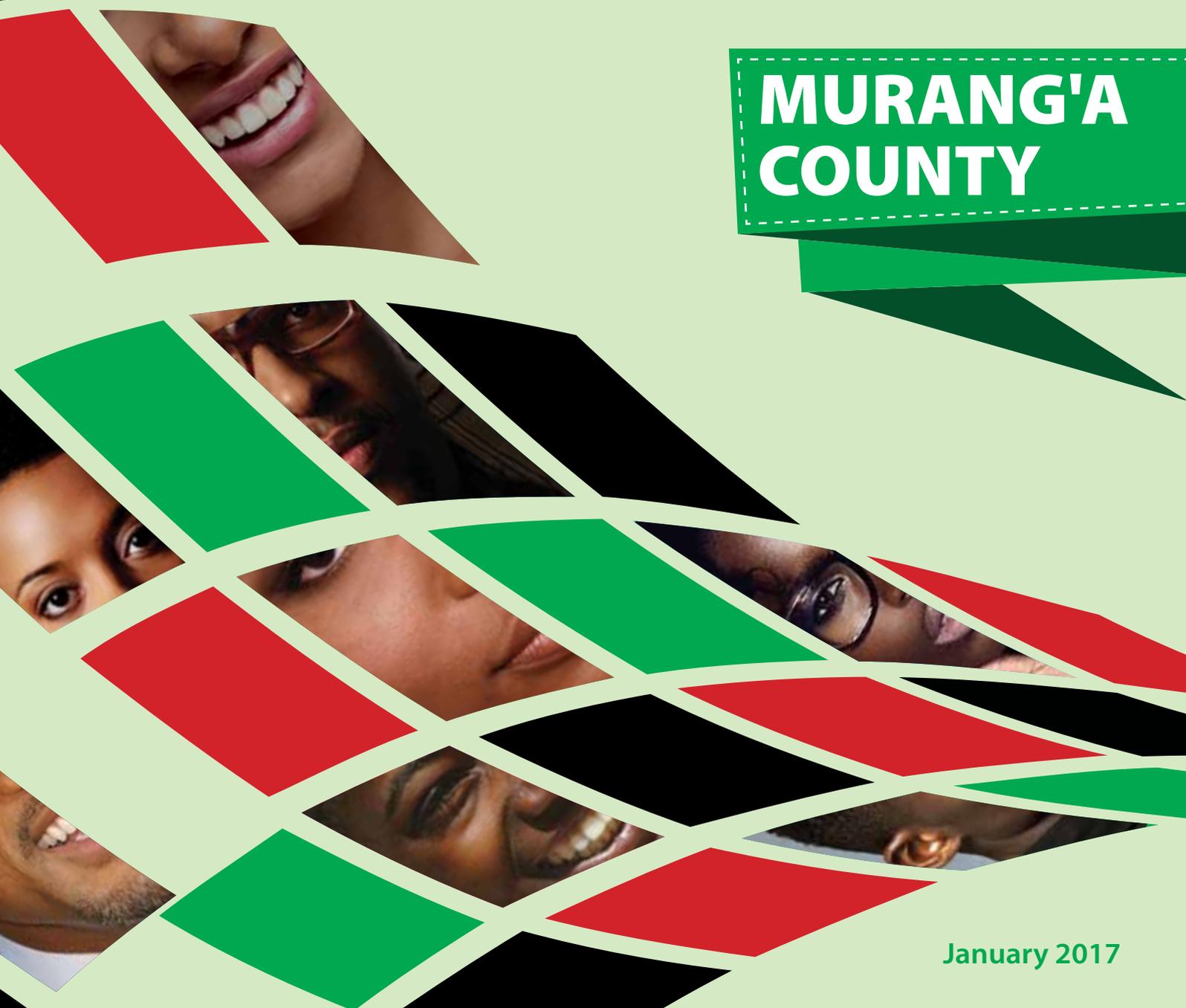




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

MURANG'A COUNTY



January 2017



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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	PWD	People with Disability
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.

MURANG'A 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 Murang'a county profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) conducted by the National Council for Population Development, (NCPD), in conjunction with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Youth Directorate, 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 a preview 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 Murang'a County in 2009 was 778,578 people and is projected to increase to 986,816 by year 2030 and to 1,150,487 million by year 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (37 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 28 percent and to 22 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 56 percent in 2009 to 69 percent in 2050 and the aging population from 7.1 in 2009 to 8.6 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio declining from 79 to 44 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2019 and close in 2059.

Murang'a County has a fertility rate of 3 children per woman. Sixty-nine percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Eighty-six percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 86 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. The prevalence rate of HIV is 5.2 percent compared to the national level of 6.4 percent.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 98 percent. This means that about 2 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate secondary level is slightly lower (87.2 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. This implies that the county has a high primary to secondary transition rate. It is estimated that only 3,776 primary school age and 9,525 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. If this situation will be maintained, the county will get the benefits of an educated population.

