



# Fact Finding Report

November 2018

Youth in Blue Economy  
in **Kenya**



# Facts Finding Report

## Youth in Blue Economy in Kenya

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# Introduction

In November 2018, The Youth Congress commissioned a fact-finding to establish the status of youth in the blue economy in four counties in Kenya; Mombasa, Kisumu, Homabay and Kilifi.

The fact-finding targeted individuals, groups, organisations and agencies to submit information on state of youth and the blue economy, and recommendations on strategies to deepen young people's engagement in the sector.

Interviews targeted national and county governments, academia, private sector, international organisations, media, political, youth civil society organizations and thought leaders in the selected counties to share ideas, experience and knowledge on four questions:

1. What is the situation of youth in the blue economy?
2. How are youth involved in some of the programmes being implemented in the blue economy?
3. What (if any) changes should be made in the present legal framework and practices to enhance youth engagement and benefits in the blue economy?
4. What (if anything) should be done to increase the extent to which young men and women participate and benefit from the blue economy?

*1. The World Bank defines the blue economy as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.*

*To achieve strong and sustainable economic growth, Kenya is diversifying her sources of growth by prioritizing the blue economy. Some of the activities of the blue economy include harvesting of living resources such as sea food and marine biotechnology, extraction of non-living resources (seabed mining), and generation of untapped resources (energy and fresh water). To date, Kenya has only focused on fisheries both for domestic and export markets.*

*As Kenya enjoins itself to the a paradigm shift to the blue economy, and looks for pathways towards being at the centre of global trade based on the Blue Economy, rather than just the supplier of unprocessed raw materials, among the greatest concerns is how the country can use the blue economy to address youth. unemployment.*

# Findings

## 1. Kisumu County

Lake Victoria in Kisumu is the second largest fresh water lake in the world. There exists vast resources in the lake that have enormous potential to change the economy of the county.

- i. The main Economic activities on the Blue Economy in Kisumu County include Fish Cage Farming, Traditional fishing, Use of water Hyacinth to make Furniture and Eco- Tourism.
- ii. The main programs the County Government is engaged in the fishing Industry include
  - Capacity Building of Beach Management Units (BMUs) and linking them to financial institutions.
  - Co- Managing the Beaches with the BMU to ensure good governance and law enforcement. The county presides over elections of BMUs and has provided regulations that ensure the 1/3 Gender rule as well as youth representations in the BMUs with a total of 19 gazetted Beach Management Units (BMUs) all of which are fish landing bays.
- iii. Majority of boat owners is made up of older men. But most fishermen are youthful men between the ages of 15-35, while a majority of the traders (Fishmongers) are women.
- iv. There has been an increase of women who own boats in the beaches due to the women empowerment programs in the beaches.
- v. The low ownership of fishing and tourist boats in the beaches has greatly been hampered by the high initial capital of (KES. 80,000- 150,000). This makes it difficult for youth to venture in this business.
- vi. The County is still struggling with enforcement of already existing laws in the management of the resources on lake.
- vii. The County is in the process of domesticating the Fisheries Act as well as enforcing the Kisumu County Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Bill, 2016
- viii. The nature of involvement and participation of the youth and young women is role specific. Young women are involved greatly when it comes to trade issues. And male youth are involved when it involves open lake fishing activities.
- ix. Kisumu County government is urging government corporations with huge chunks of land along the shores of Lake Victoria to let investors use them as a launch pad for development.
- x. The county plans to set up floating restaurants and a boat assembly plant on the lake if plans take root.

- xi. The county has already set up a county working team to work on plans of opening up the maritime sector. The team will produce the Kisumu County strategy paper on the blue economy and establish a linkage with the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), which is a 14-member body .
- xii. Some of the challenges faced in the blue economy include;
  - Inadequate technology such as boats and rafts, and cooling storage facilities and a processing plant within the county lead to losses.
  - Dwindling of fish resources due to over-fishing due to high demand of white meat.
  - Pollution of the lake through disposal of both liquid and solid waste.
  - Use of illegal fishing gears and bad fishing methods hamper development of the sector.
  - Water hyacinth and hippo grass remains a major hindrance and has hampered fishing and use of modern fishing.
- xiii. High HIV prevalence along the beaches is a matter that has affected
 

Some of the opportunities in the county include;

  - Construction of Fish cages
  - Fish Feed Formulation
  - Fingerlings Production
  - Farming of the aquatic weed spirulina which is medicinal and fish food as well
  - Systematic harvesting of wet land and ensuring conservation effects are stepped up
  - Eco-Tourism is yet to be fully exploited
  - Sand harvesting but with regulations.

