



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

**TAITA TAVETA COUNTY**



January 2017



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# CONTENTS

<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Glossary of Terms</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Foreword</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Acknowledgment</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
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
1.5.1 Survey Tools	8
1.5.2 Sampling	9
1.5.3 Data Collection	11
1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis	11
<b>2 TAITA TAVETA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 Background	12
2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation	12
2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution	12
2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics	13
2.3 Health and Young people	13
2.3.1 The Main Health issues Affecting Young People	14
2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services	16
2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health	17
2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement	18
2.4 Education and Young People	18
2.4.1 Main Education Issues Affecting Young people in Taita Taveta County	18
2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services in Taita Taveta County	19
2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education Services in Taita Taveta County	20
2.4.4 Opportunities for Investment in Education	21

2.5 Economic and Young people	21
2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities	21
2.5.2 Challenges in Accessing Employment and Income Opportunities	21
2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People Engage In	22
2.5.4 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment	23
2.5.5 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities	24
2.6 Governance and Young people	24
2.6.1 Rule of Law	24
2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability	28
2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation	29
2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency	31
2.6.5 Role Political Leadership Play in Management of Youth Affairs	31
2.7 Population Structure	32
2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations	34
<b>References</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>ANNEXES</b>	
Annex 1: County Demographic Windows	37
Annex 2: Survey Personnel	38
Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants	39
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	
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 Demographic characteristics	12
Table 2.2 Socio-economic profile	13
Table 2.3 Health and young people	14
Table 2.4 Access and availability of information and services	16
Table 2.5 Access and availability of SRH/FP information and services	17
Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people in Taita Taveta county	18
Table 2.7 Economic activities young people are engaged in	22
Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment	23
Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year	37
Table A2.1 Coast – 1 Region	38
Table A2.2 Report authors	38

## 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.

# TAITA TAVETA COUNTY



## Foreword

**K**enya 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

**T**he 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

**T**his report presents the Taita Taveta County profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey conducted by the National Council for Population and Development, (NCPD), in conjunction with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Youth Department, KNBS and various development partners. The survey covered all the 47 counties, with the multiple objectives of examining what potential exists for a demographic dividend in each of the 47 counties, identify health, education, economic and governance issues that affect young people in each county, identifying what specific investment opportunities that could accelerate achievement of the demographic dividend and providing policy and programme recommendations based on the survey findings.

This report interrogates the demographic profile of the county and the prevailing socio-economic indicators of the county and further identifies the challenges and opportunities that exist for harnessing the benefits of a growing youth population. The report therefore presents an overview 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 Taita Taveta in 2009 was 284,516 people and is projected to increase to 376,495 people by 2030 and to 445,899 people by 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (38 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 35 percent and to 25 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 57 percent in 2009 to 69 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 75 to 45 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2021 and close in 2061.

Taita Taveta County has a fertility rate of 3.2 children per woman. Sixty-eight percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Sixty-two percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 89 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. However, the County has a very HIV prevalence rate of 23.7 percent.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 93 percent. This means that about 7 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is lower (64 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. It is estimated that 3,831 primary school age and 9,251 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. However, challenges such as DSA, poverty, high school fees, teachers absenteeism, negative attitude towards education and few tertiary institution in the county play a role in the poor performance in education.

The Human Development Index in the county is placed at 0.536 lower than the national average. The main economic activities for young people in the county include boda boda riding, manual labour and agribusiness. The youths find it difficult to venture into business because of lack of capital for start-ups. Also the youth lack skills and knowledge to enable them get employment.

Some young people from this county are engaged in robbery, rape, land disputes DSA and petty crimes which puts them against the rule of law. Most of these issues are solved through arbitration, village elders and law courts. Social class disparities, political differences and tribalism hinder cohesion 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 (34) research assistants were competitively recruited for data collection in the 47 counties. They were trained from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Counties</b>
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 11<sup>th</sup> May and ended on 31<sup>st</sup> 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 after which it 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 were trained on how to process the data using this software. To ensure consistency and quality, two supervisors reviewed and verified the coded data.

