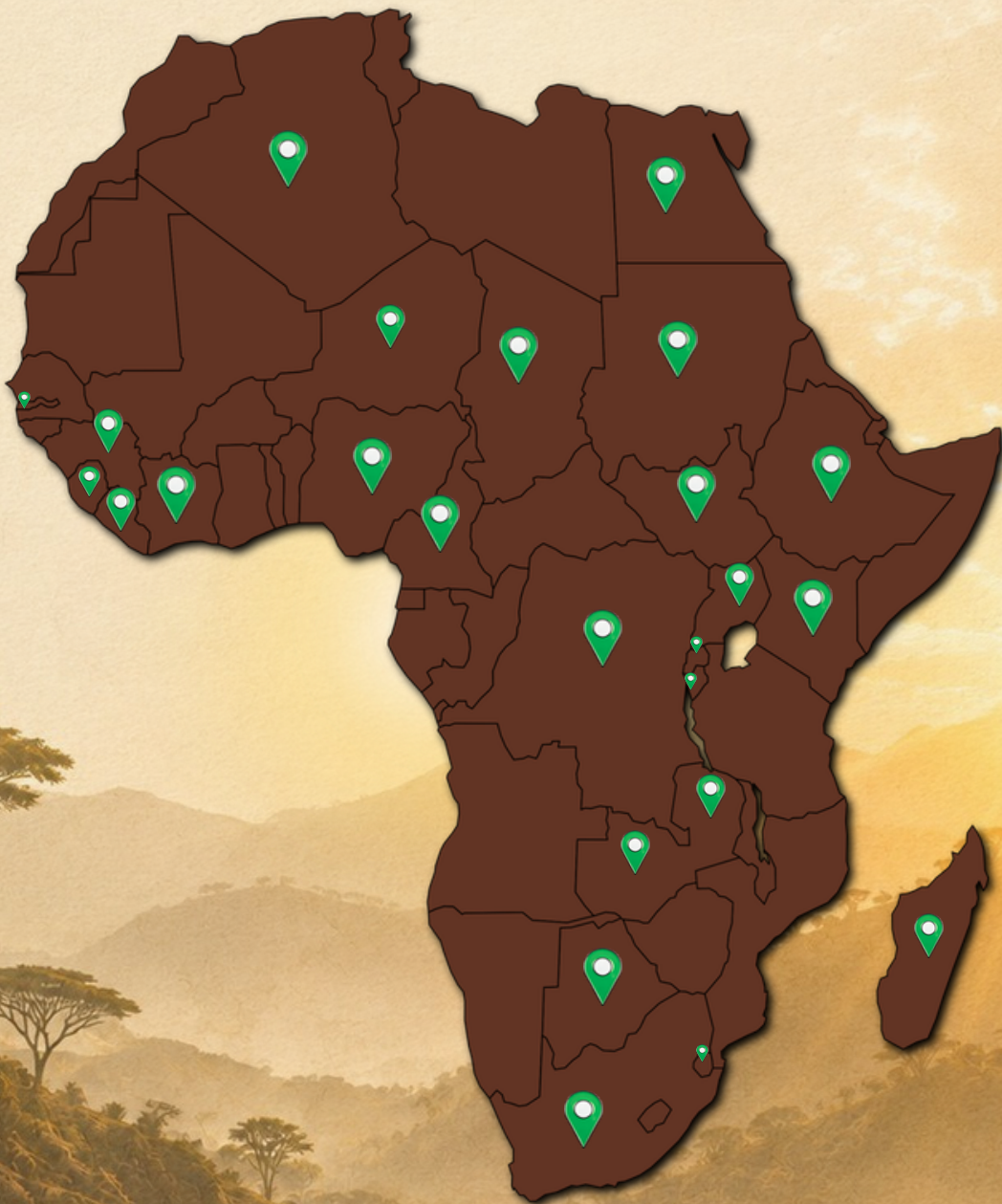




LEGACY TWO

THE KATT COUNTRY ISSUE 2025 MAPPING:
YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE, POVERTY, AND
THE INTERSECTIONAL DIVIDE



June 2026

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Disclosure

Data collection and thematic analysis were conducted entirely by humans. Initial drafts of the regional summaries were synthesised with the assistance of artificial intelligence and were subsequently verified, heavily edited, and finalised by the authors.

EVIDENCE INFORMS POLICY. POLICY SHAPES THE FUTURE.

Access this and other legacies (policy advocacy briefs) here:

www.kabilunafricathinktank.net/katt-legacies

Access the KATT 2025 Country Issue Map here.

<https://countryissue2025mapping.lovable.app/>

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A youth-led, data-driven comparative analysis of peace, poverty and the intersectional divide across 25 African countries.

KATT COUNTRY ISSUE 2025 MAPPING



Abstract

The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report presents data-driven comparative analysis of young people's perceptions of the socio-economic challenges affecting development across 25 African nations. Against the backdrop of persistent poverty, insecurity, inequality, and social exclusion, the study seeks to amplify the lived experiences of educated young people aged 18–34 and to generate evidence to inform inclusive, context-responsive policy and programming.

The report draws on data from a cross-sectional survey of **309 respondents**, conducted in 2025 through a decentralised, youth-led data collection process coordinated by KATT Youth Country Focals and Representatives across 25 African countries. This participatory approach strengthens the authenticity of the findings by ensuring that young people are not merely subjects of research but active contributors to the knowledge generated.

The findings reveal significant and intersecting barriers to development. Nearly half of the respondents reported living below the international poverty line, while gender-based violence emerged as a pervasive concern for approximately 70 per cent of the respondents' communities. Identity-disaggregated analysis further demonstrates that gender and disability interact to deepen exclusion, with women with disabilities consistently reporting the lowest baseline levels of peace, safety, and mental health. At the same time, marked differences between relatively stable contexts, like Zambia, and countries experiencing acute insecurity, including Ethiopia and Nigeria, underscoring the importance of avoiding generalisations about the African experience and instead adopting context-specific and gender-responsive policy interventions.

Data reveals considerable variation across countries, challenging perceptions of Africa as a homogeneous context. While respondents in Zambia reported comparatively higher levels of peace and stability, respondents in Ethiopia and Nigeria described substantially lower levels of security and greater exposure to violence.

A defining strength of this study is its participatory research approach. Data collection was coordinated by KATT Youth Country Focals and Youth Representatives across 25 African countries, ensuring that the experiences and priorities of young people informed both the evidence base and the analysis.

Beyond documenting the scale of these challenges, the report highlights the resilience, agency, and transformative potential of Africa's young people. The findings demonstrate that effective policy responses must be locally grounded, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, and meaningfully shaped by youth participation.

As a policy advocacy resource, this report provides evidence to support decision-making by governments, development partners, civil society, and community leaders. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the diverse realities facing young people across the continent and calls for collaborative action to advance a more peaceful, equitable, and inclusive Africa—"The Africa We Deserve."

Overall, the findings highlight the scale and complexity of the challenges facing African youth while also demonstrating the value of youth-led evidence generation in informing policy and practice. The report provides practical insights for governments, civil society, development partners, and regional institutions seeking to advance inclusive, evidence-informed decision-making.

Introduction to KATT

The Kabilun Africa Think Tank (KATT), is a Pan-African policy, leadership and research platform hosted by the Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI), headquartered in Kaduna State, North-Western Nigeria.

KATT brings together Africans and people of African descent to generate African-led evidence, strengthen purposeful leadership, and develop locally driven policy solutions that advance sustainable development across the continent. The organisation was established in response to persistent leadership gaps and the overreliance on externally driven development approaches, recognising that sustainable progress requires African knowledge, expertise, and leadership at its centre.

The name Kabilun is derived from Kabilar, a Hausa word meaning "the tribe." Hausa is one of Africa's most widely spoken languages, with an estimated 70 million speakers across the continent. The name reflects KATT's commitment to fostering collective African ownership of knowledge, leadership, and development.

Drawing on the intellectual capital of Africans and the African diaspora, KATT convenes researchers, practitioners, professionals, and emerging leaders to produce evidence that informs policy and governance. Through research, dialogue, collaboration, advocacy, and capacity strengthening, KATT seeks to contextualise development issues within African realities while promoting innovative, locally relevant solutions. Its work is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, while remaining firmly grounded in African realities and locally defined priorities.

KATT's vision is to positively influence policy in pursuit of "**The Africa We Deserve.**" Its mission is to reshape prevailing narratives about Africa by demonstrating the continent's capacity to generate innovative, evidence-based solutions to its own development challenges.

Convened by Safiya Ibn Garba DTRE, KATT currently comprises a growing continental network of Youth Country Focals representing 37 African countries, supported by a diverse membership of professionals, organisations, students, and development practitioners committed to advancing transformative change. Through this network, the Think Tank has trained and engaged more than 300 professionals and young leaders and produced a growing body of policy-oriented knowledge products that contribute to continental dialogue and action.

201

Individual members

37

Countries represented

62

Youth Country Focals

305

Professionals and youth trained

9

Partner organisations

36

Student members

4

Knowledge outputs and legacies published

2022

KATT was established



Empowering Change: KATT Youth Country Focals [YCFs]

At the heart of KATT's work is a growing network of Youth Country Focals (YCFs) — the organisation's principal representatives, research coordinators, conveners, and policy advocates across the continent. Rather than relying exclusively on external researchers or secondary data, KATT empowers young leaders to identify emerging issues, generate locally grounded evidence, and facilitate dialogue between communities, policymakers, and development partners.

The Youth Country Focal model reflects KATT's commitment to localisation and African-led knowledge production through evidence-based advocacy, participatory research, strategic partnerships, and sustained engagement with their communities.

This approach ensures that KATT's work is informed by lived realities while strengthening national ownership of research and advocacy. KATT adopts a decentralised approach to evidence generation, placing young African leaders at the centre of the research process. Their work strengthens the relevance, authenticity, and contextual accuracy of KATT's knowledge products while building a growing network of African researchers and policy leaders.

Core Pillars of YCF Engagement

Issue Mapping and Policy Advocacy

Identifying critical local challenges and championing data-driven solutions.

Strategic Partnership Building

Creating and strengthening alliances to amplify collective impact.

Continuous Engagement

Participating in bi-monthly forums to align strategies and share insights.

KATT-Themed Legacies

Contributing to flagship outputs that document and preserve African intellectual leadership.

Capacity Strengthening

Engaging in and contributing to ongoing professional development to refine leadership and technical skills.

Research and Dissemination

Conducting rigorous reflection and research to inform public discourse and policy.

A landmark achievement in **2025** was the formal induction of six YCFs as Junior Fellows. In recognition of outstanding leadership and research excellence, six Youth Country Focals were inducted as Junior Fellows in 2025.

