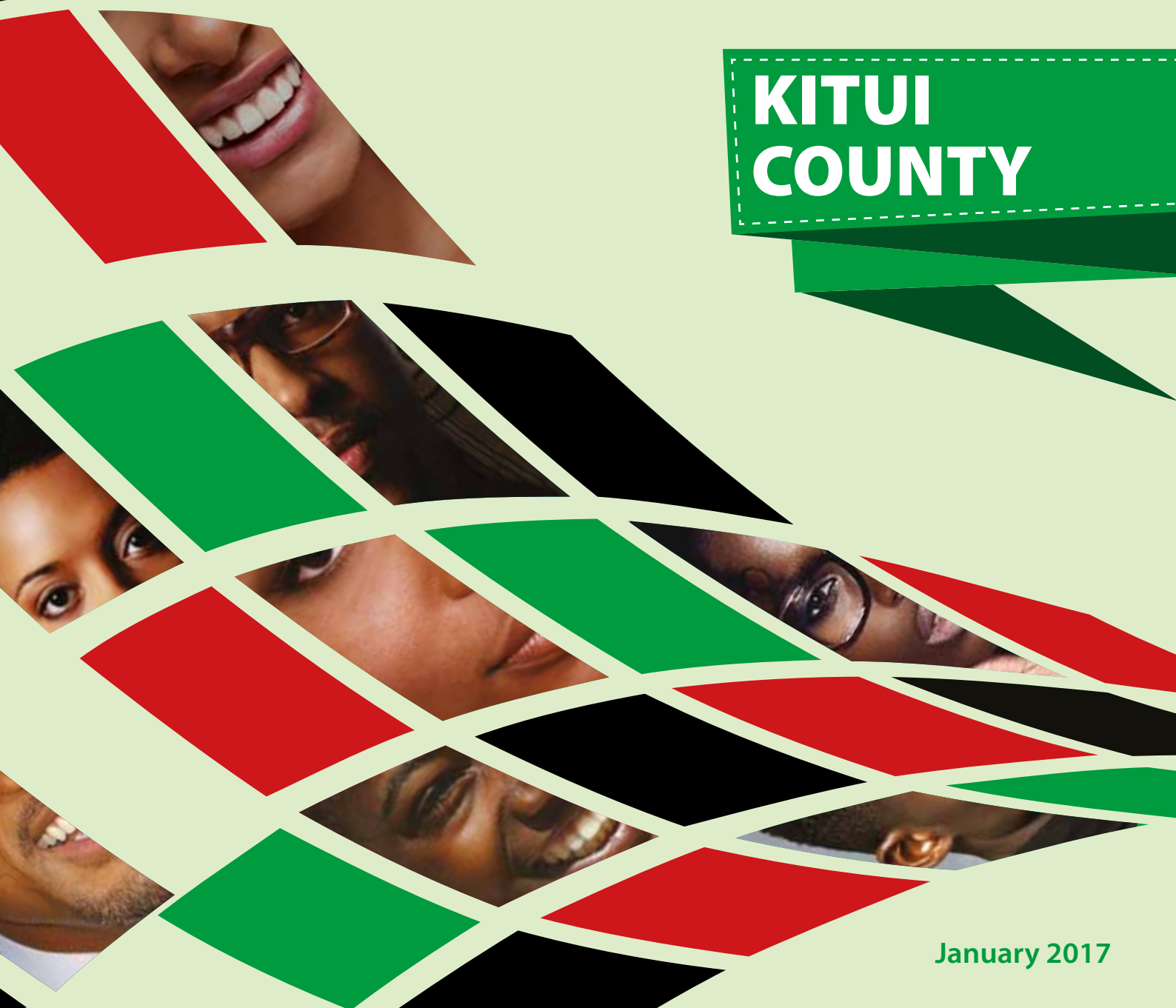




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

**KITUI  
COUNTY**



January 2017



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National Council for Population and Development  
Chancery Building, 4th Floor, Valley Road  
P.O. Box 48994-00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: 254-20-271-1600/01  
Fax: 254-20-271-6508  
Email: [info@ncpd-ke.org](mailto:info@ncpd-ke.org)  
Website: [www.ncpd-ke.org](http://www.ncpd-ke.org)

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2015 KENYA NATIONAL  
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY  
(NAYS)

