

Unpacking the concept of demographic dividend to religious leaders sets the pace for discussions on sexuality education

The Faith to Action Network organized a forum of religious leaders on 13th March 2019 at Savelberg Retreat Centre, Nairobi to discuss participation of religious Community on reproductive health education in Kenya.

During the meeting, NCPD shared the findings of the National Adolescents and Youth Survey which revealed that drug and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, HIV/STIs, unsafe abortion and sexual gender based violence (SGBV) were some of the major health issues affecting adolescents and youth in Kenya.

The qualitative survey conducted in 47 counties sought to establish the critical issues in health, education, economic and governance facing young people in Kenya and identify opportunities for harnessing the demographic dividend.

Using the illustration of the engage presentation of the four wheels (pillars) representing education, health, economic and governance; the religious leaders were enlightened about harnessing the demographic dividend. It was explained that the DD was not automatic but deliberate efforts were required and strategic investments in providing family planning and reproductive health services, quality education and skills development, employment and income opportunities for young people and good governance.

The forum drew participants from the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM), Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK), Hindu Council of Kenya (HCK), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), African Indigenous Instituted Churches (AIIC), Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches of Kenya (PECK) and Kenya Inter-Faith Youth Network (KIYN).

See photos below.....

- 1. A group photo**
- 2. Ms. Irene Muhunzu, Senior Population Programme Officer, NCPD engaging the religious leaders on harnessing the demographic dividend by addressing adolescents and youth sexual reproductive health**

