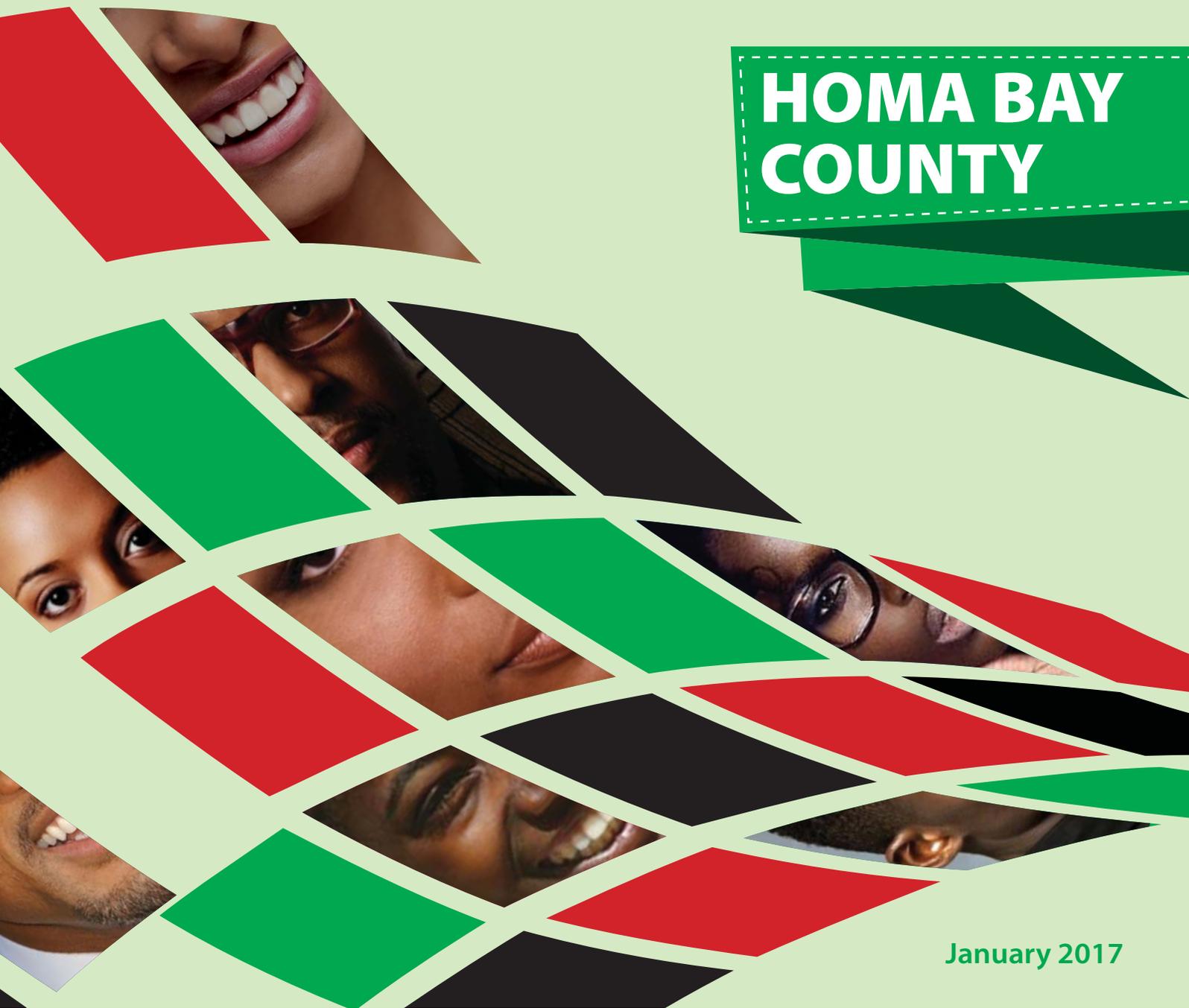




2015 KENYA  
NATIONAL

# ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH SURVEY (NAYS)

**HOMA BAY  
COUNTY**



January 2017



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2015 KENYA NATIONAL  
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY  
(NAYS)

**HOMA BAY COUNTY**

January 2017



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

## Glossary of Terms

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

# HOMA BAY COUNTY



## Foreword

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

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

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

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

## Acknowledgment

**T**he Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) was conducted in 2015 with the goal of contributing to the country's efforts of harnessing the potential of the young people in accelerating national development. Results from this survey will inform counties on the actions that they need to undertake in order to achieve accelerated economic growth

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

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

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

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

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

## Executive Summary

This report presents the profile of Homa Bay County is based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey conducted by the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) in conjunction with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Youth department, KNBS and various development partners. The survey covered all the 47 counties with the multiple objectives of examining what potential exists for a demographic dividend in each of the 47 counties, Identify Health, Education, Economic and Governance issues that affect young people in each county, identifying what specific investment opportunities that could accelerate achievement of the demographic dividend and providing policy and programme recommendations based on the survey findings.

This report interrogates the demographic profile of the county and the prevailing socio-economic indicators of the county and further identifies the challenges and opportunities that exist for harnessing the benefits of a growing youth population. The report therefore presents an overview of key demographic, health, education, economic and governance indicators. Investments in these sectors are important for accelerating economic growth and development

Homa Bay County has youthful population which accounts for 49.1 percent of the total population and has a very high dependency ratio of 107 according to the Population and Housing Census 2009. This population structure demands that higher investments in education, health and in creating employment opportunities for harnessing demographic dividend. The demographic window of the opportunity for the County opens in 2046. This suggests that the county needs to put in more efforts in the health, education, and economic opportunities for the population coupled with efforts to reduce the high in order to get the benefits of the demographic dividend.

