



LAKE BASIN INNOVATION & INVESTMENT WEEK

Local Innovations for Economic
Recovery and Resilience in the
Lake Region

REPORT. DECEMBER 2020

CONVENERS



LAKE BASIN
INNOVATION
& INVESTMENT
WEEK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The conveners of the Lake Basin Innovation and Investment Week wish to thank all sponsors, partners, guest speakers and attendees of this annual gathering, 2020 edition. The conference was a success because of your support and participation.

Specifically, we are grateful to:



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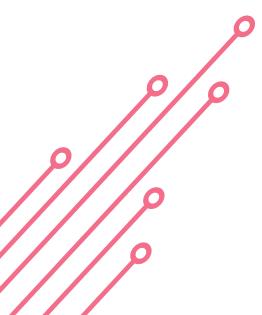
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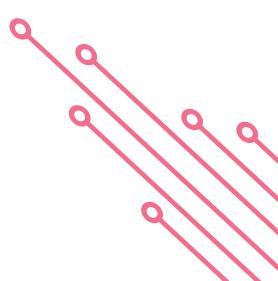


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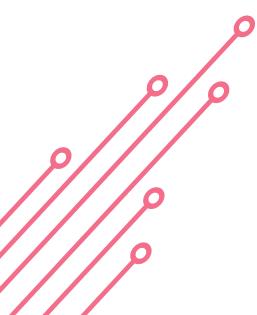
CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	3
Contents	4
Glossary	5
1.0 Introduction	6
2.0 Themes, Objectives and Expected Results	8
3.0 Implementation Strategy	11
4.0 Key Highlights	15
<i>4.1. Overall success rate</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>4.2. Pre-session: Hackathons</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>4.3. Strategic Partnerships and Governance</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>4.4. Youth Economic Empowerment and Future of Work</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>4.5. Local Manufacturing</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>4.6. Enhancing Food Security</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>4.7. Health</i>	<i>46</i>
5.0 Best Practices, Gaps and Lessons Learnt	48
6.0 Summary of Recommendations	52
7.0 Annexes	58
<i>7.1. List of Speakers</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>7.2. Proposed solutions during tech hackathon</i>	<i>61</i>

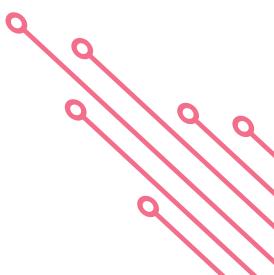


GLOSSARY

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
ASSEK	Association of Startups and SMEs Enablers of Kenya
CBC	Competency Based Curriculum
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DST	Digital Service Tax
EAC	East African Community
ESO	Enterprise Support Organization
FIC	Forum for International Cooperation
FINGO	Finnish Development NGOs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IoT	Internet of Things
KAM	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
KeFS	Kenya Fisheries Service
KFMA	Kenya Fish Marketing Authority
KIRDI	Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute
KIWASCO	Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
LBIIW	Lake Basin Innovation and Investment Week
LREB	Lake Region Economic Bloc
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RAS	Recirculating Aquaculture System
RIAT	Ramogi Institute of Advance Technology
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
YOMA	Youth Agency Marketplace



1.0 INTRODUCTION



Lake Basin Innovation and Investment Week (LBIIW) is an annual entrepreneurship and innovation gathering that convenes entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, policymakers, government, development agencies, and other ecosystem players to spur economic growth of the Lake Victoria Basin through innovative business models, digitization, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) financing, and local manufacturing. The future of trade in Africa's emerging urban cities is dependent on the aforementioned drivers to economic growth as well as an integrated and collaborative approach with all relevant stakeholders.

LBIIW forum targeted to address issues along the entrepreneurial value chain of the 14 Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) counties in Kenya. During the week, innovators and entrepreneurs showcase their ideas and products, build partnerships, secure funding, and find their target customers while creating new products that will transform societies and solve pressing socioeconomic challenges. The main and side events are designed to give utmost value to all categories of participants.

The annual gathering of the year 2020 was successfully convened virtually for 3 days between 16th and 18th of November 2020. The fourth day, 19th November, ended the conference with award ceremony and field visit to the local business and startups. The conveners included LakeHub, Winam Capital and Fablab Winam with support from various partners and sponsors both locally and internationally.

It is on this premise that this post-conference report has been prepared to give highlights of the conference with a lens on the needs of the region, key resolutions and actionable recommendations co-created towards accelerating the economic growth of the Lake Basin region.

2.0 THEMES, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS



THEME

The main theme of the 2nd LBIIW 2020 edition focused on: '***Local Innovations for Economic Recovery and Resilience in the Lake Region***'.

This further cascaded into five topical issues as follows:



Enhancing Food Security

LBIIW sought to discover, showcase, and promote innovations and new value chains that agripreneurs and smallholder farmers can adapt to thrive as well as build resilience during pandemics.



Youth Economic Empowerment and Future of Work

The conference sought to explore and rethink multi-sectoral strategies and new working models on how the future of work would be post COVID-19, the new skillsets young people need to acquire going forward and how traditional employers should prepare and reposition for the new normal in their quest to remain competitive and sustainable.



Health

This thematic focus delved into reviewing and deliberating on the region's public health response to COVID-19, the role of technology in the fight against COVID-19, showcase and promoting the adoption of local health innovative solutions that can be adopted nationally in the event of future pandemics.



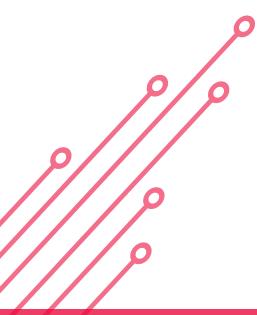
Strategic Partnerships and Governance

In view of the much-needed synergies for the development of the regional ecosystem, including during pandemics, the gathering sought to stimulate and provide platform for fostering stronger strategic relations and partnerships for the economic recovery and resilience of the Lake region.



Local Manufacturing

In effort to accelerate the Kenyan government's Big Four Agenda on manufacturing, LBIIW 2020 edition aspires to embrace and promote home grown solutions through local manufacturing towards addressing gaps and needs that exist in the disrupted global supply value chains during pandemics.



OBJECTIVES

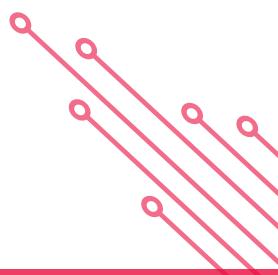
To this end, LBIIW 2020 sought to achieve four key objectives:

- 1) To come up with long term innovative strategies for economic response and recovery for SMEs during and after emergencies.
- 2) To provide opportunities for innovators, startups and existing businesses addressing or adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic to pitch their ideas to potential investors and partners.
- 3) To foster collaboration between the public and the private sector to enhance trade, build economic resilience and growth of the region.
- 4) To foster global efforts and networks to support startups/SMEs and Innovators in the Lake Basin region.

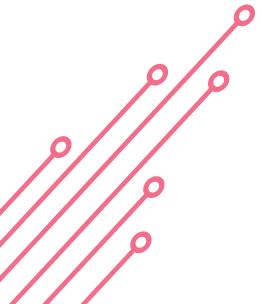
EXPECTED RESULTS

Eventually, LBIIW 2020 anticipated to achieve the following immediate and intermediate results:

- Practical recommendations on how the Lake Basin entrepreneurship ecosystem can recover from the COVID-19 effects and improve in response preparedness for future disruptions.
- Recognize and award best and emerging entrepreneurs and innovators that are impacting employment, growth, and development of the region during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Adoption and use of innovation as an enabler for improved enterprise resilience, growth, and scaling.
- Opportunities created for networking among the regional and international entrepreneurs, investors, enablers, government, and other stakeholders.
- Lake Region Economic Outlook paper.



3.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



Considering the COVID-19 pandemic protocols, the LBIIW 2020 edition adopted a mix of strategies to successfully deliver the conference as follows:

Virtual conference – Two days of online learning and networking, workshops, hackathons, pitching, and deal-making.

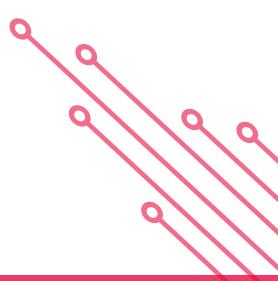
Webinar – 45 to 120-minute online workshops with panels of experienced industry players addressing the various topical issues.

Hackathon – A bootcamp bringing together a community of innovators, entrepreneurs, technologists, policy makers, and sector players within the Lake Basin region to rapidly co-design, co-create and develop market-driven innovative solutions, strategies, policies, and new models for the local communities and public private sector collaboration in readiness for the post COVID-19 future.

Online exhibition – A digital exhibition platform where entrepreneurs and startups leveraged on the LBIIW online platforms to showcase and pitch their products and services to potential investors and the world. The exhibitors displayed via video and pictures accompanied by a brief write up about their innovation.

Side events – These were parallel one-hour virtual side events during the conference which were in tandem with the week's sub-themes. The side events were organized for free publicity, free mobilization of participants, a seat at the panel sessions, and an opportunity for a keynote address/enlightening talks/pitch.

Rapporteuring – The conference had a team of rapporteurs who documented the proceedings of the sessions as guided by a data gathering template. The notes were used to develop the final post-conference report.



Box 1 shows the key data points as captured in the rapporteuring template:

- **Background data** - Topic, host, speakers, date, duration, and attendance by gender.
- **Key emerging issues/concerns discussed** - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.
- **Most affected** population group/stakeholders and how are they affected.
- **Ongoing interventions/progress** made so far by key stakeholders/players in an attempt to address the aforementioned issues within the local ecosystem development (including a list of specific stakeholders involved and their roles).
- **Highlights** of other critical issues emerging from the discussion.
- Key **resolutions and actionable recommendations** emanating from the specific sessions.
- Major **notable observations** about the sessions from the rapporteur's perspective.
- **Annexes** - Photos, videos, and recordings of the session.

Box 1

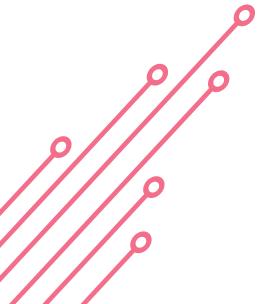
Awards - *LBIIW Awards Ceremony* plays a critical role in recognizing and celebrating outstanding entrepreneurs who are leading early to growth-stage companies from the Lake Basin region, that are pioneering new technologies and innovations. These entrepreneurs are then constantly involved in activities and events, bringing their cutting-edge insights and fresh thinking to critical discussions geared towards shaping the region. Potentially, they form a cohort of promising start-ups and scale-ups that are at the forefront of technological and business model innovation in the region.

Reporting - The proceedings of the conference culminated into the preparation of the post-conference report which provides key highlights and insights emanating from the sessions, key resolutions for local ecosystem development, and actionable recommendations to be implemented towards accelerating the economic growth of the region.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) – LBIIW recognizes the pivotal function of MEL in the design, development, improvement and measurement of the progress and performance of impact-driven initiatives like LBIIW. It is on this basis that the LBIIW forum entered into a partnership with a local ESO that specializes in offering needs-based research and MEL support to ecosystem enablers. To this effect, the MEL partner prepared the data gathering tool, post-conference report as well as a lean results framework designed to improve the implementation of future LBIIW forums.

