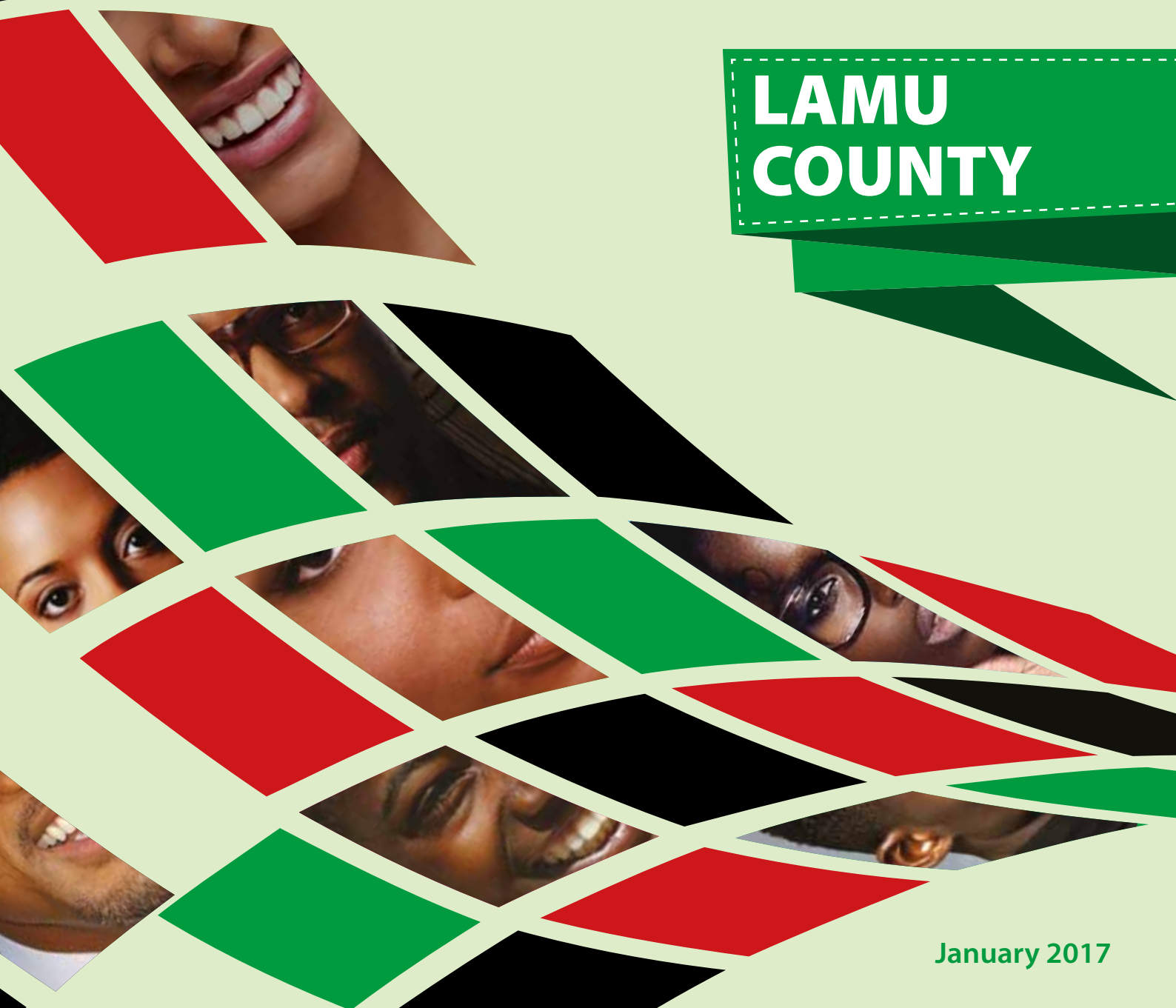




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

LAMU COUNTY



January 2017



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2015 KENYA NATIONAL
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY
(NAYS)