The results show there is still limited coverage and access to quality health care in the county. Preventable diseases such as, malaria and HIV/AIDS, and the issues of STI are still common in the county. The fertility rate of the county is still high compared to the national average fertility. The uptake of contraceptives and well as the other maternal health indicators such as the number of births attended by skilled health workers are just below the national average. The HIV prevalence rate (26 percent) in the county is still one of the highest in the country.

On the education front, the young people still face a lot of challenges. Although the primary school net enrolment rate is very high (98 percent), the secondary school net enrolment rate is only 58 percent. This suggests a low transition rate from primary school to secondary school level and also a high number of school drop outs in the county.

The major issues in education sector are drug and substance abuse, poverty or lack of fees, child labour, absenteeism of teachers and students, teenage pregnancy and school dropouts. These problems are caused by poverty, peer pressure and lack of proper guidance. In addition, educational institutions for students with special needs are very few in the county. Proposed ways of addressing the education issues are guidance and counselling, provision of bursaries and educational funds and parental guidance.

The main employment and income generating opportunities for the young people in Homa Bay County are *boda boda* business and fishing. Both social and economic development interventions are necessary to address lack of income generating and employment opportunities for young people in the county.

Others issues that affect the youth are drugs and substance abuse, lack of jobs and apathy associated with isolation from participation in mainstream projects in the county. Because of this situation, the youth perceive corruption, lack of skills, crime, lack of capital and poor service delivery as issues that must be to ensure they fully realize their potential.

In terms of the governance, land disputes, robbery/theft rape and sexual harassment are the main issue that causes insecurity. This can be address through promoting justice system, provision of title deeds, enforcement of law and order and addressing corruption which have become the centre stage of the society and the order of the day.



# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1.1 Youth in Kenya

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

### 1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

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

### 1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million 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 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 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years) respectively.

## 1.2 Survey Rationale

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

## 1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives

### *Survey Goal*

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

### *Survey Objectives*

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

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

## 1.4 Survey Organisation

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

### 1.4.1 Pre-test

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

### 1.4.2 Trainings

The Technical Committee members were trained for three days, in February 2015, on demographic dividend and its applicability in the Kenyan context so that they could be conversant with the concept

before embarking on the development of the survey tools. This enabled the Technical Committee members to develop the data collection tools that responded to the objectives of the survey.

In April 2015, thirty-four (34) research assistants were competitively recruited for data collection in the 47 counties. They were trained from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Nakuru. The trainees were taken through the survey tools, materials and modalities of recruiting the respondents for the different tools that were to be administered. They were also trained on how to conduct interviews. Different methodologies and approaches were used in the training to ensure that the research assistants were well equipped to collect quality data.

## 1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation

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

### 1.5.1 Survey Tools

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

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

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

## 1.5.2 Sampling

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

**Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions**

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

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

were administered to policy makers' in-charge of the specific sectors of interest in the counties. The respondents to the IDIs were service providers in the health, education and economic sectors.

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

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

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

**Table 1.3 Focus group discussions sample frame for each county**

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

### 1.5.3 Data Collection

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

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

Table 1.4 Survey response rates

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

### 1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis

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

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

# 2

## HOMA BAY COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Background

Homa Bay County lies between latitude 0° 15'South and 0° 52'South, and between longitudes 34° East and 35° East. The county covers an area of 4,267.1 Km<sup>2</sup> inclusive of the water surface which on its own covers an area of 1,227 km<sup>2</sup>. The county is located in South Western Kenya along Lake Victoria where it borders Kisumu and Siaya counties to the North, Kisii and Nyamira counties to the East, Migori County to the South and Lake Victoria and the Republic of Uganda to the West.

### 2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

#### 2.2.1 Population Size and Structure for Homa Bay County

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the population for Homa Bay County was 963,440 people. As shown in Table 2.1, this population is projected to rise to over 2,300,000 in 2050. Almost half (48 percent) of the population is below age 15 and is projected to decline to 39 percent in 2030 and to 27 percent in 2050. The county has a very high dependency ratio of 107 which is projected to decline to 71 percent in 2030 and 46 percent in 2050. The population in the working ages (15-64) is projected to increase to 58 percent in 2030 and to 68 percent in 2050. The demographic window of opportunity for the County opens in 2046 and to close in 2086.

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	963,440	1,685,050	2,349,153
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	48.1%	38.9%	27.3%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	3.7%	2.7%	4.4%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	48.2%	58.4%	68.3%
Dependency Ratio	107.4	71.1	46.3
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2046		

Table 2.1 indicates that the county's population- age structure is youthful with 43.5 percent comprising of the population below age 15 in 2009. However, this population is projected to decrease to 32.4 percent in 2030 and further to 24 percent in 2050. The proportion of the population in the working ages (15-64) was 53 percent in 2009 and is projected to increase to 64 percent in 2030 and to 69 percent in 2050. The proportion of population above age 64 was 3.2 percent and it is projected to increase to 6.6 percent in 2050.

The dependency ratio was 88 in 2009 and is projected to decline to 55 in 2030 and further to 44 in 2050. Therefore, the overall economy faces a greater burden to support and provide the social services needed by dependent population consists of children and older people. The county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in 2037 and close in 2077.

## 2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics for Homa Bay County

Table 2.2 Homa Bay socio-economic profile

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	5.2
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	46.7%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	60.4%
	HIV Prevalence	25.7%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	64.4%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	98.3%
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	4,793
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	58.1%
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	45,081
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.4070214

The average number of children per woman in Homa Bay County is 5.2 which are higher than the national average of 3.9 children per woman. The proportion of births attended by skilled provider in Homa Bay County (60 percent) is lower compared to the national target of 90 percent. The proportion of children 12-23 months who have been fully immunized (64 percent) is also lower than the national target of 80 percent. The county HIV prevalence (25.7 percent) is four times higher than the national HIV prevalence of 6 percent.

