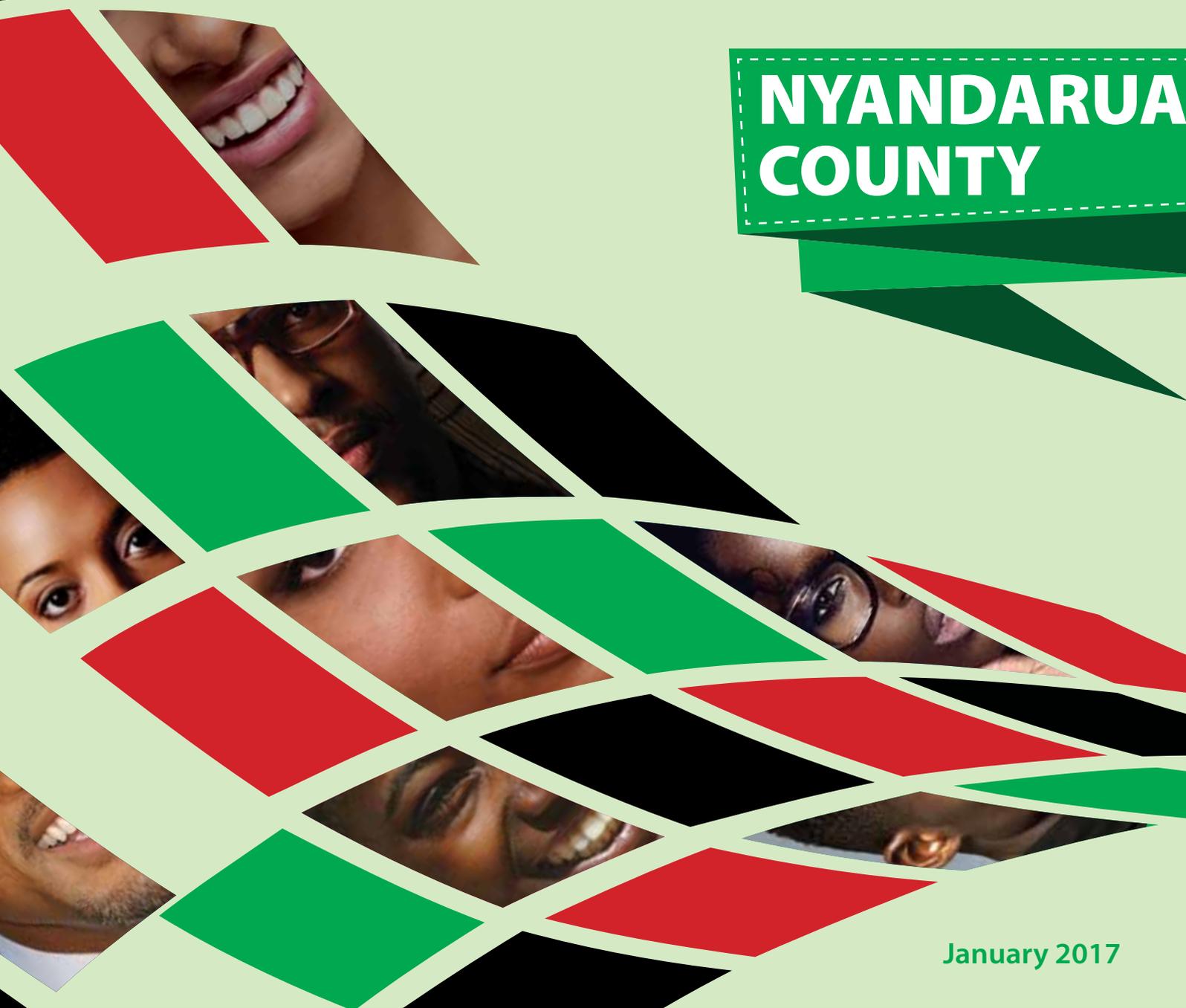




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

**NYANDARUA
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.

2015 KENYA NATIONAL
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY
(NAYS)

NYANDARUA 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.

NYANDARUA 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 Nyandarua 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 Nyandarua County in 2009 was 596,054 people and is projected to increase to 846,765 by year 2030 and to 1,045,467 people by year 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (43 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 31 percent and to 23 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 53 percent in 2009 to 69 percent in 2050 and the aging population from 4.4 percent in 2009 to 7.2 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 91 to 44 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2035 and close in 2075.

Nyandarua County has a fertility rate of 3.5 children per woman. Sixty-six percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Eight-five percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 81 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. However, the County has a HIV prevalence rate of 3.8 percent.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 97 percent. This means that about 3 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 (73 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. It is estimated that 4,541 primary school age and 15,837 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 0.534 which is slightly higher than the national average of 0.520

In the context of the four pillars of the demographic dividend, the survey revealed the following findings:

Health Issues Affecting Young People

The main health problems reported to affect young people in Nyandarua County include; STIs/HIV, mental health problems associated with the effects of drug and substance abuse, abortions as a result of unwanted pregnancy and limited access to health information and services. For the health of the young people to improve, there is need to provide youth friendly information and services, subsidize cost of healthcare services to young people and expand more health facilities in the remote parts of the county.

Issues Affecting Education of Young People

Despite remarkable school enrolment in Nyandarua County, over 4,000 primary and 15,000 secondary school-ages going children are out of school. The key issues identified to be affecting the education of young people in the county were; Drug and Substance Abuse by students and teachers, lack of fees resulting to child labour, school absenteeism, teenage pregnancy and inadequate learning facilities. To address this situation there is need to provide guidance and counselling in schools, increase bursaries and scholarships for disadvantaged students, enforce laws on DSA, and build more schools and tertiary institutions.

Economic Issues Affecting Young People

Young people in Nyandarua County involve themselves mainly in farming (crop and livestock, business/trade, commuter transport including *boda boda* and casual labour. Majority of the young people lack qualifications and technical skills to be involved in meaningful employment. In order to fully exploit the potential of young people, there is need to build more TVET institutions, strengthen their capacity for employment through apprenticeship and mentorship programmes, sensitize youth on accessing and utilizing existing funding opportunities (YEDF, UWEZO, WEF, AGPO). There is also need to expand ICT services in learning institutions and community by provision of electricity and network boosters.

