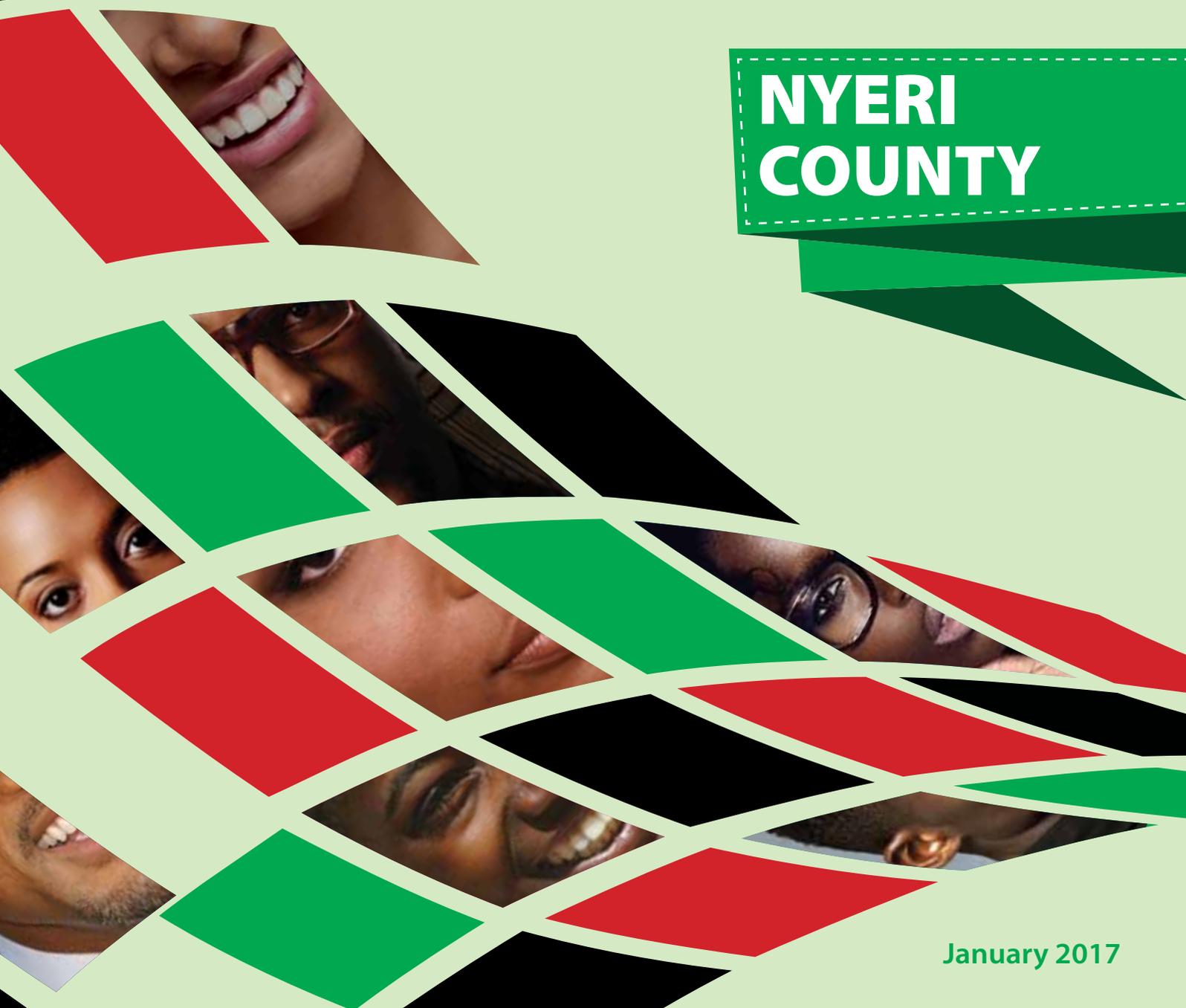




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

NYERI COUNTY



January 2017



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CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	iv
Glossary of Terms	v
Foreword	1
Acknowledgment	2
Executive Summary	3
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.1.1 Youth in Kenya	5
1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend	5
1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition	5
1.2 Survey Rationale	6
1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives	6
1.4 Survey Organisation	7
1.4.1 Pre-test	7
1.4.2 Trainings	7
1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation	8
1.5.2 Sampling	9
1.5.3 Data Collection	11
1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis	11
2 NYERI COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS	12
2.1 Background	12
2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics	13
2.2.1 Population and Structure	13
2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics	13
2.3 Health and Young Persons	15
2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young Persons	15
2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services	16
2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health	18
2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement	18
2.4 Education and Young Persons	18
2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young Persons	19
2.4.2 Availability and Access of Education Services	20
2.4.3 organisations Addressing Education	21
2.4.4 Relevance of courses taught to the job market	21
2.4.5 Opportunities for Improvement	21

2.5 Economic and Young Persons	22
2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young Persons and the Challenges	22
2.5.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young Persons	22
2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment	23
2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services	25
2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economy	27
2.5.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities	27
2.5.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age	28
2.6 Governance and Young Persons	28
2.6.1 Rule of Law	29
2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability	31
2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness	32
2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency	34
2.6.5 Political Leadership	34
2.7 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People	34
2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations	36
References	39
ANNEXES	
Annex 1: County Demographic Windows	40
Annex 2: Survey Personnel	41
Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants	42
LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions	9
Table 1.2 Key informant interviews and in-depth interviews sample frame for each county	10
Table 1.3 Focus group discussions sample frame for each county	10
Table 1.4 Survey response rates	11
Table 2.1 Population size and structure	13
Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Nyeri county	14
Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people	15
Table 2.4 Main sources and types of health information	16
Table 2.5 Challenges in accessing the main SRH/FP information	17
Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people	19
Table 2.7 Main Economic Activities Young People are engaged in	22
Table 2.8 The interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment	24
Table 2.9 ICT services available and accessible to young people	25
Table 2.10 Prevalent cases	29
Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year	40
Table A2.1 Central-2 Region	41
Table A2.2 Report authors	41

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.

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 Nyeri 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 Nyeri County in 2009 was 693,353 people and is projected to increase to 840,994 by 2030 and to 922,742 people by 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (34 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 24 percent and to 20 percent in the year 2030 and 2050 respectively. As the proportion of population of the young people declines, it is projected that the working age population will increase from 60 percent in 2009 to 69 percent in 2050 and the aging population from 6.5 percent in 2009 to 10.9 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 67.4 to 46 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2035 and close in 2075.

Nyeri County has a fertility rate of 2.7 children per woman. Seventy-three percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Eight-eight percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 84 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. However, the County has a HIV prevalence rate of 4.3 percent.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 99 percent. This means that about 1 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is slightly lower (86 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. It is estimated that 1,628 primary school age and 7,083 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 0.589 which is higher than the national average of 0.520.

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

The young people in the county face a myriad of issues that are aggravated by poverty, inequality and social ills like alcoholism, which affects negatively the economic growth and restrict young people to access to opportunities. Both social and economic development interventions are necessary to address the various challenges the young people face in the county. Investment in the health, education, and economic opportunities for the young population coupled will accelerate economic growth in the county.

