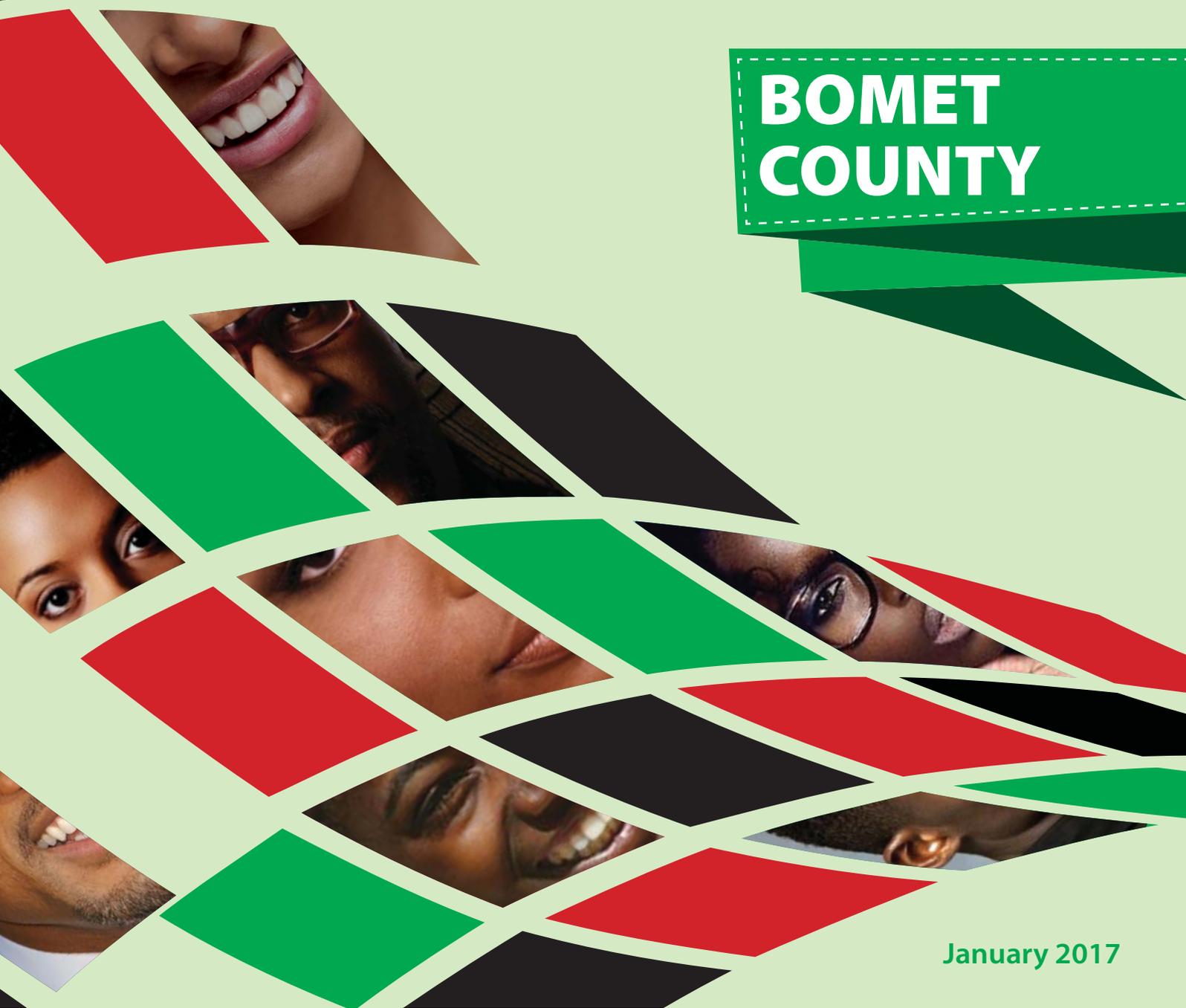




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

**BOMET
COUNTY**



January 2017



Citation:

National Council for Population and Development (NCPD). 2017.
2015 Kenya National Adolescents And Youth Survey (NAYS). Nairobi, Kenya: NCPD.

Published by the National Council for Population and Development
Supported by the Government of Kenya, UNFPA and AFIDEP

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This study was carried out with the main funding support provided by the Government of Kenya. The United Nations Population Fund under the auspices of the UNFPA Country Programme and the African Institute for Development Policy collaborated in providing some support. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Kenya, the United Nations Population Fund or the African Institute for Development Policy.

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(NAYS)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome	NYS	National Youth Service
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities	PADIS	Population, Administration, and Decision Information System International
CDF	Constituency Development Fund	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
CPC	County Population Coordinators	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
DemDiv	Demographic Dividend	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
DSA	Drug and Substance Abuse	URIT	pg. 10
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
FHOK	Family Health Option Kenya	WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate	YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
HDI	Human Development Index		
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus		
ICT	Information and Communication Technology		
IDI	In-Depth Interview		
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey		
KII	Key Informant Interview		
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis		
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics		
MFI	Micro Finance Institution		
NASSEPV	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme		
NAYS	National Adolescents and Youth Survey		
NER	Net Enrolment Rate		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation		

Glossary of Terms

Demographic Dividend	The accelerated economic growth that is achieved through a reduction in the population growth rate coupled with strategic investments in the health, education, and economic opportunities for the population.
Demographic Window	Period when the proportion of a country's population aged below 15 years falls below 30 percent of the total population while at the same time the proportion of those aged 65 years and above is still below 15 percent of the total population.
Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)	This rate identifies the number of children newly admitted to the first year of school, regardless of age as a percentage of children who are entitled to admission.
Human Development Index	The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and income per capita indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development. A country scores higher HDI when the life expectancy at birth is longer, the education period is longer, and the income per capita is higher.
Mwongozo	Code of governance for state corporations in Kenya.
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	Age-specific corresponds to the legal admission age. Ratio of children of official school-age who are enrolled in school to the population of the corresponding school age.
Nyumba Kumi Initiative	Security model that encompasses groups of 10 houses with the aim of enhancing security.
Transition Rate	The proportion of children admitted, relative to the number of those who were, the year before, in the final school-year of the preceding level.

BOMET COUNTY



Foreword

Kenya has a large population of young people below the age of 35 years. Three in every four Kenyans are young people. This population segment presents both a challenge and opportunity to the country's development agenda. The main challenge brought about by this population is the ever growing need for social services such as health, education, and other social amenities. Each year, an increasing number of these young people graduate from educational institutions thereby necessitating an increase in the creation of employment and income opportunities to meet the demands of this group. On the other hand, if Kenya can meet the social and economic needs of this population, then the socio-economic development of the country will be greatly enhanced. In this case the large population of young people will become an asset to the country. It is in recognition of this that the Government of Kenya has put in place several initiatives aimed at improving the socio-economic opportunities and well-being of young people.

The demographic dividend concept advocates for strategic investments in health, education, economic and governance with a view of ensuring that the population of young people is healthy, well-educated, trained for the job market, and economically engaged in a well governed environment. Kenya subscribes to the ideals of this concept whose eventual outcome is accelerated socio-economic growth and improved quality of life which is in line with the aspirations of *Kenya Vision 2030*. In this regard, Kenya's challenge is to match the population growth rate with the available resources.

Results from the modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend potential, which was done in 2014, showed impressive results that the country can achieve on the social and economic fronts when strategic investments are made in these sectors. However, for Kenya to realize these benefits, each of the forty seven counties in the country will have to make strategic investments in health, education, economic, and governance so that the full potential of young people can be harnessed and socio-economic growth accelerated. The 2015 Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) was occasioned by the need to provide each county with information on their respective demographic dividend potential and the specific actions that they need to undertake to realize this potential. This report will therefore be very useful to counties when planning for their respective development activities. It is my hope that each county will make use of this report and contribute to making Kenya a better country where citizens enjoy a high quality of life in a safe environment.

Mr. Saitoti Torome, CBS
Principal Secretary
State Department of Planning

Acknowledgment

The Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) was conducted in 2015 with the goal of contributing to the country's efforts of harnessing the potential of the young people in accelerating national development. Results from this survey will inform counties on the actions that they need to undertake in order to achieve accelerated economic growth

The 2015 NAYS was implemented through a collaborative effort between NCPD and various partners and stakeholders. In this regard, NCPD would like to thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Norwegian Government, through the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), for both their technical and financial support to the survey.

