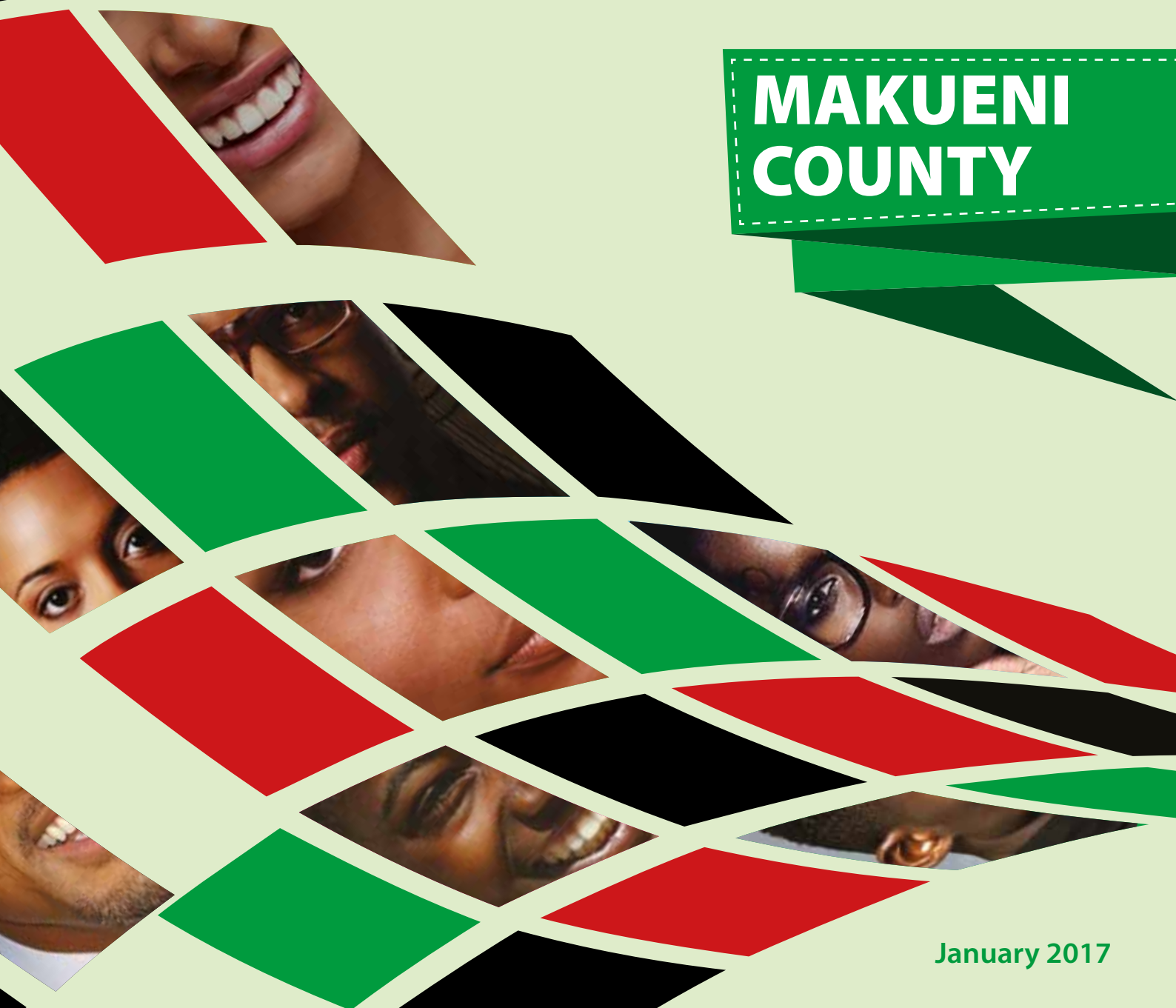




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

**MAKUENI COUNTY**



January 2017



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2015 KENYA NATIONAL  
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY  
(NAYS)

