



Re-centering Youth Voices in Kenya's Governance Trajectory

**VIJANAAZ GOVERNANCE GARAGE (VGG)
LAUNCH REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



At Center For Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA), we recognize that sustainable governance renewal extends beyond policy reform. It requires strengthening the participation of those involved in governance, shaping the decision-making process, and the values that guide leadership. In Kenya, where young people form the majority, deepening meaningful youth participation is essential to the future of democratic governance.

The launch of the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) marks a deliberate effort to re-center youth voices within Kenya's governance trajectory. Implemented under CEFRESA's Democratic Governance and Accountability thematic area, VGG is grounded in the Constitution of Kenya, particularly Chapter Six on Leadership and Integrity, alongside Articles 10 and 55, and advances values-based leadership through dialogue, creativity, and solution-oriented civic action.

Through the Garage Dialogue and Action Model, young people take the lead in critically engaging governance challenges, co-designing practical solutions, mobilizing their communities, and advancing ethical and accountable leadership. This action-oriented process is reinforced by the VGG Newsletter, a national amplification platform that carries youth voices, ideas, and creative expression beyond the garage, ensuring that dialogue, innovation, and lived experience inform broader public and governance conversations. The garage metaphor is intentional. A garage is a space where systems are examined, repaired, and tested until they work. In this spirit, VGG functions as a civic workshop, where young people collectively refine ideas, strengthen leadership culture, and develop approaches grounded in integrity, inclusion, and accountability.

For partners and donors, VGG represents a scalable and complementary governance model with the potential to strengthen civic culture at the county and national levels. For young people, it offers space, legitimacy, and tools to move from voice to action. This report invites all readers, youth, institutions, civil society, media, and development partners to engage with the model, reflect on its outcomes, and explore pathways for collaboration, scale, and shared responsibility.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the young people, partners, communities, national and county government, and stakeholders whose commitment made this launch possible. The Vijanaaz Governance Garage is active and evolving. Together, we can ensure that youth participation remains a central, constructive force in shaping Kenya's governance future.

Mary Maina

Executive Director

Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The launch of the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) on 28th September 2025 marked a defining moment for youth-led democratic governance engagement in Kenya. Convened by CEFRESA in Mombasa, Nyali at Shauri Yako Bodaboda Stage. The event brought together over 200 in-person participants, including youth leaders, women leaders, media practitioners, artists, business communities, boda-boda riders, civil society actors, religious leaders, local and county governance representatives, while reaching hundreds more nationally through digital and media platforms. Collectively, these engagements catalyzed a broad civic conversation on youth participation, accountability, and values-based leadership.

The launch formally introduced VGG as a youth-led governance incubator anchored in structured dialogue, creativity, and solution-oriented action. Through the Garage Dialogue and Action Model (GDAM), the event demonstrated how inclusive dialogue can be translated into practical commitments and civic action. Carefully curated symbolism, ranging from the opening of governance spaces through a ribbon-cutting ceremony to the cracked map and mended mirror reflecting youth aspirations, confirmed young people as active fixers of governance gaps. Beyond symbolism, the launch generated tangible outcomes and stakeholder commitments. These included pledges to mentor emerging youth leaders, amplify youth creative voices, prioritize women's economic empowerment, and advance advocacy for the development of a Mombasa Youth Policy. Artistic performances and youth testimonies infused the space with authenticity and urgency, while coordinated digital amplification extended the conversation beyond the venue, reinforcing reach, transparency, and public accountability.

Anchored in the metaphor of the garage, a space where broken systems are examined, repaired, and tested until they work, VGG positions youth at the center of governance renewal. The unveiling of the VGG Civic Toolbox underscored this approach by highlighting practical civic instruments such as the Constitution, National Identification, and Voter Cards, reinforcing the message that young people already possess the tools needed to shape democratic outcomes.

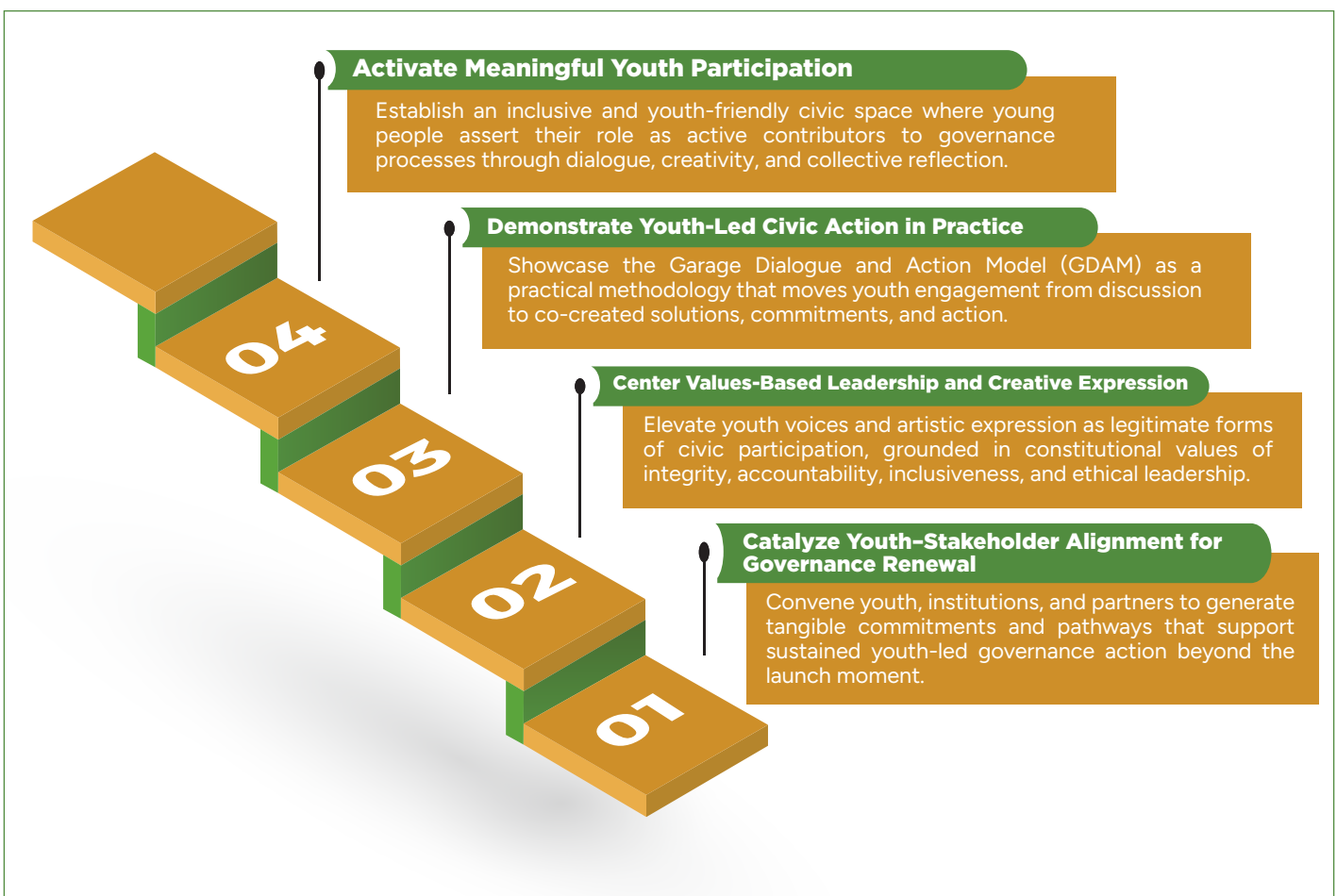
This report documents the philosophy, design, proceedings, and outcomes of the VGG launch and situates the initiative within CEFRESA's broader commitment to Democratic Governance and Accountability. It presents a compelling case for youths and stakeholders to scale the Vijanaaz Governance Garage as a replicable and adaptive governance model capable of strengthening civic culture, ethical leadership, and youth participation across counties in Kenya and beyond. The report is intentionally presented through a blend of visuals, narratives, and infographics, reflecting VGG's commitment to capturing youth aspirations, analysis, and commitments through creative and accessible civic expression.