Mobilization – The organizers leveraged on social media, partnerships and sponsorships to publicize the event and mobilize resources needed to make it a success.

4.0 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



4.1. OVERALL SUCCESS RATE

Generally, out of the 19 distinct sessions scheduled for the LBIIW 2020, 17 sessions successfully took place translating to a success rate of about 90% in delivering the virtual conference.

In view of the attendance, LBIIW 2020 virtual conference targeted a total of 2000 delegates, however the gathering managed to attract 1287 participants, translating to a response rate of 64%. This is laudable owing to the challenges encountered in convening the first ever virtual international conference week of this nature in the middle of a pandemic. In terms of gender distribution, majority of the attendees were male (63%) while their female counterpart accounted for about 37%.

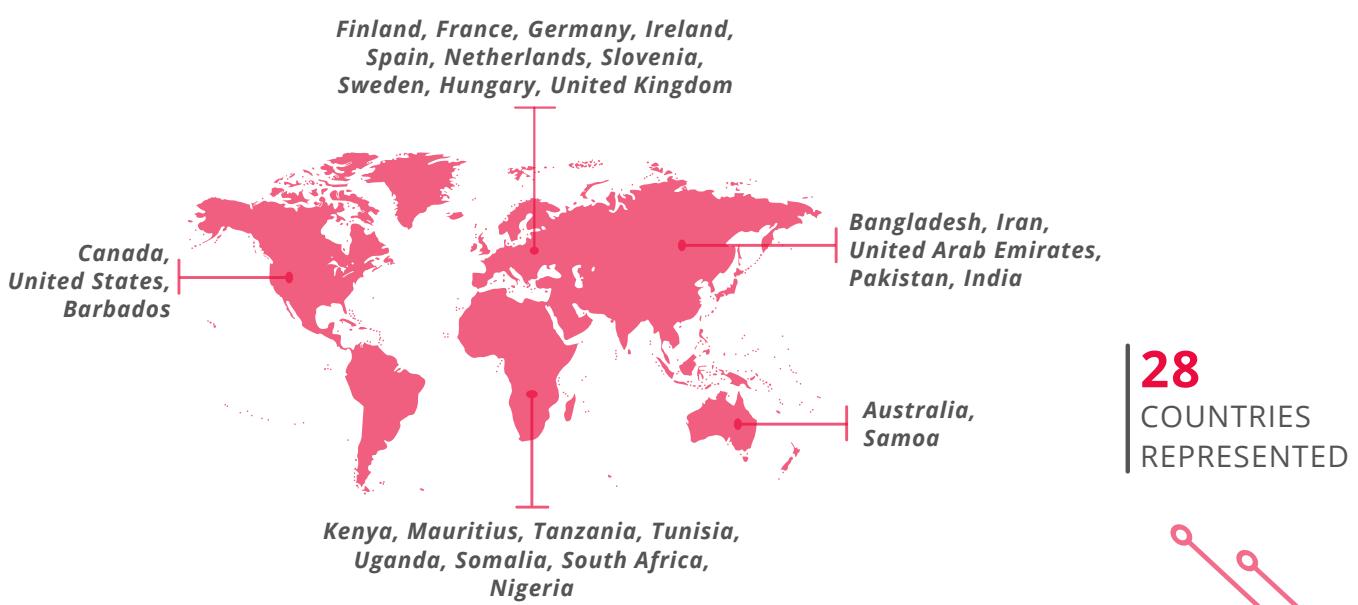
 **26 HRS**
WEBINARS &
SIDE EVENTS

 **14 HRS**
KIDS HACKATHON

 **20 HRS**
TECH HACKATHON

Table 4.1: Summary of key performance indicators

Indicator	Number Reached
Number of delegates who signed up to attend	2924
Number of participants who attended	1287
Countries represented	28
Webinars held	5
Side/parallel events held	10
Hackathons conducted	4
Number of speakers and moderators	47 (M=28, F=19)
Total time taken to deliver quality webinars and side events	26 hours
Total time taken to deliver kids and tech hackathon	34 hours
Sponsors and partners onboarded	12



The table below shows summary of the participants by gender per session and sub-themes of the conference.

Table 4.2: Summary of attendance

Day	Session/Topic	No. of participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Day 1	• Tech Hackathon - Hack4LakeBasin	13	8	21
	• Kids Hackathon - Robotics Engineering: Assembling robotic car	7	2	9
	• Policy Hackathon - Blue Economy Policies	9	2	11
	• Future of Work: Speed dating	16	13	29
	• Future of Work: Strengthening the ESOs community nationally; harnessing regional strengths	17	15	32
Day 2	• Kids Hackathon - Software programming	10	4	14
	• Strategic Partnerships and Governance: Aligning policies, governance structures and public/private partnerships in building economic resilience in the LREB	97	59	156
	• Strategic Partnerships and Governance: NGO - Private sector partnerships in Kenya - Report launch by FINGO	90	53	143
	• Future of Work: Book Review by Book Enthusiasts of Kisumu - <i>A Year of Making and Learning</i> .	7	5	12
	• Youth Economic Empowerment: Innovative business models with sustainable social impact by WeTu	31	9	40
	• Local Manufacturing: Greatlakes Feeds – Fisherfolk and fish farmers	7	5	12
	• Local Manufacturing: The role of development communication in speeding up local manufacturing by youth groups in the Lake Region	3	2	5
	• Local Manufacturing: Improving cottage industries as a way of promoting local manufacturing	89	42	131
Day 3	• Youth Empowerment and Future of Work: Rethinking skills and new working models in the future of work post-COVID19	82	48	130
	• Health: Innovation as a driver to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)	90	58	148
	• Enhancing Food Security: Building sustainable and resilient agricultural food value chain	104	39	143
	• Enhancing Food Security: Side event by AKIMAA	12	5	17
	• Youth Empowerment: Jukua platform	77	38	115
	• Youth Empowerment and Future of Work: Women in tech	45	74	119
	TOTAL	806	481	1287

4.2. PRE-SESSION: HACKATHONS

The conference kicked off on 16th November 2020 with a set of three (3) pre-session hackathons namely: Tech hackathon (*Hack4LakeBasin*), kids' hackathon, and policy hackathon.

4.2.1. Tech Hackathon - *Hack4LakeBasin*

LBIIW technology hackathon 2020 edition dubbed *Hack4LakeBasin* held between 16th and 18th November 2020 was conducted both virtually and physically. The event provided a platform for local makers, tech enthusiasts, and developers to innovate around ideas and create prototypes that tackle the immediate and long-term impact of COVID-19 within the five thematic areas of the LBIIW 2020 edition including *health, enhancing food security, local manufacturing, youth economic empowerment and future of work, and strategic partnerships and governance*.

Attendance - As much as the LBIIW 2020 forum was virtual, some participants in the tech hackathon participated in person at LakeHub space for the sprint. The event attracted a total of 21 young innovators comprised of 8 females and 13 males. The participants formed 11 working teams.

Proposed solutions - In line with the thematic areas, there were 11 solutions created by the 11 teams focusing on health (5 solutions), food security (3 solutions), and the future of work (3 solutions) as summarized in Annex 7.2.

Outcome of the hackathon

- All teams were able to develop prototypes for their proposed solutions in the various platform implementations.
- Upon pitching, **Colaxalabs** and **Digi_Diva** emerged as the overall winner and runner-up respectively from the *Hack4LakeBasin* hackathon.
 - *Colaxalabs* - Decentralized farmer's marketplace on the blockchain which creates a food system with emerging technologies to enhance food security.
 - *Digi_Diva* - Digital clinic connecting women to professional doctors for medical issues.
- All participants were awarded Amazon Web Services credits worth 1 year as most prototype implementations were cloud-based.
- The tech hackathon proved to be a great learning experience and career networking platform for the participants with yet another promising community of techies and creatives being birthed at LakeHub.

Major challenges encountered during the hackathon

During the 3-day hackathon, the participants encountered four key challenges as follows:

- Remote collaboration proved to be a pain between team members present at the venue and their colleagues distributed geographically.
- Intermittent connectivity and distractions arising from working from home made it difficult for distributed teams to maximize on the limited time for creation of solutions.
- Some teams did not have technical expertise like hardware and software developers to help with creation of prototypes.
- Some participants were inexperienced in software and hardware modelling and development which were the platforms of choice for most solutions.

4.2.2. Kids Hackathon

LBIIW Kids Hackathon aims to create an incubation hub for kids to explore their ideas and prototype. The hub eventually hopes to empower children at early age with tools and skills so they can start creating wealth as they grow up; hence boost the local economy.

LBIIW hosted an annual kids' hackathon of interactive workshops for both hardware and software engineering. The hackathon targeted kids of ages 9 - 16 years who attended physically with limited participants due to COVID-19 health measures. All the kids who participated were from Kisumu county with their classes ranging from grade 3 to grade 9. The kids worked in small groups of up to three kids per team on common topics as summarized in *Table 4.3 and Table 4.4*.

4.2.2.1. Kids Hackathon – Robotics Engineering

Part 1 of the hackathon focused on robotics engineering. A total of 9 kids successfully participated on the 1st day with an average of 13 years. In terms of distribution of the participants by gender, male kids were 78% while female accounted for 22%.

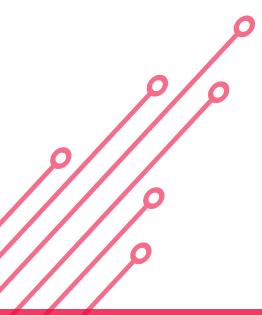


Table 4.3: Summary of kids' hackathon - Robotics engineering.

Name of the idea	Robotics
Industry	Engineering
Problem/Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased consumption of imported toy cars due to increased market need. Lack of market-driven practical skills and experience in kids' education curriculum on manufacturing and engineering.
Proposed solution(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids equipped with techniques and skills needed in assembling robotic car using locally available equipment. Locally assembled robotic car
Objective of the hackathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand robotics, and how they are applied in production of toy cars. To equip kids with skills needed in assembling robotic car using locally available equipment. To assemble and test-drive the Robotic car
Category of the solution	Tangible product
Target market	Kids and parents for educational purposes
Summary of assembling process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The kids were equipped with a set of 14 hardware tools needed for the assembling of the robot car. Thereafter they were procedurally taken through a series of 16 steps of the assembling process.
Outcome	After successful assembling of a robotic car, the kids took a test drive of the robotic car which had the capability of detecting obstacles and avoid hitting them.

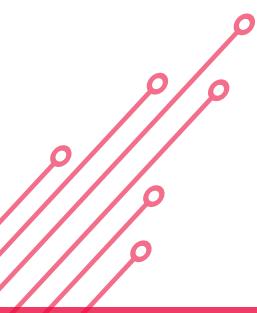
4.2.2.2. Kids Hackathon - Software Programming

Part 2 of the kids' hackathon focused on software programming. A total of 14 kids successfully participated on the second day. Out of these, 71% were male while 29% were female.