Multi-sectorial partnerships to promote every aspect of the Blue Economy eco system.

  - Human resource in the fishing industry.
  - There is a lack of adherence to the laws, which always cause conflict between the county and the fishermen and women.
- xiv. Among areas identified for investment in the blue economy include maritime transport, value addition in the fishing industry, water sports activities as well as culture and tourism.

Kenya's total Maritime territory

**230,000 square km**

**200 nautical Miles offshore**

as big as 31 of the 47 counties combined

## 2. Mombasa County

Mombasa hosts Kenya's largest seaport, the Kilindini Harbour. Being the primary coastal city, Mombasa caters to a mixture of businesses, traders, laborers and cultures. The county has 65 Km sq water mass and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending 200 nautical miles into the Indian Ocean.

- i. There are 14 fish landing sites and one fish processing plant. The county's fisheries potential of 994,718 metric tons has not been utilized at all.
- ii. The county government has outlined its efforts in bid to exploit the blue economy through huge infrastructural projects. The projects worth billions of shillings are being implemented through various departments and parastatals. With the Special Economic Zones Authority working on the multi-billion industrial park to be constructed at Dongo Kundu, Kenya Ports Authority is also positioning itself to be the giant port in Africa.
- iii. The county has prioritized expansion program and modernisation initiatives aimed at improving efficiency and wad off competition from the neighbouring Dar-es-Salaam Port in Tanzania. KPA has engaged in ambitious expansion meant to cushion its position as the region's biggest port facility.
- iv. Youth and women activities in the Blue Economy include, marine tourism such as glass boat rides and snorkelling, maritime transport such as across the Mtongwé Channel and marine conservation techniques such as use of recycled maritime plastic to make dhows.
- v. Major issues faced by youth in the county in relation to the blue economy
  - Inadequate cold storage facilities at landing beaches/sites.
  - Underdeveloped aquaculture.
  - Insufficient credit facilities for fishermen.
  - Lack of capacity forcing the fishermen to restrict their fishing away from the deep seas.
  - Access to profitable markets of fish products.
  - Poor marketing knowledge resulting in the youth selling the fish to middlemen.
  - Influx of Chinese, Somali and Tanzanian fish into the local market.
  - Illegal fishing at the Kenyan coast at a tune of KES 10 billion annually.
- vi. Some of the programmes by the Government(s) and other stakeholder on Blue Economy in the county:
  - Establishment of the Kenya Coast Guard to protect Kenya's territorial waters from criminals, the EEZ from illegal fishing and maritime conservation.
  - Formation of Beach Management Units (BMU) that to date has grown to 15 such units.
  - Awareness creation on responsible fishing that would avoid destroying the marine environment for which the breeding of fish depends.
  - Provision of fishing gear to enhance the size of the catch.
  - Launch of the Eat More Fish Campaign by the President on 19th November 2018.
- vii. The plans on blue economic activities captured in their County Integrated Development Program (CIDP) include;
  - Establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that stretches for over 200 nautical miles from Vanga in the South Coast to Kiunga in the North Coast.

3 The fresh water lake is a shared resource by Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori and Busia counties who are members of LREB. Other members are Trans Nzoia, Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Kericho, Nandi, Bomet, Nyamira and Kisii.

