

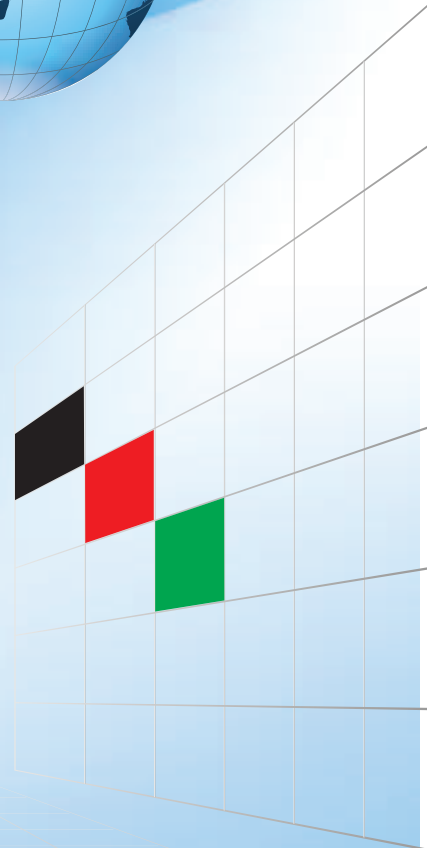


KENYA



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009



**Youth and Human
Development:**
Tapping the Untapped Resource

JUNE 2010

KENYA NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009

Youth and Human Development: Tapping the Untapped Resource

With a great deal of content emanating from youth, one of the most salient observations is the way they use the Internet to share ideas and express themselves. While there is clearly a distinct culture among youth on the Internet, youth are also creating strong links with the school, community, teachers, government and work places.



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KENYA NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009

Youth and Human Development: Tapping the Untapped Resource

FOREWORD

Since the inaugural report of 1999, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya has published five National Human Development Reports (NHDRs) that have succeeded in stirring interest and provoking debate on human development, and in shaping policy discussions.

Both the Government of Kenya (GoK) and the UNDP accord high priority to the Youth (15-35 years) who comprise about 36 percent of the population. Given the prominence of the youth, the challenges they face and the potential contributions they can offer to the development of Kenya, the 2009 NHDR, dedicated to the young men and women of this country, is a most timely tribute.

The 2009 NHDR introduces a new measure for youth development: the Youth Development Index (YDI). The YDI measures the degree of inclusion and social integration of the youth in national development processes relating to education, health and economics. The report discusses youth participation in national governance and puts forward strong arguments for any future YDI to include a wider variety of youth development indicators. The report notes the considerable challenge in conceptualizing and measuring youth development because of the number of variables determining the well-being of youth. These include youth potential and self-development, participation, identity, leisure time, and self-empowerment.

Discussion of the state of the youth in Kenya should spur further debate and provide direction for policies that target the well-being of young people. The report should be of interest to Kenyans and members of the international community alike who work in development and research relating to young people in the country. It should generate a national debate on the future of youth development in Kenya and promote dialogue on the ways in which the youth resource can be better used.

The report is useful in refocusing the attention of Kenyans on the role and potential of young people in contributing to a brighter future guided by the long-term blueprint of Kenya Vision 2030.



Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma
UNDP Resident Representative

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My appreciation also goes to the National Technical Committee, which included the following: Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 – Mr. Moses Ogolla Director, Sectoral Planning Directorate, Ms. Katherine Muoki Director Infrastructure, Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTI), Mr. Dominic Nyambane, Economist, Ms. Grace Kimitei, Economist, Ms. Naomi Cheboi, Dr. Boniface K'Oyugi (NCAPD), Mr. David Kinyua (NCAPD), Dr. Collins Opiyo (KNBS), Mr. James K. Gatungu (KNBS), Mr. Robert Nderitu (KNBS). Ministry of Education – Mr. Willis Maganda, Ministry of Finance – Mr. Nimrod Mate, Ministry of Gender, Social Development and Children Affairs – Ms. Charity Kiilu, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology – Ms. Eunice K. Ndulu, Ministry of Labour – Mr. James K. Maru, Ministry of Medical Services – Mr. David Njuguna, University of Nairobi – John M. Njoka (IDS), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports – Mr. Cornelius Ombagi, Ministry of Public Health and sanitation, Mr. Nick Oyugi, and KEPSA – Mr. Antony Weru.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ALMPs	Active Labour Market Policies
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual And Reproductive health
CEDAW	Convention On The Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CDTF	Community Development Trust Fund
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GoK	Government of Kenya
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPI	Human Poverty Index
ICT	Information and communications technology
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana Programme
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOSPND & V2030	Ministry Of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHDR	National Human Development Report
RH	Reproductive Health
TIVET	Technical Industrial and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2009 NHDR for Kenya reinforces policy debate on various issues affecting youth development. These include the link between youth development and the broader concept of human development, the potentials of a youth bulge, and the introduction of a measure for youth development in Kenya. The report explores the potentials and challenges of youth development and discusses investment in youth social development through education and health. The report then considers the relationship between youth economic productivity and youth well-being. In this report, the youth are defined as people resident in Kenya aged 15 to 35 years.

The initiatives and strategies by state and non-state actors in promoting real engagement in youth development are discussed. In an attempt to influence national policies for youth development, key messages and action points aimed at shaping further policy debate and creating a platform for dialogue are highlighted.

The 2009 NHDR introduces a new measure for youth development in Kenya, the Youth Development Index (YDI). The index assesses the degree of inclusion and social integration of the youth in national development processes with respect to education, health and income.

The report discusses youth participation in national governance and puts forward a strong argument for a future YDI to include a wider variety of youth development indicators. The report notes the difficulty in conceptualizing and measuring the imprecise conditions of youth development. A comprehensive YDI needs to measure youth participation, self-development, social relationships, identity, leisure time, deviant behaviour and self-empowerment, all of which play a critical role in youth development. It is suggested that the government, in partnership with the UNDP and other developmental agencies, creates a more robust YDI framework for Kenya. This can be partly realized through conducting longitudinal studies and surveys on each thematic area of focus.

Kenya's national YDI is 0.5817 where 0 is the poorest score and 1 the best. The national YDI has been positively influenced by recent government reforms and expansion of education, health and youth economic support programmes. Overall literacy levels are high as Kenya records high school enrolment rates at lower levels of education. This study reports that the youth need to be equipped with literacy, numeracy, skills and knowledge in order to break the inter-generational spiral of poverty, illness, illiteracy and inequality. A literate, numerate, skilled and healthy youth population is a tremendous asset for development. Unskilled, semi-literate, unhealthy and overly dependent youths can be a serious burden on national growth and public finances.

The goal of Vision 2030 to realise a HDI growth from 0.532 to 0.750 (in a

[The report recognizes the challenge of a youthful population but further acknowledges its investment opportunity and goes on to strongly advocate an asset approach to youth development issues in Kenya.](#)

scale of 0-1 where 1 is best) cannot be realised without the YDI growing at the same projected pace. The report finds that two years into the first MTP, the HDI has grown from 0.532 reported in 2007 to 0.5608, which shows a positive trend.

The national YDI value of 0.5817 further indicates that four provinces have values below the national average and the other four registering values above the national average. At a glance, this shows that the overall welfare of the youth is slightly above average in Kenya comparing HDI of 0.5608 with YDI of 0.5817. But there are also wide regional imbalances, with some provinces doing very well in advancing the youth interests in social development, while others are apparently performing below average.

The National Education Index measured in respect of weighted variables of the literacy of the population aged 15-35 years, secondary school enrolment and quality of education, gives a composite index of 0.597. This shows that government initiatives and policies in the education sector are serving the youth need in securing education. However there still exist challenges of access, equity, quality, efficiency and relevance that need to be addressed across the various regions of Kenya.

A survival Index of 0.7040 is a composite index determined by income, education and health. This value paints a picture of good health investment in the youth, giving a high survival probability from 15 and 35 years. This is critical when looking at youth as a resource and a potential wealth for a nation. Its implication is that the country is assured of a healthy workforce which, when exploited, can spur economic growth as envisaged in Vision 2030.

The report finds that the youth income index of 0.44 is the greatest challenge for the youth in terms of their human development. The dependency ratio among the youth is still very high, with most of them struggling to earn a living. According to this report, only 44% of the youth can afford a livelihood above the poverty line. The challenge the nation faces is how to translate education and a high survival index into income for the youth.

The report recognizes the challenge of a youthful population but further acknowledges its investment opportunity and goes on to strongly advocate an asset approach to youth development issues in Kenya. A vibrant youth population is a valuable asset to national development, if only its potential can be fully exploited.

A large group of youths are potentially at risk of engaging in harmful anti-social behaviours, including risky sexual behaviour, substance use, and crime. Youths in this position are unable to make the transition to responsible and economically stable adulthood.

This report observes that while the economic performance has improved, growth in productive employment and income-generating opportunities have not kept pace with growth in the labour force. This is especially true

for the youth who comprise over 60 percent of the working population. Even though considerable effort has been made to provide education, training and entrepreneurial skills for the youth, most Kenyan youth lack the skills and experience to be successfully absorbed into the labour market or start their own businesses. This is partly because the education system is not fully responsive to labour market demands. Although the government planned to create half a million jobs every year, problems affecting young people have continued and this has been attributed to the lack of a comprehensive policy to provide a blueprint for youth development.

More emphasis needs to be given to non-conventional employment opportunities in areas such as information and communications technology (ICT), music, the performing arts and sports. ICT is the fastest growing business sector in Kenya with youth filling the majority of positions. Access to technology is spreading rapidly and has proven to be an effective tool for development through its ability to foster information exchange and allow youth the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. ICT provides an opportunity for the youth to contribute to the shared values of transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency. The report recommends that the youth be supported in playing an important role in development through ICT and the automation of government programmes.

Institutions should provide mechanisms for teaching youths social values and enabling them to participate in governance and in setting priorities in development. Youths should be engaged with government and in all aspects of society, setting the stage for their continued participation throughout adulthood. This report recommends strengthening youth participation in fighting corruption through the use of ICT competencies so as to contribute to transparency, accountability and efficiency in government transactions.

The formulation of the National Youth Policy and the establishment of the National Youth Council are important advances towards enhancing youth development in Kenya. Nevertheless, the youth policy falls short of offering specific affirmative guidelines on the representation of the youth in governance bodies at local, regional and national levels. The report observes that in a number of instances, ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) have formulated their policies without adequate reference to the National Youth Policy, leading to insufficient mainstreaming of youth issues.

The report recommends a review of the Political Parties Act to positively discriminate towards the youth in parliamentary nominations. It also underscores the urgent need to review the policy that promotes public servants based on the time they have served, to one of promotion based on competencies and achievement. This will create an avenue for the youth to rise up to more senior positions, which will enhance their opportunity for participation in governance and policy decision-making. The report also recommends a review of the policy to extend the age of retirement of public servants from 55 to 60 years old. It is suggested that this policy should not be applied universally but be determined by individual performance and only apply in specialized areas of government service. This will provide an avenue for some public servants to retire at an appropriate age and create space for younger professionals to move along the career path.

The report recognizes a link between success in political and professional careers and active backgrounds in student leadership. It therefore recommends establishing alumni comprising President's Award winners and school student council members with the goal of creating a government school of leadership. The school should include programmes such as mentorship, values, ethics and patriotism, and the youth can be trained to participate in various areas of national governance.

Structure of the report

The 2009 NHDR for Kenya is divided into six chapters. Chapter one gives a general discussion of the situation of the youth in Kenya. In the second chapter, the proposed measure of youth development, the YDI, and other development indices are calculated and discussed. Chapter three focuses on the education and health dimensions of youth development and considers the social investments required to improve youth welfare. The fourth chapter looks at the position of the youth in relation to employment and highlights youth economic potential. In chapter five, the report explores the role of youth participation in national governance and the potential contribution it has on overall youth well-being. Chapter six highlights key messages and action points drawn from the previous chapters.

Methodology

The 2009 NHDR has been prepared through a rigorous consultative process that involved various steps and stakeholders. The process was steered by the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 (MOSPND & V2030) and the UNDP. A national technical committee comprising the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS); various ministries, including the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Ministry for Gender and Children Affairs, and representatives of the private sector, was established to provide necessary data and to validate the report.

Stakeholders from key government ministries deliberated on the various themes proposed for the 2009 NHDR. After developing a concept paper, which was reviewed by the technical team, a team of national consultants was recruited and mandated to develop the NHDR. Continuous consultative meetings with stakeholders were held where draft reports were presented by the consultants. A participatory approach was used in the development of the 2009 NHDR in order to ensure ownership and involvement of many stakeholders. A communication and advocacy strategy was developed to better sensitize and sustain dialogue on youth issues in the country. To ensure youth remain engaged in the dialogue and recommendations of the report, a youth friendly version of the report was also developed.

CHAPTER ONE

YOUTH: TAPPING THE UNTAPPED RESOURCE

1.1 Introduction

Approximately 36 percent of Kenya's population are youths. They are dynamic and full of energy and can play a significant role in the country's economy, politics and culture. However, due to high unemployment and low participation levels, Kenya's youth remain marginalised and unable to contribute to their full potential in national development. The realisation of Kenya Vision 2030 and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) critically depend on the degree of inclusion of the youth in the development agenda. This report therefore assesses the human development concerns of the youth and the untapped youth potential, and comes up with a youth development measure, the Youth Development Index (YDI).

1.2 A definition of youth

This report defines the youth as people resident in Kenya who are between 15 and 35 years old ¹

A universal definition of the term youth does not exist but depends heavily on context. For example, the United Nations defines youth as individuals between 15-24 years old, this being the time for maturing and for developing skills and knowledge in readiness for integration into the economic, social and political spheres of life. The World Bank, however, focuses on the age range 12-24 as the time when important foundations are laid for learning and skills acquisition.

Various laws of Kenya define rights and responsibilities in accordance with the age of the person. The National Youth Council Act, 2009, defines a youth as a person aged between 18 and 35. The Age of Majority Act (Cap 33) states that 'a person shall be of full age and cease to be under any disability by reason of age after attaining the age of 18 years'. The Children Act of 2001 also defines a child as anyone under the age of 18 implying that the transition to youth status begins at 18. According to the Marriage Act (Cap 150), a marriage license cannot be issued if one of the parties is under 18 years. The Traffic Act (Cap 403) specifies that a driving license cannot be granted to any person under the age of 18. The Borstal Institutions Act (Cap 92) defines a 'youthful offender' as a person who has been convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment and has been found guilty by the court at the time of such conviction, to have attained the age of 15 but to be under 18 years. The Employment Act (Cap 226), which outlines the laws governing employment and protection of employees, specifies that no person shall employ a child below 13 years, whether gainfully or otherwise, while those between the ages of 13 and 16 may only be employed in light work.

The human development paradigm takes people as the primary actors in improving their own welfare through economic, social and political empowerment.

1.2.1 Human development paradigm

The human development paradigm is based on the idea that the ultimate purpose of all human activity is to enrich people's lives. This involves enlarging people's options and choices, which implies greater access to knowledge and skills, better nutrition and health, enhanced access to basic social services, and more secure livelihoods. The human development paradigm recognizes that society's real wealth is its people, hence its orientation to people-centred development.

The human development paradigm takes people as the primary actors in improving their own welfare through economic, social and political empowerment. Economically, this entails improving access to resources, tackling inequalities in the distribution of productive assets, and expanding opportunities through improved education, healthcare, nutrition, and access to water and sanitation. Politically, communities must be allowed more input in promoting civic, cultural, economic and social rights, these being the foundation of civil society.