The Human Development Index (HDI) which is a composite index that measures the levels of literacy, health and economic well being stands at 0.562 which is close is better than the national average of 0.520

The county is rich in agriculture which is impeded by sub division of land in small pieces hence become unproductive. The county has areas that have poor infrastructure that needs to be developed and this will support the economic foundations in the county. The reliance of rain fed agriculture also hinder economic development for young people. This will support entrepreneurial initiatives by the young people. In addition implementation of programmes to sensitize and involve the youth in available opportunities in employment and business is critical.

The many young people in the county are poor and face challenges such as alcoholism which affects negatively the economic growth and restrict young people to access to opportunities. Investment in the health, education, and economic opportunities for the population coupled with reduction in the population growth rate will accelerate economic growth.

The results obtained show that young people face several health challenges such as use of drugs and alcohol, STIs, SGBV, teenage pregnancy; jigger infestation is some parts of the county, commercial sex work and low access to health services, especially to reproductive health care services. The report recommends establishment of rehabilitation centres for drug users and alcohol addicts, parental guidance, enhancing access of the youth to productive health services, improvement of health infrastructure and increase public awareness on the issues affecting young people.

In education front, the county has very good net enrolment rates in both primary and secondary schools. The county should strive to have universal access to education so that no children of school age are out of school. The government should therefore assist needy children with bursaries, expand school opportunities for more children to attend school and provide adequate teachers and learning materials. Access to technical tertiary education is still low and calls for more investment in tertiary institutions.

In the economic front, young people need to be capacity build on the interventions the government has put in place to empower them economically. These funds should be availed to young people without bottlenecks and on merit. The county government should device ways of economically empowering young people to reduce the high unemployment rate; for instance the unemployed young people could provide services like running market toilets, manning of bus park, garbage collection which should be run by young people so that they are empowered economically.

In governance young people are not involved at all levels of project design and implementation especially in projects that are for young people. Corruption and nepotism was cited as one of the major handles that deny young people chances in employment and their call was that corruption and nepotism should be eradicated fully.



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 people in 2009. 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 2009 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 people in 2030 and 75 million people 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 results obtained 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 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 (NASSEPV) 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 were trained on how to process the data using this software. To ensure consistency and quality, two supervisors reviewed and verified the coded data.

2

MURANG'A COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Murang'a County is one of the five counties in Central region of the Republic of Kenya. It is bordered to the North by Nyeri, to the South by Kiambu, to the West by Nyandarua and to the East by Kirinyaga, Embu and Machakos counties. The county occupies a total area of 2,558.8 Km².

The county lies between 914m above sea level in the East and 3,353m above sea level along the slopes of the Aberdare Mountains in the West. The highest areas in the west have deeply dissected topography and are drained by several rivers. All the rivers flow from the Aberdare ranges to the West, South Eastward to join Tana River.

The county is divided into six agro ecological zones. The first one consists of the highest potential zones where forestry, tea and tourism industry form the most important economic activities. The second and third are the lowlands east of Aberdares and are generally suitable for both coffee and dairy farming. The flatter area of Makuyu division of Maragwa constituency is characterized by arid and semi-arid conditions. This forms the agro ecological zones 4, 5, and 6. In these zones coffee and pineapple plantations thrive by irrigation.

The major cash crops in the County include tea, coffee, avocado, mangoes, macadamia and horticulture crops, among others. Horticultural crops include tomatoes, cabbages, kales, spinach and French beans while food crops include maize, beans, bananas, sweet potatoes and cassava.

Administratively, the county is divided into nine sub counties, 29 divisions, 85 locations and 35 wards. The county has seven constituencies, namely, Kiharu, Kangema, Mathioya, Gatanga, Kigumo, Kandara and Maragwa.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

The population size and structure of the county is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	778,578	986,816	1,150,487
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	37.1%	27.9%	22.1%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	7.1%	6.1%	8.6%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	55.8%	66.0%	69.3%
Dependency Ratio	79.2	51.5	44.2
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2019		

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Murang'a County had a population of 778,578 people. By 2030 the population is expected to be 986,816 and 1,150,487 by 2050. The proportion of the population below age 15 is expected to decline from 37 percent in 2009 to 22 percent in 2050. The elderly population is expected to increase from 7 percent in 2009 to about 9 percent in 2050. The working age population is expected to be on a steady increase from 56 percent in 2009 to about 69 percent in 2050. This would lead to a steady decline in the dependency ratio over the years to 44 in 2050.

