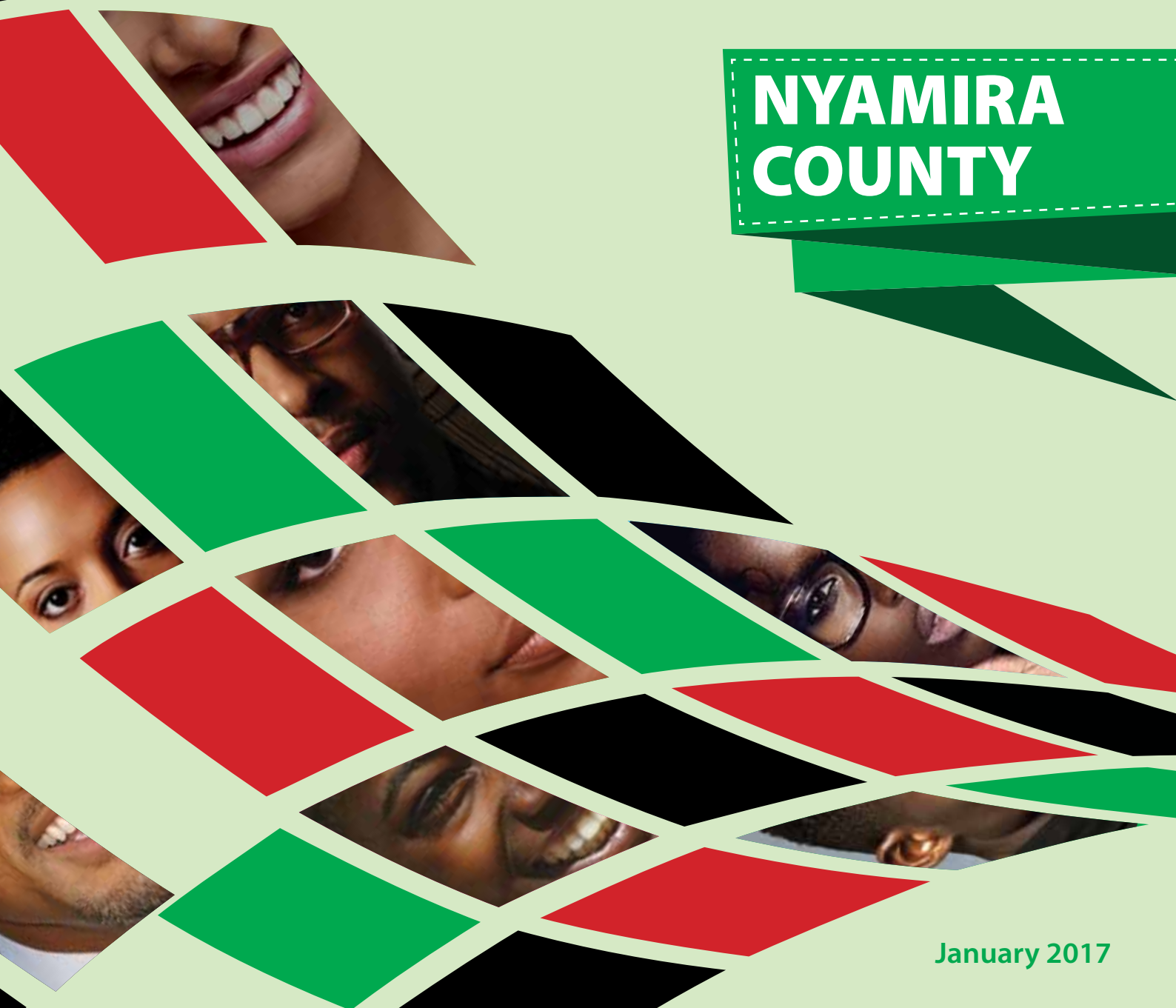




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

**NYAMIRA
COUNTY**



January 2017



Citation:

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

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

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

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ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY
(NAYS)

NYAMIRA 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 Organization	NER	Net Enrolment Rate
CDF	Constituency Development Fund	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
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.

NYAMIRA 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 Nyamira County profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey conducted by the National Council for Population Development (NCPD) in conjunction with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Youth Department, KNBS and various development partners. The survey covered all the 47 counties, with the multiple objectives of examining what potential exists for a demographic dividend in each of the 47 counties, identify health, education, economic and governance issues that affect young people in each county, identifying specific investment opportunities that could accelerate achievement of the demographic dividend and 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. Further, it identifies the challenges and opportunities that exist for harnessing the benefits of a growing youth population. The report therefore presents a preview of the demographic, health, education, economic and governance indicators which are the main sectors whose performance impact on building a county that would be responsive to the young people.