Governance issues affecting the youth

The main challenges affecting governance in Nyandarua County are corruption, crime, land disputes, limited participation and involvement of young people. For governance to improve in the county there is need to promote *nyumba kumi* initiative, create county committees to oversee projects, encourage youth participation, and promote civic education on governance



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 (2) 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

NYANDARUA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Nyandarua County is located in the central part of Kenya. The County has a population of 596,268 and an area of 3,304 km², lying between latitude 0°8' to the North and 0°50' to South and between 35° 13' East and 36°42' West. The County borders several counties; Laikipia to the North, Nyeri to the East, Kiambu to the South, Murang'a to the South East and Nakuru to the West. Administratively, the county has 5 sub-counties (Kinangop, Kipipiri, Ol'joroOrok, Ndaragwa, and Ol'Kalou), 25 Wards, 25 Divisions and 70 Locations.

The main physical features of the county include Kinangop Plateau and l'kalou / Ol'joroOrok plateau, eight permanent rivers; Malewa, Ewaso Narok, Pesi, Turasha, Chania, Kiburu, Mkungji and Kitiri and Lake Ol'bollosat which is the largest water mass in the county.

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 socioeconomic characteristics of the county.

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

According to the 2009 population and housing census, the total population for Nyandarua County was 596,054 people. This figure is projected to grow to 846,765 people in the year 2030 and further increase to 1,045,467 people in 2050 as presented in table 2.1. The Demographic Window of Opportunity for Nyandarua County opens in 2035 and closes in 2075.

Table 2.1 Demographic characteristics

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	596,054	846,765	1,045,467
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	43.1%	30.9%	23.4%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	4.4%	4.2%	7.2%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	52.5%	64.9%	69.4%
Dependency Ratio	90.6	54.1	44.1
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2035		

The population age structure of the county is youthful with 43 percent comprising of the population aged below fifteen years in 2009. Notably, the composition of this young people is expected to decline to half (23 percent) by the year 2050. The proportion of population for older people aged above 64 years was at 4.4 percent in 2009 and is expected to increase to 7.2 percent in 2050. This implies that the county will have to spend more on health and education for the young population and more on social security for the elderly in a population. The county records a very high dependency ratio of 90.6 in 2009 suggesting that the working population in the county is heavily burdened. This calls for investing more resources in productive sectors that will create jobs and generate income.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 gives a preview of socioeconomic profile of Nyandarua County.

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	65.6%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	85.3%
	HIV Prevalence	3.8%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	81.4%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	96.8%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	28.2
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	4,521
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	73%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	20.5
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	15,837
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.5337233

Table 2.2 shows that Nyandarua has a low fertility rate. The average number of children per woman is 3.5 which is slightly lower than the national average of 3.9 children per woman. This could be attributed to high uptake of uptake of contraceptive among married women; 66 percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. The number of births attended by a skilled health worker is notably high (85 percent), while the full immunization for children 12-23 months (81 percent) has also surpassed the national target of 80 percent. The HIV prevalence is low (4 percent) compared to the national average of 6 percent as reported by Kenya HIV county profile 2014.

On the side of education, the county has a remarkable primary school net enrolment of 97 percent. The pupil teacher ratio in primary school level (28) is also favourable since the norm is 44. Still, the county has over 4,000 children of primary school age-going who are out of school. The secondary school net enrolment rate is slightly lower than the primary school net enrolment rate. It is 73 percent and over 15,000 secondary school-age children out of school. The Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio is 21. The county should continue to promote education to scale up the number of educated young people.

The County’s Human Development Index (HDI) which is a composite score on the county’s performance on health, education and income, stands at 0.534 which is above the national HDI of 0.520. This reflects the county’s achievement in health, literacy and GDP.

2.3 Health and Young people

A healthy population is necessary for development and has a direct impact on high productivity and enhanced quality life. This survey sought to establish health issues facing young people in Nyandarua County, challenges they face and ways of addressing them. It also looked at access and availability of health information and services, opportunities to invest in health to harness the demographic dividend.

2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Youth

Table 2.3 presents the survey findings on main health issues, causes, consequences and ways of addressing the health challenges in Nyandarua County.

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
STIs/HIV	Ignorance/ inadequate knowledge	School drop out	Guidance and Counseling
Drug and substance Abuse(DSA)	Peer pressure	Mental ill-health	Education on sexuality/ life skills
Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV)	Unemployment	Poor school performance	Rehabilitation centers
Teenage pregnancy	Ease access to alcohol & drugs	Abortion/Death	Youth friendly centers
		Crime	
		Child labour	

The participants of the survey identified STIs, HIV and AIDS, drug and substance abuse (DSA), sexual violence and teenage pregnancy as the main health issues affecting young people in Nyandarua County. It was reported that young people engage in early sexual activity which exposes them to high risks of contracting STIs/HIV infection and unwanted pregnancy. As stated by some participants,

“young girls are vulnerable they engage in sex to get money to buy sanitary towels and clothes. Early pregnancies make them leave school, and drop out and it brings suffering. Young girls are forced to work in flower farms to support themselves.”

[FGD. Females 15-19, Nyandarua]

Most of them cited lack of proper knowledge on the consequences of indulging in unprotected sex as a contributing factor, while others mentioned that some girls engaged in transactional sex to get money to purchase sanitary towels and clothing. The consequence according to some of the head teachers that were interviewed is school dropout because of teenage pregnancy and unsafe abortion which at times leads to death or disability.

DSA was said to be a rising health problem for young people both in and out- of- school due to peer pressure in school and unemployment. It was reported in some parts of the county that young people can easily access alcohol because their parents or close relatives are involved in the sale of illicit brew. The outcome is mental health problems mostly depression, poor school performance, school dropout and increased tendency to commit crime including sexual violence due to the influence of DSA. It was also reported that those with problems of drug addiction look for odd jobs to do in order to foster their habit. The following are their views,

“Most of them drop out of school due to drug abuse and also due to mental health problems. And when these youth are affected, most parents do not want to accommodate them, so they go to the extent of running away from their homes and when out of home they can do anything to get money to buy these drugs, including stealing and joining criminal gangs.”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua]

“Youths when they indulge in drugs they become useless, loose hope and cannot depend on themselves, they have low self-esteem and lose of self-dignity. This leads them to crime and to commit sexual violence. This happens because of peer pressure, they are told they will feel good and euphoria.”