The County's demographic window of opportunity will open in 2019 and close in 2059.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Murang'a county

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	68.9%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	85.5%
	HIV Prevalence	5.2%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	86.4%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	97.9%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	27.8
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	3,776
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	87.2%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	20.5
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	9,525
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.5621093

Family planning plays an important role in enhancing the health of mothers and children by enabling couples to space births and to achieve their desired family size. The use of family planning methods therefore helps to prevent unplanned pregnancies and manage the population growth. About 69 percent of the currently married women in the county are using contraceptives. This prevalence rate is higher than the national which is at 58 percent.

The county has a fertility rate of 3 children per woman. About 86 percent of births are attended by a skilled health worker and about 86 percent of children 12-23 months are fully immunised while national indicators are at 62 percent and 79 percent respectively. The HIV prevalence rate is 5.2% while the national is 6 percent.

On the education front, the primary and secondary net enrolment rates are 98 percent and 87 percent respectively. Though the primary NER is almost universal, some 3,776 children are out of school. The number of secondary school-age children who are out of school is 9,525.

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. According to the 2013 Kenya National Human Development Report, the HDI of the county is 0.5621 while the country records 0.520.

2.3 Health and Young People

A county's health status is an important indicator of the level of development. The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young people in Murang'a County. The questions were raised across board including young people, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in health.

This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main health problems affecting young people in the county, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to youth and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of SRH information and services. The third sub-theme focuses on organisations that provide health services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving health sector in the county. Quotations from the participants of the FGDs, KIs and IDIs are provided in each section as an illustration or to reinforce a particular point or issue.

2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Inadequate information on SRH	School drop out	Sensitisation
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Peer pressure	Death	Guidance and counselling
Sexual and Gender Based violence(SGBV)	Poverty	Mental health	Establish rehabilitation centres for DSA victims
Teenage Pregnancy	Unhygienic conditions		Parental guidance
Commercial Sex Work			
Infestation of jiggers			
Malnutrition			

From the focus group discussions across the various groups DSA and STIs including HIV and AIDS were identified as the main health problems affecting youth. Alcoholism is the main DSA issue. Information from key informant indicated that there were some measures in place to curb the alcoholism menace.

“We have Murang’a County Alcoholic control Act 2014 that is purely for control of how alcohol is supplied, how it’s manufactured, how it is sold and what licensing aspect of who is to sell it and that one we have been able to control.”

[Key Informant, Health, Murang’a]

Teenage pregnancy and STIs were discussed in all the discussion groups aged below 24 years. SGBV, mostly rape and prostitution were reported as other health problems.

“Teenage pregnancy can lead to abortion which can lead to barrenness and death. And if you get barren you will feel bad, because others are having children and you are not. So you start regretting”

[FGD. Female young people 10-14, Murang’a]

These health problems were attributed to inadequate information on SRH and peer pressure. Poverty was also reported as one of the reasons that young people might engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, DSA and prostitution, Jigger infestation was as reported as a serious health problem in some parts of the county and it was attributed to unhygienic conditions and poverty.

The groups observed that the consequences of these health problems included school dropout, especially as a result of use of drugs and alcoholism, and teenage pregnancy. It was also reported that in some instances the health problems resulted in premature death when young men die because of taking illicit brews and to poor mental health among young people. Sensitisation of SRH issues, establishment of rehabilitation centres, strengthening of parental guidance and guidance and counselling were suggested as some of the ways to address health problems among young people in the County.

“First let’s remove that mental disability because a child can be born with it. But when we consider drugs, parents can be the ones to prevent by following up how their children get to school and when they get back home, they should know even the time.”

[FGD. Male young people 10-14, Murang’a]

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

Table 2.4 tabulates the sources, type and usefulness of the information.

Table 2.4 Main sources of health information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities Schools Advertisements and announcement Theatre (cinemas) Guidance and counselling class in schools Religious Institutions Public barazas Television	Disease prevention and diagnosis SRH	Disease Prevention Behaviour change Increase knowledge on SRH issues	Magazines Seminars Peer counsellors or mentor educators Magazines/brochures

Several sources of information were identified by the respondents. The main sources of information are the health facilities and schools and announcements. Other sources included religious institutions, television and public *barazas*. The type of information obtained from these sources was on disease prevention and diagnosis, SRH information including information on HIV and AIDS and this led to increased knowledge on life skills among the young people. This information was regarded as useful in terms of disease prevention and behaviour change. The most preferred sources of information were magazines, seminars, peer counsellors or mentors. One of the young males reported that;

“From magazines so to read yourself as we fear talking to health officers.”

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Murang'a]

Table 2.5 Challenges in accessing the main SRH/FP Information

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Contraceptives mainly the pill and the condoms Life skills	Fear/embarrassment Cost of services Side effects	Capacity building Good parenting

The main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young people were contraceptives largely the oral pills, condoms and information on life skills. The young people mentioned some challenges they face when accessing these services. These challenges include fear or embarrassment, which was mentioned largely by all the age groups below 35 years, cost of services and fear of side effects of contraceptives.