**KITUI COUNTY**

January 2017



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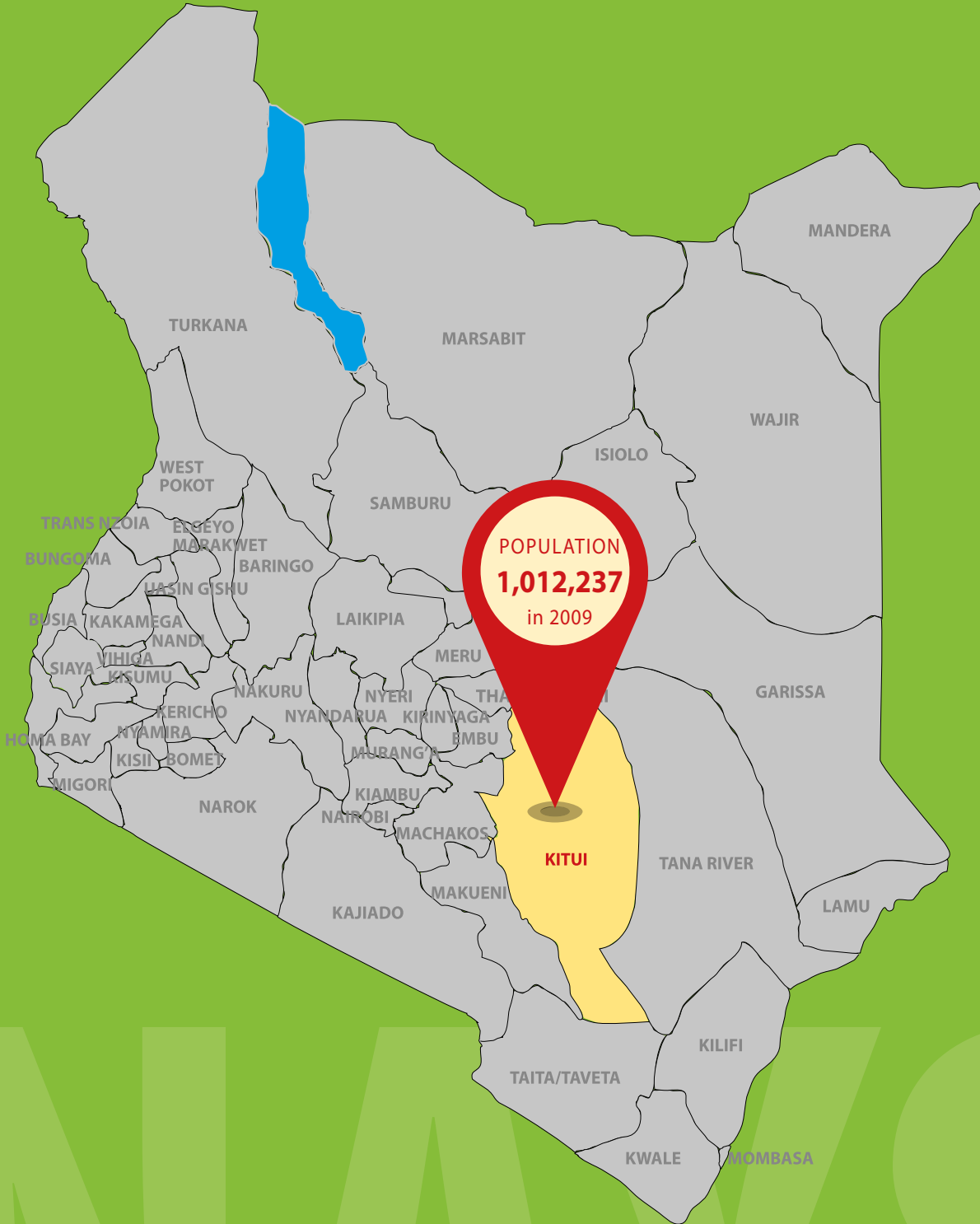
## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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.

# KITUI 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Executive Summary

The general objective of the 2015 National Adolescent and Youth Survey (NAYS) was to provide evidence of a potential for a demographic dividend and identify opportunities for investment in key sectors; health, education, economic and governance in the 47 counties in Kenya. Data was collected from young person's groups, older people groups, service providers and policy makers from the key sectors. Two approaches of data collection were used in the survey. The first method involved the analysis of secondary data to generate the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Kitui County. The second method entailed qualitative data collection using focus group discussions, in-depth and key informant interviews.

Results from the desk reviews and analysis showed that the total population of Kitui County was enumerated at 1,012,237 people in 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census. This population is projected to increase to 1,516,500 people by 2030 and to 1,964,398 people by 2050. The total fertility rate (TFR) for the county is 3.9 children per woman which is the same as the national level. The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) for the county is 57 percent compared to 58 percent nationally. The demographic window of opportunity is expected to open for the County in the year 2041. In countries that have undergone the demographic transition, evidence has shown that the window of opportunity can remain open on average of 40 years. This means that, for Kitui County, the window of opportunity will likely close by 2081. The county's HDI was recorded at 0.4806530 in 2012 compared to 0.520 nationally this means the county is performing worse than the national average which could be attributed to high levels of poverty in the County.

The qualitative survey findings show that, drug and substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS and teenage Pregnancy as the main health problems affecting youth in the county. Sexual and Gender based violence was cited an issue by both sexes. These issues are largely attributed to poverty, peer pressure, lack of knowledge and negative cultural practices. The consequences of these health problems included school dropout, death, poor health and poor mental health. Some of the ways suggested to address health problems among youth included guidance and counselling and public health education.

The issues that affect education of young person's in the County are; Drug and substance abuse, School dropout, Child labour and increasing cases of Teenage Pregnancies. To address these issues, the groups noted that, there is need for Provision of bursaries/ education funds to needy students, Guidance and counselling of young people and Law enforcement on DSA.

The main employment and income opportunities in the county were farming/agriculture, *boda boda* and casual labour. Farming/agriculture and *boda boda* were reported as main employment and income opportunities among mixed youth age (20-24 years), while casual labour was reported as a main employment and income opportunity for mixed youth age (20-24 and 25-34 years). The main issues encountered by young people in accessing income and employment opportunities are; Corruption, lack of capital, lack of knowledge and skills, and high taxation/levies.

The main reasons why under-age children in the County are engaged in gainful employments opportunities are poverty, the desire to earn a living and the need for money to pay school fees. To reduce unemployment and promote young person's empowerment, there is need for the county government to; Address/eradicate corruption, Ensure easy access to funds/loans and Sensitisation on existing government interventions that offer opportunities for young people to access and create employments.

The key barriers identified that prevent young people from investing for their old age include; huge expenses on DSA which depletes their income, less income which is not enough to save, high unemployment rates among young people and failure among young people to budget their income. To address these barriers to investment for the old age, there is need for Sensitization of young people on importance of saving for old age and encouraging young people to save for their old age in the Retirement Benefits Funds.

At the county level, young people are involved in the Budget Process, Project Identification, Design and Implementation especially after the advent of the County governance structures. To improve on young people's involvement in project process, the groups observed that; there is need to further involve young people in project design and implementation.



# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1.1 Youth in Kenya

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

### 1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

The demographic dividend refers to the accelerated economic development that a country can attain by slowing down the pace of population growth while at the same time making strategic investments in the health, education, economic, and governance sectors. The demographic dividend concept is being popularized in developing countries as a potential solution to their development challenges. In embracing this concept, Kenya modelled the demographic dividend in 2014 using the DemDiv Model that was developed by Futures Group. The modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend was supported by USAID through the Health Policy Project. Results from the model showed that Kenya could achieve the following results by 2050 through implementation of activities aimed at achieving the demographic dividend: Investments per capita will increase to about US\$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US\$ 200; Fertility levels will decline to an average of 2 children per woman from the current 4 children per woman thereby decreasing the dependency ratio: Even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (that is, 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 modeling exercise showed that Kenya could achieve accelerated socio-economic growth through targeted investments. However, it was recognized that for this to happen, each of the 47 counties would have to play a role. Unfortunately, information on the demographic dividend potential for each county and the specific activities that they each need to implement so as to benefit from this potential was largely lacking. Given the differences in the health, education, economic and governance status of the counties, it was necessary to conduct this survey to generate county specific information on the demographic dividend potential and activities that need to be implemented. With this information at hand, each county would know what they need to do to harness the potential of their youthful population.

