

# Ho Youth Wellbeing Index 2023



## The Young and Safe

Ho

a Fondation Botnar initiative



Ghana Education Service (GES)



JANUARY 1, 2024

Node Eight Foundation LBG, Ghana - Ho



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Ghana Education  
Service (GES)





# FOREWORD

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It is with great pleasure that we present the “Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023” report, a pioneering and comprehensive exploration into the well-being and circumstances of young people in the Ho Municipality, Ghana. The Ho Youth Well-being Index Report is an initiative of the Young and Safe Project implemented by a consortium made up of Node Eight Foundation, Love Aid Foundation, Ho Municipal Assembly, and the Ghana Education Service under the Healthy Cities for Adolescent Programme – II funded by Fondation Botnar and managed by Ecorys Ltd.

This report recognizes that investing in Ghana’s youth requires a holistic approach, where opportunities are created for young Ghanaians to lead and contribute to national development. It strikes a balance between talk and action, offering a promising path forward, and sounding a clarion call for accessible platforms to amplify youth voices on critical issues. This also means aligning political commitments with resources. The Youth Employment Agency’s (YEA) efforts to equip young Ghanaians with employable skills fell short of its target (trained 84,541 as against the target of 146,000 in 2022). The majority of the 48% of Ghanaians classified as multidimensionally poor by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) are young. The National Development Planning Commission’s (NDPC) development of a Youth Development Index (YDI) together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a positive step towards measuring progress in harnessing Ghana’s youth potential. The completion and implementation of this index will be crucial in guiding and making future strategies coherent. Meanwhile, the Ho Youth Well-being Index is relevant considering the background above. It offers a granular view of the situation of young Ghanaians in the Ho Municipality.

The Ho Youth Well-being Index is a dynamic and invaluable resource for researchers, policymakers, civil society, and the youth in the Ho Municipality. Not merely confined to numerical metrics, this report goes beyond statistical analysis to explore nuanced dimensions such as civic engagement, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, physical health, and community opportunities. It acts as a beacon for policymakers, community leaders, and organizations, providing a solid, data-driven foundation to comprehend the intricate landscape of youth well-being.

The youth demographic, spanning ages 13 to 25, is a diverse and dynamic group, and defining it universally has proven challenging. This report adopts a specific definition, considering youth as individuals aged 13–25. Moreover, the report aligns with the World Health Organization’s comprehensive concept of well-being, incorporating physical and mental health, educational achievements, economic position, physical safety, freedoms, and civic engagement. The Ho Youth Well-being Index adds significant value by consolidating available data into a unified measure, addressing the multidimensional nature of youth well-being and development. It provides valuable insights and brings attention to critical data gaps, advocating for more youth-specific data and improved collection efforts.

Our rigorous measurement strategy employs a methodology that integrates surveys, administrative data sources, and qualitative methods. Surveys capture self-reported aspects, while administrative data sources, drawn from reputable entities, contribute essential information on mental and physical health, access to healthcare, and educational enrollment. Qualitative methods, including interviews, enrich the dataset, providing a holistic understanding of measured parameters.

The Ho Youth Well-being Index is not just an analysis but a call to action. It invites collaborative efforts to tailor interventions, address unique challenges the youth faces, and create an environment conducive to their thriving, development, and positive contributions to the broader community. I extend my gratitude to all contributors and stakeholders involved in creating this impactful report, and I am confident that it will catalyze meaningful change and improvement in the lives of the youth in the Ho Municipality.

**Brian Dzansi**  
**Co-Founder/CEO**  
**Node Eight Foundation**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The “Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023” report is the result of collaborative efforts and support from various individuals and organizations. We express our profound gratitude to the Young and Safe Consortium for the conceptualization of this report as part of its initiatives to make Ho a youth-friendly city under the Healthy Cities for Adolescent Program implemented by Ecorys and funded by Fondation Botnar.

We sincerely appreciate Joanna Nana Ama Kwame, Monitoring and Evaluation Associate NodeEight, for her expertise in monitoring and evaluation, greatly enhancing the rigor and quality of our research. Special thanks to Perfect Mawulorm Amegboe, Project Coordinator NodeEight, whose leadership and coordination played a pivotal role in guiding the project to its successful completion, reflecting a commitment to youth well-being and community development.

We express our gratitude to Larry Marcus Kwami, MEL Officer, LoveAid, for providing depth to our findings and enhancing the overall credibility of our research. Additionally, we appreciate Brian Dzansi for input into the index methodology and Ernest Armah for supporting with editing the report.

A heartfelt thanks to the Ghana Education Service, Ho, and the Ho Municipal Assembly for their cooperation and support during the data collection process, which was crucial in gaining comprehensive insights into the well-being of the youth in the Ho Municipality.

Our appreciation extends to the Research Consultant, Humphrey Thompson, whose expertise in research methodology and data analysis significantly contributed to the robustness of our research design. To all individuals, organizations, and community members who participated in surveys and interviews and provided valuable inputs, your contributions were essential in shaping the narrative of youth well-being in the Ho Municipality.

We are also grateful to the Ecorys team for the technical support and guidance provided to the Young and Safe project in delivering on the Ho Youth Index Report.

Completing this report is a testament to collaborative efforts, and we are thankful for the diverse perspectives, expertise, and support that have made it possible. Together, we strive towards a better understanding of youth well-being and a more prosperous future for the youth in the Ho Municipality.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment.



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023 is a comprehensive assessment of the well-being and circumstances experienced by young individuals aged 13 to 25 in Ho Municipality, Ghana. This index gathers data across various domains, including community and civic participation, economic opportunity, education, health, safety, and equity, to provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by the youth in the region.

The overall score of the 2023 Ho Youth Well-being Index recorded a 57.0%, falling within the “Average” range, indicating areas for improvement in various well-being aspects to achieve a higher future score. Each domain reveals specific strengths and areas needing attention and enhancement, highlighting the need for targeted policies and programs. The Community and Civic Participation domain scored 36.5%, reflecting a moderate level of engagement and involvement among Ho’s youth, with action points focusing on improving park infrastructure, fostering volunteerism, promoting youth-centric policies, and advocating for inclusive governance. The Economic Opportunity dimension scored 50%, indicating a moderate level of economic opportunities with action points including enhancing employability through mentorship and digital literacy programs, creating more job opportunities, and addressing youth economic expectations. The Education dimension received a score of 62%, with action points focusing on enhancing formal education outcomes, bridging the digital skills gap, promoting digital inclusion, and ensuring equitable access to educational resources for all youth. The health dimension scored 67%, indicating a positive outlook overall, with action points including enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education, prioritizing mental health support and awareness, and promoting healthy lifestyles and physical activity among youth. The Safety and Equity dimension scored 68%, indicating a positive assessment overall but highlighting areas for improvement in safety perception, gender equality awareness, and disability inclusivity.

In conclusion, the Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023 serves as a crucial resource for understanding and addressing the diverse needs of young individuals in Ho Municipality, calling for collaborative actions among stakeholders to prioritize interventions, allocate resources effectively, raise awareness, and mobilize support for policies that enhance youth well-being and ensure their positive contributions to the community.

# OVERVIEW

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## WHAT IS THE INDEX?

The Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023 is a comprehensive examination of the well-being and circumstances of young people in Ho Municipality, Ghana.

This report, driven by data collected across various domains, provides essential insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by the youth in the region. It underscores the significance of understanding their diverse needs and aspirations, emphasizing their physical and mental health, educational attainment, economic standing, personal safety, freedoms, and civic engagement.

The Ho Youth Well-being Index Report is an initiative of the Young and Safe Project implemented by a consortium made up of Node Eight Foundation, Love Aid Foundation, Ho Municipal Assembly, and the Ghana Education Service under the Healthy Cities for Adolescent Programme – II funded by Foundation Botnar and managed by Ecorys Ltd.

## NEED FOR THE INDEX.

The need for the index lies in its role as a comprehensive resource catering to researchers, policymakers, civil society, and the youth in the Ho Municipality. It serves as a dynamic tool for advocacy, providing a platform to understand and compare the relative levels of youth development. Focused on individuals aged 13 to 25, the report aims to fill information gaps and offer nuanced insights into various aspects of young people's lives. Going beyond mere numerical metrics, it explores dimensions such as civic engagement, mental health, sexual and reproductive health,

physical health, social connections, digital and vocational skills, and community opportunities. The “Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023” goes beyond statistical analysis; it acts as a beacon for policymakers, community leaders, and organizations, offering a data-driven foundation to comprehend the intricate landscape of youth wellbeing. The report calls for collaborative efforts to tailor interventions, addressing the unique challenges faced by the youth and creating an environment conducive to their thriving, development, and positive contributions to the broader community. It is more than an analysis; it is an invitation to meaningful action to enhance the overall quality of life for the youth in the Ho Municipality.

## WHO IS THE YOUTH?

There is no universal age definition for the group called “youth.” Table 1 illustrates that both regional and international organizations employ diverse age ranges to classify young individuals, and a similar diversity exists in the practices of national governments.

*Table 1: Age group defined as youth by various regional and international organizations.*

Organization	Age group defined as youth
The Commonwealth	15–29
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	15–24
International Labour Organization (ILO)	15–24
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (Youth Fund)	15–32
World Health Organization (WHO)	10–24
World Bank	15–24
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	15–29
African Union Commission	18–35
European Commission	15–29
United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security	18–29

Source: *Global Youth Development Index 2020 (Commonwealth Secretariat 2021)*

### BOX 1: DEFINITION OF YOUTH

*The Ho Youth Well-being Index defines youth as young people aged 13–23 years.*

### BOX 2: WHAT IS WELL-BEING?

The World Health Organization (WHO) links well-being to both physical and mental health, having defined health as “a state of complete physical, psychological, and social wellbeing” (WHO 1948). Wellbeing is a comprehensive concept that includes an individual’s physical and mental health, educational achievements, economic position, physical safety, freedoms, and ability to engage in civic activities. It fundamentally represents the extent of opportunities available to an individual.

## WHAT DOES THE HO YOUTH WELL-BEING INDEX ADD TO EXISTING MEASURES?








Youth well-being and development assessment cannot be based on a single indicator. It is a multidimensional concept that benefits from the compilation of various indicators. While numerous governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and youth service providers share data on specific facets of youth well-being and development, these often lack a comprehensive perspective.

The Ho Youth Well-being Index addresses this by consolidating available data on the youth in the city into a thorough and unified measure. This allows for a more nuanced comprehension of youth well-being and development in the period under consideration serving advocates and policymakers. The construction of the 2023 Ho Youth Well-being Index has also brought attention to data gaps, highlighting areas where collection efforts can be improved. The indistinct definition of the youth demographic and the lack of disaggregation of some data often results in their inadequate representation in statistics; this underscores the necessity for more youth-specific data.

## WHAT DOES THE HO YOUTH WELL-BEING INDEX MEASURE?

The Ho Youth Well-being Report measures five distinct dimensions that are considered essential aspects of youth development and well-being: **Community and Civic Participation, Economic Opportunity, Education, Health, and Safety and Equity**. In total, the Ho Youth Well-being Report compiles 45 indicators, grouped under 13 subdimensions. Each subdimension has 3 to 5 indicators, as shown in Table 2 below.

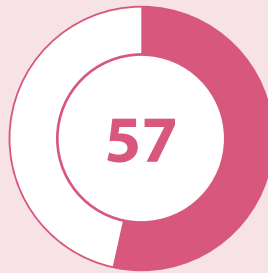
Table 2: 2023 Ho Youth Well-being Index Indicators

Dimension	Subdimension	Indicator
 <b>Community and Civic Participation</b>	<b>Community and Engagement</b> 	Communal Responsibility
		Volunteering
		Social Connection
		Social Participation
		Availability of Parks and Green Spaces
	<b>Governance and Leadership</b> 	Local Governance Participation
		Local Leadership Role
		Perception of Local Governance
	<b>Advocacy</b> 	Participation
		Demonstrations/Protest
Awareness of City level policy		
Voter registration		
 <b>Economic Opportunity</b>	<b>Employability</b> 	Mentorship opportunity
		Digital literacy
		Access to Vocational skills
	<b>Job Opportunity</b> 	Youth unemployment ratio
		Entrepreneurial activity
		Youth Economic expectation






Dimension	Subdimension	Indicator
 <p>Education</p>	<b>Formal Education</b> 	High School Enrolment Rate
		Literacy rate
		High School Completion rate
		Education Satisfaction
	<b>Information Technology</b> 	Access to digital devices
		Access to Digital skills training
Internet usage		
 <p>Health</p>	<b>Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)</b> 	Teenage pregnancy indicator
		HIV indicator
		Use of contraceptives
		Perceived knowledge on SRH
	<b>Mental Health</b> 	Perceived Stress indicator
		Substance use
		Youth self-harm indicator
		Use of mental health services
	<b>Physical Health</b> 	Wellness
		Nutrition
Fitness/Physical activity		
 <p>Safety and Equity</p>	<b>Safety</b> 	Youth crime rate indicator
		Youth violence indicator
		perception of safety
	<b>Gender Equality</b> 	Child marriage rate
		Perception of Gender equality
		Gender educational attainment
	<b>Disability Friendliness</b> 	Employment opportunities
		Access to public buildings
		Consultation and engagement






# HO YOUTH INDEX AT A GLANCE

**2023 Ho Wellbeing Score: 57/100**



The Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023 is a comprehensive examination of the well-being and circumstances of young people in Ho Municipality, Ghana.