“Due to high cost of living, many young married people are getting information on how to plan families as many people want to get one or two children so they get information on how to use condoms.”

[FGD. Male young people, 15-19, Murang'a]

Ways of addressing these health challenges as stated included strengthening parenting and equipping young people with life skills.

There was also some discussion on the type of information and services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWDs) and orphans. The services available included Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), donations of wheel chairs by well-wishers, children's home for the orphans and inclusion of the physically challenged in seminars – the organisations concerned mainly hire interpreters for the deaf and dumb.

Generally, the challenges in accessing health information and services for the marginalised were lack of friendly services and inadequate funds to run the children's homes.

2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

The main organisations identified as addressing health issues were mainly NGOs.

“We have centre co-help solutions which is an NGO funded by the U.S government and what they do is a lot of intervention as far as HIV and T.B are concerned. So they are able to educate people who are already living with HIV the youth that are living with HIV are also included there they get peer educators from the same youth who are suffering so that they can teach others, and then we also have partners called Aphia Plus Kamili who do the same, and we have another one called capacity bridge that actually gives training for majority of the time they look at the age bracket, even doctors and nurses and the public are being trained and you will realize that majority of them are the youth going by your age limit.”

[Key informant, Health, Murang'a]

These organisations improve the lives of young people through health talks and behaviour change.

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

The main suggestions were on improved infrastructure, sex education especially on abstinence and on the dangers of use of drugs and alcoholism, fight the cartels that manufacture and sell second hand liquor, establishment of more YFCs.

2.4 Education and Young People

Education contributes significantly to individual and county development. It is therefore important to ensure that citizens access and acquire quality education and skills that are needed in the labour market. The qualitative survey sought to establish the education issues affecting young people in Murang'a County.

The questions were raised across board including young people, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in education. This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main education issues affecting young people in the county, the causes for these problems, the consequences to young people and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of education services; the third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing education and training services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving education sector within the county.

2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young People

Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA) Poverty/lack of fees Teenage pregnancy Absenteeism of teachers and students Fatigue of the students Child labour High cost	Poverty Peer pressure Alcoholism Parental negligence Parental influence	School drop out Poor academic results and performance Alcoholism	Guidance and counselling Establishment of rehabilitation centres Provision of bursaries/ education funds Law enforcement on child labour Strict rules and measures Restrictions on relationships in schools Increase bursary allocations Provision of technical courses

The groups mentioned DSA, poverty, teenage pregnancy, absenteeism of teachers and students, child labour and high cost as issues affecting education in the county.

These education issues were attributed to poverty, peer pressure, parental influence (where the parents do not value education) and alcoholism. Alcoholism was highlighted as one major cause that was affecting both teachers and students as some would miss going to school. The groups suggested the establishment of rehabilitation centres for the addicted alcoholics. Fatigue of the students was reported as an issue affecting students where the students are given a lot of homework.

The groups observed that the consequences of these education issues included school dropout especially as a result of DSA and teenage pregnancy. The participants also noted that those who drop out of school and not necessarily due to alcoholism may end up abusing the alcohol due to hopelessness. It was also reported that students who were on DSA had poor academic results.

Guidance and counselling was largely suggested as one of the ways to address education issues affecting the young people, especially those that have been affected by DSA. Teenage pregnancy was noted to be fuelled by illicit relationships that occur especially in mixed schools. The participants suggested that the schools should put restrictions to such relationships.

The younger youth reported that some of them do not go to school due to poverty and some are forced to engage in illicit sex affairs by their parents hence drop out of school.

“Some of them are sexually abuse d by their parents they are told to get sexually abused by a rich person then she is paid and she takes the money to the mother and the mother pay the school fees so sometimes they don’t go to school.”

[FGD. Male young people, 10-14, Murang’a]

In order to fight poverty, priority in the provision of bursaries should be given to the needy and deserving children in the community. The government was also implored upon to make primary and secondary school education completely free, because despite the fact that it is free, parents still pay money. Child labour which is prevalent in the agricultural sector could be addressed by enforcing the law on child labour and implementing Children’s Act of 2001.

2.4.2 Availability and Access of Education Services

The general view of the county is that education institutions are available but there is general inadequacy of facilities like the libraries in some of the secondary and colleges. Mixed young people aged 20-24 felt that the county has inadequate tertiary institutions.

Information from key informant in the education sector noted that there are more girls than boys completing education thus there is an imbalance. The policy maker reiterated that naturally there is the emphasis of the girl child, where the girl child is said to participate more in less tasking jobs than the boy child and this has led to gender imbalance in learning institutions.

2.4.3 Relevance of Courses Taught to the Job Market

The courses that students take in school ought to be relevant to the prevailing job markets. The groups reported that the courses being taught in schools were not relevant to the prevailing job market and this had led to increasing unemployment in the county.