## 1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives

### *Survey goal*

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

## Survey objectives

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

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

## 1.4 Survey Organisation

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

### 1.4.1 Pre-test

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

### 1.4.2 Trainings

The Technical Committee members were trained for three days, in February 2015, on demographic dividend and its applicability in the Kenyan context so that they could be conversant with the concept before embarking on the development of the survey tools. This enabled the Technical Committee members to develop the data collection tools that responded to the objectives of the survey.

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

## 1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation

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

### 1.5.1 Survey tools

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

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

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



## 1.5.2 Sampling

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

**Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions**

	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

## KITUI COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Background

Kitui County covers an area of 30,496.4 km<sup>2</sup> including 6,369 km<sup>2</sup> occupied by Tsavo East National park. The county shares its borders with seven counties: Machakos and Makueni counties to the west, Tana River County to the east and south-east, Taita Taveta County to the south, Embu to the north-west, and Tharaka-Nithi and Meru counties to the north. It is located between latitudes 0°10" and 3°0" south and longitudes 37°50" and 39°0" east. The County is endowed with various natural resources such as forests, permanent and seasonal rivers, hills, rocks, wildlife among others. The county has eight sub-counties; Kitui Central, Kitui West, Kitui East, Kitui South, Kitui Rural, Mwingi North, Mwingi Central and Mwingi West. It is further sub-divided into forty 40 wards. The sub-counties are administrated by the Sub-county administrators and the wards by the ward administrators.

### 2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

#### 2.2.1 Population Size and Distribution

The population size and structure for Kitui County is presented in Table 2.1

Table 2:1: Population Size and Structure for Kitui County

Table 2.1 Population Size and Structure

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	1,012,237	1,516,500	1,964,389
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	46.6%	33.9%	24.6%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	5.2%	3.6%	5.3%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	48.2%	62.5%	70.1%
Dependency Ratio	107.6	60.0	42.5
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2041		

The population for Kitui County was 1,012,237 people according to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census and it was projected to rise to 1,964,389 people in 2050. The Demographic window of opportunity for the County is expected to open in 2041, about twenty five years from now. The population of the county is quite youthful, 46.6 percent is below age 15 and a very high dependency ratio of 108. The population below age 15 is projected to decline to 34 percent in 2030 and to 25 percent in 2050, while the population in the working ages (15-64) is projected to increase to 63 percent in 2030 and to 70 percent in 2050. These combined effects will result to a decline in the dependency ratio from 107.6 to 42.5 in 2050. The population of older people above age 64 is also expected to increase to 3.6 percent in 2030 and to over 5.3 percent in 2050.

## 2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics for Kitui County

Table 2.2 summarizes the socio-economic profile of Kitui County.

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3.9
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	57.3%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	46.2%
	HIV Prevalence	4.3%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	56.8%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	94.4%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	27.8
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	15,983
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	55.1%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	19
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	48,813
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.4806530

The average number of children per woman in Kitui County (3.9) is same as the national average of 3.9 children per woman. This level of fertility can be attributed to the relatively low proportion of proportion of married women using contraception at 57.3 percent. This might explain the high population of young people in the county.

Use of unskilled delivery by mothers is one of the risk factors for infant and maternal mortality. The proportion of births attended by skilled providers in Kitui County (46.2 percent) and is remarkably lower compared to the national target of 90 percent.

The proportion of children 12-23 months who have received all basic vaccines (56.8 percent) is lower than the national target of 80 percent. The county HIV prevalence (4.3 percent) is lower than the national HIV prevalence of 6.4 percent.

The county has registered mixed results for the education sector. The Primary School Net Enrollment Rate is 94.4 percent and the Secondary School Net Enrollment Rate for the County is (55.5 percent) with over 48,315 secondary-age children out of school. This clearly means something should be done to increase enrolment in secondary schools.

The Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.481 is an indicative of the County's overall achievement in providing quality education, health care and economic opportunities. The value is lower than the national average of 0.532

## 2.3 Health Issues Affecting Young People

The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting youth in Kitui County. The thematic issues raised covered the youth, adults and marginalized groups. This section presents a summary of the findings by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main health problems affecting Youth in Makueni County, the causes for these health problems, their consequences to youth and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of information and services; the third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing health services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving health within the county.

**Table 2.3** The main Health problems affecting youth

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance abuse Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV/AIDS Teenage Pregnancy Sexual and Gender based violence(SGBV)	Poverty Peer pressure Lack of knowledge Negative cultural practices	School drop out Death Poor health Mental health	Guidance and counselling Public health education

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015.

Discussions with youth from the county identified drug and substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS and teenage Pregnancy as the main health problems affecting youth in the county. This was corroborated by key informant interviews with health workers in the facilities. Drug and substance abuse was mostly mentioned by the female youth age 10-14 and 15-19 and mixed

older people age 35-60 while STIs and HIV/AIDS was noted to be a common health problem by female youth age 10-14, mixed youth age 25-34 and mixed older people age 35-60. Sexual and Gender based violence was cited an issue by male and female youth age 15-19, mixed marginalised youth age 15-24 and mixed male youth age 20-24 and 25-34.

These health problems were attributed to poverty, peer pressure, lack of knowledge and negative cultural practices. Poverty was also mentioned as one of the reasons that youth might engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, drug and substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

The problems of drug and substance abuse, sexual and gender based violence and teenage pregnancy were noted by youth who observed the following:

One youth had this to say about teenage pregnancy:

*“This leads to some of our girls to drop out of school and lose interest in life and some even go to extent wanting to commit suicide.”*

[FGD. Male youth 15-19. Kitui County]

The consequences of these health problems included school dropout, death, poor health and poor mental health. School dropout was observed to be as a result of substance and drug abuse and teenage pregnancy; poor health, stigmatization especially if they have HIV.

Some of the ways suggested to address health problems among youth included guidance and counselling and public health education.