LAMU COUNTY

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|---|
| AFIDEP | African Institute for Development Policy | M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| AIDS | Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome | NASSEPV | National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme |
| AGPO | Access to Government Procurement Opportunities | NAYS | National Adolescents and Youth Survey |
| CBO | Community Based Organisation | NER | Net Enrolment Rate |
| CDF | Constituency Development Fund | NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| CPC | County Population Coordinators | NYS | National Youth Service |
| CPR | Contraceptive Prevalence Rate | PADIS | Population, Administration, and Decision Information System International |
| DemDiv | Demographic Dividend | PWDs | Persons With Disabilities |
| DSA | Drug and Substance Abuse | SGBV | Sexual and Gender Based Violence |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion | SRH | Sexual Reproductive Health |
| FGM | Female Genital Mutilation | STI | Sexually Transmitted Infections |
| FHOK | Family Health Option Kenya | TFR | Total Fertility Rates |
| FP | Family Planning | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| FPE | Free Primary Education | USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| GER | Gross Enrolment Rate | WEF | Women Enterprise Fund |
| HDI | Human Development Index | YEDF | Youth Enterprise Development Fund |
| HIV | Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus | YFS | Youth Friendly Services |
| 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 | | |

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. |

LAMU 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

This report presents the Lamu 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 what specific investment opportunities that could accelerate achievement of the demographic dividend and providing 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 an overview 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.

Lamu County demographic profile presents a youthful population with 41.7 percent of the overall population being under age 15 according to the 2009 Population and Housing Census. About 55 percent of the population is the working ages (15-64) and a small proportion (3.4 percent) is above age 64. The county has a very high dependency ratio (82.3). The demographic window of opportunity for Lamu County opens in the year 2028 which means a lot has to be done for the county to realize the demographic dividend. Investments in health, education, economy and governance will play an important role to this realization.

The fertility rate in Lamu County is at 4.3 children per woman and the contraceptive prevalence rate of 42.2 percent which is lower than the national average of 58 percent. Forty-seven percent of the births in the county are attended by a skilled health worker and 67.4 percent of the children 12-23 months in the county are fully vaccinated. HIV prevalence rate is fairly low in the county. It is 2.3 percent which is lower than that the national prevalence rate of 6.4 percent.

The main health challenges that face the young people in Lamu County are DSA, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and SGBV. These health challenges are caused by parental negligence, poverty, peer pressure and lack of reproductive health information and services. Therefore the county and other stakeholders should strengthen young people's access to reproductive health information and services, increase 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.

Enrolment in primary schools in the county is fairly high (at 86 percent) but the enrolment at the secondary school level is fairly low. It is 43 percent which means that 57 percent of the secondary school age youth are out of school. It is estimated that 2,733 primary school age children and 5,942 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. The pupil-teacher ratios for both primary and secondary schools are fairly satisfactory. They are 24.7 for primary schools and 18.3 for secondary schools. The main education challenges that young people face are poverty (lack of school fees), drugs and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, early marriage, absenteeism and parental negligence. These challenges should be addressed in order to improve education.

The Human Development Index for Lamu County is lower than the national average indicating that more effort has to be done to improve this situation. Young people in this county engage in small scale businesses in fishing, transport, mining and commercial sex work. However issues such as exploitation, health complications, lack of capital and skill and corruption are hinder the youth from achieving their full potential.

Corruption, theft and land disputes are the most prevalent cases amongst youth in the county. The youth are not involved in leadership positions in the county which creates a gap in addressing their needs. More effort needs to be put in place to bridge the gap on youth in leadership.



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 (that is, the 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 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 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

LAMU COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Lamu County is located in North-Eastern Coast of Kenya. It consists of a mainland and the Lamu Archipelago. Covering a total land surface area of 6273.1 sq. km, Lamu County borders Garissa to the North, the Indian Ocean to the South and South East, and Tana River to the South West and West. Lamu is generally hot throughout the year with average temperature of about 27°C. The county has two parliamentary constituencies and ten county wards. The constituencies are Lamu East and Lamu West while the county wards are Shellac, Mopani, Hindi, Mkunumbi, Hongwe, Bahari, Witu, Faza, Basuba and Kiunga.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

Table 2.1 presents the demographic profile of the county. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the population for Lamu County was 101,486 and it is projected to be 155,140 in 2030 and 199,555 in 2050. About 42 percent of the population was aged below 15 and is projected to decrease to 33 percent and 25 percent in the year 2050. In 2009, the proportion of the population aged above 64 was 3.4 percent and is projected to increase to 6.7 percent in 2050. The proportion of the population in the working ages was 55 percent and this population is projected to increase to 63 percent in 2030 and 68 percent in 2050.

The Year of Demographic Window of Opportunity opens in 2040 and is projected to close in 2080 (which is after 40 years). For the county to reap the benefits associated with demographic window, it must make substantial investments in education, health and governance and in creating business and employment opportunities for the young people.

