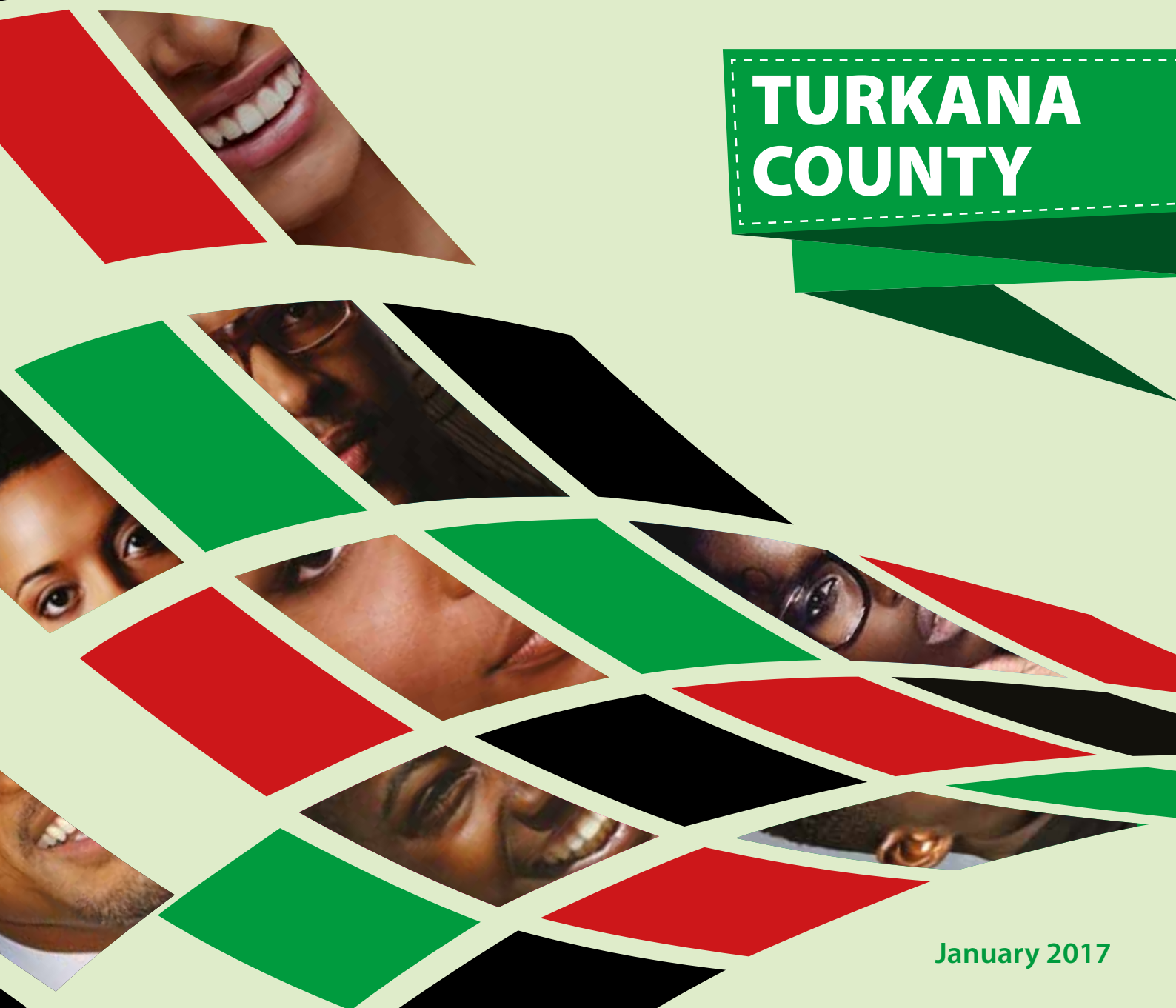




2015 KENYA NATIONAL **ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH** SURVEY (NAYS)

**TURKANA COUNTY**



January 2017



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2015 KENYA NATIONAL  
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SURVEY  
(NAYS)

