



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

UASIN GISHU COUNTY



January 2017



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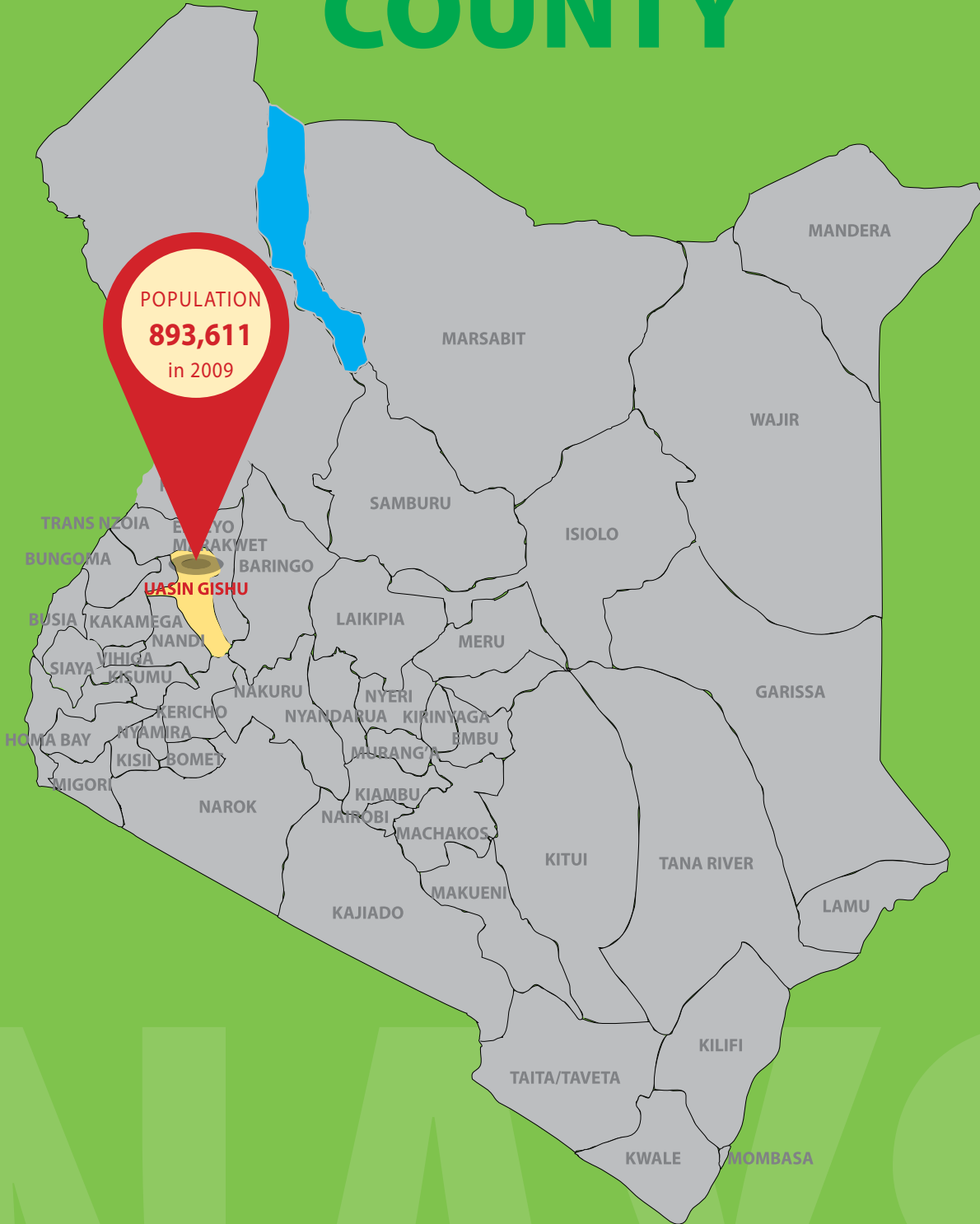
Acronyms and Abbreviations

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.

UASIN GISHU COUNTY



Foreword

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

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

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

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

Acknowledgment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Executive Summary

This report presents Uasin Gishu 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 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 Uasin Gishu County in 2009 was 893,611 people and is projected to increase to 1,346,882 people by 2030 and to 1,690,786 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 56 percent in 2009 to 69 percent in 2050. These population changes will result in the dependency ratio decreasing from 80 to 46 over the same period. Consequently, the county's demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2069 and close in 2109.

Uasin Gishu County has a fertility rate of 3.9 children per woman. Sixty-three percent of the married women in the county are using contraceptives. Fifty-nine percent of all births in the county are delivered by a skilled health worker and 72.3 percent of the children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. However, the County has an HIV prevalence rate of 4.3 percent. Young people are affected by teenage pregnancies, DSA, mental illness, SGBV which are mostly brought about by parental negligence, poverty, lack of information on SRH issues and peer pressure. To improve the health status of Uasin Gishu County more investments have to be made in health. Similarly efforts should be made to create awareness on the health issues among the youth.

In regard to education, the primary school net enrolment rate is 84 percent. This means that about 16 percent of the primary school age children are out of school in the county. However, the secondary school net enrolment rate is much lower (38 percent) than the primary school net enrolment rate. These figures indicate a low primary to secondary school transition rate and reflect a high school dropout rate. It is estimated that 34,665 primary school age and 57,467 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, early marriage and negative attitudes towards education. 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 0.573 which is high than the national average. Young people in this county are mostly engaged in farming and other income generating activities like such as small scale transportation business, commercial boboda riding and casual menial work. However major challenges in form of investment capital, corruption and inadequate information make the youth less involved in economic progression of 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 2 children per woman from the current 4 children per woman thereby decreasing the dependency ratio: Even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (i.e. people in the labour force who are not active) will be 8 million which is less than the current gap of 10 million. These results are consistent with the aspirations of *Kenya Vision 2030*.

1.1.3 Population Size, Growth and Composition

The population of Kenya was enumerated at 38.6 million 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 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 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 modeled Kenya's demographic dividend using the DemDiv model. The results obtained 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 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

UASIN GISHU COUNTY SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 Background

Uasin Gishu County is located in the North Rift region of Kenya. The County lies between longitudes 34 degrees 50" East and 35 degrees 37" West and latitudes 0 degrees 03" South and 0 degrees 55" North. The county shares common borders with Trans Nzoia County to the North, Elgeyo Marakwet County to the East, Baringo County to the South East, Kericho County to the South, Nandi County to the South West and Kakamega County to the North West. It covers a total area of 3,345.2 Sq. Km. Administratively, the Uasin Gishu County is divided into six sub-counties: Turbo, Soy, Ainabkoi, Moiben, Kesses and Kapseret. The sub-counties are further subdivided into fifty one locations and ninety seven sub-locations. Politically, the County is split into six constituencies, namely; Ainabkoi,, Moiben, Turbo, Soj, Kapseret and Kesses.