# 2

## TAITA TAVETA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Background

Taita Taveta County is one of the six Counties in the Coastal region of Kenya. It is located approximately 200 Km northwest of the coastal city of Taita Taveta and 360 Km southeast of Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. It borders Tana River, Kitui and Makueni Counties to the North, Kwale and Kilifi Counties to the East, Kajiado County to the North-west, and the Republic of Tanzania to the South and South-west. The County covers an area of 17,084.1 Km<sup>2</sup> and lies between latitude 20 46/ South and 40 10/ South and longitude 370 36/ East and 300 14/ East.

### 2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

#### 2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

Table 2.1 Demographic characteristics

Demographic	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	284,516	376,495	445,899
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	37.7%	28.6%	22.5%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	5.1%	5.2%	8.7%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	57.3%	66.2%	68.8%
Dependency Ratio	74.6	51.0	45.3%
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2021		

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the population for Taita Taveta County was 284,516. Based on projection of 2009 population, the County is estimated to have a population of 376,495 in 2030 and 445,899 in 2050. About 38 percent of the population was below age 15 and is projected to decline further to about 23 percent in 2050. From the census results the dependency ratio was recorded at 75 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years). The f Demographic Window of Opportunity open will open in 2021 and closes in 2061.

## 2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 Socio-economic profile

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3.2
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	68.5%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	62.5%
	HIV Prevalence	6.1%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	88.8%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	93.4%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	26.6
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	3,831
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	63.8%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	19.7
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	9,251
Socio-economic	Human Development Index	0.5360360

The average number of children per woman in Taita Taveta County is 3.2 which are slightly lower than the national average of 3.9 children per woman. This low fertility can be attributed to high to the proportion of married women (68 percent) using contraception at only 55 percent compared to 58 percent at the national level. Sixty-three percent the births in the county are attended by a skilled health provider. Eight-nine percent of all children 12-23 months in the county are fully vaccinated the county has a very HIV prevalence rate of 24 percent compared to the national HIV prevalence rate of 6.1 percent.

The county has a high Primary School Net Enrolment Rate of 94 percent and only 3,831 primary school-age children are estimated to be out of school. The Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate for the County is 63 percent with 32,000 secondary-school age children out of school.

## 2.3 Health and Young people

This chapter highlights the main health issues affecting young people, how they affect their wellbeing and ways of addressing them. The chapter also outlines the main sources and types of health information and services, their importance, main SRH/FP information and services, challenges in accessing these services, the ways of addressing these challenges and the opportunities for improvement in health.

### 2.3.1 The Main Health issues Affecting Young People

There are a number of health issues that affect young people in the county. The survey confirmed that the main health issues include; STIs or HIV/AIDS, Drug and Substance Abuse as well as Teenage Pregnancy. Sexual and Gender based Violence such as rape was also mentioned to be an issue affecting the young people.

Table 2.3 summarises some of the main health problems that young people in the County face, the major causes and consequences and lastly, mechanisms that can be adopted to address the problems.

Table 2.3 Health and young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
STI or HIV/AIDS	Parental Negligence	School drop out	Practice Safe Sex
Drug and Substance Abuse	Unemployment	Poor health conditions	Sensitization and Awareness
Teenage Pregnancy	Peer pressure	Death	Parental Guidance
Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV)	High levels of poverty		Abstinence

#### STI or HIV&AIDS

Young people are at the centre of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. They also are the world's greatest hope in the struggle against this fatal disease. STI/HIV and AIDS is reported by group aged 15-24 to be one of the health issues affecting young people in Taita Taveta County.

*“If we look in this era, the HIV scourge is too high, at least there are those who are known, it has affected young people very much.”*

[Mixed young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

#### Drug and substance abuse

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

*“Like bhang, heroine and cigarettes. You will get a student is in class 8 but they are smoking cigarettes.”*

[Mixed young people, 10-14 Taita Taveta]

### *Teenage pregnancy*

Teen childbearing is associated with negative outcomes for teen parents, their children, and society. Adolescents who have a baby are more likely to drop out of school, become poor and be dependent compared with adolescents who delay childbearing. Teenage pregnancies were reported to be another major issue in the county as is narrated below;

### *Sexual and gender based violence*

violence and the threat of violence hinders women's, including young women, ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and/or to make smart decisions regarding sexual health. Rape was found to be the major form of violence among young people in Taita Taveta County.