**MAKUENI COUNTY**

January 2017



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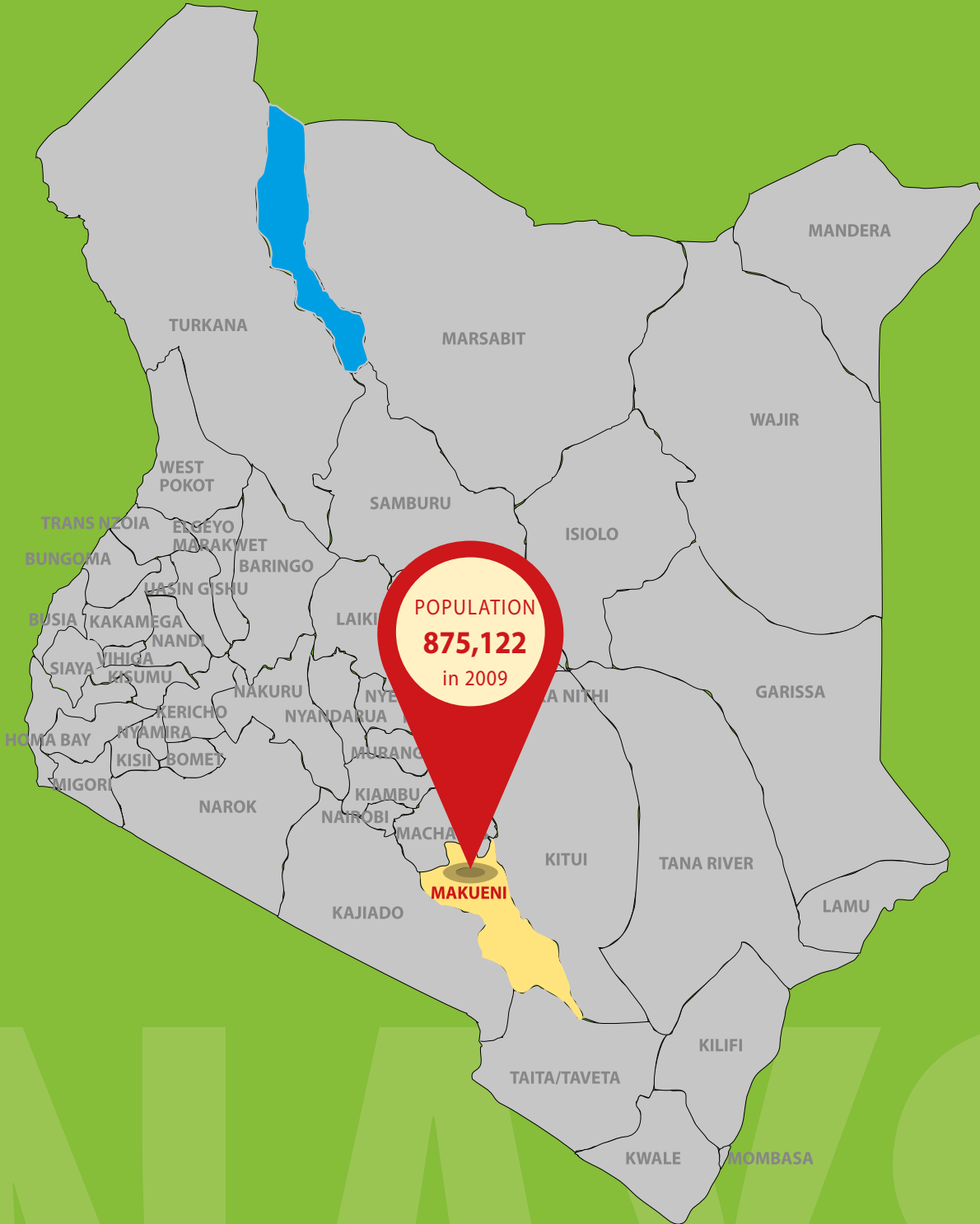
## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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.

# MAKUENI 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 Makueni County profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey conducted by the national council for population 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 the demographic, health, education, economic and governance indicators which are the main sectors whose performance impact on building a county that would be responsive to the young people.

Makueni County shows a demographic profile that presents a youthful population comprising 44.2 percent of the population aged below fifteen years according to the 2009 Population and Housing Census. The Demographic window of opportunity for the County is projected to open in 2035. The county should invest in the young people now in order to harness the benefits associated with a youthful population. Therefore, higher investment will have to be made including education, health and in accelerating the creation of employment opportunities.