The implementation of the 2015 NAYS was guided by a Task Force made up of two committees, namely; Steering and Technical Committees. The Steering Committee provided advice on the conceptualisation and the implementation strategies and modalities while the Technical Committee was responsible for the development of the survey tools, recruitment and training of the research assistants, coordination, and supervision of data collection, data processing, analysis and report writing. NCPD is grateful to members of the two committees.

The NCPD's County Population Coordinators (CPCs) were responsible for introducing the research assistants to the various counties under their jurisdiction and ensuring their smooth movement within the counties. They were also responsible for conducting the Key Informant Interviews. Given the success of the fieldwork, NCPD would like to thank all the CPCs.

Finally, NCPD would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council of Governors and the individual Governors for facilitating the entry of the research teams into the counties, and the respondents in all the counties who participated in the focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and the key informant interviews. These respondents include community members, pupils, students, health workers, and heads of learning institutions, programme managers, employers, and government officials. The information that was provided by these respondents facilitated the development of this report. It is therefore NCPD's hope that this report will be useful to all the counties as they contribute to the national efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

Dr. Josephine Kibaru-Mbae, OGW
 Director General
 National Council for Population and Development

Executive Summary

The general objective of the 2015 National Adolescent and Youth Survey (NAYS) was to provide evidence of a potential for a demographic dividend and identify opportunities for investment in key sectors; health, education, economic and governance in the 47 counties in Kenya. Data was collected from young people, older people, service providers and policy makers from the key sectors. Two methods of data collection were used in the survey. The first method involved the analysis of secondary data to generate the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Bomet County. The second method entailed collection of qualitative data using focus group discussions, in-depth and key informant interviews.

Results from the desk reviews and data analysis showed that the total population of Bomet County was 891,390 people in 2009. This population is projected to increase to 1,440,112 people by 2030 and to 1,903,661 people by 2050. The total fertility rate for the county is 4.3 children per woman and the contraceptive prevalence rate is 55 percent. The County's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2042 and close in the year 2082. The county's HDI was 0.5440333 in 2012 compared to HDI of 0.520 nationally.

The qualitative survey findings show that teenage pregnancies, drug and substance abuse, STIs, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, mental health problems, SGBV and abortions are the main health issues affecting young people in the County. In order to improve on health outcomes, there should be increased investments in the health sector targeting reproductive health services, including family planning services, increase and access of these services, intensify programmes to address myths and misconceptions on certain methods of family planning. In addition, the county government should create and strengthen partnerships through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the provision of affordable health services and to intensify campaigns to encourage couples to adopt small family norms to reduce the high fertility in the county.

The issues that affect the education of young people in the county are poverty and lack of school fees, drug and substance abuse, rising cases of indiscipline in schools, teenage pregnancies, inadequate learning facilities in schools, child labour, early marriages, teacher and student absenteeism, lack of parental participation, corporal punishment in schools and negative perception of education. To improve the education standards, all stakeholders should work together to enable all school age children in the access education and to improve educational standards in the county. Both County and National governments should provide bursaries to needy children. They should also provide sanitary pads to school girls.

The main employment and income opportunities for young people in the county are mainly small scale businesses such as commercial *bodaboda* ridding, construction work, casual menial work and working in tea farming. The main issues encountered by young people in accessing income and employment opportunities are; lack of requisite educational qualifications, lack of knowledge and skills, business competition, negative attitude towards business as opposed to white collar jobs, limited opportunities, insecurity of businesses, high cost of registering business entities, high taxation regimes and lack of adequate capital. Under-age children in the County work because of poverty peer influence to keep themselves busy.

To reduce unemployment and promote young people empowerment, the county government should formulate and implement high impact economic policies and programs targeting young people. Further, young people should be sensitized on the existing income and employment opportunities and they should simplify business licensing procedures and processes to enable young people incorporate business entities to enable them engage in business opportunities and access credit facilities and contracts. At the county level, some young people are employed to work/or manage projects initiated by the county government and some young people also participate in the budget formulation public consultations and in projects design and implementation. Some of the challenges they face while participating are that leaders do not engage young people on account of the relative younger ages and lack skills and knowledge for them to fully participate. To improve on their participation, they should strengthen the governance structures in the county and deliberately include young people in county leadership positions; strengthen the M&E systems in the projects management; and promoting community involvement in projects design, planning, and implementation. This would ensure that there is community buy-in and improve social accountability.



INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Youth in Kenya

The United Nations uses the terms 'youth' and 'young people' interchangeably to mean people aged 15-24 years with the understanding that member states and other entities may use different definitions. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) defines youth as those individuals who have attained the age of 18 years but have not attained the age of 35 years. Those aged 18-34 years constitute about 30 percent of Kenya's total population while those aged 0-34 years constitute 78 percent of the population. This youthful population is a demographic asset and investing in their education, health, skill development and employment prospects will accelerate a demographic dividend. To reap the benefits of this dividend, Kenya must make sound investment in health, education and economic development.

1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

The demographic dividend refers to the accelerated economic development that a country can attain by slowing down the pace of population growth while at the same time making strategic investments in the health, education, economic, and governance sectors. The demographic dividend concept is being popularized in developing countries as a potential solution to their development challenges. In embracing this concept, Kenya modelled the demographic dividend in 2014 using the *DemDiv* Model that was developed by Futures Group. The modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend was supported by USAID through the Health Policy Project. Results from the model showed that Kenya could achieve the following results by 2050 through implementation of activities aimed at achieving the demographic dividend: Investments per capita will increase to about US\$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US\$ 200; Fertility levels will decline to an average of 2 children per woman from the current four children per woman thereby decreasing the dependency ratio: Even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (that is, people in the labour force who are not active) will be 8 million which is less than the current gap of 10 million. These results are consistent with the aspirations of *Kenya Vision 2030*.

1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million during the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census. It was estimated to be increasing at a rate of 1 million people each year representing

a growth rate of about 2.9 percent annually. From the census results, the dependency ratio was 87 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years). The same census also indicated that Kenya's population-age structure is youthful because the population of children below the age of 15 years was 43 percent, way above the cut-off limit of 35 percent. This was corroborated by the fact that those aged below 35 years constitute 78 percent of the country's total population. This population-age structure does not lend itself to the country's efforts to attain a rapid economic growth because most of the resources are spent on meeting the ever increasing social needs (health, housing, education, water and sanitation) of the fast growing population.

Kenya's Population Policy for National Development recognizes that the rapid growth in the population size is a constraint to national development. To counter this, the policy proposes a reduction in the fertility levels from 5 children per woman in 2009 to 2 children per woman in 2050. According to the 2014 KDHS, the fertility level was 4 children per woman in 2014 which is a clear indication that the fertility levels are dropping. If this trend continues and Kenya achieves a fertility level of 2 children by 2050 then the population size will increase to 59 million in 2030 and 75 million in 2050 with the proportion of those aged below 15 years decreasing to 33 and 25 percent respectively. The dependency ratio for the country in 2030 and 2050 will be 57 and 45 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years) respectively.

1.2 Survey Rationale

In 2014, NCPD and various partners modelled Kenya's demographic dividend using the *DemDiv* model. The impressive results from the modelling exercise showed that Kenya could achieve accelerated socio-economic growth through targeted investments. However, it was recognized that for this to happen, each of the 47 counties would have to play a role. Unfortunately, information on the demographic dividend potential for each county and the specific activities that they each need to implement so as to benefit from this potential was largely lacking. Given the differences in the health, education, economic and governance status of the counties, it was necessary to conduct this survey to generate county specific information on the demographic dividend potential and activities that need to be implemented. With this information at hand, each county would know what they need to do to harness the potential of their youthful population.

1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives

Survey goal

The goal of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey was to provide solid evidence on how the growing youth population can be harnessed to accelerate economic growth and achieve a demographic dividend.

Survey objectives

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

- a. To generate a profile of adolescents and young people in each county. This includes the population size, age distribution, and socio-demographic characteristics.
- b. Identify health, Education, Economic and Governance issues that affect young people in each county.
- c. Identify investment opportunities in the key sectors in each county.
- d. Provide policy and programme recommendations based on the survey findings.

1.4 Survey Organisation

The implementation of the survey was facilitated by two committees; Steering and Technical committees whose members were drawn from different organisations representing the different sectors that have a key role in the country's efforts to harness the demographic dividend. Members of the Steering Committee were involved in providing policy guidance and field work monitoring while members of the Technical Committee were involved in giving technical input and supervision of field teams alongside the NCPD County Population Coordinators.