“The courses are not rhyming with the requirements in the labour market we need technical courses.”

[FGD. Mixed Older People, 35-60, Murang'a]

2.4.4 Organisations Addressing Education

In this county some of the organisations/individuals that address education were the area MPs, CDF, CCF and alumni students. These organisations especially the CDF offer bursaries to the needy students. CCF assists the vulnerable children by buying school uniform and sometimes provide food. The alumni students assist the needy students with tuition in their respective schools.

2.4.5 Opportunities for Improvement

The main recommendations were that education officers should visit schools and tackle education challenges, provide guidance and counselling, especially in areas where students think that some subjects are more difficult than others, increase the CDF kitty on bursaries and establish a resource centre where young people would learn how to use computers.

2.5 Economic and Young People

When young people are empowered economically, this improves their livelihoods and reduces unemployment. The qualitative study established the main issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities for young people above age 19 who are likely to have cleared their secondary school education. Discussions were held with groups of young people aged 20-24, 25-34 and older people aged 35-60. The survey highlighted the challenges young person's face in accessing employment and income opportunities and ways of addressing these challenges. In addition, the study established views from adolescents (young people below 18 years) who might have dropped out of school to seek employment opportunities.

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People and the Challenges

The main employment and income opportunities that were reported for young people in the county were farming, livestock keeping, *jua kali* sector, *boda boda* and casual labour. The groups mentioned that the challenges the young people encounter in accessing these employment opportunities were corruption, brokers especially in the agricultural sector and poor infrastructure.

2.5.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young People

Young people are involved in various economic activities. This section highlights the main economic activities young people engage in. The summary of the qualitative findings are tabulated in the table 2.7.

Table 2.7 Main economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities young people are involved in	Challenges encountered	How to address the challenges encountered
Business	Lack of capital	Capacity building
Boda boda	High taxation	Guidance and follow up
Casuals in companies and in farms	High interest on loans from banks	Government to reduce interest
	Discrimination	Avoid discrimination

The young people in the county indicated that the main economic activities were business (own shops), *boda boda* riding and they were employed in companies. The challenges they faced include lack of capital to start/expand the businesses, high cost of business licenses, high interest charged on loans and discrimination by the older people in terms of age. They noted that the older people see them as inexperienced. Some of the ways reported to address the mentioned challenges were; capacity building young people on entrepreneurship, guidance and follow up especially after they access the loans, government to reduce the high interest charged on bank loans and the older people should guide them instead of discriminating them.

In the younger age groups (10-14 years) that represented the youth in schools, views were sought concerning income generating activities that young people of their age engage in. Some of the highlighted activities included quarrying and farming, especially in the coffee and tea farms. The main reason behind their engagement in the economic activities was school dropout due to poverty. Other reasons reported were; single parents forcing their children to work and peer pressure.

“There some parents who tell their children that there is no money so the kids are forced to go and work. The girls maybe are forced into prostitution and the boys are forced to go to quarries coffee and tea picking.”

[FGD. Male young people 10-14, Murang'a]

2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Owing to the high levels of unemployment among the young people, the government, private sector as well as civil society organisations have drawn attention on job creation and empower the youth to earn decent livelihoods. The government has put interventions to ensure that the young people though unemployed access some funds through loan and invest in economic activities. The summary of findings is shown in Table 2.8

Table 2.8 The Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways of addressing these challenges
YEDF	Corruption	Sensitisation on the interventions
WEDF	Lack of information on the availability of interventions	Eradicate corruption
KKV	Nepotism	Capacity building
UWEZO fund	Lack of qualifications	
NYS	Lack of awareness on the availability of interventions	

Across all the groups especially the older group (above 25 years) various interventions were suggested which include Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV), UWEZO fund, WEDF and NYS. Corruption was suggested as a hindrance to accessing the availed funds by the government. Young people reported that sometimes they were not aware on the interventions in place hence the youth should be enlightened on the interventions and how to benefit from them. NYS was noted as one that needs high qualifications that some young people are unable to meet. The older people reported that corruption should to be eradicated for young people to benefit from the interventions the government put in place to promote young people's economic growth.

The benefits of these interventions to young people is that they provide young people with financial support hence they can access loans which they use to start businesses and this improves the economic status of young people.

2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

Views were sought on availability and access to ICT services to the young people in the county. The following table 2.9 shows the views of the respondents as far as ICT availability and accessibility is concerned.