2.2 Demographic and Socio-economic Profile

2.2.1 Population Size and Age Distribution

Table 2.1 presents population size and structure for the County. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the total population of Uasin Gishu County was 893,611 people in 2009. The population is projected to increase to 1,346,882 people by 2030 and to 1,690,785 people by 2050. The proportion of the population below age 15 years was 42 percent in 2009. This proportion will decline to 32 and 24 percent in 2030 and 2050 respectively. The proportion of the population aged 64 and above was at 2.8 percent in 2009 and will marginally increase to 3 percent in 2030 and increase to 8 percent in 2050.

Table 2.1 Population size and structure

Indicator	2009	2030	2050
Population Size	893,611	1,346,882	1,690,786
Proportion of Population Below Age 15	41.5	31.7	23.8
Proportion of Population Above Age 64	2.8	3.0	7.5
Proportion of Population in the Working Ages (15-64)	55.7	65.3	68.6
Dependency Ratio	79.5	53.2	45.7
Year Demographic Window of Opportunity Opens	2035		

Source: Various

The proportion of population in the working ages (15-64 years) was 56 percent in 2009 and will continue to grow reaching 65 percent in 2030 and to 67 percent in 2050. The dependency ratio is still high in the County but declining. In 2009, the dependency ratio was 80 and it is projected to decline to 53 by 2030 and further to 46 by 2050. The demographic window of opportunity is projected to open in the year 2035 and to close in 2075.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Indicators

Table 2.2 presents the socio-economic characteristics of Uasin-Gishu the total fertility rate for the county is 3.6 children per woman. Sixty three percent of the married women in the county are using contraception compared to 58 percent nationally. Similarly, the proportion of births in the county assisted by a skilled provider is 59 percent and 72 percent of children 12-23 months are fully vaccinated. The County's HIV prevalence rate is 4.3 percent. The County's primary school net enrolment rate is 84 percent. It is estimated that 34,665 primary school age children are not attending school. The secondary school net enrolment rate is 38 percent. This means that a large percentage (about 62 percent) of secondary school age children in the county is not attending school. The difference between primary and secondary net enrolment rates shows large number of drop out of the school system after completing primary school education. This high net enrolment rate in primary schools could be attributed to the Free Primary Education (FPE) Programme. The Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio and Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio are 28 and 18.3 respectively. These show the ratios at the two levels of education are fairly good.

The County Human Development Index is 0.572792 and the national one is 0.561. This implies that the county is performing better in terms of human development.

Table 2.2 Socio-economic characteristics of Uasin-Gishu county

Socio-economic characteristics	Indicators	
Health	Average Number of Children Per Woman	3.6
	Proportion of Married Women Using Contraception	62.6%
	Proportion of Births Attended by A Skilled Health Worker	59.0%
	HIV Prevalence	4.3%
	Children 12-23 months fully vaccinated	72.3%
Education	Primary School Net Enrolment Rate	83.7%
	Primary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	28
	Number of Primary School-Age Children Out of School	34,665
	Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate	38.2%
	Secondary School Pupil-Teacher Ratio	18.3
	Number of Secondary School-Age Teenagers Out of School	57,467
Human Development Indicator	Human Development Index	0.572792

Source: Various reports

2.3 Health and Young People

The qualitative survey sought to establish the health issues affecting young people in Uasin Gishu County. The interviews focused 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 Uasin- Gishu County, the causes for these health problems, the consequences to young people and the ways of addressing these problems. The second thematic area addresses accessibility and availability of information and services; the third sub-theme focuses on organisations providing health services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the suggested ways of improving health of young people in the county.

2.3.1 Health Issues Affecting Young People

The results obtained indicate that the young people in the county face various health challenges. The main challenges include; Drug and substance Abuse, STIs, Sexual and gender based violence and teenage pregnancies. SGBV was found to affect both male and female young people. Teenage pregnancies were discussed in almost all the age categories except in the youth age category. These

health problems were attributed to idleness among young people as well as parental negligence in supporting and guiding young people. Poverty was also mentioned as one of the reasons why young people engage in activities that predispose them to STIs, DSA and teenage pregnancy.

Table 2.3 Main health issues affecting young people

Main Health problems	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing these problems
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA)	Idleness	School drop out	Public health education
Sexually Transmitted Infections	-lack adequate health information	Poor health conditions	Avoid stigmatization of the affected
Sexual and Gender based violence(SGBV)	Parental – negligence or lack of guidance	Desperation	Sensitization
Teenage Pregnancy	Poverty	Early Marriages	Parental guidance
Mental health Problems	Moral degradation	Deaths/Suicide	Educate the youth to abstain from early sexual orientations
		Stigmatization and discrimination of the affected	
		Feel Embarrassed	
		Poor economic and social productive of young people	

On the SGBV, one of the respondents in an FGD with older people had this to say;

“R11- I’m saying we have SGBV in two ways, there are women who violate men, a man is violated to the extent he is not given food this is because he cannot perform his sexual duties, due to alcohol that’s why his sexual prowess goes down. You will hear someone has been violated by the wife but in our Kalenjin culture especially Nandis, it is not good for people to know that a man is being violated by his wife it is not said, you will hear it has happened but names are not mentioned. For women they are those who are violated because they have no say in their homes, they cannot talk or discuss anything with their husbands. The men decide everything and are controlled by their husbands.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

About the DSA, another FGD participant in the young people age group had the following to say;

“R 1-There is a phenomena affecting the youth in this county which is called ‘Kuber’ it is a kind of drug that most youths abuse mostly.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

To illustrate how the teenage pregnancies have become an issue and its consequences in the county, a young people said the following;

“R1- There exist cases of early pregnancies which make young girls drop out of school. “

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

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; poor health, stigmatization especially if they are living with HIV/AIDs. It was also noted that in some instances the health problems led to death among young people.

These observed consequences were also mentioned by a key informant interviewed during the survey.

