



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

**KIRINYAGA
COUNTY**



January 2017



Citation:

National Council for Population and Development (NCPD). 2017.
2015 Kenya National Adolescents And Youth Survey (NAYS). Nairobi, Kenya: NCPD.

Published by the National Council for Population and Development
Supported by the Government of Kenya, UNFPA and AFIDEP

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This study was carried out with the main funding support provided by the Government of Kenya. The United Nations Population Fund under the auspices of the UNFPA Country Programme and the African Institute for Development Policy collaborated in providing some support. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Kenya, the United Nations Population Fund or the African Institute for Development Policy.

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CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	iv
Glossary of Terms	v
Foreword	1
Acknowledgment	2
Executive Summary	3
2 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.1.1 Youth in Kenya	5
1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend	5
1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition	5
1.2 Survey Rationale	6
1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives	6
1.4 Survey Organisation	7
1.4.1 Pre-test	7
1.4.2 Trainings	7
1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation	8
1.5.1 Survey tools	8
1.5.2 Sampling	9
1.5.3 Data Collection	11
1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis	11
2.1 Background	12
2 KIRINYAGA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS	12
2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile	13
2.2.1 Population and Structure	13
2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics	13
2.2.3 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People	14
2.2.4 Access and Availability of Information and Services	15
2.2.5 Organisations Addressing Health	17
2.2.6 Opportunities for Improvement	17
2.3 Education and Young People	17
2.3.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young People	18
2.3.2 Availability and Access of Education Services	18
2.3.3 Relevance of Courses Taught to the Job Market	19
2.3.4 Organisations Addressing Education	19
2.3.5 Opportunities for Improvement	19

2.4 Economic and Young People	20
2.4.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People and the Challenges	20
2.4.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young People	20
2.4.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment	21
2.4.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services	22
2.4.5 Organisations Addressing Economy	22
2.4.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities	23
2.4.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age	23
2.5 Governance and Young People	24
2.5.1 Rule of Law	24
2.5.2 Transparency and Accountability	26
2.5.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness	26
2.5.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency	28
2.5.5 Political Leadership	28
2.6 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People	28
2.7 Conclusion and Recommendations	29
References	32
ANNEXES	
Annex 1: County Demographic Windows	33
Annex 2: Survey Personnel	34
Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants	35
LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions	9
Table 1.2 Key informant interviews and in-depth interviews sample frame for each county	10
Table 1.3 Focus group discussions sample frame for each county	10
Table 1.4 Survey response rates	11
Table 2.1 Population size and structure	13
Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Kirinyaga County	13
Table 2.3 The main health problems affecting young people	14
Table 2.4 Main sources and types of health information	15
Table 2.5 Challenges in accessing the main SRH/FP information	16
Table 2.6 The main education issues affecting young people	18
Table 2.7 Main economic activities young people are engaged in	20
Table 2.8 The interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment	21
Table 2.9 ICT services available and accessible to young people	22
Table 2.10 Prevalent cases	24
Table A1.1 Demographic dividend window opening year	33
Table A2.1 Western Region survey personnel	34
Table A2.2 Report authors	34

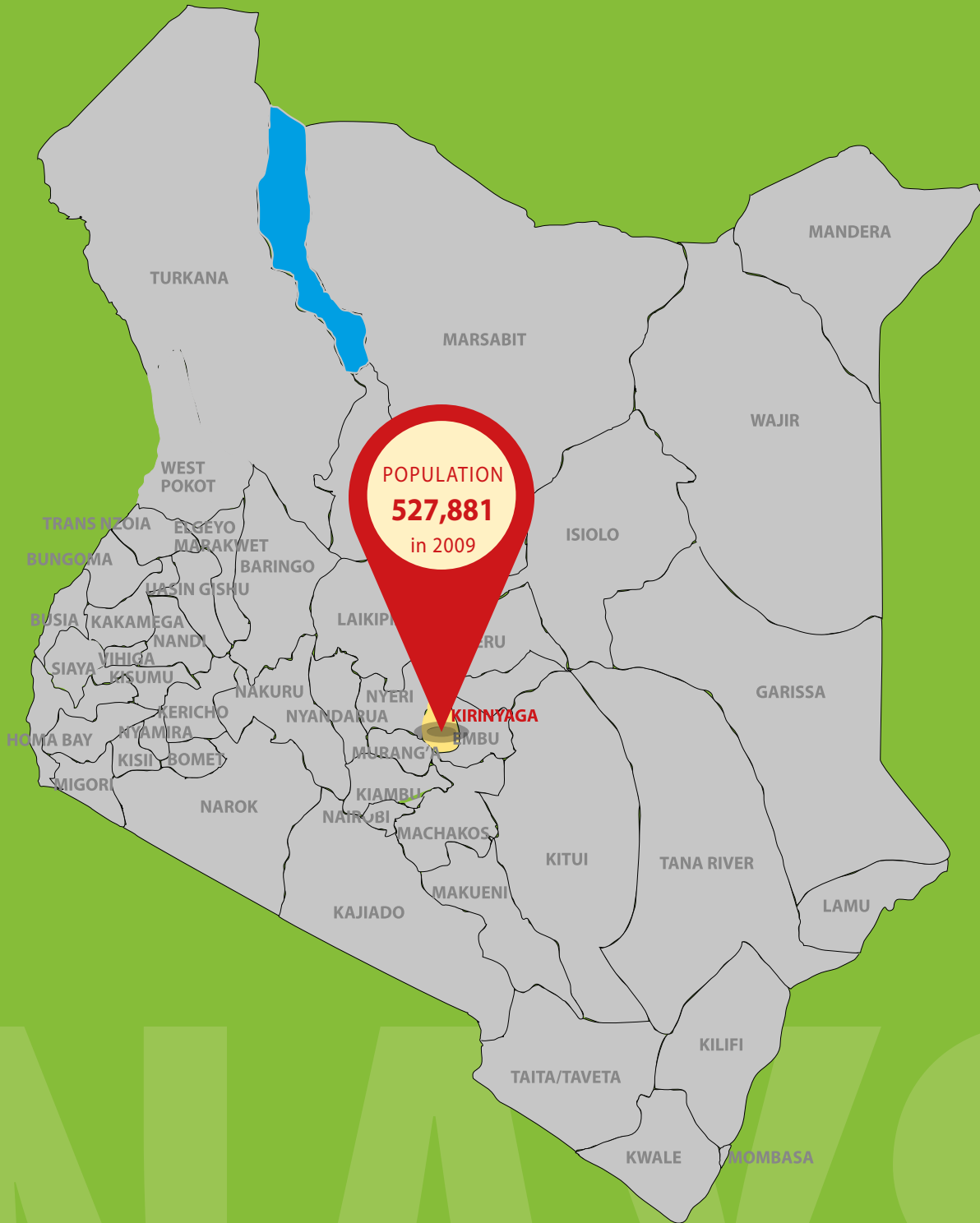
Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy	NASSEPV	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome	NAYS	National Adolescents and Youth Survey
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities	NER	Net Enrolment Rate
CBO	Community Based Organisation	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CDF	Constituency Development Fund	NYS	National Youth Service
CPC	County Population Coordinators	PADIS	Population, Administration, and Decision Information System International
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
DemDiv	Demographic Dividend	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
DSA	Drug and Substance Abuse	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	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	WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
HDI	Human Development Index	WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus	YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	YFS	Youth Friendly Services
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		
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		