### 2.3.1 Access and Availability of Information and Services

The survey sought information on the youth’ perception of access to services and the availability of information to them. Table 2.4 tabulates the sources, type and usefulness of the information.

Table 2.4 Access and availability of information services

Sources of health information	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities Schools Religious Institutions	STI/HIV/SRH Health Education & Awareness	Increased knowledge Behaviour change	Media Schools/learning institutions Health Facilities

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015

Main sources of sources of information were identified as the health facilities, media and religious institutions. Out of these the most preferred sources of information are the media, schools/learning institutions and health facilities. The main type of information received included STI/HIV/SRH and

health education and awareness. This information was regarded as useful in terms of increased knowledge and behaviour change.

**Table 2.5 Access and Availability of SRH/FP Information and Services**

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Contraceptives mainly pills and condoms	Fear/embarrassment Cost of services	Create more awareness in schools and barazas, create public health awareness and guidance and counselling

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015.

The main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to youth were contraceptives mainly pills and condoms. Youth mentioned challenges in accessing these services; attributed to fear or embarrassment and the cost of these services.

One youth had this to say about the issue of fear:

*“You fear to meet with your elder may be you are given one book where you are given the medicine so you fear to meet with an elder person because they may meet with your relative, so you fear.”*

[FGD. Female youth 15-19. Kitui County]

There was also a discussion on the type of information & services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWDs) and Orphans. The services available for this group included Antiretroviral Viral Therapy (ART) and donations.

Overall the general challenges in accessing health information & services included fear/embarrassment in particular for those seeking reproductive health services and the cost of services affected access to services by youth.

One young person made the following observation:

*“The first thing when you go to the hospital they tell you bad things or insult you as they treat you, so you become disappointed to the point of not wanting to go the hospital. Another thing if you are a girl once you go there the doctor tries to seduce you and you end up feeling bad. Or when a sick person goes there they ignore him, it looks like they wait until a person is seriously ill to the point of death, they ignore you, and they do not see you are suffering.”*

[FGD. Mxed youth, marginalised, 15-24. Kitui]



Ways of addressing the general health challenges were suggested and these included creating more awareness in schools and *barazas*, creating public health awareness and guidance and counselling.

### 2.3.2 Organisations Addressing Health issues

The main organisations identified as addressing health issues in this county are health facilities under the county government and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs). These were lauded for contributing to the improvement of the health status of the community and in particular creating health awareness. Some of the organisations include: UNICEF, AMREF and Akamba Aid Fund.

One older person had this to say about organisations providing health services:

*“They are concerned about their health needs they take them to the hospital if it is malaria they take them to the hospital they don’t even want that child to be taken to just any hospital they take that upon themselves and ensure that child is treated.”*

[FGD. Older person 35-60. Makueni County]

### 2.3.3 Opportunities for Improvement in Health

Discussions participants suggested that for health services to be improved in the county there was need to create more awareness in schools and *barazas*, create public health awareness and guidance and counselling for the youth. Creating awareness and enhancing public health education would ensure that the youth receive information on good health practices and behaviour change. Participants also expressed the need for increased budgetary allocation for the health sector and enhanced partnerships with other organisations providing health services.

## 2.4 Education Issues Affecting Young People

Education is one of the pillars of Vision 2030 and hence quality education is critical in equipping youth with competencies and skills required for the achievement of Kenya’s development goals. The qualitative survey sought to establish the education issues affecting youth in Kitui County. The main thematic issues covered included main education issues and how they affect education among young people, ways of addressing the education issues, school dropout, availability and access of education services and opportunities for young people to gain skills.

## 2.4.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Youth

Table 2.6 The main education issues affecting youth

Main Education issues	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance abuse	Poverty	School drop out	Provision of bursaries/ education funds
School drop out	Peer pressure	Poor academic results and performance	Guidance and counselling
Child labour	Lack of knowledge		Law enforcement on DSA
Teenage Pregnancy	Negative cultural practices		

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015

Discussions with youth from the county identified drug and substance abuse, school dropout, child labour and teenage pregnancy as the main education issues affecting youth in the county. This was corroborated by key informant interviews with other key education stakeholders in the county. Drug and substance abuse was mentioned across all age groups as a key issue affecting education in the county. Child labour was identified as an issue in nearly all age groups while teenage pregnancy was identified as an issues by male youth age 10-14, female youth age 15-19, mixed youth (25-34) and mixed marginalised young people (15-24 years). School dropout was mentioned as an issue by male youth (10-14 years), female youth (15-19 years), mixed marginalised youth (15-24 years) and mixed youth (20-34 years).

These education issues were attributed to poverty, peer pressure, lack of knowledge and negative cultural practices. Poverty was also mentioned as one of the reasons why the youth drop out of school, engage in child labour and also lead to teenage pregnancies.

This is what one youth had to say about school dropout:

*“Nowadays education is money. And you don’t have money, will you get it? , so you are forced to get into things that are not good. And you drop out. You are forced to stay at home.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalised youth, 15-24. FGD, Kitui County]

The consequences of these education issues included school dropout, poor academic results and performance. School dropout was linked to poverty/lack of school fees, drug and substance abuse and teenage pregnancy for both primary and secondary schools. Participants suggested that education issues could be addressed through provision of bursaries/education funds, guidance and counselling and enforcement of laws dealing with drug and substance abuse.

## 2.4.2 Availability and Accessibility of Education Services

Discussions with various groups show that youth in the county do not experience problems accessing primary and secondary schools. These educational facilities were noted to be available and within the reach of youth in the county. However, young people felt that some of the courses taught at the tertiary institutions were irrelevant and not marketable. These views were expressed by mixed youth (and 25-34 years). But some of the youth (mixed youth, 20-24, 25-34 years) and mixed older people (35-60 years) felt that the courses taught at the tertiary institutions were relevant.

One youth had this to say about the relevance of courses taught:

*“I will answer the way I have understood, you might have trained as a teacher, look for a job and don’t get, you get another job and take it because you want money.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth 25-34, Kitui County]

## 2.4.3 Opportunities for Young People to Gain Skills

Young people in this county felt that they would be able to gain appropriate skills through apprenticeship and internship. These views were expressed by mixed young people (20-24 years) and mixed young people (25-34 years). They felt that apprenticeship and internship enables them to become employable because of the skills they gained.

