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# KOFORIDUA YOUTH MANIFESTO

STATUS REPORT - 2024

# KOFORIDUA YOUTH MANIFESTO STATUS REPORT

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the Koforidua Youth Manifesto Project

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Directors, management, and staff of AFES-Ghana would like to express our deepest gratitude to the New Juaben South Municipal Assembly, Regional and Municipal Offices of the National Youth Authority, and the Municipal Office of the National Commission for Civic Education for their technical and professional support throughout the implementation of the KofKro initiative and specifically the Koforidua Youth Manifesto project.

We are particularly thankful to STAR-Ghana Foundation and Fondation Botnar for their generous financial and technical support, which has been instrumental in bringing the first ever Koforidua Youth Manifesto of its kind to life and subsequently the development of the Koforidua Youth status report- 2024.

This project has not only empowered the youth of New Juaben South Municipality to take ownership of their development processes but has also served as a catalyst for youth participation in local governance and civic technology.

Through the KofKro Project, we have witnessed the emergence of a new generation of young leaders who are leveraging technology to amplify their voices, demand accountability, and drive positive change in their communities. We believe that this project has laid the foundation for a more inclusive and participatory governance process in the municipality, and we are proud to have played a part in shaping the future of youth civic engagement in Ghana.

We appreciate the trust and confidence our partners have placed in us, and we are proud to have worked together to create a platform for youth voices to be heard.





# RESEARCH TEAM

AFES-Ghana is grateful to the Research Team for their dedication and commitment to designing and implementing the research methodology, collecting and analyzing data, and providing valuable insights that informed the development of this report. Their tireless efforts during the data collection exercises, which involved engaging with diverse stakeholders and youth groups, were instrumental in shaping the report's findings and recommendations.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following members of the Research Team.

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# TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

The AFES-Ghana team would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Technical Reviewers for their expert input and guidance throughout the development of this report. Their meticulous review of the report's content, methodology, and findings ensured the accuracy, validity, and relevance of the research. Their constructive feedback and recommendations significantly enhanced the quality of the report, and we are grateful for their contribution to the project's progress.

*We would like to extend our appreciation to the following Technical Reviewers:*

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# FOREWORD

As the Regional Director of the National Youth Authority (NYA), with regards to the New Juaben South Municipality, it is my pleasure to introduce the Koforidua Youth Status Report. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the youth context and status in our municipality, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that our young people face.

Located in the Eastern Region of Ghana, New Juaben South Municipality is a vibrant and diverse community with a population of over 125,000 people, 30.8% of whom are below 15 years. Our municipality has a youthful population, and it is essential that we prioritize their needs and aspirations.

The Koforidua Youth Status Report covers key areas such as education, health, employment, and participation in decision-making processes. The report provides valuable insights into the challenges facing our youth, including limited access to education and healthcare, high levels of unemployment, and limited opportunities for participation in decision-making processes.

However, the report also highlights opportunities for growth and development, including the potential for entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership development. As the Regional NYA Director, I am committed to working with stakeholders to address the challenges facing our youth and to harness the opportunities for growth and development. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of all stakeholders who participated in the development of this report. Your inputs and insights not only emphasize the need for collective effort to improve the lives of the youth but also have been extremely valuable in shaping our understanding of the youth context and status in New Juaben South Municipality. I would like to recommend this report to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public, as it ultimately serves as a valuable resource for informing decision-making processes and programming for youth development in this municipality.

**Ms. Enyonam Lotsu**

**Eastern Regional Director, National Youth Authority  
Koforidua**





# PREFACE

The Koforidua Youth Status Report presents a compelling narrative about the lives of young people in New Juaben South Municipality. As the President of AFES Ghana, I am heartened to see the report's emphasis on the importance of youth-centered initiatives.

AFES Ghana has long recognized the potential of young people to drive positive change in their respective communities. This report reinforces our commitment to supporting youth-led initiatives that promote education, economic empowerment and leadership development.

I applaud the researchers and stakeholders who contributed to this report for their meticulous work. The findings provide a rich data of evidence and insights that can inform evidence-based policymaking and programming.

Moving forward, it is crucial that we place the needs and ambitions of young people at the forefront of development planning processes in the municipality. To achieve this, we must cultivate strong partnerships between government, civil society organizations, the private sector, and community leaders. These collaborations are essential to create pathways for youth development.

I express my sincere appreciation to our partners and stakeholders, including the New Juaben South Municipal Assembly, National Youth Authority and National Commission for Civic Education, for their consistent support.

This report serves as a powerful call to action. I urge all stakeholders to utilize the insights within this report to build a brighter future for young people of the municipality.

*Muta-wakilu MAHAMA*  
*Co-founder & President*  
*AFES-Ghana*





# ABBREVIATION

AFES – Anchito Foundation for Education and Self-Help

BBF – Bebia Beye Fine

CDD- Ghana Center for Democratic Development

DMAC – Divine Mother and Child Foundation

JHS- Junior High School

KYM – Koforidua Youth Manifesto

MMDAs- Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies

NCCE – National Commission for Civic Education

NDC- National Democratic Congress

NJSMA- New Juaben South Municipal Assembly

NYA – National Youth Authority

PM – Presiding Member

SHS- Senior High School

STAR- Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness

TVET- Technical, Vocational Education and Training

YP – Youth Parliament





# OVERVIEW OF NEW JUABEN SOUTH MUNICIPALITY

Ghana practices decentralized administration system. Currently, there are sixteen administrative regions and 261 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). The New Juaben South Municipality was established in 2017 as one of the 33 MMDAs in the Eastern region. The municipality covers 60 square kilometers, with Koforidua as its capital.

The municipality has a bi-modal rainfall season, with temperatures ranging from 20°C to 32°C. It falls within a semi-deciduous rainforest, with diverse flora and fauna.

The municipality has a heterogeneous society, with a dominant Akan population and significant proportions of other ethnic groups.

In Ghana, chieftaincy is officially recognized as a traditional system of governance and accorded the national status. The Omanhene is a title for Paramount Chief who commands specific traditional jurisdiction based on culture, history and ancestral heritage. The Queen-mother is title for woman chief. The Omanhene and Queen-mother play significant roles in the traditional governance processes within the municipality.

In Ghana, the local assembly structure is a multifaceted system designed to ensure effective governance and representation at the grassroots level. At its core, the structure consists of several key components, including Electoral Areas, Zonal Councils, Unit Committees, and the General Assembly, which work together to strike a balance between local representation and national oversight.

Key Components of the Local Assembly Structure

## **Electoral Areas**

These are smaller divisions within a voting constituency, created to make voting more manageable and representative. In this municipality, there are 34 Electoral Areas that serve as the basic building blocks for electoral purposes.

## **Zonal Councils**

These councils are groups of representatives who oversee specific zones within the municipality. The 8 Zonal Councils in this municipality address particular geographic areas or sets of issues, providing a more focused approach to governance and community development.



## Unit Committees

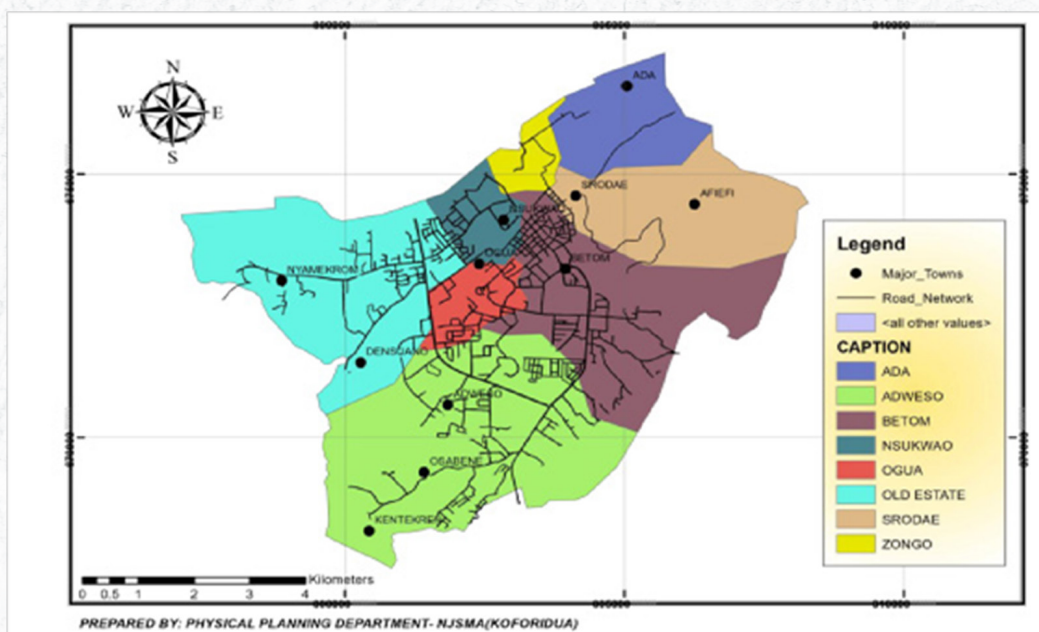
These are smaller, grassroots-level groups focused on local issues and community development. With 70 Unit Committees in the municipality, they play a vital role in engaging with citizens, identifying community needs, and driving local initiatives. They are the structures that implement decisions taken by the legislative wing of the local authorities, including by-laws, and also supervise implementation of local projects.

## General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main governing body of the municipality, comprising 51 members responsible for making key decisions and by-laws, and overseeing the municipality's development. The assembly includes both elected and appointed members, ensuring a balance between local representation and national oversight.

The municipality's economy is similar to the national level, with industrial establishments in the central business area and agricultural production in small settlements. Commercial activities play a significant role, with two main markets in the Central Business District of Koforidua, while others are scattered around the various towns and villages within the municipality. For such rural markets, special days are designated as "Market Days" where people go there for marketing, usually buying and selling of food stuffs and other household items.

The municipality has untapped tourism potential, with attractions like the Kentenkeren Waterfall, Akyekyeso Crocodile Sanctuary and Obuotabiri Bird View and Green Belts



*Out of 34 elected Assembly Persons, 12 are below the age of 35 years representing 35.2% of all elected members. The Presiding Member (PM) of the General Assembly is the youngest PM in the country*





# KOFKRO PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Action for Youth Development (AfYD) Project also called the “Kofkro” project is being implemented by the STAR-Ghana Foundation with funding from Fondation Botnar. The three-year project seeks to contribute to strengthening an enabling environment for youth inclusion and influence in governance leading to their better access to quality public goods and services in the New Juaben South Municipality. In all, four different organizations were granted financial support to implement different aspects of the project, including the Anchito Foundation for Education and Self-Help (AFES), Divine Mother and Child (DMAC) Foundation, the Koforidua Youth Parliament (KYP) and Bibia Be Ye Fine (BBF), a youth self-help group.

The project aimed to create a ‘Municipality where young people are informed and have capacity to participate actively in governance and influence improved services across all sectors. It sought to promote partnership between duty bearers and citizens to ensure that development programming was more meaningful for young people. It would strengthen the capacities of youth led organisations to mobilize, represent and engage constructively with duty bearers to sustainably address their needs and priorities in decisions and resources distribution. The project was approached from an inclusive perspective, thereby contributing to reducing inequalities with access to social services for different categories of young people.

The project is also working closely with the New Juaben South Municipal Assembly, the Eastern regional and municipal offices of the National Youth Authority (NYA) and the Municipal office of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).

AFES-Ghana’s role in the partnership relates to evaluating, compiling, advocating and tracking implementation of Koforidua Youth Manifesto. This Manifesto serves as a comprehensive document outlining the needs and aspirations of young people in the Municipality.

Beyond the general objective mentioned earlier, under this project, AFES- Ghana sought to produce a specialized Youth Manifesto which will serve as a foundational resource for youth-centric decision-making and policy development. By utilizing this Manifesto, decisions, policies, and programs will be specifically tailored to the needs and aspirations of young people. This tailored approach will result in targeted interventions that effectively address critical youth challenges within the municipality.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Koforidua Youth Status Report provides a comprehensive analysis of the demographics, priorities, challenges, internal strengths and weaknesses, external opportunities and threats affecting youth in the New Juaben South Municipality. The report highlights the importance of data-driven, evidence-base youth development policy planning and programming to address the unique needs of young people.

## Demographics

According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the municipality has a projected population of 125,256 individuals. Notably, a significant proportion of this population, 45.8% or 57,367 people, falls within the age bracket of 15-35 years. This demographic trend underscores the importance of understanding the needs, priorities, and characteristics of this youthful population.

To gain insights into the youth population, three surveys were conducted as part of the KOFKRO project: the baseline survey, the youth priority survey, and the remobilization survey. The youth priority survey, which had 3,622 participants, revealed a slight majority of males, with 52.9% of respondents identifying as male, while 47.1% identified as female. The remobilization survey, which gathered data from 2,932 respondents, provided further insights into the age distribution and gender dynamics of the youth population. The survey found that 37.2% of respondents were between 21-25 years old. Additionally, the survey revealed a gender distribution of 60.4% males and 39.6% females, indicating a notable imbalance in favor of males.

The baseline survey, conducted prior to the other two surveys, gathered data from 580 respondents. The survey found that 53.1% of respondents identified as male, while 42.9% identified as female. Notably, 4.0% of respondents did not disclose their gender, highlighting the importance of ensuring inclusivity and confidentiality in data collection processes.

## Education and Skills Development

About 65% of respondents attended school in the past, while 30.8% were currently schooling. However, 3.8% had never attended school. The report highlights the need for improved access to quality education and skills training programs.



## Employment, Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion

Unemployment remains a significant challenge, with 51% of youth with no employment. The report emphasizes the importance of entrepreneurship and financial inclusion initiatives to help reduce this challenge.

## Youth Participation in Governance and Community Development

The report highlights the need for increased youth participation in governance and decision-making processes. While there is a significant level of awareness among youth regarding local governance structures, participation in community-level decision-making processes remains limited.

## Recommendations

*To address the challenges and gaps identified in the report, the following recommendations are made:*

- Improve access to quality education and skills training programs.
- Enhance entrepreneurship and financial inclusion initiatives.
- Strengthen communication channels between youth, local actors and government officials.
- Provide training and capacity-building programs for youth on governance, leadership, and decision-making.
- Address the factors hindering youth participation in governance and community-level development.

## Conclusion

This report provides a critical tool for understanding the landscape of youth issues and challenges in the municipality. The report's findings and recommendations will inform policy-planning and programming which will help accelerate youth development in the municipality.





# CHAPTER ONE



## INTRODUCTION

### Rationale

The Koforidua youth status report has been developed in accordance with development priorities and perspectives of the youth of New Juaben South Municipality (NJSM). The aim of this report is to serve as a critical tool to provide a fair understanding of the current situation of development challenges confronting young people; and assist in providing direction to the Municipal Assembly and its development partners. It also seeks to inform smart formulation of appropriate policies and strategies; as well as to ensure effective planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth development initiatives.

### Methodology

Both primary and secondary data collection methodology was adopted for the project. Primary data: This report primarily presents findings from three surveys conducted in the course of eighteen (18) months into the implementation of the Kofkro project. These include the project baseline survey, the youth priority survey and the youth remobilization survey.

Secondary data: The preparation of this report also involved a comprehensive and extensive review of relevant documents such as the Koforidua Youth Manifesto (2024), the Medium-Term Development Plan of New Juaben South Municipality (2023-2025), the Ghana National Youth Policy and its implementation plan (2022-2032).

In developing the status report, references were made to other relevant documents including the Ghana statistical service population and housing census report (2021), the South African status of youth report (2022), the Afrobarometer Ghana youth priority report (2023), the Kenyan youth situational analysis report (2023) and the Ghana youth barometer report (2024).



## **Structure of the Report**

This report has been structured into six (6) chapters.

**Chapter one: Introduction:** The chapter one gives a background to the rationale of the report, methodology used in developing the report and the demographics of the research participants.

**Chapter two: Summary analysis of youth situation:** This chapter presents the findings of the research under each of the top three (3) priority thematic areas of the youth – Education and skill development; Employment, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion; and Youth participation in local governance and community development.

**Chapter three: Status of youth education and skills development:** This chapter presents conceptual background, aspirations, challenges and recommendations towards addressing youth issues under the thematic area.

**Chapter four: Status of youth employment, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion:** This chapter presents conceptual background, aspirations, challenges and recommendations towards addressing youth issues under the thematic area.

**Chapter five: Youth participation in governance and community development:** This chapter presents conceptual background, aspirations, challenges and recommendations towards addressing youth issues under the thematic area.

**Chapter six: Conclusion and recommendations:** This chapter presents the conclusion of the study and its recommendations to key stakeholders including Central Government, local government actors, civil society organizations, the academia, development partners, and other interested parties.

### ***Demographics of participants of the study***

The data analytics from three surveys - the remobilization survey, baseline survey, and youth priority survey - provide valuable insights into the demographics of the youth in the NJSM. These surveys collectively gathered data from a total of 7,134 respondents, offering a comprehensive overview of the youth demography including their age distribution, gender, marital status, educational background, and disability status.



The age distribution of the respondents shows a predominantly young population. The lowest age range of 15-20 years accounted for 30.9% of the respondents in the remobilization survey, while the baseline survey reported 15.7% of respondents falling within this age range. The next age range of 21-25 years had the highest representation, with 37.2% in the remobilization survey and 42.0% in the baseline survey. The age range of 26-30 years accounted for 21.7% in the remobilization survey and 21.6% in the baseline survey. Respondents aged 31-35 years made up the smallest proportion, with 10.2% in the remobilization survey and 20.7% of respondents over 30 years in the baseline survey.

In terms of gender distribution, males outnumbered females in all three surveys. The remobilization survey reported 60.4% males and 39.6% females, while the baseline survey had 53.1% males and 42.9% females. The youth priority survey also showed a slight majority of males, with 52.9% males and 47.1% females.

The surveys also gathered data on the marital status and disability status of the respondents. The remobilization survey found that only 9% of the respondents were married, while about 5% of the respondents had various disabilities.

The educational background of the respondents varied across the surveys. The remobilization survey reported that about 65% of the respondents had attended school in the past, 30.8% were still in school, and 3.8% had never attended school. The baseline survey provided more detailed information on the education levels of the respondents, with 36.6% having completed senior high education, 32.9% completed tertiary education, 17.1% completed junior high education, 7.2% with primary school education, and 6.0% had no formal education.

These surveys relied on primary data, collected directly from the respondents through one-on-one survey questionnaire administration. The data provides a valuable foundation for understanding the demographics of the youth population in the NJSM and can inform policy decisions, program development, and resource allocation.