Reduction in fertility, mortality rates and general improvement of quality of life are partly dependent on education. Although the county has a high Primary School Net Enrolment Rate of 98 percent, about 4,800 primary school-age children are out of school. The Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate for the County is 58 percent with a large number of 45,081 secondary school-age teenagers out of school. At the national level, the net enrolment at primary and secondary levels is 88 and 47 percent respectively. The County's Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.407 is indicative of the overall efforts made in providing quality education, health care and economic opportunities. The HDI value is much lower than the national average of 0.520

## 2.3 Health and Young People

The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting adolescents and youth in Homa Bay County. The questions were raised across the board including adolescents and youth, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in health. This section presents a summary of the main health problems, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to the adolescents and youth and the ways of addressing these problems. In addition, the section presents findings on the accessibility and availability of information and services organizations providing health services and ways of improving health within the county.

### 2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People in Homa Bay County

The survey sought to identify the leading health problems affecting young people in Homa Bay County, including how it affects their wellbeing and ways of addressing the problems. Table 2.3 summarizes the health issues.

Table 2.3 Main health problems affecting young people in Homa Bay County

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Parental negligence	School drop out	Public health education
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Poverty	Poor health condition	Guidance and counselling
Teenage Pregnancy	Peer pressure	Poor mental health	Parental guidance
Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV)		High STI or HIV and AIDS infections	Abstinence
		Stigmatization	Life skills
		Death	

Participants across all the study groups were in consensus that the major health problems affecting young people are drug and substance abuse (DSA), STI/HIV, teenage pregnancy, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Health service providers and policy makers cited that STI/HIV, Teenage pregnancy and SGBV were very common due to poverty.

*“Here, the main issue affecting young people is HIV/AIDS. That is the major problem of young people in this county. We are the leading as far as HIV prevalence is concerned, because we are at 27 percent prevalence while the national one is 5-6 percent. HIV/AIDS majorly affects the most sexually active individuals and you find that young people are sexually active. That is the major, major problem with youths in this county.”*

[KII policy maker health, Homa Bay]

These health problems were attributed to parental negligence in supporting and guiding youth, peer pressure and high poverty levels. Early sexual debut and easy access to drugs were also mentioned as reasons that might lead youth to engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, DSA and teenage pregnancy.

*“As parents we need to educate our children on what is expected of them at an early stage. Some girls are lured into this (early sexual debut) because of money. When they lack something and the boyfriend satisfies that need with a demand to reciprocate with sex. So I think as parents we should supply the needs of our young people to prevent these early pregnancies.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Homa Bay]

The respondents reported that school dropout as a result of substance and drug abuse and teenage pregnancy, poor general health including mental health, high STI or HIV and AIDS infections, stigmatization and death as consequences of these health problems.

*“The youths who become pregnant drop out of school, secondly, they cannot live a comfortable life since they don’t have a stable means to support themselves, and then again they give their parents a hard time.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 15-19, Homa Bay]

Some of the ways suggested to address health problems among young people included parental guidance and counselling, public health education, life skills, and abstinence. In addition, health providers and policy makers cited creating public awareness and education on SRH and FP services, counselling and sensitization of the youth on issues of health as ways that can be used to address health issues in the county.

## 2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

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

**Table 2.4 Access and availability of health information and services**

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities	Guidance and counselling	Increased knowledge	Health Facilities
Schools	Disease prevention and diagnosis	Disease Prevention	Internet
Media	Sex education	Behaviour change	Schools/learning institutions
Internet	Family Planning		
Religious institutions	Treatment and medication		
Community health workers	VCT Services		
Family			
Friends and peers			

From the discussions with respondents, the main sources of information were identified as health facilities, schools, religious institutions, Community health workers, media, internet, family, friends and peers. Out of these, the most preferred sources of information by the young people were health facilities, internet and schools/learning institutions.

The main type of information received included guidance and counselling, sex education, disease prevention and diagnosis, Family Planning, treatment and medication, VCT Services. This information was regarded as useful in terms of increasing knowledge for behaviour change, disease prevention and making informed choices.

**Table 2.5 Access and availability of SRH information and services**

Main SRH/FP information and services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Contraceptives (FP)	Fear/embarrassment	Youth friendly environment
STIs and HIV information and services	Lack of YFS	Equip health facilities
Guidance and Counselling	Negative provider attitude	Employ youthful health providers
	Cost of services	Employ more qualified health workers
		Improving services for PWDs

As shown in summary table 2.5, participants reported that STI/HIV information and services, guidance and counselling and contraceptives were easily accessible to the young people at the health facilities. In addition, the young people (25-34) mentioned voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) as a service that is easily accessible to young men.

The young people mentioned fear or embarrassment, lack of adequate YFS, negative provider attitude and the cost of the services as the main challenges they face in accessing these services. Respondents had this to say:

*“The youth also fear victimization that is they fear the opening up of their secrets. So if I go for a consultation of maybe syphilis I fear that the person whom I may get the information from may spread my secret to others. Most youths fear that they may be exposed. Suppose someone is suffering from gonorrhoea and if you go to seek information they are afraid that if you expose it, they may suffer from stigmatization.”*

[FGD. Male young people, 15 -19 Homa Bay]

Health service providers cited lack of youth friendly services, fear of embarrassment and poor infrastructure as the main challenges the young people face in accessing these services.

Discussants in the marginalized groups also noted that most of the health services were not disability friendly and those that offered such special services were extremely costly. The absence of disability friendly services affected the health seeking behaviour of people with disability (PWDs). The marginalized group also cited poverty, negative provider attitude and lack of transport to hospital as challenges that they face accessing health services. The type of health information and services available for the marginalized people include donations, ART, VCT Services and guidance and counselling services.

Respondents recommended ways of addressing the general health challenges. These included equipping the current health facilities to provide quality care, creating a conducive youth friendly environment, improving services for PWDs, and employing more qualified youthful health workers to provide YFS. The health service providers and policy makers recommended improvement of youth friendly services and centres, and employment of more qualified youth friendly staff.