Table 4.4: Summary of kids' hackathon - Software Programming

Name of the idea	Software programming
Industry	ICT and Engineering
Problem/Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased consumption of computer games owing to their increased market need. Lack of market-driven practical skills in kids' education curriculum on software development
Proposed solution(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids equipped with programming skills needed in creating mobile apps and computer games for use. Locally created computer games
Objective of the hackathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand how computer/mobile games are developed To equip kids with skills needed in creating mobile apps and computer games. To develop a computer game and test functionalities
Category of the solution	Software application
Target market	Kids and parents for educational purposes
Summary of the programming	<p>The kids used Scratch programming language to develop the application. Scratch is a visual programming language that allows students to create their own interactive stories, games and animations.</p> <p>Scratch is a drag and drop interface used to teach school pupils software programming and build programs instead of typing lines of code.</p> <p><u>Summary steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids were asked to mention the computer games they were familiar with. They signed up on Scratch on https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/editor/ They were practically taken through the four main elements of Scratch and basic aesthetics in software engineering. <p>The kids were sequentially then taken through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 6 steps of creating a Car Racing game o 9 steps of creating a Space Shooter game o 10 steps of creating a Corona Warrior game
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The kids successfully created and tested their own games amongst themselves. Three games developed included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Car Racing game Shooter game Corona Warrior game As much as the kids had no knowledge on how the games are created, they learnt the process fast and enjoyed the whole process of development.



4.2.3. Policy Hackathon

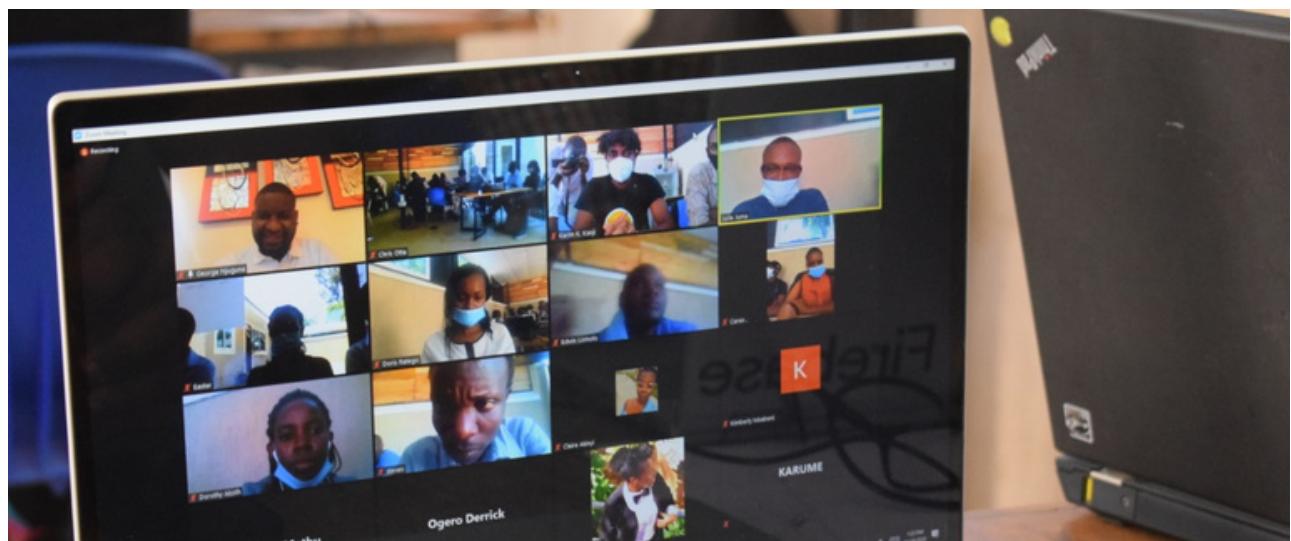
The purpose of the policy hackathon challenge was to unearth the key policy gaps with focus on blue economy within the region and have a focused conversation on the corrective measures that need to be put in place for the development of the local economy.

The Blue Economy model recognizes productivity of healthy freshwater ecosystems is a pathway for freshwater aquatic economies and promotes the conservation, sustainable use, and management of associated resources (UNECA, 2016). In aquaculture, the approaches for actualizing the aspirations embodied in the blue economy concept include cage culture (lakes, dams, and rivers), integrated recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) for land-based fish farming, aquaponics or greenhouse, pens, breeding and restocking of commercially important indigenous species and live fish markets.

Objectives of the policy hackathon

To this end, the policy hackathon sought to:

- Harness prestige and intellectual curiosity to develop challenges, prizes, and crowdsourcing that will inspire individuals and teams to push past conventional limits and thinking to breakdown intractable barriers to change.
- Encourage the development of new breakthrough innovations and solutions for aquaculture and health concerns during a pandemic.
- Entice new innovators from outside to bring their ideas to bear on critical challenges and challenge traditional views and biases.
- Create new communities of practice that are focused on sustainable growth and attract new solution creators to emerging problems, opening the door for new entrants and building momentum for new industries.



Highlights of the session

Topic	Blue Economy Policies
Policy issues discussed - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Absence of clear policy framework on blue economy.2. Lack of domestication of the international regulations and guidelines of the blue economy to fit into the local context and lake region.3. Role conflict between the two levels of government - Revenue collection from national government and the actualization from county government.4. Lack of comprehensive resource mapping and utilization from the blue economy ecosystem.5. Lack of awareness on cage farming as a safe alternative income generating activity especially for locals.6. Lack of technical and financial capacity amongst local farmers.7. Lack of government support on formulation and actualization of fish farming guidelines.8. Very minimal commercialization of blue economy resources and outputs.9. Financing and resource mobilization, <i>Blue Finance</i> is missing in the value chain.10. Advocacy to push for blue economy policy and business models.11. Improper management of water bodies/lakes/land resulting into rampant pollution. Conservation and pollution effluents released to the lake.12. Poor waste and sewerage management.13. Lack of adequate preparedness and management of the effects of climate change such as rising water levels in the lake.14. Lack of political goodwill.15. Lack of contextualization and sharing blue economy master plans with the locals interested in tapping into the blue economy business models.
Most affected group and how are they affected	Most affected players include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Aquaculture farmers/fish cage farmers2. Fisherfolk community3. Local residents earning their living from mining or extraction activities.4. Business owners – Fish traders, boat operators and hoteliers benefiting from the local blue economy activities such as domestic tourism.5. Industries - management of effluent waste

How they are affected:

- Pollution adulterates pollutes the lake hence affecting the local fishing activities.
- Poorly regulated income generating activities (IGAs) such as extensive sand mining results into increased erosion hence making the communities living around the lake more vulnerable to floods and storm surges.
- Climatic changes lead to the lake region flooding, as well as run-off water which would have otherwise been collected.

Progress made by key stakeholders in addressing the identified issues

- Various policies have been formulated and implemented by international bodies and authorities in effort to regulate and streamline the blue economy activities. However, these policies tend to be misaligned with the local blue economy sector as they contradict the state of the region due to beliefs and role conflicts in the region.
- There are existing state actors who have been mandated to regulate and manage the utilization and sustenance of the blue economy resources within the Lake Basin region. The stakeholders mentioned include but not limited to East African Community (EAC), County Government of Kisumu, Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and Kenya Fish Marketing Authority (KFMA).
- As much as the aforementioned key stakeholders have made efforts to regulate the activities in the blue economy sector in the Lake Basin region, this has potentially limited what can be done and what has not been done in the Lake Basin region, hence affecting the growth of the blue economy as well as all people who live around the region.

Other critical issues arising from the hackathon

- Increased import of fish from China despite having large water bodies in Kenya such as Lake Victoria. A question was posed on how infiltration of these imported fish can this be curbed.
- General policies are okay but customized policies are much more important in revamping the blue economy in the region.
- No guideline on along-the-lake mining available for local use. It was pointed out that only Kajiado and Kitui counties of Kenya have adopted such policies especially on sand mining.
- As enshrined in the EAC policy against water hyacinth, no industry should target water hyacinth. This is due to the need for the affluent to be released to the lake to propagate the growth of water hyacinth thus the ban.
- Rain harvesting and soil erosion prevention should be intensively practiced by the locals in order to reduce surface run-off that leads to flash floods.
- Balance drilling with other sources of water to reduce pressure on water sources by utilizing other sources of water.

4.3. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE

4.3.1. Aligning Policies, Governance Structures and Public/Private Partnerships in Building Economic Resilience in the LREB

Fundamentally, the political leadership should endeavor to ensure public awareness of the relative costs, benefits and risks of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Popular understanding of PPPs requires active consultation and engagement with stakeholders as well as involving end-users in defining the various programs and subsequently in monitoring service quality. Similarly, stakeholders should ensure that all significant regulations affecting the operation of PPPs is clear, transparent, and enforced. Red tape should be minimized, and new and existing regulations should be carefully evaluated in quest to improve the intended results.

This webinar brought together key government officials, state actors, non-state actors, policy makers, business leaders and entrepreneurs within the ecosystem to have a conversation that is keen on building robust PPPs within the region.

Highlights of the session

Topic	Aligning Policies, Governance Structures and Public/Private Partnerships in Building Economic Resilience in the LREB
Emerging issues discussed - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many statutory license requirements that potentially limit entry entrepreneurs and startups from starting their businesses.• No go-to market strategies for new innovations.• Threats to use of technology by unfriendly policies and laws imposed on tech consumers and gig economy entrepreneurs such as the new Digital Service Tax (DST) of the Finance Act 2020.• Most of the people do not have access to a health insurance scheme.• Weak private sector engagement. <p>Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing the migration of people to the urban areas.• Governments supporting innovations from the locals by being their customers.• Increase water availability and accessibility for the locals.• Increased accessibility to diverse services offered by the government.• Having effective strategies for supporting local innovations.• Allocate resources and create platforms for acquiring digital skills in order to address the digital divide.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having implementation strategies for emerging technologies Having an infrastructural framework for competing at international space.
Most affected population group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Residents living in rural areas
Progress made by key stakeholders in addressing the identified issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased adoption and use of various technology solutions to improve the service delivery to the citizens. Creating a stable and reliable ICT infrastructure and policies in the country. Continuously lowering the cost of accessing internet. Migrating most of the government services online through e-Citizen platform. Investing and creating robust tech ecosystem that is designed for job creations e.g., through the Konza Technopolis Development Authority.
Key resolutions and actionable recommendations emanating from the session	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting youth innovation initiatives through eliminating entry barriers and financial support to accelerate their innovations/products. Investing in digital divide programs to increase access to internet-enabled services and opportunities especially at grassroots level. Consistently lower the cost of internet access to Kenyans through PPP that focuses on lowering the data tariffs, levies on the cost of mobile/computer devices, fast-tracking regulatory procedures for adopting high-speed internet (5G), and supporting the ICT infrastructural system that boots internet connectivity in remote areas. Implementing and reinforcing data protection act. Migrating all the key government services online to increase access and promptness of quality services to citizens. Fostering robust PPPs to implement UHC through the most affordable insurance schemes even to the lowest-income population. Allocating adequate resources to provide insurance for the vulnerable families in the county. Support low-income households with farm inputs especially with seeds so that they can cultivate and yield more high value crops hence eradicate household food insecurity as well as engage in agribusiness with the surplus. It is worth mentioning that this initiative was started by County Government of Kisumu at the onset of Covid-19 pandemic. Creating a collaborative environment for both public and private players on matters of local development in the region. The government to actively engage with the private sector players in attempt to solve issues affecting the local economy. Co-create on an inclusive platform in which the private innovators can freely express ideas and innovate around the needs of the government and community at large.

