



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

**LAIKIPIA COUNTY**



January 2017



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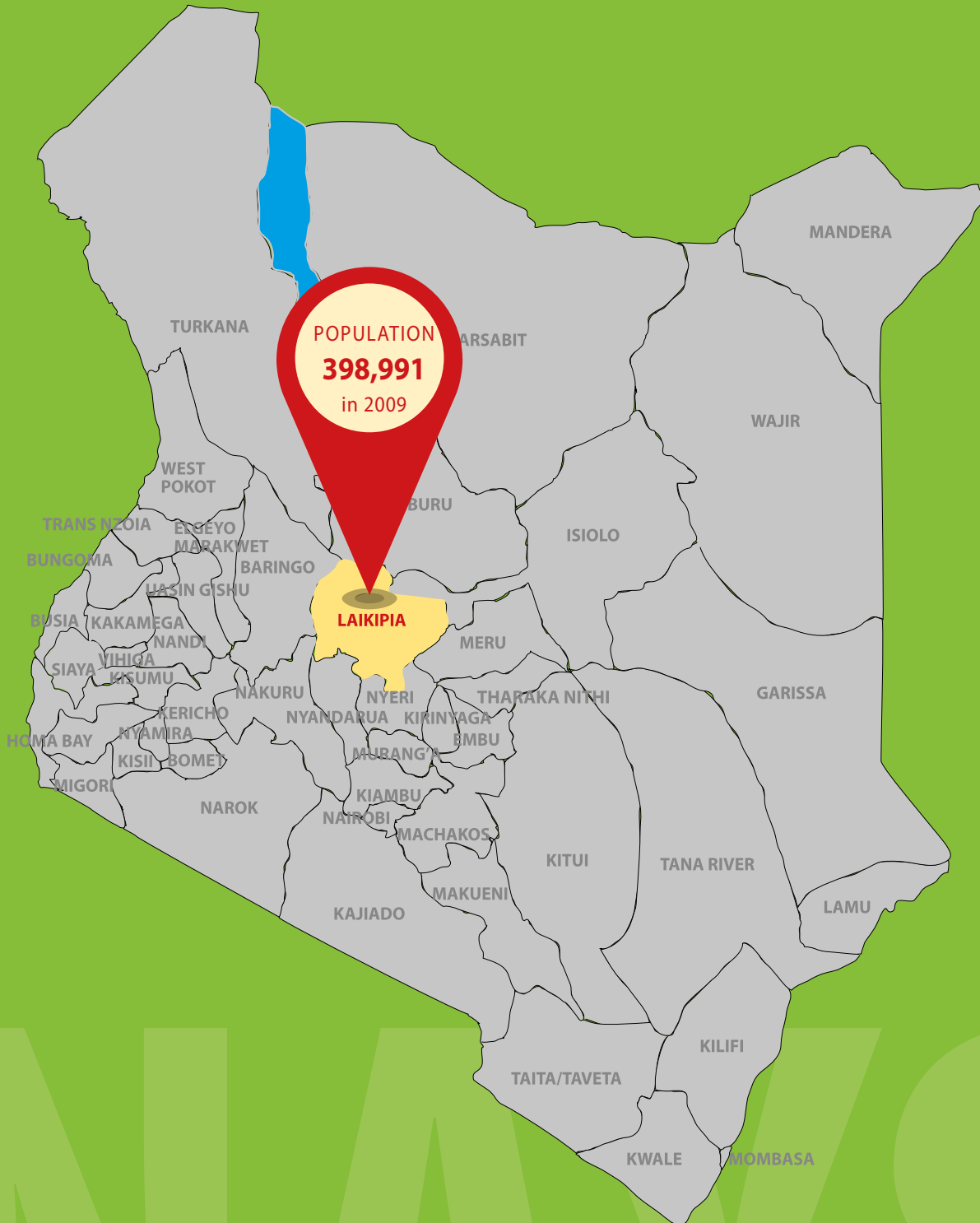
## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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.

# LAIKIPIA 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 Laikipia county profile based on the findings of the 2015 National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) conducted by the National Council for Population Development (NCPD), in conjunction with 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 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 impacts on building a county that would be responsive to the young people.

The total population of Laikipia County in 2009 was 398,991 people and is projected to increase to 580,201 people by 2030 and to 724,508 people by 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (42 percent) below age 15 but this population is projected to decrease to 32 percent and to 24 percent in the year 2030 and 2050 respectively. As the proportion of population of the young people declines, it is projected that the working age population will increase from 54 percent in 2009 to 68 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 86 to 46 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2036 and close in 2076.