1.4.1 Pre-test

The survey pre-test was conducted in April 2015, where 26 Technical Committee members and a selection of research assistants participated. The purpose of the pre-test was to check on the flow and meaning of questions, language used in the tools, and the time it would take to administer each tool. During the pre-test, the programme for the fieldwork training was developed and reviewed to ensure that the training for the fieldwork would cover all the necessary aspects that are required to fully equip the research assistants in readiness for the data collection exercise.

1.4.2 Trainings

The Technical Committee members were trained for three days, in February 2015, on demographic dividend and its applicability in the Kenyan context so that they could be conversant with the concept before embarking on the development of the survey tools. This enabled the Technical Committee members to develop the data collection tools that responded to the objectives of the survey.

In April 2015, thirty-four (34) research assistants were competitively recruited for data collection in the 47 counties. They were trained from 29th April to 9th May 2015 in Nakuru. The trainees were taken through the survey tools, materials and modalities of recruiting the respondents for the different tools that were to be administered. They were also trained on how to conduct interviews. Different methodologies and approaches were used in the training to ensure that the research assistants were well equipped to collect quality data.

1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation

The NAYS survey used two methodologies namely; quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative methodology involved the desk review of secondary data from the *2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census*, the *2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS)*, the *2014 Economic Survey* and the *2014 Basic Education Statistical Booklet*. These sources were used to generate information on population, health, education, and economic issues at both national and county levels. It presented a synopsis of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the country and each of the counties. The quantitative methodology also involved the generation of population projection data for each of the counties using PADIS software. The qualitative methodology involved the collection of qualitative data through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews.

1.5.1 Survey tools

In collecting the qualitative data, the following tools were used:

- a. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) guides for conducting focus group discussions.
- b. Key Informant Interview (KII) guides for conducting key informant interviews with policy/decision makers at county level.
- c. In-Depth Interview (IDI) guides conducting in-depth interviews with service providers in health, education, and economic sectors.
- d. Check list for youth-serving organisations.

The FGD, KII, and IDI guides were used to solicit information on the key issues affecting the wellbeing and participation of young people in terms of health, education, economic opportunities and governance. In addition to this, the tools were used to collect information on how the identified issues could be addressed. The checklist for youth serving organisations was used to assess the state of health and education facilities and services for young people.

1.5.2 Sampling

The sample for the qualitative component of the survey was national in scope covering the 47 counties in Kenya. These counties were clustered into 16 survey regions based on social-demographic characteristics. Table 1.1 shows the clustering of all the counties from which the set of all the tools were administered.

Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions

	Region	Counties
1.	Nairobi	Nairobi
2.	North Eastern	Garrisa, Wajir, Mandera
3.	Upper Eastern	Isiolo, Marsabit
4.	Central Eastern	Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi
5.	Lower Eastern	Kitui, Makueni, Machakos
6.	North Rift (1)	Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, Turkana,
7.	North Rift (2)	UasinGishu, Elgeiyo Marakwet, Nandi
8.	Central Rift	Nakuru, Kericho, Bomet, Baringo
9.	South Rift	Kajiado, Narok, Samburu
10.	Western	Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia
11.	Nyanza South	Kisii, Nyamira, Migori (Kuria)
12.	Nyanza North	Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori (Luo)
13.	Central (1)	Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga,
14.	Central (2)	Nyeri, Nyandarua, Laikipia
15.	Coast (1)	Mombasa, Kwale, TaitaTaveta,
16.	Coast (2)	Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi

In mapping out areas where the data was collected from, the survey was guided by the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP V) which is developed and managed by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Each tool was administered to targeted respondents who had been determined using criteria that had been set prior to the survey field work. The criteria used to recruit those who would participate in the focus group discussions were age, sex, and schooling status. FGDs were conducted for the following age groups 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-34 and 35-60 year olds. Given the survey objectives, the young people responded to issues on health, education, economic, and governance that touched on their daily lives. The older age groups (35-60 years) gave their perceptions on health, education, economic, and governance as it relates to the young people. In order to triangulate the information collected, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) were used to collect information from key informants and service providers respectively. The KIIs

were administered to policy makers' in-charge of the specific sectors of interest in the counties. The respondents to the IDIs were service providers in the health, education and economic sectors.

Table 1.2 and 1.3 show that the target for each county was 8 Key Informant Interviews, 8 In-Depth Interviews, and 9 Focus Group Discussions.

Table 1.2 Key informant interviews and in-depth interviews sample frame for each county

Sector	Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	In-Depth Interviews (IDIs)
Health	County Executive Committee Member (CEC) – Health OR Chief Officer Health OR County Director of Health	1. Health Facility In-charge 2. Manager In-charge of Youth Serving Organisation in Health
Education	1. County Director of Education (CDE) 2. County Executive Committee Member (CEC) - Education	1. Primary School with Pre-primary – School heads (1 public School) 2. Secondary School – Principals (1 public school) 3. Tertiary Institutions – Dean of student (1) 4. TVET (1)
Economy	1. County Director of Youth Development 2. County Executive Committee Member (CEC) - Youth Affairs 3. CEC to be selected depending on the main economic activity of the county	1. Enterprise Development Fund Representative (UWEZO, YEDF, WEF etc) 2. A leading employer in the County
Governance	1. County Commissioner 2. County Executive Committee Member (CEC) – Public Administration	N/A

Table 1.3 Focus group discussions sample frame for each county

Group	Additional Criteria	No. of FGDs	Place
Young people, Age 10-14	1 for males and 1 for females	2	School
Young people, Age 15-19	1 for males and 1 for females	2	School
Young people, Age 15-19	1 mixed group out of school (male & female, married & unmarried)	1	Community
Young people Age 15-24	1 for marginalized populations	1	Community
Young people, Age 20-24	1 for married and unmarried youths	1	Community
Young people, Age 25-34	1 for married and unmarried youths	1	Community
Older people, Age 35-60	1 for older people (male and female)	1	Community

1.5.3 Data Collection

Data collection was done by 16 teams, each consisting of two research assistants. The fieldwork commenced on 11th May and ended on 31st July 2015. Each team was assigned two or three counties for data collection. In addition to this, each team had a vehicle and a driver to ensure smooth movement during the data collection exercise. Using the field work plan developed during the fieldwork training, the research assistants systematically collected data from their assigned regions. Throughout this process, they were guided by their respective supervisors. At the end of each day the team members got together to share their experiences and prepare the day's summaries. This sharing helped the teams to strategize the next day's work. Table 1.4 summarizes the response rate for the interviews conducted using the FGD, KII, and IDI guides.

Table 1.4 shows that IDIs had the highest response at 93 percent followed by FGDs at 92 percent. KIIs, which targeted the policy makers at county level, had the lowest response rate at 78 percent.

Table 1.4 Survey response rates

	Focus Group Discussions	Key Informant Interviews	In-Depth Interviews
Interviews Targeted	423	376	376
Interviews Conducted	389	294	348
Coverage (percent)	92%	78%	93%

1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis

As part of the data collection exercise, the interviews were captured using both digital recorders and note books. The data was then transcribed in the original language of the interview after which it was translated into English language in cases where the interview language was not English. The hard copies of the English scripts were then typed using Microsoft Word to convert them into soft copies. This was done by the research assistants. On receipt of the data at NCPD headquarters, the same was handed over to data clerks for checking, cleaning and processing.

The quantitative data was processed using SPSS and PADIS while the qualitative data was processed using NVIVO QRS (version 10) software. NVIVO software was used to access, organize, manage, shape, code, explore, extract and analyse the textual data. A team of thirteen (13) data clerks were trained on how to process the data using this software. To ensure consistency and quality, two supervisors reviewed and verified the coded data.

2

BOMET COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Bomet County is located in the Central Rift region of Kenya. It is bordered by four counties, namely; Kericho to the North, Nyamira to the West, Narok to the South and Nakuru to the North-east. The County lies between latitudes 0° 29' and 1° 03' South and between longitudes 35° 05' and 35° 35' East and covers an area of 2037.4 square kilometres (Km²). It extends from latitude 0° 20' to 1° 30' to the North and longitude 35° 0' to 35° 45' to the East. Administratively, the county is divided into five sub-counties 25 wards, 67 locations and 176 sub-locations. The five sub-counties are equivalent to constituencies in the county.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC), the total population of Bomet County was 891,390 people. With the total fertility rate of 4.3 children per woman, this population is projected to increase to 1,440,112 people by 2030 and to 1,903,661 people by 2050. Table 2.1 presents population size and structure for Bomet County. From the table, the proportion of population below age 15 was 46 percent in 2009. This proportion will decline to 35 and 25 percent in 2030 and 2050 respectively. The proportion of the population aged 64 and above was at 3 percent in 2009 and will be expected to remain at 3 percent in 2030 and double again to 6 percent in 2050. This implies that the County government has to set aside more resources for the social protection programmes to cater for the increasing population of this age category in the later years.