4.3.2. NGO-Private Sector Partnerships in Kenya

Partnerships and collaboration between NGOs and the private sector in Kenya continue to grow. Notably, there is an increasing emphasis on joint activities that are of strategic value to both partners. Moreover, combining experiences and pool of resources allow NGOs and the private sector to mitigate challenges and provide more remarkable success in their quest to accelerate socio-economic transformation. Noteworthy, NGOs understand the role of the private sector in job creation and economic growth towards shared aspiration for sustainable development. Similarly, private actors such as companies are aware of the value of working with NGOs in regard of engagement in socio-economic factors that positively impact business despite being outside of core business knowledge and skills.

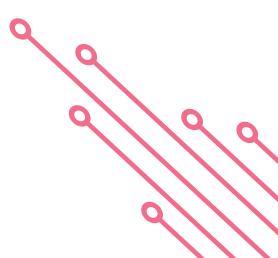
The report launch by Finnish Development NGOs (FINGO) was a webinar hosted to disseminate key findings on the state of partnerships between NGOs and private sector. This report delved into the current nature of engagement between NGOs and private sector actors in Kenya. It further provides an analysis of companies and startups working with NGOs in Kenya. The study gave insights into the facilitating factors and operational pre-conditions that guide the engagement between NGOs and the private sector. It further provided a view of the role of technology and innovation in the partnerships, successes and failures being encountered. Finally, the report outlined a raft of recommendations based on the learnings including an assessment framework that can be used for private sector-NGOs engagement.

Highlights of the session:

Topic	NGO/Private Sector Partnerships - Report launch by FINGO
Host	FINGO
Emerging issues discussed	<p>Common bottlenecks in partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource constraints mostly revolve around funding• Contextualization of products and services to local conditions and needs is crucial• Lack of local access to support innovative products and services has a high impact on post-project success• Mismatches in priorities and expectations introduce unnecessary tension among partners.• Lack of proper risk management in the projects.• Timeframe for results is rarely achieved

	<p>Need for partnerships:</p> <p>NGO/CSO sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to resources including funding • Development of sustainable business models • Potential to open-up of new markets and supply chains • Access to technical expertise, products, and services • Influence over business mid-term and long-term strategies for sustainable development • The private sector can provide much needed infrastructure that NGOs need to scale. <p>Private Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can provide the expertise in community development • The value of trusted relationships built by NGOs and CSOs • Access to funds and other resources and assets • Local knowledge of the legal and regulatory environment • Contribute to effects that strengthen communities, empower marginalized groups, and reduce inequality • The value of progressive policies and accountability mechanisms. <p>Key challenges include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax evasion • Leakages and wastage of resources hinder proper utilization of Kenya's domestic resources
Most affected group and how are they affected	<p>Affected stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs/CBOs, Private sectors, Government, Civic society, Philanthropists, Academia, Youth, Innovators and entrepreneurs <p>How they are affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships are used to champion social and environmental solutions as well as improving ways of working to achieve sustainable change. Consequently, lack of proper partnership engagement waters down concerted efforts. • Constrained financial and technical assistance, and additional investments needed for SDGs to achieve their full potential.

Ongoing interventions to address the outlined issues	<p>Supporting ecosystem enablers and incubation of innovative solutions that can be nurtured into mature enterprises as well as robust partnerships within the local innovation ecosystem and region.</p>
Other critical issues arising from the report	<p>Further, the report revealed six iterative steps towards engaging the right partner were discussed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal augmentation 2. Select partner 3. Co-design partnership 4. Implement 5. Monitor and evaluate 6. Scaling pathways
Key resolutions and actionable recommendations	<p>Finally, the report shared a raft of key resolutions and actionable recommendations for consideration towards building effective NGO/Private Sector Partnerships for future programming as well as for local ecosystem development.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need for urgency in developing partnerships that move away from traditional philanthropic activities towards creating systemic change. 2. Partnerships need to continue leveraging synergies and scale by tapping on the complementary capacity provided by the private sector. 3. Partnerships need to have clear and coherent objectives that go beyond the initial project to show results in the longer term. 4. NGOs need to articulate the problem to be solved, required resources and how success looks. 5. NGOs and CBOs need to align their engagement processes to ensure that vital milestones are achieved throughout their programming and implementation period. 6. Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) to enhance continuous improvements and data-driven decision making are vital to determine how success looks like from the onset of partnership and eventually inform the extent of performance. 7. Focus on building awareness and sensitization around what it takes for results to be realized in the development sector. 8. Holistically adopt a people-led and people-centric approach following a whole society approach to problem solving. 9. Systematic changes within the institutions are what will accelerate sustainable development in the region.



4.4. YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FUTURE OF WORK

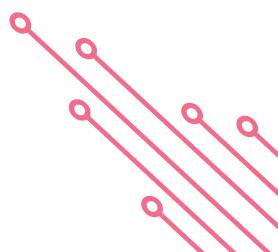
4.4.1. Strengthening ESOs Community Nationally; Harnessing Regional Strengths

Entrepreneurs Support Organizations (ESOs) play a crucial role in the value-based growth and scale of SMEs and Startups in the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. The roles majorly include creating platform for new relationships, connections, partnerships, business ideas, access to capital as well as new clients. With heightened stakeholders' effort in the Kenyan entrepreneurship space to defragment the network of hub and enablers, there is a great opportunity to do much more together at a national level by harnessing and leveraging on each other's strengths from grassroots.

Specifically, the webinar focused on unpacking the existing gaps and strengths of the ESOs community nationally and regionally. The conversation delved deeper into exploring better strategies of enhancing robust synergies and harness strengths amongst the ESOs from the different regions with view of delivering more value to the entrepreneurs and local businesses.

Highlights of the session

Topic	Future of Work: Strengthening the ESOs Community Nationally; Harnessing Regional Strengths
Host	Association of Startups and SMEs Enablers of Kenya (ASSEK)
Key issues discussed - gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of partnerships between innovation hubs in Nairobi and other regions of the country especially the low-resource setting.• Existing strategies that are misaligned to the rapidly changing innovation and entrepreneurship needs within the ESO ecosystem post-COVID.• Weak lobbying amongst ESOs and other industry players towards creating a favorable environment for the innovation and entrepreneurship space.• Lack of innovation spaces within some counties for nurturing grassroots innovation practices that promote 'local solution for the locals' culture.
Most affected group and how are they affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESOs e.g. innovation hubs in Kenya• Entrepreneurs and innovators



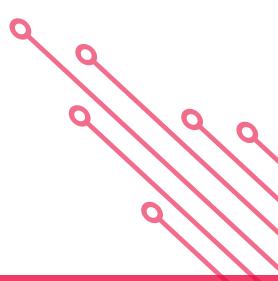
Progress made by key stakeholders in addressing the identified issues

- In the last 2 years, Kenyan innovation and entrepreneurship landscape has seen the establishment of two national associations that seek to champion and lobby for the needs of the ESOs for a better environment.
- De-fragmentation of the ESOs into associations has led to increased awareness and publicity of the existing and upcoming ESOs resulting to some extent of collaboration and partnerships on projects.

4.4.2. Rethinking Skills and New Working Models Post COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic triggered a chain reaction across a spectrum of sectors, industries, economy, social and political arenas. Evidently, work environment is rapidly changing which presents a compelling need for organizations and entrepreneurs prepare better, strategically and innovatively reposition themselves for the future and adapt to the market needs.

The third webinar hosted by UNICEF supported initiative dubbed Youth Agency Market Place (YOMA) program endeavored to stimulate a conversation on the youth empowerment and future of work with a focus on rethinking skills and new working models in the future post-COVID19. The key issues discussed majorly revolved around children and youth, and the role of other key stakeholders in supporting these population better.



Highlights of the session

Topic	Youth Empowerment and Future of Work: Rethinking Skills and New Working Models in the Future of Work Post-COVID featuring YOMA program by UNICEF
Emerging issues - Challenges, gaps, and needs.	<p>During the session, it was greatly noted that important skills needed for anyone who wants to change workplace include collaboration, communication, content, confidence, creativity, and critical thinking.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of internet connectivity in most schools (primary and secondary) to create school-based innovation spaces for kids. This will help nurture and develop talents from onset.• Digital divide in Kenya which needs to be addressed in quest to adapt into future of work.• Putting action into voluminous policies which are just formulated but hardly implemented. There are good policies already formulated but effective implementation is the biggest nightmare.• There has been a general feeling that Africans are not able to move and trade easily around Africa unlike non-Africans due to increasingly high cost of tariff and non-tariff barriers. It is on this basis that key involved actors should fast-track the actualization of AfCFTA agenda. <p>Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to reimagine and speed up learning models in congruence with the market needs before artificial intelligence (AI) takes over the workspace. School children risk being overshadowed by AI if learning methods and curriculum are not quickly adapted.• Developing a thinking-at-scale attitude for entrepreneurs and innovators seeking to solve the unmet needs of the society.• Need to enhance the spirit of resilience and sacrifice amongst the entrepreneurs.• Intensively adopt technology information solutions and normalize the realization that tech is required to actualize the goals of businesses in an efficient and cost-effective manner.• Entrepreneurs need to have global knowledge of issues and social skills required in the building impactful solutions.• Bring diversity in businesses and work including women in the workforce. This brings creativity.• Strengthen the regulations on mobility of people to work in any country especially within the Africa.
Most affected group and how are they affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children in remote areas do not have access to the internet since connectivity does not reach them. This deters their maximum learning capabilities.• Youth especially the unemployed population.

Ongoing interventions to address the outlined issues

Below are some ongoing interventions by UNICEF:

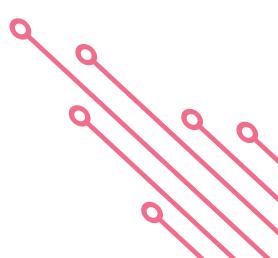
1. UNICEF is currently working with partners to expand education, training and employment opportunities for young people aged 10 to 24, through an initiative dubbed Generation Unlimited; a global multi-sector partnership including governments, multilateral organizations, civil society, private sector and young people.
2. YOMA - An opportunity to work with the community to get points that can be redeemed to get more learning opportunities. Piloted in Nigeria and South Africa and now yet to implemented in Kenya.
3. Reform of the education system by the government through the newly introduced Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) that prepares the children for the future.
4. Community service learning - As much it is yet to be implemented by the government, this learning model focuses on doing work to contribute to the community.

