



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

**WAJIR
COUNTY**



January 2017



Citation:

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

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

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

2015 KENYA NATIONAL
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY
(NAYS)

WAJIR COUNTY

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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
1.5.1 Survey Tools	8
1.5.2 Sampling	9
1.5.3 Data Collection	11
1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis	11
2 WAJIR COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS	12
2.1 Background	12
2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation	12
2.2.1 Population and Structure	12
2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics	13
2.3 Health and Young People	14
2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People	15
2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services	16
2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health	19
2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement	19
2.4 Education and Young People	19
2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young People	20
2.4.2 Availability and Access of Education Services	21
2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education	22
2.4.4 Relevance of courses taught to the job market	22
2.4.5 Opportunities for Improvement	23

2.5 Economic and Young People	23
2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People and the Challenges	23
2.5.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young People	23
2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment	26
2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services	27
2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economy	28
2.5.6 Potential Sectors to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities	28
2.5.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age	28
2.6 Governance and Young People	29
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	33
2.6.5 Political Leadership	34
2.7 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People	34
2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations	35
References	38
ANNEXES	
Annex 1: County Demographic Windows	39
Annex 2: Survey Personnel	40
Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants	41
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 Vihiga county's projected population size and structure (2009-2050)	12
Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Wajir county	13
Table 2.3 Main health problems affecting youth	15
Table 2.4 Access and availability of information and services	16
Table 2.5 Challenges in accessing the main SRH/FP information	17
Table 2.6 Main education problems affecting youth	20
Table 2.7 Main economic activities young people are engaged in	24
Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment	26
Table 2.9 Availability and access to ICT services	27
Table 2.10 Prevalent cases	29
Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year	39
Table A2.1 North Eastern Region	40
Table A2.2 Report authors	40

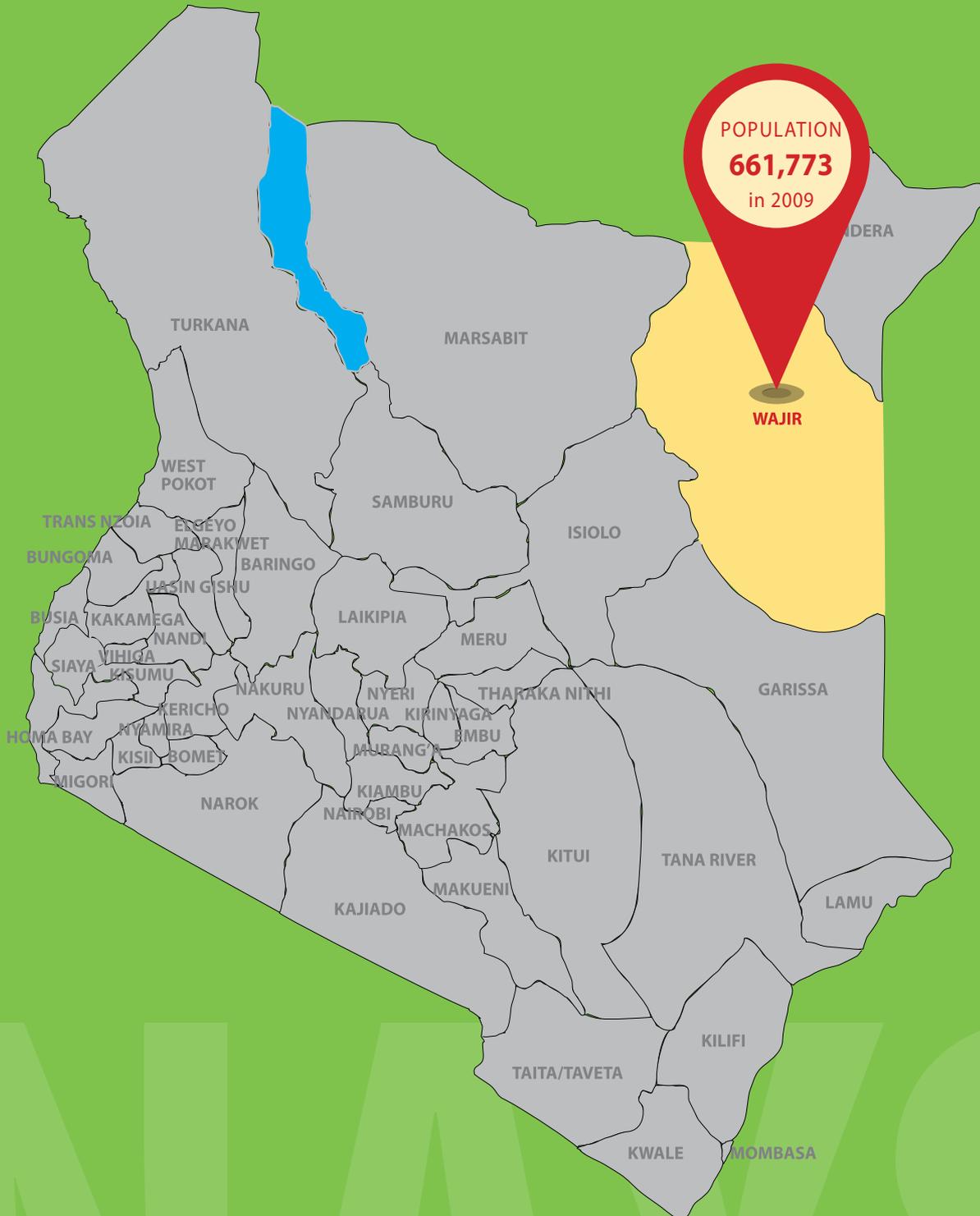
Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome	NASSEPV	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities	NAYS	National Adolescents and Youth Survey
CBO	Community Based Organisation	NER	Net Enrolment Rate
CDF	Constituency Development Fund	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CPC	County Population Coordinators	NYS	National Youth Service
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	PADIS	Population, Administration, and Decision Information System International
DemDiv	Demographic Dividend	PWD	People with Disability
DSA	Drug and Substance Abuse	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
FHOK	Family Health Option Kenya	TFR	Total Fertility Rates
FP	Family Planning	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
FPE	Free Primary Education	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate	WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
HDI	Human Development Index	YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus	YFS	Youth Friendly Services
ICT	Information and Communication Technology		
IDI	In-Depth Interview		
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey		
KII	Key Informant Interview		
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis		
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana		
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics		