Table 2.1 Bomet County's projected population size and structure (2009-2050)

Demographic Indicators	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	891,390	1,440,112	1,903,661
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	46.2	35.4	25.4
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	3.1	2.8	5.6
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	50.7	61.8	69.1
Dependency Ratio	97.2	61.8	44.8
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2042		

Source: Various reports (see the references section) the results of population projection and modelling of the population of Bomet County Projections to 2030 and 2050

The proportion of population in the working ages (15-64 years) was 51 percent in 2009 and will continue to grow reaching 62 percent in 2030 and to 69 percent in 2050. Although the proportion of this economically active age group is on the upward trend, the dependency ratio is still high in the County but declining. In 2009, the dependency ratio was high at 97 and is expected to reduce to 62 by 2030 and to 45 by 2050. This implies that the County has a high dependency ratio and a high potential for future labour force.

According to the results obtained through modelling, the demographic window of opportunity is expected to open for Bomet County in the year 2042. In countries that have undergone demographic transition, evidence has shown that the window of opportunity can remain open on average of 40 years. This means that for Bomet County the window of opportunity will likely close by 2082. This window arises from the fact that during a certain phase in the process of demographic transition, the population of working age as a fraction of the total population is usually high as presented in table 2.1. Because birth rates have already fallen, the young people dependency ratio is low and because there are not yet as many elderly, the old age dependency ratio is also low. Records over the past decades have shown that this period of low total demographic dependency ratios can be associated with rapid economic growth, particularly if associated with investments in health, education and strong governance systems. As the old age dependency ratios will eventually increase, this window of opportunity will also gradually close. Bomet County should therefore put mechanisms in place and invest more in the four pillars (health, education, employment creation and governance) of the demographic dividend in order to reap from the anticipated demographic window of opportunity.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 presents information on the socio-economic characteristics for Bomet County. From the table, the total fertility rate for the county was recorded at 4.3 children per woman in 2014. The 2014, KDHS estimated that 55 percent of the married women were using contraception compared to 58 percent nationally. This shows that, access to family planning services is a problem in the county. The proportion of births assisted by a skilled provider is at 52 compared to 62 percent nationally. Moreover, the HIV/AIDS Prevalence in the county is relatively at 6 percent which is same as the national level. Vaccination of children of between 12-23 months in the county stands.

2.2.3 Socio-economic Indicators

Table 2.2 Bomet County's socio-economic indicators

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	4.3
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	54.8%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	52.2%
	HIV Prevalence	5.8%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	81.3%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	98.0%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	28.2
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	4,111
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	54.8%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	19.3
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	35,622
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.5440333

The primary net enrolment rate is 98 percent against a net enrolment rate of 55 in secondary schools. The huge variation between primary and secondary enrolment rates is due to huge number of primary-to-secondary school drop-outs. This high enrolment rate in primary schools could be partly attributable to the Free Primary Education (FPE) program of the National Government. The primary school pupil-teacher ratio and secondary school pupil-teacher ratio is at 28 and 19 respectively. This implies that the ratios in the two levels of education are fairly good in the County.

The County Human Development Index is 0.5440333 and the national one is 0.520. This implies that the county is performing above the national average in terms of human development. This could be attributed to the high literacy level of the county.

2.3 Health and Young People

The survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young people in Bomet County. The FGDs and interviews focused on various thematic areas in health. This section presents a summary of the consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main health problems affecting young people in Bomet County, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to young people and the ways of addressing these problems. The second area addresses accessibility and availability of health information and services; the third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing health services in the County while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving health of young people in the County.

2.3.1 Main Health Issues Affecting Young People

The main health problems affecting young people are teenage pregnancies, drug and substance abuse (DSA), STI and/or HIV and AIDS infections, malnutrition, mental health problems, SGBV and abortion. Others problems that were mentioned are poor sanitation and existence of diseases such as malaria.

The groups interviewed noted that these issues are partly caused by high levels of poverty in households, fear of knowing HIV status. Addiction to DSA, idleness, parental negligence / lack of parental guidance and lack of or inadequate health information and services are the main causes of the health issues in the county.

“...Most of the young people at the moment are heavily involved in alcohol consumption. The other one is cigarette smoking but mostly it is alcohol. Reasons could be parents are reluctant”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Bomet]

School drop outs, poor performance in schools, death/suicide as a result of frustrations, Inability to work/unproductive generation, Risk sexual behaviours results in teenage pregnancies and contracting STI or HIV/AIDS Infections, Poor Health Conditions and Stigmatization at the community.

“It makes people to drop out of school. It lowers their self-esteem in the community even the family itself will be separated from the community”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Bomet]

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Teenage Pregnancy STI or HIV and AIDS Malnutrition Poor sanitation SGBV Mental Health Problems Communicable Diseases (Malaria) Drug and Substance Abuse Abortion	High Levels of Poverty Fear of knowing HIV status to prevent contracting the virus Non disclosure of HIV status fuels the spread of HIV Addiction to or influence of DSA Idleness of young people Parental Negligence/lack of Parental Guidance Lack of or Inadequate health information Ignorance Risky sexual behaviour	School drop outs Poor performance in schools Death/suicide Inability to work/unproductive generation Risk sexual behaviour results to teenage pregnancies and contracting STI or HIV/AIDS Infections Poor Health Conditions Stigmatization at the community	Guidance and counselling of young people Creation of Employment for the idle and unemployed young people Promotion of peer education Health Education Creation and promotion of Youth friendly health and SRH service centres to increase utilization and information base Enforcing Drug Regulation Laws Promote Parental care and Guidance of their children

To address these issues, it was recommended that promoting parental care and guidance of their children, guidance and counselling of young people, creation of employment opportunities for the idle and unemployed young people, promotion of peer education, provision of health education and provision of youth friendly health and SRH service services are critical. More important is also enforcement of drug regulation laws by the government authorities would reduce DSA among the young people.

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Health Information

Summary of the sources and types of health information and services, usefulness of the information from these sources and young people preferred sources of information are presented in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Access and availability of health information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities	Treatment and Medication	Disease Prevention	Teachers
Chemists		Increased Knowledge	Parents
Schools	Information on Drug and Substance Abuse	too influences behaviour change	Seminars
Religious Institutions	Hygiene and Sanitation		Internet
Mass Media(Print, Radio and TV)	Disease prevention and diagnosis		
Public Health Talks or Barazas or Camps/ Seminars	SRH information		
Internet			

A range of sources of information were identified; particularly the health facilities, chemists, schools, religious institutions, mass media public health talks or *barazas* or camps/seminars and internet. Among these, the most preferred sources of information on health are the teachers, parents, seminars and the internet. The main type of information received included information on treatment and medication, information on Drug and Substance Abuse, hygiene and sanitation, disease prevention and diagnosis and SRH information. This information was regarded as useful in terms of prevention of disease prevention and increased knowledge to influences behaviour change.

Table 2.5 presents a summary of SRH/FP information and services. It gives a summary of main SRH/FP information, services available and accessible, challenges in accessing SRH/FP information and services and how to address these challenges.

Table 2.5 SRH/FP information and services

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
STI related information FP information	Fear or Embarrassment Myths and Misconceptions Cost of Services Long distances Lack of Disability Friendly Services Provider Attitude issues Illiteracy Lack of adequate SRH information and services Cultural barriers Ignorance Generally no youth friendly services Stigma from the community and self-stigma Low coverage of service provision Inadequate health personnel Perceived long time (travel, waiting time and service time) taken	Establishing disability friendly health services Employ more providers and building more hospitals Create Public Health Awareness -Provision of universal Free SRH/FP Services Capacity Building health personnel on provision of SRH services Creating a Conducive Youth Friendly Environment in provision of services

The main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young people were family planning services and STI related information.

On the types of information and services available for marginalized young people including those PWDs, young people living with HIV/AIDS, Orphans and those living in difficult circumstances, the groups observed that; there are ART services for those with HIV, guidance and counselling, donations and financial support for people with disabilities and orphans, health education targeting the marginalized groups and treatment services.

Fear or embarrassment, myths and misconceptions about some methods of family planning, perceived or high cost of Services, long distances to the nearest service providers lack of friendly services, negative provider attitude, illiteracy and ignorance to understand and appreciate the use of these services, lack of adequate SRH information and services, cultural barriers and general lack of youth friendly service centres were mentioned as the main challenges. Other challenges identified were stigma from the community and self-stigma, inadequate health personnel and the long time to receive services (travel, waiting time and service time).