OVERVIEW

Kenya stands at a defining moment in its governance journey, marked by persistent accountability gaps, declining public trust, and rising demand for ethical and inclusive leadership. Within this context, young people, who constitute the majority of the population, hold both the greatest stake and the greatest potential to renew democratic culture. The Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG), spearheaded by the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA), responds to this moment by re-centering youth as legitimate shapers of governance outcomes. Anchored in the Constitution of Kenya, including Chapter Six on Leadership and Integrity and Articles 10 and 55, VGG positions youth participation as a constitutional responsibility grounded in values-based leadership, accountability, creativity, and action. Through a youth-led, solution-oriented approach, VGG reframes governance as a space that young people can actively repair, influence, and sustain.

OBJECTIVES OF THE VGG LAUNCH

The launch of the Vijanaaz Governance Garage was strategically designed to:



ABOUT CEFRESA

The Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) is a women-led organization advancing democratic governance, accountability, and inclusive public participation, with a strong focus on youth and women as drivers of systems change. CEFRESA operates across three interconnected thematic areas, Democratic Governance and Accountability, Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods, and Peacebuilding and Wellbeing, recognizing that resilient societies are built where accountable institutions, economic opportunity, and social cohesion reinforce one another.

CEFRESA strengthens governance and development systems through strategic advocacy, participatory engagement, and evidence-informed action, bridging grassroots realities with decision-making processes at subnational, national, and regional levels. By translating complex policy and legal frameworks into accessible, action-oriented pathways, the organization enables youth and communities to engage institutions effectively and influence sustainable outcomes.

Within this mandate, the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) is anchored under CEFRESA's Democratic Governance and Accountability thematic area, reflecting the organization's commitment to re-centering youth voices through dialogue, creativity, and solution-oriented civic engagement.

OPENING REMARKS

In their opening remarks, the CEFRESA Executive Director and a Member of the CEFRESA Board set a clear and timely tone for the convening, calling for collective responsibility in transforming youth leadership and governance in Kenya. They emphasized that meaningful civic engagement cannot be deferred or pursued in silos, but must be driven through shared action among youth, institutions, communities, and partners.

The speakers anchored this call in values-based leadership, underscoring integrity, accountability, inclusivity, and service as lived responsibilities rather than abstract ideals. Young people were challenged to approach governance with purpose, ethical clarity, and discipline as they shape the Kenya they envision and the future they seek to build.

The Village Elder reinforced the importance of continuity and trust, affirming commitment to sustaining dialogue beyond the launch and positioning the Garage as a safe, intergenerational civic space. Emphasis was placed on security and safety as foundational conditions for meaningful youth participation, open expression, and responsible leadership to take root.

THE VIJANAAZ GOVERNANCE GARAGE LAUNCH ATTENDEES



200+ in-person participants



National Digital Reach

PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES

Youth & Grassroots Leaders

Informal Sector Actors

Civil Society Organizations & Youth Groups

Local & County Governance Representatives

Legal & Policy Practitioners

Media Practitioners & Digital Influencers

Artists & Creatives

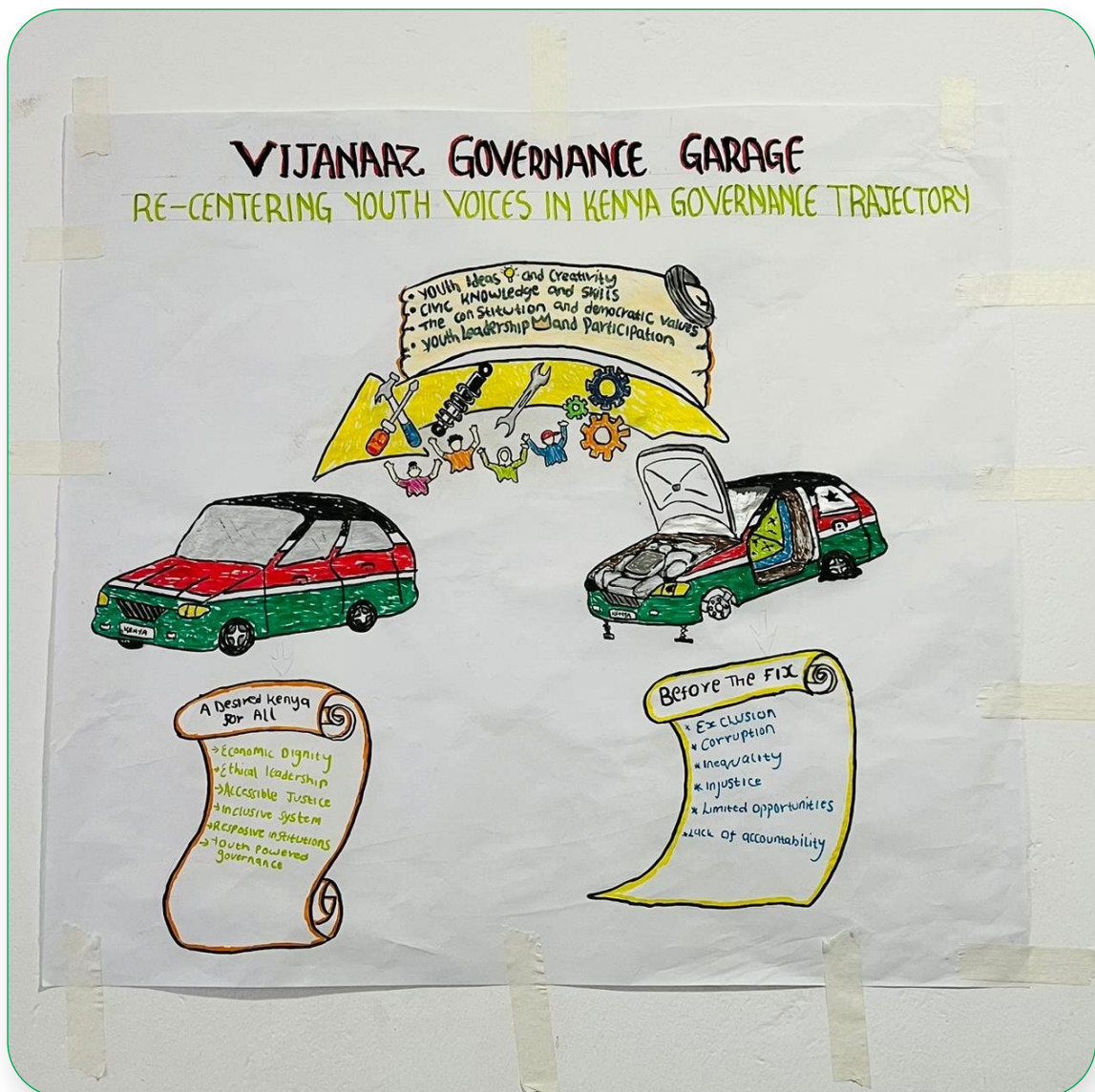
Faith Leaders

Business Community Representatives



VGG VISION

The Vijanaaz Governance Garage envisions a Kenya where young people are recognized as architects and co-drivers of governance, shaping the nation's direction in partnership with institutions and communities through voice, creativity, and collective action. It imagines a future in which youth leadership strengthens inclusive, accountable, and responsive governance for all.