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

| Demographic indicator | 2009 | 2030 | 2050 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Population Size | 101,486 | 155,140 | 199,555 |
| Proportion of Population Below Age 15 | 41.7% | 33.4% | 25.1% |
| Proportion of Population Above Age 64 | 3.4% | 3.7% | 6.7% |
| Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64) | 54.9% | 62.9% | 68.2% |
| Dependency Ratio | 82.3 | 59.1 | 46.7 |
| Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens | 2040 | | |

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

According to Table 2.2, the fertility rate in Lamu County is at 4.3 children per woman and 42.2 percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. This proportion of married women is lower than the national average of 58 percent. Forty-seven percent of the births in the county are attended by a skilled health worker and 67.4 percent of the children 12-23 months in the county are fully vaccinated. These modest health indicators could be attributed to challenges the county faces in terms of cultural practices some which forbid women from receiving reproductive health services from male service providers and poor transport network in the county.

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics of Lamu County

| Socio-economic characteristics | Indicators | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Health | Average Number of Children Per Woman | 4.3 |
| | Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception | 42.2% |
| | Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker | 47.3 |
| | HIV Prevalence | 2.3% |
| | Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated | 67.4% |
| Education | Primary School Net Enrolment Rate | 88.5% |
| | Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio | 24.7 |
| | Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School | 2,733 |
| | Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate | 42.7% |
| | Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio | 18.3 |
| | Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School | 5,942 |
| Human Development Indicator | Human Development Index | 0.4987809 |

Despite the above modest health indicators, HIV prevalence rate is fairly low in the county. It is 2.3 percent which is lower than the national prevalence rate of 6.4 percent. According to the respondents of this Survey, the main health issues facing young people in Lamu County include DSA, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and SGBV. Parental negligence, peer pressure and lack of health information are the main reasons that young people are faced with the health issues.

The county has impressive enrolment in primary schools but poor enrolment in secondary schools. Enrolment in primary schools in the county is fairly high (at 86 percent) but the enrolment in secondary schools is fairly low. It is 43 percent which means that 57 percent of the secondary school age youth are out of school. These figures indicate the majority of the young people in Lamu do not transit from primary school education to secondary school education despite the existence of the Free Day Education Program.

The pupil-teacher ratios for both primary and secondary schools are fairly satisfactory; they are 24.7 for primary schools and 18.3 for secondary schools. These ratios are far better than the recommended ratios.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a tool developed by the United Nations to measure and rank countries levels of social and economic development based on four criteria: Life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling and gross national income per Capita. The HDI makes it possible to track changes in development levels over time and to compare development levels in different countries. The county has a HDI of 0.499 which compares favourably with the national average of 0.520

2.3 Health and Young People

This chapter highlights the main health issues affecting young people, and ways to address the identified health issues as revealed by the survey. The chapter also outlines the main sources and types of health information and services, how this information and services are useful, main SRH/FP information and services, challenges in accessing these services, the ways of addressing these challenges and the opportunities for improvement in health.

2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People in Lamu County

There are a number of health issues that affect young people in the county. The survey found that the main health issues affecting the young people include; STIs and HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy. Sexual and Gender based Violence was also mentioned to be an issue affecting the young people especially in form of rape and domestic violence.

Table 2.3 summarizes some of the main health problems that young people in the county face, the major causes and consequences and lastly, mechanisms that can be used to address them.

Table 2.3 The main health issues affecting young people

| Main Health problems | Causes | Consequences | Ways of addressing these problems |
|---|---|--|---|
| Drug and Substance Abuse STI or HIV/AIDs Teenage Pregnancy Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) | Peer Pressure Parental Negligence Inadequate health information | School Drop Out Poor health condition Mental health Poor school performance | Guidance and counselling Public education Parental guidance Creation of Employment |

Young people are at the centre of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. They also are the world's greatest hope in the struggle against this fatal disease. STI/HIV and AIDS is reported to be one of the health issues affecting young people in Lamu County. This issue was reported in the survey mainly within mixed young people aged 25-34.

“That is there for example as we have mentioned earlier, you may find a needy family that can't even cater for their basic needs so the girls in that family go find men to have sex with for money and maybe the men maybe HIV positive hence transmitting to the girls and also the girls are afraid of going for HIV testing.”

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

Drug use among young people in Kenya is always a cause for concern. Stories of teenagers drinking alcohol, smoking cannabis, or using drugs are never far from the headlines. DSA is one of the emerging major health issues affecting young people in Lamu County as is reported by young people interviewed in the county.

“They are young people between ages 20 to 45 years, the husband will wake up early and not even take breakfast at home he just heads straight to the local brews dens to take alcohol and he will get back home in the evening without caring whether the children have had food to eat or not.”