*“The challenge is that rape cases are solved the traditional way so in most cases justice is not done.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

Some of the major causes attributed to the problems affecting the young people in Taita Taveta County are; parental negligence, peer pressure, high levels of poverty and unemployment among the young people.

*“The children know that there's abortion and they know how and where to get the pills for abortion. You wonder where they get such information. But it's because the children have been neglected by their teachers, the mothers at home are busy and the fathers are busy drinking alcohol. No one is concerned about the children.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

The groups observed that the consequences of these health problems included poor health conditions, school dropout especially as a result of substance and drug abuse and teenage pregnancy among young people in Taita Taveta County.

*“Girls who give birth early face the danger of having complications like fistula because you see their systems are not well developed for the delivery process.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

The suggested various strategies to address some of the main health issues affecting young people which include; sensitization and awareness campaigns and parental guidance. Others included abstinence and essentially practice safe sex.

*“I think the government or the county can organize for sessions whereby people will be offered with civic education against these evils, it’s like creating awareness.”*

[Mixed young person 15-19, Taita Taveta]

### 2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

Table 2.4 Access and availability of information and services

Sources of health information	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities	STI or HIV	Increased knowledge	Health Facilities
Schools	Disease outbreak	Disease Prevention	Media
Internet	Disease prevention or diagnosis		Public Forums
Public Health Talks and Barazas			Internet
Friends and peers			

Within the discussion groups a range of sources of information were identified; particularly health facilities, schools, internet, public health talks and barazas as well as friends and peers. The most preferred sources of information are health facilities, the media, public forums and the internet. The main type of information received included STI/HIV, disease outbreak, prevention and diagnosis. The information was regarded as useful in terms of increasing knowledge for behaviour change and disease prevention within the county.

*“We might think that our children don’t know how to access internet but they do. They access phones and they go to the cybers too. I have a daughter who operates my phone and can access apps am not able to.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60 ,Taita Taveta]

Table 2.5 Access and availability of SRH/FP information and services

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
FP Services and Information Counselling and Testing	Fear/embarrassment Myths and Misconceptions Cost of Services Provider Attitude	Provider Attitude to Change Counselling More health facilities

In Taita Taveta County the main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to youth were contraceptives largely the injectable and condoms including contraceptive pills. The major hindrance in accessing these services which were ascribed to fear or embarrassment, myths and misconceptions, the high cost of health services and health facility provider attitude.

There were also discussions on the type of information and services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWDs) and Orphans. The services available included Ante-retiral Viral Therapy (ART), donations and guidance and counselling.

*“There’s counseling for the HIV positive and also the Catholic Church is very supportive. It has provided support to the orphans by giving them shelter and the Children’s Department has done a lot too.”*

[Mixed Young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

Ways of addressing the general health challenges included: change of attitude by service providers, having youthful health care providers, adequate qualified personnel and, equipping the current health facilities to provide quality care as well as having adequate youthful health personnel to provide the services for all people, including people with disability. They should conduct public health awareness and massive civic education.

### 2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

In Taita Taveta County the main organisations identified as addressing health care needs for the young people are Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Government Agencies. Among the NGOs mentioned included: USAID, APHIA Plus and World Vision. NACADA was widely mentioned to be the government agency involved in the county’s activities. These organisations have literally worked to ensure that there is improved health awareness among young people in the county.

*“I think they have helped because in those posters there are images of youths who are coming from the VCT and they are happy because they know their status. So when someone sees that they become encouraged to go visit a VCT and know their status.”*

[Mixed young people 20-24, Taita Taveta]

### 2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

To conclude the discussion on health, participants were asked to suggest opportunities for improvement of health within the county. The main observation was the need to create more awareness through schools including public *barazas* and other public forums. Similarly, availing services for the disabled was equally mentioned widely within the county.

