REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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

ISIOLO COUNTY

January 2017

NCPD

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CPC	County Population Coordinators
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
DemDiv	Demographic Dividend
DSA	Drug and Substance Abuse
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FHOK	Family Health Option Kenya
FP	Family Planning
FPE	Free Primary Education
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
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
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NASSEP V	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NAYS	National Adolescents and Youth Survey
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NYS	National Youth Service
PADIS	Population, Administration, and Decision Information System International
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TFR	Total Fertility Rates
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YFS	Youth Friendly Services

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.

ISIOLO COUNTY

MANDERA

TURKANA

MARSABIT

WAJIR

WEST POKOT

SAMBURU

POPULATION
143,210
in 2009

TRANS NZOIA

ELGEYO MARAKWET

BUNGOMA

BARINGO

UASIN GISHU

LAIKIPIA

ISIOLO

BUSIA KAKAMEGA

MERU

GARISSA

SIAYA VIHIGA
KISUMU

NANDI

NAKURU NYERI

THARAKA NITHII

KERICHO

NYANDARUA KIRINYAGA

HOMA BAY NYAMIRA

MURANG'A

EMBU

KISII BOMET

MIGORI

KIAMBU

NAIROBI

MACHAKOS

NAROK

KITUI

TANA RIVER

MAKUENI

LAMU

KAJIADO

KILIFI

TAITA/TAVETA

KWALE MOMBASA

NAYS

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 eff orts 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

This report presents the Isiolo County profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey conducted by the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) in conjunction with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Youth Department, KNBS and various development partners. The survey covered all the 47 counties with the multiple objectives of examining what potential exists for a demographic dividend in each of the 47 counties, identify health, education, economic and governance issues that affect young people in each county, identifying specific investment opportunities that could accelerate achievement of the demographic dividend and provide policy and programme recommendations based on the survey findings.

This report interrogates the demographic profile of the county and the prevailing socio-economic indicators of the county and further identifies the challenges and opportunities that exist for harnessing the benefits of a growing youth population. The report therefore presents a preview of the demographic, health, education, economic and governance indicators which are the main sectors whose performance impact on building a county that would be responsive to the young people.

The total population of Isiolo County in 2009 was 143,210 people and is projected to increase to 237,404 people by 2030 and to 319,365 people by 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (44 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 37 percent and to 26 percent in the year 2030 and 2050 respectively. As the proportion of population of the young people declines, it is projected that the working age population will increase from 52 percent in 2009 to 68 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 92.4 to 47 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2044 and close in 2084.

Isiolo County has a fertility rate of 4.9 children per woman. Twenty percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Forty-four percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 82.3 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. The main health issues in Isiolo County include drug and substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy and SGBV. These issues were found to be mainly caused by lack of awareness on health issues and were contributing to poor health standards of the county. There is therefore the community awareness on health matters be strengthened. Further, the report recommends strengthening of young people's access to reproductive health information and services, increased public

awareness on the issues affecting young people, enforcement of laws that prohibit access to drugs and alcohol to young people and provision of guidance and counselling services to the youth.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 85 percent. This means that about 15 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is much lower (24 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. These figures show that school enrolment at primary level is almost universal in the county but and enrolment at secondary level is very low. This implies that low primary to secondary transition rate in the county. It is estimated that 5,487 primary school age and 11,993 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. The main challenges affecting the education of young people in the county include lack of school fees, drug and substance abuse, inadequate teachers, inadequate schools, absenteeism of teachers and students and child labour. As a result of these issues, a large number of students drop out school and school performance in the county has affected adversely. All the above challenges have to be addressed in order to improve the education standards in the county.

The survey found out that young people in Isiolo County are majorly engaged in farming, trade and *boda boda* for their livelihoods. The young people are facing challenges due to lack of employment opportunities, lack of capital, insecurity and *boda boda* accidents. For the young people to exploit their full economic potential there is need to improve security, provide soft loans for business, introduce value addition to farmers and improve infrastructure to curb road accidents.

In regard to ICT, the survey found out that Most Isiolo residents including students cannot access computer services due to lack of equipment and electricity and, inadequate connectivity to internet. There is need to expand the computer access to schools and lower connectivity charges.

The cases that were more commonly mentioned by the respondents in the county include insecurity, lack of youth involvement in projects and cattle rustling. For the young people to be fully engaged in the county development there is need for more youth inclusivity in programme implementation and for the Government to improve security.

1 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 4 children per woman thereby decreasing the dependency ratio: Even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (i.e. 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 recorded at 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 modeled Kenya's demographic dividend using the *DemDiv* model. The impressive results from the modeling 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 socio-economic 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 years. 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 and 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 13 data clerks was trained on how to process the data using this software. To ensure consistency and quality, two supervisors reviewed and verified the coded data.

2 ISIOLO COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Isiolo County is one of the counties in the Middle Eastern region of Kenya. It borders Marsabit County to the North, Samburu and Laikipia Counties to the West, Garissa County to the South East, Wajir County to the North East, Tana River and Kitui Counties to the south and Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties to the south West. The County covers an area of approximately 25,700 km^2 . The County is classified into three ecological zones namely Semi-Arid, Arid and the Very-Arid. Semi Arid zone covers part of Wabera Ward, Bulla Pesa Ward and some parts of Burat Ward in Isiolo North Constituency. Administratively, Isiolo County is divided into three sub-counties (Isiolo, Merti and Garbatula), ten wards, 22 locations and 43 sub locations.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

Population size and age distribution are key factors necessary in planning for most of the development programmes especially education and health. Table 2.1 presents the county's population size and structure from 2009 to 2050.