The human development approach arose in part as a result of increasing criticism of the development approach of the 1980s, which presumed a close link between national growth, measured as gross domestic product (GDP), and the expansion of individual human choices. In the 1980s, evidence increased that the trickle down effect of market forces failed to widely spread the benefits of economic growth and to reduce poverty. Signs emerged that despite strong economic expansion in some countries, considerable poverty remained, e.g. in terms of rising inequality, rising crime rates, pollution, weakening social fabric, and the spread of diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

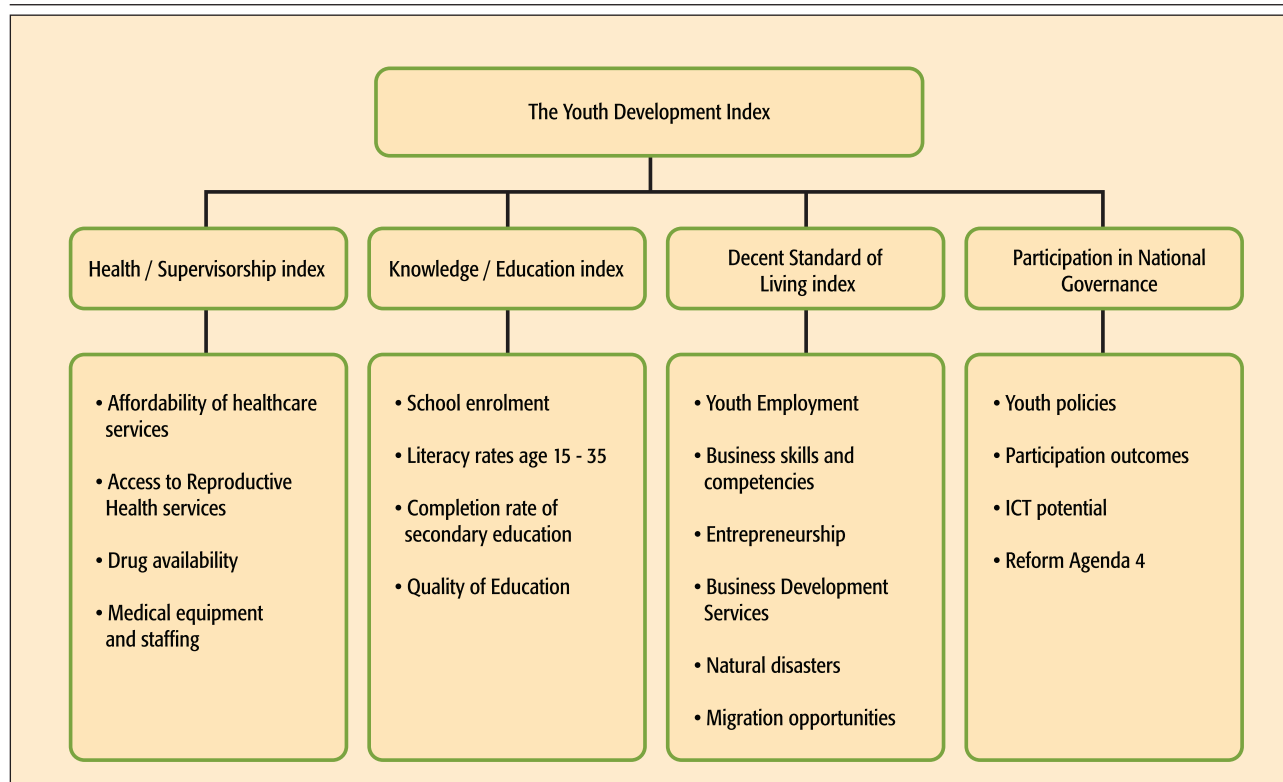
Democratization of a number of countries in the 1990s then raised hopes that developmental models would become more people centred. The HDI was established to put people at the centre of the development effort. It facilitates the idea of 'development of the people, by the people, for the people', emphasizing the goals of development as choices and freedom.

1.2.2 The youth development index

The YDI is a composite measure of youth development. The index is a tool developed to raise visibility of youth issues by monitoring the changes that occur in the youth over time. The YDI links with the following MDGs, which directly refer youth:

- Goal 2 - universal primary education;
- Goal 3 - gender equality and women empowerment (ratio of girls to boys in secondary and tertiary education, and ratio of literate females to males);
- Goal 6 - combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and

¹ Government of Kenya, First Medium-Term Plan (2008-2012) for the Kenya Vision 2030

Figure 1.1 A conceptual framework of the Youth Development Index

- Goal 7 - environmental sustainability.

The 2009 YDI for Kenya uses health, education and income in its measurement. However, to provide a more comprehensive picture of the state of the youth, any future index should be supplemented with other indicators. Figure 1.1 gives a conceptual framework of the YDI.

The YDI in this report assesses the distinctiveness of youths and measures the degree of their social exclusion and integration. It marks the beginning of policy development based on focused, evidence-based research on the plight of the youth. Furthermore, if continued over time, it will allow the situation of Kenya's youths to be continuously measured and monitored. The YDI will point out the advances made by youths, the issues critical to their development, and the situations in which they are vulnerable or socially excluded. This would serve as a basis for decision-making and for evaluating social policies. The government and other actors would then be in a position to use these indicators to monitor young people in relation to the priority areas identified in, for example, the UN's World Programme of Action for Youth and national youth policies.

1.3 The situation of youth

Kenyan youths have put their country on the world map through their sporting and athletic prowess. In the World Cross Country Championships held in Poland in March 2010, Kenya won 21 medals, 16 of which were gold. With increasing commercialisation of sporting activities and greater opportunities for professional athletes to work outside the country, many young Kenyans are engaging in sport as a way of improving their standard

of living rather than simply using it as a pass-time.

Much of Kenya's entertainment industry is also dominated by the youth, and expansion of this sector can lead to greater employment opportunities for young people.

Information and communications technology (ICT) is the fastest growing sub-sector in Kenya with the youth forming the critical mass in ICT related businesses. Many opportunities are available for the youth in this sector as they possess the relevant technical skills, and continued expansion of ICT promises to offer more employment opportunities. The possibilities that ICT offers for youth employment is evidenced by the numerous ICT-based small enterprises where young people provide services such as cybercafés, telecom facilities, telecentres, and computer training.

Despite the youth excelling in sports, ICT, and entertainment, they still face many challenges in the work place. Currently, the youth account for about 60 percent of the active labour force but the majority, estimated at 75 percent or three million people, are unemployed. With 800,000 young people entering the job market every year, many with good academic qualifications and high expectations for waged employment, the issue of how to generate jobs remains a challenge.

Without commensurate growth in job creation, unemployment is increased, posing a threat to social stability. Appropriate policies are needed to boost the relevance and quality of school curricula, provide support for vocational training, and kick-start job schemes that provide relevant and

2 Kenya Vision 2030

3 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Economic Survey 2009.

adequate skills training.

Widespread poverty remains a critical development challenge in Kenya. Young people are particularly affected by unemployment, lack of proper housing (particularly in the urban areas) and health challenges. Lack of opportunity can lead to crime. Both urban and rural crime, often including extreme violence, are increasingly becoming a youth problem and more than 50 percent of convicted prisoners are aged 16–25 years². Poverty also affects educational levels and children from poor backgrounds have been shown to be much less likely to attend school than those of rich families. Poorer educational levels imply poorer chances of gainful employment.

The impacts of poverty on health include higher rates of substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, morbidity and mortality. A third of all HIV/AIDS patients are between 15 and 35 years old and over 75 percent of new infections occur among the youth. Youths living in poverty are also more likely to be diagnosed with psychological problems (7 percent of male youths and 10 percent of female youths have attempted suicide, and 7 percent of female

youths have reported depression⁴), and poor youths are four times more likely to die before the age of 20 than those from more affluent families⁵.

Additional negative factors affecting the youth include marginalization; lack of voice in the family, the community and the national arena; poor representation in decision making; and limited recreational facilities.

There is a need to continuously highlight the main issues, priorities and potentials of the youth to further enlist and strengthen interventions of actors dealing with this group. Areas that require specific attention are:

- geographic transitions (including youth migration);
- integrating the youth in urban areas;
- transition from school to work;
- youth unemployment;
- youth groups at risk; and

However, young people also constitute a vital resource that can be tapped to promote a country's development. _____

Table 1.1 Age profile of the Kenyan population, 2005/2006

Province	Mean age (years)	Median age (years)	0-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-64	>64	15-24	15-34	TFR
Nairobi	22.8	22.0	34.0	9.1	12.9	23.1	19.6	1.3	22.0	45.1	2.7
Central	25.3	20.0	36.1	12.9	9.3	13.5	22.5	5.6	22.2	35.8	3.4
Coast	22.1	17.0	42.8	12.8	8.8	12.9	19.7	3.0	21.5	34.5	4.9
Eastern	23.3	18.0	41.3	13.3	9.1	12.4	19.1	4.8	22.4	34.8	4.8
N. Eastern	19.5	13.0	53.2	11.2	6.1	11.1	14.7	3.8	17.3	28.3	7.0
Nyanza	21.8	17.0	42.9	14.0	10.3	11.8	17.0	3.9	24.3	36.1	5.6
R. Valley	21.4	17.0	43.6	12.6	10.3	13.7	16.7	3.0	22.9	36.6	5.8
Western	21.3	16.0	45.6	14.7	8.1	10.5	16.8	4.3	22.8	33.2	5.8
Rural	22.4	18.0	41.8	12.8	9.7	13.6	18.4	3.7	22.5	36.0	5.4
Urban	22.0	16.0	44.1	15.0	8.5	10.3	16.8	5.3	23.5	33.8	3.3
NATION	22.3	18.0	41.9	12.9	9.6	13.4	18.3	3.8	22.5	35.9	4.9
Cluster Evidence			41.9		35.9		18.3	3.8			

TFR = Total Fertility Rate

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2005/2006

- implementation of youth policies and programmes.

1.3.1 Demography

Kenya's population is characterized by a high proportion of young adults. This is partly a result of improvements in healthcare services, which have created the right conditions for high population growth. Kenya's population was estimated at 34.3 million in 2008 with the youth age constituting 35.9 percent⁶ of the total. Regional variations are seen, with youths comprising 45.1 percent and 28.3 percent of the total population in Nairobi and North

Eastern provinces respectively (see Table 1.1).

Children, i.e. those less than 15 years old constitute 41.9 percent of the population, and those aged between 35 and 64 years constitute 18.3 percent. Given the annual growth rate of 2.5 percent, the population will double every twenty years.

1.3.2 The Youth Bulge

A 'youth bulge' occurs when more than 20 percent of a country's

4 World Bank, Youth in Kenya: Force for Change or Lost Generation, March 2005.

5 Child Poverty Action Group and the King's Fund.

6 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2005-2006.

population is composed of young people. Having a population that is much skewed towards the young can be a challenge for a country. Conventionally a large population means that the economy will be strained to support large and growing numbers of youth and per capita incomes will of necessity shrink. Gunnar Heinsohn⁷ (2003) argues that an excess of young adult males in a population can lead to social unrest. He cautions that developing countries undergoing a 'demographic transition' are especially vulnerable. Moreover, it is thought that a large proportion of young adults and a rapid rate of growth in the working-age population tend to exacerbate unemployment, prolong dependency, diminish self-esteem and fuel frustrations.

However, young people also constitute a vital resource that can be tapped to promote a country's development. The importance of investing in young people is summarized in the following excerpt from a World Bank social development paper: Investing in Youth Empowerment and Inclusion

Text box 1.1 Investing in youth empowerment and inclusion

"Everywhere from Kabul to Nairobi to Tirana, young people desire more access not just to job opportunities, but to a better quality of life, including leisure, information and entertainment. Everywhere they resent being marginalized in decision-making processes and are eager to have greater control over their lives. Unless these gaps are addressed, conflict, violence, and a missed generation for global development will be the costs of neglect that the society will also pay one way or another..."

(World Bank, 2004c).

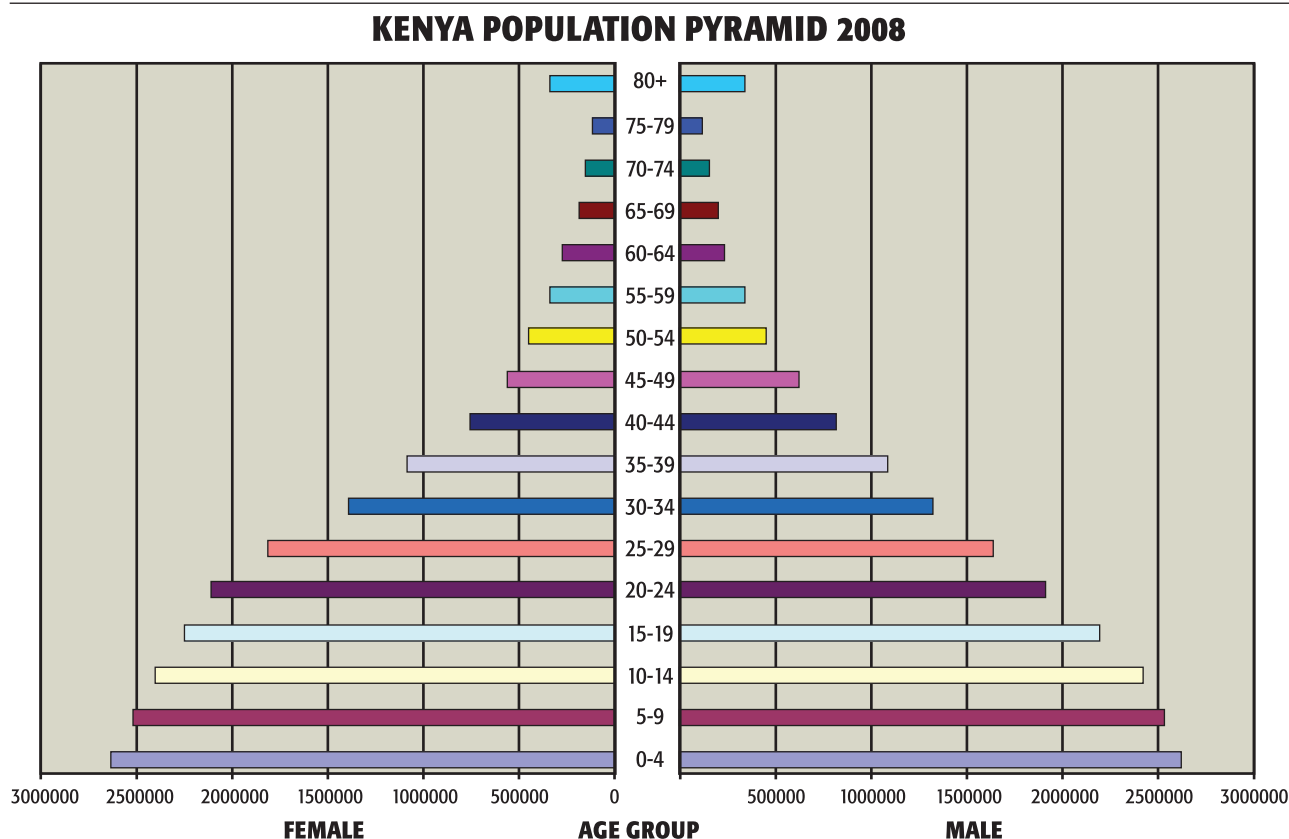
Although a vibrant youth population is a valuable asset for both present and future generations, a prevalence of young people may pose a risk to development if social and economic conditions are not suitable. However, with the correct macroeconomic and labour policies, a large youth population, such as that found in Kenya, presents an opportunity for economic growth.