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.

KIRINYAGA COUNTY



Foreword

Kenya 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

This report presents the Kirinyaga county profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) conducted by the National Council for Population and Development, (NCPD), in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Youth Directorate, 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 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 Kirinyaga 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 a preview 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.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Kirinyaga County had a population of 527,881 people. By 2030 the population is expected to rise to 625,157 and 673,170 by 2050. The county's population-age structure is youthful with slightly over a third of the population (33%) comprising the population below age 15 in 2009. The county's demographic window opened in 2014 and it is estimated to close by 2054. The county has the highest contraceptive prevalence rate in the country of 81 percent while the national is at 58 percent. The county's total fertility rate is 2.3 children per woman.

Though the indicators are good, the county still has a youthful population with a dependency ratio of 63. The county is rich in agriculture but the increasing sub-division of the farming land is affecting agricultural output. The reliance on rain-fed agriculture makes farm employment and incomes unreliable and this is affecting the employment opportunities and income of the young people.

Young people in the county face various health challenges. The main ones include; drug and substance abuse, especially alcoholism, STIs, SGBV, teenage pregnancies, communicable diseases like malaria due to the stagnant water in the rice fields and low access to reproductive healthcare services. The report recommends establishment of rehabilitation centres for DSA victims, parental guidance, enhancing access of the youth to productive health services, improvement of health infrastructure and equipping them and increase public awareness on the issues affecting young people.

In the education front, the county has a very impressive primary school net enrolment rate which is almost universal—at 99 percent, while the secondary school net enrolment rate is 90 percent. However, the county has 1,473 primary school age and 3,854 secondary school age children who are out of school. The government should improve the secondary school enrolment rate by ensuring all needy but bright children are given bursaries and also provide adequate teachers and learning materials to all schools in the county. The county should also improve on the number of tertiary institutions in the country. Currently access to tertiary education is still low.

Young people should be sensitised on the existing training, business and employment opportunities in the county. Corruption and nepotism were cited as the major hurdles that deny young people training and employment opportunities in the county. The existing training and employment opportunities should be allocated to the young people on merit. Corruption and nepotism should be eradicated in the county. The government should also deliberately create employment opportunities for the young people in order to reduce the high unemployment level among them. In the governance sphere, young people are not involved at all levels of programmes/project design and implementation, especially in projects that are meant for them. The government should ensure that the young people are involved in the planning and execution of the programme and projects in the county.



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 investments 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 popularised in developing countries as a potential solution to their development challenges. In embracing this concept, Kenya modelled the demographic dividend in 2014 using the *DemDiv* Model that was developed by Futures Group. The modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend was supported by USAID through the Health Policy Project. Results from the model showed that Kenya could achieve the following results by 2050 through implementation of activities aimed at achieving the demographic dividend; Investments per capita will increase to about US\$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US\$ 200, Fertility levels will decline to an average of two children per woman from the current four 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 five children per woman in 2009 to two 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 two 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 modelled Kenya's demographic dividend using the *DemDiv* model. The impressive results from the modelling exercise showed that Kenya could achieve accelerated socio-economic growth through targeted investments. However, it was recognised 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 research assistants were competitively recruited for data collection in the 47 counties. They were trained from 29th April to 9th May 2015 in Nakuru. The trainees were taken through the survey tools, materials and modalities of recruiting the respondents for the different tools that were to be administered. 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 well-being 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 (NASSEPV) 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. 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 after which it was translated into English language in cases where the interview language was not English. The hard copies of the English scripts were then typed using Microsoft Word to convert them into soft copies. 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, organise, manage, shape, code, explore, extract and analyse the textual data. A team of 13 data clerks were trained on how to process the data using this software. To ensure consistency and quality, two supervisors reviewed and verified the coded data.