### 2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health

The county health facilities and NGOs were identified as key organizations addressing health issues of young people in the county and have contributed towards improvement of the health status of the community and in particular creating health awareness, improving health service provision and improving FP and SRH services.

### 2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

To adequately address the health issues affecting young people, the respondents suggested the opportunities for improvement of health within their county. The main observation made is the need to increase the number of health facilities and health personnel in order to improve access to health

services as well as equipping the facilities to be youth friendly. In addition, the respondents suggested creation of awareness through public forums and the need to focus on health services that improve the lives of marginalized youth including orphans, people living with HIV (PLWA) and people with disability (PWDs) as opportunities for improvement.

## 2.4 Education and Young People

The qualitative survey sought to establish the education issues affecting adolescents and youth in Homa Bay County. This section presents a summary of the main education issues affecting young people, the causes for these education issues, the consequences to the adolescents and youth and the ways of addressing these problems. The section further presents findings on the accessibility and availability of education and ICT services, views on the courses taught and the relevance in the prevailing job market and the opportunities for investments in education within the county.

### 2.4.1 Main Education issues affecting young people in Homa Bay County

The survey identified major issues in the education sector that affect young people in Homa Bay County. The qualitative findings are illustrated in Table 2.6

Table 2.6 The main education issues affecting adolescents and youth in Homa Bay County

Main education issues	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing the issues
Drug and substance Abuse	Peer pressure	School drop out	Guidance and counselling
Poverty or lack of fees	Poverty	Poor academic performance	Provision of bursaries / education funds
Child labour	Poor parental guidance	School absenteeism	Parental guidance
Absenteeism of teachers and students		Early marriages	
Teenage Pregnancy			
School drop out			

From the discussions across all the various age categories, drug and substance abuse (DSA), poverty or lack of fees, child labour, absenteeism of teachers and students, teenage pregnancy and school dropout were identified as the main issues affecting education in this county.

The education policy makers who were interviewed cited poverty and child labour were common challenges in this county.

These education issues affecting young people were attributed to peer pressure, poverty and poor parental guidance.

*“The bodaboda riders and the 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 for 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 then he can even get you by force. The girl might get pregnant and drop out of school.”*

[FGD. Female young people 10-14, Homa Bay]

Both primary and secondary school dropouts were attributed to poverty or lack of fees, child labour, early marriages and teenage pregnancy. Corporal punishment and negative teacher attitude were also cited as reasons for school dropout.

*“There are some who have left school because of pulling nets for fishing, they can go pull the nets and get even a thousand shillings so they see that there is no need of going to school because he has the money to buy what he can eat. After that then they just see that it is now better to leave school completely. Some plough for people to get money, some cut firewood and then they go and sell, some split firewood for some people to get money and some leave school to ride boda boda.”*

[FGD. Female young people, 10-14, Homa Bay]

DSA was cited as a reason for secondary school dropout. This is summarized below:

*“Sometimes these drugs make people to turn violent, this makes them to fight even with the teachers, if a student has started to fight with the teachers they will most likely be kicked out of the school and hence end up dropping out of school.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19, Homa Bay]

The education policy makers also reported child labour and poverty as reasons for school dropouts and absenteeism.

*“Yes lack of school fees due to poverty is very common and you see this one leads the students to be absent, the rate of absenteeism is so high, at times they become truant because when they come to school they are sent back for fees every now and again.”*

[IDI. Policy maker education, Homa Bay]

The consequences of these education issues mentioned included school dropout as a result of child labour and teenage pregnancy; poor academic performance and early marriages. It was also noted that child labour resulted to school absenteeism.

*“There are certain schools you go and find more girls than boys because the boys are either involved in fishing or cutting sugar cane.”*

[KII policy maker education, Homa Bay]

The young respondents recommended ways to address education problems which included provision of bursaries /education funds, law enforcement on child labour, law enforcement on DSA, and sensitization on importance of education. The education policy makers recommended more financial support, creation of awareness and community sensitization on importance of education.

## 2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services

Of interest was the young people’s perception on access to and the availability of education services to them.

Generally, all the groups reported that there were many primary schools and secondary schools however tertiary institutions including colleges were few in the county.

*“Specifically in Rangwe, we have very many learning institutions whereby a pupil can decide to go to a school where he or she wishes to learn, so we can’t say that there are no schools or few so schools are very many and they are accessible.”*

[IDI policy maker primary school, Homa Bay]

In primary and secondary schools, accessibility is mostly affected in by distance and time taken to reach school. The learning institutions available do not have adequate facilities; laboratories, libraries, computers, classrooms desks, and dormitories. Young people across all age groups mentioned that learning facilities for students with special needs were inadequate at the county.

*“Our school facilities; some of them are not adequate. Like you go to secondary schools, you lack libraries and in many of the schools, we do not have laboratories and even classrooms are not adequate, in some schools where classrooms are available, they are not well maintained.”*

[KII policy maker education, Homa Bay]

Generally, the groups cited that there were more girls than boys enrolled in primary schools and more boys enrolled in secondary schools than girls in the county. This gender disparity in primary schools is attributed to a high dropout rate of boys due to child labour and indiscipline.

The gender disparity in secondary school is attributed to a high dropout rate of girls due to pregnancy, early marriage and boy child preference by the parents. Notably, there were various views on gender disparity in tertiary institute. Some respondents were of the view that there is gender balance while others felt there is no gender balance in tertiary institutions.

Lack of awareness, lack of fees, DSA and poverty were mentioned as challenges that affect access to vocational training institutions by young people. Courses offered in these vocational training institutions include electrical and electronics, mechanical engineering, entrepreneurship, building and construction and artisans. These courses were reported to be relevant and marketable. CDF and HELB were mentioned as support programmes for students pursuing vocational training.