Laikipia County has a fertility rate of 3.7 children per woman. Fifty-nine percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Fifty percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 79.3 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. Young people in the county are faced with various challenges. The ones are drug and substance abuse, especially alcoholism, STIs, SGBV, teenage pregnancy, female circumcision, early marriage, low access to health care especially reproductive information and services. These problems are caused by poverty, lack access to reproductive health information and services, availability of drugs and local brews, peer pressure and lack of parental guidance. The report recommends strengthening of young people's access to reproductive health information and services, increased public

awareness on the issues affecting young people, enforcement of laws that prohibit access to drugs and alcohol to young people, provision of guidance and counselling services to the youth, and elimination of female circumcision and early marriages.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 93 percent. This means that about 7 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is lower than the primary school net enrolment rate. It is 62 percent. It is estimated that 5,806 primary school age and 14,860 secondary school age children are out of school in the county. The main challenges affecting the education of young people in the county include poverty (lack of school fees), drug and substance abuse, inadequate teachers and child labour. The county government and other stakeholders should endeavour to enable all the school-age children in the county have access to education through addressing the issues highlighted in this report.

The county has high level of poverty and a dependency ratio of 86. This situation can be attributed to unemployment and the moribund agricultural sector. The county is large and has poor infrastructure. The infrastructure should be improved. This includes; roads, water supply and electric power supply, especially in the Northern side of the county. This will support the business initiatives of the young people in the county. The government should diversify the sources of livelihood for the residents so as to reduce the over reliance on rain-fed agriculture. In addition, they should sensitize on the existing business, training and employment opportunities and involve them. is critical.

Laikipia County faces high rates of poverty, inequality and problems of such as alcoholism which negatively affects the young people and restrict their to access to training and employment opportunities. Both social and economic development interventions are necessary to address the problems faced with young people in the county. Investments in the health, education, and economic opportunities for the young people are required and also reduction in the population growth rate is recommended in order to accelerate economic growth in the county.

In the economic front, young people need to be sensitized on the interventions the government has established to empower them economically. These interventions include the UWEZO Fund and the 30% of the government tenders. The young people should be assisted to access these funds and tenders. The county government should devise other ways of empowering economically young people in order to reduce the high unemployment rate. In the governance sphere, young people are not involved at all levels of project design and implementation especially in projects that are for them. Corruption and nepotism were cited as some of the major handles that deny young people employment. These vices should be eradicated.



# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1.1 Youth in Kenya

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

### 1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

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

### 1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million during the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census. It was estimated to be increasing at a rate of 1 million people each year representing

a growth rate of about 2.9 percent annually. From the census results, the dependency ratio was 87 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years). The same census also indicated that Kenya's population-age structure is youthful because the population of children below the age of 15 years was 43 percent, way above the cut-off limit of 35 percent. This was corroborated by the fact that those aged below 35 years constitute 78 percent of the country's total population. This population-age structure does not lend itself to the country's efforts to attain a rapid economic growth because most of the resources are spent on meeting the ever increasing social needs (health, housing, education, water and sanitation) of the fast growing population.

*Kenya's Population Policy for National Development* recognizes that the rapid growth in the population size is a constraint to national development. To counter this, the policy proposes a reduction in the fertility levels from 5 children per woman in 2009 to 2 children per woman in 2050. According to the 2014 KDHS, the fertility level was 4 children per woman in 2014 which is a clear indication that the fertility levels are dropping. If this trend continues and Kenya achieves a fertility level of 2 children by 2050 then the population size will increase to 59 million in 2030 and 75 million in 2050 with the proportion of those aged below 15 years decreasing to 33 and 25 percent respectively. The dependency ratio for the country in 2030 and 2050 will be 57 and 45 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years) respectively.

## 1.2 Survey Rationale

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

## 1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives

### *Survey goal*

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

## Survey objectives

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

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

## 1.4 Survey Organisation

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

### 1.4.1 Pre-test

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

### 1.4.2 Trainings

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

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

## 1.5 Survey Methodology and Implementation

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

### 1.5.1 Survey tools

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

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

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

## 1.5.2 Sampling

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

Table 1.1 Cluster counties by study regions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.5.3 Data Collection

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

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

Table 1.4 Survey response rates

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

### 1.5.4 Data Processing and Analysis

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

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

# 2

## LAIKIPIA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Background

Laikipia County is one of the 14 counties within the Rift Valley region. It borders Samburu County to the North, Isiolo County to the North East, Meru County to the East, Nyeri County to the South East, Nyandarua County and Nakuru County to the South West and Baringo County to the West. It lies between latitudes 0° 18° and 0° 51° North and between longitude 36° 11° and 37° 24° East. It covers an area of 9,462 km<sup>2</sup> and is ranked as the 15th largest county in the country by land size. The County is richly endowed with wildlife, which is widely distributed in the semi-arid areas extending to Samburu, Meru and Mt. Kenya wildlife corridors/ecosystems. The County is comprised of three administrative sub-counties namely Laikipia East, Laikipia North, and Laikipia West (the sub county units are geographically equivalent to the constituencies). The sub-county headquarters are at Nanyuki, Doldol, Rumuruti and Nyahururu respectively.

