

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR SAFE & INCLUSIVE CITIES



Young people taking part in different forms of civic engagement

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This is the fourth report of Plan International's Urban Research Series.¹ Previous reports drew on data collected as part of the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme evaluation and explored overall perceptions of the programme,² before delving more deeply into young people's experiences and perceptions surrounding violence³ and decent work.⁴

This report is complementary to the other reports in this series. It draws on the wealth of quantitative data that the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme collected among young people in the diverse cities and informal settlements where the programme was implemented.

The report has two aims. The first is to describe how young people who did not take part in the programme engage civically and take action to solve local problems. Young people's social capital – the extent to which they perceive their communities to be cohesive and trusted and the extent to which they belong to local groups – is also described. The second aim is to provide an overview of the effects of the SAIC programme on civic engagement and social capital, specifically the impact of belonging to groups.

Strengthening civic engagement among young people, especially those living in poverty, is critical both as an end in itself and because it contributes to human and social development. This means that youth civic engagement is a driving force behind broader development, be it economic, social or political.

METHODS

The Safe and Inclusive Cities programme was evaluated using a comprehensive and rigorous methodology. Fifteen thousand young people were surveyed across the six major cities where the programme was implemented over three time points between 2018 and 2021. All the young people surveyed were living in informal settlements, 76 per cent (11,362 respondents) were not participating in the Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC) programme, and 24 per cent (3,655 respondents) were participating in at least one SAIC programme activity.

This report draws on the quantitative evaluation of the SAIC programme, specifically the multi-country survey data collected. The report focuses on answering the following research questions.

1. What is young people's knowledge of local duty bearers?
2. How do young people act in the cities and communities they live in to solve problems? Are local duty bearers responsive, and does change come about because of young people's reporting?
3. What is the state of young people's social capital?
4. What is the effect of the SAIC programme on young people's knowledge of local duty bearers, their taking action on problems and their social capital?

To answer the questions under the first three points above, data

from SAIC non-participants (11,362 individuals) was analysed. These descriptive analyses reflect the perceptions of those young people who did not take part in the programme and who can offer insights into the perceptions of young people living in the six targeted cities between 2018 and 2021.

To answer the question under point four above, data from SAIC participants is compared to that of non-participants over the 2018-2021 period. These inferential analyses are drawn from the answers of approximately 15,000 people, and they provide insights into how effective the SAIC programme has been in influencing key variables.

KEY FINDINGS

PART 1: FINDINGS OF EXPLORATORY ANALYSES

This section offers an overview of all the findings related to data collected from young people not involved in the SAIC programme. These findings reflect the likely experiences of young people across the six cities studied and other similar cities in Sub-Saharan Africa.



ONE IN THREE YOUNG PEOPLE knew whom to approach to contribute to **CITY PLANNING** and **BUDGETING DECISIONS**.

Knowledge was slightly higher among those aged 15 to 19 and women. Those with permanent residence in the country and college level education or above were more likely to know whom to approach to contribute to decision-making.



TWENTY PER CENT of all young people said that they **REPORTED** a problem or **TALKED TO A STAKEHOLDER** (local or county officials, community elders or leaders, or NGOs) about a **COMMUNITY PROBLEM**.

Talking to local community elders or leaders, or local or county authorities were the most frequently mentioned options. Young people aged 15 to 19 and women were least likely to report problems.



ONE IN THREE of those surveyed who reported a problem considered that the **STAKEHOLDERS THEY APPROACHED WERE RESPONSIVE**.

Responsiveness appears to be most favourable for community elders or leaders, or NGOs, but perceptions differed significantly by city. Between 14 to 25 per cent of young people noted that they believed a change had occurred because they reported a problem; this lack of perceived change because of reporting may dissuade young people from reporting problems in the first place.

While reporting problems may result in change, joining together with other community members may prove a more direct path to achieving change. The percentage of young people who reported having joined with others to address a local problem differs by time point. At baseline (2018) and midline (2020), between 11 to 14 per cent of young people said they had done this; at endline (2021), this percentage was higher at 28 per cent. Young people aged 20 and over, and men, were more likely to say they had joined with others to address a problem, as were those living in cities in Uganda and Kenya.



ONE IN THREE YOUNG PEOPLE BELONGED TO A GROUP; most of these groups were peer groups, religious groups, savings groups, or sports groups.

Belonging to groups is one way in which young people can build up social networks. The main barriers to young people joining a group were noted to be limited knowledge of what groups were active in the community and limited time to participate.

Differences in whether young people belonged to a group were not major, but young people aged 20 and over and men were overall more likely to belong to a group.

A similar proportion of young people across different age groups belonged to a peer group or religious group, but younger respondents (aged 15 to 19) were more likely to belong to sports groups, and those aged 20 and over were more likely to belong to a savings group, 25 to 29-year-olds were the most likely to be part of a savings group.



WOMEN WERE less likely to join peer groups and sports groups, but 20 per cent more likely than men to be part of a religious group and 60 PER CENT MORE LIKELY TO BELONG TO A SAVINGS GROUP.

While 80 per cent of young people said they felt part of their community, 60 to 65 per cent said most people in their communities could not be trusted.

Approximately half of all young people also said they felt they would be taken advantage of by others in the community if the opportunity presented itself. Only 20 to 27 per cent of young people said local authorities, politicians and influencers could be trusted.

PART 2: EVIDENCE ON SAIC PROGRAMME EFFECTS

This section offers an overview of the findings of the SAIC programme evaluation, comparing the change in key outcome variables over time between programme participants and non-participants. The higher the effect, the more successful the programme has been.

The SAIC programme had highly positive effects on outcomes.

- **Compared to non-participants, young people's knowledge of their local duty bearers was higher among SAIC participants.** Knowledge of whom to approach to input on budgeting and planning for communities was 163 per cent higher among SAIC participants compared to non-participants. The impact was greater among women (173 per cent) than men (146 per cent). As regards age, effects were highest among the 20 to 24-year-olds (155 per cent). The programme achieved this by sharing knowledge of local community structures and duty bearers with young people and encouraging them to take part in local civic life so their voices could be heard.
- **SAIC participants were more likely than non-participants to act regarding community problems.** SAIC participants were more likely to report problems to any of the stakeholders asked about (local or county authorities, NGOs or community elders and leaders). The effects were highest for reporting to NGOs (379 per cent), followed by reporting to local and county authorities (201 per cent). Overall, men were more likely to be prompted to report to local and county authorities, but women were likelier to report to non-governmental organisations. The effects were higher in those aged 20 and over.

SAIC participants were more likely than non-participants to take action and join together to address community problems (programme attributable effect 669 per cent). The effect was slightly greater among men (692 per cent) compared to women (614 per cent) and more marked in those aged 20 to 29 (about 850 per cent, compared to 668 per cent for those aged 15 to 19).

The programme encouraged these developments by making young people aware of how to report problems to stakeholders (and how to follow up) and by encouraging young people to come together to directly address local problems (e.g. mapping violence hotspots in communities as a first step towards making communities safer).

- **The programme had major positive effects on young people's engagement in and belonging to groups.** SAIC directly encouraged young people to take part in groups, for example, savings groups. Consequently, the SAIC programme's effect was particularly high when considering young people participating in a group (908 per cent). Young women seemed to benefit most (attributable programme effect 979 per cent) compared to young men (785 per cent). The effect was highest in those aged 20 to 29 (about 850 per cent).



Young people engage with city planning and budgeting

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

- **Strengthen young people's knowledge of how to contribute to decision-making and create inclusive governance spaces.** To meaningfully engage young people in city and community level decision-making, young people's knowledge of the people and processes involved in governance must be strengthened. This includes a focus on their rights and duties as citizens. It is important to make governance and decision-making inclusive and friendly spaces where young people feel they belong and can be heard.

As documented in previous reports of this series, local stakeholders may hold negative attitudes towards young people and their ability to contribute to social and economic life, which can contribute towards young people's marginalisation and exclusion from civic engagement. The SAIC programme worked to directly target and change negative beliefs about young people and also harmful gender norms.

- **Local decision-makers and authorities need to build trust with young people to encourage involvement in local governance and civil society.** Young people across the SAIC implementation cities expressed low levels of trust in local decision-makers. Their group membership also speaks to this, with most young people preferring to engage with their peers or belong to religious communities, sports groups

or savings groups. About one in five also belonged to a community-based organisation, suggesting there is scope for strengthening young people's involvement in civil society.

While social cohesion appeared moderate, views on whether local communities would take advantage of young people were mixed, suggesting trust in local community members is also precarious and worth addressing.

- **Civil society programmes should encourage the participation of girls and young women.** The findings presented here suggest that in the wake of COVID-19, more young people are interested in joining together with others to address community problems. The SAIC programme was highly effective in strengthening this, although the effects were slightly higher among young men suggesting that gender related challenges still apply. Previous reports in this series highlighted that young women may face safety related barriers in their communities and cities, and that they may be exposed to harmful gender norms when trying to join others in acting on an issue they consider important.

In line with Plan International's position paper on *Engaging Girls, Boys and Youth as Active Citizens*⁵ we recommend programmes actively tackle gender norms and barriers to participation, and nurture the involvement of young girls and women, including by working with local activists and influencers to build the aspirations of younger generations of girls.

BACKGROUND

This is the fourth report of Plan International's Urban Research Series.¹ The first report of the series² drew on qualitative data collected as part of the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme evaluation to explore the perceptions of young people, implementing partners and local stakeholders on the programme's contributions towards violence reduction and prevention, and the strengthening of young people's ability to secure decent work and engage civically.

The second report³ focused on describing how violence manifests and affects young people, particularly young women, as well as describing the impacts of the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme on bolstering feelings of safety among youth. The third report⁴ delved deeper into young people's perceptions of decent work availability and accessibility, financial inclusion and their involvement in income generating activities. Both these latter reports drew on the wealth of quantitative data that the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme collected among young people in the diverse cities and informal settlements where the programme was implemented. This fourth report is complementary to the previous reports and draws on the same data.

