REPUBLIC OF KENYA

2015 NATIONAL
ADOLESCENT
AND YOUTH
SURVEY
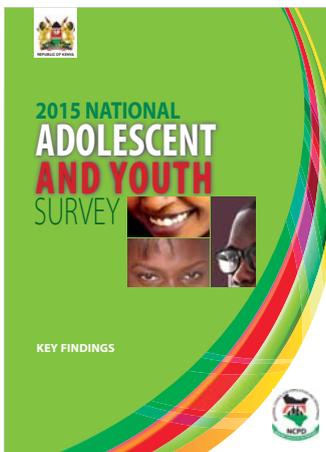
KEY FINDINGS

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NCPD

MANAGING POPULATION FOR PROSPERITY

2015 NATIONAL
ADOLESCENT
AND YOUTH
SURVEY

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2015 NATIONAL ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH SURVEY

Preliminary Report

Key Findings

National Council for Population and Development

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CONTENTS

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

KEY FINDINGS

ANNEXES

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Centre
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NOPE	National Organization of Peer Educators
PSRI	Population Studies and Research Institute
TFR	Total Fertility Rate

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.
Nyumba Kumi Initiative	Security model that encompasses groups of 10 houses with the aim of enhancing security
Mwongozo	Code of governance for state corporations in Kenya
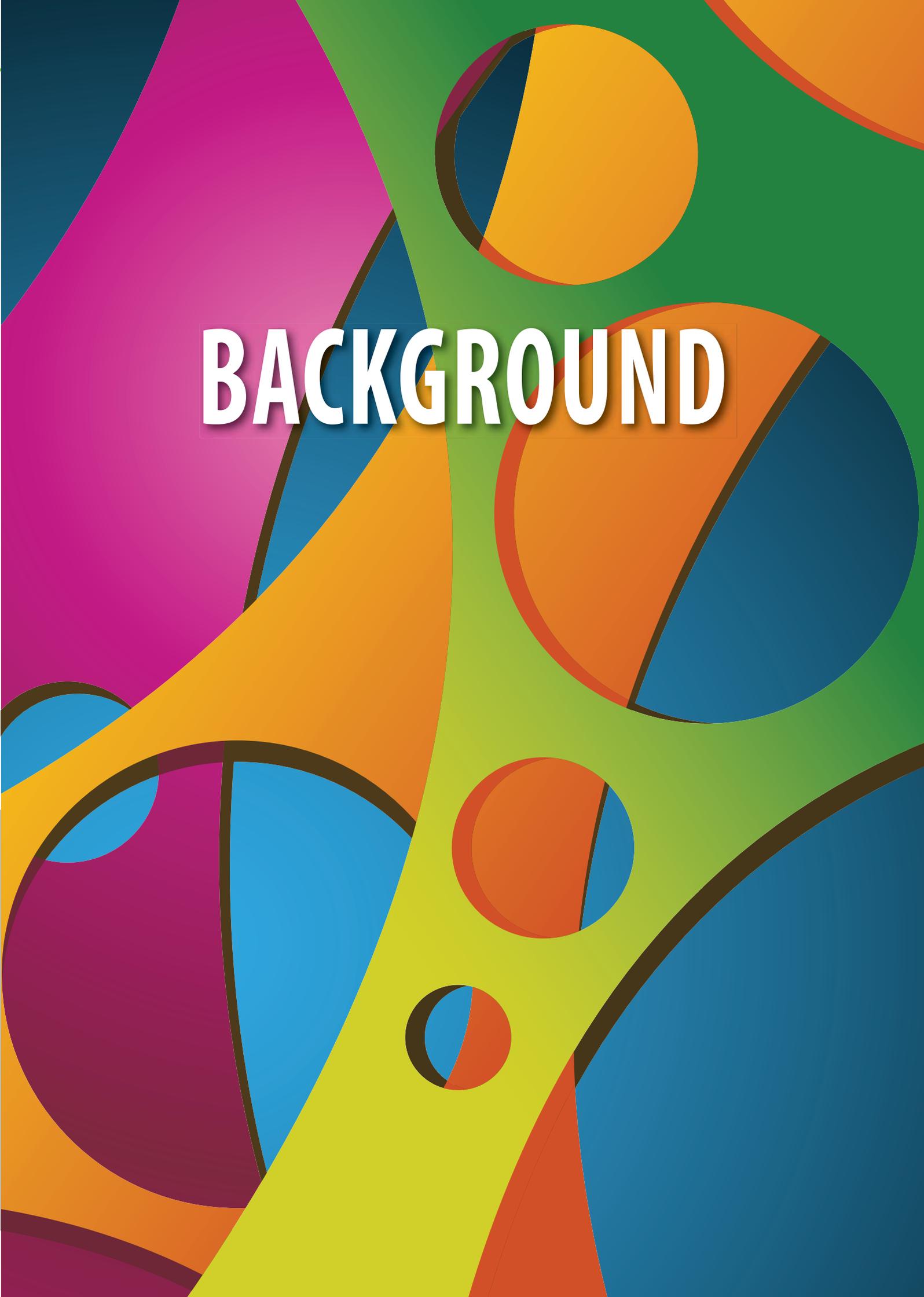
BACKGROUND

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Kenya Vision 2030

Kenya Vision 2030 is the country's development blueprint that aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country providing a high quality life to all its citizens by the year 2030. The Vision is based on three pillars namely: **economic, social and political.** The economic pillar aims to improve the prosperity of all Kenyans through a countrywide economic development programme that will achieve and sustain an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 10 precent per annum. The social pillar seeks to build a just and cohesive society with social equity in a clean and secure environment. The political pillar aims to realize a democratic political system founded on issue-based politics that respects the rule of law, and protects the rights and freedoms of every individual in Kenyan society. The country's population which is currently youthful is central to the achievement of the aims of *Kenya Vision 2030*.

1.2 Youth in Kenya

The United Nations uses the terms youth and young people interchangeably to mean persons 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.

Youth in Kenya face a myriad of challenges ranging from unemployment, under-employment, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), drug and substance abuse, poverty, crime and deviant behaviour, exploitation, lack of opportunities to explore and develop their talents, and low representation at decision making levels. For the youth in Kenya to make a meaningful contribution to the country's development, the problems facing young persons in the country need to be addressed comprehensively.

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. This is the experience of the "Asian Tigers" who in the 1960s and 1970s had a large population of young persons, high levels of poverty, and low levels of development. However, these countries were able to turn around their economies by slowing down the population growth rate, investing in health, education and skills of young persons, and creating income opportunities for those in the labour force while upholding the principles of sound governance. The resultant effect of this was a substantial reduction in the dependency ratios, an increase in incomes and savings, higher levels of investments in the capital stock, and a high quality of life for the citizens.

Based on the experience of the "Asian Tigers", 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.

1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million during the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census. 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 same 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 by 2050 then the population size will increase to 59 million in 2030 and 75 million 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 respectively.

1.4 Health Situation

A country's health status is an important indicator of the level of development. Over the years, Kenya has made good improvements in various health indicators. Between 2009 and 2014, the country's infant and under-5 mortality rates reduced from 52 and 74 deaths per 1,000 births respectively to 39 and 52 deaths according to the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS). This could be partly attributed to the fact that over the same period the proportion of births that were attended to by skilled health providers increased from 44 percent to 62 percent. Unfortunately Kenya's maternal mortality is still high at 360 deaths for every 100,000 live births.

Family planning plays a very 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. According to the 2014 KDHS, the proportion of married women aged 15-49 years who are using a method of family planning increased remarkably from 46 to 58 percent between 2009 and 2014. Over the same period, the proportion of the married women who do not want any more children or who want to delay the next pregnancy by at least 2 years but are not using any family planning method i.e. unmet need for family planning decreased from 26 to 18 percent. Despite this progress in use of contraception, about 18 percent of teenagers aged 15-19 years in Kenya have begun childbearing.

According to the 2012 Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey, the prevalence of HIV among men and women aged 15-64 years reduced from 7.2 to 5.6 percent between 2007 and 2012 though the prevalence in 2012 remained higher among females (6.9 percent) compared to males (4.2 percent). Females aged 15-24 years have a much higher increase in HIV prevalence compared to their male counterparts. Findings from the 2014 KDHS showed that while 9 out of every 10 people aged 15-49 knew where to get an HIV test, only 7 in 10 men had ever been tested for HIV compared to 9 in 10 women.

1.5 Education Status

Education contributes significantly to individual and national development. It is therefore important to ensure that citizens access and acquire quality education and skills that are needed in the labour market. The 2014 *Education Statistical Year Book* indicates that at primary level, though the gross enrolment rate is over 100 percent, the net enrolment rate is 88 percent. The primary school net enrolment for boys is 90 percent and that of girls is 86 percent. This net enrolment varies by county with Kericho and Kisii counties having the highest enrolment at 99 percent. Mandera and Wajir have the lowest net enrolment at 25 and 27 percent respectively. The overall net enrolment for primary school implies that about 1.3 million primary school age children are not in school. Out of this number, 55 percent are girls.

The overall pupil-teacher ratio at primary school level is 30 pupils per teacher. This is below the recommended ratio of a maximum of 40 pupils per teacher. The pupil-teacher ratio at primary school level varies between counties with Garissa, Bungoma, Mandera, and Turkana having a ratio of above 40 pupils per teacher. Turkana has the highest ratio of 70 while Baringo, Lamu, Nyeri, and Tharaka-Nithi have the lowest ratio of less than 25 pupils per teacher.

At the secondary school level, the gross and net enrolment rates stand at 59 and 47 percent respectively. This implies that over half of the secondary school-age teenagers are not in school. In Kirinyaga and Tharaka-Nithi counties, 9 in every 10 secondary school-age teenagers are in school while in Wajir, Turkana, and Mandera counties only 1 in 10 secondary school-age teenagers are in school. In 8 of the 47 counties, less than 20 percent of the secondary school-age pupils are in school while in 5 counties the proportion of pupils attending secondary school is at least 80 percent. Out of the 2.3 million pupils enrolled in secondary school, 48 percent are female indicating a small gender disparity.

The overall pupil-teacher ratio at the secondary school level is 20 pupils per teacher which is well below the recommended maximum ratio of 40 pupils to 1 teacher. Turkana County has the highest ratio at 28 while Samburu, Isiolo, Kajiado, and Marsabit have the lowest ratio of 16 pupils per teacher. This implies that the ratio

of pupils to teachers is better at the secondary school level compared to the primary school level. This ratio could partly be explained by the fact that about half of the secondary school-age pupils are not in school.

In 2009, the proportion of primary school pupils who transitioned to secondary school was 55 percent. Between 2009 and 2014 the proportion of pupils transitioning to secondary school increased gradually to reach 65 percent in 2012 and 80 percent in 2014. This is an indication that many more pupils were able to access secondary school education as reflected by the increase in the secondary school net enrolment from 33 percent in 2009 to 47 percent in 2014.

In 2014, the Human Development Index report indicated that adults aged 25 years and above has a mean of 6.3 years of schooling. Also children who commenced primary education in 2013 are expected to complete 11 years of schooling on average. Globally, the mean years of schooling for adults is 7.7 years and the expected years of schooling for children is 12.2 years. This shows that Kenya is lagging behind many countries in education status.

1.6 Kenya's Economy

Kenya's economic performance over the 2009 – 2014 period reflects a mixed performance. The *Kenya Economic Report 2015* shows that following the rebasing of the national accounts in 2014, the Kenyan economy grew at 3.3 percent in 2009, peaking at 8.4 percent in 2010 before declining to 6.1 percent in 2011 and 5.3 percent in 2014. The economic growth in 2014 was mainly driven by mining and quarry, communication, construction, and financial services sectors in that order. Though the economic growth in the recent years has been fairly good, it remains way below the *Kenya Vision 2030* projected figure of 10 percent per annum from the year 2012 onwards. The implication of this is that the current economic growth and resources generated annually cannot adequately cater for the population that is growing at 2.9 percent per annum.

The 2015 Kenya Economic Survey reported that 14.3 million Kenyans are employed in both the formal and informal sectors. The informal sector accounts for 83 percent of the total employment. In 2014, about 800,000 new jobs were created mainly in the informal sector. An analysis of youth employment based on the *2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census* shows that out of the 8.3 million young persons in employment in 2009, 51 percent were males and 49 percent were females. The data further showed that the proportion of males employed in the rural areas is less than that of females while in the urban areas, the proportion of males is higher than that of females.

Youth unemployment is a global phenomenon that hampers the full utilization of available human resource potential. The *2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census* showed that general unemployment among persons aged 15-64 years stood at 8.6 percent. This was much lower than the unemployment levels among young persons aged 15-19 and 20-24 years which stood at 16 and 13 percent respectively. In an effort to address youth unemployment in the country, the Government has put in place various strategies to trigger growth in the job market. One of the strategies is the affirmative action to reserve 30 percent of all government procurement opportunities for youth, women and persons with disability. This policy action is referred to as *Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO)*. Other strategies include the setting up of Uwezo Fund, Youth Enterprise Fund, and the Women Enterprise Fund which provide youth and women with access to grants and interest-free loans to enhance set up of businesses and employment creation. Through the rebranded National Youth Service, the Government is addressing youth unemployment, inactivity, and low skills development using a transformative approach.