[FGD. Males 15-19, Nyandarua]

They suggested ways of addressing these health problems. Some of the suggestions included: guidance and counseling on sexual and reproductive health in schools, create rehabilitation centers to address the problem of DSA, establish youth friendly services to provide information and services to young people and promote public health education.

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

The survey also sought to establish the sources of health information and services to young people in Nyandarua County, types and usefulness of the information. The findings are presented in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Access and availability of health information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health facilities	Disease prevention and diagnosis	Increased knowledge on disease prevention	Health Facilities
Schools	STI/HIV screening	Reduced spread of diseases	Schools
Religious Institutions	Treatment and medication	Behavior change	Media (radio)
Media	Health talks	Maintain good health	Church
Public barazas			
CHWs			

Several sources of information were identified; health facilities, schools, religious institutions, media particularly radio and television, public *barazas* and Community Health Workers (CHWs). The most preferred sources were health facilities, schools, radio and church. The type of information and services mostly accessed included; disease prevention and diagnosis, screening and testing of STIs, and HIV and AIDs, treatment and medication on common ailment, general health talks. These information and services were considered useful in terms of increased knowledge on disease prevention, reduced spread of disease, behavior change and useful tips on maintaining good health.

2.3.3 Access and Availability of SRH/FP Information and Services

With regard to sexual and reproductive health, the main information and services reported to be available and accessible to young people in the county were: contraceptives particularly condoms, pills and implants said to prevent unwanted pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. Other information and services included: HIV counseling and testing, ART, STI screening, cervical cancer screening and treatment.

The findings also show that health information & services available for marginalized youth including people with disabilities (PWDs) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) included: donations of wheel chairs, funding for specialized treatment, rehabilitation centers, ART, guidance and counseling, health education.

The young people in the county stated that they were faced with a number of challenges in accessing health information and services. They commonly mentioned; fear of stigma, high costs of services, lack of youth friendly services including friendly provider and a conducive environment that maintains privacy, inadequate facilities that lack essential drugs and equipment, lack of disability friendly services. They voiced their concerns as follows,

“They fear hospitals they might not give them family planning services because the providers feel family planning is only for older women and not for them.”

[FGD. Females 15-19, Nyandarua]

“Most service providers come from within and they know you and you might fear to approach them for example like HIV or STI testing they are likely not keep the results confidential.”

[FGD. Males 15-19, Nyandarua]

“Another challenge is, when young people get sick of STI or drug abuse, they fear going to the hospital because they fear being insulted and harassed by the health providers. So you find that they prefer to stay at home and die rather than face hostility and stigma in hospital.”

[FGD. Mixed group 20-24, Nyandarua]

“Where these preferred equipment are available in the facilities it’s very expensive and where the services are cheap these equipment are not available we are faced with that dilemma.”

[FGD. Mixed group 15-19, Nyandarua]

“I would say stigma because at your age and with a disability when you go to a facility and say you want a contraceptive they will be like “you are using a contraceptive?” people do not believe that young people with disability should use contraceptives. You also find it difficult to get a willing person or a vehicle to carry you to the health facility. The roads are bad and there are few vehicles and we can’t use motor bikes. The way you pay (referring to interviewer) is not the way I pay because I pay a lot of money, you will just pay normally but for me I will pay twice because of my disability I pay for my guide or for extra seat.”

[FGD. Marginalized group 15-24, Nyandarua]

The participants proposed ways of addressing these challenges which included; the county should create more health facilities and recruit more health professionals, improve the health infrastructure by equipping them to be more youth friendly and disability-friendly, build the capacity of health

providers to meet the needs of young people including those with disabilities and subsidize costs of health services to young people. They also recommended that,

“The county government should come up with rehabilitation centers so as to cater for the people addicted with drugs; these are the people who end up in things like rape, crime if not rehabilitated.”

[FGD. Mixed group 25-34, Nyandarua]

2.3.4 Organisations Addressing Health

The main organisations addressing health issues for young people in Nyandarua County include: government agencies, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Faith Based organisations (mainly churches). The commonly mentioned were NACADA, NHIF, APHIA PLUS, Liverpool, Broad Vision, Shining Star, NOPE amongst others. They were lauded for contributing to the improvement of health particularly to the vulnerable groups, promotion of health education in the community, reduced DSA among youth, rehabilitating street children and those under influence of DSA, capacity building of health providers, ART and behaviour change.

2.3.5 Opportunities for Improvement

The study participants were asked to suggest the opportunities for improvement in health for Nyandarua County. They proposed expansion of more health facilities particularly in remote areas to increase access to healthcare, improve the health infrastructure by equipping and making facilities more conducive to young people, including those with disabilities. They also train health providers to address the needs of this special groups, subsidize costs of healthcare, increase public health education, work with the county education office to provide guidance and counselling to young people in schools to curb DSA, teenage pregnancy and school dropouts. They reckoned that,

“Young people change when they are advised and get transformed when this advice is given more often on a regular basis and those that are transformed can be used to reach out to the other youth. That is why we feel there is need to have youth friendly centres where they can get information, guidance and counselling. These centres can organize for youth forums where they can share transformative experiences and learn from each other how to positively handle pressures of life.”

[FGD. Mixed group 25-29, Nyandarua]

2.4 Education and Young people

Education and skills development for young people is key to the realization of economic development. This report identifies major issues in the education sector that affect young people in Nyandarua County. These include the main causes of the problems, and how it affects their education, and suggest ways of addressing the problems. The summary of the qualitative findings are illustrated in Table 2.5

2.4.1 Education Issues

The survey sought to examine the challenges that hinder young people from accessing and participating fully in education to realize the benefits of education and ways of addressing these problems. The results are presented in Table 2.5

Table 2.5 Main education issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drugs and substance abuse (DSA) Lack of school fees Teenage pregnancy	Peer pressure Failure of parental guidance & support Poverty	School drop outs Poor performance Teacher/student absenteeism Child labor SGBV Crime/violent behavior Early marriage	Law enforcement on DSA & child labour Guidance & Counseling in schools Bursaries and scholarships Promote good parenting

The survey findings show that the main education issues facing young people in Nyandarua County were; drug and substance abuse (DSA), teacher and student absenteeism, lack of school fees particularly for secondary and tertiary levels, and teenage pregnancy.