# CHAPTER TWO



## SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF YOUTH SITUATION

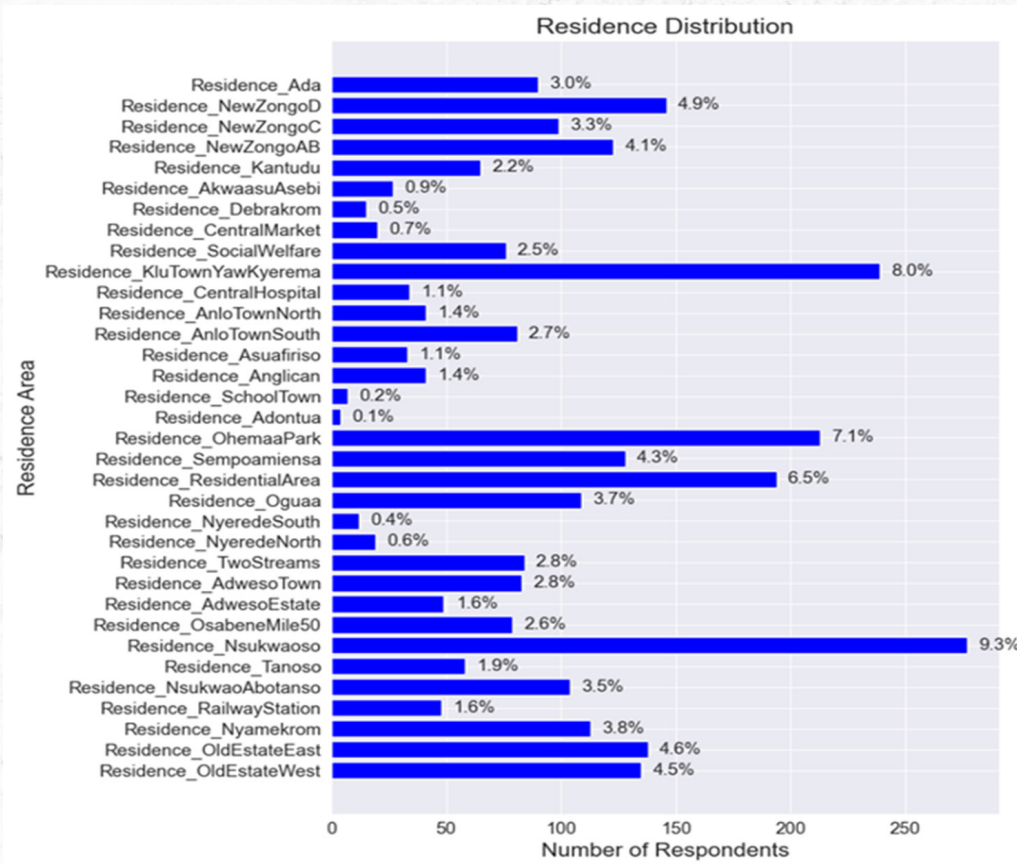
The youth in New Juaben municipality are a dynamic and vital component of the community, boasting a wealth of potentials that can be harnessed to drive local development. Despite facing numerous challenges, they present great strengths and opportunities that the municipality can leverage to improve their lives, particularly in areas of education, skills development, employment, and volunteerism. Some of the challenges confronting the youth in New Juaben municipality include:

- **Lack of access to education and skills development opportunities:** Many young people in the municipality lack access to quality education and skills training, hindering their ability to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in the job market.
- **Unemployment and limited economic opportunities:** The municipality's economy is largely informal, with limited job opportunities for young people. This has led to high levels of unemployment, poverty, and frustration among the youth.
- **Low youth participation level in local governance activities and community development:** The youth in New Juaben South Municipality are not adequately represented in local governance activities and community development initiatives. This limits their ability to contribute to decision-making processes and shape the development of their communities. Despite these challenges, the youth in New Juaben South Municipality possess numerous opportunities that can be tapped into for development. Some of these opportunities include:
  - **Entrepreneurship and innovation:** The youth in New Juaben municipality are tech-savvy and can leverage digital platforms to develop innovative solutions to local challenges. They can also engage in agricultural ventures, creative industries, and other entrepreneurial pursuits.



- **Education and skills development:** Investing in skills-based education can empower the youth with practical knowledge for self-employment. Mentorship and apprenticeship programs can also provide valuable guidance and hands-on experience.
- **Community engagement and leadership:** Empowering the youth to lead community projects can foster civic responsibility and ownership. Volunteering and social action can also promote social cohesion and address critical community needs.
- **Leveraging technology for development:** Bridging the digital divide can ensure that young people have the skills and access to technology needed to participate in the digital economy. Data-driven solutions can also be utilized to address local challenges.

Initiatives such as the New Juaben South Youth Parliament, which aims to instill democratic values in young people, and the training of “Youth Peace Ambassadors” to promote peaceful elections, demonstrate the municipality’s commitment to empowering its youth. By tapping into these opportunities, the municipality can empower its youth to become agents of change, driving economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development within their communities.



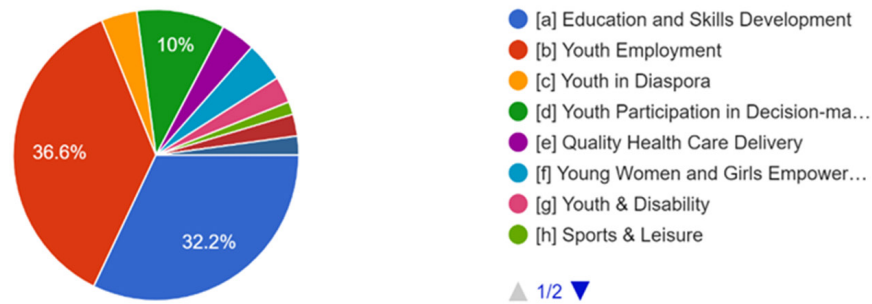


## Youth priorities:

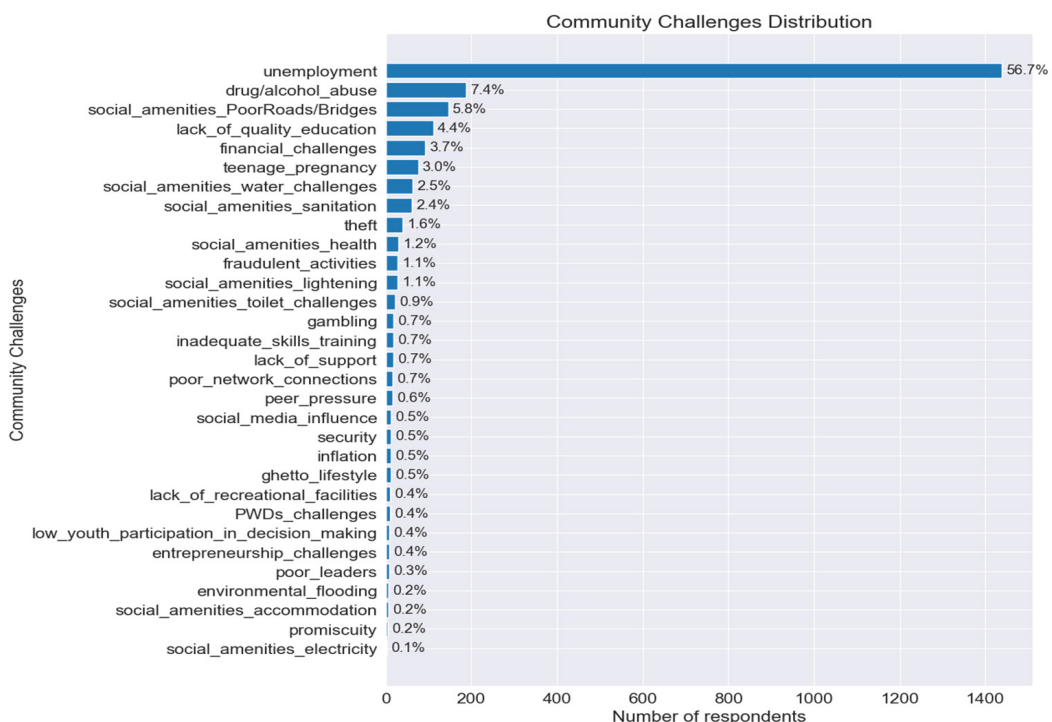
Within the development sphere, it's widely acknowledged that human needs are boundless. This is particularly evident among youth, who exhibit heightened curiosity, ambition, and a strong desire for advancement, often within a context of limited resources and opportunities. Prioritizing needs is crucial to effectively allocate available resources and address the most pressing concerns. Based on this development principle, a needs assessment was undertaken within the Municipality to identify the needs, aspirations, and priorities of its youth population. The following data presents the survey findings

### 1. Which of the following do you think should be priority for youth development?

3,638 responses



## Youth challenges:





## YOUTH STRENGTHS

1. Creativity, talent and innovation
  2. Malleable and easily trainable
  3. Quick in embracing ICT
  4. Adaptable to positive peer influence
  5. Large youth population
- 
- 

## YOUTH WEAKNESSES

1. Lack of employable skills due to low education attainment and skills gaps
2. Weak value systems
3. Prone to negative peer influence, which can lead to antisocial behaviors including radicalization
4. Limited capacity to effectively engage in entrepreneurship activities
5. Negative stereotypes among the youth
6. Limited access of the youth to ICT facilities



## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

1. Devolved governance structures
2. ICT advancements
3. Vibrant social media
4. Potential to exploit youth demographic dividend
5. Operationalization of Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Technical
6. Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
7. Unexploited talents in sport and arts
8. Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
9. Youth as change agents
10. Untapped socio-economic potential of the Blue Economy sector

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## YOUTH THREATS

1. Vulnerability to engage in radicalization
2. High rates of teenage/early pregnancies
3. Drug use and substance abuse
4. Lack of adequate modern tools and equipment to realize Competency Based Education and Training (CBET)
5. Insecurity
6. Emerging cultural trends (Harmful cultural practices)
7. Youth Unemployment
8. Low transition mechanisms from education to the world of work.



# CHAPTER THREE



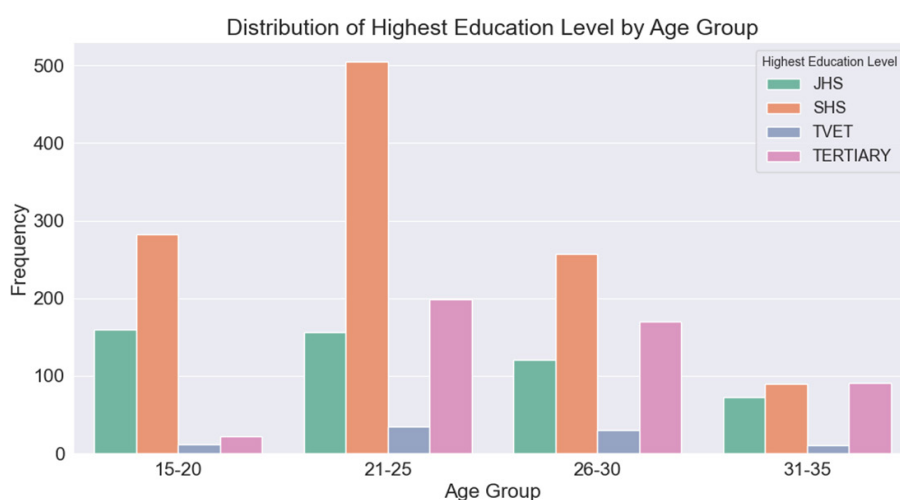
## STATUS OF YOUTH EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT





## Conceptual background:

The policy framework for youth education and skills development in Ghana is guided by the National Youth Policy, which aims to empower young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the country's development. The policy also emphasizes the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in equipping young people with employable skills.



## Level of Education

The study reveals that the majority of youth have completed Senior High School (SHS), followed by Tertiary and Junior High School (JHS) education. Notably, a significantly smaller proportion has attended Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. This pattern persists across all age groups, with a substantial number of respondents aged 15-20 currently enrolled in SHS. This observation is also backed by the findings in the baseline survey where the SHS had 36.6% and the Tertiary education had 32.9%, followed by the JHS (with 17.1%), Primary school (7.2%), and no formal education (6.0%).

## Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

The National Youth Authority Policy Document emphasizes the importance of TVET in equipping young people with employable skills. However, the study highlights a lack of interest in TVET education among youth in the municipality. This can be attributed to the perception and general demeanor given to TVET. To address this challenge, there is a need for concerted efforts to promote TVET and make it more attractive to young people.

## Quality of Education

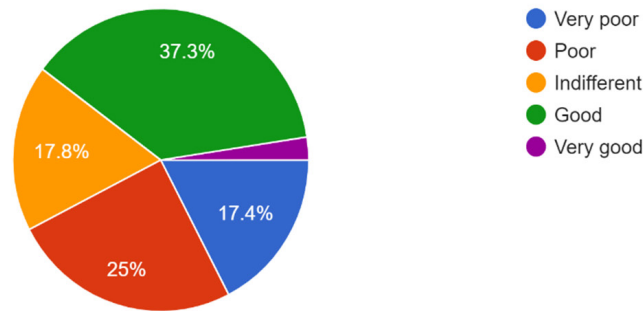
The study again found a number of key needs in the education sector to ensure quality education. The list includes well-trained and experienced teachers, access to modern edu-



cational resources and technology, a comprehensive curriculum encompassing academic subjects, life skills, and extracurricular activities, as well as safe and conducive learning environments. These are essential to developing holistic skills and competencies.

1. How will you rate the current level of quality education in the Municipality?

3,607 responses

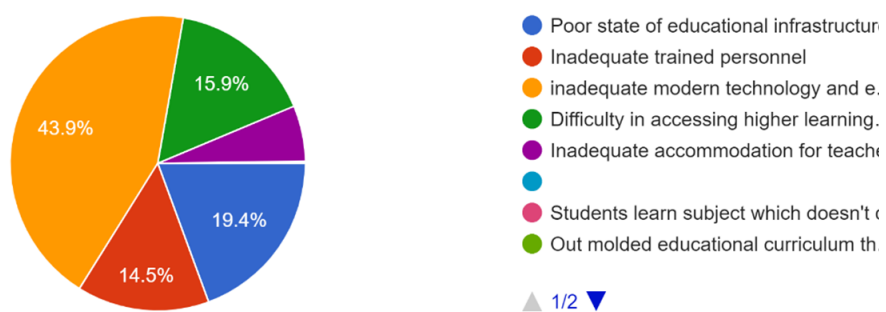


### Challenges Hindering Youth Education and Skills Development

Youth in the New Juaben South Municipality face several challenges in education and skills development as revealed the survey findings.

What are the major challenges in the educational sector?

1,000 responses



### Young People’s View on Municipal Assembly’s Interventions on Youth Education and Skills Development

Following the identification of the challenges in the education sector within the Municipality, the study probed further to understand the youth perception on the Municipal Assembly’s efforts in addressing the challenges. They have mixed views on the Municipal Assembly’s interventions on youth education and skills development. Some of them



appreciate the efforts of the Municipal Assembly, while others feel that more efforts are needed to address the challenges facing youth in the subsector.

For instance, during the remobilization survey, a significant proportion of respondents, 57%, believed that the Municipal Assembly's efforts to improve education infrastructure were satisfactory. However, a substantial number of respondents, 32%, felt that the Assembly's efforts to provide skills development programs were inadequate. This suggests that while some progress has been made in improving education infrastructure, more efforts were needed to provide youth with the skills and training required to succeed in the modern economy.

Furthermore, the survey revealed that 45% of respondents appreciated the Assembly's initiatives to provide educational resources and materials. However, 21% of respondents were dissatisfied with the Assembly's overall performance in addressing youth education and skills development challenges. This disparity in opinions highlights the need for the Municipal Assembly to engage more effectively with youth and to better understand their needs and concerns. In terms of specific areas of improvement, the survey highlighted priorities in vocational training programs, with 60% citing this as a key area for improvement. Additionally, 55% of respondents called for improved infrastructure in schools, while 40% emphasized the need for more scholarships and financial assistance for students.

These statistics suggest that while some youth in the municipality appreciate the Municipal Assembly's efforts, there remain a significant need for improvement in areas such as skills development, educational resources, and infrastructure.



## Recommendations

*To address the challenges in education and skills development subsector, the following recommendations were made:*

- Improve digitization in TVET institutions to enhance skills training and employment prospects.
- Make TVET compulsory in all educational institutions to promote practical skills development.
- Provide support and resources for skills training and entrepreneurship development to foster youth entrepreneurship and employment.
- Promote TVET and make it more attractive to young people through targeted marketing and outreach campaigns.
- Enforce the law governing the studying of subjects such as creative arts and practical skills to help students develop interest in skills development.





# CHAPTER FOUR



## STATUS OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION



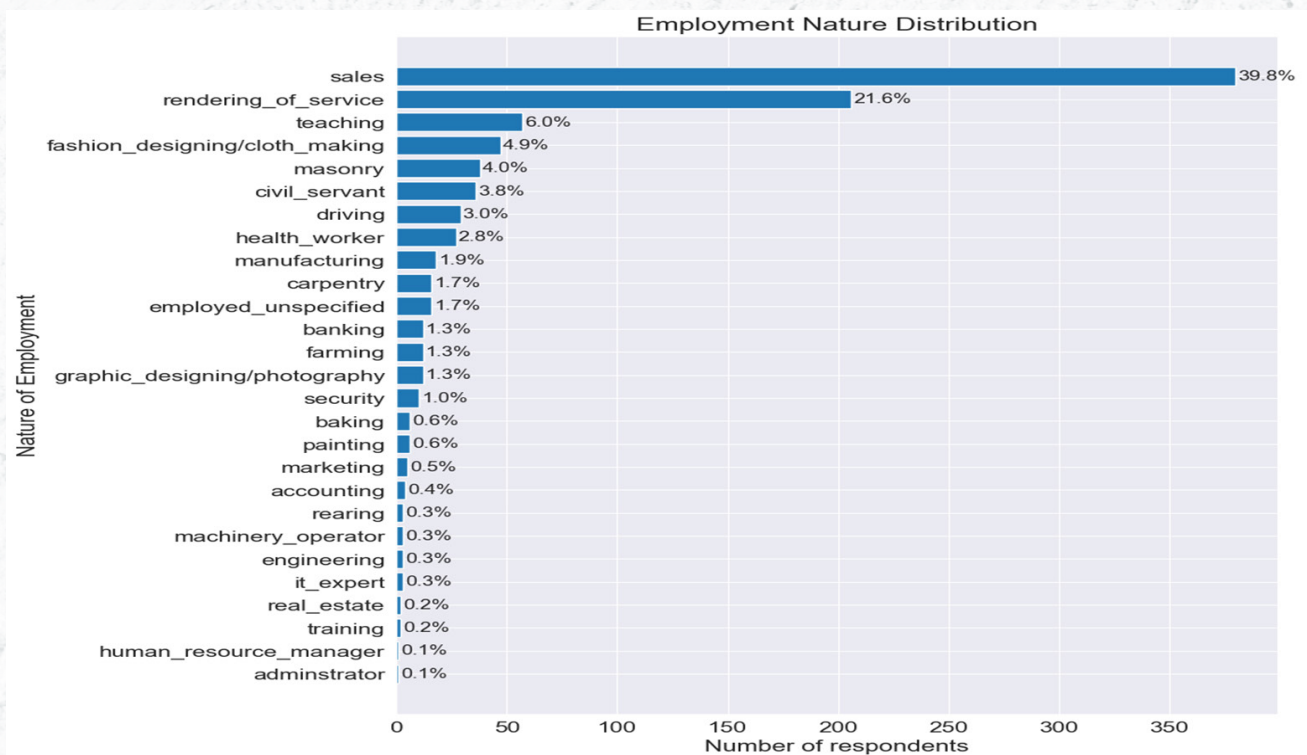


## Contextual Background

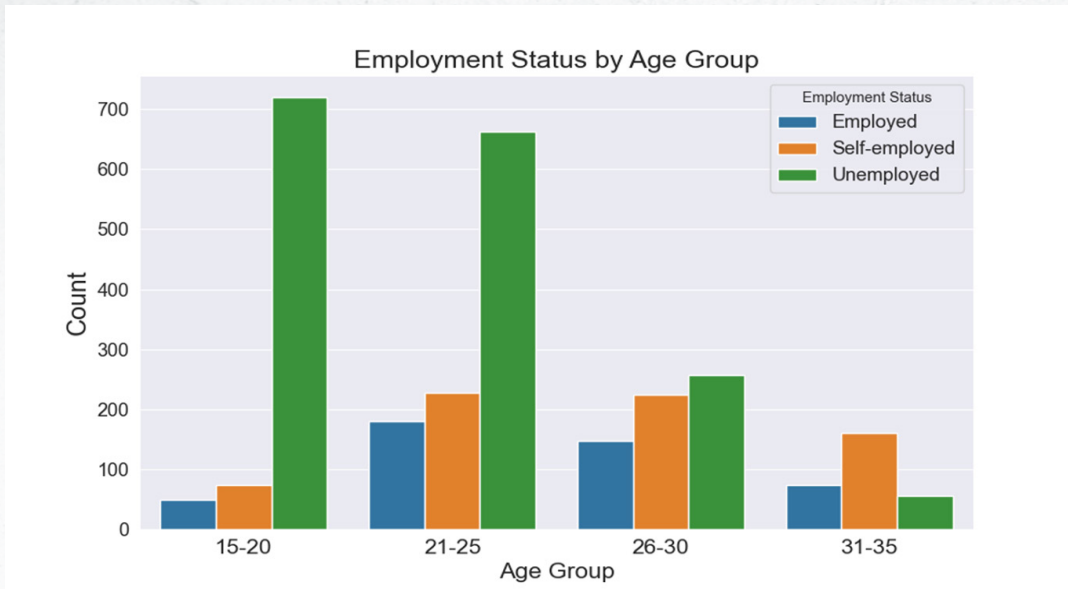
Youth employment, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion are fundamental pillars of Ghana's economic development strategy. The New Juaben South Municipality boasts of a substantial youth population, with approximately 57% of its residents below the age of 25. However, the current state of youth employment and entrepreneurship in the municipality is a serious concern. High rates of unemployment and underemployment prevail among young people and a significant portion lack the applied skills necessary to secure gainful employment.