“False information about the use of such family planning methods, may be they are told that they have side effects which may affect them in future.”

[FGD. Male young person 15-29, Bomet]

Some of the ways suggested by the various groups to address these challenges include; establishing disability friendly health services, employing more health providers and building extra hospitals, Create Public Health Awareness, Provision of universal Free SRH/FP Services, Capacity Building health personnel on provision of SRH services and creating a conducive youth friendly environment in provision of services.

On the availability of youth friendly service centres, the groups had mixed views. There are those who stated that, the facilities provide youth friendly services while others stated otherwise. Those in support of existence of youth friendly services cited young people as providers, confidentiality and a conducive environment. For those in who stated otherwise, they noted that, generally there are no youth friendly services/centres and in cases where they exist, the health providers have negative attitude towards the clients.

2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health Issues

In the county the main organisations identified as addressing health issues affecting young people are the government health facilities, those managed by Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and health facilities owned by religious institutions. The government health facilities were said to have improved in service provision but has the potential of improvement in service provision.

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

To improve on health service provision, the groups observed that there is need to build more health facilities and youth friendly service centres and capacity build service health personnel to improve on service provision.

2.4 Education and Young People

The FGDs and interviews focused on various thematic areas in education. This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first theme outlines the main education issues affecting young people in Bomet County, the causes for these issues, the consequences to young people and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of education services; the third theme focuses on the respondents' views on the content of the current education curriculum in relation to the prevailing job market requirements, the fourth section looks at the organisations providing education services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the opportunities available for young people to access education and gain skills.

2.4.1 Main Education Issues Affecting Young People

From the FGDs across the various groups, poverty and lack of school fees, drug and substance abuse, rising cases of indiscipline in schools, teenage pregnancies, inadequate learning facilities in schools, child labour, early marriages, teacher and student absenteeism, corporal punishment in schools and negative perception of education were identified as the main issues affecting education of young people in the county. On teenage pregnancies, one of the participants in an FGD with young people observed that;

“Another problem which affects education of young people especially girls is early pregnancies. I think it affects education.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Bomet]

The education service providers also observed that, Lack of parental Participation or Cooperation on matters affecting their children in schools and Stigmatization of HIV positive pupils also affect their education.

Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people

Main education issues	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these issues
Poverty and lack of school fees	Teenagers DSA as stress reliever	School Absenteeism	Put mechanisms in place to eradicate DSA
Drug and Substance Abuse	Illiterate Parents	Poor Academic Results	Guidance and Counselling
Indiscipline in schools		Lack of Concentration	Provision of Bursaries
Teenage Pregnancies		School Dropouts	Law Enforcement on Child Labour
Inadequate Learning Facilities in schools			
Child Labour			
Early marriages			
Teacher and student absenteeism			
Corporal Punishment in schools			
Negative Perception of Education			

The education issues identified were attributed to mainly to peer pressure among the young people who end up abusing drugs as a stress reliever and also cases of illiterate parents who do not value the education of their children.

The consequences resulting from these issues included; increased cases of schools drop-out- Absenteeism of pupils, lack of concentration of pupils in classes and also poor academic performance and results. One FGD participant noted that:

“About absenteeism of students or teachers, it leads to poor performance at the end because there are some topics which will be skipped, maybe, because the time is not enough to cover this so it is skipped yet it is tested in exams hence the performance of the students will be poor.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Bomet]

Provision of bursaries to needy and school-drop-outs, law enforcement especially on child labour, putting mechanisms in place to eradicate DSA and provision of guidance and counselling services for young people were cited as some of the ways in addressing the key issues identified.

2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services

Although Kenya has made some progress in the universal access to education, barriers to access and availability of education services still exist in the Counties. The FGD participants made observations touching on the adequacy of learning facilities in the Institutions including for students with special needs, gender disparities in schools, availability and accessibility of education services.

In terms of adequacy of learning facilities and other amenities in schools, the groups observed that, desks, classrooms, libraries and electricity supply in public primary institutions are generally inadequate. In the secondary schools, dormitories, latrines, congestion in dining halls, libraries (computer and books), and laboratories for the various science subjects were also reported to be inadequate. The condition of some of the learning facilities were said not to be in good condition. One of the FGD participants noted the following;

“There are no enough classrooms especially in baby class and top class.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 25-34, Bomet]

Contrary to the groups' views indicating that the learning facilities are few, the policy makers insist that, indeed the county has enough classrooms in schools and the academic performance in the county was good

Although the government has made efforts in integrating the education services for the physically handicapped children in the normal schools, the infrastructure is not supportive/ accessible to PWDs in primary and secondary schools. Moreover, in the entire County, there are no specific special schools for the children living with various forms of disabilities. One young person noted that;

“According to me, I can say that I use to hear or see some areas whereby pupils or students with disability are being provided with education but in this county of Bomet is not actually there, the school has not been established.”

FGD. Male young person 15-19, Bomet).

The groups observed that, there exist marked gender disparities between boys and girls in schools. There are more girls than boys in primary level of education. In the secondary schools, the groups reported that boys are more than girls due to high primary to secondary school drop-out among girls than boys. On the contrary, the service providers and policy makers observe that, currently in almost all the education levels, there are no significant disparities.

In terms of accessibility of learning institutions, the groups observed that, primary and secondary education is more accessible in the county. On the other end, accessibility of tertiary institutions is still an issue in the county. These sentiments were echoed by the service providers and policy makers in the education sector in the County.

“Well, eeh that I can say it is not so all that bad because in almost every big primary school there is a secondary school when you talk in terms of primary.”

[Primary school Head, Bomet]

2.4.3 Organisations Providing Education Services

The groups, service providers and policy makers reported that the main education service providers are the government managed learning institutions in primary and secondary level. The provision and management of pre-primary and TIVET institutions are under the management and funding mainly by County government. The Ministry of Education of the national government is the main organisation that provides education services in primary, secondary and other tertiary levels.

Education services are also provided by learning institutions managed by religious organisation, and the private sectors organisation.

The government funding through CDF and bursaries were reported to have enabled many young people from needy backgrounds to access education services. Religious institutions, Non-governmental organisations, financial institutions, CBOs, the business community and corporate foundations have also contributed in paying school fees for orphans, needy children and those LWDs to access education. The government and the other players in the education sector were lauded for the improvement in education performance in schools and provision of bursaries especially to advance to tertiary level education.

2.4.4 Opportunities for Young People to Gain Skills

The groups noted that there are few opportunities for industrial attachment, mentorship and internship for the young people in the county:

“Those who have done food science are given internships in tea factories like Silibwet, there are also many Sacco’s which can give internships to students of accounting. They get attachment also in factories.”

[FGD, mixed older people 35-60, Bomet]

2.4.5 Opportunities for Investment in Education

The various FGD groups, policy makers and education service providers made suggestions that are geared towards investment in the education to improve the education standards. These included; initiating and investing in programs to support marginalized populations, lowering university cut-off points to increase access, provision of free education especially at the secondary level, Provision of facilities including for students with special needs, creating more sponsoring opportunities particularly those from needy backgrounds, construction of more schools and associated infrastructure, employing more teachers and deployment of ICT infrastructure in all the learning institutions. Moreover, existence of facilitative education policies was also cited as the greatest opportunity at this time.

2.5 Economic Status and Young People

The FGDs and interviews focused on various thematic areas in the economic wellbeing of young people. The first section outlines the main employment and income opportunities available to young people while the second section outlines the challenges experienced by young people in accessing these employment and income opportunities. The third section summarises the main economic activities young people are engaged in, the challenges they encounter in the course of their duties and how the challenges can be addressed. Focus on the reasons why under-age children are engaged in employment opportunities will also be presented. The final section outlines the main interventions and programmes in place to provide employment and income opportunities to young people, challenges in accessing these interventions and to address them.

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People

The main employment and income opportunities identified by the various groups were trade & businesses and agriculture especially tea farming. Apart from the opportunities identified by the groups, the county leaders observed that, '*jua kali*' sector, transport sector, ICT potential, food processing and '*bodaboda*' business provides employment and income opportunities to many young people in the County.

2.5.2 Challenges Encountered in Accessing Employment and Income Opportunities

Corruption, poor academic qualifications, unfair business practices/competition, negative attitude towards business as opposed to white collar jobs, limited opportunities, insecurity of businesses, high cost of registering business entities, high taxation regimes/levies, lack of adequate capital and lack of knowledge and skills were highlighted as some of the key challenges faced by young people in accessing income and employment opportunities in the County.