### 2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Situation

#### 2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

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

Table 2.1 Population size and age distribution

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	398,991	580,201	724,508
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	42.1%	31.6%	23.9%
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	4.0%	4.1%	7.3%
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	53.9%	64.4%	68.7%
Dependency Ratio	85.6	55.4	45.5
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2036		

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Laikipia County had a population of 398,991 people. By 2030 the population is expected to rise to 580,201 and 724,508 by 2050. The

proportion of the population below age 15 was 42 percent in 2009 and is projected to decline to 32 percent in 2030 and 24 percent in 2050. The elderly population is expected to increase from 4 percent in 2009 to 7 percent in 2050.

The working age population is projected to increase from 54 percent in 2009 to about 69 percent in 2050. The dependency ratio was 86 in 2009 and is projected to decline to 55 in 2030 and to 46 in 2050. The demographic window of opportunity would open in 2036. The demographic window normally takes about 40 years before it closes, so the window will close in 2075.

## 2.2.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Table 2.2 Socio-Economic characteristics for laikipia county

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3.7
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	59.1%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	49.5%
	HIV Prevalence	3.7%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	79.3%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	93.4%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	28.3
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	5,806
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	61.5%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	19.5
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	14,810
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.5741344

The fertility rate for in the county is 3.7 children per woman while the contraceptive prevalence rate is 59 percent. About half of the births in the county are attended by a skilled health worker and 79 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully immunised. This indicates that about 21 percent of the children 12-23 months in the county are not fully vaccinated. The county's HIV prevalence rate is 3.7 percent which is lower than the national prevalence of 6.4 percent.

On education, the primary and secondary net enrolment rates are 93 percent and 62 percent respectively. This indicates that a large number of children drop out of the school system between primary and secondary education. Currently, 14,810 secondary school age children in the county are out of school. The pupil-teacher ratios in Table 2.2 indicate that the county has adequate number of both primary and secondary school teachers in relation to number of enrolled school children.

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 has a higher score when the life expectancy at birth is longer, the education period is longer, and the income per capita is higher. The score of the county is 0.574 which is slightly higher than the national at 0.520

## 2.3 Health and Young People

A county’s health status is an important indicator of its level of development. The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young people in Laikipia County. The questions were raised across 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.

### 2.3.1 The Main Health Problems Affecting Young People

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Peer pressure	School drop out	Guidance and counselling
Drug and substance Abuse	Idleness	Death	Sensitisation of women on the need to have hospital deliveries
Sexual and Gender based violence(SGBV)	Parental – negligence		Provision of ambulances
Teenage Pregnancy	Poverty		
Maternal deaths	Ignorance		
	Home deliveries		
	Lack of ambulances		

From the focus group discussions across the various groups, STIs, sexual and gender based violence; drug and substance abuse where alcoholism is the main DSA issue and teenage pregnancy are identified as the main health problems affecting young people. STIs was discussed in all the discussion groups with the males aged 15-19 topping the list.

The respondents attributed the health problems to peer pressure, idleness among youth and lack of parental guidance. Poverty was also mentioned as one of the reasons that youth might engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, DSA and teenage pregnancy.

*“To add on that especially the cases of family break up is affecting youths because most of the youths especially orphans engage in sex very early because of lack of someone who can guide them, as we talk of health issues it’s a contribution to lack of proper education like when a youth is in secondary school they do not have that knowledge of how they can prevent themselves from HIV, this is an issue of lack of knowledge.”*

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

Information from key informants indicated that teenage pregnancies was also a health concern as it was leading to girls dropping out of schools and some of whom may be forced to get married when they are still young.. In addition, the policy maker noted that the county has high incidents of maternal deaths due to lack of access to health care Statistics show that only half of births are attended by a skilled health worker. Lack of ambulance services for delivery and other emergency services was mentioned as a major cause of maternal deaths.

*“Also there are these ambulance vehicles, let’s say Laikipia as a whole that is history. Even when someone gets seriously sick, I don’t have anywhere to take the person. The nearest ambulance which is once in a small town is as far as 33km from here.”*

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

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 there are instances when the health problems resulted in premature death among youth. Guidance and counselling was largely suggested as one of the ways to address health problems among youth in the county.

## 2.3.2 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 & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Health Facilities Schools Religious Institutions	SRH Sex Education	Disease Prevention Behaviour change	Schools/learning institutions Media Health Facilities

Within the discussion groups a range of sources of information were identified; particularly the health facilities, schools and religious institutions. The type of information received included SRH information including HIV and AIDS and sex education. This information was regarded as useful in terms of disease prevention and knowledge for behaviour change. However, young people preferred learning institutions, media and health facilities as the sources of information.