The fertility rate of the Makueni County of 3.3 children per woman is slightly lower than that of the nation, thus showing the County will experience less future population pressure. In the health sector, the county has done a lot in ensuring accessed to health medical facilities are maintained. Despite of all the efforts made by the county in accessible health care system, many challenges are still experience in the county. Main challenges affecting young people health include, drug and substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). 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 why some youth engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, drug and substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

The main challenges facing the education young people in the county include are drug and substance abuse, lack of school fees absenteeism of teachers and students, child labour and teenage pregnancy. The high prevalence of child labor and its contribution to in absenteeism in schools ails the education sector. These issues affect the level of participation in education and school performance. They were attributed to poverty, peer pressure and drug and substance abuse. Ways proposed to address the education issues include; establishment of a system for competence based assessment to enable students acquire right skills, knowledge and attitudes, expand infrastructure and access to all levels of education and comply with Basic Education Act.

The county's Human Development Index is 0.48 which is lower than the national average, indicating more has to be done to improve the quality of life in the county. The main employment and income opportunities for young people in the county are farming/ agriculture, *boda boda* and casual labour which are the main employment and income opportunity for youth age (20-24 years). Because of this situation, the youth perceive corruption, lack of skills, crime, lack of capital and poor service delivery as issues that must be ensured to realize potentiality in job opportunities.

In terms of governance, the most prevalent cases that affect young people in the county are robbery/theft, land disputes and rape as reported in the survey. Corruption and lack of justice are the main challenges encountered in the quest to have the cases solved. The ways of addressing these challenges includes addressing the issues of corruption and also promotion of justice for all.



# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1.1 Youth in Kenya

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

### 1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

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

### 1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million 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 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 year olds. Given the survey objectives, the young people responded to issues on health, education, economic, and governance that touched on their daily lives. The older age groups (35-60 years) gave their perceptions on health, education, economic, and governance as it relates to the young people. In order to triangulate the information collected, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) were used to collect information from key informants and service providers respectively. The KIIs

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.5.3 Data Collection

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

## MAKUENI COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Background

Makueni County covers an area of 8,034.7 Km<sup>2</sup>. The County borders several counties; Kajiado to the West, Taita Taveta to the South, Kitui to the East and Machakos to the North. It lies between Latitude 1° 35' and 30 00 South and Longitude 37°10' and 38° 30' East. The County is currently divided into nine sub-counties and twenty five divisions. The sub counties are Makueni, Kilungu, Mukaa, Kibwezi, Kathonzweni, Makindu, Mbooni East, Mbooni West and Nzau. There are six parliamentary constituencies, namely Kaiti, Makueni, Kibwezi East, Kibwezi West, Mbooni and Kilome. There are 30 county assembly wards. The major physical features in Makueni County include the volcanic Chyulu hills in Kibwezi West Constituency, Mbooni Hills in Mbooni constituency and Kilungu Hills in Kaiti constituency. The main river in the county is Athi River, which is perennial and fed by tributaries such as Kambu, Kiboko, Kaiti, Thwake and Mtito Andei. Tsavo National park which lies in Kibwezi West Constituency is considered as one of the world's biodiversity strongholds.

### 2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

#### 2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

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

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

Demographic indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	875,122	1,226,380	1,511,762
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	44.2%	30.6%	23.0%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	4.1%	4.3%	6.4%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	51.7%	65.1%	70.6%
Dependency Ratio	94	54	42
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2035		

The population for Makueni County was 875,122 according to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census and it was projected to rise to 1,511,762 in 2050. The Demographic window of opportunity for the County is projected to open in 2035, about nineteen years from now. The population of the county is youthful, 44 percent is below age 15 and a high dependency ratio of 94. The population below age 15 is projected to decline to 31 percent in 2030 and to 23 percent in 2050, while the population in the working ages (15-64) is projected to increase to 65 percent in 2030 and to 71 percent in 2050. These combined effects will result to a decline in the dependency ratio from 94 to 42 in 2050. The population of older people above age 64 is also projected to increase to 4 percent in 2030 and to over 6 percent in 2050.