1.7 Governance Issues

In August 2010, Kenya promulgated the 2010 constitution which defined a new governance framework for the country. One major fundamental change in the governance structure of the country was the introduction of County governments in an effort to devolve power and resources. In addition to the national government, the country now has 47 county governments which have the responsibility of planning and implementing development activities within the counties.

With regard to the youth, the constitution obligates the government to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training; have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; access employment; and are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation. This is aimed at ensuring that young persons are able to achieve their full potential and participate meaningfully in the management of public affairs.

In recognition of the importance of leadership in national development, the constitution defines the criteria for the appointment or election of leaders who are competent and persons of integrity. The powers to enforce and ensure compliance with laws relating to leadership and integrity have been vested in the *Ethic and Anti-Corruption Commission*, which is also a creation of the new constitution. Issues to do with corruption are handled by the same commission with the aim of reducing corrupt activities in the management of public affairs and improve the country's Corruption Perception Index (CPI). In 2014 Kenya ranked poorly on the CPI scale at position 145 out of 174 countries.

Conflicts in society are bound to arise and therefore there is need to have in place mechanisms to solve conflicts. The 2010 constitution of Kenya asserts the independence of the country's judiciary which exercises judicial authority through the courts and tribunal. Alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are recognized and promoted by the constitution. In addition to this, the country has seen a number of judicial reforms being implemented in the last few years with the aim of improving effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of judicial services.

Security has become a matter of public concern especially with the increase of terrorism related incidents and ethnic conflicts in various parts of the country. This has necessitated action to reform and strengthen the countries security forces and mechanisms including the introduction of the *'nyumba kumi'* initiative. The public have also been sensitized to be more 'security conscious' and to report any security threats. In an effort to reduce ethnic related conflicts, the government has put in place the National Cohesion and Integration Commission whose mission is to alleviate ethnic discrimination and promote social cohesion.

In an effort to ensure that public services provided by the Government are of high quality, effective and efficient, all Government ministries, department and agencies have been put under a performance contract that requires them to deliver specified services within a given time frame as per their individual mandate. For the Government agencies, the performance contracts have been augmented with a *Code of Governance* known as *Mwongozo*. The purpose of this code is to improve governance in state corporations. The expected outcome of this is improved delivery of services to the public.
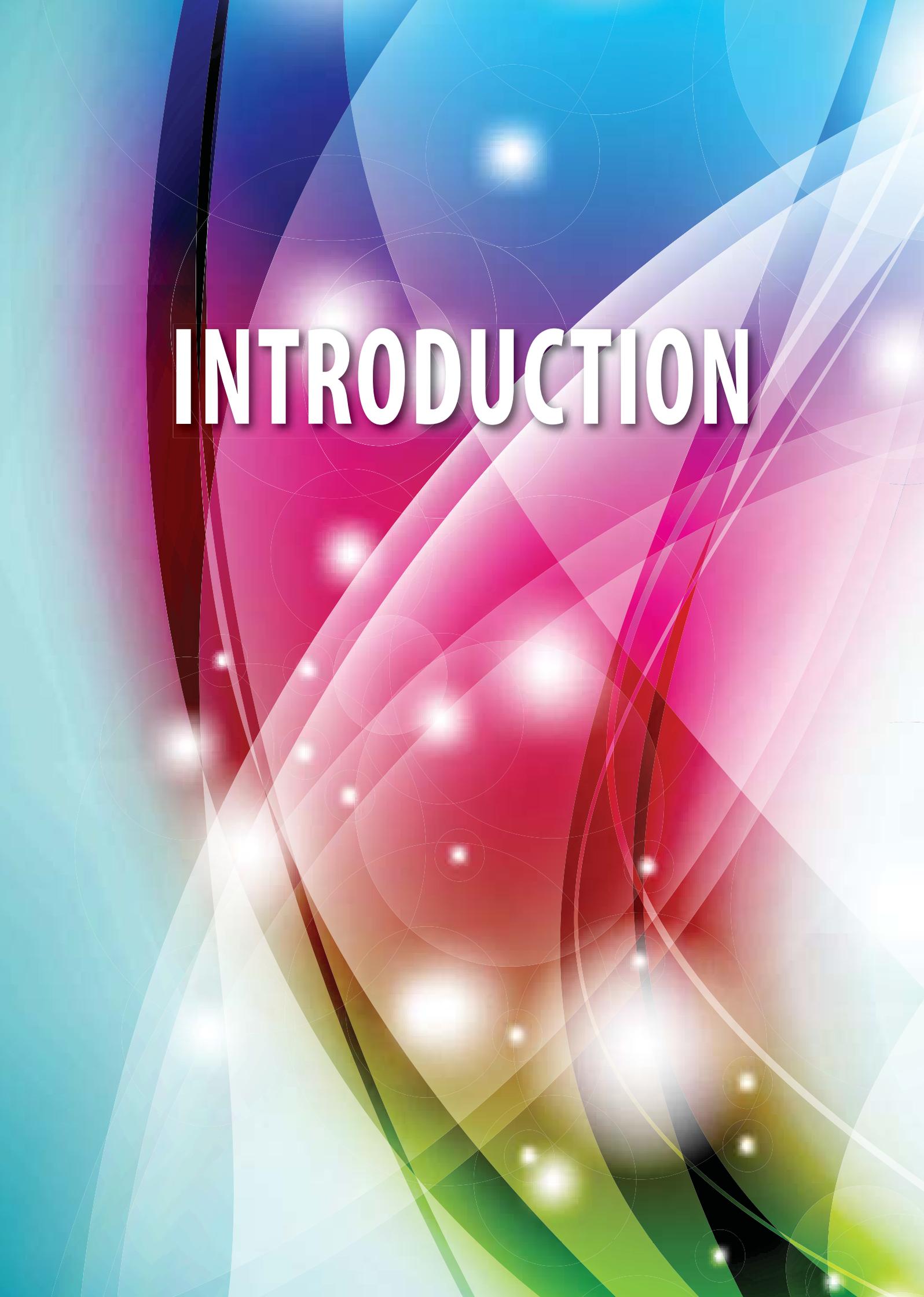
INTRODUCTION

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Survey Purpose

The purpose of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey was to provide information that will enhance Kenya's efforts to harness the demographic dividend. The survey was designed to respond to the following key questions:

a. What potential exists for a demographic dividend in each of the 47 counties?

b. What specific investment opportunities are available in each of the 47 counties that can accelerate achievement of the demographic dividend?

2.2 Survey Objectives

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

a. To generate a profile of adolescents and young persons 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 persons 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

2.3 Survey Implementation

The survey was facilitated by two committees whose members were drawn from different organizations representing the different sectors that have a key role in the country's efforts to harness the demographic dividend. The committees and membership were:

National Steering Committee:

a. National Council for Population and Development (NCPD)

b. Ministry of Health (MOH),

c. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

d. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST),

e. Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Services (MOLSSS)

f. Ministry of Devolution and Planning

g. University of Nairobi: Population Studies and Research Institute and School of Public Health

h.   Ministry of Information Communication and Technology

i.   United Nations Population Fund

j.   African Institute for Development Policy

k.   Health Policy Project

Technical Committee:

a.   National Council for Population and Development (NCPD)

b.   Ministry of Health (MOH)

c.   Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

d.   Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST)

e.   Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Services (MOLSSS)

f.   Ministry of Devolution and Planning: Directorate of Youth, National Youth Service

g.   University of Nairobi: Population Studies and Research Institute and School of Public Health

h.   Ministry of Information Communication and Technology

i.   Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis

j.   African Institute for Development Policy

k.   National Organization for Peer Educators

l.   Family Health Options Kenya

NCPD, with the guidance of the Steering and Technical Committees, was the overall executor of the survey. Members of the Steering Committee were involved in providing policy guidance and field work monitoring while members of the Technical Committee were involved in the supervision of field teams alongside the NCPD County Population Coordinators. Financial support for the technical aspects of the survey process was from the Government of Kenya, UNFPA Kenya Country Office, and the Norwegian Government through AFIDEP.

2.4 Sample Design, Data Collection and Processing

2.4.1   Sample

This was a national sample survey that covered all the 47 counties in Kenya which were clustered into 16 survey regions based on social-demographic characteristics. The survey was guided by the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP V) to map out areas where the data was collected from. Each tool was to be administered to targeted respondents who had been determined using a criteria that had been set

prior to the survey field work. Age, sex, and youth in and out of school was the criteria used to recruit those who participated in the Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs). 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 younger age groups were to respond to issues on health, education, and economic that touched on their daily lives. The older age groups were to give their perceptions on those same areas as it related to the young persons. 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 the counties in charge of the specific sectors targeted by the survey. The respondents to the IDIs were service providers in the health, education and economic sectors. The sample frame adequately represented the study population. Table 1 shows the clustering of all the counties from which the set of all the tools were administered.

Table 1: Cluster Counties by Study Regions

	Study Regions	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)	Uasin Gishu, 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, Taita Taveta,
16.	Coast (2)	Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi

Figure 1: Kenya Map with Cluster Counties by Study Regions

2.4.2   Data Collection Tools

The NAYS survey used two methodologies namely; quantitative and qualitative for data collection to establish opportunities available for socio-economic investment necessary for initiating a demographic dividend.

Quantitative

Quantitative methodology involved use 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 background information on population, health, education, and economic issues. It presents a synopsis of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the country and each of the counties.

Qualitative

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

    a.   Focus Group Discussions guides for persons aged 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-34 and 35-60

    b.   Key Informant Interview guides for policy/decision makers at county level

    c.   In-Depth Interview guides for service providers in health, education, and economic sectors

    d.   Check list for youth-serving organizations

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

2.4.3   Training of Trainers

The Technical Committee members were trained for three days 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 was to enable the team develop tools that would collect the data required to respond to the various aspects of the Demographic Dividend.

2.4.4   Survey Pre test

The survey pre-test was conducted in April 2015 in Nakuru where 26 research assistants and Technical Committee members 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 this period, the programme for the main training was pre-tested to ensure that the training captured all aspects.

2.4.5   Training of Research Assistants

In collecting the data, 34 research assistants who had been competitively recruited to collect data in the 47 counties were trained. The training took place 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. Different methodologies were used in the training to ensure that the research assistants were well equipped to collect quality data.

2.4.6   Data Collection Process

Data collection was done by 16 teams with two members each. The fieldwork commenced on 11th May and ended in 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. Using the field work plan developed during the survey training, the research assistants systematically collected data from their assigned regions. Throughout this process, they were guided by their respective supervisors. At the end of each day the team members got together to share their experiences and prepare the day's summaries. This sharing helped the teams to strategize the next day's work.

2.4.7   Data Transcription, Entry and Management

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. On receipt of the data at NCPD headquarters, the same was handed over to data clerks for cleaning and processing.

Data 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 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.

Data Analysis

The following analysis steps were followed:

i.   **Developed a code book for the FGD, KII and IDI data.** The code book is an analytical framework that arranges the data in a hierarchical structure of themes and sub-themes. The code book gives description and explanation of how the concepts were generated, categorized and coded. The broad thematic areas were based on the four pillars; Health, Education, Economic and Governance which narrowed to sub-thematic areas.

ii. **Developed tree structure.** The code book was entered into the NVIVO system and developed into the tree structure for coding and data processing. The code book provided the basis for analysis.

iii. **The data was extracted for tallying.** The first step in extracting data was to identify the general issues mentioned in each category and pick out the key issues that are prominent or commonly mentioned. This is presented by high scores in the columns of sources (data sets) and references (text) in the NVIVO project pad. The data sets are based on the different counties and categories of respondents by age and sex. The information was tallied by the scores in a table.

iv. **Summary and Content analysis.** The next step was to summarize the tallied information. The description was based on the clustering or tallying of the most frequently mentioned issue (references). The content analysis involved identifying similarities, differences, contrasts, relationships and linkages between variables across the sub-categories.

v. **Data from the different sources.** All the data from the FGDs, KIIs and IDIs were entered in the same way to allow ease of triangulation.

After all the data was entered, the data analysis was done by tallying the information by theme and county. The interpretation of the data and report writing followed.

vi. **Data analysis.** Data from the different counties were analysed separately and cross-cutting themes compared.

2.4.8 Survey Response Rate

Table 2: Response rate for the interviews

Table 2 summarizes the response rate for the interviews conducted using the FGD, KII, and IDI guides.

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

The table above 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.