Table 2.1   Population size and structure

Demographic indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	143,210	237,404	319,365
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	44.4%	36.6%	26.4%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	3.6%	3.2%	5.5%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	52.0%	60.2%	68.1%
Dependency Ratio	92.4	66.1	46.8
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2044		

The population of Isiolo County as enumerated during the 2009 population and housing census was 143,210 people. The population is projected to increase to 237,404 and 319,365 people in 2030 and 2050, respectively. The population below age 15 is however projected to reduce from 44 percent in 2009 to 37 percent in 2030 and 26 percent in 2050.

The reduction in the under 15 age groups coupled with increase in population of age 15-64 will result in decline in the dependency ratio from 92 in 2009 to 60 in 2030 and to 47 in 2050. The demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in 2044 and to close in the year 2084.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

The survey also sought to establish the status of the social economic indicators that are important in harnessing the demographic dividend. Table 1.2 presents health, education and other social economic data for the county.

Table 2.2   Social-economic characteristics

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	4.9
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	27.0%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	43.8%
	HIV Prevalence	4.2%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	82.3%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	84.7%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	27.2
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	5,487
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	23.6%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	16
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	11,993
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.451

Table 2.2 shows that the average number of children per woman in the county is 4.9. This figure is higher than the national average of 3.6 children per woman. This scenario could be explained by the low use of contraceptives (27 percent) by married women in the county compared to the national average of 58 percent.

The proportion of births attended by a skilled health worker is an indicator of the quality of health care and has an impact on child and maternal mortality. The proportion of births attended by a skilled birth attendant in the county was 44 percent in 2014. The county has a HIV prevalence rate of 4.2 percent which is slightly lower than the national prevalence rate of 6.4 percent

Education status has implications on the empowerment of individuals in terms of making decisions and contributing to social economic development. The primary school net enrolment rate is 85 percent in the county meaning that 5 percent of the children who are expected to be in school are not learning. The low education enrolment is more serious at the secondary school level where the net school enrolment rate is only 37 percent implying that 63 percent of the secondary school age children are out of school. This situation needs to be arrested otherwise the county is unlikely to enjoy the benefits of having an educated population, particularly of young people.

The Human Development Index which is a measure of achievement in providing quality education, health care and economic opportunities is 0.451, lower than the national average of 0.532

2.3   Health and Young People

The survey sought to establish the health issues in the county, their causes and consequences and possible ways of addressing them. The main findings are presented in Table 2.3

Table 2.3   Health and young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance abuse Sexually Transmitted Infections Teenage Pregnancy SGBV	Parental negligence Lack of awareness/ knowledge Negative cultural practices	School drop out Mental health problems Abortion and birth related complications	Public health education Counselling Life skills Parental guidance

The respondents mentioned that the main health problems in the county are drug and substance abuse, STIs, HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancies and SGBV. Most of the interviewed groups agree that the health issues are common and have largely been prevalent due to parental negligence, negative cultural practices such as FGM and lack of awareness on health issues such as HIV/AIDS transmission as mentioned by various groups. They are also aware of the consequences and highlighted the major ones as school drop outs, abortion or birth related complications and mental health, all which have led to deterioration of health situation in the county. This is captured in the following quote:

"There are high cases reported to chiefs on the issue of early marriages. This brings about early pregnancy among the young girls. This has led to increased cases of difficulties during giving birth and also brings other health problems later on in their lives. FGM is very common in the community and this is brought about mainly by cultural beliefs."

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60 Isiolo]

"Teenage pregnancy is rampant case in fact in the areas that we operate, most young people that we interact with they say, 'If you don't have a kid', like having a kid is fashion. 'You don't have a kid' is like you are outdated."

[IDI, Manager, YSO, Isiolo]

The respondents mentioned several ways that the health issues can be addressed by pointing out that there is need for promoting public health education. Other interventions highlighted by majority of the groups were teaching of life skills, increasing counseling services and promoting parental guidance. The County Director of health however said that the youth need to improve their health seeking behaviour to reap maximum benefits from the ongoing initiatives. In addition, there is need to develop policies and guidelines that are responsive or can address county needs. One of the respondents had the following to:

"Guidance, counseling and hygiene lessons in the schools should be introduced. This will enable the teenagers to acquire good moral values that are acceptable in the society. With guidance and counseling lessons in place, early pregnancies, drug and substance abuse will be addressed."

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Isiolo]

In addition, the county director of health said the county government plans to improve health infrastructure by establishing more youth friendly centres and equipping the existing ones.

Plans are also underway to "use the Beyond Zero campaign to initiate mobile integrated services for youth including IEC materials, education and treatment targeting the youth."

[IDI. County Director of Health, Isiolo]

Furthermore, he indicated that low funding, high poverty, illiteracy and unemployment levels also hinder full utilisation of the available services, he said.

2.3.1 Access and Availability of Health Information and Services

The respondents were asked about access and availability of information and the findings are shown in Table 2.4

Table 2.4   Access and availability of information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health facility Media School NGOs	Hygiene and sanitation STI and HIV/ AIDS counselling and testing Drug and substance abuse Sexuality education	Behaviour change Improved health awareness Reduced cases of unplanned and early pregnancies	Health facility Media School Internet

The main sources of health information and services in the county are health facilities, media (mainly Sifa radio FM), schools and NGOs as mentioned by majority of the groups interviewed. These institutions are majorly offering services and information on DSA, Hygiene and sanitation, sexuality education and STIs, and HIV and AIDS. The information and services provided is accessible to the marginalised groups.