Table 2.5 Accessing and availability of the main SRH/FP information and services

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Contraceptives mainly the pill and the condoms	Fear/embarrassment Cost of services Side effects	Improve infrastructure, Reduce the cost of SRH services

In this county the main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young people were contraceptives largely the oral pills and condoms. Even then, they also mentioned challenges in accessing these services; fear or embarrassment was mentioned largely by all the age groups. Cost of services, lack of ambulances and side effects in regard to FP commodities were other challenges that were suggested.

Ways of addressing the general health challenges were suggested and these included improving the infrastructure in the County. The groups noted that Laikipia County is vast and more roads are needed to facilitate access to health facilities. This was mentioned in all the discussion groups. Reduction of costs of SRH services was also suggested as a way to address challenges in accessing health information and services.

*“In terms of fear, some patients might not trust the doctor in sense that when I tell this doctor about my problems he might go and rumour about it.”*

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Laikipia]

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 Antiretro Viral Therapy (ART), STI/HIV, donations and guidance and counselling.

Generally, the challenges in accessing health information and services for the marginalised populations were poor access to health facilities and inadequate public awareness.

### 2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health Issues

In this county the main organisations identified as addressing health issues were Friends of Nature, Aphia Plus, World Vision, UNDP, AMREF and Caritas. Community Health Workers (CHWs) were noted to address health issues especially in the areas where there are no health facilities or they are far. These organisations were acknowledged for changing the behaviour of young people, provision of health services, improved health awareness, guidance and counselling especially on early pregnancies. Young girls who got pregnant and thought of abortion would be counselled and would give birth safely. Caritas and World vision were reported to have facilitated capacity build on health issues. In addition, they would provide sanitary towels to girls in some selected primary schools and donate blankets and nets.

*“Also we have UNDP, Save the children, Impala mobile clinics, International Organisations like AMREF also go around helping people. AMREF; it depends with the season; sometimes they with issues to do with eyes problems, another time nutrition etc. UNDP brings machines for malaria.”*

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

### 2.3.4 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 need to expand and equip the number of health facilities offering YFSs in order to increase access to health information and services by the youth. Guidance and counselling was suggested as an opportunity especially if it was embraced by all the schools.

*“Like what she had said those youth friendly services can be good. Because if there are games you will find that youth will go there and they will be informed because these seminars in churches some do not even go to church.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19 Laikipia]

## 2.4 Education and Young People

Education contributes significantly to individual and county 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 Laikipia County. The questions were raised across 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 while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving education sector within the county. The 5 sub-theme examined the relevance of the causes taught to the job market.

### 2.4.1 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/lack of fees Absenteeism of teachers and students Child labour Teenage pregnancy Early marriages	Poverty Peer pressure Alcoholism	School drop out Poor academic results and performance	Guidance and counselling Provision of bursaries/ education funds Law enforcement on child labour Establishment of rehabilitation centres Strict rules and measures

From the focus group discussions across the various groups DSA, poverty, 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 one major cause that was affecting both teachers and students adversely and the groups suggested the establishment of rehabilitation centres.

*“I can request the government to put up some money that can assist the people in guidance and counselling who will be coming in the locality and preaching good news and telling them to stop that kind of behaviour so that it can help them continue with the education.”*

[FGD. Mixed Young People 15-19, Laikipia]

*“We have early marriages which is prevalent in Laikipia North and also in Laikipia East here. We have child labour. In Laikipia North there is sand harvesting and this absorbs children on the way. Cultural practices are also common. Gender discrimination, most of the community believes that girls are to get married and then bring cattle. Corporal punishment is not very prevalent although there is only one case that was reported from Nyahururu by a donor but actually it was not so severe.”*

[Key Informant Interview, Education, Laikipia]

The groups observed that the consequences of these education issues included school dropout especially as a result of DSA and teenage pregnancy. It was also noted that poor academic performance was due to these problems

Guidance and counselling was largely suggested as one of the ways to address education issues affecting the people, especially those that have been affected by DSA. In order to fight poverty, bursaries should be given to the needy and deserving children in the community. Child labour which is prevalent in coffee, tea and flowers growing areas should be addressed by enforcing the law on child labour and implementing Children’s Act of 2001.

## 2.4.2 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 was for primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

The participants indicated that there were gender disparities because some communities in the county prefer the boy to girl child and sometimes they educate the boy child because the girl will get married. Learning facilities for special needs are available in the county which include, communication disorder, visual, physical, psychological and mental.

### 2.4.3 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 suggested that the courses being taught in schools were not relevant to the prevailing job market and this led to increasing unemployment in the county.

### 2.4.4 Organisations Addressing Education

In this county the main organisations identified as addressing education were those offering sponsorship largely financial institutions like the Equity bank that was noted to provide wings to fly for the needy bright students who had finished Class 8. Other institutions are the St. Martins, Talithakum and CDF though the groups felt that the bursary allocation by CDF was not based on merit.