*“I would recommend that seminars for young people be increased in numbers. If you talk of TVs, some of us even have phones with TVs but we don’t look at them. But if it is seminars and it is announced youths are needed to attend then we will go. For instance if in this place there would have been events for young people on this and this day, then youths would be going, but if you say TVs, we are used to them they are in the houses.”*

[Mixed young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

## 2.4 Education and Young People

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

### 2.4.1 Main Education Issues Affecting Young people in Taita Taveta County

Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people in Taita Taveta county

Main Education Issues affecting Young People	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and Substance Abuse	Peer Pressure	Poor academic results	Parental guidance and counselling
Absenteeism of Teachers and Students	Poor parental guidance	Lack of concentration	Provision of bursaries
Inadequate learning materials	Poverty	School drop out	Employ more teaching personnel
Absenteeism of teachers and students	Idleness	School absenteeism	School feeding programs
Negative perception of education			Build more schools

Discussions about the main education issues reveal that poor parenting seems to be a major concern within the county as reported below:

*“Our parents here go to the farms with their children and they keep telling them that the farm is theirs. So even when the child is supposed to go to school they don’t see the need because after all they already have a farm.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

*“Not boys alone, also girls do abuse drugs. So mostly it is because of peer pressure. Brown sugar, it is used a lot because it can be easily accessed; with only 50 bob you can get it. If I use it, my friend also gets the curiosity and decides to taste it, and eventually they become used to it.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

Drug and substance abuse as well as negative perception of education were also mentioned to be major problems that affect the education standards of young people within the county. In addition, inadequate learning materials and absenteeism of teachers and students were also a major concern in Taita Taveta County.

## 2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services in Taita Taveta County

The long distance to schools featured across the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions as a major problem that affects accessibility and availability of education services in Taita Taveta County.

*“Then since the reason is because of the distance, the schools are there but they are being built in one place instead of being spread out.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

Survey findings indicate that the available day Secondary Schools are inaccessible, especially during rainy seasons which inconvenience learners. Lack of or few colleges and tertiary institutions were also mentioned as a major problem that compromises education standards in the county. Additionally, there are limited education facilities for the visually impaired and people with disabilities.

*“Not many. Those that are here do offer very few courses, like maybe tourism, but not so many courses being offered with many universities, but there are no colleges here at all.”*

[Mixed young people 20-24, Taita Taveta]

*“Challenges are there, they cannot lack. Some are up in the hills and for those who are disabled like us to access them becomes a challenge. Our colleague right there has never been in school because of his condition and there was no school nearby for him.”*

[Mixed young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

With regard to access to ICT, provision of information and promoting computer literacy were cited as the most important ICT services to students. Computer laboratories and lessons were identified as the main ICT services available to young people in school.

Among suggestions mentioned to effectively address the problems facing the education standards in the County include financial support, conducting health talks in schools and lastly, community capacity building.

*“I wanted to say that the government should place the education of young people as a priority because when you educate a youth it’s like you are developing the community. When they are educated they are in a good position to progress in their life so at least the government should make it a priority.”*

[Mixed young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

### 2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education Services in Taita Taveta County

Banks, NGOs, CBOs and Government agencies were identified as the main organisations addressing education and training issues of young people within the county. Among the banks addressing the above, Equity and Kenya Commercial Bank were mentioned widely to support bright needy children in Taita Taveta County. Undugu mentorship and Devine Shedrick were the main CBOs mentioned in actively addressing education needs. Lastly, government agencies, especially the county government contributed largely in promoting education in the county.

### 2.4.4 Opportunities for Investment in Education

Proposals on the opportunities for investment in education were made by the various groups and these included; public awareness, allocation of more bursaries, motivation of students by their mentors and provision of learning materials.

*“Maybe like the way you are doing it, it is good. You are coming to talk to us and getting our views. So what you are supposed to do is maybe you go and tell the government, and the government should strictly follow what you tell them. Maybe you tell them that we need textbooks, and then the government should bring for us textbooks.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

## 2.5 Economic and Young people

### 2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The survey findings for Taita Taveta County indicate that boda boda riding, is one of the main employment and income opportunities followed by manual jobs such as building and construction. The findings also indicate that some young people from the county are engaged in agribusiness and there is hair dressing, especially for girls.