			SCALE					
		Scores	Poor (0-20%)	Fair (21-40%)	Average (41-60%)	Good (61-80%)	Excellent (81-100%)	
	<b>Community and Civic Participation</b>	<b>36%</b>						
	<i>Community and Engagement</i>	<b>46%</b>						
		Communal Responsibility	<b>0.56</b>					
		Volunteering	<b>0.42</b>					
		Social Connection	<b>0.45</b>					
		Social Participation	<b>0.65</b>					
		Parks and Green Spaces	<b>0.22</b>					
	<i>Governance and Leadership</i>	<b>33%</b>						
		Local Governance Participation	<b>0.12</b>					
		Local Leadership	<b>0.15</b>					
Perception of Local Governance		<b>0.49</b>						
<i>Advocacy</i>	<b>24%</b>							
	Demonstrations/Protests	<b>0.08</b>						
	City level youth policy	<b>0</b>						
	Voter registration	<b>0.64</b>						
<b>Economic Opportunity</b>	<b>50%</b>							
<i>Employability</i>	<b>38%</b>							
	Mentorship opportunity	<b>0.53</b>						
	Digital literacy	<b>0.32</b>						
	Vocational skills	<b>0.3</b>						

			SCALE				
		Scores	Poor (0-20%)	Fair (21-40%)	Average (41-60%)	Good (61-80%)	Excellent (81-100%)
<i>Job Opportunity</i>	<b>59%</b>						
	Youth unemployment ratio	<b>0.69</b>					
	Entrepreneurial activity	<b>0.4</b>					
	Youth Economic expectation	<b>0.88</b>					
	Perception on availability of vacation jobs	<b>0.39</b>					
<b>Education</b>	<b>62%</b>						
<i>Formal Education</i>	<b>62%</b>						
	Enrollment	<b>0.75</b>					
	Literacy rate	<b>0.55</b>					
	Completion rate	<b>0.72</b>					
	Education Satisfaction	<b>0.55</b>					
<i>Information Technology</i>							
	Access to digital devices	<b>0.89</b>					
	Digital skills training	<b>0.32</b>					
	Internet usage	<b>0.88</b>					
<b>Health</b>	<b>67%</b>						
<i>Sexual and Reproductive Health</i>	<b>70%</b>						
	Teenage pregnancy rate	<b>0.91</b>					
	HIV indicator	<b>0.98</b>					
	Use of contraceptives among sexually active	<b>0.72</b>					
	Perceived knowledge on SRH	<b>0.46</b>					
<i>Mental Health</i>							
	Stress	<b>0.12</b>					
	Substance use	<b>0.69</b>					
	Youth self-harm	<b>1</b>					
	Use of mental health services	<b>0.16</b>					
	Purpose in life	<b>0.93</b>					





			SCALE				
		Scores	Poor (0-20%)	Fair (21-40%)	Average (41-60%)	Good (61-80%)	Excellent (81-100%)
<i>Physical Health</i>	<b>57%</b>						
	Wellness	<b>0.72</b>					
	Nutrition	<b>0.55</b>					
	Fitness/Physical activity	<b>0.44</b>					
<b>Safety and Equity</b>	<b>68%</b>						
<i>Safety</i>	<b>86%</b>						
	Youth crime rate	<b>1</b>					
	Youth violence	<b>1</b>					
	perception of safety	<b>0.59</b>					
<i>Gender Equality</i>	<b>84%</b>						
	Child marriage rate	<b>1</b>					
	Perception of Gender equality	<b>0.52</b>					
	Gender educational attainment	<b>1</b>					
<i>Disability Friendliness</i>	<b>34%</b>						
	Employment opportunities	<b>0.37</b>					
	Access to public buildings	<b>0.22</b>					
	Consultation and engagement	<b>0.42</b>					

# METHODOLOGY OF MEASUREMENT

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In detailing our measurement strategy, we adopted a mixed methodology encompassing surveys, administrative data sources, and qualitative methods. The primary instrument for data collection involves surveys, strategically designed to capture self-reported aspects, including wellbeing, mental and physical health, substance use, sexual and reproductive health behaviours, and perceptions of safety and governance.

The sampling methodology utilized in this study utilized stratified sampling. This approach involved categorizing the population into specific subgroups or strata based on relevant characteristics pertinent to the research. The subgroups included students in basic schools (Primary and Junior High), Senior High Schools, tertiary institutions, and young people from open community spaces (e.g., markets, taxi ranks, etc.). These subgroups comprised individuals who shared similar characteristics, thus creating homogeneous groups within the population. Following this categorization, random samples were drawn from each stratum to ensure that the study encompassed representation from all segments of the population, resulting in a comprehensive and representative sample for analysis.


The total population of Ho Municipality, as per the 2021 National Census, is 180,420 residents. Applying the national youth percentage of 36%, a representative sample size of approximately 400 participants was determined using the Cochran formula. A post-survey data collection was carried out using 300 participants.

Integrating administrative data sources, drawn from reputable entities such as the Municipal Assembly, played a pivotal role. This facilitated the collection of data on critical areas like mental and physical health, access to basic healthcare, and educational enrollment, contributing to the depth of our insights.

Qualitative methods such as interviews were employed to enrich the dataset further. These qualitative components are invaluable supplements to the quantitative data, ensuring a holistic and nuanced understanding of the measured parameters.

When feasible, the Index opts for indicators that are tailored to youth, nevertheless, due to the challenges in obtaining youth-specific data, some indicators selected are more than youth-specific measures. In these instances, the choice of indicators is guided by their relevance or significance to young people and youth-related concerns.

In addition to the diverse data collection methods, the indicators used in our measurement approach were arrived at using equal weights. This means that each indicator carries the same importance in the overall assessment, ensuring a balanced and comprehensive evaluation of youth-related concerns within the municipality. Each domain's score is calculated by aggregating the scores of the indicators within that domain. Every domain comprises a specific number of indicators, each scored on a scale from 0 to 1, with 1 representing the highest possible score for any given indicator. These scores were converted to percentages after aggregation for easy, straightforward interpretations.




**“we adopted a mixed methodology that encompasses surveys, administrative data sources, and qualitative methods.”**

# DIMENSIONS

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## WHY THE DIMENSIONS?

Developing a comprehensive youth well-being index requires a multifaceted approach, as reflected in the diverse dimensions outlined in the table above. Community and civic participation, encompassing community engagement, governance, leadership, and advocacy, are pivotal for fostering socially responsible and engaged youth, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on sustainable cities, communities, peace, justice, and strong institutions. Economic opportunity dimensions, such as employability and job opportunities, address SDGs related to decent work, economic growth, and poverty reduction. Education indicators, covering formal education and information technology, contribute to achieving SDGs associated with quality education, industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Health dimensions, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and physical health, are critical for advancing good health and well-being. Finally, safety and equity dimensions, encompassing safety, gender equality, and disability friendliness, address SDGs related to peace, justice, strong institutions, gender equality, reduced inequality, and sustainable cities and communities. This comprehensive approach ensures that the well-being index captures the holistic development of youth across a spectrum of essential domains.



**“The development of a comprehensive youth well-being index requires a multifaceted approach, as reflected in the diverse dimensions outlined in the table above”.**

# OVERALL WELL-BEING SCORE 2023

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*The youth in Ho are doing moderately well in terms of their wellness score, as indicated by the recorded value of 57.0% on the 2023 Ho Youth Wellbeing Index. This falls within the “Average” range, suggesting that there is room for improvement in various aspects of their wellbeing to achieve a higher score in the future.*

The recorded value 57.0% signifies the comprehensive score on the 2023 Ho Youth Wellbeing Index, where the total achievable score is 45, and the attained score is 25.67. This equates to an accomplishment of approximately 57.0% of the maximum potential score. The score was aggregated from the scores from the five domains that formed the index. Assessing the result against the designated scoring scale, which categorizes scores into Poor (0-20%), Fair (21-40%), Average (41-60%), Good (61-80%), Excellent (81-100%), the interpretation of the 2023 Ho Youth Wellbeing Index leans towards the classification of “Average.”

Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
(0-20%)	(21-40%)	(41-60%)	(61-80%)	(81-100%)

This classification of “Average” implies that while there are areas of strength and achievement in the youth wellbeing landscape of Ho Municipality, there are also areas that require attention and improvement. Policymakers and advocates can utilize this information to prioritize interventions and allocate resources effectively. Specifically, focusing on areas where the index indicates lower scores can guide targeted policies and programs to enhance the overall wellbeing and quality of life for the youth population. Additionally, advocacy efforts can leverage these findings to raise awareness, mobilize support, and advocate for policies that address the identified challenges and promote positive outcomes for youth wellbeing in the community.

Furthermore, this assessment calls for a proactive approach from all stakeholders, including government agencies, community leaders, and civil society organizations, to collaborate and implement evidence-based interventions. By working together, we can address the identified challenges and promote positive outcomes for youth wellbeing in the community, ensuring a brighter future for the next generation.



# KEY FINDINGS



parks and green spaces scored only 22%.

## 1. **THE AVAILABILITY AND CONDITIONS OF PARKS AND GREEN SPACES FOR PLAY AND RELAXATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE CITY ARE LACKING**

Within the community engagement subdomain, parks and green spaces scored only 22%, even though the available parks are easily accessible to the young population in various neighborhoods, other aspects of the park, including visible security measures, maintenance, cleanliness, age-appropriate play structures, open green spaces, sports facilities, seating areas, scheduled events for young people, wheelchair accessibility, and cultural elements in park design, were not available. This highlights the need for improvement and investment in parks and green spaces.



Only 8% of youth in Ho reported they engaged in protests or demonstrations in the past year to get their voices heard on issues that affect them.

## 2. **PARTICIPATION OF HO YOUTH IN CIVIC ADVOCACY THROUGH DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS IS LOW.**

Young people in Ho highlighted a lot of challenges they faced living in the city which required intervention of city leaders. However only 8% of youth in Ho reported they engaged in protests or demonstrations in the past year to get their voices heard on issues that affect them. The low score is an indication of the need to address barriers hindering the organization and participation of young people in such civic activities. The report reveals an opportunity exists for civil society organizations to improve overall civic engagement of young people, promote youth participation in city-level decision making and amplify their voices of young individuals within the city.



Young individuals in Ho exhibit a profound and robust sense of purpose in their lives.

## 3. **YOUNG PEOPLE IN HO POSSESS A STRONG SENSE OF PURPOSE IN LIFE.**

Young individuals in Ho exhibit a profound and robust sense of purpose in their lives, demonstrating a clear understanding of their goals, aspirations, and the direction they wish to pursue. However, there is a disparity between the perceived sense of purpose and the prevalence of substance use as reported. Typically, young individuals who possess a clear sense of direction in their lives tend to refrain from engaging in drug use. The disparity underscores the complex and multifaceted nature of youth well-being, highlighting the need for targeted interventions that address both mental health support and substance use prevention strategies to promote holistic youth development.



Young people are having more access to digital devices such as smart phones.

#### **4. ACCESS TO DIGITAL DEVICES AND INTERNET USAGE IS HIGH AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN HO.**

Young people are having more access to digital devices such as smart phones. However, while access to digital devices and internet usage are high, the percentage of young people with proficiency in digital skills is low. Policymakers and educational institutions must prioritize initiatives aimed at enhancing digital literacy among youth to empower them with essential skills for the modern workforce and ensure equitable access to opportunities in the digital age.



The youth may face challenges in employability due to low scores in vocational skills and digital literacy

#### **5. YOUNG INDIVIDUALS IN HO LACK FUNDAMENTAL READINESS FOR THE JOB MARKET, ESPECIALLY IN DIGITAL AND VOCATIONAL COMPETENCIES CRUCIAL FOR CONTEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT.**

The youth may face challenges in employability due to low scores in vocational skills and digital literacy, standing at 32%, potentially impacting their job prospects within the city. Additionally, mentorship opportunities within the city also received average score of 53%. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive interventions to enhance youth employability by improving their vocational skills and digital literacy levels. Moreover, increasing mentorship opportunities could provide valuable guidance and support for youth as they navigate the job market, helping them develop essential skills and connections necessary for successful career paths. Addressing these areas of concern through targeted programs and initiatives can significantly contribute to improving youth employment outcomes and fostering economic growth within the city.



only 22% of public buildings provide disability access.

#### **6. PUBLIC BUILDINGS LACK SUFFICIENT DISABILITY ACCESSIBILITY.**

The accessibility of public buildings for individuals with disabilities remains a significant concern within the city, as only 22% of public buildings provide disability access. This discrepancy highlights a critical area for improvement in ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all members of the community, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to address infrastructure shortcomings and enhance accessibility standards in public spaces.

# DIMENSIONS



Score:  
36.5%

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION



Score:  
50%

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Score:  
62%

EDUCATION



Score:  
67%

HEALTH

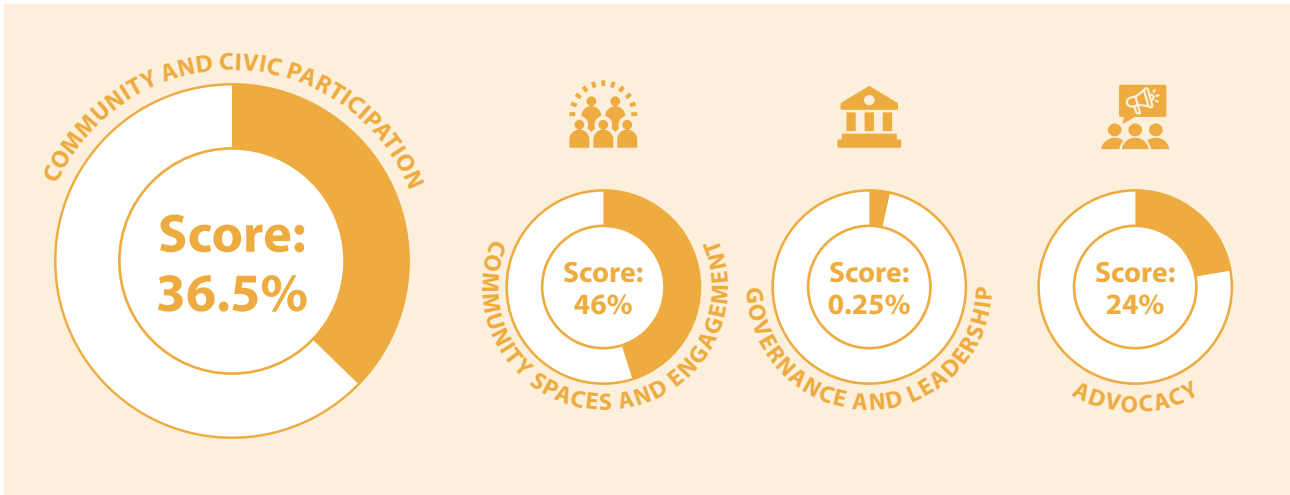


Score:  
68%

SAFETY AND EQUITY



# COMMUNITY AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION



The community and civic involvement score represent a fair performance on the Ho Youth Wellbeing Index scale, suggesting a moderate level of engagement and limited civic participation among young people in Ho. The comprehensive score for Community and Civic Participation stands at 4.0 out of a potential 11 points, representing approximately 36.5% of the maximum achievable score.