[Mixed young people 25-34, Lamu]

Teen childbearing is associated with negative outcomes for teen parents, their children, and society. Adolescents who have a baby are less likely to finish high school, are more likely to be poor as adults, and are more likely to rely on public assistance, compared with adolescents who delay childbearing. Teenage pregnancies were reported to be another major issue in the county as is narrated below:

“In this county, there are so many cases of early pregnancies among girls aged 20 years and below.”

[FGD. Mixed Young People, 25-34 Lamu]

GBV is one of the most widespread but least recognized human rights abuses in the world, affecting individuals and communities everywhere. Within Lamu County domestic violence is the major form of gender based violence widely reported.

“The reason is because our parents sometimes they get home drunk to that extent they fight with mother.”

[FGD. Male Young People 10-14 Lamu]

Some of the major causes attributed to the problems affecting the young people in Lamu County are lack of parental guidance due to parental negligence, poverty and inadequate health information.

The groups observed that the consequences of these health problems included school dropout especially as a result of substance and drug abuse and teenage pregnancy; poor health condition including mental health and lastly, poor school performance.

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

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 facilities | STI or HIV/AIDs | Increased knowledge | Health Facilities |
| Schools | Treatment and medication | Disease Prevention | Media |
| Family members | Drug and substance abuse | | Schools |
| NGOs | Disease prevention and diagnosis | | |
| | Disease outbreak | | |

The various discussions groups identified a range of sources of information. These were; health facilities, schools, family members and NGOs. The main type of information received included information about STIs including HIV and AIDS, disease prevention, information about family planning and drug and substance abuse. This information was regarded as useful in terms of increasing knowledge and disease prevention.

Table 2.5 Access and availability of SRH/FP information services

| Main SRH/FP information & services available and accessible | Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information and services | Addressing Challenges |
|---|--|--|
| FP Services and Information | Fear/embarrassment Lack of youth friendly services Fear or embarrassment | Conducive youth friendly environment Employ more health providers Youthful health care providers |

Survey findings for Lamu County indicate that information on family planning services and information are actually available but the services were available mainly for the adults.

“It is only given for those who are 18 years and above; but they provide for abortion if a young person is pregnant that is a threat to her life.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19 Lamu]

Even then, they also mentioned challenges in accessing these services which were ascribed to fear or embarrassment, lack of youth friendly services and fear or embarrassment.

There were also discussions on the type of information & services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWDs) and orphans. The discussion revealed that the services available include donations, guidance and counselling, free treatment and medication.

Ways of addressing the general health challenges were suggested and these included having youth friendly services, recruiting more health care providers and lastly, having well equipped facilities with enough supplies and also reduce the cost of services.

“But we will suggest it to the county government to collaborate with the national government to construct such a facility for young people to access health services.”

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

2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

In Lamu County the main organisations identified as addressing health care needs for the young people are Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Government Agencies. Among the NGOs mentioned included: UNICEF, APHIA Plus and Red Cross. NACADA was widely mentioned to be the government agency involved in the county's activities. These organisations have literally improved the health awareness of young people, built their capacity around health issues and also provided HIV support especially for those infected.

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

The participants were asked to suggest the opportunities for improvement of health within the County. The main observation was the need create awareness, especially in schools as well as through public *barazas* and other fora. Similarly, the drugs should be available in the health facilities and their cost should be reduced.

“We would like young people to be educated on the effects of early pregnancies, diseases because parents nowadays don’t sit down and talk to their children on the effects of these things, so we have to find a way to educate our young people on the effects of these diseases like HIV/AIDS, alcoholism and drug abuse.”

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

2.4 Education and Young People

Based on the discussions with various groups of participants in Lamu, the main issues affecting the education of young people in the county are drug and substance abuse, absenteeism of teachers and students, inadequate learning materials and child labour.

2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young People in Lamu County

The survey identified major issues in the education sector that affect young people in Lamu County. The findings are illustrated in Table 2.6

Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting adolescents and youth in Lamu County

| Main Education issues | Causes | Consequences | Ways of addressing the problems |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Drug and Substance Abuse | Peer Pressure | Lack of concentration | Parental guidance |
| Absenteeism of Teachers and Students | Poor parental guidance | School drop out | Provision of bursaries |
| Child labour | Poverty | School absenteeism | Sensitization of the importance of education |

Discussions with young people revealed that drug and substance abuse is a major problem in the County.

“This has affected young people because from age 16 they smoke bhang, cigarettes and take alcohol they sneak from school to seek for jobs so that they get money to buy the drugs.”