The total population of Nyamira County in 2009 was 486,829 people and is projected to increase to 721,894 by year 2030 and to 909,944 people by year 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (44 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 32 percent and to 24 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 60 percent in 2009 to 81 percent in 2050 and the aging population from 2.5 percent in 2009 to 3.6 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 90 to 44 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2037 and close in 2077.

Nyamira County has a fertility rate of 3.5 children per woman. Sixty-eight percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Seventy-four percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 92 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. However, the County has a HIV prevalence rate of 6.4 percent.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 95 percent. This means that about 5 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 (71 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. It is estimated that 7,103 primary school age and 17,206 secondary school age children are out of school in the county.

The Human Development Index (HDI) which is a composite index that measures the levels of literacy, health and economic well being is 0.543 which is slightly higher than the national average of 0.520

The county's health indicators show high performance compared to the national particularly average number of children per woman and the proportion of births attended by a skilled health worker. However, the high prevalence of HIV /AIDS, STI, SGBV and DSA are major challenges to the health sector in the county. The report recommends continued support to HIV and AIDS prevention programmes , enhancing access of the youth to productive health services, improvement of health infrastructure and increase public awareness.

In educational front, the county has high enrolment in primary schools. This could be attributed to the Free Primary Education (FPE) program. However, there are still over 7,000 children of primary schools age (6- 13 years) out of school. On the same note, 17,206 secondary school age teenagers are out of school. The government should therefore expand opportunities for more children to attend school and provide adequate teachers and learning materials. Access to tertiary education is still low and calls for more investment in tertiary institutions.

Nyamira County is a predominantly agriculture based economy. This reliance on subsistence farming has propagated youth unemployment, low incomes and child labour. The county however has a lot of unutilised potential in revamping of modern value chain agriculture. This report also recommends the implementation of capacity building for the youth on employment and investment opportunities and provision of affordable and accessible loans for business financing.

Lastly, for effective implementation of these recommendations, there is need to ensure a solid governance structure by ensuring adequate security, accountability and transparency and effective participation in political and governance matters in the county.



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 per woman 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 (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 thirteen (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

NYAMIRA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Nyamira County borders Homa Bay County to the North, Kisii County to the West, Bomet County to the South East and Kericho County to the East. The County covers an area of 899.4 km². The County is divided into five sub-counties with four constituencies and a total of twenty county assembly wards. The settlement pattern in the County is greatly influenced by the rainfall patterns, topography, infrastructural development, proximity to urban centers, the availability of natural resources and security. However, majority of the County populace is in the rural areas.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

This section highlights the demographic features of the county. The information includes the age distribution, population size, dependency ratio and projections for 2030 and 2050. It also highlights socio-economic characteristics of the county.

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

Nyamira County had a population of 486,829 people according to the 2009 Housing and Population Census Report. This figure is projected to grow to 721,894 people in the year 2030 and further increase to 909,944 people in 2050 as presented in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Demographic characteristics

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	486,829	721,894	909,944
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	43.9%	32.0%	23.8%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	3.4%	3.8%	6.6%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	59.5%	71.8%	82.8%
Dependency Ratio	89.9	55.7	43.6
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2037		

The Demographic Window of Opportunity for the county opens in 2037. The population of those below age 15 is projected to be 32 percent of the total population by the year 2030 and expected to decline to 23.8 percent in the year 2050. The proportion of those in the working ages (15-64) was 59.5 percent and is projected to rise to 71.8 percent in 2030 and later to 82.8 percent in 2050.

Markedly, from Table 2.1 the dependency ratio for the county in 2009 was very high at 89.9 signifying that the working population in the county is greatly burdened. However, this is projected to decline to 43.6 by 2050 implying that there is need to provide employment opportunities and generate wealth and ensure a larger proportion of the currently depended population is gainfully employed. Additionally, investment in reproductive health and family planning programmes to manage population growth is crucial. If these investments are fast-tracked, they will hasten the demographic window of opportunity which is estimated to open in the year 2037 and closes in 2077. The demographic window of opportunity can be explained as the 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.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

This section looks at the socio-economic profile of Nyamira County in relation to health, education and the human development index as presented in Table 2.2

Table 2.2 Socio-economic profile

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3.5
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	67.9%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	74.1%
	HIV Prevalence	6.4%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	92.1%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	95.1%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	26.2
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	7,103
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	71.4%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	19.4
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	17,206
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.542806