The Community and Civic Participation domain encompasses various aspects related to community engagement, governance, leadership, and advocacy. It focuses on promoting sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16). This domain includes indicators such as community engagement, communal responsibility, volunteering, social connection, social participation, availability of parks and green spaces, local governance participation, local leadership, perception of local governance, participation in demonstrations/protests, and awareness of city-level policy. It evaluates the extent to which young people actively participate in their communities, engage with local governance structures, advocate for social causes, and contribute to their communities' overall well-being and development.

## SUB DIMENSION I: COMMUNITY SPACES AND ENGAGEMENT



Score: 46%

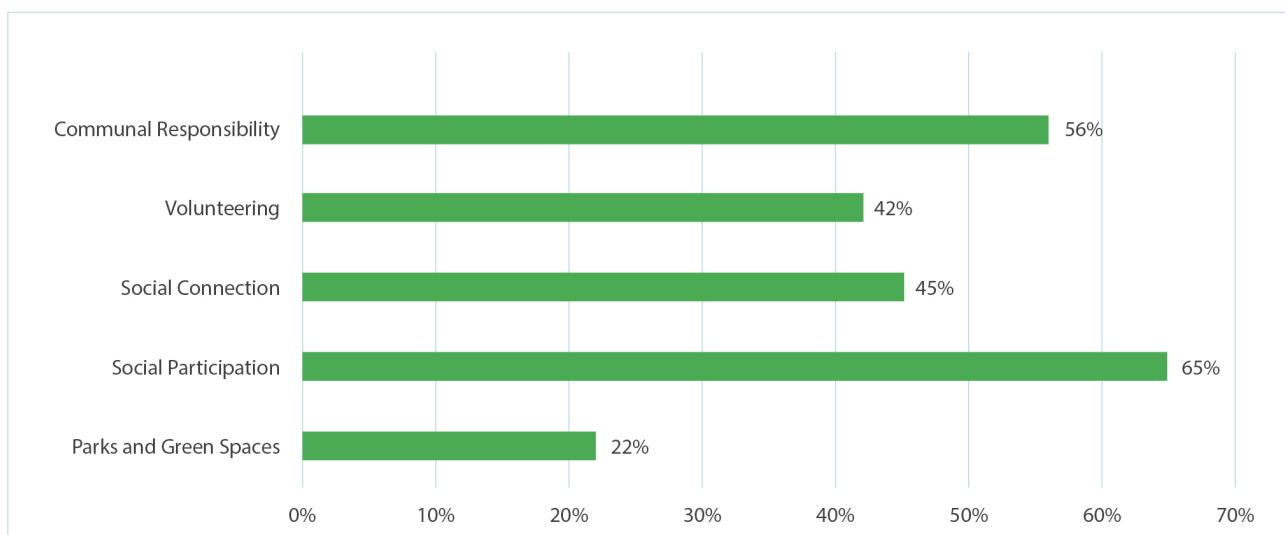


Within this specific sub-category, the cumulative score registers at 2.3 out of a potential 5 points, reflecting 46% of the highest attainable score. This assessment incorporates indicators such as Communal Responsibility (participation in communal activities like cleaning), Volunteering, Social Connection (membership in a social association), Social Participation (frequency of participation in social events), and Availability of Parks and Green Spaces. Social Participation scores high among Ho Youth, showing active involvement in community activities when organized.

Although the youth in Ho demonstrate impressive levels of social engagement, the availability and conditions of parks and green spaces within the city are lacking, scoring only 22%. The park assessment highlights various areas for improvement, including enhancing security measures, maintenance, recreational facilities, amenities, and incorporating cultural elements to serve the community better, especially its youth population. Addressing these deficiencies could significantly create a more inclusive and engaging park environment.

To further enhance community engagement, initiatives promoting volunteering opportunities, fostering social connections, and improving access to green spaces should be prioritized, ensuring continued active participation and community involvement.

Figure 1: Community Spaces and Engagement



## SUB DIMENSION II: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP



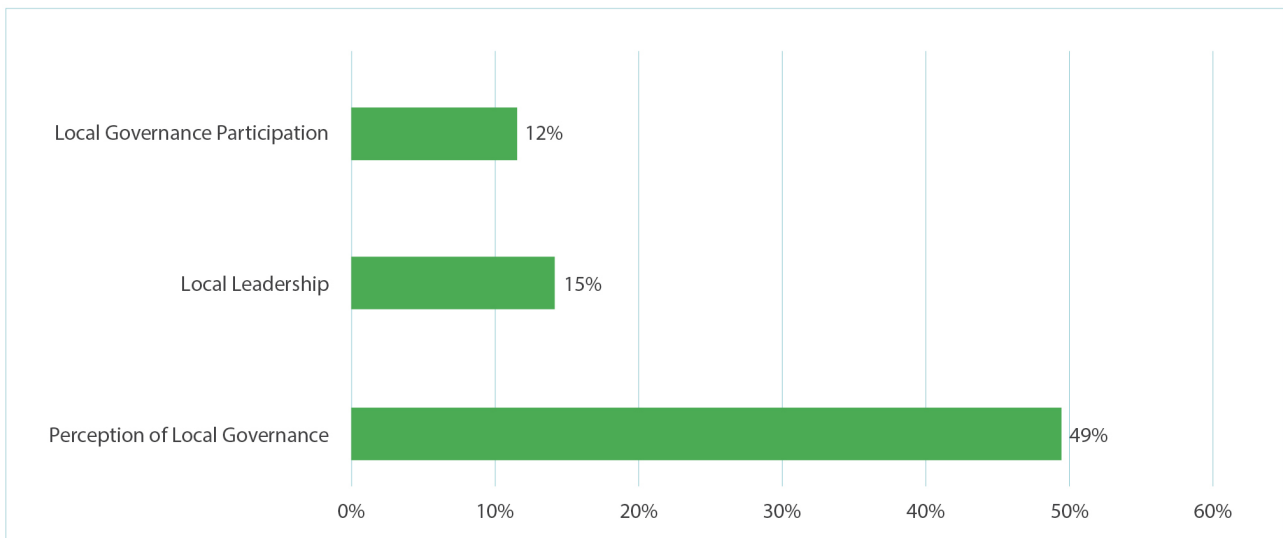
Score: 0.25%



Scoring 0.76 out of 3 in Governance and Leadership signals areas for enhancement in local governance participation (town hall meetings), youth involvement in local leadership (youth representation in local government), and public perception of local governance. Only 12% of young people in Ho attended town hall meetings in the past year, and youth occupy merely 14.7% (3 out of 34) of available positions in the local assembly.

Enhancing active participation and fostering a more positive perception of local governance are crucial for local development. Despite the current modest scores, they lay a foundation for further engagement and advancement in these areas. Continued efforts to encourage community involvement, empower local leaders, and address concerns related to the perception of governance can significantly strengthen local governance structures' overall effectiveness and responsiveness. This, in turn, promotes greater civic engagement and fosters effective leadership within the community.

Figure 2: Governance and Leadership



## SUB DIMENSION III: ADVOCACY



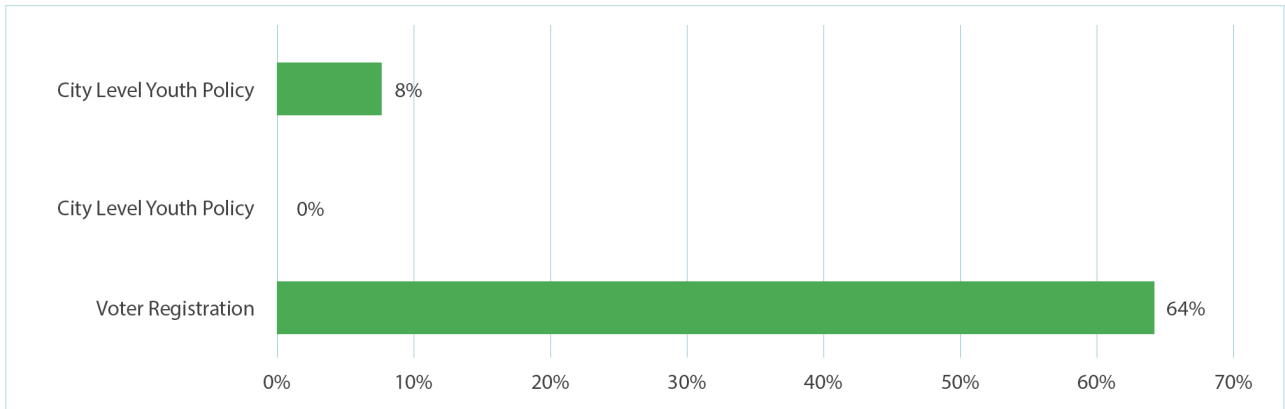
Score: 24%



The Advocacy domain achieved a comprehensive score of 24%, totaling 0.72 out of 3 points. With 64% of eligible youth in Ho being registered voters, the objective is to ensure full registration and active participation in elections among all voting-age young individuals. Again, only 8% of youth in Ho engaged in protests or demonstrations in the past year, indicating the need to address barriers hindering the organization and participation in such events.

The glaring gap in a dedicated youth policy highlights the urgency for targeted advocacy initiatives. It's imperative to advocate for the formulation and implementation of inclusive policies addressing youth-specific needs. This requires concerted efforts to amplify youth voices, lobby policymakers, and mobilize community support. By advocating for youth-centric policies, we can foster greater civic engagement, empower young individuals, and create a more inclusive and responsive environment for their active participation in shaping their communities.

Figure 3: Advocacy



In summary, the findings indicate a moderate level of community and civic participation, governance, and leadership involvement. Notable strengths are observed in areas such as social participation and advocacy for voter registration. By acknowledging both the strengths and areas for growth, stakeholders can develop tailored strategies that address the unique needs and challenges within the community, ultimately promoting more inclusive and participatory civic processes.



## CALL-TO-ACTION: POINTS ON COMMUNITY AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN HO

### 1. *Enhance Park and green space Infrastructure and Accessibility*

Given the low score of 22% in the availability and conditions of parks and green spaces, it's crucial to prioritize improvements in park infrastructure and accessibility. Parks will provide a safe space for young people to connect to each other, relax and play, which are crucial for their development. Initiatives should focus on enhancing security measures, maintenance, recreational facilities, and amenities to create more inclusive and engaging park environments. Stakeholders should collaborate to incorporate cultural elements that cater to the community's diverse needs, especially its youth population.