“Obviously somebody gets pregnant as early as 15 years, you know no one, apart from school drop-out, some of them could possibly be in casual jobs, they lose that job, those who could possibly use drugs, they lose school, they could not concentrate and all that so definitely it affects them, their families, it affects you know their neighbours and many others.”

[KII. County Director of Health- Uasin Gishu]

An officer in-charge in one of the health facility in the county concurred on the consequences of the observed health issues as shared by others respondents across the county. This is what he/she said:

“Unplanned pregnancies make them drop out of school and when they go back they don’t catch up well as compared to the girl that does not have a baby. So one finds she has become a mother and is not serious or cannot concentrate with their education.”

[Facility in-charge, Uasin Gishu]

Some of the ways suggested to address health problems among young people included community sensitization through public health education; parental guidance. Sensitization on sex abstinence among the school going children was also suggested in one focus group discussion of a mixed group age 15-19 years.

2.3.2 Access and Availability of Information and Services

Summary of the sources and types of health information and services, usefulness of the information from these sources and young people preferred sources of information are presented in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Access and availability of health information and services

Sources of health information & services	Types of Health Information & Services	Usefulness of Information	Preferred Sources
Mass Media	Information STI/HIV	Increased knowledge	Health Facilities
Health Facilities	Sex Education	Disease Prevention	Media
Public Health Talks	Hygiene and sanitation	Helps in prevention/ reducing of teenage pregnancy	Schools/learning institutions
Schools	Health Education & Awareness	Saving life	
Religious institutions	WASH	Helps people in upholding good morals	
Community leaders	Family planning information		
Seminars	VCT services		

Within the discussion groups, a range of sources of information were identified; particularly the media, health facilities, public health talks, schools and religious institutions. Out of these the most preferred sources of information are health facilities, the media and schools/learning institutions. The main type of information received included information on STI/HIV, sex education, health education and awareness on water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). This information was regarded as useful in terms of increasing knowledge for disease prevention.

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 Methods/ Services (pills, Injectable)	Fear of self-embarrassment Cost of services Fear of side effects Provider attitude lack of youth friendly service centres lack of knowledge on where to get the services Myths and misconceptions on the modern methods of FP	Create public awareness on information and services Provide correct information contraceptives and how they work

In Uasin Gishu County, the main SRH/FP information and services that were reported to be available and accessible to young people were contraceptives. The largely used ones are the injectable and pills. Even then, they also mentioned challenges in accessing these services; attributed to fear or embarrassment, fear of possible side effects of contraceptives and the cost of these services. To understand how deep rooted fear among the FP users, one of the participants noted the following:

“These services are sometimes offered at market places, so youths fear to seek services there because it is an open place and there is no confidentiality and privacy.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Some of the suggested ways to address these issues include; creating public awareness on information and services and also providing correct information on contraceptives and how they work.

There was also a discussion on the type of information and services for marginalized young people including people with disability (PWDs), young people living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans. The services available included Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART), treatment of other STIs, donations, guidance and counselling and health education.

Overall, the general challenges in accessing health information and services included fear/embarrassment in particular for those seeking reproductive health services. The absence of disability friendly services affected the health seeking behaviour of people with disability (PWDs). It was also noted that while lack of drugs affected the quality of services provided, the cost of services affected access to services by young people. A participant in an FGD with older people noted the following concerns as facing young people in accessing health services and information.

“R8-The problem is money issue and fear, because if a youth wants to come and tell the parents he is suffering from a certain ailment they fear, if they could have their own money so that when they get sick they go and treat themselves it would be better.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

Ways of addressing the general health challenges were suggested and these included; equipping the current health facilities to provide quality care and constructing more health facilities to increase physical access. The improvement of the general infrastructure within the county was also suggested to enhance mobility and access to services.

On the availability of youth friendly service centres, the groups had mixed views. There are those who stated that, the facilities provide youth friendly services while others stated otherwise. Lack of youth specific services centres was the main reason given by those who said there are no youth friendly services. A participant in an FGD with younger people asserted that;

“Never heard of them may be are in other counties.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

For those in support of it, they stated confidentiality and friendly personnel to advance their argument;

“Services are being offered by youth themselves. The doctor maintains confidentiality, they are private, even VCT services, they keep confidentiality.”

[FGD. Mixed young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

On the contrary, the service providers insist that, although most of the facilities lack specific youth friendly services, most of the services provided in the health facilities guarantee privacy and confidentiality to them.

2.3.3 Organizations Addressing Health Issues

In the county the main organisations identified as addressing health issues affecting young people are the government health facilities and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and religious institutions. Notwithstanding the challenges facing the health sector in the county, the government managed facilities were lauded to have improved in the provision of health services and in creating health awareness. The NGO managed organisations were also recognized for their contributions to the improvement of the health status of the community and in particular creating health awareness, giving donations and provision of guidance and counselling services.

“R4-USAID-they have doctors moving from place to place they have booklets with information on HIV and AIDS and they even teach., They also give food to these people.”

[FDG. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

2.3.4 Opportunities for Improvement

About the opportunities that exist in the county for improvement of health status of young people, the FGD participants noted there is need to expand the number of health facilities and associated infrastructure, equip the small health facilities, introduce mobile clinics and carry out awareness creation campaigns to increase access to health services as well as increasing the number of health personnel in the facilities. It was also suggested that there is need to focus on health services that improve the lives of marginalized young people including orphans, people living with HIV and AIDs (PLWA) and people with disability (PWDs). Participants also noted that, they should extend working hours and introduce night services especially in the village health centres to serve as first line to address emergencies that happen at night. One of the participants in young people FGD noted the following;

“In small hospitals, government should employ more doctors and nurses because the big hospitals do transfer patients to small hospitals.”

[FGD. Mixed group of young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

The key informants pointed out that, there exist a number of supportive policies and guidelines which offer an opportunity and a conducive environment for the provision of health services to improve the health status of young people. He pointed out that, what mainly needs to be done, is full implementation of these policies by the health care service providers in the county. The policies available for improvement of health of young people include; National Health Policies, Ambulance and Referral Policy, Community Health Program, Guidelines on Youth Friendly Services, Health Bill, National Reproductive Health Policies, Sanitation Policy, School Health Programs, and Sexual Reproductive Health Guidelines.

2.4 Education and Young People

The survey sought to establish the education issues affecting young people in Uasin Gishu County. The FGDs and interviews focused on various thematic areas in education. This section presents a summary of their consolidated responses by sub-themes. The first theme outlines the main education issues affecting young people in Uasin Gishu County, the causes for these issues, 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 theme focuses on the respondents' views on the content of the current education curriculum in relation to the prevailing job market requirements, the fourth section looks at the organisations providing education services in the county while the fourth sub-theme outlines the opportunities available for young people to access education and gain skills.

