

Kitale street life



In the bustling town of Kitale, the streets have become home to an increasing number of youths who have found themselves trapped in the harsh realities of life. The streets have become both a haven and a prison, where the youth struggle to survive. Their numbers have been rising steadily each month, as reported by a recent census carried out quarterly by **TRANSREC**. Many of these young people are caught in a dangerous cycle, turning to substances like glue as a form of escape from the harshness of their circumstances.

The smell of glue fills the air, often lingering as a reminder of how deep their struggles have become. For many of them, the glue is not just a substance, it's a way to numb the pain, forget their troubles, and momentarily disappear from the world. It dulls their senses, but also keeps them from seeing the future, trapping them in a state of hopelessness.

This problem has grown over time, and the rising population of street youths has raised an important question: What role does the county play in addressing this crisis? With the rising number of youths living on the streets, there is a growing concern about how the county government has handled the issue of rehabilitation, job creation, and offering alternatives to those on the streets.

For the street youths, their relationship with the authorities is often marked by tension. Many complain of constant harassment by the police something that has become a part of their daily struggles. The brutality sometimes leads to serious injuries or, in the most tragic cases, even loss of life. Their voices are often unheard, their pain dismissed, and their rights overlooked. They feel trapped between a system that seems to have forgotten them and a society that often stigmatizes them

Yet amidst the darkness, organizations like **World of Work** remain a beacon of hope. They not only offer shelter, employment opportunities, and apprenticeships, but also provide specialized support for young mothers. This includes nutritional assistance, healthcare for both mothers and their babies, and crucial emotional support to help them navigate the overwhelming pressures of their new roles as parents. Through their work, they aim to break the cycles of addiction, poverty, and neglect that define the street life in Kitale, giving both the youth and their children a chance at a better life.

Despite these efforts, the role of the county government in addressing this crisis is still a matter of concern. The rise of drug trade bases like Blacks, the growing number of street births, and the continued harassment by the police all point to systemic failures that need urgent attention. There are calls for more public health initiatives, drug rehabilitation programs, and laws to address the exploitation and abuse faced by street-connected youths.

The community, too, must take responsibility. It is not enough to leave the youth to fend for themselves on the streets or to rely on organizations like World of Work to shoulder the burden alone. There needs to be a unified effort from local authorities, social organizations, and the general public to support these young people, to give them a chance at dignity, opportunity, and a future free from addiction and violence.

The stories of these street-connected youths and young mothers should serve as a call to action, one that demands compassion, understanding, and most importantly, change. Only then will the streets of Kitale no longer be a breeding ground for despair but a place where youth can thrive and where every baby born on those streets has a chance at a future full of promise.