### 2. *Foster Volunteerism and Civic Participation*

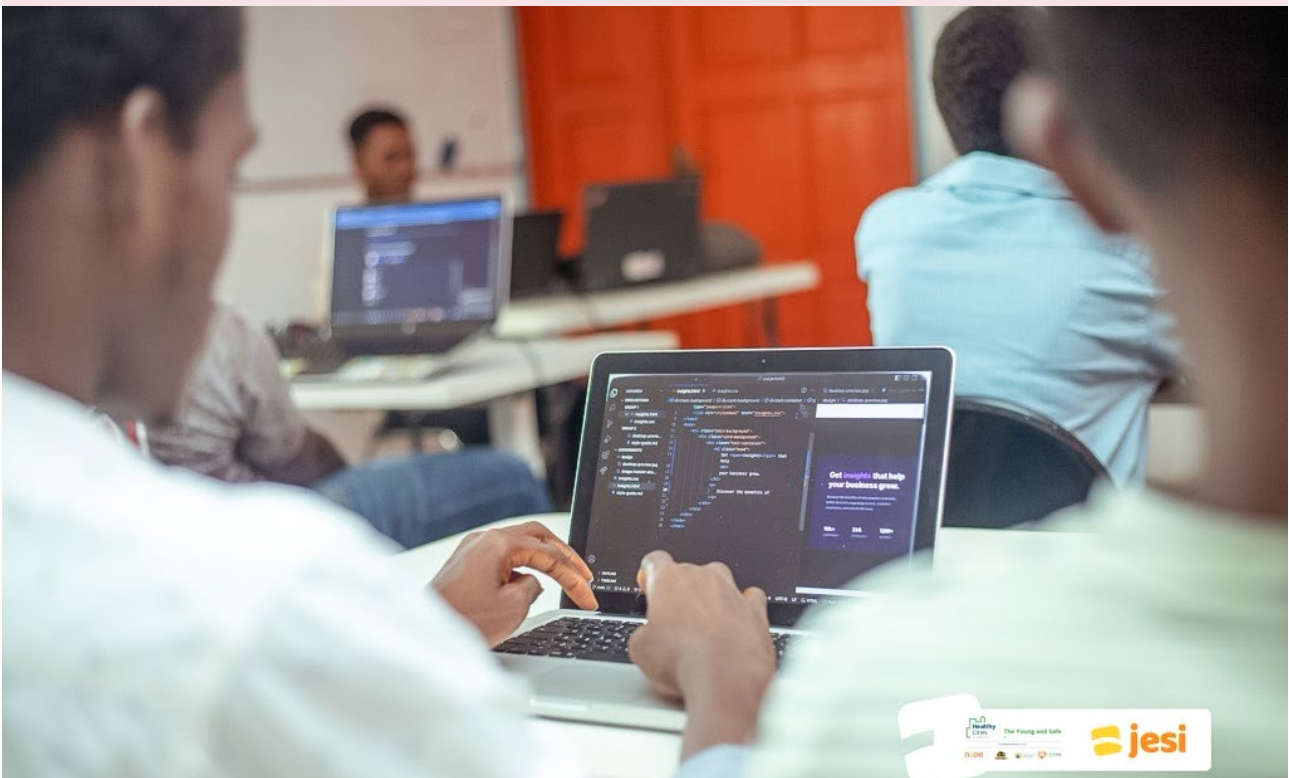
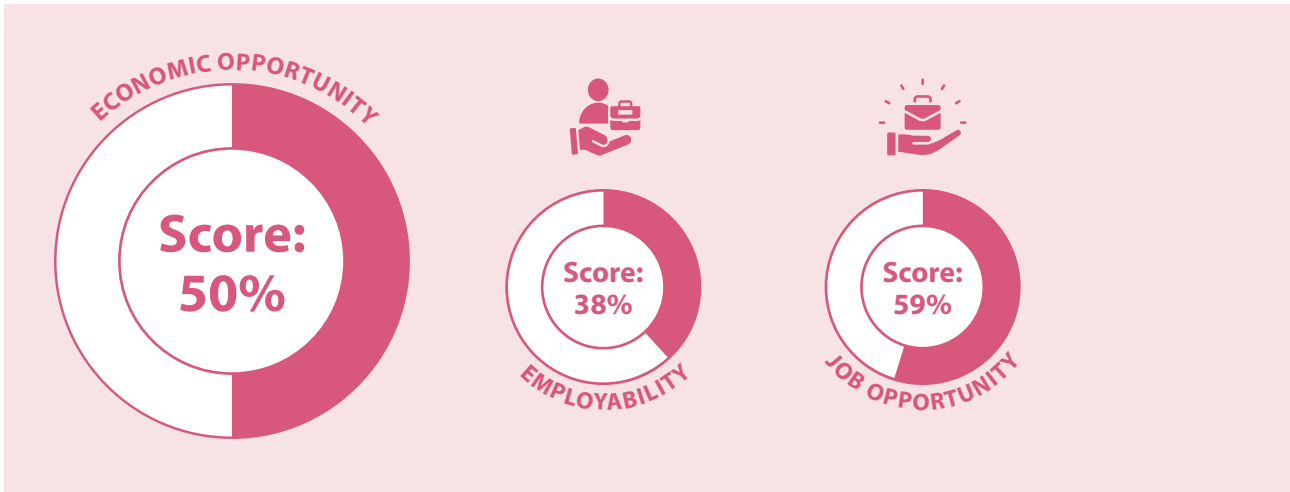
To further enhance community engagement, initiatives promoting volunteering opportunities and civic participation should be prioritized. Programs and events that encourage youth participation in communal activities, social associations, and social events can strengthen social bonds and foster a sense of belonging within the community. Barriers hindering the active participation of young people in protests and demonstrations should be tackled.

### 3. *Ho needs a centered Youth Policy*

The findings highlight the need for targeted advocacy efforts to address barriers hindering youth involvement in local governance and civic activities. Stakeholders should advocate for the formulation and implementation of inclusive policies that address youth-specific needs and concerns. This requires amplifying youth voices, lobbying policymakers, and mobilizing community support to create a more inclusive and responsive environment for youth participation. By advocating for youth-centric policies, stakeholders can empower young individuals and promote their active engagement in shaping their communities' future.



# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



The cumulative score for Economic Opportunity is 3.51 out of a potential 7 points, marking a percentage score of 50%. This indicates a moderate level of economic opportunities. There is potential for improvement in this aspect.

Economic Opportunity encompasses various facets crucial for fostering sustainable development and ensuring equitable access to livelihoods. Within this dimension, Employability serves as a cornerstone, addressing the acquisition of essential skills vital for workforce readiness. It encompasses elements such as Availability of Mentorship Opportunities, facilitating knowledge transfer and skill enhancement, Digital Literacy, which is paramount in navigating modern workplaces, and Vocational Skills development, essential for specialized job

roles. Additionally, Job Opportunities play a pivotal role in economic empowerment, directly impacting poverty alleviation and promoting decent work, as emphasized by SDG 1 and SDG 8. Key indicators assessed include the Youth Unemployment Ratio, reflecting labor market dynamics, Entrepreneurial Activity, indicative of innovation and enterprise development, and Youth Economic Expectations, shedding light on aspirations and perceptions regarding economic prospects. City stakeholders can effectively contribute to fostering economic growth reducing inequalities among young people by enhancing youth employability and creating conducive job opportunities.

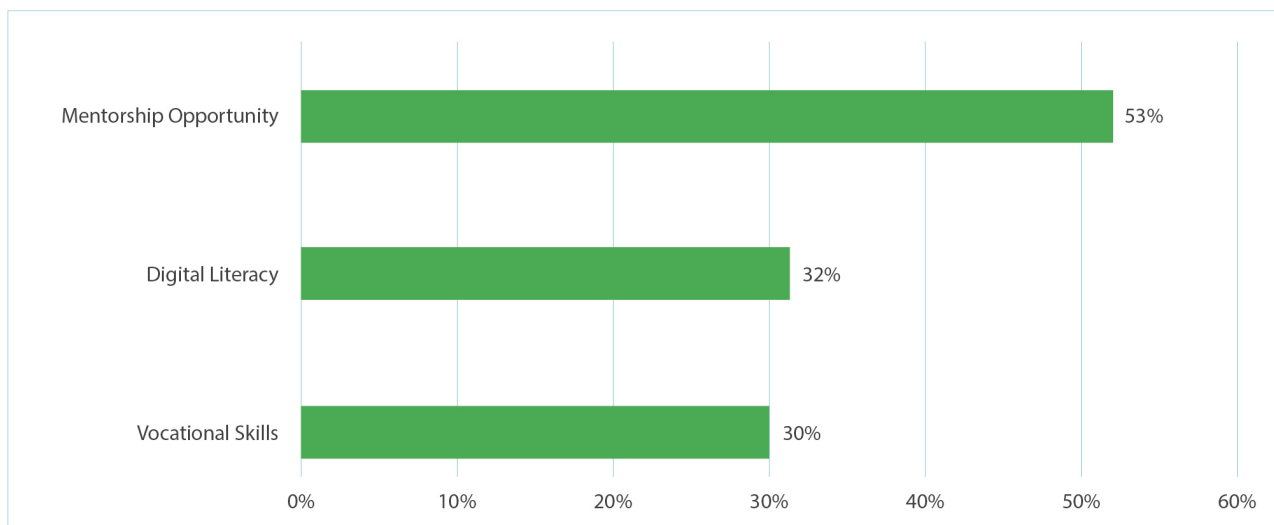
## SUB DIMENSION I: EMPLOYABILITY



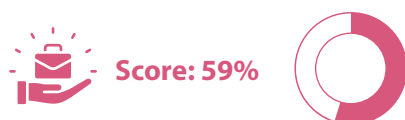
Young individuals in Ho lack essential preparation for the workforce, particularly in digital and vocational skills essential for modern employment.

Within this subdomain, the cumulative score stands at 1.15 out of 3 points, representing 38% of the maximum achievable score. Key indicators include Mentorship Opportunities, Digital Literacy, and Vocational Skills. Notably, the highest individual score is attributed to Mentorship Opportunities, reaching 53%. This indicates a relatively positive perception of the mentorship programs available within the assessment context. However, the overall score highlights areas for improvement, particularly in digital literacy and vocational skills, suggesting a need for targeted interventions to enhance these aspects of economic opportunity. By addressing these gaps, stakeholders can better equip youth with the necessary skills and support systems to thrive in the evolving job market and contribute to sustainable economic growth and development.

Figure 4: Employability



## SUB DIMENSION II: JOB OPPORTUNITY

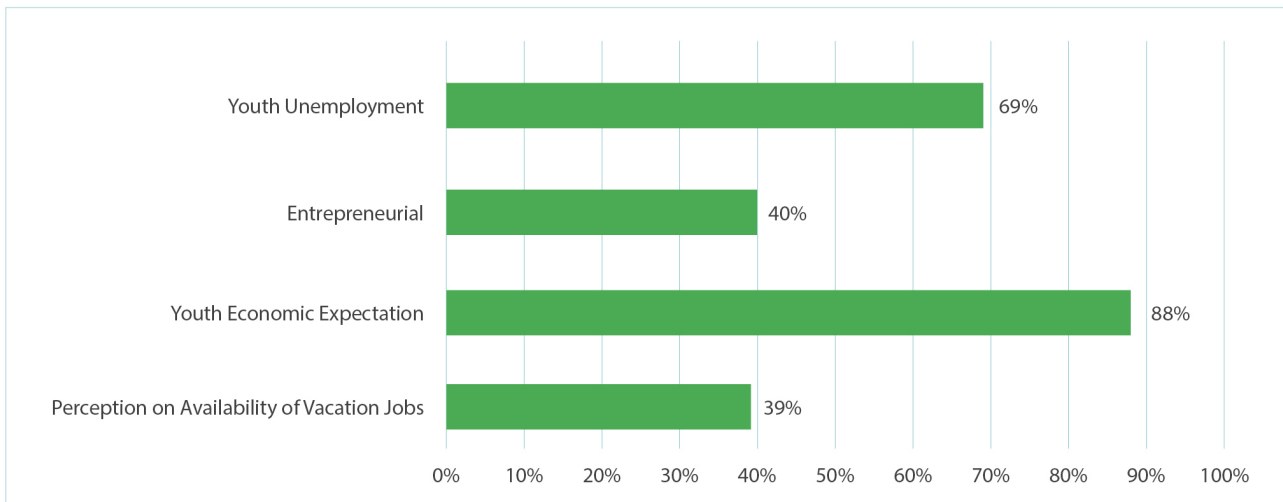


The score for Job opportunities was 59%, which means there's room for improvement in creating job opportunities for young people in Ho. This score looks at indicators like how many young people are jobless, how many start their own businesses, what young people in Ho expect from the economy, and if there are enough part-time jobs available within the city.

The high score on Youth economic expectation, reaching 88%, shows that young people have high expectations for the economy, indicating strong optimism. However, while this aspect indicates positive sentiments, the overall score implies areas for improvement in other indicators, highlighting the need for targeted interventions

such as supporting young people financially and with training to start their own businesses to address youth unemployment rates, foster entrepreneurial initiatives, and enhance access to vacation job opportunities. By addressing these challenges, stakeholders can better support the youth in realizing their economic aspirations and contributing to sustainable economic growth within their communities.

**Figure 5: Job Opportunity**





## CALL-TO-ACTION: POINTS FOR IMPROVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN HO

### 1. *Enhance the Employability of young people in Ho*

To enhance employability among young individuals in Ho, it's essential to implement soft skills and mentorship programs to facilitate knowledge transfer and skill enhancement. These programs can provide valuable guidance and support to young people as they transition from education to the workforce. Additionally, prioritizing digital literacy training is crucial to equip young individuals with essential skills for modern workplaces. In today's digital age, proficiency in digital technologies is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for many jobs. By investing in digital literacy initiatives, stakeholders can empower young people to succeed in a rapidly evolving job market. Furthermore, developing vocational skills programs tailored to specific job roles and industries in demand within the local job market is essential. These programs can provide young individuals with practical, job-specific skills that align with the needs of local employers, increasing their employability and job prospects.

### 2. *Increase Job Opportunities:*

Collaborating with local businesses and industries to create more job opportunities for city youth is paramount. By forging partnerships with employers, city stakeholders can identify areas of workforce demand and develop targeted strategies to address these needs. Supporting initiatives that encourage young entrepreneurship is also vital. Entrepreneurship allows young individuals to create their own employment opportunities while contributing to economic growth and innovation in the community. Providing resources and support for starting and sustaining businesses can empower aspiring young entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into viable ventures. Additionally, expanding part-time job opportunities within the city is essential. Part-time employment offers young individuals valuable work experience, income opportunities, and the chance to develop crucial skills while pursuing their education or other commitments.

### 3. *Address Youth Economic Expectations*

Aligning policies and programs to meet the high economic expectations of young people is crucial. Young individuals in Ho have ambitious economic aspirations, and creating an enabling environment that supports their goals is important. Providing financial support and training programs to empower young individuals to start their own businesses is essential. Entrepreneurship offers a pathway to economic independence and self-reliance, and by equipping young people with the resources and skills they need to succeed as entrepreneurs, stakeholders can help them turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality. Additionally, enhancing access to vacation job opportunities is crucial. Vacation jobs provide young individuals with valuable work experience, income, and exposure to the world of work. By expanding access to vacation job opportunities, stakeholders can bridge the gap between youth expectations and the reality of the current job market, ensuring that young people have meaningful opportunities to gain practical experience and earn income during their school breaks.