The main aim of this report is to provide insights into the perceptions of those young people who did not participate in the programme. The first part focuses on young people's civic engagement. Young people were asked how they take action to solve community problems, either by reporting this to duty bearers or joining in with others to address problems. Questions about duty bearers' levels of responsiveness and any change due to young people's reporting were asked to understand how inclusive urban communities are to young people.

The report also discusses young people's social capital, offering an overview of the types of groups and connections young people have, their perceptions of the community, and their trust in its members.

The second aim of this report is to present analyses and evidence of how effective the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme has been in influencing civic engagement.

SETTING THE SCENE

Over the last sixty years, the world's population has rapidly migrated towards cities. While in 1960 it was only 30 per cent, the percentage has almost doubled today, with an estimated 57 per cent of the global population living in urban areas.⁷ As a result of this trend, debates on development increasingly focus on cities and their populations, particularly the question of how best to achieve 'inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities' (Sustainable Development Goal 11).⁸

Based on current population growth and movement trends, the World Bank estimates that by 2030, over 60 per cent of urban populations will be made up of young people.⁹ However, in cities across Sub-Saharan Africa this is already the case, with many youth living in extreme poverty and exposed to multiple types of deprivation.¹⁰ Young people are recognised to be a critical pillar for development, both social and economic. Yet, there is also wide-ranging recognition that youth are subject to discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation, including from decision-making and governance; this is particularly the case for young women.¹¹

Recent research by Plan International, presented in its Equal Power Now report,¹² underscores this point, highlighting that while young girls and women almost universally believe that participating in politics and decision-making is important, many face substantive barriers and challenges when attempting to engage. Broader literature suggests that such challenges may also apply to diversely marginalised groups.¹³⁻¹⁴

The following definitions are adopted from a literature review on civic engagement and participation.¹⁴

THE SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES PROGRAMME

An urban programme of Plan International, the Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC) programme focused on addressing sources of urban fragility across six major cities in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya.

The programme was funded by the Danish International Development Agency under Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The programme employed diverse strategies to prevent and reduce violence, increase youth economic empowerment and opportunities for decent work, and strengthen active civic participation and youth involvement in governance. Further information on the programme is available in the introductory brief⁶ and in the first report of the Urban Research Series.²

As regards civic engagement, the programme made young people aware of local duty bearers and how they could engage in city decision-making. It also supported youth-led social movements that advance gender equality and girls rights, thus focusing particularly on facilitating young women's civic engagement, participation and leadership in order to amplify female voices in society.



Civic engagement can be broadly defined as a set of behaviours, beliefs, attitudes, levels of efficacy or empowerment, knowledge, and skills deployed or used by individuals and groups when attempting to achieve societal goals or address societal problems. **Civic participation** can be more narrowly viewed as a series of actions taken in support of achieving said goals or solving said problems, with civic empowerment in turn referring to broader “efficacy and agency, defined as feelings of mastery in addressing social, political, or community problems.”

Globally, there is limited evidence available on young people’s experiences of civic engagement and involvement in local decision-making in cities. This also extends to information on influencing factors surrounding engagement, including demographic characteristics as well as broader social capital. The latter is acknowledged to influence young peoples’ relational empowerment and ability to come together with others in social and civic contexts,¹³ it also varies significantly according to place,¹⁵ gender and other factors.¹³

Limited robust research or academic literature is available on civic engagement and social capital, and in particular on interventions or programmes which may strengthen or work with these to further development.¹⁶ Strengthening civic engagement and also social capital are noted to directly address young people’s marginalisation, lack of confidence, as well as drifting and boredom; by reorienting young people towards local problems, building their capacities and social circles to address these, young people are likely to experience increased agency and improved wellbeing, and also contribute more widely to social development.¹⁶ However, most available evidence and research focuses on high-income countries, and does not always consider variation in circumstances within countries, for example distinguishing between urban and rural dynamics.¹⁷

This report aims to add to the global research on young people’s civic engagement in urban areas and to highlight the potential for programmes such as Safe and Inclusive Cities, to strengthen such engagement.

RESEARCH GAPS THAT THIS REPORT ADDRESSES

Plan International’s Safe and Inclusive Cities programme adopted a comprehensive approach to strengthening young people’s civic engagement. In line with recommendations in global literature,¹³ this included working on violence reduction and bolstering feelings of safety and capacities to address violence, creating opportunities for human capital acquisition, and working with local duty bearers to address harmful norms about youth and young women.

Multiple research gaps regarding young people’s civic engagement have been identified.¹⁵ The SAIC programme evaluation offers a unique opportunity to address three of these:

1. There is limited research available on young people’s experiences of civic engagement and their social capital from multiple contexts, particularly urban contexts in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Research into the civic engagement experiences of young women – as compared to young men – in urban contexts in Sub-Saharan Africa is also rare.
3. There is limited evidence available on the potential effects of comprehensive multi-sectoral programmes and interventions on civic engagement.

METHODS

THE SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES PROGRAMME EVALUATION

The SAIC programme has been evaluated via a comprehensive research study using the following approaches:

Mixed method design. The study collected qualitative and quantitative data. The former included interviews, focus groups and most significant change stories, and the latter included surveys with young people living in the settlements where the programme was rolled out. This mixed design provides a wealth of data that helps identify whether the programme was successful and how it was received and perceived by different stakeholders.

Controlled design. Data was collected from SAIC programme participants, as well as non-participants who make up a control group. Comparing the data between the two groups helps estimate the extent of the programme’s effect on key outcomes.

Longitudinal design. Data was collected before the SAIC programme started (2018), while it was rolled out (2020) and again at the end of the programme (2021). Repeated data collection helps ascertain whether the programme has a sustained effect over time.

The qualitative evaluation of the SAIC programme included key informant interviews, focus group discussions and most significant change stories collected across the four programme countries. Findings reflecting this body of data can be found in the first report of this series, *Achieving Safe and Inclusive Cities for Young People by Tackling Urban Fragility*.²

OVERVIEW AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This report draws on the quantitative evaluation of the SAIC programme, specifically the multi-country survey data collected. The report focuses on answering the following research questions.

1. What is young people’s knowledge of local duty bearers?
2. How do young people act in the cities and communities they live in to solve problems? Are local duty bearers responsive, and does change come about because of young people’s reporting?
3. What is the state of young people’s social capital?
4. What is the effect of the SAIC programme on young people’s knowledge of local duty bearers, their taking action on problems and their social capital?

To answer the questions under the first three points above, data from SAIC non-participants (11,362 individuals) was analysed. These descriptive analyses reflect the perceptions of those young people who did not take part in the programme, offering insights into the perceptions of young people living in the six targeted cities between 2018 and 2021.

Girl stands up for gender equality at the final stop of the Girls Get Equal tour in Kampala



To answer the question under point four above, data from SAIC participants is compared to that of non-participants over the course of the 2018-2021 time period. These inferential analyses are done based on the answers of approximately 15,000 people and seek to identify how effective the SAIC programme has been in influencing key variables.

PARTICIPANT SAMPLING

The SAIC programme worked with young people aged 15 to 29 and living in the informal settlements of the six cities it covered. These settlements were chosen as they would be likeliest to see the benefit of programme implementation.

Using the rigorous sampling frame which the national statistical agencies use within each country, specific enumeration areas were randomly selected across each city. Surveys were then conducted in these enumeration areas, randomly selecting households in each area and household members matching the participant inclusion criteria. The aim was to capture information from both young people who were participating in SAIC as well as those who were not.

Given the multi-stage random sampling approach used, as well as the large number of responses to be collected, the findings from the survey data can be considered representative of similar young people in the cities targeted or similar locations.

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

Young people who were between 15 to 29 and living in the areas where the programme was implemented were eligible to participate in the surveys. Young people were approached by local data collectors, the study was explained to them, including the right to withdraw, and their consent was obtained prior to data being collected.

DATA COLLECTION

Data was collected at three different time-points by experienced and trained data collectors who were independent of the SAIC programme. Data collectors interviewed each survey participant using a standardised tool.

Responses were entered digitally on electronic tablets. The same survey tool was used each time the survey was conducted, however minor changes were made depending on the need for questions to be clarified or simplified and to include the identifier question of SAIC participation in the mid and endline (2021) survey form.

Given the sampling and recruitment approach, the data collected at each time point is made up of independent cross-sections. This means that the data was not drawn from the same cohort of people, but it provides snapshots of the young people residing in each area at the time of the survey.

All survey activities were actively supervised to ensure that the data collected was of the highest quality.

OVERVIEW OF SURVEYED PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 15,000 young people were surveyed across six major cities of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe over three time points between 2018 and 2021.

Of all those surveyed, 76 per cent (11,362 individuals) were young people living in informal settlements who were not taking part in the SAIC programme. Their survey responses provide insights into how young people engage civically and the social capital they have available. The remaining 24 per cent (3,655) were young people living in the same informal settlements but taking part in at least one Safe and Inclusive Cities programme (SAIC) activity.

Overall, the sample of respondents is predominantly made up of young people between 15 and 24. At the end of the programme (2021), adults aged 25 to 29 were also interviewed. They make up a minority of respondents and all results are disaggregated by age group to present nuanced findings. As the sample is mostly made up of women the results are disaggregated by gender.

The characteristics of surveyed individuals are presented in full in Appendix 1. Overall, programme non-participants and participants were comparable in most demographic characteristics. This allows us to be confident that the estimated effects of the SAIC programme are due to the programme itself and not other factors.

DATA ANALYSIS

A secondary analysis of all the data collected for the SAIC programme evaluation was conducted for this report. Data cleaning, merging and all analyses were conducted using STATA.¹⁷

Descriptive analyses of the data were carried out whereby tests investigated the overarching distribution of each variable and how this may relate to other variables.

This was done for all variables of interest using chi-square or Fisher's exact tests, where all variables were dichotomous and categorical, and Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney tests, where the dependent variable was ordinal. Inferential analyses were also conducted to explore how specific outcome variables (for example, belonging to groups or trusting local community members) relate to other important variables. These were logistic and ordered logistic regression analyses as appropriate.

Throughout this document, we report on statistically significant findings at the 0.05 level; where non-statistically significant findings are nonetheless meaningful (percentage differences between groups exceed five per cent and/or are of programmatic value), we highlight these and note the statistical significance. Given the influence of COVID-19 on young people's ability to join different groups or be active in their local communities, we present findings disaggregated by time point where this is relevant. However, it is important to note that differences over time may be due to many different factors, not just the global pandemic and its impacts following 2020.

