



YOUTH FOR
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NETWORK

BASELINE STUDY ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN DRM POLICY FRAMEWORKS IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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1. BASELINE STUDY BACKGROUND

YTJN seeks to build on previous efforts to promote DRM by involving youth to help manufacture the political will through grassroots citizen participation. The study purposively sampled out 3 countries of Uganda, Rwanda, and Botswana to represent EAC and SADC regions

Specifically, the study findings are premised on the following:

1. Establishing the availability and status of structures; if any, for youth participation and engagement in the context of promoting domestic resource mobilization.
2. Determining the level of performance of the structures and implementation of the policy frameworks for youth engagement in relation to those of promoting domestic resource mobilization in the individual countries and at the regional level.
3. Providing recommendations on how to improve youth participation and engagement in influencing policy changes towards promoting domestic resource mobilization in the individual countries and at the regional level.

2. METHODOLOGY FOR THE BASELINE STUDY



STUDY DESIGN

- The baseline study design is descriptive and review in nature that deployed a case study survey with a mixed approach of both qualitative and quantitative research methods. This involved collection of both secondary and primary data.
- The design of this study included assessment of multiple sources of data (literature review, field survey and KIIs).
- Study used random sampling method to select 180 respondents (50 survey respondents, and 10 Key Informants (KIIs) were picked from each country.
- In view of the current COVID-19 restrictions on movements in the region, the consultant worked with YTJN coordinators in the respective countries to collect country specific data.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW FINDINGS

- ✓ Considered information on Policy, legal and institutional framework for youth participation in DRM
- ✓ The Youth Participation Challenge
- ✓ Policy and Legal Frameworks for Youth Participation in DRM(**The international, regional and national frameworks**)
- ✓ Institutional framework for DRM youth engagement (**International, Regional and National Frameworks**)
- ✓ Existing initiatives for promoting DRM at global, regional and national levels

3. SURVEY FINDINGS



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I. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Respondents by sex by country

	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Botswana	24	32%	35	32%	59	32%
Rwanda	27	36%	35	32%	62	34%
Uganda	24	32%	39	36%	63	34%
Grand Total	75	100%	109	100%	184	100%