Other critical issues arising from the session

1. There is a need to incentivize employees better in the post-COVID19 era.
2. AI is a key area that is fast-tracking creativity due to how fast it learns.
3. Inclusivity of children and youth in the future of work.

Key recommendations

1. In addition to embracing workforce, value mobility should be adopted in Kenya and Africa as a whole.
2. Need to have an equity agenda that includes everyone.
3. Embrace education reforms to ensure higher success rates of CBC in education by ensuring access and quality.
4. Policy environment needs to be improved.
5. Allow youth to volunteer so as to build an online portfolio to have experience.
6. Inclusivity in the marginalized communities.
7. Increase internet connectivity that can enhance skills in innovation through information on the internet.



4.4.3. Innovative Business Models with Sustainable Social Impact

Social enterprises are ventures that are keen on accelerating socioeconomic transformation within the population which need it most. Fundamentally, social enterprises address the basic unmet needs or societal challenges through a market-driven approach, operating with the financial discipline, innovation and determination of a private sector business.

There are notable impact-driven social enterprises in Lake Basin Region which are keen on improving livelihoods of the local communities. WE!Hub Victoria (WeTu) is one of the major impact-driven enterprises in Western Kenya that uses cutting-edge technologies to deliver life-changing sustainable and innovative solutions mostly targeting fisherfolk, Bodaboda operators and low-income households along Lake Victoria region. WeTu speakers presented four uniquely designed sustainable solutions for clean energy (WePower/WeCollect), safe water (WeWater) and better mobility (WeMobility) for the locals along Lake Victoria region.

This session aimed to share insights into the innovative business models with sustainable social impact in the region in view of different sharing economy models that increase access to affordable and high-quality products for rural communities in the Lake basin region.

Highlights of the session

Topic	Innovative business models with sustainable social impact
Host	WeTu
Summary of the WeTu solutions	<p>WeTu team presented four (4) unique solutions they are currently implementing for the local communities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WeMobility – e-mobility services for rural people and businesses in a sustainable, clean and climate-friendly way.• WePower - WeTu Hubs are solar driven charging stations, providing clean, reliable, and safe energy for a range of services, such as lanterns for night fishing.• WeWater – Water points for selling safe and clean drinking water, the water is available for purchase any time of day.• WeCollect - WeTu Hubs provide collection centers for old and unused electrical and electronic devices to ensure environmentally friendly reuse and recycling practices.

4.4.4. Women in Technology

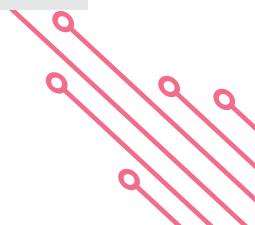
As envisioned in the SGD 5: Gender Equality and the ongoing country-specific efforts on gender-sensitive policies framework, the future of work should be deliberate on having more women at work. The involvement and participation of women in technology space is pivotal in creating more opportunities for all.

Several ecosystem players are committed to driving the national dialogue around advancing opportunities in technology for women. For instance, EldoHub, an innovation hub in Kenya in partnership with the Association of Countrywide Innovation hubs are committed to this agenda through their targeted interventions.

During the LBIIW 2020, a session on Women in Tech panel discussion was hosted on women and the future of work. The event brought together women professionals, industry leaders and advocates to engage, connect and inspire as well as to foster a community of leaders and allies who are keen on driving the women agenda for tech industry in the Western region and Kenya. This session attracted 62% of the female participants with their male counterpart accounting for 38% of the attendees.

Highlights of the session

Topic	Women in tech and the future of work
Host	Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs
Emerging issues on women involvement in tech space - Challenges, gaps, needs, solutions.	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender equality• Gender parity/gap in the tech industry. <p>Males who are resistant to women in tech making it difficult for women to be in this space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women getting mentors in tech.• Women rarely themselves out there when they do not know something unlike men.• Tech is known to have more males and thus stereotyped as a male-only space. <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need for more women in tech.• Need for women friendly spaces in tech. <p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is important for women to have more mentors in tech to help and guide them throughout.• Need to have more women in educational institutions. There are relatively less women in learning institutions and especially tech courses.• Women creating social impact using tech.



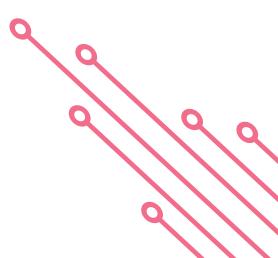
	Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging more women in tech by creating programs that allow women to participate and be innovative. • Get mentors for women in tech to encourage them to gauge in tech.
Most affected group	Women in tech related fields and spaces.
Progress made by key actors in addressing the outlined issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Tech makers program has encouraged women to grow and take up tech. • Tech Women is giving opportunities to women and educating them, allowing them to create networks and helping them grow as professionals in tech. • Technovation initiative that encourages girls in high school to engage in tech and come up with innovations in technology.
Other critical issues arising from the session	Ladies need to be educated and especially girls at young ages, and encourage them to take up tech.

4.4.5. Book Review: The Year of Making and Learning

The year 2020 was marked with a series of activities ranging from a COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged countries globally, to curfews and restrictions of movements in the country, to emergence of new innovations and adapting to the new normal as the silver lining moment. This triggered Book Enthusiasts of Kisumu to host a book review session entitled 'The Year of Making and Learning'. This session sought to discuss, analyze, critique, reflect upon, ask questions and give recommendations in view of the year 2020.

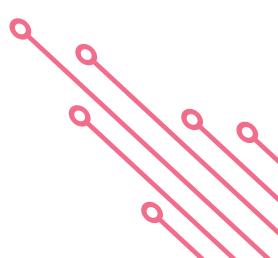
Book Enthusiasts of Kisumu is a book club in Kisumu whose main objective is to bring together book lovers, literature aficionados, and aspiring authors. The club seeks to promote and inculcate the reading culture amongst the locals and encourage the use of literature to inform positive change of mindset in the society. The purpose of the club is to bring Kisumu community together to learn about and discuss relatable issues that matter to them. Books are a compilation of knowledge and experiences, and as the adage goes, knowledge is power.

The participants were required to read the book in advance ahead of the virtual meeting, bookmark important pages, note down any questions about the book, discuss the book with the moderators and get a chance to have a one-on-one with the authors.



Highlights of the session

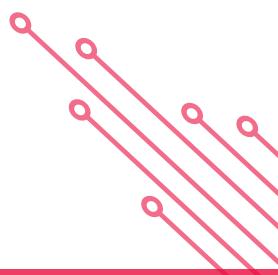
Topic	Book review: The Year of Making and Learning
Host	Book Enthusiasts of Kisumu
Key issues discussed	Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Availability of a platform to tell stories, share experiences and opinions.• Mismatch between what is taught in school and what is in real life situations.• Poor culture of reading amongst Kenyans.• It is difficult to get people to purchase the book from local bookshops and e-books platforms (e.g. Amazon) as they are deemed overpriced hence the market is unfavorable especially for the local authors.• Making the book more friendly to young learners.
Ongoing efforts to address the outlined issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active club for book enthusiasts and authors.• Mentorship to other authors.• Having meetings with different authors to share lessons and experiences on what is working well for them.• Written using simple language to make most readers understand.
Key recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to localize the book to suit the Kenyan readers.• Need to make the book hard copy.• Have more Kenyan contributors to the book.• Telling stories that will encourage people to have a positive mindset about their potential as well as translating their behavior change into boosting the local economy such as local manufacturing.• Working with the students to in order to cultivate and nurture the culture of writing especially the aspiring authors i.e., the TVET students.• Need to foster partnership with e-commerce platforms to make the book available to many especially through freemium business models.• Make the book available to the target group that needs the knowledge but do not have money to purchase the book.• Promote reading culture amongst the locals especially youth through targeted campaigns.• Authoring the book in a simple language that can be easily read and understood by people from different fields.• Encourage youth on how to make money by venturing into their dreams.



4.4.6. Speed Dating: Future of Work

Speed dating was one of the side events hosted with the intent to inspire participants towards their entrepreneurial journey. The session offered a quick one-on-one knowledge exchange platform for participants especially amongst the entrepreneurs to network, share insights, mentor, and offer experiential advice to upcoming entrepreneurs who are passionate about building successful enterprises.

The speed dating brought together youth to discuss the future of work post-COVID-19.



4.5. LOCAL MANUFACTURING

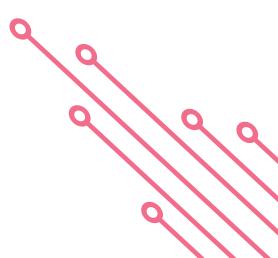
4.5.1. The role of development communication in accelerating local manufacturing

Development communication is critical in disseminating useful information to communities that they can use to develop and improve their lives and livelihoods. This communication approach is key in making public programmes and policies real, practical, meaningful, and sustainable to the citizens. Such information can be also applied as part of the training modules in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and it is intended to address information needs which the local communities themselves have identified. In view of building the local economy, development communication can play a critical role in accelerating the local manufacturing through disseminating the new information and market trends at grassroots that will stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation especially amongst the youth.

This session hosted by delved into the role of development communication in accelerating local manufacturing by youth groups in the Lake Region.

Highlights of the session

Topic	The role of development communication in accelerating local manufacturing by youth groups in the Lake Region
Host	Ramogi Institute of Advance Technology (RIAT)
Emerging issues discussed - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.	Challenges faced when trying to build local manufacturing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge transfer.• There is a gap in active communication and behavior change that bars the development goals.• Need for active communication and participation.• Model of communication is acting as a barrier thus the need for participatory communication.• Information gathering used to address the challenges the youth have discovered in the community.• Communication that is tailored to achieving a dynamic state of manufacturing in the economy.
Most affected group and how are they affected	Local manufacturers as well as freshly graduate trainees who need the development communication in order to startup enterprises in local manufacturing using the available resources



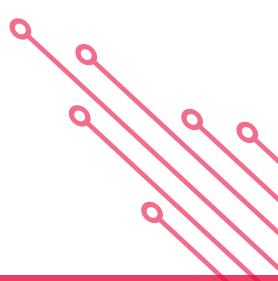
Ongoing interventions to address the outlined issues

Trainers and trainees at RIAT have come up with different publications and innovations such as:

1. Foot operated hand sanitizers
2. Foot operated hand washing machines.
3. Mass production of masks for the local communities.
4. Machines that hatch fish for nutritional purposes.
5. Machines used to make building blocks made from glasses. Conserves the environment as well as cheap materials to build houses and buildings such as schools and halls. Reduces waste glass thus improving drainage.
6. Solar dehydrators machines.
7. Trainees are participating in manufacturing activities around RIAT thus improving the living status of those living around RIAT.
8. The trainees are being trained on effective development and participatory communication so as to enhance the local manufacturing. As seen from creating local solutions that can be used to curb the pandemic, it imperative to say that the young trainees who use development communication can achieve much greater things.