This was supported by one young person who had this to say:

*“Then others I have seen they have worked in these ministries, you find if there is a vacancy in that section, they are considered first.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth 25-34, Kitui County]

Another young person had this observation:

*“Obviously because there are... so many schools here. There are many primary and secondary schools but there are no colleges to send people to. Now these children have to go to other colleges... yes.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth 20-24, Kitui County]

## 2.4.4 Organisations Addressing Educational Issues

The main organisations identified as addressing educational issues in this county are government of Kenya, county government, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and religious institutions. These

are lauded for contributing to the improvement of the quality of education of the community. Some of the organisations include CDF, World vision, Equity bank, Red Cross and Kalonzo foundation.

### 2.4.5 Opportunities for Young People to Gain Skills

The groups noted that, there are few attachments, capacity building, and mentorship and internship opportunities for young people to gain skills. The available opportunities are not enough to take care of the huge needs of young people to gain skills in different fields of professionalism.

### 2.4.6 Relevance of Courses and the Labour Market Requirements

On the relevance of the courses taught in schools and the labour market requirements, the groups had positive views. Most of the groups noted that, the courses are relevant and marketable. In particular, they observed that, trainees from the colleges and institutions are absorbed by various institutions. They noted that the content is relevant and the problem is only the limited opportunities and too demanding requirements for them to be employed. One of the participants in an FGD with young people noted that:

*“... I can only say that the job market is too demanding but what we learn in the institution is okay.”*

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

### 2.4.7 Opportunities for Investing in Education and Training

Discussions with participants suggested that for education and training services to be improved in the county there was need to employ more teachers and conduct public/education awareness. The need for more teachers was expressed by mixed youth (15-19 and 25-34 years). Female youth (15-19 years) and mixed older people were of the view that more public awareness was required to improve on the quality of education and training offered in our institutions. Lack of enough teachers has been blamed for the deterioration in the quality of education offered in primary and secondary schools. Increased enrolment has also stretched the available infrastructure in our educational facilities.

One youth had this to say about teachers:

*“to add the teachers because you can find that in a school which is very old has only 3 teachers employed by the government.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth 15-19, Kati County]

## 2.5 Economic Issues Affecting Young People

The survey sought to establish economic issues affecting youth in Kitui County. The thematic issues covered the youth, adults and marginalized groups. This section presents a summary of the findings by sub-themes. The main sub-themes covered included: main employment and income opportunities, challenges in accessing employment and income opportunities, economic activities young people engaged in and interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment.

### 2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The main employment and income opportunities for young people in the county were farming/agriculture, *boda boda* and casual labour. Farming/agriculture and *boda boda* were reported as main employment and income opportunities among mixed youth age (20-24 years), while casual labour was reported as a main employment and income opportunity for mixed youth age (20-24 and 25-34 years).

### 2.5.2 Challenges in Accessing Employment and Income Opportunities

Discussions with young people in the county revealed that the main challenges in accessing employment and income opportunities were corruption, lack of capital, lack of knowledge and skills, and high taxation/levies. Corruption and lack of capital were cited as a major challenges in accessing employment and income opportunities by mixed youth age (20-24 and 25-34 years) while lack of knowledge and skills was observed as a major obstacle in accessing employment and income opportunities by mixed youth (20-24 years). High taxation/levies were noted as a challenge by mixed young person's age (25-34 years).

This is what one young person had to say about corruption:

*“Ok. There is another issue I wanted to mention. There is the issue of... corruption mainly. You find government officials are brought there, if you operate a boda boda they accuse you of many small but bad issues, mere cases like your motorbike is faulty and once you are taken to the station you are charged five thousand shillings so that it can be released... even when the motorbike does not have a problem.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth 20-24, Kitui County]

### 2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People are Engaged In

The main economic activities that young people are engaged in, main challenges that they face and possible solutions to the challenges are summarised in Table 2.7.

Table 2:7 Economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities	Challenges encountered	How to address the challenges
Casual labour/manual labour	Poor pay and exploitation	Create employment
Farming(livestock, crops & poultry farming)	Harassment by authority or employer	Provide government aid/ financial support
Domestic workers	Financial constraints/lack of capital	Enforcement of child laws/ child labour
Boda boda	Sexual harassment and abuse	
Business/Trade& Industry		
Herding		

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015.

Discussions with youth from the county identified casual labour/manual labour, farming (livestock, crops and poultry farming), domestic workers, *boda boda* and business/Trade & Industry and herding as the main economic activities that the youth were engaged in. The youth also identified the main challenges that they encounter in the course of engaging in economic activities. These were: poor pay and exploitation, harassment by authority or employer, financial constraints/lack of capital and sexual harassment and abuse. For the youth to overcome these challenges, the young people cited the need for more employment opportunities for young people, the need for the government to provide financial support to young people and also the enforcement of child laws to ensure that children do not engage in child labour at the expense of their education.

The findings showed that young people of school going age also engage in economic activities. They observed that they poverty, the desire to earn a living and need for money to pay school fees were the main reasons why they involved themselves in economic activities.

This is what one young person had to say: let's say for example a girl is employed as maid and she breaks the cup so that employer takes the salary and says it is for paying that cup. FGD, Female youth, 10-14. Kitui County.

Another young person observed the following:

*“I would say according to my experience, after staying with people, you find that if it is a girl seeking a job, when you go there you will not have to pay, but you must entertain the boss... yes.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalised youth 15-24, Kitui County]

An older person observed that:

*“For example when they do such jobs like digging furrows, and they are working for an individual we have the knowledge that some people are never paid all their dues. And sometimes they stay with your money for long so and that is a challenge.”*

[FGD, Mixed older people, 35-60. Kitui County]

## 2.5.4 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Interviews with young people in the county identified main interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment as shown in Table 2.8

Table 2:8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways to address these challenges
Uwezo fund	Corruption	Address/eradicate corruption
Youth Development fund	Lack of information/lack of intervention awareness	Ensure easy access to funds/loans
Women Enterprise fund	Program restrictions/bureaucracy	Sensitisation on the interventions
NYS	Fear of loans	
AGPO		

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015.