The survey results show that the young people in the county face several health challenges including DSA especially alcoholism, STIs, SGBV, teenage pregnancy, and low access to health services, especially to reproductive health care services. The report recommends establishment of rehabilitation centres for DSA victims, strengthening of parental guidance, enhancement of access of the youth to productive health services, improvement of health infrastructure and equipping them and increase public awareness on the issues affecting young people.

In educational front, the county has very high net enrolment rate at primary level which was almost universal (99 percent) while the secondary was fairly good at 86 percent. However, the county has 1,628 pupils and 7,083 teenagers of primary and secondary school age respectively who are out of school. Concerted efforts should be made to achieve universal access to education in the county.

In the economic front, young people should be sensitized on the interventions the government has put in place to empower them economically. The UWEZO funds should be availed to young people without bottlenecks and on merit. The county government should device ways of creating training, business and employment opportunities for the unemployed young people in the county.

The survey results show that young people are not involved at all levels of project design and implementation, especially in projects that are for young people. Corruption and nepotism were cited as the major hurdles that deny young people employment opportunities. Therefore, the county government should eradicate corruption and nepotism in the county.



INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Youth in Kenya

The United Nations uses the terms youth and young people interchangeably to mean people aged 15-24 years with the understanding that member states and other entities may use different definitions. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) defines youth as those individuals who have attained the age of 18 years but have not attained the age of 35 years. Those aged 18-34 years constitute about 30 percent of Kenya's total population while those aged 0-34 years constitute 78 percent of the population. This youthful population is a demographic asset and investing in their education, health, skill development and employment prospects will accelerate a demographic dividend. To reap the benefits of this dividend, Kenya must make sound investment in health, education and economic development.

1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

The demographic dividend refers to the accelerated economic development that a country can attain by slowing down the pace of population growth while at the same time making strategic investments in the health, education, economic, and governance sectors. The demographic dividend concept is being popularized in developing countries as a potential solution to their development challenges. In embracing this concept, Kenya modelled the demographic dividend in 2014 using the *DemDiv* Model that was developed by Futures Group. The modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend was supported by USAID through the Health Policy Project. Results from the model showed that Kenya could achieve the following results by 2050 through implementation of activities aimed at achieving the demographic dividend: Investments per capita will increase to about US\$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US\$ 200; Fertility levels will decline to an average of 2 children per woman from the current 4 children per woman thereby decreasing the dependency ratio: Even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (i.e. people in the labour force who are not active) will be 8 million which is less than the current gap of 10 million. These results are consistent with the aspirations of *Kenya Vision 2030*.

1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million people in 2009. It was estimated to be increasing at a rate of 1 million people each year representing a growth rate of about 2.9 percent

annually. From the census results, the dependency ratio was recorded at 87 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years). The 2009 Census also indicated that Kenya's population-age structure is youthful because the population of children below the age of 15 years was 43 percent, way above the cut-off limit of 35 percent. This was corroborated by the fact that those aged below 35 years constitute 78 percent of the country's total population. This population-age structure does not lend itself to the country's efforts to attain a rapid economic growth because most of the resources are spent on meeting the ever increasing social needs (health, housing, education, water and sanitation) of the fast growing population.

Kenya's Population Policy for National Development recognizes that the rapid growth in the population size is a constraint to national development. To counter this, the policy proposes a reduction in the fertility levels from 5 children per woman in 2009 to 2 children per woman in 2050. According to the 2014 KDHS, the fertility level was 4 children per woman in 2014 which is a clear indication that the fertility levels are dropping. If this trend continues and Kenya achieves a fertility level of 2 children per woman by 2050 then the population size will increase to 59 million people in 2030 and 75 million people in 2050 with the proportion of those aged below 15 years decreasing to 33 and 25 percent respectively. The dependency ratio for the country in 2030 and 2050 will be 57 and 45 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years) respectively.

1.2 Survey Rationale

In 2014, NCPD and various partners modeled Kenya's demographic dividend using the *DemDiv* model. The results obtained from the modeling exercise showed that Kenya could achieve accelerated socio-economic growth through targeted investments. However, it was recognized that for this to happen, each of the 47 counties would have to play a role. Unfortunately, information on the demographic dividend potential for each county and the specific activities that they each need to implement so as to benefit from this potential was largely lacking. Given the differences in the health, education, economic and governance status of the counties, it was necessary to conduct this survey to generate county specific information on the demographic dividend potential and activities that need to be implemented. With this information at hand, each county would know what they need to do to harness the potential of their youthful population.

1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives

Survey goal

The goal of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey was to provide solid evidence on how the growing youth population can be harnessed to accelerate economic growth and achieve a demographic dividend.

Survey objectives

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

- a. To generate a profile of adolescents and young people in each county. This includes the population size, age distribution, and socio-demographic characteristics.
- b. Identify Health, Education, Economic and Governance issues that affect young people in each county.
- c. Identify investment opportunities in the key sectors in each county.
- d. Provide policy and programme recommendations based on the survey findings.

1.4 Survey Organisation

The implementation of the survey was facilitated by two committees; Steering and Technical committees whose members were drawn from different organisations representing the different sectors that have a key role in the country's efforts to harness the demographic dividend. Members of the Steering Committee were involved in providing policy guidance and field work monitoring while members of the Technical Committee were involved in giving technical input and supervision of field teams alongside the NCPD County Population Coordinators.

1.4.1 Pre-test

The survey pre-test was conducted in April 2015, where 26 Technical Committee members and a selection of research assistants participated. The purpose of the pre-test was to check on the flow and meaning of questions, language used in the tools, and the time it would take to administer each tool. During the pre-test, the programme for the fieldwork training was developed and reviewed to ensure that the training for the fieldwork would cover all the necessary aspects that are required to fully equip the research assistants in readiness for the data collection exercise.

1.4.2 Trainings

The Technical Committee members were trained for three days, in February 2015, on demographic dividend and its applicability in the Kenyan context so that they could be conversant with the concept before embarking on the development of the survey tools. This enabled the Technical Committee members to develop the data collection tools that responded to the objectives of the survey.

In April 2015, thirty-four research assistants were competitively recruited for data collection in the 47 counties. They were trained from 29th April to 9th May 2015 in Nakuru. The trainees were taken through the survey tools, materials and modalities of recruiting the respondents for the different tools that were to be administered. They were also trained on how to conduct interviews. Different methodologies and approaches were used in the training to ensure that the research assistants were well equipped to collect quality data.

1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation

The NAYS survey used two methodologies namely; quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative methodology involved the desk review of secondary data from the *2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census*, the *2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS)*, the *2014 Economic Survey and the 2014 Basic Education Statistical Booklet*. These sources were used to generate information on population, health, education, and economic issues at both national and county levels. It presented a synopsis of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the country and each of the counties. The quantitative methodology also involved the generation of population projection data for each of the counties using **PADIS software**. The qualitative methodology involved the collection of qualitative data through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews.

1.5.1 Survey tools

In collecting the qualitative data, the following tools were used:

- a. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) guides for conducting focus group discussions.
- b. Key Informant Interview (KII) guides for conducting key informant interviews with policy/ decision makers at county level.
- c. In-Depth Interview (IDI) guides conducting in-depth interviews with service providers in health, education, and economic sectors.
- d. Check list for youth-serving organisations.