This preliminary report presents national key findings from the NAYS survey referencing counties that the issues were prominent. Compressive county specific reports will be developed and printed in 2016. The county specific reports will present the county specific issues and opportunities that exists if capitalized, can assist counties to harness demographic dividends.
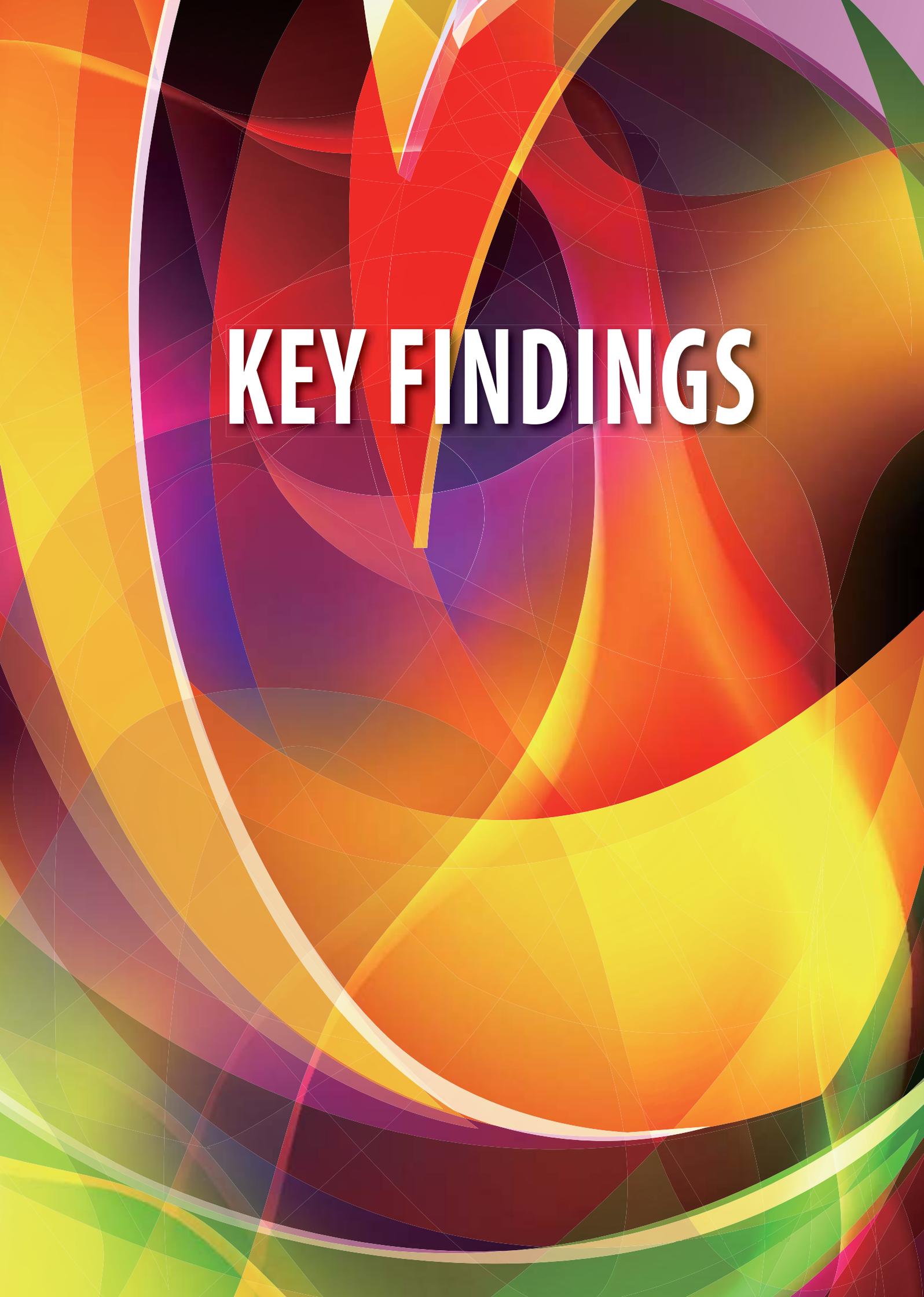
KEY FINDINGS

3.1 Kenya's Population Projection and Demographic Window

Kenya's Population Policy for National Development targets to achieve a fertility level of 2 children per woman by the year 2050. The country's recent fertility level trends indicate that Kenya is on track to achieve the targeted fertility. In 2014, the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey estimated the country's fertility to be 3.9 children per woman down from 4.6 in 2009. If this trend continues, then Kenya's population will increase to 59 million in 2030 and 75.5 million in 2050 as shown on Table 3.

Table 3: Kenya's Projected Population Size and Structure (2009 – 2050)

	2009	2030	2038	2050
Population Size	38,589,011	59,043,813	66,627,474	75,509,388
Percentage of Population Below Age 15	42.9	32.8	29.9	24.5
Percentage of Population Above Age 64	3.5	3.4	4.1	6.7
Percentage of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	53.6	63.8	66.0	68.7
Dependency Ratio	86.6	56.7	51.5	45.5

Source: 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2015 NCPD Population Projections

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 persons in the working ages. According to this definition, Table 3 indicates year 2038 as the estimated year when Kenya's demographic window will likely open. 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 4 shows the estimated period when the window for each county will open.

Table 4: 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	E. 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	

According to Table 4, the demographic windows for three of the counties are either open or just about to open. At the same time the demographic windows for one-third of the counties will open in the 2040s. As for the counties in the northern and north eastern parts of Kenya, their windows will open after 2050. These differences largely reflect the county variations in fertility and mortality levels. Counties with high fertility and mortality levels will have their windows opening much later than those with low fertility and mortality levels.

3.2 Health Issues Affecting Young People

Introduction

Studies show that young people who indulge in risky social behavior are likely to be predisposed to ill health. These behaviors include alcohol, drug and substance abuse, unprotected sex and harmful cultural practices. The survey confirmed that the main health issues affecting young people in the country, as reported by the young people and older persons who were interviewed, include; drugs and substance abuse (DSA), STI/HIV, Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and teenage pregnancy. DSA was the most mentioned health issue reported in all the 47 counties, followed by STI/HIV, SGBV and teenage pregnancy in that order. Other health concerns mentioned were; mental health problems, poor hygiene and sanitation, and childhood marriage commonly mentioned in parts of North Eastern and South Rift cluster regions.

a. Drug and Substance Abuse (DSA)

The rapid spread of DSA is a rising major health problem facing young people in Kenya today. The survey shows that it is a health concern reported in all the 47 counties. The study indicates that many young people, both in and out of school, use and abuse drugs. The issue was extensively mentioned across all the age categories identified for the survey particularly in the coastal region; Kilifi, Mombasa, Taita Taveta and Kwale Counties. For instance, young discussants in Taita Taveta, Kericho and Migori associated DSA with lack of education opportunities, school dropout, peer pressure among youth both in and out of school and unemployment due to lack of skills and qualifications.

> *"No one provides for the training you need, that won't happen. You end up loitering in the streets. That is where you meet some street people who introduce you into drugs or doing some of those manual jobs to make a living. With addiction to drugs some other diseases also come in. If you try to get a job you are sent away because you do not have the papers."*
>
> FGD, Mixed young persons 15-24, Taita Taveta

> *"Things such as drug abuse make students drop out of school and look for some work so that they can get the money to buy these drugs. Drug abuse leads to social mischief like theft because the drug abusers will end up stealing to cater for their drugs."*
>
> FGD, Mixed group 15-19 years, Migori

> *"Alcohol and drug abuse causes lack of concentration in class and affects education, leading to school drop."*
>
> FGD, Male young persons 10-14, Kericho

The policy makers interviewed during the survey also raised similar concerns and some indicated that the most abused DSA is alcohol, marijuana (bhangi), heroine, Khat (miraa). A health policy maker in Kilifi County said that:

> "Drug and Substance Abuse is probably a big issue, particularly among young men. This could be the hard stuff like heroine, bhang and alcohol. These are the kind of conditions surrounding our youth that we even have a clinic we established for them. More and more youth are reporting to these clinics. Some are affiliated to some support groups that they have formed themselves."
>
> Health Policy Maker, Kilifi

Health service providers who were interviewed cited that persistent drug use is commonly associated with suicidal tendencies and is marked by a gradual reduction in self-awareness, withdrawal from social interactions, and a decline in self-esteem. The heads of schools were also in consensus about DSA as a main reason for the school dropouts. Most of them indicated a close relationship between drug abuse, violence and reckless sexual behaviour.

b. STI/HIV

STI/HIV has long been recognized as a major public health issue that contributes to the high disease burden in Kenya. There are various programmes in place to try and combat this problem. In this survey, discussions with various categories of the population indicated that this is a health issue that affects youth and contributes to their low life expectancy. A health service provider alluded to the fact that:

> "STI and HIV is a big health problem amongst the youth appearing on top of the list as a priority issue that impacts the lives of young persons and needs to be addressed.".
>
> Health Facility In-charge, Kisumu

According to another key health informant interviewed in Kiambu County:

> "young people are affected by STIs including gonorrhoea and hepatitis B which traumatizes them because they are not well informed about the diseases."

Interviews with health providers also indicate that youth who had contracted STIs delayed in seeking skilled health care, often hoping that they would treat themselves using herbal medicine. This was partly attributed to lack of knowledge with regard to STI/HIV transmission and management, as reported by the following manager in-charge of a youth organization:

"Some of them stay with STI infection for a long time and by the time they are coming to hospital their condition is critical. They develop wounds because they have been hiding hoping that they would use herbs and get well. This is ignorance and lack of correct information about STI and HIV."

Manager In-charge, Youth Serving Organization, Busia

The mention of STI/HIV was more evident in 14 regions including Coast, Nyanza, Western, North Rift, South Rift, Central Eastern, Upper Eastern, Central, Lower Eastern and Nairobi. However, it was not mentioned as a big issue with the same intensity in two regions namely North Eastern (Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties) and Central Rift (Bomet, Nakuru, Kericho and Baringo counties). Participants in a mixed focus group discussion in Mombasa expressed their fears thus:

"When a young person is infected with HIV, their life is shortened because the virus has got him at such an early age. They cannot live for the years they thought they would. Although they will be on medication, it will be very difficult to live for the years that they hoped they would live."

FGD, Mixed group 15-24, Mombasa

The reasons as to why STI/HIV are common among youth were also mentioned, including the engagement in early sex without protection and the use of alcohol and drugs which inhibits prudent decision making. It was evident from the discussions that girls, more than boys, engage in early sex. Poverty and peer pressure play a key role in exposing girls to sexual activity. Girls explained that because of their daily needs they are forced to engage in sex for money to purchase these items. The participants gave the following reasons as to why the problem is very common:

"STI like gonorrhoea and syphilis is rampant among the youth because they start engaging in sex too early and without protection. Some are enticed into drinking alcohol, they get drunk and engage in sex without protection exposing them to STI infections."

FGD, Mixed group older persons 35-60, Tharaka Nithi

"Back at home we are not of the same social class like if you look at my fingers they are not of the same size (showing her fingers). Now if you are so poor, a girl like me I need sanitary towels...I need a change of clothes...and I cannot afford so am forced to go to a boy seducing me who can buy for me these things. Since I see most of my friends who have boyfriends are being bought for these things. You do not know whether the person has STI/HIV or not."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Nyamira

c. SGBV

Sexual gender based violence (SGBV) is a major public health problem that has attracted the attention of the Ministry of Health as well as human rights groups in Kenya. In this survey the issue was discussed more extensively in 40 counties. There are several forms of SGBV but rape and sexual harassment are the most prevalent form of sexual abuse reported in the survey. However, this issue was not broadly mentioned in other regions including Nairobi, North Eastern and part of North Rift region, (Counties West Pokot, Trans Nzoia and Turkana). The participants narrated as follows:

``Sexual gender violence is there. You see many young girls are raped by strangers or even family members. When youths start abusing drugs, they get out of control and abuse even young children. They usually take it as an accident but it is incest.''

FGD, Mixed group 35-60, Kakamega

"As youth of our age, we are sexually harassed when seeking for employment. We end up in a trap because at the end of the day you need that job."

FGD, Mixed group, 15-24, Embu

It was reported that where homes are far from school, girls trekking to and from school are often raped on their way home. This was reported in West Pokot as well as Bungoma Counties.

"Most children stay very far from home and when they are sent home after classes they walk and it gets dark while they are still on their way. They meet with strange people who rape them."

FGD, Male young people 10-14, West Pokot

> *"Rape is very common among students who leave school late and have to trek home. They are raped and are ashamed of reporting the assault."*
>
> FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Bungoma

Defilement was also mentioned as a common form of SGBV that are received and managed in health facilities at the outpatient department. It was further reported that older men were the perpetrators of rape or defilement of children.