Discussions with youth from the county identified Uwezo fund, Youth development fund, women enterprise fund, National Youth Service and AGPO as the main interventions and programmes that address youth unemployment. But, the young people noted they faced the challenges of corruption, lack of information/lack of awareness on the existing interventions and bureaucracy in accessing these interventions. In order to address these challenges the young people felt that there was need to address issues around corruption, ensure easy access to funds/loans and also sensitise young people on the existing interventions.

The main benefits of these interventions to young people were provision of financial support and employment, improvement of the economic status of young people and also improvement of education and/or knowledge and skills of young people.

A young person noted the following:

*“they go and recruit ... (inaudible) even this police recruitment, you go there and run well but you hear someone paid money somewhere and you are cut off.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalised youth 15-24, Kitui County]

One young person had this to say about Uwezo fund:

*“No because they don’t know about what the Uwezo Fund does to people. They have not been educated about Uwezo Fund.”*

[FGD. Female youth, 15-19. Kitui County]

Another youth had this to say:

*“And also knowledge of how they can get. If it’s the loans for the youths, they are at specific place; maybe others don’t know they are there.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth, 25-34. Kitui County]

## 2.5.5 Availability and Access of ICT Services to Young People

The main ICT services available to young people in this county are summarised in Table 2.9

Table 2:9 Availability and access o ICT services to young people

Main ICT services available	Challenges in accessing ICT services	Ways to address these challenges
Telephone/mobile/phones Television Radio Internet	Cost Inadequate operational skills Inadequate ITC centres/ITC equipment Power supply	Provide computers in schools/ provide ITC equipment Establish ITC centres Make ITC services affordable Provide training in ICT

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015.

Discussions with youth from the county identified telephones, television, radio and internet as the main ICT services available. Young people cited some of the main challenges they encounter in accessing ICT services as the cost, inadequate operational skills, inadequate ITC Centres and lack of power. In order to address these challenges the young people felt that there was need to provide computers in schools, establish ICT centres, make ICT services affordable and also provide training in ICT. The main types of information sought by young people were job adverts, social networking and news.

A young person had this to say:

*“That one is a challenge because of electricity, you may just be sitting there and the charge drains from your phone and there is nowhere you can charge your phone, so in that you won’t get the information.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60, Kitui County]

An older person noted that:

*“TVs are not many but almost all homes have radios...and those who have phones there are some of them have radios.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60. Kitui County]



## 2.5.6 Organisations Addressing Youth Economic Empowerment

The main organisations addressing youth empowerment in the county are government and financial institutions/microfinance institutions. These organisations provide financial services and educational support. Their main focus is to create public awareness on economic opportunities available to young people and also offer employment opportunities to young people.

## 2.5.7 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

The main potential areas identified by young people to increase employment and income opportunities for young people in this county were agriculture, trade and industry and investment in education.

One older person had this to say:

*“If the government can construct many dams for us people can plant things like vegetables and everyone becomes busy.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, Kitui County]

## 2.5.8 Savings and Investment for Old Age

Various groups (young and older) were asked if young people are concerned about investments for their old age. The various groups especially the young people had varied opinion on their investment for the old age. Asked whether they think about their own old age, they noted that their expectations is that all will be well for them during old age regardless of decisions they make in their early ages. Other groups especially of the older people noted that, young people are pre-occupied with DSA and therefore, they do not have time to think about their future since they have lost hope in life. One of the participants noted that;

*“There are those who have taken a lot of bhang and other things they don’t see any meaning in life, so you find that even school he doesn’t want to go and it is not because of lack of money, you take a child to school and he refuses for no reason, so that one does think of his future.”*

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

On asking whether young People think about Savings and Investment for their Own Old Age, most of the groups observed that, Inadequate Earnings or Lack of Money for Savings prevents them to even starting thinking of investing for their old age.

Some of the key barriers identified that prevent young people from investing for their old age include; huge expenses on DSA which depletes their income, less income which is not enough to save, high unemployment rates among young people and failure among young people to budget their income.

*“Some youth like these who operate motor bikes have opened accounts they work and if he gets 400 he saves 200 in his account. Those I see they are thinking but there are some who don’t think because they go to work and when they get money they go to buy alcohol, the rest he buys bhang, and if it’s a man he sleeps with women (Prostitution).”*

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

To address these barriers to investment for the old age, there is need for Sensitization of young people on importance of saving for old age and encouraging young people to save for their old age in the Retirement Benefits Funds.

## 2.6 Governance and Young People

The survey sought to establish governance issues affecting youth in Kitui County. The main sub-themes covered included: justice system, security situation, programmes that promote unity, mechanism for accountability and transparency, involvement of young people in projects and programmes and role of political leadership in management of youth affairs.

### 2.6.1 Rule of Law

The key issues covered in this section are the prevalence of cases, security and cohesion. Table 2.10 shows most prevalent cases, challenges encountered and how to address the challenges.

Table 2:10 Justice System

Main cases	Challenges in solving cases	Ways to address challenges
Robbery/theft	Corruption	Address corruption
Land disputes	Lack of justice/injustice	Promote justice
Rape		

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015.

The most prevalent cases are robbery/theft and rape as captured in the discussions. The respondents cited corruption and lack of justice as the main challenges encountered in their quest to have the cases solved. The ways suggested for addressing the challenges were to address issues of corruption and also promotion of justice for all.

One youth made this observation regarding injustice:

*“The ones who are being undermined, we are not speaking out. It’s a challenge ...Because you find they are undermining you alone so you keep quiet.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalised youth, 15-24. Kitui County]

## Security

Security is an important ingredient of socio-economic development. Majority of the respondents across all the age groups cited insecurity as one of the challenges facing the county and only a few in the younger ages felt that there was security. They observed that insecurity was exacerbated by corruption and inadequate security personnel.

Majority of respondents across all age groups were of the view that the *nyumba kumi* initiative was the single most important intervention to curb insecurity. Community policing was also suggested as alternative intervention to resolve the issue of insecurity. Community policing was mentioned as an alternative intervention by mixed marginalised young people age 15-24 and mixed older people age 35-60. These sentiments were also supported by the key informant who noted that *nyumba kumi* initiative was rolled out in the whole county and the county has embraced community policing.