KATT's 2025 Junior Fellows

Anas Bellahsene – Algeria | Tata Goodness Afahnyui - Cameroon | Nabon Elias Kebede -Ethiopia | Felicity Asibi Akwa – Nigeria | Gcina Sawuka - South Africa | Hansel Maimbolwa Mweetwa – Zambia.

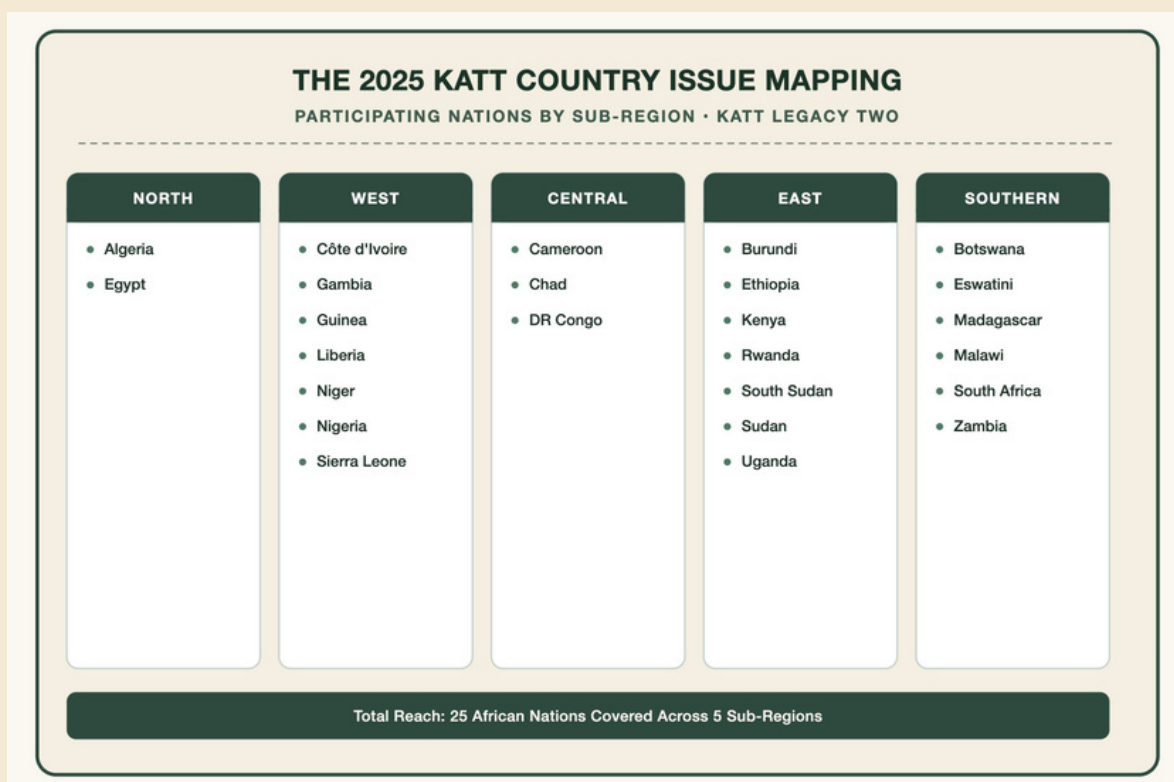
This milestone followed their successful completion of an intensive Capacity Building Series and a comprehensive curriculum of Policy Advocacy webinars, culminating in a final Capstone Project that demonstrated their readiness to lead transformative change.

The 25 Countries Behind This Legacy



The following countries were involved in the country mapping and research activities that informed KATT Legacy Two : The 2025 KATT Country Issue Mapping.

Algeria	Botswana	Burundi	Cameroon	Chad	Côte D'Ivoire	DR Congo	Egypt	Eswatini	Ethiopia
Gambia	Guinea	Kenya	Liberia	Madagascar	Malawi	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda	Sierra Leone
South Africa	South Sudan	Sudan	Uganda	Zambia					



KATT Legacy Two YCF Contributors



Algeria
Bellahsene Anas



Botswana
Keabetswe Alex
Sanao



Burundi
Jean Paul
Nshimirimana



Cameroon
Tata Goodness
Afahnyui



Chad
Ache Hassan
Bourma



Chad
Fanone Tchindebe
Antoinette



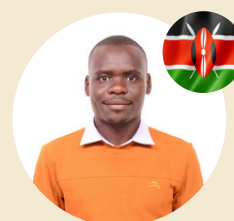
DRC
Austine Kinguse



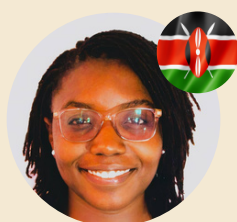
Ethiopia
Mahtot Leykun



Ethiopia
Nabon Elias
Kebede



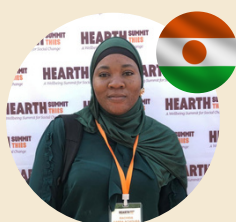
Kenya
Ambrose Wanjala



Kenya
Esther Anyona
Murunga



Liberia
Peal P.H Nyenkan



Niger
Garba Achoura
Rachida



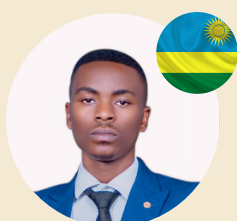
Niger Republic
Bokossa Eude
Kaltani



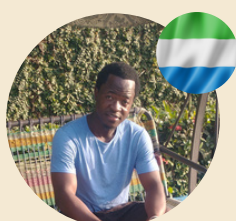
Nigeria
Akwa Felicity
Asiibii



Rwanda
Jean Roger



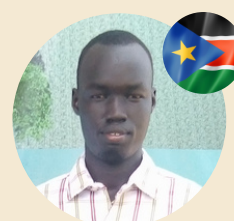
Rwanda
Ishimwe Mugabo
Rodrique



Sierra Leone
Sahr Korfeh



South Africa
Gcina Sawuka



South Sudan
Chol Moses
Majok



The Gambia
Adama Jallow



Uganda
Mariam Nassaka



Zambia
Hansel Maimbolwa
Mweetwa

Background and Rationale

Understanding Youth Perspectives on Africa's Development Challenges

Africa is home to the world's youngest population, a demographic whose aspirations, capabilities, and innovation will significantly shape the continent's future. Yet many young people continue to face interconnected social, economic, environmental, and institutional challenges that limit opportunities and undermine sustainable development. Poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, insecurity, barriers to education, climate vulnerability, and limited access to quality public services rarely exist in isolation; rather, they reinforce one another in ways that deepen exclusion and constrain human potential.

These challenges are not simply individual hardships. They are structural issues rooted in broader social, economic, political, and institutional systems that require coordinated responses from governments, civil society, development partners, the private sector, and communities. Economic insecurity can reinforce social exclusion, while inequality, violence, weak governance, and environmental pressures often interact to produce multidimensional forms of vulnerability. Addressing these challenges therefore requires approaches that recognise both their complexity and the different ways they are experienced across countries, communities, genders, disability status, and other intersecting identities.

Although many of these issues are discussed at continental and national levels, they are neither experienced uniformly nor understood in the same way across Africa. Effective policy therefore, depends not only on understanding broad development trends but also on recognising the diversity of lived experiences that shape young people's realities.

The Need for Youth-Led and African-Led Evidence

Continental and national datasets provide valuable information on development indicators. However, they often provide limited insight into how young people perceive and experience these realities within their own communities. Aggregate statistics can identify trends, but they cannot fully capture lived experiences, local priorities, or the complex ways in which multiple forms of disadvantage intersect. National averages may also conceal significant differences between countries and among population groups, limiting policymakers' and development practitioners' ability to design context-responsive interventions.



Recognising this gap, the Kabilun Africa Think Tank (KATT) initiated the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report to generate comparable, youth-led evidence from across 25 African countries. Rather than speaking on behalf of young Africans, the study creates a platform through which their perspectives directly inform policy dialogue and development practice.

In doing so, the study contributes to a broader shift towards African-led knowledge production. It recognises that those who experience development challenges are not merely respondents or beneficiaries but essential producers of knowledge whose lived experiences strengthen the quality, relevance, legitimacy, and contextual accuracy of research.

Background and Rationale

Reimagining Knowledge Production Through the Youth Country Focal Model

KATT's decision to undertake this mapping through its network of Youth Country Focals reflects a deliberate commitment to localisation, meaningful youth participation, and African ownership of knowledge production. Rather than relying exclusively on externally driven research models, the study adopted a decentralised approach in which young Africans served as researchers, conveners, and contextual interpreters within their respective countries.

This model operationalises the principles of the African Youth Charter by positioning young people not simply as participants in development but as partners in generating the evidence that shapes policy and practice. In doing so, it contributes to the ongoing decolonisation of the knowledge production pipeline by ensuring that research priorities, data collection, interpretation, and dissemination are informed by local realities, contextual understanding, and African perspectives.

Beyond generating evidence, the mapping process strengthened substantive research, analytical, leadership, and policy advocacy capacities among Youth Country Focals across the continent. The publication therefore, represents more than a multi-country survey; it reflects a deliberate investment in nurturing a growing network of emerging African researchers and policy leaders capable of generating locally grounded evidence and translating it into meaningful policy and social action.

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report serves two complementary purposes. First, it provides a comparative evidence base for understanding how young people perceive and experience development challenges across diverse African contexts. Second, it demonstrates the value of youth-led, African-led knowledge production as a model for strengthening research, informing policy, and advancing sustainable development.

The report was developed not simply to document development challenges but to bridge the gap between data generation and grassroots mobilisation. By combining locally generated evidence with continental analysis, the study provides an evidence base that can inform policy formulation, programme design, advocacy, civic engagement, and future research. In doing so, it strengthens the connection between community experiences and policy dialogue, ensuring that the voices of young Africans extend beyond data collection to influence conversations on governance, peace, gender equality, disability inclusion, climate action, and sustainable development.

By bringing together comparative evidence from 25 African countries, this publication challenges simplified narratives of the continent and demonstrates that effective solutions must be locally grounded, context-responsive, and informed by those who experience these realities firsthand. Ultimately, the report serves both as a record of young people's lived experiences and as a policy advocacy resource that advances African-led evidence for African solutions. It reflects KATT's commitment to strengthening inclusive decision-making, amplifying youth leadership, and contributing to the shared vision of "The Africa We Deserve."

Methodology and Scope

The Kabilun Africa Think Tank (KATT) Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report adopted a cross-sectional, comparative survey design to examine youth perceptions of key social, economic, governance, environmental, and human security issues across 25 African countries. The study employed a comparative quantitative approach to generate evidence on how young people experience development challenges across diverse national contexts while identifying common trends and country-specific variations.