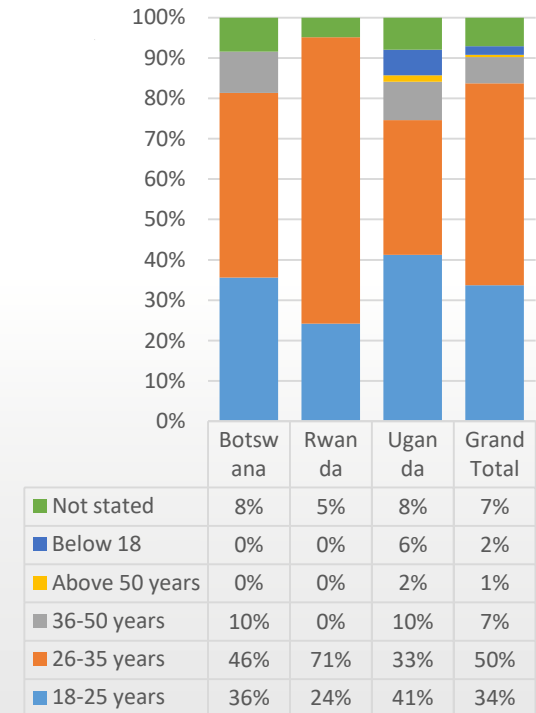


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AGE OF RESPONDENTS

Study targeted youth above 18 years of age

Respondents by age group



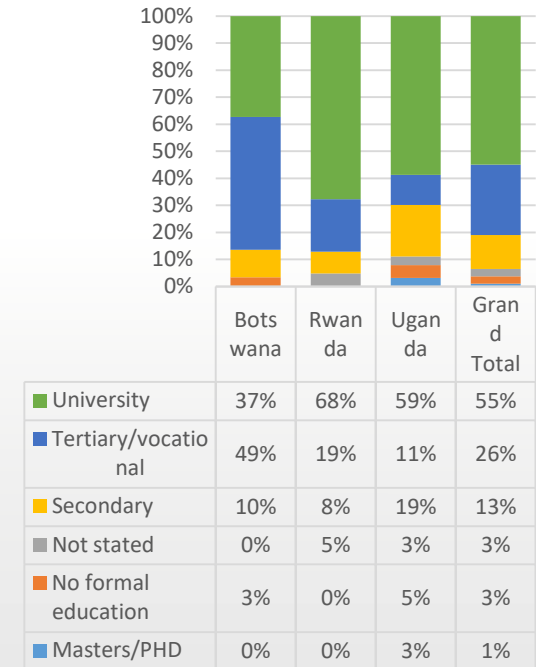


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EDUCATION LEVEL

Majority (over 80%) had attained higher education

Respondents by education level



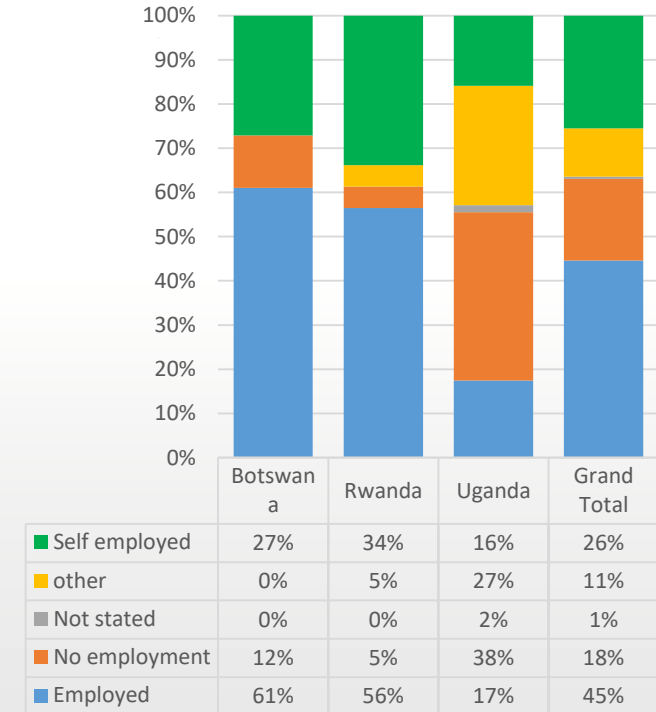


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RESPONDENTS BY OCCUPATION

Majority are employed

Respondents by occupation



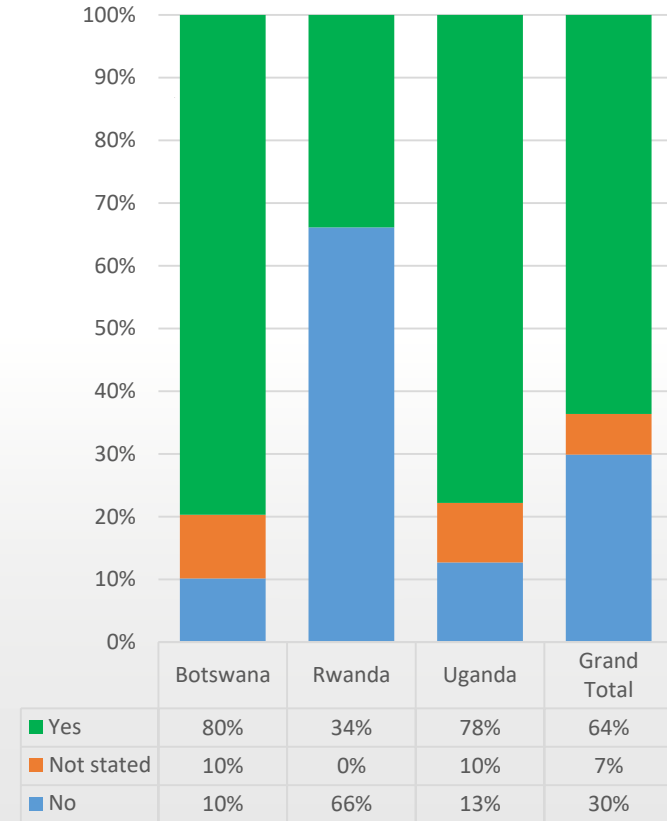


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UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF DRM AMONG THE YOUTH

Although most respondents (64%) asserted that they understood the concept of DRM, 30% did not know and 7% did not give response. The KIIs expressed increased knowledge of DRM issues which they attributed to increased tax awareness campaigns. They also mentioned that the FM radios and mobile phones have strengthened sharing of information.