**TURKANA COUNTY**

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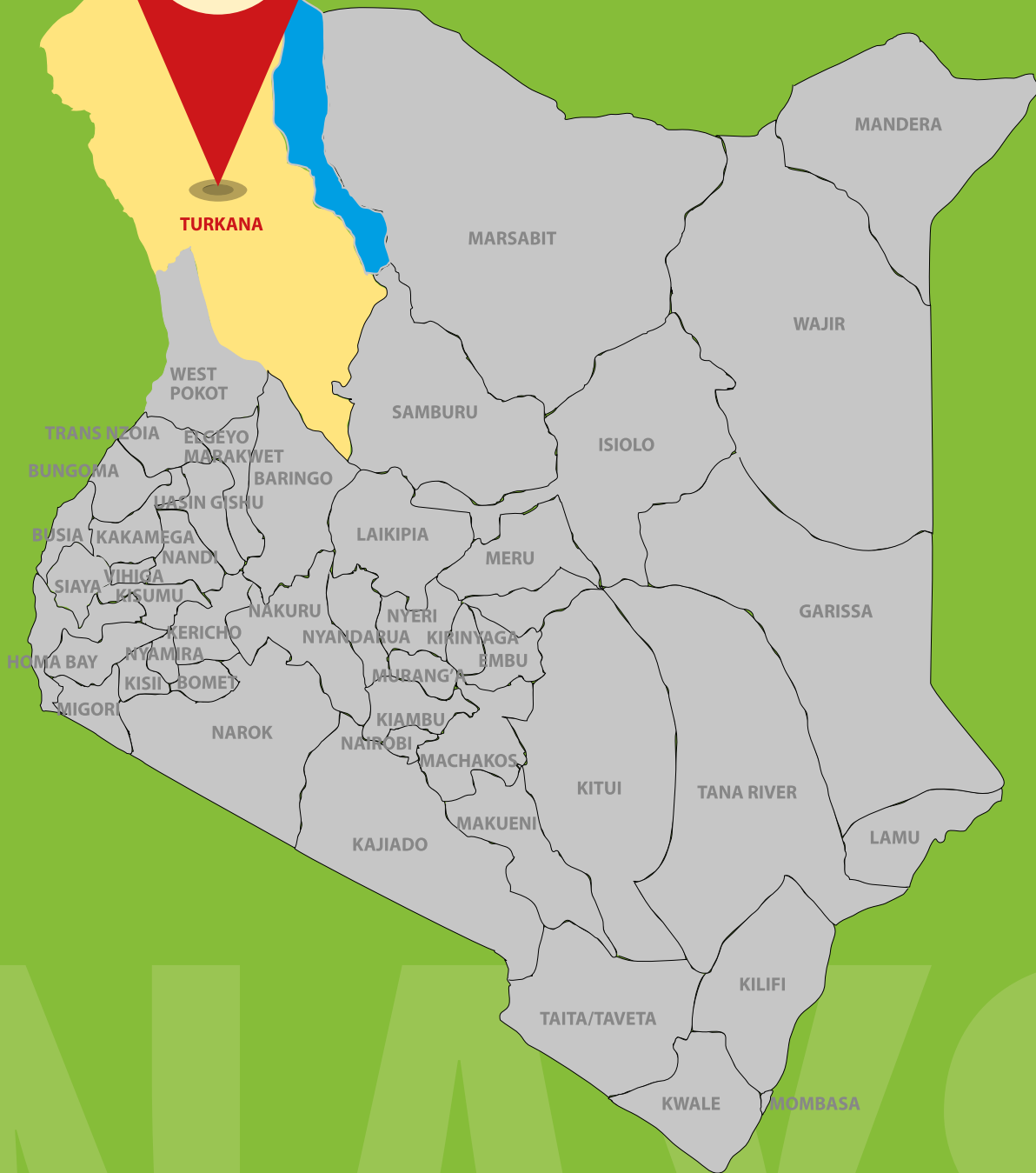
## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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.

# TURKANA COUNTY



## Foreword

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

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

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

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

## Acknowledgment

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Executive Summary

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

This report interrogates the demographic profile of the county and the prevailing socio-economic indicators of the county and further identifies the challenges and opportunities that exist for harnessing the benefits of a growing youth population. The report therefore presents an overview of the demographic, health, education, economic and governance indicators which are the main sectors whose performance impact on building a county that would be responsive to the young people.

The total population of Turkana County in 2009 was 885,261 people and is projected to increase to 1,776,519 people by 2030 and to 2,989,786 people by 2050 if the current fertility and mortality levels persist. The County has a high proportion of the population (46%) below the age of 15 years but this population is projected to decrease to 45 percent and to 38 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 52 percent in 2009 to 59 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 94 to 69 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2069 and close in 2109.

Turkana County has a fertility rate of 6.98 children per woman. Only ten percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Twenty-three percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 62 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. However, the County has an HIV prevalence rate of 7.6 percent. Young people are affected by teenage pregnancies, DSA, SGBV which are mostly brought about by parental negligence, poverty and peer pressure. To improve the health status of Turkana County, more investments have to be made in health.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 59 percent. This means that about 41 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is much lower (9%) than the primary

school net enrolment rate. These figures indicate a very low primary to secondary school transition rate and reflect a high school dropout rate. It is estimated that 109,414 primary school age and 106,368 secondary school age children are out of school in the county.

The main education issues facing young people in the county include absenteeism of teachers, drug and substance abuse, lack of school fees, peer pressure and early marriage. Increased investments in education and sensitization of the parents and students on the importance of education were proposed as important in efforts to improve the education situation in the county.

The Human Development Index of the county is 0.3701 which is lower than the national average. Young people in the county are involved in fishing, small scale businesses, public service and NGO employment, commercial *bodaboda* riding and casual menial work. The survey indicated that the lack of capital, corruption and lack of relevant skills as the main hindrances towards enhanced participation in the economic development.

Land and border disputes, SGBV, discrimination, favouritism and corruption are some of the offences that young people find themselves involved in. Because of the language barrier, the court process is not very efficient 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 investment in health, education and economic development.