The youth, for example, are often creative in the face of problems, and have demonstrated an ability to contribute to the development process and to promote economic growth. Promoting their roles in leadership and channelling their energy, initiatives and resources towards tackling developmental challenges is key to progress.

The experience of Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan, known as the Asian Tigers, in harnessing a youthful population is a good example of how a youth bulge can be used to springboard a country's developmental growth. The Asian Tigers harnessed and engaged their human capital to reap huge economic gains in the 1980s and 1990s. It has been argued that the 'demographic dividend' of a youthful population played an important role in the explosive economic growth of these countries, suggesting that if the youth are enabled, they can drive growth and development. Reaping the demographic dividend in Kenya will depend on the ability of the economy to absorb an increased number of young people into the working population so reducing the ratio of workers to dependants.

Best practice has also shown how engaging the youth can increase social

Figure 1.2 Kenya's population pyramid, 2008



7 En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnar_Heinsohn

well-being and benefit the economy. For example, in collaboration with the World Bank and the International Labour Office, the UN developed the Youth Employment Network. This produced a series of recommendations urging governments to incorporate broad based policies that stimulated the capabilities of young people. In particular, four areas were highlighted for national action:

- Employability: the need for governments to invest in education and vocational training for young people, and to improve the impact of those investments.
- Equal opportunities: the need for governments and enterprises to give

young women the same opportunities as young men.

- Entrepreneurship: the need for governments to make it easier to start and run enterprises that provide more and better jobs for young women and men.
- Employment creation: the need for governments to place employment creation at the centre of macroeconomic policy.

An important area particularly identified by the UN for tapping into youth potential is ICT. Best practice examples of ICT based opportunities for young people are described in Text box 1.2, while Text box 1.3. illustrates

Text box 1.2 ICT employment generation

ICT employment generation through youth entrepreneurship. Young entrepreneurs have been closely associated with the digital economy and the spread of the Internet, particularly in Japan, China, India, and Singapore. Young people can be used as a springboard for ICT based entrepreneurial activities. Examples include youth entrepreneurship in mobile phone networks and phone based services in Bangladesh; the use of young people's knowledge of ICT to develop simple websites to facilitate the spread of information on various development issues (e.g. in agriculture, medicine and education); e-commerce based entrepreneurship in India; tele-centres and cyber cafes in Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria, and The Gambia.

Promoting public-private partnerships to generate ICT-related employment. Public-private partnerships can create ICT-related employment opportunities for young people by encouraging additional investment in infrastructure as described by

"The private sector has at its disposal the financial strength and technological wherewithal which, if utilized appropriately within the context of a genuine partnership, can make a positive contribution to the development process".

The digital villages funded by Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and the local government in South Africa are a good example of public-private partnership. The digital villages provide the surrounding community, schools, students and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to develop their computer skills and take advantage of available technology. Small businesses and entrepreneurs are then able to access information and essential business services such as e-mail, printing, and the internet.

Text box 1.3 Hard work, quality sandals and the Internet

...Throughout Kenya, Korogocho is known as a rough place. Few there have jobs. Violence is rampant. Quality health care is non-existent. Shelter is dilapidated and very temporary. It is a place where most Kenyans fear to walk even during the daytime... In 1995, a Kenyan and an American started the Wikyo Akala Project with approximately \$US2000. For six years following its founding, the Project struggled to survive, often with only five part time employees. The Project's source of funding was sales, not donations, and the Project simply did not have access to its targeted markets. ... Finding avenues to market the sandals to customers ten kilometres from Korogocho, in downtown Nairobi, was virtually impossible. Doing so outside of Kenya was an unimaginable pipe dream. It was difficult just to make a phone call from one side of Nairobi to another. Communicating to customers abroad would take weeks or months. Finding such customers was impossible.

...In February 2001, the online debut of www.Ecosandals.com changed everything. Hours after the site's launch, it had been viewed on six continents, and the orders in the first week nearly doubled all orders the Project had received in the prior six months. Within months the Project grew six-fold. The Project premiered globally with a ten minute CNN profile and continues to receive coverage in both the Kenyan and American media. The Internet and a creative community business transformed a struggling community-owned project into a fast-growing and self-sustaining community inspiration. In its first year online, without spending even a single shilling advertising - simply through word of mouth - the Project's revenues increased an astounding 25 times. Today, every one of the 27 sandal-makers understands how a couple thousand dollars, a few creative minds, and information and communication technologies are transforming one of the materially poorest communities on earth.... For the 27 sandal-makers... Sandal-makers are entitled to a 30 per cent share of all Project profits. ... At its most basic level, the Project seeks to provide quality employment to Korogocho residents for a liveable wage. The Project is not about making or utilizing new technologies. It is about doing all those things as means of building personal dignity. ICTs are merely the vehicle for achieving those goals.

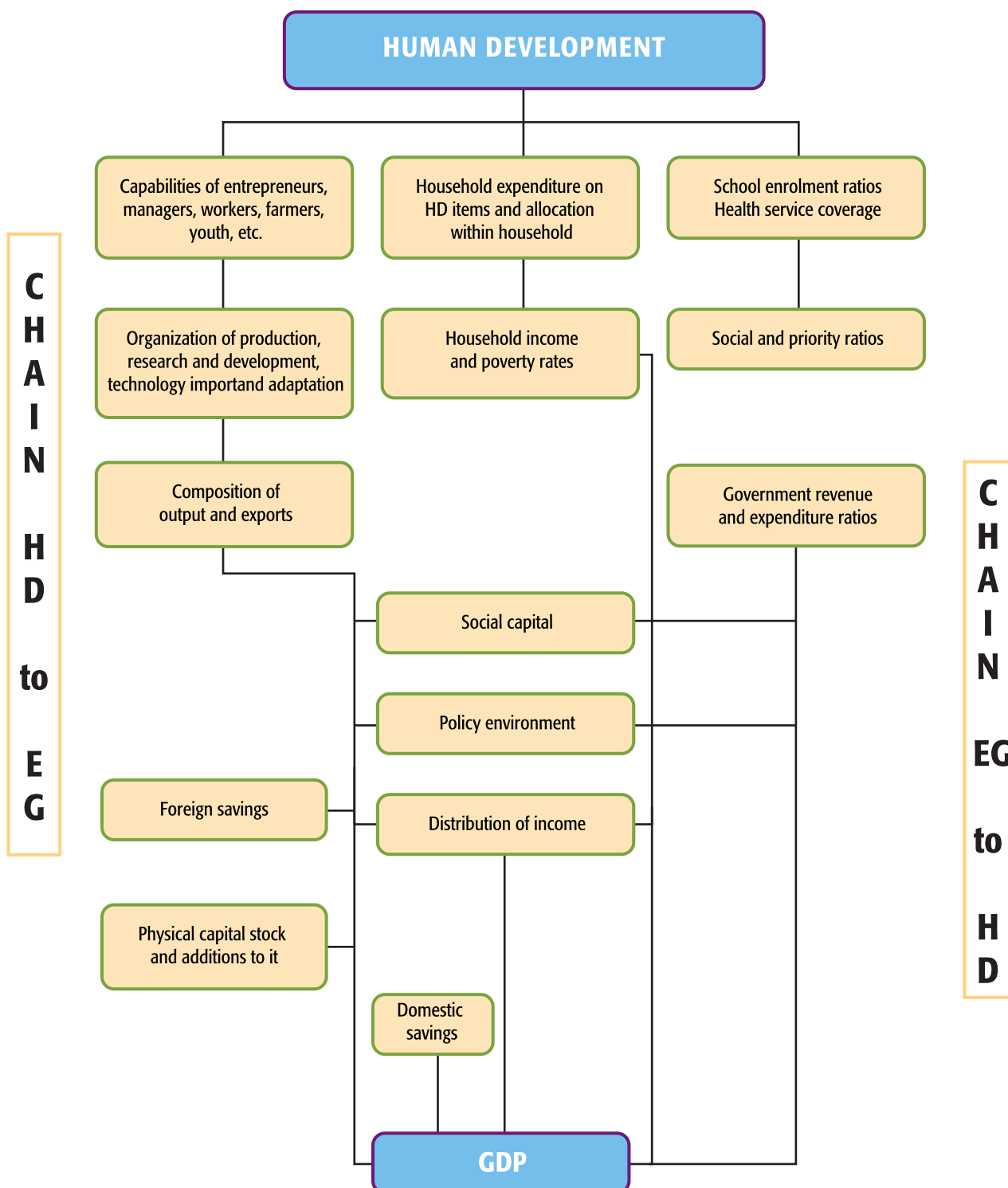
Source: 'Sole Comfort Dot-Com: Bridging the Global Income Gap Through Hard Work, Quality Sandals, and ICTs', 14 April, 2002, http://www.iicd.org/base/story_read_y?id=4898

how the Internet can tap into the youth in Kenya.

1.4 Delivering youth and human development

1.4.1. The human development-gross domestic product cycle

Figure 1.3 The human development-gross domestic product cycle



Source: Adopted from Ranis, Stewart, and Ramez, 2004

1.5 National policy, planning and institutional framework

1.5.1 National youth policy

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with other stakeholders and the young people of Kenya developed the National Youth Policy and its implementation plan. The youth policy provides a vehicle for public action in response to the many challenges faced by Kenya's young people, and suggests ways of tackling those challenges. The policy prioritizes youth-centred programmes in areas such as participation and inclusion in national development, employment, health and education, and vocational skills and competencies development.

However, the policy falls short of offering specific guidelines on the representation of the youth in governance bodies at local, regional and national levels. In a number of instances, ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) have formulated their own policies without adequate reference to the National Youth Policy, with the result that youth issues have been given insufficient attention. In addition, although the National Youth Policy recognizes the importance of youth diversity and heterogeneity, it does not cater for special needs, which creates difficulties in targeting interventions. A number of policy gaps, especially in reproductive health, education-for-life, and information dissemination,

Text box 1.4 Youth critique of youth policies

.... the majority of the youth (63%) held the view that the Kenyan government had not put adequate effort into addressing the challenges faced by the youth; only 37% affirmed that the government efforts were adequate. Indeed, 80% of the sample **at least agreed** that the Kenyan government **had not done its best** in addressing the problems of the youth. *In particular, the government was emphatically faulted for its failure to keep its promise of creating employment for the youth.* Further, 78% of the youth shared the view that the existing Kenyan youth policies **are not adequate** to cope with the problems facing the Kenyan youth. Overall, these perceptions suggest that although the Kenyan government has put appreciable efforts to address the problems faced by the Kenyan youth (including creation of a youth ministry, formulation of a national youth policy and initiation of a special youth fund), a lot more needs to be done to meet the high expectations of the youth. In particular, a lot more should be done to create employment opportunities for the youth.

a lot more needs to be done to meet the high expectations of the youth. In particular, a lot more should be done to create employment opportunities for the youth. _____

need to be reviewed, harmonized and consolidated. Moreover, a long-standing problem in Kenya's political framework has been the weak implementation of policies relating to youth development, hence the need to strengthen implementation and coordination in these areas.

In addition to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, a number of other ministries have a mandate related to youth. The Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 has a responsibility for population, sexual and reproductive health education, and adolescent reproductive health. The Ministry of Health has a mandate for youth health and HIV/AIDS issues. The Ministry of Education has responsibility for general education and vocational training. The Ministry of Labour and Human Resources has a mandate for youth employment, polytechnics and technology institutes, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications is responsible for ICT. Other non-state actors such as NGOs, the private sector and faith based organizations also play a role in youth issues, and Kenya's development partners provide external funding in areas such as education, health and HIV/AIDS. This diversity of organisations results in coordination difficulties.

A major goal of Kenya Vision 2030 is to raise Kenya's HDI from its current level of 0.532 to 0.750 by the year 2015. Achieving this goal will require sustained economic growth, strengthened competitiveness, and continued investments in human capital and the MDGs. However, as pointed out by MDG progress reports and needs assessments, this is a daunting task given the magnitude of the gap between the change required and the resources available. Significant effort will be required to build and strengthen the public-private partnerships needed for financing development and opening up economic opportunities to society in general.

Providing innovative recommendations to create an environment that assures progress in youth and human development and in economic



prosperity are a key part of Agenda 4 of Kenya's National Accord and Reconciliation Act (2008). However, although implementation of some of the proposed reforms is necessary to achieve the goals of Kenya Vision 2030, the recommendations are currently too general and unspecific in their guidance. The specifics still need to be defined and priorities set with a reasonable timeframe for the changes to be implemented effectively.

Text box 1.5 A youth's view on the establishment of the National Youth Council

I've been going through the National Youth Council draft concept paper and I'm happy to say that most of what the youth, have for a long time, been yearning for has been well covered. As such we can say that the initial hurdle of collecting views from different areas, analyzing and collating them to produce an all-encompassing draft has been overcome. But there lies ahead the challenge to popularize the draft, take it right to the youth, have their feedback/input, and engage them in any further activities before the draft is finally enacted into (government) policy. This will create the sense of ownership and belonging among the youth in that they will feel that this is something they actually did take part in, contributed in one way or the other and, mark this, it wasn't imposed on them.

Why am I saying this? You'll all agree with me i.e. members of this forum, that apart from those of us who managed to read and get a copy of the draft N. Y. paper and draft Action Plan Framework when it was first published in November last year, only a small percentage of Kenya's 9 million youths are aware of the existence or the formulation of such a policy. Though there have been other avenues i.e. discussion forums where the youth have taken part in this process, it happens that this has been limited to the cities of Nairobi and Mombasa where the national consultative forum to prepare an elaborate action plan was recently concluded. This leaves out the youth in other parts of the country who may feel, once the policy is enacted, that this was just an elitist engagement of which their input wasn't required and which, in the long run, will be of no benefit to them.

So what is the way forward? I am sure that the consultative forum in Mombasa did come up with a good action plan and, as such, cannot try to put up a parallel plan of action. But even as we await their report, what are you doing as an individual? Or rather, what part are you playing, being in the know, to ensure that this project becomes a success and that the aspirations of all the youth are encompassed in the final draft? Personally, I have prepared a list of strategies and activities I feel should be conducted nationwide in popularizing and taking the draft to the youth so as to gain their input, goodwill and support. I would especially like to propose that we have a magazine/periodical where all the activities being undertaken, progress made, upcoming events, areas to visit for resources etc. would be covered and which would be made as available as possible e.g. in public and private libraries, administrative offices, social service departments, schools and colleges. This would ensure that despite the lack of media coverage for such events, the youth would get to know of and participate in them and that at the end of it all, it will have been a participatory process where none has been sidelined. One such reason why we need to focus on that is the elections to the Constituency and District Councils that will later lead to the setting up of the National Assembly and consequently the National Youth Council. As in political parties, you cannot hold elections before recruiting members right from the grassroots. If we went back to these areas e.g. Kitale where I'm writing from and my home district of Nyandarua asking for votes, then we will not only look dubious and dishonest, but we will be held in suspicion as having created institutions and posts for us to occupy without really involving the people we seek to represent.

This is a challenge we'll have to take. Otherwise this noble initiative might end up creating institutions of which the youth know little or nothing about and thus it will have failed in its primary objective of bettering the (living) standards of Kenya's youth.

We can make it. Let's get down to it! By the way, kudos to you all. I came in late andI'm proud of what you've achieved so far. Keep it up! Let me have your feedback on the above, please.