2

KIRINYAGA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Kirinyaga County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya and is located between latitudes 0°1° and 0° 40° South and longitudes 37° and 38° East. The county borders Nyeri County to the North West, Murang'a County to the West and Embu County to the East and South. It covers an area of 1,478.1 square kilometres (Km²).

The county lies between 1,158 metres and 5,380 metres above sea level in the South and at the peak of Mt. Kenya respectively. Mt. Kenya which lies on the northern side greatly influences the landscape of the county as well as other topographical features. The county is well endowed with a thick, indigenous forest with unique types of trees covering Mt. Kenya. Mt. Kenya Forest covers 350.7 (Km²) and is inhabited by a variety of wildlife including elephants, buffalos, monkeys, bushbucks and colourful birds while the lower parts of the forest zone provides grazing land for livestock. The rich flora and fauna within the forest coupled with mountain climbing are a great potential for tourist activities. The county has six major rivers namely; Sagana, Nyamindi, Rupingazi, Thiba, Rwamuthambi and Ragati, all of which drain into the Tana River. These rivers are the principal source of water in the county.

Administratively, the county is divided into five sub-counties namely; Kirinyaga East, Kirinyaga West, Mwea East, Mwea West and Kirinyaga Central. The districts are subdivided further into 12 divisions, 30 locations and 81 sub-locations. The county has four constituencies namely Mwea, Ndia, Kirinyaga Central and Gichugu.

Generally, there are two types of settlements in the county namely; clustered settlement and scattered settlement. Clustered settlement patterns are primarily found around towns and irrigation schemes where those who work in the rice fields have settled. Scattered settlement patterns are found mostly in the lower zones of the county where land sizes are large.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

2.2.1 Population and Structure

The population size and structure of the County is shown in Table 2.1

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

Demographic Indicators	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	527,881	625,157	673,170
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	33.20%	22.90%	19.70%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	5.30%	6.30%	12.80%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	61.5%	70.8%	67.5%
Dependency Ratio	62.6	41.2	48.2
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2014		

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Kirinyaga County had a population of 527,881 people. By 2030 the population is expected to be 625,157 and 673,170 by 2050. The proportion of the population below age 15 is expected to decline from 33 percent in 2009 to about 20 percent in 2050. The elderly population is projected to increase from 5 percent in 2009 to 13 percent in 2050.

The proportion of population in the working age is projected to be on a steady increase from 62 percent in 2009 to about 68 percent in 2050. This would lead to a steady decline in the dependency ratio over the years. In 2009, the dependency ratio was 63 and this is projected to decrease to 41 in 2030 but to increase to 48 in 2050. The County is one of the few counties in Kenya whose demographic window of opportunity has already opened. It opened in 2014 and it will close in 2054. To take advantage of this window of opportunity, the county should continue investing in the key sectors of health, education and creating more employment opportunities for the young people and put in place good governance structures that promote transparency and accountability and inclusiveness.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics for Kirinyaga County

Socio-economic Characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	2.3
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	81%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	92.3%
	HIV Prevalence	3.3%
	Children 12 - 23 months fully vaccinated	92.3%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	98.5%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	26.1
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	1473
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	90.1%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	20
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	3,854
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.5690398

Table 2.2 shows that the county has a fertility rate of 2.3 children per woman which is much lower than the national rate of 3.9 children per woman. Eighty-one percent of married women in the county are using contraceptives. With this high contraceptive prevalence rate in the count, about 92 percent of births in the county are attended by a skilled health worker compared to 62 percent nationally. About 90 percent of the children aged 12-23 months are fully vaccinated compared to 79 percent for the whole country. The HIV prevalence rate in the county is three percent while the national is 6.4 percent.

On education, the primary and secondary net enrolment rates are 99 percent and 90 percent respectively. These figures mean nearly all the primary school age children are in school. However, ten percent of the secondary school age children are out school.

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. The HDI of the county is 0.5694 while nationally it is 0.520. Health and Young People.

A county's health status is an important indicator of the level of development. The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young people in Kirinyaga County. The questions were raised across the board including young people, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in health.

This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main health problems affecting young people in the county, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to youth and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of SRH 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 sector within the county. Quotations from the qualitative survey are provided, where appropriate, to support or reinforce, certain points or issues.

2.2.3 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People

Table 2.3 The main health problems affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Inadequate information on SRH	School drop out	Sensitisation
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)		Death	Guidance and counselling
Teenage Pregnancy	Peer pressure	Mental health	
Sexual and Gender Based violence(SGBV)	Poverty		
Communicable diseases like Malaria, bilharzia, Non communicable diseases like stroke, cancer	School drop out		
Shortage of drugs			

From the focus group discussions across all the various groups STIs including HIV and AIDS and DSA are identified as the main health problems affecting youth. Alcoholism is the main DSA issue. Teenage pregnancies and STIs were discussed in all the discussion groups aged below 24 years. SGBV was also suggested as a main health problem though by the older age groups. The county is known for its rice farming which uses a lot of stagnant water to grow, and due to the stagnant water, communicable diseases like malaria and bilharzia were known to be prevalent. Non-communicable diseases like stroke and cancer were reported to be prevalent in the county. Shortage of drugs was reported to ail the health sector where people go to buy medicines from the pharmacies.

These health problems were attributed to inadequate information on SRH and peer pressure. Poverty was also reported as one of the reasons that youth might engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, DSA and teenage pregnancy. Some girls were reported to lack sanitary towels due to poverty. School dropout was reported as another cause of young people engaging in drug and substance abuse.