"I can get a lot of health information from the internet. This includes how to take of myself from contracting HIV/AID. Those who have HIV/AIDs can get information on how to live positively with the disease."

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

The key outcomes from these interventions are improvement in behaviour change, reduction in cases of unplanned pregnancies and general improvement in health awareness. The FGD participants therefore view the information and services provided to be useful in that there has also been a reduction in disease incidences in the county.

"The incidence of early pregnancies is reduced by educating the young people on importance of contraceptives and the supply of these items. This also helps reduce the chances of HIV/AIDS transmission."

[FGD Mixed older people 35-60, Isiolo]

The interviewed groups indicated that they would prefer to continue using the current sources of information and services but also emphasized on the internet for information.

"Most young people do not like reading from books, because they are a digital generation thus they prefer internet."

2.3.2 SRH/FP Information and Services

The respondents were specifically asked on SRH/FP information and services and the findings are presented in Table 2.5

Table 2.5   Access and availability of SRH/FP information and services

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Condoms Injectables Contraceptive pills	Fear of embarrassment Cultural issues Lack of disability friendly services Time constraints	Creative conducive environment for youth Create public health awareness Provide medicines and equipment

The respondents from the FGDs highlighted condoms, contraceptive pills and injectables as the major SRH commodities provided in health facilities.

"Family planning information available is the use of contraceptives such as condom, family planning pills though they are not widely available and not all the youths can access them. There is need to increase the quantities of the condoms and family planning to reduce unplanned pregnancy, STI, HIV/AIDS."

[FGD. Female young people 15-19 Isiolo]

When asked about challenges they encounter in accessing RH/FP information and services, the main ones that were mentioned were fear of embarrassment, lack of disability and youth friendly services, cultural issues and high cost mainly due to poor/lack of services at the nearest facility. It was clear that some youth fear that if the health provider resides in the community they fear that he/she will not keep confidentiality and everyone in the community will be aware of their health status. On distance and cost they said that…

"Because our local dispensary is often closed, some people do opt to go to Maua for better services. This is costly."

[FGD. 1 Mixed young people 25-34, Isiolo]

To address these challenges, the respondents recommended that more awareness be created on health issues, provide adequate drugs and equipment and create conducive environment for youth.

> *"The information targeting the young people should be relayed through entertaining techniques e.g. drama, competitive games. The young people don't prefer boring places and giving these information and services plainly might not be appealing to them."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Isiolo]

The County Director of Health added that there is need for capacity enhancement within the health facilities especially in youth friendly centres and, promote school based health programmes.

2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

The respondents were asked the organisations addressing health issues in the county and mentioned that the key ones are NGOs, Government and religious organisations. Some of the Organisations mentioned include Red Cross, World Vision, Concern Worldwide, AMREF, Catholic Church and Merti Quran centre.

> *"Yes, World Vision few times provided sanitary towels to the teenage girls, this was of great help to our girls, by then, it reduced absenteeism in school, sanitary towels are expensive in shops, this was a great help then."*
>
> [FGD. Female young people 15-19, Isiolo]

Most of the groups interviewed agreed that the organisations have helped improve the health of the county. The key area where they have assisted is in creating of health awareness which has improved the health situation of the county. The efforts however need to be enhanced and engage youth more in their operations as one respondent said...

> *"These NGOs like ACF, APHIA plus should incorporate more youths in their projects. Otherwise, the way they operate is not making much impact among youths."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Isiolo]

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

The communities were asked about what they think as opportunities to improve health issues in the county. The main opportunities identified by the groups include awareness creation, improvement of youth friendly services and increase campaigns against FGM.

"There are no interventions on awareness on the dangers of FGM.. The young people need these interventions since most of these acts are committed out of ignorance and lack of bodies to advocate for the rights of these young girls."

[FGD. Male young people 15 - 19, Isiolo]

2.4 Education and Young People

Education of young people is important in developing their full potential. An educated youth therefore will be more productive in realisation of the demographic dividend.

2.4.1 Issues Affecting Education

To establish the status of the education sector in the county, respondents were asked questions on various issues of education and the findings are presented in Table 2.6

Table 2.6   The main education issues affecting the youth

Main Education Issues affecting Young People	Causes	Consequences	Ways of Addressing Education Issues
Drug and Substance Abuse Child Labour Absenteeism of teachers and students Lack of school fees Inadequate schools	Peer pressure Long distance to schools Poverty/lack of jobs Insecurity	School dropouts Poor academic results School absenteeism	Provision of bursaries Sensitization of importance of education Guidance and Counselling

The respondents pointed out the main issues affecting education in the county as DSA, child labour, absenteeism of teachers and students, lack of school fees and inadequate schools. The high usage of drugs has been as a result of peer pressure and 'stress' while lack of school fees has been caused by poverty.

"Drug and substance abuse is a major cause affecting education of secondary school aged children. More youths are engaged in drug and substance abuse such as alcohol, khats, bhangi. This in return results to high rate of school dropout due to addiction. The youth become slaves to these drugs and they have to quench their thirst through these drugs. Miraa chewers spend the whole night chewing miraa and sleep during the day."

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Isiolo]

One of the county education policy makers added that the county education institutions are seriously understaffed and there is need also for construction of more staff houses especially in the rural areas, insecurity is also a major issue in the county.