DSA was found to be a problem that is affecting both students and teachers. It was reported that most of the young people use drugs out of curiosity or peer pressure to copy what others are doing in order to fit in without realizing the effects of the drugs. The teachers on the other hand indulge in DSA due to frustrations of poor pay and low motivation. The result was poor performance, school dropout and teacher absenteeism. The participants stated that DSA was the cause of violent behaviour and crime among students and sexual violence meted out on students by teachers. As was reported by students in a focus group discussion;

“Drug trafficking in schools is common; youths and also teachers use bhang, alcohol and marijuana. The youth because of peer pressure they follow friends and they tell each other to test. Some teachers come to school when they are drunk, if the teacher is absent the syllabus will not be finished and it might lead to poor performance. Because of DSA female students are sexually molested by teachers and other students.”

[FGD. Males 15-19, Nyandarua]

Lack of school fees was also identified as a cause of absenteeism among students in secondary and tertiary levels particularly those from poor background who reported that they are forced to work in order to pay for their fees. This was evident in their discussions;

“Many of the parents lack finances to pay fees for their children. The government has helped in paying for few in the primary schools, the parent actually struggles to educate children in secondary school, colleges and universities and some drop out of school to go work to be able to pay for fees. When these children are not able to continue with school it lowers the level of education in the county and affects development.”

[FGD. Females 15-19, Nyandarua]

Parents were accused of failure to support their children to proceed with further education instead they forced them out of school to work. Young girls from such background are vulnerable and engage in sexual activities for financial support. They end up dropping out of school due to unwanted pregnancy or forced into early marriage. Participants recounted;

“When one gets out of school you are given hard chores to do to the point of lacking time to study. You are either told to dig, fetch water, collect firewood, cook, or at times cut down trees for charcoal to sell to pay fees.”

[FGD. Mixed group 20-24, Nyandarua]

“Some parents are even taken to the chief. You find that a parent keeps a child at home for almost one month. The child registers for KCPE but they go and they will just come to do exams. The parents just tell them to stay at home, they go to the shamba or if it’s a girl they look after the home and the young ones.”

[FGD. Mixed 15-19, Nyandarua]

The concerns of the FGD participants was supported by some of the head teachers that were interviewed in this survey;

“Parents don’t believe in education and its importance to economic development. For example in this area they do farming, they plant potatoes on large scale and it’s done by parents so they don’t see the importance of education since their children can do the same and get money. So they withdraw their children from school.”

[In-depth interview, Primary head teacher, Nyandarua]

The participants suggested ways of addressing these challenges which included; enforcing laws on drug and substance abuse, child labour and sexual gender violence, promote guidance and counselling in schools, educate parents and communities on good parenting. The county government, with support of relevant partners, should increase provision of bursaries and scholarships to students particularly the disadvantaged. A policy maker in the education sector that was interviewed during the survey also resonated that, *“there is need to have motivational programmes to motivate both teachers and students and recognize their efforts.”*

2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services

Access to education and availability of learning facilities is a key indicator of success and quality of the education system. Access to learning institutions was identified as a key hindrance to education. Participants reported that the problem of student and teacher absenteeism in some parts of the county was a result of the long distance travelled to school. Most of them walk to school because of poor infrastructure; the roads are not accessible. There are very few schools and tertiary institutions in the county. Learning institutions for marginalized are also few, they only mentioned three that are common; Neema Children’s Home, Goa Children’s Home and Nyandarua School for the deaf. The issue of inadequate learning facilities was reported by group discussions with young people at all levels of learning; primary, secondary and tertiary. These included lack of adequate schools, classrooms, laboratories, equipment, stationery, dormitories. They felt that they should improve school infrastructure in the county by building more schools, tertiary institutions and equipping them with facilities such as laboratories, libraries, and e-learning.

2.4.3 Relevance of Courses and the labor market requirement

With regard to courses taught in learning institutions and their relevance to prevailing market needs, the participants maintained that there were some courses that were relevant but others were not.

“Some courses like medicine and teaching which have both theory and practices have higher chances of securing jobs than those that just concentrate on theory alone.”

[FGD. Mixed group 20-24, Nyandarua]

However, they felt that practical training and internships was necessary to build the skills of young people and prepare them for the labour market. They also proposed that the current curriculum should be revised at all levels to ensure they conform to prevailing market labour requirements.

2.4.4 Opportunities Available for Young People to Gain Skills

The young people in Nyandarua County have limited opportunities for gaining skills through apprenticeship, internship and mentorship programmes. They identified few polytechnics which offer apprenticeship and skills in electronics, carpentry, artisans, and mechanics. Hospitals and banks were also mentioned for providing internship opportunities. The participants said that the county has potential in various sectors which can be explored to offer mentorship, internship and apprenticeship programmes to young people to build their practical skills and know-how in order to gain work experience.

2.4.5 Organizations Addressing Education Services in Nyandarua County

The main organisations addressing education and training issues of young people in Nyandarua County were government agencies (NACADA, CDF), NGOs, FBOs (churches) and financial institutions (Equity, KCB, Cooperative, Barclays). Their education support included; bursaries, scholarships, school requirement like uniform, stationery, desks, community sensitization on importance of education. Others include; feeding programme, building of schools, classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, kitchen, toilets, provision of sanitary towels, support for girls’ dropouts to return to school, guidance and counseling and mentorship programmes. The NGOs and FBOs were keen in providing education support mainly for the marginalized young people including those living with disabilities, HIV/AIDS, survivors of drug and substance abuse. The participants were asked about their views about the support from these organizations. They cited that the education support has increased access and improved retention in school but they should reach out to more schools particularly in the remote areas. They felt these efforts should be supported and sustained by the county government. They raised concern that role models were missing and there should be role models because they greatly motivate young people to put more efforts in their education. Participants also suggested that the teachers and students who display exemplary performance should also be motivated. In addition, bursaries should not only be for students who have excelled in school but also support those who may have not made it to higher education but are pursuing technical courses.