The groups observed that the consequences of these health problems included school dropout—especially as a result of substance and drug abuse and teenage pregnancy. It was also noted that in some instances the health problems resulted in premature death and poor mental health among young people—especially those who were addicted to alcoholism. Sensitisation of SRH issues and guidance and counselling were largely suggested as some of the ways to address health problems among young people in the county.

2.2.4 Access and Availability of Information and Services

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

Table 2.4 Main sources and types of health information

Sources of health information	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities	Disease prevention and diagnosis	Disease Prevention	Media
Schools	Nutrition	Behaviour change	Health Facilities
Religious Institutions	SRH	Gives hope	Schools/learning institutions
Advertisements and announcement	Life skills		
Road shows			

Within the discussion groups a range of sources of information were identified, the main sources of information were; the health facilities, road shows and schools/learning institutions, religious institutions and advertisements. The type of information received was on disease prevention and diagnosis, nutrition and SRH information including information on HIV and AIDS and life skills. This information was regarded as useful in terms of disease prevention and behaviour change. To those who are affected by various health conditions, the information was known to give hope. The preferred sources by the young people were the media, health facilities and learning institutions.

“We get information and services when we go to the hospital for clinic with our babies and the doctor tells us the importance of family planning. When you get the children space them so that you can be able to bring them up properly. The children can eat properly and get quality education and health care.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 25-34, Kirinyaga]

“We prefer being told by our teachers, since most of the time we are with our teachers, we leave home early and go back late so we hardly have time with our parents so they can’t tell us anything.”

[FGD. Female young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

Table 2.5 Challenges in accessing the main SRH/FP information

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Contraceptives mainly the pill and the condoms Cancer Screening	Fear/embarrassment Cost of services Side effects	Sensitisation Good parenting Embrace services offered during outreaches

The main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young people were contraceptives mainly the oral pills, condoms and cancer screening. The challenges they faced in accessing these services were; fear or embarrassment was mentioned largely by all the age groups. Cost of services especially the cancer screening and side effects in regard to FP commodities were other challenges that were suggested.

Ways of addressing the general health challenges were reported and these included sensitising young people mainly during holiday camps organised by the young people for the young people, embrace outreaches by health facilities—for during outreaches the cost of cancer screening is subsidized, and good parenting.

“Parents should maintain close relationship with their children so that they know what is going on in their lives.”

[FGD. Female young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

There was also a discussion on the type of information and services for marginalized youth including Persons With Disability (PWDs) and orphans. The services available included Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), adoption and homes for the orphans.

Overall, the general challenges in accessing health information and services for the marginalised were lack of disability friendly services and inadequate funds to run the children's homes.

2.2.5 Organisations Addressing Health

The main organisations identified as addressing health issues were NGOs, NACADA, women group slike *Mwana wi kio* women group, schools, and religious institutions. Information from an in-depth interview reported that:

“Yeah there are quite a lot of NGOs which do counselling, youth education especially the APHIA related ones, they are quite a number. And the churches they are elaborate and sometimes some of the schools. So there are a lot of stakeholders. What needs to be done is coordination.”

[IDI. Facility In-Charge, Health, Kirinyaga]

NACADA was reported to address issues of DSA and mainly alcoholism in the county. The government agency normally holds seminars where they sensitise young people on the dangers of DSA. The women group holds health talks with young people on behaviour change.

2.2.6 Opportunities for Improvement

To conclude the discussion on health, participants were asked to suggest the opportunities for improvement of health within their county. The main observation was the establishments of Youth Friendly Centres (YFCs) to offer YFSs in order to increase access to health information and services by the young people. In addition, the participants reported that counselling clubs should be started in all schools.

2.3 Education and Young People

Education contributes significantly to individual and country development. It is therefore important to ensure that citizens access and acquire quality education and skills that are needed in the labour market. The qualitative survey sought to establish the education issues affecting young people in Kirinyaga County.

The questions were raised across the board including young people, adults and marginalized groups focusing on various thematic areas in education. This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first sub-theme outlines the main education issues affecting young people in the county, the causes for these problems, the consequences to young people and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of

education services. The third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing education and training services in the county. The fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving education sector within the county.

2.3.1 The Main Education Issues Affecting Young People

Table 2.6 The main education issues affecting young people

Main education issues	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these issues
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Poverty	School drop out	Guidance and counselling
Poverty/lack of fees	Peer pressure	Poor academic results and performance	Establishment of rehabilitation centres
Child labour	Alcoholism	Alcoholism	Provision of bursaries/education funds
Teenage pregnancy			Law enforcement on child labour
Absenteeism of teachers and students			Strict rules and measures
High cost of education			

From the focus group discussions across all the various groups—DSA, poverty, teenage pregnancy, absenteeism of teachers and students and child labour, were identified as the main education issues affecting the youth.

These education problems were attributed to poverty, peer pressure and alcoholism. Alcoholism was highlighted as a major cause affecting both teachers and students and the groups suggested the establishment of rehabilitation centres.

The groups observed that the consequences of these education issues included school dropout, especially as a result of DSA and teenage pregnancy. The participants also noted that those who drop out of school and not necessarily due to alcoholism, may end up abusing the alcohol due to hopelessness. It was also reported that students who were on DSA had poor academic results.

Guidance and counselling was largely suggested as one of the ways to address education issues affecting the young people, especially those that have been affected by DSA. In order to fight poverty, priority in the provision of bursaries should be given to the needy and deserving children in the community. The government was also implored to make the free primary and secondary school education completely free, because despite the fact that it is free, parents still pay money. Child labour which is prevalent in rice farms should be addressed by enforcing the law on child labour and implementing the Children's Act of 2001.