# EDUCATION

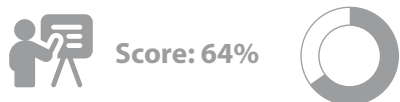


*The Education domain achieves an overall score of 4.36 out of 7, equating to 62%, reflecting a moderately positive assessment of the sector and highlighting areas for enhancement.*

Education is a crucial domain encompassing formal education and information technology components, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education and Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, respectively. Under formal education, key indicators include enrolment rates, literacy rates, completion rates, and education satisfaction levels. These metrics offer insights into the accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness of formal educational systems, providing a comprehensive overview of educational attainment and outcomes. On the other hand, the information technology dimension focuses on facilitating digital literacy and access to digital resources among learners. Indicators such as access to digital devices, digital skills training, and internet usage are

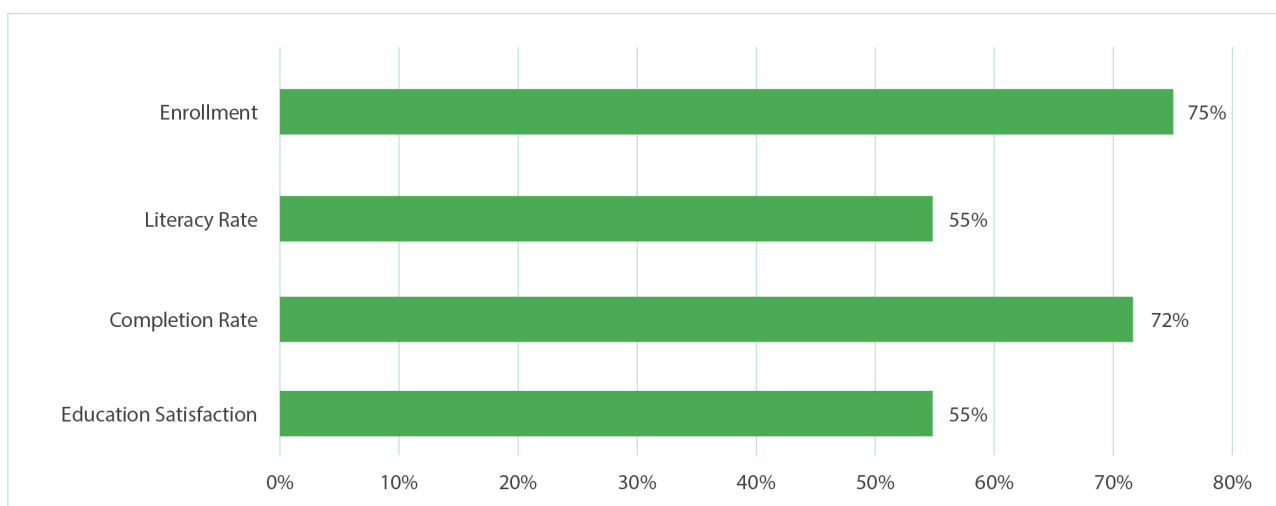
pivotal in assessing technology integration into educational practices, promoting digital inclusion, and preparing individuals for the evolving digital landscape. Together, these components contribute to a holistic understanding of the education domain, addressing both traditional academic metrics and the increasingly vital role of technology in modern education systems.

## SUB DIMENSION I: FORMAL EDUCATION

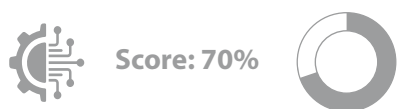


Despite a 55% satisfaction rate with the general education system among young people in Ho, the Education domain achieves an overall score of 2.57 out of 4, representing 64% of the maximum achievable score. This assessment reflects a moderately positive outlook on the education sector, suggesting areas for potential enhancement. Indicators under this category included enrollment, Literacy rate, Completion rate, and Education Satisfaction, collectively providing a comprehensive evaluation of educational performance in the city. Notably, Enrolment emerges as the highest individual scorer, attaining a score of 75%. This substantial score implies a commendable level of participation in formal education programs among the youth population. However, while this aspect demonstrates strength, other areas such as literacy rate, completion rate, and education satisfaction may require closer attention to elevate overall educational outcomes further. By improving these areas, stakeholders can work towards enhancing the quality and effectiveness of educational initiatives, ensuring that youth receive adequate support and resources to thrive academically and contribute meaningfully to society.

Figure 6: Formal Education

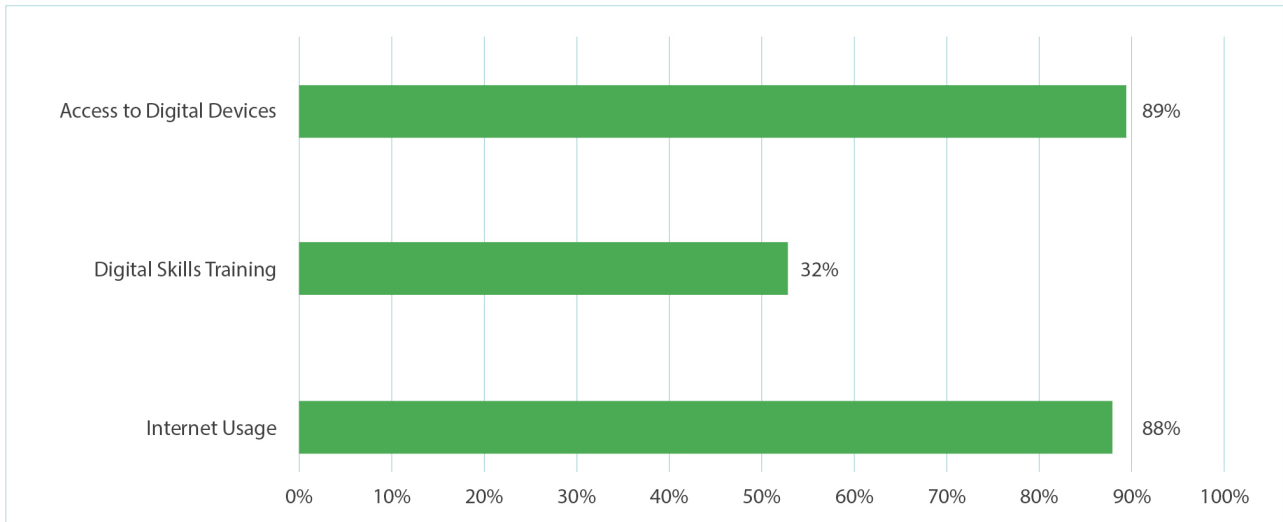


## SUB DIMENSION II: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The Information Technology domain achieved an overall score of 2.09 out of a potential 3 points, equating to 70% of the total achievable score. Key indicators within this category encompass Access to digital devices, Digital skills training, and Internet usage. Notably, Access to digital devices attained the highest individual score of 89%, indicating young people have more access to digital devices such as laptops and smartphones. However, while access to digital devices and internet usage are high, the percentage of young people with training in digital skills is low (32%). To help young people make the most of digital devices and the internet, they need to learn the skills and knowledge to use these technologies effectively. By focusing on these areas, stakeholders can improve the digital literacy of youth, helping them succeed in today's digital world.

**Figure 7: Information Technology**



In summary, the interpretation indicates a moderately positive perception of education and information technology. While there is overall satisfaction, specific areas within formal education and information technology may benefit from further attention or improvement.



## CALL-TO-ACTION: POINTS ON EDUCATION IN HO

### 1. *Enhance Formal Education*

Despite a relatively high satisfaction rate of 55% with the general education system, there is still room for improvement within the Formal Education domain. Initiatives should focus on improving literacy rates, completion rates, and overall education satisfaction levels among young people in Ho. Stakeholders should collaborate to implement targeted interventions that address these specific areas, ensuring a more comprehensive and effective educational experience for youth. Enhancing formal education outcomes can better equip young individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed academically and contribute meaningfully to society.

### 2. *Bridge the Digital Skills Gap*

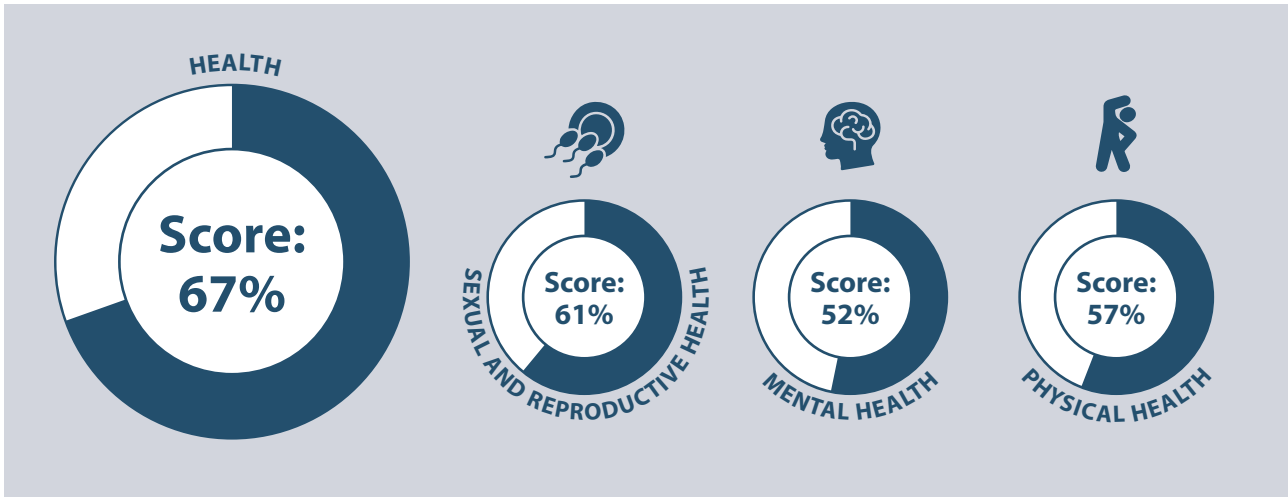
While access to digital devices and internet usage is high among young people in Ho, there is a significant gap in digital skills training, with only 32% of youth receiving training in digital skills. To address this gap, stakeholders should prioritize initiatives aimed at enhancing digital literacy and skills development among young individuals. This could involve implementing digital skills training programs, providing resources for online learning, and integrating technology into educational curricula. By equipping youth with the necessary digital skills, we can empower them to navigate the digital landscape effectively and thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.

### 3. *Promote Digital Inclusion*

Access to digital devices is essential for educational and personal development in today's digital age. While the individual score for access to digital devices is 89%, efforts should be made to ensure equitable access for all young people, especially those from marginalized communities. Stakeholders should work towards providing affordable or subsidized digital devices and internet connectivity options, particularly for low-income households. Additionally, initiatives aimed at promoting digital inclusion, such as community-based digital literacy programs and public access to technology hubs, can further bridge the digital divide and ensure that every young person is included in the digital era. By promoting digital inclusion, we can create a more equitable and accessible learning environment for all youth in Ho.



# HEALTH



Young people in Ho had an overall positive health outlook in 2023. The health domain achieved an overall score of 7.37 out of 11 points, representing 67% of the total possible score. This indicates a positive assessment of the health domain, suggesting a relatively favorable state of health among young people in Ho.

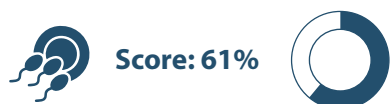
The health domain comprises three crucial subdomains focused on enhancing youth well-being: sexual and reproductive health (SRH), mental health, and physical health. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being, the SRH subdomain targets indicators like teenage pregnancy rates, new HIV infections, contraceptive usage, and youth's perceived knowledge about SRH. Addressing these factors is vital for fostering healthy sexual behaviors and averting adverse reproductive health outcomes among young individuals.

Similarly, the mental health subdomain, also aligned with SDG 3, evaluates critical indicators such as stress

levels, substance use, incidents of youth self-harm, and the utilization of mental health services. Recognizing and addressing these factors is crucial for promoting psychological well-being and providing essential support and interventions to tackle mental health issues among youth.

The physical health subdomain, aligned with SDG 3 and SDG 2: Zero Hunger, assesses critical aspects like wellness, nutrition, and fitness or physical activity levels. Encouraging healthy lifestyles, adequate nutrition, and regular physical activity among youth contributes significantly to their overall physical well-being and reduces the risk of chronic diseases in the future.

## SUB DIMENSION I: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



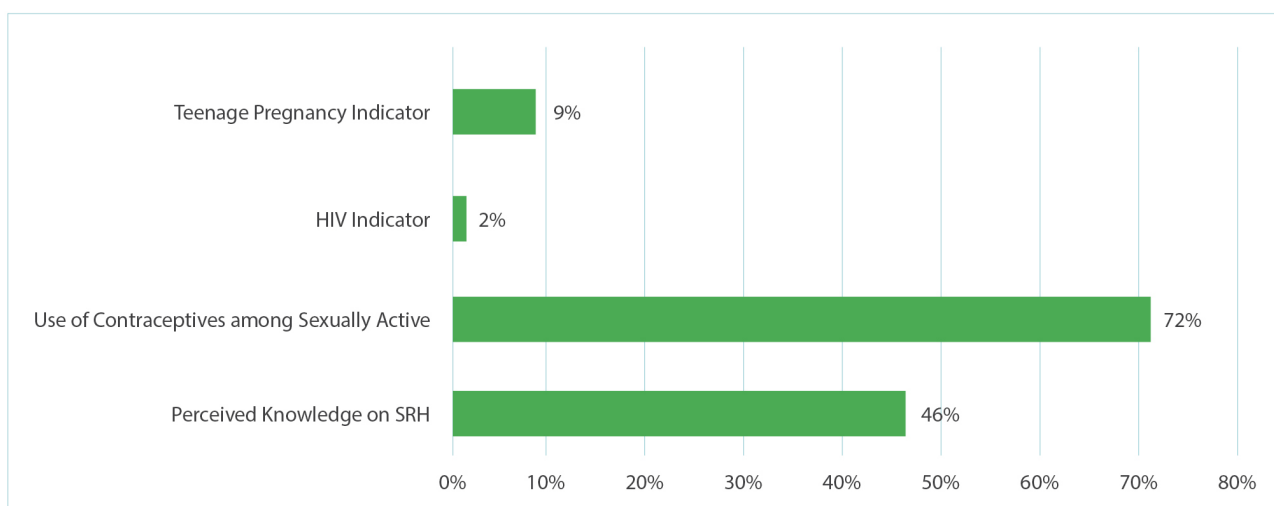
Within this category, the overall score stands at 3.07 out of 5 points, reflecting a moderately positive evaluation of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) among youth. The indicators assessed include the teenage pregnancy rate, HIV prevalence rate, use of contraceptives among sexually active individuals, and perceived knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.