2.4.1 Education Issues Affecting Young People

From the FGDs across the various groups, key informant and in-depth interviews, Drug and substance Abuse, lack of school fees, easy accessibility of drugs, teenage pregnancies were identified as the main issues affecting education of young people. DSA was seen as cross-cutting, both as an issue and a cause of some of the issues affecting education of young people.

Table 2.6 Main education issues affecting young people

Main education issues	Causes	Consequences	Ways of addressing the issues
Drug and substance Abuse (DSA) Lack of school fees Teenage Pregnancies Child labour Absenteeism (Teachers and Pupils/Students)	Poverty Peer pressure Corporal punishment Early marriages Easy Accessibility of Drugs	School drop out Poor academic performance/ Results Increased indiscipline cases lagging behind academically/syllabus	Fully implement back to school policy Public Awareness on DSA Establishing talent nurturing and identification centres Promotion of sex and sexuality education in schools

A key informant participant shares the same sentiments as in the FGDs as follows:

“Some children also get involved in drugs without knowing. I have realized in a few areas where food is being sold to children in schools like sweets..... So I think that is also how children get to learn of drugs and after that sometimes get used to drugs and then drop out of school.”

[County Director of Education, Uasin Gishu]

The education issues were attributed to poverty levels in some households, corporal punishment in schools and early marriages.

One of the FGD participant had this to say;

“You find our young children have dropped out of school because of poverty due to poor background, other people engage in sexual act which can lead to early marriages.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-24, Uasin Gishu]

The mentioned consequences of these issues included school dropout especially as a result of substance and drug abuse and teenage pregnancies. The other consequence is posting of poor academic performance/results in schools. The following quote can illustrate the sentiments of the participants.

“On teenage pregnancy, some students drop out of school due to this, and it becomes a problem on education, she goes home until she delivers if she is not supported to come back to school she will drop out completely.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

In terms of the ways to address the observed education issues, the groups suggested some measures which included; implementation of back to school policy, public awareness on the effects of DSA, establishment of talent nurturing and identification centres for those who drop-out of school and also promotion of sex and sexuality education in schools.

“If a girl is pregnant they should let her give birth and continue to school. In short, back to school policy should be adhered to.”

[FGD. Mixed group of young people 15-24, Uasin-Gishu]

2.4.2 Access and Availability of Education Services

Although Kenya has made some progress in the universal access to education, barriers to access and availability of education services still exist in the Counties. The FGDs made observations touching on the adequacy of learning facilities in schools and colleges, gender disparities in education and availability of learning facilities for PWDs.

On the adequacy of learning facilities, FGDs participants, both older and young people agreed that, public learning facilities are inadequate especially in primary schools and the costs in private schools inhibit access to them. Moreover, the conditions of these learning facilities are not up to the expected standard. Other facilities like latrines and books and computer libraries are few or not available at all. Other amenities like water electricity were also mentioned as an issue in some schools.

“Most of the schools cost a lot of money, are private which is expensive. There are few public schools. We don’t have clean water for drinking, we bring from home but the water from wells is used for cleaning toilets and classrooms.”

[FGD. Male young person 10-14, Uasin Gishu]

Similarly, the situation in terms of adequacy of the secondary schools and other facilities such as dormitories and laboratories are inadequate. A participant noted that:

“Latrines are enough but not the laboratory. It becomes a challenge you cannot cover enough of the lab classes during the normal time.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

These sentiments are shared by an education service provider who indicated that;

“No, we don’t have a working equipped laboratory for all sciences. We have a ratio of 3:1 books that is one book for three students but we don’t have library so the books are stored somewhere in the office.”

[Secondary School Teacher, Uasin Gishu]

The FGD participants raised concerns on few tertiary level colleges compared to the demand for higher level education services. Congestion, lack of enough books, out dated content of the stocked books in the libraries of some tertiary colleges was also discussed among the 20-24 age groups and two participants noted the following. Two young people in the same FGD group had the following to say with regard to adequacy of tertiary institution.

“Classrooms are few; they should build more to reduce congestion.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

Another one added that;

“Libraries are equipped with outdated books with outdated syllabus thus you cannot tell us.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

Gender disparities in the various levels of education were also widely discussed. Unlike in other Counties where boys are more than girls, in Uasin Gishu, the groups noted that, the gender disparity in primary and secondary levels is in favour of girls. There are more girls than boys in the two levels of education. The main reason for the gender disparity is because of the continued affirmative action in favour of the girl child education.

“You know girls used to be the endangered species but now it’s the boys.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

The service providers (school head teachers) also agree that there exist disparities in favour of girls emanating from the continued campaign in support of girl child education. Here is what one of the respondent’s on gender disparities in schools reported.

“Girls are more than boys because there was a lot of campaign for girls and boys tend to attend to homework. We have more female teachers in this school.”

[Secondary school principal, Uasin Gishu]

In terms of availability of learning facilities for PWDs, the groups observed that although the government has made efforts in integrating the education services for the physically handicapped children in the normal schools, the infrastructure is not supportive and accessible to PWDs in primary and secondary schools. Moreover, there are few specific special schools for the various categories of PWDs in the county. There are only few tertiary level institutions which provide educational services to these marginalized groups.

“For our school, take my school as an example if we can have for physically challenged, we have put some ramp in classes and maybe we have not specifically put for toilets so it is good for all of them, we have tried to that level. For the rest we don’t have.”

[KII. Primary school head, Uasin Gishu]

2.4.3 Organisations Providing Education Services

The groups observed that, the county government is the main player in provision and management of pre-primary and TIVET institutions. On the other end, the national government institutions are the main organisations that provide education services in primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Religious institutions were also lauded for provision of education services in the County. CDF, UWEZO, HELB and other government bursaries were mentioned as some of the programmes by the government organisations offering education opportunities to many children especially from the poor backgrounds. Non-governmental organisations and some financial institutions were also lauded for their efforts in sponsoring pupils/students from needy backgrounds to access education, provision of mentorship programmes to young people, support to PWDs and creating awareness to the members of the public on the importance of education. These organisations were also recognized for the improvement in education performance in schools.