2.3.2 Availability and Access of Education Services

Of interest was the young peoples' perception of availability and access to education services. The general view of the county is that education institutions are available but there is general inadequacy

of facilities like dormitories, desks, chairs, library and toilets. This is mainly for the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. The older people (35-60) felt that the county has inadequate TIVETS as the ones that were there were upgraded.

“.....I want to say that we have gaps in technical colleges, all have been upgraded leaving us without any technical institution.”

[FGD. Mixed older peoples 35-60, Kirinyaga]

Information from service providers in the education sector noted that the tertiary institution had both genders adequately represented in most of the courses apart from courses like building and mechanical engineering where the female students are few. The county has schools for special needs like Kerugoya School which has a special unit to cater for children with special needs.

2.3.3 Relevance of Courses Taught to the Job Market

The courses that students take in school ought to be relevant to the prevailing job markets. The groups reported that the courses being taught in schools were not relevant to the prevailing job market and this led to increasing unemployment in the county.

2.3.4 Organisations Addressing Education

In this county some of the organisations/individuals that address education were religious organisations and CDF, which were offering financial support by offering bursaries to the needy students and creating education awareness in schools.

2.3.5 Opportunities for Improvement

To conclude the discussion on education, participants were asked to suggest the opportunities for improvement of education within their county. The main observation was that the government needs to first lower the cost of education and improve on the School Feeding Programme (SFP). Information from service providers in tertiary institutions indicated that some tertiary institutions in the county have embraced e-learning and they were collaborating with the county government for attachments for their students. In addition, parents should open up to their children and discuss freely issues affecting them to counter school dropout and other education challenges like teenage pregnancy.

“There are opportunities because what we are doing now, by the end of this year, all the second years are going to be attached by the county government for a maximum of three months and we are planning that the same people that we are going to attach are going to be absorbed.”

[IDI. TIVET Manager, Education, Kirinyaga]

2.4 Economic and Young People

When young people are empowered economically, this improves their livelihoods and reduces unemployment. The qualitative study established the main issues affecting access to employment and income opportunities for young people above age 19 who are likely to have cleared their secondary school education. Discussions were held with groups of young people aged 20-24, 25-34 and older people aged 35-60. The survey highlighted the challenges young people face in accessing employment and income opportunities and ways of addressing these challenges. In addition, the study established views from adolescents (young people below 18 years) who might have dropped out of school to seek employment opportunities.

2.4.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities for Young People and the Challenges

The main employment and income opportunities that were reported for the county were farming, livestock keeping, *jua kali* sector, *boda boda* and casual labour. The participants reported the challenges the young people encounter in accessing these employment opportunities namely; corruption, brokers—especially in the agricultural sector and poor infrastructure.

2.4.2 Main Economic Opportunities for Young People

Young people are involved in various economic activities. This section highlights the main economic activities young people engage in. The summary of the qualitative findings are tabulated in Table 2.7

Table 2.7 Main economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities young people are involved in	Challenges encountered	Ways of addressing these Challenges
Farming	Poor pay and exploitation	Government aid/financial support
Business	Brokers	Provide/source for competitive markets
Boda boda	Harassment by authority or employee	Capacity building/education
Quarrying	Poor infrastructure	Government to build roads to improve infrastructure
Domestic workers		Law enforcement
Bar maids/man		

Farming was suggested as the main economic activity—it was mentioned across all the age groups. Young people also engage in *boda boda*, quarrying and business. Poor pay and exploitation by the employee was suggested as the main challenge. Brokers who are mainly found in the agricultural sector, determine prices for the farm produce and they later sell at high prices. The respondents suggested that the county government ought to source for competitive prices whether local or abroad to counter the brokers. Prostitution, barmaid and domestic help were activities that were suggested to have poor pay and exploitation by employers.

“Young people engage in businesses because it is the only job around. Like going somewhere and find somebody and he tell you to do the work and he pays you at the end of the day. This is because at the end of the day I need to eat, clothe myself. Those in the rice fields are in the villages, those are the activities that they do.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

In the younger age groups (10-14 years) that represented the youth in schools, views were sought concerning income generating activities that young people of their age engage in. Some of the highlighted activities that those below 19 years engage in are farming, especially in the rice fields. The main reason behind their engagement in the economic activities was school dropout due to poverty. Other reasons reported were, single parents forcing their children to work and peer pressure.

2.4.3 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Owing to the high levels of unemployment among the young people, the government, the private sector as well as civil society organisations have focused attention on the need to create jobs and enhance the capacities of the youth to earn decent livelihoods. The government has put interventions to ensure that the young people though unemployed access some funds where they can borrow and invest in economic activities. The summary of findings are shown in Table 2.8

Table 2.8 The interventions and programmes addressing youth unemployment

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways of addressing these challenges
KKV UWEZO fund NYS	Corruption Lack of information on the availability of funds and group formation	Sensitisation on the interventions Eradicate corruption Capacity building

Across all the groups, especially the older group (above 25 years) various interventions were suggested which include *Kazi Kwa Vijana* (KKV), UWEZO fund and NYS. Bureaucracy which might be a good recipe for corruption, was suggested as a hindrance to accessing of funds. Lack of information on group formation and how young people can access the funds was highlighted as a major hindrance as well.

The benefits of these interventions to young people is that they provide young people with financial support for they can access loans, keep young people busy with economic activities and improve the economic status of young people.

For the challenges to be addressed, young people need to be sensitised on the different funds that are available, eradicate corruption especially in the recruitment of NYS, and capacity building on entrepreneurship.

2.4.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

Views were sought on availability and access to ICT services to the young people in the county. Table 2.9 shows the views of the respondents as far as ICT availability and access are concerned.