### 2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education Services in Homa Bay County

Government agencies such as the CDF, NGOs, financial institutions and individuals were mentioned as the main organisations addressing education and training issues of young people in the county. These organizations and individuals were reported to provide training, education bursaries and support for provision of basic needs. The policy makers in the education sector cited that partnerships with the NGOs has led to improved public awareness on importance of education, capacity building of teachers and provided financial support to needy students in the county. The respondents appreciated the efforts done by the organizations to improving education and reducing the burden of education on parents but still acknowledged that a lot needs to be done.

### 2.4.4 Opportunities for Investment in Education

Suggestions on the opportunities for investment in education were made by the various groups of young and older people. Generally, young people suggested the need for the government to increase education awareness, create employment, enforce the policies of fee reduction, enforce Free Primary and Secondary Education policy and increase funding for education. In addition, internships and apprenticeship in different fields of training were identified as opportunities available for young people to acquire skills.

## 2.5 Economic Status and Young People

The qualitative survey sought to establish the main issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities for the young people as well as identifying the main economic activities that young people are engaged in. In addition, this section outlines the main challenges that young people face while engaged in economic activities and ways to address these challenges. Further the section presents the organisations addressing the economic empowerment of youth as well as the main economic youth programmes that have been established at the county level.

### 2.5.1 Main employment and income opportunities available for young people

The main employment and income opportunities available that young people cited include *boda boda* business. In addition, the young people aged 25-34 reported that construction sector and fishing as other employment and income opportunities available for young people. Policy makers cited agriculture, *boda boda* business, *Jua kali* sector and fishing as the employment and income opportunities available for young people.

#### *Challenges in accessing employment and income opportunities*

Generally, the challenges that hinder access of young people to employment and income opportunities were corruption, lack of capital and lack of knowledge and skills. Other challenges mentioned included high taxation and negative attitudes towards blue collar jobs.

Corruption emerged as the main challenge during the discussions. Older people cited the inability of the young people to pay bribes as the reason why they were not employed.

Respondents had this to say:

*“Corruption starts from up to right down where we are, there could be a post that has been advertised, the child of the rich will be favoured because the poor will not have the money to bribe. When the police were being recruited here, if you did not have money then your child would not be taken. He can go run and meet all the requirements but he can’t get it because you cannot give the required amount of money.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60, Homa Bay]

Negative mind sets and attitudes, fear of loans, lack of skills and experience were mentioned by policy makers as challenges that hinder the young people from accessing employment and income opportunities.

*“There are several funds meant for youths that does not even require security, the problem with the youths in terms of getting loans is that they fear loans, they don’t want to grab those opportunities. The youths in this county are not ready to have the loans and pay back in time.”*

[KII policy maker, youth affairs, Homa Bay]

## 2.5.2 Economic Activities Young People are Engaged In

The survey sought to identify the main economic activities that young people aged 10-19 are engaged in. This included the reasons for engaging in economic activities, the main challenges they face while engaged in economic activities and ways to address these challenges. Discussions were conducted with homogeneous groups of young people aged 10-14 and 15-19 in sampled primary and secondary schools and another mixed group of 15-19 in the community to capture the views of both those in school and out of school. The summary of findings is shown in Table 2.7

Table 2.7 The economic activities young people (aged 10-19) are engaged in

Main Economic Activities	Challenges	Ways of how to address these challenges
Business/trade	Poor/low pay	Capacity building/education
Farming	Exploitation	Government financial support
Boda boda business	Health Complications	Enforcement of laws of child labour
Domestic work	injuries	Create employment
Fishing	Sexual harassment and abuse	
Building and construction		
Charcoal burning		

Business and trade, *boda boda* business, farming, domestic work, fishing, building and construction and charcoal burning were identified as the main economic activities that young people engage in. Business, farming and *boda boda* business were reported as the dominant economic activities among young people of all age groups. Other economic activities mentioned include young people working as cobblers, as bar attendants, in the **Jua Kali** sector and hawking.

*“Like now many young people who dropped out of schools and those who are not employed they have all joined boda boda. So it has become too much such that you may go to ride the boda boda and you come out with nothing”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60, Homa Bay]

The main challenges that young people faced while engaging in economic activities were identified as poor/ low pay, exploitation, injuries, sexual harassment and abuse, health complications. Majority of respondents reported poor/low pay and exploitation, injuries and health complications as key issues facing the young people. This was demonstrated across different age groups:

*“There is exploitation especially if you are not fully experienced in the field of building. Sometimes instead of giving four hundred shillings they want to give one hundred shillings because the owner of the building pays them first, then they are the people who disburse to the builders. They really exploit them. In some places, for example, we have a supermarket around here, and they pay very little, one hundred and something per day. Some moneyed employers are very disrespectful. They do not appreciate the job done for them; they can even deduct part of the agreed payment.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Homa Bay]

Respondents suggested enforcement of laws of child labour, capacity building/education, creating employment and Government financial support for youth programmes as ways of addressing the challenges facing young people engaged in economic activities. Other ways mentioned included creating awareness, parental support and care.

### *Why they engage in economic activities*

On enquiry, the main reasons for the young people' (10-19) engagement in economic activities were poverty, to earn a living/money for basic needs and to pay school fees. Due to poverty, majority of the young people do not have sufficient source of livelihood and have to engage in economic activities that generate income to meet their basic needs as well has pay their school fees. This has resulted to school dropout and child labour. The young respondents had this to say:

*“If the parents cannot raise the school fees and they want to go to school, they have to go and work so that they have the money to take to school.”*

[FGD. Male group 10-14, Homa Bay]

### 2.5.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

The young people cited the following interventions and programmes as some of the key youth unemployment targeted interventions they know. These are UWEZO, NYS, WEF and Youth fund. The summary of findings is shown in Table 2.8

Table 2.8 Interventions, benefits, challenges and ways of addressing these challenges

Main interventions and programmes	Benefits	Challenges	Ways to address the challenges
UWEZO NYS WEF YEDF	Provide employment opportunities, Financial support / access to loans Training /capacity building	Corruption Programme restriction and bureaucracy	Address corruption Sensitize the youth on the available interventions Ease of access to funds Training and education Support the marginalized groups

The main benefits of the interventions and programmes that address youth unemployment were identified as avenues that provide employment opportunities, training /capacity building and financial support/access to loans that help the youth to start SMEs.