“Equity bank helps students here in Uasin Gishu by giving full scholarship but merit is often on performance.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

2.4.4 Access and Availability of ICT Services in Schools

There was a general consensus and observation by FGD participants in the various groups that, few schools (primary and secondary) are equipped with ICT facilities. The few schools equipped with these facilities are mainly in the urban areas of Uasin Gishu County. The importance of ICT services were underscored in the learning institutions.

“ICT is important because the present world is changing from old ways to modern ways, when you are employed you have to have a little knowledge on computers so that you are not left behind.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

2.4.5 Opportunities for Investment in Education

The various discussions in the various FGDs came up with suggestions on the opportunities for investing in education in the county. These included; equipping the existing schools with the required books and other facilities, support the education for marginalized people, allocate bursaries to sponsor children from needy background, setting up schools and colleges for PWDs and improve infrastructure in schools and colleges.

2.4.6 Opportunities for Young People to Gain Skills

The groups noted that, there are few opportunities that offer apprenticeship and mentorship programmes to young people to gain skills required in the labour market.

2.5 Economic Status and Young People

The FGDs and interviews focused on various thematic areas in the economic well-being of young people. This section presents a summary of the survey findings on the economic status and wellbeing of young people in Uasin Gishu. The first section outlines the main employment and income opportunities available to young people while the second section outlines the challenges experienced by young people in accessing these employment and income opportunities. The third section summarises the main economic activities young people are engaged in, the challenges they encounter in the course of their duties and how the challenges can be addressed. Focus on the reasons why under-age children are engaged in employment opportunities will also be presented. The final section outlines the main interventions and programmes in place to provide employment and income opportunities to young people, challenges in accessing these interventions and to address them.

2.5.1 Main Employment and Income Opportunities

The main employment and income opportunities identified by the various groups was farming activities especially livestock farming, wheat, maize and horticulture. On service providers' side, they identified business opportunities as enormously available in the county and it requires innovations and creativity to exploit the available opportunities. Additionally, key policy makers observed that the horticulture sector offers an opportunity for young people to fully exploit and access employment and income for themselves.

“We have livestock farming, maize farming and those planting vegetables.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

2.5.2 Challenges Encountered in Accessing Employment and Income Opportunities.

Although there exists enormous opportunities in the county, there were identified challenges faced by young people in accessing them. Some of the challenges highlighted included; cases of corruption, high costs of registering business entities, lack of work experience, lack of knowledge, information, skills and experience by young people on available opportunities, tribalism and lack of start-up capital.

“Those who have not registered, it is because they lack information, or even advice of the importance of having registering a company most youths have not done so because they don’t know the importance.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

The County Director of Youth concurs with the group observations. He noted that;

“Youth have not been able to exploit opportunities they do not have registered companies they are locked out. Also youths do not have capital and information, since advertisements are done between May, June and July, once these months pass they can’t get it again.”

[County Director of Youth, Uasin Gishu]

The above challenges were echoed by the Enterprise Development Fund Representative who noted that, most young people especially in the rural areas lack information on the available employment, income and business opportunities as well as the prohibitive costs associated with registration of businesses. This is what he said;

“The business environment is dynamic in getting information, if you go far to the people in rural areas, they cannot get information for example if one wants to get information about tender though its advertised through media, they are not able or cannot access this services. For company registration, as we can today its some national level, now getting someone like a youth who has just started business has small income somewhere cannot go and register, then there are many procedures and the amount is costly, is actually a lot. “

[Enterprise Development Fund Representative, Uasin Gishu]

2.5.3 Economic Activities Young People are Engaged In

From the FGDs across the various groups, key informant and in-depth interviews, small scale businesses, 'boda boda' business, casual labour jobs and domestic work were identified as the main economic activities young people are commonly engaged in.

“They engage in these businesses and farming so that they can cater for their expenses like paying school fees, house bills and many other expenses.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Health complications, poor pay and exploitation, lack of market for products and financial constraints to expand their businesses were cited as the main challenges that young people encounter while engaging in the various economics activities. Harassment by authorities was also mentioned as another challenge.

“They lack finance to continue with their business for example someone has started a hairdressing place, he/she may need money to cater for the hairdressing like to buy stock.”

[FDG. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Provision of education opportunities to under-age children who engage in employment opportunities for them to go back to school was widely recommended. Additionally, provision of loans and start-up capital and improvement in infrastructure were also suggested as facilitative factors for young people to produce goods and services and deliver them to market without much challenges.

“Government should offer loans to youths so that they can expand their loans and given more capital to start their business.”

[FDG. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Table 2.7 Economic activities young people are engaged in

Main economic activities engaged in	Challenges Encountered	How to address the challenges	Reasons why under-age children engage in employment and income opportunities
Small scale businesses	Health complications	Provision of loans/ financial support	To get school fees
Boda boda business	lack of necessary skills and experience	Provision of education services	To cater for basic needs
Casual/menial labour jobs	Accidents	improvement of infrastructure	To avoid idleness
Domestic workers	Poor pay and exploitation		
General farming	Lack of market for products		
	Financial constraints to expand business		
	Harassment by authorities and employers		

FGD participants also discussed why under-age children (school going) are engaged in economic activities citing the need to get school fess, to get money to cater for basic needs and in instances to avoid idleness.

“Because most of them do not afford money to be in school, the fees in secondary school too is high for some families to afford.”

[FDG. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

2.5.4 Interventions and Programmes Addressing Youth Unemployment

Over the years, the government has rolled out interventions and programmes that address unemployment issues affecting many young people in Kenya. In Uasin Gishu County, the groups and other interviewees identified key interventions/programmes that offer an opportunity to young people to either gain skills to enable them access employment or offer start-up capital at a much lower interest rate. Some of the key interventions identified included; NYS programmes that enable young people to gain specific technical skills, UWEZO fund, YEDF and WEF that offer affordable loans at low interest rates to women and young people.

“UWEZO fund provides loans at lower interest rates anyone can access capital to start business and can repay the loan without a problem.”

[FDG. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Table 2.8 Interventions and programmes addressing youth issues

Main interventions and programmes	Challenges in accessing these interventions	Ways to address these challenges
NYS programmes AGPO UWEZO fund Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF)	Corruption Programme restrictions Perceived difficult procedures/ bureaucracy Lack of awareness on existing programs	Address governance and corruption issues Simplify procedures to ease accessibility of funds Devolution of interventions till village level

The various groups cited corruption, programme restrictions, lack of awareness on existing programmes and perceived difficult procedures/bureaucracy as some of the challenges that young people face in accessing these interventions. Lack of information and financial constraints was also cited by the service providers as a challenge.