## Employment Status

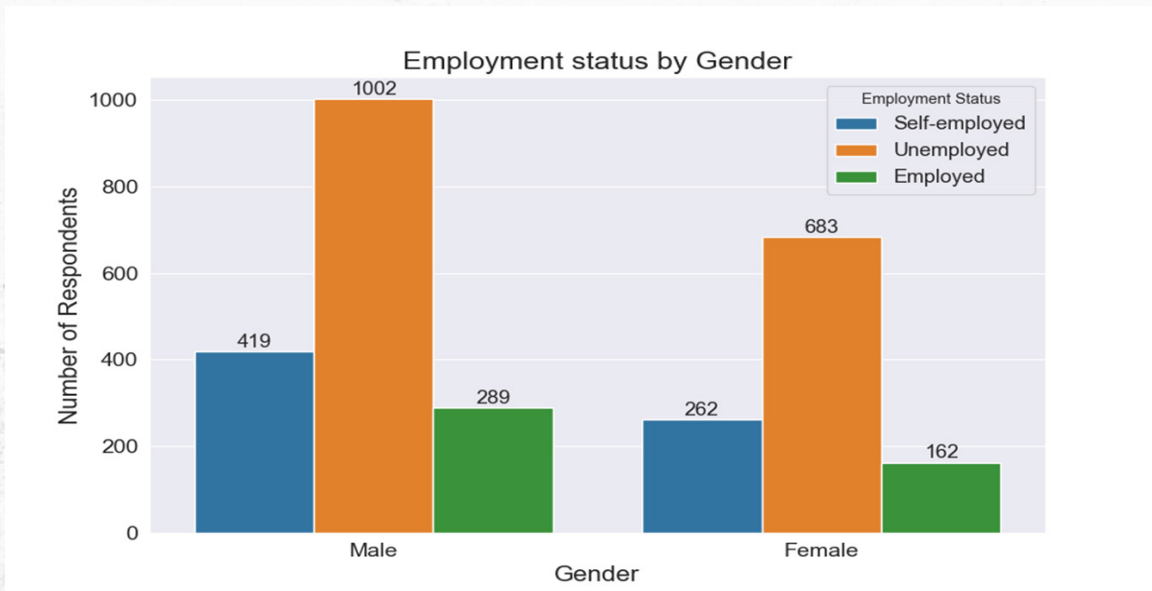
According to the Kofkro Baseline Survey Report, 51% of youth are unemployed, while 40.7% are engaged in full-time employment, and 8.3% work part-time. The majority of employed youth work in the informal sector, with many engaged in petty trading and vocational activities. The study further shows that females are more likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts, confirming the already known fact in Africa that females mostly take up domestic chores, and less educated as compared to their male counterparts.







*Approximately 59% of all male respondents are unemployed compared to about 62% unemployed females. This generally asserts that unemployment is greater in females than in males.*



### Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion

Entrepreneurship and financial inclusion are critical for addressing the challenges of unemployment and underemployment among youth in the municipality. However, many young people lack access to training, counseling, and financial resources to start and grow their own businesses. To address this challenge, there is a need for training and counseling centers, access to capital, and support for private sector development.

### Youth Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion Initiatives

*Several initiatives have been proposed to support youth entrepreneurship and financial inclusion in the municipality, including:*

- The 24-hour economy policy, a manifesto promise by the ruling National Democratic Congress party, which aims to open up the economy and the works sector 24 hours, with

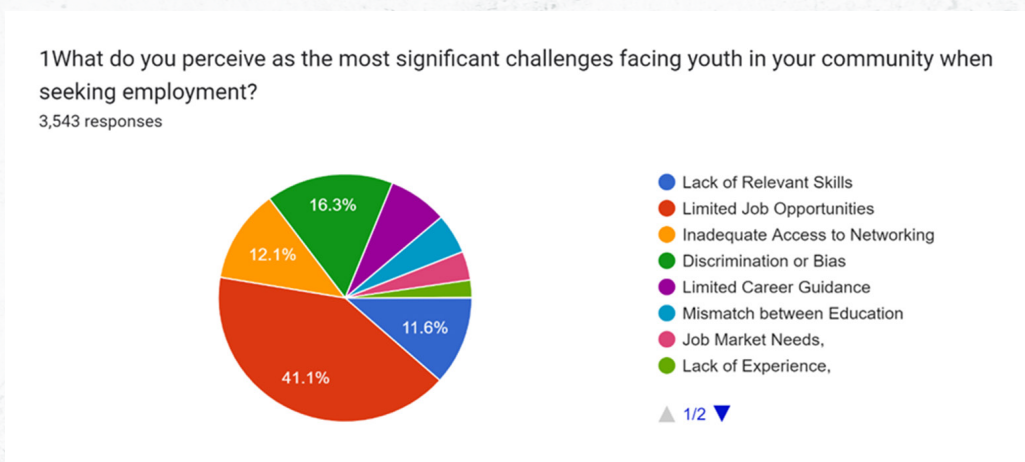


the aim to expand hours of work to ostensibly create jobs and stimulate economic growth.

- The Women’s Development Bank, also a political campaign promise by the NDC, which aims to provide access to loans with interest-free rates for women in business.
- Training and counseling centers for youth. Support for private sector development and access to capital for youth entrepreneurs.
- Initiatives to promote TVET and equip youth with employable skills.

### Challenges in Accessing Employment Opportunities

- Youth in the municipality face several challenges in accessing employment opportunities, including a lack of experience, discrimination in the job market, inadequate skills for available positions, limited job openings, and a low level of education hindering eligibility.
- Additionally, many youth lack access to capital to start their own businesses, with 66% of respondents reporting that accessing capital was “very difficult.”



### Young People’s View on Municipal Assembly’s Interventions on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Young people in the municipality have mixed views on the Municipal Assembly’s efforts in addressing youth employment and entrepreneurship challenges. While some of them appreciate the efforts of the Municipal Assembly, others expect t more to be done to address the challenges facing the youth in employment and entrepreneurship.





## Recommendations

*To address the challenges of unemployment, underemployment and lack of access to education and skills development opportunities among youth in the municipality, the following recommendations were made:*

- Improve access to quality education and skills training programs, including TVET.
- Provide, and resource training and counseling centers for youth.
- Support private sector development and provide access to capital for youth entrepreneurs.
- Promote initiatives to support youth entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, including implementing the 24-hour economy proposal and the Women's Development Bank agenda.
- Address the challenges of unemployment and underemployment among youth with disability and ensure that they have access to education, skills training and employment opportunities.

2. How can the Local government ensure employment opportunities and avenues. choose from the following  
3,528 responses





# CHAPTER FIVE



## STATUS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





## **Youth Participation in Local Governance: A Focus on New Juaben South Municipality.**

Youth engagement is crucial for effective and sustainable governance. Ghana's National Youth Policy underscores the importance of youth involvement in decision-making. This section examines the current state of youth participation in local governance within the New Juaben South Municipality.

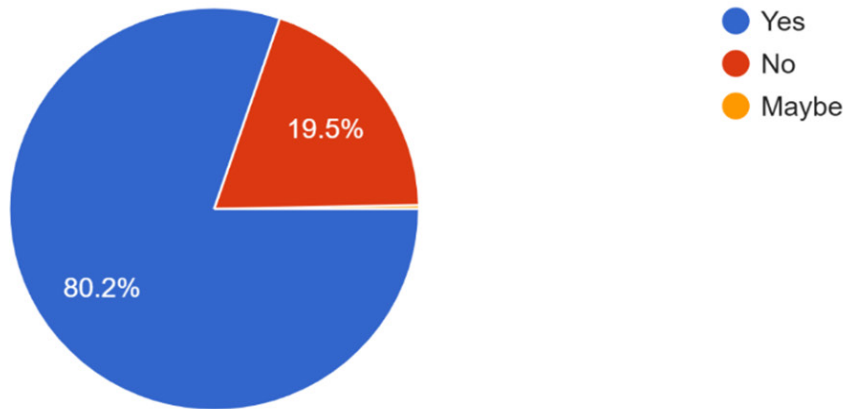
### ***Key Findings:***

- **Awareness of Local governance substructure:** While 69.3% of youth were aware of local governance bodies (Municipal Assembly, zonal Councils etc), understanding of their specific roles remains limited.
- **Community-level Decision-Making:** Views on youth participation in community-level decision-making was varied. 26.0% actively participated, while 59.7% had not. Town hall meetings were the primary platforms for community engagement.
- **Transparency and accountability in Governance:** Youth perceptions of transparency and accountability in local government decision-making were mixed. 17.2% perceived it as transparent and accountable, while 45.3% lacked confidence in its transparency and accountability mechanisms.
- **Essential Skills for Youth Participation:** The survey identified communication, leadership, decision-making, problem-solving, and critical thinking as key skills required for youth to effectively participate in governance and decision-making processes at the local level.
- **Youth Engagement in Governance:** Over 80% of youth registered to vote, and 53.2% intended to participate in the 2024 General Elections. However, their participation in governance processes were limited, as only 17.3% had attended town hall meetings, and 72.1% had ever participated in communal activities.



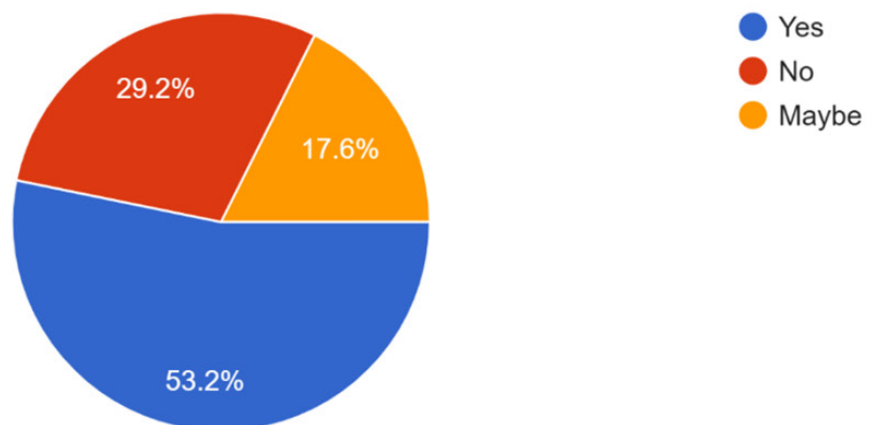
### Do you have a voter's ID card?

2,878 responses



### Do you plan to vote in the upcoming general election?

2,859 responses





#### 4. What reason mainly influences your choice of leaders during elections?

3,333 responses



### Youth Participation in Community Development activities

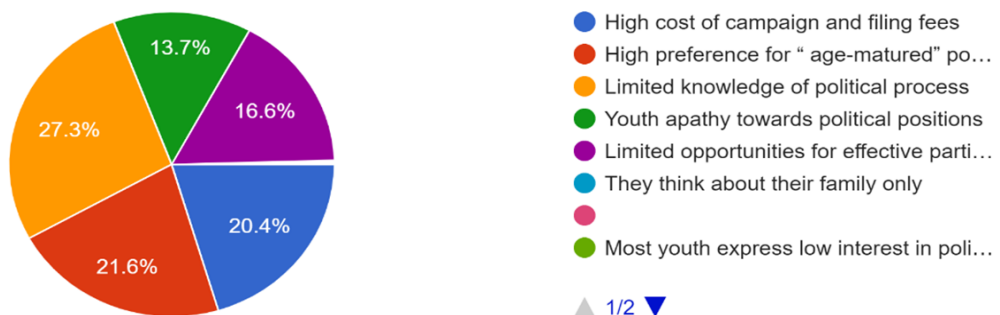
Regarding youth participation in community development (volunteerism) activities, 70% reported that they had taken part in communal activities, 16% expressed no interest in taking part in such activities, while 14% were not sure of their stance.

### Factors hindering Youth Participation in Governance and Community Development.

The study identified several factors that impede youth participation in governance processes, including ignorance about the local governance system, poor communication channels, selfish interests of some leaders, low levels of education, and insufficient resources

#### 6. If No, What is the main barrier to youth participation in political leadership?

3,089 responses





## **Young People's View on Municipal Assembly's Interventions to Strengthen Youth Participation in Governance and Community Development.**

The New Juaben South Municipal Assembly's efforts to strengthen youth participation in decision-making have received mixed reviews from young people. According to the Municipal Assembly's Youth Engagement Survey (2022), 42% of young people aged 15-24 believed that the Assembly was doing enough to involve them in decision-making processes. However, 27% of young people felt that the Assembly was not doing enough, while 31% were not sure of their ratings.

### **Barriers to Youth Participation**

Despite the Assembly's efforts, several barriers to youth participation persist. The youth priority survey revealed that 55% of young people cited lack of access to information as a major barrier to participating in decision-making processes. Furthermore, 40% of young people reported that lack of representation was a significant obstacle, while 25% identified socio-economic barriers, such as poverty and lack of education, as a major challenge.

### **Youth Participation in Decision-Making**

The survey also shed light on the level of youth participation in decision-making processes. Only 20% of young people aged 15-24 reported participating in a decision-making process, such as a town hall meeting or youth parliament meetings, in the past year. Moreover, just 15% of young people reported holding a leadership position in a youth organization or community group. These findings suggest that while some progress has been made, more efforts were needed to increase youth participation in decision-making processes.

Overall, the data highlights the need for the Municipal Assembly to intensify its efforts to strengthen youth participation in decision-making. By addressing the barriers to participation and creating more opportunities for young people to engage in decision-making processes, the Assembly can help ensure that the voices of young people are heard and valued.



## Recommendations

*To enhance active participation of youth in local governance decision making, the following recommendations were made:*

- Improve awareness and understanding of local governance substructure and the roles and functions of the various actors.
- Strengthen communication channels between youth and government officials.
- Provide training and capacity-building programs for youth on governance, leadership, and in decision-making.
- Address the factors hindering youth participation in governance processes, including ignorance, poor communication and insufficient resources.
- Encourage youth participation in town hall meetings and communal activities.
- Support the development of youth-led initiatives focused on governance and development.





# CHAPTER SIX



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report confirms the major challenges facing youth in the New Juaben South Municipality, including unemployment, lack of access to education and skills training, and limited participation in governance and community development. The findings align with the initial hypothesis, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address these challenges. The survey reveals that 60% of respondents are unemployed, and 65% have attended school in the past, but only 30.8% are currently in school. Furthermore, 70% of respondents reported participating in communal activities, indicating a desire to engage in community development. However, the lack of access to social amenities and limited opportunities for skills development hinders their potential.

*To address these challenges, the following recommendations are made:*

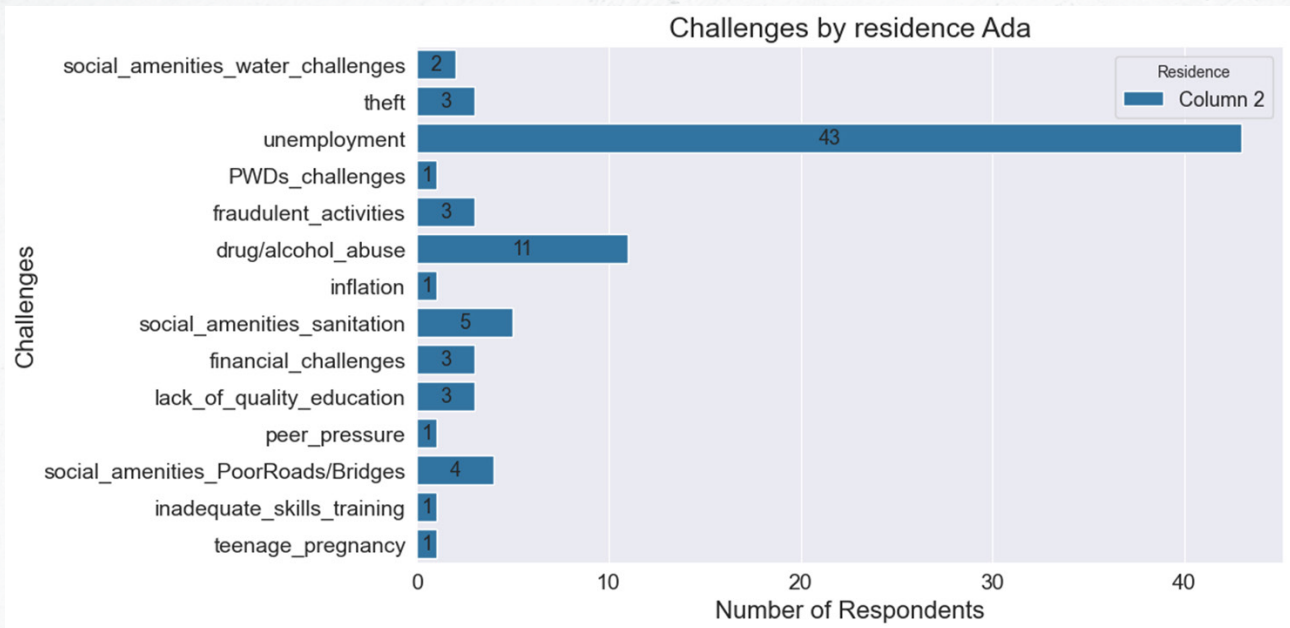
- Improve access to quality education and skills training programs, including establishing and resourcing adequate Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.
- Improve support and resources for entrepreneurship development, including establishing local training and counseling centers for youth who want to start their own businesses.
- Enhance youth participation in governance and community development, including improving awareness and understanding of local governance substructures and providing training and capacity-building programs for youth on governance, leadership, and grass-roots advocacy.