Mwangi Munyua, Kitale, Kenya.

CHAPTER TWO

YOUTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Measures of human development

2.1.1 Youth development index

The YDI is critical as a monitoring system and as a vehicle for youth development. The YDI is based on understanding the constituents of youth development, the weights attached to each constituent, and the availability of data for these constituents at national and local levels. The selected indicators included in the YDI must directly relate to key or critical positive youth outcomes, must be globally relevant and locally specific, and must relate to trends in youth issues.

Factors critical for positive youth outcomes include the acquisition of wealth; access to education and training; access to labour markets; good personal and reproductive health; longevity of life; access to social services, and opportunities and conditions (availability, knowledge, attitudes, access, utilization, perception). Measurements of YDIs in Brazil (UNESCO, 2004), Russia (UNESCO and GTZ, 2005) and Argentina (World Bank, 2009) point to the importance of primary healthcare, and in particular youth sexual and reproductive health, youth employment and income, quality of education, and quantitative indicators for youth at risk (e.g. mortality rates from traumas).

2.1.2 Human development index

The HDI measures human development based on the basic factors of a long and healthy life, the acquisition of knowledge, and a reasonable standard of living. These factors are measured using the following indicators:

- life expectancy at birth;
- adult literacy rate and the combined enrolment ratio at primary, secondary and tertiary levels; and
- GDP per capita measured in purchasing power parity (PPP) US dollars.

The HDI is not designed to assess progress in human development over the short term because two of its component indicators - adult literacy and life expectancy at birth - are not responsive to short-term policy changes. If data for the indicators is not available at the national level, regional data can be substituted. Per capita income from household surveys can be used instead of GDP per capita, for instance. However, adjusting the HDI should not compromise data quality. For example, estimates of GDP and life expectancy/infant mortality can be unreliable if small sample sizes are used.

2.1.3 Human poverty index

The human poverty index (HPI) is a measure of poverty that was introduced in the UN's 1997 Global Human Development Report. The aim was to create a composite index that brings together the different areas of deprivation that affect the quality of life. The HPI is premised on the understanding that if human development is about enlarging choices, then

poverty means the denial of the most basic opportunities and choices. The most fundamental difference between the HDI and the HPI is that the former measures progress in a country, defined geographical area, or a population group, while the latter focuses on the most deprived people in a country or region. The index incorporates four facets of human life - longevity, knowledge acquisition, economic status and social inclusion - and measures deprivation in the three areas of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living.

2.1.4 Gender development index and gender empowerment measure

The Global Human Development Report introduced the gender development index (GDI) and gender empowerment measure (GEM) in 1995 with the aim of adding a more gender sensitive measure to the HDI. The GDI is a measure of human development that adjusts the HDI for disparities between men and women. It is therefore not a measure of gender inequality, although it is often mistakenly seen as such. Like the HDI, the GDI is a very basic measure of how gender inequalities in knowledge acquisition, longevity and health, and standard of living affect human development. In the presence of any gender inequalities in the component indicators, the GDI for a given country will be less than its HDI.

The GEM measures gender equity in political and economic power by assessing the level of female representation. It considers gender gaps in political representation, professional and management positions, and earned incomes. It captures gender inequality in (a) political participation, as measured by the percentage of seats held by women in national parliaments; (b) economic participation and decision-making power, measured by the percentage of women among legislators, senior officials, and managers in professional and technical fields; and (c) power of economic resources, measured by the estimated earned income of women and men.

2.1.5 Limitations of the indices in measuring human development

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (2003) in her paper titled "Rescuing the human development concept from the HDI - reflections on a new agenda," argued that in the 1990s, development economics came to acknowledge that development is more than the expansion of material output, and should serve broader objectives of human well-being. It is now widely accepted that expansion of education and health constitute important development goals and there is a need for the HDI to explicitly include progress in these areas (Kanbur, 2001). The human development reports have been a major force behind this shift, having been one of the strongest voices advocating attention to the non-income dimensions of human well-being, and raising dissatisfaction with the notion that human well-being is advanced primarily through expanding incomes. But even this does not acknowledge the full concept of human development, which is broader and more complex than simply the expansion of education and health. The recent evolution of

development thinking has still been misinterpreting the concept of human development as being essentially about education and health, adding little of ideas of human capital and basic needs.

2.2 Selected indicators for measuring human development

2.2.1 Education and literacy

The indicators required for calculating composite indices related to education and literacy are primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolment rates; a proxy for measuring the quality of education; and literacy rates. In this report, data of literacy and gross enrolment rates come from the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2005/2006, while a proxy for the quality of education is the average pass rates in the 2008 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education for selected subjects, by gender and region.

(i) Literacy

The KIHBS 2005/2006, conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), solicited information from all people in sampled households on their ability to read or write in any language on a self-reporting basis (rather than actual tests). For the purposes of this study, a person is defined as literate if they can write in any language and can read a whole sentence, or have attended any level of secondary education. The results are shown in Table 2.1.

The national literacy rate was 71.4 percent, with the highest levels recorded in Nairobi (88.1 percent) and Central province (79.8 percent) and the lowest in North Eastern (24.8 percent). Nationally, the literacy rate declines with age, from 83.7 percent for those from 15 to 19 years old, to 22.6 percent for those 65 years old and over. Even for North Eastern with an overall literacy rate of 24.8 percent, there is a gradual decrease in literacy with age.

The regions with the lowest literacy rates are also the ones with the highest differences in male and female literacy rates. For example, while the gender difference at the national level was 10.8 percent, the highest differences were in Coast (20.8 percent) and North Eastern (25.9 percent), and the lowest in Nairobi (7.8 percent) and Eastern (7.9 percent). However, the gender differences in literacy rates in all regions declined as the age of the respondent declined.

In most cases, survey analyses estimate literacy rates for the whole population without separating by age. The results invariably show little change from previous surveys. This is mainly because a person recorded as illiterate in, for example, 1989 would be recorded as illiterate in subsequent 1999 and 2009 censuses. This bias is avoided if the sample is stratified by age. However, since mortality rates may be linked to literacy based on some characteristics under investigation (e.g. literacy), the results are just a first approximation of the changes in literacy over the period.

(ii) Gross enrolment rates

Gross enrolment ratio (GER) is the total enrolment in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible

school-age population, in a given school year. The gender parity index (GPI) is the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary or tertiary education. To standardize the effects of the population structure of respective age groups, the GPI of the GER for each level of education is normally used. GPI ranges from 0 (maximum gender disparity) to 1 (gender parity).

As shown in Table 2.2, the national primary-school age GER was estimated at 116.9 percent, with the highest recorded in Eastern province (125.3 percent), Western province (125.0 percent) and Nyanza province (124.7 percent), and the lowest in North Eastern province (71.5 percent). North Eastern province recorded the lowest GER (71.5 percent) and the lowest GPI (61.7 percent) at the primary school level.

The secondary education GER was estimated at 39.9 percent, with the lowest in North Eastern province (16.2 percent) and Coast province (22.9 percent) and the highest in Nairobi (75.1 percent), Central province (52.2 percent), and Nyanza province (46.3 percent). Gender disparities are more pronounced at the secondary school level, than at the primary school level. The national GPI was 88.9 percent, with the lowest level recorded in North Eastern province (40.8 percent) and the highest in Nyanza (100.1 percent) and Eastern provinces (93.3 percent).

The overall GER at the tertiary level was estimated at 9.8 percent, with the highest recorded in Nairobi (25.6 percent) and the lowest in North Eastern province (0.8 percent).

iii) Proxy for quality of education

The proxy used to measure quality of education was the pass rate in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education in 2008 in English, Kiswahili, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry, and excluded national schools to allow for reasonable regional comparison. Overall, Western province had the highest mean grade for the five subjects (4.7), followed by Nairobi (4.6), Nyanza and Rift Valley (4.4), Eastern (4.3), Central (4.2), Coast (3.8) and North Eastern (3.2). The index of average performance in the five subjects is out of the highest possible grade of 12.

2.2.2 Healthy living and access to social amenities

(i) Access to an improved water supply

The KIHBS 2005/2006 collected information on household access to water and sanitation. Drinking water was considered safe if it was obtained from the following sources: piped water; borehole; protected spring; and protected well.

As shown in Table 2.3, 56.6 percent of the population in rural areas and 66.1 percent in urban areas had access to drinking water from safe sources, giving an average for the country of 57.0 percent. Nairobi had the highest proportion of households using safe water sources (97.1 percent), followed by Coast (63.4 percent) and Western province (63.0 percent), while the lowest were Eastern (46.1 percent) and North Eastern provinces (34.6 percent).

Table 2.1 Literacy rates of the Kenyan population by region and sex, 2005/2006 (%)

Province	Age cohorts (Years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	15-24	25-34	35-64	>64	
Nairobi	88.0	86.6	87.1	90.7	88.5	53.3	88.1
Central	90.7	88.2	89.7	88.7	77.9	27.2	79.8
Coast	75.9	74.2	75.2	73.2	50.0	13.8	62.9
Eastern	85.6	81.5	83.9	75.8	58.5	17.8	68.5
North Eastern	43.6	36.3	41.0	24.2	10.9	5.6	24.8
Nyanza	92.2	88.1	90.4	86.7	61.9	28.1	76.9
Rift Valley	79.7	78.0	78.9	74.0	54.6	14.0	67.0
Western	83.5	82.0	83.0	81.3	61.6	32.6	72.1
Rural	83.6	81.3	82.6	79.2	61.8	21.7	71.3
Urban	84.7	84.5	84.6	83.2	62.3	35.6	73.0
NATION	83.7	81.5	82.7	79.3	61.9	22.6	71.4
Male							
Nairobi	87.6	90.6	89.2	93.2	95.1	62.7	92.0
Central	91.7	86.1	89.3	88.8	86.1	43.8	84.4
Coast	81.1	79.9	80.6	85.1	66.0	25.2	73.8
Eastern	83.5	80.0	82.0	74.4	68.8	32.5	72.6
North Eastern	54.5	59.4	55.8	47.0	17.7	10.2	37.5
Nyanza	92.9	89.6	91.6	89.7	81.1	46.6	85.0
Rift Valley	78.6	79.8	79.1	78.3	65.1	21.1	71.6
Western	82.2	79.3	81.2	84.2	73.4	49.3	76.7
Rural	83.5	82.6	83.1	83.0	73.4	35.0	77.0
Urban	84.6	81.3	83.5	82.5	73.9	52.7	77.5
NATION	83.5	82.6	83.1	82.9	73.4	36.2	77.0
Female							
Nairobi	88.2	84.1	85.6	88.0	80.1	39.7	84.2
Central	89.9	90.2	90.0	88.5	70.4	14.2	75.8
Coast	71.3	69.1	70.4	62.3	35.8	4.5	53.0
Eastern	87.8	83.2	85.9	77.1	49.5	5.9	64.6
North Eastern	27.5	18.8	23.7	8.8	3.2	0.0	11.6
Nyanza	91.3	86.8	89.3	84.2	47.0	9.4	69.7
Rift Valley	81.0	76.2	78.8	69.5	44.0	5.9	62.3
Western	84.8	84.3	84.6	78.9	51.9	14.6	67.9
Rural	83.7	80.1	82.1	75.6	51.1	8.9	66.0
Urban	84.9	87.3	85.8	83.6	52.7	19.3	69.1
NATION	83.8	80.4	82.3	75.9	51.2	9.6	66.1
Percentage point difference in male and female literacy rates							
Nairobi	-0.6	6.5	3.6	5.3	15.0	23.0	7.8
Central	1.8	-4.0	-0.7	0.3	15.7	29.7	8.5
Coast	9.8	10.8	10.2	22.7	30.1	20.8	20.8
Eastern	-4.3	-3.1	-3.9	-2.7	19.3	26.6	7.9
North Eastern	27.0	40.5	32.1	38.1	14.5	10.2	25.9
Nyanza	1.6	2.8	2.3	5.5	34.1	37.3	15.3
Rift Valley	-2.5	3.6	0.3	8.8	21.0	15.2	9.3
Western	-2.5	-5.0	-3.4	5.3	21.5	34.7	8.8
Rural	-0.2	2.5	1.0	7.4	22.3	26.1	11.0
Urban	-0.3	-6.0	-2.4	-1.1	21.2	33.4	8.4
NATION	-0.2	2.1	0.8	7.0	22.2	26.6	10.8

Source: KIHBS 2005/2006

Table 2.2. Gross enrolment ratios in primary, secondary and tertiary education, 2005/2006

Province	Percentage											
	Primary			Secondary			Tertiary			GPI		
	Male	Fem	Total	Male	Fem	Total	Male	Fem	Total	Pry	Secy	Trty
Nairobi	103.2	111.7	107.6	82.7	66.9	75.1	26.9	24.9	25.6	108.2	81.0	92.5
Central	119.5	121.1	120.3	55.2	49.9	52.2	7.7	7.3	7.5	101.4	90.3	93.7
Coast	117.6	104.5	111.0	25.4	20.4	22.9	6.9	7.1	7.0	88.9	80.3	102.7
Eastern	122.9	127.9	125.3	35.5	33.1	34.3	8.4	8.1	8.2	104.1	93.3	97.0
N. Eastern	87.2	53.8	71.5	21.5	8.8	16.2	0.7	1.0	0.8	61.7	40.8	144.1
Nyanza	132.2	117.6	124.7	46.3	46.3	46.3	12.8	10.1	11.4	89.0	100.1	79.3
Rift Valley	114.9	110.5	112.8	41.0	37.0	39.1	10.4	5.9	8.2	96.2	90.3	56.3
Western	125.7	124.3	125.0	40.9	29.8	35.2	8.4	7.9	8.1	98.9	72.8	93.8
Rural	118.7	114.3	116.5	42.6	38.0	40.3	10.5	9.3	9.9	96.4	89.1	88.5
Urban	125.6	122.0	123.8	36.0	30.6	33.3	7.2	9.6	8.3	97.2	84.8	133.7
NATION	119.0	114.8	116.9	42.2	37.5	39.9	10.4	9.3	9.8	96.4	88.9	90.2

Source: KIHBS 2005/2006

Table 2.3. Sources of drinking water for Kenyan households, 2005/2006

Province	(%)										
	Piped into dwelling	Piped into plot or yard	Public tap	Borehole with pump	Protected well (dug)	Protected spring	Rain water collection	Unprotected well/spring (dug)	River, pond or stream	Tanker or truck vendor	Total
Nairobi	28.2	40.4	27.6	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.8	97.1
Central	7.6	22.0	2.9	4.3	12.8	2.3	9.5	9.6	25.5	3.5	51.9
Coast	8.9	8.1	37.7	4.0	4.4	0.2	1.9	6.6	7.0	20.9	63.4
Eastern	3.8	14.2	12.7	5.7	5.5	4.2	3.0	19.3	30.0	1.6	46.1
N. Eastern	0.1	5.7	1.3	21.1	6.5	0.0	0.0	35.1	16.8	13.5	34.6
Nyanza	2.4	3.1	10.7	8.1	4.0	22.7	9.9	18.2	18.2	3.1	50.6
Rift Valley	8.6	13.0	6.6	7.8	10.9	3.7	3.0	11.8	31.7	2.9	50.6
Western	1.1	3.6	2.6	9.9	9.3	36.5	1.6	16.5	17.8	1.1	63.0
Rural	8.2	14.8	12.2	6.4	7.3	7.5	4.4	12.7	21.8	4.5	56.6
Urban	1.0	5.0	2.2	7.5	10.1	40.4	2.9	17.0	12.1	1.9	66.1
Nation	7.9	14.3	11.7	6.5	7.5	9.2	4.3	12.9	21.3	4.4	57.0

Source: KIHBS 2005/2006

(ii) Life expectancy and survival probabilities

Demographers rely on a number of techniques to understand mortality patterns and trends. Life tables can show life expectancies at different ages of life from birth. They also show the proportion of the population that survives from one age to the next, and mortality probabilities by age.