APPROVALS

Approvals for the study were granted by the relevant authorities in Ethiopia, Uganda and Zimbabwe; in Kenya, data collection was approved by the local Plan International country office. The data sourced for the studies forms part of routine monitoring and evaluation of programmes, and as such no ethical approval for data collection was sought. This report includes a secondary analysis of this data.

Plan International safeguarding guidance and best practices for data collection were followed. Referrals to relevant local Plan International safeguarding leads and local services were made available to all those who needed them. All participants were asked for informed consent prior to participating in data collection, and their data was treated confidentially by the study team and anonymised to protect participant identities.

LIMITATIONS

Several limitations apply in relation to this study.

The survey was refined across the three time points when data was collected. In some cases this compromised the comparability of data over time, so analyses were restricted to those variables which were directly comparable.

Individuals over the age of 25 were only surveyed at the end of the programme. This means fewer respondents in this age group were surveyed. The results are therefore presented disaggregated by age group.

The findings are presented disaggregated by time of data collection, bearing in mind that data collected at midline (2020) and endline (2021) would be influenced by COVID-19. However, the pandemic is not the only major factor likely to have influenced data collection and findings, and context specific factors must be kept in mind when considering the results.

FINDINGS

Part 1 offers an overview of all the findings relating to civic engagement and social capital, drawing on data collected from young people not involved in the SAIC programme. These findings reflect the likely experiences of young people across the six cities studied as well as other similar cities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Part 2 offers an overview of the findings of the SAIC programme evaluation, comparing the change in key outcome variables over time between programme participants and non-participants. For details on the characteristics of the young people surveyed for this research, please see Appendix 1.

PART 1: FINDINGS OF EXPLORATORY ANALYSES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SIX CITIES

1. YOUNG PEOPLE'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1.1 KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL DUTY BEARERS

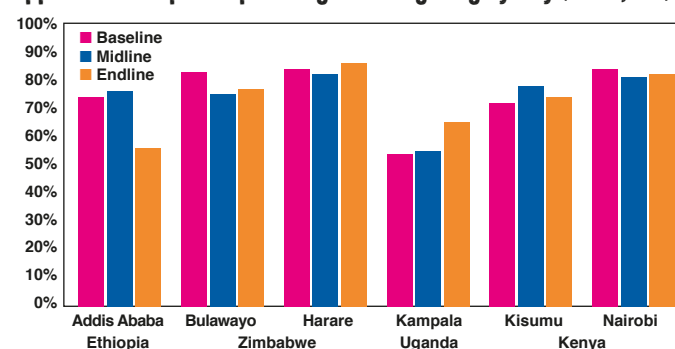
Knowing whom to approach about issues and challenges in the local community is critical for young people's civic engagement. To understand young people's knowledge of local stakeholders, young people were asked:

Do you know whom to talk to in your city if you want to give input on budgeting and planning to improve conditions in your community?

1.1.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Overall, across all time points, most young people surveyed do not know whom to approach for inputting on budgeting and planning for their community.

Figure 1: Percentage of young people who do not know whom to approach for input on planning and budgeting by city (N=11,359)



1.1.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER

Young people's age and gender may have a bearing on their levels of knowledge, with younger individuals generally showing less knowledge than older counterparts and women less likely to be encouraged to engage civically.

Based on the data analysed here, when considering knowledge of whom to approach to contribute to local community decisions

on budgeting or planning, knowledge was slightly higher among women (74 per cent compared to 70 per cent among men) and younger age groups (77 per cent among those 15 to 19, compared to 71 and 66 per cent among those 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 respectively).

1.1.3 INFLUENCE OF OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

The knowledge of local stakeholders may also be influenced by other characteristics, such as young people's educational level, their relationship to the city and country (whether young people were born in the city or country or have permanent residence) and whether or not they have disabilities.

The data suggests that whether young people have a disability or impairment has little to no influence on their knowledge of whom to approach to input into local planning or budgeting decisions.

Those with permanent residence had greater knowledge of whom to approach to input on budgeting and planning for their community. However, most respondents have permanent residence, so these associations may be spurious.

Being born in the city they lived in or being born in the same country had no bearing on knowledge levels.

Educational level positively influences knowledge levels, with young people with college level education or above more likely to know whom to approach.

1.2 ACTING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY: REPORTING PROBLEMS

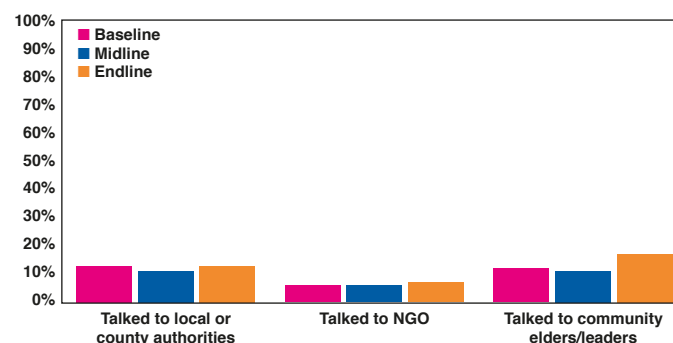
Reporting a problem to local community stakeholders or discussing community problems is an important first step in young people's civic engagement and participation. To identify trends relating to this, young people were asked:

In the past 12 months, have you reported a problem or talked with any of the following people about problems in this community?

- Local or county authorities
- NGOs
- Community elders or leaders

Overall, under 20 per cent of all young people said they reported a problem or talked to a stakeholder about a community problem. Talking to local community elders or leaders, or local or county authorities were the most frequently mentioned options.

Figure 2: Percentage of young people reporting problems to stakeholders (N=11,358)



1.2.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Appendix 2 offers an overview of young people's responses in relation to whom they approached for reporting their problems. Overall, reporting to local or county authorities appears lowest in cities in Kenya and Zimbabwe, with reporting to local leaders or elders being a more common choice in these cities.

Reporting any issues to NGOs is rare across most cities, but generally higher in Harare or Nairobi.

1.2.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1 offers an overview of young people's responses by age group and gender. Two trends stand out. First, young people aged 15 to 19 are least likely to speak to any of the named stakeholders about a problem.

Second, men are more likely to report a problem than women, however the difference is slight.

Table 1: Young people's responses as to whom they approach in relation to community problems (N=11,358)

Item and time point	All	Age group			Gender	
		15- 19	20- 24	25-29	M	F
Talked to local or county authorities						
Baseline (2018)	13%	10%	15%	20%	15%	12%
Midline (2020)	11%	8%	13%	20%	13%	9%
Endline (2021)	13%	7%	13%	19%	15%	11%
Talked to NGO						
Baseline (2018)	6%	5%	8%	8%	7%	6%
Midline (2020)	6%	4%	7%	9%	6%	6%
Endline (2021)	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	7%
Talked to community elders/leaders						
Baseline (2018)	12%	9%	14%	19%	14%	11%
Midline (2020)	11%	9%	12%	16%	13%	9%
Endline (2021)	17%	11%	19%	21%	19%	15%

As regards other characteristics and their influence on reporting problems, the data suggests the following:

- Having a disability does not influence whether young people speak to local or county authorities. However, at baseline (2018) and midline (2020), those young people with a disability were likelier to speak to NGOs and to community elders and leaders.
- Young people who were born in the city they live in were slightly more likely to speak to any of the stakeholders mentioned compared to those who were not born there.
- There were no differences in speaking to stakeholders depending on whether young people were born in the country or whether they had permanent residence.
- As relates to educational level, those with college or higher education were most likely to report problems to any of the stakeholders noted.

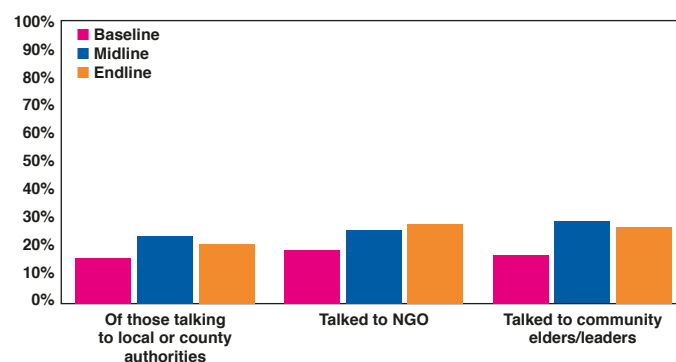
1.3 RESPONSIVENESS AND CHANGE DUE TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROBLEM REPORTING

Reporting a problem to, or discussing a problem with, local stakeholders is an important step in young people's civic engagement in the local community. However, change may not always occur because of reporting, as stakeholders may not be responsive to young people.

To understand these issues better, young people who said they reported problems were asked to what extent different local stakeholders were responsive to the problem they reported and to what extent they perceived there to be a change as a result.

The responsiveness of local stakeholders to the problems young people reported was perceived to be relatively low, with only one in three of those asked the question saying they thought any of the stakeholders were responsive. Perceptions appear to be most favourable for community elders or leaders, or representatives of NGOs.

Figure 3: Percentage of young people who say the stakeholders they reported problems to are responsive *



*Proportions calculated from total number of young people reporting problems to each stakeholder at each time point.

The extent to which change occurred because young people reported problems was also perceived to be low. Only 14 to 25 per cent of young people who reported a problem across time points

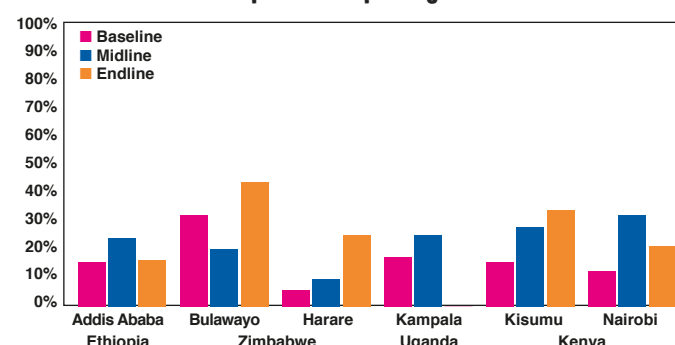
noted that they believed a change had occurred because of their reporting; this lack of perceived change because of reporting may prompt young people not to report problems in the first place.