### 1.1.2 The Demographic Dividend

The demographic dividend refers to the accelerated economic development that a country can attain by slowing down the pace of population growth while at the same time making strategic investments in the health, education, economic, and governance sectors. The demographic dividend concept is being popularized in developing countries as a potential solution to their development challenges. In embracing this concept, Kenya modelled the demographic dividend in 2014 using the *DemDiv* Model that was developed by Futures Group. The modelling of Kenya's demographic dividend was supported by USAID through the Health Policy Project. Results from the model showed that Kenya could achieve the following results by 2050 through implementation of activities aimed at achieving the demographic dividend; Investments per capita will increase to about US\$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US\$ 200, Fertility levels will decline to an average of two children per woman from the current 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 people in 2009. 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 recorded at 87 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages (15-64 years). The 2009 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 four 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 per woman by 2050 then the population size will increase to 59 million people in 2030 and 75 million people 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 results obtained from the modelling exercise showed that Kenya could achieve accelerated socio-economic growth through targeted investments. However, it was recognized that for this to happen, each of the 47 counties would have to play a role. Unfortunately, information on the demographic dividend potential for each county and the specific activities that they each need to implement so as to benefit from this potential was largely lacking. Given the differences in the health, education, economic and governance status of the counties, it was necessary to conduct this survey to generate county-specific information on the demographic dividend potential and activities that need to be implemented. With this information at hand, each county would know what they need to do to harness the potential of their youthful population.

## 1.3 Survey Goal and Objectives

### *Survey goal*

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

## Survey objectives

The objectives of the 2015 NAYS were:

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

## 1.4 Survey Organisation

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

### 1.4.1 Pre-test

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

### 1.4.2 Trainings

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

In April 2015, thirty-four (34) research assistants were competitively recruited for data collection in the 47 counties. They were trained from 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 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

## TURKANA COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Background

Turkana County is situated in North Western Kenya. It borders West Pokot and Baringo Counties to the South, Samburu County to the South East, and Marsabit County to the East. Internationally it borders South Sudan to the North, Uganda to the West and Ethiopia to the Northeast. The County shares Lake Turkana with Marsabit County. The total area of the county is 77,000 square kilometres (Km<sup>2</sup>) and lies between Longitudes 34° 30' and 36° 40' East and between Latitudes 1° 30' and 5° 30' North. The County is administratively divided into 7 sub-counties, 30 wards, 56 locations that are further sub-divided into 156 sub-locations. The settlement patterns in the county are determined by various factors such as climate, soil fertility and infrastructure.

### 2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

#### 2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

The population of Turkana County was enumerated at 855,261 during the 2009 national census. According to Table 2.1, this population is projected to reach about 1.8 million in 2030 and 3 million in 2050 with declining fertility. The proportion of children below 15 years as a percentage of the total population is expected to decline from 46 percent in 2009 to 38 percent in 2050. The proportion of older people above 64 years is expected to decline from 2.3 percent in 2009 to 2 percent in 2030 before increasing to 3.1 percent in 2050. Between 2009 and 2015, the county's dependency ratio is expected to decline from 94 to 69 dependents for every 100 people in the working ages.

Table 2.1 Turkana County's projected population size and structure (2009-2050)

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	855,261	1,776,519	2,989,786
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	46.0	45.0	37.7
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	2.3	2.0	3.1
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	51.7	53.0	59.2
Dependency Ratio	93.5	88.7	68.8
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2069		

The demographic window for faster socio-economic development for Turkana County is expected to open in 2069. This implies that in the period before 2069, Turkana County should invest strategically in health, education, economic opportunities, and governance so that when the window opens, the county will be in a position to achieve socio-economic transformation.

As shown in Table 2.2 women in Turkana County give birth to an average of seven children during their reproductive years. This is much higher than the national average of four children per woman and can partly be explained by the fact that only one in every 10 married women use a method of contraception. The Table 2.2 also shows that 23 of the children born in Turkana County are attended by a skilled health worker. The County's HIV prevalence of 7.6 percent is above the national average and less than two-thirds of the children aged 12-23 months in the county have been fully vaccinated.

## 2.2.2 Socio-Economic Indicators

Table 2.2 Turkana County's socio-economic indicators

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	6.9
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	10.4%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	22.8%
	HIV Prevalence	7.6%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	61.8%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	58.8%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	71.4
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	109,414
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	8.7%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	28.5
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	106,368
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.3741289

On the education front, the net enrolment at primary level is 59 percent and at secondary level it is 9 percent. These figures imply that a large percentage of school age children in the county are not attending school. It is estimated that 109,000 primary school-age children and 106,000 secondary school age children are not out of school. At the same time the pupil-teacher ratio at primary school is 71 which is way above the recommended 40. At the secondary level this ratio is 29. The county should make efforts to improve on the school enrolment rates.

## 2.3 Health and Young People

Good health contributes to better living and productivity. It is with this in mind that the survey sought to identify the health issues affecting young people in Turkana County and how these issues can be addressed. Table 2.3 summarizes the key issues that came from the FGDs.

Drug and substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and early marriages and pregnancies were mentioned by the FGD participants in Turkana as the main health problems affecting young people in the county. These problems were attributed to parental neglect, cultural practices, unsafe sex among young people, and poverty. Because of these issues, it was reported that a number of young people have mental problems, perform poorly and dropout of school, and end up having poor physical health, that in some cases, leads to death. One of the participants had this to say on STIs;

*“Sexually transmitted infections’, including HIV (lokwakel), has affected a large number of young people in the entire county.”*

[FGD. 20-24 years, Turkana]

The FGD participants proposed that these problems be addressed by creating more public awareness, holding health talks and counselling sessions targeting the young people. They were also of the opinion that creation of more employment opportunities will help to reduce poverty and engage the youth in meaningful endeavours.