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

“Those cases are because of financial problems so the young girls are married off early but poverty is the main cause of this.”

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

Child labour and absenteeism of teachers were also cited to be major problems that affect the education standards of the young people in the county.

2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services in Lamu County

The long distance to schools and the time taken to reach school featured across the primary and secondary institutions as a major problem that affects accessibility and availability of education services in Lamu County. In addition, the number of the tertiary institutions in the county was inadequate. Furthermore, the schools for students with special needs are also insufficient in the county.

“It is just the ordinary teachers but maybe in Kilifi they have a special school, they also have leagues of people with disability.”

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

With regard to adequacy of learning facilities in institutions, the survey findings indicate that they are actually not sufficient across the board for primary, secondary and tertiary level institutions as recounted by the poor student-book ratio of one to three below:

“Here in our school, textbooks are given 3 pupils per 1 textbook so I suggest they give 2 students per one book.”

[FGD. Male young people, 10-14 Lamu]

With regard to ICT services available for young people in the county, the survey findings reveal that smart phones, especially tablets were widely available followed by computers in the cyber cafés. However, it is important to note that schools in the county lack teachers to teach computer studies. This is one of the challenges facing education in the county.

2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education Services in Lamu County

Government agencies, politicians and banks were identified as the main organisations addressing education and training issues of young people within the county. Among the banks addressing the above, Equity and Kenya Commercial Bank were mentioned widely to support bright needy children in Lamu County. Faulu Micro Finance was equally mentioned to provide loans for education at a lower rate. Members of County Assemblies within the county were mentioned widely as key politicians with bursary funds for the needy children. Lastly, government agencies were identified in addressing education services in Lamu County.

2.4.4 Opportunities for Investment in Education

Proposals on the opportunities for investment in education were made by the various groups and these proposals included; employing more teachers, public awareness especially through girls forums to discuss issue of early marriage and pregnancy and the importance of their education.

Others that were widely mentioned included the need to provide more bursaries for the needy children, establish a school feeding programme and to improve on the security situation of the county.

“We need more books in the schools, more teachers and their salaries should be increased. Schools also need to provide lunch for the children since some of them leave their homes very early; not having eaten anything and remember they also leave school very late.”

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

“The government should plan for our future life. The government needs to create jobs for the youth; it is the government’s responsibility.”

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

2.5 Economic Status and Young People

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The survey findings for Lamu County indicate that small scale business is the most widely available employment and income generating activity in the county. Some of the young people interviewed mentioned that they are employed as casual labourers, while others work in quarries. It is important to note that *boda boda* riding was also mentioned to be the available employment and income opportunity in Lamu County.

“They fish in the sea, some are in the boda boda business, and women make mats, baskets and clothes.”

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

The survey also sought to establish some of the challenges that young people face in accessing some of the employment and income generating opportunities in the county and among the widely mentioned challenge is the poor pay and exploitation as is narrated in the following quote:

“It is hard work but very little pay as little as Ksh. 20 after carrying some heavy cargo. So the money you earn is not enough to buy anything to eat.”

[FGD. Mixed Young People, 15-19 Lamu]

Other than the challenges mentioned, are included: lack of available and ready market for some of the items they produce, health complications and lastly the high insecurity in the county.

Table 2.7 Economic activities young people engage in

| Main economic activities | Challenges encountered | How to address these challenges |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Boda | Poor pay and exploitation | Education |
| Business | Insecurity | Creation of employment opportunities |
| Fishing | Lack of market | Creation of specialized market |
| Mining | Health complications | |
| Commercial Sex Work | | |

The survey findings indicate that the main economic activities that young people engage in within Lamu County are *boda boda*, business, fishing and mining. Also mentioned, though on small scale is commercial sex work as recounted below:

“There is a lot of prostitution and most of the girls come from poor backgrounds.”

[FGD. Mixed group, 15-24 Lamu]

Some of the participants indicated that young people are also involved in small scale trading business but lack markets for their products. Creation of specialized market featured widely to be the main mechanism in addressing some of the challenges encountered by young people as is narrated below:

“The government needs to intervene and find market for our products. They can use the youth fund for such interventions. The problem is that they don’t involve us in anything. They only come to us during campaigns.”

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

The survey also sought to establish some of the major reasons why young people in school going age were engaging in economic activities, yet they are supposed to be in school, and some of the salient explanations include; the high levels of poverty, to get money to earn a living, provide for basic needs and lastly, to pay for their fees.