1.3.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Young people's perceptions differed by city.

Regarding perceptions on responsiveness, young people in Kampala, Kisumu and Nairobi were more likely to say local or county authorities were responsive to the problems they reported compared to young people in Addis Ababa or Harare. Young people in Kisumu and Nairobi were most likely to say that NGOs and community leaders were responsive. Responses differed by time point as well, perceptions were more positive at midline (2020) and endline (2021), but no clear consistent pattern emerged across cities (see Appendix 2).

Figure 4: Percentage of young people who say that change occurred as a result of problem reporting*



*Proportions calculated from the total number of young people reporting problems to each stakeholder at each time point.

On average, across time points, young people in Harare and Addis Ababa were least likely to say that a change occurred due to them reporting a problem. Perceptions largely become more positive over time and differ by city. At endline (2021), perceptions on whether change occurred seem most positive in Bulawayo and Kisumu. However, no data is available for Kampala at endline (2021).

1.3.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

There were no major differences by age group or gender in the perceived responsiveness of local or county authorities. Perceptions of NGO responsiveness were generally higher among 15 to 19 and 25 to 29-year-olds at midline (2020) and endline (2021), but there were no significant differences by gender. Perceptions on the responsiveness of community elders and leaders also did not differ significantly by age group or gender.

Further, perceptions of responsiveness (of whoever was approached) did not differ according to any other characteristics.

Regarding perceptions on whether change occurred because of young people reporting a problem, no significant differences by any demographic characteristics were noted except for age. Perceptions appear slightly more positive among those aged 15 to

19 at base and midline (2020), however, there are no meaningful differences regarding this at endline (2021).

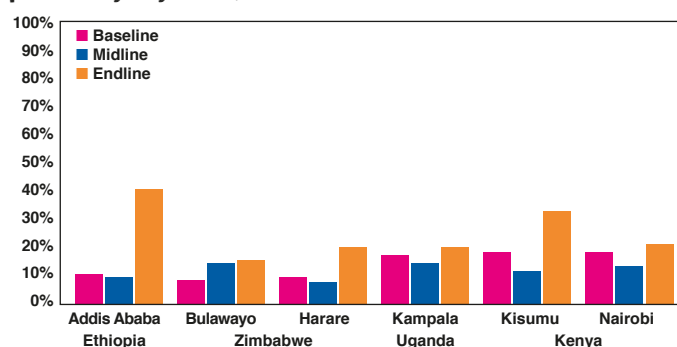
1.4 ACTING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY: JOINING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS

While reporting problems may result in change, joining together with other community members often proves a more direct path for enacting local change. To better understand how frequently this occurs, young people were asked whether they joined together with other community members in the last 12 months to address a problem or common issue. At baseline (2018) and midline (2020), between 11 to 14 per cent of young people said they had done this; at endline (2021), this percentage is higher at 28 per cent.

1.4.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Perceptions differed by city and time point. At baseline (2018) and midline (2020), young people in Kenya and Uganda were likeliest to say they had joined together with others to address a problem. At endline (2021), this percentage was much higher in Addis Ababa and Kisumu.

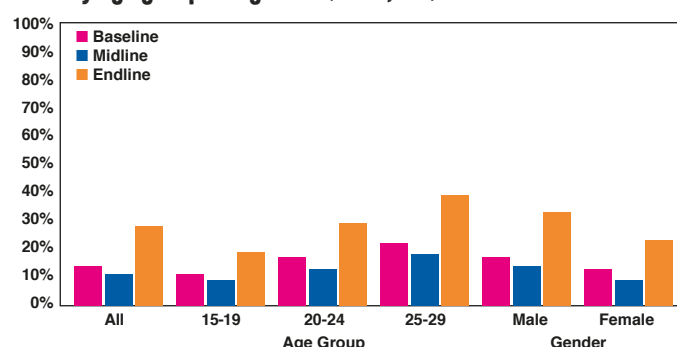
Figure 5: Frequency of young people joining together to address a problem by city (N=11,358)



1.4.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Young people aged 20 to 29 were more likely to say they had joined with others to act to address a community problem or issue. Men were slightly more likely than women to say this across all time points.

Figure 6: Young people joining others to address a problem or issue by age group and gender (N=11,358)



2. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social capital refers to the social assets and networks an individual or a group has, which can be mobilised to gain access to resources. The SAIC programme evaluation adapted the Social Capital Assessment Tool¹⁸ to ask questions about the types of groups that young people were part of and their trust in local communities.

2.1 BELONGING TO GROUPS

Overall, up to one in three young people said they belonged to a group of any type (see below). Across all cities and time points, the main barriers to young people joining a group were noted to be limited knowledge of what groups were active in the community and limited time to participate.

The most frequent types of groups young people noted to be a part of were peer groups, religious or savings groups, or sports groups. Political groups were the least frequent type of group to be mentioned. However, participation in these may be age restricted or otherwise not sanctioned by communities. When probing further on whether these groups are formally registered, most young people (over two-thirds for each type of group) indicated that the group was registered.

Table 2: Percentage of young people belonging to different types of groups (N=11,358)*

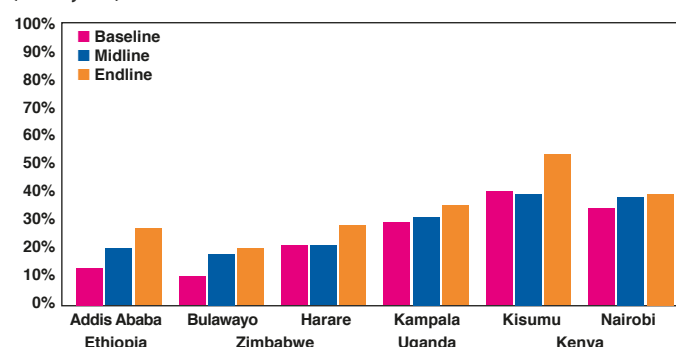
Type of group	Baseline (2018)	Midline (2020)	Endline (2021)
Work related union	17%	8%	14%
CBO	24%	21%	28%
Peer group	36%	43%	51%
Political group	8%	4%	6%
Religious group	38%	35%	21%
Savings group	39%	26%	30%
Sports group	28%	29%	22%
Other	10%	5%	4%

*Yellow indicates highest percentage, pink lowest

2.1.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Overall, young people's likelihood of belonging to a group increased consistently across cities from baseline (2018) to endline (2021). Young people in Kisumu and Nairobi were most likely to say they belonged to a group, with those in Bulawayo least likely to say this.

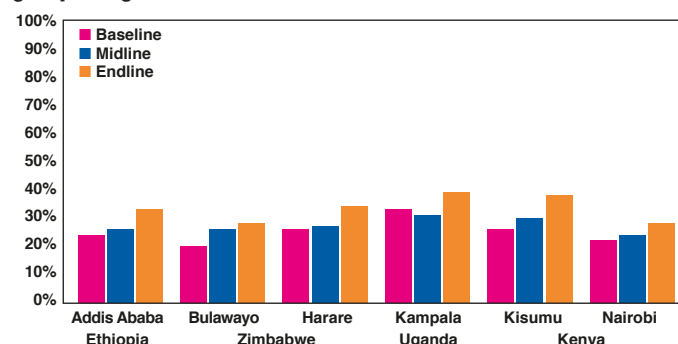
Figure 7: Percentage of young people belonging to groups by city (N=11,358)



2.1.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Differences in whether young people belong to a group are not major by either age group or gender, however, young people aged 20 and over and men were overall more likely to belong to a group.

Figure 8: Percentage of young people belonging to groups by age group and gender (N=11,358)



Compared to 15 to 19-year-olds, those in older age groups were likelier to join any group except for peer groups and religious groups (where the likelihood was the same) or sports groups (where they were less likely to join). However, 20 to 24-year-olds were three times likelier, and 25 to 29-year-olds were four times likelier to join a savings group compared to 15 to 19-year-olds.

Compared to young men, women were less likely to join any of the listed groups except for religious and savings groups. Women were 20 per cent more likely to join a religious group and 60 per cent more likely to join a savings group.

Other characteristics may also influence group membership, including disability, whether and which parents are alive, educational level, attendance at school or training, being born in the city or country, or having permanent residence in the country.

When considering the influence of such characteristics, the following emerged:

- Young people with a disability were twice as likely to belong to a work related union or association.
- Parental status generally had limited influence; however, young people who had lost their mothers were likelier to be active in any of the groups mentioned, and particularly in political groups or savings groups.
- Being in school reduced the likelihood of being part of a work-related group or community-based organisation but increased the likelihood of being part of a sports group.
- Being in training raised the likelihood of being in any group, particularly work related groups or unions (twice as likely) or political groups (three times as likely).
- Not having permanent residence in the country made it less likely that young people were part of a group overall, but more likely that they belonged to a savings group (1.5 times as likely).
- Being born in the country they lived in had no effect on belonging

to a group but being born in the city they lived in slightly raised the likelihood of being part of a group, except for savings groups, for which it reduced the likelihood to half.

2.2 RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM GROUPS

Table 3 offers an overview of the types of groups and individuals that young people approached, and then received assistance from. Questions relating to receiving assistance were asked of those people noting they belonged to these groups.

Across all time points, young people consistently indicated receiving support from community-based organisations, religious groups and savings groups. While the percentage that said they received support from family, work related unions or other groups is also high, this does not consistently emerge as a top choice across different time points.

Interestingly, political groups also emerge as a top stakeholder from which young people receive assistance, particularly at endline (2021). However, politicians themselves are consistently the least likely to be said to have offered young people any support.