## 2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics for Makueni County

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

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Makueni County

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3.3
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	80.3%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	54.6%
	HIV Prevalence	5.6%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	89.7%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	95.3%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	29.3
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	11,268
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	85.5%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	20.5
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	12,659
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.4801437

The average number of children per woman in Makueni County (3.3) is slightly lower than the national average of 3.9 children per woman. This low fertility can be attributed to the high proportion of proportion of married women using contraception at 80.3 percent. But, the high population of young people is the result of the large proportion of women in the childbearing years.

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 Makueni County (55 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 (90 percent) is higher than the national target of 80 percent. The county HIV prevalence (5.6 percent) is almost as high as the national HIV prevalence of 6 percent.

The county has registered good indicators for the education sector. The Primary School Net Enrolment Rate is 95.3 percent and similarly, the Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate for the County is (85.5 percent) with over 12,659 secondary-age children out of school.

The Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.480 is an indicative of the County's overall achievement in providing quality education, health care and economic opportunities. The value is slightly lower than the national average of 0.532.

## 2.3 Health and Young People

The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting youth in Makueni 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.

### 2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Youth

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young person

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 mixed older people (35-60 years) while STIs and HIV/AIDS was noted to be a common health problem by mixed youth (15-19 years) and by mixed marginalised youth (15-24 years).

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 teenage pregnancy.

A young person had this to say,

*“That issue of sexual immorality and drugs, young people of fewer than sixteen and above, they are the ones who are affected because you can find that young people they need sex... but they don’t have something to apply with that so you can find that can carry pregnancy.”*

[FGD. Male youth 15-19, Makueni County]

One older person noted the following:

*“Most youth are coming in the market and they are playing pool and drinking, and they are doing bad things, so we need something to be done so that children are able to listen to their parents and stop bad things.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Makueni 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.

### 2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

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

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

Sources of health information	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities Schools Religious Institutions	STI/HIV/SRH Health Education & Awareness	Behaviour change Increased knowledge	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 behaviour change and increased knowledge.

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

A young person noted the following about fear:

*“The fear of explaining yourself to the nurse because you may want a certain contraceptive may be you are a man you want a condom and you find a lady and you fear.”*

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

A young person noted the following on the issue of cost:

*“The cost for the family planning like injection is high and to get the money is not easy for the girls.”*

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

There was also a discussion on the type of information and services for marginalized youth including people with disability (PWDs) and Orphans. The services available included ARTs 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.

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.

### 2.3.3 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 are lauded for contributing to the improvement of the health status of the community and in particular creating health awareness. Some of the organisations include: Matiliku youth group that provides females condoms, Twende Mbee which deals with orphans and vulnerable children, ICAP that deals with comprehensive care management and Mustard that provides HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

A youth observed that:

*“There should be more organisations like Child Fund (CCF). The CCF also considers mostly the children and women but it does not have special programs for the youth.”*

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

### 2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement in Health

From the discussions participants suggested that for health services to be improved in the county there was need to create more awareness in schools on health issues, 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.

One female youth had this to say about the need for more health facilities:

*“Like to me, in this community, you find that we have all land in the market we don’t have dispensaries so you find that the health services in this community are very poor.”*

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

One older person had this to say about the need for creating public awareness on health issues: “also we need the teachers to educate children about health like during our time. During our time, there was a subject called home science and it was good”. [FGD, Mixed older person, 35-60. Makueni County].

## 2.4 Education and 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 Makueni 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 Main education issues affecting young people

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

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 education stakeholders in the county. Drug and substance abuse was mostly mentioned as a key issue among by mixed youth (20-24 and 25-34 years). Child labour was identified as an issue by female youth (10-14 years) while teenage pregnancy was identified as an issue by mixed youth (15-19) and mixed marginalised young people (15-24 years). School dropout was noted to be an issue by female youth (10-14 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 peer pressure:

*“you find someone, if he has finished class eight, and he has gotten a letter you find someone else telling him, that education of secondary school will not help you even if you study.”*

[FGD. Male youth 15-19, Makueni 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

The findings 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 (20-24 and 25-34 years) and mixed older people (35-60 years). But some of the youth (mixed youth, 25-34 years) felt that the courses taught at the tertiary institutions were relevant.