Table 2.9 ICT services available and accessible to young people

ICT Services available	Challenges encountered in accessing ICT services	Ways of addressing these Challenges
Computers	Cost	Affordable ICT services
Cyber cafes	Erratic/lack of power supply	Install of electricity
Libraries	Lack of equipment/gadgets	Diversify ICT Services
Telephone handsets		Provide computer classes in schools
Television		Capacity build parents on the importance of ICT
Radio		

Computers, television and radio were suggested across all the age groups. Young people also accessed ICT services from cyber cafés, libraries and digital telephone handsets. The main challenge in accessing the ICT services was reported to be the cost (buying bundles for surfing and charges in the cyber cafés). Others reported lack of electricity. Provision of computers and lessons in schools and capacity building parents was reported on the positive side of ICT services and information.

The in-school youth reported that the ICT services available were computers and telephone handsets. Cyber cafés were suggested across all the age groups. Across the board, the groups suggested that ICT services are important to the young people largely to access online services like job opportunities, promotion of computer literacy, access information on entertainment, county affairs, current affairs like fashion and social networking, marketing and academic research. The younger people reported that young people can visit sites which are not beneficial to them.

“Some go to internet, if your mother is rich you take her phone go to the internet to look for pornography and you go show your friends.”

[FGD. Female young peoples, 10-14, Kirinyaga]

2.4.5 Organisations Addressing Economy

In this county the main organisations identified as addressing economic issues for young people were; WEDF and KWFT that provide loans to women for economic activities. Banking institutions capacity build people on entrepreneurship skills, provide loans which young people use for economic development. CDF was reported to renovate classes, develop youth polytechnics and health facilities— however, it was reported to be very corrupt.

“CDF is there but very corrupt.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

2.4.6 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

To conclude the discussion on the economy, participants were asked to suggest the potential areas to increase employment and economic opportunities. The main areas suggested were in agriculture, tourism (hotel industry), security, rehabilitation centres, provision of loans, *boda boda* riding schools, manufacturing industries and institutions to teach artisan skills.

“If we have institutions that can teach youths about weaving, mechanics - the institution is well-designed like a polytechnic because the ones we have somebody studies there but go to a far place to do exams, so if we have one close by that can teach about business it can create employment.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

2.4.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age

Young people ought to be encouraged to save and invest for old age. However, the young people reported that they would like to save and invest for old age so that they will be able to buy land and build homes for their families hence at old age they would be comfortable. In addition, they reported that saving and investing for old age would avoid dependence. The dissenting voices on saving and investing for the future indicated that they do not want to plan for the future because they live one day at a time. Though the majority wanted to save and invest, the following barriers exist that hinder them from saving; unemployment, less income, high expenditure, health complications, DSA, corruption and mistrust among the young people.

“We could have formed a group and say that so and so will be keeping the money you find that such a people may fail us and eat our money and say that they got an emergency and used up all the money.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

“We had this programme called Deci, they used to tell young people to save and get interest out of that. Young people saved and after a long time of saving, they ran away with the savings. So many people until now fear to go to the banks to keep their money until they are very sure.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

When asked what were the ways to address the barriers, the young people reported the need to create awareness on the importance of saving and investing, eradicate corruption (because of the Deci issue), improve the health condition of the family members so that they do not fall sick, encourage young people to form and join saving SACCOs and generate sources of income. In addition, the county government should improve access to health services, and provide guidance counselling on family planning so that people can plan their families and save the surplus.

“Youths should be encouraged to form SACCOS that can help them save. They should be empowered to make those saving groups.”

[FGD. Mixed older peoples 35-60, Kirinyaga]

2.5 Governance and Young People

Governance is of critical importance especially with the current policy to move decision-making away from the central government and out to devolved entities. Governance is defined as the process through which systems are managed from within and without.

The following sections sought the views in regard to the eight principles in governance.

2.5.1 Rule of Law

This section looks at the justice system, security and cohesion in the county.

2.5.1.1 Justice System

The saying goes that justice delayed is justice denied. When a case arises, the justice system should ensure that there is due diligence and objectivity when determining the case. This will ensure that the parties involved will be satisfied by the outcome of the case.

Table 2.10 Prevalent cases

Main Cases	Challenges	Ways of addressing those challenges
Land disputes	Corruption	Address and eradicate corruption
Theft/robbery	Release of criminals	Nyumba kumi initiative
Corruption	Nepotism	Remuneration of community leaders
Insecurity	Inefficient services	Create awareness
SGBV – rape	Ignorance of the judicial system	Issuance of title deed
Family disputes	Long time to solve cases	Promote justice
Crime	Ignorance	Increase police patrols
Assault		Heavy fines
Accidents		Counselling and rehabilitation
DSA		Increase security personnel
Witchcraft		Improve on the timeliness of solving cases

The most prevalent cases were robbery/theft and land disputes which were reported by all the groups. Other cases include corruption, insecurity, family disputes, assault, accidents mainly caused by *boda boda* riders, DSA, witchcraft and rape cases. The respondents suggested the challenges encountered were corruption—which could lead to releasing of perpetrators, nepotism, inefficient services by the police, long time to solve cases and ignorance. The ways suggested for addressing these challenges were to eradicate corruption, improve the security, increase the police patrols, heavy fines on *boda boda* riders when they cause accidents, improve timeliness of solving cases and creating public awareness on the rule of law and how to follow due process.

“If its land disputes, we have a land commission in place but they are not working systematically. Let them come to the ground. Like if you come in the morning you will find old people in the chief’s office due to land issues.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

2.5.1.2 Security

Security is a crucial element in governance. The majority of the respondents across all the age groups noted that the county had some insecurity issues like murders and kidnappings. Insecurity was also noted to be perpetrated by vigilante groups that terrorise the community, victimisation of the young people by police and petty theft. These challenges were being fuelled by corruption, inadequate police posts and lack of police patrols.