The survey was conducted between **March and December 2025**, providing a continental snapshot of young people's perspectives during the study period. As a perception-based study, the research sought to capture how respondents understand and experience development realities within their communities rather than to establish causal relationships.

This approach was selected to generate multi-country, youth-informed insights that can support policy dialogue, advocacy, and programme design aligned with the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Participatory and Localised Research Approach

A defining feature of this study is its decentralised, youth-led research model. Rather than relying exclusively on external researchers or secondary datasets, the Kabilun Africa Think Tank (KATT) mobilised its network of Youth Country Focals (YCFs) to coordinate participant recruitment and data collection within their respective countries.

As locally embedded youth leaders, the Youth Country Focals contributed contextual understanding that strengthened participant engagement, enhanced cultural relevance, and improved the interpretation of findings across diverse national settings. Their leadership ensured that data collection was grounded in local realities while maintaining a common research framework across participating countries.

This approach reflects KATT's commitment to localisation, meaningful youth participation, and African-led knowledge production. It operationalises the principles of the African Youth Charter by positioning young people not merely as respondents, but as active contributors to evidence generation, policy dialogue, and social transformation. In doing so, the study contributes to strengthening African ownership of research and demonstrates an alternative model of knowledge production in which local actors play a central role throughout the research process.

Respondent Profile

The study targeted young people aged 18-34 years, with a smaller representation of respondents aged 35-44 years. This population was selected because young people represent Africa's largest demographic and are directly affected by many of the social, economic, governance, and environmental issues examined in the study. The focus on young people reflects their central role in Africa's demographic structure, development processes, and policy futures.

Participation was voluntary, and respondents were recruited through the networks and outreach activities of KATT Youth Country Focals using a non-probability sampling approach. Although the findings cannot be considered nationally representative, the sampling strategy enabled the collection of comparable perspectives from a diverse range of African contexts.

A total of **309 respondents** participated in the survey. **Zambia accounted for 52.1% of responses**, followed by **Nigeria (8.7%)**, **Ethiopia (6.5%)**, **Kenya (5.5%)**, and **Eswatini (5.2%)**, with the remaining responses distributed across twenty additional African countries.

The sample reflected a relatively balanced gender distribution, comprising 51.1% women and 48.5% men. More than four-fifths of respondents were between 18 and 34 years of age, and the majority had attained tertiary or postgraduate education, reflecting the study's focus on the perspectives of educated youth.

Data Collection

Data collection was conducted between March and December 2025 via an online survey platform administered by Youth Country Focals in their respective countries. The decentralised data collection model enabled broad geographical coverage while ensuring that participant engagement was supported by individuals familiar with local contexts.

To promote consistency across countries, all respondents completed the same standardised questionnaire. This common research instrument enabled comparative analysis across participating countries while allowing respondents to express context-specific perspectives through open-ended questions.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistical techniques, including frequencies, percentages, and mean scores. Comparative analysis was undertaken to identify patterns across thematic areas and differences between countries. A distinguishing feature of the analysis was its identity-disaggregated approach. Selected indicators were analysed by gender and disability status to examine how intersecting identities influence perceptions of development challenges. This approach enabled the study to move beyond aggregate averages and identify population groups experiencing compounded forms of disadvantage. Responses to open-ended questions were analysed using thematic analysis to identify recurring concerns, national priorities, and emerging development issues. These qualitative findings complemented the quantitative analysis by providing additional context and illustrating the issues that respondents considered most urgent.

Survey Instrument

Data was collected using a structured online questionnaire consisting of 52 questions organised into eight thematic domains:

- Demographic characteristics
- Socio-economic status
- Gender equality
- Climate change
- Governance and civic participation
- Peace and security
- Mental health and well-being
- National priorities and emerging concerns

The questionnaire incorporated multiple-choice questions, numerical rating scales (0–100), binary-response items, and open-ended questions. This mixed-format design enabled the collection of both quantitative indicators and qualitative insights into young people's lived experiences and policy priorities.

Ethical Considerations

Participation in the study was voluntary, and respondents provided informed consent before completing the questionnaire.

Survey responses were collected anonymously, and no personally identifiable information is reported in this publication.

The findings are presented in aggregate form to protect respondent confidentiality and ensure that individual participants cannot be identified.

Throughout the research process, KATT sought to uphold the principles of voluntary participation, confidentiality, respect, and responsible use of research evidence.

Strengths and Limitations

A major strength of this study lies in its participatory and localised research model, which enabled the generation of youth-led evidence across **25 African countries**. By engaging Youth Country Focals as local research coordinators, the study strengthened contextual relevance, enhanced local ownership, and contributed to the development of substantive research, analytical, and policy advocacy capacities among emerging African researchers.

The study also provides comparative, identity-disaggregated evidence that highlights how gender, disability, and national context intersect to shape young people's experiences. This analytical approach offers insights that would be obscured by aggregate statistics alone and contributes to more inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking.

Several limitations should be acknowledged. The study employed a non-probability sampling strategy, and participation varied considerably between countries, with **Zambia** contributing more than half of all responses. Consequently, the findings should not be interpreted as nationally representative of youth populations in participating countries. In addition, the research captures self-reported perceptions at a single point in time and therefore reflects respondents' experiences during the study period rather than long-term trends. Finally, because the survey primarily targeted educated young people, the findings should not be generalised to all young people across Africa.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the study provides a valuable continental evidence base on young people's perceptions of development challenges and demonstrates the potential of participatory, African-led, and youth-centred research to strengthen policy dialogue and promote context-responsive development across the continent.



Results

This section presents the principal findings of the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Survey, drawing on responses from 309 participants across 25 African countries. The analysis explores young people's perceptions of socio-economic conditions, gender equality, peace and security, climate change, governance, civic participation, and mental well-being.

Rather than presenting isolated statistics, the findings are organised thematically to reveal broader patterns shaping the lived experiences of young Africans. Where appropriate, descriptive statistics are complemented by comparative analysis to highlight variations across countries. More detailed identity-disaggregated findings are presented in the subsequent chapter, where the intersections of gender, disability, and national context are examined in greater depth.

Taken together, the findings portray a continent characterised by remarkable resilience and optimism, yet confronted by persistent structural challenges that continue to constrain opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development. While some issues, such as climate awareness, demonstrate encouraging levels of public consciousness, others, including economic vulnerability, gender inequality, insecurity, and limited civic participation, remain widespread concerns requiring coordinated policy responses.

Respondent Profile

The survey attracted responses from a diverse group of young people across 25 African countries. Understanding the demographic composition of respondents is essential for interpreting the findings that follow, particularly with respect to age, gender, educational attainment, and geographical representation. While the study does not aim for national representativeness, the respondent profile provides a valuable foundation for comparative analysis across African contexts.

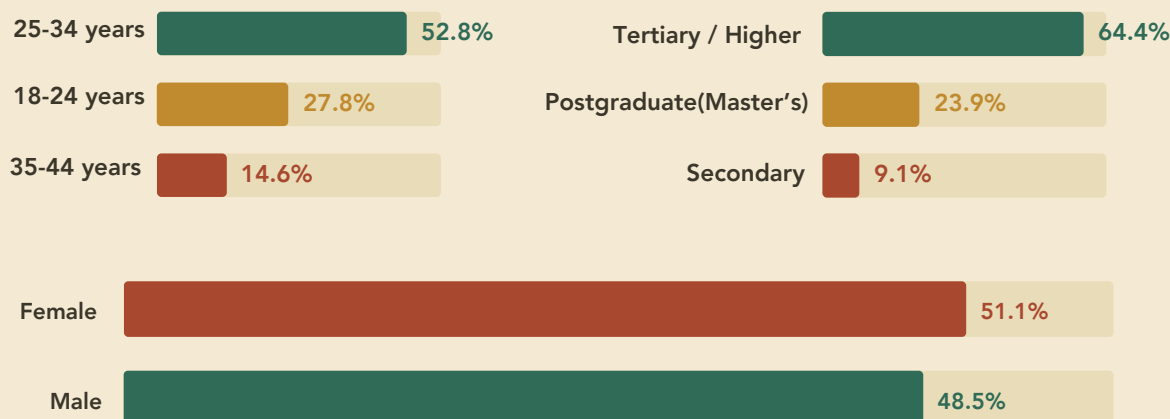


Figure 1: Respondent Demographic Profile.

The respondent profile reflects the study's intended focus on educated youth. More than four-fifths of participants were between 18 and 34 years of age, while the near-equal gender distribution provides a balanced basis for comparing perceptions across women and men. The high levels of tertiary and postgraduate education indicate that the findings primarily capture the perspectives of relatively educated young Africans, a demographic expected to play a central role in shaping Africa's future development.

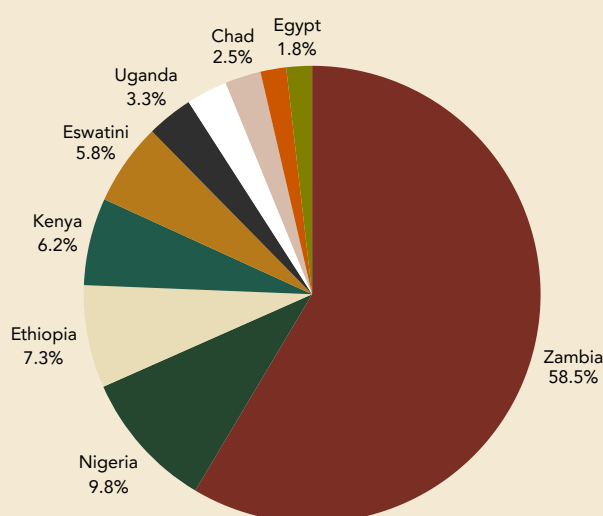


Figure 2: Geographic Distribution (Top 10 Countries)

The **geographical distribution of respondents** demonstrates the survey's continental reach and highlights variations in participation across countries. Examining the distribution of responses is important for understanding the comparative nature of the evidence presented throughout this report.

Although responses were received from 25 African countries, participation was uneven. Zambia accounted for the largest share of respondents, followed by Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Eswatini.

This distribution reflects varying levels of participation across national contexts and should be taken into account when interpreting country-level comparisons. Nevertheless, the diversity of participating countries provides valuable insights into the varying realities experienced by young Africans across the continent.

Socio-Economic Conditions

Economic security remains one of the fundamental determinants of individual well-being and national development. To understand the extent of financial vulnerability among young Africans, respondents were asked about their daily income and access to regular meals. Together, these indicators provide insight into both economic resilience and food security.