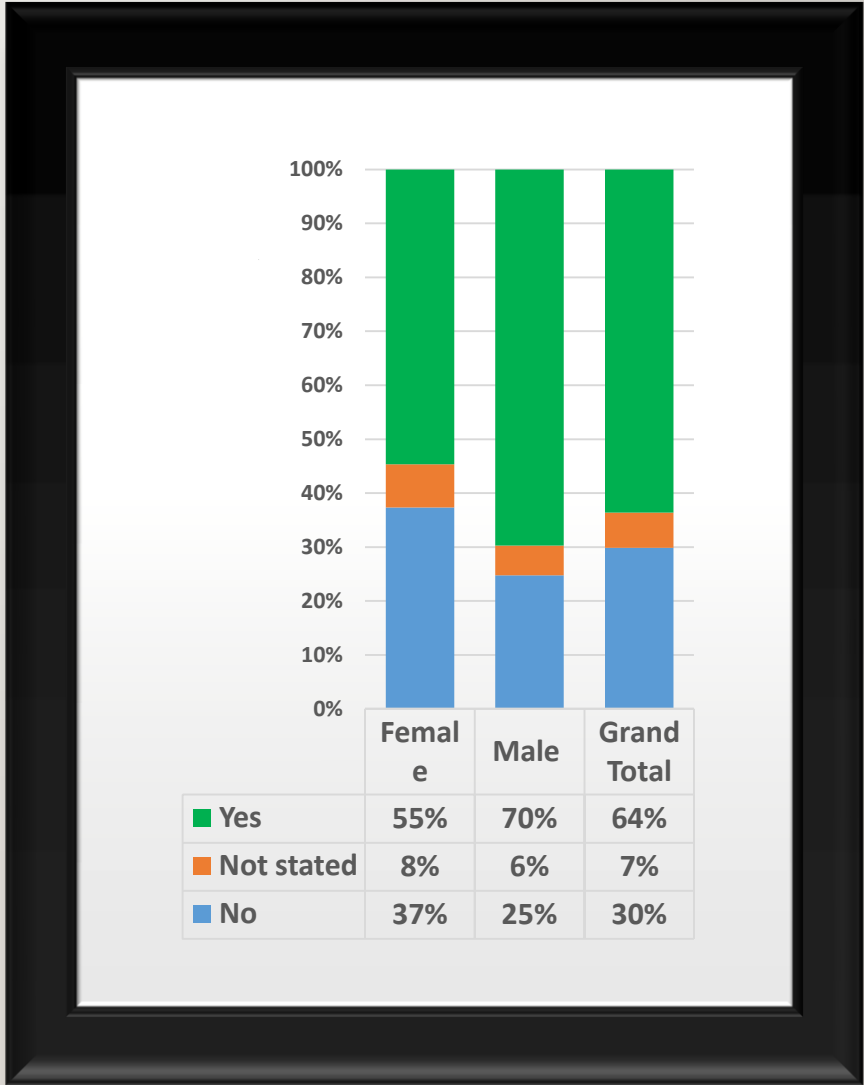
Understanding of DRM by country



UNDERSTANDING OF DRM BY GENDER



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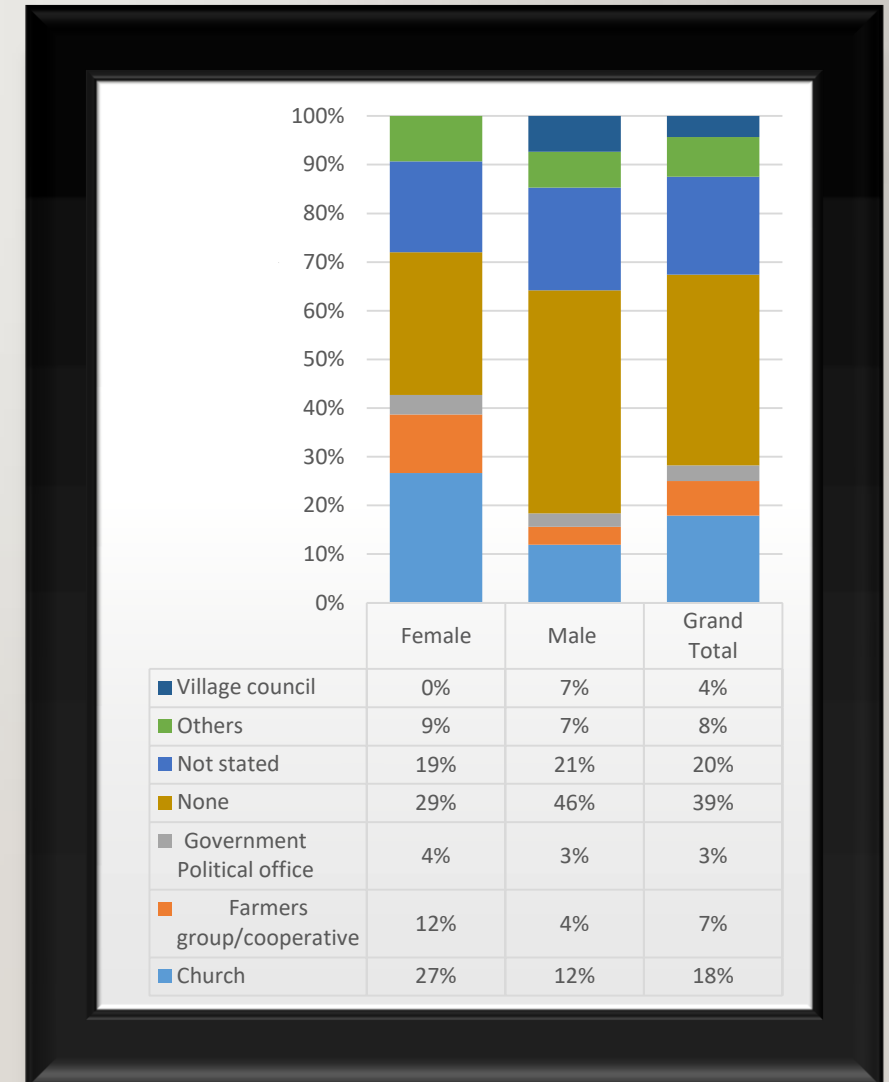