The main challenges faced by young people in accessing the interventions and programmes were identified as programme restriction/bureaucracy and corruption. Other related challenges that emerged were loans taking long to mature and loan applications failing to go through as reported by the older respondents.

Corruption was mentioned by both young and older respondents as a challenge on accessing interventions for youth employment. This is evident from the comments raised by the respondents on corruption.

*“Corruption is the problem here; money is brought like one million like for twenty people then few people are the ones who take it. For NYS, you must bribe your way inside*

FGD. Mixed group, 20-24, Homa Bay).

Policy makers mentioned lack of skills and knowledge, inability to follow the registration process, negative attitude, lack of information and political interference as challenges faced by young people in accessing the interventions and programmes.

*“Okay like for example this youth fund, when you give out the forms, they take up the forms but writing this application and filling it up is a problem, then in case of any slight correction, they will just give up automatically, they will not accept to go, come, they want hand-out things.”*

[IDI, YEDF Homa Bay]

Several suggestions were proposed to address the challenges young people face in accessing interventions for youth employment. These were to address corruption, sensitize the youth on the available interventions, train and educate the youth on the interventions, support the marginalized groups and ease access to loans/funds. Policy makers recommended capacity building and increase public awareness as ways to address the challenges young people face in accessing interventions for youth employment.

## 2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

The survey established the main available ICT services, the challenges in accessing the ICT services and ways of addressing these challenges. The summary of the qualitative findings are tabulated in Table 2.9

**Table 2.9 Available ICT services, challenges in accessing ICT services and ways of addressing these challenges**

Available ICT services	Challenges	Ways to address these challenges
Radio	Inadequate ICT centres	Establish ICT centres
Television	High Cost	Provide computer training
Internet	Network problems	Provide affordable ICT services
Mobile phones	Lack of ICT knowledge and skills	
	Lack of power supply	

The main ICT services available to young people included radio, television, Internet and mobile phones. Other ICT services mentioned were cyber cafés, and print media. The main type of information sought by young people included entertainment, social networking, news and online job search. Other types of information that were mentioned were dating and sex education. Notably, the young people (10-14) both male and females cited that they seek for pornographic content from the internet. The most preferred services included mobile phones and social media, entertainment and sports. This information was regarded as useful in terms of increasing knowledge and skills.

Policy makers cited cyber cafés, computers and phones as the main ICT services available to young people. In addition, policy makers reported that young people used the ICT services for social networking, online job searching and application, and entertainment.

The main challenges in accessing ICT services that young people face include high cost, inadequate ICT centres, lack of ICT knowledge and skills, lack of power supply and network problems. Policy makers cited computer illiteracy and inadequate ICT centres as challenges young people face in accessing ICT services.

The respondents gave recommendations as to how the challenges in accessing ICT services by the young people can be addressed. These include establishing ICT centres and provide computer training to the young people and provide affordable ICT services. The young respondents had this to say;

*“What needs to be done, on the challenge of cost, KEBS should regulate the internet prices across all cyber cafes in the country so that if it is fifty cents, it is the same across board not some people putting the prices the way they want.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Homa Bay]

Policy makers recommended creation of awareness among the young people, establishment of more ICT centres, capacity building and improvement of infrastructure as ways of addressing the challenges.

### 2.5.5 Organisations and People Addressing Youth Economic Empowerment

The key organisations that were mentioned by the young people include government agencies, NGOs, talent identification and nurturing centres and financial institutions. The main services provided by the organizations include financial services, industrial training and internships and capacity building of the youth. The young people appreciated the efforts made by organizations to address economic issues and acknowledged that the efforts would lead to increased employment opportunities with resultant positive change in the society.

### 2.5.6 Potential Areas for Employment and Income Opportunities

The respondents suggested potential areas to increase employment and income opportunities. These included agriculture, trade and industry, talent academies, fishing and education. The policy makers cited agriculture, transport sector and tourism as potential areas to increase employment and income opportunities. The young people across all age groups acknowledged that they think about their own old age and expressed their desire to save and invest for their own old age in order to get good education and have a better future. The barriers to saving and investing for old age were identified as unemployment, high expenditure on entertainment and lack of savings. The respondents recommended creation of other sources of income, improvement of banking services and sensitizing the youth on the importance of saving as ways to address the barriers.

## 2.6 Governance and Young People

The qualitative sought to establish the main governance issues affecting the young people. This section presents the findings encompassing rule of law, security situation, cohesion whether project implementers are accountable and transparent participation of the public in the planning and implementation of programmes/projects, fairness in distribution of resources and whether the results achieved with integrity and optimization of resources.

### 2.6.1 Rule of Law

With respect to rule of law, the main issues affecting the justice system, security and cohesion were discussed, the challenges that young people face with these issues and ways to address the challenges.

#### Justice System

The main prevalent cases, challenges in solving the disputes and ways of how to address these challenges were identified. The summary of findings are shown in Table 2.10

Table 2.10 Justice System

Main cases	Challenges	Ways to address challenges
Land disputes Robbery/theft Rape and sexual harassment	Corruption Long time it takes to solve cases	Promoting justice system Provision of title deeds Enforcement of law and order Addressing corruption

Land disputes, rape and sexual harassment and robbery/theft were identified as the main cases across all age groups. Policy makers cited land disputes, DSA and SGBV as the main prevalent cases in the county.

*“We also have problems related to youth where violence is involved especially in defilement for example. Defilement is very prevalent in this county. We have the defilement of young girls and boys. In fact we also have many cases of rape.”*

[KII. Administration security, Homa Bay.