2.5.2 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

| Interventions and Programmes | Challenges in Accessing these Interventions | Ways of Addressing these Challenges |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Uwezo Fund | Limited opportunities | Ease of access to funds |
| Women Enterprise Fund | Corruption | Sensitization |
| National Youth Service | | Training and Education |

From the survey findings, the main interventions and programmes available in Lamu County are: Uwezo Fund, Women Enterprise Fund and the National Youth Service. Among the challenges cited to affect the young people within the county are: limited opportunities and corruption which was widely mentioned across all groups that were interviewed.

As a remedy to address some of the above mentioned challenges, making it easy to access some of the funds and programmes that the government has put in place was extensively mentioned and training and education. Also mentioned was sensitization about some of the available plans for young people as described below:

“Involve the youth and women in the processes and also educate them about business and loans and the importance of loans. They should not consider savings when you want to empower someone.”

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

2.5.3 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

Agriculture and transport sectors were mentioned widely to be the potential areas that would help increase employment and income opportunities in Lamu County. Other key areas that were mentioned widely include building and construction and coal mining in the county.

“The Government should dig boreholes for Agriculture because the rains are not reliable.”

[FGD. Mixed group, 15-24, Lamu]

2.5.4 Savings and Investment for Old Age

Programs catering to the financial well-being of the elderly are coming under strain across the world. The depletion of public coffers during the financial crisis has left governments struggling to cope with rising retirement costs triggered by aging populations, low birth rates, and weakened informal safety nets. The survey sought to establish the views of young people about savings and investment for old age.

From the discussions with young people, less income and need to meet basic needs were found to be the major reasons as to why saving and investing for old age was apparently difficult and key barriers. Other barriers identified in Lamu County were high rates of unemployment and poor health.

Among the key issues identified as effective ways to address the above mentioned barriers were the needs to create employment opportunities that can enable young people able to save and invest for old age as well as providing the necessary financial support.

Also mentioned was the need for the retirement benefits authority to transverse the country and inform the general public of its mandate, including providing information on the benefits of saving for old age.

2.6 Governance and Young People

2.6.1 Rule of Law

Justice System

The survey findings for this section were to establish the most prevalent cases in the communities and across the county; the most prevalent cases were land disputes, robbery and crime and lastly, corruption.

“The other one is land grabbing. People’s land is being grabbed and then it’s allocated unfairly. Those who deserve land do not get any while those with big posts get big chunks of land. In fact that’s what causes conflict between farmers and herders.”

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

The findings indicate that judicial system and administration were the most preferred ways of solving cases within the county. In addition, the council of elders were identified as traditional ways of solving cases within Lamu County.

Corruption was identified as the main challenge in solving cases within the county as reported by this young person:

“But there are is a lot of corruption in the court especially on cases that involve land. The rich men bribe the court and so at the end of the day you lose the case and asked to leave the land even when you are the true owner of that farm.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19 Lamu]

Addressing corruption and government intervention were identified as the main means and mechanisms of addressing the challenges mentioned.

“The village elders and Imams should desist from corruption and those involved in corruption should be dismissed.”

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

Security

This section highlights the general security situation, mechanisms in place to ensure security, roles played by young people in maintaining security, challenges that exist in ensuring security and the interventions to be put in place to address these challenges within Lamu County.

Discussions from the interviews indicate that the incidence, gravity and intensity of insecurity are a concern within the county as narrated below:

“There’s fear causing us sleepless nights. Gangs are attacking people, bullets all over at night, we live in fear. We request the government to prioritize security for all residents and should deploy many security men. The issue of Al Shabaab and terrorism has made people live in fear.”

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

Few security officers were also mentioned to be a concern within the county.

Reporting any incidences or cases to the available authorities was mentioned widely as the main mechanism to address security in the county. Others included the *nyumba kumi* initiative and ensuring that there are adequate security personnel in Lamu County.

Reporting suspicious situations was identified as the key role of young people in maintaining security in the county. Additionally, the need by government to take action against those on the wrong side of the law was widely mentioned by young people in Lamu County.

Some of the challenges identified as impediment of security within the county were victimization of the whistle blowers, poor police performance and lastly, corruption.

“It is okay if they develop hatred, the only problem is that the security people will be bribed and so compromise and also share the information on who reported. That is why the public is not coming out to share any information.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19]

Some of the widely mentioned ways to address the challenges identified were: public awareness, the need to employ more police officers, train more security officers and lastly, enhance cooperation between security personnel and the public.

“The government should deploy more security forces and they should be well trained. The youth should be sensitized not to join illegal gangs and instead preach peace. The government should also engage citizens through peace meetings. We should join the government so that we can overcome our enemies.”