Other critical issues arising from the report

- Trainees at RIAT are being trained on how to gain competitive advantage in the market and inform the community on solutions that they can implement to curb the COVID19 pandemic.
- The best way to promote local manufacturing is by training young people on communication and participate in participatory and developmental communication to enhance manufacturing using minimal resources to enhance maximum local manufacturing.
- KAM is linking up local manufacturers to cottage manufacturers to help them grow and scale their businesses.



4.5.2. Improving cottage industries as a way of promoting local manufacturing

Fundamentally, the core benefit of cottage industries is that they allow people to work from their homes. In the context of Lake Basin region, women have benefited the most since they can work from home while still tending to their families. Many cottage businesses include the entire family in their operations including children who are nurtured on entrepreneurship and local manufacturing. The webinar purposefully sought to deliberate on how the cottage industry can be mainstream in the LREB towards boosting the local economy in the region.

The delved into the future of Fablab in view of the local manufacturing, distributed manufacturing and cottage industry as well as distributed education and resilience in the post pandemic era.

Highlights of the session:

Topic	Improving cottage industries as a way of promoting local manufacturing
Issues discussed - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Price of hardware is high.• Manufacturing of hardware is high thus the market is not ready to buy at high prices.• Cost/Scalability/Sustainability factor• Innovation without exporting products to be manufactured outside the region of origin.• Funding and investment in these cottage industries are lacking.• Partnerships with the cottage industries are limited• Financial support towards innovations. <p>Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small cottage industries building for large industries to support the industry ecosystem.• Support for local manufactures.• Scaling up for cottage manufacturers.• Sustainable materials for manufacturing industries esp. cottage industries.

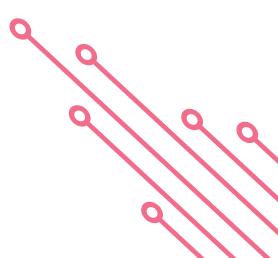
Most affected group and how are they affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs – They are key to the future of local manufacturing and source of employment. Manufacturers - Were affected by COVID-19 (positively and negatively) since the turnovers reduced and some industries came to a standstill such as footwear, timber, furniture, while others like food sector did well.
Ongoing interventions to address the outlined issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a provision for local cottage industries to be part of the KAM. There are support structures for them such as large manufacturers aid the cottage industries by importing raw materials for them. These measures in part promote SMEs. Ways to reduce cost of manufacturing are being developed to support innovations. KAM has been lobbying for sustainable manufacturing. Increase of import tariffs so as to support local manufacturers in producing more locally due to increased hence help the local industries grow.
Other critical issues arising from the report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing hardware components in Kenya is hard, as they are expensive to produce thus little innovation around that field. Distributed manufacturing is highly regarded as it proved key during the COVID-19 pandemic period. This should also be adopted in Kenya and especially the Lake Basin Region.

4.5.3. Fish Farming

The session was hosted by Great Lakes Feeds, a social enterprise working with fish farmers along the shores of Lake Victoria by enabling them to generate income from fish farming.

This segment targeted fisherfolk and fish farmers within the Lake basin region. The event delved into exploring the state of fish value chain in view of how the fish farmers and fisherfolk community can earn and increase their income rightfully.

The session was scheduled well, started on time and attendees were able to join. However, the speaker was unable to join in the session, thus the session did not proceed as planned.



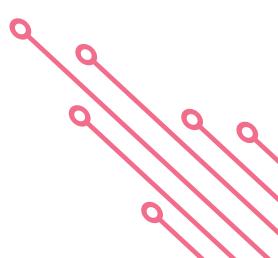
4.6. ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY

4.6.1. Building sustainable and resilient agricultural food value chain

This webinar sought to unpack the policies, technologies, and investments that are needed to make food systems supply chains more responsive, reliable, and resilient for urban populations in Africa. The session delved into interrogating the merits of local, regional, or global supply options. The conversation looked at the mechanisms for connecting smallholder producers with urban consumers. Noteworthy, technological and product innovation is a key driver to improving the nutritional content of foods and increase access to more-nutritious foods among urban populations.

Highlights of the session

Topic	Building sustainable and resilient agricultural food value chain
Issues discussed - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.	Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unhealthy competition from cheaply imported fish.• New markets in Nairobi and other countries where the local fishermen can sell their fish and fish byproducts, but infrastructural and policy challenges is big hindrance.• Very minimal support from the Kenyan government on improving the policy and infrastructural environment for agri-food value chain.• Growth of other fish business firms in the neighboring countries.• Working in silos by businesses is a threat lobbying for their agenda. Business people are not working together to share ideas.• Lack of processing facilities.• Small scale farmers getting a small share of the profit compared to the middlemen involved.• Transaction cost (info, market, raw .materials)• Expensive transport cost.• Soil erosion• Lack of access and linkage to market• Poor value chain infrastructure• High cost of feed.• Post-harvest losses
Most affected population group	Youths aged below 35 years



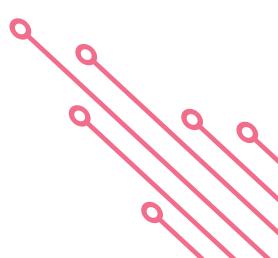
Ongoing interventions to address the outlined issues

- Promotion of composite floors.
- Soil value addition in Bungoma, Migori, and Kisumu.
- Working on value chains for the sweet potatoes (diversification, value addition), dairy, potatoes iris (processing).
- Growing crops with low inputs and high outputs.
- Work with youth-led organization and networks to get info services and jobs.
- Helping youths to identify and unlock their full potential.
- Helping in training that is connecting and funding the young farmers.
- Market should be something to consider when involving yourself in certain farm products.
- Started working with women in the informal sector in Manyata to set up cones, donate seeds.

4.6.2. Agri-nutrition and food processing by Akimaa Africa

Akimaa Africa is a start-up food processing enterprise that specializes in producing highly nutritious and affordable healthy snacks and ready-to-use therapeutic foods from locally sourced raw food materials in the rural Western Region of Kenya. In order to ensure consistency and quality, Akimaa Africa has endeavored to equip rural farmers with modern farming practices that help them maximize productivity thus enabling them to earn sustainable income from the farm produce surplus.

The session was scheduled well and started on time. However, it was ended promptly due to technical hitches encountered. The session attracted 17 participants (12 male and 5 female) who had already joined in.



4.7. HEALTH

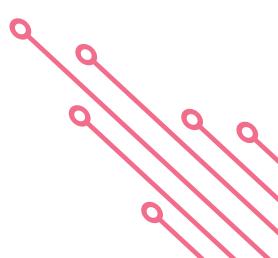
4.7.1. Innovation as a Driver to Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Universal health coverage (UHC) is a global aspiration that all individuals and communities have the right to access comprehensive and good quality health services without experiencing financial hardship. Given the rights-based approach that lies at the core of this concept, UHC has become pivotal to achieving the ambitious SDG agenda. It calls for partnerships among multisectoral stakeholders in a concerted and coordinated approach, a call to work together despite potentially conflicting governance structures, expertise, primary interests and resources—moved by the common value of making the world a healthier and safer place.

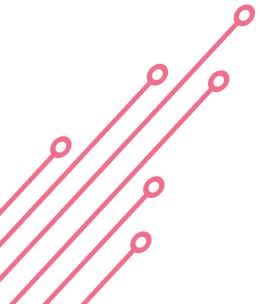
This webinar sought to stimulate a conversation on the state of UHC in the region, the role of innovation in accelerating the achievement of UHC as well as the best practices exhibited in the LREB and lessons that can be drawn from it.

Topic	Innovation as a driver to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
Issues discussed - Challenges, gaps, needs, etc.	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low uptake of health innovations perhaps due to the commonly preferred one-on-one interaction between doctor and patient.• Poor nutrition practices such as bad eating habits leading to poor health and hidden hunger.• Slow uptake and adapting to new innovations.• High cost of adopting new innovation.• Getting qualified personnel to come up with new innovation within the health sector.• Implementing innovations which are not suitable for the people in the country.• Most Kenyan innovators wait for sponsorship for them to come up with innovations especially within the health sector.• Introducing new innovations to the users for adoption. <p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to promote health seeking behavior.• People need to take responsibility for their own health.• Targeted campaign messages to increase the uptake and last mile utilization of the existing innovations.• Ensuring that end-users understand the innovations that have been developed.• Involving all key stakeholders when designing and developing an innovation especially the domain experts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving multidisciplinary expertise when adopting and implementing a new innovation with health sector. • Need to disseminate the results of the existing innovations from the system data and end-users.
Most affected group	Low-income households in the community.
Progress made by key stakeholders in addressing the outlined issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing education to the communities on how to utilize the new innovations. • Progressively making the health services affordable. • Prioritizing the hygiene in the communities and the hospitals. • Providing services of good quality to the people from the health care system. • Use of innovative solutions especially during the pandemic period in contact tracing. • Quality standardization by the government to ensure that citizens get good products. • Kisumu county has taken a step further to pay for the health insurance for the vulnerable households.



5.0 BEST PRACTICES, GAPS AND LESSONS LEARNED



Below is a summary of key gaps identified and lessons learnt during the conference. These shortcomings and the learnings informed the areas for future improvement for any gathering of this nature to deliver more value.

Best practices

- 1. Selecting guest speakers with complementing expertise and in-depth understanding of the topic** - Despite the technical hitches encountered during some of the sessions resulting into some speakers being unable to join or inaudible, fellow speakers were able to quickly jump in to cover for each other to ensure that the session was success. As a technical backstopping measure, future selection of guest speakers for a gathering of this nature should deliberately ensure that the speakers can backstop in case of any eventuality. For example, this came out well this came out well during the session on: *NGO/Private Sector Partnerships - Report launch by FINGO*.
- 2. Use relatable examples to the local context** - Most sessions were well-coordinated, timely, participatory, and very informative with lots of examples the audience could relate to especially locally to ensure the audience have a better understanding of the topic of discussion. For example, the use of relatable examples as per the current situation came out strongly during the session on: *Youth Empowerment and Future of Work: Rethinking skills and new working models in the future of work post COVID-19*.
- 3. Sharing of relevant experiences during the discussions** - The guest speakers had a wealth of experience and in-depth understanding of the subject matter. This enabled them to share their experiences and career journey with the audience who actively engaged the panelist. For example, during the session on: Woman in Tech and Future of Work, the panel was entirely composed of women who were already in the tech space and they passionately shared their experiences to encourage the budding women in tech and entrepreneurs.

Gaps and challenges

- Low turn for sessions which had higher signups** - Most participants who had earlier signed up did not join the session. Reasons for missing or low turn-out was not clear.
- Poor audio/video experience from the speaker's side** - Technical hitches with most of the speakers' audio at the beginning of the webinar, thus delaying the session a little bit. In one of the sessions, the speaker was not aware of what was happening, whether she could be heard or not, and kept on asking the audience if she could be heard; yet the participants were muted. This delayed the start of the session. Besides, the speaker was unable to share videos and pictures with the audience so as to engage the users on what was being discussed.