“When you start business in town, the county government will come and tax you unfairly at a rate which is not proportional to the size of the business.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Bomet]

Other than the challenges observed by the groups, the service providers observed that the slow business registration processes have also affected young people in exploiting the available business opportunities. To add on what the service providers mentioned and what the groups observed, the policy makers noted that, lack of information, lack of collateral/security for young people to access credit and fear of taking loans have all prevented young people in accessing the available opportunities.

“I think I would say mainly because of lack of knowledge, there is a lot of money in the field but it is only that they are not aware.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People are Engaged In

From the FGDs across the various groups, it was observed that young people were engaged in; casual jobs, charcoal burning, domestic workers jobs, herding, operating small businesses and *bodaboda*, farming, carpentry, tea picking, Mining (Quarrying) and brick burning. A participant in an FGD with younger people noted that;

“Most of the youth in the side of the boys they go and ride ‘boda boda’ (motorbikes) so they are ‘boda boda’ (motorbikes) men.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Bomet]

Table 2.7 Main economic activities engaged in

Main economic activities engaged in	Challenges encountered	How to address the challenges	Reasons why under-age children engage in employment and income opportunities
Casual jobs Charcoal Burning Domestic Workers Herding Small Businesses Farming Boda boda operators Carpentry Tea picking Mining (Quarrying) Brick burning	Lack of collateral to enable them acquire loans for business (No IDs) Health Complications due to harsh working conditions Accidents during working Lack of Necessary Skills Financial Constraints due to meagre pay Poor Pay Exploitation Sexual Harassment Harassment by Authority or Employers	Enforcement of Laws on Child Labour and enforcement on labour regulations Training and offering financial assistance to young people Provision of education to the needy who drop-out of school to engage in this activities	Poverty levels in those households Peer influence Drug addicts work to get money to buy drugs To keep themselves busy Forced labour-by parents/guardians After school drop-out

Lack of collateral to enable them acquire loans for business (No IDs), health complications due to harsh working conditions, accidents during working hours, lack of necessary skills, financial constraints due to meagre pay, poor pay & exploitation, sexual harassment and harassment by authority or employers were cited as the main challenges that young people encounter while engaging in the various economics activities.

“Maybe someone really wants to do something but they lack the necessary ideas to propel the business and the business end up stagnating.”

FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Bomet]

Enforcement of laws on child labour and other labour regulations, training and offering financial assistance to young people and provision of education to the needy that drop-out of school to engage in these activities were also suggested as facilitative factor for young people to produce goods and services and deliver them to the market without many challenges.

In Bomet County, the under-age young people are driven to work due to poverty levels in those households, after school drop-out, due to peer influence, drug addicts work to get money to buy drugs, and others work to keep themselves busy while others are reported that they are forced to work by their parents/guardians.

“Peer pressure may be the other friends who have dropped from the schools and engaging in these farming activities so they may tell them if you do this you will succeed.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Bomet]

2.5.4 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Over the years, the government has rolled out interventions and programmes that address unemployment issues affecting many young people in Kenya. In Bomet County, the groups and other interviewees identified key interventions/programmes that offer an opportunity to young people to gain skills to enable them access employment or offer start-up capital to start businesses. Some of the key interventions identified included; Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO), NYS programmes that enable young people to gain specific technical skills, Kazi Kwa vijana initiatives, UWEZO fund, YEDF and WEF that offer affordable loans at low interest rates to women and young people.

Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth issues

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways to address these challenges
AGPO	Lack of entrepreneurial skills	Sensitization on interventions
WEF	Bureaucracy in accessing these interventions	Training and education
NYS	Corruption	Addressing corruption
Kazi Kwa Vijana	Program restrictions	Increase funding for the interventions
YEDF	Inadequate funding of the interventions	
UWEZO Fund	Fear of taking loans	
	Lack of intervention awareness	

The various groups cited lack of entrepreneurial skills, bureaucracy in accessing these interventions, corruption, program restrictions, inadequate funding of the interventions, fear of taking loans and lack of intervention awareness are some of the challenges that affect young people in accessing these interventions.

“It is not there, UWEZO fund is there but most youths lack the knowledge so they avoid borrowing the loans due to fear of mismanagement.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Bomet]

Sensitization of young people on interventions, training and education, addressing corruption issues and increase funding for the interventions were cited as some of the key ways to address these challenges.

2.5.5 Availability and Access to ICT Services

Television, radio, telephone, internet, computer services, cyber cafés and libraries were identified as the main ICT services that are mainly available to young people in the County. The type of information sought from internet is for academic research, job searching information, advancing studies and for entertainment purposes. The services that are mostly preferred on the use of mobile telephony are Information on farming, Social Media and Entertainment. One of the main benefits of using the various ICT services that was reported across various groups is that, with ICT individuals are exposed on current and important issues thereby gaining knowledge.

Lack of power supply, high cost of ICT services, Inadequate Ope Rationale skills and Network problems are some of the main challenges that affect ICT accessibility at the county level.

“As we said earlier the problem in this community is poverty now getting money to buy TV is not a thing.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 15-19, Bomet]

To facilitate ICT penetration, the groups noted that, there is need to improve electricity connection, facilitating deployment of affordable ICT Services and facilities and community training on ICT.

2.5.6 Access and availability of ICT services in schools

Findings on access and availability in the learnings institutions show that, there is inadequate ICT infrastructure in the learning institutions. Moreover, there was a general consensus and observation by policy makers, service providers and FGD participants in the various groups that, few schools (primary and secondary) are equipped with ICT facilities. In tertiary level institutions, ICT services are made available to the students in the computer libraries but adequate for all the learners.

“It is hard to find such things. But I know that soon according to the government plan, after every primary has gotten electricity, the computers will follow in the community it is hard to find it.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Bomet]

The importance of ICT services were underscored in the learning institutions. Moreover, the ICT service helps students to enhance communication and their ICT literacy skills.

2.5.7 Organisations Addressing Youth Economic Empowerment

Business incubation and innovation centres, Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) and talent identification and nurturing centres and few NGOs are organisations addressing youth economic empowerment challenges. These organisations were echoed for their efforts in Capacity Building initiatives, provision of financial Services and creation of employment opportunities.

2.5.8 Potential Sectors to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

The groups observed existence of agricultural potential particularly teas, maize, trade and industry opportunities, construction sectors, business opportunities and ICT sectors are some of the areas that can increase employment and income opportunities in the County.

2.5.9 Savings and Investment for Old Age

Young people were asked if they are concerned about investments for their old age. There groups especially the young people had varied opinion on their investment for the old age. There are those who said that, investment for the old age should start at younger ages so that they can have income during their old age. Those who stated that, they are not concerned about it because they are concerned with current challenges in life.

“We are struggling to live now; tomorrow will take care of itself.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Bomet]

Some of the barriers identified that prevent young people from investing for their old age include; less income which cannot endure to be saving, high expenses on entertainment, unemployment and huge expenses on DSA which depletes their income.

“The cost of living is actually hindering their savings because you find that because the cost of living is rising, the money they have, they will use to cater for the young needs.”

[FGD. Male young person 15-19, Bomet]

To address these barriers to investment for the old age, there is need for Sensitization of young people on importance of saving for old age, creation of more Retirement Benefits Funds tailored for young people and Promote Investment for Young People.

2.6 Governance and Young People

The various FGDs and interviews focused on various principles of governance and how young people are involved in the governance functions especially after the devolution of services to the county level. This section presents a summary of discussions and observations on how young people participate in governance roles in Bomet County. The first section discusses issues on the rule of law while section two explores the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency in the County governance structures. The third section looks at issues to do with how consensus in project management are arrived at, equity in service representation, inclusiveness and participation of all people in governance, and responsiveness of programmes to the needs of young people. The fourth section outlines effectiveness and efficiency in resources allocation and utilization. The last section looks at the political leadership and what role they play in the management of youth affairs at the County.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

The rule of law is an overarching principle which ensures that all people are governed by laws which their elected representatives make and which reflect the rule of law. It requires that the laws are administered justly and fairly. The rule of law requires that the people including, the government should be ruled by the law and obey it and that the law should be such that people will be able and willing to be guided by it. Moreover, the law should be able to foster cohesion among the people. In terms of administration of the rule of law in Bomet County, the groups observed the following areas.