Glossary of Terms

Demographic Dividend	The accelerated economic growth that is achieved through a reduction in the population growth rate coupled with strategic investments in the health, education, and economic opportunities for the population.
Demographic Window	Period when the proportion of a country's population aged below 15 years falls below 30 percent of the total population while at the same time the proportion of those aged 65 years and above is still below 15 percent of the total population.
Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)	This rate identifies the number of children newly admitted to the first year of school, regardless of age as a percentage of children who are entitled to admission.
Human Development Index	The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and income per capita indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development. A country scores higher HDI when the life expectancy at birth is longer, the education period is longer, and the income per capita is higher.
Mwongozo	Code of governance for state corporations in Kenya.
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	Age-specific corresponds to the legal admission age. Ratio of children of official school-age who are enrolled in school to the population of the corresponding school age.
Nyumba Kumi Initiative	Security model that encompasses groups of 10 houses with the aim of enhancing security.
Transition Rate	The proportion of children admitted, relative to the number of those who were, the year before, in the final school-year of the preceding level.

WAJIR COUNTY



Foreword

Kenya has a large population of young people below the age of 35 years. Three in every four Kenyans are young people. This population segment presents both a challenge and opportunity to the country's development agenda. The main challenge brought about by this population is the ever growing need for social services such as health, education, and other social amenities. Each year, an increasing number of these young people graduate from educational institutions thereby necessitating an increase in the creation of employment and income opportunities to meet the demands of this group. On the other hand, if Kenya can meet the social and economic needs of this population, then the socio-economic development of the country will be greatly enhanced. In this case the large population of young people will become an asset to the country. It is in recognition of this that the Government of Kenya has put in place several initiatives aimed at improving the socio-economic opportunities and well-being of young people.

The demographic dividend concept advocates for strategic investments in health, education, economic and governance with a view of ensuring that the population of young people is healthy, well-educated, trained for the job market, and economically engaged in a well governed environment. Kenya subscribes to the ideals of this concept whose eventual outcome is accelerated socio-economic growth and improved quality of life which is in line with the aspirations of *Kenya Vision 2030*. In this regard, Kenya's challenge is to match the population growth rate with the available resources.

Results from the modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend potential, which was done in 2014, showed impressive results that the country can achieve on the social and economic fronts when strategic investments are made in these sectors. However, for Kenya to realize these benefits, each of the forty seven counties in the country will have to make strategic investments in health, education, economic, and governance so that the full potential of young people can be harnessed and socio-economic growth accelerated. The 2015 Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) was occasioned by the need to provide each county with information on their respective demographic dividend potential and the specific actions that they need to undertake to realize this potential. This report will therefore be very useful to counties when planning for their respective development activities. It is my hope that each county will make use of this report and contribute to making Kenya a better country where citizens enjoy a high quality of life in a safe environment.

Mr. Saitoti Torome, CBS
Principal Secretary
State Department of Planning

Acknowledgment

The Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) was conducted in 2015 with the goal of contributing to the country's efforts of harnessing the potential of the young people in accelerating national development. Results from this survey will inform counties on the actions that they need to undertake in order to achieve accelerated economic growth

The 2015 NAYS was implemented through a collaborative effort between NCPD and various partners and stakeholders. In this regard, NCPD would like to thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Norwegian Government, through the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), for both their technical and financial support to the survey.

The implementation of the 2015 NAYS was guided by a Task Force made up of two committees, namely; Steering and Technical Committees. The Steering Committee provided advice on the conceptualisation and the implementation strategies and modalities while the Technical Committee was responsible for the development of the survey tools, recruitment and training of the research assistants, coordination, and supervision of data collection, data processing, analysis and report writing. NCPD is grateful to members of the two committees.

The NCPD's County Population Coordinators (CPCs) were responsible for introducing the research assistants to the various counties under their jurisdiction and ensuring their smooth movement within the counties. They were also responsible for conducting the Key Informant Interviews. Given the success of the fieldwork, NCPD would like to thank all the CPCs.

Finally, NCPD would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council of Governors and the individual Governors for facilitating the entry of the research teams into the counties, and the respondents in all the counties who participated in the focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and the key informant interviews. These respondents include community members, pupils, students, health workers, and heads of learning institutions, programme managers, employers, and government officials. The information that was provided by these respondents facilitated the development of this report. It is therefore NCPD's hope that this report will be useful to all the counties as they contribute to the national efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

Dr. Josephine Kibaru-Mbae, OGW
 Director General
 National Council for Population and Development

Executive Summary

This report presents Wajir 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, identifying 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 Wajir County in 2009 was 661,773 people and is projected to increase to 1,428,291 people by 2030 and to 2,571,407 people by 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (52 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 47 percent and to 40 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 46 percent in 2009 to 58 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 117 to 73 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2072 and close in 2112.

Wajir County has a fertility rate of 7.8 children per woman. Only two percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Twenty two percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 45 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. Young people are affected by DSA, especially miraa, STIs, SGBV, teenage pregnancy, FGM, and early marriage, malnutrition, unsafe saline water, communicable disease anaemia and high maternal mortality. The other challenge is low access to health care, especially to reproductive health care services. The report recommends continued support for eliminating FGM, early marriage, improved maternal health, enhancing young peoples' access to productive health services, improvement of health infrastructure and increased public awareness on the issues affecting young people.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 27 percent. This means that about 73 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is lower (9.3 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. These figures show that school enrolment both at primary and secondary levels in the county is very low. It is estimated that 139,929 primary school age and 74,502 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. The county government and other stakeholders should endeavour to enable all the school-age children in the county have access to education.