### 2.3.1 Main Health Issues Affecting Young People

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance abuse Sexually Transmitted Infections Early marriages and teenage pregnancies	Parental neglect Cultural practices Unsafe sex Poverty	Mental problems School dropout Poor physical health and death Poor performance in school	Create more public awareness Holding health talks Counselling for youths Provide employment opportunities

Table 2.4 shows that the main sources of health information and services as gathered from the FGDs are hospitals and VCTs, schools, barazas, and churches. The information and services that young people in Turkana mainly get from these sources are on guidance and counselling, treatment and medication for health conditions, and information about family planning and sexual reproductive health. As indicated in the Table 2.4, the information and services that the young people acquire is useful because it increased their knowledge on health issues thereby helping them to make better decisions and prevent diseases. For the health conditions that the young people may have, from these

sources they are able to get the right diagnosis and treatment. In addition to the sources mentioned, young people in Turkana also prefer to get information and services from Community Health Workers.

### 2.3.2 Access and Availability of Health Information

Table 2.4 Main sources of health information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Hospitals and VCTs	Guidance and counselling	Increased knowledge	Health facilities
Schools	Treatment and medication	Decision making	Community Health Workers
Barazas	FP/SRH information	Right diagnosis and treatment	Schools
Churches		Disease prevention	Churches

Table 2.5 shows the main FP/SRH information and services accessible to young people in Turkana and the challenges that they experience in accessing the same. According to the FGD participants, the main information and services that are accessible are family planning, counselling, HIV, and pregnancy related information and services. However, young people face some challenges in accessing these information and services. These challenges are fear and embarrassment, high cost of services, long distance and time required to access the information and services, and lack of Youth Friendly Services in the county. To address these challenges, the participants recommended the creation of more public awareness on SRH/FP matters, building of more health facilities so that more people can access services, and provision of free health care services.

Table 2.5 Access to sexual reproductive health and family planning information and services

Main SRH/FP information & services available & accessible	Challenges in accessing SRH/FP information & services	Addressing Challenges
Family planning	Fear and embarrassment	Create more public awareness
Counselling	Cost of services	Build more health facilities
HIV	Distance and time to access services	Provide free or subsidized health services
Pregnancies	Lack of Youth Friendly Services	

### 2.3.3 Organisations Addressing Health Needs of Young People

Government Agencies, International Rescue Centre, World Vision, Merlin, Witness Centres, Save the Children, and Catholic Diocese of Lodwar are among the organisation that were mentioned as providing health services targeting young people in the county. The services they provide include information provision, guidance and counselling, preventive and curative services. According to the FGD participants, these organisations have helped to improve awareness on health issues, behaviour change, and saving people's lives as shown in the following quote:

*“These organisations have really assisted and saved many lives particularly for the sick in our society thus reducing deaths.”*

[FGD. 30-60 years, Turkana]

### 2.3.4 Opportunities to Improve Health

The FGD participants identified three areas to be addressed to help improve the health of young people in the county. The first one is the development of youth empowerment centres in the county where youth can converge and access useful information on diverse issues including health. Secondly the participants suggested that more services tailored to meet the needs of marginalized and PWDs need to be increased. Finally, the number of facilities providing Youth Friendly Services should be scaled up.

## 2.4 Education and Young People

Education is an important factor in improving the quality of the human resource. It is therefore important to ensure that children go to school and acquire the requisite education, training and skills required for socio-economic development.

The main issues affecting education, as summarized in Table 2.6, were identified as poverty, drug and substance abuse, and absenteeism by teachers and students, peer pressure, and poor parenting. According to the FGD participants, this has led to high dropout rates, poor academic results, early marriages, and poor concentration in school. Some of the ways suggested to deal with the problem are mainly around ensuring that the cost of schooling is not a barrier to accessing education. One of the FGD participants was of the opinion that despite the Government’s efforts to introduce free education, education is not free as shown in the quote below:

*“.. free primary education initiative should be reviewed. As for now education is not free.”*

[FGD. Male 15-19 years, Turkana]

**Table 2.6** Key issues affecting the education of young people

Main Education problems	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Poverty	School dropout	Ensure education is free
Drug and substance abuse	Poor academic results	Financial support for students
Absenteeism of students and teachers	Early marriages	Reduce school fees
Peer pressure	Poor concentration in school	Introduce boarding schools
Poor parenting		

### 2.4.1 Availability and Access of Education Services

The FGD participants mentioned that the learning institutions in the county at primary, secondary and tertiary levels were few and scattered, except for those that are in Lodwar town. They said that the low enrolment of students was partly due to the few learning institutions which make it difficult for children to access education. It was also mentioned that access to tertiary education is affected by the high fees being charged in these institutions and lack of enough qualified tutors. With regard to students with special needs, the FGD participants said that the county had at least one institution each for the blind and deaf. Gender disparities at the various levels of education affect the girl child's access to education services in the county. These disparities are caused by cultural practices including early marriages.

### 2.4.2 Access to ICT Services

Generally, ICT devices and services are not available in primary and secondary schools in Turkana according to the findings from the FGDs conducted in the county. The participants indicated that computers and computer lessons were mainly available in tertiary institutions which are few. Phones were mentioned by the participants as the most accessible ICT devices to students in the county.