Poverty and Food Security

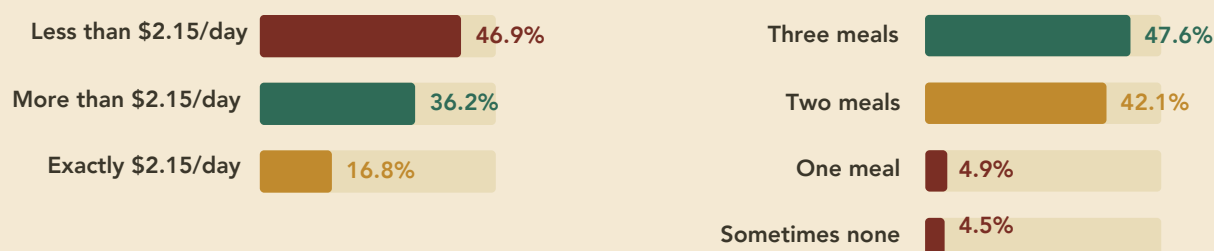


Figure Three: Poverty and Food Security

The findings reveal widespread economic vulnerability despite respondents' relatively high educational attainment. Nearly half reported living below the international poverty line, while a substantial proportion experience limited access to adequate daily meals. These findings suggest that educational attainment alone is insufficient to shield many young Africans from poverty, underscoring the need for policies that expand decent employment opportunities and strengthen social protection systems.

Gender Equality and Community Safety

Gender equality and personal safety remain central to inclusive and sustainable development. Respondents were therefore asked to assess whether women and men enjoy equal opportunities within their communities and to indicate the perceived likelihood of gender-based violence. Together, these indicators provide an overview of the social environment experienced by young people across participating countries.

The findings indicate that gender inequality remains deeply embedded across many communities. A clear majority of respondents believe that opportunities are not equally available to women and men, while perceptions of widespread gender-based violence point to continuing concerns about safety and protection. These results reinforce the importance of strengthening gender-responsive policies, institutional accountability, and community-based prevention initiatives.

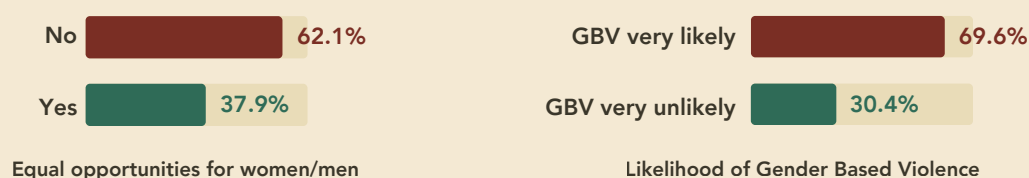


Figure 4: Gender Equality and Community Safety Indicators

Peace, Violence and Displacement



Peace and security are essential foundations for sustainable development. Respondents were asked to assess levels of peace within their countries, the extent to which violence affects their communities, and perceived changes in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

These indicators provide insight into both perceived stability and humanitarian pressures across participating countries.

Respondents rated national peace at an average of **54.6 out of 100**. Many young Africans continue to experience environments characterised by insecurity and instability.

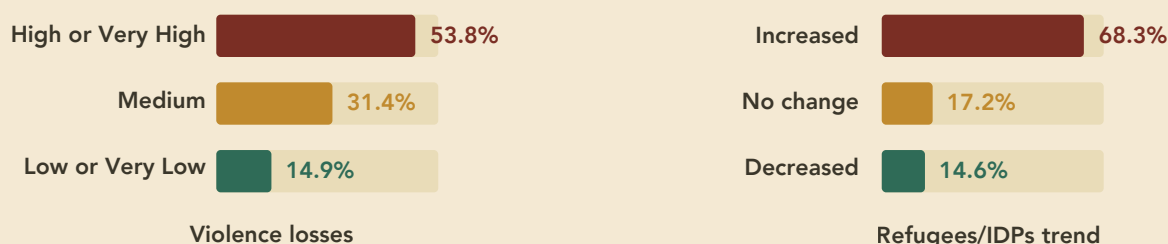


Figure 5: Peace, Violence, and Displacement Indicators

The results suggest that many young Africans continue to experience environments characterised by insecurity and instability. Moderate peace ratings, substantial reported losses resulting from violence, and widespread perceptions of increasing displacement collectively point to persistent conflict-related challenges. These findings highlight the need for integrated approaches that strengthen peacebuilding, conflict prevention and transformation; and humanitarian response.

Climate Awareness and Civic Participation

Climate Crisis Awareness

Climate change is increasingly recognised as one of the defining development challenges of the twenty-first century. The survey explored respondents' awareness of the climate crisis and their perceptions of its impact within their respective countries.



Figure 6: Climate Change Awareness and Perception

Climate awareness is almost universal among respondents. Nearly all participants indicated that they understand the climate crisis and recognise its effects within their own countries. This widespread awareness provides a strong foundation upon which governments, civil society organisations, and development partners can build youth-led climate adaptation and environmental sustainability initiatives.

Governance and Civic Participation

Meaningful participation in public decision-making is fundamental to democratic governance and inclusive development. Respondents were asked about opportunities to participate in decision-making processes and the extent of meaningful partnerships between young people and institutions.

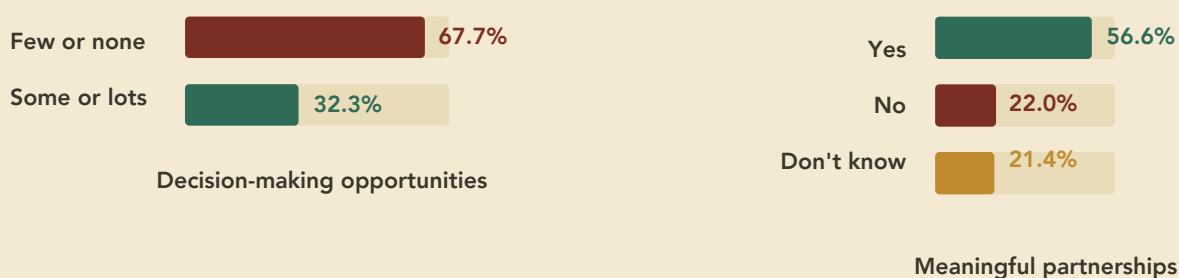
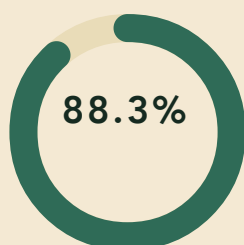


Figure 7: Civic Participation and Institutional Engagement

The findings reveal a significant gap between young people's aspirations for participation and their actual opportunities to influence decision-making. Although many respondents acknowledge the existence of institutional partnerships, most perceive limited opportunities to participate directly in governance processes. These findings suggest that strengthening inclusive civic spaces remains an important priority for public institutions and development partners.

Mental Health and Well-being

Mental health is increasingly recognised as a critical component of human development and social well-being. The survey therefore, examined how respondents perceived their own mental health as an important indicator of personal resilience and quality of life.



Overall, respondents reported relatively positive mental health. However, the aggregate results should be interpreted with caution, as subsequent identity-disaggregated analysis reveals important differences across gender and disability groups. These findings demonstrate the importance of moving beyond overall averages to better understand inequalities in mental well-being.

Figure 8: Self-Reported Mental Health Status

Emerging Development Priorities

Beyond structured survey questions, respondents were invited to identify the issues that concern them most personally and the challenges they believe should receive the greatest national attention. These qualitative responses provide valuable insight into the priorities that young Africans themselves consider most urgent.

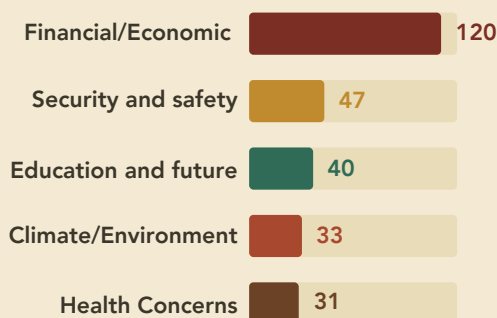


Figure 9: Leading Personal Concerns Reported by Respondents

Financial insecurity emerged as the dominant personal concern, followed by security, education, climate change, and health. The prominence of economic concerns reinforces the quantitative findings presented earlier in this section and highlights the central role of livelihoods in shaping young people's daily experiences.

Respondents were also asked to identify the national issues they believe should receive the highest priority from policymakers and development partners.

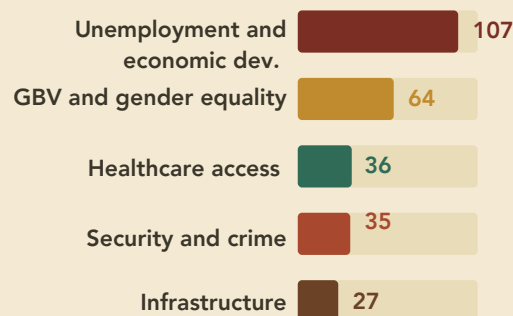


Figure 10: Priority National Development Challenges Identified by Respondents

Unemployment and economic development emerged as the most frequently identified national priorities, followed by gender equality and gender-based violence, healthcare access, security, and infrastructure development. Together, these responses demonstrate that young Africans view economic opportunity, social inclusion, and public service delivery as interconnected priorities requiring coordinated policy action.

Comparative Country Analysis

While continent-wide averages provide an overview of prevailing trends, they can also mask important national differences. Comparing the leading respondent countries illustrates the diversity of development experiences across Africa and reinforces the importance of context-specific policy responses.



Figure 11: Comparative Development Indicators: Top Five Respondent Countries

Marked differences emerge across the five countries with the largest number of respondents. Zambia records comparatively stronger perceptions of peace and gender equality, whereas Ethiopia and Nigeria exhibit considerably lower peace scores alongside higher perceptions of gender-based violence and conflict-related losses. Kenya stands out for comparatively stronger perceptions of gender equality, while Eswatini presents distinctive patterns that warrant further investigation. These variations reinforce one of the central messages of this report: Africa cannot be understood through a single narrative, and effective policy responses must be grounded in national and local realities



Victoria Falls, Zambia — the survey's largest respondent country.

Africa cannot be understood through a single narrative, and effective policy responses must be grounded in national and local realities.

— FIGURE 11: COMPARATIVE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

Intersectional Analysis

Aggregate statistics provide an important overview of development trends, but they can also conceal significant inequalities within populations. While the preceding section presented continent-wide findings, averages alone cannot capture how development challenges are experienced differently by women and men, persons with disabilities, or young people across different national contexts.

To address this gap, the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Survey employed an intersectional analytical approach, disaggregating selected indicators by gender, disability status, and country. This approach recognises that social identities do not operate independently. Rather, they interact to shape distinct experiences of opportunity, exclusion, safety, and well-being.