2.6.1.1 Justice system

Participants in the FGDs observed that; drug and substance abuse, land disputes, robbery and petty crimes, corruption and domestic conflicts were cited as the main cases prevalent in the county. The policy makers also mentioned child labour issues and rape cases as prevalent in the County. In solving these cases, the groups observed existence of both official/recognized ways as well as traditional mechanisms. These processes are; the normal judicial court systems, solving cases by the government administrative officers, through the police and out of court negotiations. Under the traditional ways, the council of elders as well as family based arbitration systems exist. It was also observed that, some un-official (kangaroo courts) ways of solving the cases exist.

In pursuit of justice for all, there exist challenges in the system. These challenges include; Illiteracy and Ignorance of the Judicial System on the side of the affected individuals, corruption infiltrating the justice system, gender discrimination, poor conflict resolution mechanisms in the society and cases of few police officers. The policy makers also noted that; negative cultural issues, fear of reporting cases and low reporting of cases/injustices have also frustrated efforts in delivering justice for all.

“Chiefs have become very corrupt and sometimes interfere with justice.”

[FGD, mixed older person 35-60, Bomet]

Strengthening governance issues to address corruption, Train communities on Cases Resolution, Public Awareness on justice systems, and collaboration between traditional justice systems in solving small disputes and proper Law enforcement were recommended by FGD participants as some of the ways to address and prevent/minimise these issues or challenges.

2.6.1.2 Security

The groups observed that, maintenance of security creates a favourable environment for socio-economic investments and development. In Bomet County, the security situation was described to be relatively good except on few occasions where there are security lapses due to petty theft perpetuated by idle young people. Overall, the county is secure as indicated by a security policy maker in the County.

“In this county, we don’t have very serious security challenges, we used to have them in the borders with the Kisii borders and probably the Narok but right now we don’t have them; we have been able to build rapport and we have understood one another with those neighbours.”

[Policy Maker, Bomet]

The mechanisms in place to ensure security for all include; Community policing, Sub-County Policing establishments, existence of ‘Nyumba Kumi’ initiative and building of more Chiefs’ Camps to handle administrative government issues at the lower levels.

Maintenance of security was reported as a function of all people including young people. In the County, the groups noted that young people are agents of maintaining security by including and encouraging them to shun away from issues that cause insecurity, including them as members of the Community Policing committees, Preaching Peace, Reporting Suspicious Situations and characters in the society as well as Reporting Law Breakers.

The various FGD groups observed that, victimisation of the whistle blowers, delayed response by the police, corruption perpetuated by security agents and law breakers, Inadequate Security Personnel and Unemployed youth engaging in petty crimes were mentioned as the major challenges in maintaining security for all.

“Police operate based on the financial capability of someone so that if you have nothing you will not succeed in a case.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Bomet]

To address challenges, the FGD groups suggested that, there is need for passing severe Punishments to Perpetrators of illegal acts that jeopardize security, public awareness on the need of members of the public to remain vigilant of their environs, employing and deploying more police officers, Job Creation for young people to shun from engaging in illegal activities that threaten security and strengthening 'Nyumba Kumi' initiatives.

2.6.1.3 Cohesion

A cohesive society ensures that people works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalization, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity for socio-economic upward mobility. Bomet County include; social class disparities, land disputes and tribalism in public service delivery. The widely discussed issue is the political differences and utterances. Two respondents from FGDs with older and young people noted that:

“Young people have no problem with one another; it is only during campaigns that you may find them opposing one another.”

[FGD. Mixed older group 35-60, Bomet]

In the other FGD, they noted that:

“Political differences, if there is a project initiated by a political party others of the different political affiliation may disrupt.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Bomet]

Community interaction through Cultural Festivals and sporting activities, Campaigns against Drugs and Substance Abuse (DSA) and equal distribution of resources were cited as the key initiatives/ programmes in place to promote the unity of the people in the County. Policy makers also noted that, County administrative peace meetings also some of the programmes that promote unity of the people.

In addition to the existing programmes/ activities to maintain the unity of the people, the various groups also noted that, there is still need to promote civic education on inter-community cohesiveness and issuance of land title deeds to show ownership and reduce conflicts from land disputes.

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

Information availability and public participation in affairs that affect them is guaranteed in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. In Bomet County, the groups observed that, the mechanisms put in place by the government to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities are through; community meetings and public announcements, suggestion boxes, through Posters, Social media, notice boards and Service delivery charters.

Transparency and accountability ensures that, public resources are used in a manner that is apparent to all and any people involved in the management of these resources should be held answerable to the public and government in case of misappropriation. To ensure transparency and accountability is observed in public service delivery, the County Government has put the following mechanisms in place; taking disciplinary action against those who misappropriate public funds including Stepping aside, arresting and charging the culprits in court of law.

Although these mechanisms are in place, there are still some challenges inherent in the system which affect frustrates the efforts of ensuring accountability and transparency by public officers, the key challenges identified by the groups are; nepotism and corruption. On nepotism, one of the incensed young people noted that:

“When it comes to county opportunities.....when you try to see those vacancies are meant for people who are known and it is why you find people in positions which are not proportional to their qualifications.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Bomet]

To better improve on transparency and accountability mechanisms in place, the groups observed that, there is need to sensitize the members of the public to remain vigil and hold officers/ government to be accountable and the county government address perceived or real governance/corruption concerns in projects managements. Additionally, the policy makers suggest that, there is need to form and strengthen project supervisory committees

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusion and Participation

Public participation in budget making processes is spelt in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and reinforced through Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012. In Bomet County, the various identified various ways in which young people are involved in the Budget Process, Project Identification, Design and Implementation. Specifically, the groups noted that, young people are employed to work/ or manage projects initiated by the County government, participate in the budget formulation public consultations and in projects design & implementation since the projects directly/indirectly affect them.

In spite of efforts put in place to ensure that, young people are involved in budget process, project identification, design and implementation, a good number of young people are still not involved because leaders do not engage young people on account of the relative younger ages. In addition to the group observations, the policy makers noted that, young people lack skills and knowledge for them to fully participate.

In projects and programmes management especially those funded by the government, the groups observed that young people LIKE to providing menial labour, contribution towards decision making,

participate in environmental conservation and serve as project heads. Asked what they WOULD LIKE to be involved in, the groups noted that, young people would like to be engaged in to be involved in the entire project processes.

The policy makers observed that, involvement of young people in projects and programmes ensures that, they gain skills and experience to enhance their employability and create income generating projects for themselves. One of the key informants noted that:

“Yeah, some of them create employment like the cooperative societies because we have small enterprise funds that are offered by the cooperative societies. They offer some loans to do some small businesses, which is how they benefit.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

In Bomet County, there is a general approval that indeed, opportunities and resources are reserved and directed to target those who deserve. Additionally, universal opportunities are made accessible to all regardless of their social-economic, political or otherwise affiliations. To support this approval, the groups noted that, there has been observed equality in giving out opportunities. Opportunities are set aside for PWDs and mechanisms have been put in place to increase women in employment.

In the course of their involvement/participation in projects implementation, young people are faced by a number of organisational/systemic or individual factors that may impede their full participation and involvement. The groups noted that, some of these challenges include; forces of corruption perpetuated by the leaders in the system, discrimination on account of their relatively younger ages compared to their elder colleagues in the project management teams, lack of adequate skills and experiences to enable them adequately perform their duties, Poor pay and exploitation and non-compensation of young people when injured in the line of duty.

“The issue of skills is also a major problem; most youths do not have skills to participate in those e projects.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 25-34, Bomet]

To improve on young people's involvement in project process, the groups observed that; there is need to training & capacity building of young people to equip them with more skills on projects management and on leadership, fully involve them in projects management especially in decision making because the projects affects them and entrusting them with responsibilities to feel attachment and appreciation. One participant recommended that:

“I think the youth should be provided with the skills which are needed in projects management.”

[FGD. Male young person 15-19, Bomet]

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

There were positive views from the groups indicating that resources were allocated in a manner that is geared towards creating and for providing employment opportunities for young people. Additionally, the policy makers on the other hand noted that some funds at the county level have been set aside to provide loans to young people.

“Generally in our county, we have been able to cater for them in especially providing them with loans; some loans through their multi-purpose SACCOS, and they have been able to get assisted. We have been able to have them come together like the ‘bodaboda’ they are grouped.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

To ensure that resources achieve the expected outcomes, the county government has prioritized strong organisational and open Rationale mechanisms to improve on service delivery and achievement of results. The policy makers noted that the government has formed project monitoring and evaluation teams to track on projects performance.

To improve on efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources, the FGD groups recommended equal representation of young people in projects management and also ensuring resources are allocated per wards. In addition, the policy makers recommended that project managers be trained on efficiency in funds management.