To effectively address the challenges facing youth in the New Juaben South Municipality, it is imperative that decision-makers prioritize education, skills development, and entrepreneurship, while promoting inclusive governance and community development.

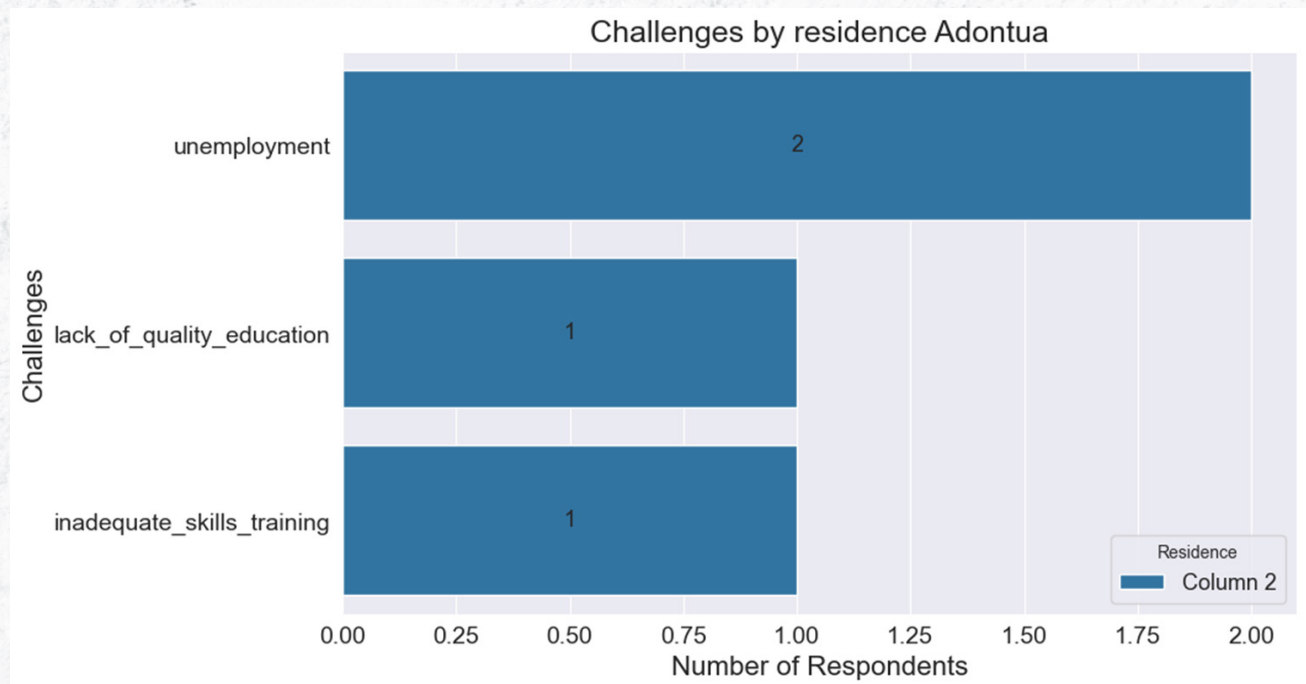




## APPENDIX

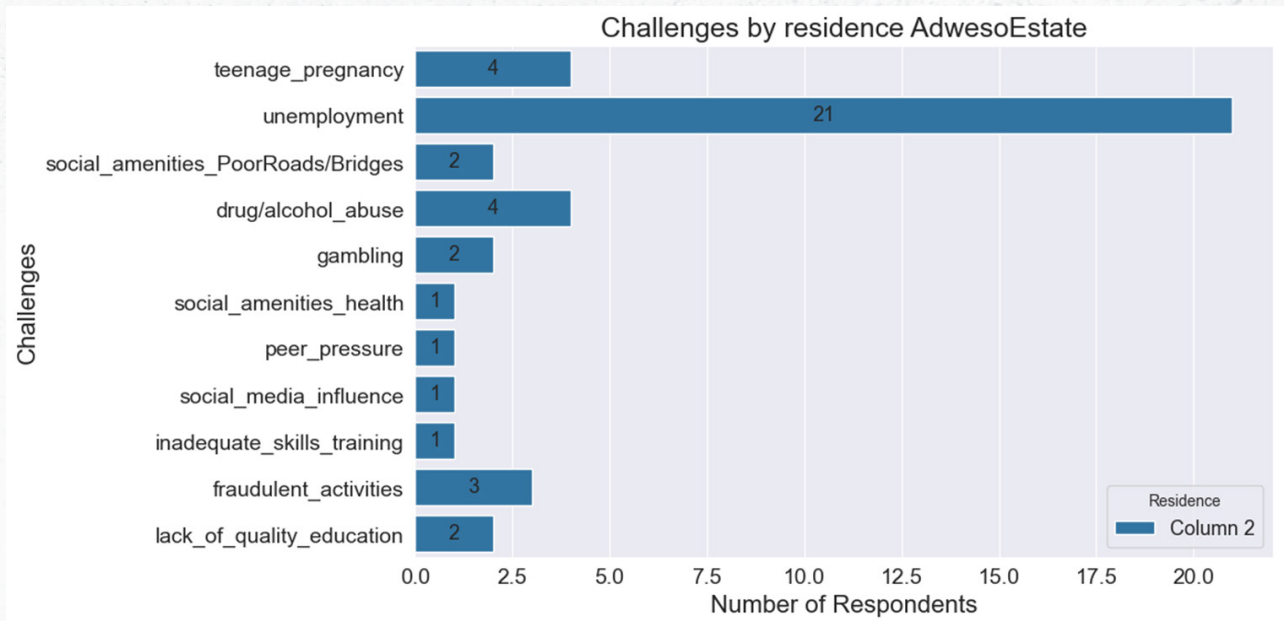


A 1: Challenges in Ada

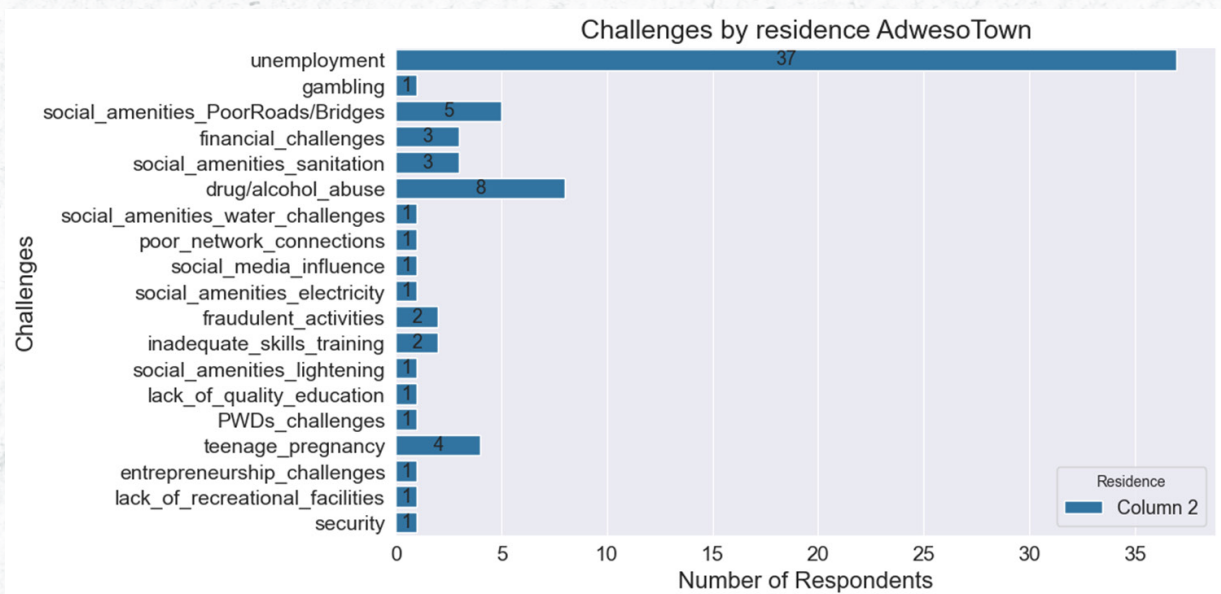


A 2: Challenges in Adontua



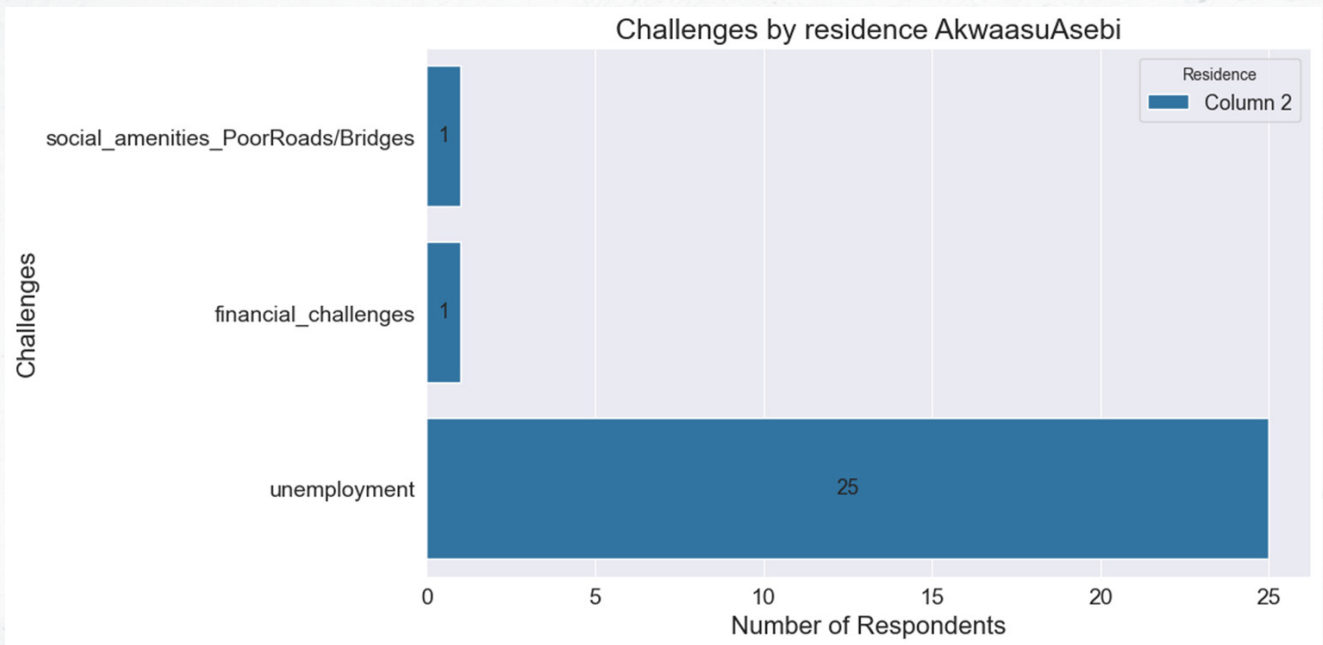


A 3: Challenges in Adweso Estate

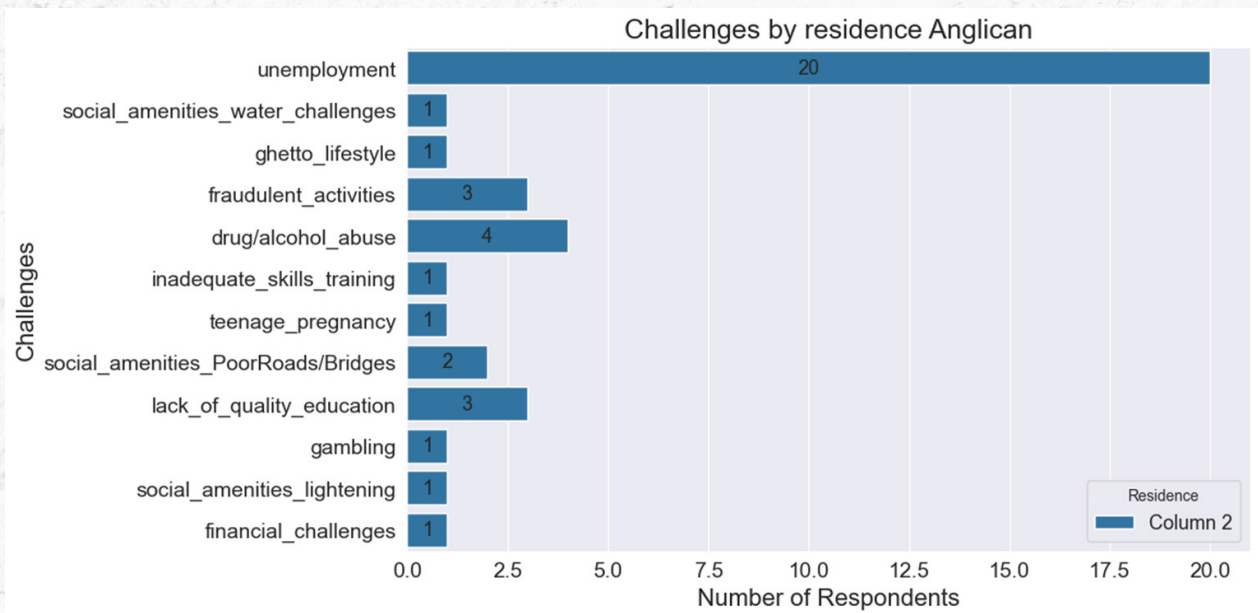


A 4: Challenges in Adweso Town



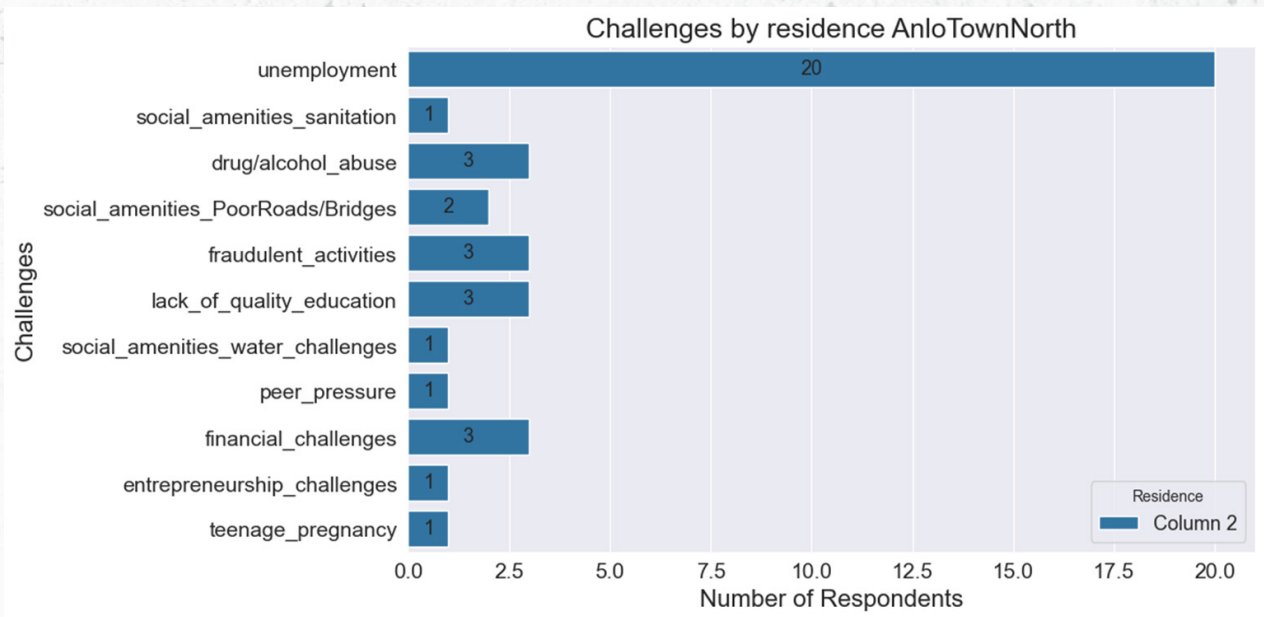


A 5: Challenges in Akwaasu Asebi