> *"We have two categories of SGBV: defilement and rape cases that are very common. We have had quite a number of defilement cases that are usually referred from the outpatient but we also have quite a number of cases that walk in voluntarily for counselling and post rape care."*
>
> Facility In-charge, Meru

> *"Rape is very common in our county; I heard there was a recent incidence of an old man of 70 years raping a child of 7 years. To make it worse there was also a man who used to rape his own daughter and went to lengths of getting babies with her. There are so many cases of the same sort."*
>
> Female young persons 15-19, Busia

The survey findings indicated a link between SGBV and both social and physical vulnerability. In Kwale and Kakamega Counties SGBV was reported to be very common among disabled girls and women, given the fact that they are most vulnerable and therefore unable to defend themselves from sexual attacks. This was recounted by participants in a marginalized group as follows:

> *"SGBV is common among disabled girls and women since they cannot move and also cannot defend themselves. Even when you report to the police, nothing is done since they cannot communicate well and they have no interpreters."*
>
> FGD, Mixed marginalized group 15-24, Kakamega

d. Teenage pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy is cited as a key area of concern because of its effect on the health of young girls and their future education and employment prospects. Teenage pregnancy is the main reason for school dropout and early marriage among teenage girls.

The issue of teenage pregnancy was discussed extensively among youth in and out of school in 37 Counties.

Various factors were cited by the respondents as contributing to teenage pregnancy. From the discussions, the cited factors include addiction to DSA by young persons which impairs their judgment on sexual matters leading to risky and unsafe sexual behaviours. High levels of poverty among young people also precipitates their engagment in commercial sex in order to gain material benefit. Other factors cited include parental negligence or lack of parental guidance and lack of or inadequate health information. Young 'Boda Boda' persons and teachers were mentioned as the main persons responsible for teenage pregnancies.

On responding to the question on how teenage pregnancies affect their wellbeing, the survey respondents said that apart from leading to school dropout, teenage mothers face a greater risk of dying from pregnancy related complications than women who give birth when they are beyond teenage years. This is because their bodies are often not fully developed and are likely to face child birth complications leading to death. Other consequences of teenage pregnancy are poor mental and general health. Discussants in the survey shared their views on causes and consequences of teenage pregnancy as follows:

``Teenage pregnancy is very high here and it brings about school dropouts. Sex education should be put in place."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Laikipia County

"Parents at times are the cause of this problem. Next door there is this rich neighbour who owns a shop, so the little girl is sent there every day by her parents to buy stuff. So it is like the parents are pushing this girl towards the man and every day the man starts liking the girl and gives her goodies. Before long you hear the girl is pregnant."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Taita Taveta

"Yes young people start dating early and they engage in early sex without protection because they fear going to buy condoms. Because they are not capable of raising a child, they terminate the pregnancy."

FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Nairobi

"... these girls become pregnant when they are too young. A case in point of a girl 12 years old who became pregnant and dropped out of school. She stayed at home and did not go for antenatal care. The parents were uncomfortable and embarrassed that they kept her at home. The girl feared to go to the clinic because nurses and older mothers seeking antenatal services would mock her. During labour the parents decided she should give birth at home. At that age it was appropriate for her to give birth in hospital with assistance of a qualified person. The girl went through labour for a long time. By the time we were told that there is a girl with a problem, she had lost a lot of blood. We rushed her to hospital in our ambulance but we lost both the girl and the baby. These young people in class 4, 5 and 6 are made pregnant by people in the same class which complicates matters."

Facility in-charge, Vihiga

3.2.2   Ways of addressing the Health issues

Respondents were asked to give recommendations as to how the health issues raised can be addressed. Some of the recommendations given include: public education, sensitization and awareness on the availability of health services, guidance and counselling, behaviour change among young people, parental responsibility and guidance. They also recommended life skills and training of young people so as to increase their decision making power. Notably, abstinence, though minimal was mainly mentioned among the young people aged between 10-24 years while the 35-60 year olds did not mention it as a recommendation. A health service provider suggested that:

"Most staff should be educated on counselling of youth. What we have been trained on is general counselling on everything. But I think there is need for a course on how to offer youth friendly services so that we are many who attend to the SRH needs of many youth. The facilities should also be improved to offer the services by engaging the youth since they are the ones to use them and they know what they would need. The youth empowerment centres also need to be revamped and made operational a hundred percent as they were envisioned before–. Because young people are attracted by things that are happening there, whether recreational, health or leadership."

Facility in-charge, Embu

3.2.3 Access and availability of health information and services

According to the survey findings, the main sources of health information and services for young persons are health facilities, schools and media. Other sources include; internet, family, public health talks/ barazas, community health workers and seminars. The latter were the least utilized sources of health information and services. Surprisingly, internet is not among the main sources of health information and services as would be expected from young people.

As found by the survey, the main types of health information and services sought by young people were SRH/ STI/HIV, sex education, disease prevention and diagnosis, treatment and medication and health education and awareness. In the marginalized mixed group (PWDs, HIV, Orphans) FGDs of young persons between the ages of 15-24 years it was indicated that they sought health information and services on ART/HIV/STI, donations, guidance and counselling, OVC support program, Education & training and nutrition.

According to the survey, respondents indicated that they expect youth friendly services to be confidential, providers to be youthful, and providers to have a good attitude towards young persons. The survey found that most health facilities do not have youth friendly services, and where these services exist, more needs to be done to improve on confidentiality.

The most mentioned challenge in accessing the SRH/FP information and services is fear of service providers and embarrassment. This is attributed to the fact that most health centres are not youth friendly in that there is limited privacy. From the discussions, perceived lack of confidentiality and privacy in the health centres prevents young people from seeking services in health facilities. It was observed that there are also no youthful personnel in the centres thus making young people shy away from accessing services. The provider attitude towards the young people is a barrier to accessing services. Cost of services was also a challenge that was cross-cutting in all the counties. Inaccessibility due to distance and time constraints was discussed as a challenge in the hard to reach areas such as West Pokot, Trans Nzoia, Isiolo, Marsabit and Turkana counties. Religious and cultural issues were key barriers to accessing SRH/FP information and services especially for women in North Eastern and Upper Eastern regions as indicated by the quote below:

> *"The first one is that we feel shy because men health workers are always there and you cannot tell them your problems as a female."*
>
> FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Garissa

From the discussions, family planning services are also sought by the young people across all the counties. The most sought family planning services are condoms, pills, injectables and implants. This was highly mentioned by the youth aged between 25-34 years and the older persons 35-60 years who took part in the discussions. An important finding of the survey is the fact that the 10-14 year olds were silent on the family planning discussion.

Findings from the survey indicate that these challenges can be curtailed if there is public health awareness on the issues affecting young people and where to access the services, improved infrastructure in the health facilities, guidance and counselling and creating a conducive environment for youth friendly services. From the discussions with policy makers in Bungoma and Kirinyaga, it is evident that there is need for youth friendly centres so as to attract young people to access services as indicated by the following quote:

"Number one is to ensure access to health services by the young persons and the entire population. The moment you are sure that every person in this County is able to access a health facility within five kilometres from his/her residence, we should also ensure that these services are youth friendly. You do know that most of our youths are self-employed. There are these reproductive health clinics and we want to make them in such a way that the operating hours are flexible so that young persons can either come very early in the morning in the evening. It's you that must be flexible. Flexible time is basically the cornerstone of youth friendly services."

<div align="right">CEC Health, Kirinyaga</div>

3.2.4   Organizations addressing health issues of the young people

The survey found that NGOs are the leading organisations addressing the health issues of young persons in most Counties followed by Government agencies. NGO's were most recognized by persons aged between 15-60 years while 10-14 year olds did not mention NGO's and the government agencies. NGO's were mostly mentioned in Homa Bay, Siaya, and Migori. Other organisations mentioned in the interviews include religious institutions and CBOs. The respondents see the interventions done by the above organisations as useful for they have contributed to improved health, health awareness, and living standards. This was cited by the respondents aged 15 -60 years. However, they would like the organizations to diversify their programs, increase their area of coverage so as to reach more people, increase funding, and government to support the programs.

"These organizations according to me, under the goodwill of the government, should allow more organizations to bring their services here because those that are present are only covering certain specific areas so others should be added to take care of other areas."

<div align="right">Mixed group older persons 35-60, Siaya</div>

3.2.5   Opportunities for improvement in health

Through the various discussion groups, suggestions on opportunities for improved health were sought. Notably from the discussions the 10-14 year olds were silent on the areas for improvement on health. The other respondents clearly gave their views on opportunities for improvement stating that there is need to create more awareness in schools and through barazas, increase more health facilities, and provide guidance and counselling services to enable young people make informed choices. They also emphasized the need for Youth Friendly services. Respondents stated that with the suggested views in place, youth will gain information and knowledge on health issues that affect them especially when parents are reluctant to talk about health issues particularly ASRH issues.

Other opportunities cited from the discussions include employment of youth to curb idleness that leads to drugs and substance abuse and risky sexual behaviours, capacity building of the young people and increase of disability services in the health centres among others. This is linked to the Demographic Dividend of harnessing the potential of young people by investing in health and the economy through skills development and job creation to achieve economic growth and development.

"The young people do not get reality talks about these trending health issues which they ought to get from their parents and elders in the community. The parents are either scared or embarrassed to discuss these issues with their children because of the existing cultural and religious beliefs. These parents also assume that the young people are given these talks in schools."

Mixed older persons 35-60, Nairobi

3.3 Education Issues Affecting Young People

Introduction

Education is a key element in Kenya's plan for socio-economic development and is one of the pillars and prerequisites for achievement of Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The globalised and competitive economy calls for investment in quality education so as to equip individuals (boys and girls, women and men) with competencies and skills to be more productive and able to compete internationally.

The major issues in the education sector affecting young persons as mentioned during the survey were:

1. Drug and substance abuse

2. Child labour

3. Absenteeism of teachers and students

4. Poverty or Lack of school fees

a. Drug and Substance Abuse

Drug and Substance Abuse (DSA) is a major concern in the education sector across all the counties. It is rampant among young people (both male and female) who are in and out of school at all levels of education and in all age groups. Key informants at national level also identified drug and substance abuse as a key concern to the education sector especially among those aged 15 to 24 years in school.

The results of this survey show that drug and substance abuse is a problem among teachers, students and parents in all the counties across the country. Majority of DSA was reported to be common in boys' schools. DSA is influenced by age, use of drugs by other family members and ease of access to drugs. At county level, DSA is mentioned as a major problem in Migori, Nyeri, and Laikipia counties while it is least mentioned as a problem in Mandera, Tharaka-Nithi, Kisii and Nakuru Counties.

The main factors contributing to DSA as cited by majority of young people were: lack of food, peer pressure among youth in and out of school, social environment, poor parenting, addiction, and availability of cheap drugs. This contributes to lack of concentration and affects academic performance of pupils in school. Peer pressure plays a key role in DSA. The gravity of these issues is aptly captured by young persons in Migori, Elgeyo Marakwet and Mombasa Counties who had this to say:

"Some fellow students in secondary school have been using drugs such as alcohol or bhang. Due to peer pressure, some will tell you 'Do you want to pass Maths? You are always failing in Maths. Today let me tell you the secret of passing exams. Just taste this bhang and you are going to be perfect in Maths'. You will try it and in the long run you end up losing your education."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Migori

"Use of drugs is there… they use it due to peer pressure and permissive society where parents are the ones cooking alcohol so as to pay fees for their children so students start drinking from there…"

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Elgeyo Marakwet

"Education levels in this area are still low because a student goes to school but in the bag that he is carrying there is a piece of bhang. When he gets to bushy areas he smokes a little bit then he continues his way to school. When the teacher is teaching, the student is not following at all. Most of them easily drop out of school. He may blame it on lack of fees but normally he has no intention of getting an education. He is pleased with the smoking lifestyle and at home, whether he goes or fails to go to school, no one bothers with him. The parents stop bothering themselves with him."

FGD, Mixed young persons 20-24 years, Mombasa

"Bhang makes students feel more superior to their teachers so it brings cases of indiscipline and violence in school."

FGD, Male young persons 10-14, Mombasa

b. Poverty or Lack of school fees

In the discussions across all the age groups in all the counties, poverty and lack of school fees were identified as major challenges to accessing education. Lack of employment and other sources of income among parents or guardians contributed to school dropout or lack of schooling altogether. In most regions, poverty was compounded by the effect of HIV and AIDS resulting in a high number of OVCs/Orphans and a high dependency ratio. Counties where poverty was mentioned as a key problem affecting education are Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Kericho and Bomet. The counties where lack of school fees was least cited as a problem affecting education are Vihiga, Busia, Uasin Gishu, Nyamira and Kisii. The sentiments regarding poverty were captured in focus group discussions with young people from Homa Bay, Busia, Makueni and Kilifi. Their views are summarized below:

"Boda boda riders and fishermen take advantage of young girls who cannot pay school fees. Because you will find him next to the lake on your way home and you have also been chased from school. Then he will ask you, "Have you been chased because of school fees, come I go and pay for you." so the first day he will give you money, then on the second time he will give you money again but the third time he will tell you "I have been paying for you school fees, now come and pay back" and if you are not careful he can get you by force. The girl may get pregnant and drop out of school."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Homa Bay

"Unless you have money, children won't go to school. Even primary is not free because when you go to school you are asked to buy certain books which are very expensive and you can't afford. Desks are also not free and there is activity fee, exam fee etc. Due to lack of money, many are not able to continue with education. Orphans are more disadvantaged if their families are poor and cannot afford school fees."

FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Busia

"There is also poverty; you find that the lunch the child gets in school is the one to sustain her until tomorrow. She goes home and there's no food, so what will she do? She sleeps hungry and goes to school on an empty stomach. She is not able to concentrate and this affects her performance in class. And those days she is in her menstrual period she stays at home and misses class because she can't afford sanitary pads."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Makueni

"The biggest challenge is on school fees, young people are sent back home for even two months. So there is no consistency (in attendance) in school and this is especially so for those in secondary school because the parents cannot afford school fees so young people drop out of school. I am actually one of those who dropped out of school. The bursaries are not provided out fairly. Some students are given Kshs 5000, some Kshs 3000 while others are given only Kshs 1000 when we are supposed to pay about Kshs 20,000 for fees."

FGD, Mixed young persons 25-34, Kilifi

c. Child Labour

Child labour was said to be predominant among both children in and out of school across all counties in the country. Depending on the county, children were engaged in all sorts of work including, housework, child care, farm work and herding. This could either be for pay or for free. It was reported that children go to work in tea estates and to herd cattle, while others take care of their younger siblings and do house work before and after school. Orphans are particularly vulnerable as they have to work to fend for themselves. In some instances, due to poverty parents send children to work to contribute to the running of the household instead of going to school. Child labour was reported to be common in Kericho, Bomet and Nakuru Counties. From the discussions, it was also observed that poor families would give their children to richer families in the hope that they would pay their school fees in exchange for labour but often this is not honoured. The issue of child labour was raised in a discussion by a young person in Bomet County who had this to say:

"Child labour has become an issue in this place. You find families which are financially unstable give out their children to other people who promise to educate them but they do not educate them and so they end up not going to secondary school."

FGD, Mixed group young persons 20-24, Bomet

d. Teachers and students absenteeism

Absenteeism of students and to some extent teachers was discussed as a major concern in the education sector and the way it affects performance and transition rates. There are various reasons accounting for absenteeism, the key one being economic status of the family. Poverty and the need to work for basic needs may keep pupils away from school as was observed by two head teachers in Tana River and Bomet Counties:

"First the economic status affect them, second the dropouts encourage others on the same, things are not improving— the performance is poor, they never make it to college ,they don't get jobs, jobs advertise but they do not qualify so you see it's a big circle from poverty to poverty."

Secondary School Principal, Tana River

"You find young children not going to school and when you try to ask them why they are not going to school, their mothers tell you they are washing motorbikes to get what to eat so I think it is necessary to talk to parents concerning education."

<div align="right">FGD, Mixed group young persons 20-24, Bomet</div>

Teacher and students absenteeism was reported to be common in all counties but was more frequent in Murang'a and Migori Counties for teachers in upper primary and high school. In the discussions with young persons aged 25 to 60 years, there is less mention of teachers and students absenteeism in all the counties. Teacher absenteeism is associated with poor academic results and performance. The main reasons reported for teacher absenteeism is low pay and heavy drinking. Absenteeism is common among the pupils in upper primary and secondary school for both male and female between ages 14 to 19 years.

"If teachers don't come to class pupils don't read and instead they make noise and do nothing which results in poor performance."

<div align="right">FGD, Male young persons 10-14, Migori</div>

"The issue of teachers drinking affects education due to the fact that the teacher, by the time he is drunk, sees it is useless to go to the class so the students will miss a lot because for example those who are taking Geography and Mathematics, you know Mathematics is very difficult and if the teacher of Mathematics is missing it is very hard for a student to understand a certain topic in mathematics, so this one will lead to failure."

<div align="right">FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Migori</div>

"Sometimes a teacher can ask for permission for a whole week or two so he goes to do his own business and we miss to cover all topics. He'll come back and try to rush through the topics that were supposed to be covered in that two weeks' time and not a lot of people will understand what he is teaching because he is doing it in a rush."

<div align="right">FGD, Female young persons 10-14, Migori</div>

KEY FINDINGS

"Most young people are absent from school because they engage in work, for instance in the tea or coffee plantation to get money for their school fees."

"Teachers are absent from school because they are lowly paid so they look for other ways of supplementing their income at the expense of teaching classes."

School Dropout

Pupils were reported to drop out of school at all levels and for various reasons mainly due to poverty and lack of school fees, demands for child labour, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, DSA and in some instances the fear of and actual corporal punishment.

Primary School Dropout

At this level pupils drop out of school mainly due to poverty and lack of school fees across all counties. In Migori, Siaya, and Homa Bay counties more boys drop out of school while in Nairobi, Kilifi, Kericho, Nakuru and Isiolo counties more girls drop out of school than boys. Child labour was reported as a major cause of primary school dropout in Homa Bay, Kericho, Baringo and Garissa Counties. Teenage pregnancy, early pregnancy, and early marriages for the girls are common in Siaya, Murang'a, Marsabit, Migori, Meru and Kericho Counties. DSA was mentioned as a common reason for school dropout in Makueni and Laikipia Counties. Corporal punishment was the main reason for school dropout in Kirinyaga, Migori and Lamu Counties.

"We have girls in class 5 who have dropped out of school because they got pregnant and the parents force them to get married because they cannot afford school fees. Parents will force you to get married if they see you talking to any man. The men who cheat these young girls with money are boda boda operators and Mnazi tappers."

"Some drop out of schools to look for money in quarries or tea plantations or at the market because parents cannot afford school uniform."

"Mostly girls drop out of schools due to pregnancy in which most of them do not wish to become pregnant but they are forced to be pregnant because they sleep with older men to get school fees."

"They are forced into early marriage to get married to older men so that they can provide for their families."

Secondary school dropout

Poverty and lack of school fees are the reasons mostly mentioned as responsible for secondary school drop out for youth age 15- 19. These reasons were mainly mentioned by males in Migori, Nyeri, Meru and Siaya counties and by girls in Kilifi, Makueni, Nyandarua and Nyeri counties. In the counties of Homa Bay, Kisumu, and Makueni both girls and boys mentioned poverty and lack of school fees as the main reasons for school dropout. DSA is also mentioned as a common cause of drop out in 26 counties but mainly in Nyeri, Makueni, Nakuru, Baringo and Nyandarua counties. Other causes of dropout in secondary schools were mentioned as being; teenage pregnancy, early marriage, and child labour.

"Drug and substance abuse has made youths to drop out of school in order to find money to buy those drugs and in the process they cannot continue with their education. This has been caused by peer pressure, idleness and also lack of awareness on side-effects of drugs among the youths."

" They look for employment to cater for themselves. There are also dropouts in high schools due to school fees. Many children lack school fees because of poverty in the area."

Tertiary level dropout

Poverty and lack of school fees are mentioned as the major causes of dropout from tertiary institutions especially in Kirinyaga, Homa Bay, Kisumu and Nairobi Counties. DSA is mentioned as the main cause of dropout in Kiambu, Kisumu and Busia Counties while unplanned pregnancies is mentioned as another cause for drop out in Homa Bay County.

3.3.1   Recommendations to address issues affecting education

From the various discussion held during the survey, the following were the key recommendations proposed by the participants for addressing the challenges in the education sector;

- Guidance and counselling in learning institutions with a focus on DSA

- Public awareness that involves counselling of parents and teachers against making alcohol accessible to children and sending children to work

- Putting mechanisms in place to enforce the Law on DSA and Child labour

- Implementation of the return to school policy especially for girls faced with teenage pregnancy

- Measures should be taken to enhance programmes that are geared towards income generating activities in order to reduce poverty in counties

3.3.2   Availability and Accessibility to education and training

Primary school

Primary schools are available in all counties. However accessibility is hampered by poor road infrastructure, distance and rainy season in the rural areas. In primary schools, accessibility is most affected by distance and time taken to reach the school. Accessibility is mentioned to be poor especially in Arid and Semi-arid lands (ASAL). Common modes of transport used to get pupils to school were reported as bicycles and more recently motorbikes.

From the interviews with key informants, it was clear that infrastructural improvements are necessary for access to education and consequently improvements in performance: This was mentioned by a key informant from Nakuru who had this to say:

"So that we can improve on infrastructure and we can make sure that our schools are well served with the necessary amenities like water, electricity, roads and of course the continuous collabouration and good will of the stakeholders."

County Director of Education, Nakuru

Secondary Schools

Secondary schools were mentioned to be insufficient and inaccessible in the coastal and ASAL regions. Inaccessibility was said to be due to poor road infrastructure and therefore students spend a lot of time walking to school. In some parts of Baringo, Bomet and Nakuru counties, schools were said to be available and accessible.

Most counties indicate that education facilities for PWDs are inadequate. However, counties such as Kitui, Tana River, Kisii and Laikipia were reported to have special needs schools with adequate facilities. Kiambu county mentioned having at least three schools for persons with disability; Thika School for the blind, Waguthu Primary (has special unit for children who are mentally and physically disabled) and a school for deaf girls.

Tertiary Institutions

Most Counties mentioned that there were not enough tertiary institutions. There are few for PWDs in all the counties but for Laikipia, Nakuru, Bomet and Kericho counties, the marginalised discussion groups indicated that learning institutions are adequate.

Gender Disparities

Gender disparity is a major issue of concern regarding access to educational opportunities for both boys and girls. There are various causes of disparity at the different levels of education. These were clearly brought out in the various discussion groups and the relevant key informant interviews.

Causes for Gender disparities in Primary schools

At this level and in specific counties, gender disparity in education is mentioned to be caused by DSA for boys, child labour, and parents' preference for girls' education compared to boys. DSA affects boys equally in all counties. Parents' preference for girls' education compared to boys was highest in Nyeri County while school transfer is very common in Kirinyaga County.

> *"Girls are many. They are more girls than boys because most parents take their girls to school and boys stay at home to look for work."*
>
> FGD, Female young persons 10-14, Nyeri

Causes for Gender disparities in Secondary schools

Reasons for gender disparities in secondary schools are teenage pregnancy, early marriage, and girl or boy preference. Teenage pregnancy was mentioned to be more common in Kitui, Homa Bay, Samburu, and Bomet counties. Girls' preference for education was mentioned mostly in Taita Taveta, Kakamega and Nyandarua Counties while boys preference was mostly mentioned in Migori and Samburu Counties. Early marriage was said to be very common in West Pokot, Samburu, and Kwale Counties.

"Early marriages cause girls to drop out of school in early years of their studies. Parents are given camels, cows and goats and they in turn marry their daughters to morans. This trend has led to a large number of girls being married to morans, therefore dropping out of school."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Isiolo

"For too long people have been defending the girl child because of issues like FGM and her not getting an education. But now, too much focus on the girl has taken focus away from the boy child, undermining him in a way. Like if a parent has 4 girls and one boy, now he will see it fit to educate the 4 girls and leave out the boy."

FGD, Mixed group young persons 15-19, Taita Taveta

Causes for Gender disparities in Tertiary Institutions

The causes for gender disparities in tertiary institutions is low entry points, cultural and gender norms in some counties such as Samburu, Isiolo, Siaya, Kwale and West Pokot Counties. Pregnancy as a cause of gender disparity was mainly mentioned in Busia County while girl child preference was mainly mentioned in Taita Taveta County.

"They are given incentives. You find that if a lady applies for a course in engineering they are given incentives even when they did not attain the required grade. This gender balancing thing is a problem it's the cause for gender disparity."

FGD, Mixed group 25-34, Kwale

"In tertiary institutions as you proceed upwards, you find boys are many because girls especially those from poor families have many challenges in life. If they are lucky to reach form four without dropping out of school because of pregnancy, they may not have that opportunity for joining college or university unless they marry and get some man to pay their fees."

FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Siaya

3.3.3 Organizations (Public and Private) and Individuals addressing education issues of young people

The main organisations addressing education and training issues of young people are Government and Non–Governmental Organisations (NGOs). NGOs were mainly mentioned as playing a significant role in education in Machakos, Migori and Kwale. They are also common in ASAL areas including Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana and Isiolo counties. Religious institutions were cited more in Turkana and West Pokot counties, while financial institutions were said to play a key role in Taita Taveta and Baringo counties. Individuals in Kiambu and Isiolo Counties play a greater role in education issues affecting young people while Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are working in Turkana and West Pokot counties. There was significant appreciation of the role that the County Governments and CDF are playing in the education issues of young people in Bomet, Kericho, Embu, Meru and Laikipia Counties.

3.3.4 Opportunities for improving Education and Training for young persons

The main recommendations for improving education and training for young persons that came from the interviews and discussions that were held with various individuals and groups were; Employing more teachers, improving school infrastructure and creating public education awareness on importance of education. There was an expressed need for more teachers in all counties nationally. However, the expressed need for more teachers was higher in West Pokot, Nyandarua and Kwale Counties. All counties cited the need for improvement of infrastructure in the learning institutions. This need was more expressed in Laikipia, Nyandarua and Migori Counties. On public Education awareness, the need is highest in Samburu, Kisumu and Marsabit Counties while concern for education sponsorship for the marginalised is high in Kericho and Marsabit Counties.