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YOUTH INVOLVEMENT DRM POLICY FORMULATION PROCESSES

Assessed importance of youth in leadership as it helps to push and influence DRM processes. Survey respondents were asked if they held a leadership role. According to this finding the majority (39%) did not hold any leadership positions. This was followed by 20% who could not state their leadership roles and those who held leadership roles were mainly in churches (18%).

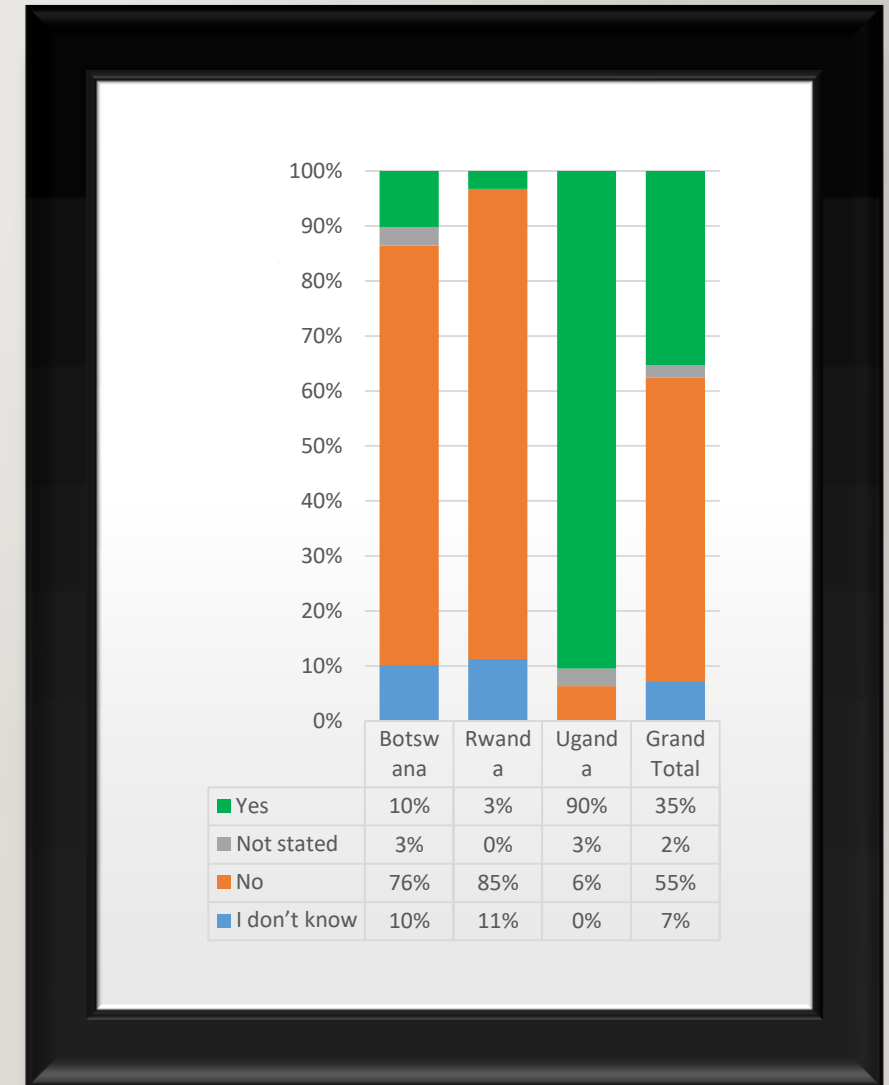




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DO YOU THINK YOUTH SHOULD PARTICIPATE -BY COUNTRY

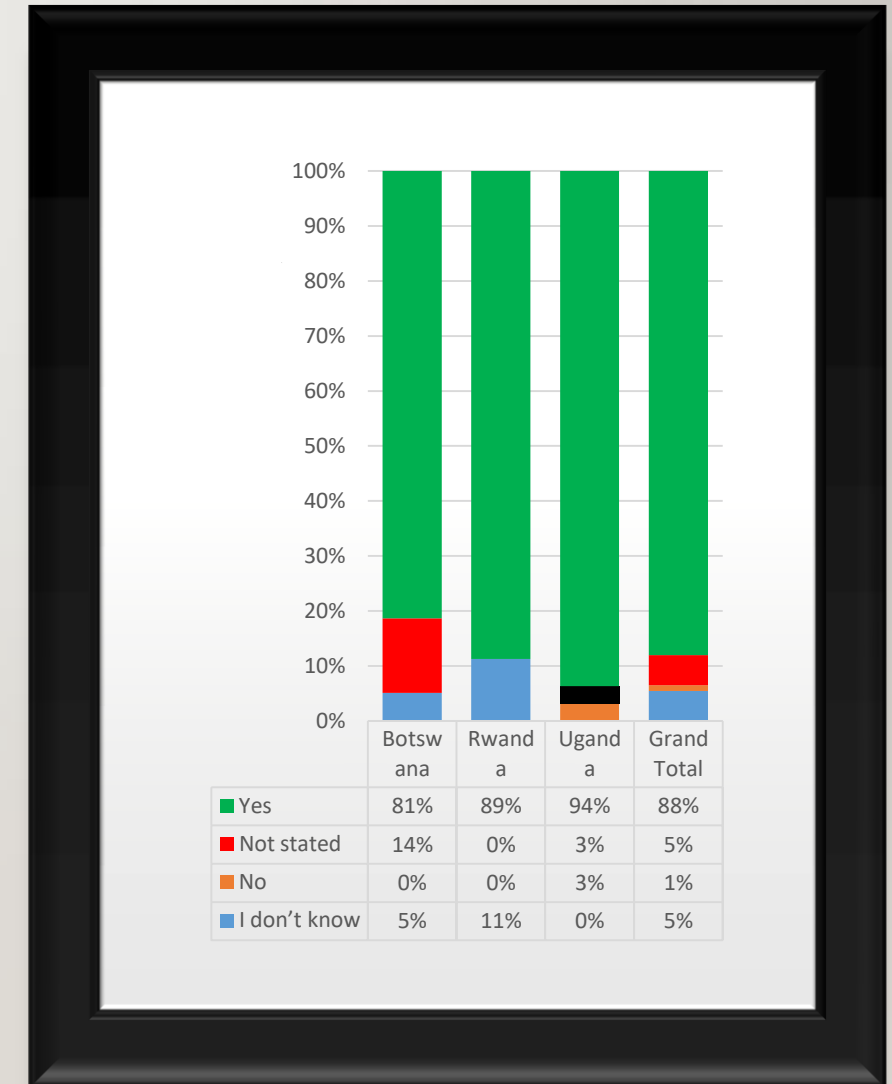
This is a surprising result as the majority (55%) - Rwanda 85% and Botswana 76% - mainly mentioned that the Youth do not need to get involved in revenue policy formulation processes. In Uganda only 6% said no. However, the KIIs emphasized that youth involvement in DRM is crucial to ensure that revenue policy is fair and reflects the popular will, not just the aims of special interests.





DO YOU THINK IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE?

- Vast majority 88% said yes.
- That youth are the majority and that integrating the voices of regular youth into DRM discussions strengthens Youths' relationship with their government.
- Paying and spending tax resources is at the heart of the relationship between youth and the government.
- Involving youth in DRM is not only good for transparency, it can also result in more effective processes.