### 2.4.3 Organisations Addressing Education Challenges

Quite a number of organisations addressing education and training challenges were mentioned by the FGD participants. The national government was said to be providing teachers, the county government is providing bursaries, UNICEF and Child Fund are providing learning materials, Equity Bank and Tullow Oil are providing scholarships, and the Catholic Diocese is putting up learning institutions. Other organisations mentioned were World Vision and SAPCONE. In general, the participants were of the opinion that the organisations working in the education sector are doing a good job though however, they should put up more learning facilities.

### 2.4.4 Opportunities for Young People to Gain Skills

The FGD participants said that the county had a number of opportunities through which youths could acquire skills as they wait for employment. They mentioned the internship programme which has been initiated by the county government, attachment opportunities in the health sector where medical students are attached to health facilities, and volunteer opportunities for youths to teach in schools.

### 2.4.5 Relevance of Courses Taught to the Job Market

When asked about their opinion on the relevance of the courses being taught to the job market, the participants said that some courses were more crowded to match few job opportunities therefore making it difficult for graduates to find employment. They compared this to technical courses which

they said have many employment opportunities. The technical courses cited by the participants are carpentry, masonry, and mechanics. They also said that computer courses are relevant in today's job market.

### 2.4.6 Opportunities for Improving Education

For education standards in the county to improve, more teachers should be employed to address the existing shortfall, awareness creation to parents on the importance and benefits of education not forgetting provision of more funds to the education sector for bursaries and construction of education facilities, and the introduction of computer lessons in all learning institutions. With regard to the outcome of creating awareness to parents, one participant had this to say:

*“Parents should be informed about the goodness and importance of education so that they take their children to school in large numbers.”*

[FGD. Female 15-19 years, Turkana]

## 2.5 Economic Status and Young People

As young people exit the education system, they usually look forward to engaging in economic activities in order to sustain themselves and their families while at the same time contributing to national development. This survey sought to establish the economic opportunities available to youths in Turkana County.

### 2.5.1 Access and Availability of Employment and Income Opportunities

When asked about the employment and income opportunities available to young people in Turkana, the FGD participants mentioned fishing, *boda boda* taxi, employment by government institutions and NGOs, small-scale business, local cottage industries, construction industry, and *jua kali* sector. In terms of the challenges faced in accessing these opportunities, the participants mentioned lack of skills and experience, illiteracy, lack of capital, and corruption as the main challenges. Other challenges mentioned are insecurity, fear of risks associated with conducting a business, poor infrastructure in the county, and poor attitudes.

### 2.5.2 Economic Activities Young People 10-19 Years are Engaged In

Table 2.7 summarizes the discussions on the main economic activities that young people aged 10-19 years are engaged in. According to the FGD participants, young people 10-19 years are mainly engaged in *boda boda* taxi business, domestic work, hawking, various trades in the construction

industry, and herding of livestock among others. These young people face a variety of challenges when engaging in these economic activities. Those in the *boda boda* taxi business are more prone to accidents and harassment by authorities. Most of the young people are also poorly paid and exploited by their employers.

**Table 2.7 Main economic activities for young people 10-19 years**

Main economic activities	Challenges encountered	How to address the challenges encountered
Boda boda taxi	Poor pay and exploitation	Create awareness on rights
Domestic work	Harassment by employers and authorities	Return young people to school
Hawking	Lack of capital	Ease access to credit
Construction work	Accidents	Skills capacity building
Herding livestock		
Fishing		
Selling charcoal		
Casual work		

In order to address the challenges that the young people 10-19 years face, the participants proposed awareness creation on the importance of acquiring education and skills as well as the rights of employees. They also recommended that some of the young people should be returned to school to acquire an education or they be trained in some skill that would enhance their engagement in economic activities. Easing access to credit facilities was also proposed by the participants.

### 2.5.3 Availability and Access to ICT Services

Some of the ICT devices and services available in Turkana are phones, radios, television, internet and computers. According to the FGD participants, phones and radios are more widely available. When asked about the services that young people mainly sought using the available ICT devices, they mentioned news and current affairs, social media platforms, entertainment, and job adverts. To a small extent, other services mentioned were research and counselling. Out of these services, the young people preferred social media, entertainment, news, and job adverts.

However, in accessing these services, young people experience the following challenges; high cost of devices and services and ICT devices, poor mobile network connection, lack of power for charging devices, and computer illiteracy. As a way of addressing these challenges, they should ensure; reduction in cost of devices and services, introduction of computer lessons in schools, installation of network boosters in various parts of the county, setting up of more ICT Centres, and expansion of electricity services. On the setting up of more ICT centres, one participant proposed as follows:

*“There is need for the county government to create enough ICT centres at least in every ward covering 30 wards across the county.”*

[FGD. 20-24 years, Turkana]

## 2.5.4 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

From the FGDs, the areas that were identified as having a high potential to increase income and employment opportunities for young people were said to be the fishing industry, meat processing, hotel and tourism, trade and business, as well as the informal sector. The participants also mentioned that the NGOs in the county had the potential to employ more young people especially if they expand their programmes to reach more needy residents of the county.

## 2.6 Governance and Young People

Good governance has a great impact on political stability and economic development. The survey sought to look at young people's perspectives with regards to the principles of good governance; (i) the rule of law, (ii) transparency and accountability, (iii) consensus, equity, inclusion and participation (iv) effectiveness and efficiency and (v) political leadership as stipulated in the constitution.