*“There is also the issue of bursaries and you find that if you do not have their connections, with the people in charge of these bursaries you won’t get any help. So I think there should be no discrimination.”*

[FDG. Mixed young people 15-19, Laikipia]

These organisations would give financial assistance and pay school fees for the needy especially the CDF and Equity bank. St. Martins was sensitising the youth on DSA, mentorship programmes; Talithakum was having programmes for the disabled and children living with HIV and AIDS.

### 2.4.5 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 is the need to contain the teachers’ strikes, advocate for both gender, observe hygiene and sanitation and avoid sending students at home to get school fees, instead schools should embrace the technology and send text messages to parents/guardian.

*“Also in terms of culture we need to advocate for not only the girl child education but both genders without discrimination, so that we can have a better society.”*

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

## 2.5 Economy 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 years. 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.

### 2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The main employment and income opportunities that were suggested for the county are farming, livestock keeping, jua kali sector, mining, construction and casual labour. The groups mentioned challenges they encounter in accessing these employment opportunities namely; corruption, brokers especially in the agricultural sector, competition, lack of information, human wildlife conflict where wild animals from the forest eat what has been planted and poor infrastructure.

### 2.5.2 Main Economic Activities 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
Casual/manual labour	Brokers	Provide/source for competitive markets
Business	Harassment by authority or employee	Capacity building/education
Boda boda	Poor infrastructure	Government to build roads to improve infrastructure
Fish farming		Law enforcement
Prostitution		
Domestic workers		
Bar maids/man		

Farming was suggested as the main economic activity since it was mentioned in all the discussion groups. *Boda boda* was suggested by the older age groups of 15 years and above. Poor pay and exploitation by the employee was suggested as the main challenge. Brokers who are mainly found in the agricultural mainly determine poor 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. The older age group (35-60) suggested that there should be law enforcement when it comes to prostitution which is illegal in Kenya.

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 are; farming, coffee picking and a bit of quarrying. The reasons behind their engagement in the economic activities were diverse and the main one being to provide basic needs in cases where the parents are not able to provide.

*“Some parents are HIV positive and have no strength to work, so as a child you go and work so that you can get the money to meet your needs.”*

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

*“Others go to do such jobs because they are through with class eight, so in the mean time before they transits, they go to seek for a job so that you can assist in paying fees.”*

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

Other reasons suggested are; lack of interest in education, earn income, buy drugs for those who are addicted to DSA and to improve the living standards of their families.

### 2.5.3 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 in place 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
Advocacy and information sharing AGPO KKV NGOs SME-boda boda SME – Entrepreneurship UWEZO fund WEDF NYS	Bureaucracy Lack of information on the availability of funds Some interventions are not decentralised	Engage community leaders Employ more staff in the youth ministry Decentralise services Eradicate corruption Create public awareness on how to access the funds

Across all the groups especially the older ones (above 25 years) various interventions were suggested which include Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV). NGOs like Talithakum in Nyahururu that provides free counselling to young people; AGPO, though the respondents were apprehensive on its implementation and NYS where some indicated the process of recruitment is complicated and it is usually in cities and big town. On Small Medium Enterprises (SME) *boda boda* association was indicated to be very strong.

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

Involvement of community leaders was suggested as a way of addressing the challenges facing the young people in accessing interventions. While the UWEZO and YEDF have been in existence for some time, the community is not sensitized on how to borrow the loans. The government was therefore implored upon to employ more youth officers to carry out sensitisation campaigns on group formation and how to access funds. Corruption was suggested as a challenge and the county government ought to have a level play ground that is competitive for all in order to access even the AGPO.

*“To talk about theft a little, young people are involved in theft because you find that youths are not aware of the YEDF, UWEZO Fund, and Women Fund. Also you find that even as a group of 15 people if they are given that 50,000/-, it can't help them to do anything because here people are into agriculture and livestock keeping. So you find it becomes hard because people are not even aware.”*

[FGD. Mixed older people, 35-60]

*“Government should bring entrepreneur skills in the mashinani and teach them, train them on how to invest, how to start a business because that's what is lacking here. I have an idea but how am I going to go about it and make use of this idea. Young people need training. Bring more personnel from ministry of youth affairs. Even if it's devolving it does not work. They need to come and create awareness that there is UWEZO, and give advantages and differences between e.g UWEZO and YEDF and people will be able to choose the better way to go. Talk about those tenders. Most youths just hear about them. They need to come and educate them. They need to review their policy to address the issues of young people.”*

[FGD. Mixed youth group, 25-34]

*“NYS is there but they have not gone deep into the rural areas than in the cities. They should come in the rural areas. The recruitment for the NYS is very complicated. Some people are not able to access to it because the age also is limiting some because some finish school at 17 years and they do not qualify for the recruitment there. The issue of KCSE certificate, what about those who could not join high school due to lack of fees. Yet the person has a call to be enrolled there? You see such chances are not available for them.”*