The main education issues facing young people in the county include lack of qualified teachers, inadequate schools, poverty, drug and substance abuse, lack of school fees, peer pressure, early marriage and negative attitudes towards education. Increased investments in education and sensitization of the parents and students on the importance of education were proposed as important in efforts to improve the education situation in the county.

The Human Development Index of the county is 0.4210 which is lower than the national average of 0.520. Young people in the county are engaged in construction work, buying and selling Mira, herding livestock, domestic work, tailoring, fetching firewood and water, commercial *bodaboda* riding and casual menial work. However, major challenges in clued lack of business capital, lack of requisite education and skills and inadequate information on available business opportunities in the county. The young people in the county should be assisted to acquire education and skills, more business and employment opportunities should be created for them. The young people should be sensitized on the interventions the government has put in place to empower them economically. These young people should be facilitated to benefit from the interventions. The county government should devise other ways of economically empowering young people to reduce the high unemployment rate.



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 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 strategise 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

WAJIR COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Wajir County is located in the North Eastern region of Kenya. The county lies between latitudes 3°N 60'N and 0° 20'N and Longitudes 39° E and 41° E and covers an area of 56,685.9 Km². It has two international borders – it borders Somalia to the East and Ethiopia to the North; Mandera County to the Northeast, Isiolo County to the South West, Marsabit County to the West and Garissa County to the South.

Administratively, the county comprises of eight sub-counties namely Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir West, Eldas, Wajir North, Buna, Habaswein and Wajir South. It's further divided into 29 divisions, 142 locations and 172 sub-locations. The county has 6 constituencies namely Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir west, Eldas, Wajir South and Wajir North and has 30 electoral wards. Wajir North and Wajir South constituencies have the largest number of wards at 7, and the rest have 4 each.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

2.2.1 Population and Structure

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

Table 2.1 Vihiga county's projected population size and structure (2009-2050)

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	661,773	1,428,291	2,571,407
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	51.8%	47.1%	39.7%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	2.2%	1.8%	2.5%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	46.0%	51.1%	57.7%
Dependency Ratio	117.6	95.7	73.2%
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2072		

In 2009, Wajir County had a population of 661,773 people. The population is projected to increase to 1,428,291 in 2030 and to 2,571,407 in 2050. The proportion of the population below age 15 is

projected to decline from 52 percent in 2009 to 40 percent in 2050. The elderly population is projected to increase from about 2 percent in 2009 to almost 3 percent in 2050.

The working age population is projected to increase from 46 percent in 2009 to about 58 percent in 2050. In 2009, the dependency ratio was 118 percent. This ratio is projected to decrease to 96 percent and 73 percent in 2030 and 2050 respectively.

The County's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in 2072 when the proportion of those aged below 15 years will be below 30 percent and the elderly population will be below 15 percent and it will close in 2112.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Wajir county

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	7.8
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	2.3%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	21.7%
	HIV Prevalence	0.2%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	45.4%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	27.2%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	45.4
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	136,929
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	9.3%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	20.2
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	74,502
Socio-economic	Human Development Index	0.4212424

Family planning plays an important role in enhancing the health of mothers and children by enabling couples to space births and to achieve their desired family size. The use of family planning methods therefore helps to prevent unplanned pregnancies and manage the population growth. Only 2 percent of the currently married women in the county are using contraceptives.

Wajir has a very high fertility rate. Its fertility rate is 7.8 children per woman. The national fertility rate is 3.9 children per woman. Twenty two of births in the county are attended by a skilled health worker

while the national average is. Less than half (45 percent) of the children age 12-23 months are fully immunised while the national average is 79 percent. The HIV prevalence rate is 0.2 percent which is among the lowest in the country. The national prevalence is 6 percent.

On education, school enrolment both at primary and secondary levels at the county is very low. The primary school net enrolment rate is 27 percent. While the secondary school net enrolment rate is 9 percent. It is estimated that 136, 929 primary school age children and 74,502 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. The pupil- teacher ratios in primary and secondary school level are 45 and 9 respectively. The ratio for primary school is a bit higher than the recommend ratio of 40. This shows that the county has shortage of primary school teachers.

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 higher level of education, and the income per capita is higher. According to the 2013 Kenya National Human Development Report, the HDI of the county was 0.4212 while the national HDI was 0.520.

2.3 Health and Young People

A county's health status is an important indicator of the level of development. The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young people in Wajir County. The questions were raised across board including young people, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in health. This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main health problems affecting young people in the county, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to youth and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of SRH information and services. The third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing health services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving health sector within the county.

2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People

Table 2.3 Main health problems affecting youth

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Poverty	Poor school performance	Public education on hygiene and sanitation
FGM	Poor sanitation	Absenteeism	Sex education on SRH
Sexual and Gender	Illiteracy	School drop out	Seek health services in health facilities
Early marriages	Inadequate information on SRH	Loss of job	Government to supply medicines in health facilities
Unsafe water	Peer pressure	Low productivity	Strengthen the fight against FGM
Early sexual debut	Malnutrition	Death	Guidance and counselling
Poor health		Mental health	Establish rehabilitation centres for DSA victims
Based Violence (SGBV) -FGM		Stress	Law enforcement on the Children's Act
Sexually Transmitted Infections			
Teenage pregnancy			
Malnutrition or lack of food			
Communicable Diseases (CDs)			
Anaemia			

From the focus group discussions across the various groups, DSA -chewing of Mira, smoking bhang and cigarettes were reported as the major drugs that are abused. An retrogressive cultural practice such as FGM was reported to be rampant in the county. STIs including HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy, early marriage and early sexual debut were other health issues reported especially by the younger age groups (below 24 years). The water in the county was reported to be salty, mainly from the wells and when consumed for a long time was said to cause kidney and urinary pains. This leads to poor health and hence low productivity. Anaemia was reported to be a prevalent disease in the county and this may be attributed to malnutrition. Communicable diseases namely, typhoid, pneumonia, malaria, coughing, cholera, diarrhoea and stomach-aches were reported across all the age groups.

“As many have said malnutrition and drinking unsafe water from shallow wells is also a major health factor affecting our community. The saline water comes along with kidney pains, malaria and all sorts of diseases. This water is not safe for drinking. Infections and all diseases are as a result of the water from the well.”