Table 2.4 shows a national life table for each of the 10-year periods between the Kenyan censuses of 1969 and 1999, and gives the survival and life expectancy rates for the population for each period. The table shows that from the 1969-1979 to the 1979-1989 period there was a general increase in the number of people surviving of all ages for both males and females, but this trend was reversed from 1979-1989 to 1989-1999.

Table 2.4 Life tables for the Kenyan population, 1969-1999

Age	No. of survivors per thousand people			Life expectancy (years)		
	1969-79	1979-89	1989-99	1969-79	1979-89	1989-99
Males						
0	1,000	1,000	1,000	52.3	57.9	52.8
1	908	932	921	56.6	61.1	56.4
5	843	883	881	56.8	60.5	54.8
10	818	863	860	53.5	56.8	51.1
15	808	856	852	49.1	52.3	46.6
20	791	843	838	45.1	48	42.3
25	769	825	818	41.3	44	38.3
30	747	807	792	37.5	39.9	34.5
35	725	789	756	33.5	35.8	31
40	700	769	714	29.6	31.7	27.7
45	672	745	669	25.8	27.6	24.4
50	637	715	621	22.1	23.6	21
55	594	677	569	18.5	19.8	17.7
60	538	626	509	15.1	16.2	14.5
65	467	558	436	12.1	12.9	11.6
70	376	467	346	9.4	10	8.9
75	270	350	241	7.1	7.5	6.7
80	159	218	135	5.3	5.5	5
85	68	99	54	4	4.1	3.8
Females						
0	1,000	1,000	1,000	60	65.9	60.4
1	903	927	925	65.4	70	64.3
5	855	892	887	64.9	68.7	63
10	838	879	873	61.2	64.7	59
15	831	874	867	56.7	60.1	54.3
20	820	866	858	52.4	55.6	49.9
25	806	855	839	48.3	51.3	45.9
30	792	844	815	44.1	46.9	42.2
35	777	833	789	39.9	42.5	38.6
40	762	820	762	35.7	38.1	34.8
45	743	806	736	31.5	33.8	30.9
50	721	789	709	27.3	29.5	27
55	694	766	679	23.3	25.3	23.1
60	657	736	643	19.5	21.2	19.3
65	608	694	596	15.9	17.3	15.6
70	541	635	530	12.5	13.7	12.2
75	451	551	440	9.5	10.4	9.2
80	334	432	321	7	7.6	6.7
85	200	280	185	5.1	5.3	4.8

Source: Kenya 1999 Population and Housing Census, Volume V: Analytical Report on Mortality, 2002

Age-specific mortality rates, i.e. the number of deaths for a given age group per year per 1,000 people, are often used to compare mortality patterns and trends. Table 2.5 shows the age-specific mortality rates for Kenya. For both sexes, mortality is relatively high at infancy and early childhood, troughs at ages 10-14, and then steadily climbs each year.

Table 2.4 shows that for each age group during the period 1989-1999 more females than males survived, whilst the life expectancy for females was also higher. Table 2.5 shows that for age-specific mortality rates the general pattern of survival by gender is the same. The only exception are age groups 20-24 and 25-29 for the years 1989-1999 when female mortality is higher than male. This is probably because the period coincides with a peak in child bearing.

It can be seen that youths have the lowest mortality rates, with age groups 15-19 and 20-24 years having age-specific mortality rates of 2.6 and 5.1 respectively for females, compared with 9.3 and 10.8 for age groups 45-49 and 50-54 years, respectively.

There has been an increase in women's participation in government decision-making at various levels, including ministerial and administrative. The 2007 national elections showed more women being appointed to Kenya's cabinet as ministers.

Table 2.5 Age-specific mortality rates of Kenya by sex, 1969-79, 1979-89 and 1989-99

Age Group	Males			Females			Sex ratio (M/F)
	1969-79	1979-89	1989-99	1969-79	1979-89	1989-99	1999
Under 1	102.1	74.3	86.9	88	66.4	76.8	102.8
1-4	19	13.9	11.1	16.6	11.9	10.5	102.0
5-9	6.2	4.6	4.5	5.3	3.8	3.7	101.9
10-14	2.5	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.5	1.4	101.6
15-19	4.2	3.1	3.1	3.5	2.5	2.6	97.7
20-24	5.7	4.3	4.3	4.8	3.4	5.1	88.3
25-29	5.9	4.5	5.9	5	3.5	7.0	94.0
30-34	6.2	4.7	8.5	5.2	3.7	7.9	99.5
35-39	7.1	5.4	10.3	5.9	4.2	8.3	96.1
40-44	8.5	6.5	11.6	7	5.1	8.6	99.9
45-49	10.8	8.4	13.2	8.9	6.5	9.3	100.2
50-54	14.4	11.3	15.6	11.9	8.7	10.8	101.3
55-59	20.2	16	19.8	16.7	12.3	13.8	94.7
60-64	29.3	23.8	27.4	24.3	18.2	19.5	90.6
65-69	44	36.7	40.8	36.9	28.2	29.6	87.9
70-74	67.8	58.6	63.8	57.7	45.7	47.3	87.5
75-79	105.9	95.7	102.3	92.4	76.8	78.6	97.0
80+	191.5	185	160.6	178.9	166.3	130.2	78.7

Source: Kenya 1999 Population and Housing Census, Volume V: Analytical Report on Mortality, 2002

2.2.3 The position and condition of women

(i) Indicators of female empowerment

According to the data provided by the Kenya Government under Article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Kenya has witnessed an increase in the election and nomination of women to political offices.

Table 2.6 gives the number of men and women in the Kenyan parliament from 1969 to 2008. In 2002 there were 18 (11 elected and 7 nominated) women parliamentarians comprising 8.1 percent of the total. The number of elected women increased to 16 in 2007 while that of nominated women decreased to 5. In 2008, women constituted 9.5 percent of parliamentarians. Table 2.7 shows that similar increases have been witnessed with women's civic positions in local authorities.

There has been an increase in women's participation in government decision-making at various levels, including ministerial and administrative. The 2007 national elections showed more women being appointed to Kenya's cabinet as ministers. There was also an increase in the appointment of women assistant ministers, permanent secretaries and

ambassadors/high commissioners as shown in Table 2.8. The number of women ministers in Kenya's Cabinet increased from three in 2003 to seven in 2008, and that of assistant ministers from four to six. Similarly, the number of women permanent secretaries and ambassadors posted overseas increased from three to seven, and seven to eleven, respectively.

Overall, it is notable that there has only been a marginal increase in the appointment of women to decision-making positions in the Kenyan Government. Current figures fall well below the national policy target of 30 percent female representation, which is low in itself, and also compare unfavourably with other East African countries such as Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

As shown in Table 2.9, there has been increase in women's employment in the judiciary. Except for Kadhis who preside over personal matters involving Muslims, and for the position of the Chief Justice, employment of women has not recorded any significant increase during the short period under review (February 2005 to April 2009).

2.2.4 Proxy for gross domestic product

As explained in various UNDP methodological studies, the GDP index is calculated using the income variable from household income surveys. For conceptual reasons and because of measurement errors, mean income per capita calculated from household income surveys can be very different from GDP per capita from national accounts data, which are used to calculate the GDP index in the standard HDI. In this report, household income (expenditure) per capita calculated from the household income surveys is expressed in US dollars in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.

This income per capita is then rescaled using the ratio between the household income variable and GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power parity (taken from the standard HDI). The estimates of household expenditure per adult equivalent and per capita (as proxy for income) are shown in Table 2.10, which also shows regional and national rescaled per capita expenditures expressed in US dollars PPP.

2.2.5 Estimates of earned income by gender

The KIHBS gathered information on all people aged ten years and above that included the type of activity the respondent was involved in during

Table 2.6. Members of the Kenyan national assembly by sex, 1969-2008

Year	Women	Men	Total	Percent of women
1969	2	165	167	1.2
1974	7	162	169	1.4
1979	4	166	170	2.4
1983	3	167	170	1.8
1988	3	197	200	1.5
1992	7	193	200	3.5
1997	8	214	222	3.6
1998	9	213	222	4.1
2002	18	204	222	8.1
2008	21	201	222	9.5

Source: The seventh periodic report of the Government of the Republic of Kenya on CEDAW, 2009

Table 2.7 Women's participation in local authority civic positions, 1992-2008

Authority	1992			1998			2002			2008		
	Number of employees											
	Total	Fem.	Fem. (%)	Total	Fem.	Fem. (%)	Total	Fem.	Fem. (%)	Total	Fem.	Fem. (%)
County	1029	24	2.3	2455	201	8.2	1847	24.8	13.4	1618	252	15.6
Municipal	354	15	4.2	596	52	8.7	446	60	13.5	391	63	16.1
City Council	55	4	7.3	69	7	10.1	113	13	11.5	99	15	15.2
Town Council	398	7	1.8	572	40	7	431	56	13	378	63	16.7
Total	1836	50	2.7	3692	300	8.1	2837	377	13.3	2486	393	15.8

Source: The seventh periodic report of the Government of the Republic of Kenya on CEDAW, 2009

The number of women ministers in Kenya's Cabinet increased from three in 2003 to seven in 2008, and that of assistant ministers from four to six.

Table 2.8 Number of men and women in Kenyan politics, public life and decision-making, February 2006-February 2009

Position	February 2006				February 2009			
	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)
Minister	2	32	34	5.8	7	35	42	16.7
Assistant Minister	6	40	46	13	6	46	52	11.5
National Assembly	18	204	222	8.1	21	201	222	9.5
Ambassador / High Commissioner	11	29	40	27.5	11	29	40	27.5
Permanent Secretary	5	25	30	16.7	7	37	44	15.9
Provincial Commissioner	0	8	8	0	1	7	8	12.5
Deputy Secretary	21	77	98	21.4	33	92	125	26.4
Councillor	377	2460	2837	13.3	393	2093	2486	15.8
Lawyer	1708	3277	4985	34.3	1763	3334	5097	34.6

Source: The seventh periodic report of the Government of the Republic of Kenya on CEDAW, 2009

the seven days preceding the survey, occupation, and employment status. According to the labour force framework, the population is categorized into the economically active and the economically inactive. The economically active population (the labour force) consists of employed as well as unemployed persons. The inactive population covered those who were not available for work because, for example, they were full-time students, retired, incapacitated, or homemakers. The working-age population consists of persons aged 15–64 years old.

Female and male earned income (in PPP US\$) was estimated using (a) the ratio of female non-agricultural wages to male non-agricultural wages, (b) the ratio of women to men in the economically active population, (c) the ratio of women to men in the population, and (d) GDP per capita in PPP US\$. Earned income was considered as earnings from current labour and therefore excluded income from, for example, social security and pensions, and returns on financial assets.

Table 2.9 Number of men and women in Kenyan judiciary, February 2005-April 2009

Position	February 2005				April 2009			
	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)
Chief Justice	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Court of Appeal Judge	-	9	9	-	0	9	9	0
High Court Judge	10	39	49	20.4	14	48	62	22.5
Chief Magistrate	4	5	9	44.4	5	8	13	38.5
Senior principal magistrate	4	11	15	26.7	5	13	18	27.8
Principal Magistrate	11	19	30	36.7	12	22	34	35.3
Senior Resident Magistrate	36	66	102	35.3	38	62	100	38.0
Resident Magistrate	33	44	77	42.9	30	44	74	40.5
District Magistrate	14	24	38	36.8	5	7	12	41.7
Khadhis	-	17	17	-	-	17	17	-
Total	112	235	347	32.3	108	225	333	32.4

Source: The seventh periodic report of the Government of the Republic of Kenya on CEDAW, 2009

Table 2.10 Estimates of adult equivalent and per capita household expenditures, 2005-2006 (KShs)

Province	Adult equivalent per month			Per capita per month			Per capita per year			PPP \$ (2006)
	Food	Non-food	Total	Food	Non-food	Total	Food	Non-food	Total	
Nairobi	3,020	5,774	8,795	2,657	5,186	7,843	32,324	63,098	95,422	3,673
Central	1,811	1,749	3,560	1,564	1,517	3,081	19,027	18,455	37,482	1,443
Coast	1,759	1,826	3,584	1,514	1,604	3,117	18,416	19,509	37,925	1,460
Eastern	1,533	1,165	2,699	1,282	1,003	2,285	15,597	12,209	27,805	1,070
North Eastern	1,261	550	1,811	950	425	1,375	11,563	5,171	16,733	644
Nyanza	1,576	1,248	2,824	1,293	1,040	2,333	15,737	12,647	28,384	1,093
Rift Valley	1,653	1,447	3,099	1,385	1,242	2,627	16,849	15,107	31,956	1,230
Western	1,375	960	2,335	1,124	805	1,928	13,670	9,792	23,463	903
Rural	1,454	1,060	2,514	1,200	890	2,091	14,602	10,834	25,436	979
Urban	2,647	4,068	6,715	2,323	3,634	5,957	28,259	44,215	72,474	2,790
NATION	1,755	1,819	3,574	1,483	1,583	3,066	18,048	19,256	37,304	1,436

Source: KIHBS 2005/2006

2.3 Methodology and discussion of results

2.3.1 Youth development index

The YDI was calculated by taking the average of survival index, education index and income index; and therefore gives equal weights to each of its constituents, i.e.

$$YDI = (\text{survival index} + \text{education index} + \text{income index})/3$$

(i) Survival index

Survival index is based on the probability of a person aged 15 years surviving to age 35 years. Globally, China-Hong Kong SAR and Japan have the highest levels of survival, with a life-expectancy at birth of 84.59 and 85.81 years for women in 2005 and 2006, respectively. In Japan, this translates into a survivorship probability of 98.85%. The lowest life expectancies at birth are in Malawi, 43.51 years (in 1997), Namibia, 47.65 years (in 2001), and Zimbabwe, 42.70 years (in 2002). There are therefore no abridged life tables for human populations with life expectancy of 25 years (the base for survivorship used in the computation of HDI).

In comparison, survivorship probability for Japan was 98.85% (assumed maximum value) and the lower bound was an African country with a survivorship probability of 77.39%.

$$\text{The survivorship index} = (\text{value-lowest})/(\text{highest-lowest}).$$

(ii) Education index

The education index is calculated by taking the average the following measures: literacy rate of the population aged 15 to 35 years, secondary school GER, and the average grade in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (which is a proxy for quality of education). However, the literacy rate is given a weight of 0.50, while secondary school gross enrolment and the proxy for quality of education are each given a weight of 0.25 in the education index. The education index is thus calculated as follows:

$$\text{Education index} = [(\text{Literacy rate} / 2) + (\text{GER} / 4) + (\text{Average grade of KCSE} / 4)]$$

(iii) Income index

The income index is the value used in computing the HDI.