The FGD, KII, and IDI guides were used to solicit information on the key issues affecting the wellbeing and participation of young people in terms of health, education, economic opportunities and governance. In addition to this, the tools were used to collect information on how the identified issues could be addressed. The checklist for youth serving organisations was used to assess the state of health and education facilities and services for young people.

1.5.2 Sampling

The sample for the qualitative component of the survey was national in scope covering the 47 counties in Kenya. These counties were clustered into 16 survey regions based on social-demographic characteristics. Table 1.1 shows the clustering of all the counties from which the set of all the tools were administered.

Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions

	Region	Counties
1.	Nairobi	Nairobi
2.	North Eastern	Garrisa, Wajir, Mandera
3.	Upper Eastern	Isiolo, Marsabit
4.	Central Eastern	Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi
5.	Lower Eastern	Kitui, Makueni, Machakos
6.	North Rift (1)	Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, Turkana,
7.	North Rift (2)	UasinGishu, Elgeiyo Marakwet, Nandi
8.	Central Rift	Nakuru, Kericho, Bomet, Baringo
9.	South Rift	Kajiado, Narok, Samburu
10.	Western	Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia
11.	Nyanza South	Kisii, Nyamira, Migori (Kuria)
12.	Nyanza North	Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori (Luo)
13.	Central (1)	Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga,
14.	Central (2)	Nyeri, Nyandarua, Laikipia
15.	Coast (1)	Mombasa, Kwale, TaitaTaveta,
16.	Coast (2)	Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi

In mapping out areas where the data was collected from, the survey was guided by the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP V) which is developed and managed by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Each tool was administered to targeted respondents who had been determined using criteria that had been set prior to the survey field work. The criteria used to recruit those who would participate in the focus group discussions were age, sex, and schooling status. FGDs were conducted for the following age groups 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-34 and 35-60 year olds. Given the survey objectives, the young people responded to issues on health, education, economic, and governance that touched on their daily lives. The older age groups (35-60 years) gave their perceptions on health, education, economic, and governance as it relates to the young people. In order to triangulate the information collected, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-Depth Interviews

(IDIs) were used to collect information from key informants and service providers respectively. The KIIs were administered to policy makers’ in-charge of the specific sectors of interest in the counties. The respondents to the IDIs were service providers in the health, education and economic sectors.

Table 1.2 and 1.3 show that the target for each county was 8 Key Informant Interviews, 8 In-Depth Interviews, and 9 Focus Group Discussions.

Table 1.2 Key informant interviews and in-depth interviews sample frame for each county

Sector	Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	In-Depth Interviews (IDIs)
Health	County Executive Committee Member (CEC) – Health OR Chief Officer Health OR County Director of Health	1. Health Facility In-charge 2. Manager In-charge of Youth Serving Organisation in Health
Education	1. County Director of Education (CDE) 2. County Executive Committee Member (CEC) - Education	1. Primary School with Pre-primary – School heads (1 public School) 2. Secondary School – Principals (1 public school) 3. Tertiary Institutions – Dean of student (1) 4. TVET (1)
Economy	1. County Director of Youth Development 2. County Executive Committee Member (CEC) - Youth Affairs 3. CEC to be selected depending on the main economic activity of the county	1. Enterprise Development Fund Representative (UWEZO, YEDF, WEF etc) 2. A leading employer in the County
Governance	1. County Commissioner 2. County Executive Committee Member (CEC) – Public Administration	N/A

Table 1.3 Focus group discussions sample frame for each county

Group	Additional Criteria	No. of FGDs	Place
Young people, Age 10-14	1 for males and 1 for females	2	School
Young people, Age 15-19	1 for males and 1 for females	2	School
Young people, Age 15-19	1 mixed group out of school (male & female, married & unmarried)	1	Community
Young people Age 15-24	1 for marginalized populations	1	Community
Young people, Age 20-24	1 for married and unmarried youths	1	Community
Young people, Age 25-34	1 for married and unmarried youths	1	Community
Older people, Age 35-60	1 for older people (male and female)	1	Community

1.5.3 Data Collection

Data collection was done by 16 teams, each consisting of two research assistants. The fieldwork commenced on 11th May and ended on 31st July 2015. Each team was assigned two or three counties for data collection. In addition to this, each team had a vehicle and a driver to ensure smooth movement during the data collection exercise. Using the field work plan developed during the fieldwork training, the research assistants systematically collected data from their assigned regions. Throughout this process, they were guided by their respective supervisors. At the end of each day the team members got together to share their experiences and prepare the day's summaries. This sharing helped the teams to strategize the next day's work. Table 1.4 summarizes the response rate for the interviews conducted using the FGD, KII, and IDI guides.

Table 1.4 shows that IDIs had the highest response at 93 percent followed by FGDs at 92 percent. KIIs, which targeted the policy makers at county level, had the lowest response rate at 78 percent.

Table 1.4 Survey response rates

	Focus Group Discussions	Key Informant Interviews	In-Depth Interviews
Interviews Targeted	423	376	376
Interviews Conducted	389	294	348
Coverage (percent)	92%	78%	93%

1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis

As part of the data collection exercise, the interviews were captured using both digital recorders and note books. The data was then transcribed in the original language of the interview and was translated into English language, in cases where the interview language was not English. The hard copies of the English scripts were then typed using Microsoft Word to convert them into soft copies. This was done by the research assistants. On receipt of the data at NCPD headquarters, the same was handed over to data clerks for checking, cleaning and processing.

The quantitative data was processed using SPSS and PADIS while the qualitative data was processed using NVIVO QRS (version 10) software. NVIVO software was used to access, organize, manage, shape, code, explore, extract and analyse the textual data. A team of thirteen (13) data clerks was trained on how to process the data using this software. To ensure consistency and quality, two supervisors reviewed and verified the coded data.

2

NYERI COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Nyeri County is located in the central part of Kenya. The County is comprised of eight administrative districts namely; Kieni East, Kieni West, Mathira East, Mathira West, Nyeri South, Nyeri Central, Mukurwe-ini and Tetu. In addition, the County has six constituencies namely; Kieni, Mathira, Nyeri town (municipality), Othaya, Mukurwe-ini and Tetu. The County has population living in rural, urban and settlement and covers an area of 3,337.2 square kilometres with a total density of 207.8.

The main physical features of the County which are also the two forest eco-systems are Mount (Mt.) Kenya (5,199m) to the East and the Aberdare ranges (3,999m) to the West. The western part of the County is flat, whereas further southwards, the topography is characterized by steep ridges and valleys, with a few hills such as Karima, Nyeri and Tumutumu. These hills affect the pattern of rainfall, thus influencing the mode of agricultural production in some localized areas.

Generally, there are two types of settlements in the County, namely, clustered settlement and scattered settlement. Clustered settlement patterns are mainly found around towns and horticultural areas. These include the high potential regions of Mathira, Othaya, Tetu and Mukurwe-ini constituencies and fast growing towns of Karatina, Othaya, Naromoru, Chaka, Kiawara, and Mweiga where there are many migrant workers and business people who have settled. Scattered settlement patterns are mainly found in Kieni constituency which is semi arid. This is mainly due to ecological factors since most people usually settle in fertile lands with adequate rainfall. The focus in the ASAL regions in the County is irrigation-agriculture to support food security in the region.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics

2.2.1 Population and Structure

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

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	693,353	840,994	922,742
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	33.8%	24.4%	20.3%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	6.5%	6.4%	10.9%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	59.7%	69.3%	68.7%
Dependency Ratio	67.4	44.4	45.5
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2016		

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Nyeri County had a population of 693,353 people. By 2030 the population is expected to rise to 840,994 and 922,742 by 2050. The proportion of the population below age 15 is projected to decline from 34 percent in 2009 to 20 percent in 2050. The elderly population is projected to increase from about 7 percent in 2009 to 11 percent in 2050.