The average number of children per woman in this county is 3.5 per woman which compares well with the national level which is 3.9 per woman. This can be attributed to the high percentage of married women who are using contraceptive in the county. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 67.9 percent which is above the national average of 58 percent. The county recorded averagely well on other key indicators of improved health outcomes and behaviors mostly on maternal health care services like utilization of a skilled health workers and uptake of post-natal child care services including immunizations. The proportion of births attended by a skilled health worker stands at 74.1 percent which is higher than the national average of 62 percent and over 90 percent of children aged between one to two years are vaccinated. This could be partly explained by improved coverage and access to basic health facilities and services, especially in the rural areas. HIV prevalence for Nyamira County is 6.4 percent against the national average of 6.04 percent. This suggests that efforts of campaigns on awareness on prevention of HIV/AIDS infections should be enhanced.

On the educational front, the county has recorded remarkable achievement in access to primary education with net enrolment of 95.1 percent signifying good school attendance in primary schools. This could be attributed to the Free Primary Education (FPE) program. However, there are still over 7,000 children of primary schools age (6- 13 years) out of school. On the same note, a significant 17,206 secondary school age teenagers who are out of school. Therefore, programmes to ensure every child gets basic education as embedded in the constitution of Kenya is critical. The pupil teacher ratio in both primary (26.2) and secondary schools (19.4) is favourable and compares well with the national norm 44. However, this ratio can be linked to those students who are out of school.

The county's Human Development Index (HDI) which is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and income per capita indicators, stands at 0.543 which is slightly higher than the national HDI of 0.520. This mirrors the country's achievements in health, literacy and GDP. Achievement in each arena will greatly impact the county's HDI. This is a composite of education, income and health dimensions. However, the County needs to prioritize investments in secondary education as most students are out of school and also expand post-secondary training opportunities, youth programmes and provision of life skills training.

2.3 Health and Young People

A healthy population is essential for socio-economic development since it implies a productive workforce. This equally translates to less drain on the resources which can be harnessed for economic growth. This section presents survey findings on health for young people in Nyamira County.

2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Youth

Table 2.3 highlights the main health issues affecting young people in Nyamira County.

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance abuse Sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDs Teenage pregnancy Sexual and gender based violence	Peer pressure Addiction to DSA Poverty Negative cultural beliefs or practices	School drop out High STIs HIV and AIDs Death Mental health	Behaviour change Capacity building Strict laws/legislations to curb DSA Public health education Counselling and guidance

The findings show that the main health issues affecting young people were identified as Drug and substance abuse (DSA), Sexually transmitted infections (STIs,) teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). These health issues were corroborated by policy makers during key informant interviews particularly teenage pregnancies, STIs, HIV and AIDs as main health issues affecting young people.

“Diseases like HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea. One gets infected and the starts to infect others and at the end you find that the disease spreading in the community.”

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

“...the biggest problem in that age group is HIV and also issues to do with teen pregnancy for girls; we are seeing a lot of young people coming to deliver in our health facilities. So that basically means they are out of school but HIV is the biggest problem.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

Respondents attributed these problems to negative cultural practices, peer pressure, addiction to DSA and high levels of poverty. These issues have a host of consequences on the quality of life. School dropout is evident, high HIV prevalence; death and abortion were reported to affect the wellbeing of young people.

This notwithstanding, the young people recommended that they should be sensitized on HIV/AIDS and prevention, provided with guidance and counseling services. There county should ensure laws to curb DSA and conduct public health education as means to counter the health issues in the county. In addition, the policy makers and service providers recommended establishing and implementing

behaviour change programmes , strengthening parental guidance and improving provision of services for the vulnerable young people, particularly PWD.

“I think the government should take strict measures against those selling the drugs to the youth.”

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

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

This section looks at the perceptions of the young people on access to services and availability of information. Table 2.4 lays out the sources, type and usefulness and preferred sources of the information.

Table 2.4 Access and availability of health information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health facilities	Disease prevention and diagnosis	Increased knowledge	Schools
Public health talks	Sex education	Disease prevention	Health Facilities
public forums	Treatment and medication	Health education	Media
Schools	Counseling	Behavior change	Church
Religious institutions			
Media			

Several sources of information were identified; particularly the health facility, public health talks media specifically radio, television and print media and religious institutions. The most preferred sources by young people are health facilities, Media, schools and church. Other sources that were mentioned include: information educational materials and community health workers and community health extension workers.

