



## Murang'a County Building Communities through the Youth Service Programme

County:	<b>Murang'a</b>		
Sector/s:	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Sub-sector/Theme:</b>	
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Target Audience:	<b>Counties, partners</b>		
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### **Introduction:**

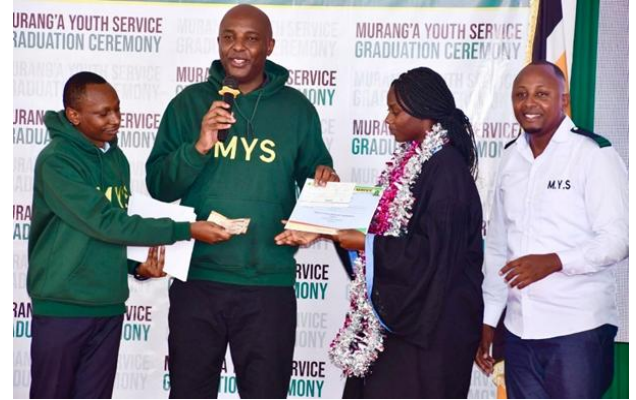
The Murang'a Youth Service (MYS) is an initiative by the Murang'a County Government aimed at empowering young people through short-term employment, vocational training, and business support. Under this programme, youths engage in community service activities such as town cleaning and drainage maintenance while earning a stipend. The initiative is anchored in the **Murang'a County Youth Service Policy 2023**, which seeks to provide employment opportunities and equip youth with self-employment skills for a sustainable future.



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A group of youths celebrating graduation after completing their Technical Vocational Education and Training



H.E. Dr. Irungu Kang'ata and DG, H.E. Stephen Munania awarding a certificate and seed capital to a youth during the TVET graduation ceremony.

### How the Programme Works

The programme begins with a two-month community service phase, where the selected youths participate in various community activities such as town cleaning, drainage clearing, and environmental conservation. During this period, they receive a daily stipend of KES. 400, out of which KES. 100 is allocated to their parents as an incentive to encourage commitment and responsibility.

Following the community service phase, participants transition into Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses that are fully funded by the County Government. These courses provide hands-on skills in various trades, equipping the youths with competencies that enable them to pursue self-employment or secure formal jobs.



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A group of youths demonstrating their masonry skills acquired during the vocational training period.

Upon successful completion of the vocational training, graduates receive seed capital of KES. 15,000 to kick-start their businesses based on their acquired skills.

To further support their entrepreneurial journey, they are granted a one-year tax exemption certificate, allowing them to establish and stabilize their businesses without immediate financial pressure.

### Implementation of the practice (Solution Path):

#### 1. Recruitment Process:

- The recruitment process begins with a **public call for applications**, where interested youths register at their respective ward offices.
- Eligible applicants participate in a **balloting exercise at the Chief's camp**, ensuring a fair and transparent selection process.
- From **each ward, 30 youths** are selected to take part in the two-month employment phase, followed by vocational training.

#### 2. Funding & Policy Support:

- The programme is financially supported through the **County's Sports & Youth budget** which ensures its sustainability over time.
- A well-defined County policy framework governs the implementation, monitoring, and expansion of the initiative, ensuring efficiency and long-term impact.

#### 3. Expansion & Growth:

- After a successful pilot phase, the programme was progressively expanded to cover all **35 wards** in Murang'a County.
- To date, **4,000 youths** have benefited from the programme. An additional cohort commenced in **January 2025**, demonstrating the County Government's commitment to youth empowerment.

### Results of the practice (outputs and outcomes)-

- Over 4,000 youths have been engaged, offering them earning opportunities while contributing to community service.



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- Each cohort has shown improved performance in vocational training exams, demonstrating the youths' dedication and commitment to their studies, as they put in more effort to achieve better results.
- A portion of the stipend (Ksh.100) is allocated to parents to encourage commitment, ensuring accountability, which has seen a significant number of youths benefit.
- Participants gain hands-on experience in carpentry, tailoring, mechanics, and agribusiness, increasing employability.
- Engaging youth in structured activities has led to a significant decrease in crime and substance abuse, reducing idleness.

**Lessons learnt:**

- The programme maximizes youth potential through structured community service and training.
- Short courses provide tangible skills, leading to self-employment and job opportunities.
- Testing the programme before full implementation helped refine its structure for better outcomes.
- Keeping youth engaged reduces their likelihood of engaging in crime and substance abuse.



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Photo Gallery



Youths ready to engage in various community service activities



Youths engaged in town cleaning, drainage clearing, and environmental conservation.



Youths undergoing vocational training



Youths at the Murang'a youth graduation ceremony



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H.E. Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, CBS, presenting an award to a differently-abled youth during the Murang'a youth graduation ceremony.



Youths at the Murang'a youth graduation ceremony