INTRODUCTION TO VIJANAAZ GOVERNANCE GARAGE (VGG)

The Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) is a bold, youth-led governance incubator grounded in a simple yet powerful philosophy: nothing leaves the garage until it works. It positions young people as designers, testers, and custodians of civic solutions, creating a safe, youth-friendly space where they can express themselves in the languages, forms, and expressions that feel most authentic to them.

VGG recognizes that young people carry both said and unsaid voices, shaped by urgency, lived experience, creativity, and artistic imagination. The platform provides freedom to articulate these voices openly, while deliberately nurturing innovation in civic action and collective problem-solving.

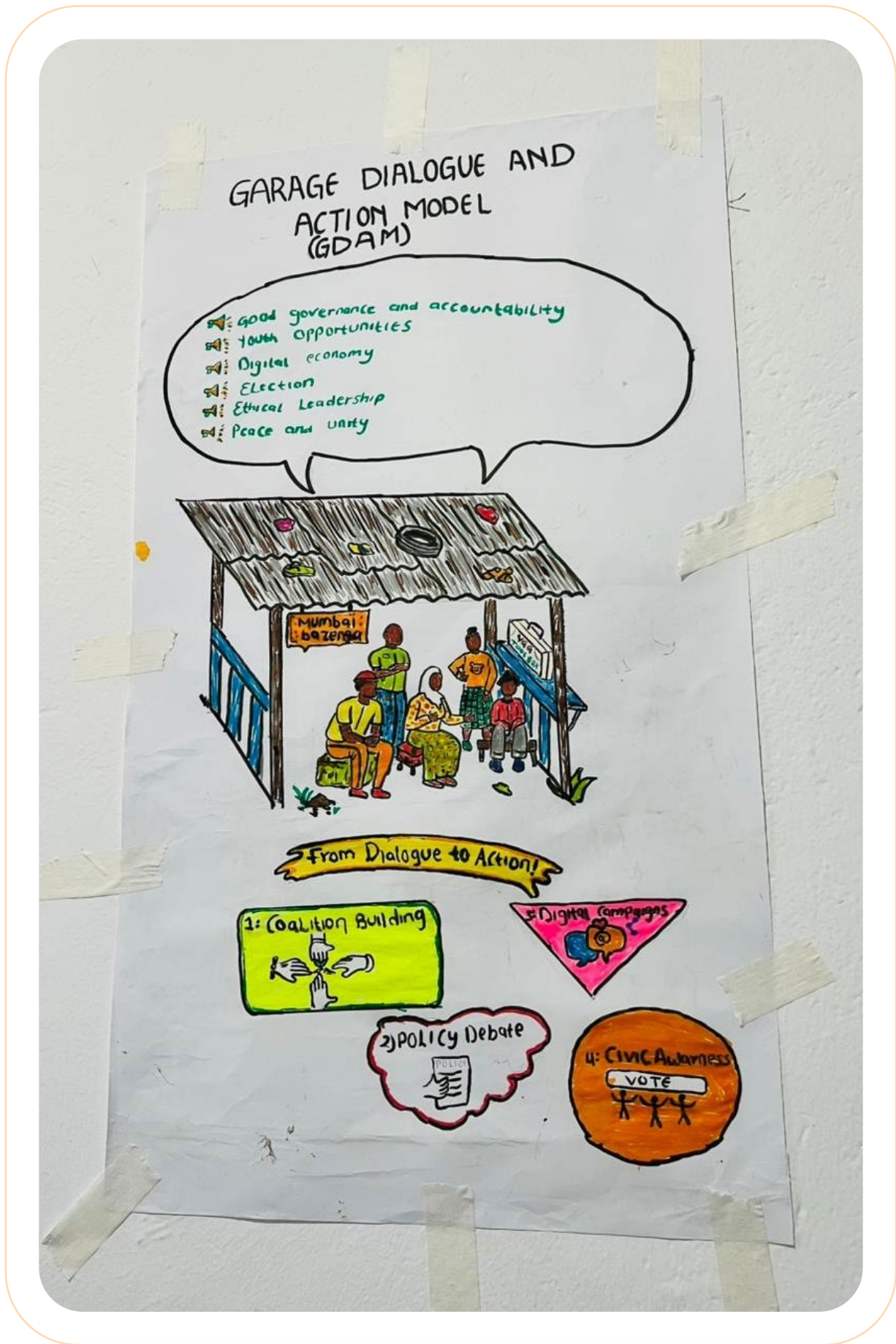
At its core, VGG operates through two interconnected and mutually reinforcing strands that translate youth expression into sustained civic impact.

1 THE GARAGE DIALOGUE AND ACTION MODEL (GDAM)

The Garage Dialogue and Action Model (GDAM) serve as the engine of VGG. It is a structured, youth-led civic engagement approach designed to move deliberately from dialogue to action. GDAM provides a space where governance challenges are openly diagnosed, ideas are tested, and solutions are co-created.

Each GDAM cycle integrates reflection, dialogue, co-creation, action, and feedback, ensuring that civic conversations generate tangible outcomes, such as citizen charters, manifesto scorecards, accountability tools, and digital advocacy platforms, that anchor youth participation in real governance processes.

The accompanying visuals capture the GDAM journey: young people in motion, listening, debating, co-creating, and acting, as shared challenges are transformed into collective solutions.

