



## Population, planning and the country's development



Populations and development are intricately linked when it comes to the progress a country makes. Take Kenya for instance, in 1950, the population was around six million. By independence in 1963, the number had grown to around 8.6 million. Some 60 years later in 2023, the number stood at about 52 million. That's massive growth, and there is nothing wrong with it if resources grow at a similar rate. But they usually don't. So, as the population rises, the government is finding it challenging to take care of

the huge numbers with the limited resources collected.

This calls for careful planning and as such, population numbers and records become indispensable. And so do agencies such as the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD).

This is the institution tasked with managing Kenya's population growth and trends. Last month, NCPD launched its fourth Strategic Plan, which we break down in this edition of *InfoBytes*. Find out more about NCPD and their new plan.



# 1 Who is NCPD?

The National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) in The National Treasury and Economic Planning.

The agency was established in 1982 to deal with the management of Kenya's population growth and trends.



# 2 What's the basis of managing the country's population?

Kenya's rapid population growth was identified as an impediment to the realisation of national development aspirations as acknowledged by the Sessional Paper Number 10 of 1965 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya. Since then, rapid population growth has remained an issue of concern among demographers and economic planners.

# 3 So where does the Council come in?

NCPD is the focal point on all matters relating to population and development policies and programmes in the country. As such, the Council coordinates the implementation of population and development activities being carried out by various stakeholders in Kenya.



## 4 What's the link between NCPD's mandate and development?

Managing population growth not only ensures the achievement of demographic dividends, but also aligns population policies with sustainable development goals.

## 5 What specific services does the Council offer?

- Conducts research on population issues.
- Produces policy briefs on topical population issues.
- Develops population and related policies and coordinates their implementation by various stakeholders.
- Carries out monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of population programmes.
- Develops and disseminates IEC materials/messages through mass media, workshops, seminars, conferences and public exhibitions on population issues in Kenya.

## 6 Tell me about Council's new Strategic Plan

This is the fourth Strategic Plan developed by the NCPD and it stipulates the Council's strategic direction for the period 2023-2027. It has been aligned with Kenya's Vision 2030 and its Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023-2027), and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The Plan was developed in accordance with the mandate and functions of the Council as spelt out in Legal Notice No. 120 of October 29, 2004.

## 7 What key areas does the Strategic Plan focuses on?

The plan is centred around:

- Population policy and programme Implementation.
- Population research and analysis.
- Advocacy and public education, and
- Institutional strengthening.

## 8 What goals is the Council aiming to achieve through the plan?

Through this plan, the Council seeks to:

- Enhance integration of population issues in development plans at all levels.
- Increase availability, quality and utilisation of population research findings.
- Enhance sustainability of population programmes.
- Improve service delivery.



## 9 How is the Plan aligned with govt's development agenda?

The government is implementing the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV), 2023-2027, whose theme is: 'Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) for Inclusive Growth' with the objective of realising accelerated socio-economic transformation to a more competitive, inclusive and resilient economy.

The Plan prioritises implementation of BETA value chains in agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprise economy, housing and settlement, healthcare, digital superhighway and creative economy as core pillars.

NCPD makes an enormous contribution towards the realisation of the government's development aspirations since a manageable population is a pre-requisite for national development.



## 10 Talk about the Council’s mandate in relation to the Constitution

The Council is committed to the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya relevant to its mandate. In the Bill of Rights, Article 26 (1) states that Every person has the right to life and that (2) the life of a person begins at conception. In this regard, NCPD shall develop and implement a public education and advocacy strategy on population and development to improve uptake of family planning so that the population has information and education needed to make informed choices. NCPD also advocacy campaigns on ending the triple threat of teenage pregnancies, HIV infections and gender-based violence.

## 11 How about people’s rights to clean environment?

Article 42 provides that every person should have a right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes (a) the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures. During the Plan period, the Council shall mainstream population issues into national and county development plans and strategies, and will collaborate with stakeholders to develop integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE)

## 12 Does the Plan specifically touch on health?

Article 43 provides that, ‘Every person has the right to (a) highest attainable standard of health, which include the right to healthcare services like reproductive healthcare’. To this end, the Council, will strengthen stakeholder engagement

and sustain campaigns on population and development issues. It will also strengthen advocacy capacity and policymakers and partners’ engagement for population programme financing.

## 13 Does the Plan have any economic interventions for the country?

Kenya's reclassification as a Lower Middle-Income Country resulted in reduced development partner support. The high unemployment rate among young people further challenges economic prospects. In response, NCPD plans to engage various development partners through dialogues for continued collaboration, highlighting the long-term benefits of population programmes.

## 14 So how does NCPD hope to help beat youth unemployment?

NCPD aims to strengthen partnerships with private sector entities, exploring innovative funding models, and implementing targeted youth skill development programmes to maximise economic benefits. Investing in youth skills development for the demographic dividend reflects a strategic approach to harnessing human capital for economic growth.



## 15 Other interventions?

The Council also aims to collaborate with other government agencies and private sector to address youth unemployment through targeted interventions.

Diversifying funding sources and mobilising Own Source Revenue (OSR) aligns with the global trend of seeking sustainable financial models for development programmes.

# 16 How will the Council operationalise the Strategic Plan?

The Council will utilise its monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Strategic Plan based on the set performance standards. These

standards will be at strategic, operational and individual performance levels. This will be done on a quarterly and annual basis.