“Of course where they get information..... They will tell you they get it from radio we get it from wherever because we disseminate information on various platforms. We have. ...the community health workers, the media who disseminate information on our behalf. Information is also available through our facilities on posters and other I see materials that are available in those facilities.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

From these avenues young people access information mainly on: Disease prevention and diagnosis, sex education, counselling treatment and medication. The young people reported that from these sources, they have increased knowledge on health education, disease prevention and behaviour change.

2.3.3 Access and Availability of SRH/FP Information and Services

The main sexual reproductive health and family planning services available for young people in this county include awareness on family planning and contraceptives services such as condoms, contraceptive pills, injections and implants.

“In family planning we get education on, for example, for me I am married, I get advised on how long to take before getting another child.”

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

The main challenges experienced by young people in accessing these services include fear of side effects, time constraints, ignorance and high cost of services. . Other challenges mentioned included; poverty, lack of disability friendly services and lack of drugs. They recommended that infrastructure should be improved and creation of public awareness to address the challenges. From the key informant interview with a policy maker reported that the main challenge they face in the implementation of policies and strategies is the lack of well-equipped facilities.

Another discussion was information & services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWD) and orphans. Respondents reported donations and guidance & counselling as services available for this category. However, some felt that there were no services for marginalized youth.

2.3.4 Organisations Addressing Health

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government agencies were identified as the main organisations addressing health issues for young people. These organisations according to the respondents have improved health awareness, provided capacity building activities and they have also improved the health status of young people in the county.

*“...in terms of HIV information provision, screening and care
....people are able to access the information sometimes they are able to
access certain interventions.”*

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

2.3.5 Opportunities for Improvement

According to the young people, health can be improved if capacity building is enhanced to increase awareness through public forums on how to deal with health issues. Also expanding the number of health facilities to increase access to health services and expand infrastructure of existing health facilities. Similarly, they recommended guidance and counseling services for young people are considered.

2.4 Education and Young People

Education is an avenue for national development and provision of skills that are necessary for provision of human capital. Therefore, provision of free and quality basic education will not only give young people opportunity to access education but also ensures all young people develop their skills for national development. This is embedded in the constitution of Kenya 2010 and also the sustainable development goal number 4 aims at governments giving free and quality basic education to its young ones. Therefore, this survey sought to examine issues hindering young people from accessing and participating in education in the county.

2.4.1 Education Issues

As observed from the socio-economic indicators, Nyamira County has comparatively good performance in education. Net enrolment in primary school is 95.1 percent while the secondary school net enrolment rate is 71.4 percent, which compare well with the national averages.

The County has a number of public middle level colleges with 3 technical training colleges and 15 youth polytechnics. In addition, there are two satellite campuses of public universities. However, the education sector is still faced with issues that are might retard to the realization of the full benefits of education.

Table 2.5 Main education issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance abuse	Peer pressure	School drop out	Law enforcement
Child labor	Poverty	Lack of concentration	Provision of bursaries
Lack of school fees	Poor parental guidance	Poor performance	Offer employment opportunities
Absenteeism of teachers and students		High indiscipline	Provision of bursaries

Some of the main issues identified are absenteeism of teachers and students, drug and substance abuse, child labour and lack of fees. Interestingly, the prevalence of drug abuse in education institutions in addition to peer pressure and ease of access to illicit drugs is fanned by myths that some of them could help improve performance in school.

“Some do cheat one another that if you take bhang you will be good in mathematics that you are able to get the answers quickly.”

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Nyamira]

However, the County Director of Education has a more promising view of the drug menace:

“.....drug abuse in our primary schools is very isolated. Extremely isolated. In fact drug abuse is not a factor for indiscipline in our schools. That tells you that it is not even an issue. ...But availability of chang’aa (illicit liquor) is quite high. And that has been a bit of a problem particularly when it comes to secondary school students, and more so those ones who are day scholars. The use of drugs is isolated, but is available.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

The issues aforementioned had the highest mode suggesting that they have the most effect on the education sector in the county. These issues were attributed to poor parental guidance which also may be a cursor to low participation of parents and community in school management issues. In addition, poverty was identified as one of the main causes of absenteeism, lack of school fees and prevalence of child labour especially in tea farms.