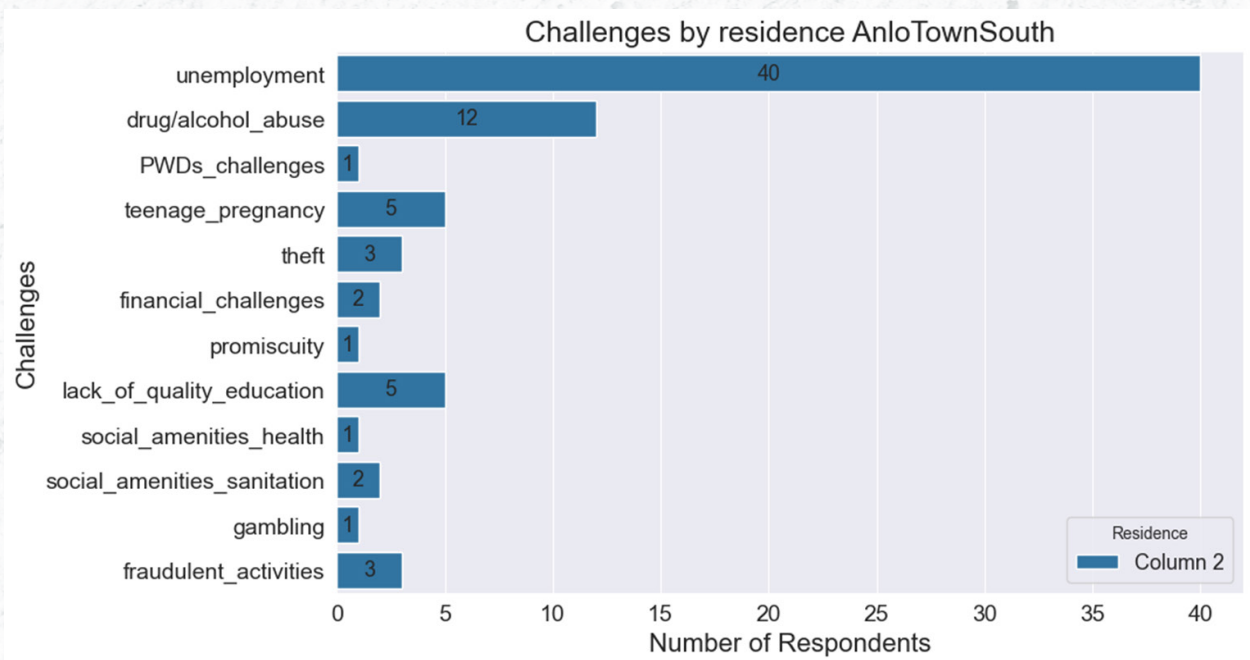


A 6: Challenges in Anglican



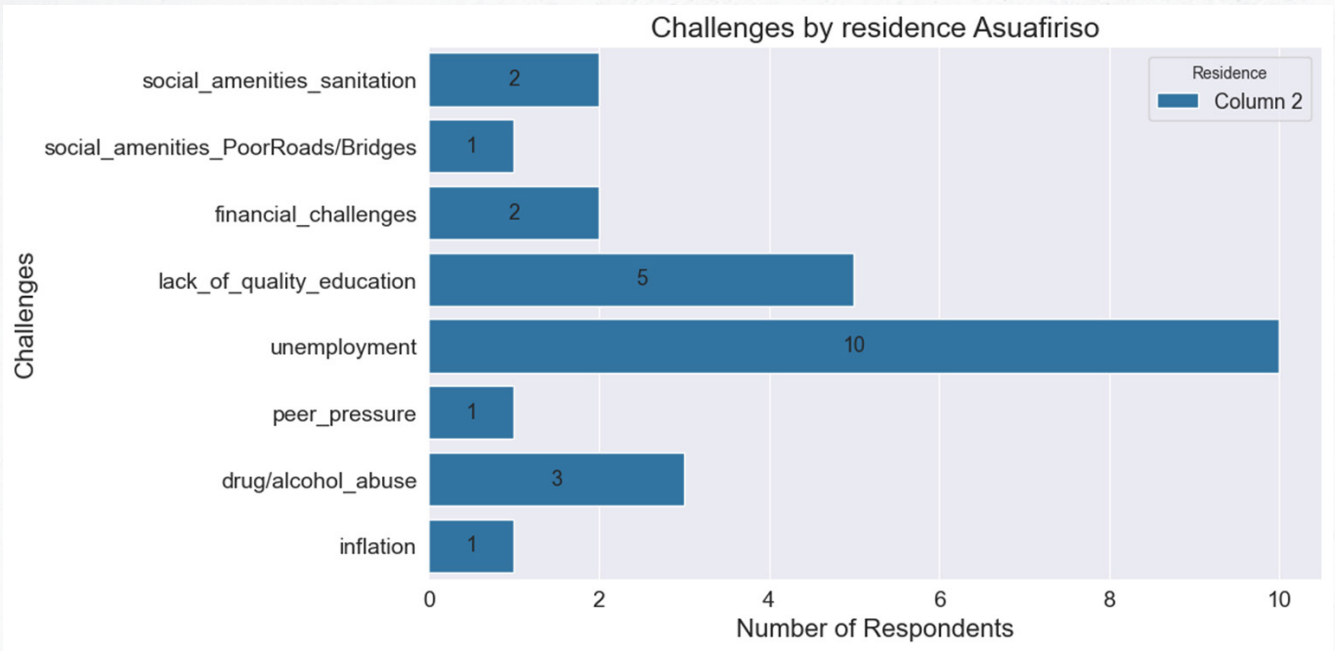


A 7: Challenges in Anlo Town North

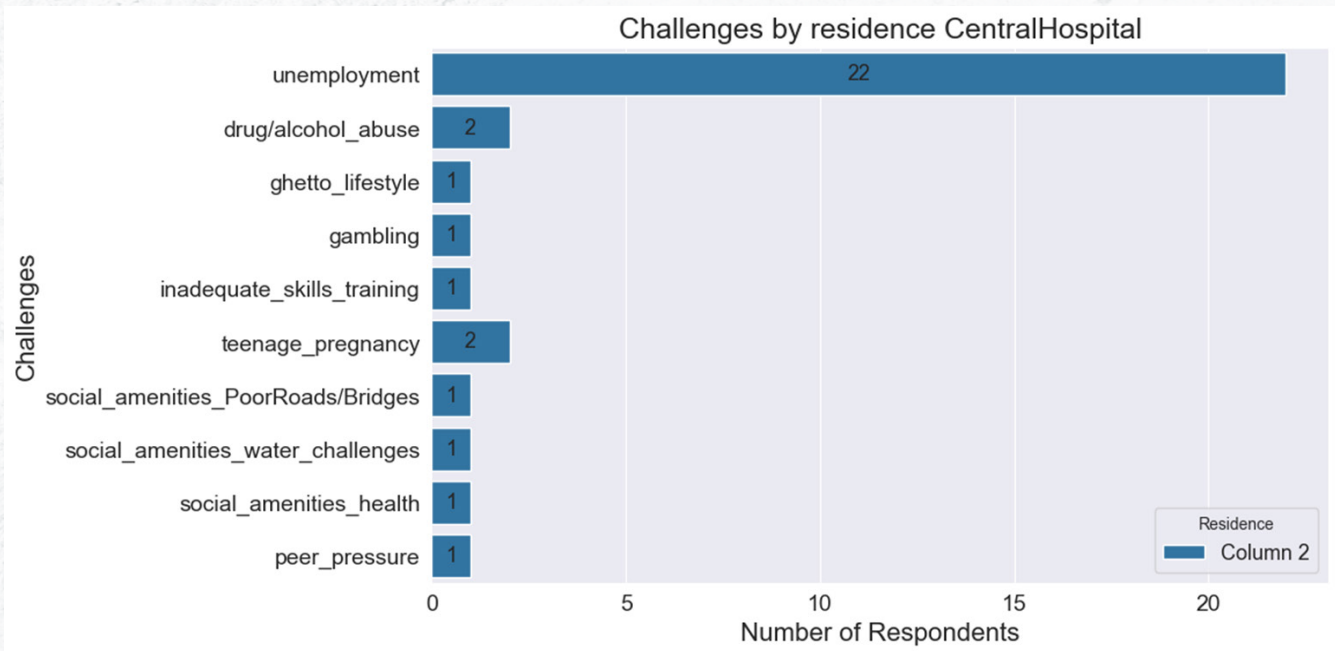


A 8: Challenges in Anlo Town South



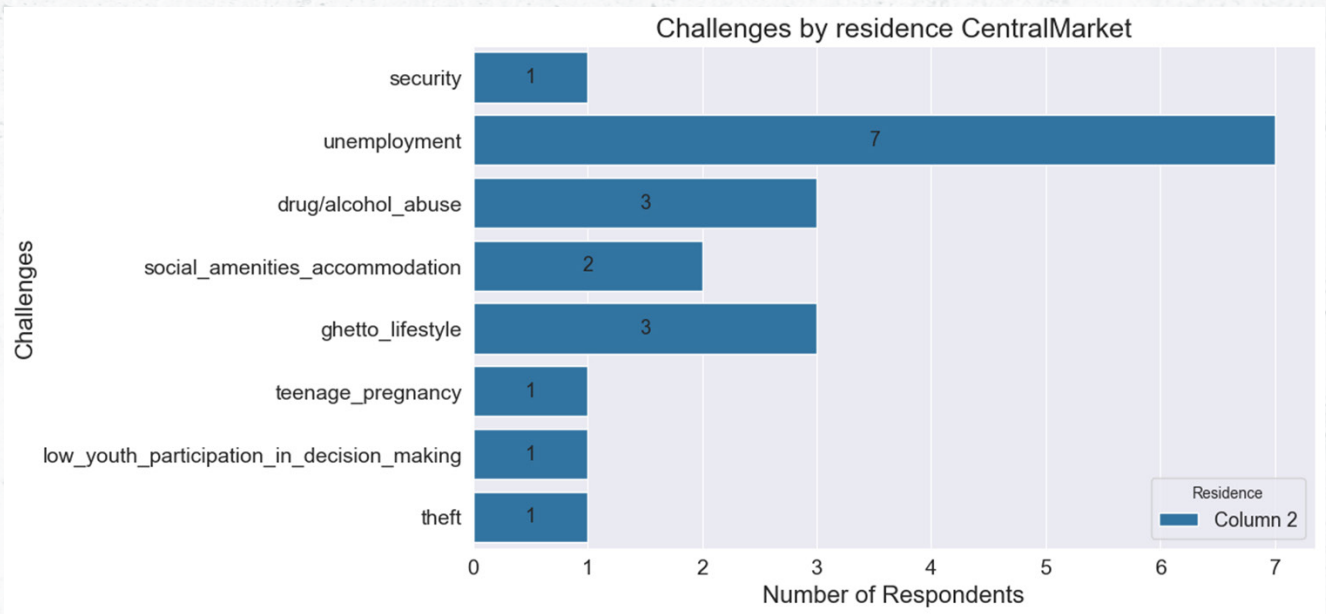


A 9: Challenges in Asuofiriso

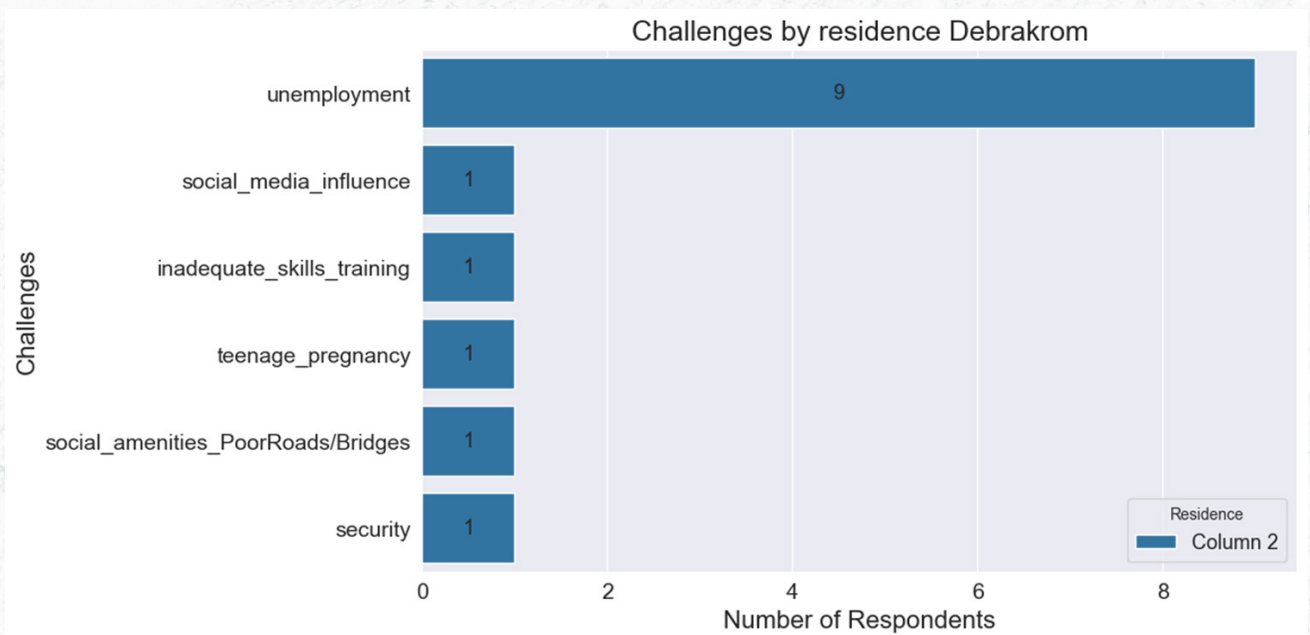


A 10: Challenges in Central Hospital



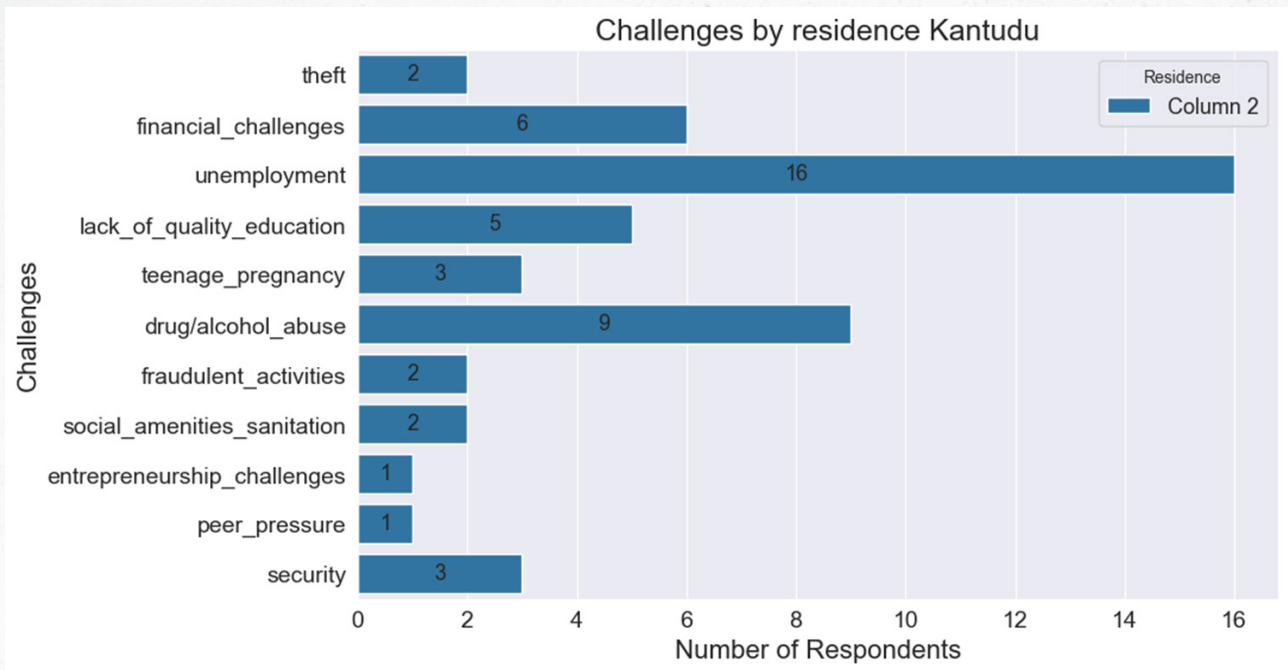


A 11: Challenges in Central Market

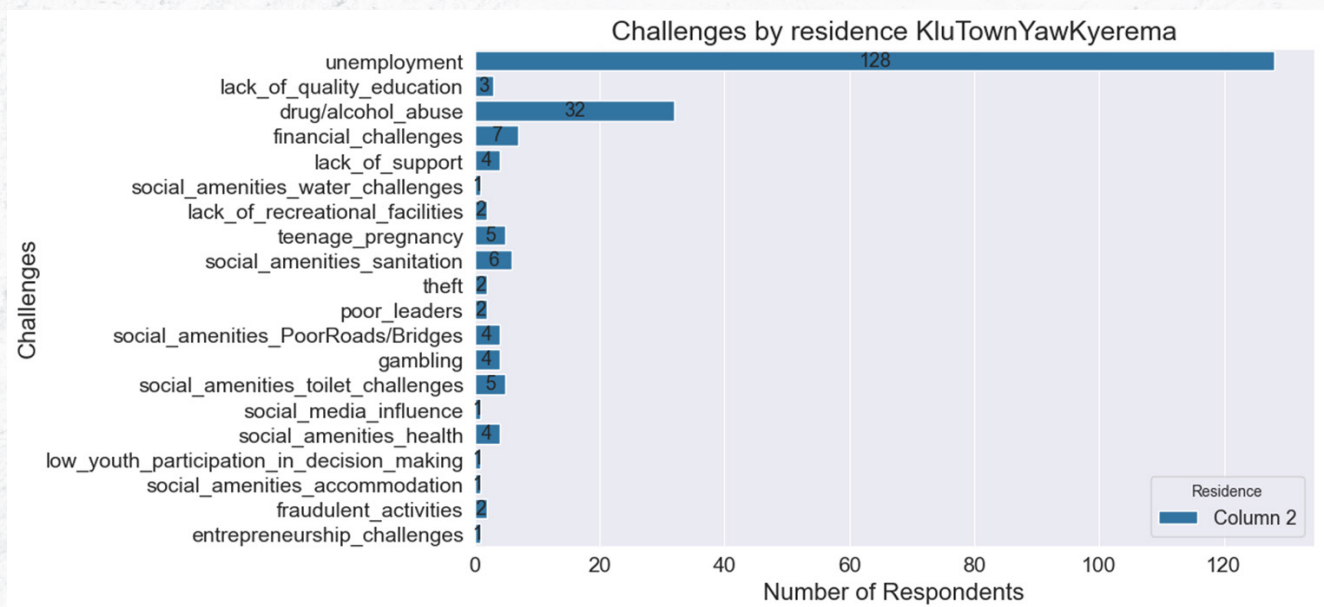


A 12: Challenges in Debrakrom



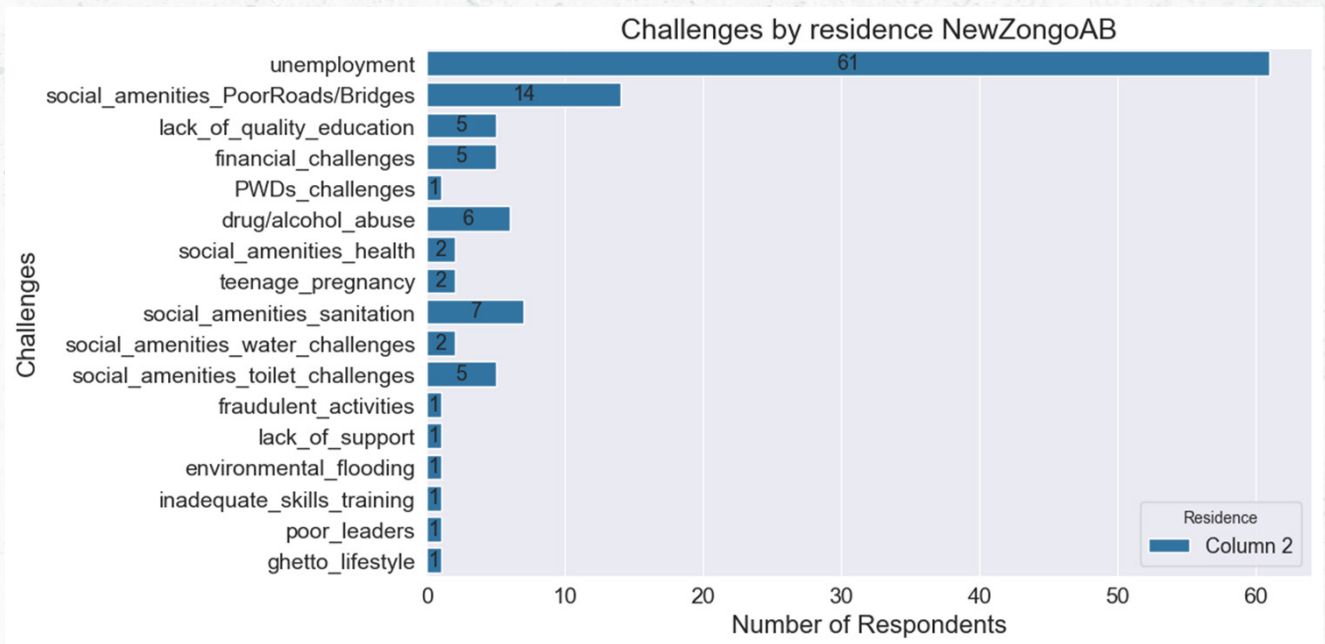


A 13: Challenges in Kantudu

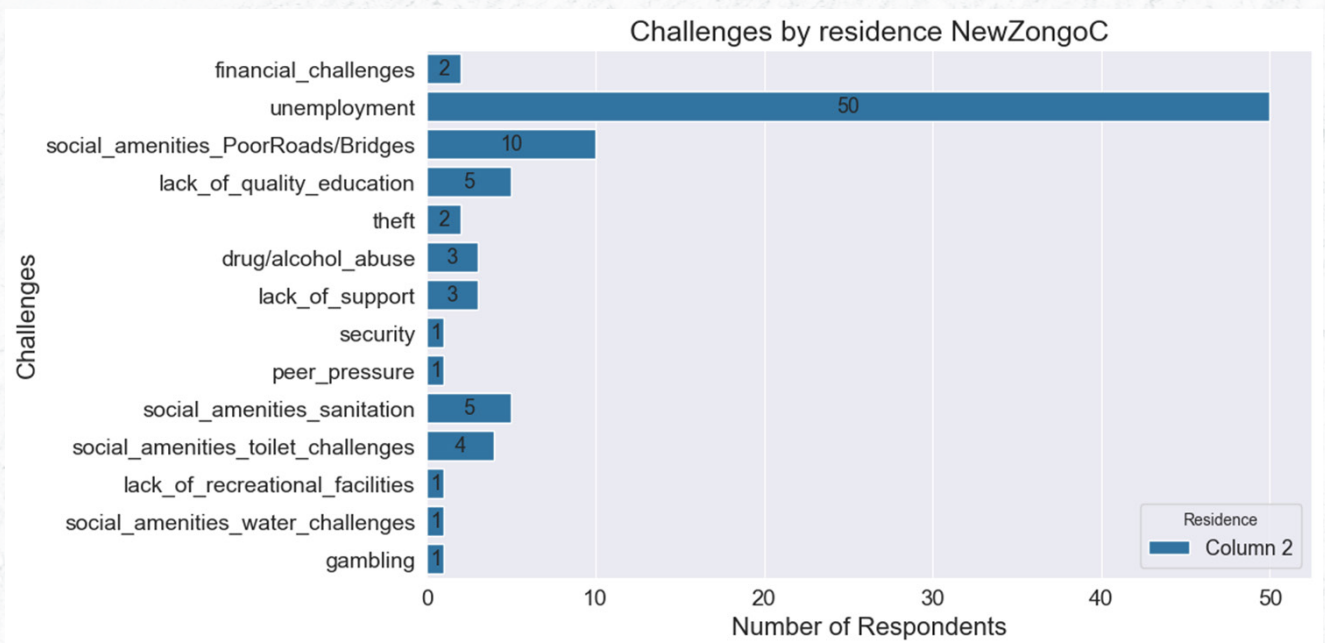


A 14: Challenges in Klu Town Yaw Kyerema