The analysis reveals that disadvantage is neither evenly distributed nor experienced uniformly. Across multiple indicators, including peace, safety, mental health, economic well-being, and civic participation, women consistently report poorer outcomes than men. More significantly, women with disabilities emerge as the group experiencing the greatest cumulative disadvantage, illustrating how overlapping identities can intensify structural exclusion. These findings reinforce the importance of moving beyond universal policy responses towards interventions that recognise the diversity of young people's lived experiences across Africa.



Identity Profile



Understanding the demographic composition of the identity groups provides the analytical foundation for this section. While gender representation within the survey was broadly balanced, almost one-third of respondents reported living with one or more disabilities, enabling meaningful comparison across multiple identity groups.

IDENTITY GROUP	N	% OF TOTAL	MEAN SAFETY	MEAN PEACE
Female	158	51%	47.8	49.9
Male	150	49%	55.7	59.4
Persons with disabilities	96	31%	49.9	51.8
Persons without disabilities	213	69%	52.6	55.9
Female with disabilities	56	18%	-	47.7
Male with disabilities	40	13%	-	57.5



Figure 12: Respondent Profile by Gender and Disability

The respondent profile establishes the basis for intersectional analysis. Women represented just over half of the sample, while persons with disabilities accounted for nearly one-third of respondents. Even at this aggregate level, noticeable differences emerge in perceived peace and safety. Female respondents consistently report lower levels of safety and peace than male respondents, while respondents with disabilities also report less favourable outcomes than those without disabilities. These early differences suggest that identity plays an important role in shaping development experiences.

The greatest inequalities are not observed simply between women and men, or between persons with and without disabilities. They emerge where these identities intersect. Women with disabilities consistently record the lowest peace and safety scores demonstrating how multiple formss of disadvantage reinforce one another.

KATT INSIGHT

Gender Equality

Perceptions of gender equality were analysed across gender, disability status, and country to examine whether opportunities and leadership are viewed as equally accessible within communities.

Gender Equality Perceptions



Figure 13: Gender Equality Perceptions by Identity and Country

Across every identity group, most respondents believe that women and men do not enjoy equal opportunities. The consistency of this finding across gender demonstrates that inequality is recognised as a shared societal challenge rather than a perception held only by women. Persons with disabilities report slightly higher levels of perceived inequality, suggesting that disability compounds experiences of exclusion

Country-level comparisons reveal considerable variation. Kenya is the only country in which a majority of respondents perceive gender equality, while Ethiopia and Eswatini record the strongest perceptions of inequality. These findings illustrate that progress towards gender equality differs substantially across African contexts.

Gender inequality is widely recognised across all identity groups, indicating broad societal awareness of unequal opportunities. However, disability appears to deepen perceptions of exclusion, reinforcing the need for gender-responsive policies that also address disability inclusion.

KATT INSIGHT

Gender Based Violence

Perceived Likelihood of Gender-Based Violence

Women consistently report higher levels of concern than men. Country comparisons highlight particularly acute concern in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Eswatini, where more than four-fifths of respondents perceive GBV as highly likely.



Figure 14. Perceived Likelihood of Gender-Based Violence by Identity and Country

Gender-based violence is perceived as highly prevalent across all respondent groups. Women consistently report higher levels of concern than men, while disability has relatively little influence on overall perceptions of GBV among female respondents. Country comparisons highlight particularly acute concern in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Eswatini, where more than four-fifths of respondents perceive GBV as highly likely within their communities.

The widespread perception of gender-based violence suggests that insecurity is viewed as a structural challenge rather than an isolated social issue. Countries experiencing broader insecurity also tend to report the highest levels of perceived GBV.

KATT INSIGHT

Peace and Safety Perceptions

Peace and safety perceptions were examined through the combined lenses of gender, disability, and national context.

Clear disparities emerge across identity groups. Female respondents consistently rate both peace and personal safety substantially lower than male respondents. Respondents with disabilities also report lower levels of peace and safety than those without disabilities. The greatest disadvantage is experienced by women with disabilities, whose peace scores are lower than those of every other group represented in the survey.

Country comparisons further demonstrate that national context significantly shapes perceptions. Zambia records the highest peace scores for both women and men, whereas Ethiopia and Nigeria report the lowest. Eswatini presents an unusual reversal, with men reporting lower peace scores than women, suggesting the need for further country-specific investigation.

Peace is experienced differently across Africa and differently within countries themselves. National averages, therefore, conceal important inequalities between identity groups, reinforcing the need for locally informed peacebuilding strategies.

KATT INSIGHT



Violence Perceptions

Respondents were asked to assess the extent to which violence affects their communities.



Figure 18: Perceived Levels of Community Violence by Identity

Women are substantially more likely than men to perceive violence as very high, while disability appears to have comparatively little influence on these perceptions. These findings suggest that gender shapes lived experiences of insecurity more strongly than disability within this particular indicator.

Perceptions of violence differ not only because of levels of conflict but also because different groups experience insecurity in different ways.

KATT INSIGHT

Mental Health and Well-being

Mental health outcomes were analysed to determine whether patterns of psychological well-being vary across different identity groups.

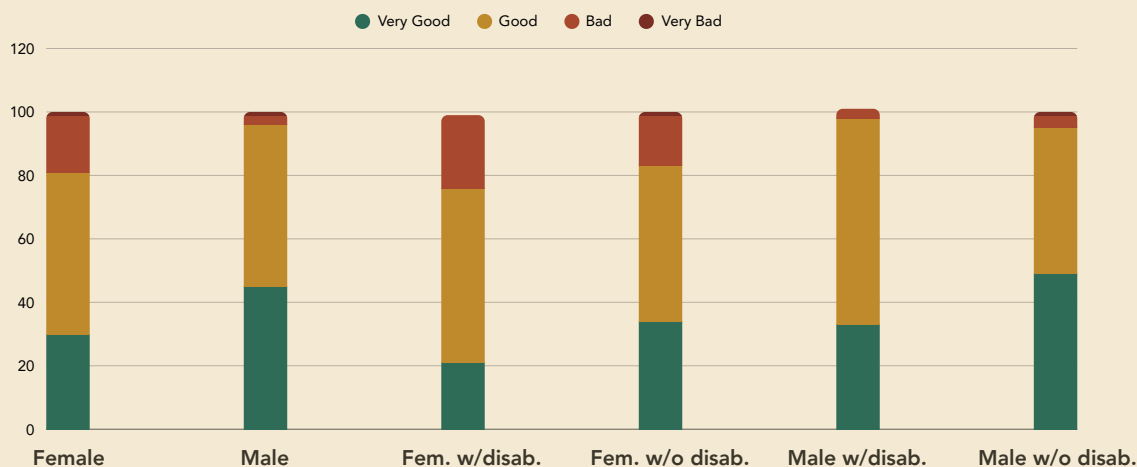


Figure 15: Mental Health Status by Gender and Disability

Although overall mental health appears relatively positive at the aggregate level, disaggregated analysis reveals substantial inequalities. Women are considerably more likely than men to report poor mental health, while women with disabilities experience the poorest mental health outcomes of any group included in the study. These findings demonstrate that overall averages obscure significant disparities within the population.

Mental well-being reflects broader patterns of social inequality. Groups experiencing greater economic insecurity, lower perceived safety, and reduced participation also report poorer mental health outcomes.

KATT INSIGHT

Economic Conditions

Economic indicators were analysed across gender and disability status to examine whether financial vulnerability is experienced equally across respondent groups.

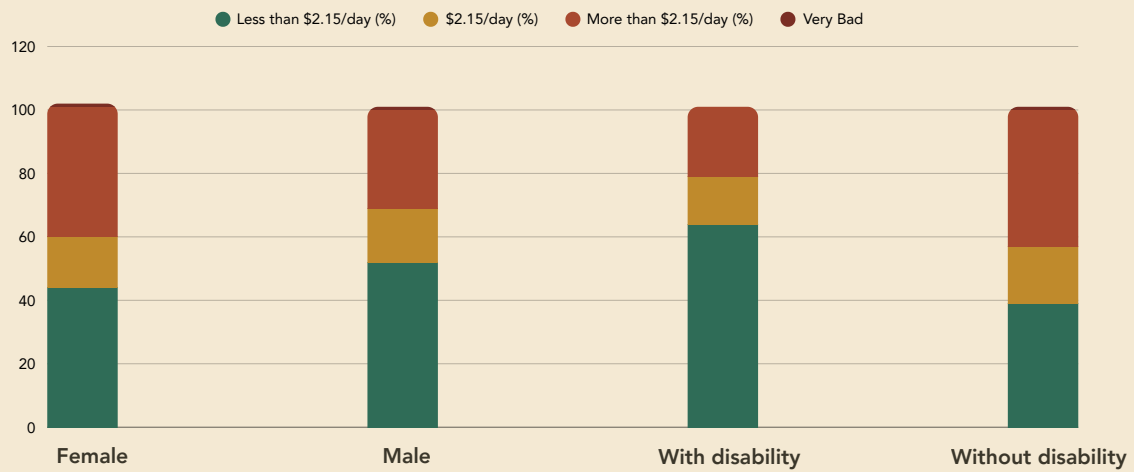


Figure 16: Economic Status by Gender and Disability

Disability emerges as one of the strongest predictors of economic disadvantage within the dataset. Respondents with disabilities are substantially more likely to live below the international poverty line and significantly less likely to earn above it. While gender differences are evident, disability represents the sharper economic divide.

Economic exclusion is driven not only by labour market conditions but also by structural barriers that disproportionately affect persons with disabilities. Inclusive economic policies must therefore address accessibility and participation alongside employment creation.

KATT INSIGHT

Civic Participation

The analysis explored whether opportunities for participation in decision-making differ across identity groups.

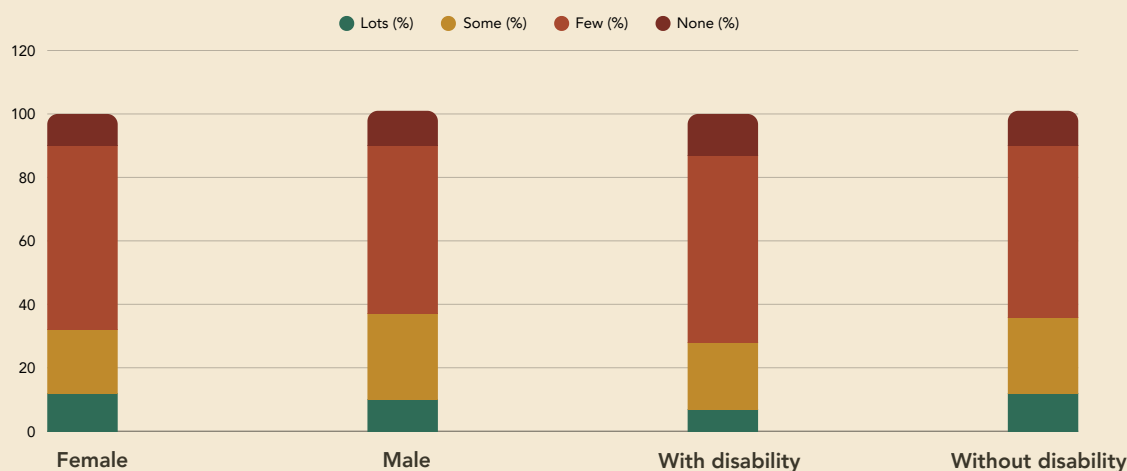


Figure 17. Civic Participation by Gender and Disability

Most respondents report limited opportunities to participate in public decision-making. These limitations are particularly pronounced among persons with disabilities, who consistently report lower levels of civic inclusion than respondents without disabilities. Women also report slightly fewer opportunities than men.