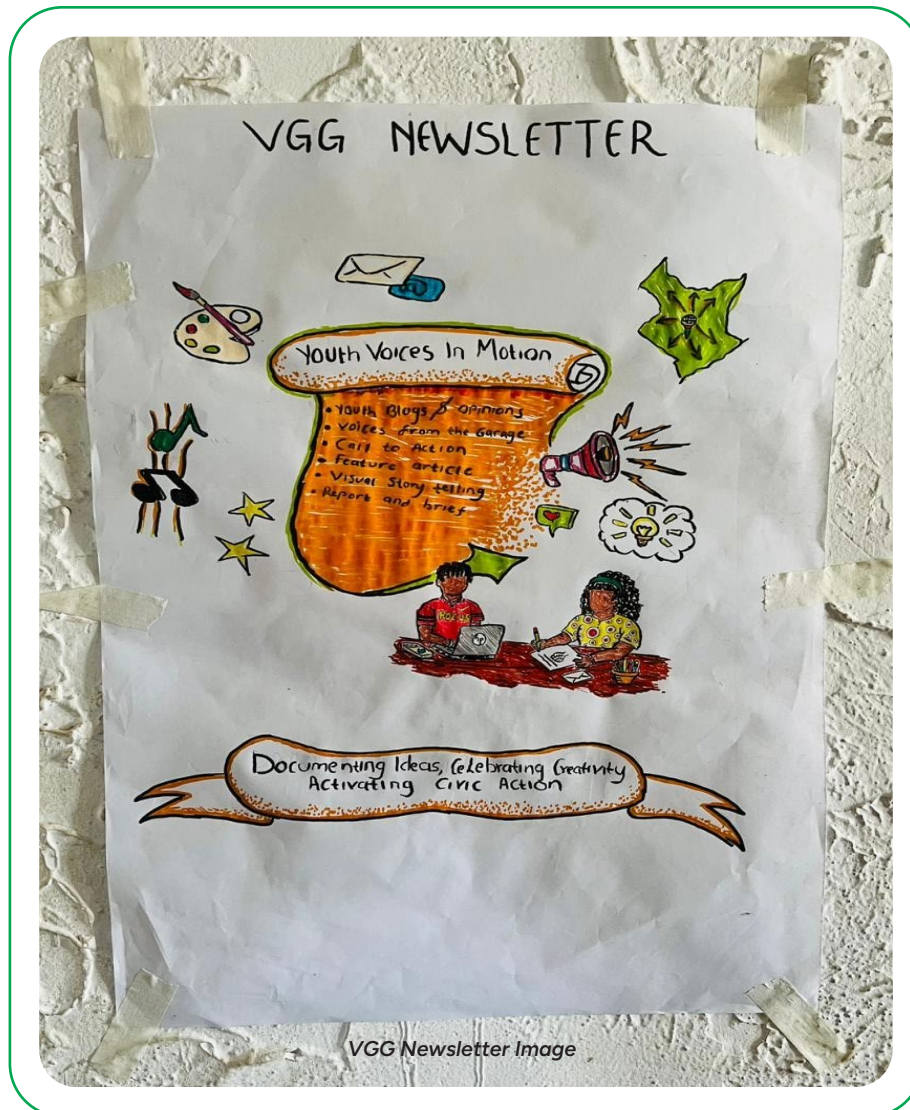


GDAM Image

The VGG Newsletter functions as VGG's national amplification and creative platform, presenting the authentic voices of young people in the forms and languages they choose. It creates space for urgency, imagination, and lived realities to be expressed through writing, art, visuals, analysis, and storytelling, extending civic participation beyond formal dialogue spaces.

As an integrated package, the newsletter showcases innovation in civic action, highlights youth-led initiatives, and connects voices from across the country. It ensures that youth expression is not only heard, but shared, sustained, and amplified within broader governance discourse.

The visual representation illustrates how youth expression travels beyond the garage, transforming local voices into nationally resonant civic narratives.



Together, GDAM and the VGG Newsletter form a dynamic ecosystem where youth voice is expressed, refined, and translated into civic action, ensuring continuous, creative, and impactful participation.

UNVEILING OF THE VGG AND RIBBON CUTTING

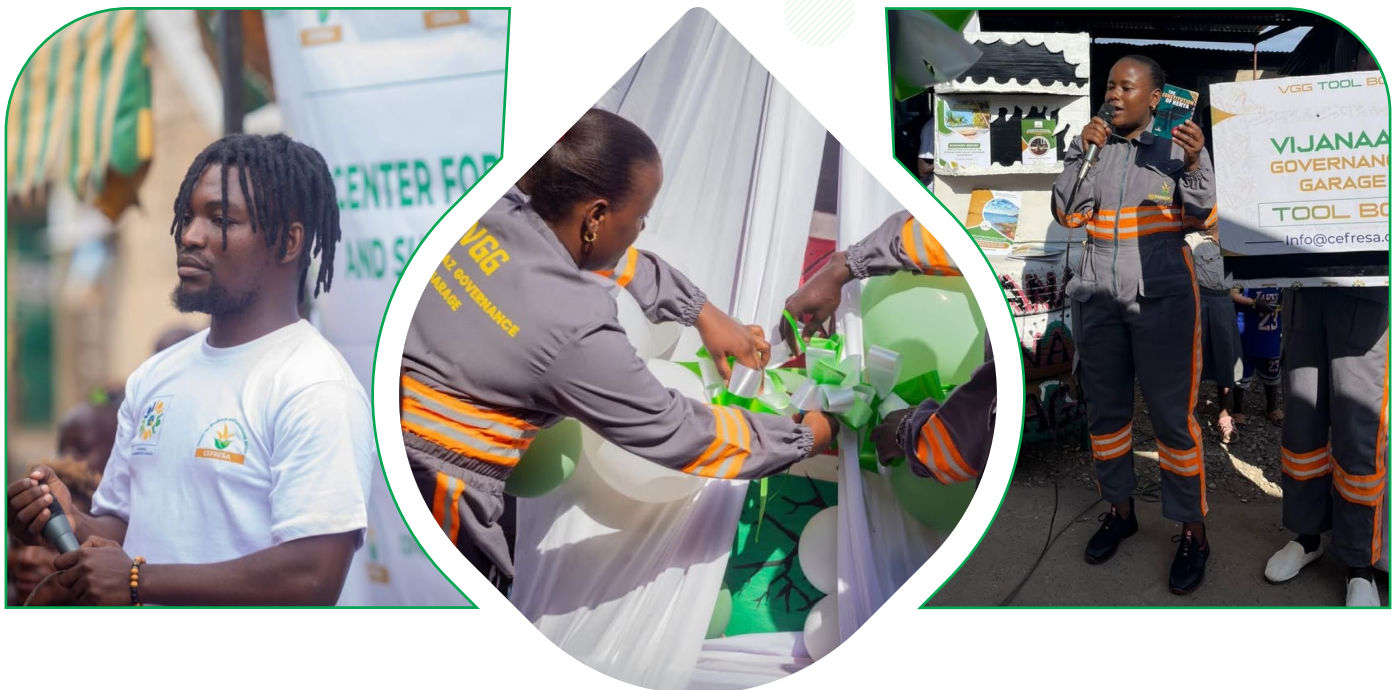


The unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a decisive transition, from concept to reality, and from restricted civic space to open participation. More than a ceremonial act, the cutting of the ribbon symbolized the intentional removal of barriers, limitations, and exclusions that have historically constrained meaningful youth participation in governance.

This moment formally opened the Vijanaaz Governance Garage as a youth-centered civic space where ideas are welcomed, deliberately nurtured, tested, and translated into action. It affirmed youth ownership, legitimacy, and agency within Kenya's governance ecosystem.

Central to the unveiling was the presentation of the VGG Civic Toolbox, reinforcing the message that governance is both accessible and actionable. The toolbox featured the Constitution of Kenya, the National ID, the Voter's Card, and key constitutional anchors, Chapter Six on Leadership and Integrity, Article 10 on national values and principles of governance, and Article 55 on youth empowerment.

The symbols conveyed a clear message that re-centering youth voices starts by activating existing rights, responsibilities, and civic tools with clarity, intention, and collective will.

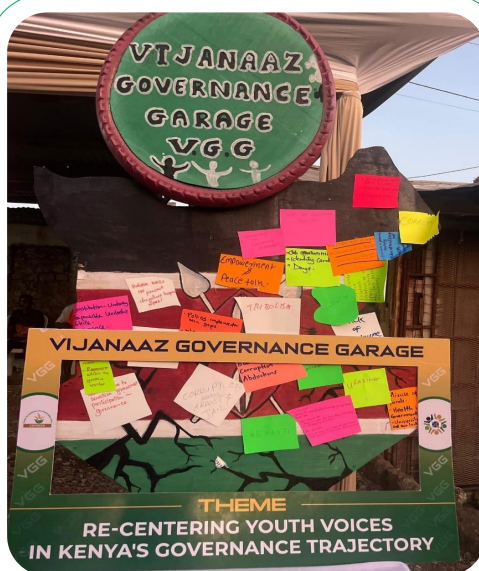


The moment captured reflects youth stepping fully into civic space, cutting through barriers, claiming ownership, and asserting their voices as central to Kenya's governance journey.

