22
Avoid utterances that can plunge Kenya into chaos	Governance	Nation Africa	4-Aug-22
Election observation missions should up their game	Governance	Standard Newspaper	9-Aug-22
There is a need to replace Constituency Development Fund	Governance	Nation Africa	19-Aug-22
Youthful politicians beat heavyweights and now must make a difference	Youth & Elections	Standard Newspaper	31-Aug-22
Kenya envoys should market the country as a business, investment choice	Trade	Standard Newspaper	7-Sep-22

### 2.3.4 Returns & Compliance

The organisation is constantly improving its weaknesses, sustaining strength areas, and improving them. It has done annual returns to N.G.O. Coordination Board, Audited accounts, Tax compliance, and regular reports for accountability and credibility.





# Part 3

## 3.0 Partnerships & Collaborations

The Youth Congress worked in partnership and received technical and financial support from state and non-state actors. We are grateful for their support in the 2021/22 financial year.

<b>Partners</b>	<b>Project/ Initiatives</b>
<b>Ford Foundation</b>	Developing Next Generation Leaders: Growing youth to be leaders and active citizens
<b>Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)</b>	Youth participation in governance
<b>Kenya Community Development Foundation (K.C.D.F.)</b>	Improving Livelihoods of Young Women and men, and Access to Opportunities for economic development
<b>Our Youth Networks</b>	Conceptualization, planning, implementation and monitoring, and evaluation of programs of The Youth Congress



# Part 4

## 4.0 Fiscal Responsibility

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### THE YOUTH CONGRESS REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF: THE YOUTH CONGRESS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements set out on page 6 to 13 of The Youth Congress which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 September 2022, the income and expenditure statement, statement of change in capital funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The Management Committees responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted non-profit accounting principles and applicable international financial reporting standards, the Kenya Society's Act. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY:** Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by the by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provides basis for our opinion.

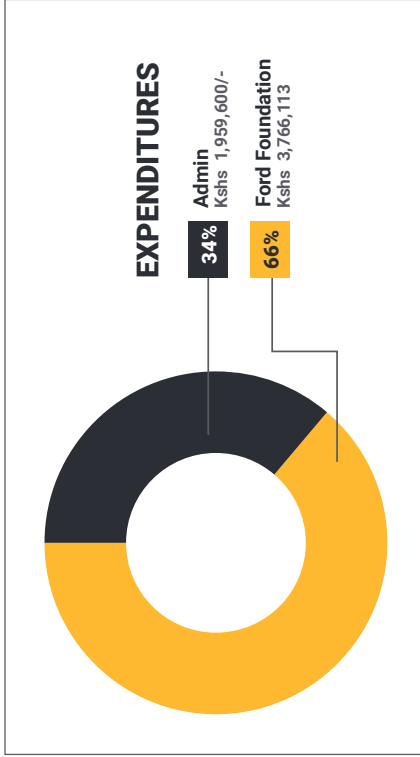
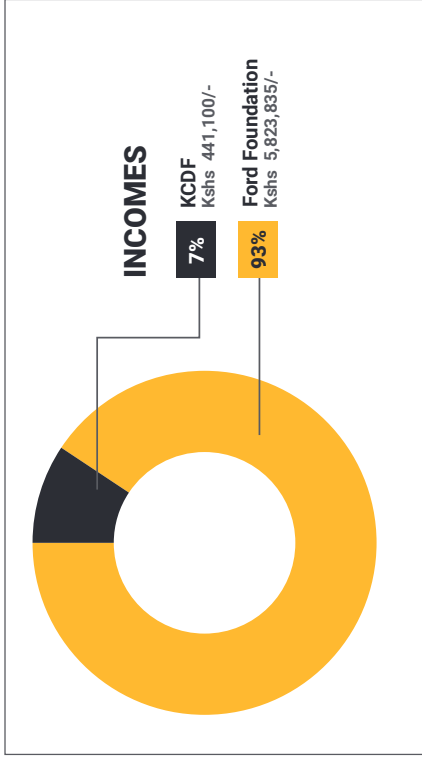
**OPINION:** In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of financial position of the Society as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted non-profit accounting principles and applicable international financial reporting standards.

*The Engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report was CPA Samuel N. Kibe, Practicing Certificate No. 1358.*

Certified Public Accountants (S)  
  
 P.O. Box 1426  
 Nairobi, Kenya

28<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

## Income and Expenditure







## **CONTACTS**

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