Inclusive governance requires more than formal representation. Effective participation depends on removing structural barriers that prevent marginalised groups from influencing decisions affecting their lives.

KATT INSIGHT

Comparative Identity Analysis Across Countries

The final stage of the analysis compares identity-based indicators across the five countries with the largest respondent samples.

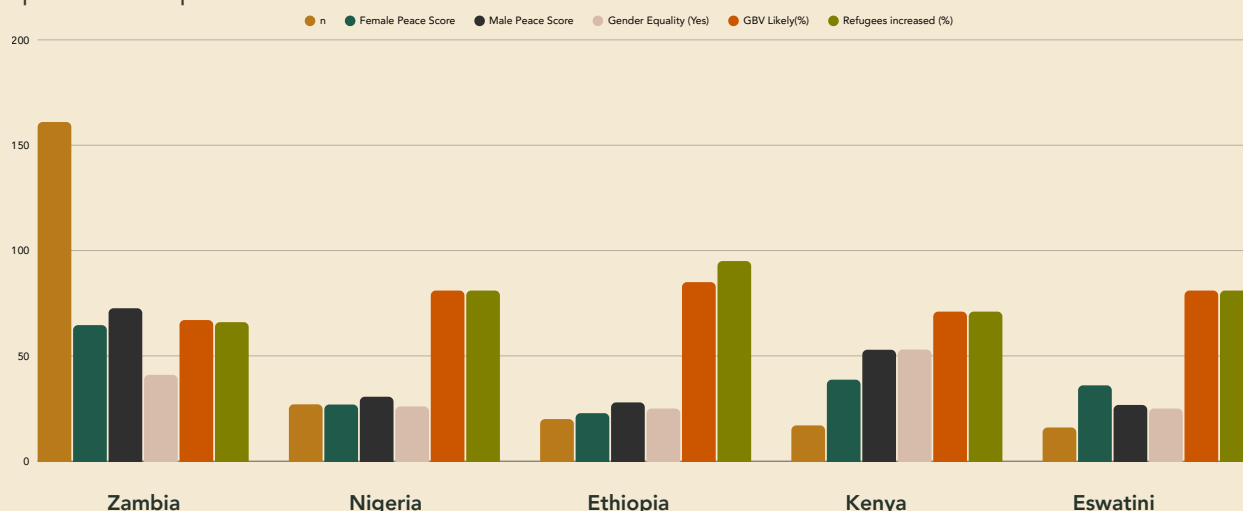


Figure 19. Comparative Identity Indicators Across the Top Five Respondent Countries

The comparison illustrates the considerable diversity of development experiences across Africa. Zambia consistently records comparatively stronger outcomes, while Ethiopia and Nigeria exhibit multiple indicators of heightened insecurity and exclusion. Kenya performs relatively well on gender equality, whereas Eswatini presents distinctive gender patterns that warrant further investigation.

Collectively, these findings reinforce one of the central conclusions of this publication: neither Africa nor African youth constitutes a homogeneous population. Development experiences vary significantly across countries and across identity groups within countries.

The intersectional analysis demonstrates that aggregate statistics alone cannot adequately explain the realities facing young Africans. Gender, disability, and national context interact to produce distinct patterns of opportunity and disadvantage that remain invisible within continental averages. By uncovering these differences, the analysis provides a stronger evidence base for designing policies that are locally grounded, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, and responsive to the diverse realities shaping Africa's future.

CONCLUDING REFLECTION

Strategic Framework for Action

The evidence presented throughout this report demonstrates that Africa's development challenges are interconnected, multidimensional, and experienced unevenly across countries and population groups. The findings further show that gender, disability, economic status, and national context interact to shape markedly different development outcomes, underscoring the limitations of one-size-fits-all policy responses.

Accordingly, this Strategic Framework for Action translates the evidence generated by the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Survey into practical policy directions. Rather than offering isolated recommendations, it proposes four mutually reinforcing strategic pillars designed to strengthen economic inclusion, social justice, peacebuilding, and participatory governance. Each pillar identifies priority actions and the institutions best positioned to lead implementation, recognising that sustainable development requires coordinated action by governments, regional bodies, civil society, development partners, academia, and the private sector.



Pillar One: Inclusive Economic Opportunity and Social Protection



Strategic Objective: Reduce economic vulnerability among young people by expanding inclusive social protection systems, increasing access to decent livelihoods, and removing structural barriers that disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

Evidence Base: The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report identifies economic insecurity as one of the defining development challenges facing young Africans. Nearly half of respondents (46.9%) reported living below the international poverty line, while unemployment and economic hardship emerged as both the most frequently cited personal concern and the highest national development priority. The intersectional analysis further reveals that persons with disabilities experience significantly deeper economic exclusion, with 64% living below the poverty line compared to 39% of respondents without disabilities. These findings demonstrate that economic vulnerability is not merely a labour market issue but reflects broader structural inequalities that limit equitable access to education, employment, finance, entrepreneurship, and social protection.

Addressing these disparities requires coordinated action that strengthens both immediate social protection mechanisms and long-term economic empowerment opportunities.

1 Institutionalise Disability-Inclusive Social Protection Systems

Governments should strengthen national social protection systems to ensure that young people experiencing the greatest economic vulnerability are not left behind. Ministries responsible for Finance, Social Development, Labour, and Public Welfare should collaborate with National Disability Commissions and Coalitions to expand disability-inclusive cash transfer programmes, food assistance initiatives, health insurance coverage, and other targeted social protection mechanisms.

Rather than temporary relief measures, these interventions should be institutionalised within national development and budgetary frameworks to ensure long-term sustainability. Development finance institutions should complement domestic investment through technical assistance, policy support, and catalytic financing that strengthens national social protection capacity.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Social Development, Ministries of Labour and Employment, National Disability Commissions

Supporting Partners: World Bank, African Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), National Civil Society Organisations

Expected Outcome: More inclusive and resilient social protection systems that reduce extreme poverty and improve economic security among young people, particularly persons with disabilities.

2 Expand Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Market-Responsive Skills Development

The prominence of unemployment and financial insecurity throughout the survey highlights the need to move beyond traditional employment programmes towards comprehensive youth economic empowerment strategies.

Governments should invest in market-responsive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), entrepreneurship incubation, digital skills development, financial literacy, and innovation ecosystems that reflect emerging labour market opportunities. These initiatives should prioritise sectors with high employment potential, including the digital economy, climate-smart agriculture, green enterprises, manufacturing, creative industries, and sports-based enterprises.

Particular attention should be given to ensuring equitable participation by women, persons with disabilities, and young people living in underserved communities through accessible infrastructure, adaptive training methodologies, and inclusive financing mechanisms.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Youth, Ministries of Labour, Ministries of Higher and Tertiary Education, National TVET Authorities

Supporting Partners: Chambers of Commerce, Private Sector Federations, Youth Enterprise Funds, Development Partners, Financial Institutions

Expected Outcome: Improved employment outcomes, stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems, and increased economic participation among young Africans.

3 Promote Inclusive Financial Systems and Economic Participation

Economic empowerment requires more than employment opportunities. It also depends on equitable access to finance, productive assets, markets, and business support services.

Governments and financial institutions should expand access to affordable credit, microfinance, savings schemes, business development services, and digital financial platforms designed specifically for young entrepreneurs. Financial inclusion strategies should deliberately address the additional barriers faced by women and persons with disabilities through flexible collateral requirements, accessible banking services, and targeted enterprise support.

Public procurement policies should also create opportunities for youth-owned and disability-inclusive enterprises to participate in national and local economic development.

Lead Actors: Central Banks, Ministries of Finance, Investment Promotion Agencies, Public Procurement Authorities

Supporting Partners: Commercial Banks, Microfinance Institutions, Development Finance Institutions, Business Associations

Expected Outcome: Greater financial inclusion, stronger youth-owned enterprises, and more equitable participation in national economies.

4 Strengthen Local Economic Resilience through Community-Based Development

While national policies remain essential, economic resilience is ultimately built within communities. Local governments should work alongside civil society organisations, community institutions, and youth-led organisations to support locally driven livelihood initiatives that respond to specific economic realities.

Community-based enterprise development, cooperative models, local value chains, agricultural innovation, sports-based livelihoods, and climate-resilient economic activities should be promoted as complementary pathways to reduce poverty and strengthen household resilience.

These interventions should recognise young people not merely as “beneficiaries” of development programmes but as innovators, employers, and drivers of inclusive local economic growth.

Lead Actors: Local Authorities, Community Development Agencies, Youth Organisations

Supporting Partners: Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Cooperatives, Community-Based Organisations, Private Sector

Expected Outcome: More resilient local economies characterised by increased youth employment, stronger household incomes, and sustainable community development.

Economic exclusion emerged as one of the strongest and most consistent findings across the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report. Without meaningful economic opportunities, progress in education, governance, peacebuilding, health, and social inclusion will remain constrained. Conversely, expanding inclusive livelihoods and strengthening social protection systems can generate multiplier effects across multiple development outcomes, reducing poverty, improving resilience, strengthening social cohesion, and enabling young people to contribute more effectively to national and continental development.

Ultimately, building “The Africa We Deserve” requires moving beyond poverty alleviation towards economic systems that are inclusive, equitable, resilient, and capable of unlocking the full potential of Africa’s young people.

WHY THIS PILLAR MATTERS

Pillar Two: Gender Equality, Protection and Well-being



Strategic Objective: Advance gender equality, eliminate gender-based violence, and strengthen inclusive health and psychosocial support systems that protect the dignity, safety, and well-being of all young people, with particular attention to women and persons experiencing intersecting forms of vulnerability.

Evidence Base: The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report identifies gender inequality as one of the continent's most persistent development challenges. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (62.1%) believe that women and men do not enjoy equal opportunities within their communities, while almost seven in ten respondents (69.6%) perceive gender-based violence (GBV) as highly likely.