The population in the working age is projected to increase from 60 percent in 2009 to about 69 percent in 2050. This would lead to a steady decline in the dependency ratio from 67 percent in 2009 to 44 percent in 2030. .

The County's demographic window of opportunity will open in 2016 meaning that in 2016 the proportion of the population below age 15 will be below 30 percent and the proportion of the elderly population will be below 15 percent.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 shows the socio-economic characteristics for Nyeri County

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Nyeri county

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	2.7
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	73.1%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	88.1%
	HIV Prevalence	4.3%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	84.3%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	98.7%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	22.9
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	1,628
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	86.1%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	20
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	7,083
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.5891697

Nyeri County has low fertility. Its fertility rate is 2.7 children per woman which is much lower than the national fertility rate of 3.9 children per woman. Seventy-three percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives and 88 percent of the births are attended by a skilled health worker. And 84 percent of children aged 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. The county's HIV prevalence rate is 4.3 percent.

In regard to education, the county has very high school enrolment rates in both primary and secondary level. The primary school net enrolment rate is 99 percent. This means that about 1 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. The secondary school net enrolment rate is 86 percent. It is estimated that 1,628 primary school age and 7,083 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. Table 2.2 also shows that the teacher-pupil ratios are very good 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 0.589 which is higher than the national average of 0.520.

2.3 Health and Young Persons

The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young persons in Nyeri County. The questions were raised across board including young persons, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in health.

This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main health problems affecting young persons in the county, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to youth and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of SRH information and services. The third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing health services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving health sector within the county. Some quotations from the FGDs, KII and IDI are provided, where necessary, to support or reinforce certain issues or points.

2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young Persons

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Sexually transmitted infections	Inadequate information on SRH	School drop out Death	Public education on hygiene and sanitation Parental guidance
Drug and substance abuse (DSA)	Peer pressure	Mental health	Guidance and counselling
Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV)	Poverty	Stress	Sex education/life skills
Teenage pregnancy	Unhygienic conditions		Establish rehabilitation centres for DSA victims
Malnutrition or lack of food			Young people to be meaningfully engaged
Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) – Cancer			Encourage formation of groups that would do table banking
Mental health			Support the poor and marginalised
Communicable Diseases (CDs) –typhoid, common cold, headaches, stomach aches			Religious interventions

Several health problems were mentioned by the respondents. The main problems mentioned are; STIs, including HIV and AIDS, DSA and SGBV. Alcoholism is the main DSA issue while rape was singled out as the SGBV issue. These health problems were attributed to inadequate information on SRH and peer pressure. Poverty was also reported as one of the reasons why youth might engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, DSA and teenage pregnancy. The groups observed that public education on proper hygiene and sanitation would reduce the incidence of communicable diseases such as e typhoid.

The groups observed that the consequences of these health problems included school dropout especially as a result of DSA and teenage pregnancy. It was also noted that in some instances the health problems resulted in premature death where young people die because of taking illicit brews and poor mental health among young people. Sex education on SRH issues and especially on the 'ABC' of sex would drastically reduce new infections of HIV and AIDS. To avoid idleness which was causing a lot of young people to engage in illicit brews, the participants suggested that young people should be meaningfully engaged in order to keep them busy. Table banking was singled out as one way that would empower youth economically since they can start businesses or farm with the money borrowed. Establishment of rehabilitation centres, parental guidance and guidance and counselling were largely suggested as some of the ways to address health problems among young people in the County.

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

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

Table 2.4 Main sources and types of health Information

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Media - radio	STIs	Disease Prevention	Seminars
Social media	Disease prevention and diagnosis	Behaviour change	Telephone handsets
Health Facilities	SRH	Increase knowledge on SRH issues	Internet - Social media
Schools			Schools
Seminars			Health facilities
Theatre			
Games and sports			
Religious Institutions			
Public barazas			
CHWs and CHEWs			

The respondents identified several sources of information the main sources of information were the media (radio), social media (face book), health facilities and schools/learning institutions. Other sources included seminars, theatre, religious institutions and public barazas. The participants mentioned that during games and sports sometimes guests are invited who talk to young people on issues that affect them. CHWs and CHEWs do house to house visits and they give health information and services. The type of information received from these sources was on disease prevention and diagnosis, SRH information including information on HIV and AIDS and this led to an empowered young person in terms of increased knowledge on life skills. This information was regarded as useful in terms of disease prevention and behaviour change. The most preferred sources of information were seminars, telephone, social media schools and health facilities.

Table 2.5 Challenges in accessing the main SRH/FP information

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT)	Side effects	Guidance and counselling especially in FP
Contraceptives mainly the pill, implants, IUCD and the condoms	Fear/embarrassment	Subsidize cost of accessing health services
Cancer screening	Stigma	Establish/strengthen YFCs
Sexuality	Lack of commodities	
	Cost of services	
	Side effects	
	Inadequate YFCs	
	Being forced to be tested for HIV	

The main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young persons were HCT, cancer (breast and cervical) screening, contraceptives largely the oral pills, implants, IUCDs and condoms. Information reported from a service provider indicated that sexuality information is also available and accessible. In addition, the young people mentioned challenges in accessing these services which included; side effects in regard to FP commodities, fear or embarrassment especially to young people while seeking for YFSs in health facilities, lack of FP commodities and inadequate YFCs. Stigma was largely associated among the PWDs.

“Another point for females on family planning. First of all you should be taught, when you say you want family planning they should not first give you. They should tell you that this family planning method has these side effects. They don’t teach you, so you would find yourself in a situation where you use it and it does not suit your body so you get sick. So they should be teaching us about family planning because you use the family planning and it gets you sick.”

[FGD. Mixed Young Persons 25-34, Nyeri]

Ways of addressing these health challenges were mentioned and these included guidance and counselling largely by the health providers in FP and subsidise the cost of accessing health facilities. Young people largely mentioned that they shy away from seeking health services in health facilities because they fear meeting their relatives and neighbours. Therefore YFCs should be established and in areas where they exist, they be strengthened.

There was also a discussion on the type of information & services for marginalized youth including persons with disability (PWDs) and orphans. The services available included Ante-retro Viral Therapy (ART), SRH where the People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWAs) access FP services, donations where well-wishers donate wheel chairs, blankets and food for the physically disabled and orphans. The PWDs and PLWAs are invited for life skills seminars and they are encouraged to live positively.

Overall, the general challenges in accessing health information and services for the marginalised were stigma and discrimination, long queues in health facilities and lack of disability friendly services.

“In some hospitals when you go for clinics you make the queues and before you are treated or attended, it takes a lot of time. And the doctors are just ignoring.”