Table 3: Percentage of young people who say they have received assistance from diverse sources by study time point*

Group or persons that helped	Baseline (2018)	Midline (2020)	Endline (2021)
Work related union	67%	79%	75%
CBO	74%	75%	82%
Peer group	77%	80%	83%
Political group	57%	69%	78%
Religious group	82%	85%	79%
Savings group	80%	83%	82%
Sports group	70%	71%	75%
Other	51%	66%	82%
Family	72%	75%	68%
Neighbour	41%	40%	37%
Other friends (not neighbours)	55%	53%	49%
Community leaders	14%	14%	18%
Religious leaders	37%	32%	27%
Politicians	6%	4%	4%
Government officers	7%	6%	5%
NGO officials	8%	9%	15%

* Percentages are calculated for each of the types of group, based on the total number of young people belonging to the group. Cells in yellow indicate the top 5 choices young people identified, cells in pink indicate the 5 least accessed choices.

2.2.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Differences by city are evident. When comparing other cities to Addis Ababa, interesting patterns regarding the types of stakeholders that offer young people support emerge.

In Bulawayo, young people were more likely to receive support from work related unions and politicians, but half as likely as those in Addis to receive support from family or neighbours.

In Harare, young people were also most likely to receive support from work related unions, alongside community-based organisations and savings groups.

In Kampala, Kisumu and Nairobi in contrast, young people were likelier to say they received support from almost all the sources of support listed, with work related unions and savings groups again emerging as most likely to offer support when compared to young people from Addis Ababa.

2.2.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Age and gender seem to play a limited role in whether young people received support. Compared to those aged 15 to 19, those aged 20 and over received less support from family, neighbours and religious leaders. Those aged 20 to 24 received more support from politicians.

Women received moderately more support from community-based organisations and slightly more support from religious leaders, but slightly less support from family, neighbours, friends, politicians and government officials.

Regarding other characteristics, analyses suggest:

- Young people with a disability were likelier to say they received support from community leaders and NGO officials, but otherwise the support they received appears similar to that for young people without a disability.
- Young people who did not have both parents with them were twice as likely to receive support from community-based organisations.
- Education level attained did not influence whether young people received support, but young people who were in school were two times more likely to receive support from community-based organisations and family.
- Young people in training were five times more likely to receive support from political and sports groups, and two times more likely to receive support from government and NGO officials.
- Those in work were almost half as likely to receive support from politicians than those who were not in work.
- Not having permanent residence made it half as likely for young people to receive support from community-based organisations, family members, or government officials.
- Being born in the country they lived in had hardly any influence on support received but being born in the city they lived in had some positive effect on receiving support from a savings group, their family, friends, community leaders, politicians and government officials.

2.3 SOCIAL COHESION

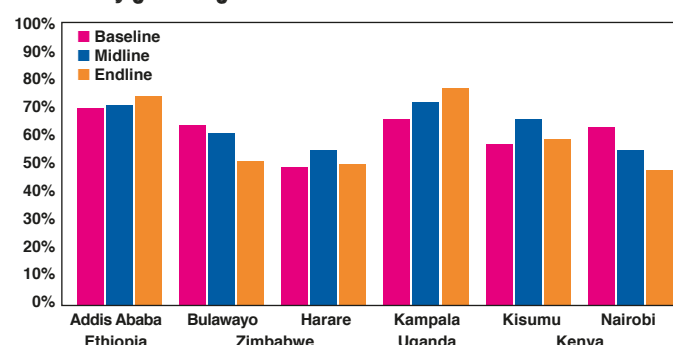
Social cohesion refers to the extent young people feel they are part of their communities and can get along with and trust other community members. High levels of social cohesion are important when considering how communities support each other in times of stress or instability; in contrast, lower levels of social cohesion have been previously linked to the emergence of distrust as well as violence.

To understand social cohesion better, young people across the six cities were asked whether they felt that the majority of people in their community, as well as the majority of local authorities, politicians and influencers, could be trusted. They were then asked if the majority of people in their community got along with each other, whether they felt they belonged to the community and whether they felt they would be taken advantage of by others in the community if the opportunity presented itself.

2.3.1 OVERVIEW BY CITY

Overall, between 35 to 40 per cent of young people said that most people in their communities could be trusted. Levels of trust in local authorities, politicians and influencers (stakeholders with bearing on local decision-making) were lower, with only 20 to 27 per cent of young people saying these could be trusted. There were minimal differences in this by city (see Appendix 3).

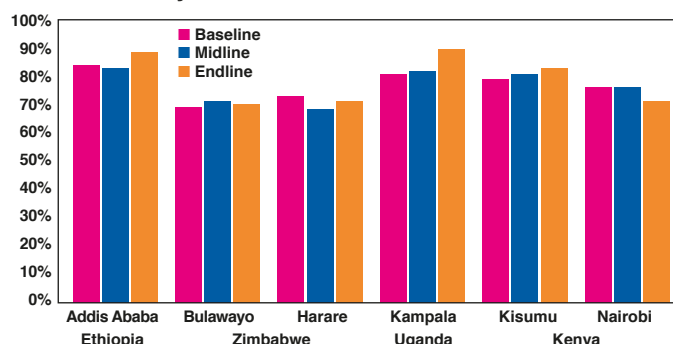
Figure 9: Percentage of young people that say members of their community get along



Around 60 per cent of young people said that the majority of people in their communities got along with each other. However, this varied both by city and study time point. Overall, young people in Kampala, Uganda appeared most positive, while those in Harare were least likely to say that people in their communities got along with each other. In cities like Addis Ababa and Kampala, the percentage of young people noting that community members got along increased over time, while in Bulawayo and Nairobi it decreased.

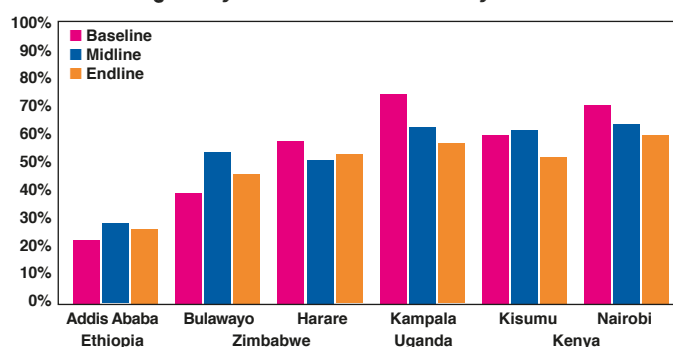
Across cities, most young people (around 80 per cent) indicated that they felt really part of their communities. This did not vary significantly across city.

Figure 10: Percentage of young people who felt part of the community



However, despite feeling that they belong, about half of surveyed young people also said that they felt they would be taken advantage of by others in the community if the opportunity presented itself. This perception varied greatly by city, however, overall, young people in Kampala and Nairobi were most likely to say they felt they would be taken advantage of, and those in Addis Ababa were the least likely to say this. The reasons behind these differences are unknown.

Figure 11: Percentage of young people who feel they would be taken advantage of by others in the community



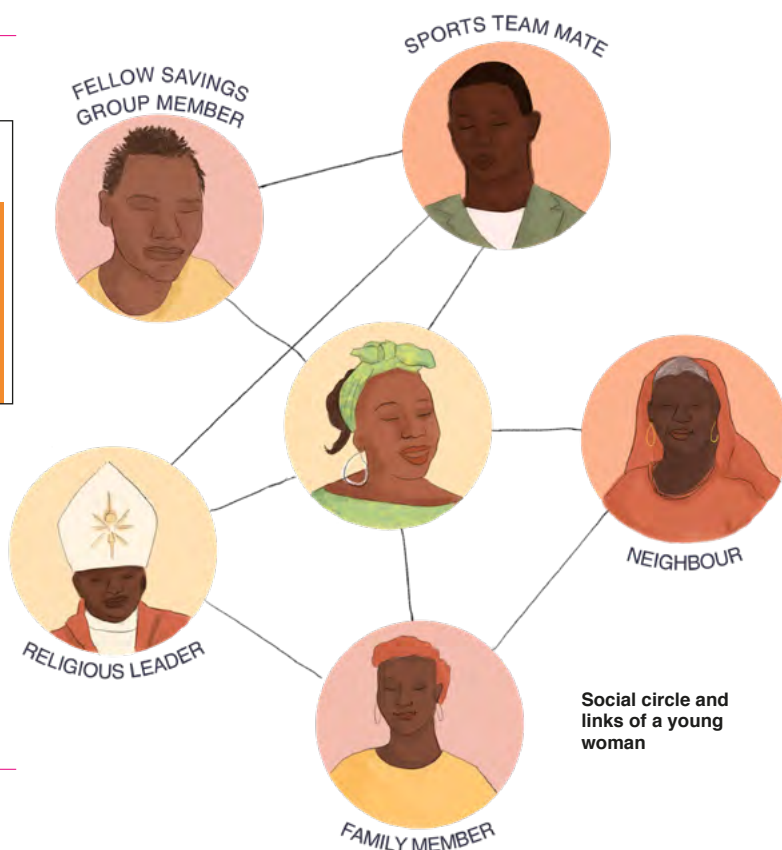
2.3.2 INFLUENCE OF AGE AND GENDER AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

In relation to trust in other people in the community as well as local authorities, politicians and influencers, there were limited differences by age group, with those in older age groups generally expressing less trust than those aged 15 to 19. Men tended to express slightly more trust than women. In relation to other perceptions on social cohesion, including whether most people get along in the community, whether young people felt they belonged or would be taken advantage of, there were minimal differences by age group and gender.

Figures and tables relating to these variables are available in Appendix 3.

When considering how other characteristics impact on social cohesion, young people's responses reveal the following:

- Young people with a disability generally had similar perceptions to those without a disability, except for feeling that they belonged in the community. They were 30 per cent less likely to say they belonged in the community.



- Young people who had lost their father, or both parents, had slightly less trust in authorities, politicians and influencers, and more negative perceptions of community members getting along and of belonging in the community.
- Being in school had a slightly positive effect on perceptions of whether community members get along.
- Those with secondary school education were half as likely as those with no education or primary education only to trust authorities, politicians, and influencers.
- Being in training generally had a positive effect on perceptions of trust in other members of the community, authorities, and whether people get along.
- Being in work had a slightly negative effect on perceptions of trust in other members of the community, authorities, and whether people get along.
- Young people who did not have permanent residence were slightly less likely to say they trusted authorities, or that they believed people in the community get along and that they belong to the community.
- Those young people born in the city they lived in generally had more positive perceptions and trust in others in their community and felt more strongly that they were part of the community. In contrast, being born in the country they lived in did not affect young people's perceptions.