MENDING THE MAP



One of the most evocative moments of the launch was the “Mending the Map”, a participatory exercise where youth placed their gaps, aspirations, and commitments into the cracks of a broken map of Kenya, asserting their role as active repairers of governance systems.



The visuals presented in this section trace this journey, from youth-defined governance gaps to articulated aspirations, and onward to shared commitments for action.





CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS AS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Creative expression was deliberately positioned at the heart of the VGG launch as a core method of civic engagement. Through music, poetry, spoken words, rap, dance, and skits, young people articulated their lived realities, aspirations, and governance concerns in forms that felt authentic, accessible, and grounded in their everyday experiences.

These expressions functioned as participation rather than performance, translating complex civic themes, voter registration, accountability, values-based leadership, and youth agency into emotionally resonant narratives. By centering creativity, VGG demonstrated that when youth engage through their own languages and talents, governance becomes more inclusive, relatable, and actionable

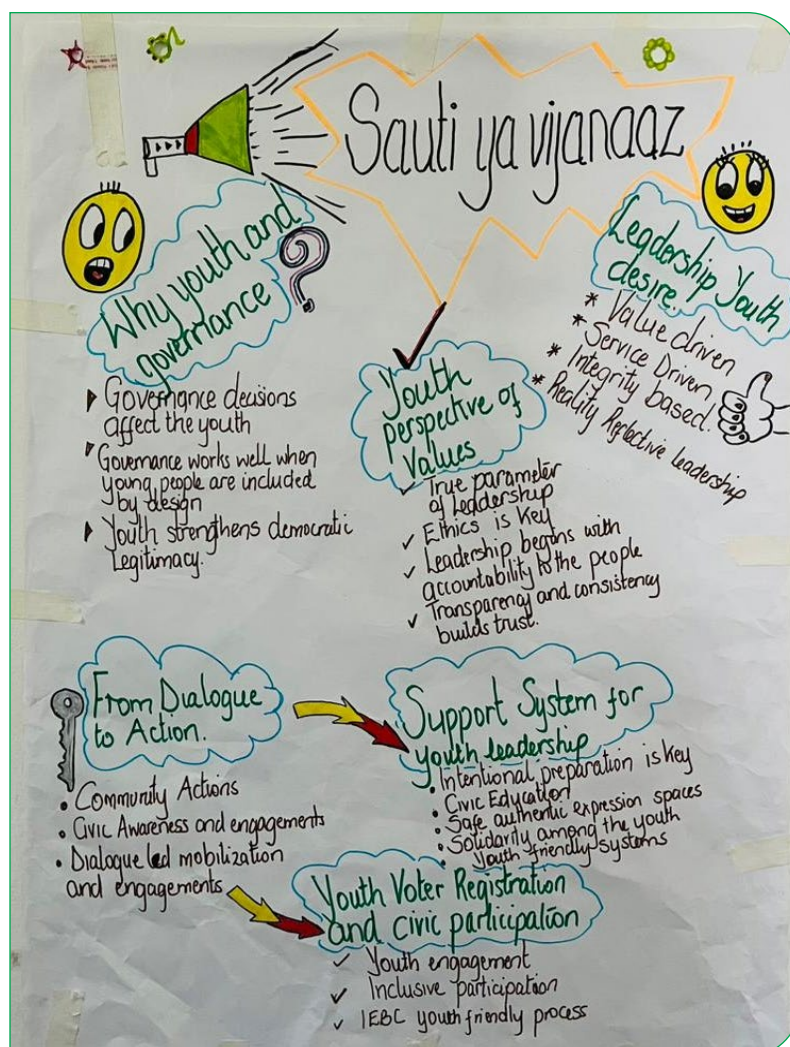


The accompanying visuals capture how creativity became a civic language, carrying youth voices, values, and governance messages through performance, movement, and expression.

PANEL AND PLENARY SESSION

The panel and plenary sessions marked the first live demonstration of the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) in practice, applying the Garage Dialogue and Action Model (GDAM) as a participatory civic space. These conversations brought young people into direct engagement with governance questions, shared values, and the Kenya they seek to shape.

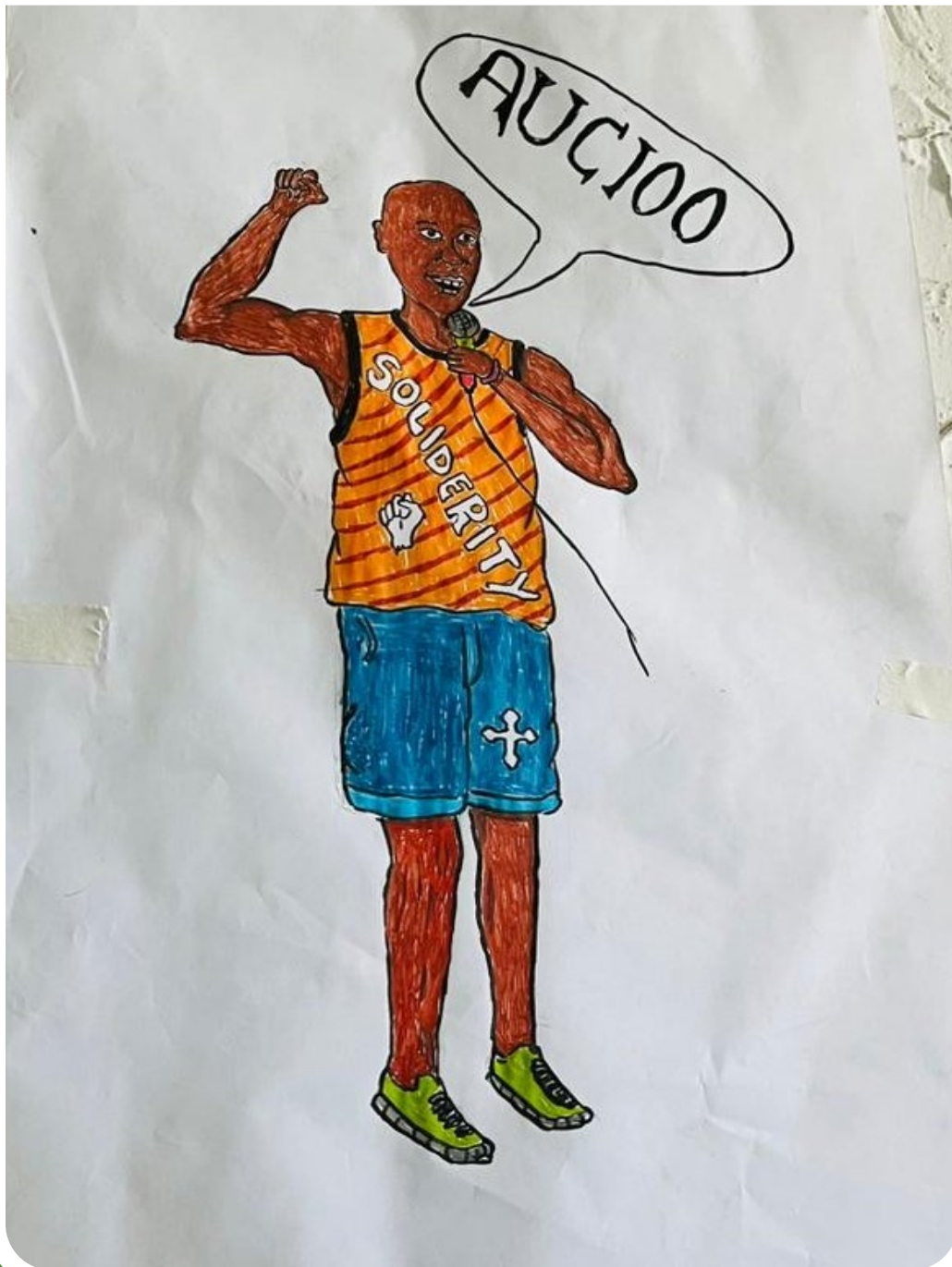
Through guided dialogue and open exchange, youth interrogated governance systems, examined their own role within them, and articulated the kind of systems they want to see. The sessions reinforced young people not as observers of governance, but as active contributors-creating direction, accountability, and a value-centered future.