### 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 thorough apprenticeship. This view was expressed by young female youth (15-19 years), mixed youth (20-24 years) and mixed older people (35-60). They felt that apprenticeship enables them to become employable because of the skills they gained.

### 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 CCF, CDF and AMREF.

### 2.4.5 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, improve educational infrastructure and conduct public/education awareness. The need for more teachers was expressed by mixed youth (25-34 years) and male youth (15-19 years). Those in support of improved infrastructure in our educational facilities were male youth (15-19 years) and mixed youth (20-24 and 25-34 years). Female youth (15-19 years) 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 investment in education:

*“Provide enough facilities such as laboratories, textbooks so that students can access education.”*

[FGD. Male youth 15-19, Makueni County]

Another young person made this observation:

*“But the CDF also addresses education challenges through the nutrition program in public schools. They also give shoes to school children.”*

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

## 2.4.6 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 in the whole county. Others stated that, young people in the county could be going to other counties to gain skills. Asked on the availability of these opportunities, one of the participants in an FGD with older people noted that:

*“May be those in colleges but I don’t know when they go for attachments in other places not here in Makueni County.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Makueni]

## 2.4.7 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 varied views. There were those who were satisfied that, what is taught in schools meets the labour market requirements while others stated the contrary. For those who said they are relevant, they observed that; the courses taught are applicable after schools. A young person noted that;

*“Even those who are doing business are using mathematics which they learnt while in schools.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Makueni]

For those who said the courses are not relevant to the labour market requirements, they stated that, most are no longer to the current times and the nature of economy. One of the participants in an FGD with older people stated that;

*“Because the course taught in school are not applicable in the job market. In our days, we learnt agriculture, so you were employed by a person with a plantation or employ yourself. We also learnt music and home science and we were able to employ ourselves.”*

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

## 2.5 Economic and Young People

The survey sought to establish economic issues affecting youth in Makueni 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 (25-34 years), while casual labour was reported as a main employment and income opportunity for youth age (20-24 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 and high taxation/levies. Corruption was cited as a major challenge by mixed marginalised youth age (15-24 years) and mixed youth age (20-24 years). Lack of capital was noted a major challenge by mixed older people age (35-60 years), mixed youth age (20-24 and 25-34 years) while the issues of high taxation/levies was cited as an obstacle in accessing employment and income opportunities by mixed youth (20-24 and 25-34 years) and mixed older people age (35-60 years).

### 2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People are Engaged in

Table 2.7 presents the main economic activities that young people were engaged, main challenges they face and the suggested solutions to the problems.

**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
Herding	Harassment by authority or employer	Provide government aid/ financial support
Farming(livestock, crops & poultry farming)	Financial constraints/lack of capital	Enforcement of child laws/ child labour
Domestic workers	Sexual harassment and abuse	
Boda boda		
Business/Trade& Industry		

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015

Discussions with youth from the county identified casual labour/manual labour, herding, farming (livestock, crops and poultry farming), domestic workers, *Boda boda* and business/Trade and Industry as the main economic activities that the youth were engaged in. The youth also identified the main challenges that they encounter in 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.

Another young person expressed her frustration as thus:

*“Those employed in people’s homes, some bosses they see them young, and misuse them, so see that person is not mature, eh they will get old fast.”*

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

One older person had this to say:

*“they are misused by the rich people by being given some useless jobs to do and they are paid very little money.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Makueni 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
Women Enterprise fund NYS	Corruption Lack of information/lack of intervention awareness Program restrictions/bureaucracy	Address/eradicate corruption Ensure easy access to funds/loans Sensitisation on the interventions

Source: Analysis of NAYS data, 2015

Discussions with youth from the county identified women enterprise fund and National Youth Service 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 observed that:

*“I know a few who have made it without money, but very few, two or three.”*

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

Another young person had this to say:

*“there is a lot of corruption because when my sister was to join school, but he was to be given some bursary but she did not get it, so those doing the corruption should stop it.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth 20-24, Makueni 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 of ICT services to young people

Main ICT services available	Challenges in accessing ICT services	Ways to address these challenges
Telephone/mobile/phones 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, 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 observation:

*“Let’s say if you are accessing using the phone and you don’t have MBs it’s a challenge.”*

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

Another young person had this to say:

*“the cyber cafes are expensive you have to pay per minute.”*

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

A young person had this to say about ICT centres:

*“What they are calling ICT centres are not accessible; you go there and may be you don’t know how to use computers, like this guy (Kelvin R7) you may go there and you tell him you want this and that. He will not get it for you, isn’t so?”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalised youth 15-24, Makueni 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.