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

These health problems were attributed to high levels of poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and poor sanitation, inadequate information on SRH and peer pressure. The groups observed that public education of proper hygiene and sanitation would reduce the incidences of communicable diseases like typhoid and cholera. Due to DSA, young people were dropping out of school leading to poor performance and illiteracy. Poor health attributed to drinking of the saline water was leading to low productivity and eventually people were losing jobs. Other health consequences included death, mental health and stress.

The groups reported that to address these health issues the people of Wajir should embrace seeking health services from health facilities, strengthen the fight against FGM so that there can be a buy in against the vice by all, government should supply medicines in health facilities, and provide guidance and counselling for the DSA addicts. In addition, rehabilitation centres should be established in the county and sex education on SRH issues should be emphasized in schools. This would give young people information to enable them make informed choices regarding their lives.

The 2001 Children’s Act has criminalised FGM and early marriages. The county administration should ensure that this law is enforced and the perpetrators brought to book. This may drastically reduce the incidents of these vices.

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

Of interest were the young people's perception of access to services and the availability of information to them. Table 2.4 tabulates the sources, type and usefulness of the information.

Table 2.4 Access and availability of information and services

Sources of health information	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Advertisement	VCT	Disease Prevention	Learning institutions
Seminars	Treatment and medication	Behaviour change	Health facilities
Parental advice	Life skills	Increased knowledge on SRH issues	Parents
Learning institutions	SRH information	Increased knowledge on hygiene and sanitation	Media
Health Facilities	Hygiene and sanitation	Disease outbreak	Public barazas
Posters	Health education		
NGOs	Nutrition		
Media	Effects of DSA		
Internet			
Peers and friends			
Religious Institutions			
Public barazas			
CHWs and CHEWs			

In the discussion groups a range of sources of information were identified; the main sources of information were the advertisements and posters in the health facilities and NGO offices. Parental advice

was reported to be a good source of health information. Learning institutions, media (newspaper, TV and radio), seminars, religious leaders and CHWs were reported also as sources of health information. The internet was mentioned by the 20-24 year olds and they indicated that they get information from face book and twitter. Some indicated that they get information from their peers and friends.

“For those living with HIV/AIDS, there is the world AIDS day during which we get that information, otherwise we hear from radios, county commissioner and governor during the public barazas and radio. But also for those with disability there is a day for disabled people.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-19, Wajir]

The type of information received from these sources was on VCT, treatment and medication, life skills, health education, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and SRH information including information on HIV and AIDS. This information increased knowledge on SRH issues, disease prevention, disease outbreak and hygiene and sanitation. When this knowledge was put into practice, the young people would keep away from diseases making them to be productive. Information on SRH issues led to empowered young in terms of behaviour change.

The most preferred sources of information were learning institutions, health facilities, parents and the media.

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	Challenges
Contraceptives mainly the injectables, pills and the condoms	Stigma on the use of FP Religious restrictions Myths and misconceptions Fear of side effects Inadequate professional health providers Lack of FP commodities Inadequate health facilities that are far Poor management of health facilities Poverty Corruption Cost of services Poor infrastructure	Guidance and counselling especially in FP Reduce the cost in health care Provide free health services Establish more health facilities Create employment opportunities Provide ambulances Provide adequate qualified health providers Eradicate corruption

The main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young people were only contraceptives mainly the injectables, pills and condoms. Condoms were noted to be easily accessible in health facilities where they are kept outside in a dispenser.

The participants mentioned challenges in accessing these services which included; stigma on the use of contraceptives, religious restrictions where the community believes that religion does not allow the use of contraceptives, myths and misconceptions, fear of side effects in regard to use of contraceptive and lack of contraceptive commodities. Others include; lack of professional health providers, poor management of health facilities such that some have closed down, poverty which makes them not able to afford health services, inadequate health facilities that are far apart, costly health services, poor infrastructure and corruption..

“The challenge is that people believe in what their religion say about family planning and they think that the family planning method is not a cultural practice. So they fight it.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Wajir]

“Family Planning causes some complications, so when a mother uses you will find that she is not conceiving at the time that is required.”

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

“Corruption should be dealt by all means because, I visited with one of my Aunts in the general hospital and he asked me for whatever he calls a soda, so we need an officer who is fighting corruption. “

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

Ways of addressing these health challenges were reported and these included guidance and counselling especially in FP so that fear of side effects and myths and misconceptions can be cleared out; provide free health services across board not only in maternity services, provide ambulances, employ adequate qualified health personnel, improve the infrastructure in the county, establish more health facilities and equip them to increase access to health care and eradicate corruption in the health sector. Young people ought to get employment opportunities so that they can afford quality health care.

There was also a discussion on the type of information & services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWDs) and orphans. The services available included Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), VCT, and nutrition on how to eat a balanced diet, health talks on living positively and guidance and counselling. The marginalised were being supported by donors and well-wishers who provide them with wheel chairs, school fees and food for the 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 was lack of disability friendly services in the county, fear of testing due to lack of confidentiality and discrimination.

“Like someone who is infected with HIV/AIDS for him or her to know her status he/she is feeling shy to go to the doctor because he/she thinks that the doctor will expose her to people of his/her community.”

[FGD. Female young people 10-14, Wajir]

2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

The main organisations identified as addressing health issues were mainly NGOs like Islamic Relief, Save the Children that has employed CHWs who give health information, Wasda and Adlef. Government agencies like NACADA that fight DSA and the MOH were mentioned as other organisations that address health issues. These organisations have managed to change the status of young people by reducing stigma, behaviour change, fight FGM, promote exclusive breastfeeding, good nutrition, provide financial assistance and wheel chairs for the disabled and provide jobs for the young people.

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

To conclude the discussion on health, participants were asked to suggest the opportunities for improvement of health within their county. The main issues reported were on improving the infrastructure, establish health facilities - equip and staff them with qualified personnel, establish maternity wings in all hospitals including the dispensaries, equip health facilities with supplies, improve health care generally, provide accessible internet by installing the fibre optic cables and increase awareness campaigns on disease diagnosis and prevention.

