BASELINE REPORT: YOUTH FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth for Accountability project conducted a baseline survey to assess participants' awareness of governance and integrity, their experiences with community activities, and their expectations from the project. The survey also aimed to evaluate the level of youth participation in governance and accountability initiatives within Chesumei and Emgwen Constituencies of Nandi County.

The survey revealed that while a majority of respondents (71%) have heard about governance and integrity, there is a significant gap in their understanding of what it entails. Corruption, nepotism and tribalism emerged as the most pressing challenges, with 75% of respondents citing them as a major barriers to good governance.

Participants expressed a strong desire to develop leadership skills and gain knowledge about governance structures. Many are already engaged in community activities, particularly sports, which presents an opportunity to integrate governance themes into familiar platforms. The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to address corruption, enhance awareness, and empower youth to take on leadership roles in their communities.

This report provides a detailed analysis of the survey findings, key insights, and actionable recommendations to guide the design and implementation of the Youth for Accountability project.

71%
Have heard of governance and integrity but lack understanding of what they entail.

75%
Identified corruption, nepotism and tribalism as the biggest challenges to good governance in their communities.

10%
Have witnessed and reported corruption

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The survey captured responses from a diverse group of youth, predominantly aged 18-25 years (62%), with a significant representation from the 26-35 age group (20%). Males constituted 64% of the respondents, while females made up 36%. Educationally, half of the participants had completed secondary school, with 25% holding diplomas, certificates or university-level education. Geographically, all respondents hailed from the Chesumei and Emgwen constituencies, with Kapsabet and Kiptuiya being the most active wards.

AWARENESS OF GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

While most respondents (majority) reported having heard about governance and integrity, their descriptions varied widely. Many associated governance with leadership and service to the people, while others highlighted transparency and accountability. However, a notable portion expressed negative perceptions, linking governance to corruption and poor leadership. This indicates a need for clearer and more accessible information about good governance.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY & GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES

A majority of respondents (55%) have participated in community activities, with sports and tournaments being the most common (35%). Other activities included environmental clean-ups, youth mobilization, and leadership roles. This high level of engagement, particularly in sports, suggests that such platforms can be leveraged to promote governance and accountability themes.

However, a significant portion of respondents (40%) reported little to no involvement in governance-related activities, highlighting a gap in youth participation. This suggests a need for more inclusive opportunities that encourage active engagement beyond sports.

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EXPERIENCES WITH CORRUPTION

Corruption, nepotism and tribalism were identified as the most significant challenges facing governance and integrity, with 75% of respondents citing them as major issues. Almost half of the respondents reported witnessing corruption, but only 10% had taken steps to report it. This highlights a critical gap in awareness of reporting mechanisms and a potential lack of trust in existing systems.

EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUTH FOR ACCOUNTABILITY (Y4A) PROJECT

Participants expressed a strong desire to develop leadership skills (70%) and gain knowledge about governance structures (40%). Many also hoped to improve their public speaking, problem-solving, and advocacy skills. After the project, respondents envisioned contributing to their communities by educating others, leading projects, and advocating for accountability.

KEY INSIGHTS

1 **Awareness Gap:** While most respondents are aware of governance and integrity, there is a need for clearer and more accessible information to deepen their understanding.

2 **Corruption as a Major Challenge**: Corruption is a pervasive issue, with many respondents witnessing it but few taking action to report it.

3 **Sports as an Engagement Tool:** The high level of participation in sports-related activities presents an opportunity to integrate governance and accountability themes into familiar platforms.

4 **Desire for Leadership Development:** Leadership skills are the most sought-after outcome, reflecting the respondents' aspirations to lead and influence their communities positively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 **Focus on Leadership Development:** Incorporate into the civic education curriculum sessions that emphasize leadership, public speaking, and conflict resolution to meet the participants' aspirations.

2 **Address Corruption:** Include and emphasize sessions on identifying and combating corruption, as well as safe and accessible reporting mechanisms.

3 **Leverage Sports for Engagement:** Use sports as a platform to engage youth and integrate governance and accountability themes.

4 **Enhance Awareness:** Provide clear, accessible information about integrity, good governance, governance structures and their roles to bridge the awareness gap.