3.4 Economic Issues Affecting Young People

Introduction

Over the last decade, the economic sector in Kenya has experienced the introduction of interventions mainly geared towards addressing the economic marginalization of young people. Owing to the high levels of unemployment among the youth, the government, the private sector as well as civil society organizations have focused attention on the need to create jobs and enhance the capacities of the youth to earn decent livelihoods. In this regard, the economic module of the NAYS set out to establish pertinent issues regarding young people and the economy. The survey established the main issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities for youth as well as identifying the main economic activities that young person are engaged in. In addition, the survey highlighted the main challenges that young people face while engaged in economic activities and ways to address these challenges. An important aspect of the economic module was to identify the organizations addressing economic empowerment of youth as well as the main economic youth programmes that have been established at county level. This section reports on the wide range of issues that were raised and shows how and why they became matters of concern.

3.4.1 Issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities

Generally, the recurrent issues that stood out as hindering access of young people to employment and income opportunities were corruption, lack of capital and lack of knowledge and relevant skills. These issues were common concerns across counties. Interestingly and in contrast, young people among the 10-14 age cohorts did not seem to share these concerns, perhaps owing to their age and limited conceptualization of labour market dynamics. It is important to note that limited opportunities, high taxation, high costs of business registration, negative attitude, tribalism and insecurity also emerged as potential bottlenecks to young people's access to employment and income opportunities. These were however not widespread concerns.

a. Corruption

Corruption consistently emerged as a dominant theme in discussions on young peoples' economic status. It was widely felt, especially among the youth, that corruption has directly or indirectly contributed to their inability to access employment and other existing economic opportunities. Opinion was voiced that a bribe might be demanded when young persons attempted to access employment or other economic opportunities. In this regard, young persons perceived their inability to pay bribes as the reason why they were not employed:

> *"Yeah, huwa wanaitisha 'barua ya mzazi'. They normally ask for that meaning bribe and now how will that work and we have no money? Yes, you will be there you do what is required and what others are doing but going back home you get you have nowhere to go but others have gone sometimes they have parted with some money. They have gone and you have been left because you do not have money."*
>
> Mixed group 20-24, Kirinyaga

This was a concern that was strongly raised by the mixed young persons age 20-24, 25-34 as well as mixed old person between 35-60 years in almost all the counties.

b. Lack of Capital

Lack of capital among young people to start or expand their business enterprises has emerged as a major challenge in almost all counties. This issue was expressed and appears to be a major concern among young persons within the age bracket of 20-34. This could be as a result of personal experience and circumstances as this age cohort are likely to seek capital to start or expand business. The issue however does not seem to be a major concern for school going young persons between the age of 10-14 and 15-19. When the question on challenges young people face in accessing employment and income opportunities was posed to a group of young persons they were in agreement that startup capital is a major issue:

> *"For those who are into business, the starting capital is also a challenge. You have to have a job so that you can start a business. You have to have money to do anything which most of the youths don't have."*
>
> FGD, Mixed group 25-34, Nairobi

c. Lack of Knowledge and Skills

Lack of professional and vocational skills has long been acknowledged as a cause of youth unemployment in Kenya. In almost all counties, it was a recurrent concern, especially among the mixed old persons 35-60 years who were of the opinion that the Kenyan youth are inadequately equipped to enter the labour market. This is summarized by an FGD participant thus:

> *"The challenge the youth are facing is also the lack of information and knowledge of what they want to do. They do things because they saw others doing but they don't have the background information which is basic to do it. Actually, they need more of education of life skills more than the education of institutions."*
>
> FGD mixed older persons 35-60, Nairobi

3.4.2   Economic Activities Young People are engaged in

Majority of young persons between ages 10-14 and 15-19 reported to be involved, or to have peers who are engaged in economic activities. These are young persons who would ordinarily be expected to be in school, but for various reasons are not in school. For example, a young person lamented:

> *"Young perons drop out of school to go out there in the market and start selling bananas."*
>
> Female young persons 15-19, Kirinyaga

Specific economic activities that young persons of all ages are engaged in include; small scale businesses or trade, buying and selling goods in shops, or providing services such as hair dressing and barbers. Business was reported as the dominant economic activity among young persons of all age groups and in all regions, with the exception of Mombasa, Kwale and Taita Taveta where the activity received relatively less mention.

Another economic activity that appears to be popular among youth is Boda boda business. Young people of all ages and in all counties appear to be familiar with the boda boda business that is the major occupation for out of school youth.

3.4.3   Reasons for engagement in economic activities

On enquiry, the main reasons for the youth's engagement in economic activities were poverty, to earn a living/money, and to pay school fees.

Poverty

Most youth do not have a sufficient source of livelihood and have to engage in activities that generate income to meet basic needs as well as paying school fees. One of the reasons for school dropout is to find a way to survive. Emphasizing on poverty as a push factor, a young male in an FGD in Kilifi noted that:

"You can see a boy going to look for some places to dig so that may get money to buy uniform because the parents cannot afford. They don't have the money..."

Male young persons 10-24, Kilifi

A related reason is peer pressure where youth are influenced by what they see their peers doing for a living and follow suit. In instances youth under influence of DSA were reported to engage in economic activities for money to buy drugs to sustain the practice.

3.4.4   Challenges faced by the youth in economic activities

The main challenges that faced the young people engaged in economic activities were identified as, poor pay and exploitation by employers, harassment by authority or employers, accidents/injuries while working, health complications, lack of necessary skills, and financial constraints/lack of capital. Other challenges were lack of a ready market for their goods, sexual harassment and abuse, child labour, discrimination and poor infrastructure. Insecurity was mentioned as a challenge in Marsabit, Isiolo, West Pokot and Coast Counties.

Poor pay and exploitation

Majority of the respondents reported poor pay and exploitation as a key issue facing youth engaged in economic activities. In reference to this, a respondent in a mixed group said:

"You get those working on construction sites are overworked and underpaid. It comes to lunch time they don't break for lunch and when it's time to leave work in the evening they are added more work in order to finish the day's work load."

FGD, Mixed 20-24, Kiambu

Similarly, the youth may be faced with a situation where the employers exploit the employees because of their inability to work to the level expected especially in a situation where they are unable to cope on account of their age or inexperience as the following example from Siaya illustrates:

"You may find a boy under 18 years herding so many cattle. He goes with these cattle to graze and in the evening when he comes home may find some are lost. When the owner of this cattle finds out, his payment is reduced, he is denied food, he is denied so many things because the cattle got lost."

FGD, Male young persons 10-14, Siaya

Harassment by authority or employers

Youth reported to face harassment from authorities or employers. Cases that stood out were those of bodaboda operators who reported to face harassment from police, and domestic workers from employers. This was demonstrated in an FGD in Kisumu and Meru:

"Like those ones that work as house girls, sometimes they face sexual harassment. The person they are working for or the boss says 'if you don't sleep with me or do this with me I will kill you' so you have to oblige."

FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Kisumu

"There is harassment by the police; the police normally harass boda boda riders for a small bribe in order to free them."

FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Meru

Accidents and injuries

Youth engaged in economic activities were at risk of injuries and accidents at work. This may incapacitate them to fulfill their duties to satisfactory levels. Accidents and injuries lead to health complications, as reported in some of the FGDs in Vihiga and Nakuru counties;

"They get injuries at quarries which can make one deformed, stones destroy eyesight hence blindness."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Vihiga

"Boda boda riders are among many accident victims in the hospital beds due to reckless driving."

FGD, Older persons 35-60, Nakuru

3.4.5   Views on how challenges can be addressed

A number of views were given on how the challenges facing youth in economic activities can be addressed. Majority of the respondents proposed capacity building/education as well as an increase in Government aid/financial support for youth programmes. Other views expressed included enforcement of laws and prosecution of offenders who engage in sexual harassment and child labour. Creation of jobs for youth and the need to ease access to loans was mentioned as important. This should be accompanied by creation of public awareness on business activities to give the youth a wider scope on income generating activities. There is also need to improve infrastructure and security in marginalized regions like Marsabit, Isiolo, and the Coastal counties.

Capacity Building/Education

With regard to capacity building, the youth suggested enhancement of management structures, processes and procedures within organizations and invest more in education to give rise to an educated lot of youth who are competitive in the job market.

Government aid and/financial support

Majority of the youth viewed an increase in government aid and financial support to have a positive impact on addressing the challenges facing them as they would get finances to start off businesses that sustain their livelihoods.

3.4.6   Existing income and employment opportunities for young people

Youth unemployment is one of the major issues affecting the country. According to the survey findings, some of the key sectors that would immensely create employment opportunities for the youth include; farming/agriculture, business/trade, Boda boda, and construction. The Jua kali, casual labour and fishing sectors would also be essential in job creation for the youth in specific counties.

The agricultural sector dominates the Kenyan economy. As was found by the survey, the agriculture sector has employed majority of the youthful population in form of labour. Business sector was mentioned to be an existing income and employment opportunity for the youth. Some of the opportunities mentioned include setting up fish ponds, bee keeping and engagement in artisan activities.

Through youth targeted employment creation framework, the government targets to reduce the unemployment rate in the country. Examples of government initiatives in this respect are public works programs under the National Youth Service and KKV (KAZI KWA VIJANA). Employment creation among youth has also been enhanced through private sector investments and industries where young people are employed.

The survey respondents indicated that some of the youth could venture in boda boda sector by either buying motorcycles and hiring people to operate them or even operating them personally. This is due to the affordability of these boda bodas and the convenience of their use as they do not require skilled labour and therefore can help to engage majority of the youth. The construction sector 'mijengos' is another opportunity cited that serves to employ young people in our economy. The youth that work in this sector provide labour that is not necessarily high skilled and therefore can employ a huge number of young people.

3.4.7   Ongoing interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

The respondents cited the following programmes as some of the key youth unemployment targeted interventions they knew about. These are; UWEZO, NYS, WEF, YEDF, CDF, and AGPO initiatives. The interventions mentioned were mainly government showing the youth's recognition of the efforts made by the government to address youth unemployment.

3.4.8   Benefits of these interventions to young people

The main benefits of the ongoing interventions to address youth unemployment were identified as financial support/access to loans served to help youth to start SMEs, they improve economic status of the nation and provide employment opportunities. Other benefits mentioned were improvement in education/capacity building.

3.4.9   Challenges faced by young people in accessing these interventions

When asked on the challenges they faced in accessing these interventions, the following were cited: Corruption, lack of information on the interventions and bureaucracy. Related challenges mentioned were: fear of loans, loan applications failing to go through; the loans taking long to mature.

Corruption

This is a key challenge on accessing interventions for youth employment. A respondent from an FGD of older persons from Kiambu had this view:

"They are there, you have mentioned several which are happening on the ground now but the most unfortunate thing is that the custodians of those funds have some preference when it comes to issuing the same. Many youths have companies registered with those funds but when it comes to tendering, you need godfathers to succeed."

FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Kiambu

Fear of loans

Some youth may have fear of loans. This is evident from comments raised by a young respondent from Tharaka Nithi on the fear of loans. He had this to say:

"Most of the people fear that when you take that money and start a business, the business might fail and it will be upon them to return the money given. So people fear."

FGD, Mixed group 15-19, Tharaka-Nithi

Lack of information/lack of intervention awareness

This is also a challenge in accessing these interventions. The public may not have sufficient information on these interventions and end up missing out. A respondent from an FGD of older persons said:

"Here the youth miss information; they do not know how to go about getting that money."

<div align="right">FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Baringo</div>

Program restriction/bureaucracy

Some of the restrictions provided by institutions may be a hindrance to accessing interventions that are aimed at helping the youth. A respondent from an FGD of mixed group of older persons from Kirinyaga said:

"Like now there is youth fund but when they fill those forms they don't get the money or the feedback. UWEZO they can only be in groups to get the money and the procedure is long. If it can be made simple they can be helped."

<div align="right">FGD, Mixed persons 35-60, Kirinyaga</div>

3.4.10 Ways to address the challenges

A number of suggestions were proposed to address the above mentioned challenges. These include: the need to sensitize youth more on the interventions, address and eradicate corruption by prosecuting officials who are corrupt, train and educate more youth on the interventions and how to access them. Other ways to address the challenges is to work towards easing access to funds, support of marginalized groups and issue identity cards (IDs) to young people.

3.4.11 Potential areas to increase employment and income opportunities

Based on discussion with relevant key informants, Agriculture, trade and industry/business and the construction sector were identified to be the most potential areas that the national and county governments should invest so as to increase employment and income opportunities. Other sectors and areas identified include: tourism, transport sector, education, fishing, sports, empowerment centers and ICT hubs. Sports featured prominently in Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nairobi Counties. Tourism as a potential source of income and employment generation featured in coast region while Nyanza region identified fishing.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the major source of employment in Kenya. From the survey it was identified as the major potential area of increasing employment and income opportunities for all age groups between 15-60 years in most counties. In Uasin Gishu County, one of the respondents noted that, crop, poultry and livestock production has a huge potential of increasing income and employment opportunities especially for the young people.