PART 2: EVIDENCE ON SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES PROGRAMME EFFECTS

The SAIC programme involved young people in activities intended to strengthen their capacity for civic engagement. In part, these activities focused on sensitising young people about which local stakeholders to approach to address community problems (including mayors, governors and other duty bearers). Young people were also given information about how to approach these stakeholders to report a problem, and where possible, were encouraged to join together with others in their community to address problems. In this section, the effects of the SAIC programme are described. Analyses compared answers to key questions between SAIC programme participants and non-participants and adjusted for city-level variation and time, to arrive at robust effect estimates. The key findings are summarised below, and the full outputs of the analyses are presented in Appendix 4. Percentages refer to the relative change over time between SAIC participants and non-participants and represent the percentage change in outcomes that can be attributed to the programme.

1. KNOWLEDGE

There were positive effects on knowledge of whom to approach to input on budgeting and planning for communities (163 per cent). The effects were higher in women (173 per cent) compared to men (146 per cent). As regards age, the effects were highest among those in the 20 to 24 age group (155 per cent).

2. YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING ACTION ON COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

One option for addressing community problems concerned reporting problems to specific authorities. SAIC participants were overall more likely than non-participants to report problems to any of the stakeholders asked about (local or county authorities, NGOs or community elders and leaders). The effects were highest for reporting to NGOs (379 per cent), followed by reporting to local and county authorities (201 per cent).

Overall, men were more likely to be prompted to report to local and county authorities (programme effect 208 per cent compared to 172 per cent for women), but women were likelier to report to non-governmental organisations (391 per cent compared to 354 per cent in men). The effects were higher in those aged 20 to 29.

A second option that young people were asked about in relation to addressing problems, relates to whether they joined together with other community members to address a problem. The effect of the programme was positive when considering this. SAIC participants were more likely than non-participants to take action and join together (programme attributable effect 669 per cent). The effect was slightly larger in men (692 per cent) compared to women (614 per cent) and those aged over twenty (about 850 per cent, compared to 668 per cent for those aged 15 to 19).

3. BELONGING TO A GROUP

The SAIC programme's effect was particularly high when considering whether young people took part in a group (908 per cent). Young women in particular seemed to benefit (attributable programme effect 979 per cent) compared to young men (785 per cent). The effect was highest in those aged 20 and over (about 850 per cent).

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

1 Strengthen young people's knowledge of how to contribute to decision-making and create inclusive governance spaces. To meaningfully engage young people in city and community level decision-making, young people's knowledge of both the people and processes surrounding city and community governance must be strengthened. This includes a focus on their rights and duties as citizens. It is important to also make governance and decision-making inclusive and friendly spaces where young people feel they belong and can be heard. As documented in previous reports of this series, local stakeholders may hold negative attitudes towards young people and their ability to contribute to social and economic life, which can contribute towards young people's marginalisation and exclusion from civic engagement. The SAIC programme worked to directly target and change negative beliefs about young people and harmful gender norms.

2 Local decision-makers and authorities need to build trust with young people to encourage involvement in local governance and civil society Young people across the SAIC implementation cities expressed low levels of trust in local decision-makers. Their group membership also speaks to this, with most young people preferring to engage with their peers, or belong to religious communities, sports groups or savings groups. About one in five also belonged to a community-based organisation, suggesting there is scope for strengthening young people's involvement in civil society. While social cohesion appeared moderate, views on whether local communities would take advantage of young people were mixed, suggesting trust in local community members is worth addressing.

3 Civil society programmes should encourage the participation of girls and young women The findings presented here suggest that in the wake of COVID-19, more young people are interested in joining together with others to address community problems. The SAIC programme was highly effective in strengthening this, although the effects were slightly higher among young men suggesting that gender related challenges still apply. Previous reports in this series highlighted that young women may face safety related barriers in their communities and cities, and that they may be exposed to harmful gender norms when trying to join others in acting on an issue they consider important. In line with Plan International's position paper on Engaging Girls, Boys and Youth as Active Citizens,⁵ we recommend programmes actively tackle gender norms and barriers to participation, and nurture the participation of young girls and women, including by working with local activists and influencers to build the aspirations of younger generations of girls.

APPENDIX 1:

CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED IN THE SAIC PROGRAMME EVALUATION

OVERVIEW OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYED AND DATA

Overall, 15,000 young people were surveyed across the three data collection time points¹.

Table 4: Sample size by time-point, gender and city

Time point of data collection and gender of participant		Countries and cities where data collection happened						Total respondents
		Ethiopia	Zimbabwe		Uganda	Kenya		
		Addis Ababa	Bulawayo	Harare	Kampala	Kisumu	Nairobi	
Baseline (2018, N=4,849)	Male	434	268	321	380	77	352	1,832
	Female	824	325	287	812	131	638	3,017
Midline (2020, N=4,994)	Male	506	244	318	532	109	420	2,129
	Female	813	373	299	714	102	564	2,865
Endline (2021, N=5,169)	Male	624	373	328	603	207	348	2,483
	Female	695	310	315	699	265	402	2,686

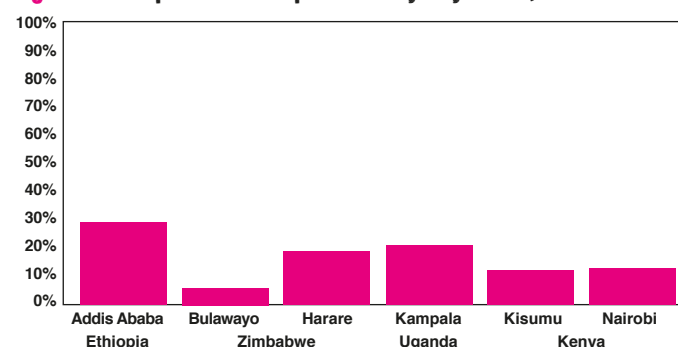
Of all the young people surveyed, 24 per cent (3,655) were SAIC participants while 76 per cent (11,362) did not take part in the SAIC programme.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PROGRAMME NON-PARTICIPANTS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Overall, 11,362 young people who were not taking part in the SAIC programme were surveyed. The distribution of surveyed young people was similar by country. The highest proportion of young people were from Addis Ababa in Ethiopia (29 per cent), and Kampala in Uganda (21 per cent).

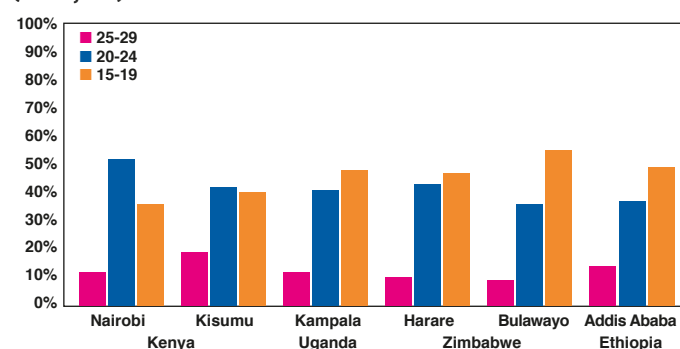
Figure 12: Proportion of respondents by city (N=11,362)



Just under half of the sample (46 per cent) were aged 15 to 19; only 13 per cent were aged 25 to 29. This is because people over 26 were only included in the surveys at the end of the programme.

The distribution of age groups across cities was relatively similar, however some differences are notable. For example, youth aged 20 to 24 were better represented across the samples from Kenya than other countries. In Nairobi and Kisumu, the proportion of surveyed youth aged 20 to 24 was 52 per cent and 42 per cent, respectively. In contrast, across the other cities sampled, most of the surveyed youth were under the age of 20.

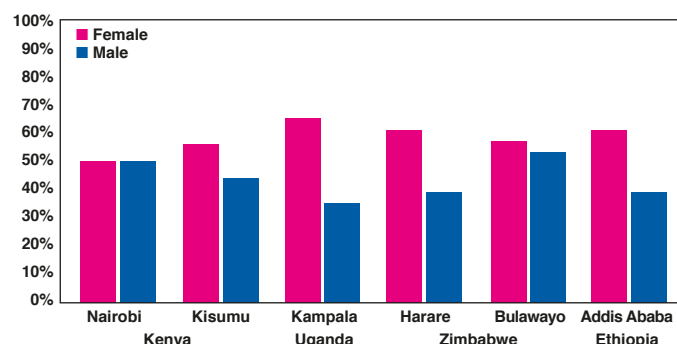
Figure 13: Proportion of respondents by city and age group (N=11,362)



Sixty per cent of the survey respondents identified as female. Overall, the gender distribution differed across cities and countries. For example, in Kenya, relatively equal numbers of young women and young men were surveyed. In contrast, in the other countries, the sample was predominantly made up of young women.

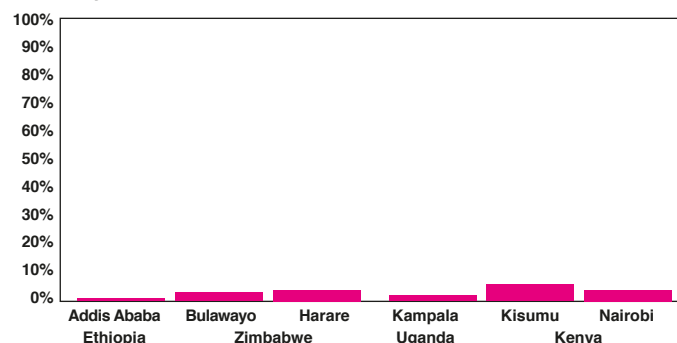
¹ For ease, we refer to 15,000 young people being surveyed, however, as the surveys were fielded in the same area it may be that some individuals were surveyed twice. Given the nature of random sampling and the high population of young people residing in the areas surveyed, we believe this is unlikely.

Figure 14: Proportion of respondents by city and gender (N=11,359)



Three per cent of the surveyed youth identified as having a disability. The proportion of surveyed youth with a disability was highest in Kisumu, Nairobi and Harare.