[FGD. Female young persons 15-19, Nyeri]

2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

The main organisations identified as addressing health issues were mainly well-wishers, motivational speakers and NGOs. USAID in the APHIA Kamili Project was largely mentioned to provide health services and also cater for the orphans in the county. An organisation known as Kaiyaba youth group was sensitising young people on DSA. Other interventions by these organisations were on health talks, nutrition information, hygiene and sanitation.

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

The main suggestion made was on upgrading the equipments in the health facilities. This would make services like cancer screening accessible; provision of sanitary towels to girls even those in secondary schools because only a few primary schools benefit from the government initiative of sanitary towels; involve the youth in development projects; establish YFCs; offer Disability Friendly Services in health facilities; establish rehabilitation centres for young people who are addicts of illicit liquor and staff health facilities in order to make health services efficient and accessible to all.

2.4 Education and Young Persons

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

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

2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young Persons

Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Idleness	School drop out	Guidance and counselling
Poverty	Poverty	Poor academic results and performance	Disciplinary action on teachers
Truancy	Peer pressure	Alcoholism	Control of media content
Teenage pregnancy	Alcoholism		Establishment of rehabilitation centres
Negative perception on education	Fatigue		Provision of bursaries/ education funds
Government quota system	Parental negligence		Law enforcement on child labour
Curriculum overload			Apprehension of criminals
Discrimination			
Child labour			
High cost			
Inadequate teachers			
Death of parents			

The respondents identified several issues affecting education. DSA, poverty, truancy, and teenage pregnancy were reported as the main issues affecting education. The Quota System for Form Selection was blamed for denying the pupils of Nyeri County good chances of education since the schools in Nyeri are generally good and high performing. Pupils on the other hand have negative attitude towards education since they see some young people who are educated and still jobless. Discrimination especially in awarding bursaries was reported as an issue that was denying the poor access to education. Child labour, high cost of education, inadequate teachers and death of parents/guardians were other issues reported. The 8-4-4 curriculum was noted to be overloaded and not matching with the prevailing requirements in the job market.

“There is something I have been hearing during the times I was in school; the 8-4-4 curriculum is very over loaded compared to the time given to the students. What you are studying does not help you career wise and does not match with what is out there. So some of these students are discouraged and get out of school.”

[FGD. Mixed young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

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

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

Guidance and counselling was largely suggested as one of the ways to address education issues affecting the young people, especially those that have been affected by DSA. Disciplinary action was to be taken on teachers who were affected by truancy. The media was blamed on having a negative influence on young people and the content of some programmes was to be contained. Criminals who supplied drugs to young people were to be apprehended in order to curb the vice.

The younger youth reported that some of them do not go to school due to poverty; hence they drop out of school to provide for the family. This was largely reported to affect the orphaned children.

In order to ensure that no child dropped out of school due to poverty/high cost of education, priority in the provision of bursaries was to be given to the needy and deserving children in the community. The government was also implored upon to make the free primary and secondary school education completely free, because despite the fact that it is free, parents still pay money. Child labour which is prevalent in the agricultural sector could be addressed by enforcing the law on child labour and implementing Children’s Act of 2001.

2.4.2 Availability and Access of Education Services

Of interest was the young peoples’ perception of availability and access to education services. The general view of the county is that education institutions are available but there is general inadequacy of facilities like the libraries, dormitories and toilets in some of the primary and secondary schools and colleges. Information from a policy maker indicated that;

“The number of children and education places; you will find that the number of places is more than the children. We have more schools than the students. There are many private investors in education causing pupils to join or go to private schools.”

[Key Informant interview, Education, Nyeri]

On gender balance in learning institutions, a participant indicated that the county has a gender imbalance in favour of girls.

“I can say its 80 percent transition from primary level to secondary schools. In Nyeri County completion is higher for girls that for boys. That imbalance proceeds even to higher education. Access to primary is 80% same level by gender.”

[Key Informant interview, Education, Nyeri]

2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education

In schools where they had brought together the alumni, it was singled out as a group that addresses education issues by paying school fees for the needy children. Organisations such as financial institutions like Equity, Barclays and Cooperative banks were reported as institution that address education issues as well. These financial institutions provide tuition fees for the needy students. The CDF was reported to provide bursaries to children though the dissenting voices reported that they CDF was not offering bursaries on merit. The key informant reported added World Bank and World vision and private companies which capacity build on education matters as well as renovate schools.

2.4.4 Relevance of Courses Taught to The Job Market

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

“They don’t tally because those youths are not getting jobs after education but they just look like those who are uneducated. For example, if you are educated on technical skills you should be taken to places with technical opportunities so that they can be able to do well in future.”

[FGD. Mixed older persons 35-60, Nyeri]

2.4.5 Opportunities for Improvement

To conclude the discussion on education, participants were asked to suggest the opportunities for improvement of education within their county. The main observation was that CDF should allocate bursaries to deserving cases and more money should be added to the bursary fund to cater for the large number of needy students. More awareness campaigns should be conducted on DSA in order to arrest the school dropout due to alcohol abuse. Some schools are ill equipped and the government should equip such schools and also employ more teachers. In addition, the government was implored upon to reduce the cost of education which was noted to be high.

2.5 Economic and Young Persons

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

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

The main employment and income opportunities that were reported for the county were farming, *boda boda*, casual labour and businesses where young people are self-employed in the Mpesa and selling of water. The groups mentioned that the challenges the young people encounter in accessing these employment opportunities were corruption, high taxation, discrimination, lack of skills and capital.

2.5.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young Persons

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

Table 2.7 Main Economic Activities Young People are engaged in

Main economic activities young people are involved in	Challenges faced	Ways of addressing these Challenges
Farming	Lack of capital	Capacity building
Shop attendants	High taxation	Sensitisation on the different
Boda boda	Lack of skills	Guidance and follow up
Casuals labourers	Job selection/attitude	Government to reduce interest
	Insecurity	Beef up security in the shopping centres
	Discouragement	Avoid discrimination
	Fear of loans	
	Corruption	
	Tribalism	
	Lack of information	
	Discrimination	

The young people in the county indicated that the main economic activities were farming, shop attendant, *boda boda* and casual labourers. The challenges they faced include lack of capital to start/

expand the businesses, high taxation when buying goods, lack of skills to diversify their businesses, insecurity where shops are broken into and fear of borrowing loans. Corruption and tribalism was reported to be rife even while seeking for casual labour. Discrimination on age and tribe was a challenge that was locking a lot of young people from activities that they can do comfortably. The young people also discourage one another from engaging in economic activities as shown in this quote;

“They discourage each other. If it is forming a group for a loan, one of them comes and tells them that their properties will be confiscated because of the loan thus discouraging them. They also lack patience in such a way that if they start a group, before they reach a point they can secure a loan, they just lose hope on the way. Another challenge is that when they start those small businesses e.g. boda boda operators, the way they spend the profits due to their level of education they assume they are the richest of all people here. They are known as the richest people, which make them to spend the money unwisely on drugs, miraa etc.”

[FGD. Mixed older persons 35-60, Nyeri]

Some of the ways reported to address the mentioned challenges were; capacity building young people on entrepreneurship, guidance and follow up especially after they access the loans, government to reduce the high interest charged on bank loans and the older persons should guide them instead of discriminating the young people. Insecurity was mentioned as a challenge and addressing it would go a long way in making their businesses thrive.