- Establishment of a fish port that will ensure that up to 30% of the fish landing done in Kenya.
  - Subsidy plan to provide fishermen with fishing gear through the Beach Management Unit (BMU).
  - Construction of the MV Mombasa fishing boat for deep sea fishing which enables fishermen to venture in waters beyond the one nautical mile.
  - Plan to procure deep sea fishing boats to enable local fishermen venture and fully exploit the EEZ; each BMU to be allocated at least two such boats.
  - Putting up fish processing facilities complete with packaging and cold storage facilities.
  - Continuous capacity building to impart fishing skills
- viii. Some of the regulatory and policy frameworks set up by the county to exploit the blue economy include to;
- Leverage the perceived gains of the strong cooperative movement to deal with value addition and proper handling of fish to avoid post-harvest losses.
  - Secure title deeds to safeguard the sites from grabbing and encroachment.
  - Engagement with the National Government on the Kenya Sea Farers Program.
- ix. The county has aligned its development with the blue economy agenda. Examples include;
- Value addition (particularly establishment of a fish processing plant) of the sector's value chain as a means of ensuring the industry players earn more as opposed to losing revenue to middlemen.
  - Establishment of a common user storage facility.
  - Establishment of a fish auction market.
- x. Some of the development projects that the county is pursuing to enhance maritime conservation include;
- Aquaculture through the establishment of fish ponds and trained youth in all the six sub counties of Nyali, Kisauni, Mvita, Jomvu, Likoni and Changamwe.
  - Rehabilitation of landing sites.
  - Maritime conservation awareness through innovation such as that by Ali Skanda who made a dhow (Flip-flopi) made of recycled marine plastic.
- xi. The youth and women frequently engage the county government with a view of improving their fortunes in the industry. Such an engagement is often either through their local Member of County Assembly



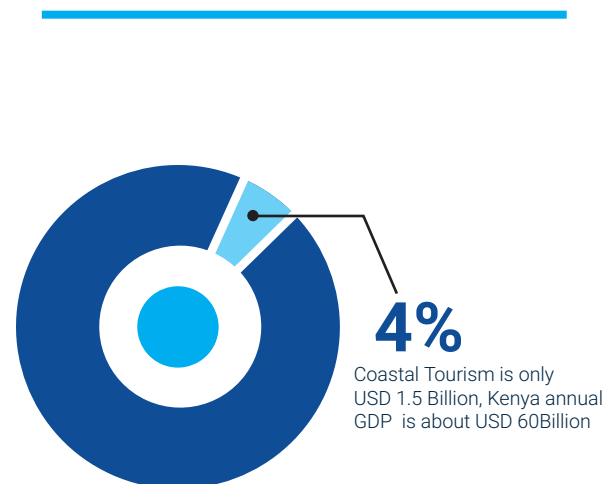
(MCA) or Chamas that set up meetings with country official responsible for fisheries. In addition, the youth and women frequently engage Non Governmental Organizations such as KECOBE (Kenya Coast Blue Economy).

vii. The business opportunities available for youth in the blue economy in the county include;

- Fisheries value addition.
- Maritime tourism.
- Conservation tourism.

viii. Potential partners in the blue economy sector include;

- Mombasa County Government.
- KECOBE – Kenya Coast Blue Economy
- JPK – Jumuiya Ya Pwani Kenya
- BMUs – Beach Management Units
- Youth organizations such as Youth Governors Kenya
- Political youth organizations such as Jubilee Youth League and ODM Youth League
- Kenya Coast Guard
- Kenya Maritime Authority
- CORDIO (Coastal Oceans Research & Development Indian Ocean) East Africa
- Institute of Oceans & Fisheries
- Port Management Association (PMASA)
- Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)
- Coast youth leader, Mr. Swaleh Shambi (swomich@yahoo.com)
- Coast based research firm Analytica (KE) (projects@analytica.co.ke)





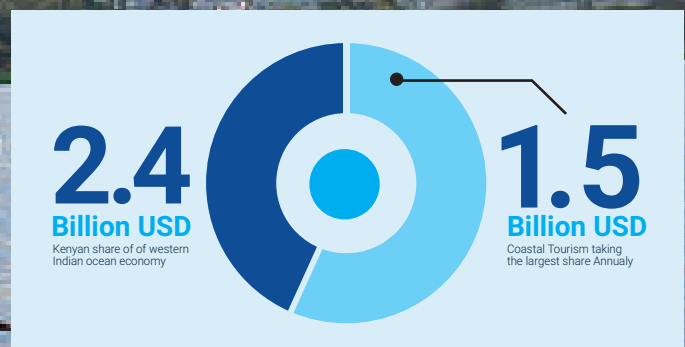
### 3. Homa Bay County

Homa Bay County has a relatively long lakeshore with less polluted inshore waters bordering Uganda. The County produces approximately 50% of the total fish production in Kenya's Lake Victoria. The County has great potential in achieving sustainable development through a Blue Economy approach since economic activities revolving around Lake Victoria accounts for over 90% of the total economic activities of the entire county.