### 2.6.1 Rule of Law

In this section, the report highlights the justice system, security situation and cohesion.

#### 2.6.1.1 Justice system

Table 2.8 presents the main cases in the justice system, the process of solving these cases, the challenges faced while solving the cases and the ways to address these challenges.

Table 2.8 Justice system in Turkana County

Main cases	Process of Solving Cases	Challenges	Ways to address these challenges
Cattle Rustling	Administration (chiefs)	Tribalism	Legislation
Theft	Courts	Illiteracy	Creating awareness
Domestic violence	Council of Elders	Corruption	Equal opportunities
Land disputes		Language barrier	Promoting justice
DSA		Poverty	Training young people
SGBV		Political interference	
		Discrimination	

The main cases in Turkana as indicated by the respondents include; cattle rustling, land and border disputes, robbery, domestic violence and sexual and gender based violence. Inter-clan boundaries attributed to the land and border disputes between Turkana County and neighbouring counties and country. Cultural practices contributed to the continuous cattle rustling and unemployment, brews, more youths to carry out robberies.

These cases are usually handled by the courts, local administration (chiefs), and elders. The main challenges that Turkana residents faced in resolving their cases were corruption where justice was not given unless bribes were paid or one was related to the elders or officials, political interference by leaders who used the youths to push for their interest, discrimination by those in the position to administer justice, and tribalism which were used to pervert justice.

*“...Money is a source of everything so without money no case is solved in a peaceful way. Person with money will automatically win because he or she uses money to bribe the person solving the disputes (kipoto asooya ibala toyar), meaning without money no case will be solved.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

*“Young people are used by politicians to cause chaos wana nunulizwa chang’aa they act like war lords.”*

[KII. County Commissioner, Turkana County]

Poverty hinders many residents from pursuing their cases because the costs of litigation are another challenge. With regard to SGBV, the participants indicated that it was usually difficult to avail the necessary evidence and therefore complainants end up losing their cases. In the formal courts, language barrier affects many residents leaving them defenceless.

Some of the proposed solutions to the challenges are promotion of peaceful co-existence within the county and with neighbouring counties, creation of awareness on individual rights and judicial processes, and addressing the problem of corruption.

*“...there should be forums created by judicial service commission to educate the general public about their rights and best ways of acquiring justice.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

### 2.6.1.2 Security

The respondents provided an outlook of how the security situation had been in the county and what challenges they faced and the best way those challenges could be addressed.

They cited that the security status had improved considerably compared to the earlier years. This was attributed to the increased number of security personnel that were deployed to the county.

*“...not bad since of late, the county is relatively calm and security personnel all over...the security situation in the border of Kenya and Uganda is perfect there has been peaceful coexistence among the turkana and karamojong of Uganda.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

*“...there has been peace among clusters communities (Karamojong cluster i.e. Turkana, Karamajong, Toposa, Dodos, Jie) these communities are found in the neighbouring communities of Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

However the county still faces insecurity cases within its borders. Discrimination of certain sections of the community, corruption by police officers, drug and substance abuse, vastness of the county poses a challenge in patrols for the officers. Others such as poor infrastructure which reduce police response in remote areas, possession of arms by some residents which leads to escalation in conflicts, unemployment and unequal distribution of resources were mentioned as the issues that led to insecurity within the county.

*“The security situation in this county is below average, the community always disassociate with their unfriendly neighbours in Ethiopia South Sudan, pokot, baringo and Samburu.”*

[KII. County Commissioner, Turkana County]

Young people in the county were involved in community policing through the ‘*Nyumba Kumi*’ initiative, they assisted in creating awareness on security issues, and they were used as ambassadors of peace and in reporting law breakers.

The respondents suggested that the ways to respond to security challenges is through community policing like the *Nyumba kumi* initiative, devolving the security function in the county, increasing more security personnel to cover the vast county, more police surveillance and raising public awareness on how to improve and ensure security in the county.

### 2.6.1.3 Cohesion

According to the respondents, Turkana County cohesion was mainly threatened by bureaucracy where the county leadership revolved around the same individuals. Corruption where opportunities were given on the basis of blood relation, cultural practices such as cattle rustling undermined cohesion. DSA among young people.

*“...drinking illicit brew like alcohol made from yeast, smoking of bhang, gum inhaled by youth in the town affects the well-being of the community.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

Illiteracy among the residents created an educational gap, inadequate resources due to environmental constraints caused tension among the residents, insecurity caused by frequent wrangles and conflict in the community, political differences instigated by politicians.

*“...oppression of the poor by the few prominent politicians who divide people along political parties and regions of their jurisdiction.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

Tribalism where the residents are divided along clans and tribes. Social class and socio-economic gaps where individuals are discriminated along those lines.

*“Division of people in terms of their level of education, professions and wealth.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

Cohesion was promoted in the county through programmes such as—youth programmes which aimed at uniting youths, collective participation in sports for young people, peace messages in religious gatherings, adherence to the national constitution and the use of cultural festival

*“Adherence to constitution which enshrines all rights of citizens regardless of ethnicity or race.”*

[FGD. Male young person 15-19, Turkana County]

*“...sports and cultural activities held every year on August have enhanced peaceful co-existence among the people with the theme being come back home (tobongu lore) as a sign of solidarity in building the county.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

The respondents suggested that activities such as, cultural festivals which would create peaceful coexistence and religious activities were great in pushing for cohesion within the county. The use of civic education would help in the process of promoting cohesion through awareness.