In the younger age groups (10-14 years) that represented the youth in schools, views were sought concerning income generating activities that young people of their age engage in. Some of the highlighted activities that those below 19 years engage in are; farming especially in the coffee and tea farms. The main reason behind their engagement in the economic activities was school dropout due to poverty and their parents’ refusal to support them.

2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Owing to the high levels of unemployment among the young people, the government, the private sector as well as civil society organisations have focused attention on the need to create jobs and enhance the capacities of the youth to earn decent livelihoods. The government has put interventions to ensure that the young people though unemployed access some funds where they can borrow and invest in economic activities. The summary of findings is shown in Table 2.8.

Table 2.8 The interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways of addressing these challenges
YEDF	Corruption	Sensitisation on the interventions
WEDF	High interest on loans	Reduce interest rate
KKV	Bureaucracy	Promotes socialisation
UWEZO fund	Fear of loans	Eradicate corruption
NYS	Lack of skills	Apprehend the law breakers
	Lack of capital	Encourage exchange programmes
	Lack of information and awareness on the availability of interventions	
	Tribalism	
	Lack of qualifications	

Across all the groups especially the older group (above 25 years) various interventions were suggested which include *Kazi Kwa Vijana* (KKV), UWEZO fund, WEDF and NYS. Corruption was suggested as a hindrance to accessing the availed funds by the government. Young people reported that sometimes they were not aware on the interventions in place hence there is need for capacity building by youth officers on the interventions and how to benefit from them. NYS was reported to be marred by corruption when it comes to selecting the young people. Lack of skills in loan application was reported to be lacking especially among the young people who did not complete school.

The young people reported that group formation promotes socialisation; hence it should be embraced for the group is also the gateway to accessing the YEDF, WEDF and UWEZO. The interest rate especially on the loans channelled through banks was noted to be high and the government was called upon to compel the banks to reduce the interest rate. The older persons reported that corruption should be eradicated and the culprits should be apprehended and persecuted for young people to benefit from the interventions the government has introduced to the young people to empower them economically. Exchange programmes should be encouraged so that young people can learn from one another.

“They can be encouraged to get exposure i.e. if we hear of a group that is successful in the neighbouring area, they can find time say like in the afternoon and two of them can join and visit the neighbouring village to see that successful group. They can also visit youth officers among others.....”

[FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Nyeri]

The benefits of these interventions to young people is that they provide young people with financial support for they can access loans, which they use to start businesses and this improves the economic status of young people. The WEDF provides money for business which can also be used to educate

children; NYS makes young people to gain skills and knowledge in various courses that they go to study in NYS schools. After the courses they can be employed hence support themselves.

2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

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

Table 2.9 ICT services available and accessible to young people

ICT Services available	Challenges encountered in accessing ICT services	Ways of addressing these Challenges
Computers	High cost	Affordable ICT services
Digital boxes	Long distances	Diversify ICT services
Cyber cafes	Lack of network	Equip ICT centres
Resource centres	Lack of power supply	Make ICT accessible and affordable
Smart phones	Lack of knowledge and skills on how to operate the gadgets	Install of electricity
Television	Lack of digital equipment (smart phones)	Provide computers classes in schools
Radio	Inadequate ICT centres	Capacity building

Computers, TV and radios were suggested across all the age groups. Young people also accessed ICT services from cyber cafes, resource centres and smart phones. The challenges can be summarised in this quote;

”Lack of computers, unreliable networks, others lack knowledge to use computers, lack of ICT skills, prohibitive distances from their homes to where they can access those facilities, to the people with disabilities, they lack that assistive facility to help them in using those gadgets.”

[FGD. Mixed marginalised young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

“We have electricity around but due to high installation cost, many can’t afford so that cost should be lowered so that majority should be able to install the power. Even they don’t understand the digital boxes since people have never seen them. So these things should be brought nearer for people to see them so that they may know what they need to buy. They should also be educated so as to know how they should be operated.”

[FGD. Mixed young persons 20-24, Nyeri]

On how to address the challenges, the marginalised group of young persons noted that;

“May be to establish ICT centres within the villages, developing reliable networks within their reach for example in Nyeri, there should be an open field where when people go there they are able to access Wi-Fi services and maybe charge a small entry fee to access those services.”

[FGD. Mixed marginalised young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

Information gathered from a key informant indicated that the Nyeri town youth were already enjoying free internet.

“I would say we have so much of ICT availability. It only now we have fibre optic coming to Nyeri and giving accessibility to ICT. There is a launch of free Wifi at Whiskers Park and youth can go and the internet services at no cost.”

[Key Informant interview, Economy, Nyeri]

The in-school young people reported that the ICT services available are computers, telephone handsets and laptops. Cyber cafes were suggested across all the age groups. The participants mentioned that there were no ICT services for students with special needs. Not all primary, secondary and tertiary learning institutions have computer lessons.

Across board, the groups suggested that ICT services are important to the young people because the internet keeps young people updated especially when they visit the social media; it makes them more knowledgeable through email and internet. In addition, young people use the information for entertainment for instance search for music and movies, job search, to acquire more knowledge in education and also to gain knowledge on diverse issues that are beneficial to them.

2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economy

The marginalised group summarised the main organisations in this quote;

“These are those that we had mentioned like youth fund, of course other programs example in agriculture there is Njaa marufuku, organisations like YMCA, where they offer life skills, ICT and entrepreneurship skills to youths. Ministry of trade also organizes trade fair shows; maybe SNEs carry out sensitizations campaigns. Then we have banks which sometimes does sensitizations. Then we have banks that sometimes do capacity and some MFIs.”

[FGD. Mixed marginalised young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

These organisations largely provide employment opportunities to young people. These made the young people busy hence participate in the development of the county.

2.5.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

To conclude the discussion on the economy, participants were asked to suggest the potential areas to increase employment and economic opportunities. The main areas suggested were in farming – livestock, fish, poultry and coffee farming. Markets to sell these farm produce should be sort for young persons to benefit fully. The older youth (above 35 years) reported that parents should sub divide the coffee among the children so that the young people can cater for their own coffee trees. Other potential areas mentioned were *jua kali* sector, NYS for those who did not complete school due to lack of school fees, environment sector - where young people should be given the work to collect garbage and clear bushes near urban centres, businesses like the saloons and barber shops and county government should develop a fund like CDF that gives grants to young people to start businesses.

To curb rural-urban migration the young persons suggested that government should ensure that electricity is installed in the rural areas and industries established where young people can seek for employment.

“The government should provide electricity in the rural areas for there are many people in rural areas and they go to find work in urban areas because that’s where they can find electricity. But in rural areas there is no electricity but if it is there people can start the industries.”

[FGD. Female young persons 15-19, Nyeri]

2.5.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age

Young people ought to be encouraged to save and invest for old age. The views varied between wanting to save for the future and not saving for the future. The dissenting voices in this discussion reported that;

“Of course youths view the income they are getting as little. It can only cater for their needs today so they cannot save for tomorrow, so they don’t see as if they will need money in future and whatever they get is so little according to them so they don’t need to save.”

[FGD. Mixed marginalised young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

However, the young persons reported that they would like to save and invest for old age so that they would be having stable businesses and families. Though the majority wanted to save and invest, the following barriers exist that hinder them from saving; unemployment, poverty, less income-more needs, high expenditure, lack of parental guidance, lack of skills and information on saving and investment, environmental factors where they farm and the weather spoils the crops, ignorance, lack of optimism, disability and expectation of inheritance from the parents.