2.4 Education and Young People

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

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

services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving education sector within the county.

2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young People

Table 2.6 Main education problems affecting youth

Main education issues	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Inadequate qualified teachers	Poverty	School drop out	Guidance and counselling
Inadequate schools	Peer pressure	Poor academic results and performance	Motivation of students
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Insecurity	Absenteeism	Sensitisation on the importance of education
Poverty	Cultural practices	Closure of schools	Provide bursaries
Truancy	Peer pressure		Lower the cost of education
Teenage pregnancy	OVC		Enforce laws on FGM
Cultural practices	Illiteracy of parents		Disciplinary action on teachers
School drop out	Insecurity		
Radicalisation			
Lack of parental guidance			
Inadequate schools			
Ignorance/negative perception on education			
Child labour			
High cost of education			
Peer pressure			
SGBV – Rape			
Inadequate school supplies (books etc)			

From the focus group discussions across the various groups, inadequate qualified teachers, inadequate schools and DSA were largely reported. School dropout was reported to be fuelled by insecurity, FGM and DSA because some girls after circumcision do not go back to school and they get married. Poverty that was causing lack of school fees leading to school dropout. Some parents who did not go to school do not value education they do not see the need to take their children to school. Radicalisation due to lack of teachers in schools and peer pressure was an emerging education issue in the county.

“Yes, the biggest problem affecting us due to lack of teachers is radicalisation. If the children see no teachers in school they will run away and will join Al-Shabaab where they are promised a lot of money. The children just follow. The other problem is there will be peer influence among the youth.”

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

“People were typically nomadic tourists and sent their children to look after animals since they didn’t know the value of education. Those who came to town after their animals were killed by the drought cannot withstand the expenses of the school and therefore cannot take their children to the school.”

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

Young in school male youth reported that due to lack of teachers and the students do not do practicals as required by the school curriculum.

“Lack of teachers especially experienced teachers, absenteeism, and high rate of drop out, inadequate training like we don’t do practical regularly, lack of administration.”

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

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) was a cause of school drop because these children have no one to support their education. The consequences were poor academic performance since the some of the schools do not even have teachers, school dropout especially when girls get circumcised and get married and closure of some schools because there are no students or teachers.

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 and to the girl child on the importance of continuing with school even after circumcision. A lot of sensitisation is needed in the county on the importance of education to both the parents and the students. FGM was doing a lot of harm to the girl child than good and both the national and the county governments ought to fully enforce the laws on FGM. The government ought to reduce the cost of education and provide bursaries to the needy students. Disciplinary action was to be taken on teachers who were affected by truancy.

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 inadequate and situated far apart and there is general inadequacy of facilities like the libraries, dormitories, electricity, water, text books, desks, classrooms and toilets in some of the primary and secondary schools and colleges. Young people aged 25-34 indicated that the county lacks tertiary institutions.

“There is a shortage of high schools in the county. There are some provincial schools, two or three and there is one national school in the whole county and we cannot find such schools. Most of the schools now are private and are competing with public schools and most of the students who are in the public schools then they drop out of school and they go to private schools...”

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

On gender balance in the groups indicated that there was gender balance. However, a key informant indicated that there is gender imbalance with more e more boys than girls in schools.

“In terms of gender it is in favour of the boys particularly for girls the enrolment decreases as they go from ECD to secondary. though in terms of gender as much as it keeps on decreasing for the girl child it keeps on becoming wider and wider.”

[Key informant interview, Education, Wajir]

2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education

Various NGOs were reported to address education issues in the county. UNICEF, Window Trust which empowers the girl child, Save the Children which built toilets, provides sanitary towels, books, bags and pens and Red Cross. Individual especially from universities were reported to address education issues by teaching students where there are no teachers during their school holidays. The CDF provided bursaries to the needy children. The groups reported that these organisations were changing the future careers of the young people in the county since they had a lot of empowerment programmes and provide a chance for the needy young people to study and become self-reliant in the future.

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 marketable to the prevailing job market and a key to formal or self-employment.

“Yes it is so marketable, like water engineering, nursing which help get immediately get the opportunity after you finish the courses.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Wajir]

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 there should be education forums across the county that advocate for the importance of education, the government and CDF should support the most needy children who drop out of school because of school fees, establish special schools for the deaf, blind and other disabilities, install electricity in all learning institutions and establish computer laboratories, equip learning institutions with books, employ more trained teachers, establish more schools and equip them and address the scarcity of water in the boarding schools.

2.5 Economic and Young People

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

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

The main employment and income opportunities that were reported for the county were construction, manual jobs like fetching firewood and water, tailoring, shopkeepers who sell miraa, fruits and vegetables, operate Mpesa shops and taxi drivers. The groups mentioned that the challenges the young people encounter in accessing these employment opportunities were corruption, tribalism, high taxation on shop licenses, limited opportunities, lack of skills and capital, illiteracy and poverty.

2.5.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young People

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

Table 2.7 Main economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities	Challenges encountered	Ways to address these challenges
Quarrying	Corruption	Encourage young people to be self employed
Masonry	Tribalism	Creation of employment opportunities
Selling miraa	Lack of capital	Create market to sell the produce
Herding	Lack of knowledge and skills	Encourage young people to study
Livestock farming	Poverty	Form human rights organisations
Boda boda	Illiteracy	Eradicate corruption
Domestic work	Insecurity	Capacity building
Tailoring	Low grades	
Fetching water and firewood	Discouragement	
Burning charcoal	Discrimination	

The young people in the county indicated that the main economic activities were quarrying, masonry, selling Mira, herding and livestock farming. Other young people engaged in boda boda riding, employed as domestic servants, tailoring, fetching water and firewood using donkey carts and burning charcoal. The young people reported that illiteracy due to school dropout was making them not engage in formal employment.

“There are two groups of youths, those who are educated and those who are not. Those who are educated just finish school except one or two who get employed by the county and could get some income are there but those who are not educated fetch firewood using donkey carts. They get some money by watering animals for others, they build houses and prepare blocks but those educated are few and get employed by the county government.”