“.....90 percent of them end up going to the local day schools which are within their area and still are not good in the payment of fee. That tells you that one, poverty is a factor. The other thing in the process of by going round. Like I can tell you last week I traversed literally almost the whole county. And surprisingly, I was getting to some places and stopping and asking children what are you doing here? Because the number of school age children not going to school is substantial. That tells you that the other factor is child labor. Because these children were literary carrying the tea baskets for use for in tea picking. That tells you either they were helping their parents or they were doing it for commercial purposes.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

This is a clear pointer that investment in poverty alleviation programmes would have positive bearing on school attendance. In addition, enforcement of laws that prohibit child labour in is critical in eliminating this vice that will have children retained in school.

Other critical issues that are affecting participation in education, especially for girls are female genital mutilation and early marriage. Though efforts are in place towards elimination of these problems, respondents felt that they are still having negative effects on education.

“...Not forgetting that FGM is very closely related to early marriages. You see. Definitely FGM or girl circumcision is taken as a rite of passage from one level to the next level. It is therefore a way of preparing a girl to adulthood and of course to motherhood, to marriage hood. So, that has been definitely affecting the caliber of education.”

[KII. Policy Maker, Nyamira]

One of the direct consequences of the listed issues were identified as high school dropouts levels which may partly explain the 17,206 out of school children in secondary schools and 7,103 children who are not attending primary schools. Respondents also mentioned indiscipline, lack of concentration and poor performance in examination as other undesired outcomes that prevail in the education sector. As a remedy to these problems, provision of bursaries, implementation of poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes and enforcement of laws against drug abuse and child labour were given as some of the intervention measures that need to be implemented.

2.4.2 Availability and Access of Education Services

Higher access to education services is a mirror of the effectiveness of a county's education system. The adequacy, affordability and accessibility of learning institutions from primary to tertiary level are therefore desired. During the survey, the main issues on access included; adequacy of learning facilities in the Institutions, access by students with special needs and gender perspectives in access to education.

At primary school level, respondents observed that the county has adequate schools that are easily accessible within walking distances. The respondents reported that schools are close to one another about 10 minutes walk. . Many pupils walk to school. However, few reported use of motor bikes and few pay transport money. This, responses corroborate the CIDP report primary schools have been well established due to concerted efforts by community and CDF projects.

The views were similar for secondary schools. However, respondents noted that secondary schools had poor infrastructure and recorded disparities in development status of schools, with some having very good facilities while others missing good infrastructure. This suggests prevailing inequalities because students from less privileged household are likely to attend the under equipped schools. In addition, the CIDP report notes that the current secondary school capacity does not match the demand occasioned by the introduction Free Day Secondary Programme thus calling for provision of adequate facilities and expanded capacity of secondary schools to help push the net enrolment form 71 percent to the desired 100 percent.

It was observed that institutions for special needs students were very few at all the three levels of education. Similarly, respondents also were noted that access to tertiary colleges was still a problem as

the colleges are far away in other counties. However, the county development profile show increased expansion of tertiary institutions in the county. The county will therefore need to create awareness of these new opportunities in the tertiary institutions in addition to providing student support programmes enhance participation in skills training by the youth.

2.4.3 Relevance of Course and the Labour Market Requirement

Alignment of skills training to the demands of labour market is necessary to ensure that the youth acquire relevant skills that will allow them to access employment opportunities. The increased establishment of tertiary institutions in the county is remarkable. However, the respondents were of the view that the courses currently offered were not 'marketable' which is inferred to mean that college graduates could not find employment or acquire skills to engage in other gainful economic activities.

“You take a certain course which you may be outside for almost five years being jobless. You see... Course like now Social Networking, I don't know Arts and what.”

[FGD. Mixed Young People ages 20-24, Nyamira]

This situation, respondents say has despaired guardians and parents who spent a lot of money on of training expenses but end up with jobless graduates.

The county therefore will have to, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, support the development and review of training programmes to ensure relevance with market demands. This calls for adopting courses that are competence based and are responsive to local needs.

2.4.4 Organizations Addressing Education issues

The main organisations that were identified in addressing education issues were Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government agencies by providing school fees and through awarding of bursaries and creating awareness on the benefits of an educated populace.

2.5 Economic Status and Young People

Nyamira County is predominantly agricultural. The main major cash crops in the county are tea, coffee, pyrethrum and bananas. The main food crops are maize, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetables, millet and sorghum. The acreage under food crops and cash crops in Nyamira County is 58,394 hectares and 48,543 hectares respectively. Other main economic activities in the county include fishing, manufacturing and mining. There is some small scale gold mining carried out in the country. This reliance on subsistence agriculture partly explains the high incidence of poverty level of 46.6 percent in the county.