2.4.6 Opportunities for Improving Education

Some of the opportunities that exist in the education sector that were proposed for investment are; allocation of more bursaries and scholarship programmes to more disadvantaged students including both day and boarding, equip learning institutions with facilities including ICT services, create public awareness on importance of education, motivate teachers and students that perform exemplary, promote guidance and counseling in schools, increase number of institutions including tertiary and those institutions that serve young people with special needs, popularize internship/attachment/apprenticeship/mentorship programmes, revise current curriculum to suit prevailing market requirement.

2.5 Economic Status and Young people

The NAYS survey set out to establish a number of pertinent issues regarding young people and the economy. This included the main issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities for the youth as well as identifying the main economic activities that young people are engaged in. In addition, the survey also highlights the main challenges that young people face while engaged in the economic activities and ways to address these challenges. An important aspect of the economic module was also to identify the interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment and how the youth have benefited from them. This also included challenges in accessing these interventions and ways of addressing the challenges. This chapter reports on the wide range of issues that were discussed with the various study groups.

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People

The survey participants identified agriculture; mainly crop and livestock farming, small scale business/trade and casual labour as the main employment and income opportunities for young people in the county. Other activities mentioned included transport business, *boda boda* and sports. In accessing these opportunities the young people were faced with a myriad of challenges. Most of them have low level of education, they dropped out of school and do not have the required academic qualifications and skills needed to work in meaningful employment. Whereas, those who have cleared school only look for white color jobs which are very few in the county and they also have misconceptions about self-employment. Due to perceived cost of doing business and lack of capital, majority do not venture into business. As was stated in one of the FGDs,

“The other problem is rent. You find like if you want to hire a house and begin business, there is something we call goodwill. Maybe there is someone who had started business and they want if you begin that job you give them goodwill. Again, the tenants tell you that you must pay for the house like for a year of six months so that you can begin the business. So you wonder is it the capital you will work on or it’s the rent. When you have begun your business and it has picked and the landlord observes you are selling a lot, you find that they keep on increasing the rent.”

[FGD. Mixed group 20-24, Nyandarua]

Others reported that business is not thriving in the county because of insecurity caused by theft and burglary by unemployed youth. The key informants that were interviewed for the survey had the following to say;

“When a youth gains education and is through with college they expect a white collar job. Many of the youths are looking for white color jobs and they are scarce so they have that negative attitude of the other business opportunities available, so they get challenged because they don’t want to do the work that is available, they are just looking for the white color jobs before they realize they can’t get it and start exploring other avenues, they waste so much time.”

[KII. Leading employer, Nyandarua county]

“There is lack of skills, patience and confidence in youths. So you find that they begin a certain business and they don’t want to be patient. So you find that it doesn’t pick up they are tired and they begin another business or close down without realizing profits.”

[KII. Youth fund representative, Nyandarua county]

“There is a mismatch of skills in relationship to what they have and what the job market wants and...the issue or notion of white collar jobs, they want to be employed and be in an office. They have not embraced entrepreneurship and when they get into business they lack originality and innovation, it’s usually an issue of copycat.”

[Policy maker, Youth development, Nyandarua]

2.5.2 Main Economic Activities Young People are Engaged in

This section looks at the main economic activities that young people are engaged in, the challenges they face while engaged in these activities and ways of addressing these challenges. The findings are presented in Table 2.6

Table 2.6 Main Economic Activities Young People are engaged in

Main economic activities young people are involved in	Challenges faced	How to address the challenges encountered
Crop and livestock farming	Poor pay and exploitation	Education support
Small scale business/trade	Lack of entrepreneurial skills	Enforce law on child labour
Boda boda	Harassment by authority or employers	Entrepreneurial programmes for business
Casual labour; construction, mining	Poor working environment	Create more TVET institutions
	Accidents	Improve working conditions

Most of the young people are engaged in a range of economic activities in the county, mainly crop and livestock farming, small-scale business/trade, commuter transport including *boda boda*, casual labour such as construction and mining. The school-age-going young people were asked why they engaged in economic activities. Most of them said it is because they had dropped out of school, others cited poverty and the need to pay for school fees, basic requirements and upkeep particularly for those from child-headed, orphaned, and disabled, HIV or poor households. Some because of drug abuse and addiction engaged in menial work to get paid to buy drugs.

As presented in Table 2.6, the main challenges the young people face when engaged in economic activities include; long working hours with little pay and exploitation, lack of skills, harassment by authority or employers because of they are under age, frequent accidents caused by *boda boda* with no compensation, poor working environment.

The respondents suggested ways of addressing the challenges by asserting the need to curtail school drop outs by supporting the education of young people from disadvantaged background, enforce law on child labour, create more TVET institutions to build the skills of young people for continuity of education, protect young people from exploitation by equalizing pay for work done, encourage youth to form groups so that their capacity is built to acquire skills and loans to do business.

2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Table 2.7 illustrates the survey findings on interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment in Nyandarua County. The challenges faced and ways of addressing the challenges.

Table 2.7 The Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways of addressing these challenges
Financial Institutions Saccos Private Sector Government support; YEDF, UWEZO, AGPO, WEF, NYS County government jobs	Corruption Dynamics of Youth groups Lack of awareness about programmes & interventions Restrictive requirements in accessing funds Inadequate funding Lack of skills	Sensitization on the interventions Training and education Ease access to funds Curb corruption Promote transparency and accountability Provide enough funds Exchange programmes

The study respondents reported that the main interventions and programmes they were aware of in the county included; financial institutions, SACCOs, private sector and government funding support of Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Uwezo Fund, Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF). Others included skills development and job opportunities with the National Youth Service and County government. Through these interventions the youth have benefited in terms of getting capital to start business, improved knowledge and skills to run the business, employment opportunities at the county, young women have started projects and bought property. The opportunities have enabled youth to work together through group formation. Majority mentioned that their living standards and economic statuses had improved and the rate of crime and abuse of drugs reduced.