# 17 What will it cost to implement the Strategic Plan?

The Council requires Sh5.44 billion during the five-year period as summarised below;

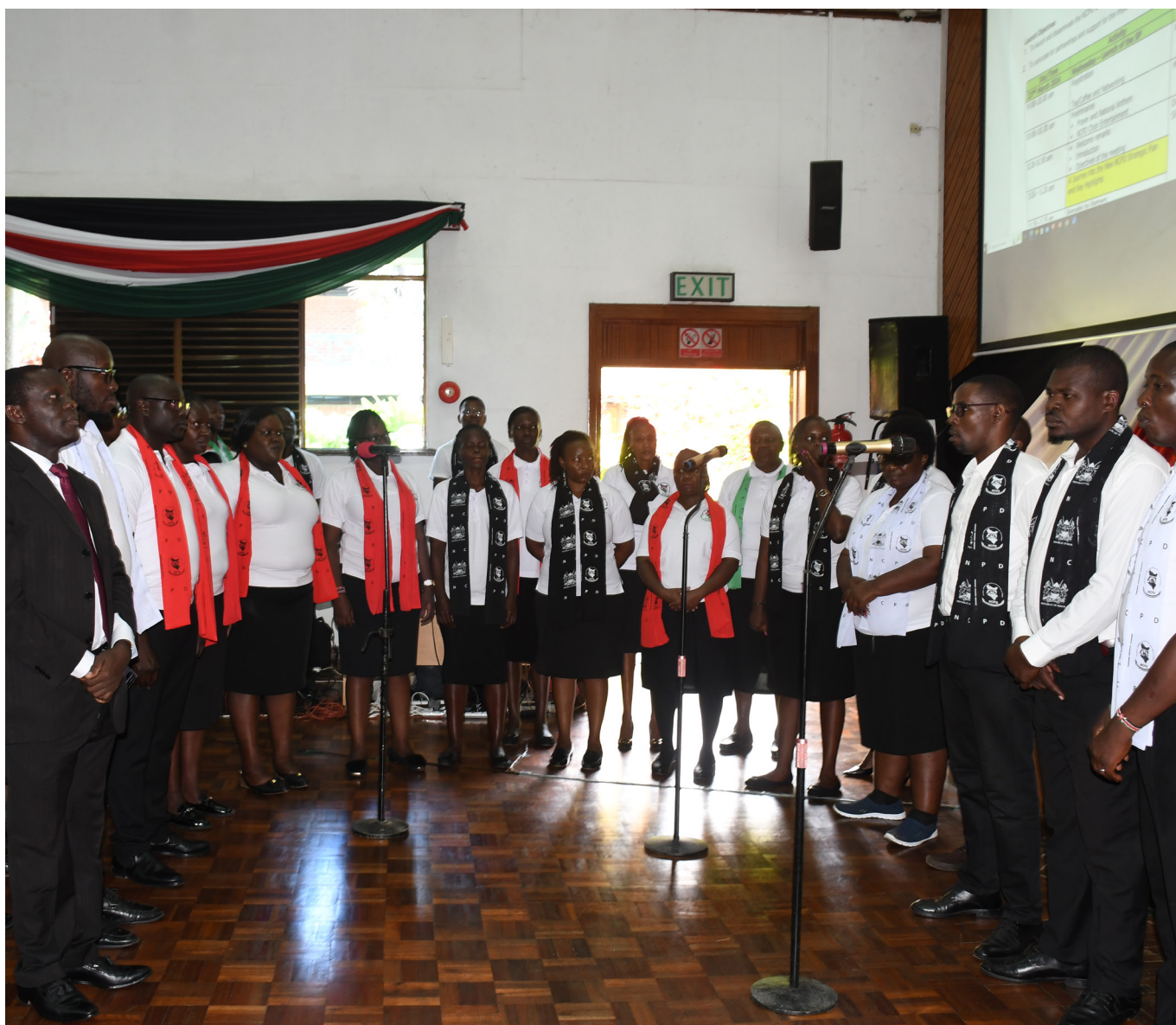
Item	Cost (Sh million)
Programme coordination	368.2
Policy and research	2,023.9
Communication advocacy and public education	587.6
Institutional capacity	641.9
Administrative costs	1,824.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,445.5</b>

# 18 What are some of the challenges identified in the implementation of the Plan?

- i. NCPD has not been enacted through an Act of Parliament.
- ii. Lack of adequate funds to implement the population and development programmes.
- iii. Cyber security risks due to increased use of technology.
- iv. Inadequate coverage in all the counties.
- v. Inadequate public awareness on population and development issues.

# 19 What policies and laws is the Plan anchored on?

- The 1984 ICP Mexico Conference.
- The 1994 ICPD programme of Action (ICPD-PoA).
- The Addis Ababa declaration on Population and Development 2013.
- The sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030.
- African Union Demographic Dividend Roadmap 2017.







## 20 Where can I get a copy of the Strategic Plan?

The Strategic Plan can be accessed from the NCPD website [www.ncpd.go.ke](http://www.ncpd.go.ke).

**Sources:** KYEB and National Council for Population and Development (NCPD). A publication of the Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board (KYEB)



**KENYA  
YEARBOOK  
EDITORIAL BOARD**

- 📍 Ragat Road, NHIF Building , 4th Floor, Upperhill, Nairobi, Kenya
- 📧 P.O. Box 34035-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
- ☎ 0757029456
- ✉ [info@kenyayearbook.go.ke](mailto:info@kenyayearbook.go.ke)
- 🌐 [www.kenyayearbook.go.ke](http://www.kenyayearbook.go.ke)

**Is there a topic you'd like featured on InfoBytes?  
Email: [content@kenyayearbook.go.ke](mailto:content@kenyayearbook.go.ke)**

All rights reserved. ©2024 Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board. No Part of this book may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the Kenya Year Book Editorial Board.