It's noteworthy that while 46% of youth perceive their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health as adequate, indicating a baseline level of awareness, there is room for improvement in education and awareness campaigns to enhance understanding among the remaining 54%. Additionally, the report highlights that 72% of sexually active youth report using contraceptives, signalling a positive trend in responsible sexual behaviour.

The highest individual score within this domain is in the HIV prevalence rate, reaching 98%. This suggests a commendable low prevalence of HIV/AIDS (2%) among the youth population in Ho, which is a positive outcome of effective public health interventions and awareness campaigns targeting HIV prevention.

Overall, while there are areas of strength in sexual and reproductive health awareness and behavior among youth, continued efforts in education, access to contraceptives, and HIV prevention initiatives are essential to further improve and sustain positive outcomes in this critical aspect of youth well-being.

Figure 8: Sexual and Reproductive Health

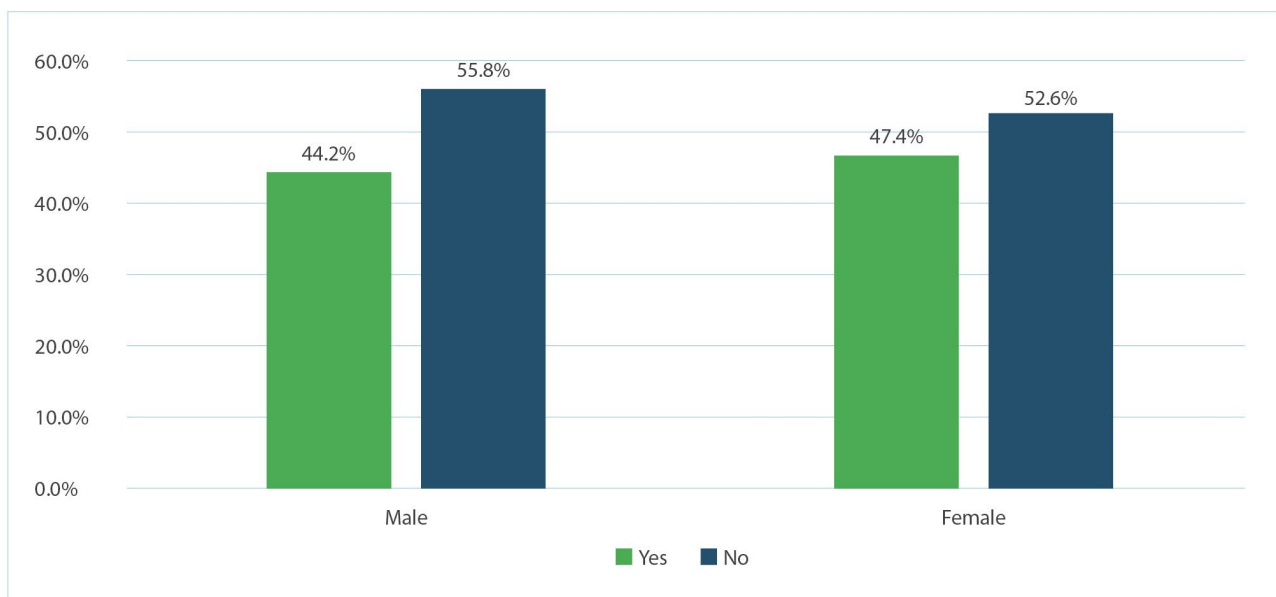


The key to improving sexual and reproductive health is knowledge about the various types of contraceptives available to young people. Proper utilization of contraceptives is crucial in the battle against teenage pregnancy and HIV infections.

The data showed that nearly half of both males and females felt well-informed about contraceptive options, while the other half did not. This suggests that there is a significant portion of young people who may not have enough

knowledge about contraceptive methods available to them.

Figure 9: Understanding Contraceptive Options: Are You Well-Informed?



## SUB DIMENSION II: MENTAL HEALTH



Score: 52%



Although young people in Ho possess a strong sense of purpose in life, they might not be utilizing the mental health services accessible to them, particularly considering the poor performance of the stress indicator.

The comprehensive score for Mental Health stands at 2.59 out of a possible 5 points, representing 52% of the highest achievable score. This evaluation encompasses indicators such as perceived stress levels, substance use, youth self-harm, utilization of mental health services, and a sense of purpose in life. Notably, a perfect score of 100% was attained for reported youth self-harm, indicating no report of self-harm among the youth within the past year (0%), which is encouraging. However, concerning aspects arise with a significant reported stress level, as only 35.5% perceive their life as having very low stress or low stress. In comparison, 64.1% perceive their lives as being moderately stressful to highly stressful. This cumulated into a low score of 12% for the stress indicator. Additionally, there is low utilization of mental health services, corresponding with a high level of substance use among youth, reaching 69%.

To address these concerning trends, there is a pressing need for targeted interventions and support systems to promote mental well-being among youth. It's crucial to increase awareness about mental health issues, improve access to mental health services, and provide adequate support and resources for those struggling with stress, substance use, and other mental health challenges. By prioritizing mental health initiatives and destigmatizing help-seeking behaviors, we can create a more supportive environment for youth and ensure their overall well-being and resilience.

Figure 10: Mental Health

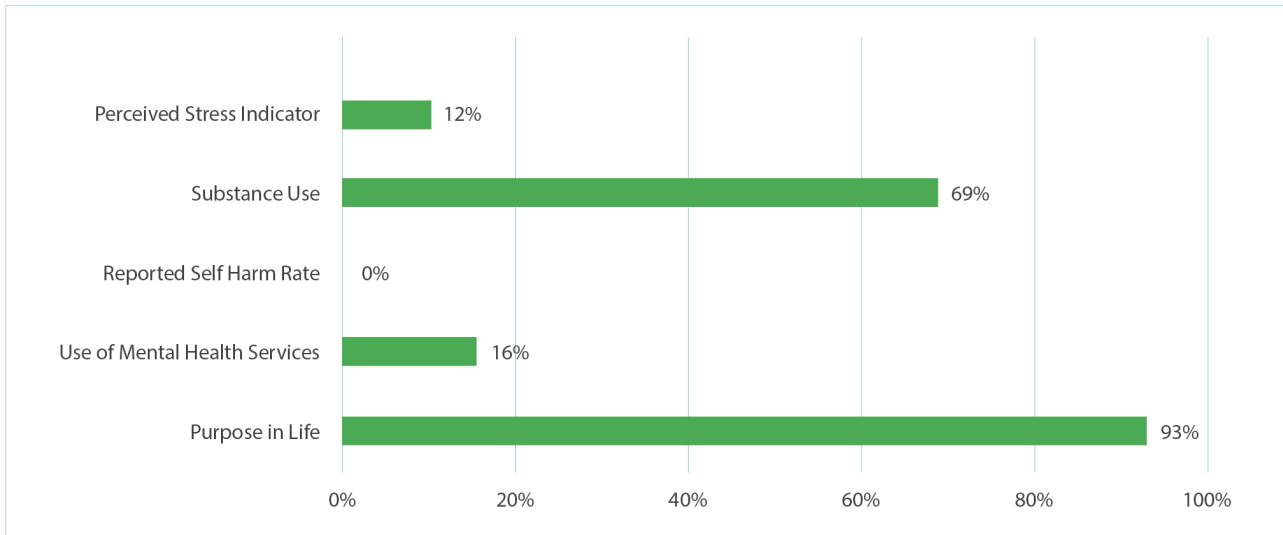
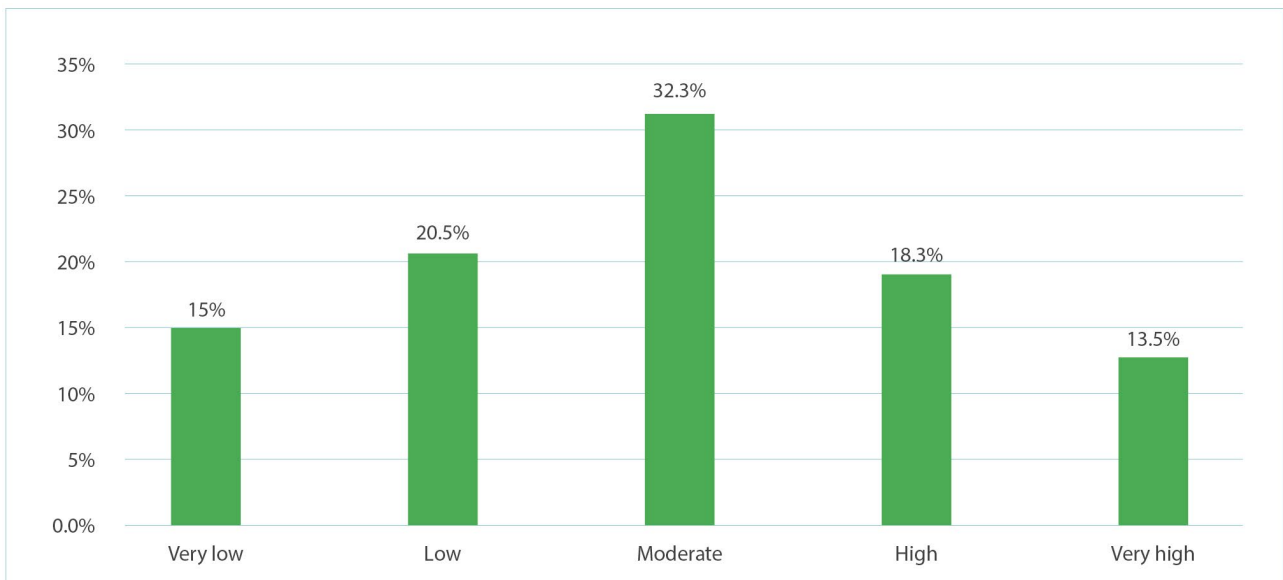


Figure 11: Perception of Stress Level in the past three months



### SUB DIMENSION III: PHYSICAL HEALTH



Score: 57%



In general, young people in Ho had a strong sense of perceived wellness, but they were not doing well when it comes to physical activity levels; this, coupled with the low performance of the indicator on nutrition among young people, should be a cause for concern among stakeholders.

The evaluation of Physical Health reveals a moderate score of 1.71 out of 3, representing 57%. This domain encompasses indicators such as Wellness, Nutrition, and Fitness/Physical activity. Notably, Wellness achieved the highest individual score of 72%, indicating a relatively positive assessment of overall well-being among the youth. However, there are areas of concern, particularly in the indicators related to physical activity/Fitness, scoring low at 44%, and nutrition, scoring 55%. These findings suggest a need for targeted interventions to improve physical activity levels and promote healthier nutritional habits among young individuals. Enhancing access to sports facilities, promoting active lifestyles, and implementing educational programs on balanced nutrition could contribute to addressing these challenges and improving the overall physical health of the youth population.

Figure 12: Physical Health

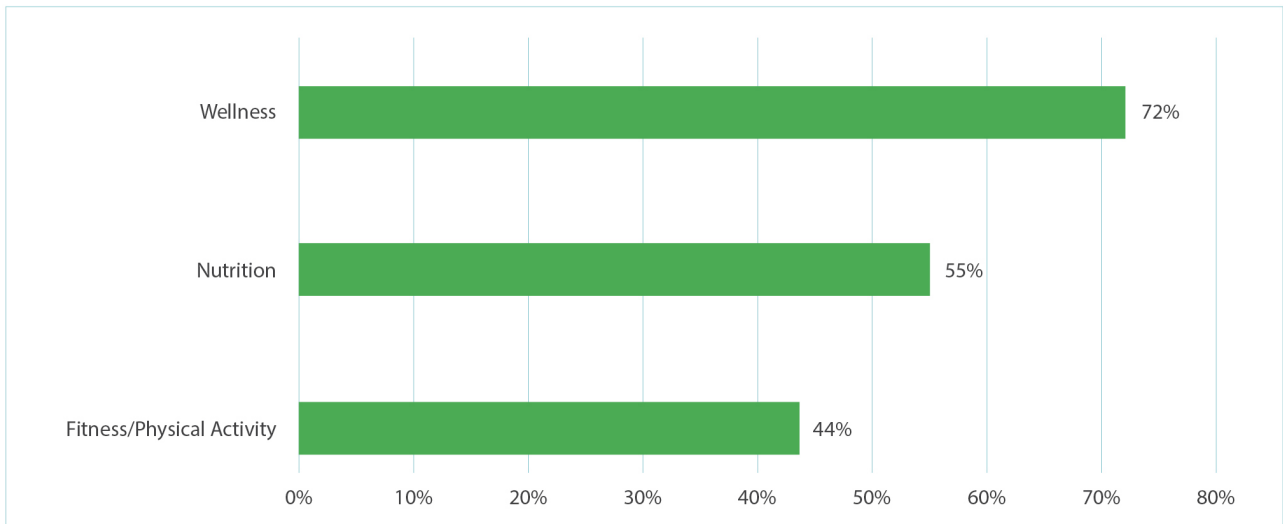
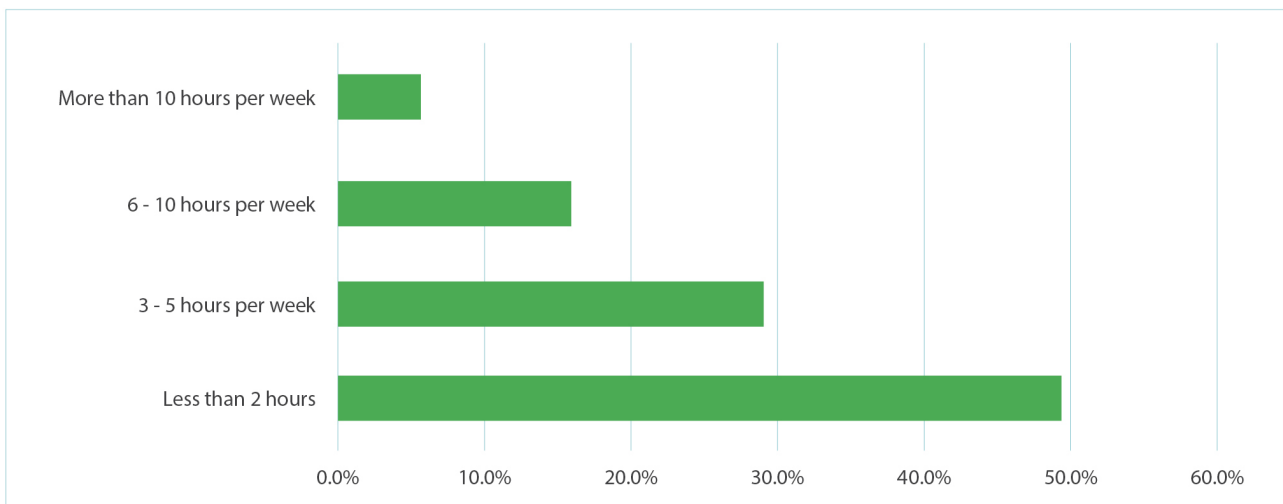


Figure 13: Hours Spent on Physical Activity per Week





## CALL-TO-ACTION: POINTS ON EDUCATION IN HO

### 1. *Enhance Sexual and Reproductive Health Education*

Despite a moderately positive evaluation of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) among youth in Ho, there are areas for improvement, particularly in enhancing knowledge and awareness of contraceptive options. Initiatives should focus on comprehensive sexual education programs that provide accurate information about various contraceptive methods available to young people. These programs should also emphasize the importance of proper utilization of contraceptives in preventing teenage pregnancies and HIV infections. By enhancing SRH education, we can empower young individuals to make informed decisions about their sexual health and promote responsible sexual behavior.