The visuals highlight youth voices in action, capturing dialogue, reflection, and co-creation from the panel and plenary sessions.

AUCIOO MOMENT

"Ausio" - Pronounced playfully as "Aucioo" during plenary as an expression of affirmation, emerged from a participant championing youth solidarity. It was embraced throughout the launch proceedings and beyond, becoming a light and symbolic marker of shared energy, unity, and collective momentum.



COMMITMENTS THAT POWER THE VIJANAAZ GOVERNANCE GARAGE MODEL

During the launch of the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG), partners, guests, and supporters shared reflections and commitments that reaffirmed the power of youth innovation, creativity, and civic engagement. Their contributions collectively expressed belief in a movement where youth voices drive

FAST-TRACKING THE MOMBASA YOUTH POLICY

The Swahili Pot Chief Mentor and policy ally committed to connecting the youth and county leadership to fast-track the long-awaited Mombasa Youth Policy, an aspiration held for over 13 years. He pledged to convene a meeting between youth representatives and the Governor's office to advance the process, marking a critical step toward anchoring youth aspirations in a legal framework that secures participation, rights, and opportunity.

"The Mombasa Youth Policy must no longer remain a dream; it's time to bring the right people together and make it happen."



APPLAUDING THE POWER OF THE GARAGE IDEA

Partners and guests commended the VGG as a distinct and transformative initiative, recognizing its timely relevance in advancing youth participation and governance. They described “the garage” as a dynamic platform where young innovators refine their ideas, test solutions, and turn vision into impact. The concept was particularly praised for its strong grounding in grassroots realities, its inclusive approach, and its potential for sustainability and long-term impact.

“It’s refreshing to be taken to the Garage, a place where things are mended and made anew. With youth as the architects, this model empowers them to rebuild the country they desire.”



NURTURING VALUE-BASED LEADERSHIP

Speakers underscored that real leadership begins with values. They encouraged youth to live by principles of integrity, service, and accountability, reminding them that transformation starts with personal example. When youth embody these values, they redefine what leadership looks like in Kenya.

“When youth live by values, they become the leadership Kenya aspires to see.”



AMPLIFYING VOICES THROUGH ART AND MEDIA

A notable promise was made by the founder of Gilitics Media and Blue Radio, who committed to amplifying the voices of young artists advocating for civic awareness and participation. Inspired by a young artist whose performance aimed to educate and empower peers, he pledged to facilitate a high-quality recording of the song and ensure its broadcast on Blue Radio. This gesture emphasized the importance of creative expression in increasing youth visibility, dialogue, and engagement on critical social issues.

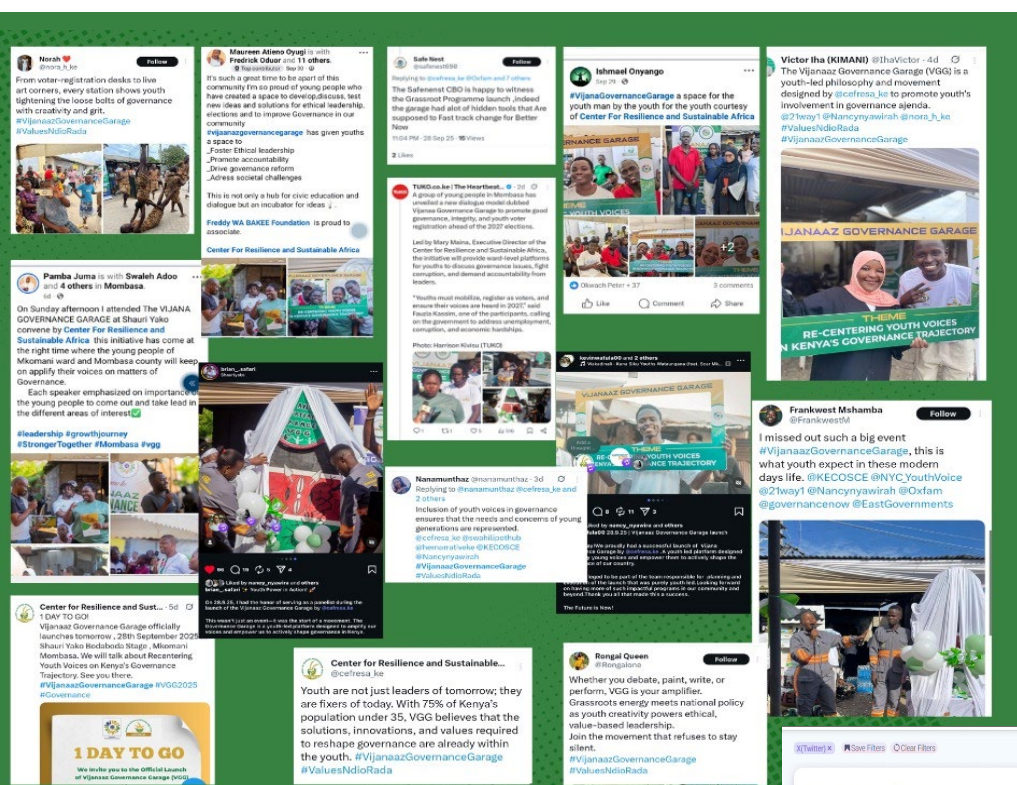
"Youth can only rise by lifting one another. My hand was once held, in the true spirit of youth for youth, I pass that light forward to help this young talent's star shine."



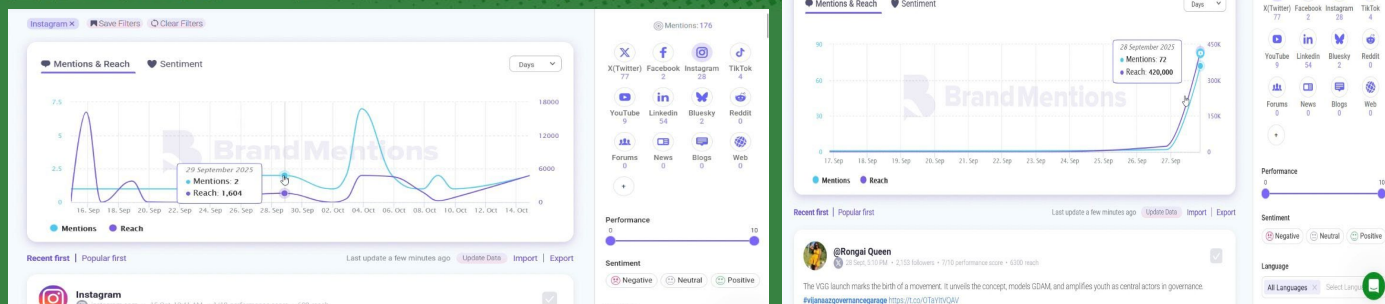
DIGITAL ECHOES FOR VGG

As the VGG launch unfolded, on-ground conversations, artistic performances, and stakeholder commitments were intentionally translated into live digital content across social media platforms. Short videos, quote cards, visual highlights, and real-time posts, shared under the hashtag **#VijanaazGovernanceGarage**, amplified youth voices and creative expression, extending the civic moment beyond the physical space.