- i. Aquaculture is relatively underdeveloped in the county. In all, 1,801 fish ponds covering an area of 540,300 Msq are in place. A total of 37,080 Kgs of farmed fish valued at KES 9.2 million were produced in the county in the 2016/17 financial year. There is potential to increase farmed fish production through cage fish farming and increase number of fishponds from 1,801 to 4000 fishponds for improved production.
  - Lack of knowledge of the wealth that lies in the blue economy and lack of knowledge on the whole concept of blue economy
  - Lack of capacity to exploit blue economy sector e.g lack of technical, human resource, financial capacities etc.
  - Inadequate of support from stakeholders e.g Ministry of Water, Ministry of Fisheries among others.
  - Most of those in authority dismiss the youth without taking time to listen to their concerns and ideas.
  - Weak network systems among the youth and support partners.
- ii. The County has a limited presence of industries being home only to two fish processing industries in Homa Bay Town and Mbita Point, one sugar processing industry in Ndhiwa, an ice plant in Mbita Point that processes and packages drinking water and, an integrated industry in Kwethumbe (Suba) that processes forest products.
- iii. Some of the youth and women activities in the blue economy include:
  - Fishing: few of them are in the fish farming and they mainly do this through fishponds.
  - The youth offer lake water transport to tourists.
  - The youth are involved in lake patrols to control illegal fishing activities
- iv. The major challenges faced by the youth in Homa Bay County in relation to the blue economy include:
  - The youth have poor access to credit facilities hence they lack collateral to help them venture properly in the various opportunities available blue economy
- v. The nature and formation of youth and women working in the blue economy in the County include:
  - Beach Management Units (BMU). The County has a total of 133 Beach Management Units (BMUs), which are distributed in 141 fish landing sites where active fishing activities are undertaken.
  - SACCOs for Fish Mongers, Fishermen and Women, Environmental Conservation groups, Arts group
  - Individual initiatives
  - Companies
  - Value firms
- vi. Some of the programmes by the Government(s) and other stakeholder on Blue Economy in the county include;
  - Currently, the County Government has no specific program on blue economy except formation of the lake and environmental committee to coordinate blue economy activities in the County.

- The county has organized fishermen into functional groups for the purpose of co-ordinating their activities and supporting them with market access
  - The county is coming up with blue economy investment plan following the success of the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) conference in Bomet.
  - Improvement of the infrastructure at the fish landing beaches e.g construction of pit latrines and provision of water tanks
  - Purchase of safety gears for fishermen e.g life jackets
  - The county has plans to develop Human Resource to Manage the Blue Economy.
  - Implementation the Fisheries Management and Development Act 2016
  - Development of fisheries and maritime Infrastructure; Aquaculture Technology Adoption;
  - Maritime Education and Training;
  - Development and management of blue economy database; Fish stocks enhancement;
  - Frame and Catch Assessment Surveys,
  - Aquaculture Business Development, maritime development (transport system, jetties, small ports);
  - Maritime Transport Services (ship building and repairs, container manufacturing and repair industry);
  - Marine Risk and Disaster Management,
  - Maritime cluster enterprise development, Organization and support of Beach Management Units (BMUs) and
  - Sensitization and awareness creation of the young population on the Blue Economy.
  - Demarcation of fish breeding sites
- vii. The plans on the economic activities in the lake as captured in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) include:
- Purchase of motorboats to help in lake patrols
  - Purchase of cooling boxes to prepare fish for Beach Management Units (BMU).
  - Development of access roads to landing ports, beaches and tourism sites
  - Improvement of ports and fish landing beaches
  - Construction of modern and rehabilitation of cold storage facilities, and ice plants
  - Construction of modern fish processing plants
  - Construction of modern ship and boat yards
  - Capacity building for BMUs on cage farming, boat construction and other emerging issues
  - Establishment of marketing channels of fish and fish products
  - Establishment of new investments (industrial parks, cottage industries), and rehabilitation of existing industries/factories
  - Construction and rehabilitation of water harvesting infrastructure (dams, pans) for domestic use, livestock, irrigation and aquaculture.
  - Collaborative research on (fisheries, water quality, transport investment, biodiversity, tourism, trade and investment)
- viii. Some of the regulatory and policy frameworks set up by the County of Homa Bay to exploit the blue economy include:
- Formulation of a Riparian harmonized Fisheries Laws for the counties bordering Lake Victoria to ensure sustainable exploitation and management of the fisheries resources
  - Fisheries Management and Development Act 2016
  - The Homa Bay County Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Bill
  - Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Bill