Most of the respondents interviewed said that these issues are very common especially due to persistent drought and insecurity. The outcome has been poor examination results since some students miss classes and the syllabus not being covered exhaustively when teachers are absent. The county has high level of poverty due to also lack of skilled youths for gainful employment. Education transition rates were reported to be good from pre-primary to primary but the situation worsens in the other stages due to the issues highlighted above.

"The teachers are not well dedicated to their work. Most of these teachers do not attend to school frequently and thus fail to finish their syllabus in time. The students will be affected since students from other places have finished their syllabuses and thus during the national examinations these students do not perform well. This will lead to them missing out on the chance to continue for further education and hence end up on the streets."

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

One of the education policy makers pointed out that some measures in place to address education issues include establishment of National Nomadic Education Council and holding of county education fora.

When asked about possible solutions to the problems, the respondents recommended the need to improve awareness on negative outcomes of having a poorly educated society and, the bursary funds be raised. One of the policy makers mentioned construction of boarding facilities in schools as a key action to reduce absenteeism.

"There is need to empower the community on the need for education, the importance apart from livestock."

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-19 Isiolo]

"In order to improve learning and keep students in school even in times of conflict and reduce absenteeism we were able to consult the County Education Board and requested them to build a boarding facility. Now we now have two dormitories one for boys and the other for girls. This has helped improve the situation of students missing classes and improved attendance."

[IDI. Policy maker, Isiolo]

2.4.2 Availability and Accessibility of Education Services

The survey sought to establish the adequacy and accessibility of learning institutions in the county. The respondents mentioned that the available schools and facilities are not enough with the situation being worse in secondary and tertiary level. The situation is the same in primary schools, secondary and tertiary. In one of the primary schools, parents are asked to contribute towards acquisition of furniture as one respondent mentioned…

"The desks are not enough therefore parents whose children enroll in class one are forced to pay 2,500 as amount for acquisition of desks."

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

The respondents mentioned that there are few primary schools offering services to PWDs but some group participant said that there are parents who are hiding their disabled children at home. Respondents further said they were not aware of any secondary schools for PWDs but were aware of one tertiary institution for PWDs.

"There is only one institution called Almasi centre where they provide courses for student who are physically challenged and also those who have hearing challenged."

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

The tertiary institutions were said to be ill equipped and the few facilities available are not applicable in the current market as one of the head of an institution said…

"Equipment are not up to date for example the engine we have are not up to date with what is in the market, what we practice in our workshops or classes is different from what is in the market."

[IDI. Director, TVET]

In regard to gender disparities in school, the respondents said that more boys than girls drop out of primary schools but the scenario is reversed in secondary and tertiary institutions. Primary school boys mainly drop out due to DSA and child labour. Secondary school and tertiary level dropout which are more common with girls than boys is mainly caused by early marriages and gender discrimination.

"In such cases, when there should be a choice to be made on whom to continue with education between two siblings, the parents/ community will support the male in continuing their education while the girl child stays at home and wait to get married."

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

Most of the groups mentioned that the long distance to schools at all levels is a major hindrance to full attainment of the desired education standards. The situation is worsened by the few number of learning facilities available which results in congestion and general lack of enough facilities.

"This is the only secondary school in our ward, the other schools can only be found at a distance of 100kms the school is not accessible to all the students because with pastoralism as the only source of livelihood some student have to trek up to 10-15km to school."

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Isiolo].

There respondents felt that the courses offered in tertiary institutions are not marketable and has rendered graduates to be jobless as one respondent said.

"In Isiolo County, college and universities only teach arts or business courses. The market requires science courses too."

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

2.4.3 Organisations and Individuals Addressing Education and Training Challenges

The respondents were asked to mention the organisations and individuals contributing to education efforts in the county. The major actors in this sector were identified as government, NGOs, business people and religious organizations. The organisations are mainly addressing issues of sponsorships, sanitation and construction of schools.

"Churches and mosques help in giving out bursaries that tackle the issue of school fees. They also provide school uniforms and food for these needy students. They include Catholic diocese of Isiolo, Al Falah foundation, Helping hand and Methodist churches of Kenya (MCK). MCK runs a project named compassion international Kenya."

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60 Isiolo]

Respondents indicated that the organisations are improving the education sectors and needy but poor students are able to access school through sponsorships. The government was lauded for availing CDF to the people but not many students benefit from it. They recommended the need to increase the kitty so that more students can benefit. One of the policy makers recommended for more stakeholder collaboration and establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems.

"This is done through the Education forum; we work and strengthen our efforts to improve education. We share the strategic plan and partners see what to support. We monitor progress through this forum. Fundraising to bridge funding gaps."

[IDI. Policy maker education, Isiolo]

2.4.4 Opportunities for Young People to Gain Skills

The interviewed groups agreed that there exist internship programmes in the county but however getting them is plagued by corruption issues. The internships have assisted the students to gain practical skills but one respondent blamed the students for only going to fulfil their academic requirement.

"Those who are willing gain skills from these institutions. For example, Isiolo general hospital trains this young people very well. However, most of these young people are there just to fulfil the academic requirements and thus leave the institution having gained very little experience and skills."

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

One of the policy makers in education recommended for full devolution of the education functions to the county government.