The administration, council of elders and the judicial system were the most preferred ways of solving cases. Policy makers reported that council of elders/ village elders and administration systems were the most preferred ways of solving cases.

Corruption, long distances to the police station and the long time it takes to solve cases emerged as the main challenges in solving disputes. According to the policy makers corruption and the long-time taken to solve cases came out as the major challenges in solving disputes.

*“For example if a girl has been raped in the rural area, you find that the case has to be reported to the nearest police station which may be very far. They have to go to the hospital for tests and then the case has to go to court. You know the process is actually sometimes very long, expensive and very involving. So the people fear to follow the legal process which sometimes is very long and cumbersome.”*

[KII. Administration security, Homa Bay

The respondents cited the main ways for addressing the challenges in solving cases. These included addressing corruption, promoting justice system, enforcement of law and order and provision of title deeds to land owners. Promotion of equality was mentioned by the policy makers as the main way of to address the challenges encountered in handling disputes.

### **Security**

The respondents discussed about the 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.

Majority of the young respondents reported insecurity and slow response/poor performance by security personnel in some areas. However, policy makers reported that there was security in the county.

*“Here security is down. I had some case some time back and when I reported to the police, I was told I must give bribe before they can help. So if I had bribed then my case would have proceeded, but because I didn't give them a bribe they didn't do to me as it was expected of them. They just came and then the case just collapsed.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalized 15-24, Homa Bay).

The respondents from all age groups and the policy makers were in consensus that Nyumba kumi community policing and police night patrols were the main mechanisms in place to address insecurity. The main roles of young people in maintain security was said to be reporting law breakers and community policing. Policy makers reported involving youth in community policing and youth patrols as the major roles for young people in ensuring security. Corruption and poor performance by security personnel were reported as the main challenges in ensuring security.

*“When you go to report to the police, they’ll tell you that for them to come and arrest, I must fuel their vehicle. Other times when you report, you are told to bring witnesses. Not many accept to be witnesses and so the case just collapses.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalized 15-24, Homa Bay]

Inadequate funding and inadequate security personnel were mentioned by policy makers as challenges of ensuring security. The respondents identified employment of more police officers and *nyumba kumi* initiative as the main interventions to address challenges encountered in ensuring security.

### Cohesion

The respondents discussed about the challenges that affect the unity of the young people, programmes in place to promote unity and recommendations on what can be done to promote unity among the people. Key concerns expressed by respondents as affecting unity of the young people were social class disparities, hatred and enmity. Policy makers considered political differences, negative clanism, tribalism and social class disparities as the major challenges affecting unity of the young people.

The main programmes reported to be in place to promote unity were sports and public forums such as chief *barazas*. Policy makers cited equal distribution of resources as the main programmes in place to promote unity.

## 2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

With respect to transparency and accountability, the survey sought to identify the mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities and to ensure accountability and transparency.

The young people reported that media (radio, TV and print media), public forums and *barazas* and public notice boards as the main mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities in the county. Policy makers cited advertisement through print media, notice boards and radio and community meetings as the main mechanisms in place to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities.

Majority of young people reported that there are mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency. Generally, public awareness, youth involvement in policy making and taking disciplinary actions against offenders were reported by the young people and policy makers as the main intervention to improve accountability and transparency.

### 2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

This section presents findings on youth involvement in project identification, design and implementation, the roles of the young people would 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 people's involvement.

The young people reported that youth are involved during the implementation process. However the policy makers reported that youth are involved in all the stages of the project cycle.

*“Youth are involved in decision making, planning and implementation of projects in this county. They are also involved in public participation meetings....”*

[KII. Admin security, Homa Bay]

Generally, young people cited lack of information and age discrimination as the main reasons for lack of involvement by youth. In addition, young people reported that youth with disability have not been involved.

The young people preferred playing a role in project planning and implementation. Policy makers cited that young people desire to be involved in the implementation phase of the project and the tendering and procurement process.

The respondents reported that projects and programmes provide skills to the young people. Policy makers cited that projects and programmes provide employment and create income generating projects/activities for the young people.

The respondents reported that the existing opportunities does not serve those who deserve. However the policy makers reported that the existing opportunities have ensured that more youth are getting employed.

*“This county has employed 1200 ECD teachers and more than 80 percent of those that have been employed are the youth between 20-30 years.”*

[KII. County admin, Homa Bay]

The main challenges that young people reported were corruption, discrimination and poor pay and exploitation.

*“They always assume that the youth are always not well skilled so if it’s a part of managing it is always rare to get a youth managing a certain work. The young people are always not considered; they are usually neglected. The old people say youth are not ready in the first place and then they take their roles.”*

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Homa Bay]

## 2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This section presents the 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 efficacy and effectiveness in utilization of resources to meet the needs of the young people.

The young people reported that the available resources were not allocated to target the youth. Policy makers cited that targeted groups were involved fully, funds were allocated to projects targeting the youth and enforcement of rules and regulations as the mechanisms in place to ensure resources are used to achieve the expected outcomes.

The older people reported that involvement of the youth and follow up of projects can lead to improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources.

*“So I think that if there is any project in the village then that area members should be included in supervising this project to ensure that they ascertain that the road, or the power that is planned is in place. Because up there it could be reported that the money has been given and the work is on yet on the ground there is nothing. So if there are some people within the area to supervise projects then they can save the funds before they are misused.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Homa Bay].

## 2.6.5 Political Leadership

This section highlights the role that political leadership play in the management of young peoples’ affairs. The young people reported that political leaders create employment opportunities, assist to mobilize funds for education, they engage the youth in political campaigns and are involved in fundraising/donations drives. Policy makers cited that political leaders mobilize and allocate funds for youth projects.

## 2.7 Population Perspectives

The young respondents gave their views about the effect of population growth in relation to access to health services, access to education services, economic status, access to employment and participation in governance issues (security, administration etc.).