### 2.5.2 Challenges in Accessing Employment and Income Opportunities

The survey also sought to establish some of the challenges that young people face in accessing some of the employment and income opportunities in the county and among the widely mentioned challenges include lack of capital as narrated below:

*“They lack capital so they get into the hotel business or the motorbikes.”*

[Mixed older person 35-60, Taita Taveta]

Additional challenges that were also mentioned include: corruption, lack of knowledge and skills and high operational costs within the county.

### 2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People Engage In

Table 2.7 Economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities	Challenges encountered	How to address the challenges encountered
Boda boda	Poor pay and exploitation	Education
Domestic work	Insecurity	Enforcement of law on child labour
Business	Harassment by authority or employers	Government aid
Manual labour	Health complications	

Survey findings for the county indicate that the main economic activities that young people engage in are *boda boda*, domestic work, business, and manual labour among young people.

Some of the challenges encountered by young people especially for school going youth are the poor pay and exploitation as narrated below;

*“Some are mistreated, for instance they work then they are not paid what they agreed on.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

Other challenges encountered in the county include insecurity, harassment by authority, and health complications.

Some of the suggested mechanism to address the challenges encountered by young people in the county included education, provision of government aid and enforcement of laws on child labour as narrated below:

*“We should also respect the constitution. It says we shouldn’t give children unlawful labour. So if I go get children below 18 years in the quarries then I should take action. Even those who employ such children should face the law.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

The survey also sought to establish some of the major reasons as to why young people of school going age were engaging in economic activities, yet they are supposed to be in school. Some of the salient explanations include; the high levels of poverty, raising school fees and family support.

*“Some engage in those activities so that they can upkeep their parents when they are having financial difficulties, so they say eel I can do something to save my parents. I can’t watch them staying hungry, so I have to work and bring them something.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

## 2.5.4 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main Interventions and Programmes	Challenges in Accessing these Interventions	Ways to address these challenges
Uwezo Fund	Lack of knowledge and skills	Ease of access to funds
Youth Enterprise and Development Fund	Lack of capital	Create awareness
Women Enterprise Fund	Corruption	Sensitization on the intervention
National Youth Service		Training and education

From the survey findings, the main interventions and programmes available in Taita Taveta County are: Uwezo Fund, Youth Enterprise and Development Fund, Women Enterprise Fund and the National Youth Service.

The challenges affecting the young people in the county are; lack of knowledge and skills, lack of capital to start up small businesses and corruption which was widely mentioned across all groups that were interviewed.

*“It could be corruption but sometimes we lack the skills. Also to empower the youths. We have a lot of opportunities but we need to initiate ourselves.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

*“The youth have business ideas but capital is the problem.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

As a remedy to address some of the above mentioned challenges, making it easy to access some of the funds and programs that put in place was extensively mentioned. In addition, creating more awareness on the available interventions and training and education were also mentioned.

*“The area chiefs, the village elders, these are the people who should be used to disseminate information on these interventions. If it is application forms, they should carry them to their meetings with the community, tell them about the loans and give the forms to those who are ready to take up the loans. But then for you to get the loan you need to be in a group.”*

[Mixed young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

## 2.5.5 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

Agriculture, transport and tourism sectors were mentioned widely to be the potential areas that would help increase employment and income opportunities in Taita Taveta County. In addition, talent academies and mining were thinly considered useful in increasing employment and income opportunities in the county.

*“Voi is semi-arid so if it anything to do with agriculture then it has to be greenhouses, they will thrive here. But if you say we depend on the rains, there is a time voi didn’t see any rain for 2 years, and Voi River is seasonal. If one has a shamba in ikanga, where will you get voi river water from?”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

## 2.6 Governance and Young people

### 2.6.1 Rule of Law

#### 2.6.1.1 Justice system

##### *Main cases*

The survey findings for this section were to establish the most prevalent cases in the communities and across the county; the most prevalent cases were robbery, land disputes and rape within the county. Drug and substance abuse was also mentioned as additional issue affecting young people in Taita Taveta County.