A young person had this to say:

*“Mostly in Makueni, the private sector is doing a good job compared to the government.”*

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

## 2.5.7 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People

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.

A young person observed that:

*“Another one, water is a problem in this area. They can have boreholes from which the youth draw water with which to irrigate their farm. They can plant sukuma wiki, cabbages etc.”*

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

Another young person notes as follows:

*“On agriculture, not everybody will plant vegetables for those who are far from rivers, but they can contribute by giving them trees to plant, like mangoes, like oranges grafting and such like, if you are given 50 of the plants., you will take care of them.”*

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

An older person had this to say:

*“On the investments in education: also we need colleges in our county so that our children do not have to go to colleges in other counties. Our college graduates will be then able to get employment.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Makueni County]

### 2.5.8 Savings and Investment for Old Age

Various groups were asked if they are concerned about investments for their old age. There groups especially the young people who stated that, many young people are not concerned about it because they are concerned with current challenges facing them.

Some of the barriers identified that prevent young people from investing for their old age include; less income which cannot endure to be saving, high expenses on entertainment, unemployment and huge expenses on DSA which depletes their income.

*“There is the problem of unemployment, they can go and get Ksh 200/= to use on that day. They cannot save money. , The government should help them get gainful employment and then tell them about savings.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people 35-60, Makueni]

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, creation of Retirement Benefits Funds tailored for young people and promotes investment for young people and creation of employment opportunities for young people to earn income and save for the old age consumption.

## 2.6 Governance and Young People

The survey sought to establish governance issues affecting youth in Makueni 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, land disputes 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 the following observation:

*“Even in 7 pm, you can be robbed especially due to the presence of the railway being constructed, people think others have money.”*

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

### 2.6.1.1 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. Night patrols and community policing were also suggested as alternative interventions to resolve the issue of insecurity. Night patrols were cited by mixed young people age 15-19 while community policing was mentioned by mixed young people age 15-19 and mixed older people age 35-60. These sentiments were also corroborated by the key informant who noted that *nyumba kumi* initiative was rolled out in the whole county and the county has embraced community policing.

One older person made this observation on insecurity,

*“The police are in Kithungo and it is far and they need transport when you call them so if you don’t have, you will not be assisted.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Makueni County]

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

### 2.6.1.2 Cohesion

The unity of a county is important for the achievement of its development goals. Young people cited social class disparities and drug and substance abuse as the greatest threat to the unity of young people. The issue of social class disparity was noted by female young people age 15-19 and the mixed marginalised young people age 15-24 while drug and substance abuse was cited as a threat to the

unity of the youth by mixed marginalised young people age 15-25, mixed youth age 25-34 and older people age 35-60.

One young person had this to say about youth unity:

*“There are also those who are drunkards and others who don’t drink so they cannot have unity.”*

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

The main programme in the county for promoting unity is sports. This was mentioned by male young people age 15-19 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 meetings, 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 mixed youth age 15-19 and 25-34. 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 male youth age 15-19 and mixed youth age 20-24 and those age 25-34. Mixed marginalised young people age 15-24 were in support of creating public awareness about the need for transparency and accountability.

### 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 are involved in the project implementation and their main role was the provision of casual labour for the project. Male young people age 15-19 and mixed marginalised young people mentioned that youth were involved in project implementation while male youth age 15-19, mixed youth age 15-19 and mixed youth age 20-24 cited that the youth were

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

The young people mentioned that the role they play was in doing casual work and this was cited by male youth age 15-19. The young people also mentioned that they would like to be involved in the project process and employment in the projects. Those who mentioned that they wanted to be involved in the project process were male and female youth age 15-19, mixed youth age 20-24 and 25-34. The mixed older people age 35-60 mentioned that they would like the youth to be given casual jobs in the projects. The pay is the main benefit the young people get when they participate in projects and programmes as casual labourers. They use the money they earn to improve welfare.