“There is lack of knowledge, little income, increased needs, more preference for entertainment, and such things which consume a lot of money so by the end of the day they lack anything to save.”

[FGD. Mixed marginalised young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

When asked what were the ways to address the barriers, the young people reported the need to create awareness on the importance of saving and investing, reduce prices of goods and services so that the young people get some surplus money to save, support agriculture by provision of irrigation so that agriculture can be dependable, eradicate DSA, reduce NSSF rates and employment opportunities and banking/SACCO services should be availed even in the towns in the rural areas.

2.6 Governance and Young Persons

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

This section sought the views in regard to the eight principles in governance.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

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

2.6.1.1 Justice system

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

Table 2.10 Prevalent cases

Main Cases	Challenges	Ways of addressing those challenges
Tribalism	Corruption	Eradicate corruption
Police harassment	Courts	Embrace nyumba kumi initiative
Theft/robbery	Traditional dispute resolution	Train paralegals
SGBV – rape	Lack of confidentiality	Promote inter-generation dialogue
Insecurity	Inadequate security	Government intervention
Land disputes	Injustice	Expulsion and suspension
Family conflict	Favouritism	Promote justice and cohesion
Selling of drugs	Illiteracy	Capacity building
Carjacking	Financial constraints	
Corruption	Enmity	
DSA	Ignorance of the judicial system	

The most prevalent cases are tribalism, police harassment, robbery/theft and SGBV which were reported by all the groups. Other cases include, insecurity, corruption, family disputes mainly due to land disputes and DSA, carjacking especially the taxis, land disputes and selling of drugs. The respondents reported that the challenges encountered were corruption where the people who have committed crime are released from police custody, traditional elders that are sometimes very subjective hence justice is not served, lack of confidentiality among the elders, illiteracy, inadequate security, meddling while solving family disputes and financial constraints especially if the case has gone to the courts.

“For example in rape cases you find most of the people who are usually abused are not able to tell the authority so they just keep quiet.”

[FGD. Female young persons 15-19]

“First the Nyumba kumi, people were selected by favouritism some people solve those cases according to how they know each other. So they will never solve your case with justice.”

[FGD. Mixed young persons, 25-34]

Some of the ways of addressing the challenges were reported as; eradicate corruption—those found to have bribed should be severely punished and the corrupt police should be suspended or transferred. Create inter-generation bodies that have no prior idea of cases so that they can be objective while solving the case and government interventions of eliminating DSA and provision of youth employment opportunities. The initiative of government of *nyumba kumi* initiative should be fully embraced and the elders selected objectively, promotion of justice and cohesion should be encouraged and capacity building young people on legal issues. One of the groups reported that paralegals should be trained as indicated in the quote below;

“Of course there is training paralegal in the society, creating and strengthening the arbitrators so as to avoid taking all cases to courts and give room for mediation and arbitration. I don’t know if I have mentioned sensitization, you also need to sensitize.”

[FGD. Mixed young persons 15-24, Nyeri]

2.6.1.2 Security

Security is a crucial element in governance. Some of the participants reported that the county was secure though those aged 15-19 years reported that the security situation in the county was very poor. The county was insecure because young people lack parental guidance hence engage in crime, inadequate information sharing with security personnel, failure to report crime, DSA and ignorance. These challenges were being fuelled by corruption, inadequate police vehicles to conduct patrols, inadequate police posts and police taking long to respond to distress calls.

On mechanisms to ensure that security was in place, the national government has village elders up to the village level who assist in restoring law and order. Participants reported that people are encouraged to report crime on conditions of anonymity, recruitment of police officers by the national government, operationalization of the *nyumba kumi* initiative and provision of employment opportunities for young people.

The role of young people in maintaining security was suggested to be reporting law breakers to the authorities, reporting suspicious situations, community policing, avoiding crime and conducting patrols at night.

2.6.1.3 Cohesion

The unity of a county is important. It is a fibre that keeps the people united and hence works together for development. In the county the issues affecting the unity of young persons are corruption, tribalism, social class disparities where the rich do not associate with the poor, religious and political differences, jealousy, and lack of values where some people do not respect others, land disputes, hatred, DSA and lack of cooperation.

“One there is an issue of inequality. The gap between the rich and the poor is just too big. So we are saying the gap is too big causing inequality and where that is present, the issue of cohesion becomes really difficult. We also have the marginalised.”

[Key Informant interview, Governance, Nyeri]

The county has programmes in place that promote unity. Sports and games where young people from different communities play together were reported across board by all the groups. Theatre, where there are festivals that are organised to promote cohesion and young people from different ethnicities act together, intermarriages are encouraged, capacity building of young people on cohesion and community activities like carrying out community work together and organising tours were noted as activities that would go a long way in uniting the young persons.

Some of the factors that would strengthen unity among the young people in the county were that political leaders should foster peace and cohesion by their utterances and formation of groups comprising of people of all calibre – rich, poor, educated etc. Guidance and counselling on equality and oneness, civic education and creation of jobs for young people were also reported as activities that can be done to promote unity.

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

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

As the saying goes, information is power. Young people get information on planned and ongoing activities largely from media adverts, bill boards, notices read in churches and/or hanged in the chief’s board and/or town centres. Other mechanisms in place were suggestion boxes, telephones and community meetings/public forums/*barazas*. Service delivery charters were reported to give people information and in details on the service provision. These were mainly found in health facilities.

The younger age groups (15-19) reported that there were no mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency. However, the older young people reported that during community meetings, people are informed about projects that are in place. Disciplinary action was reported to be there in some instances.

Some of the ways that were reported for improvement of mechanisms in place to ensure transparency and accountability were disciplinary action where those who have engaged in crime are punished accordingly, electing new officials to run projects annually and have community monitors as indicated in the quote below;

“Let me say when it comes to government resources like the murram being applied on the road, the community monitors can be used such that if they are applying soil instead of murram, we report through the suggestion boxes.”

[FGD. Mixed older persons 35-60, Nyeri]

A policy maker reported that training on accountability and transparency should be introduced at primary school level such that when one is found to have erred, he/she resigns without being told.

“I think it’s a matter of ethics, we need to start from primary level to have a curriculum, let’s have a topic on ethics so that as you grow up you have the virtues so that when you mess up you just step aside without anyone telling you just like what is happening in Europe.....”

[Key Informant interview, Governance, Nyeri]

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

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

On youth involvement in budget process, project, identification, design and implementation, the young people in the county reported that they were involved in the identification and implementation of projects and their views were sought. None indicated that they had ever been involved in project design. However, their involvement lasted as long as the project lasted and if it was a job, it ended when the project ended leaving them jobless.

The young people mentioned that the role they like to play was getting involved in all the stages of project development. Since some of them are educated, then they should be given jobs in merit, those not educated, be given the casual jobs.

The young people reported that they would like to be involved in tender of raw materials in schools and in construction industry, decision making process, be given opportunities to work and give their views which are taken into consideration.

The young people aged 20-24 reported that the projects that young people get involved in do not address their needs. Nonetheless, the other age groups reported that when young people get involved they gain skills and knowledge, socialise and get employment opportunities where they earn a living which empowers them economically.