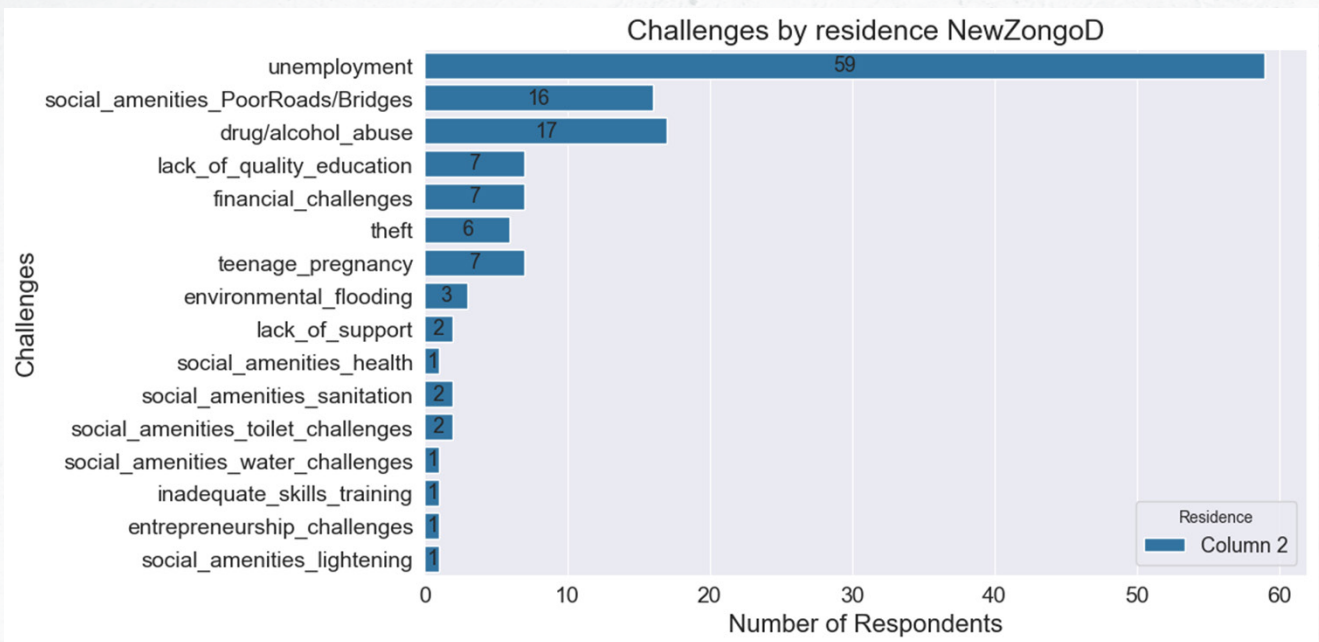


A 15: Challenges in New Zongo AB

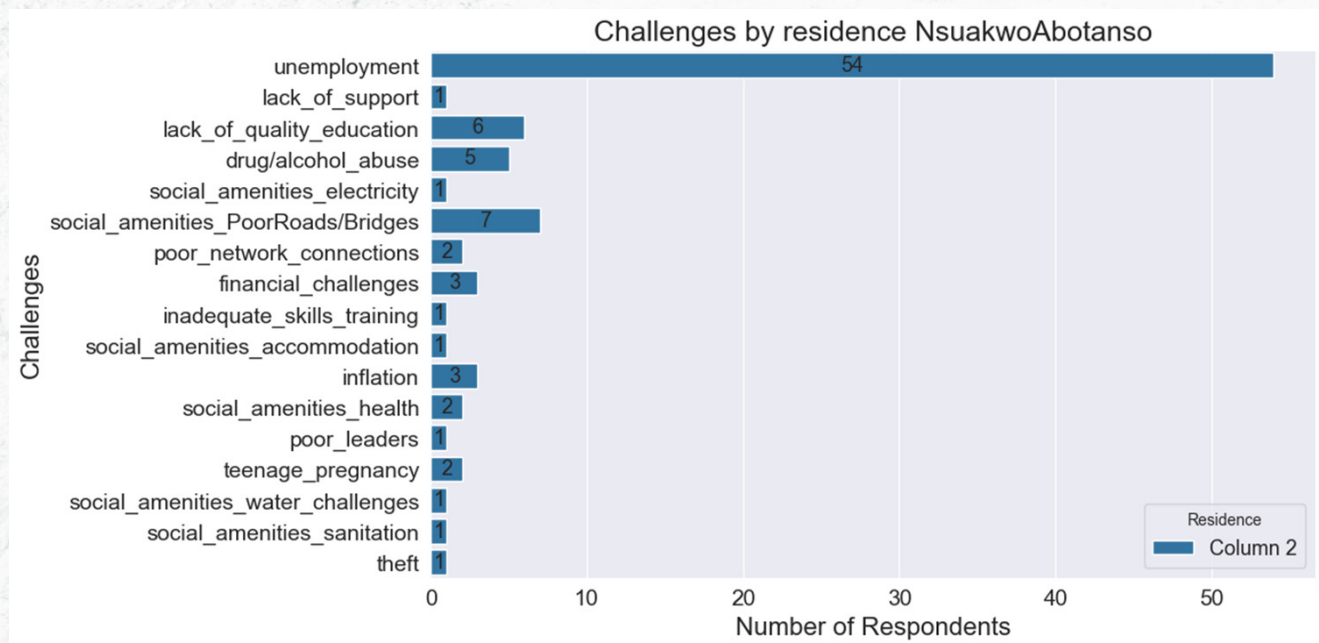


A 16: Challenges in New Zongo C



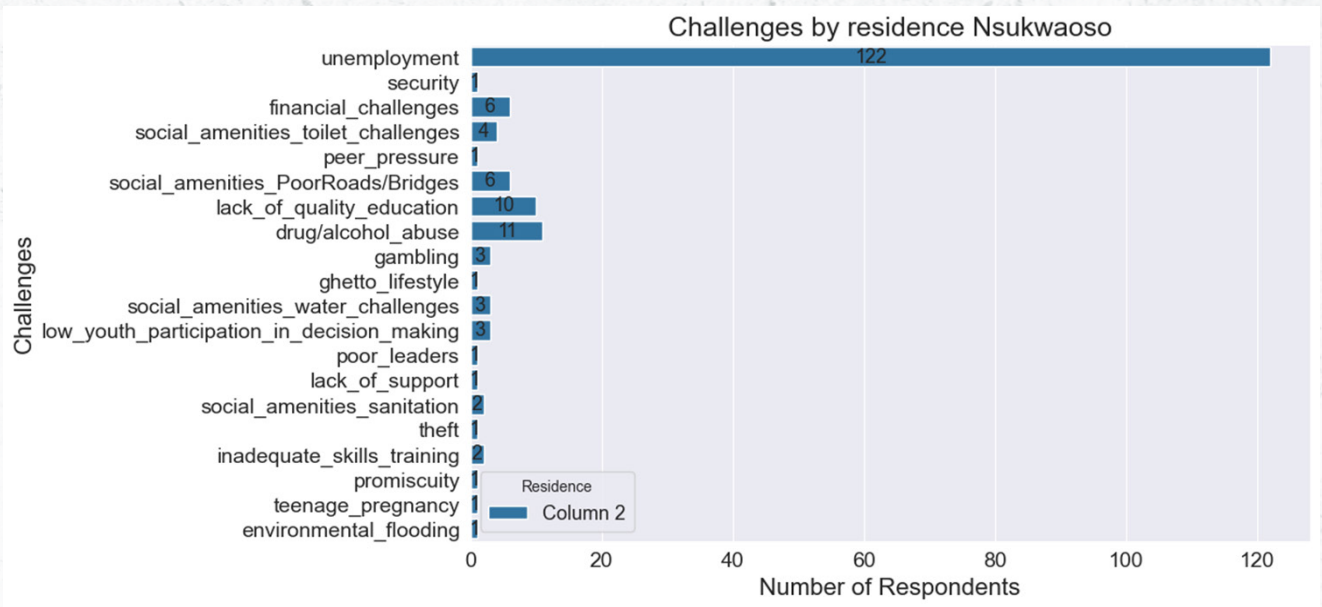


A 17: Challenges in New Zongo D

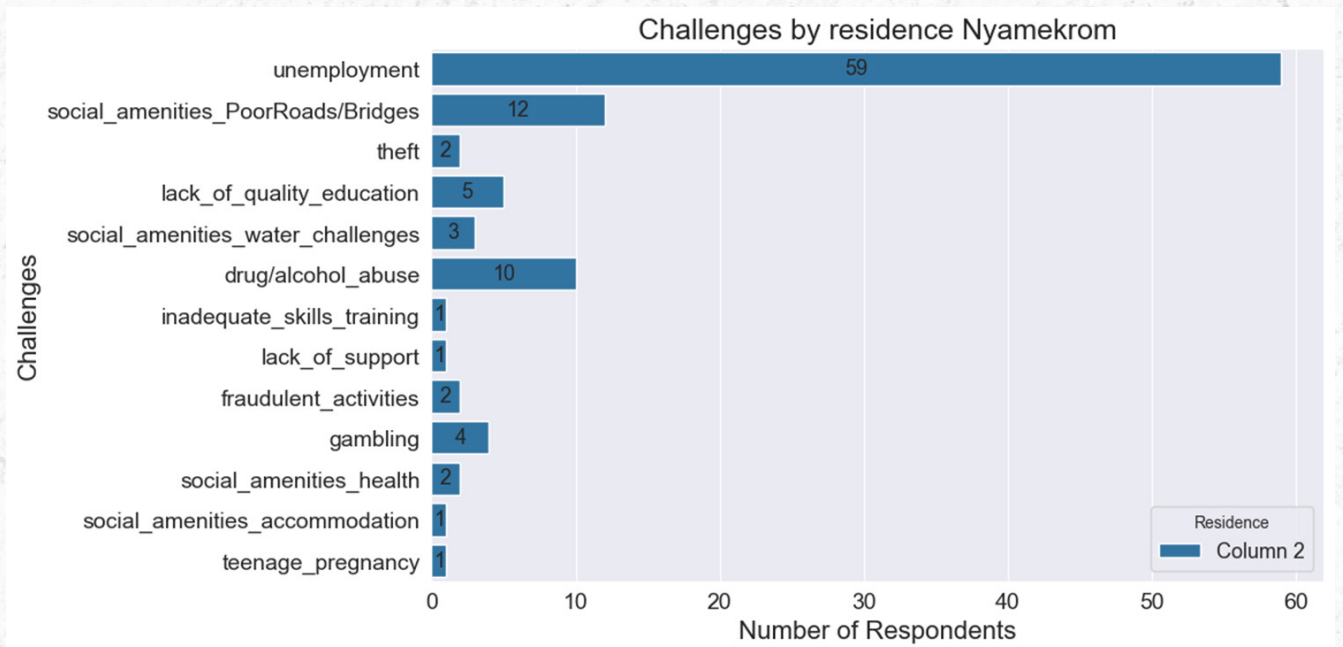


A 18: Challenges in Nsuakwo Abotanso



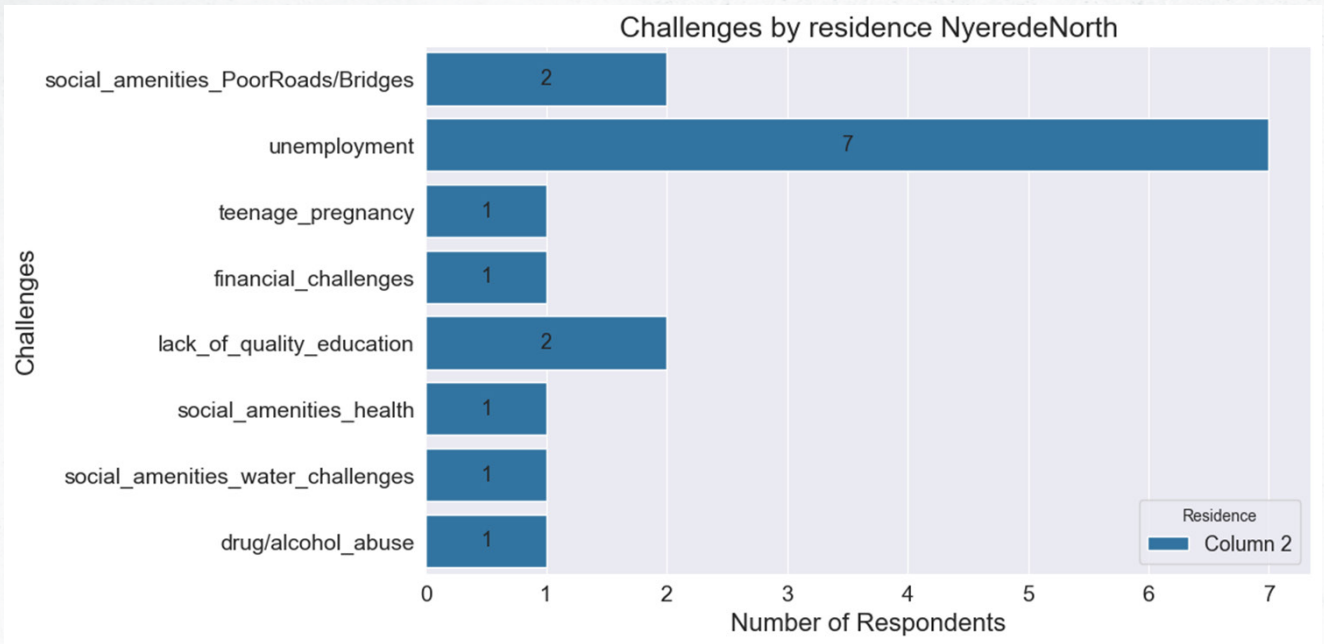


A 19: Challenges in Nsukwaoso

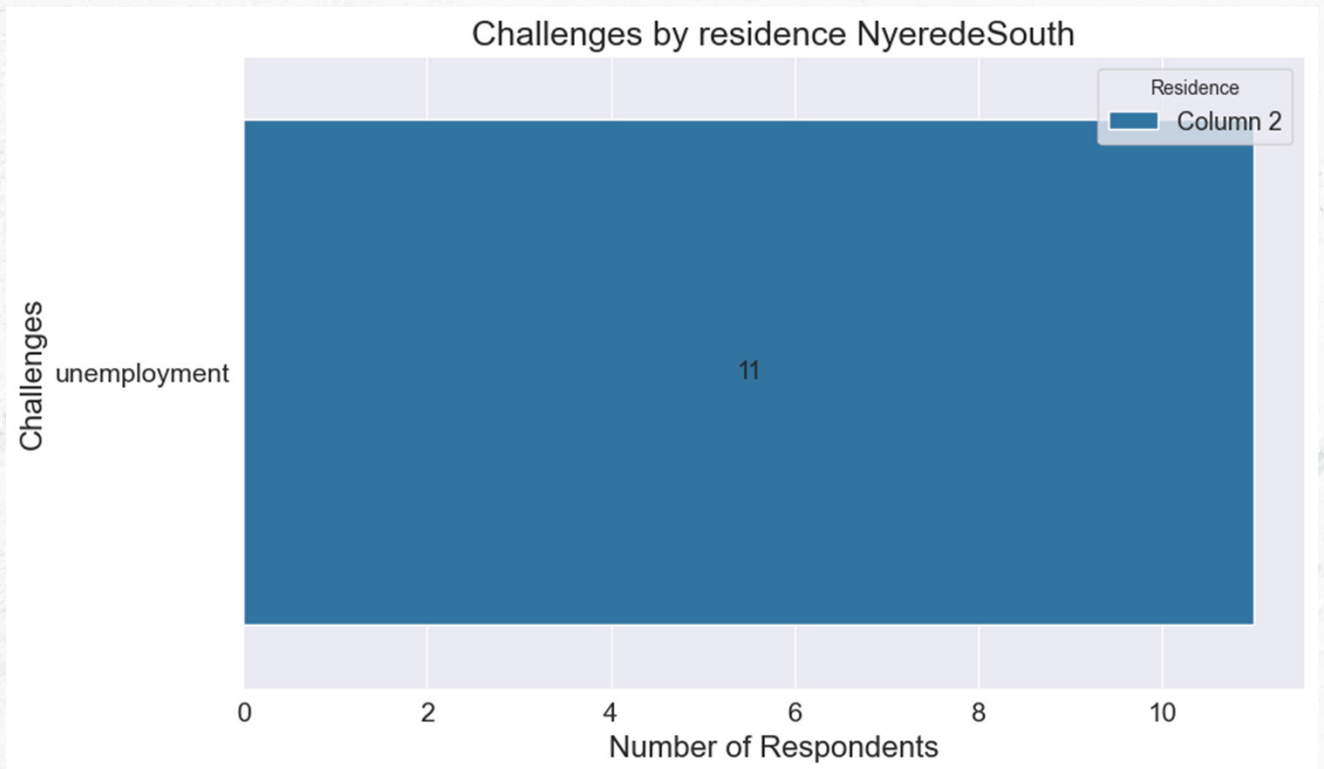


A 20: Challenges in Nyamekrom



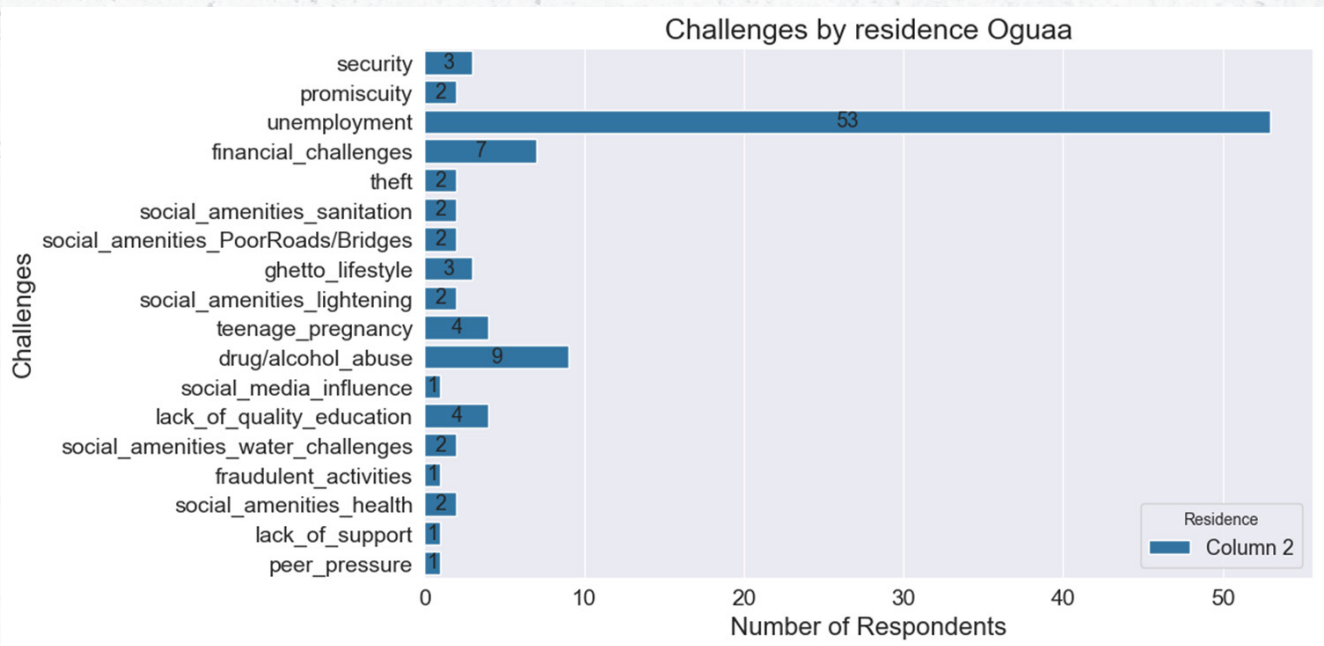


A 21: Challenges in Nyerede North

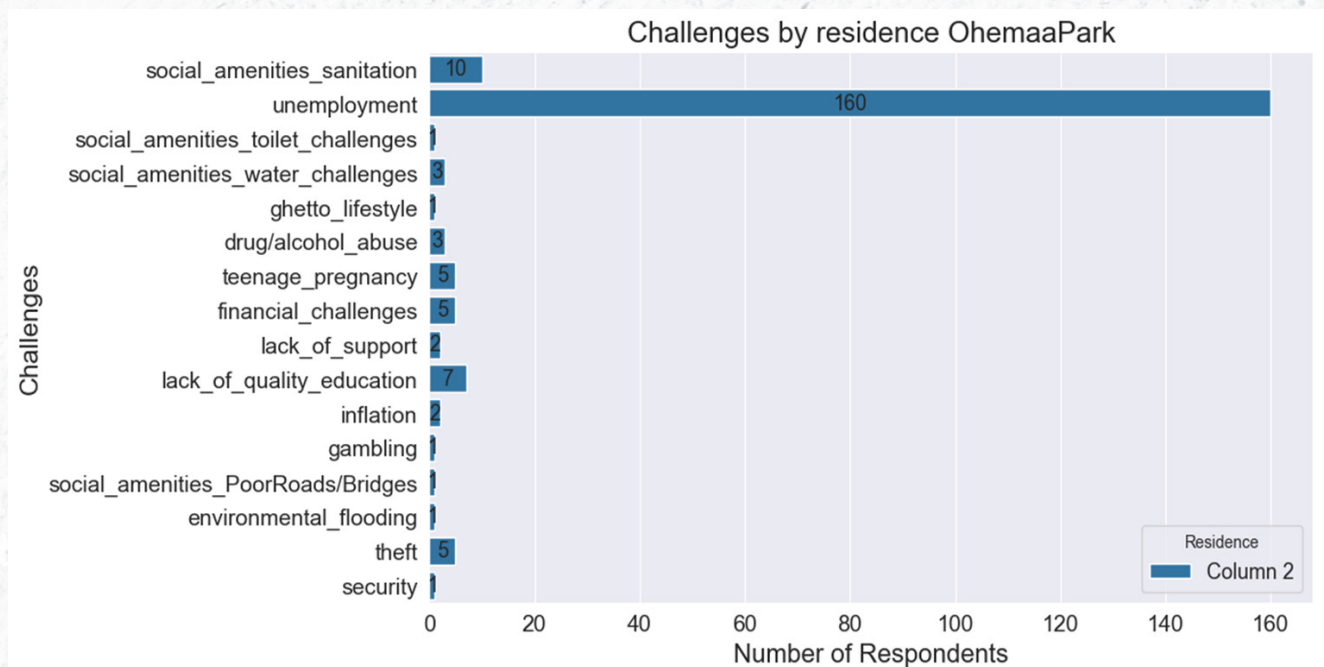


A 22: Challenges in Nyerede South



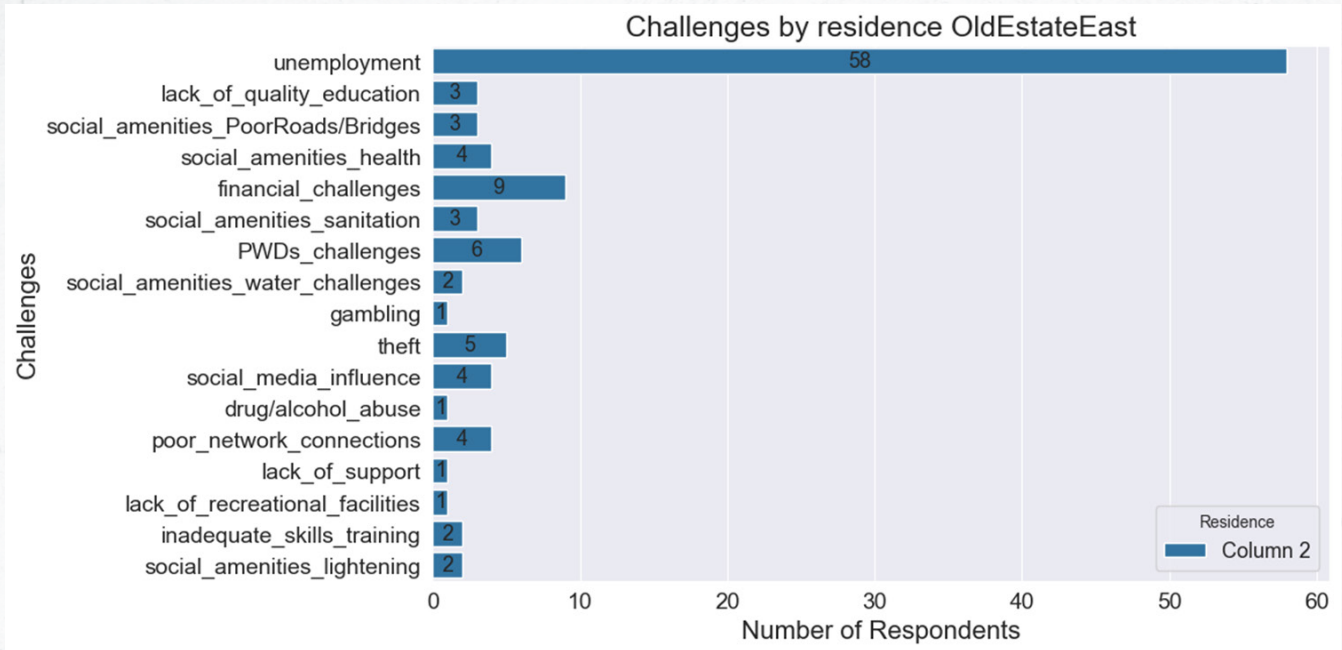


A 23: Challenges in Oguaa