“They said you must have 20 people as a group and 20 people you need a guarantor to access the loan.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Uasin Gishu]

Among the ways identified to deal with these issues included addressing governance/corruption challenges, devolution of interventions till level as well as simplify procedures to ease accessibility to loans. Additionally, the service providers suggested that, besides the recommended ways by the respondents in the various FGDs, sensitization of youth on the available interventions and programmes is very key.

“Sensitization, there is need to organize seminars and workshops frequently. Secondly a long term issue, personally I see it is very important to train, youths on skills. If one has decided to venture in something, it is good if the person can be trained on technical issues.”

[Enterprise Development Fund Representative, Uasin Gishu]

2.5.5 Potential Areas to Increase Employment and Income Opportunities

There are potential areas that exist in the County that can increase employment and income opportunities for young people. Some of the observed potential areas include; existence of agricultural potential, opportunities in the construction sector especially after devolution of governance structures in the country, unexploited trade and business opportunities in the county and sports especially athletics.

2.6 Governance and Young People

The FGDs and interviews focused on various principles of governance and how young people are involved in the governance functions especially after the devolution of services to the county level. This section presents a summary of discussions and observations on how young people participate in governance roles in Uasin Gishu County. The first section discusses issues on the rule of law. Section two explores the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and transparency in the County governance structures. The third section looks at issues to do with how consensus in project management are arrived at, equity in service representation, inclusiveness and participation of all people in governance, and responsiveness of programmes to the needs of young people. The fourth section outlines effectiveness and efficiency in resources allocation and utilization. The last section looks at the political leadership and role they play in the management of youth affairs at the County.

2.6.1 Rule of Law

The rule of law is an overarching principle which ensures that all people are governed by laws which their elected representatives make and which reflect the rule of law. It requires that the laws are administered justly and fairly. The rule of law requires that the people including, the government should be ruled by law and obey it and that the law should be such that people will be able and willing to be guided by it. Moreover, the law should be able to foster cohesion among the people. In terms of administration of the rule of law in Uasin Gishu County, the groups observed the following:

2.6.1.1 Justice system

The respondents in most FGDs observed that; petty crimes, land disputes, robbery cases especially in the urban areas, SGBV and rape cases were cited as the main cases prevalent in the County. In terms of the process of solving these cases, the groups observed existence of both official/recognized ways as well as traditional mechanisms. These processes are; the normal judicial court systems, mediation between different groups/individuals, solving cases by the government administrative officers, the council of elders as well as religious leaders.

“We have committees who settle land disputes, they have files for every village and community member they know all the land ownerships then they make judgements with the help of the chiefs fairly.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

In pursuit of justice for all, there exist challenges in the system. Some of the challenges widely mentioned especially by the older generations are; corruption, loss of evidence in court registries, ignorance on the side of affected individuals, illiteracy and lack of adequate knowledge on the recourse mechanisms by the affected individuals, tribalism, poverty and lack of money to pursue justice. Too long-time taken to deliver justice was also mentioned as delaying justice.

“Like in bribery when you find out that when a thief is found by a mob of people the police are always called and when the person is arrested and taken to the police station, the next day you find him/her outside because he/she has just bribed the police so, disturbs people so the mob justice must take place for people to stop that crime.”

[FGD. Male young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Addressing corruption/governance issues, reforming judicial systems to solve cases in time, issuing on land title deeds to authenticate ownership and reduce land conflicts, exercising due diligence in acquisition of land, public awareness on how to seek redress in case they are violated and promotion of justice were recommended by FGD participants as some of the ways to address and prevent and minimise these issues/challenges.

2.6.1.2 Security

Security and maintenance of law and order was highlighted as an attraction to investors as well as creating a conducive environment for socio-economic development. In Uasin Gishu County, the security situation is relatively good; however, there has been a trend of the increasing insecurity situation in the group. All the same, groups expressed cases of insecurity especially in urban areas.

“There is no security in this place at all for example in this place we have a thief who normally stays at the corner and he attacks people daily and no police has ever come to deal with the issue.”

[Mixed young people 15-24, Uasin Gishu]

The issues of rising insecurity in the county were also echoed by County administration;

“It is not good, we have many people getting into alcohol and behaving in a manner that does not support security. County statistics show that, insecurity is increasing and more so cases of punishable crimes is on the rise. Rising crimes are like suicide cases while petty crimes are going down.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

The mechanisms in place to ensure security for all include; the *Nyumba Kumi* initiative, community policing initiative, night curfew, vigilante night patrols, setting up many police stations and increasing police patrols and erecting of security lights in the urban areas.

Young people were also mentioned as agents of maintaining security in the county through inclusion of them in the community policing initiatives, enforce laws on law breakers, being brothers' keepers,

transfer ineffective police officers, participating in *Nyumba Kumi* initiatives and reporting of law breakers and suspicious characters in the community.

“Youths help, in case of crime, they come together and fish out the thieves and even chase until they catch them especially those stealing cows.”

[FGD. Mixed older person 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

Corruption perpetuated by the security agents and the law breakers, delays and reluctance in police response, youth involvement in crime, inadequate security personnel and victimization of whistle blowers were mentioned as the major challenges in maintaining security at the County level.

“When you call tell police to know criminals the same police will suspect you.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

In order to address the security challenges, groups and county leaders suggested that, there is need for members of the public to report crimes, employment and deployment of more security personnel, facilitating mobility of security personnel as well as address the governance/corruption issues that all along bedevilled security efforts in the country. Improvement of infrastructure was also suggested to enable rapid response by the security agents in case of any insecurity issues are raised.

“We need to have extra ‘piki pikis’ for police and bring ‘wananchi’ together and report if anyone sees anything suspicious and have more ‘Nyumba Kumi’ initiatives and community policing and strengthen committees.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

2.6.1.3 Cohesion

A cohesive society ensures that people work towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalization, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility. In Uasin Gishu County, the groups identified the issues that affect the unity of the people. The main issues here that affect the unity of the people include; tribalism, social class disparities, political differences, racism, land disputes and corruption.

“Tribalism, because the community is composed of many tribes, there might be discrimination of any tribe.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

A respondent in another FGD for young person concurs with this. Here is what he said;

“Tribalism, people favour people from their own tribes in resource allocation etc.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

Sporting activities, promotion of inter-generational unity, use of mass media, promotion of gender equality, inter-community peace meetings and religious meetings/activities were cited as the key initiatives/ programmes in place to promote the unity of the people in the County. In addition to the existing programmes, activities to maintain the unity of the people, the various groups also noted that, there is still need to promote justice and equity in the county, equal distribution of resources, puts efforts in place to reduce gaps in social status. Creation of employment opportunities for all and carrying out civic education at the lower levels of the county also contribute to a cohesive society.