2.5 Economic and Young People

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The respondents were asked questions regarding the state of economy in the county, the opportunities, challenges and possible ways of overcoming the challenges. From the FGDs, the main employment and income opportunities in the county include agriculture and trade. Most of the farmers are livestock keepers while some are engaged in farming in the irrigation scheme. The traders are mainly dealing with livestock, charcoal burning and selling, selling miraa and other small businesses.

2.5.2 Challenges in Accessing Employment and Income Opportunities

The employment and income opportunities are affected by several challenges in the county. The major challenges pointed out by the respondents were lack of knowledge and skills, lack of capital among the youth, high taxation and insecurity. It was mentioned that some institutions only employ staff with experience, something that most youth lack.

"Community cohesion is also a challenge. It is not easy for the young people from a given community to work within a rival community because of the security tensions between these two communities. This has been evidenced by the killings and disappearances of boda boda and taxi operators in the county and the neighbouring counties."

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24 Isiolo]

2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People Are Engaged In

The respondents were asked the main economic activities that youths are engaged and the key activities are presented in Table 2.7

Table 2.7   Economic activities young people are engages in

Main economic activities	Challenges encountered	How to address the challenges encountered
Business	Lack of capital	Provision of loans
Boda Boda	Poor roads infrastructure	Provide irrigation water
Livestock buying and selling	Motor cycle accidents	Improve security
Casual labourers	Poor pay and exploitation	
	Insecurity	

Survey findings show that the main economic activities that youth engage in include businesses such as shops and barber shops, *boda boda* riders, trading in livestock and casual labour. The main reasons for youth engaging in economic activities were to sustain themselves economically; pressure from parents and care of siblings and some have just dropped out of school.

Conducting economic activities was said to be affected by lack of business capital, poor infrastructure, poor pay and exploitation, bad weather and insecurity. The poor state of roads in the county was identified as a major cause of the many *boda boda* accidents.

> *"High risk of accidents. The states of the roads and the young people who have not undergone the driving trainings increase the chances of accidents in the county. This has led to high cases of accidents observed in the county."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Isiolo]

The respondents proposed that to improve the situation, there is need to provide water for irrigation, improve security situation and provide soft loans to youths for business startups.

2.5.4 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Table 2.8   Interventions ad programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions	Challenges in accessing the interventions	Ways to address these challenges
Uwezo YEDF NYS WEF	Lack of awareness on programmes Programme requirements Loan repayment Corruption	Sensitization On The Interventions Ease Of Access To Funds

When asked about the programmes targeting youth empowerment in the country, the respondents said that Uwezo fund, YEDF, NYS recruitment and WEF are all available in the county. Accessing funds from these programmes is however not without challenges, the main ones being lack of awareness on existing programmes, strict programme requirements and corruption. The interest charged on loans has an impact on Muslims since the religion prohibits loans with interest.

> *"The young people in this county do not have easy access to UWEZO funds. The formalities involved are usually very complicated and the requirements are very many. For instance, they require that a person must be in a youth group to be qualified in applying for these funds."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed young people 20-24 Isiolo]

2.5.5   Access to ICT services

On ICT, the respondents mentioned that Televisions, radio, telephones and computers are available in the County but not accessible to all. Most of the groups reported that youths mainly use internet for social media, playing music and games while a few are using to search for information. The information that is mostly sought news, job advertisements and health issues. The information is mainly used for entertainment and academic research. The main challenges encountered while accessing ICT services include high cost, lack of adequate computer points, lack of electricity and poor connectivity/network.

To improve access to ICT, the respondents recommended establishment of more ICT centers including in schools, provision of electricity, increasing installed network boosters, provision of free WiFi.

The interviewed groups mentioned that there is need for more awareness on existing programmes to be available for all people. Also, the strict conditions to access funds from these initiatives should be reviewed to enable more youths take the loans.

> *"The young people are disadvantaged in accessing information on tenders available to them. The tender announcement should be made through means that are easily accessible by every young person and that is through the local radio stations, the local newspapers, notice boards of local churches and mosques, through administrative chiefs and sub areas."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Isiolo].

ICT in schools

In regard to ICT, the respondents mentioned that there are few secondary schools with computer labs and tertiary colleges offering computer classes in major town centres in the county. The groups were in agreement that students get a lot of information for their studies from the internet. This is because one can get various research and other publications from many authors unlike reading from books. The education policy makers also concurred that very few secondary schools are offering computer lessons and added that there are no computer classes for PWDs.

> *"Computers have been supplied to four secondary schools: These are Isiolo, Ngaremara, Merti and Garbatula secondary schools. The ICT services are still not adequate but phones and other gadgets are proffered by youth."*
>
> [IDI. Policy maker, Education, Isiolo]

2.5.6 Organisations and People addressing youth Economic Empowerment

When asked about the organisations that are addressing youth economic empowerment in the county, the respondents mentioned government, NGOs and business people as the major players. The main interventions by these organisations include provision of business capital, employment opportunities and talent nurturing. These organisations have helped the county residents to improve livelihoods.

> *"The governmental and nongovernmental offices in the area like Isiolo Hospital, Amref and USAID that provide apprenticeship, internship and attachment opportunities for the young people."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Isiolo].

Most of the organisations are concentrated in town centers and not accessible by the rural residents.

2.5.7 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

The respondents were asked to identify potential areas that would make maximum benefit to the county. The main areas mentioned included farming, trade and industry, business and livestock trading. For instance, one of the policy makers said that if agriculture and livestock sector is well funded can unlock the potential for youth employment through irrigation projects, green houses and promotion of livestock products processing.