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

Corruption, tribalism, lack of capital, lack of knowledge and skills, poverty and illiteracy were challenges that were mentioned by almost all the age groups. Low grades in schools resulted to poor performance hence the young people would either drop out of school or not go to secondary school. This could make the dream of getting formal jobs a mirage. Insecurity, discouragement from their peers and discrimination when giving some jobs were also hindering young people from gainfully engaging economic activities.

“When someone is looking for a job and he has the knowledge the main challenge is that he has to know someone there and he also has to pay something small so he has to have money. If you’re educated but with no money then you will remain unemployed because you have to pay Ksh. 100,000 or Ksh. 200,000 to get employed.”

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

“The challenge is that for example with the police recruitment if you run and become number one but you don’t give them money they won’t pick you but the weak ones who run and become number last will give them something small and will be chosen. Youths have so many challenges.”

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

“I wanted to say that our youth in NEP, the grade is low and the children’s grade is not good and everywhere else there are many diplomas and degrees and there are other with higher positions. For us our youth who go to university are very few because they can’t get higher grades in our county and there are only one or two who may go. The reason for unemployment is low grades.”

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

Some of the ways reported to address the mentioned challenges were; young people to be encouraged to be self-employed in order for them to be self-reliant and economically empowered, the county government to create employment opportunities for young people, create market to sell the produce whether within or outside the county, form human rights organisations that would create awareness on the need for equitable distribution of resources, eradicate corruption and capacity build young people on entrepreneurship. The school dropout was reported to be high and this was leading to illiteracy which would then trickle down to lack of opportunities for formal employment by the county government and other stakeholders.

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. Young people below age 19 are engaged in economic activities such as charcoal burning and buying and selling Mira. The main reason behind their engagement in the economic activities was school dropout due to poverty.

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 are shown in table 2.8

Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programs	Challenges in accessing the interventions	Ways to address these challenges
YEDF WEDF UWEZO fund NYS	Lack of awareness on the available interventions Lack of cooperation among the group members Insecurity Corruption Political interference Discrimination Tribalism	Sensitisation on the interventions Eliminate tribalism Encourage self-employment Create markets Learn good management skills

The main interventions reported by the groups were YEDF, WEDF, UWEZO fund and NYS. Corruption and political interference 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 the young people on the interventions and how to benefit from them. Lack of cooperation among the groups members where the groups form, disagree and then disintegrate, killing the vision of the group. Insecurity, corruption, discrimination, political interference and tribalism were other challenges that were reported.

Ways of addressing the challenges were reported to be sensitisation on the interventions so that young people are made aware of the programmes in place, eliminate tribalism, encourage self-employment, create markets for goods and services produced and young people should learn good management skills to help them sustain groups once formed.

The benefits of these interventions to young people is that the keep them busy hence keep away from vices such as prostitution, young people gain skills, improve the economic status of young people hence the become economically empowered, gain knowledge, financial support from the loans accessed from the interventions and boosts the morale of the young people when they start businesses and succeed.

2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

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

Table 2.9 Availability and access to ICT services

ICT services available	Challenges encountered in accessing ICT services	Ways of addressing these challenges
Computers	High cost	Affordable ICT services
Cyber cafes	Lack of network	Equip ICT centres
Laptops	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)	Install network boosters
Radio		Capacity building

Computers, cyber cafes, laptops, smart phones, TV and radios were reported by the participants as the available ICT services.

“We use radios to listen to what is happening in the country, nationally and internationally. Some watch TV but others don’t listen to radio or watch TV. The children access Facebook and tell us what is happening in Nairobi and use the internet.”

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

The challenges encountered in accessing ICT services was high cost of internet even when the young people visit the cyber café, lack of network hence the need to have network boosters by the service providers, lack of power supply, lack of knowledge and skills on how to operate the digital gadgets and lack of digital equipment (smart phones, TV or radio). In order to counter these challenges the government was implored upon to make installation of electricity accessible and affordable, subsidise the cost of ICT equipment and capacity build young people on how to use the ICT equipment and access ICT services.

The in-school young people reported that the ICT services available are computers, telephones, television, radio and laptops. Cyber cafes were suggested across all the younger 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 provides information on various issues, it promotes computer literacy and young people can use the services for academic purposes. In addition, the young people use the information for social networking, getting current news updates, job search, create awareness on various issues, communication purposes, and it keeps the young people busy and their minds occupied.

2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economy

The main organisations that address economy in the county are mainly the NGOs like the UNHCR, Red Cross, USAID and Master card foundation. Government interventions like the CDF also address economic issues. The banks were reported that they give loans to the young people to start businesses hence become economically empowered.

2.5.6 Potential Sectors 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 pastoralism, establishment of TVET institutions for young people to gain skills in various artisans' courses after which they can join the *Jua Kali* sector. Once the skills are gained young people would be in a position to start small businesses and be self-employed. Young people should be taught how to operate petrol stations, start merry go rounds, and be engaged in the hospitality industry. The county government should create job opportunities for young people in the county.

“Here we have an airstrip, if this airstrip is made and planes land, our youth would have been employed, some would have opened shops others hotels, there would be so many employment, the second one is a polytechnic where youth will be trained, polytechnic is where tailoring is being taught, wood work and so many things, typing, if we could get a polytechnic here we could be advantaged.”

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

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;

People save for the future of their families. They reported that the little they earn they save in order to prepare for a better of their families. The older people felt that the issue of the future is in God's hand.

“The whole issue is a God's case and as a Muslim, we cannot say anything but when it comes to saving, you save for your children there are some who are employed and save in the banks but for us in our location the only saving we have is for animals whether there is drought or not.”

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

The majority wanted to save and invest, the following barriers exist that hinder them from saving; unemployment, poverty, less income-more needs, lack of skills and information on saving and investment and environmental factors like drought that kills majority of livestock.