“I think government should introduce seminars which could teach many people how to live with one another.”

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

2.6.2 Transparency and Accountability

The mechanisms put in place by the government to inform young people on planned and ongoing activities are through; local administrators in the community meetings, public Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, public notice boards, through the mass media, suggestion boxes and service delivery charters in public institutions.

To ensure transparency and accountability is observed in public service delivery, the County Government has put mechanisms in place to ensure that this noble course is achieved. Some of which include; upholding constitutionalism in service provision, suspension of the officers involved, resources audit, reward for transparency and accountability, creation of watch dog committees in the county assembly and mainstreaming of M&E strategy into operations.

“Apart from managerial suspension, we have a monitoring and evaluation strategy once in a while. We move out to projects in the field, we visit and access and know the quality and timeline of the project. If we know money has been misappropriated and the project is stagnant, we sack and discipline the people involved.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

To improve transparency and accountability, the groups observed that qualified personnel should be employed in key leadership positions, there should be community participation in projects, increased partnership with organisations in projects management and people should demand for government accountability. This would ensure that communities own the projects that directly affect their lives. The policy makers also observed that, it is critical to build the capacity of public officers in charge of public coffers and project managers to better enhance their managerial skills. A participant from FGD for older people noted that;

“On community projects, they should involve community people.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

2.6.3 Consensus, Equity, Inclusiveness, Participation and Responsiveness

The groups identified and discussed on the various ways in which young people are involved in the budgeting processes, project identification, design and implementation. Specifically, the groups noted that, to some extent, young people are engaged in identification of new projects since they affect them, they give ideas on the management of the new projects, participate in the budgeting process as well as being employed in the county government to implement and oversee designated projects and programmes.

“Youth form youth budgets in county and officials who should allocate resources for youth.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

In spite of efforts put in place to ensure that young people are involved in budget process, project identification, design and implementation, a good number of young people are still not involved due to corruption issues, discrimination of young people by virtue of their ages, outsourcing of services and in some cases low self-esteem by young people. An FDG participant lamented that;

“I think the youth are not involved because they are considered immature and they cannot make decisions which they can help the community.”

[FGD. Male young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

In projects and programmes management, the groups observed that young people LIKE to participate in menial jobs or labour jobs. Asked what they WOULD LIKE to be involved in, most of the participants in the groups observed that, young people would like to be involved in the entire projects/ programmes processes as well as hold leadership positions. Holding leadership positions was widely mentioned including in the FGDs with older people.

“They should be given opportunities on issues like political leadership.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

Participants from the various FGD groups strongly agreed that, involvement of young person’s in projects and programmes ensures that they gain skills and experience, gives a sense of belonging, access employment opportunities presented by the projects and also earn income to improve their economic status. A participant in an FGD of young person’s expressed that;

“They are employed, they get income, and are paid they save some money and others they use for their personal needs, they also learn skills so they benefit from these employers.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

The groups and leaders observed that generally opportunities reserved for specific categories of the population should be set aside and implementation mechanisms rolled out to ensure that the intended opportunities reached those who deserved. Moreover, opportunities for the entire population are made accessible to all regardless of their social-economic, political or otherwise affiliations. Among the ways the county government have ensured this happens include; offering employment opportunities to all regardless of your background, women empowerment initiatives, support and involvement of PWDs in projects and programmes. The group sentiments are confirmed by the county administration, who observed that, up to 30 percent of the opportunities for the youths are reserved.

“In our starting level, majority of them are youths and are in management and it guarantees, these people are in charge of supervision and management of youth. We have protected access to employment to these people up to 30 percent.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

There are also some challenges that young person's face during their involvement in project implementation. These challenges include both individual and organizational issues that may impede their full participation and involvement. The issues mainly raised by the groups are; exploitation and poor pay, harassment by supervisors, lack of adequate skills and experiences and discrimination on account of their younger ages compared to their older colleagues in the project management teams. They note that in spite of their relatively young age, they should be treated with respect.

“Managers and supervisors should treat youth with respect as human and not with a lot of arrogance and harshness.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

To improve young people's involvement in project process, the groups observed that; there is need for training and capacity building of young people to equip them with more skills on projects management, improve on the accessibility of tender opportunities for to young people, advocate for fair remuneration for all, address governance/ corruption issues, initiate motivational programmes targeting young people to spur them into action and take-up leadership positions and create more employment opportunities. In addition to the groups' observation, the county administration considers improving access to information by young people as one of the ways to empower them.

“Improving access to government information and make websites active, to ensure every decision is circulated to the villages and all youths are empowered.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

2.6.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

There were varied views on how available resources are allocated to target the young people in the county. On the positive perspective, the groups observed that, to some extent, some resources have been allocated for talent and nurturing activities and to activities that generate employment opportunities for young people. On the negative perspective, some groups especially from the younger groups observed that, allocation of resources is based on age limit which in most cases does not favour them.

“They have specific age groups for example 20- 35 years to limit youth.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 20-24, Uasin Gishu]

Contrary to the negative perspective and also in pursuit of empowering young people, the county government deliberately sets aside resources and opportunities that target young people in the county. It provides information on the available opportunities for young people and allocates resources to offer talent and nurturing opportunities for young people.

“We provide timely information, if I have 200 tenders for roads, we target the youth because this money is for them, if we don’t publicize it goes to the wrong people. This improves access to people who are marginalized, by protecting them.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

To ensure that resources achieve expected outcomes, the county government has prioritized strong organizational mechanisms to improve on service delivery and achievement of results. To demonstrate their course, the county leadership highlighted on the following:

“Our core function as county officer is project implementation, other than supervising, we have impromptu selection of projects and we carry out small surveys on retirement to ensure we know sectors requiring more support before doing budget line .We have county fiscal strategy paper, it shows areas of priority and other broad areas like targeting infrastructure, automation, and strategies to ensure those available are well targeted properly.”

[County secretary, Uasin Gishu]

To improve efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of resources, the groups observed that, there is need for increase monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes, increased public awareness, intensify resources expenditures audits and emphasize on practices of fairness and equality in the management of public resources.