[Mixed young people, 25-34 Lamu]

“There is nothing we can do not unless there is cooperation between the police officers and the public. There is also the Nyumba Kumi initiative that can help u identify any strangers in the community but it is not effective.”

[Male young people, 15-19 Lamu]

Cohesion

This section sought to identify the challenges that affect unity of the people, programmes in place to promote unity and recommendations on what can be done to promote unity among the people within Lamu County.

Results indicate that tribalism, land disputes and religious intolerance were among the key issues or challenges affecting unity of young people in the county. Policy makers did cite religious differences as the main challenges affecting unity of young people in the county.

“Like the Mpeketoni incident and it is still an issue, there are issues of suspicion. There is also the issue of marginalization. There are also issues of religious differences.”

[KII. Policy maker, Lamu County]

Religious activities and peace meetings were identified as some of programmes in place to promote unity in Lamu County. Other initiatives that were equally mentioned include the need to ensure that the *nyumba kumi* is effective within the county, and lastly, the need for people to live in harmony with friendlier relationships.

“Even the churches have been asking people to live in peace after the attacks.”

[FGD. Mixed group, 15-24 Lamu]

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

This section presents findings on mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities, measure in place to ensure accountability and transparency and lastly, suggest mechanisms that could be adopted to improve transparency and accountability.

Community meetings, media and local administration are some of the mechanisms suggested by young people in the county that inform them of planned and ongoing activities. It is important to note that much as the young people participate in these community meetings, their views are not taken cognizant of as is narrated by this young person:

“A meeting was held here for the community to identify projects in the community. But only the rich people had a voice in that meeting.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19 Lamu]

Results indicate that no mechanisms exist to ensure accountability and transparency within Lamu County. Nevertheless, disciplinary action was identified as the main mechanism to ensure accountability and transparency.

Some of the suggested mechanisms that could be improved upon within the county as part of enhancing transparency and accountability are: evaluation of project intervention, disciplinary action, creation of committees, and lastly, having responsible leaders in Lamu County.

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation

Survey findings for this particular section sought to establish youth involvement in budget, project identification, design and implementation. Results indicate that much as the young people are involved in budgeting and CDF project identification within the county, age discrimination was identified to be the major factor as to why they largely don't engage in the county activities as narrated below:

“They say young people should not say anything when the elders are present.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19, Lamu]

With regard to the roles young people would like to play in projects and programs, the findings for Lamu County indicate that manual or labour jobs were the preferred roles. It is important to note that they wanted to be actively engaged in gainful employment. Other roles that were mentioned by the young people in the county include; project identification and planning as well as budgeting. There was no mention of the roles young people in the county like to play in projects and programs.

“They should involve the youth from the initial stages of project planning; if it's budgeting they should do it with the youth. If it's construction let it be transparent from the onset to completion.”

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

It is important to note that there was no mention of how projects and programmes address the needs of young people as well as how existing opportunities ensure they serve those who deserve them within Lamu County.

Survey findings reveal that corruption was indeed a challenge young person's face during involvement in project implementation within the county.

“As young people from Witu, we should be involved in projects and also we need employment opportunities.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19 Lamu]

There were discussions on how young people's involvement in project process can be improved. From the various focus group discussions, findings reveal that there is need to create more job opportunities for the young people. The young people interviewed from the county also emphasized the need for them to be engaged in the projects undertaken by the county government, right from identification to implementation.

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This section presents findings on how the available resources are allocated to target the young people, the mechanisms in place to ensure resources are used to achieve the expected outcomes and the interventions to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources to meet the needs of young people within Lamu County.

Findings indicate that provision of educational funds was the major way available resources are allocated to target young people in the county. Enhancing youth based projects was found to be an effective way to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources within the county.

“We only recognize the national government and not the county government so people should be nominated especially the youth to do that work because they usually nominate people whom they can collaborate on misusing the funds so all projects for the youth should be directed to the youth directly and also have some people to do the monitoring on that job.”

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

Discussions about the role of political leadership in the management of youth affairs reveal they indeed assist in moving the development agenda of the county forward, especially in terms of allocation of education funds, providing donations and lastly, contribute to improvement of the county infrastructure particularly in health and education. However, it is important to note that corruption and nepotism is also a major problem within the county mainly when making employment appointments as recounted below:

“We went for the interviews and we were told to wait for results so we are still waiting not knowing that they have already taken.”