### 2. *Prioritize Mental Health Support and Awareness*

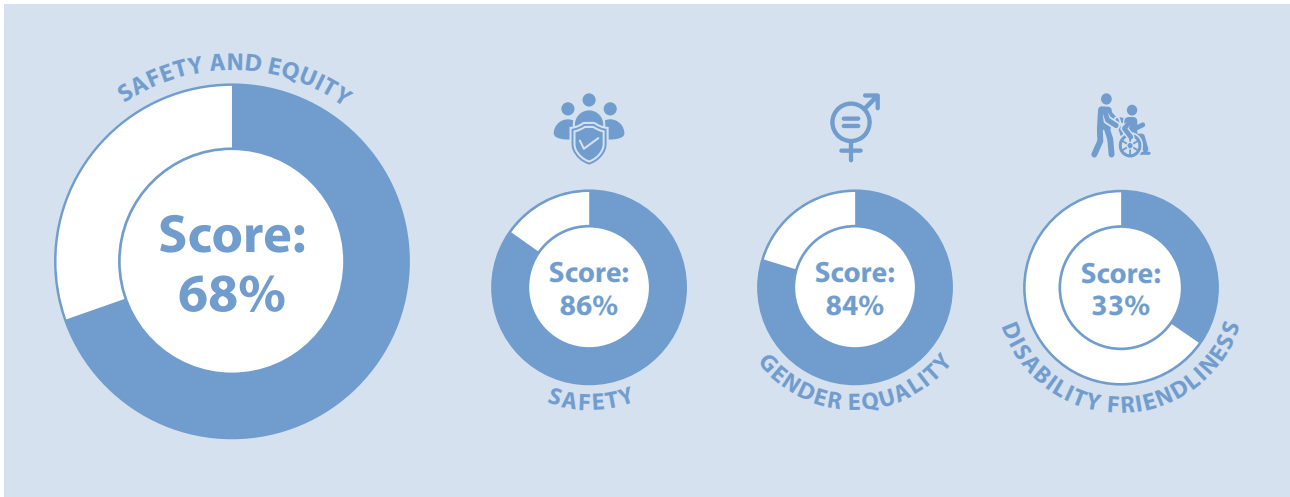
Although young people in Ho exhibit a strong sense of purpose in life, there are concerns regarding mental health issues, particularly stress levels and substance use. There is a pressing need for targeted interventions to promote mental well-being among youth. Increase awareness regarding mental health issues, enhance accessibility to mental health services, and offer sufficient support and resources to individuals grappling with stress and substance use. By prioritizing mental health initiatives and destigmatizing help-seeking behaviors, we can create a more supportive environment for youth and ensure their overall well-being and resilience.

### 3. *Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Physical Activity*

While young people in Ho have a strong sense of perceived wellness, there are areas of concern regarding physical activity levels and nutrition. Initiatives should promote active lifestyles and healthier nutritional habits among young individuals. This could involve enhancing access to sports facilities, promoting active recreational activities, and implementing educational programs on balanced nutrition. By addressing these challenges, stakeholders can contribute to improving the overall physical health of the youth population and reducing the risk of chronic diseases in the future.



# SAFETY AND EQUITY

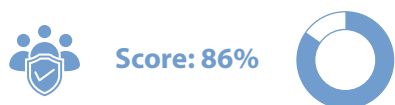


The comprehensive score for Safety and Equity stands at 6.12 out of a possible 9 points, reflecting a 68% achievement rate. This indicates a positive assessment of safety and equity, highlighting a relatively favorable perception within these domains.

However, there is still much work to be done to ensure optimal safety and equity for all individuals. The Safety and Equity domain comprises three crucial subdomains focused on evaluating and remedying various safety, gender equality, and disability inclusivity issues. While indicators such as youth crime rate, violence, and perception of safety are examined to address youth safety concerns, gender equality indicators like child marriage rate, perception of gender equality, and educational attainment strive to foster gender equity and eliminate disparities. Additionally, Disability Friendliness evaluates factors such as employment opportunities, access to public buildings, and

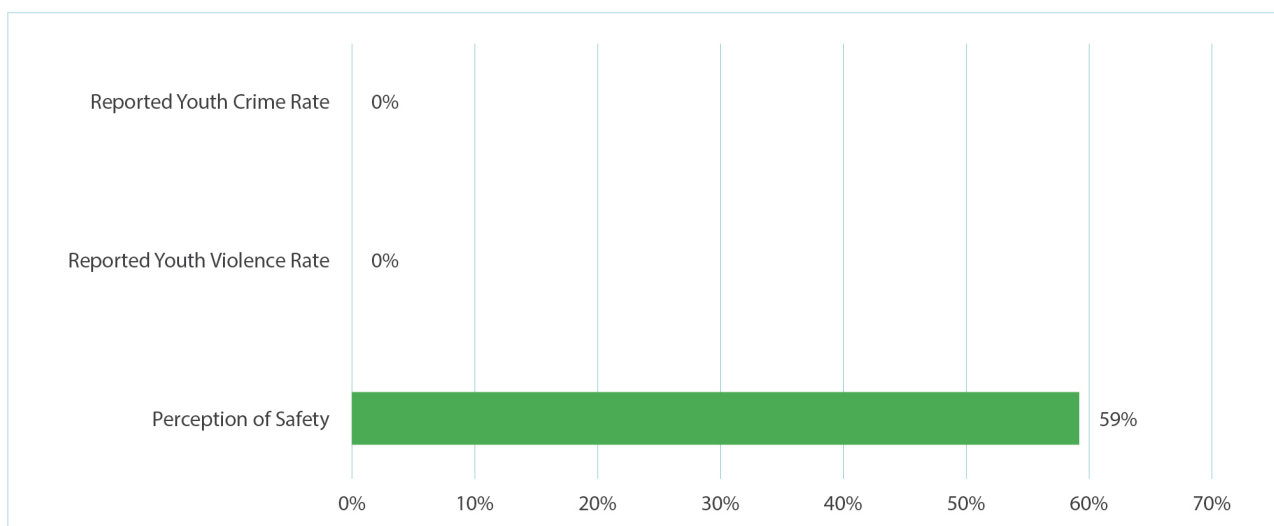
engagement to ensure inclusivity for individuals with disabilities. To truly promote safety, equity, and inclusivity, concerted efforts are needed to address existing challenges and create a supportive environment for everyone, irrespective of gender or disability.

## SUB DIMENSION I: SAFETY



In analyzing the Safety subdomain, which encompasses indicators like Youth crime rate, Youth violence, and Perception of safety, the overall score of 2.59 out of 3 points reveals a commendable achievement rate of 86%. Despite this high score, an interesting disparity emerges when considering the Perception of safety indicator, where only 59% of youth perceive the city as safe. However, the perfect scores attained for Youth crime rate and Youth violence indicate a notable absence of youth involvement in reported incidents of crime and violence. This divergence between the perception of safety and the actual recorded rates of crime and violence raises intriguing questions about the factors influencing youth perceptions of safety within the city. It prompts a deeper exploration into the underlying reasons behind these perceptions and emphasizes the importance of not only addressing tangible safety concerns but also understanding and addressing the subjective experiences and perceptions of safety among youth. By delving into these nuances, policymakers and community leaders can develop more targeted interventions to enhance both the objective safety measures and the subjective sense of safety among the youth population.

Figure 14: Safety indicators

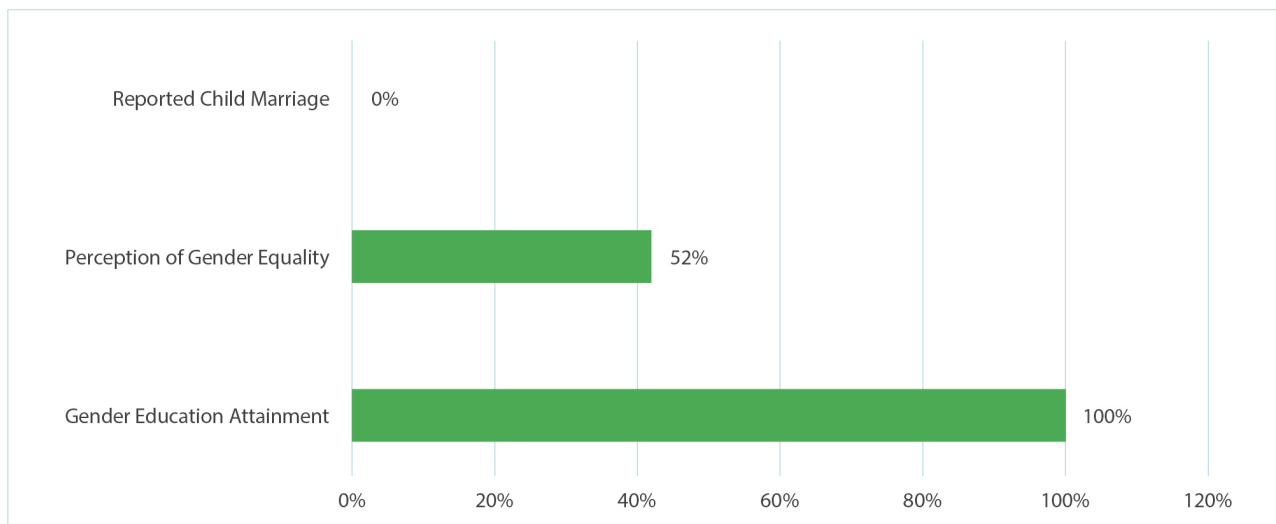


## SUB DIMENSION II: GENDER EQUALITY



The Gender Equality domain, with an overall score of 2.52 out of 3 points (84%), reflects a commendable achievement in promoting gender equality. Indicators such as Reported Child marriage rate and Gender educational attainment received perfect scores, indicating substantial progress in addressing gender disparities in these areas. Despite these positive outcomes, the Perception of Gender equality among youth remains a concern, with only 52% expressing a positive perception. This disparity underscores the importance of addressing tangible indicators and subjective perceptions and attitudes towards gender equality. It prompts a critical examination of the factors contributing to the youth's perception of gender equality and highlights the need for targeted interventions to promote awareness, education, and cultural shifts towards gender equality. By addressing both objective measures and subjective perceptions, stakeholders can work towards fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all genders.

Figure 15: Gender Equity

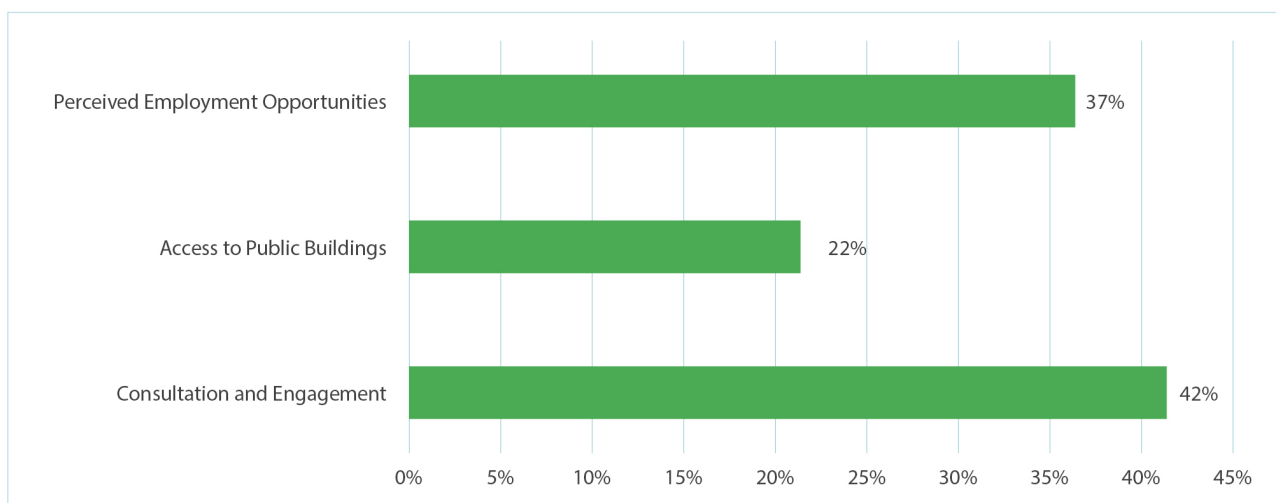


### SUB DIMENSION III: DISABILITY FRIENDLINESS



The Disability Friendliness domain, with an overall score of 1.01 out of 3 points (33%), highlights areas for improvement in ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. While Consultation and engagement received the highest individual score of 42%, indicating a relatively positive assessment of engagement opportunities for individuals with disabilities, challenges persist in other subcategories. Access to public buildings scored low at 22%, underscoring the need to enhance physical accessibility to key public spaces. Additionally, the perception of employment opportunities for people with disabilities scored 37%, indicating room for improvement in fostering inclusive employment practices. These findings emphasize the importance of addressing physical infrastructure barriers and promoting inclusive employment policies to create environments that support the full participation and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in society. Efforts to improve accessibility and employment opportunities are essential for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all individuals, regardless of ability.