“Let a board/body be formed that the members are fair they make decisions that will not favour few people but give all access.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Uasin Gishu]

2.6.5 Political Leadership

The groups and county leaders discussed the role political leadership play in management of youth affairs. The findings from the various groups point to the expected and current roles that the political

leadership ought to play in the management of youth affairs. The groups observed that the political leadership have contributed in creation of more employment opportunities for the young people, improved infrastructure, for young people to be facilitated in seeking for services and also allocate bursaries to needy young people to further their studies as noted below;

“Our MP sponsors those students who pass from any school in his area and are needy they sponsor their college, university and secondary education, for boys those who don’t pass he organizes for them to go to NYS.”

[FGD. Female young people 15-19 Uasin Gishu]

However, there were also a group of young people dissatisfied with the contribution of the political leadership in the management of young people affairs. They noted that most of the leaders give false promises. One of them noted that;

“You see we don’t see any help by political leaders to the youths, when someone wants votes he comes and makes manifestos that he will help youths in getting jobs among other things but the moment he gets the seat we never see him again.”

[FGD. Mixed older people 35-60, Uasin Gishu]

2.7 Population Structure

Thoughts about growing population of young people in relation to health

With regard to the growing population and of young people and provision of health services, the various groups noted that, this situation is likely to lead to inadequate drugs and equipment in health facilities, inadequate health facilities and congestion in existing facilities.

Thoughts about growing population of young people in relation to education

In terms the growing population of young people in relation to provision of education services, young people seems to be worried on the effects of the growing population of young people. The participants observed that, there will be inadequate schools and congestion in the existing ones. Imbalanced teacher student ratio, poor education standards and few learning materials also worried the respondents. One of them observed that;

“There will be congestion in schools. When people are many the resources will be constrained like library it will be a problem some people will go like a year to get access to the library.”

[FGD. Mixed young people 25-34, Uasin Gishu]

Thoughts about growing population of young people in relation to economic status

FGD participants were asked on their thoughts about the growing population in relation to the economic status of the people. Findings from the groups showed a scenario of a worried people with regard to the increasing population. FGD group participants observed that, the effect of the growing population would lead to increased crime rates, high poverty levels, and poor performance of the country’s economy, unemployment and strained resources.

“I think there will be high unemployment because when population is high not all people will get employment opportunities, this will lead to a lot of joblessness by the youth.”

[FGD. Female young person 15-19, Uasin Gishu]

Thoughts about growing population of young people in relation to governance

the growing population of young people seems to be associated with negative consequences. Most groups observed that the growing population of young people would create a huge chunk of unemployed youth. Consequently this which predisposes them to engaging in crime leading to insecurity in most places. Additionally, the groups noted that, there will be challenges in the administration and maintenance of law and order as the administrators are fewer than the population of the people.

In order to address the growing population, the policy makers suggest that mechanisms should be put in place to reduce the fertility levels in the County. They suggest that, outreach programmes to advocate for family planning and sex education for people to adopt small family norms.

“One we have tried using our facilities and outreach programmes these are done by partners to ensure proper family and sex education and are taught about getting children that one can support and taught to reduce dangerous practices like alcohol. We invest on educating the youth.”

[Policy maker, Uasin Gishu]

Why Young people move from Uasin Gishu County to other counties

Although there are numerous resources and opportunities in Uasin-Gishu County, the county leadership noted that, young people still migrate to other counties mainly in search of education services and to seek for employment opportunities.

Why Young People move from other Counties to Uasin Gishu County

The in-migration of young people to Uasin-Gishu exceeds the out-migration. It was observed that, the reasons why many young people migrate to the county is because they are seeking for farming opportunities, good security, seek improved health services, seek for job opportunities, sporting activities and education services. To summarize all the reasons, here is what the county leadership viewed as the major reason for the increased in-migration.

“Many young people move to Uasin Gishu county because we have aggressive plan on employment, we have industries and markets give opportunities to youngsters to trade and also there is motorbike business which is very lucrative, we have good environment for living and security is fine and also this county is a medical hub we have the national referral hospital here the second one in the country. It is also a hub of communication and farming which has provided extensive employment and also we have fourteen universities so people come here to seek education.”

[County Secretary, Uasin Gishu]

2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations

As noted earlier, the demographic dividend window of opportunity for the county is likely to open in 2035 and close by 2075. This means that, the county needs to expedite investment in the four pillars of the demographic dividend to benefit from this window of opportunity. In terms of health, the county is fairly performing well; however, maternal indicators are not fairly good. There are a lot of gender disparities in education especially in favour of the girl child. The boy child seems to be neglected and lagging behind in educational attainment. Economically, access to capital and other IGAs is seriously affected by corruption and inefficiencies in the market. Of concern is the governance issues, especially exclusion of young people in leadership positions which is rampant in the county. Nepotism and tribalism is likely to negate the efforts envisioned under good governance paradigm. Notwithstanding the issues outlined in the four pillars, the county is performing fairly well but more efforts especially in governance and youth participation is critical.

Recommendations

Health

1. Investment in the health sector especially on child survival programmes and reproductive health services including family planning services should be prioritized and scaled up.
2. Advocate for couples to adopt small family norms.
3. There is need to promote utilization of skilled birth attendance in the county to improve on the skilled births attendance indicator.
4. There is need to out-reach programmes on family planning provision. The county should explore the services of CHEWs in this noble course.
5. There is need to create and strengthen partnerships in the provision of accessible and affordable health services.

Education

1. The County government should explore mechanisms and allocate bursaries to secondary education to reduce the number of primary-to-secondary-school drop-outs.
2. Provision of sanitary pads to girls in schools.
3. Due to the high number of school drop-out, especially for the boy child, and the high number of children out of school, the County needs to invest more in them and mop up all the eligible children who are still not enrolled.

Economy

1. The county government should formulate and implement high impact economic and social policies targeting young people.
2. Create a conducive economic environment for the private sector including industrial set-ups to thrive and create more job opportunities.
3. Ease access to credit and information on the same by young people.
4. The county government should put measures in place to reduce child labour, curb exploitation and poor pay.
5. Simplification of business processing practices to enable young people incorporates business entities to engage in business opportunities set aside for them.

Governance

1. There is need to strengthen the governance structures in the County and deliberately include young people in county leadership position.
2. Community involvement in projects design, planning, and implementation. This would ensure that there is community buy-in and improve social accountability.
3. Strengthen the M&E systems in the projects management.

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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 – 2 Region Survey Personnel

Table A2.1 North Rift – 2 Region

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