The intersectional analysis demonstrates that these inequalities are not experienced equally. Women consistently report lower levels of peace and personal safety than men, while women with disabilities experience the most severe cumulative disadvantages across multiple indicators. They record the lowest peace scores, the poorest mental health outcomes, and face overlapping economic and social exclusion.

These findings indicate that gender inequality cannot be addressed solely through legal reform or awareness campaigns. Sustainable progress requires integrated policies that strengthen protection systems, expand access to justice, improve mental health services, promote economic empowerment, and remove structural barriers that continue to marginalise women and girls.

1 Strengthen National Systems for Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence

Governments should strengthen national GBV prevention and response systems through comprehensive legislative, institutional, and community-based interventions. This includes increasing domestic financing for survivor-centred protection services, expanding access to safe shelters, legal aid, psychosocial support, forensic services, and specialised law enforcement units.

Countries with particularly high levels of GBV-related perceptions, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Eswatini, should be prioritised for intensified prevention programmes, institutional strengthening, and coordinated national action plans.

Equally important is strengthening accountability by ensuring that laws addressing GBV are consistently enforced and that survivors can access justice without discrimination, stigma, or unnecessary barriers.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Gender and Women's Affairs, Ministries of Home Affairs, National Police Services, National Human Rights Institutions

Supporting Partners: UN Women, UNFPA, Civil Society Organisations, Community and Faith-Based Organisations, Traditional Leadership Structures

Expected Outcomes: Reduced prevalence of gender-based violence, Improved survivor protection and access to justice, Stronger public confidence in national protection systems.

2 Expand Accessible Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services

Mental health should be recognised as an essential component of gender-responsive public policy.

Governments should integrate mental health and psychosocial support into primary healthcare systems while expanding community-based counselling, trauma-informed care, and specialised psychosocial services for survivors of violence.

The findings highlight an urgent need to prioritise women with disabilities, who report the poorest mental health outcomes in the study. Services should therefore be accessible, culturally appropriate, disability-inclusive, and available in both urban and rural communities.

Investment in community mental health should also include school-based support systems, youth centres, digital counselling platforms, and referral mechanisms that reach young people before crises escalate.

Lead Actors: *Ministries of Health, National Mental Health Authorities, Public Health Institutions*

Supporting Partners: *WHO, UNICEF, NGOs, Professional Psychological Associations, Universities*

Expected Outcomes: Improved mental well-being among young people, Expanded access to quality psychosocial support, Reduced stigma surrounding mental health.

3 Accelerate Women's Leadership and Equal Participation

Achieving gender equality requires more than protecting women from violence. It also requires expanding opportunities for leadership, decision-making, education, employment, and economic participation.

Governments should review legislation, institutional policies, and administrative practices to eliminate barriers that prevent women and girls from fully participating in political, economic, and public life.

Public institutions should establish measurable targets for women's representation in leadership, while educational institutions and employers should strengthen pathways that support women's advancement in science, technology, entrepreneurship, governance, and other strategic sectors.

Special attention should be given to ensuring that women with disabilities are fully represented within leadership and decision-making structures.

Lead Actors: *Ministries of Gender, Public Service Commissions, Electoral Commissions, Ministries of Education*

Supporting Partners: *Women's Organisations, Universities, Youth Organisations, Private Sector Employers*

Expected Outcomes: Increased participation of women in leadership, Improved gender equality across public institutions, Greater inclusion of women with disabilities in decision-making.

4 Promote Community-Led Social Norms Transformation

Legislation alone cannot eliminate deeply rooted gender inequality.

Governments, civil society organisations, traditional leaders, faith communities, educators, and the media should work together to promote positive social norms that advance respect, equality, non-violence, and shared responsibility.

Community dialogue programmes, youth engagement initiatives, school curricula, media campaigns, and male engagement strategies should challenge harmful stereotypes while encouraging healthy relationships and shared leadership between women and men.

Particular emphasis should be placed on engaging boys and young men as partners in promoting gender equality rather than viewing them solely as "beneficiaries" or perpetrators within gender discourse.

Lead Actors: *Ministries of Education, Ministries of Information, Local Authorities*

Supporting Partners: *Community-Based Organisations, Faith Leaders, Traditional Leaders, Youth Organisations, Media Institutions*

Expected Outcomes: More equitable social norms, Reduced acceptance of gender-based violence, Increased community ownership of gender equality initiatives.

The findings of this report demonstrate that gender equality is not simply a social objective; it is a prerequisite for sustainable development, peace, and inclusive governance. Persistent inequalities limit educational attainment, reduce economic productivity, undermine public health, weaken social cohesion, and restrict women's participation in decision-making. The intersectional evidence further demonstrates that women with disabilities face multiple and reinforcing barriers that cannot be addressed through single-sector interventions.

Policy responses must therefore move beyond isolated programmes towards integrated systems that simultaneously strengthen protection, health, education, economic participation, and leadership opportunities. Such approaches not only improve outcomes for women and girls but also contribute to stronger families, more resilient communities, and more inclusive economies.

Advancing gender equality is not solely about correcting historical injustice. It is about unlocking the full potential of Africa's largest development resource, its people. Societies that protect the rights, dignity, health, and leadership of women create stronger institutions, more peaceful communities, and more prosperous economies.

Building "The Africa We Deserve" requires a continental commitment to ensuring that every woman and girl, regardless of ability/disability, geography, or social status, can live free from violence, participate equally in public life, and realise her full potential as an equal partner in Africa's transformation.

POLICY RATIONALE

Pillar Three: Peacebuilding, Human Security and Resilience



Strategic Objective: Strengthen peaceful, safe, and resilient communities by addressing the structural drivers of violence, promoting locally led peacebuilding, enhancing humanitarian protection, and investing in inclusive systems that foster long-term social cohesion and human security.

Evidence Base: The findings of the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report reveal significant concerns regarding peace, safety, and conflict across participating countries. Respondents rated national peace at an average of only 54.6 out of 100, while more than half (53.8%) reported that violence had caused high or very high losses within their communities. Furthermore, 68.3% reported an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), indicating growing humanitarian pressures across several contexts.

Country-level analysis demonstrates substantial variation. Zambia consistently recorded the strongest peace indicators, while Ethiopia and Nigeria exhibited persistently low peace scores alongside high perceptions of gender-based violence and community insecurity. The intersectional analysis further shows that women, particularly women with disabilities, consistently report lower perceptions of peace and safety than other groups.

These findings demonstrate that peace cannot be understood solely as the absence of armed conflict. Rather, sustainable peace depends upon people's ability to live free from violence, participate safely in community life, access justice, and enjoy social, economic, and psychological security.

1 Strengthen Community-Based Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Systems

Governments should institutionalise locally led peacebuilding mechanisms that strengthen dialogue, mediation, social cohesion, and early conflict prevention at the community level.

Local Peace Committees, traditional leadership structures, youth councils, women's organisations, faith-based institutions, and civil society organisations **should be supported** to facilitate inclusive dialogue, address community grievances, and strengthen trust between citizens and public institutions.

National peacebuilding strategies should recognise communities not simply as “beneficiaries” of peace interventions but as active partners in preventing violence and sustaining peaceful coexistence.

Lead Actors: Ministries responsible for Peace, National Unity or Social Cohesion, Ministries of Local Government, National Peace Commissions, Local Authorities

Supporting Partners: African Union Peace and Security Council, Regional Economic Communities (SADC, ECOWAS, EAC, IGAD), Civil Society Organisations, Faith-Based Organisations, Traditional Leadership Institutions

Expected Outcomes: Stronger community resilience to violent conflict, Reduced localised violence, Improved trust between communities and public institutions, Enhanced social cohesion.



2 Promote Human Security Through Inclusive Public Safety Systems

Public safety should be approached as a human security priority that protects people's lives, dignity, and freedoms rather than focusing exclusively on state security.

Governments should strengthen community policing, improve access to justice, invest in violence prevention programmes, and expand survivor-centred protection services for communities affected by crime, violent conflict, and insecurity.

Particular attention should be given to women, young people, persons with disabilities, displaced populations, and communities experiencing chronic insecurity, ensuring that public safety systems remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive to diverse needs.

Investment should also be directed towards strengthening early warning systems and community-based mechanisms that can identify emerging risks before they escalate into violent conflict.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Home Affairs, National Police Services, Ministries of Justice, National Human Rights Institutions

Supporting Partners: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Civil Society Organisations, Community Safety Forums, Human Rights Organisations

Expected Outcome: Increased public confidence in safety institutions, Improved access to justice, Reduced exposure to violence, Stronger protection for vulnerable populations.

3 Strengthen Humanitarian Protection and Durable Solutions for Displacement

The growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons highlights the need for comprehensive humanitarian policies that combine emergency protection with long-term resilience.

Governments should strengthen national refugee and displacement frameworks while expanding access to education, healthcare, livelihoods, psychosocial support, and legal documentation for displaced populations.

Cross-border cooperation should be strengthened to improve preparedness, coordinate humanitarian responses, and facilitate durable solutions that uphold international protection standards.

Particular emphasis should be placed on supporting host communities alongside displaced populations to strengthen social cohesion and reduce resource-based tensions.

Lead Actors: Ministries responsible for Refugees and Migration, National Disaster Management Agencies, Immigration Authorities

Supporting Partners: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, International and National Humanitarian Organisations, Local Governments

Expected Outcomes: Improved protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, Stronger host-community resilience, Enhanced regional cooperation on displacement, Greater social cohesion between displaced and host populations.

4 Invest in Youth as Partners in Peacebuilding

Africa's young people should be recognised as essential actors in sustaining peace rather than being viewed primarily through the lens of conflict risk.

Governments should institutionalise youth participation within peacebuilding processes by supporting youth-led dialogue initiatives, civic education programmes, mediation training, sports-for-peace initiatives, arts and cultural exchange programmes, and community service initiatives that strengthen trust across diverse communities.



Investment in youth leadership, volunteerism, and social innovation should be recognised as a preventive strategy that reduces vulnerability to violence while strengthening democratic participation and community resilience.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Youth, Ministries of Education, National Youth Councils, Local Authorities

Supporting Partners: African Union Youth Division, Civil Society Organisations, Sports Organisations, Universities, Community-Based Organisations

Expected Outcomes: Increased youth participation in peacebuilding, Stronger social cohesion, Reduced vulnerability to violence and extremism, Greater community resilience.

The findings of this report reaffirm that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, inclusion, safety, and opportunity. Communities cannot thrive where violence, displacement, insecurity, and social exclusion persist. Likewise, sustainable development cannot be achieved without investing in peaceful societies that protect human dignity and foster trust between citizens and institutions.

The evidence also demonstrates that insecurity is experienced differently across countries and population groups. Women, persons with disabilities, and communities affected by displacement frequently face overlapping vulnerabilities that require integrated rather than fragmented policy responses. Consequently, peacebuilding efforts should extend beyond security interventions to include social protection, mental health, economic opportunity, inclusive governance, and community participation.