When asked what ways to address the barriers, the young people reported they should create awareness on the importance of saving and investing, insure livestock such that even when they die due to drought the insurance company compensates for the loss, contribute to NSSF and encourage and empower young people to be self. Corruption and tribalism which was leading to some jobs being a preserve of some people was to be eradicated so that the young people can compete fairly.

2.6 Governance and Young People

Governance is of critical importance especially with the current policy to move decision-making away from the central government and out to devolved entities. Governance is defined as the process through which systems are managed from within and without. These sections sought the views in regard to the eight principles in governance.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

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

2.6.1.1 Justice system

The saying goes that justice delayed is justice denied. When a case arises the justice system should ensure that there 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 to address
Land disputes	Corruption	Address corruption
Theft	Injustice	Promote justice
Rape	Slow process of the	Employ more personnel
Insecurity	judicial system	Public awareness

The older age group reported that the most prevalent cases are land disputes, stealing of animals and rape. Competition of the available resources was the main course of water conflict in the county. The groups reported that most land lack title deeds and there is need for land to be sub divided and title deeds issued. Tribal clashes, DSA related cases and insecurity were other cases that occur in the county.

“The issue of land the challenge is that too many people fight in the land and there are no documents to show who the land belongs to like title deeds, plot number they just say this is my place, the fence is mine and there are specific documents that can separate them and the challenge is that everyone says its mine and the elders say let’s divide it by two and it’s not fair because the land belongs to one of you.....”

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

“The other is women rape cases, those which are taken to police and those solved traditionally. Many rape cases occur in the bush on your way home and those who impregnate her are asked to marry her and I know the religion does not allow that but ni kienyeji. Others pay money to the family but how does the money help the person who has been raped- nothing so there is injustice and in most of the cases here there is no justice.”

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

Corruption was heavily reported as a challenge in the county that was really affecting justice. Poverty which was making residents fear court cases was also noted as a major challenge. When animals are stolen, the security personnel were blamed for not expediting the process of capturing the thieves. Illiteracy was noted as a challenge and it was blamed for encouraging solving of cases traditionally and a few cows are paid to solve a case even in cases that needed police intervention like rape.

In order to address the mentioned challenge public awareness needs to be conducted in the county so that the residents are aware of how to solve cases and justice is served. Corruption which is an enemy to development was to be eradicated. Promotion of peace and justice was to be beefed up so that despite the meagre resources the residents live in harmony and share the little that is available. The participants reported that security needs to be beefed up to curb the stealing of animals.

2.6.1.2 Security

Security is a crucial element in governance. Largely the participants reported that the county is secure. However, inter-clan conflicts were reported to occur. The challenges encountered are; victimisation of individuals because of the porous border with the Somali, corruption, tribalism, nepotism, social segregation, refugees, nomads and radicalisation and covering up for criminals.

On mechanisms to ensure that security was in place, the residents report new individuals in the county in the spirit of *Nyumba Kumi* initiative, there is a lot of public awareness on security and community policing. The role of young people in maintaining security was suggested to be reporting suspicious looking people and law breakers to the police, advocate for justice and they participate in community

policing. The older people encourage the young people to join the army in order to defend their country.

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 reported to be affecting the unity of young people were corruption, unequal distribution of resources, unemployment, tribalism, social class disparities where some communities feel they are more superior than others and inter-clan conflict

“We are many, some communities are many than others and start telling you that these are small communities. The other thing is that this time certain families are elected in various seats and the rest who have no political seats are not respected and even government resources are not reaching them.”

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

The county has programmes in place that promote unity. There are peace initiatives and education that is carried out by the community and religious leaders in every gathering that is held. In order to promote unity the law breakers should be brought to book, solve problems amicably and objectively, always promote peace and equity, fair distribution of resources and appreciation of all tribes.

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 about the ongoing projects from service delivery charters mainly in the health facilities, suggestion boxes, public notice boards, mass media and public barazas conducted by community leaders. The mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency in the county is that disciplinary action is taken against those who have erred and they can be sacked, resign, step aside and prosecution of the law breakers.

Some of the ways that were reported for improvement of mechanisms in place to ensure transparency and accountability were monitor and evaluate community projects, the set up community committees should do their role of oversight, the leaders should be fair and just when allocating projects such that there is equity, stop tribalism and eradicate corruption.

“I can talk of two issues, hospital maternities and wards are build and according to the law when maternity ward is constructed the hospital management team has to be part of it, but here it is just a constructor who comes and start building and if you ask him he threatens that he will put you in jail. The other one is constructing a road in school plot and when you start complaining about his encroaching on public land, he threatens the chief that he will be taken to another location and the project is for the MP and/or the county government. The community management committees are not involved and you cannot complain and they should be the gate keepers.”

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

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

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

The young people in the county reported that they were not involved in the budget process, project identification, design and implementation of a project. This was mainly because they were not aware of the on-going projects. The young people mentioned that the role they like to play was in getting involved in all the stages of project development and doing manual jobs in the construction industry. However, the young people reported that they would like to be involved in decision making committee meetings, budget planning and those who can be absorbed in employed as casual labourers to be given the jobs.

The young people reported that the projects and programmes address their needs if they are given employment opportunities as this will empower them economically. In addition, they have a sense of belonging having participated in a community project. Those aged 15-19 felt that the existing opportunities do not serve those who deserve.

“Ok, the opportunity that is there according to my view it does not serve those who deserved, they give the opportunity to big fishes, the other small for the youths and whereby are overworked and paid low wages.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Wajir]

However, if young people were involved, then they would gain knowledge and if employed to do some work they would get some financial boost.

Across all the groups the following were mentioned as the challenges that young people face during their involvement in project implementation; tribalism, corruption, unethical leaders, prejudice in terms of age – the older people think that once young people get the money they will just waste it, poor pay and exploitation, injustice and no community participation.

*“They are only given to people they know, they are using tribalism
.....”*

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Wajir]

The views on how young people’s involvement in project process can be improved were varied across all the age groups. Suggestions were; youth representation during all the stages of project planning, inclusivity, financial support, capacity building on project design and implementation, advocate for justice and give employment opportunities on merit. The parties involved should consider the 30% rule on AGPO and follow it. With this in mind, young people need to be assisted to register companies so that they can bid for the specific jobs in AGPO.