The main challenges faced in accessing these interventions and programmes as shown in table 2.7 include; corruption, lack of unity among the youth, lack of awareness and full information about the interventions and programmes, restrictive requirement in accessing funds, inadequate funding and skills. The youth felt that corruption was a huge obstacle that denied them the benefit of accessing available opportunities since most of them complained that they could only access if they bribed or had direct connections. Another challenge is that most youth particularly in remote areas were not aware of the interventions and the procedures involved. They felt that the requirement for accessing funding opportunities were quite restrictive, lengthy, technical, complicated with a lot of bureaucracy. Formation of youth groups as requirement was also a big challenge since the youth are quite mobile.

It was noted that;

“When it comes to groups, some drop on the way. The problem with the youth is that they are mobile. When they join as a group, one of them goes to another place for a job and maybe he was the leader, which leads to the collapse of the group.”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua]

Others raised concern that the funds available for the young people are not adequate, the slots are few and the tenders awarded to youth through AGPO are usually dismal due to a misconception that the young people do not have the capacity to deliver. The following are some of their sentiments;

“Most of the youths in the local villages have no idea on how to access these funds. There is a problem of passing information. There are people who are not even aware of the institutions because of the personnel who are working in that area. You find in a place there is only one officer who is to reach to all the young people. We need more personnel to reach all the youths. Also on tenders, youths are not given big tenders. The small tenders are the ones left for the youths.”

[FGD. Mixed group 25-29, Nyandarua]

“Again you find like UWEZO fund, young people ignore because you are required to be in a group of like 10 people, you are given Kshs. 50,000 so you observe that if you are given Kshs. 50,000 you wonder what Kshs. 5,000 will help for each individual. There is need to increase the funds.”

[FGD. Mixed group 20-24, Nyandarua]

To counter these challenges the participants proposed; sensitization of the existing interventions and programmes to youth particularly in remote areas and the young people should also be educated about these opportunities at school level. The young people should be trained on procedures of accessing funds and how to utilize the funds. The county government should make it easier for young people to access the available funds by removing restrictions such as collaterals, high interest rates and bureaucracies. Provide more funds and support youth ideas by building their capacities and skills and promoting exchange programmes. Curb corruption by apprehending and removing from office those who practice corruption and promote transparency and accountability in government offices.

2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

The survey sought to establish the ICT services available in learning institutions and in the community as a whole. Table 2.8 gives findings on ICT services available in Nyandarua County.

Table 2.8 Availability and access to ICT Services

ICT services available	Challenges in accessing ICT services	Ways of addressing these challenges
Media; radio & TV	Inadequate ICT services	Establish ICT services
Mobile phones	Low Power supply	Provide electricity & Network boosters
Computers	Network problems	Reduce the cost of ICT services
Cyber cafes	Cost of services	Provide training and computer classes
Libraries	Inadequate of ICT skills	
	Lack of disability friendly ICT services	

The main ICT services available in the county were; media mainly television, radio and TV, mobile phones, computers, cyber cafés and libraries. The preferred sources are mobile phones, cyber cafes and TV. Majority of students in both primary and secondary schools reported that they do not have ICT services. Computer classes are not taught in most institutions because they lack computers, computer labs and skilled teachers to offer the lessons. The cyber cafes were few and concentrated in urban centres because of lack of electricity in some parts of the county. When asked about the importance of ICT services to students, they said that they would acquire knowledge and skills to operate the computers; this would help them fit in the current ICT world, have easy access to regular and updated information necessary for their academic studies, and get information about jobs application.

The type of information sought for by young people in school was mostly news on current affairs, academic information, profiles for learning institutions, health and general knowledge. The youth out of school sought for information about job adverts, government tenders, news on politics and current affairs, health, social internet and entertainment (music, sports, and movies). The participants reported that the information is used by young people to apply for courses, jobs, tenders, gain information and knowledge on conducting business, marketing products, get news updates, entertainment and social networking. However they were faced with challenges in accessing ICT services. Most ICT services are found only in urban areas and are not adequate. Problems with power supply and network in the county are a major hindrance to access of ICT services. The few available services are not able to serve young people with disabilities. The cost of ICT services are also high, majority of youth cannot afford smart phones, internet bundles, computer classes/lessons. This is the reason as to why most of the young people have limited ICT operational skills. In order to address these challenges, the survey participants recommended the need to enhance electricity supply and network boosters in all parts of the county, establish and equip more ICT services in learning institutions and ICT centers in the county, reduce costs of ICT services including training.

2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Youth Economic Empowerment

The main organisations identified in addressing youth economic empowerment in Nyandarua County were: government agencies, financial institutions mainly MFIs and Banks, FBOs and NGOs serving young people. They were said to offer financial support and capacity building on savings and investment, skills development through industrial attachment and internships, employment opportunities, talent identification and nurturing especially in sports. Some of these organisations were also keen in improving infrastructure of learning institutions by building schools, polytechnics. Participants were asked about the efforts of the organisations in addressing youth economic empowerment. All FGD discussants acknowledged that unemployment and the rate of crime has reduced, their living standards have improved, the youth have been empowered and infrastructure expanded. But they observed that these efforts should be diversified to other parts of the county to offer opportunities to more youth and they should create public awareness to increase access.

2.5.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

Respondents felt that investing in Agriculture, tourism, transport, sports, trade and industry sectors were potential areas to increase employment and income opportunities that can empower young people. Improving the agricultural sector means large scale farming and establishing industries for farm and livestock produce. Trade and industry calls for innovations and expanding markets for products.

2.5.7 Savings and Investment for Old Age

The findings show that very few young people think about old age and the future yet majority claimed they would not want to work in old age. Most of them are not informed about the importance of savings and investment for old age because they think saving is for the older people. However, there are some who reported that they would want to save and invest but have very little income with more demands. They are also under pressure to spend more on entertainment because, as one of them stated;

“They think they should enjoy themselves early before they get old.”