The security in this community is not good because in the morning when we are coming to school, girls get raped and the people who are doing this are not being taken to court.

[FGD. Female young peoples 15-19, Kirinyaga]

On mechanisms to ensure that security was in place, the government ought to install security lights, increase police patrols, share police hotlines and embrace the *nyumba kumi* initiative. The participants reported that there is need for public awareness on security issues.

The role of young people in maintaining security was reported to be formation of security groups at night that help in maintaining security, reporting suspicious situations, reporting law breakers, preaching peace and avoiding crime or bad company.

2.5.1.3 Cohesion

The unity of a county is important. It is the fibre that keeps the people united and hence works together for development. In the county, the issues affecting the unity of young people are tribalism which was

mentioned by all the age groups, social class disparities—where the rich do not associate with the poor, religious and political differences, incitement, DSA, inadequate resources, discrimination and domestic conflict.

The county has programmes in place that promote unity. Sports and games where young people from different communities play together were reported across the board by all the groups. Creation of job opportunities that are given to young people on merit, civic education and more sporting activities were reported as some of the activities that needs to be done more to promote unity.

2.5.2 Transparency and Accountability

This section mainly looks at the mechanisms that have been put in place to inform young people, and how these mechanisms can be improved.

As the saying goes, information is power. Young people get information on planned and ongoing activities largely from community meeting/public forums/barazas. The media as a source of information was reported by the older youth (25-34 years). Service delivery charter boards/notice boards, announcements in Churches/Mosques, radios, telephones, suggestion boxes and public announcement using mobilisation vehicles were also reported as a source of information.

The groups of the respondents reported that the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency were; stepping aside, resignation and disciplinary action, as ways to ensure accountability and transparency. The older youth aged 25-34 reported that there were no mechanisms in place.

“Yes it’s there, those chiefs are forced to resign if they are seen doing things that they were not employed to do. The disciplinary action that’s taken is for him to resign and the job is given to another people.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 20-24, Kirinyaga]

Measures that were reported for improvement of mechanisms that are in place to ensure transparency and accountability, was to enforce rules and regulations and punish the wrong doers.

2.5.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

This section looks at the involvement of young people in project budgeting, planning and implementation.

On youth involvement in the budget process, project, identification, design and implementation, the young people in the county reported that they were not involved in the project design and implementation because the leaders do not engage the young people.

The young people mentioned that the role they like to play was in representing young people in decision making processes regarding the youth, doing casual/manual work and to be provided with job opportunities like fish rearing. On the roles that they would like to be given, the young people reported that they should be given jobs on merit and those that do not require certificates like digging trenches, should be given to the willing young people. The older people (35-60) said they would like young people to volunteer as secretaries in the meetings being conducted by older people. With this exposure they would get experience.

The projects that young people get involved in, address their needs, for there is creation of employment and the young people get money to empower themselves economically. The existing opportunities serve those who deserve—because there are projects that have money set aside for young people and mostly the young people are given these funds to start businesses hence empowering them economically.

Across all the groups the following were mentioned as the challenges that young people face during their involvement in project implementation; tribalism, nepotism, lack of motivation, lack of information on certain youth projects that can be funded, fear of managing projects and discrimination.

“Due to the old people working there, they chose people from their family let us say you are young and if you do not have such connection, you may not get a job. Young people are being given those hard jobs but the old are just benefitting from us.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Kirinyaga]

How young people's involvement in the project process can be improved

The views on how young people's involvement in the project process can be improved were varied across all the age groups. The young people reported that for their involvement to be improved; corruption and tribalism should be eradicated, people running the projects should prioritise youth involvement, and young people should be involved in every stage of project implementation. In addition, the young people reported that they needed capacity building in project management as reported in the following quote:

“Training in which one is shown how to manage a project and gain experience so that the project stands strong and runs smoothly. Experience is needed and as youths they may not have the experience so maybe we can be taught how to manage projects.”

[FGD. Mixed young peoples 20-24, Kirinyaga]

2.5.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This sections looks at the resource allocation to young people.

The young people noted that the resources allocated to them does not reach them because of corruption. In order for the resources to reach them, the mechanisms that should be put in place is public awareness on the resources allocated to the young people and then they should be involved in project monitoring and evaluation. The groups suggested that in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilisation of resources, all the people currently running projects should be sacked and new people of integrity employed.

2.5.5 Political Leadership

This section looks at the political leadership and the role it plays in the management of youth affairs.

The political leadership especially at the county level was noted to improve the infrastructure by building shades for the *boda boda* riders and providing resources on certain projects that empower young people economically. Nonetheless, the older ages (15 and above) felt that the political leadership does nothing and there is nepotism when it comes to job allocations.

2.6 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People

Participants suggested that population increase would lead to poor sanitation and the children may fall sick due to unhygienic practices. Information from key informants noted that the county is vibrant when it comes to encouraging families to plan their families so that a couple is able to get children they are able to manage and provide for the basic needs. In the education sector, participants reported that population increase leads to congestion in classes and it would pose a health hazard especially if one had TB—then other students would contract it. Population increase would also lead to high school dropout because some students may refuse to go to school due to the many children in school and provision of low quality of education because teachers are few and the children are many.

“Some pupils may not go to school because they are so many children at home so a parent cannot afford school fees.”

[FGD. Female young people 10-14, Kirinyaga]

An in-depth interview noted that:

“Population growth is a good thing. There is nothing wrong if population increases. It’s only that there has been poor planning and when you have a young population that is at an economic disadvantage. So that is an opportunity that is not supposed to be missed. What the government should do is to be proactive in expanding opportunities in education not necessarily the white collar jobs but also through other avenues.”