Figure 15: Proportion of respondents identifying as having a disability (9,601)



Overall, most surveyed young people lived in families where both their parents were alive. This percentage varies across cities, being lowest in Kisumu (51 per cent) and highest in Addis Ababa (71 per cent).

Seventy-seven per cent of all those surveyed were single and a minority identified as divorced or separated, or as a widow or widower. The distribution of young people among marital status groups across cities was relatively similar, except for Harare, Kisumu and Nairobi where up to one third of respondents were married.

Most respondents were educated to secondary school level or higher, with 17 per cent of the whole sample having attended college or higher education. Educational attainment was highest overall among respondents from Zimbabwe and lowest among those from Ethiopia.

Overall, 41 per cent of respondents stated that they were in school. This went down to 33 per cent in Harare, Kampala and Nairobi, but was as high as 52 per cent in Addis Ababa. Relatively few young people were in vocational training.

Twenty-nine per cent of the young people surveyed had an income-generating activity. This was highest in Kampala (41 per cent) and lowest in Harare (23 per cent).

Household size was relatively similar across the diverse cities. However, Addis Ababa stands out as having the greatest number of youths stating that no children live in their household (87 per cent compared to an average 59 per cent across other cities).

Table 5: demographic characteristics - SAIC non-participants

Characteristics	Overall	Ethiopia	Zimbabwe		Uganda	Kenya	
		Addis Ababa	Bulawayo	Harare	Kampala	Kisumu	Nairobi
Parental status (total n=11,362)							
Both parents alive	64%	71%	63%	59%	68%	51%	65%
Only mother alive	20%	18%	20%	21%	17%	27%	21%
Only father alive	7%	5%	7%	8%	8%	7%	6%
No parent alive	9%	6%	10%	12%	8%	15%	8%
Marital status (total n=11,362)							
Single	77%	88%	89%	67%	73%	69%	72%
Married	16%	10%	6%	23%	7%	27%	24%
Cohabiting	6%	0%	5%	6%	17%	2%	3%
Divorced or separated	2%	1%	0%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Widow or widower	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Educational attainment (total n=11,362)							
No education	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Primary	27%	8%	12%	26%	17%	17%	21%
Secondary	42%	78%	82%	62%	61%	65%	61%
College or higher	30%	14%	5%	10%	21%	17%	17%
In school (total n=6,509)	52%	43%	33%	33%	45%	33%	41%
In training (total n=6,510)	7%	12%	4%	14%	7%	10%	9%
Involved in income-generating activities (total n=10,598)	25%	24%	23%	41%	28%	38%	29%

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS IN RELATION TO THE CITY

Overall, 88 per cent of the young people surveyed said they had a permanent residence in the country.

Sixty per cent said they were born in the city in which they were surveyed. This proportion was higher among the younger age group (65 per cent among 15 to 19-year-olds) compared to the older age groups (56 per cent among those aged 20 to 24 and 51 per cent among those aged 25 to 29).

The proportion born in the city was also higher among young men (66 per cent) compared to young women (55 per cent).

Respondents were also asked how long they had lived in the city and how many different places they had lived in within the last three years. Nearly half (49 per cent) said they had lived in the city for between six and 20 years.

Seventy-four per cent stated they had only lived within one place in the last three years and 23 per cent stated they had moved between two or three different places within the same community in this time frame.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS

The demographic of the SAIC participants surveyed was generally similar to the non-participants surveyed. However, there were some notable differences:

- The distribution of non-participants across cities is different to that of participants. For example, a higher proportion (37 per cent) of the SAIC participants lived in Kampala compared to the non-participants (21 per cent).
- Sixty per cent of non-participants were young women, whereas only 49 per cent of those participating in SAIC were women.
- Non-participants were likelier to live in families where both parents were alive (64 per cent); only 55 per cent of SAIC participants noted that both their parents were alive.
- There were differences in education and training, 41 per cent of non-participants mentioned being in school in comparison to only 25 per cent of SAIC participants.
- Participants of the programme were likelier to say they were in training (20 per cent in comparison to 9 per cent among non-participants).
- SAIC participants also had a higher social capital score when compared to non-participants.

The three latter differences may be due to the SAIC programme effects themselves as the programme emphasised vocational training and the creation of diverse types of groups (e.g. savings groups) for young people to come together.



Marching for gender equality at the final stop of the Girls Get Equal tour in Kampala

APPENDIX 2:

YOUNG PEOPLE REPORTING PROBLEMS TO LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIVENESS OF SAID STAKEHOLDERS

The figures below refer to young people who did not participate in the SAIC programme (N=11,358).

Figure 16: Percentage of young people saying they talked to local or county authorities about a problem

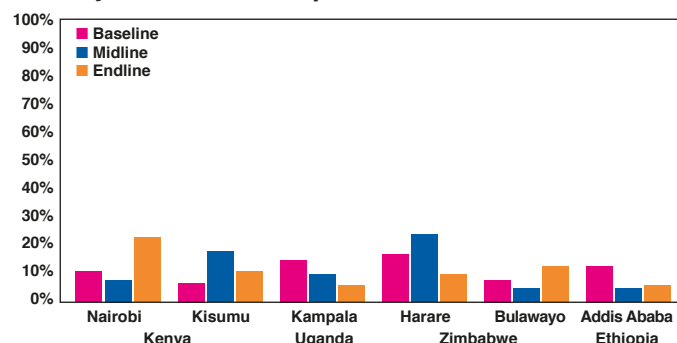


Figure 19: Percentage of young people saying that local or county authorities were responsive to the problem they reported

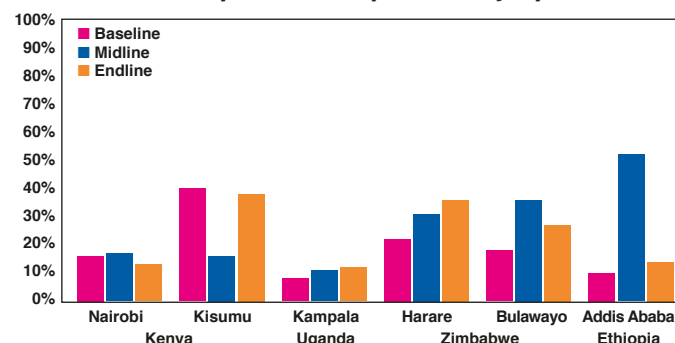


Figure 17: Percentage of young people saying they talked to NGOs about a problem

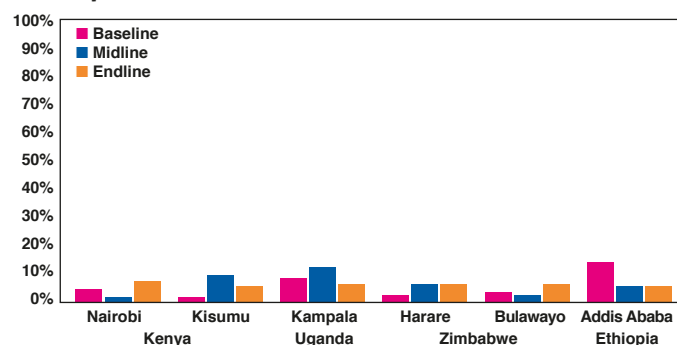


Figure 20: Percentage of young people saying that NGOs were responsive to the problem they reported

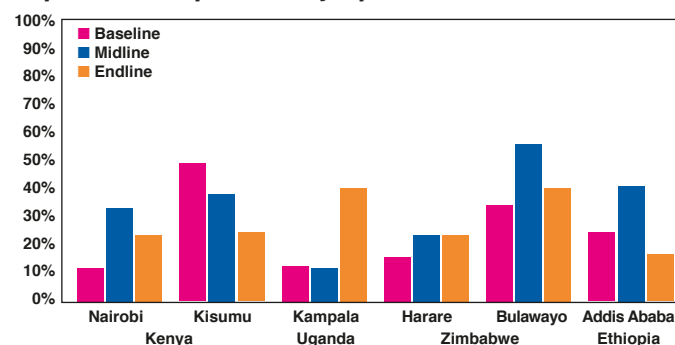


Figure 18: Percentage of young people saying they talked to community elders or leaders about a problem

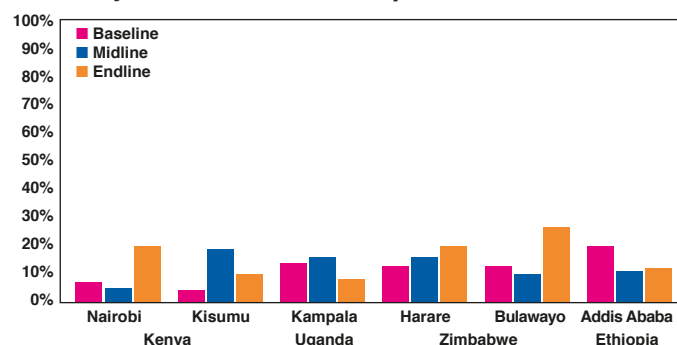
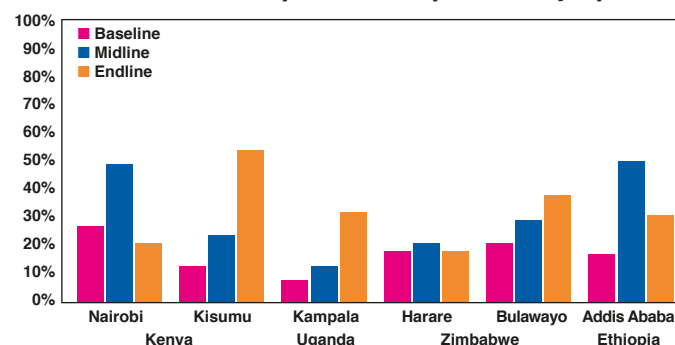


Figure 21: Percentage of young people saying that community elders or leaders were responsive to the problem they reported



APPENDIX 3:

LEVELS OF SOCIAL COHESION AMONG SAIC-NON PARTICIPANTS

The figures below refer to young people who did not participate in the SAIC programme (N=11,358).