2.6 Governance and Young People

The respondents were asked about governance issues in the county and gave responses to the principles of governance as presented in this section.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

Justice system

Table 2.9 presents the main cases in the county, challenges encountered in solving them and recommendations on how to improve them.

Table 2.9   Justice system

Main Cases Prevalent	Challenges encountered in solving cases	Ways of addressing the challenges
Land disputes Cattle rustling Crime	Corruption Lack of expertise in resolving cases	Council of elders Religious leaders Local administration

The respondents mentioned that the main cases in the county are land disputes, cattle rustling and general crime. Most of the land cases result from private developers who grab public land. Cattle rustling are perpetuated by criminals with guns and the security apparatus were said not to be doing enough to curb the menace.

"There are a lot of cattle rustling in the county. These cases tend to increase and reduce with seasons. The security apparatus are doing very little effort in dealing with cattle rustlers who have illegal firearms."

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

The cases are mainly solved through council of elders, religious leaders, justice systems, out of court settlement (negotiation) and administration.

"Barazas are used in solving problem. This is whereby the tribal and/ or village Elders come together and give a hearing to a dispute. All the parties are given time to state their case or submit their defence. The elders then through consultations and past experiences give their verdicts."

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

Some of the challenges in the systems of solving cases are corruption, lack of motivation for the elders and lack of skills to solve cases. The respondents said that the elders are not paid by government and are disrespected by youth ending in low morale. The elders were however blamed for lack of fairness when making judgements.

"The elders might rule unfairly. This is because their fairness depends solely on their integrity and the corrupt elders will tend to rule in favour of the party that has economic and social status."

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

To address the challenges, some groups recommended for decentralisation of courts of law to lower levels within the counties and train the elders on case resolution mechanisms.

"In addressing these challenges the village religious or tribal elders could be trained. This training to enable the elders is conversant with the constitution so that their rulings will be in line with the legal requirements."

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

Security

The respondents interviewed agreed that there is a lot of insecurity in the county mainly due to tribal conflicts and theft/breakages. However, some groups said that the situation has improved since the introduction of *nyumba kumi* initiative by the government. Other mechanisms that have helped to improve security include community policing, the Kenya Police Reservists and establishment of more police posts. It was reported that youths are involved in security in several aspects. The main areas they are engaged in include community policing, reporting suspicious people and preaching peace by advising youth against cattle rustling. One group said that most of the cattle are marked and it helps the youth to identify cattle that has been stolen.

The respondents were able to identify some challenges in ensuring security and the major ones were lack of enough security personnel, victimization of whistle blowers and delayed response by police. One of the groups linked the slow police response to the issue of the small number of police in relation to the population.

"The number of police officers is very small. This is a challenge since these officers are not enough to serve the whole population. This is why you will find instances where there is a crime going on but the police do not respond on time."

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24 Isiolo]

One of the county policy makers blamed the residents for not volunteering in community policing and information sharing.

"There is a general lack of interest in volunteer work like taking part in the Nyumba Kumi activities among the youth and the general public. The community does not easily volunteer information on security to the law enforcement or the administration."

[IDI. Policy maker, Isiolo]

The respondents gave several ways that they felt could help improve the security of the county. One suggested way was for government to recruit more police and establish more police posts. In this way, they felt the police would be able to make patrols and respond quickly when there is an emergency. The community should also be more responsible for their own security by reporting every insecurity incidence to the authorities. They also mentioned that strict action should be taken against the law enforcers who are corrupt/take bribes.

Cohesion

Respondents were asked about the state of cohesion in the county. They reported that there is disunity which has been mainly caused by tribal or clan based differences, political differences, land disputes and DSA. Politics in the county was reported to be clan and tribe based and therefore a major contributor to disunity. Also, due to high poverty levels, there is the rich and the poor view each other with suspicion with the rich thinking that the poor is just there to steal and the poor think the rich are exploiting them.

There are some programmes to improve cohesion in the county. The ones highlighted most included sporting activities such as football tournaments and peace meetings such as chiefs' *barazas*. However one of the groups (35-60) said that they were not aware of any initiative aimed at cohesion issues.

The respondents said that there is need to promote sporting activities, promote intercultural interactions, peace programmes and ensure equity in resource allocation. These programmes were identified to have positive impact in promoting cohesion through bringing youth from different backgrounds together.

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

The respondents were asked about transparency and accountability of the officers in the county and the following findings are presented.

Mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities

It was reported that there are various ways used to inform the community about planned and ongoing activities. The main mechanisms include newspapers, community meetings such as chiefs' barazas and public notice boards. Most groups interviewed were not well conversant with service delivery charters but some members said they exist in government offices.

"The county government mostly uses newspapers as means of informing the whole population (not specific to young people) on the planned activities. The information placed on these newspapers are usually not detailed and very shallow. It is normally very hard/tough for the young people who do not have political ties to obtain these information."

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

Mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency

It was reported that there are very few mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency in the county. Stepping aside for investigation was one of the mechanisms that one group mentioned to have occurred in the county. Court action is also another mechanism but as was reported, this is done by EACC from the national level and not a county initiative. Other groups interviewed said that they were not aware of any mechanism in the county.

How these mechanisms can be improved

The respondents suggested that to improve the available mechanisms, there is need to involve the community more in dealing with corruption cases. Anti-Corruption agency should ensure that all corruption cases are dealt with efficiently and corrupt officers should be sacked. One of the administration officers said that there is need to establish an information sharing mechanism to report cases of transparency and accountability.