Table 2.9 ICT services available and accessible to young people

ICT services available	Challenges in accessing ICT services	Ways of addressing these challenges
Computers Cyber cafes Decoders Telephone handsets	Cost Lack of power supply Lack of knowledge and skills on how to operate the gadgets Lack of such telephone handsets Discouragement by parents Ignorance	Affordable ICT services Install of electricity Provide computers classes in schools Capacity building

Computers, television and radio were suggested across all the age groups. Young people also accessed ICT services from cyber cafes, libraries and digital telephone handsets. The main challenge in accessing the ICT services was reported to be the cost (buying bundles of surfing and charges in the cyber cafés). Others reported installation of electricity, diversification of ICT services, provision of computers and lessons in schools and training on computers packages and use of the internet.

The in-school youth reported that the ICT services available are computers, telephone handsets and tablets which are mainly with the head teacher/principal who uses them in educational programmes. Cyber cafes were suggested across all the age groups. Largely, primary school going children reported that they do not have computer lessons and those in secondary had computers and no teachers.

Across board, the groups suggested that ICT services are important to the young people largely to access online services like job opportunities, promotion of computer literacy, information for entertainment, job search, social networking in the face book, watching news, education research and also to gain knowledge on diverse issues that are beneficial to them

2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economy

In this county the main organisations identified as addressing economic issues for young people were; government institutions like CDF, religious institutions, politicians – the Governor of the county had provided vehicles to transport milk, NGOs which train young people on entrepreneurship skills and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) which give young people loans thereby starting businesses. These businesses empower the young people economically thereby becoming self-reliant

2.5.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

The main areas suggested were in *jua kali* sector, financial institutions that lend loans to young people be interest free, institutions that offer training on mechanical skills, sports, talent nurturing centres. Others include educational institutions like NYS that offer free tertiary education on technical skills, construction sectors, irrigation projects where young people would engage in farming, *boda boda* riding schools, and manufacturing industries.

2.5.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age

Young people ought to be encouraged to save and invest for old age. However, the young people reported that they would like to save and invest for old age so that they would be able to buy land; have stable businesses and build homes for their families so that at old age they would be comfortable. Others indicated that they would not like to work in the future hence they would work hard and invest when they are young. The dissenting voices on saving and investing for the future indicated that they do not want to plan for the future because they were not futuristic and this could have been exacerbated by the DSA.

Though the majority wanted to save and invest, the following barriers hinder them; unemployment, poverty, less income-more needs, high expenditure, lack of parental guidance, lack of skills and information on saving and investment and expectation of inheritance from the parents.

When asked what the ways to address the barriers were, the young people reported they create awareness on the importance of saving and investing, encourage young people to form and join SACCOs, government to cut down the interest rates charged on bank loans, creation of employment opportunities and banking/SACCO services should be availed even in rural areas.

“Having branches for financial institutions in the rural areas so that when one wants to save they just go there and save.”

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19, Murang'a]

2.6 Governance and Young People

Governance is of critical importance especially with the current policy to move decision-making away from the central government and out to devolved entities. Governance is defined as the process through which systems are managed from within and without.

These sections sought the views in regard to the eight principles in governance.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

This section looks at the justice system, security and cohesion in the county

2.6.1.1 Justice system

The saying goes that justice delayed is justice denied. When a case arises the justice system should ensure that there is due diligence and objectivity when determining the case. This will ensure that the parties involved are satisfied by the outcome of the case.

Table 2.10 Prevalent cases

Main cases	Challenges	Ways to address these challenges
Theft/robbery	Corruption	Strengthening of police stations
SGBV – rape	DSA	Eradicate corruption
Insecurity	Poverty	Embrace nyumba kumi initiative
Land disputes	Enmity at community level	Increase police stations
Kidnappings	Action not taken	Increase security personnel
Corruption	Inadequate police	Counselling and rehabilitation
DSA		Improve on the timeliness of solving cases
Business licensing cases		
Bestiality		

The most prevalent cases are robbery/theft and SGBV which were reported by all the groups. Other cases include, insecurity, corruption, DSA, business licensing cases, kidnapping, land disputes and rape cases. A mixed youth group aged 15-24 reported that bestiality cases (where men have sex with goats and cows) though rare are sometimes heard in the county. The respondents reported that the challenges encountered were corruption where the people who have committed crime are released from police custody, DSA, poverty, enmity at community level especially when there is case in court. Others include inadequate police and in some instances police take no action even after a case has been reported. Some of the ways of addressing the challenges were reported as; strengthening of police stations such that there are enough officers to handle the reported cases, embrace *nyumba kumi* initiative, address corruption especially among the police force, counselling and rehabilitation of the DSA victims and timely solving of cases.

2.6.1.2 Security

Security is a crucial element in governance. The majority of the respondents across all the age groups noted that there was insecurity in the county that was being aggravated by lack of CCTVs cameras and security lights. These challenges were being fuelled by corruption, inadequate police posts, police taking long to respond to distress calls and lack of police patrols.

“Security is not perfect because some of these culprits of stealing they are used to being apprehended. They finish some months then they are released, commit another crime; after 6 months they are arrested again.”