*“They are here with us. The youth steal from us in our farms and they do so at gun point. It has become too much and now people are afraid to work in the farms.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

### *Process of solving cases*

The findings indicate that traditional system; especially family based arbitration system and village elders were the most preferred ways of solving cases within Taita Taveta County. Judicial system and mob justice were also played a role of solving cases in the county.

*“Mob justice because you will call the police and they will take forever to come. It can take them like 2 hours to get there, so people just decide to take matters on their hands.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

### *Challenges in solving disputes*

Corruption ranked high as a major challenge in solving cases within the county as reported by this young person:

*“The system is faulty. The cases are solved on the basis of bribes; there’s a lot of corruption.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

*“Some people with disabilities take advantage of others and do what they want to people and claim that even if they do anything there is nothing a person can do.”*

[Male young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

Additional challenges identified in solving cases were: long time taken to solve cases and social class prejudice.

### *Ways of addressing the challenges*

Addressing corruption and promoting justice were identified as key mechanisms that the county could adopt in addressing the challenges.

*“The government should fight corruption.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

### 2.6.1.2 Security

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

#### *Security situation*

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

*“Honestly speaking security in this area it is only God who is watching over us. Since I came to this school I have never seen police patrols.”*

[Mixed young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

Other issues under security situation were corruption and security, poor police response and petty theft in the county.

#### *Mechanisms in place to address security*

Some of the suggested mechanisms to address security in the county included enhancing night patrols, effectively implement the *nyumba kumi* initiative as well as community policing.

#### *Role of young people in maintaining security*

Reporting suspicious situations and law breakers were widely recognized as key role of young people in maintaining security in Taita Taveta. Enhancing the *nyumba kumi* initiative was also stated another major role.

*“Like for instance if you spot someone who is suspicious maybe in your community, you see the suspicious man passing all the time and you don’t know where he is going, you should inform the elder of Nyumba kumi who is going to investigate and involve the relevant authorities.”*

[Mixed young people, 25-34]

*“In case you spot any person who has a bomb you are not supposed to sit down and relax. You must report the person to the nearest person you trust first.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

### **Challenges in ensuring security**

Challenges identified as impediment of security within Taita Taveta County were: delayed response by the police, corruption, inadequate security personnel and poor police performance.

*“The number of the security personnel is also low. They are so few, like in this area it’s large so they cannot divide themselves, if there is an issues has raised this side they will have to go to that side leaving the other side pending. So let’s say if they are able to increase the numbers of policemen then they will be able to distribute themselves equally to all the places.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

*“You know you might inform them, like let’s say this al-Shabaab thing like in Garissa, the police ignored it and it came to pass. So people must be serious when they hear of these things.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

### **Ways to address the challenges**

The respondents identified employment of more and qualified police officers to be the main interventions to address challenges encountered in ensuring security. Others that were widely mentioned included job creation among the young people to reduce idleness and re-introduction of vigilante groups within the county.

*“And also the number of police officers should be increased because at night the security is not tight at all and even day time.”*

[Mixed young people 20-24, Taita Taveta]

### 2.6.1.3 Cohesion

This section sought to identify the challenges that affect unity of the people, programmes in place to promote unity and recommendations on ways of promoting unity among the people within Taita Taveta County

#### *Issues or challenges affecting unity of young people*

Results of the survey findings indicate that social class disparities was the main issue or challenge affecting unity of young people in the county. Tribalism and political differences were also mentioned widely as narrated below:

*“We need to work together to maintain security. We cannot leave the issue to the chief alone or the police. If we do so security will continue to be challenge. Politics is threatening security of the county.”*

[Mixed older people 35-60, Taita Taveta]

#### *Programs in place to promote unity*

Youth engaging in sporting and religious activities in collaboration with harmonious living would highly promote unity in the county.

The results also reveal that conducting civic education, promoting justice and equity, creating social amenities including cultural activities played key roles of promoting unity. Equal distribution of resources was also identified as a key strategy to promotion of unity.