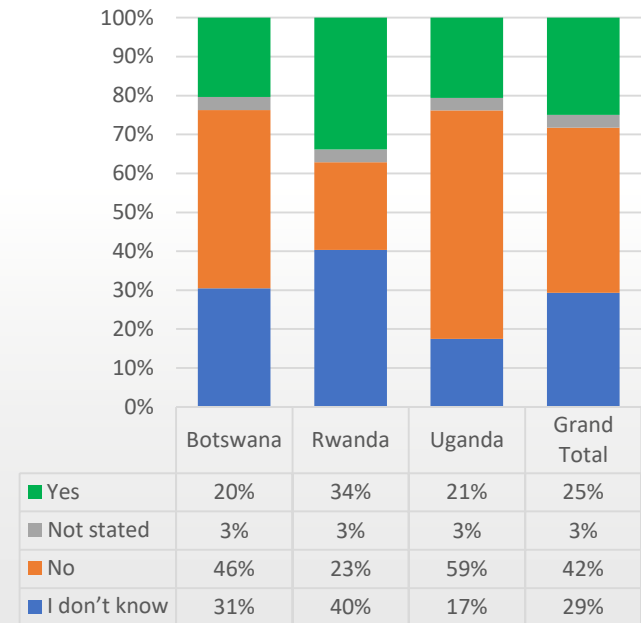




EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING POLICES IN ADDRESSING YOUTH PRIORITIES

The majority (42%) asserted that the existing policies do not address youth priorities. The KIIs reinforced this finding by hinting on the point that trend analysis of youth involvement and participation in policies indicates shortfalls since independence. That the youth are mostly marginalized and existing policies do not address their priorities

Do you think policies have been effective in addressing youth priorities

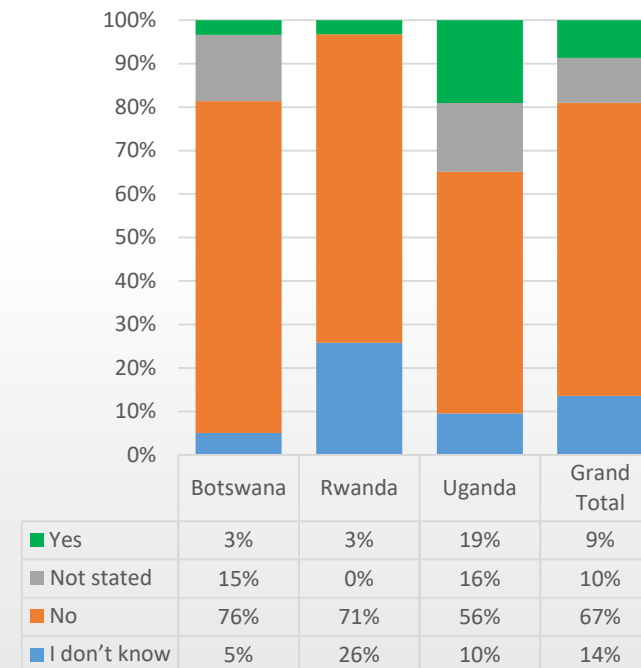




CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DRM POLICY PROCESSES

- Limited awareness(Majority (67%) are not aware of tax incentives for youth.
- The few (9%) who mentioned that they were aware of tax incentives merely mentioned the national youth funds.

Awareness of tax incentives for the youth



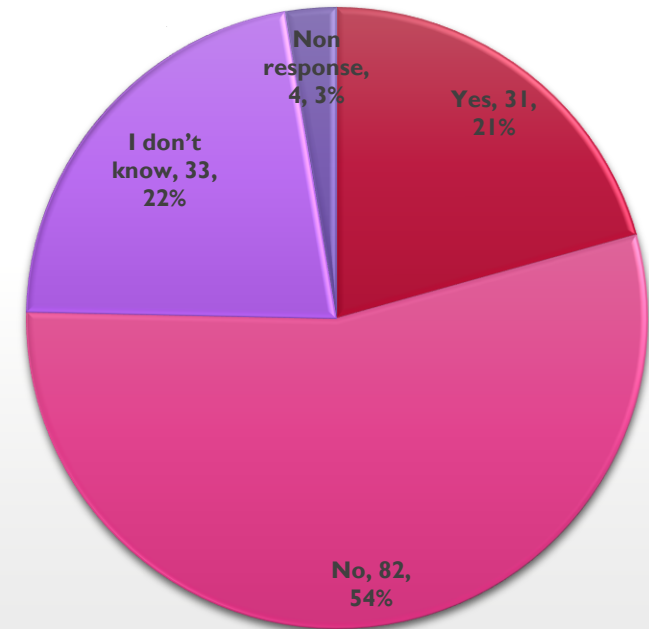


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INADEQUATE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

A bigger number (54%) believed that the DRM policies have not been. Moreover, 22% do not know whether policies are working. Only 21% mentioned that policies were effective.