This deliberate digital activation transformed the launch into a shared public experience. The resulting digital footprint reflects both the energy of youth participation and the substance of commitments made, expanding reach, strengthening visibility, and sustaining civic momentum through documented engagement.



The digital snapshots showcase how youth expression traveled, connected, and mobilized audiences beyond the room.



A photo of the posts and metrics

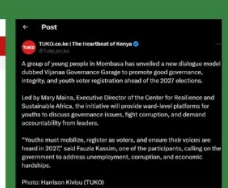
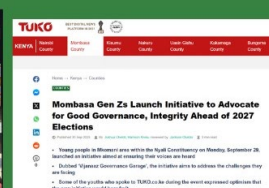
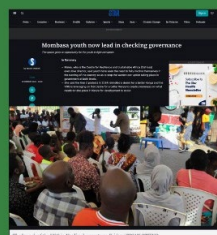


MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC VISIBILITY

The VGG launch received strong coverage across national media, print outlets, and community radio, capturing the model in action and amplifying youth voices as they engaged, expressed, and co-created governance solutions. Media reporting positioned VGG as a credible, youth-led governance platform, translating youth dialogue and creativity into visible public discourse.

Through interviews and feature segments, youth perspectives, aspirations, and lived experiences were amplified within conversations on accountability, leadership, and democratic participation. Coinciding with the start of the national voter registration exercise, this coverage opened a timely public dialogue on youth mobilization, informed citizenship, and leadership responsibility.

Community radio, particularly Kiswahili programming, ensured accessibility and grounded these conversations in local contexts. Collectively, the media engagement expanded public visibility, legitimized youth voices, and positioned VGG as a relevant and timely platform within Kenya's evolving governance landscape.



YOUTH TESTIMONIALS

The testimonials capture reflections from young people across creative, informal, academic, grassroots, and civic spaces on their experience of the VGG launch, the value of the VGG model, and the commitments it catalyzed. Together, these voices affirm youth as anchors of Kenya's desired governance pathway.



Grounded in lived experience, the reflections highlight how VGG created space for ownership, value-based leadership, and practical civic action. They demonstrate the Garage Model in practice, where governance is shaped from the ground up and driven by youth conviction, creativity, and responsibility.

"Vijana tukikaa bila mpangilio, nguvu yetu inapotea. Lakini tukijipanga, tunabadilisha uongozi. Governance inanzia kwa sisi kujipanga."

Asmani -Waste collector

"Hii Garage Model ni real. Ni vile youth tuna-build solutions kwa ground, tunatest, tunafix, tunasonga. Governance haifai kuwa mbali na watu."

Jacob -Kinyozi

"VGG is a timely intervention. It creates space for youth to move from frustration to structure, from voices to systems. This feels like a new dawn for inclusive governance."

Yusuf-Youth leader

"Tunataka uongozi wenye maadili, uwazi, na uwajibikaji. Sio kelele,ni mifumo inayofanya kazi kwa wote."

Trizah -Business lady

"Sisi si spectators. Tuko ndani ya hii process. Tutajipanga, tutaparticipate, na tutahold viongozi accountable."

Noah-Bodaboda Youth

"VGG ni mwanzo. The work continues with us, organized, informed, and ready to lead differently."

Nancy -Influencer

"Youth power is not just in numbers, it is in organization, shared values, and consistent participation in governance spaces."

Fauzia – Activist

"Vijana tuko site,
habari tumeipata,
VGG ndio blueprint,
Tuko ready kujipanga,
It's time for value-based leadership,
na sisi ndio champions."

Philip -Artist

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VGG LAUNCH



OUTCOMES OF THE VGG LAUNCH

1 VGG MODEL CLEARLY POSITIONED AND DEMONSTRATED

The launch formally introduced the Vijanaaz Governance Garage as a practical, youth-centered governance model and demonstrated its application in real time. Through structured dialogue, symbolic action, and creative expression, participants experienced how VGG translates civic values into participatory action, establishing clarity, relevance, and legitimacy for the model.

2 YOUTH VOICES ACTIVATED AS ANCHORS OF GOVERNANCE RENEWAL

With the model visible and understood, young people from diverse backgrounds actively shaped the convening through dialogue, performance, reflection, and commitment. This shifted youth from passive participants to central actors, affirming their role as anchors of governance renewal grounded in lived experience, creativity, and responsibility.

3 PUBLIC VISIBILITY AND NARRATIVE REACH EXPANDED

Youth-led conversations and creative outputs were amplified through coordinated digital engagement and media coverage. This extended the launch beyond the physical space, embedding the VGG narrative within public discourse and strengthening recognition of youth voice as a legitimate and necessary force in governance conversations.

4 STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT AND COMMITMENTS CATALYZED

The convening enabled meaningful alignment between youth priorities and institutional actors. Public commitments, spanning mentorship, advocacy, policy engagement, and amplification of youth initiatives, signaled readiness by stakeholders to support youth-led governance efforts anchored within the VGG framework.

5 FOUNDATIONS FOR CONTINUITY AND ACTION ESTABLISHED

At a critical civic moment, the launch laid the groundwork for sustained engagement. Documented youth aspirations, stakeholder pledges, and strengthened relationships created pathways for follow-up action, accountability, and mobilization, positioning VGG as an ongoing platform for youth-driven governance, rather than a one-off event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Building on the catalytic outcomes of the VGG launch, the following recommendations outline a clear pathway for consolidating early gains, scaling impact, and positioning the Vijanaaz Governance Garage as a credible, youth-led governance model for county and national adoption.

1 SCALE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE THE GARAGE MODEL ACROSS COUNTIES

Roll out the Garage Dialogue and Action Model (GDAM) as a replicable civic engagement approach across youth spaces. This will require standardized facilitation tools, capacity-building for youth facilitators, and light coordination mechanisms that allow contextual adaptation while preserving the integrity of the model. County-level Garages will deepen grassroots ownership, generate practical solutions, and build evidence for broader governance reform advocacy.

2 EMBED YOUTH VOICE WITHIN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

Translate dialogue outcomes into formal policy engagement by piloting youth-informed policy processes, including the development of a Mombasa Youth Policy. This approach should institutionalize youth participation, clarify accountability pathways, and create structured entry points for youth-led initiatives within county governance frameworks.

3 CONVERT COMMITMENTS INTO STRUCTURED PARTNERSHIPS

Formalize stakeholder pledges made during the launch into clear partnerships or memoranda of understanding. Defining roles, timelines, and deliverables will ensure commitments, particularly around youth leadership, women's economic empowerment, creative amplification, and mentorship, translate into tangible, trackable support for the VGG ecosystem.

4 SUSTAIN STRATEGIC VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Maintain momentum through coordinated digital storytelling, media partnerships, and creative dissemination. Continued engagement across social media, mainstream outlets, and community radio, especially in Kiswahili, will expand reach, reinforce public accountability, and position VGG as a visible and trusted platform for values-based governance conversations.

Invest in structured youth capacity strengthening through civic education, ethical and values-based leadership development, mentorship, and peer learning. This should be supported by monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to ensure that young people engaged through VGG are not only visible participants but also equipped civic actors capable of influencing institutions and sustaining governance reform over time.