“Generally efficiently we have been having our officers involved especially when it comes to training of those youth on small enterprise business, on how to handle the small funds that they have; so we train them on small business.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

2.6.5 Political Leadership

Findings from the various groups show that there are varied views on the roles political leadership play in the management of youth affairs. There were those who said that political leadership play important roles in the management of the affairs of young people while others stated otherwise. For those with a positive views, they said that political leaders are involved in initiating development projects that benefit young people, conduct resources mobilization for the young people’s programmes/projects, create employment opportunities for them, participate in the improvement of infrastructure, support education of young people and provide information on the upcoming and ongoing government programmes targeting young people. One of the participants from one of the FGDs with young people commented that;

“They are encouraging private investment which will create employment for the youths.”

[FGD. Male in 15-19 groups, Bomet]

On the other end, those dissatisfied with the role of the political leadership in the management of young people’s affairs stated that they were doing nothing substantive and only give false promises to woo votes and most of them help their relatives. One of the participants said that;

“When there is an impending election they will come and say they will help in bursaries but once they are elected they do not help them.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Bomet]

The policy makers on the other hand agreed with the positive perceptions on the role of politics in the management of young people affairs. In addition, they stated that through government, politicians from time to time aspire to creating policies that positively affect young people and also they offer guidance to them on being useful in the society.

2.7 Population Structure

Different views were expressed by the groups and individuals that were interviewed. For instance with regard to population growth in the county, several participants indicated that the population was still very low and it was not an issue of concern at the moment. On the other hand, some participants were concerned with the negative effects of the growing population.

With regard to the growing population of young people and the provision of health services, the various groups noted that this situation is likely to lead to poor sanitation, lack of adequate health services and increased home deliveries due to congestion of maternities in health facilities.

“There will be lack of enough facilities in health and education.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 25-34, Bomet]

In terms the growing population of young people in relation to provision of education services, young people seems to be worried on the effects of the growing population. The participants observed that there will be inadequate schools and learning facilities in school.

“I think the more the number of young people rises, the more the education facilities are become scarce or few.”

[FGD. Male young person 15-19, Bomet]

In terms of the growing population with regard to economic situation of the county, the groups had negative views. They noted that a growing population would lead to increased corruption since people will be competing for the scarce resources, environmental degradation weak macro-economic foundation that cannot support economic resilience, high dependency ratios, leads to unequal distribution of resources and increases the levels of unemployment and poverty.

“Yeah because the land now is getting scarce, job opportunities are getting scarce because of big population and so the population should also be reduced...”

[FGD. Male young person 15-19, Bomet]

The groups felt that the growing population of young people seems to be associated with governance challenges the groups observed that the growing population of young people would create a large group of unemployed youth and this state might predisposes them to engaging in illegal activities leading to insecurity in most places. Additionally, the groups noted that there will be challenges in the administration and maintenance of law and order as since the law enforcers would be relatively too few to handle the situation.

“It affects because they are idle they will engage in irresponsible behaviours and their life tends to be demanding when they do not have something to do.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Bomet]

In order to address the growing population with respect to these dimensions, the groups developed the following action points;

Growing population and health services provision: There is need for the County to adopt more robust/ aggressive population policies/ guidelines.

Growing population and education services provision: Provide more education and training opportunities to young people.

Growing population and economic situation of the County: Resource allocation to the needy people to overcome their poverty situation, creating jobs for the idle and increasing number of young people and mentoring young people on entrepreneurship to address the unemployment in the labour market.

Growing population and governance: There is need to increase the number of security personnel to improve on the security situation in the county considering the growing population.

On the other hand the policy makers proposed that strategies should be put in place to reduce the fertility level in the County. They suggested that family planning efforts should be intensified

to sensitize young people on the size of the families they should have. One of the key informants responded that;

“Yes there is a very serious need; they need to be sensitized on how many children they should have; because they should actually know that it is a responsibility to cater for the families; once you have a family in place; you should be able to cater for them considering the amount of resources that you have. They must be able to commensurate with size of your family.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

a) Why Young people move from Bomet County to other counties

Although there is no data from the groups on why young people migrate to other counties, the policy makers note that most young people move out in search for socio-economic opportunities that exist in other counties. A key informer noted that;

“Yeah they move because maybe they are looking for greener pastures; some of them might not have the opportunities to participate depending on the programmes that are in place. So they go to other places to look for jobs, you know most of these youth believe in white collar jobs; they do not believe in businesses or those other jua kali casual kind of resource.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

b) Why young people move from other counties to Bomet County

The reasons why many young people migrate to Bomet County is because they are seeking to exploit the available opportunities that have not been exploited by the locals.

“Bomet county is very much ahead in several issues, including most of our structures are in place; so some of the youth come here because some programmes are in place and maybe are not there where they come from.”

[Policy maker, Bomet]

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

The demographic dividend window of opportunity for the county is likely to open in the year 2042 and close by 2082. This means that the county needs to expedite investment in the four pillars of the demographic dividend to benefit from this window of opportunity when it opens up. In terms of CPR and TFR, the county is below the national average and more investment is required. Although the NER in primary level is too high, the NER in secondary is too low. Similarly, there still exist a number of cross-cutting issues that adversely affect the education of young people. Economically, there is an enormous economic opportunity at the county that has not been adequately exploited and therefore requires timely investment and exploitation.

The HDI for the county is below the national level. This means that, there is need for more investments education and health of the young people development. In terms of the governance, there is apparent exclusion of young people in the governance issues of the county. Therefore mechanisms should be put in place for inclusive governance for the betterment of the future of the county. Notwithstanding the issues outlined in the four pillars, the County is performing fairly well but more efforts especially in economic development, governance and youth participation, are required.

Recommendations

From the survey it is evident that there is need to:

Health

1. Increases investments in the health sector targeting reproductive health services including family planning services to increase and access of these services.
2. Intensify programmes to address myths and misconceptions on certain methods of family planning.
3. There is need to create and strengthen partnerships through Public Private partnerships (PPPs) in the provision of accessible and affordable health services.
4. Intensify campaigns to encourage couples to adopt small family norms to reduce the TFR which is above the national average.

Education

1. There is need for all stakeholders to collaborate and mobilize resources to improve access to education and to reduce school drop outs and increase the transition to secondary education. The County government and national government should allocate bursaries to secondary education to reduce the number of primary-to-secondary-school drop-outs.
2. Provision of sanitary pads to girls in schools to reduce absenteeism and improve education standards.

Economy

1. Formulating and implementing high impact economic policies targeting young people to create more employment opportunities and to reduce unemployment.
2. Sensitization of young people on the existing vocational training and employment opportunities.
3. Simplification of business licensing procedures and processes to enable young people incorporate business entities to enable them engage in business opportunities set aside for them.
4. Facilitate the youth to have access to credit facilities.

Governance

1. Strengthening the governance structures in the County and deliberately include young people in county leadership positions.
2. Strengthen the M&E systems in the projects management.
3. Community involvement in projects design, planning, and implementation. This would ensure that there is community buy-in and improve social accountability.

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Annex 1: County Demographic Windows

The United Nations defines the demographic window as the period when the proportion of those aged below 15 years permanently falls below 30 percent of the total population while the proportion of those above 64 years is still below 15 percent of the total population. This period is estimated to last about 40 years and it presents an opportunity for a country to achieve a much faster economic growth driven by the large population of people in the working ages. Table A1.1 shows that Kenya's demographic window will open in 2038. The proportion of those in the working ages will be 66 percent of the total population and the dependency ratio will be 52. An analysis of the beginning of the demographic window for each of the 47 counties in Kenya shows that the window will open at different times for each county.

Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year

2010s	2020s	2030s	2040s	2050+
Kirinyaga	Kiambu	Makueni	Lamu	Mandera
Nyeri	Embu	Machakos	Nandi	Marsabit
Murang'a	Taita Taveta	Nakuru	Elgeyo Marakwet	Migori
	Meru	Nyandarua	Kajiado	Tana River
	Nairobi	Tharaka Nithi	Kitui	Garissa
	Mombasa	Uasin Gishu	Bomet	Narok
		Laikipia	Siaya	Samburu
		Kisumu	Kakamega	Turkana
		Nyamira	Vihiga	West pokot
		Kericho	Baringo	Wajir
		Kisii	Busia	
			Isiolo	
			Kwale	
			Bungoma	
			Homa Bay	
			Kilifi	
			Trans Nzoia	

Annex 2: Survey Personnel

Central Rift Region

Table A2.1 Central Rift Region

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BOMET COUNTY