DRM Policy effectiveness



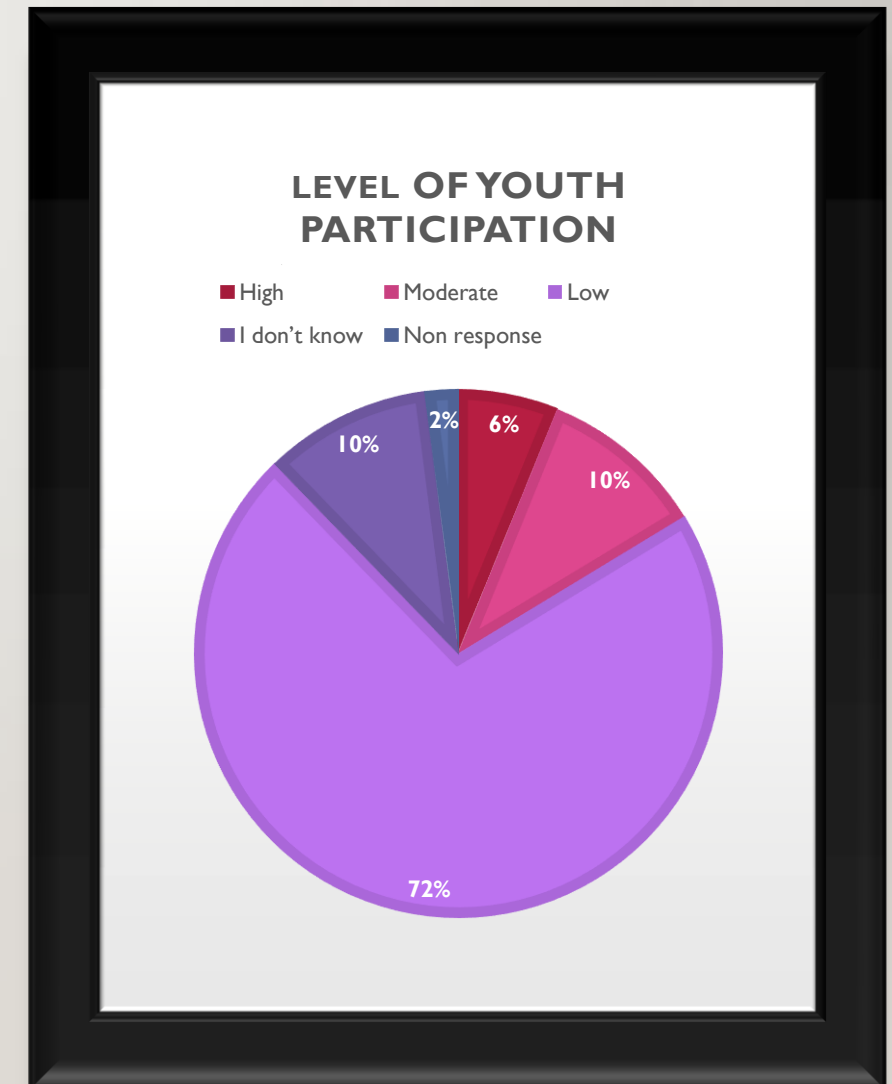
■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know ■ Non response



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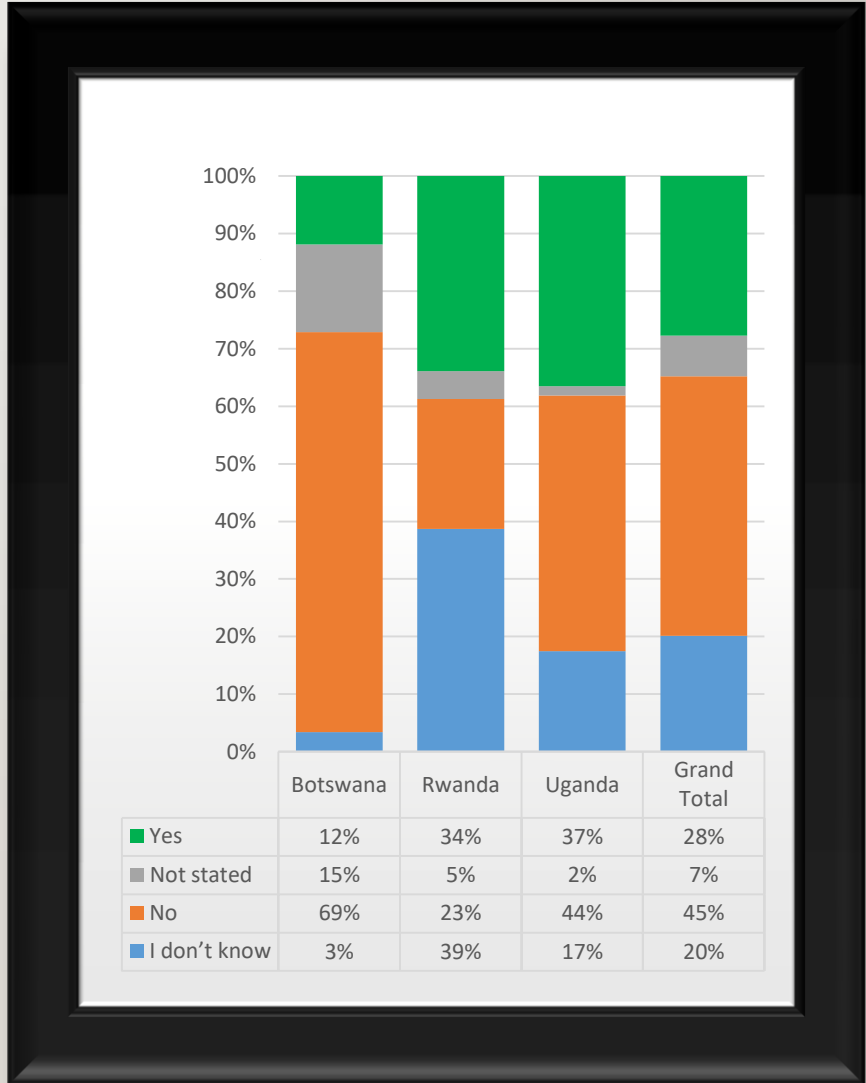
LOW YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- A large number (72%) of participants rated their participation as low.
- Despite making up more than half of the population in all three countries, youth find themselves marginalized from participating in mainstream politics and decision making.
- They struggle to gain the respect of public officials who claim that youth are lacking the skills and experience to engage in tax and revenue policy making processes.
- That this exclusion, combined with limited educational and economic opportunities, leave youth both idle and frustrated with the status quo.