*“There is need to create awareness on the importance of unity in all sectors found in the county.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

## 2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

The mechanisms in place to inform young people of ongoing activities and plans in the county were through local radio, notice boards, public addresses, suggestion boxes where young people can ask questions freely and community meetings such as the chief’s *baraza*.

*“Media through local FM radios like Akica, Jambo Turkana, Milele, Sayare, Maata, Imani and Maisha.”*

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Turkana County]

The respondents stated that in the county, individuals who were not deemed to be transparent and accountable were called to face disciplinary action and resignation, legal action and at times there were no mechanisms to ensure accountability.

*“...no mechanism but we only hear of people stepping aside for investigation.”*

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

To improve the mechanisms used to ensure transparency, the residents suggested research, public awareness on how to detect the presence of transparency and accountability and strict rules to govern people in power. There should be political good will, increased funding towards investigation and a local anti-corruption body in the county for residents to report corrupt individuals.

*“... Ethics and Anti-Corruption office needs to be established at the county and increase of awareness to the services they provide to the general public.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 20-24, Turkana County]

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

The respondents stated that young people are rarely involved and included in the county activities. This was mainly because of discrimination due to age, the lack of experience, not having a youth representative to lobby for them and leaders who did not engage them.

*“...youth (wanaambiwa vijana ni viongozi wa kesho) –are told they are leaders of tomorrow.”*

[FGD. Mixed young person 15-19, Turkana County]

The available projects and programmes in the county addressed the youths need for economic empowerment, curbing insecurity, provision of funding from the Youth Enterprise Fund, for increased employment opportunities and education.

*“Youths receive loans for development and for starting business through Youth Enterprise Fund.”*

[FGD. Male 15-19, Turkana County]

To improve youth involvement in the project process the respondents suggested issues such as youth representation should be addressed, encouragement of young people to engage in youth project participation, increase in resource allocation towards young people, giving young people autonomy at work so that they are not restricted, provision of equal opportunities throughout the county and implementation of youth policies.

*“Mostly for young people not much is done to ensure their needs are addressed properly, thus proper representation of young people should be stepped up and let them be listened to.”*

[FGD. Mixed marginalized groups, 15-24, Turkana County]

*“Tendering process should be open and should be a competitive process and the youth groups should be considered when there is awarding of contracts.”*

[FGD. Male 15-19, Turkana County]

Young people in the county would like to be involved in creating awareness to the public about their rights and informing their peers about the progress of the projects. They also would like to provide labour force to facilitate the projects and give opinion on projects.

*“... by being given opportunity to suggest the projects they want.”*

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

## 2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

The available resources allocated to target young people in the county were used in developing projects, improving *Kazi kwa Vijana*, improving social amenities. However the allocation is not exclusive to young people and still insufficient funds are directed to young people

*“Young people in this county have not been well catered for in terms of resource allocation since all resources are allocated to general public and if any they are not consulted.”*

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

Mechanisms in place to ensure resources are used for expected outcome include vetting of potential companies if they have required qualification, identification of target groups that are expected to be beneficiaries, transparency in tendering respondents, suggested openness on available tenders and who they were awarded to, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

*“...we normally see county officers moving around to assess the progress of various projects that have been funded.”*

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

*“Monitoring of the ongoing projects is normally done in towns but interior due to poor roads they don't reach thus mainly development is initiated in towns but not in villages.”*

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

To improve the utilisation of resources, respondents said that the youth should be involved.

*“...ensuring that young people are fully involved rather than using older people to determine what young people want.”*

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

Also they should ensure political leaders are responsible and develop good laws to support young people's projects. The implementation of the 30 percent rule started by national government and addressing corruption will help in proper resource utilisation.

### 2.6.5 Political Leadership

They should represent the county youth at national level and express their plight to the national government.

*“Taking the plight of their people to the national government and county governments.”*

[FGD. Mixed 15-19, Turkana County]

The leaders also play an important role of ensuring security in the county as they are a figure of unity. Also they support youth activities such as sports and education, create employment opportunities and they allocate funds to youth projects.

*“The members of the county assembly have created employment to the youth; others are serving as their personal assistants.”*

[FGD. Mixed 20-24, Turkana County]

## 2.7 Population Perspectives

The FGD participants were asked about their opinion on the increasing population and its effect on the various sectors. They were of the opinion that the increasing population would lead to a deterioration of health status because the number of health facilities and workers will not adequately serve the population. In addition, overcrowding would facilitate faster spread of communicable diseases. Similar sentiments were expressed with regard to the education sector where the increasing population would not be adequately catered for by the existing schools and teachers thereby leading to a deterioration of education standards.

On the economic front, the participants said that the increasing population would lead to higher levels of unemployment, dependency, food shortages and poverty. Due to the resulting strain on resources, the level of new investments in the county would decline. This may then lead to more young people indulging in crime, drug and substance abuse. As for governance, the participants indicated that with the increasing population, the county would reach a point where the residents would not adequately be represented by the few leaders.