[FGD. Female young people, 15-19]

### 2.5.4 Availability and Access to ICT Services

Views were sought on availability and access to ICT services to the young people in the county. The following 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	Lack of knowledge and skills to operate the gadgets	Install of electricity
Resource centres (libraries)	Distance	Policy on price subsidies
TV	Network problems	Diversify ICT services
Telephone	Erratic/lack of power supply	Improve infrastructure
	Language barrier	Equip already existing libraries
	Misconceptions	Install network boosters
	Lack/inadequate time	
	Inadequate ICT services and equipment	
	Misconceptions	

Computers were suggested across all the age groups. Young people also accessed ICT services from cyber cafes and digital telephone handsets. The main challenge in accessing the ICT services was suggested to be the cost (buying bundles of surfing and charges in the cyber cafés). Others felt the distance to the nearest cyber was far and the government ought to at least equip the already existing resource centres with ICT services. Network problems were suggested as a hindrance to ICT services and the government was implored upon to install network boosters.

The groups reported that young people use the information for entertainment, job search, marketing, academic research, county affairs, current affairs like fashion and social networking.

*“It depends on an individual’s interests”. For education, information about a certain institutions, they use it for research and also in business, checking about markets, OLX etc.”*

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

### 2.5.5 Organisations Addressing Economic Issues

In this county the main organisations identified as addressing economic issues for young people are; private sector which train young people and empower them by offering them industrial attachments and internships. They also offer donations of bursaries and food to the needy. Public institutions like the CDF were mentioned to have improved infrastructure in the community and offer young people casual employment. The British Army Training Unit in Kenya (BATUK), which is situated in Nanyuki, was reported to occasionally offer employment to young people.

*“We have those British who have come from their country, they employ our youths like now they have an activity and the youth are being employed so they are getting money from them.”*

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Laikipia]

### 2.5.6 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, business and construction sites specifically in the quarries. The county government should offer employment opportunities on merit and establish industries in all areas. There should be power supply to support establishment of industries and talent academies where young people’s talents are nurtured. The potential areas in environment were in tree planting and floriculture and in transport industry.

*“And also if it can be possible for our County Governor can come up with some project so that some youth can get some employment.”*

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Laikipia]

### 2.5.7 Saving and Investment for Old Age

Young people ought to be encouraged to save and invest for old age. The participants reported that the young people did not expect to work at old age because they would have invested. Nonetheless,

some felt that they would still be energetic and still work. The participants reported that they would like to save and invest for old age but the following barriers exist; unemployment, social culture, reliance on family wealth, poverty, poor management of money, peer influence, parental interference, non-available and inaccessible financial institutions, less income more needs, lack of optimism, DSA and lack of information on saving and investments.

When asked what the ways to address the barriers were, the young people reported the need to create awareness on the need to save and invest and also on the available institutions like NSSF that offer savings and investments services. In addition, young people should be encouraged to have a saving culture, government to reduce NHIF and NSSF rates, provide capital and employment opportunities for young people to start businesses and save, banks to charge low interest on loans and prosecute drug peddlers who sell drugs to young people.

*“It’s a matter of prioritizing the little amount that you get, you just have to know that I have to spend this and this am going to invest. They should be educated on savings and investment.”*

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

## 2.6 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.

These sections sought the views in regard to the eight principles in governance.

### 2.6.1 Rule of Law

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

## Justice System

Table 2.10 Prevalent Cases

Main Cases	Challenges	Ways of addressing these Challenges
Cattle rustling Robbery/theft Land disputes Corruption Insecurity SGBV – rape	Conflict Corruption Cultural beliefs Disputes Favouritism Fear Few judicial systems Injustice Long time to solve cases Ignorance	Address and eliminate corruption Improve security Increase the number of courts Public awareness Police transfers Improve on the timeliness of solving cases

The most prevalent cases that were reported by the young people were robbery/theft and cattle rustling which was discussed by all the groups. Land disputes were also reported as prevalent cases. Other cases included corruption, insecurity and rape cases. The respondents suggested the challenges encountered were conflict, corruption, cultural beliefs which encourage solving of cases outside the court, favouritism and injustice. The ways suggested for addressing the challenges were to eliminate corruption, improve the security, increase the number of courts and create public awareness on their rights and how to follow due process.

*“Assistance, there is no assistance, when you go to the elders, they don’t want to listen, Chief does not also want to listen. So you find that there is no assistance.”*

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

*“The police ought to be serious. When these rapists are taken to court, through corruption they are released and that rapist will rape again, taken to court, again set free and it will be a cycle.”*

[FGD. Female young yp 15-19, Laikipia]

## Security

Security is a crucial element in governance. The majority of the respondents across all the age groups noted that the county had insecurity a part from a few people who felt that there was security. Insecurity was noted to be fuelled by corruption, fear, ignorance, illegal weapons by citizens and inadequate police posts, police and police patrols. Unguarded ranches in the county were noted to be breeding grounds of insecurity where thieves hide the stolen property.