IS THERE POLITICAL WILL TO SUPPORT YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DRM

The majority (45%) asserted that there was no political will to support and increase youth participation in DRM process.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



❖ Enhancing the capacity for youth to participate in DRM policy processes

1. YTJN to **PROVIDE AND STRENGTHEN SPACES** for youth to discuss DRM

- Youth engagement in DRM policy formulation and administration is limited.
- Need to have Youth tax clubs in Universities and Strengthen existing tax chapters.
- Explore existing spaces at national, regional and global levels- working with and through existing institutions eg regional economic communities, relevant government agencies, civil society organizations and their networks and the private sector.
- YTJN should make use of available **digital spaces** as an important avenue for information exchange among the youth in the region. This could be through use of social media, and other available digital media platforms where youth can engage.

RECOMMENDATIONS –CONT'D



2. YTJN to provide information to the youth on key policy gaps in domestic revenue mobilisation and accountability

- Make use of available digital spaces and
- Address Rural-urban digital divide.

3. Strengthen networks for engagement with other DRM stakeholders at national and regional levels-strengthen her relationships with existing stakeholders including the regional and national parliaments, the secretariats of relevant regional economic community particularly Africa Union, COMESA, SADC and EAC, the relevant ministries, departments and agencies.

AREAS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENTS IN DRM PROCESSES



- **(i) Globalization of tax policy issues**

The ongoing processes to enhance Domestic Revenue Mobilization such as the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/ G20 BEPS, the Addis Tax Initiative is taken charge of by the developed countries. While such processes are supposed to be domesticated at the regional and national levels, the voices from the global south are missing and the policy proposals do not always respond to the needs of most developing countries. This therefore hinders effective implementation of such recommendations arising from such processes.

- **(ii) Influencing the national tax laws**

Every year, governments through their relevant ministries develop tax amendments to Parliament with the aim of widening tax base for the country. When passed into law, they become part of the financing sources for the subsequent budgets. YTJN through her national coordination desks should mobilize the youth to engage a different platform and contribute to national annual tax amendments by submitting proposals that address youth concerns.

- **(iii) Africa Mining Vision:** In February 2009, the African Union heads of state adopted the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) to promote transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad based sustainable growth and socio-economic development. The AMV addresses a number of challenges including revenue management in the extractive sector and how to improve the taxation regime to ensure that governments receive an equitable share of revenue from their mineral assets. However, the AMV action plan is yet to be fully implemented by government.

AREAS FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT CONT'D



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- *(iv) HLPR IFFs*

The High-Level Panel report on Illicit Financial Flows (2015) contains a number of recommendations to which national governments committed- including: trade mispricing (taxpayer registration, collection of trade transaction data); transfer pricing among others. YTJN through her respective country coordination offices should continue to monitor and engage with national governments to ensure that their commitments to implement the Mbeki report are fully realised.

- *(v) EITI*

Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa including Uganda, Rwanda and Botswana are committed to joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which promotes among others; good governance of the extractive industries, prudent use of national resource wealth as an important engine for sustainable economic growth and stakeholder engagement. YTJN needs to engage with other like-minded stakeholders to ensure that these commitments are fully realised by the respective governments.



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THANK YOU!!!