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The main employment and income opportunities for young people in the county include; farming, *boda boda*, business, and domestic workers. They however face some challenges in accessing these opportunities. They include corruption, lack of knowledge and skills, lack of capital and high taxation. This indicates that cost of licenses and other charges for starting a business are still thought of a major constrain for the young people in the county.

“Actually agriculture being our main sector people rely on agriculture...90 percent of the population. So indirectly or directly the young people are involved. ...agriculture employs the young along the chain and all of it, even in marketing they assist also in production.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

A policy maker on the other hand stated that attitude; access to land and capital were barriers for young people from accessing economic and employment opportunities. These challenges could result in slow economic growth for the county. However, some of these constraints can be dealt with through economic and social policy. During in-depth interviews, it was noted that addressing corruption and provision of access to capital will also go a long way to equitable access to job opportunities.

2.5.2 Economic Activities that Young People are Engaged In

The respondents identified main economic activities young people are engaged in as; *boda boda*, business, farming and domestic work. Other menial jobs reported were; casual laborers and herding. The reason why they engage in these economic activities is because of high poverty levels to earn income and also they want to improve their living standards. The main challenges they encounter while exploiting these economic activities is poor pay and exploitation, accidents particularly those riding *boda boda*, lack of skills and exhaustion.

To address these challenges, respondents suggested enforcing laws especially for employers who exploit young people, provision of government aid through grants, loans, opening up access economic opportunities, creation of public awareness and improvement of infrastructure.

Table 2.6 Main economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities	Challenges encountered	Ways to address these challenges
Boda Boda	Poor pay and exploitation	Government aid
Business	Lack of skills	Law enforcement
Farming	Accidents	Create public awareness
Domestic work	Exhaustion	Improvement of infrastructure

2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Table 2.7 presents interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment in Nyamira County.

Table 2.7 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways of addressing these challenges
UWEZO fund	Corruption	Curb corruption
National Youth Service (NYS)	Lack of intervention awareness	Government tenders
Women Enterprise Fund (WEF)	Lack of information	Training and education
	Political interference	Equal access to employment opportunities

From the discussions, the main interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment issues are UWEZO Fund, NYS and WEF. The young people have benefitted from these organisations since they have provided employment which has improved their living and economic status. In addition, it is easy for them to access loans. However, respondents reported that these interventions are encumbered by corruption. Those who qualify for the funds do not get because those in charge demand bribes, lack of full information on how to access them and some youths were not aware on the interventions in place. Therefore, they recommend that there is need to eradicate corruption, create public awareness regarding the interventions, train and educate young people and lastly provide equal access to employment opportunities.

The county potential lies in its people, their creativity, work ethic, education and their entrepreneurial and other skills. To ensure significant and consistent results, the human resources will have be managed, rewarded and steered to develop global competitiveness.

2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

ICT development is key to the country’s advancement towards technological potential to spur economic growth. Table 2.8 gives ICT services available in Nyamira County.

Table 2.9 ICT Services Available and Accessible to Young People

ICT services available	Challenges in accessing ICT services	Ways of addressing these challenges
Radio	Cost	Provide electricity
Television	Power supply	Reduce the cost
Telephone	inadequate ICT services	Training
Computers	Network problems	

The main ICT services available for young people in the county are radio, television, computers and telephone. The key services sought by young people from the ICT services include social networking

such as Facebook and WhatsApp, entertainment, news and job adverts. Challenges they face include; cost of services, network problems, power supply and inadequate ICT services. To counter these challenges, the respondents recommended the need to be provided with electricity, trained so as to gain operational skills and provide affordable ICT services.

“Putting electricity in place. I hear there is this rural electrification, how does it help? Why can’t it electrify every house?”

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

2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economy

The main organisations addressing economic issues were the government agencies and microfinance institutions. They were reported for offering financial support and creating awareness on savings and investment.

“APDK has helped in giving loans.”

[FGD. Mixed marginalized 15-24, Nyamira]

2.5.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

The young people reported that the potential areas to increase employment and income opportunities are agriculture, education sector and business.

2.5.7 Savings and Investment for Old Age

The findings also showed that young people think about the old age with regard to savings and investment in preparation for a better future. Some of the barriers experienced by young people in savings and investments for old age include less income and more needs and high expenditure on investment and luxury. These barriers can be addressed through employment of young people and enabling young people acquire education.

“..luxurious things can be a barrier because as youths we may want to have things that are of luxury-we desire to have things of high quality meaning if I am getting something that is too little I am going to spend a lot to buy luxurious things so that when I go to others they will know that I am working.”