5 **Encourage Reporting:** Create safe and accessible channels for reporting corruption and other governance issues to build trust and accountability.
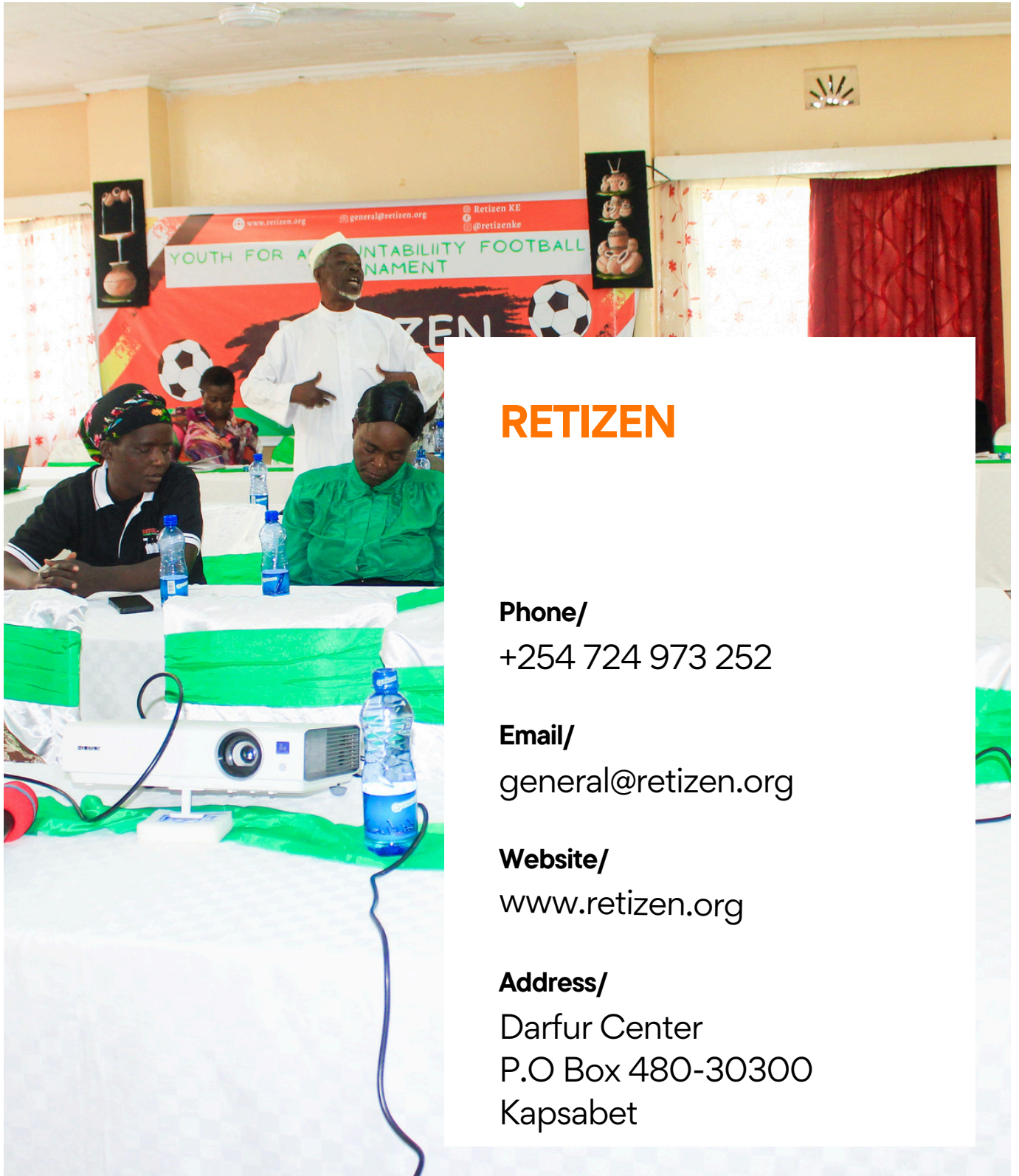
CONCLUSION

The baseline survey findings provide valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of the youth participating in the Youth for Accountability(Y4A) Project. By addressing the identified gaps and leveraging the strengths of the participants, the project can foster a culture of accountability and good governance in Nandi County, Emgwen and Chesumei Constituencies. The recommendations outlined in this report aim to guide the design and implementation of the Y4A Project, ensuring it meets the expectations of the participants and achieves its objectives.

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