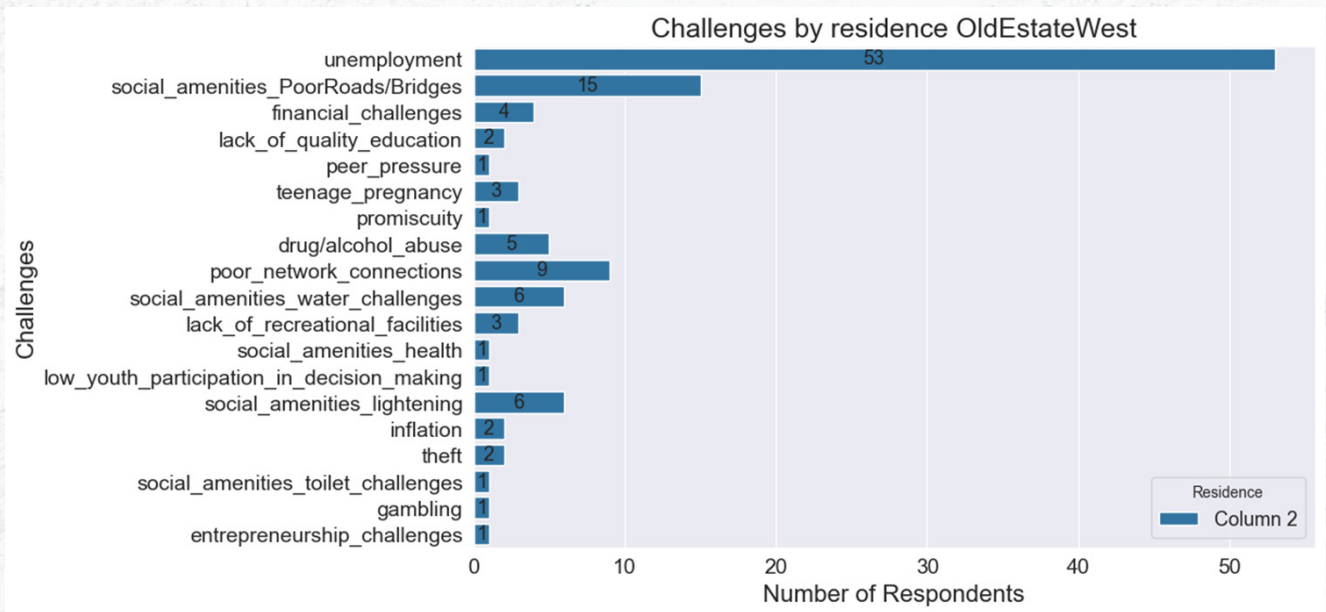


A 24: Challenges in Ohemaa Park



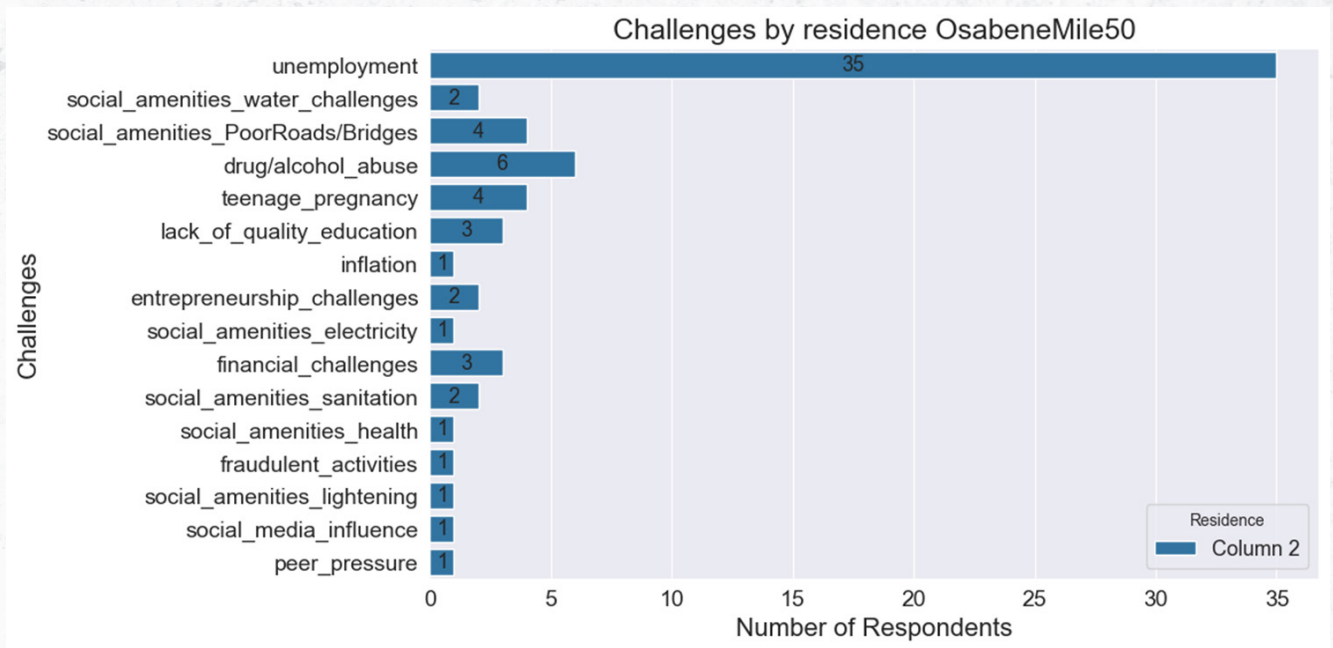


A 25: Challenges in Old Estate East

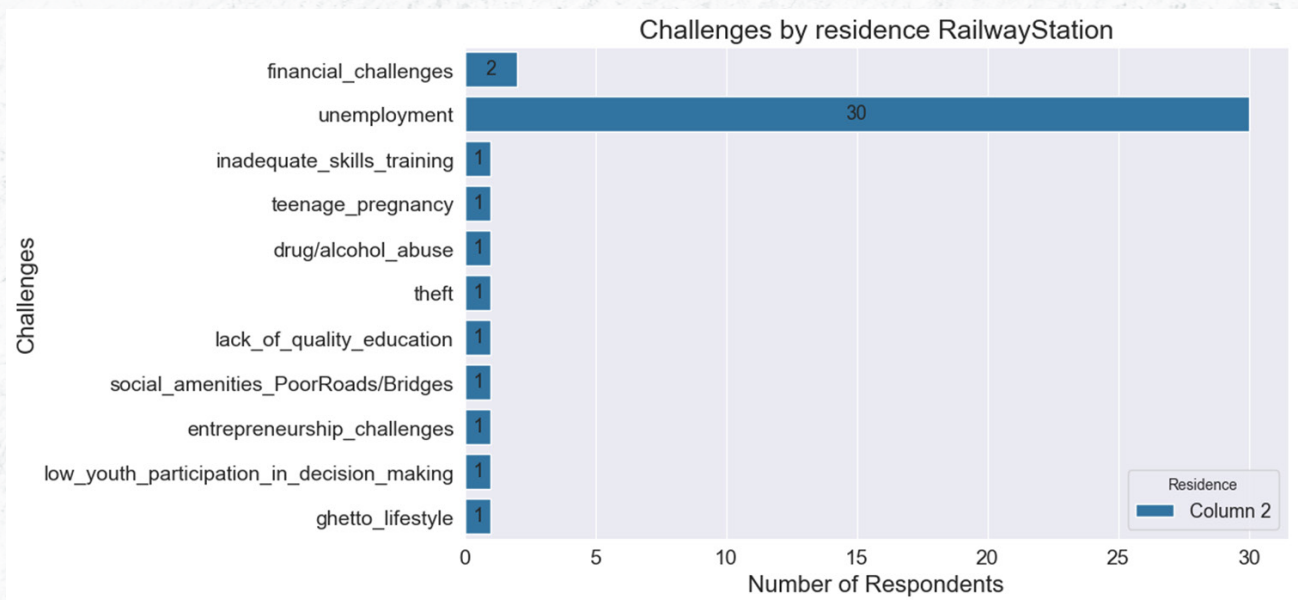


A 26: Challenges in Old Estate West



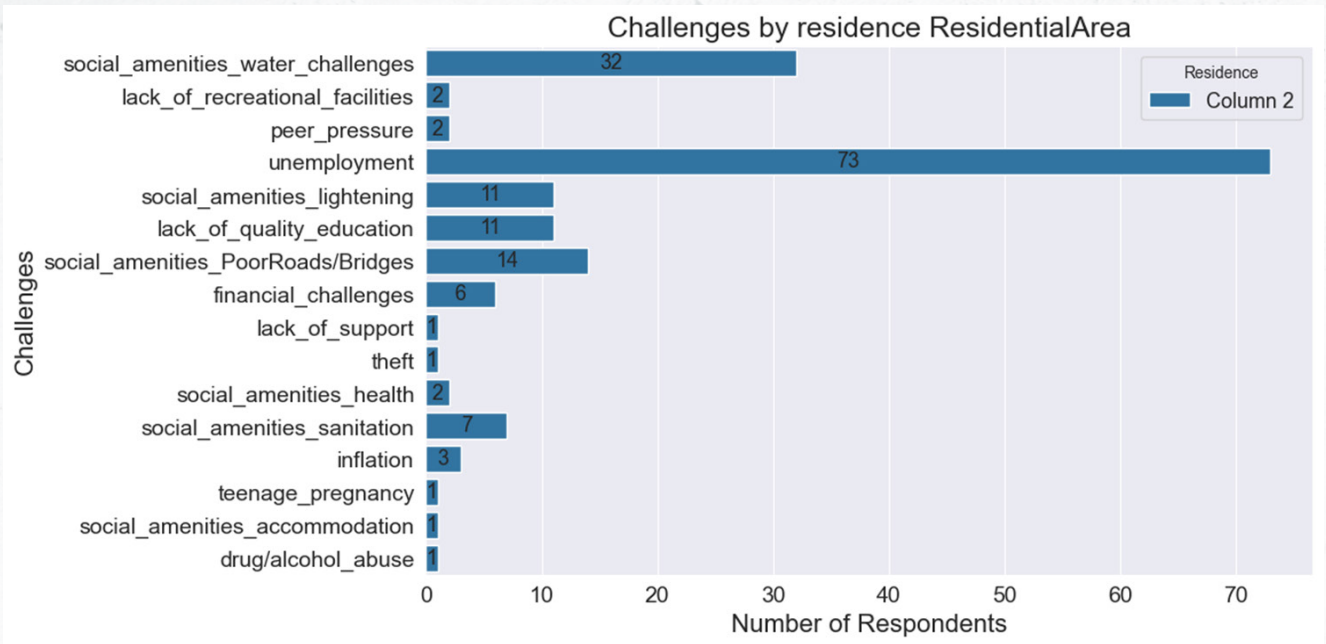


A 27: Challenges in Osabene Mile 50

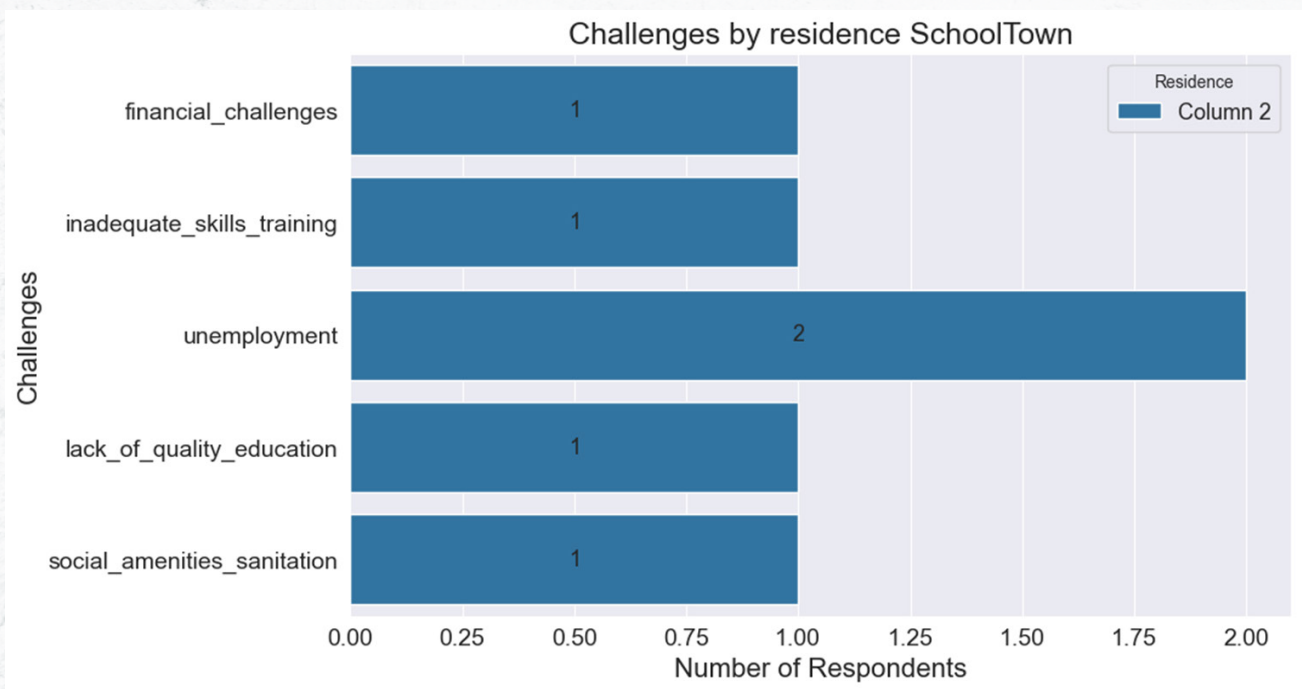


A 28: Challenges in Railway Station



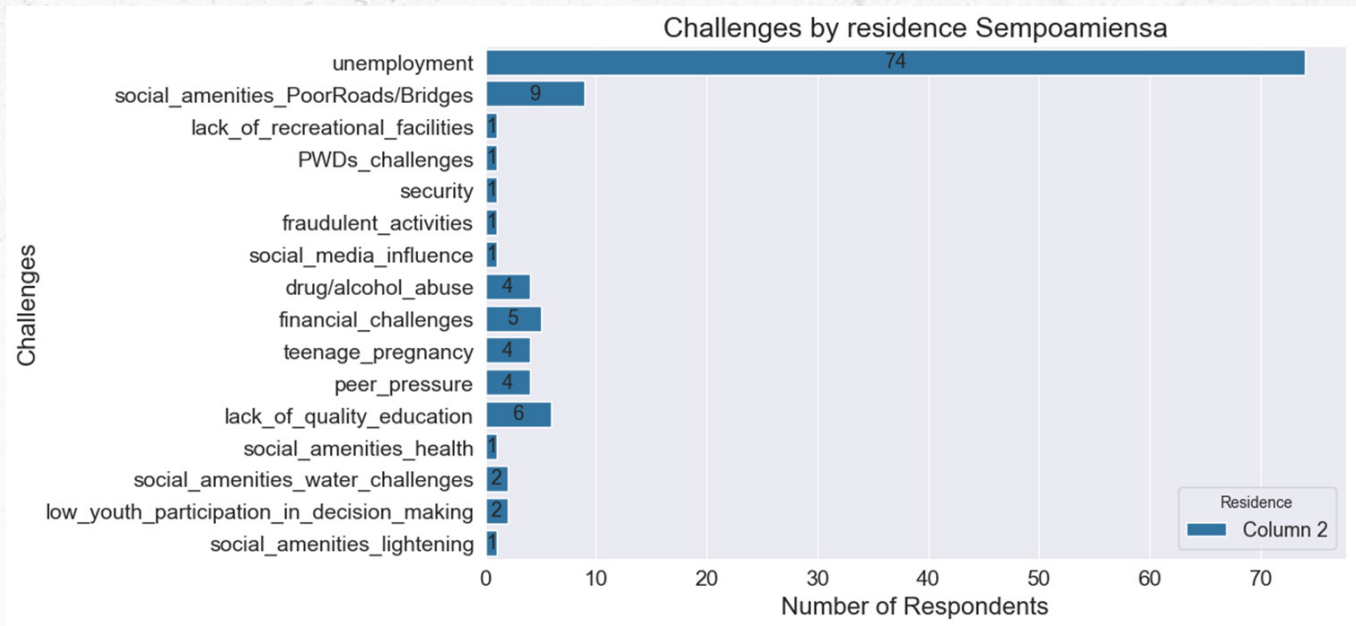


A 29: Challenges in Residential Area

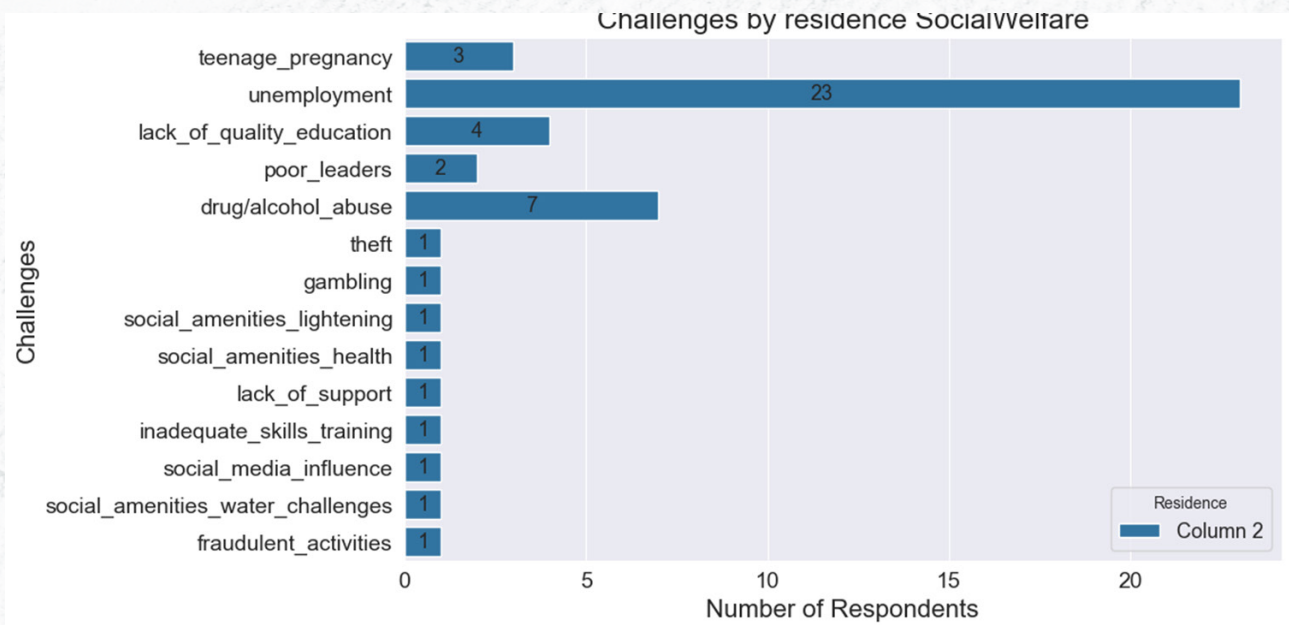


A 30: Challenges in School Town



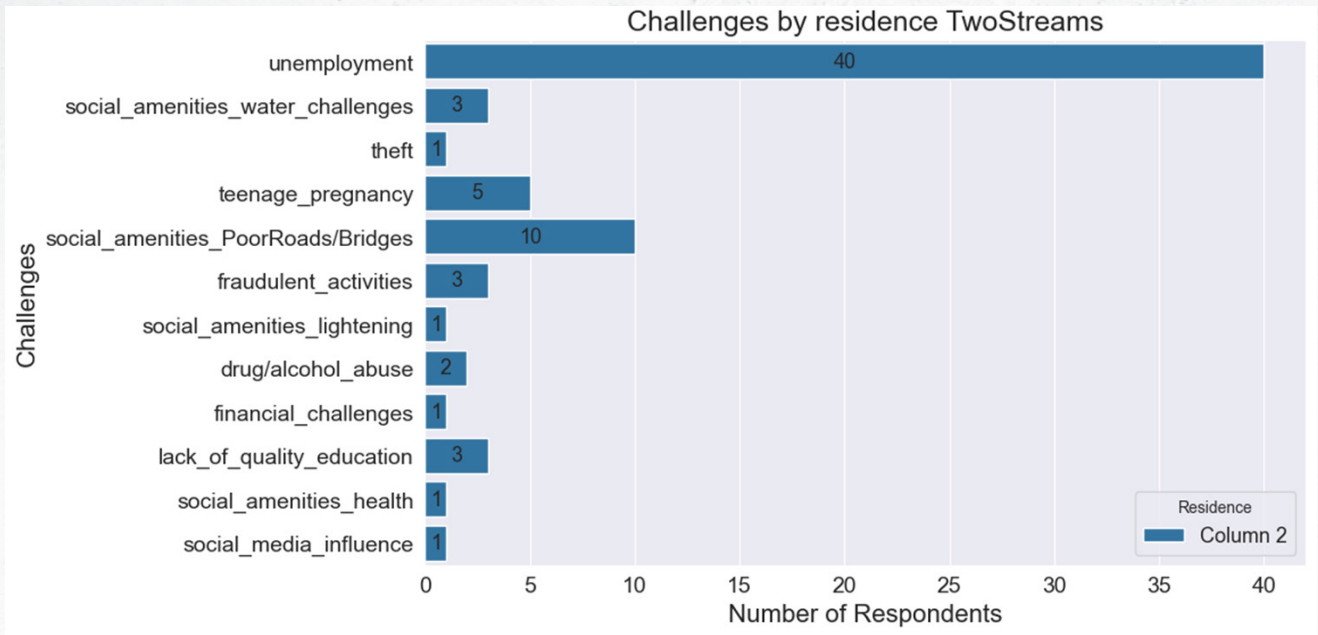


A 31: Challenges in Sempoamiensa

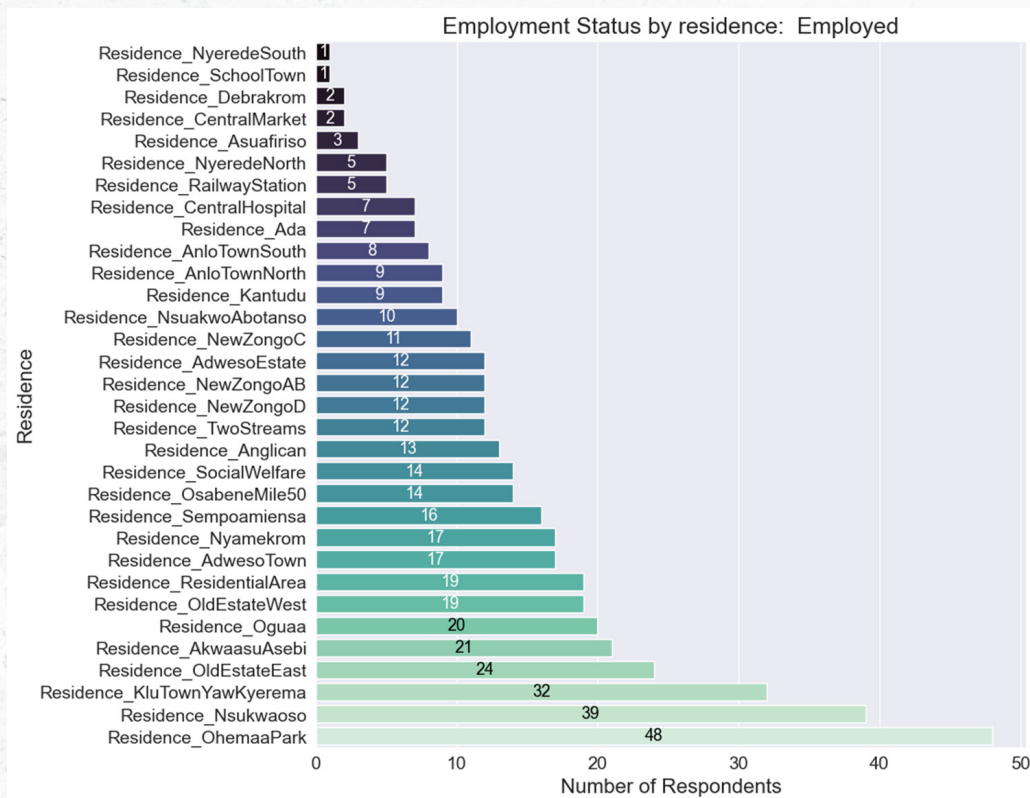


A 32: Challenges in Social Welfare