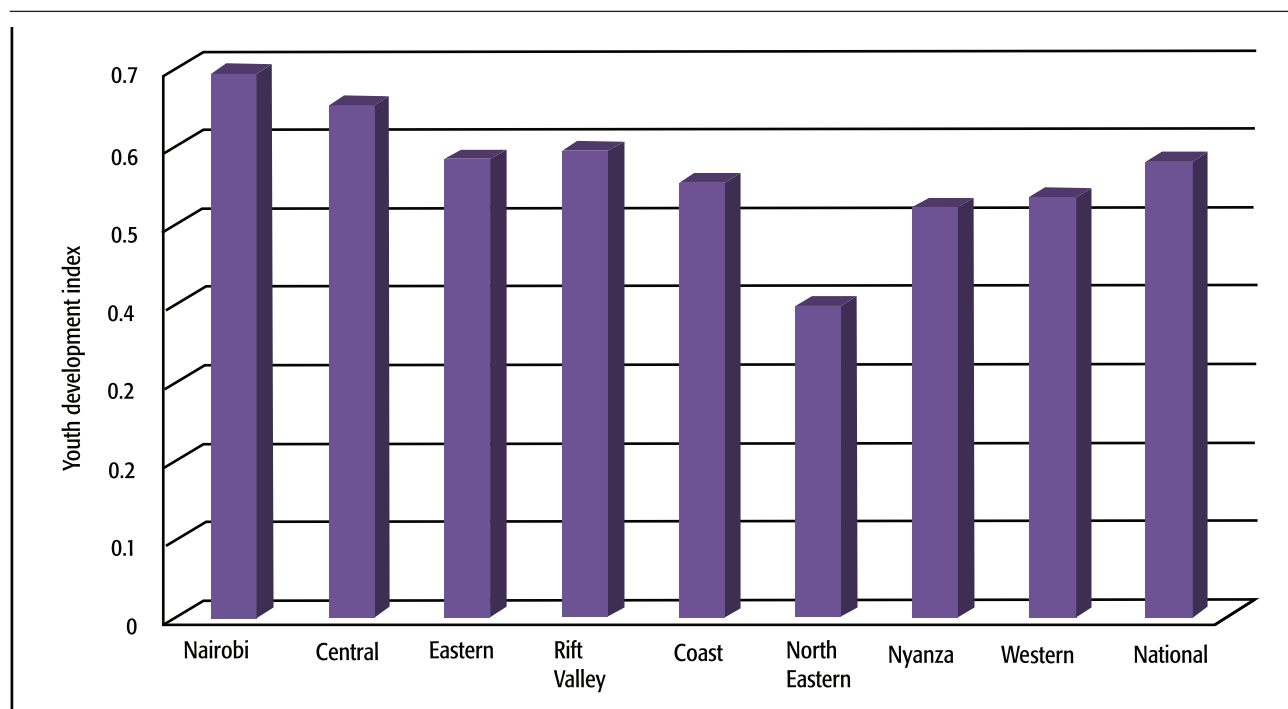
As shown in Table 2.11, the overall YDI value was 0.5817, with the lowest in values found in North Eastern (0.3969), and the highest in Central province (0.6517) and Nairobi (0.6931). It should be noted that the measure is very sensitive to the indices of survival probabilities used as the highest and lowest reference points.

Globally, China-Hong Kong SAR and Japan have the highest levels of survival, with a life-expectancy at birth of 84.59 and 85.81 years for women in 2005 and 2006, respectively. _____

Table 2.11 Youth development index

Province	P (15-35)	Literacy rate (15-34)	Secondary enrolment	Education quality	PPP	Survivorship index	Education index	Income index	YDI value
Nairobi	0.9312	0.890	0.751	0.383	3,673	0.7495	0.728	0.60	0.6931
Central	0.9542	0.893	0.522	0.350	1,443	0.8453	0.664	0.45	0.6517
Coast	0.9197	0.745	0.229	0.320	1,460	0.7018	0.510	0.45	0.5530
Eastern	0.9373	0.810	0.343	0.358	1,070	0.7751	0.580	0.40	0.5837
North Eastern	0.8951	0.345	0.162	0.270	644	0.5994	0.280	0.31	0.3969
Nyanza	0.8745	0.892	0.463	0.363	1,093	0.5139	0.653	0.40	0.5219
Rift Valley	0.9412	0.771	0.391	0.368	1,230	0.7013	0.575	0.42	0.5952
Western	0.9049	0.825	0.352	0.390	903	0.6400	0.598	0.37	0.5351
NATION	0.9202	0.815	0.399	0.358	1,436	0.7040	0.597	0.44	0.5817

P is the probability of surviving from 15 to 35 years.

Figure 2.1 Comparison of YDI by province

UNESCO (2004) calculated a YDI for Brazil using indices of illiteracy among the youth (15-24 years), GER in high schools and colleges of 15-24 year old youths, quality of education, mortality rate of 15-24 year olds from illness or violence, and per capita family income of youths between 15 and 24 years of age. UNESCO and GTZ (2005) also calculated a YDI for Russia using three parameters: health index (mortality from several different causes), education index (literacy rate, education participation rate, and education quality), and income index (GDP per capita). The main difference between the YDI for Kenya and those of Brazil and Russia is the

use of a single measure of survivorship probabilities (regardless of cause of death) instead of multiple factors (e.g. illness, violence and accidents). It was not possible to use multiple causes as recorded deaths in Kenya are not normally classified by cause.

2.3.2 Human development index

The data used for calculating the various components of the HDI do not have a common reference date. Statistics on literacy, GERs and proxies for GDP come from the KIHBS 2005/2006, while those on life expectancy at

birth come from the Population and Housing Census (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 1999). The HDI cannot therefore be assigned to a specific year.

As shown in Figure 2.2, the national HDI value was estimated as 0.561, with Nairobi (0.653), Central (0.624), Eastern (0.568) and Rift Valley provinces (0.574) scoring above the national mean; and Coast (0.527), North Eastern (0.417), Nyanza (0.497) and Western provinces (0.520) falling below the national mean. Comparing districts, the lowest HDI starts at Turkana (0.333), with a midpoint at Kilifi (0.493), before reaching a peak at Nairobi (0.653). Annex 1.1 gives a complete list of the HDIs for Kenya by district and province.

2.3.3 Gender development index

As shown in Figure 2.3, the GDI value at the national level was estimated at 0.492, with Nairobi (0.585), Central (0.536), and Rift Valley provinces (0.494) above the national mean; and Coast (0.461), North Eastern (0.347), Nyanza (0.448), Western (0.457) and Eastern provinces (0.488) below the national mean. Annex 1.2 gives a complete list of the GDIs for Kenya by district and province.

Regional comparisons of GDI should focus on rank reversals between the HDI and the GDI, rather than absolute magnitudes. The regional rankings

Figure 2.2 Comparison of HDI by province

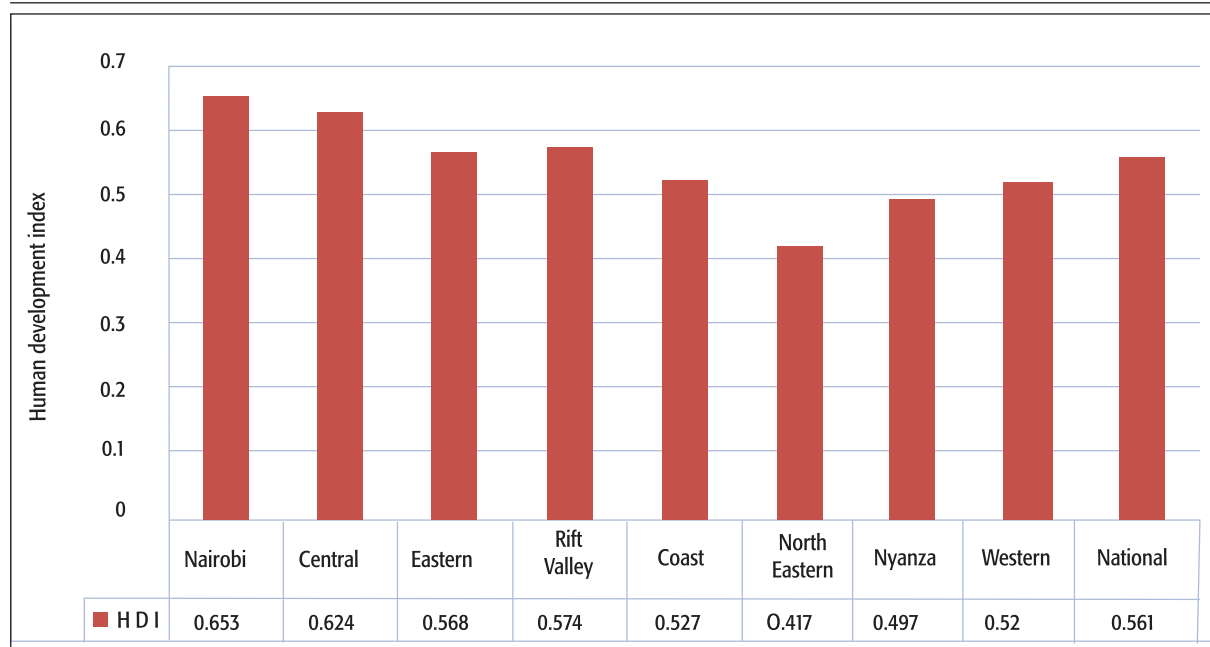
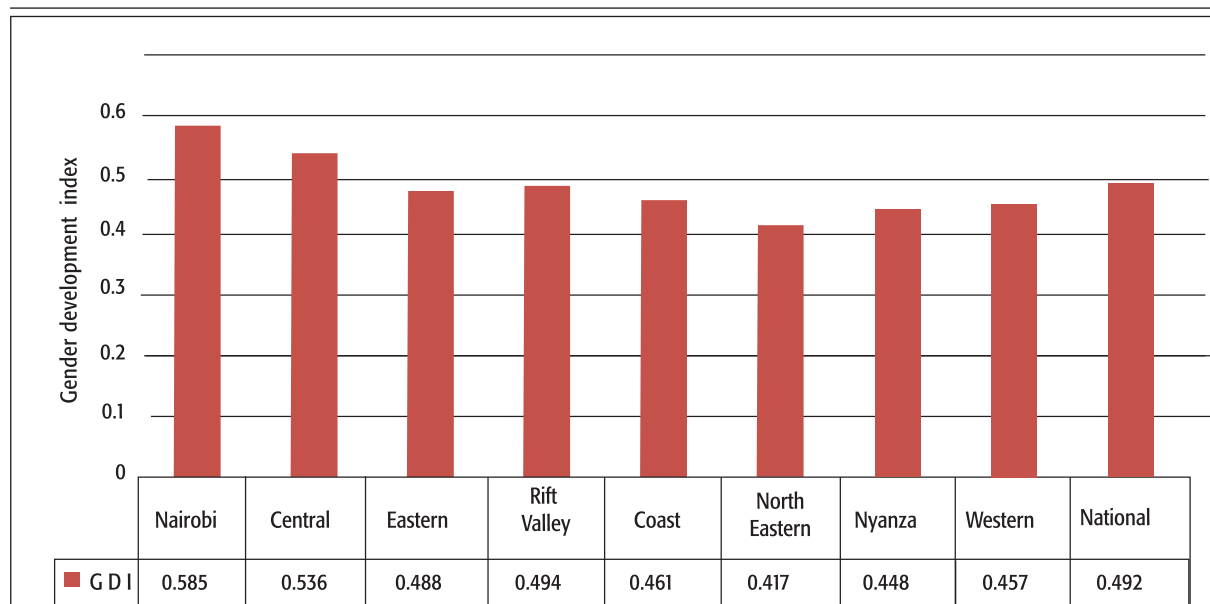


Figure 2.3 Comparison of GDI by province



of the HDI from lowest to highest were North Eastern (0.417), Nyanza (0.497), Western (0.520), Coast (0.527), Eastern (0.568), Rift Valley (0.574), Central (0.624), and Nairobi (0.653). In comparison, the regional rankings of the GDI from lowest to highest were North Eastern (0.347), Nyanza (0.448), Western (0.457), Coast (0.461), Eastern (0.488), Rift Valley (0.494), Central (0.536), and Nairobi (0.585).

However, as shown in Table 2.12 the fact that the order of HDI and GDI are the same does not imply that gender differences are uniform around the country if we use the ratio of the two indices as a measure of gender distance.

The ratio of the two indices was 87.79 at the national level, with lower

Table 2.12 Comparison of HDI and GDI by region

Province	GDI value	HDI value	Ratio (percent)
Nairobi	0.5845	0.653	89.48
Central	0.5357	0.624	85.85
Coast	0.4609	0.527	87.49
Eastern	0.4880	0.568	85.96
North Eastern	0.3466	0.417	83.20
Nyanza	0.4482	0.497	90.14
Rift Valley	0.4943	0.574	86.08
Western	0.4567	0.520	87.75
NATION	0.4924	0.561	87.79

gender inequalities recorded in Nairobi, Nyanza, Western and Coast provinces, compared with higher values in Rift Valley, Eastern, Central and North Eastern provinces. However, due to the conceptual and practical difficulties of assigning reasonable estimates of male and female earned income, it is difficult to place meaningful interpretation to the regional rankings of the ratio of HDI to GDI.

2.3.4 Human poverty index

Statistics on illiteracy and lack of access to safe water sources were obtained from the KIHBS 2005/2006. Measures of underweight in children were taken from the 2008-2009 Kenyan Demographic and Health Survey, while that on probability at birth of not surviving to age 40 is based on the 1999 Population and Housing Census. The HPI cannot therefore be assigned to a specific year. Table 2.13 and Figure 2.4 give the HPIs for Kenya by province.