On mechanisms to ensure that security was in place, the role of community leaders were to ensure that justice is not denied to the deserving residents and this was suggested as the most crucial. *Nyumba kumi* initiative and security lights were seen as interventions that could curb insecurity. These sentiments were also echoed by the key informant who noted that *nyumba kumi* initiative was rolled out in the whole county and the county had embraced community policing and peace meetings are held regularly. The issue of using dogs for patrols had a political twist as it is seen in the quote below.

*“Our governor bought dogs, and vehicles and food for those dogs. The dogs are for security but if I was to say something about that, I would say that there should be more policemen not dogs. The food these dogs are consuming is like Ksh. 100,000 that is enough to have more police.”*

[FGD. Mixed young people, 15-19, Laikipia]

*“When you are trying to collaborate with the police, you may find that for example you may not know whether that police is collaborating with the gangsters, so you may find that when you are trying to attack the gangsters, the police are going against and you are shot by the gangs.”*

[FGD. Male young person, 15-19, Laikipia]

The role of young people in maintaining security was to report suspicious situations, report law breakers, preaching peace and community policing.

### **Cohesion**

The unity of a county is important. It is a fibre that keeps the people united and hence works together for development. In the County the issues affecting the unity of young people is tribalism which was mentioned by all the age groups. Social class disparities where the rich do not associate with the poor and political differences were also mentioned.

The county has programmes in place that promote unity and religious activities where Churches and Mosques play a big role in bringing people of different tribes together. Young people from different tribes engage in sports and games. Civic education was suggested as the main activity that would promote unity in the county.

## **2.6.2 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. This was suggested across all the groups. Service delivery charter boards/notice boards, announcements in Churches and suggestion boxes were suggested also as a source. Media was a source though it was reported by the younger people.

The groups reported that the mechanism in place to ensure accountability and transparency were disciplinary action, resignation and stepping down as ways to ensure accountability and transparency. Nonetheless, the groups were very sceptical on whether these methods will ever work in this country.

One of the ways suggested improving transparency and accountability was for the implicated officers to step aside to allow for proper investigations to conduct by a credible organ. Other ways suggested were; strict supervision, allow for public audit, creation of rules that are strictly adhered to, community empowerment and encourage bottom-top approach.

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

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

The young people reported that they were not involved in budget process, project identification, design and implementation but are only called for casual jobs.

Young people reported that in project process, they would like to be represented in the whole process of projects and programmes design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and especially in projects that involve them. The older group (35-60) indicated that the young people would like to be involved in manual/casual work.

The projects that young people get involved in as casual workers enable them to get money which empowers them economically hence improving their livelihoods. One of the existing avenues to ensure that the opportunity serves those who deserve was in representation where a young people are selected to represent young people in committees. Most committees were not having young people as committee members. The groups noted that there were opportunities that are set aside for PWDs and women.

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

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Laikipia]

*“I wanted to say when these classes were being constructed, water is needed and this area has no water, some women are called to fetch water in the river and supply it.”*

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Laikipia]

Across all the groups the following were mentioned as the challenges that young people face during their involvement in project implementation; accidents, conflicts, corruption, delay in payments, exploitation, lack of specialized courses, being overworked, and lack of experience and language barrier. Young people’s involvement in project process can be improved by informing the young people about existing projects, guidance and counseling, given leadership and supervisory roles, be issued with protective gear especially when they were working on drainages, be allowed to use modern equipment, be given opportunities for investment and there should be no discrimination.

*“Allow the young people to participate where they are supposed to be. I am supposed to be a mason, let me do that. We need that. When they say you must have four years’ experience where do you get this experience? They need to involve the youth.”*

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

## 2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This sections looks at the resource allocation to young people.

The young people noted that the resources do not reach them because of corruption. In addition, they were discriminated against as indicated by this quote from the older people;

*“Youths need to be educated because, we have resources such as forests, rivers, sand etc. but when youths are called to participate, you find that they do not want to be involved and a lot of work is voluntary work and you know youths like where they are paid for their work. They can even form forest associations etc. but they have discriminated themselves because they do not want to participate in voluntary jobs.”*

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

On mechanisms in place to ensure proper utilization of resources the young people suggested that they should be involved at all level in project planning and implementation and people of integrity should manage projects.

The groups suggested that in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources, the resources ought to be utilized properly in the allocated sectors. Tribalism and corruption were noted to be enemies of proper utilization of resources. To sum it up a young person noted that efficiency and effectiveness would be improved if the government invests on young people and he said:

*“We should use minimal input to get the best. So they are supposed to invest in young people so that they can get the best. When they invest in young people the end result will be better.”*

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

### 2.6.5 Political Leadership

This section looks at the political leadership and the role it plays in the management of youth affairs. Political leadership especially at the county level was reported to improve infrastructure and this was largely mentioned across all the age groups. In addition, political leadership was noted to create employment, organise public events like the ASK shows and trade fairs, link people with opportunities by informing the youth on the available opportunities and initiated projects like the CDF which give bursaries to students.