- **Technical hitches with the conferencing platform** - Some speakers who experienced technical glitches with the conference platform felt that Hopin platform was not the best to hold events as they did not have prior experience with the platform.
- **Missing useful data in the attendance signup form** - For Kenyan delegates, the signup form should capture the resident county of the participant. This data point was missing in the attendance list while it was relevant in determining the number of counties represented especially from the 14 LREB counties majorly targeted by the innovation and investment week. Similarly, the name of the business/organization and their respective industries or sectors should be captured in the attendance signup sheet for all the participants. This data may be useful in mapping key stakeholders and fostering partnerships within the ecosystem and region.
- **Selection of conferencing platform with enhanced security features** - One of the sessions hosted on Zoom meeting platform instead of Hopin (LBIIW 2020 partner for conferencing platform) was interrupted by form of attack referred to 'zoombombing' hence the meeting did not take place as planned. To avoid further disturbances, the host had to stop letting in more participants into the meeting. Eventually, hosting organization did not manage to present their business ideas and have a participatory discussion with all the participants as initially intended.
- **Sessions ended prematurely due to speakers not showing up and technical challenges** - For one of the sessions, the event was well scheduled, started on time, and attendees had joined on time. However, the speaker was unable to join in the session, thus the session did not proceed as planned. For another session, despite a good number of participants having joined the event, the session was ended prematurely due to technical hitches encountered.
- **Poor time management** - For some sessions, a significant amount of time was wasted before the meeting could start while waiting for some guest speakers to join some of whom joined the session abit late. Similarly, time wastage was encountered due to technical issues arising from speakers' audio devices. For instance, a few of the speakers had issues with the audio but was later resolved as the session was proceeding. This led to time being wasted as the issue was being sorted.
- **Occasional internet downtimes mostly from speakers' side** - The internet would at times go down for some of the speakers while talking.

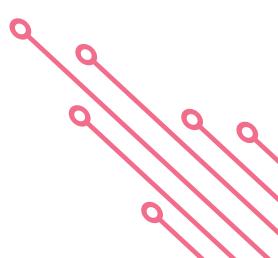
Areas for improvement

Quality delivery and time management for in-depth conversation

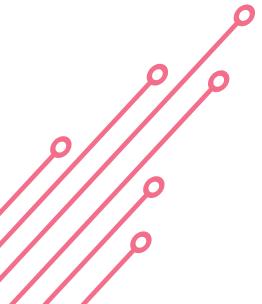
- In reference to a policy-inclined topic such as policy hackathon, the time was limited to delve deeper into intricacies of policies that can be formulated. In future, specific policy areas should be identified so as to create adequate time to unpack the policy concerns and formulate in-depth policies.
- Audio visual aids can be improved during the presentations in order to capture and visualize the scenarios based on the local context of the subject matter.
- Fall backs activities should be set in place in case of unsuccessful sessions to ensure the participants find value for their time. The activities could include knowledge sharing and networking platform, Q&A session, speed dating.
- For the session which will be broadcasted on mainstream media such as TV, prior notice of airing to the audience should be made to inform them to tune in.
- Keeping on time and ensuring all the emerging sub-topics are discussed within the allocated time. Speakers should be encouraged to join in the sessions on time.

Mitigating potential technical hitches

- Running test sessions with speakers to ensure everything is set up correctly beforehand. This includes prior testing of audio from speakers' end, their internet quality,
- Ensure that speakers are able to use the platform or join into the session before the live session in order to avoid the unavoidable shortcomings.
- More mock sessions should be held to ensure speakers are well aware of what will happen on the day of presentation. Speakers should be briefed on the expectations and how to use the gathering's conferencing platforms.
- Hosting organizations/individuals planning to convene an online session should endeavor to adopt a safe and secure platform for future virtual conference. Preferably, review the potential risks of using a platform and enhance their security features to avoid malicious intrusions.
- Alternative conferencing platform(s) should be set in place in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties in using a platform arise.
- Improvement of sound and video quality by using high-resolution devices used by the speakers.



6.0 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS



Below is a summary of key resolutions and recommendations that emanated from the LBIIW 2020 sections. The recommendations were suggested for consideration towards building a sustainable blue economy within the Lake Basin region for the local ecosystem development.

6.1. Policy Hackathon - Blue Economy Policies

- Domesticate and streamline the regulations and guidelines for the blue economy in tandem with the local context and current needs of the Lake region. This includes localizing climate change policies and plans to address related blue economy pain points.
- Formulating and strengthening the favorable policies that promotes sustainability of blue economy enterprises such as policies that limit or strictly regulates the importation of fish especially from China, circular economy policies that encourage recycling water in house.
- Strengthening implementation of existing regulations such as AfCFTA and East Africa Trade Protocol.
- Strengthening advocacy capacity with a focus on the per-sector grassroots advocacy and awareness creation.
- Harmonize regulations between different interdependent sectors such as fishing and marine, tourism, and mining.
- Comprehensive mapping of blue economy resources within the Lake region in order to identify the opportunities for mainstreaming the blue economy ecosystem and its resources.
- Positive attitude and behavior change towards land use/resources around the Lake region.
- Foster strategic Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to establish and actualize the implementation of blue economy infrastructural support such as Blue Economy financing.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness plan within the blue economy ecosystem within the region.
- Rehabilitation of the ports and communication network to boost the fishing sector and domestic tourism.

6.2. Strategic Partnerships and Governance

- Need for urgency in developing partnerships that move away from traditional philanthropic activities towards creating systemic change. Systematic changes within the institutions are critical to accelerating sustainable development in the region.

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- Partnerships need to continue leveraging synergies and scale by tapping on the complementary capacity provided by the private sector.
 - Partnerships need to have clear and coherent objectives that go beyond the initial project to show results in the longer term.
 - Adopt a corporate innovation model between government and private sector - Co-create on an inclusive platform in which the private innovators can freely express ideas and innovate around the needs of the government and community at large. Similarly, the government should endeavor to actively engage with the private sector players in solving the challenges affecting the local economy.
 - Lower the cost of internet access to Kenyans through PPP that focuses on lowering the data tariffs and levies on the cost of communication devices, fast-tracking regulatory procedures for adopting high-speed internet (5G), and supporting the ICT infrastructure that boosts internet connectivity in remote areas.
 - Fostering robust PPPs to implement UHC through the most affordable insurance schemes even to the lowest-income population.
 - Non state actors such NGOs and CBOs need to align their engagement processes to ensure that vital milestones are achieved throughout their programming and implementation period.
 - Monitoring, evaluation and learning to enhance continuous improvements and data-driven decision making are vital to determine how success looks like from the onset of partnership and eventually inform the extent of performance.
 - Focus on building awareness and sensitization around what it takes for results to be realized in the development sector.

6.3. Youth Economic Empowerment and Future of Work

- Supporting youth innovation initiatives through eliminating entry barriers and financial support to accelerate their innovations/products.
- Favorable regulatory requirement for entry level enterprises and innovations.
- Investing in digital divide programs to increase access to internet-enabled services, gig economy, and opportunities especially at grassroots level. Allocate dedicated resources and create platforms for acquiring digital skills.
- Governments supporting innovations from the locals by being their customers.
- Increased adoption and use of various technology solutions to improve the service delivery to the citizens. Increased accessibility to diverse services offered by the government by migrating most of the government services online through e-Citizen platform.

-
- Create incentives for youth to pursue entrepreneurship at rural level in order to reduce the migration of young people to the urban areas.
 - Having an infrastructural framework for competing at international space.
 - Creating a stable and reliable ICT infrastructure and policies in the country.
 - Continuously lowering the cost of accessing internet towards address the digital divide. This will enable the youth to enhance their skills in innovation through information access on the internet.
 - Investing and creating robust tech ecosystem that is designed for job creation e.g., through the Konza Technopolis Development Authority among other technology parks.
 - Telling stories that will encourage people to have a positive mindset about their potential as well as translating their behaviour change into boosting the local economy such as local manufacturing.
 - Need to reimagine and speed up learning models for kids within education sector in tandem with the market needs before AI takes over the workspace for future youth.
 - Embrace education reforms to ensure higher success rates of CBC in education by ensuring access and quality.
 - Developing a thinking-at-scale attitude for entrepreneurs and innovators seeking to solve the unmet needs of the society.
 - Enhance the spirit of resilience and sacrifice amongst the entrepreneurs.
 - Entrepreneurs need to have global knowledge of issues and social skills required in the building impactful solutions.
 - In addition to embracing workforce, value mobility should be adopted in Kenya and Africa as a whole.
 - Allow youth to volunteer within public and private organizations so as to build an online portfolio to have experience that match the market needs.
 - Inclusivity in the marginalized communities through targeted grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship programs.

Strengthening ESOs community nationally and harnessing regional strengths

- Need to be increase partnerships between hubs within Nairobi and other regions in Kenya towards enhancing synergy within ESO ecosystem in Kenya.
- Adopt different strategies that are aligned to emerging needs and rapidly changing technological advancement, work environment, innovation and entrepreneurship landscape within the ESO ecosystem post COVID-19 to ensure sustainability.

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- Intensify targeted lobbying and advocacy towards promoting collaborative agenda and practices for ESOs that protects and builds stronger innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
 - Need for incubation center in each county that focuses on the development of the various economic blocs by allocation of funds to county-level innovation program.

Women in Tech

- Get more mentors for women in tech to help and guide the budding young women in tech throughout their career journey.
- Have more women in educational institutions pursuing tech courses through the girl-focused Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.
- Bring diversity in businesses and work including women in the workforce.
- Creating more focused Women-in-Tech sessions like this one that encourage the participation of women.
- Encouraging more women in tech by creating programs and incentives that allow women to participate and be innovative such as dedicated women in tech financing/funding at county level.
- Regularly publicize and celebrate women creating social impact using tech.

6.4. Local Manufacturing

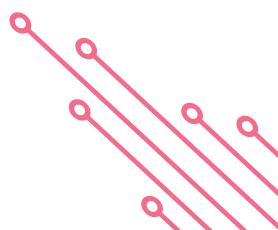
- Promoting the upcoming grassroots manufacturing initiatives to scale by providing needs-based enterprise development support such as financial support, business development services, market linkage, compliance framework, and product marketing and branding.
- Increase the affordability of goods in the market by significantly increasing the scale of manufacturing, thus reducing the cost of products in the market.
- Building manufacturing industries that can support the innovations in the country without importing.
- Intensive lobbying and advocacy with the government to actualize tax reduction policies, subsidies, and other safety net policies for the local manufacturers. Unfriendly tax policies imposed on some of these locally manufactured products lead to higher prices, hence killing the innovations.
- Creating incentives for the innovation hubs and makerspaces to thrive and boost the supply chain through seed funding, investment as well as engaging the large-scale organizations and manufacturers to redirect partners and investors to the local manufacturers.
- Training of locals to use CNCs, 3D printing and fabricating for creating locally consumed products.