This is what one female youth had to say about insecurity:

*“Security is low because, because eeh... for example police are very ignorant and they usually prefer to corruption, but they are been bribed, those who have money and those who are poor they feel they have been...”*

[FGD. Female youth, 15-19. Kitui County]

The role of young people in maintaining security was suggested to be reporting suspicious situations, community policing and reporting law breakers.

## Cohesion

The unity of a county is important for the achievement of its development goals. Young people cited social class disparities as the greatest threat to the unity of young people. The issue of social class disparity was noted by male and female young people age 15-19 as a threat to the unity of the young people.

One youth had this to say about social class disparity:

*“They have no unity in most cases it is like poverty levels you can see a girl who in their home place they are rich and the one is poor. The rich person ignores the poor person.”*

[FGD. Female youth, 15-19. Kitui County]

The main programmes in the county for promoting unity were cited as sports and formation of youth groups. The issue of sports was mentioned by male young people age 15-19, mixed young people age 25-34 years and mixed older people age 35-60.

## 2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

This section focuses on the mechanisms that have been put in place for transparency and accountability in the county

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

The main sources of information for young people on planned and ongoing activities in the county are community meeting/public forums/barazas, media and service delivery charter boards/notice. Community meetings were cited as a source by female youth age 15-19, mixed marginalised youth age 15-24, mixed young people age 25-34 and mixed older people age 35-60. The media was mentioned as a source by male and female youth age 15-19 and mixed youth age 25-34.

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

Discussions with various groups were of the view that disciplinary action was the best way to ensure accountability and transparency. This was cited by female youth age 15-19, mixed youth age 20-24 and mixed older people age 35-60. They felt that the only way of improving transparency and accountability was to enforce disciplinary action and also create public awareness about the need for transparency and accountability. The need to enforce disciplinary action was expressed by nearly all young people across all ages while mixed marginalise youth age 15-24 and mixed youth age 20-24 and 25-34 were in support of creating public awareness about the need for transparency and accountability. However, a section of young people felt that there was no mechanism for ensuring transparency and accountability in the county.

One older person made this observation:

*“They must step aside for investigation and when it’s through if they didn’t have any mistake they are reinstated and if you had a mistake you are sacked.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60. Kitui County]

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

This focuses on the involvement of young people in project budgeting, planning and implementation.

### *Youth involvement in budget process, project identification, design and implementation*

The young people noted that they were not involved in the project implementation and their participation was only limited to the provision of casual labour for the project. Female young people age 15-19, mixed marginalised youth age 15-24 and mixed youth age 20-24 mentioned that they were involved in projects to provide casual labour.

### *Roles young people like to play in projects and programmes*

The young people mentioned that they would like to do casual work in the projects and programmes and this was mentioned by male and female youth age 15-19. Those who mentioned that they wanted to be involved in the project process were male and female youth age 15-19 and mixed youth age 20-24 and 25-34. Mixed youth age 20-24 and 25-34 and mixed older people age 35-60 mentioned that they would like the youth to be given casual jobs in the projects and programmes. The main benefits of young involvement in projects and programmes as casual labourers is the money they earn which improves their livelihood.

One older person observed that:

*“If it’s like in a project to make roads, lets the youths be employed to make the roads.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60, Kitui County]

### *How existing opportunities ensure they serve those who deserve*

Discussions with various groups revealed that there were mechanisms for ensuring that existing opportunities serve those who deserve them. This is done through involvement of people with disabilities in projects and programmes. The issues of involvement of people with disabilities was cited by mixed marginalised youth age 15-24, mixed youth age 25-34 and mixed older people, age 35-60.

### *Challenges young people face during their involvement in project implementation*

Main challenges experienced by young people face during their involvement in project and programme implementation included; lack of information, poor pay/exploitation and lack of skills/knowledge. Lack of information was noted among mixed youth age 20-24 while poor pay was mentioned mainly by male youth age 15-19, mixed marginalised youth age 15-24 and mixed youth age 20-24. The issue of lack of skills/knowledge was cited by male youth age 15-19 and mixed marginalised youth age 15-24.

Discussions revealed that involvement of young in projects can be improved through creation of awareness and mentorship programmes. The issues of awareness creation was mentioned by mixed youth age 15-19 and mixed marginalised youth age 15-24. Mentorship programmes were mostly cited by female and male youth age 15-19.

One youth had this to say:

*“Corruption, you find that you are given a tender today, but the term of the tender are changed overnight because of corruption. When you come the following day you find someone else has been awarded the tender after bribing these in charge.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth, 20-24. Kitui County]

## 2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

### *How available resources are allocated to target the young people*

Young people noted that allocated resources do not address the needs of the youth and that in addition, they are discriminated against. They observed that this can be corrected by involving the young people during the budgeting process. This view was mainly expressed by mixed young people age 25-34.

The groups suggested that in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilisation of resources, the youth should be involved and a clear follow up mechanism established to monitor the utilization of resources. These views were mainly expressed by mixed young people age 20-24 and mixed older persons age 35-60.

One older person had this to say:

*“They should this , if this jobs have come to the chiefs office, he should put it on the notice board, and announces to the youth they come and assess the jobs they elect themselves and they do all those jobs.”*

[FGD. Mixed old people, 35-60. Kitui County]

*“Another thing is that priority should be given to the youth when providing courses, for instance if there is training for plant operators. Youth should be given the first priority.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth, 20-24. Kitui County]

## 2.7 Political Leadership

### *Role political leadership play in management of youth affairs*

The political leadership especially at the county level was noted for their role in creating more employment opportunities, allocation of funds to education and fund raising. The issues of creation of employment was cited by male and female youth age 15-19 while issues pertaining to allocation of resources to the education sector were mentioned by male and female age 15-19 and mixed youth age 20-24 and mixed older people age 35-60. Fund raising was cited by female youth age 15-19, mixed youth age 20-24 and mixed older people age 35-60.

Participants were of the view that an increase in population increases would lead to high crime rate because the young people have no jobs.