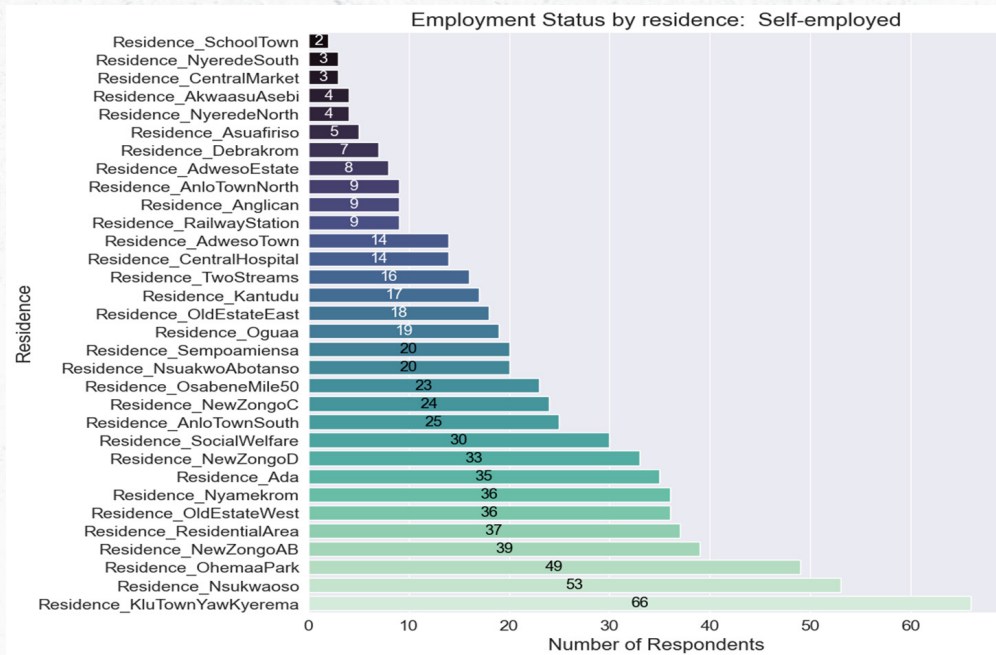


A 33: Challenges in Two Streams

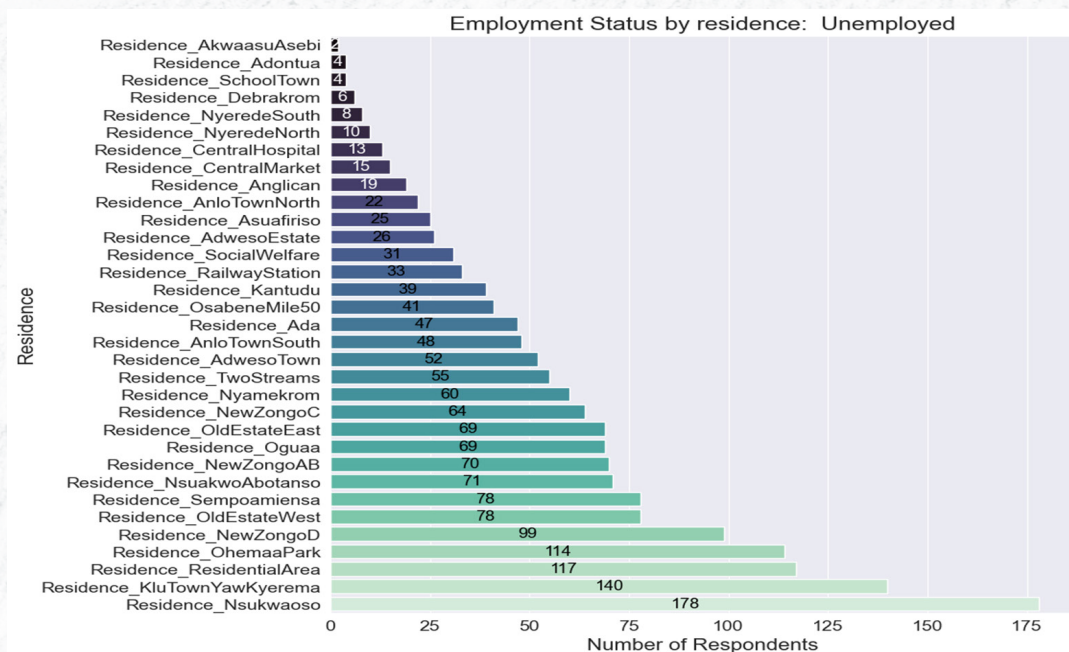


A 34: Employed individuals in each electoral area





A 35: Self-employed individuals in each electoral area



A 36: Unemployed individuals in each electoral area



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*The koforidua Youth Manifesto project is an initiative of AFES-Ghana, implemented in partnership with New Juaben South Municipal Assembly and STAR-Ghana Foundation with funds from Fondation Botnar of Switzerland under the 'KofKro' project which is initially spanning from September 2023 to January 2026.*

[www.afesweb.org](http://www.afesweb.org)