*“And then also there is some little bit of unity in churches through the youth groups where they join hands in doing some little things. Social centers also like at the stadium when there is a football match or when perhaps the president comes and people gather together to hear him. Also festivals do help.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

## 2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

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

### *Mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities*

Results indicate that community meetings, public notice boards and suggestion boxes were the commonly mentioned tools for communication. Local administration and schools also featured within the discussion groups as means to reach out to young people in the county. It is also important to note that the young people mentioned lack of transparency, especially in public appointments.

### *Mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency*

Interestingly, results for Taita Taveta County indicate that there are no mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency as narrated below:

*“If you actually look at the county government, the CEC finance was in problems I think because of corruption. But now instead of disciplinary actions taking place, he was moved from finance and taken to the roads ministry and then someone else took over the finance docket. They rotate people around.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

### *How mechanisms could be improved*

Creation of awareness and committees were found to be better strategies to improve accountability and transparency. The need to end corruption was widely mentioned as an effective way to improve accountability and transparency as re-counted below:

*“If corruption ends then everything will be right because even now I hear the finance officer of the county is a friend to Mruttu. He got the job with no qualifications and if he has qualifications then he got them after joining the job. So now imagine someone unprofessional handling the money of the entire county. And then also you get when the county officials go for their own leisure activities then the money comes from the county coffers to cater for that. At the end county money goes into the stomachs of the leaders and not the people.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

## **2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation**

Survey findings for this particular section sought to establish youth involvement in budget, project identification, design and implementation. Results indicate that the young people are not involved

though they are hired to perform menial jobs. Youths are also engaged in project implementation undertaken by the county.

*“I have seen the youths being involved in digging drainages and road construction.”*

[Mixed Young people 15-24, Taita Taveta]

Lack of projects for the young people was identified the main reason young people were not involved in the budget, project identification, design and implementation within Taita Taveta County. There were no preferred roles for young people in projects and programs in Taita Taveta County.

The survey also sought to establish the roles young people would like to play in project and programs. Among the widely mentioned roles were: involvement in project process at every stage of the project cycle, doing casual jobs as well as appointments in available committees. Another striking role is being involved in the policy making as narrated below:

*“They should be meetings and discussions with the youths like when there is something that needs to involve the youths, they should alert us.”*

[Mixed young people 20-24, Taita Taveta]

*“We can also say that as young people we should also have a say in the society and the keeping of the community. Like now in meetings like barazas it is only the wazees who are listened to. So also the young people should get that chance of speaking out what they want to say.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

The survey finding indicate that in Taita Taveta County, the limited available projects and programmes to don't actually take cognizant of youth needs, as is confirmed in the narration below:

*“How would they address our needs if they don't even involve us?”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

The available employment opportunities for young people in the county are mainly manual jobs in the construction industry.

There was no mention of existing opportunities for the qualified young people in the county as well as challenges young people face during involvement in project implementation.

There were discussions on how young people’s involvement in project process can be improved. From the various focus group discussions, findings reveal that there is need to create more job opportunities for the young people and provide financial support to some of the projects they are engaged in. They also mentioned education, training or capacity building, creation of awareness on the available projects in the county and considering youth opinions.

*“Also there are these women projects happening out there, so it will be nice if they also involve us in them. Like there are women out there who are making coconut oil, so they should at least teach us those skills too.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

#### 2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

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

Findings indicate that although much as the resources are available, the needs of the young people are not met. There were no mechanisms mentioned to ensure resources are used to achieve expected outcome. In addition, there were no suggested mechanisms to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources within the county.

*“The resources do not address the needs of the youth.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

#### 2.6.5 Role Political Leadership Play in Management of Youth Affairs

Discussions about the role of political leadership in the management of youth affairs reveal that as much as the politicians engage in political campaigns within the county, issues concerning young people are not well articulated and addressed as reported below:

*“They have done nothing about creating employment, investing in education and health of the youth.”*

[Mixed young people 25-34, Taita Taveta]

Other issues mentioned widely from the county as their role were allocation of education funds, especially bursaries. They also help in improvement of infrastructure and creation of employment.

