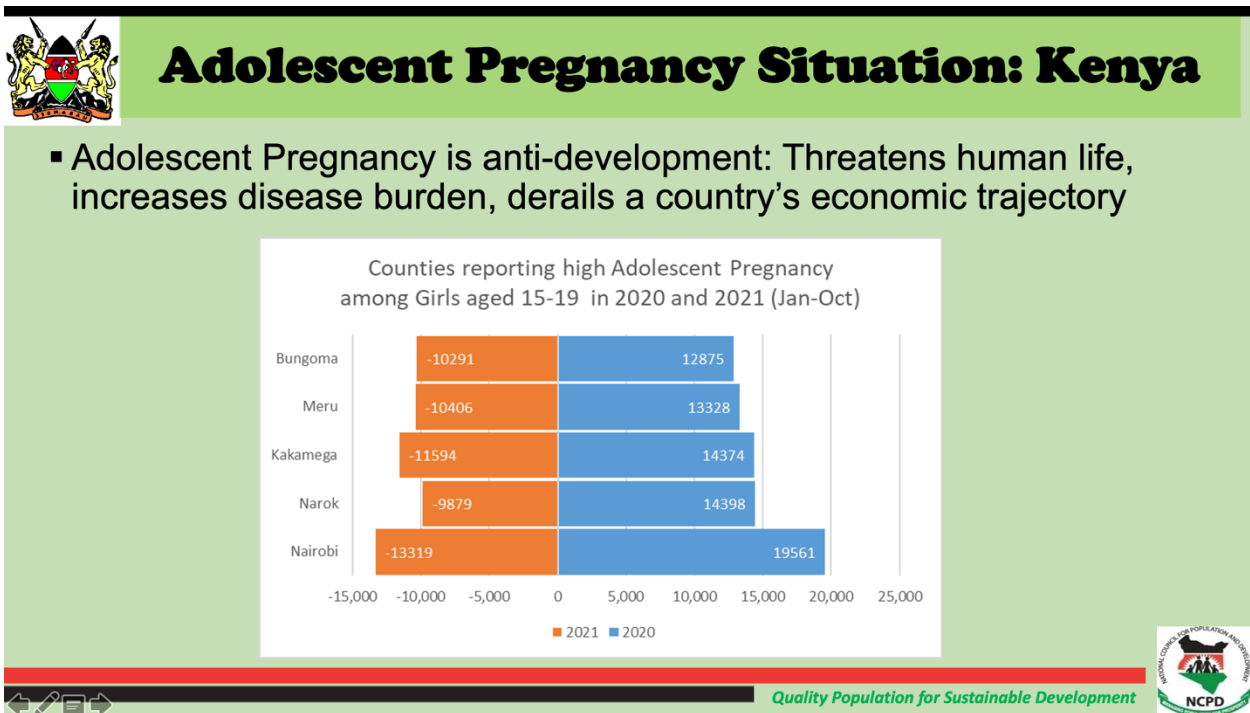


NCPD DIRECTOR GENERAL DECRIES HIGH TEEN PREGNANCIES IN KENYA

By Grace Njau

The National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) Director General Dr. Mohamed Sheikh has decried the rising number of teenage pregnancies in the country.

The Director General spoke during a preparatory media breakfast meeting on Monday 8th November 2021 at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to mark the World AIDS day on 1st December 2021.



The DG observed that teenage pregnancies were exacerbated by sexual violence, forced marriage, poverty, and lack of parental guidance. Statistics show that for instance, in Nakuru county 1 out of every 5 teenage girls has either had their first child or is pregnant. He added that 59.3% of girls who are sexually active are not using any form of

contraceptives increasing their chances of getting pregnant or even contracting STIs and HIV/AIDS.

He called for a multifaceted approach towards combating teenage pregnancies in the country adding that not all girls faced similar challenges. This year's World Aids Day theme will be **"Ending the HIV Epidemic, Equitable access, Everyone's Voice."**

The National Aids Control Council CEO, Dr. Ruth Laibon-Masha added that apart from the rise in teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS, the curve of girls getting infected with sexually transmitted diseases was on the rise.

Statistics, she said showed that more women than men in Nairobi, Kisumu and Homabay counties were affected by HIV/ AIDS pandemic adding that government sponsored cash transfers were coming in handy for the women.

Grace Njau is an attachee at the National Council for Population and Development and a Student at Riara University.