[FGD. Females 15-19, Nyandarua]

It was reported that many young people lack information on how to manage money and some do not have bank accounts. To address these challenges the discussants felt that they should cultivate the culture of savings as early as possible by educating those still in school on savings and investment. The young people should also be taught about managing money and reduce cost of living by reducing high spending on entertainment. A segment of groups of young people maintained the need to have youth banking services suitable for their unique financial needs.

2.6 Governance and Young people

Good governance has a great impact on political stability and economic development. The survey sought to look at young people’s perspectives with regards to the principles of good governance; (i) the rule of law, (ii) transparency and accountability, (iii) consensus, equity, inclusion and participation (iv) effectiveness and efficiency and (v) political leadership as stipulated in the constitution.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

This section the report highlights on the justice system, security situation and cohesion.

Justice system

Table 2.9 presents the main cases in the justice system, the process of solving these cases, the challenges faced while solving the cases and the ways to address these challenges.

Table 2.9 Justice system in Nyandarua county

Main cases	Process of Solving Cases	Challenges	Ways to address these challenges
Land disputes	Traditional Systems	Conflicts	Curbing corruption
Corruption	Administration	Corruption	Capacity building
Theft/robbery	Courts	Favouritism and Discrimination	Involving elders
DSA	Negotiation	Inadequate Judicial facilities	Suspension of errant officers
Murder		Financial Constraints	Government interventions
SGBV (rape)		Intimidation	Severe punishments

The survey revealed that the most prevalent cases in Nyandarua County include; land disputes, corruption, theft, murder, DSA and SGBV. The respondents attributed these cases to poverty, unemployment and greed. Land disputes were as a result of boundaries conflicts among residents.

“...land disputes, example when your neighbour has issues of boundaries...”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua county]

The preferred method of solving cases in the county according to the respondents was through traditional systems such as seeking assistance from council of elders and chiefs for negotiation and resolutions of various cases.

“...there is for example if you are not in terms with someone, they go to the chief so they are given a letter and they settle the case with the elders...”

[FGD. Mixed 25-34, Nyandarua county]

The respondents cited conflict arose when parties lacked the will to resolve disputes,

“...some people pretend when you are solving cases that they are united, some keep quiet but when you go to elders or court they don't say...”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua county]

The main challenges that hamper justice seeking in the county are; favouritism on the basis of nepotism and tribalism where justice was not served accordingly, corruption among government officials, discrimination of young people seeking justice, few judicial facilities, financial constraints to finance elders who sit in the cases or lawyers and intimidation by the offenders against taking action on them. Not being able to finance court cases or being intimidated by offenders made residents avoid going to court.

“...for example you find someone has been raped, you go to the police station so they are held up and taken to police station so they are taken to court and after two days they are released. And they come and do the same thing...”

[FGD. Mixed 25-34, Nyandarua county]

The respondents cited that increasing capacity through employing more police officers, introducing severe punishments for the offenders, utilization of government interventions through laws to deal with rogue officials and dealing with corruption by exposing corrupt member in the county will help in addressing the challenges faced in the process of seeking justice.

Security

The security situation in the county received different views from the residents. One part indicated that the county was very secure while others stated that the county crimes were perpetrated by thieves and police colluding with offenders. Majority of the residents felt that the level of insecurity in the county was very high.

“...on top of that, you find that most of the police officers are collaborating with these thieves.”

[FGD. Female 15-19- Nyandarua county]

The survey gathered that police response in Nyandarua County was delayed and most officers seemed reluctant in arresting the thieves. Also the number of officers was inadequate for the county and these issues posed a challenge in ensuring security in the county.

To ensure security, mechanisms such as community policing were implemented through the 'Nyumba Kumi' initiative to monitor new comers in the county, creation of employment for young people to help in engaging them and curb the high number of robbery incidents. Advocating for collaboration between law enforcers and the public police patrols to help in identifying threats in the county, the use of community elders, the call to address corruption, provision of severe punishments, were seen as ways of solving the security challenge.

“...we have put several mechanisms in place we have Nyumba Kumi where people are encouraged to know their neighbours and to address the issues. Peace committees and community policing are there in every sub county, we have a sub DSIC and a security committee starting from the sub location to the county whereby we monitor issues of security. In every sub county we have a helpline given to public and the phone is usually by one person for 24hours and it's a recent introduction and that will go in long to enhance security...”

[KII. County Commissioner, Nyandarua county]

Cohesion

Cohesion focuses on how the county bonds together and the issues that threaten this bond of the county residents. The main challenges on cohesion in the county as per the survey were generational gap between the young and the old,

“...generation gap between the old and the young people, the gap is too wide and this young people have no role models...”

[FGD. Mixed 25-34, Nyandarua county]

Other challenges include; political differences such as different political parties, cultural differences, educational gaps as a result differences in level of education and other socio economic gaps like poverty and hatred between residents.

To handle these challenges the respondents suggested nurturing talents of young people, sensitization on importance of unity, eliminating tribalism, promote empowerment projects for the youths to reduce the socio-economic gaps, creation of jobs and improved dialogue in the community so as residents are able to negotiate and reconcile.

“...should advice people in the community on importance of being united in case of grievances they will solve it...”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua county]

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

The mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities in the county were community meetings initiated through *barazas*, advertisements in public places such as churches, media (radio and newspapers), and service charters and through suggestion boxes. The mechanisms in place to ensure accountability in the county involved the use of disciplinary action and resignation of errant and corrupt officials. However, residents said this type action was rarely implemented and it was hard for them to hold leaders and various offices accountable.

“I think in our area those measures even if they are there they are because majority of us we don’t know how to follow up. Like for example let’s say money like for CDF, even if it’s used well or bad even if you want to follow up. You don’t know the channels on how to acquire for example on certain money was sued, unless you make your own arrangements you go to the office of which you will have to ask. You don’t know how to follow through...”

[FGD. Mixed 25-34, Nyandarua county]

The survey gathered that some of the ways to improve the mechanisms of ensuring transparency and accountability in the county included communicating projects to the public, creation of committees that will hold leaders and county officials accountable, educating the public on what they should expect, and increasing public participation so as it is easy to identify when issues are amiss.

“I think we should set aside a committee to investigate people corruption commission for the county so that if they find you guilty, you will first step aside then those people will investigate you and then they will know what to do next if you are found guilty you will have to resign...”