The majority of the projects engage the young people who are willing to work and earn a living. However, some young people are choosy and do not like to do manual work. In addition, projects do not discriminate on gender, age and PWDs. If a young person who has a disability can deliver, then he/she is given the work.

Across all the groups the following were mentioned as the challenges that young people face during their involvement in project implementation; oppression and exploitation by employees, poor pay, lack of skills and mandatory requirements, lack of motivation, ignorance, discrimination, conflicts, discouragement from other young people and lack of opportunities for PWDs.

“The main challenge for the youth is that they have an interest to be involved in contracts but they lack other requirements like a registered company.”

[FGD. Mixed older persons 35-60, Nyeri]

The views in this section were varied across all the age groups. The young people reported that for their involvement to be improved; there ought to be financial support, capacity building on project design and implementation, motivation for young people to form groups, register companies for them to be eligible for AGPO and in case they express their views during project implementation, their views are taken into account and taken seriously.

As mentioned by a key informant in the economy sector, the young people should be assisted to register companies so that they are in a position to compete fairly.

“They have a problem in registration because they have to go to Nairobi where the registrar of companies is based. So it poses a challenge so we hope that such services will be brought to huduma centre for easier accessibility. The AGPO certificate can be accessed at huduma centre so that is no longer a problem but now getting that information that it’s here at huduma centre is a challenge.”

[Key Informant interview, Economy, Nyeri]

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This sections looks at the resource allocation to young people.

The 20-24 young people reported that there are no specific resources that are available that target the young people. Nonetheless, the other age groups reported that if the resources were properly utilised they would be used to provide employment opportunities for young people.

The young people reported that the mechanisms that should be put in place were; before funds are released the young people are informed specifically they are for what project and the amount allocated, the public should participate so that they can own the project, the young people should be involved in meetings from the onset, to ensure there is accountability and transparency, faithful leaders should be elected to run the projects and the started projects should be completed.

In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilisation of resources, the community should be sensitised on the project, good leadership should be exercised to the end, if need be bring experts on board and enough resources should be allocated to complete the project.

2.6.5 Political Leadership

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

The role the political leadership play in the management of youth affairs at the county level was reported to improve the infrastructure in road construction and renovate/build health facilities. Other roles for the political leadership were; through CDF resources are kept aside to cater for bursaries, organise for public events like sports and games, organise for life skills training where young people are equipped with skills and knowledge, provide employment and give hand outs during campaigns.

“Some of them give employment but you find that most of the people that are employed come from their families so there is nepotism.”

[FGD. Female young persons 15-19, Nyeri]

2.7 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People

The older persons (35-60) reported that young people were engaged in DSA, mainly alcoholism which was making them not to marry leading to low population. The young people reported that increase in population would lead to congestion in health facilities and low standards of living. In the education sector, increase in population would lead to poor performance because the children are many and the teachers to guide and supervise the children are few. In addition, school would be congested. The older persons felt that the schools in the county were closing due to lack of students. On population

matters, a key informant reported that there are more young people than old people and there was need to get prepared for future by; maintaining and improving the available facilities and focus on quality more than quantity for a brighter future.

Across the groups, the participants reported that population increase would exacerbate the unemployment rate which will be very high increasing the number of young people who are unemployed. Since the young people are not economically empowered, there would be low standards of living and families may lack basic needs. The views changed when it came to governance and population increase and the participants reported that high population would lead to increased number of electorates and if the young people are educated, they would be elected hence providing good leadership. Nonetheless, the older persons reported that increase in population and the young people are not employed may escalate crime rate.

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evident that the county is having a youth bulge that would decrease as years go by if the prevailing tempo of managing population is maintained. The county is on the right track to reap the benefits of demographic dividend (DD). The demographic window will open in 2016 and close after about 40 years.

DSA and specifically alcoholism is a major problem in the county and it has managed to affect the young people in all the sectors making them unhealthy, drop out of school, be economically inactive and engage in crime to get money for more illicit liquor. Some of the health facilities are ill equipped and understaffed. The same was reported in the education sector where illicit brews were threatening the boy child while the girl child was reported to be empowered. This empowerment would be reported in education and economy making the girl child to be economically independent. In the agricultural sector, the middle men (brokers) were reported to be buying agricultural produce very cheaply and then selling it expensively. The county government should get markets for the farmers to sell their produce and cut off the middle men.

Once these issues are addressed, the county will continue reaping the benefits on DD, the HDI will also improve and the county will have young people who are educated, healthy, and economically active and who observe the rule of law. Until then, both the national, county government and all the other stakeholders have their roles to play in ensuring that young people's needs are well taken care of.

The following recommendations were derived from the survey findings in Nyeri.

Health

1. Since the county's demographic window will open in 2016, they should maintain the average number of children at 2.7 otherwise the county may suffer from having an elderly population by 2050.
2. The county government to channel more funds in the health sector to staff and equip health facilities and establish YFCs across the county so that young people access SRH information and services.
3. The illicit brew is still rife in the county. The brewing cartels should be eradicated and rehabilitation centres should be established to accommodate the addicted youth and counsel them in order to stop the addiction.
4. The health facilities need to be staffed and more employment opportunities in this sector given to young people who have the skills and knowledge.

Education

1. The gender imbalance should be arrested by taking into consideration the boy child, for the girls child seem to be more empowered.
2. Some learning institutions have inadequate teachers, inadequate facilities like laboratories, chairs, desks, dormitories, libraries, toilets, electricity, computer laboratories hence they should provide funds to equip the learning institutions to make learning for the students conducive and the TSC should employ more teachers in order to improve the quality of education.
3. Young people in the county need a lot of guidance and counselling in issues affecting them. They should establish guidance and counselling clubs in the learning institutions in the county.
4. Parents should take up their roles in upbringing of children. A lot of young people lack parental guidance hence get into vices that are detrimental in their lives.

Economy

1. Stakeholders should sensitize the young people on the interventions the government has put in place to empower them economically. These funds should be availed to young people without bottlenecks and on merit. Corruption and nepotism which was reported to have penetrated all sectors should also be fought and eradicated so that young people can have a level playing field where they are not meeting bottlenecks.
2. The county government should device ways of economically empowering young people to reduce the high unemployment rate; for instance the unemployed young people could provide services like running market toilets, manning of bus park, garbage collection which should be run by young people so that they are empowered economically.
3. The county government should get markets (internal and/or abroad) for the young people who are engaged in various activities so that they are able to sell and get good proceeds for their labour.
4. The county government should adhere to AGPO – an intervention that caters for 30% of procurement that should go to young people, women and PWDs. In order to ease the registration of companies for the young people the government should decentralise registration of companies by introducing a desk in the Huduma centres so that the young people are able to register companies and reap the benefits of AGPO.

Governance

1. The provincial administration together with the county government should work together and fight the cartels that manufacture and sell second hand liquor in the county. Until this is done, this alcoholism menace threatens to wipe a whole generation of young people
2. The government should strengthen mechanisms that encourage cohesion in the community. Young people ought to be capacity built on civic education so that issues to do with the rule of law are understood and inculcated in young people

3. They should involve young people at all levels of project design and implementation especially in projects that are for young people
4. The national should beef up security by employing more security officers, increasing patrols and establishing more police stations in the county

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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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NYERI COUNTY