Investing in locally led peacebuilding and human security strengthens resilience long before crises emerge. Community dialogue, inclusive institutions, youth leadership, and humanitarian protection are not peripheral activities; they are essential investments in preventing conflict, reducing displacement, and sustaining long-term stability.

Building "The Africa We Deserve" requires a shift from responding to crises after they occur to preventing them through inclusive governance, social justice, community resilience, and shared responsibility. A peaceful Africa will not be built solely through national security strategies but through empowered communities where every individual can live with dignity, participate safely in public life, and contribute to the continent's collective prosperity.

POLICY RATIONALE

Pillar Four: Inclusive Governance, Youth Participation and African-Led Knowledge



Strategic Objective: Strengthen democratic governance, expand meaningful youth participation in public decision-making, institutionalise evidence-informed policymaking, and advance African-led knowledge production as a foundation for inclusive, accountable, and sustainable development.

Evidence Base: The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report reveals a significant disconnect between Africa's young people and the institutions that shape their future. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (67.7%) reported having few or no opportunities to participate in public decision-making, highlighting persistent barriers to meaningful civic engagement. Persons with disabilities reported the lowest levels of participation, reinforcing evidence that exclusion remains embedded within many governance systems.

At the same time, respondents demonstrated an exceptionally high level of awareness of contemporary development challenges. Nearly 96.1% reported understanding the climate crisis, while 97.1% recognised its impact within their own countries. These findings indicate that Africa's young people are not disengaged or uninformed; rather, they possess valuable knowledge and perspectives that remain underutilised in public policy and development planning.

Importantly, this publication itself demonstrates the value of locally generated evidence. Through a decentralised network of Youth Country Focals and Representatives across 25 African countries, KATT has shown that young Africans can successfully lead rigorous research, generate policy-relevant evidence, and contribute meaningfully to continental policy discourse. This model challenges traditional approaches to knowledge production by positioning African youth as producers, not merely consumers, of evidence.

The findings, therefore, call for governance systems that are more participatory, more accountable, and more responsive to evidence generated within African communities.

1 Institutionalise Meaningful Youth Participation in Governance

Governments should move beyond symbolic youth representation by establishing permanent institutional mechanisms that enable young people to participate in public policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Youth advisory councils, participatory budgeting initiatives, local development committees, parliamentary youth forums, and digital civic engagement platforms should be strengthened to ensure that young people influence decisions affecting their lives.

Participation should be representative and inclusive, ensuring equitable opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, rural youth, and other historically underrepresented groups.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Youth, Ministries of Local Government, National Parliaments, Electoral Commissions, Local Authorities

Supporting Partners: African Union Youth Division, National Youth Councils, Civil Society Organisations, Universities, Development Partners

Expected Outcome: Increased youth participation in governance, More inclusive public institutions, Greater public trust in democratic processes, Stronger accountability between citizens and government.



2 Embed Evidence-Informed Policymaking Across Public Institutions

Public policy should be grounded in reliable evidence that reflects the lived realities of citizens.

Governments should strengthen national research ecosystems by investing in data systems, policy research institutions, universities, and independent think tanks; and by integrating citizen-generated evidence into policy development processes.

Development planning should routinely incorporate perception data alongside traditional socioeconomic indicators to ensure that policies respond not only to measurable outcomes but also to how communities experience development.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning systems should likewise prioritise disaggregated data to identify inequalities that aggregate statistics often conceal.

Lead Actors: *National Planning Commissions, National Statistics Offices, Ministries responsible for Planning and Finance*

Supporting Partners: *Universities, Research Institutions, Think Tanks, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations*

Expected Outcomes: Higher quality public policy, More responsive development planning, Stronger national research ecosystems, Improved evidence-informed decision-making.

3 Invest in African-Led Knowledge Production and Research Capacity

Africa's development agenda should increasingly be informed by research designed, conducted, interpreted, and disseminated by Africans.

Governments, universities, philanthropic institutions, and development partners should invest in strengthening African research institutions, supporting emerging researchers, and expanding opportunities for youth-led research and policy innovation.

The Youth Country Focal model, as demonstrated in this publication, provides an example of how decentralised, locally embedded researchers can generate contextually relevant evidence while strengthening national research capacity across the continent.

Future investments should prioritise collaborative research networks that encourage knowledge sharing across countries while recognising the diversity of African experiences.

Lead Actors: *Ministries of Higher and Tertiary Education, National Research Councils, Universities*

Supporting Partners: *African Think Tanks, Philanthropic Foundations, Development Partners, Academic Networks, Civil Society*

Expected Outcomes: Stronger African research leadership, Expanded youth research capacity, Increased production of African-generated evidence, Reduced dependence on externally driven research agendas.

4 Accelerate Youth Leadership in Climate Action and Sustainable Development

The near-universal awareness of climate change demonstrated by respondents represents a significant opportunity for Africa's green transition.

Governments should institutionalise youth participation within national climate strategies by supporting youth-led innovation, climate entrepreneurship, environmental stewardship, renewable energy initiatives, and community adaptation programmes.

Young people should be recognised as essential partners in achieving sustainable development rather than merely "beneficiaries" of climate policy.



Integrating youth leadership into national and local climate governance will strengthen resilience and generate new economic opportunities in emerging green sectors.

Lead Actors: Ministries of Environment, National Climate Change Authorities, National Planning Commissions, Local Governments

Supporting Partners: UNEP, UNDP, Youth Climate Networks, Universities, Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations

Expected Outcomes: Increased youth leadership in climate governance, Stronger community resilience to climate change, Growth of green innovation and entrepreneurship, More sustainable national development pathways.

Inclusive governance is fundamental to achieving sustainable development because policies are most effective when they reflect the experiences, knowledge, and aspirations of the people they serve. The findings of this report demonstrate that young Africans possess both the awareness and the willingness to contribute meaningfully to national development, yet many remain excluded from decision-making processes. Closing this participation gap is therefore not simply a democratic imperative but a strategic investment in better governance.

The evidence also highlights the importance of transforming how knowledge is produced. For too long, African realities have often been interpreted through externally driven research agendas that may not fully capture local contexts and priorities. By demonstrating the effectiveness of decentralised, youth-led research across 25 countries, this publication illustrates the value of African-led knowledge production in informing public policy, strengthening accountability, and promoting locally relevant solutions.

Governments, regional institutions, academia, civil society, and development partners should therefore invest in governance systems that are participatory, evidence-informed, and responsive to diverse lived experiences. Such systems are better equipped to address inequality, anticipate emerging challenges, and build public trust.

Building "The Africa We Deserve" requires more than effective institutions; it requires institutions that listen, learn, and lead alongside the people they serve. By empowering young Africans as researchers, innovators, decision-makers, and policy partners, the continent can build governance systems that are more inclusive, more accountable, and better prepared to realise the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

POLICY RATIONALE

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

The publication of KATT Legacy Two: Country Issue 2025 Mapping marks a significant milestone in our ongoing mission to document and advance "The Africa We Deserve." This comprehensive country mapping exercise was not a conventional top-down reporting exercise, but a grassroots intellectual movement that brought together young researchers, communities, and development practitioners across the continent. Its success reflects the collective dedication, resilience, expertise, and vision of a growing Pan-African network committed to producing African-led evidence for policy advocacy and social transformation.



To Our Youth Country Focals

We express our deepest appreciation to the KATT Youth Country Focals and Representatives across 25 African countries. You are the driving force behind this publication.

Serving as primary investigators, research coordinators, and cultural translators, you led extensive mapping exercises within your respective countries with professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment. Your fieldwork, analytical rigour, and contextual understanding ensured that the evidence presented in this publication is both authentic and policy relevant.

More importantly, you demonstrated that African young people are not merely participants in development; they are researchers, policy advocates, and leaders capable of generating evidence that shapes national, regional, and continental dialogue. Your contribution embodies the KATT commitment to moving beyond rhetoric towards evidence-informed solutions for a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable Africa.

To Our Respondents and Communities

We extend our sincere gratitude to the 309 young people who generously participated in the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Survey.

By sharing your lived experiences, concerns, and aspirations, you provided the evidence that underpins this publication. Your willingness to speak openly about the realities facing your communities has strengthened our understanding of the diverse development challenges and opportunities across the continent.

This study was intentionally designed to be participatory, ensuring that voices too often overlooked are meaningfully represented within policy discourse. We are honoured by the trust you placed in this process and remain committed to ensuring that your perspectives inform policy, programming, advocacy, and future research across Africa.

To Our Host and Institutional Partner

We extend our sincere appreciation to the **Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) Nigeria** for its steadfast institutional support and for hosting the Kabilun Africa Think Tank.

Your commitment to purposeful leadership, gender equality, and sustainable development has provided an enabling environment within which **KATT** continues to grow as a platform for African-led research, policy innovation, and youth leadership.

To Our Editorial and Leadership Team

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Editor, Mercia Takavarasha, whose editorial leadership, meticulous review, and intellectual guidance significantly strengthened the clarity, coherence, and quality of this publication. Your commitment to excellence helped transform extensive research findings into a publication that is academically rigorous, policy-relevant, and accessible to diverse audiences.

We also acknowledge **Deogratias Rutebuka** and **Safiya Ibn Garba DTRF** for their invaluable contributions to the conceptual development, synthesis, and refinement of this landmark study. Your collective expertise and thoughtful engagement strengthened both the analytical depth and strategic direction of this publication, ensuring that it reflects the highest standards of research and policy advocacy.

The evidence presented in this publication is more than a record of Africa's development challenges; it is a foundation for informed action. The data generated through the leadership of local young researchers provides a powerful platform for evidence-informed policymaking, strategic advocacy, and collaborative solutions.

We therefore call upon governments, regional institutions, development partners, civil society, academia, the private sector, and communities across Africa to work alongside us in translating these findings into meaningful policies and measurable action. Together, let us transform evidence into impact and continue building "The Africa We Deserve."

A COLLECTIVE CALL TO ACTION

Looking Ahead

KATT Legacy Two is not intended to be the final word on Africa's development challenges. Rather, it is an invitation to continued dialogue, collaborative learning, and collective action.

We hope this publication stimulates informed debate, strengthens evidence-based policymaking, and inspires governments, regional institutions, development partners, civil society, academia, and young people themselves to work together in addressing the challenges identified throughout this report.

Ultimately, this legacy belongs not to KATT alone, but to every African who believes that rigorous evidence, inclusive participation, and courageous leadership can transform our continent.

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Together, we continue building “The Africa We Deserve.”

*309 young people. 25 countries. One shared vision for a peaceful,
equitable, and inclusive Africa.*



[View Country Issue Mapping Interactive Map](#)

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