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

2.6 Governance and Young People

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) recognizes that the realization of Principles of Governance articulated in its Article 10, is essential for national development. Once grounded in all facets of our society, the principles should transform Kenya’s socio-economic and political landscape towards the attainment of both the Kenya Vision 2030 and the global Sustainable Development Goals. It is important for young people to participate in decision making, planning and monitoring of programmes and projects to ensure efficiency and effectiveness during implementation. This section presents findings on: rule of law, government effectiveness, accountability, control of corruption and political leadership in Nyamira County.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

The rule of law basically refers to the influence and authority of law within society within society, particularly as a constraint upon behaviour, including behaviour of government officials. The respondent’s discussions focused on justice system, security and cohesion issues in the county.

Justice system

Table 2.9 displays the main key issues affecting service delivery, challenges and ways of addressing those challenges.

Table 2.9 Justice system

Main cases	Challenges	Ways to address these challenges
Land disputes	Corruption and bribery	Promote justice
Robbery and theft	Long time taken to solve cases	Address corruption
Corruption	Negative attitude	Provision of title deeds
Social dispute		

Land disputes, robbery, theft, social dispute and drug abuse were reported to be the most common issues that touched on the justice system in the county. These crimes were attributed to drugs, errant police officers in some cases and tribalism. Cases were reported to be resolved mainly through the traditional system, that is, through the council of elders, administration and also through the judicial system.

“...land disputes a number of conflicts we are getting in the families are attributed most of it to the young male and this is because of lack of... the disputes on land and the parents do not give them out at a particular age, most of them do not go out to look for jobs and they feel they have a right to the property the family that is there and in most cases you find that is only land. Some of them force...try to forcefully tell the parents to share with them that piece of land and others you find they get involved in ...illegal land disputes actually many of them are involved in the illegal land disputes.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

In seeking justice, respondent cited a number of challenges that keep them out of the courts. This includes corruption, bribery, slow justice system and negative attitude. Bribery to get favourable judgement was mentioned as a hindrance to justice. This was cited among village elders and local administration.

“On top of what my brother has said.....if the case has been taken to the chief and you give him something then he is not going to solve the case according to the law- he will solve the case because I have offered in something now he solve the case to favor me.”

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

The respondents suggested that justice should be promoted, issues of corruption be addressed and provision of title deeds as some of the ways of addressing the challenges facing the justice system.

Security

Majority of the respondents reported they felt insecure especially at night. The insecurity situation escalated because of slow response by the security agents. In addition, police stations are located far from the people and less police officers employed. Poor infrastructure and victimization of whistle blowers were also cited as challenges. Notwithstanding, the mechanisms put in place to ensure security were cited as *Nyumba Kumi*, setting up of more police stations and community policing, increase the number of police officers, vigilance among residents and religious tolerance.

“Security is low as at the night you may be killed. The police stations should be put near here as they take time to reach the point of scene or they are not in the station. Nyumba kumi are among the people engaged in wrong doings and the vigilantes are not there when things happen.”

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

Young people in the county have been involved to maintain security through community policing, reporting suspicious situations and taking personal responsibility. They should report law breakers, preach peace in the various parts of the county.

Cohesion

Hatred, tribalism, and social class disparities were mentioned as factors that affected national cohesion in the county.

The programmes put in place to ensure unity include sports such as intercommunity football, religious activities and cultural festivals. Conversely, the respondents stated some of the challenges affecting unity of youth to be political differences, drugs and substance abuse, tribalism, social class differences and hatred. Some of the interventions suggested for promotion of a cohesive society include formation and support for youth groups, development of religious activities and improvement of infrastructure. They suggested that more can be done to have a cohesive society through promoting justice and equity, enhanced civic education and awareness on importance of unity.

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability is a key ingredient for effective service delivery and the building of cohesive society. The survey sought to identify the views of the county residents on the mechanisms the county has put in place to ensure transparency and accountability. Respondents reported disciplinary action, stepping aside and community meetings as some of the key mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability. Some respondents however felt that there are no mechanisms in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the county.

“In this county I hear that one was found being involved in corrupt deals that that his or her case is on. Then in a few days’ time the case is thrown away.”

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

From the policy makers perspectives, community meetings, public forums and barazas, school clubs and public notice boards are some of the mechanisms to inform young people on planned or ongoing activities in the county. It was reported that these mechanisms can be improved through enhancing use of disciplinary actions.