"Youth can engage in farming, it has a lot of money in livestock, poultry and crops production."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Uasin Gishu County

Another respondent in Elgeiyo Marakwet County also noted that, provision and supply of water can enable farmers engage in gainful irrigation farming. Animal husbandry is also another potential investment venture in the County.

"There is need for supply of water for irrigation to help in farming. Cattle rearing and application of artificial insemination and presence of cooling plant can help the youths."

FGD, Older persons 35-60, Elgeyo Marakwet County

Trade and industry/business

Trade and industry sector was also identified as one of the potential areas for increasing employment and income opportunities in the country especially for the youth as is indicated by the quote below;

"Yes, maybe we set up a mango plant to process mangoes. You know we are planting them and selling them to other people, and we could gain more if they built an industry so that we can go and sell to that industry".

FGD, Mixed group 15-19, Machakos County

KEY FINDINGS

Construction

In the last 10-15 years the country has experienced a boom in construction due to the rapid increase in migration and limited housing and infrastructure. The sector has the potential to increase employment and earnings for the youth especially for those in urban areas. A respondent in Kisumu County noted that young persons engaged in construction related jobs at least earn a living.

> *"Masonry, yes young people nowadays, when you work for a full day with those who build houses, you get something small for your pocket".*
>
> Mixed FGD, 15-19 Kisumu County

3.4.12 Organizations addressing youth economic empowerment

Key organizations

Government agencies and financial institutions, especially micro finance institutions with flexible rules, were identified as key organizations that are addressing youth economic empowerment. In addition, talent identification and nurturing centers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), business and incubation centers and the Constituency Development Fund were also identified as those that address youth economic empowerment issues.

Government agencies

Government agencies were identified as having the highest potential of addressing employment and income opportunities in most counties in the country. This was reported mostly among youth aged 15-34 for both male and female. The major government agencies mentioned by these groups were; CDF, UWEZO fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund and National Youth Service programmes.

Financial Institutions

Financial institutions were identified as having a potential to increase income and employment opportunities in most counties through access to loans. However, it was pointed out that mostly those aged 35-60 had access to loans. This could be explained by the fact that most young people do not have securities (asset) for securing loans. The financial institutions mentioned are; SACCOS, MFIs and Commercial banks across the country.

Services provided by the organization

Financial services, education services, capacity building and infrastructure improvement emerge as the main services provided by the key institutions that address youth economic empowerment. Other services include:

agricultural support, talent identification, industrial training and internships. One of the respondents had the following to say;

"For example some of these organizations give advice on how to start a business and also provide money to start the business."

Another respondent in the same FGD noted that these institutions provide start up business loans to women.

"They give loans to women and after giving loans, they improve the idea of the business and they help them to start the business."

3.4.13 Efforts made to address economic issues

The survey participants indicated that several measures had been put in place to address youth economic empowerment issues. Some of the measures that were mentioned include improving living standards, offering loans/financial support and employment, creation of public awareness, offering more scholarship programs, accountability for funds meant for the youth, and offering the youth favorable loan conditions.

Improving living standards

Improving living standards is a view expressed by most age groups as one of the ways/ strategies that address economic issues. The living conditions relate more to the cost associated with transport and communication, food, shelter, clothing and health. To express their opinion on how their living standards had improved a young FGD respondent in Vihiga County alluded to the provision of high grade cows that not only support the family nutritionally but also provide an income:

"It leads to improved living standards as the cows provided are high breed so they sell milk and get money."

Financial support/loans

Access to credit facilities in the country is identified as important in addressing economic issues in the country. The youth are engaging micro-finance institutions more due to the flexible lending conditions they issue their loans with. Moreover, young person's felt that, provision of loans had other multiplier effects as narrated by one of the FGD respondent:

"I feel they are good because they offer loans to our parents so that they can have something like business so as to enable them to pay school fees. Once they get loans and money from the business they get profits which they can use to pay school fees."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Migori County

Employment

Unemployment levels among the youth is high in the country. The survey findings show that employment creation can go a long way in addressing economic issues faced by the youth. Young persons noted that, the key organizations that address youth empowerment issues currently offer employment opportunities with a potential to creating more opportunities. The NYS programme was widely mentioned as one of the government initiatives that have created employment opportunities to young persons' especially in the slums in urban areas. The NYS programme in Kibera slums of Nairobi is one of the notable examples.

"They have helped a lot because NYS and others have reduced Youth unemployment."

FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Nairobi County

3.5 Governance Issues affecting Young People

Introduction

Governance is of critical importance especially with the current policy to move decision-making away from the central government and out to devolved entities. Governance is defined as the process through which systems are managed from within and without. This chapter presents the key findings on governance encompassing rule of law, security situation, cohesion, whether project implementers are accountable and transparent, participation of the public in the planning and implementation of projects/programmes, fairness in distribution of resources, and whether the results are achieved with integrity and optimization of resources.

The survey findings show varied opinions with regard to governance. With respect to rule of law, majority of the respondents identified, robbery, land disputes, rape, and crime as the main cases prevalent across the country. Generally there is clear evidence that the judicial system, council of elders and administration were the most preferred ways of solving cases. From the findings, corruption, lack of justice and long time to solve cases were the main challenges to solving disputes.

With respect to security, it was apparent that insecurity is a major concern across the country. It also emerged from the discussions that young persons played a key role in maintaining security mainly through reporting of suspicious situations and community policing. On cohesion, the most widely mentioned challenges affecting

unity of young persons were tribalism and social class disparities, the latter being associated with economic inequalities.

To ensure transparency and accountability, community meetings were identified as the most popular mechanism in place to inform young persons of planned and ongoing activities.

The most notable role youth played in project implementation process was engagement in manual jobs. A further finding was that most of the youth were not involved in budgeting, project identification, design and project implementation mainly due to age discrimination and corruption. On political leadership, young respondents reported that political leaders generally played a key role in employment creation and management of youth affairs.

With regard to increase in population of young persons, the youth observed in their discussions that there will be congestion in health facilities, congestion in schools, increase in unemployment and increase in insecurity.

3.5.1   Rule of law

a. Justice system

Main cases

Under this section, the survey sought to establish the most prevalent cases in the communities. Across the country, the most prevalent cases were robbery, land disputes, rape, and crime. Rape was reported highly in Taita Taveta. Rent disputes were unique cases in Nairobi County only. Land disputes were most prevalent in Coast and Eastern region while Gender Based Violence (GBV) was mainly reported in Turkana and Kiambu.

> *"...issues of boundaries are a major problem because we don't have survey in this area. When you go to the lands department, you are asked for a lot of money. The other thing is that the older people have died and the boundaries are not clear."*
>
> FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Machakos

The policy makers in most of the counties also considered crime, land disputes and robbery as the main cases. In the north eastern, the policy makers reported radicalization and clan disputes as the main cases.

Process of solving cases

The findings also show that judicial system, council of elders and administration were the most preferred ways of solving cases. The findings further indicate that family arbitration was the most preferred way in coast region and West Pokot.

"...we prefer to solve our cases through council of elders and also through the chief because the chief's office is near compared to going to Kapenguria."

Judicial system was identified by policy makers across all the counties as the main process of solving cases.

Challenges in solving disputes

Corruption, lack of justice and the long time it takes to solve cases emerged as the main challenge in solving disputes across the country. Further, death of victims or witnesses was viewed as a challenge in western region as reported mainly by the youth.

"...mostly the cases taken to the traditional elders are solved amicably. You know with costs there is too much to be done, there is the fee, and then you have to keep on following for it to be heard before a judge. Let us say if someone grabbed my plot and he is a wealthy person even if you go to the court the case will not be decided in your favour so you just have to let go of the plot. But if it is taken to the elders they will solve it amicably and fairly."

According to the policy makers in majority of the counties, corruption came out as a major challenge in solving disputes.

Ways to address the challenges

Regarding the ways to address the stated challenges, the respondents cited addressing corruption, promoting justice system and creating public awareness as the main ways of addressing those challenges. Public awareness was also mentioned by policy makers as a main way to address the challenges encountered in handling disputes

b. Security

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

Security situation

Security is a common concern in most of the counties. Although respondents in some of the counties indicated that the security situation was stable, high levels of insecurity were reported by the participants in Kisumu, Homa Bay, Marsabit and Nakuru Counties especially in the urban areas. Some of the factors discussed as contributors to insecurity were cattle rustling, lack of patrols, lack of security lights and slow response by police.

"The security situation is not very bad. It is under control generally. The number of criminal cases reported on a monthly basis is really minimal and in most cases they are minor offences. Capital offences like murder, robbery with violence are highly limited. One trend we have discovered is the suicide part, we are wondering why many people are committing suicide. We were telling Taita Taveta University College the other day to see the possibility of engaging their researchers, now that we have a local university here, to and find out why people and particularly the youth are committing suicide."

Key informant County Commissioner, Taita Taveta

Mechanisms in place to address security

The respondents cited Nyumba kumi community policing and availability of police as the main mechanisms in place to address security concerns in most of the counties. Availability of Kenya Police Reservists was a key mechanism in place in the Arid and Semi-Arid Counties. Nyumba kumi was reported by the policy makers as the main mechanism in place to address security in all the counties.

Role of young persons in maintaining security

The main, roles of young people in maintaining security was said to be reporting of suspicious situations, reporting of lawbreakers, community policing and youth patrols across the country.

"Youths help, in case of crime, they come together and fish out the thieves and even chase until they catch them especially those stealing cows."

FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Uasin Gishu

Community policing was reported by policy makers as a major role of young persons in ensuring security in most of the counties.

Challenges of ensuring security

There was a common finding across the country that corruption, poor police performance and victimization of whistle blowers were the main challenges in ensuring security. Covering of criminals, refugees and nomadism were reported as some of the challenges in ensuring security in the North Eastern region.

"My child was stolen, and I went to report. After that the police told me to come the following day. The following day I went in the morning and they told me to come back in the afternoon. That lapse of time could even give the thieves enough time to kill that child."

FGD, Mixed group 15-24, Homa Bay

Ways to address the challenges

The respondents identified public awareness and employment of more police officers as the main interventions to address challenges encountered in ensuring security. In addition land demarcation was mentioned as one of the intervention in curbing land disputes in West Pokot County. Public awareness and participation also featured prominently among policy makers in most counties

"...we need to be thinking about engaging the local community to be able to participate especially in issues of security among many others. So what we are saying is for example in the case of Nyumba Kumi I think more needs to be done so that we customize it completely and sensitize wananchi by putting a lot of effort in training them so that they are able to understand the concept even better and that it is not a tool for the government but a tool for the local community to manage their own affairs because when they manage security better, it trickles down to everything including personal safety, economic development, good health facilities, and better education because the health workers and teachers will not be scared to work."

Key informant County Commissioner, Garissa

c. Cohesion

This section sought to identify the challenges that affect unity of the people, programmes in place to promote unity and recommendations on what can be done to promote unity among the people.

Issues or challenges affecting unity of young persons

Key concerns expressed by respondents as affecting unity of young persons were tribalism and social class disparities across the country. Political differences were mentioned as an issue affecting unity in a few counties though policy makers in most counties generally considered it a major challenge affecting unity of young persons. Tribalism and poverty was identified as a main challenge in Marsabit, Isiolo and Samburu counties.

> *"There are those who are poor and those who are well up. You may find that someone may be tempted to take something that is not theirs and as a result that brings disagreements."*

<div align="right">FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Meru</div>

Programs in place to promote unity

The most commonly reported programmes in place across the country to promote unity are Civic education, sports, religious activities, formation of youth groups and peace meetings. In Turkana county cultural festivals was reported as the main avenue for fostering unity.

There were mixed views by the policy makers across the country regarding programs in place to promote unity ranging from religious activities, peace meetings, political involvement and cultural festivals. However, they were therefore generally in agreement with community views.

3.5.3   Transparency and accountability

This section presents findings on mechanisms in place to inform young persons on planned and ongoing activities and to ensure accountability and transparency.

Mechanisms in place to inform young persons on planned and ongoing activities

The findings show that community meetings, media (print media and radio) and notice boards as the key mechanisms in place to inform young persons on planned and ongoing activities. Counties such as Migori, Marsabit and Garissa indicated that there were no mechanisms in place. In Nairobi County, websites and face book were cited by the young persons as the key channels of getting information on planned and ongoing activities.

> *"The media in this community plays a critical role in passing information."*

<div align="right">FGD, Mixed group older persons 35-60, Trans Nzoia</div>

"There is a Facebook page known as Kibera ni Yetu. If you are a member you will definitely get the information. You can get anything that is offered in Kibera from that page."

FGD, Male young persons 15-19,Kibera, Nairobi

Mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and Transparency

It was reported in most Counties that no mechanisms were in place to ensure accountability. However, disciplinary action (i.e. interdiction and/or, dismissal) was mentioned as the main mechanism in most of the counties. Generally, public education and awareness were reported as the main interventions to improve accountability and transparency.