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This sections looks at the resource allocation to young people. The focus group participants reported that there were no resources that are specifically targeted to young people. However, the young people reported that the mechanism that should be put in place to ensure resources are used to achieve expected outcome is to monitor and evaluate projects on every stage. In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilisation of resources, there should be unity and trust, ensure that there is transparency and accountability, there is fairness even in job allocation and the contractors should do a good job always. In constructing classrooms or roads, they should do quality work. The younger youth reported that tenders and contracts should be advertised publicly so that all interested parties can apply. The older people reported that protests could also work like the way it worked in Nairobi County in the Lang’ata primary saga.

“Tenders and contracts should be advertised publicly, applications accepted and given on a fair basis with the knowledge of everyone, specifically the youths should be involved at all times.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-24, Wajir]

“You know what happened in Lang’ata primary in Nairobi, the small pupils broke the walls and not unless the youth do the same thing, then they will get nothing, talking will not give them anything, begging will not give something unless they break walls there is no other way.”

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

2.6.5 Political Leadership

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

The positive sentiments on political leadership especially at the county level were noted to improve the infrastructure and provide financial assistance to the needy through the CDF. Other roles as reported by the participants included, youth bribery to engage in violence, portray tribalism, corruption, false promises and they just visit the county during the elections time

“What I wanted to add is that political leaders don’t want people to get educated and they take advantage when people are fighting, they only make people fight and they use youth and youth are used only on negative issues despite being strong so they don’t do anything for them.”

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

“Us we have not seen anything that they do and when elections near they come to our houses and buy for people Mira and ask them to vote for them, but I have not seen anything that they do for the youth.”

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

2.7 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People

The participants reported that in terms of health, population increase would lead to congestion in health facilities and lack of medicine. The population increase will also increase disease transmission rate, there would be high mortality because the health care will be poor and lack of medical personnel. In the education sector, increase in population would lead to insufficient infrastructure where the added number of students will lack desks, beds. The participants reported that the schools are adequate but an increase in population will lead to poor performance because the children are many and the teachers to guide and supervise the children are few. This will lead to high rate of illiteracy, increase school dropout since students lack proper supervision and guidance. On the other hand, DSA will be rampant because the young people are idle and out of school.

“My last contribution if population increases there are a lot of problems like there will increase diseases, resources will decrease, manpower will increase and you cannot go to anywhere else and those are the problems.”

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

Across the groups, the participants reported that population increase would lead to high unemployment rate which may lead young people to engage in DSA because they are idle. The population increase will cause high dependency ratio, increase crime rate and decrease further the available meagre resources. In governance, population increase would lead to high crime rate which will make the county very insecure and corruption incidents will increase as well.

“First of all in terms of health the rate of mortality will increase, people will die like birds and any other creature. So in terms of education, there will be over enrolment that will lead to poor provision of better quality education, secondly in terms of economic, the economy will actually drop and the rate of unemployment will increase and also many other social vices will increase and in terms of governance, insecurity will be high because actually to cater for a high population, it will be a big problem to the government.”

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

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evident that the county is having a youth bulge and the dependency ratio is quite high at 117... The county has very high fertility. On the average women have almost 8 children each. Contraceptive prevalence rate is also quite low at 2.3 percent.

The demographic window of opportunity will open in 2072 which is a long time from now. Nonetheless, if all the County government and stakeholders make decisions to invest in the health, education, in creating business and employment opportunities and in governance, , the demographic window of opportunity may even open earlier and the county would start enjoying the demographic dividend.

In all the discussed sectors there was an outcry of poor infrastructure, ill equipped health facilities and learning institutions, inadequate health personnel and teachers. Retrogressive cultural practices like FGM and early marriages was seriously affecting the girl child hence dropping out of school. Mira is the most abused drug and this should be arrested. In governance, radicalisation of young people and joining Alshabab was noted as a major threat not only to the county but to the country.

When these issues among others are addressed, the county will be on the right track of reaping the benefits of 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. Retrogressive cultural practices like the FGM and early marriages, high illiteracy and DSA - specifically eating Miraa are major problems in the county affecting the girl and boy

child respectively. These problems have 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.

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

Health

1. The county government should channel more funds in the health sector to staff and equip health facilities, buy ambulances and establish YFCs across the county so that young people access SRH information and services.
2. The stakeholders should not relent on the fight against the retrogressive cultural practices of FGM and early marriages. The Children's Act 2001 need to be enforced fully and the perpetrators brought to book.
3. Improve the infrastructure in the county – hospitals and roads to make the health care accessible. This would go a long way in increasing the number of hospital deliveries and survival of children.
4. Massive awareness on the importance of having manageable families should be carried out in the whole county. The CPR is very low at 2 percent and myths and misconceptions surrounding the use of family planning need to be demystified.

Education

1. The enrolment rate for learning institutions is very low and there is gender imbalance. They should improve the enrolment rate and gender balance in the county and retain the girl child in school. This will increase the literacy rates in the county.
2. Learning institutions have inadequate facilities like laboratories, chairs, desks, dormitories, libraries, toilets, lack of water and electricity hence they ought provide funds to equip the learning institutions to make learning for the students conducive.
3. The TSC should employ more teachers in order to improve the quality of education.

Economy

1. 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.
2. They should improve the livestock farming in the county so that the young people can maximise the benefits of livestock keeping. Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) be decentralised.

3. The county government should device ways of economically empowering young people to reduce the high unemployment rate; for instance the unemployed young people could provide services like running market toilets, manning of bus park, garbage collection which should be run by young people so that they are empowered economically.
4. 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.

Governance

1. The provincial administration together with the county government should work together and fight the radicalisation of young people.
2. 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. There should be a law prohibiting the politicians from taking advantage of the unemployed young people and use them to bring havoc during the campaigning period.

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Annex 1: County Demographic Windows

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

Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year

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

Annex 2: Survey Personnel

North Eastern Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 North Eastern Region

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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.

WAJIR COUNTY