## 2.7 Population Structure

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

### *Perspectives on growing population of young people in relation to health*

With regard to perspectives on the growing population of young people in relation to health within the county, congestion in health facilities was commonly mentioned across the various groups. Poor sanitation as well as few medical personnel were due to the growing population of the young people was also stated.

*“Like what we said that hospitals are sometimes overwhelmed by the number of patients, then the increasing population will only make things worse. With more people seeking services from few doctors. Poor services will be offered. They will just be serving people to do away with the line.”*

[Mixed young people 20-24, Taita Taveta]

### *Perspectives on Growing Population of young people in relation to education*

Among the key issues cited regarding education and the growing population of the young people was mainly congestion in schools and inadequate number of schools within Taita Taveta County.

*“It will affect negatively because schools will be congested. Those who are to join form one will have no opportunities because of lack spaces so they will have to remain at home.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

*“If schools accommodate a certain number of students and the population is growing too fast then only a few will be able to access the school.”*

[Female young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

### *Perspectives on growing population of young people in relation to economic status*

Among some of the issues cited on the growing population of young people in relation to economic status were: unemployment, poor economy, high dependency ratio, high cost of living and lastly, unequal distribution of resources in the county.

*“Also the effect of the population on the economy is that the dependency ratios will increase and now it will get to a time those who are being depended on will no longer be in a position to support the dependents, so the economy lapses.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

*“There will also be competition for resources since the population of youths will be high and the resources are scarce.”*

[Mixed young people 20-24, Taita Taveta]

### *Perspectives on growing population of young people in relation to governance*

Insecurity and increase in land disputes was a concern resulting from the growing population of the young people.

*“Land disputes will increase since now it will have overpopulated.”*

[Mixed young people 15-19, Taita Taveta]

## 2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

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

### *Health*

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

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

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

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

### *Education*

In addressing the issues of education, the survey shows that the knowledge and skills of the young people is not relevant to the current market requirements. There is need therefore to reform education system, diversify education sector and improve on the education infrastructure by creating more facilities and improve on public private partnerships in the education sector . Improvements in educational opportunities within the county will definitely equip young women and men with the skills they need to qualify for both formal and informal-sector jobs, earn higher wages, and contribute to a demographic dividend.

### *Economic*

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

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

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

### Governance

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

### Conclusion

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

Investments in education, health, and job creation are vital in creating and sustaining the demographic window.

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

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## Annex 1: County Demographic Windows

The United Nations defines the demographic window as the period when the proportion of those aged below 15 years permanently falls below 30 percent of the total population while the proportion of those above 64 years is still below 15 percent of the total population. This period is estimated to last about 40 years and it presents an opportunity for a country to achieve a much faster economic growth driven by the large population of people in the working ages. Table A1.1 below shows that Kenya's demographic window will open in 2038. The proportion of those in the working ages will be 66 percent of the total population and the dependency ratio will be 52. An analysis of the beginning of the demographic window for each of the 47 counties in Kenya shows that the window will open at different times for each county.

Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year

2010s	2020s	2030s	2040s	2050+
Kirinyaga	Kiambu	Makueni	Lamu	Mandera
Nyeri	Embu	Machakos	Nandi	Marsabit
Murang'a	Taita Taveta	Nakuru	Elgeyo Marakwet	Migori
	Meru	Nyandarua	Kajiado	Tana River
	Nairobi	Tharaka Nithi	Kitui	Garissa
	Mombasa	Uasin Gishu	Bomet	Narok
		Laikipia	Siaya	Samburu
		Kisumu	Kakamega	Turkana
		Nyamira	Vihiga	West pokot
		Kericho	Baringo	Wajir
		Kisii	Busia	
			Isiolo	
			Kwale	
			Bungoma	
			Homa Bay	
			Kilifi	
			Trans Nzoia	

## Annex 2: Survey Personnel

### Coast – 1 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Coast – 1 Region

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Here below are authors who participated in the development of this report:

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NCPD is a semi-autonomous government agency that formulates and promotes population policy and coordinates related activities for sustainable development in Kenya.

**TAITA TAVETA COUNTY**