## 2.7 Perspectives About Growing Population of Young People

The young people in schools suggested that population increase would lead to congestion in hospitals; more long queues in the hospitals because the doctors are few and increased transmission communicable diseases due to congestion. Participants reported that population increase would lead to congestion in classes, libraries etc; cause imbalance in teacher student ratio which may lead to poor quality of education, inadequate classrooms and lack of concentration.

In economy and governance, the young people reported that population increase would lead to high unemployment rate which would lead to escalation of crime rate.

*“Youths are many but the jobs that are available suits the people that are very learned. So the people who had studied up to high school don’t get jobs. Youths are many but when youths lack jobs many of them get into crimes which is bad.”*

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

## 2.8 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 demographic window will open in 2036 and close after about 40 years. With these developments on DD, 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, both the national, county government and all the other stakeholders have their roles to play in ensuring that young people's needs are well taken care of. DSA and specifically alcoholism is a major problem in the county and it has managed to affect young people making them unhealthy, drop out of school, be economically inactive and engage in crime to get money for more illicit liquor.

The county has five main ethnic communities and some are known to practice retrogressive cultural practices like the FGC. The stakeholders should fight against this practice since it adversely affects the health of the girl child.

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

### General

1. The county government and all the stakeholders should ensure that there are disability friendly services for PWDs are mainstreamed in all sectors – health, education, economy and governance.
2. Corruption and nepotism which was reported to have penetrated all sectors should be eradicated to ensure fairness and equality in the county.
3. The county government should adhere to AGPO – an intervention that caters for 30percent of procurement that should go to young people, women and PWDs.
4. Parents should take up their roles in upbringing of children. A lot of young people lack parental guidance hence get into vices that are detrimental in their lives.

### Health

1. Retrogressive cultural practices like FGC which are still practiced in some parts of the county and should be terminated.
2. Advocate for post-natal and pre- natal services. Concert efforts are made to encourage mothers to deliver in health facilities.
3. Laikipia County is vast. The county government ought to equip health facilities with ambulances for maternal and emergency services to avert the high maternal deaths in the county
4. There is need for the county government to channel more funds in the health sector to staff and equip health facilities and establish YFCs across the county so that young people access SRH information and services.

5. The illicit brew is still rife in the county. Rehabilitation centres should be established to accommodate the addicted youth and counsel them in order to stop the addiction.
6. The health providers should be capacity built on YFSs so that the young people can be attracted to the health facilities for information and services.
7. There is should proper and effective coordination of partners in the health sector in the county to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure resource leverage.

### *Education*

1. The county has high school dropout in both primary and secondary learning institutions. The county government should come up with mechanisms for retaining young people in primary secondary schools or tertiary institutions and arrest the school drop out.
2. The free primary and secondary school education seems to be a mirage that is yet to be achieved for the parents are still complaining of high cost of education. Both the national and county government should arrest the increment of tuition fees by the managers of schools.
3. Not all learning institutions have embraced training students on computer lessons especially in the primary and secondary school. This should be introduced in all schools.
4. Learning institutions have inadequate facilities like laboratories, chairs, desks, dormitories, libraries, toilets etc hence there is need to provide funds to equip the learning institutions to provide a conducive learning environment.
5. 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.
6. The TSC should employ more teachers in order to improve the quality of education.

### *Economy*

1. In the agricultural rich areas, some roads were reported to be impassable making farmers not to take their produce to the markets especially during the rainy season. The county government ought to improve the infrastructure.
2. There is need to sensitize 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.
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 which should be run by young people.
4. The county government should get markets (internal and/or abroad) for the young people who are engaged in various activities so that they are able to sell and get good proceeds from their labour.

## Governance

1. There are some areas in the county that has insecurity. The national and county government should work together and disarm these communities who constantly engage in ethnic fighting.
2. Peace meeting should be held regularly among these worrying communities.
3. 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, alcoholism menace threatens to wipe a whole generation of young people.
4. Young people ought to be trained on civic education so that issues to do with the rule of law are understood and inculcated in young people.
5. There is need to involve young people at all levels of project design and implementation especially in projects that are for young people.
6. The national government should beef up security by employing more security officers, increasing patrols and establishing more police stations in the county.
7. The government should strengthen mechanisms that encourage cohesion in the community.
8. There should be a law prohibiting the politicians from taking advantage of the unemployed young people and use them to bring havoc during the campaigning period.

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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

### Central-2 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 Central-2 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.

**LAIKIPIA COUNTY**