Figure 16: Disability Friendliness



In conclusion, the comprehensive assessment of Safety and Equity reveals a positive outlook, with an overall score of 6.12 out of 9 points, representing a 68% achievement rate. While commendable progress has been made in addressing safety concerns, promoting gender equality, and enhancing disability inclusivity, significant work remains to be done. The Safety subdomain, particularly, showcases a commendable achievement rate of 86%, yet

the disparity between perceived safety and objective crime rates raises intriguing questions warranting further exploration. Similarly, while the Gender Equality domain reflects substantial progress in tangible indicators, the persisting gap in perceptions of gender equality among youth emphasizes the need for targeted interventions to promote awareness and education. Furthermore, the Disability Friendliness domain highlights the necessity of addressing physical accessibility and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities to foster a truly inclusive society. Through concerted efforts and targeted interventions, we can continue to advance safety, equity, and inclusivity, ensuring a supportive environment for all individuals regardless of gender or ability.



## CALL-TO-ACTION: POINTS ON SAFETY AND EQUITY IN HO

### 1. *Address Perception Discrepancies in Safety*

Despite commendable objective safety scores, a significant gap exists between the perception of safety among youth and recorded crime rates. To bridge this gap, it's imperative to delve deeper into the factors influencing youth perceptions of safety. Policymakers and community leaders should develop targeted interventions that address tangible safety concerns and understand and address the subjective experiences and perceptions of safety among youth.

### 2. *Promote Awareness and Education for Gender Equality*

While tangible indicators like reported child marriage rates and gender educational attainment show significant progress, there remains a notable disparity in the perception of gender equality among youth. This calls for targeted interventions to promote awareness, education, and cultural shifts towards gender equality. Stakeholders should address both objective measures and subjective perceptions to foster a more inclusive and equitable society for all genders.

### 3. *Enhance Disability Inclusivity*

The assessment reveals areas for improvement in ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, particularly in physical infrastructure and employment opportunities. Efforts should focus on enhancing physical accessibility to public spaces and promoting inclusive employment policies to support the full participation and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in society. By addressing these challenges, stakeholders can foster a more inclusive and equitable environment for all individuals, regardless of ability.



# SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: ELEVATING VOICES AND PASSIONS

In exploring the Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023, we turn the spotlight on the voices of the youth themselves. Their perspectives shed light on the connection between social events and overall well-being, offering valuable insights for future community initiatives.

## QUOTES FROM THE YOUTH:

*“Engaging the young ones and using them as the main subjects during the events. Remuneration and incentives will be given to young ones who display passion and active engagements during the events.”*

This quote emphasizes the importance of active youth involvement in social events. It underscores the need for meaningful engagement, making young people not just participants but central event contributors. The mention of remuneration and incentives also highlights the value placed on recognizing and rewarding the passion and commitment of the youth.



*“Align social events with the interest of youth, align social events with social issues,  
Organize innovative social events.”*

The call to align social events with the interests of the youth and address social issues demonstrates a desire for events that resonate with the concerns and passions of young individuals. The emphasis on innovation suggests a recognition of the need for fresh, dynamic approaches to social gatherings that captivate and inspire the youth.

*“Work on youth-focused social events where it’s a safe space for us.”*

Creating safe spaces is a recurring theme in the quotes. The youth express the need for social events designed specifically for them, where they feel secure and can freely express themselves. This reflects a desire for inclusive and nurturing environments that contribute positively to their overall well-being.

*“Build more opportunities for the youth.”*

This quote underscores the importance of creating opportunities for the youth. It goes beyond events to advocate for a broader approach that involves building platforms and pathways for personal and professional development. This aligns with the idea that holistic well-being encompasses social interactions and avenues for growth and advancement.

*“To bring young people on board and educate them about our culture.”*

The emphasis on cultural education indicates a broader interest in connecting the youth with their cultural heritage. It suggests that social events can be spaces that impart knowledge, fostering a sense of identity and belonging among the youth.

*“Gate fee should be affordable, Top Ghanaian and international artists should be invited,  
Redevelopment of the Ho sports stadium.”*

This quote reflects the practical aspects of organizing social events. Affordability is highlighted, pointing towards the youth’s concern for inclusive access to events. The mention of inviting top artists and redeveloping the sports stadium suggests a vision for high-quality, attractive events that draw participation and contribute to the overall vibrancy of the community.

*"I've spent all my time in school, so I don't have the opportunity to participate in any entrepreneurial training."*

This quote sheds light on the challenges youth face in balancing academic commitments with other opportunities. It emphasizes the need for flexibility in providing avenues for skill development, recognizing that the youth have diverse commitments and aspirations.

In conclusion, the youth voices emphasize the significance of intentional and inclusive social events, creating safe spaces, providing growth opportunities, and aligning with cultural and educational aspirations. These insights serve as a valuable guide for community leaders, event organizers, and policymakers aiming to enhance the well-being of the youth in the Ho Municipality.








# APPENDIX

## REFERENCES

- Ghana, G. S. S. (2021). Population and Housing Census: Population of Regions and Districts. Ghana Statistical Service.
- Secretariat, C. (2021). The Global Youth Development Index 2020.
- WHO. (1948). Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva: World Health Organization.

## APPENDIX I: 2023 HO YOUTH WELLBEING INDEX

2023 Ho Youth Wellbeing Index 25.67/45 = 57%			
	<b>Community and Civic Participation (4.01/11)</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>Score</b>
			<b>Source of Data</b>
<i>Community and Engagement (2.3/5)</i>	<b>46%</b>	<b>2.3</b>	
	Communal Responsibility	0.56	Survey data 2023
	Volunteering	0.42	Survey data 2023
	Social Connection	0.45	Survey data 2023
	Social Participation	0.65	Survey data 2023
<i>Governance and Leadership (1/3)</i>	Parks and Green Spaces	0.22	Survey data 2023
	<b>33%</b>	<b>0.76</b>	
	Local Governance Participation	0.12	Survey data 2023
	Local Leadership	0.15	Ghana Statistical Service 2021
<i>Advocacy (0.72/3)</i>	Perception of Local Governance	0.49	Survey data 2023
	<b>24%</b>	<b>0.72</b>	
	Demonstrations/Protests	0.08	Survey data 2023
<i>Economic Opportunity (3.51/7)</i>	City level youth policy	0	Municipal Assembly
	Voter registration	0.64	Survey data 2023
	<b>50%</b>	<b>3.51</b>	
	<b>Employability (1.15/3)</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1.15</b>
	Mentorship opportunity	0.53	Survey data 2023
	Digital literacy	0.32	Survey data 2023
<i>Job Opportunity (2.36/4)</i>	Vocational skills	0.3	Survey data 2023
	<b>59%</b>	<b>2.36</b>	
	Youth unemployment ratio	0.69	GSS, PHC, 2021 (15 to 29 years) 31% reverse scoring was used
	Entrepreneurial activity	0.4	Survey data 2023
	Youth Economic expectation	0.88	Survey data 2023
	Perception on availability of vacation jobs	0.39	Survey data 2023




2023 Ho Youth Wellbeing Index				
25.67/45 = 57%				
	<b>Education (4.36/7)</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>4.66</b>	
	Formal Education (2.57/4)	<b>62%</b>	<b>2.57</b>	
		Enrolment	0.75	
		Literacy rate	0.55	
		Completion rate	0.72	
		Education Satisfaction	0.55	Survey data 2023
	Information Technology (2.09/3)		<b>2.09</b>	
		Access to digital devices	0.89	Survey data 2023
		Digital skills training	0.32	Survey data 2023
		Internet usage	0.88	Survey data 2023
	<b>Health (7.37/11)</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>7.37</b>	
	Sexual and Reproductive Health (3.07/5)	<b>70%</b>	<b>3.07</b>	
		Teenage pregnancy rate	0.91	MHD, 2022 (13-19 years) 8.9% reverse scoring was used to 0.91
		HIV indicator	0.98	2020 National and Sub-national HIV estimate report (1.9%) reverse scoring was used to 0.98
		Use of contraceptives among sexually active	0.72	Survey data 2023
		Perceived knowledge on SRH	0.46	Survey data 2023
	Mental Health (2.59/5)	<b>52%</b>	<b>2.59</b>	
		Stress	0.12	Survey data 2023
		Substance use	0.69	Survey data 2023
		Youth self-harm	1	Municipal Assembly
		Use of mental health services	0.16	Survey data 2023
		Purpose in life	0.93	Survey data 2023
	Physical Health (1.71/3)	<b>57%</b>	<b>1.71</b>	
		Wellness	0.72	Survey data 2023
		Nutrition	0.55	Survey data 2023 - Availability of healthy food options in the city
		Fitness/Physical activity	0.44	Survey data
		<b>Safety and Equity (6.12/9)</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>6.12</b>
		Safety (2.59/3)	<b>86%</b>	<b>2.59</b>
Youth crime rate			1	Municipal Assembly
Youth violence			1	Municipal Assembly
perception of safety			0.59	Survey data 2023
Gender Equality (2.52/3)		<b>84%</b>	<b>2.52</b>	
		Child marriage rate	1	Municipal Assembly
		Perception of Gender equality	0.52	Survey data 2023
		Gender educational attainment	1	Survey data 2023_ Calculated using Gender Parity Index (GPI)

**2023 Ho Youth Wellbeing Index**

25.67/45 = 57%

<i>Disability Friendliness (1.01/3)</i>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1.01</b>	
	Employment opportunities	0.37	Survey data 2023
	Access to public buildings	0.22	Survey data 2023
	Consultation and engagement	0.42	Survey data 2023

**APPENDIX II: 2023 HO YOUTH WELL-BEING INDEX AND THE SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) INDICATORS**

Dimension	Sub dimension	SDG	Indicator
 <p><b>Community and Civic Participation</b></p>	<i>Community Engagement</i>	<b>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	Communal Responsibility
			Volunteering
			Social Connection
			Social Participation
	<i>Governance and Leadership</i>	<b>SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions</b>	Availability of Parks and Green Spaces
			Local Governance Participation
			Youth in Local Leadership
	<i>Advocacy</i>	<b>SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions</b>	Perception of Local Governance
			Demonstrations/Protest
 <p><b>Economic Opportunity</b></p>	<i>Employability</i>	<b>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	Awareness of City level youth policy
			Digital literacy
			Vocational skills
	<i>Job Opportunity</i>	<b>SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	Youth unemployment ratio
			Entrepreneurial activity
			Youth Economic expectation
 <p><b>Education</b></p>	<i>Formal Education</i>	<b>SDG 4: Quality Education</b>	Demonstrations/Protest
			JHS Enrolment rate
			Literacy rate
			JHS Completion rate
	<i>Information Technology</i>	<b>SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure</b>	Education Satisfaction
			Access to digital devices
			Digital skills training
			Internet usage

Dimension	Sub dimension	SDG	Indicator
 <b>Health</b>	<i>Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)</i>	<b>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being</b>	Teenage pregnancy rate
			HIV new infection rate
			Use of contraceptives
			Perceived knowledge on SRH
	<i>Mental Health</i>	<b>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being</b>	Stress level
			Substance use
			Youth self-harm
			Use of mental health services
	<i>Physical Health</i>	<b>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being</b> <b>SDG 2: Zero Hunger</b>	Wellness
Nutrition			
Fitness/Physical activity			
 <b>Safety and Equity</b>	<i>Safety</i>	<b>SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions</b>	Youth crime rate indicator
			Youth violence indicator
			perception of safety
	<i>Gender Equality</i>	<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b> <b>SDG 4: Quality Education</b>	Child marriage indicator
			Perception of Gender equality
			Gender educational attainment
	<i>Disability Friendliness</i>	<b>SDG 10: Reduced Inequality</b> <b>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	Employment opportunities
			Access to public buildings
			Consultation and engagement



## ABOUT THE YOUNG AND SAFE PROJECT

The “Ho Youth Well-being Index 2023” report is a product of the Young and Safe Initiative

The Young and Safe project intends to assist Ho in becoming a youth-friendly city that safeguards the wellbeing, health, and participation of young people in city governance. Through smart local partnerships between youth-led non-profits, universities, and government agencies in Ho, this objective is accomplished through a variety of programmes that are provided on multiple levels. Building young people’s capacity to participate in city government, addressing issues related to mental and reproductive health, creativity, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation are a few examples of these projects.

The young and safe project is three-year project implemented by a consortium of by a consortium made up of Node Eight Foundation, Love Aid Foundation, Ho Municipal Assembly, and the Ghana Education Service under the Healthy Cities for Adolescent Programme – II funded by Fondation Botnar and managed by Ecorys Ltd.







# The Young and Safe

Ho

a Fondation Botnar initiative



Ghana Education Service (GES)