Figure 22: Percentage of young people saying they can trust people in their community

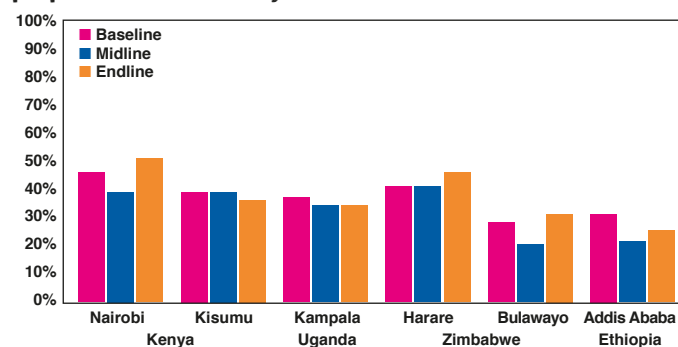


Figure 24: Percentage of young people expressing trust in others in the community by age group and gender

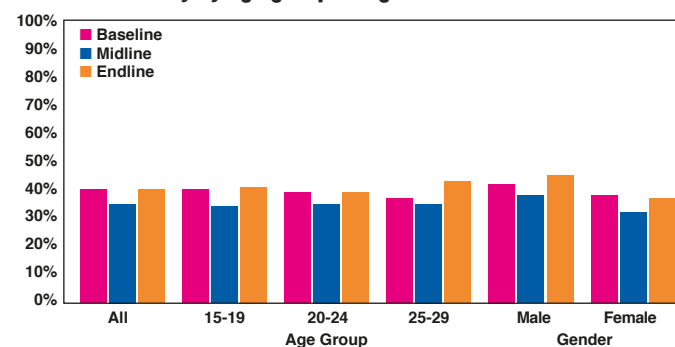


Figure 23: Percentage of young people saying they can trust local authorities, politicians and influencers in their community

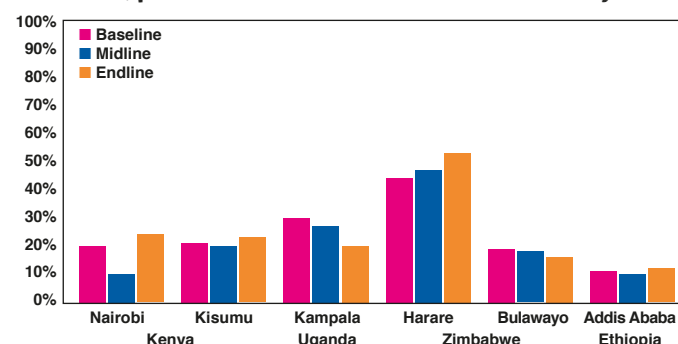


Figure 25: Percentage of young people expressing trust in local authorities, politicians and influencers

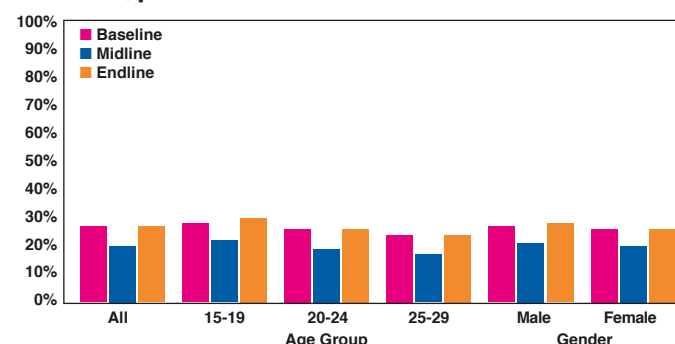


Table 6: Perceptions of young people on social cohesion (N=11,358)

Item	Time point	All	Age group			Gender	
			15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	Male	Female
The majority of people get along with each other (percentage saying yes)	Baseline (2018)	62%	64%	61%	61%	66%	59%
	Midline (2020)	64%	64%	63%	62%	68%	60%
	Endline (2021)	63%	63%	62%	67%	67%	60%
I am really part of this community (percentage saying yes)	Baseline (2018)	81%	81%	79%	83%	83%	79%
	Midline (2020)	80%	81%	79%	80%	84%	78%
	Endline (2021)	83%	82%	83%	86%	86%	81%
The majority of people would take advantage of me (percentage saying yes)	Baseline (2018)	55%	51%	58%	61%	55%	55%
	Midline (2020)	49%	49%	48%	50%	48%	50%
	Endline (2021)	48%	51%	49%	42%	46%	49%

APPENDIX 4:

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SAIC PROGRAMME

Table 7: SAIC programme effects by gender (N=15,012)

Outcome	Non-participants			Participants		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
Knowledge of who to approach to input on budgeting and planning to improve conditions in your community	1.09 (p=0.087, 0.98-1.21)	1.18 (p=0.037, 1.01-1.38)	1.00 (p=0.998, 0.86-1.15)	2.72 (p<0.001, 2.45-3.03)	2.64 (p<0.001, 2.26-3.09)	2.73 (p<0.001, 2.35-3.15)
Reporting a problem						
Local/County authority	0.96 (p=0.667, 0.84-1.11)	0.94 (p=0.595, 0.77-1.15)	0.94 (p=0.556, 0.77-1.14)	2.97 (p<0.001, 2.63-3.36)	3.02 (p<0.001, 2.53-3.61)	2.66 (p<0.001, 3.17)
Non-governmental Organization (NGO)	1.14 (p=0.158, 0.94-1.37)	1.02 (p=0.846, 0.78-1.34)	1.21 (p=0.127)	4.93 (p<0.001, 4.23-5.74)	4.56 (p<0.001, 3.65-5.70)	5.03 (p<0.001, 4.06-6.23)
Community elders/leaders	1.48 (p<0.001, 1.30-1.69)	1.48 (p<0.001, 1.22-1.79)	1.42 (p<0.001, 1.18-1.71)	3.38 (p<0.001, 2.98-3.83)	3.26 (p<0.001, 2.72-3.90)	3.28 (p<0.001, 2.75-3.92)
Joining together to address a problem	2.29 (p<0.001, 2.04-2.57)	2.42 (p<0.001, 2.04-2.87)	2.11 (p<0.001, 1.80-2.48)	8.98 (p<0.001, 7.98-10.10)	9.34 (p<0.001, 7.84-11.3)	8.25 (p<0.001, 7.02-9.70)
Belonging to a group	1.61 (p<0.001, 1.45-1.79)	1.69 (p<0.001, 1.45-1.97)	1.49 (p<0.001, 1.29-1.71)	10.69 (p<0.001, 9.48-12.05)	9.54 (p<0.001, 8.00-11.38)	11.28 (p<0.001, 9.55-13.31)

The above table illustrates: the odds ratio corresponding to change over time (from baseline in 2018 to endline in 2021) among non-participants and the odds ratios corresponding to participation and change over time in the SAIC programme participants. The attributable effect for the programme is calculated as the difference (by relevant column) between participants and non-participants.

Table 8: SAIC Programme effects by age group (N=15,012)

Outcome	Non-participants			Participants		
	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29
Knowledge of who to approach to input on budgeting and planning to improve conditions in your community	0.91 (p=0.345, 0.76-1.09)	1.03 (p=0.687, 0.79-1.08)	0.91 (p=0.478, 0.69-1.18)	1.77 (p<0.001, 1.42-2.19)	2.58 (p<0.001, 2.20-3.03)	2.16 (p<0.001, 1.68-2.78)
Reporting a problem						
Local/County authority	0.66 (p=0.004, 0.5-0.87)	0.89 (p=0.305, 0.72-1.10)	0.71 (p=0.034, 0.52-0.97)	1.79 (p<0.001, 1.36-2.36)	2.53 (p<0.001, 2.10-3.03)	1.94 (p<0.001, 1.48-2.58)
Non-governmental Organization (NGO)	1.13 (p=0.45, 0.81-1.58)	1.08 (p=0.561, 0.83-1.41)	0.93 (p=0.771, 0.59-1.47)	3.58 (p<0.001, 2.58-4.96)	4.08 (p<0.001, 3.28-5.09)	4.63 (p<0.001, 3.16-6.79)
Community elders/leaders	1.06 (p=0.622, 0.83-1.36)	1.57 (p<0.001, 1.29-1.90)	1.18 (p=0.284, 0.86-1.61)	2.59 (p<0.001, 1.99-3.36)	2.95 (p<0.001, 2.45-3.56)	2.53 (p<0.001, 1.90-3.38)
Joining together to address a problem	2.01 (p<0.001, 1.63-2.48)	1.98 (p<0.001, 1.67-2.35)	1.73 (p<0.001, 1.31-2.29)	5.71 (p<0.001, 4.52-7.21)	7.07 (p<0.001, 5.94-8.40)	7.89 (p<0.001, 5.97-10.43)
Belonging to a group	1.59 (p<0.001, 1.33-1.89)	1.48 (p<0.001, 1.26-1.73)	1.43 (p=0.008, 1.09-1.87)	8.27 (p<0.001, 6.62-10.34)	10.07 (p<0.001, 8.38-12.09)	9.90 (p<0.001, 7.45-13.15)

The above table illustrates: the odds ratio corresponding to change over time (from baseline in 2018 to endline in 2021) among non-participants and the odds ratios corresponding to participation and change over time in the SAIC programme participants. The attributable effect for the programme is calculated as the difference (by relevant column) between participants and non-participants.

THE URBAN RESEARCH SERIES AND THE URBAN HUB

This publication is part of Plan International's Urban Research Series. It is the fourth of four reports examining data from the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme. The reports will summarise key learning about protection from violence, securing decent work and employment for youth in cities, and ensuring meaningful civic participation and social cohesion among youth.

Cities and urban contexts face specific fragility challenges. Plan International is committed to investing in and implementing programmes that work toward the New Urban Agenda and SDG11 and seeks to *achieve inclusive, sustainable and equitable cities*. Our Urban Hub has been established to further this aim.

The Urban Hub works across all Plan International offices, including thematic focus areas and Centres of Excellence, to harness evidence and learning from urban programming. The Urban Hub commissioned the Urban Research Series, with support from Plan International Denmark. Using the learning featured here, we aim to build a community of practice that strives for responsible,

gender-transformative and sustainable urbanisation and urban development, for children and young people in all their diversity. The series will feature research and learning on diverse topics and from a range of programmes.

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