## 2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

The demographic dividend window for Turkana will open in 2069. By this time, the county's young population will need to be healthy, well-educated, and looking forward to taking advantage of the available socio-economic opportunities. This will result in an accelerated socio-economic development that will drastically improve the quality of life for Turkana residents. However, for this to happen, the county needs to start addressing the health, education, economic and governance issues identified by this survey. From the results of this survey much is required to harmonise the four sectors in preparation for socio-economic transformation in the county.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this survey, the following recommendations are made for implementation by Turkana County:

#### *Health*

The problem of drug and substance abuse among young people in Turkana County should be attended to urgently if the youth are to carry the development aspirations of the county. More awareness creation and counselling around DSA should to be aggressively undertaken by the Ministry of Education in order to save the youth from pursuing a self-destructing path.

1. Early marriages and teenage pregnancies interfere with the education and future economic prospects of young girls. This in turn causes a gender imbalance in socio-economic status resulting in a great loss to development because of the low contribution of women due to their low status in society. The county government of Turkana County and stakeholders therefore should address this issue so that more girls can continue with their education and in future play a more meaningful role in the socio-economic development of the county.
2. The HIV prevalence of Turkana is 7.6, which is above the national average. From the survey findings it is clear that HIV and other STIs is one of the main health issues affecting young people in the county. The Ministry of Health and stakeholder should address this issue to reduce illnesses and deaths from STIs. This will help in ensuring that a critical mass of healthy young people is available to push the county's development agenda.
3. Youth empowerment centres and youth friendly services in the county should be scaled up so as to tackle the sexual reproductive health and family planning needs of young people in the county through the provision of information and services that they need. This will empower young people in Turkana to make personal decisions that will secure their future health and well-being. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry concerned with youth should take the lead in this.

## *Education*

1. More education facilities at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels should be put up by the Ministry of Education and partners in the education sector so that education can be more accessible to young people in the county. This will help to increase the quality and number of human resource available to contribute to the county's development efforts.
2. Bursaries and scholarships should be increased as a way of militating against poverty thereby enabling many more students to continue with their education. This will give hope to the needy students who desire to pursue education as a means of lifting them from poverty. The County Government, CDF, and other partners in the education sector should all be involved in addressing this matter.
3. Students in the county should be encouraged to pursue technical courses that are readily marketable in the county. This will help to alleviate the unemployment among the youth in the county. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry concerned with youth matters should device and implement a strategy for the uptake of technical courses in the county.
4. ICT classes need to be initiated in many more schools within the county by the Ministry of Education and partners in the education sector. This will involve provision of adequate ICT devices and teachers to learning institutions so that young people can acquire ICT skills before leaving school. This will help them to fit well in the modern world which is becoming more technology oriented.
5. More teachers should be recruited, especially at the primary school level. This will help to improve the pupil student ratio which is above 70 at the primary level. In turn this will contribute to a better quality of education for the young people in the county.

## *Economic Opportunities*

1. The County government and stakeholders should explore and expand employment and income opportunities in the following areas; fishing, meat processing, hotel and tourism, trade and business, and the informal sector. This will enable more youth to be meaningfully engaged and earn a living.
2. The need for skills training for youths came out as a key issue that needs to be addressed. This training should focus on technical skills, which according to the youth in the county, is more employable. These skills include masonry, plumbing, welding, electrical, and mechanics. The Ministry of Education and partners should come together to address this matter.
3. Access to information is important as it can be used to access opportunities which would otherwise be inaccessible. In this regard, they should expand the mobile communication network in the county so that many more young people could use ICT devices to access information. The setting up of more ICT centres in the county will enable quick access to ICT services. The county government and private partners should join efforts to address this gap.
4. Corruption should be tackled in Turkana County by all stakeholders. This will help to increase availability of resources to the county administration to help address issues that affect the economic well-being of young people.

## Governance

1. According to the survey participants, the justice system in the county should be improved through addressing corruption, discrimination, political interference, and the costs of accessing justice. In addition the county government should create awareness to the public on their rights and the working of the justice system.
2. The security situation was described as poor in some parts of the county due to illegal arms, political incitement, unfriendly neighbours, and poor police performance. It was proposed that the security in the county be improved by employing more security personnel, increasing security patrols, holding peace meetings, and involving the communities in security matters. Both the national and county governments should take up this issue.
3. More efforts should be made by the county government and development partners in the county to involve young people in development activities. This can be done by ensuring that young people are represented and involved in the identification, planning, and implementation of development activities. Apart from contributing to the development of the county, their involvement will help to meet the skills, experience, employment and income needs of young people.
4. Unity among young people in the county was said to be poor because of political differences, tribalism, differences in social class based on education and wealth, and inter-clan conflicts. For the county to move its development agenda forward there should be efforts to promote cohesion among young people. The county government and all stakeholders should address this matter through sporting, religious, and cultural activities which bring together young people.

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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

### North Rift – 1 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 North Rift – 1 region

Counties	Technical Committee Member	County Coordinator/ Supervisor	Research Assistants
Trans Nzoia West Pokot Turkana	Alex Juma	Moses Ouma	Rofina Chepkiach Joel L. Lotukon

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

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## Annex 3: List of 2015 NAYS Participants

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4. Dr. Francis Obare (Population Council)
5. Agnes Koori (Ministry of Education Science and Technology)
6. Dr. Patrick Amoth (Ministry of Health)
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NCPD is a semi-autonomous government agency that formulates and promotes population policy and coordinates related activities for sustainable development in Kenya.

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**TURKANA COUNTY**