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Murang'a]

“Chiefs and sub chiefs are very corrupt - someone who sells beer gives them bribe so not to stop his business. People steal to enable them buy that beer.”

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Murang'a]

On mechanisms to ensure that security was in place, the national government has village elders up to the village level who assist in restoring law and order. Installation of security lights and CCTVs and the sharing of contacts by the administration were some other mechanisms that were reported by the participants for maintaining security.

The role of young people in maintaining security was reported to be formation of vigilante groups who at night help in maintaining security, embracing nyumba kumi initiative, reporting suspicious situations and law breakers and helping to maintain security.

2.6.1.3 Cohesion

The unity of a county is important. It is a fibre that keeps the people united and hence works together for development. In the county the issues affecting the unity of young people are tribalism, social class disparities where the rich do not associate with the poor, religious differences, literacy gap, and lack of values where some people do not respect others, discrimination due to sickness, age or ethnicity, fighting among the youth, DSA and cultural practices.

The county has programmes in place that promote unity. Sports and games where young people from different communities play together were reported across board by all the groups. Capacity building of young people on cohesion was noted that it would go a long way in uniting the young people. Entertainment activities, fighting corruption and addressing poverty issues can strengthen unity among the young people in the county. Guidance and counselling on equality and oneness and establishment of talent promotion and nurturing centres were reported to be activities that can to promote unity.

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

This section mainly looks at the mechanisms that have been put in place to inform young people, and how these mechanisms can be improved.

As the saying goes, information is power. Young people get information on planned and ongoing activities largely from notices read in churches and/or hanged in the chief's board or town centres. Other mechanisms in place were suggestion boxes, print media and community meeting/public forums/barazas. Service delivery charters were reported to give people information and in details on the service provision.

“When you visit the hospitals or any government institution there is that information of how they provide the services, the time it takes and the cost.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Murang'a]

The groups reported that the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency were stepping aside and prosecution.

Some of the ways that were reported for improvement of mechanisms in place to ensure transparency and accountability were disciplinary action, creation of county specific by-laws to punish those in contravention and community policing where the CID officers interact with the community to get information.

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

This section looks at the involvement of young people in project budgeting, planning and implementation.

On youth involvement in budget process, project, identification, design and implementation, the young people reported that they were not involved in project design and implementation and the reasons reported were; tribalism, ignorance since the young people do not care about the prevailing projects and discrimination by the older people who indicate that the young people are still young and inexperienced. Some young people reported that they were involved in project design and implementation.

“Youths are involved because like sports the ministry of youth wanted to build a stadium for the youth so they involved the youth in designing the stadium.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-19, Murang'a]

The young people mentioned that the role they like to play was in doing casual work such as digging trenches in water projects, construction of roads and planting trees. The older young people reported

that they like to play the role of supervision, project implementation and decision making. However, the young people reported that they would like to be given supervisory roles which are a preserve for the older people.

The projects that young people get involved address their needs through financial support (give bursaries), employment creation and construction of motorbike shades for the riders hence the *boda boda* riders have a place to rest in away from the sun and rain. Some of the existing opportunities include setting money aside for various groups namely, young people, women and PWDs.

Across all the groups the following were mentioned as the challenges that young people face during their involvement in project implementation; lack of information on the available programmes, lack of experience, ignorance, corruption and discrimination of the young people due to their age. The young people reported that for their involvement to be improved; for capacity building on project design and implementation, young people should be paid better when they get project jobs which should also be announced openly and offered on merit without corruption and nepotism

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency Missing for Murang'a

This sections looks at the resource allocation to young people.

The key informants indicated that resources to young people have committees set up to ensure that the resources are allocated to the deserving youth. The young people reported that there should be mechanisms in place to create public awareness on the resources available for them so that they are aware and participate in development.

A key informant reported that to ensure that there is efficiency and effectiveness in utilisation of resources the government should put in mechanisms to;

“Empower the employees, let them be able to identify the specific needs of these youths and to enable them carry out the projects effectively in such that the youth can benefit.”

[Key Informant, Governance, Murang'a]

2.6.5 Political Leadership

This section looks at the political leadership and the role it plays in the management of youth affairs.

The political leadership I was noted to improve the infrastructure by building shades for the *boda boda* riders, road construction and renovate/build health facilities. Other roles were to seek for votes, financial support during burials, give bursaries to needy children, organise for life skills training where

young people were equipped with skills and knowledge, provide employment and organise for free medical camps.

“They are renovating old schools and also replacing facilities. They are also helping in putting up health centres and also road construction.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Murang'a]

2.7 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People

The participants across all the age groups reported that population increase would lead to congestion in the health facilities, inadequate health facilities to cater for the growing population and this would call for more health providers.