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

2.6.5 Population Structure

This section provides respondents views about the effect of population growth in relation to access to health services, access to education services, employment status, access to employment and participation in governance issues within the county.

With regard to perspectives on the growing population of young people in relation to health within the county, congestion in health facilities was commonly mentioned across the various groups. Increased disease transmissions as well as poor health services were also stated due to the growing population of the young people.

Among the key issues cited regarding education and the growing population of the young people were: low quality of education, congestion in schools and illiteracy were mentioned widely as the key drivers that would be compromised with the growing population of young people in relation to education.

“There will be many students in one class room. Currently some schools have up to 105 students in one class room.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19 Lamu]

“It will affect the quality of education of the young people. But the teachers in such schools take their children to other better schools like academies.”

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

High rates of unemployment and rising cost of living were mentioned widely across the focus group discussions as the sole reasons of a growing population of young people in relation to economic status. Also mentioned was food insecurity within the agricultural sector, given that agriculture has always been known to be the backbone the country’s economy.

“The Government should provide more job opportunities for the young people so that young people don’t get into bad things.”

[FGD. Mixed group, Lamu]

“The Government should have projects and Polytechnics so that school drop outs can get skills.”

[FGD. Mixed Group, 15-24]

Insecurity was mentioned widely, especially among older people in the county as a concern due to the growing population of the young people.

“There will be less security because of the bigger number of people.”

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

2.7 Conclusion and Recommendations

This section outlines the recommendations as revealed from the survey and conclusion from all the four (4) thematic areas; health, education, economic and governance.

Conclusion

The demographic dividend is indeed a human capital dividend. Demographic dividend is essentially tries to reinterpret the relationship between population and development highlighting the virtue of fertility decline and the consequent demographic transition. It emphasizes the importance of age structure compared to the size and growth of population in economic progress.

Investments in education, health, and job creation are vital, as are policies that favour the fertility decline to create and sustain the demographic window.

“A failure to act on these issues could have a damaging effect on future prospects, as unemployment rises, the social fabric crumbles, and rising numbers of old people begin to overwhelm available resources. ...Embracing and understanding demographic challenges must therefore be a priority for all governments...”

Health

Given that health status is an indicator of any country’s development, there is need to improve on poor indicators of Lamu County for fast economic growth and development.

Investing in programmes and policies to end child marriage, delay first pregnancy, space births, and avoid mistimed pregnancy among adolescents are critical within the county.

It is clear that drug and substance abuse within the county is still a major problem. Preventing drug and substance abuse will definitely improve on the quality of life of young people, boost their academic performance, reduce crime rates and lowers health care costs for acute and chronic conditions in Lamu County.

The health of young people including their sexual and reproductive health is very crucial for the Country’s development. Given that young people need privacy in accessing health services, there is need for the County government to improve on the youth friendly services where confidentiality, provider attitudes and well trained and equipped personnel ensured.

Education

In addressing the issues of education, the survey shows that the knowledge and skills of the young people are not relevant to the current market requirements. There is need therefore to reform education system, diversify education sector and improve on the education infrastructure by creating

more facilities and improve on public private partnerships in the education sector for improved quality of life. Improvements in educational opportunities within the county will definitely prepare young women and men with the skills they need to move into both formal and informal-sector jobs, earn higher wages, and contribute to a demographic dividend.

Economic

As was indicated in the survey, poverty or unemployment emerged as a major concern that triggers other issues that affect the education of young people in Lamu County. To address the issues facing the County, there is need to address high poverty levels through creating more and creating more employment opportunities. Policies to improve human resource capabilities and create jobs are essential, to absorb the large numbers of teenagers coming of age.

Given that the Demographic Dividend (DD) window of opportunity for Lamu County opens in 2028 means that the time for investing on the young people in order to harness the benefits of the young people is now and not later. The role of both the national and county government with other partners is crucial in investing in the young people with relevant skills and employment opportunities in order to realise the Kenyan Vision 2030 and the Demographic Dividend.

The County government needs to ease of access to funds, increase government aid, access to education and improve the infrastructure in order to achieve economic growth and both national and County development.

Governance

There is need for both national and county government to enhance the rule of law, in terms of security and cohesion for a just society. This will improve on the components of governance; transparency, efficiency and effectiveness whereby the available resources will be used for intended purposes and will facilitate fast economic growth and development as projected by vision 2030 and DD. Good governance is required throughout the process of reaping a dividend.

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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

Coast – 2 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Coast – 2 Region

| Counties | Technical Committee Member | County Coordinator/ Supervisor | Research Assistants |
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Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants

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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.

LAMU COUNTY