"We need to develop as I said above; complaints management system, initiate a local newspaper, develop complaints messaging system and develop an information dissemination strategy for this County."

[IDI. Policy maker, Isiolo]

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

The respondents were asked about youth involvement in projects in the county and the responses are presented in this section.

Youth involvement in budget process, project identification, design and implementation

It was clear from the survey that youths are involved marginally in project processes in the county. The main aspect of project process that youth are involved is during implementation where they are employed in casual jobs. It was also mentioned that some youths are involved in CDF project

identification. Other groups interviewed said that youth are hardly involved in project process and cited lack of information and political interference as some of the reasons.

"The young people are not involved in budget process. This is strictly done by the county government officers. The few young people involved are those that are politically affiliated with the county government just to fulfil constitutional requirement."

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

Roles young people like to play in projects and programmes

Participants from FGDs that were done reported that youth mostly like employment in manual jobs during project implementation. This could probably due to the lack of awareness when other recruitments are done in the county since the youth are rarely involved in project planning.

"This is through jobs mostly and as we have said hard labour jobs. Jobs are involved in sand collection."

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

When asked the roles they would like to play in project process, the youth were clear that they would want more responsibilities including involvement in all stages of project process. One of the groups went further and said that youth should also be involved in policy making to ensure existence of projects targeting them.

How projects and programmes address the young people's needs

The respondents mentioned that projects help youth to get employment and are sources of livelihoods.

How existing opportunities ensure they serve those who deserve

The survey found out that there are more women being engaged in the opportunities than had been previously. Also, there is a project providing wheel chairs for the PWDs.

Challenges young people face during their involvement in project implementation

One of the major challenges in the existing opportunities is poor pay due to the nature of the available jobs. The jobs available have no insurance in case of injuries and there is exploitation by the employers in the number of hours worked.

How young people's involvement in project process can be improved

When asked about suggestions for improving the situation of youth participation in projects, the respondents mentioned creation of more jobs, involvement of PWDs and eliminating discrimination as the main ways.

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

How available resources are allocated to target the young people

The respondents mainly said that they are not aware of resource allocation procedures since they are not involved in the project planning.

> *"Since there is a very minimal community involvement in policy makings and implementation, we do not know how the available resources are allocated to target the young people in the community."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Isiolo].

However, they said that there are no mechanisms that are in place to ensure resources are used to achieve the expected outcomes.

What can be done to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources

To improve efficiency and effectiveness, respondents pointed out the need to eliminate corruption in the project implementation and establish M &E systems in projects.

2.6.5 Political Leadership

Role political leadership play in management of youth affairs

The respondents were asked about the role of local political leaders in management of youth affairs. It was found out that the leaders are involved in allocation of resources and employment. However, other participants felt the politicians are not involved in any way while the ones who participate just perpetuates nepotism and corruption.

> *"The political leadership gives the young people very few employment opportunities which are given out to the young people on the merit of tribalism, clanism, nepotism and political affiliation."*
>
> [FGD. Mixed young people 20-24 Isiolo]

2.7 Population Structure

Thoughts about growing population of young people in relation to health

The County Director of Health said that the population of youth in the County is increasing at a high rate and indicated that there is need for increasing access to SRH services including family planning, post abortion services and information education and communication.

Perspectives about growing population of young people in relation to education

The policy makers were asked about their opinions about the growing population of youth. One of the interviewed policy makers said that the current population is not much of a problem but he anticipates challenges in future. The challenges include strained resources like teachers and learning institution. The policy makers recommended for increase in awareness on FP/RH issues and expansion of education infrastructure.

"The growing population of young people is not worrying, this is a scarcely populated area and we can do with more. I think here population is not a problem and we need more people. Our problem is how to improve the quality of people through education and training. Pressure on health and education services is anticipated. There is only one hospital which is public like Isiolo Hospital. In fact this is a challenge in distributing teachers in remote areas like a lady teacher will not be comfortable in rural area schools because she will require to attend Antenatal services and the like which is not available in the rural areas."

[IDI. Policy maker, Isiolo].

Perspectives about growing population of young people in relation to economy

The population of young people in the County is growing very fast according to policy makers interviewed. In addition, the rate of population growth is not matching the rate of economic development. This is a trend that may lead to increased crime rates, drug abuse and other forms of negative social behaviour among youth owing to the ever growing number of unemployed youth. He recommended the expansion of financial products and capacity building to the youth.

Perspectives about growing population of young people in relation to governance

The policy makers interviewed indicated that the population of the County is growing at a high rate and said that there will be negative outcomes if unchecked.

"I think the growing population of young people is both a blessing and a challenge since the youth can be seen as an injection of young blood and energy into the system but if we look at the bigger picture we see that most of the youth are unemployed, if you look at this County you see the majority of the youth are unemployed and this is why the dependency ratio is high because the young are majorly dependent on the older people for a living and therefore even in terms of health and emerging diseases, most youth engage in unhealthy behaviour leading them to contract diseases such as HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. A part from that because of joblessness the youth engage in drugs abuse, like in this County most of the youth engage in chewing of miraa (Khat) and the drinking of what we call the second generation brews."

[IDI. Policy maker, Isiolo].

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

Health

The main health issues in the county include Drug and substance abuse, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Teenage Pregnancy and SGBV. For the health situation of the county to improve, there is need to:

- Strengthen guidance and counselling in schools to reduce DSA, diseases and teenage pregnancy.
- Create more awareness on life issues to the public.
- Construct more health facilities.