## 2.8 Conclusion and Recommendation

The results of the survey show that the county has made some progress in health, education, economy and governance sectors. However, a number of concerns need to be addressed in these sectors for the county to take full advantage of the demographic window of opportunity which opens twenty five years from today. In the health sector, there is need to tackle the issues of STIs/HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse, sexual and gender based violence, access to family planning, and maternal and child health issues among young people. For the education sector, the issues of drug and substance abuse, school dropout, child labour, teenage pregnancies, need for more schools and teachers and equipping learners with appropriate and skills need to be addressed.

In the economic sector, the key issues that need to be addressed include; more employment opportunities, corruption, lack of capital for young people, lack of knowledge and skills, high taxation/levies for small businesses, poor pay, sexual harassment and abuse, availability and access of ICT services. The main issues that require attention in the governance sector are; promotion of justice, insecurity, promotion of cohesion, transparency and accountability, and involvement of young people in project and programme design and implementation.

### Recommendations

The following are the key recommendations for Kitui County based on the findings of the survey.

#### *Health sector*

1. Need to invest in appropriate interventions and strategies to tackle the issues of drug and substance abuse, STIs/HIV/AIDS, sexual and gender based violence among young people.
2. Increase budgetary allocation for family planning to ensure access and availability of family planning.
3. Need for allocation of more resources in maternal and child health programmes so as to increase number of deliveries by skilled birth attendants and the proportion of children fully vaccinated.
4. Increase public awareness on health issues especially among young people in schools and through public *barazas*.
5. Intensify guidance and counselling on health issues among young people.

#### *Education sector*

1. Ministry of education and other stakeholders should address the issues of drug and substance abuse among school going youth.
2. Address/eradicate corruption in all sectors.

3. County governments should provide more financial support/bursaries to school going youth to minimise school dropouts.
4. Appropriate interventions should be put in place to ensure that the large number of out of school teenagers are taken back to school.
5. Child acts and other relevant legislations should be enforce to eradicate child labour.
6. Guidance and counselling should be intensified in schools to address the issue of teenage pregnancies.
7. There is need to build more schools and post more teachers to schools to cater for the increasing number of young people that require education.
8. County government in conjunction with the national government should invest in more technical/ vocation training institutions that provide relevant skills and knowledge to young people.

### *Economic sector*

1. Intensify efforts to create more employment opportunities for young people.
2. Provide young people with ease access to financial resources to do business.
3. Address the issue of high taxes/levies for small businesses.
4. Ensure fair compensation for work done by young people.
5. Address the issue of sexual harassment and abuse of young people.
6. Provide affordable, accessible and quality ICT services to young people.

### *Governance sector*

1. Promote justice for all including the marginalised in the county.
2. Ensure there is adequate security in the county.
3. Promote cohesion and peaceful co-existence among all groups in the county.
4. Ensure transparency and accountability in the management of county affairs
5. Involve young people in project design and implementation.



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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

### Lower Eastern Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Lower Eastern Region

Counties	Technical Committee Member	County Coordinator/ Supervisor	Research Assistants	Data Clerk
Kitui	Josephine Mwangi	Victoria Mutiso	Peter M. Musyimi	Grace Njeri Kariuki
Makueni	Dr. Andrew Mutuku		Stellamaris Mumbua	
Machakos				

### Report Authors

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

Table A2.2 Report authors

County Reports	Author	Institution
Kitui	Andrew Mutuku (Dr)	Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI)
Makueni	Andrew Mutuku (Dr)	Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI)
Machakos	Andrew Mutuku (Dr)	Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI)

## Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants

### Steering Committee Members

1. Dr. Josephine Kibaru-Mbae (NCPD - Chairperson)
2. Cecilia Kimemia (UNFPA)
3. Dr. Eliya Zulu (AFIDEP)
4. Dr. Francis Obare (Population Council)
5. Agnes Koori (Ministry of Education Science and Technology)
6. Dr. Patrick Amoth (Ministry of Health)
7. Dr. Anne Khasakhala (Population Studies and Research Institute)
8. David Mbote (Health Policy Project – Futures Group)
9. James M. Munyu (Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services)
10. Margaret Mwangi (NCPD)
11. William Ochola (NCPD)
12. Peter Nyakwara (NCPD)
13. MacDonald Obudho (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics)
14. Fahad Muthee (Ministry of ICT)

### Technical Committee Members

1. George Kichamu (NCPD - Chairperson)
2. Ezekiel Ngure (UNFPA)
3. Bernard Onyango (AFIDEP)
4. Eunice Mueni (AFIDEP)
5. Vane Lumumba (NCPD)
6. Dr. Andrew Mutuku (Population Studies and Research Institute)
7. Phares Mugo (Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis)
8. Dr. Jeanne Patrick (Ministry of Health)
9. Hambulle Mohamed (Ministry of Health)
10. Lissel Mogaka (Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services)
11. Melap Sitati (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)
12. Josephine Mwangi (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)

cont.

### Technical Committee Members (cont.)

13. Patrick Muchai (National Youth Service)
14. Simon Mwangi (Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs)
15. Corazon Ayoma (Family Health Options Kenya)
16. Francis Kundu (NCPD)
17. Mary Kuira (National Organisation for Peer Educators)
18. Catherine Ndei (NCPD)
19. Irene Muhunzu (NCPD)
20. Alex Juma (NCPD)
21. Michael Oruru (NCPD)
22. Reinhard Rutto (NCPD)

### County Population Coordinators

1. Millicent Oluteyo (Central)
2. Janet Lunayo (South Rift)
3. Maurice Oduor (Nyanza South)
4. Sammy Tanui (Nyanza North)
5. Margaret Mwaita (Coast)
6. Beatrice Okundi (Eastern North)
7. Enoch Obuolo
8. Bernard Kiprotich (Western)
9. Victoria Mutiso (Eastern South)
10. Ken Lwaki (North Eastern)
11. Moses Ouma (North Rift)
12. Margaret Wambui (Nairobi)

### Report Editor

1. Prof Lawrence Ikamari (Population Studies and Research Institute)







National Council for Population and Development

PO Box 48994 - GPO, Nairobi 00100, Kenya

Tel: 254 20 271 1600/01

Fax: 254 20 271 6508

Email: [info@ncpd-ke.org](mailto:info@ncpd-ke.org)

[www.ncpd-ke.org](http://www.ncpd-ke.org)

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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**KITUI COUNTY**