



POLICY BRIEF

THE COUNTRY ISSUE 2025 MAPPING

Youth Perspectives on Peace, Poverty, and the Intersectional Divide — a condensed evidence brief drawn from KATT Legacy Two, for policymakers, partners and youth advocates.

At a Glance

Africa's youth are educated, climate-aware, and resilient — yet gender, disability, and national context combine to produce sharply unequal experiences of peace, poverty, and opportunity. This brief summarises evidence from the KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping exercise (n=309, 25 countries) and sets out five priority actions for policymakers and partners.

46.9%

live below the
international poverty line

69.6%

say GBV is highly likely
locally

88.3%

report good or very good
mental health

96.1%

understand the climate
crisis

54.6

/100 average national
peace score

67.7%

have few or no civic
decision-making
opportunities

62.1%

see no equal opportunity
across genders

64%

of youth with disabilities
live below the poverty line

The greatest inequalities are not 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, safety, and mental health scores of any group surveyed.

KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report

The Issue

Africa is home to the world's youngest population, yet continental and national datasets rarely capture how young people themselves experience development challenges. Between March and December 2025, KATT Youth Country Focals and Representatives across 25 African countries coordinated a decentralised, youth-led survey of 309 young people — positioning young Africans as producers of evidence, not just its subjects.

The findings challenge any single narrative of "the African experience": Zambia records comparatively stronger peace and gender-equality outcomes, while Ethiopia and Nigeria report substantially higher insecurity and GBV. Layered beneath these country differences, identity-disaggregated analysis shows that gender and disability interact to compound disadvantage — especially for women with disabilities.

Key Findings Snapshot

Economic Exclusion

46.9% live below the international poverty line; persons with disabilities are far more exposed (**64%** vs 39% without). Unemployment is the single most-cited personal and national concern.

Gender-Based Violence

69.6% perceive GBV as highly likely, rising above 80% in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Eswatini. Women consistently report higher concern than men, regardless of disability status.

Peace and Security Gap

National peace averages **54.6/100**, but **53.8%** report high or very high losses from violence. Zambia leads on peace; Ethiopia and Nigeria trail furthest behind.

Intersectional Disadvantage

Women with disabilities record the lowest peace (47.7%), safety, and mental health scores of any group — evidence that single-axis policies miss compounded exclusion.

Five Priority Actions

1

Absorb the Demographic Dividend

Build formal pathways from education into decent employment, entrepreneurship and market-responsive skills, prioritising sectors with high youth employment potential.

2

Strengthen GBV Prevention and Protection Systems

Scale survivor-centred protection, legal enforcement and community prevention, prioritising the highest-concern contexts: Ethiopia, Nigeria and Eswatini.

3

Invest in Community-Based Peacebuilding

Institutionalise locally led dialogue, mediation and early-warning mechanisms, recognising communities as partners in preventing violence, not just its “beneficiaries.”

4

Institutionalise Youth Voice in Governance

Move beyond symbolic representation to permanent youth seats in policy formulation, budgeting, and monitoring — with equitable access for women and persons with disabilities.

5

Centre Disability-Inclusive Design Across All Policy

Embed disability inclusion into social protection, GBV response, peacebuilding and governance reform alike, since intersecting identities — not single categories — drive the deepest exclusion.

A Call to Action



Africa's young people are not disengaged or uninformed — they are underutilised. This brief distils citizen-based evidence from 309 young Africans across 25 countries into a practical agenda for state, non-state, and international partners.

Grounding policy advocacy in lived experience is how KATT, EWEI, and partners move from rhetoric to evidence-informed action, towards "The Africa We Deserve."

KATT Legacy Two, The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping Report

About This Brief

This policy brief condenses **KATT Legacy Two: The KATT Country Issue 2025 Mapping — Youth Perspectives on Peace, Poverty, and the Intersectional Divide** (June 2026), a full evidence report produced by the Kabilun Africa Think Tank (KATT), hosted by the Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI). The full report, including complete methodology, data, and detailed recommendations, is available at this [link](#).



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