- ix. The County is aligning its development with the blue economy agenda by:
- Investing in the fisheries activities such as improving access roads to the fish landing beaches
  - Improvement of ports and fish landing beaches
  - Construction of modern and rehabilitation of cold storage facilities, and ice plants
  - Construction of modern fish processing plants
  - Construction of modern ship and boat yards
  - Capacity building for BMUs on cage farming, boat construction and other emerging issues
  - Establishment of marketing channels of fish and fish products
  - Establishment of new investments (industrial parks, cottage industries), and rehabilitation of existing industries/factories
  - Construction and rehabilitation of water harvesting infrastructure (dams, pans) for domestic use, livestock, irrigation and aquaculture.
  - Undertaking a collaborative research on fisheries, water quality, transport investment, biodiversity, tourism, trade and investment.
  - Demarcation of fish breeding sites
- x. Government and stakeholders involve youth in the blue economy through the formation of self-help groups for youths and women who trade in fish and fisheries products.
- xi. The business opportunities available for youth in the blue economy in the County include;
- Lake transport for tourists
  - Trade in fish and fisheries products
  - Sport fishing as a tourist attraction
  - Boat making
  - Making of biofuels and fertilizers out of water hyacinth
  - Development of software to monitor movement of water hyacinth
  - Art activities in support of blue economy
- xii. There is dismal awareness and engagement of youth and women in the blue economy in County.
- xiii. Potential partners in the blue economy sector include;
- County Government of Homa Bay through the Department of Fisheries
  - Beach management Units (BMU)
  - Advocacy groups e.g None Governmental Organizations
  - Youth and Women groups



## 4. Kilifi County

Kilifi County has a massive blue economy investment potential arising from its 265km long Indian Ocean coastline and its 200 nautical County borders to its East. The potential and strategies for the sustainable use of ocean resources have also been integrated in other sectors such as Energy, Transport, Environment, Tourism and Water within this plan.

- i. The county relies heavily on natural water bodies for its supply of fish production whose resources are subjected to over-exploitation and global climatic change.
- ii. The full potential of aquaculture in the county has not been realized due to lack of information to guide its development.
- iii. The potential of fresh water aquaculture development in the county was least known until Economic Stimulus Program (ESP) in 2011, which initiated the establishment of about 900 artisanal fishponds. The programs was rolled out in all the sub-counties; Malindi, Magarini, Kilifi North, Kilifi South, Ganze and Kaloleni and Rabai.
- iv. The potential of aquaculture in the county has not been established hence the need to carry out feasibility studies and mapping of the areas deemed potential for development.
- v. The county has over 7,000 fishermen distributed in different landing sites along the coastal line. The landing sites are under the management of Beach Management Units (BMU).
- vi. The vast coastline that measures several hundreds of kilometers in lengths with a highly rich and indeed under exploited Exclusive Economic Zone renders the County the most magnificent for deep-sea fishing. However, the low adoption of advanced fisheries technology limits the fishing activities by local fishermen within the onshore waters.
- vii. The county is planning to build a fishing port on the county's vast coastline to reap benefits of the Blue Economy. According to a report on the status of fisheries in the county there are plans to develop a fishing port to benefit from deep-sea fishery resources. Proposals have been made to develop such a facility to benefit from deep-sea fisheries. A pre-feasibility study is ongoing with a draft document already out.
- viii. Establishment of fish landing facilities (fish depots, ice-making plants, cold storage facilities) and spatial mapping of fishing grounds along the coast would boost the county's fishing industry.
- ix. The county government plans to invest Sh60 million by the end of 2022 to buy assorted fishing equipment including boat engines, nets, lines and hooks.
- x. The county government also intends to revive several fisherman co-operative societies at a cost of Sh10 million.
- xi. Some of the activities that youth and women undertake in the Blue Economy include;
  - Planting of mangrove by youth groups
  - Women engage in fish selling at local level
  - Beach clean ups
  - Mining corals from beaches
  - Beach soccer
  - Local fishing
  - Boat riding