Since the HPI measures deprivation, the regions with low values are the least disadvantaged. As shown in Figure 2.4, the national average HPI was 29.1, where Nairobi and Central were below the national average and the remaining provinces above. North Eastern province had the highest HPI. Annex 1.3 gives a complete list of the HPIs for Kenya by

Figure 2.4 Comparison of HDI, YDI and GDI

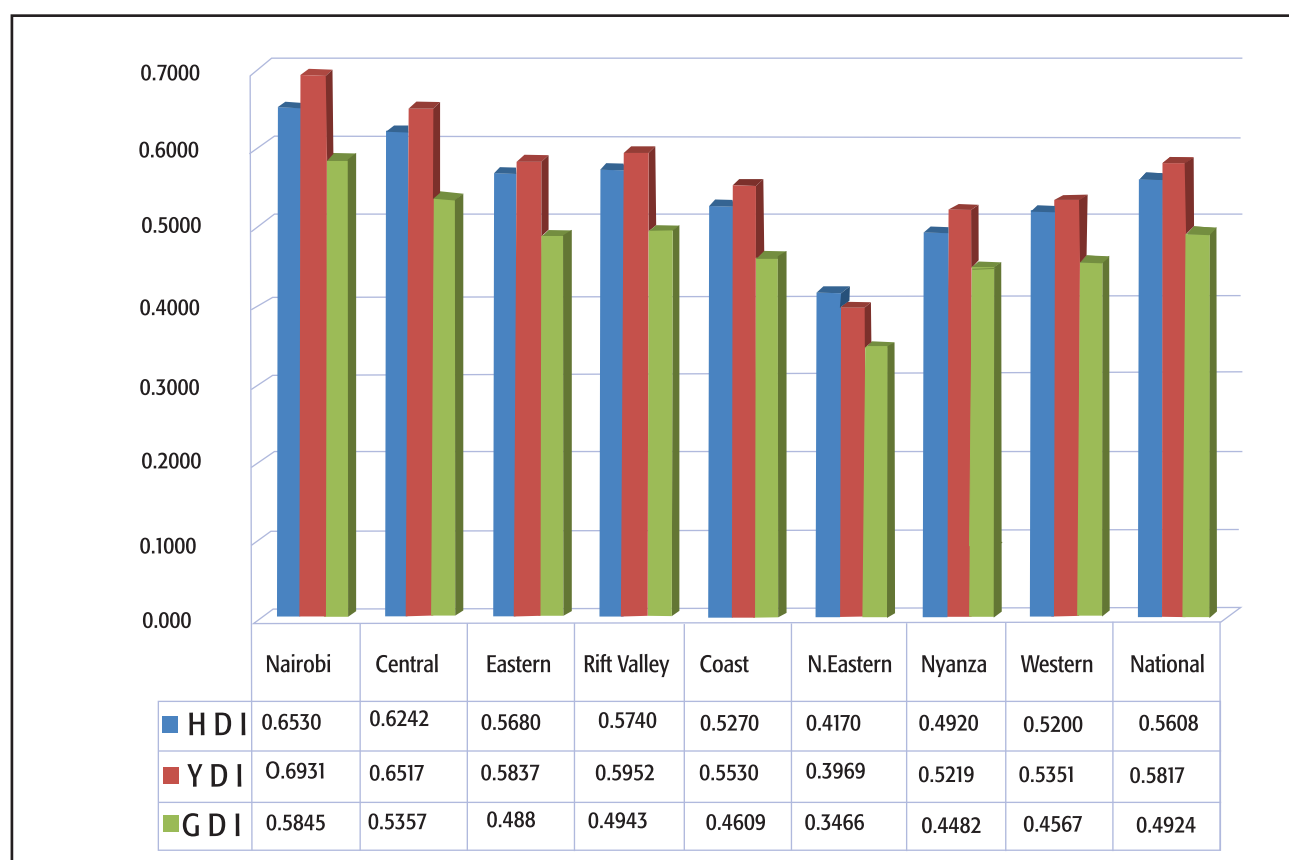
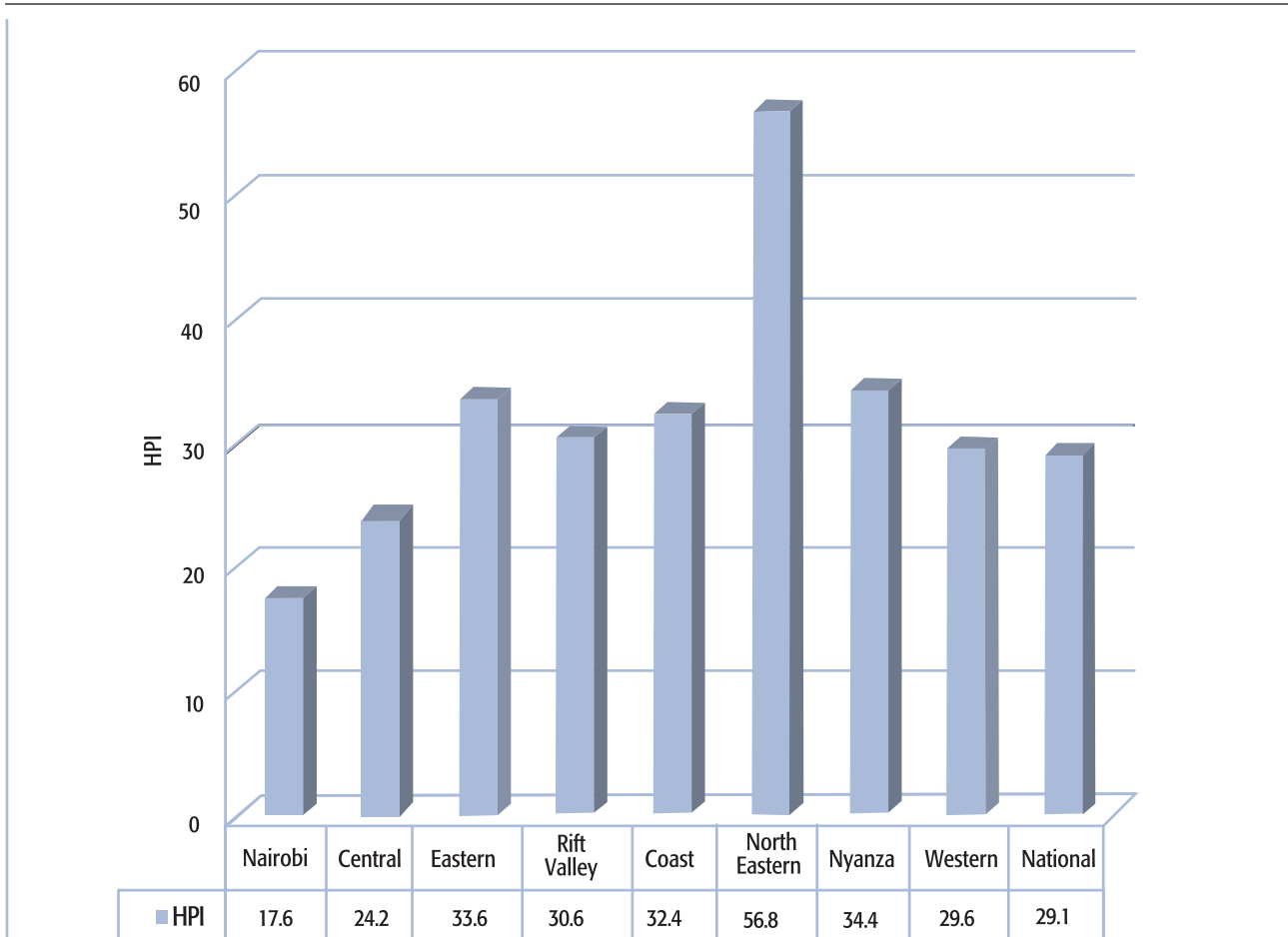


Table 2.13 Kenya human poverty index

Province	Survival probability (birth to age 40) (%)	Illiteracy (%)	Unsafe water (%)	Children underweight (%)	HPI value
Nairobi	24.24	11.90	2.9	11.7	17.6
Central	16.79	20.17	48.1	13.8	24.2
Coast	28.79	37.15	36.6	23.1	32.4
Eastern	19.68	31.52	53.9	30.3	33.6
North Eastern	21.40	75.23	65.4	31.3	56.8
Nyanza	41.57	23.15	49.4	17.8	34.4
Rift Valley	19.48	32.97	49.4	20.4	30.6
Western	31.89	27.93	37.0	20.2	29.6
NATION	26.19	28.59	43.0	20.9	29.1

Figure 2.5 Comparison of HPI by province

Although Kenya has prepared five human development reports since 1999, there has been no systematic approach to generate HDR specific data.

province and district.

2.3.5 Gender empowerment measure

The GEM combines indices of political representation, economic participation, and incomes (differentiated by gender as in the GDI). The GEM in this report is restricted to women's participation in parliament and civic bodies, ministerial positions, in the civil service, and in the judiciary. The GEM measure can serve local interests for annual monitoring, and for reporting under the CEDAW.

Political participation gives two-thirds weight to parliament and one-third to civic representation in local authorities. The index of economic participation gives a weight of 0.25 to ministerial representation, 0.5 to civil service representation, and 0.25 to the judiciary. As shown in Table 2.14, the computed GEM was 0.383. The GEM measure gives equal weight to political participation, economic participation, and income index.

2.3.6 Comparison of HDI, HPI and GDI with the Global Human Development Report 2009

Table 2.15 compares the Kenyan HDI, HPI and GDI estimates with those in the global Human Development Report 2009. The global HDR value for the HDI was 0.541 compared with the Kenyan estimate of 0.561. The major contributor to the difference between these values is the estimate of the combined GER for primary, secondary and tertiary education. This is also the case in the comparison between the global and Kenyan GDIs, with the Kenyan index falling significantly below the global value. The global and Kenyan HPIs show little difference, presumably since the estimates of the

Table 2.15 Comparison of Kenyan HDI, HPI and GDI with Global Human Development Report 2009

Indices	Global HDR	Kenyan Estimates
Human development index	0.541	0.561
Life expectancy at birth (years)	53.6	56.6
Adult literacy rate (%)	73.6	71.4
Combined GER (%)	59.6	70.5
GDP per capita (PPPS)	1,542 (2007)	1,436 (2006)
Human poverty index	29.5	29.1
Probability of not surviving to age 40 (%)	30.3	26.2
Adult illiteracy rate (%)	26.4	28.6
No access to improved water source (%)	43.0	43.0
Children underweight (%)	20.0	20.9
Gender development index	0.538	0.4924
Life expectancy at birth, female (years)	54.0	60.4
Life expectancy at birth, male (years)	53.2	52.8
Adult literacy rate, female (%)	70.2	66.1
Adult literacy rate, male (%)	77.7	77.0
Combined GER, female (%)	58.2	68.6
Combined GER, male (%)	61.0	72.4
Estimated earned income, female (PPPS)	1,213	1,167
Estimated earned income, male (PPPS)	1,874	1,713

components used to derive the indices were similar.

2.3.7 General observations and recommendations

- The calculation of the human development indices discussed in this chapter as well the GEM requires an established system for capturing, storing and analysing the pertinent data. It is recommended that the government, in collaboration with UNDP, should establish, equip and build capacity for a unit to spearhead future human development reporting.
- Although Kenya has prepared five human development reports since 1999, there has been no systematic approach to generate HDR specific

Table 2.14 Gender empowerment measure

	Parliament	Civic	Ministers	Civil service	Judiciary	Income (\$)
Female share (%)	9.459	15.809	16.667	23.920	32.432	1,166.704
Male share (%)	90.541	84.191	83.333	76.080	67.568	1,713.284
Female population share	0.507	0.507	0.507	0.507	0.507	0.507
Male population share	0.493	0.493	0.493	0.493	0.493	0.493
Female income index						0.027
Male income index						0.040
EDEP	16.929	26.355	27.510	36.121	43.604	
Indexed EDEP	0.339	0.527	0.550	0.722	0.872	0.032
SUMMARY						
Parliament and civic (political)	0.401					
Economic participation	0.717					
Income	0.032					
GEM	0.383					

data. Consequently, HDR has been developed with data references from various sources, which are not attuned to human development reporting. There is therefore a need to develop appropriate data systems and build necessary capacity to support future HDR reporting.

- iii) The YDI has been computed using only three variables: income, education and health, which may not be exhaustive. Further variables need to be considered for inclusion. There is also a need for a National Survey on Kenya's Youth Transition to Adulthood so as to develop a more robust Kenya Youth Development Index.
- iv) The variables that are used to calculate the indices in this chapter do not have a common reference year, so the indices themselves cannot be dated. The inter-temporal changes in the composite indices essentially consist of two components: (a) an actual change in a dimension of human development, and (b) updating of data on

CHAPTER THREE

INVESTING IN KENYA'S YOUTH: EDUCATION AND HEALTH

3.1 Education and health in youth social development

This report identifies the gaps in policy and programming in the social development sector in order to improve access by youth to quality and affordable education and healthcare. Education, health, life expectancy, and choice are major determinants of human development and form the basic indicators of well-being. Improving individuals' access to these fundamental areas lies at the core of the human development concept.

The youth need to be equipped with literacy, numeracy, skills and knowledge in order to grow and break the inter-generational spiral of poverty, morbidity, illiteracy and inequality. Literate, numerate and skilled youth is a tremendous asset for development. Unskilled, semi-literate, unhealthy and overly dependent youth, on the other hand, can be a terrible burden on national growth.

While many youths are educated, skilled and healthy, a larger group is potentially at risk of engaging in harmful antisocial behaviours including unsafe sex, substance abuse, delinquency and crime. The consequences of these risks include dropping out of school, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, early or forced marriages, abortion-related concerns, violence, social exclusion, and prison sentences. These make it difficult for the youth transition to responsible adulthood.

3.1.1 Youth development index

The national YDI value has been calculated at 0.5817, but with values ranging from 0.3969 to 0.6931. Wide regional imbalances show that although some provinces are doing relatively well in advancing the socio-cultural, health and educational needs of the youth, others are below average.

3.1.2 Education index

The national education index was calculated at 0.597. Regional differences were large, with Nairobi registering a value of 0.728 and North Eastern province 0.280, showing that there is significant variation in access to education. Education determines the level of social participation of youth, and is a pointer to determining income, health status, and life choices.

3.1.3 Health index

The national health index (survival) was calculated at 0.7040. This value paints a picture of a vibrant health sector that truly recognises the youth as an important asset that needs adequate nurture and health support. Central province registered the highest survival value of 0.8453 and Nyanza



Today's primary-age children who do not go to school are tomorrow's young adult illiterates, whose life prospects in employment, health, and decision-making are poor. _____

province registered the lowest value of 0.5139.

3.2 Education and social development

Education in Kenya continues to generate many questions, especially in relation to content, equity, access, relevance and quality. There has been a long-term concern that the 8-4-4⁹ system of education does not sufficiently prepare young people for employment, self-sufficiency and the current realities of the nation. For example, there appears to be a lack of connection between the university system and local labour demands, with concerns that education does not fully provide competencies required in the labour market.

Education is one of the most effective tools for enhancing peoples' achievements, freedoms and capabilities. It is a fundamental human right. The Children's Act (2001) is an expression of the government's commitment for providing a comprehensive legal framework for the realization of children's rights in Kenya. It provides the right to healthcare, education, protection from child labour and armed conflict, protection from abuse and sexual exploitation, protection from harmful cultural rites and practices, protection from drugs, and access to leisure and recreation.

The government has further increased spending to the most important MDG sectors: agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and the environment. According to the World Development Report, 2006 by the World Bank, Kenya and Bhutan appear to be the only developing countries that are likely to achieve free universal education. However, recent events in Kenya have placed greater challenges on the provision of free primary education such as the 2007 post-election violence and the current allegations of corruption regarding the free primary education funds. This has resulted in some donors freezing or suspending resources for free

⁹ Eight years of primary school, four years of secondary education and four years of university education

primary education.

Today's primary-age children who do not go to school are tomorrow's young adult illiterates, whose life prospects in employment, health, and decision-making are poor. This lack of opportunity affects youths at all levels of education. Emphasis, by governments and international actors alike, is normally placed on primary education as it relates to the achievement of the MDGs. Illiteracy and lack of numeracy prevents young people from establishing themselves as fully productive adults, as well as from developing the capacity to resist political and cultural manipulation.

3.2.1 Determinants of education index

The determinants of the education index were literacy, secondary school enrolment and the quality of education. Quality of education is a reflection of the overall budget, which influences teacher-student ratios, the overall education infrastructure, number of schooling years, performance of non-formal education, and gender parity.

3.2.2 Situation and relevance of Kenya's education system

The national education system has evolved over time. In 1984, the 7-4-2-3 system was replaced by the 8-4-4 system, with both systems providing 16 years of schooling. The 8-4-4 system was intended to make education more relevant to the labour market by providing technical skills and high level manpower to meet the demands of the economy. However, these needs have still not been met.

The government introduced free primary education in public schools in 2003 and free day secondary education in day schools in 2008. Some private schools complement the public schools and offer other systems of education (e.g. British, American and German). There are 1-3 year colleges that offer certificate, diploma, and higher national diploma qualifications. These colleges and polytechnics offer technical hands-on skills in various fields such as computer science, laboratory technology, engineering, and mass communication. University education takes a minimum of four years, depending on the degree pursued. Some courses, such as medicine and architecture, take five or more years to complete.