Those young people aged 10-14 years reported that population increase would lead congestion in classes. The teacher might not be able to have a personal contact with the pupils and this would lead to poor academic results. The older people reported that increase in population would lead to inadequate schools, imbalanced teacher-student ratio and in some instances high cost of education because the school board of management may employ more teachers due to the shortage of TSC teachers.

“Education will deteriorate because some pupils will come with drugs to class and because they are many the teacher won't notice others may even decide not to attend class because the teachers can't tell who is absent and who is present.”

[FGD. Male young people, 10-14, Murang'a]

In the economic sector, the younger youths reported that an increase in population would lead to more industries being established to absorb the unemployed young people. In addition, increased population would lead to high dependency of young people. The participants reported that population increases would lead to unemployment, poor economy and high poverty levels especially if the economy of the country was not growing.

“The way people are becoming many it is the same way they are enrolling in schools and others don't have money to go to school. People are becoming many but there are no jobs.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Murang'a]

In governance, views taken from the participants indicated that high population increase would lead to many unemployed youth who were idle and this would result to increase crimes.

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evident that the county is having a youth bulge that would decrease as years go by if the prevailing tempo of managing population is maintained. The county is on the right track to reap the benefits of demographic dividend (DD). The demographic window will open in 2019 and close after about 40 years. With these developments on DD, the HDI will also improve and the county will have young people who are educated, healthy, and economically active and who observe the rule of law. Until then, both the national, county government and all the other stakeholders have their roles to play in ensuring that young people's needs are well taken care of. DSA and specifically alcoholism is a major problem in the county and it has managed to enter the young people in all the sectors making them unhealthy, drop out of school, be economically inactive and engage in crime to get money for more illicit liquor.

The following recommendations were derived from the survey findings in Murang'a.

General

1. The county government and all the stakeholders should ensure that there are disability friendly services for PWD and be mainstreamed in all sectors – health, education, economy and governance.
2. Corruption and nepotism which was reported to have penetrated all sectors should also be fought and eradicated so that young people can have a level playing field where they are not meeting bottlenecks.
3. The county government should adhere to AGPO – an intervention that caters for 30% of procurement that should go to young people, women and PWDs.
4. Parents should take up their roles in upbringing of children. A lot of young people lack parental guidance hence get into vices that are detrimental to their lives.

Health

1. The county government should channel more funds in the health sector to staff and equip health facilities and establish YFCs across the county so that young people access SRH information and services.
2. The illicit brew is still rife in the county. Rehabilitation centres should be established to accommodate and provide guidance and counselling to addicted youth.
3. The health providers should be trained on provision of youth friendly services so that the young people can be attracted to the health facilities for information and services.

4. There should be coordination among various stakeholders in the health sector to avoid duplication and ensure leverage of resources.

Education

1. The transition from primary to secondary school has a challenge and there is high school dropout. The county government should come up with mechanisms for retaining young people in secondary schools or tertiary institutions and control the school drop out.
2. The free primary and secondary school education seem to be a mirage that is yet to be achieved for the parents are still complaining of high cost of education. Both the national and county government should arrest the increment of tuition fees by the managers of schools.
3. Some learning institutions have inadequate facilities like laboratories, chairs, desks, dormitories, libraries, toilets etc hence they should provide funds to equip the learning institutions to provide a conducive learning environment.
4. Not all learning institutions have embraced training students on computer lessons especially in the primary and secondary school and it is paramount to be introduced in all schools.
5. They should promote guiding and counselling through counselling clubs in learning institutions and to discuss issues affecting them.
6. The TSC should employ more teachers in order to improve the quality of education.

Economy

1. Some roads were reported to be impassable making farmers not to take their produce to the markets especially during the rainy season. The county government ought to improve the infrastructure.
2. The young people should be sensitized on the interventions the government has put in place to empower them economically. These funds should be availed to young people without bottlenecks and on merit.
3. The county government should device ways of economically empowering young people to reduce the high unemployment rate; for instance the unemployed young people could provide services like running market toilets, manning of bus parks which should be run by young people so that they are empowered economically.
4. The county government should get markets (internal and/or abroad) for the young people who are engaged in various activities so that they are able to sell and get good proceeds for their labour.

Governance

1. The provincial administration together with the county government should work together and fight the cartels that manufacture and sell second hand liquor in the county. Until this is done, this alcoholism menace threatens to wipe a whole generation of young people.
2. Young people ought to be enlightened on civic education so that issues to do with the rule of law are understood and inculcated in young people.
3. They should involve young people at all levels of project design and implementation especially in projects that are for young people.
4. The national government should beef up security by employing more security officers, increasing patrols and establishing more police stations in the county.
5. The government should strengthen mechanisms that encourage cohesion in the community.
6. There should be a law prohibiting the politicians from taking advantage of the unemployed young people and use them to bring havoc during the campaigning period.

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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

Central – 1 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Central – 1 Region

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MURANG'A COUNTY