- xii. Some of the challenges that youth face in the county in relation to the blue economy include;
- Lack of knowledge and skills to exploit all the benefits coming from Blue economy and innovations.
  - Youth in Kilifi have no information the Blue Economy
  - Lack of sufficient capital to invest on the blue economy especially for modern fishing technics to those doing fishing.
- xiii. The nature and formation of youth and women working in the Blue Economy include;
- Youth groups
  - BMUs
  - Women Chama's doing fish vending
  - Individual youth and women
- xiv. Some of the programs by the Government(s) and other stakeholder on Blue Economy in the county include;
- Training of and fish control surveillance units
  - Recruitment and training of county beach guards
  - Strengthening of Beach Management
- xv. The plans on economic activities in the lake captured in the County Integrated Development Program (CIDP) include;
- Boat building yards,
  - Fish depots
  - Mari culture and
  - Fish control surveillance units
- xvi. Some of the regulatory and policy frameworks set up by the county to exploit the blue economy include:
- Fisheries management bill,
  - Animal disease control
  - Agriculture licensing bill
  - County Integrated Development Plan
  - Annual Development Plans
- xvii. The County Integrated Development Program (CIDP) 2018-2022 has aligned flagship projects to create appropriate environment for all stakeholders in the fishing industries ranging from fishermen to local residents. The projects include; boat building yards, fish depots Mari culture and fish control surveillance units
- xviii. Some of the development projects that the county is pursuing to enhance maritime conservation include;
- Construction of a major fish port to encourage deep sea fishing
  - Allocation of budget of about Kes 90million to pursue modern technologies in fishing
  - Establishment of fish depots, ice making plants and cold storage facilities
  - Review of fishermen cooperatives societies
  - Strengthening of Beach Management Units
- xix. Youth and women are not sufficiently involved in the Blue Economy programs by governments and stakeholders. The whole process is mostly done without fully involvement of the said groups, most decisions from planning to implementation of policies is done at county executive level with aid of few individuals who cannot fully represent the ideas of the whole community.
- xx. Business opportunities available for youth in the blue economy in the county include;
- Fishing
  - Boat riding
  - Fish farming
  - Hospitality
  - Irrigation schemes
- xxi. The level of awareness and engagement of youth and women in the Blue Economy is very low thus the only thing most youth and women know is going to the beach to purchase from the fishermen. Few youth engaged in the fishing industry. young people go to the beach only to stare at tourists but no commercial avenue.
- xxii. Potential partners in the blue economy sector include;
- The BMUs
  - Coast sea survivors
  - County government dept. of fisheries
  - Governance groups such as Fimbo youth Initiative and Kilifi citizen forum

# Recommendations

1. Sensitization of the public especially young people on the untapped potential and opportunities in the blue economy.
2. Increase awareness of the potential of the blue economy through forums and canvassing campaigns.
3. Hold exhibition and fairs for players in the blue economy to showcase best practices.
4. Create policies and regulations that promote participation of youth and women in blue economy
5. Create incubation centers that create the platform to promote Blue Economy ideas - Support innovations by the youth on blue economy.
6. Set up appropriate credit facilities for youth and women - support and provide funds for youth and women to effectively participate in the blue economy
7. Establish capacity building initiatives to build their fishing and maritime conservation skills.
8. Carry out feasibility studies and mapping of the areas deemed potential for the development of blue economy.
9. Develop strong partnerships to promote youth participation in the blue economy.
10. Set up data collection and information management system on youth in blue economy.
11. Set up youth working group on the blue economy.
12. Champion the development of working group on Youth and Blue Economy
13. Ensure that job creation for young people is at the heart of Blue Economy
14. Create mechanism for sharing learning at the local, regional and global level.
15. Improve documentation of youth and Blue Economy



*Images/ photographs used in this report were found through google, downloaded from the internet and scanned from UNDP Kenya, KBC, sergei Kazakov/ shutterstock and published reports*



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