COLLECTIVE APPRECIATION AND STEWARDSHIP

The successful delivery of the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) launch was made possible through the collective commitment of a youth-led team that stewarded the process from planning to execution with care, creativity, and discipline.

Across strategy, technical support, facilitation, logistics, media, and creative production, the team worked as one system, ensuring that the launch embodied the values of integrity, collaboration, and youth leadership that define the VGG model.

This collective effort demonstrates a core principle of the Garage: when young people are trusted with responsibility and shared purpose, they deliver with excellence. The VGG launch stands as a reflection of that shared stewardship.



THE TEAM BEHIND SUCCESS OF THE VGG LAUNCH



MARY MAINA



PHYLLIS MUEMA



AGNES MAILU



MECK NAIKA



MERCY CHEBET



OMAR MUNGA



ZUBEIDA ALL



CAREN JACOBET



TIDO SANDE



ELIZABETH PETER



EVANS OBURA



FARIDA MALEMBA



KEVIN WAFULA



FATUMA WANJERA



NANCY NYAWIRA



CHERIAN SIMIYU



JACOB KINYAMASYOO



BRIAN SAMMY



NEXT PHASE

SUSTAINING AND SCALING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

This phase translates the energy, commitments, and civic momentum generated through the VGG Launch into structured and scalable pathways that deepen youth participation, expand national reach, and institutionalize youth voice within governance and public discourse. These pathways convert momentum into continuity, relevance, and measurable civic impact.

1

COHORT-BASED GARAGE FACILITATORS & CUSTODIANS

VGG will strengthen a cohort of youth facilitators and custodians who serve as stewards of the Garage ethos and process. Through intentional capacity building and skills development, facilitators will enhance competencies in dialogue facilitation, inclusive participation, ethical leadership, and coordination, enabling them to guide peer-led conversations effectively across diverse civic contexts. Their stewardship role ensures safe and inclusive civic space, supports constructive engagement, and preserves the balance between informal youth expression and purposeful dialogue, safeguarding the Garage as a youth-owned and participatory platform.

2

GARAGE DIALOGUE AND ACTIONS MODEL (GDAM)

Building on the launch and the preparation of facilitators, the Garage Dialogue and Actions Model (GDAM) serve as the practical pathway through which VGG comes alive within communities. GDAM enables youth to convene organic, peer-led dialogues rooted in local realities, where collective reflection, issue framing, and solution building naturally emerge. The model supports youth in translating dialogue into context-responsive civic actions, fostering ownership, innovation, and continuity without prescribing specific outcomes. Through GDAM, the Garage functions as a living, adaptive space where youth influence governance processes by articulating shared priorities and engaging constructively within their communities.

3

VGG NEWSLETTER

The VGG Newsletter will serve as the flagship national civic publication emerging from the Vijanaaz Governance Garage and other youth-led civic spaces, strategically designed to consolidate youth-driven governance thought, innovation, analysis, creative expression, and lived civic experiences into an influential and structured knowledge platform. Published in recurring editions, the newsletter will synthesize key themes, youth perspectives, visual documentation, and solution pathways generated across Garage engagements and wider civic platforms, translating them into compelling narratives that advance public discourse and institutional reflection.

The platform will intentionally blend writing, visuals, analysis, and storytelling to showcase civic value in action, highlighting youth-led innovations, community governance experiences, emerging leadership voices, and transformative local models across counties. By documenting both ideas and lived realities, the newsletter will function as a bridge between youth civic practice and governance stakeholders, reinforcing young people as credible contributors to governance renewal.

Dedicated segments will feature civic reflections, visual storytelling, youth-authored insights, governance analysis, and stories of change that elevate participation, accountability, and inclusive leadership. Each edition will also serve as a civic learning resource, equipping young people with tools, opportunities, and knowledge that strengthen engagement and collective agency.

To maximize reach and visibility, the newsletter will be disseminated through targeted email circulation and digital platforms, ensuring continuous connection across youth, civic, and policy networks.

4

VUCA-BRIDGE | BRIDGING VOICES IN GOVERNANCE

Emerging from the VGG platform, VUCA-Bridge responds to governance environments marked by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity by strengthening the capacity of young people to serve as agile connectors across civic and institutional spaces. The initiative equips youth with critical soft-power competencies, including scenario-building for early civic response, mediation, negotiation, civic diplomacy, ethical judgment, and foresight, enabling them to bridge fragmented perspectives, facilitate dialogue across differences, and contribute constructively within governance and accountability processes. By harnessing youth energy, adaptability, and social proximity to communities, VUCA-Bridge positions young people as trusted intermediaries who bring renewal, responsiveness, and cohesion to civic spaces where bridge-building and diplomacy have historically been limited, strengthening trust, restraint, and constructive engagement during periods of heightened national tension and transition.

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DIGEST YOUTH PULSE CAMPAIGN | AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

Building on the civic momentum catalyzed through the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG), the Digest Youth Pulse Campaign will function as a structured and continuous national listening mechanism designed to capture and amplify the real-time pulse of young Kenyans across counties through two-minute video reflections guided by the question: ***“What is your pulse as a young Kenyan today?”*** Submissions will be recorded in any language young Kenyans are most comfortable using, ensuring authenticity, accessibility, and the preservation of lived civic expression.

In this context, “pulse” represents the pressing realities shaping youth lives, including governance gaps, socio-economic challenges, emerging civic concerns, aspirations, and priority demands that call for institutional attention and responsive policy action.

Each submission will serve as an authentic grassroots signal, providing citizen-grounded insights into evolving governance and development issues affecting young people. The campaign will leverage digital platforms for broad public amplification while biweekly synthesizing the reflections into concise Civic Youth Pulse Digests curated for policymakers, duty bearers, and civic actors. These digests will operate as youth-informed governance intelligence streams, strengthening institutional awareness and enabling more responsive decision-making in rapidly shifting civic environments.

Beyond documentation, selected reflections will be creatively transformed into public-facing storytelling outputs to sustain visibility, deepen engagement, and reinforce the role of young Kenyans as active contributors within national governance discourse

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT

As the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) transitions from launch into sustained national implementation, CEFRESA calls upon youth leaders and networks, county and national authorities, development partners, research institutions, foundations, private sector actors, media, communities, and civic stakeholders to jointly anchor, resource, and scale this youth-driven governance platform.

We seek collaborative support in the form of financial investment, technical expertise, research partnerships, co-creation and modeling, amplification and visibility, and institutional collaboration necessary to operationalize and expand VGG pathways across counties.

This next phase presents a timely opportunity to institutionalize structured youth participation, translate civic voice into policy influence, and strengthen democratic resilience through locally grounded innovation. Collective partnership will enable nationwide activation of youth-led governance solutions and position young people as credible actors shaping inclusive, accountable, and values-centered leadership for Kenya’s future.

Supporting VGG is an investment in youth agency, national stability, and sustainable governance renewal.

PARTNER WITH US

CEFRESA welcomes expressions of interest from institutions, partners, and stakeholders willing to support or collaborate in advancing the Vijanaaz Governance Garage (VGG) next phase.

For partnerships, technical collaboration, research engagement, sponsorship, or program support, kindly reach out to us via:

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Stay connected with CEFRESA across our digital platforms for ongoing updates, releases, and insights emerging from the Vijanaaz Governance Garage as the movement scales nationally.

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Re-centering Youth Voices in Kenya's Governance Trajectory