Education

The main issues affecting education in Isiolo County include Drug and Substance Abuse, Child Labour, Absenteeism of teachers and students, Lack of school fees and inadequate schools. The recommendations are to:

- Support availability of computers in schools, open computer colleges and provide community ICT centres.
- Set up talent academy to identify and nature talent.
- Improve teacher assessment to reduce absenteeism.
- Increase number of schools and equip them.

Economic

Young people in Isiolo County are mainly engaged in boda boda business, livestock trade and other businesses. These activities are experiencing challenges such as lack of capital, poor infrastructure and insecurity. To address the issues, there is need to:

- Open up more ICT centres to improve access.
- Encourage and support youth to venture into IGA.
- Create Islamic Banks with regulations on bank interests to encourage savings and loans.
- Encourage young people to enrol in vocational training centres.
- Improve security to promote businesses.

Governance

The main governance issues in Isiolo County include insecurity, lack of youth involvement in projects and cattle rustling. The key interventions required to address the situation are:

- Improve security by increasing number of police officers and police posts.
- Community to be more involved and responsible in security matters.
- Equitable distribution of resources to avoid conflicts.
- Strengthen community cohesion through increasing peace initiatives.

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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 below 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

Upper Eastern Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Upper Eastern Region

Counties	Technical Committee Member	County Coordinator/ Supervisor	Research Assistants	Data Clerks
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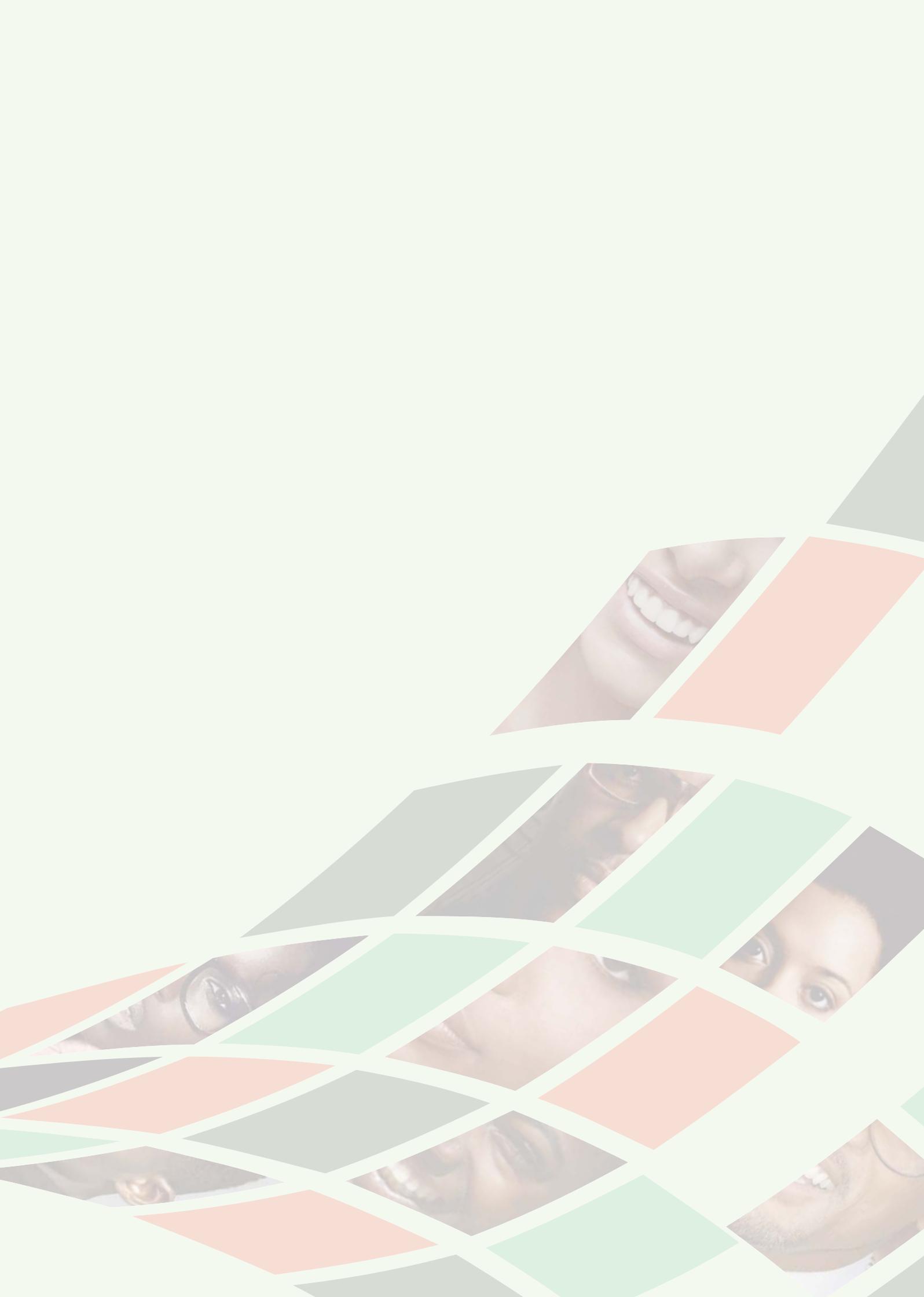cont.

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NCPD is a semi-autonomous government agency that formulates and promotes
population policy and coordinates related activities for sustainable development in Kenya.

ISIOLO COUNTY