"...officers who have engaged in unethical conduct have not been spared ... disciplinary case involving mismanagement and misappropriation of public resources are not taken lightly."

Policy Maker, Mandera

3.5.4 Consensus, equity, inclusiveness, participation

This section presents findings on youth involvement in project identification, design and implementation, the roles that the young people like to play, how the projects address the young people's needs, how existing opportunities ensure that they serve those who deserve, the challenges young people encounter in project implementation, ways of improving the young peoples' involvement.

Youth involvement in budget, project identification, design and implementation

How the Youth are involved

It was widely reported across the country that the youth were involved mainly in project process and manual jobs. However, it was reported among the older groups mainly in West Pokot, Turkana and Tana River counties that the youth were not involved.

"...young people are involved in the execution of proposals during the implementation of water projects to identify where the water boreholes should be put, they are also involved in decision making. But because of the earlier mistakes people did of not listening to the youth, this mentality is still there up to now because youth do not attend meetings as they still have the perception that they will not be listened to any way."

Policy Maker, Narok

Why the youth are not involved

Overall, young persons cited age discrimination and corruption as the main reasons for lack of involvement by youth. Lack of information and skills were also reported by the young persons as reasons for not being involved mainly in Siaya, West Pokot and Trans Nzoia counties.

"Those people think that it's only the old people that require those vacancies and not the young people."

FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Laikipia

Role young people like to play in Projects and program

The survey established manual jobs and participation in project process as the preferred roles by young people in projects and programmes across the country. Playing a role in project process was mentioned more by the youths above the age of 20 years.

"Most of the youth like to be involved in the starting stage of any project. They also like the manual part where they get some money."

FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Samburu

How projects and programmes address the young people's needs

It was reported among all the groups in majority of the counties that the projects and programmes do not address the young peoples' needs. Respondents in some counties for instance West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet were of the view that projects and programmes provide skills and livelihood to the young persons.

"I think one of the ways they address needs of young people is when the youth get involved in these projects, they get income, they increase their knowledge and knowhow on how to do the project for themselves."

How existing opportunities ensure they serve those who deserve

It was reported mainly in Samburu and Turkana among other counties that that existing opportunities ensure they serve those who deserve by ensuring gender equality and avoiding age discrimination.

"There is that gender because for example when roads are being constructed, you find that easy jobs, if there are some easy tasks, they are offered to women and hard tasks are given to men."

Challenges young person's face during involvement in project implementation

Findings reveal that lack of skills, discrimination, lack of information, poor pay/exploitation and corruption were the main challenges reported across the country.

"I can say specialization and skills. I am skilled and specialized in poultry and agriculture and another person does not have skills. That means youths who lack will also have a big challenge in getting the opportunities."

How Young People's Involvement in Project Process can be improved

The discussions revealed that capacity building, mentorship and awareness creation were the main ways of improving young persons' involvement in project process across the country.

"We should have youth polytechnics built by the government so that they can assist youths get vocational skills that can help them to get skills so when we get community projects they can be able to get managerial and technical jobs."

3.5.5 Effectiveness and Efficiency

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

How Available Resources are allocated to Target the Young People

It was reported among youth ages 20 years and above that available resources were not allocated to target the young persons in many counties. It however emerged in some counties that resources were allocated to target the youth for example in talent nurturing in Uasin Gishu County.

"So far I have not seen or have not used the resources that are allocated for us as youths in this county."

FGD, Mixed group older persons 35-60, West Pokot

Mechanisms in Place to Ensure Resources are used to Achieve Expected Outcome

It was reported in some counties mainly in Eastern and Nyanza regions especially among those 20 to 60 years that project monitoring and evaluation was a mechanism in place to ensure resources were used to achieve expected outcomes. However it was also recorded in some counties that no mechanisms were in place.

"The county government usually hire a team sent by the governor to monitor projects that are run by the county government. This makes sure that the resources go to the targeted places."

FGD, Mixed group 25-34, Samburu

What can be done to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness in Utilization of Resources?

There were varied responses reported across the counties on follow-up on projects, involvement of the youth and transparency as interventions that can be taken to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources.

"The government should follow up the projects well from the beginning up to the end."

FGD, Mixed group young persons 20-24, Siaya

3.5.6 Political Leadership

This section highlights the role that political leadership play in the management of young peoples' affairs.

Role Political Leadership Play in Management of Youth Affairs

It was widely discussed among the young respondents in several counties across the nation that political leaders create employment and assist to mobilize funds for education and improvement of infrastructure. The study also revealed that political leaders engage the youth in political campaigns as cited in Vihiga, Taita Taveta and Kwale among others. At the same time it was reported in some counties that political leaders play no role in management of youth affairs.

"The political leaders also play a big role in pushing the authorities to take care of the youth. For example, they push most of the contractors to employ youths in the contracts."

FGD, Mixed group older persons 35-60, Samburu

"They just want you to run after them even if you are crippled. After that you will never see them again. Even if they step on those crippled people, he can never turn back to listen to them."

FGD, Mixed group young persons 15-24, Homa Bay

3.5.7 Population Structure

This section provides respondents views about the effect of population growth in relation to access to health services, access to education services, employment status, access to employment and participation in governance issues (security, administration etc).

Perspectives on Growing Population of Young People in Relation to Health

It was a general view in majority of the counties across the nation that there will be congestion in health facilities, increased disease transmission, few medical personnel and inadequate facilities due to the growing

population of the young persons. It was also reported in Kisumu and Homa Bay that family planning use will be improved with increase in number of young persons given their understanding of the burden of population increase.

"Okay that topic is very good because there are many young people... there are many diseases so many of them go to the hospital and the chances for drugs are few. So we don't benefit much, it only brings problems. So I think there is need for a change... so that even when we want to have children then we should tell our children to have two or three children because the increasing population is just a loss we should embrace family planning."

FGD, Mixed older persons 35-60, Kisumu

Perspectives on Growing Population of young people in relation to education

There was consensus across most of the counties that there will be congestion in schools, increased school dropout, inadequate teachers and reduction in quality of education due to the growing population of the young persons.

"Education standards will be lowered because there will be few teachers and many students."

FGD, Male young persons15-19, Busia

However in eastern south region there were views that increase in population of the youth will result in increased education facilities.

"Learning facilities will increase so that there is a branch of Kenyatta University or Nairobi University at Mutomo."

FGD, Mixed group 20-24, Kitui

Perspectives on Growing Population of Young People in Relation to Economic Status

Overall, majority of the respondents were of the view that there will be high unemployment rates, poor economy and high dependency ratios due to the growing population of the young persons.

> "...everything will be expensive. Jobs will be few because we are many. By the time you go to look for a job you find that there are many people there, so only a few will be picked and the rest told to go home."
>
> FGD, Mixed group young persons 15-24, Kitui

It was however viewed in central eastern that there will be more jobs and business opportunities.

> "Okay I would say that if the population continues growing that way it would encourage some employment because like you know when the population grow the hospital will now need more staff to cater for these people who are going to those hospitals so if the population continues growing maybe it would create some job opportunities."
>
> FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Tharaka

Perspectives on Growing Population of Young People in Relation to Governance

There was a general view across majority of counties that there will be increased insecurity due to the growing population of the young persons.

> "With the growth of population and increase in unemployment, most young people engage in things like theft, robbery etc. to get money."
>
> FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Laikipia

However in very few counties it was reported that a growing population will increase the number of electorate and a good basis for allocation of more funds.

> "Increase in population among the youths will enable their party to take over the governance of the county due to the large number of the voters who will register"
>
> FGD, Female young persons 15-19, Marsabit
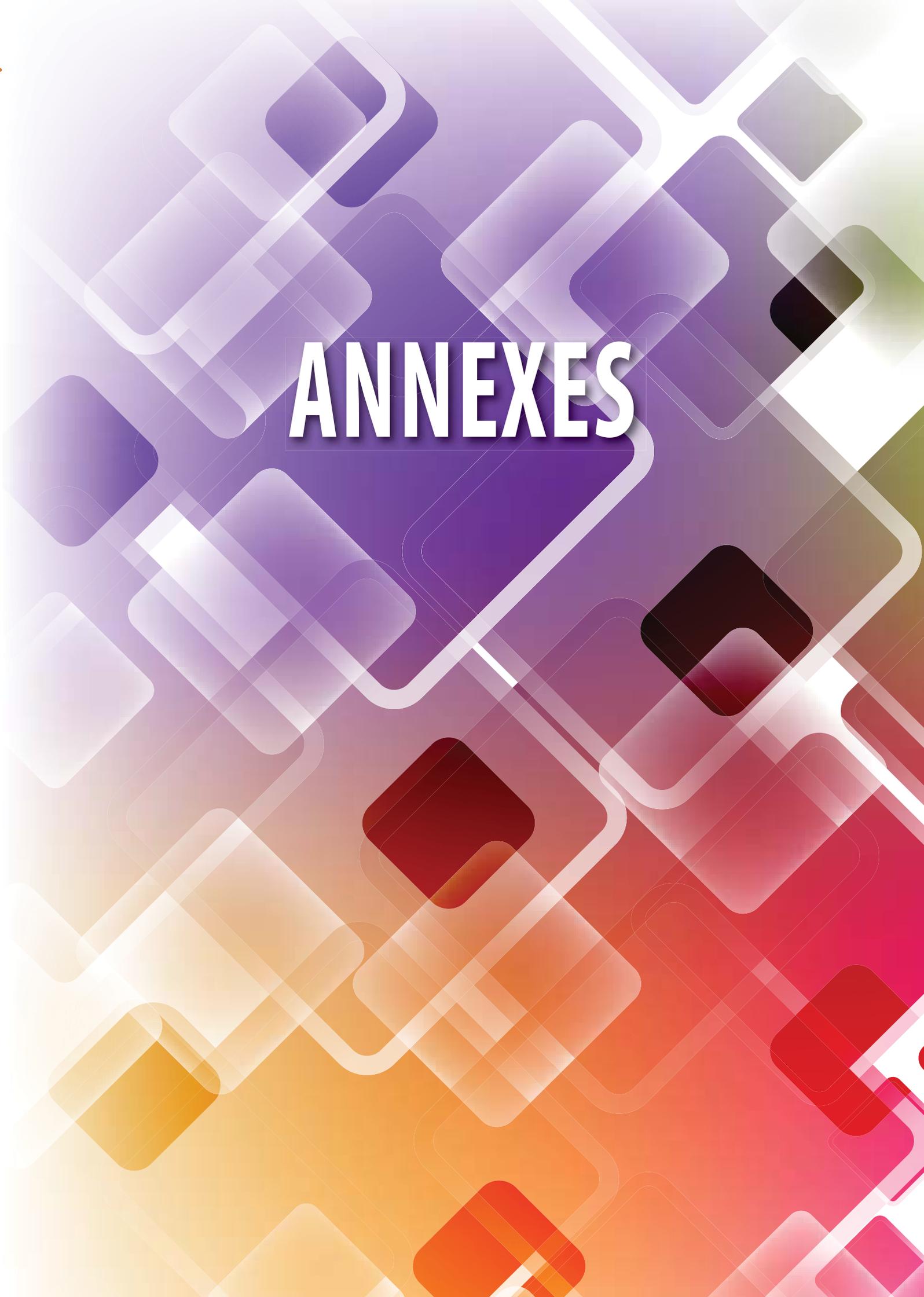
ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Overview of Information Gathered Using the Data Collection Tools

Below is the information gathered per thematic area using the FGD, KII, and IDI guides;

Health

1. Key health issues that affect the young people
2. How common the issues are
3. Why the issues are common
4. Ways of addressing these issues
5. Access and availability of health information and services
6. Types of information and services
7. Challenges in accessing health information and services
8. How friendly are the services to the youth
9. Ways of addressing challenges in accessing health information and services

Education

1. Key education issues that affect the young people
2. How common are these issues
3. Why the issues are common
4. How these issues affect education
5. Ways of addressing the education problems
6. Availability and accessibility of education information and services
7. ICT services available to young persons in schools
8. Views on courses taught and relevance in the prevailing job market
9. Opportunities for young persons to gain skills
10. Ways of addressing challenges in accessing health information and services

Economic

1. Issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities

2. How to address these challenges

3. Availability and access of income and employment opportunities

4. Challenges in accessing these opportunities

5. Interventions and programs addressing youth unemployment

6. Challenges in accessing these interventions

7. Availability and accessibility to ICT services

8. Types of information and services the youth seek from ICT

9. Potentials areas to increase employment and income opportunities

10. Challenges in accessing ICT services

11. How friendly are the services to the youth

12. Ways of addressing these challenges

Governance

1. Rule of law

2. Security

3. Cohesion

4. Transparency and accountability

5. Consensus, participation and responsiveness

6. How young peoples' involvement in project process can be improved

7. Effectiveness and efficiency

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