Generally, young people reported that the growing population of young people will result to congestion in health facilities and few medical personnel leading to poor health services. In addition, young people cited that disease transmission rates will increase due to the growing population of young people.

*“I think the growing population is a great threat to the health facilities. The population is growing but the health facilities does not increase in number so there is this shortage of health facilities that can supply or cater for the needs of the growing population hence you will find crowding of people in hospitals.”*

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Homa Bay]

The young respondents reported that the growing population of young people will lead to congestion in schools, inadequate learning facilities, imbalanced Teacher Student Ratio and reduction in quality of education.

*“You find that with increased numbers of pupils in schools, the population that a teacher should handle in class is exceeded, so the teacher does not bother whether they understand or not.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Homa Bay]

Generally, the young people were of the view that there will be high unemployment rates, unequal distribution of resources and high poverty levels due to the growing population of the young people.

*“There will be unemployment because many people will be lacking jobs and the rates of theft will increase because of lack of employment.”*

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Homa Bay]

Generally, the young people were of the view that there will be increased crime rates and insecurity due to the growing population of young people.

*“It leads to insecurity, if people are many you find that to manage them is not easy. Especially if they are many and unemployed, they will try to get their livelihood through illegal ways. You will find that the security is so scarce that it will not be easy to govern the big population.”*

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Homa Bay]

## 2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

As reported by the survey participants, Homa Bay has quite a number of critical health, education, economic, and governance issues that need to be addressed if the county is to reap the benefits of a demographic dividend. The county government will therefore need to rally all stakeholders to put their efforts together to position the county for the opening of the demographic window in 2046.

### Recommendations

The following are the recommendations for Homa Bay County based on the findings of this survey:

#### Health

1. The main health problems affecting young people in Homa Bay County are drug and substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy, and sexual and gender based violence. These problems threaten the future of young people in the county and therefore need to be addressed by the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders. Some of the ways that need to be employed in addressing these problems are public education on the said problems, guidance and counselling for young people, and provision of health services.
2. Sexual reproductive health information and services, including family planning, are important in helping young people make appropriate decisions and live much better lives. From the survey findings these services in the county do not meet the needs of young people because some of them are not youth and disability friendly, staff have a negative attitude towards young people, the health facilities lack the necessary equipment and supplies, and the cost of the services is high. The Ministry of Health therefore needs to re-examine the provision of these services in the county with a view of addressing the mentioned shortfalls.

#### Education

1. Drug and substance abuse, poverty, absenteeism, and teenage pregnancy are negatively affecting the performance of the county’s education sector. School dropout and poor academic performance are attributed to these factors. To address these issues, the Ministry of Education will need to partner with stakeholders, including parents. These issues should be given priority because in the long run they will affect the county’s human resource which is critical for development.

2. Availability and access to education services in the county was described as fair at the primary and secondary levels. At the tertiary level, the availability of these services was said to be low. At the same time, the survey found that there is need for the education institutions to be provided with more facilities such as laboratories and libraries. The Ministry of Education and stakeholders need to improve the availability and access to education services by addressing the mentioned issues.
3. ICT facilities and lessons in the learning institutions need to be improved so that as many students as possible can be exposed to ICT when they are still young and in school. This will enable young people to access information and services using ICT devices thereby enhancing their exposure and capacity to contribute to development.

### *Economic Development*

1. Though there are a number of interventions in the county to help young people access training opportunities and loans for business, many young people are not accessing these services due to eligibility requirements, bureaucracy, corruption, and lack of awareness. In this regard the County government needs to work with stakeholders to address these challenges and help young people access these opportunities that will contribute to employment and income generation.
2. Agriculture, trade and industry, fishing, transport, tourism, transport, and talent academies were identified as areas where the government needs to focus in creating employment and income opportunities for young people. The county government can play a facilitating role that will streamline open up these sectors for the benefit of the increasing population of young people.
3. ICT is playing an increasingly important role in socio-economic development. Homa Bay County therefore needs to enhance the availability and access of ICT services by addressing the challenges that hamper access to these services. These challenges as mentioned by the survey participants are; lack of adequate ICT knowledge and skills, lack of enough ICT centres high cost of the services, poor mobile phone network, and lack of electricity. By enhancing access and use of ICT services, the county will improve its competitiveness.
4. Child labour was mentioned as an issue of concern by the FGD participants. Children are dropping out of school and participating in the labour market mainly due to poverty, lack of school fees, and the need to earn a living. These children are mainly engaged in fishing business, hawking, charcoal burning, and domestic work. In the process of working their rights are usually infringed. The relevant authorities within the county government need to take up this matter with a view of improving the future prospects of the affected children.

### *Governance*

1. The survey found that the main cases in the county were land disputes, robbery, theft, rape and sexual harassment. In the course of pursuing justice, the main challenges encountered are corruption and the long duration to takes to settle cases. In this regard the County needs to address these issues by promoting justice, issuing title deeds, enforcing law and order, and addressing corruption. These actions will contribute to a conducive environment for development.

2. Cohesion among young people in the county, as was reported by the survey participants, is challenged by social class disparities, hatred, enmity, clanism and tribalism. In order for the young people to collectively contribute to the socio-economic development of the county, issues affecting their cohesion will need to be addressed from all dimensions including political, religious, and social.
3. Young people in Homa Bay indicated that they are hardly involved in development activities due to lack of information on on-going activities and age discrimination by the older people. They further indicated that they would like to be involved in the whole project cycle of development projects from identification, planning and implementation. Efforts therefore need to be made to ensure that young people are actively involved in development activities in the county so that they can positively exert their energies in developing the county.

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## Annex 1: County Demographic Windows

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

Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year

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

## Annex 2: Survey Personnel

### Nyanza North Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Nyanza North Region

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

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# HOMA BAY COUNTY