[IDI. Education, Kirinyaga]

In the economy sector, participants reported that population increase would lead to high dependency, high poverty levels, increased migration, lack of basic needs, unemployment and unequal distribution of resources.

“Land will be little because if a mother has so many boys and has a little land and everybody wants land, so she starts sub-dividing the land and the land will be so little.”

[FGD. Female young peoples 10-14, Kirinyaga]

Views taken from key informant in governance indicated that the county is not populated as such but there is need to ensure that the population is well taken care of and there is no escalation of crime. To achieve this there is need to improve the institutions; health and learning institutions, the economy and specifically the agricultural sector, health sector in that the health facilities are equipped so that as the young people increase, challenges are minimized.

2.7 Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evident that the county is having a youth bulge that would decrease as years go by if the prevailing tempo of managing population is maintained. The county is on the right track to reap the benefits of demographic dividend (DD). The county is one of the few counties in Kenya whose demographic window has opened. The window opened in 2014 and this was expected because the indicators in the county are not badly off, not forgetting that the county leads in CPR. This window is expected to last for about 40 years.

The county is still struggling with DSA and specifically alcoholism which affects most of the young people, making some of them drop out of school, be economically inactive and engage in crime to get money for more illicit liquor. Some of the health facilities are ill equipped and understaffed. The same was reported in the education sector where alcoholism was threatening the boy-child while the girl

child was reported to be empowered. The rice rich county is also affected by brokers in the agricultural sector. The middle men (brokers) were reported to buy agricultural produce very cheaply and then sell it expensively. The county government needs to get markets where the farmers can sell their produce without the middle men.

The county is located in the central part of Kenya where malaria is rare, however, because of rice farming which uses a lot of stagnant water, the county has high incidences of malaria. Thus it is important that the residents use malaria treated nets to avoid malaria.

Though the county is doing well in terms of demographic dividend, there is need to maintain the tempo otherwise the gains that have been made might be reversed. Addressing the issues affecting the young people is also important so that the county can continue reaping the benefits on demographic dividend, the HDI will also improve and the county will have young people who are educated, healthy, and economically active and who observe the rule of law. Until then, the county government and all the other stakeholders have their roles to play in ensuring that young people's needs are well taken care of.

The following recommendations were derived from the survey findings in Kirinyaga.

Health

1. Since the county's demographic window opened in 2014, there is need to maintain the average number of children at 2.3 otherwise the county may suffer from having an elderly population by 2050.
2. There is need for the county government to channel more funds into the health sector, to staff and equip health facilities and establish YFCs across the county so that young people access SRH information and services.
3. The illicit brew is still rife in the county. The brewing cartels should be eradicated and rehabilitation centres should be established to accommodate the addicted youth and counsel them in order to stop the addiction.
4. The health facilities need to be staffed and more employment opportunities in this sector given to young people who have the skills and knowledge.

Education

1. The government needs to ensure that the tertiary institutions in the county are not all upgraded because the county will lack institutions that would impart young people with technical skills.
2. The gender imbalance should be arrested by taking into consideration the boy-child, since the girl-child seems to be more empowered.

3. Some learning institutions have inadequate teachers, inadequate facilities like laboratories, chairs, desks, dormitories, libraries, toilets, electricity, computer laboratories—hence there is need to provide funds to equip the learning institutions to make learning for the students conducive and the TSC should employ more teachers in order to improve the quality of education.
4. Young people in the county need a lot of guidance and counselling in issues affecting them. There is need to establish guidance and counselling clubs in the learning institutions in the county.

Economy

1. Some roads were reported to be impassable, making it impossible for farmers to take their produce to the markets, especially during the rainy season. The county government ought to improve the infrastructure and get markets for young people to sell their produce.
2. There is need to capacity build young people on the interventions the government has put in place to empower them economically. These funds should be availed to young people without bottlenecks and on merit. Corruption and nepotism which was reported to have penetrated all sectors should also be fought and eradicated so that young people can have a level playing field where there are no bottlenecks.
3. The county government should device ways of economically empowering young people to reduce the high unemployment rate. For instance, the unemployed young people could provide services like running market toilets, manning of bus parks and garbage collection—which should all be run by young people so that they are empowered economically.
4. The county government should adhere to AGPO – an intervention that indicates that 30 percent of procurement that should be awarded to young people, women and PWDs. In order to ease the registration of companies for the young people, the government needs to decentralise registration of companies by introducing a desk in the Huduma centres so that the young people are able to register companies and reap the benefits of AGPO.

Governance

1. The provincial administration together with the county government should work together and fight the cartels that manufacture and sell second hand liquor in the county. Until this is done, this alcoholism menace threatens to wipe out a whole generation of young people.
2. The government should strengthen mechanisms that encourage cohesion in the community. Young people ought to be capacity built on civic education so that issues to do with the rule of law are understood and inculcated in young people.
3. There is need to involve young people at all levels of project design and implementation, especially in projects that are suitable for young people.
4. The national government should beef up security by employing more security officers, increasing patrols and establishing more police stations in the county.

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Annex 1: County Demographic Windows

The United Nations defines the demographic window as the period when the proportion of those aged below 15 years permanently falls below 30 percent of the total population while the proportion of those above 64 years is still below 15 percent of the total population. This period is estimated to last about 40 years and it presents an opportunity for a country to achieve a much faster economic growth driven by the large population of people in the working ages. Table A1.1 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

Central – 1 Region

Table A2.1 Western region survey personnel

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KIRINYAGA COUNTY