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

On participation in projects and programme there was general consensus among the respondents that involvement of the youth was very low. The main reason for exclusion was identified as lack of required skills and experience, delays in project implementation and in some cases leaders just don't involve the youths. They identified manual or labour jobs as a means through which they were involved in project implementation. Generally young people felt that some of the ways of engaging them in projects in the county include employment, participation in management and sensitization on existing opportunities. They also appreciated the need for skills training and awareness on existing projects. This would encourage and foster their involvement in programmes .

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

Respondents were also probed on efficiency and effectiveness by looking at how are the available resources were allocated to target the young peoples in the county and used to achieve expected outcomes. The young people lamented that there was unequal resource distribution making it ineffective in addressing issues that affect them.

“There is unfair distribution of the resources. Like maybe is for CDF, you get an area MP is coming from the other side, let’s say, Tombe or somewhere. So you get those places are the ones who benefit than you here. Likewise to the county.”

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

To address this problem it was suggested that transparency should be observed and resource allocation should be done uniformly. This is expected to address the immediate challenges and make it easier to reach many youth.

2.6.5 Political Leadership

On the main roles of political leaders, the respondents identified, donations and engaging them in political campaigns as the key roles political leadership play in the management of youth affairs in the county. Some cited cases where political leaders had donated funds for youth projects, other donations were in form of; buying school books, motorbikes, sports uniform and payment of school fees.

2.7 Population Structure

The respondents were asked about their thoughts on the growing population of young people in relation to health, Education, economy and governance. They reported that there is congestion in the health facilities in county leading to the facilities being inadequate to serve the high population. They reported that the high population has an effect on Education since there are inadequate schools in the county and the teacher student ratio is imbalanced.

Respondents appreciated that population management is one of the critical aspects of social and economic development. If the population is not properly managed then definitely there will be a lot of challenges. Among the challenges that were cited are unemployed and high dependency ratio. In addition, it was noted that national resources required for human beings to survive is scarce in nature; if the population is not properly managed then they are likely to outstrip the resources available.

“So population management there is no choice. ...the TFR in this county was around 4.9, the last one was indicating around 3.5 so a drop of almost unit which is very good. So if you sustainably reduce family sizes, ok, the long term you may begin talking about socio-economic growth but as at now we still have a long way to go in terms of population management and you know how population is a very emotive issue in this country, yeah.”

[KII. Policy maker, Nyamira]

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

Nyamira County’s demographic profile shows a youthful population comprising of 43.9 percent of the population aged below fifteen years in 2009. In addition, the county has comparatively high fertility rate signifying possibilities of higher population growth in the coming years. Moreover, the proportion of the aged population above 64 years was at a significant 3.4 percent and is expected to rise. This is expected to further push the county’s dependent population of which is at a high of 59.5 percent thus exerting further pressure on the working population.

The survey revealed that the county is faced with numerous challenges that may hinder it from fully harnessing the gains of its demographic window of opportunity with regard to health, education, economic and governance. These include STI, HIV/AIDS, and teenage pregnancies, sexual gender based violence, drugs and substance abuse, poverty (lack of school fees, absenteeism of students, peer pressure, corruption and lack of skill among others. The gains made in these sectors, by implementing programmes addressing these issues will go a long way in harnessing the demographic dividend

and also facilitating the opening of the demographic window for this county; which is projected to open in the year 2037 and expected to close in the year 2077. Therefore before that time, the county should ensure that they are ready to take advantage of the socio-economic opportunities that exist by addressing the aforementioned issues and ensuring that the young people are healthy, well-educated and employed.

Recommendations

The following initiatives are recommended:

Health

1. Sensitize the community regarding HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, family planning services, abstinence among young people and effects of drug abuse.
2. Improving existing health infrastructure.

Education

1. Enhancement of bursaries and affirmative education financing mechanisms for OVCs and other vulnerable households.
2. There is need to develop strategies aimed at improving secondary school physical infrastructure and human resource and tertiary education.
3. Ensure relevance education and skills training in relation to the job market trends.

Economic

1. There is need to increase employment and income opportunities in agriculture, business and offer jobs in county government as young people are interested in those areas.
2. Establish strong linkages between Tertiary institutions and industry through apprenticeship, mentorship and internships.
3. Implementation of programmes to sensitize and involve the youth in available opportunities in employment and business is critical.

Governance

1. Deliberate programmes will be required to stir the youth's interest in programmes and projects.
2. Promote equality and justice for all including the marginalized and PWDs.
3. Ensure transparency and accountability in the management of county affairs.

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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

Nyanza South Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Coast – 1 Region

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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.

NYAMIRA COUNTY