[FDG. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua]

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

Young people in the county faced challenges while trying to get involved in project implementation. Some of the main challenges cited by resident included: corruption, embezzlement of funds, discrimination, harassment and exploitation by bosses that mar the youth while trying to be part of county development. Young people also portrayed ignorance as they did not seek their involvement in the projects.

“...there are advertisements of these projects but due to ignorance the youths do not attend... they are involved but you see they do not turn up...”

[FGD. Mixed 35-60, Nyandarua county]

These projects rarely reach the people who deserve them, with some sections of the community still being largely discriminated upon such as people with disabilities. On the other hand in areas where inclusiveness has excelled there has been an increase in gender consideration reducing disparities.

“Persons with disability are disadvantaged because of their nature, even youths are alienated in the economic activities available for example land belong to their parents and in cooperatives and societies it is the old people in control, we have having an equilibrium but there are more men than women...”

[KII. County Commissioners, Nyandarua]

Putting into consideration youths opinion, creating opportunities for them and improving their skills were indicated as ways in which the needs for young people can be met. Creating awareness through education, increasing the number of youth projects, increasing financial support, sensitization on working conditions were also seen as the best ways of improving young peoples' involvement in projects at county level.

“I think that percentage comes to those people but the problem is for example when it comes to tenders, we have 30 percent tenders to the youths, but you may find that no youths is going for that project so these tender must be supported and cannot be stopped because the youths have not applied then they will end up giving the tender to the other people instead of the youths who have 30 percent advantage.”

[FGD. Mixed 35-60, Nyandarua county]

The roles that most young people yearned to be involved in the county included budgeting process for the county, decision makers in youth matters in the county, involved in sectors that increased their skills and experience, involved in planning and designing of county projects, supervision of county projects and getting the actual tenders as required by the law.

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

The survey found out that the resources available for the young people were not targeted towards them mostly because of corruption. Also these resources were limited hence not able to fully support young people.

“...I think that the resources that are set to help the youth, there is no transparency...”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24 Nyandarua county]

“...I think the resources that are put are few than they should be. The resources should be more than they are put...”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24 Nyandarua county]

To ensure the expected outcome was achieved it was suggested that young people form youth groups targeted at accountability, increased transparency, sensitization of available funding opportunities, encourage participation and involvement of young people in budgeting and planning.

Also on improving the utilization of resources allocated for young people it was realised that they should be educated on how to access and utilize resources, channelling the profits back to young people, increased cooperation and networks, transparency and recording follow ups on funds allocated for young people.

“...making a clear record for an easy follow-up for funds to ensure there is no misuse...”

[FGD. Mixed 25-34 Nyandarua county]

2.6.5 Political Leadership

The survey sort to find out the role of political leadership in management of youth affairs and it was established that leaders were involved in setting rules for product pricing, reducing taxation on start-up businesses, employment, providing financial support, managing health issues and guiding infrastructural development. However the challenge of corruption witnessed in employment opportunities also had roots in the type of political leaders.

“Political goodwill is good they have supported and focused on youth in scaling up provision of facilities as sporting equipment though it’s not sustained it’s an off and on exercise. There is need to have a more consistent engagement in terms of youth empowerment a few want to engage them in times of election they give them. Politicians give few resources to youths, employment like CDF, WEF the youths are there since they have bigger population need to be given a bigger share for CDF, national funds a smaller portion is given to youths..”

[KII. County Commissioner, Nyandarua county]

2.7 Population Structure

Focus group discussions were conducted with young adolescents in school to find out what they know about the growing population of young people in relation to health, education and economic status. With regards to health they cited that the growing population would lead to rapid spread of diseases, congestion in the health facilities with few doctors unable to attend to many patients and this could undermine the quality of healthcare. With reference to education, they mentioned that the growing population could result to imbalanced teacher-student ratio due to congestion in class. In relation to economic status they reported that the growing population will lead to unemployment.

“...the health facilities available cannot be able to accommodate the population of young people...”

[FGD. Female 15-19, Nyandarua county]

Focus group discussions were also conducted with older youth who gave deeper revelations about the growing population in relation to health, education and economic status. They pointed out the problem of increased insecurity, dependency rates, and scarcity of resources, low economic growth and delivery of poor quality services as some of the effects of a growing population. Nonetheless, there were a few who saw the positive effect of the growing population as contributing factor to increased labour and demand for services.

“Because the youths are higher number than the employment, I think most youth ends up being idlers, they don’t want to start their own jobs because they might fall, they don’t want...as in there is not much job opportunities to match in their high numbers so you get most of them ending up being hopeless, end up being idlers without jobs...”

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Nyandarua county]

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

Health

To address the health issues affecting young people in the county, they should do the following:

1. Expand health facilities to remote areas.
2. Improve healthcare infrastructure by making them more youth friendly.
3. Train service providers to address the special needs for youth and young people living with disabilities.
4. Create more awareness on health issues in schools and using local popular media houses.
5. Subsidize costs of healthcare services to young people and people with disabilities.

Education

To address the education issues, the following should be undertaken:

1. Enforce laws on trafficking of drugs in schools and child labour.
2. Increase provision of bursaries and scholarships particularly to disadvantaged children.
3. Build more schools and tertiary institutions in the county and equip them with facilities (labs, libraries, ICT).
4. Create more awareness on importance of education by using role models.
5. Promote guidance and counseling in schools.

Economic

To address the economic issues, the following actions should be undertaken:

1. Sensitize youth particularly in remote areas on how to access and utilize youth funds and other opportunities.
2. Provide more funds for the youth and remove collaterals, high interest rates and bureaucracies.
3. Establish TVET institutions.
4. Promote internship/apprenticeship/attachment and mentorship programmes for youth to build their skills and work experience.

Governance

To address the governance issues, the stakeholders should:

1. Promote the '*Nyumba kumi*' initiative to enhance security.
2. Create county committees on a rotational basis to oversee projects.
3. Promote civic education for young people on issues of governance.
4. Improve mechanisms of transparency and accountability and apprehend county officials who are corrupt.

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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-2 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Central-2 Region

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NYANDARUA COUNTY