One the youth had this to say about the benefits participating in projects:

*“When the government has employed the youth in water construction projects, it will reduce unemployment problem in the area.”*

[FGD. Male youth 15-19, Makueni County]

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

Discussions with various groups revealed that there are mechanisms for ensuring that existing opportunities serve those who deserve them. This is done through avoiding gender and age discrimination and involvement of people with disabilities in projects and programmes. The issues of gender discrimination was highlighted by mixed male youth age 20-24 while involvement of people with disabilities was cited by male and female youth age 15-19 and mixed marginalised youth age 15-24.

#### *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 and lack of skills/knowledge. Lack of information was mentioned mainly by male youth age 15-19 and mixed youth age 15-19. 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 were mentioned by male and female youth age 15-19, mixed youth age 15-19 and 20-24. Mentorship programmes were mostly cited by female and male youth age 15-19.

One young person had this to say,

*“The first thing the youth do not attend meetings in which proposals and budgets are presented. Surely, I have attended many such meetings from 2013. I have not seen other youth at those meetings. It is only the old people who attend the meetings and give their own priority projects.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalised youth 15-24, Makueni 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 older people age 35-60.

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 25-34 and mixed older people age 35-60.

One older person made this observation,

*“The government together with the local youth can monitor the implementation of youth projects. The youth should be involved in the projects that are meant for them.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Makueni County]

## 2.6.5 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, female and mixed youth age 15-19 and mixed youth age 25-34. Fund raising was cited by female youth age 15-19, mixed youth age 20-24 and 25-34.

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

## 2.7 Population Structure

The various groups were asked on their thoughts about the growing population of young people with regard to provision of health, education services, economic empowerment and governance issues touching on young people. The views from the various groups point at a scenario where this growing population poses more negative consequences.

The groups observed that, the growing population of young people with regard to provision of health services is likely to lead to congestion in health facilities, erratic supplies of commodities, overworking of health personnel because of the un-proportional doctor patient ratio. One of the participants in an FGD with older people observed that;

*“With high population the drug in hospitals will be over because more people will be attending hospital.”*

[FGD. Mixed older person 36-60, Makueni]

With regard to the growing population of young people with respect to provision of education services, the groups noted that, it will lead to congestion in most schools, increased illiteracy levels due to school dropouts, poor quality of education, high school drop-out because of lack of school fees and poverty, inadequate supplies and equipment’s in schools, un-balanced teacher pupil/student ration and overworking of teachers. One of the participants noted that;

*“This growing population of the youth will bring about youth who are uneducated due to poverty, if they are using drugs they will contract STIs and such like things”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Makueni]

In terms of the increasing population of young people and their economic status, most groups observed that, it is likely to negatively affect their economic prospects of this young people. They stated that, increasing population of young people is likely to result in environmental degradation due to over-consumption and straining of the available resources, fighting over scarce resources, increase in prostitution due to high poverty levels, high unemployment in the county and high inflation due to

high demand and low supply of goods and services. A participant in an FGD with older people noted that;

*“There will be no jobs even for the educated youths so we need skills for the youth for them to have jobs for themselves.”*

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

On the governance of Makueni County, the growing population of young people is generally viewed and associated to with negative effects. Most of the groups observed that, the growing population of young people would create a huge chunk of unemployed youth which predisposes them to engaging in crime leading to insecurity in most places which create challenges in the administration and maintenance of law and order as the administrators are fewer than the population of the people.

## 2.8 Conclusion and Recommendation

The results of the survey show that the county has made progress in health, education, economy and governance sectors. This is demonstrated by the positive demographic, health and education indicators. 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 nineteen 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 off young people in project and programme design and implementation.



## Recommendations

The following are the key recommendations for Makueni 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 and 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 is taken back to school.
5. Child acts and other relevant legislations should be enforcing 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

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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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**MAKUENI COUNTY**