6.5. Enhancing Food Security

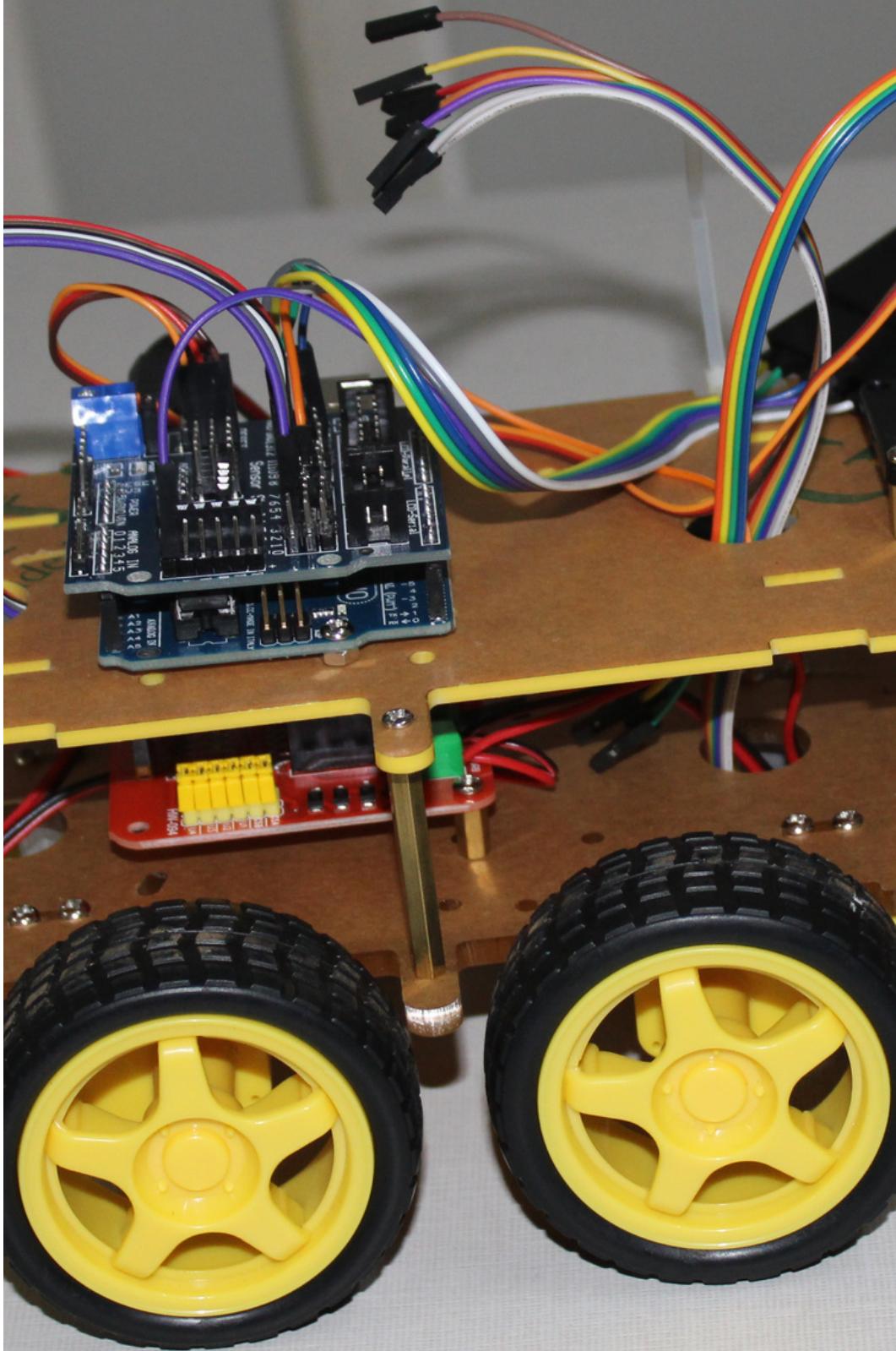
Support and empower low-income households and small-scale farmers with technical support and farm inputs. This will enable them to cultivate and yield more high value crops hence eradicate household food insecurity as well as engage in agribusiness with the surplus.

6.6. Health

- Engage qualified multidisciplinary team and domain experts to lead the designing, adoption, and implementation of new innovation within the health sector.
- Targeted campaign messages to increase the last mile uptake and utilization of the existing innovations.
- Promote and support the impact-driven innovations by working closely with the grassroots innovators who deeply understand the social problems entrenched within their local communities such as health issues.
- Encourage creation of new innovations that seeks to lower the cost of seeking health services.
- Need to regularly disseminate useful results of the existing innovations from the system data and end-users.
- Allocating adequate resources to health sector geared towards providing insurance for the vulnerable families in the counties.
- Avoid creating a donor-dependent society especially by NGOs with aid models that do not sustainably empower the locals to their financial freedom and self-reliance on getting quality health services.



7.0 ANNEXES



7.1. List of Speakers

A total of 47 speakers and moderators took part in the LBIIW 2020 as listed below.

Blue Economy Policies

Phillip Pande. *Director, Winam Capital*

Aligning Policies, Governance Structures and Public/ Private Partnerships in Building Economic Resilience in the LREB

Laura Chite. *CEO, CIO East Africa*

Prof. Anyang Nyong'o. *Governor, County Government of Kisumu*

Jerome Ochieng. *Principal Secretary – Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Government of Kenya*

Eng. John Tanui. *CEO, Konza Technopolis Development Authority*

Joram Mwinamo. *CEO, WYLDE International & SNDBX*

NGO/Private Sector Partnerships - Report launch by FINGO

Lynda Kigera.

David Ogiga. *Co-founder, Sote Hub & Chairperson, Countrywide Innovation Hubs*

Betty Okero. *Team leader, CSO Network*

Emma Nkonoki. *FINGO*

Gituku Ngene.

Wilfred Owuor.

Strengthening the ESOs Community Nationally; Harnessing Regional Strengths

Phillip Odino. *Winam Capital*

Rethinking Skills and New Working Models in the Future of Work Post-COVID

James Odede. *CEO, LakeHub*

Chris Odongo. *WYLDE International*

Jean Lokenga. *Deputy Representative, UNICEF*

Nekesa Were. *Director of Strategy, AfriLabs*

John Martincic. *President, Forest Scientific Corporation*

Cephas Maundu.

Innovative business models with sustainable social impact by WeTu

Marah Köeberle. *Siemens Stiftung Foundation*

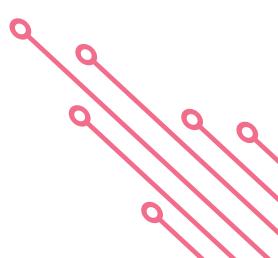
Isaack Onyonyi. *WeTu*

Steven Okuku. *WeMobility, WeTu*

Eng. Ronald Amollo. *WeWater, WeTu*

Stephen Agola. *WePower/WeCollect, WeTu*

Lavender Oori. *WePower/WeCollect, WeTu*



Women in tech and the future of work

Chepkemoi Magdaline. *CEO, EldoHub*

Dorcas Owinoh. *Programs Director, LakeHub*

Josephine Ndambuki. *Manager - Economic Development, Partnerships & Resource Mobilization, Konza Technopolis*

Ruth Kaveke.

Maya Bisineer.

Jennifer Martin.

Book review: The Year of Making and Learning

Martin Oloo. *Director, FabLab Winam*

Nancy Okalo.

George Abwajo.

The role of development communication in accelerating local manufacturing by youth groups in the Lake Region

Anne Obinju. *Ramogi Institute of Advance Technology (RIAT)*

Improving cottage industries as a way of promoting local manufacturing

Martin Oloo. *Director, FabLab Winam*

Sherry Lassiter. *President & CEO, FabLab Program*

Jayesh Patel. *Chairman, Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)*

Prince Charles Oduk. *Founder & CEO, PAIC Limited Kenya*

Building sustainable and resilient agricultural food value chain

Philip Pande. *Director, Winam Capital*

Jonas Tesfu. *Co-Founder & CEO, Pangea Accelerator*

Japheth Anuro. *Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI)*

Joy Mugambi.

Mathias Braun.

Munira Gilani. *Director Mayfair Holdings*

Innovation as a driver to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Caroline Owino. *Health Systems Specialist, Kenya Medical Training College*

Dr. Khama Rogo. *Founder, Centre for the Study of Adolescence - World Bank*

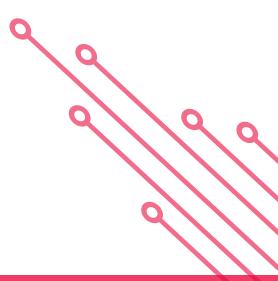
Bahaa Eddine. *Senior Technical Advisor, UNDP Kenya*

Dr. Rae. *Pharm Access*

7.2. Proposed solutions during tech hackathon

Name of product/idea	Product / Idea description	Implementation platform
HEALTH		
1. Ambutracker	Emergencies are critical to saving lives in terms of getting an ambulance at the right time. Ambutracker seeks to increase the availability and accessibility of an ambulance that is nearest to the person in need. This seeks to assist the county emergency response team to manage and account for the ambulances in the county based on their efficiency to service delivery.	Mobile app
2. HealthIT	How teenage girls protect themselves during this pandemic period.	Web app
3. Klind Air	A startup that implements IoT technologies to make air purifiers that minimize chances of contracting respiratory diseases.	Hardware gadget (e.g IoT)
4. Digi_Diva	A digital clinic connecting women to professional doctors for medical issues.	Web app
5. MySpecialist	An app meant to address issues of difficulties in accessing a specialist doctor in Kenya for a specific condition one may be having. The app will also aim to update citizens on information concerning any pandemic at hand and give insights on how to stay safe and healthy during the season.	Mobile app
FOOD SECURITY		
6. Victoria Agribusiness	We leverage on technology to source fresh produce and grains from smallholder farmers and distribute to vendors and hotels in the urban centres thereby creating a guaranteed market for the farmers while providing quality safe food to the urban consumers.	Mobile app

7.	Colaxalabs	Decentralized farmer's marketplace on the blockchain. We are creating a food system with emerging technologies to achieve food security.	Web app
8.	Chama-Aid	A tool that helps in management of informal financial groups (known as chamas or merry-go-round). It streamlines the collection and distribution of funds. It also provides a way to record transactions and generate reports that improve transparency within these groups.	Mobile app
FUTURE OF WORK			
9.	Pendopay	An application dealing with paying for different things securely. it enables registered user to pay via the application or via the M-Pesa and USSD	Web app
10.	Arbour	Arbour is creating a marketplace for household related services by connecting customers to local service providers nearest them. Customers can compare user profiles and book appointments directly.	Mobile app
11.	Creative Teams	A mobile and web application that brings together event service providers and party planners under one platform to make event planning easier and convenient.	Web app





For more information, please contact:

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