3.2.2.1 Youth literacy in Kenya

The KIHBS 2005/2006 defines literacy as the ability to read and write at least a sentence in a given language. By enhancing critical understanding of the environment it goes beyond the simple reading of words.

The youth age cohort has a total literacy level of 80 percent (females 81 percent; males 80 percent). While these levels are remarkably high, they diminish in adulthood and more so for women (from 81 percent to 70 percent [Ministry of Education, 2007]) than men.

According to the KIHBS, the national illiteracy rate is 17 percent (females 22.3 percent; males 11.6 percent). In the rural areas, illiteracy is at 20.3 percent (females 26.3 percent; males 14 percent). In urban areas, illiteracy levels are 3.5 percent for male and 7.9 percent for female. The highest level of illiteracy is found in North-Eastern province (68 percent), while the lowest levels are

in Nyanza province (13 percent) and Western province (16 percent).

Universal access to education will not improve the situation if school graduates cannot read and write properly and if they are not equipped with some general skills such as critical thinking and effective problem solving. The completion of high school in Kenya does not guarantee acquiring these basic skills. According to UNESCO (2006), *"too many students are graduating from schools without mastering a set of minimum skills"*. UNESCO further affirms that the extent to which education can translate into personal, social and developmental benefits is vital but "in many countries that are striving to guarantee all children the right to education, the focus on access (to education) often overshadows attention to quality".

3.2.2 Quality of education

3.2.2.1 Education Infrastructure

The total number of educational institutions in Kenya increased by 1.3 percent from 69,916 in 2007 to 70,790 in 2008. In 2008, the number of primary schools was 26,606 compared to 26,104 in 2007. The number of secondary schools rose from 6,485 in 2007 to 6,566 in 2008. The number of training colleges and universities remained unchanged over the same period. The analysis shows that enrolment in educational institutions at all levels is growing faster than the physical infrastructure. This is causing challenges such as overcrowding and insufficient basic facilities such as classrooms and equipment. The free primary education policy has further impacted on quality by pushing up teacher-pupil ratios.

3.2.2.2 Education budget

The total development expenditure for the Ministry of Education increased from KShs 11.0 billion in 2007/08 to KShs 15.5 billion in 2008/09. The increased expenditure is attributed to the contribution to the free primary and secondary education from development partners. Closer analysis reveals that expenditure in secondary education increased by 342 percent, in university education by 141 percent and technical education by 132 percent (Economic Survey 2009). Despite the increasing expenditure, many challenges remain. Concerns over corruption in the education sector have forced development partners who support free primary education to freeze further aid.

3.2.2.3 Enrolment at primary education

GER for primary education steadily increased from 105 percent in 2005 to 110 percent in 2008. Gross enrolment rates for girls are lower than for boys but the trend appears to indicate that the gap is gradually narrowing. The net enrolment rate in primary education also increased steadily from 83 percent in 2005 to 93 percent in 2008. This is an area in which the country

Despite the increasing expenditure, many challenges remain. Concerns over corruption in the education sector have forced development partners who support free primary education to freeze further aid.

Table 3.1 Kenya primary and secondary school enrolment ratios

	(%)				
	Gender	Year			
		2005	2006	2007	2008
Primary schools					
Gross enrolment rates	Boys	109.9	109.3	110.7	112.2
	Girls	104.4	105.5	104.4	107.3
	Total	107.2	107.4	107.6	109.8
Net enrolment rates	Boys	83.8	86.5	94.1	94.6
	Girls	82.6	86.5	89	90.5
	Total	83.2	86.5	91.6	92.5
Secondary schools					
Gross enrolment rates	Boys	31.3	34.6	40.4	46.3
	Girls	27.2	29.9	33.3	38.8
	Total	29.3	32.2	36.8	42.5
Net enrolment rates	Boys	21.9	24.2	25.2	29.8
	Girls	19.1	20.9	23.2	27.9
	Total	20.5	22.5	24.2	28.9

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Economic Survey 2009

continues to perform well.

3.2.2.4 Enrolment in secondary education

The transition rate from primary to secondary school is quite poor (43 percent of pupils proceed to secondary school). At the secondary level, the GER remains low, although it increased from 29 percent in 2005 to 43 percent in 2008. The gender gap is visible but declining, but evidence still indicates that many girls drop out of school after their primary education. Many factors work together to force girls out of school such as parents' preference for educating boys as future bread winners, poverty, sexual harassment, pregnancy and early marriage.

3.2.2.5 Tertiary education

According to Kenya Vision 2030, the government is committed to use science, technology and innovation in general, and technical, industrial and vocational educational training (TIVET) in particular, as the vehicle for social, economic and technological transformation. Student enrolment in TIVET increased from 76,516 in 2007 to 85,200 in 2008. Enrolment of men was higher than of women in all TIVET institutions except for youth polytechnics.

In order to increase youth participation in skills development, the government has developed a policy for youth polytechnics and vocational training centres. The policy aims to mainstream youth polytechnics into the national education and training framework and reposition them to take a leading role in the development of youth for employment and life-long learning. The implementation of the policy has increased youth participation by initiating a review of youth polytechnics' curricula; by

Despite the rapid expansion of higher education over the past two decades, challenges to access, content, quality and equity remain.

providing equipment and tools to 210 youth polytechnics; by improving the building infrastructure of youth polytechnics; and by developing entrepreneurship and leadership training (Department of Youth Training Achievements Report, 2007).

3.2.2.6 University education

The Kenyan GER at university level is estimated to be 9.8 percent, with the highest recorded in Nairobi (26 percent) and the lowest in North Eastern province (0.8 percent). Figure 3.1 shows that the percentage of women in public universities is lower than that of men. In 2005/06, 34 percent of students were women. In private universities, the situation is different: in 2005/06, women comprised 54 percent of the student population. It would be interesting to identify the reasons for this gender difference in enrolment levels.

In 2007/08, the total number of men in all universities was 70,775 and that of females was 47,464. By 2008/09, the population of men had reached 73,543 while that of women stood at 48,304. The faster rate of increase in male students compared to female indicates that university education is increasingly becoming a preserve of men. This raises concern about requisite participation of both genders in nation building, and may in fact indicate why men dominate all realms of decision making. While the government has put in place a policy of affirmative action to improve female enrolment by reducing university entry requirements for girls by two points, this report notes that additional measures will need to be put in place to correct the gender imbalance.

Despite the rapid expansion of higher education over the past two decades, challenges to access, content, quality and equity remain. These include inadequate capacity to cater for the growing demand for university places; a mismatch between skills acquired by university graduates and the demands of industry; gender imbalances between the number of students studying science based courses and those studying humanities; and rigid admission criteria that excludes the possibilities for credit transfers amongst

universities and for graduates from other post-secondary institutions (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2004, Development of Education in Kenya). Other concerns include the level of fees charged and the difficulties this imposes on students from poor backgrounds. The government has put in place excellent facilities for student loans, but these are not available to all students.

3.2.2.7 Informal education

Many youth in Kenya drop out of formal education due to a number of factors including poverty, land clashes and violence, among others. It is important to reach out to these youths and equip them with basic literacy and maths skills that will enhance their employability. There are education and literacy programmes that target the youth in the slums of Nairobi, and this model could be replicated in other parts of the country to reach the majority of youths who drop out of school. The government needs to establish systems to ensure the recognition, validation and accreditation of informal learning for young people. For example, adult literacy services in Kenya need to be revamped; in many districts, these classes have collapsed altogether, and adult learners have no chance to improve their life skills and life choices.

3.2.2.8 Gender concerns

Equality and equity in education in Kenya is a challenge at all levels. Disparities exist regionally, in urban and rural areas, and among communities, due to social, cultural and economic factors. For decades, girls in Kenya have been sidelined, with their role as mothers being emphasized over and above their need for education.

With the introduction of free primary education, the government has achieved impressive primary school enrolment rates. Gender disparity at

primary education is very small, almost nonexistent. But disparities become progressively more obvious from secondary through to university education. As shown in Figure 3.2, the 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health survey (KDHS) indicates that many Kenyans have attained some level of education. It should be noted that 25 percent of girls completed primary education compared to 23 percent of boys in 2003, and that the level of incomplete secondary education was the same for both sexes. However, more than double the number of girls compared to boys have no education at all. Overall, about 37 percent of men have at least some secondary education compared to 29 percent of women.

It should be noted that 25 percent of girls completed primary education compared to 23 percent of boys in 2003, and that the level of incomplete secondary education was the same for both sexes.

Fig 3.2 Percentage of women and men in education

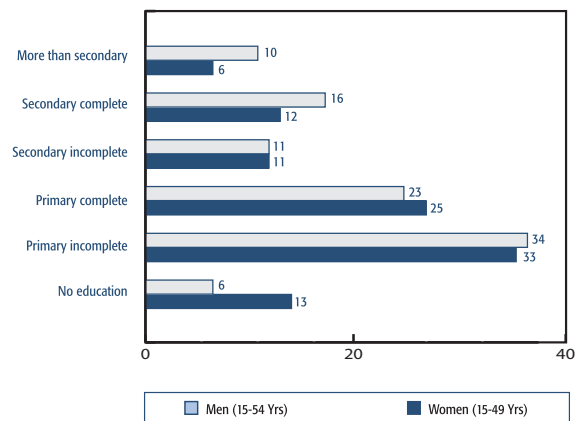
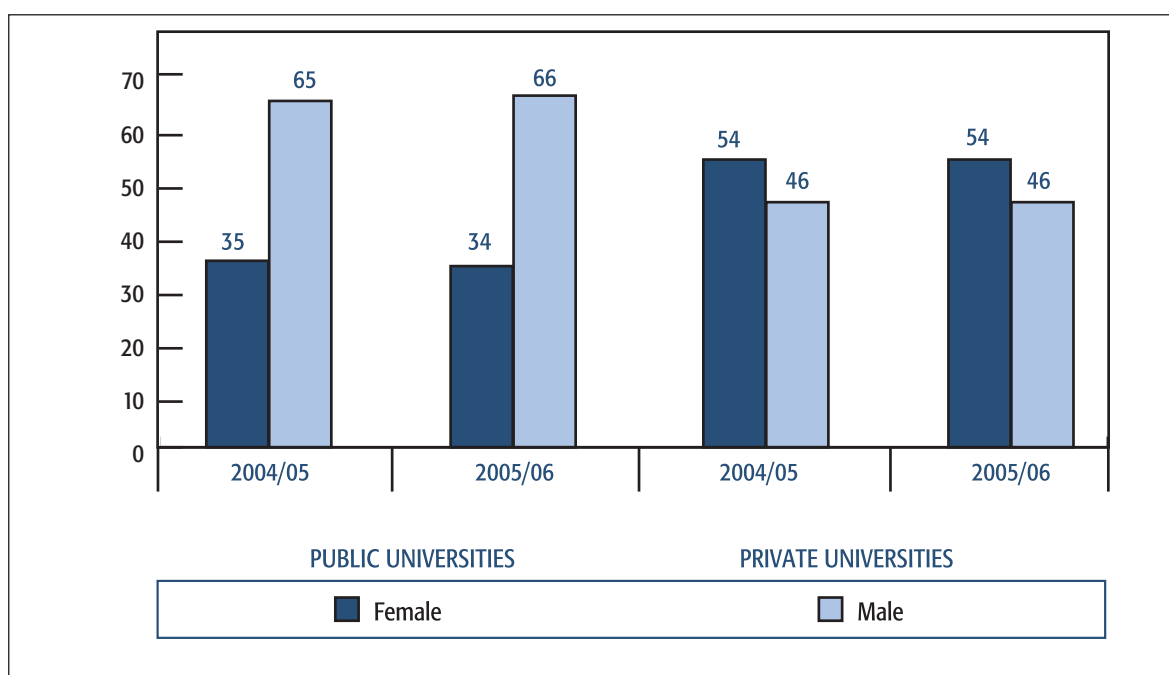


Figure 3.1 University enrolment in thousands



Source: Ministry of Education, 2007

3.2.2.9 Special needs education

Many people living with disabilities are marginalized and the problem is further compounded if they are adolescents or youth. Disabled youth often live in hostile environments where their safety and security is compromised. They are disempowered and marginalized, have no opportunity for advancement, and largely remain voiceless as a result of in-built social, cultural, and economic prejudices, and violence and abuse (Ministry of Education: The national special needs education policy framework, 2009).

In 1986, the Kenya Institute of Special Education was established to build the capacity of special needs education service providers through research and teacher training. Some progress has been made, and despite limited resources, staff-pupil ratios are as low as eight to one teacher for special schools and units. At the planning level, thinking has moved beyond just coping with behavioural difficulties to encouraging spiritual and moral development, creative abilities and personal and social development. However, many challenges remain including:

- the need to provide relevant vocational training, with specific attention to students' future employment
- the need to monitor school-level implementation of national policy objectives more rigorously
- the need to develop a broader understanding of international developments in special education theory and provision.

Some of the promising ways of integrating the disabled into the education sector are seen in the civil society organizations such as the Nyanza inclusive education programme, which is designed to facilitate the inclusion of disabled children within mainstream schools and the wider community. The project focuses on policies influencing teacher training as well as building capacity of parents and local community groups to lobby for educational policy change for the betterment of all children.

3.2.3 Education index and the implication for youth development

Education is regarded as a process of enlarging people's choices. These choices primarily reflect the desire to lead a long and healthy life; acquire basic knowledge; and have access to resources essential for maintaining an acceptable standard of living. Education provides the youth with knowledge and information, which may contribute very effectively to the realisation of their potential. It can also supply a strong sense of self-esteem and self-confidence. Education can therefore be considered as a social instrument for developing human resources and capital.

This report calculates a National Education Index of 0.597, which is slightly above average. This is a positive result for the government, which has made great effort towards the achievement of the MDG goal 2 on universal primary education. The enrolment and completion of primary education has improved as well as youth literacy rates. But education standards are not equal across the country: in North Eastern province in particular

The overall policy goal for the government is give Kenyans the opportunity to education and training regardless of their socio-economic status.

indicators such as enrolment, completion and transition from school to employment are well below the national average.

3.2.4 Policy environment

The existence of a facilitative legal and policy framework has contributed to the realization of the education rights of the youth and has led to improved service delivery in some areas. One restriction on delivery has been the slow pace of enforcement of existing legislation and policy, partially caused by lack of adequate resources, both financial and human. Key legal and policy reforms that have had a direct bearing on the youth education include: the National Plan of Action on Education for All; the National Gender and Education Policy; the National Employment Policy; the Information, Communications and Technology Policy; and the Education Act, Cap 211 of the Laws of Kenya.

3.2.4.1 National Plan of Action on Education for All (2005)

The overall policy goal for the government is give Kenyans the opportunity to education and training regardless of their socio-economic status. For vocational education, policies need to ensure that training matches industry needs. Policies must also regulate and review private provision of TIVET and certify private providers of vocational training.

3.2.4.2 National Gender and Education Policy

This policy provides a framework for addressing gender inequalities and discrimination in key sectors such as education. It provides a framework for achieving gender parity at all levels of education. It further provides an outline for the planning and implementation of gender responsive education and training. Enforcement of this policy has been problematic and gender differences in tertiary and higher education are still large.

3.2.4.3 Education Act

The Education Act empowers the Minister for Education to promote the education of the people of Kenya and the progressive development of institutions devoted to the promotion of education, and to secure the effective cooperation, under his general direction or control, of all public bodies concerned with education in carrying out the national policy for education. For the purposes of carrying out his duties, the minister may from time to time formulate a development plan for education, consistent with any national plan for economic and social development of Kenya.

3.2.4.4 Key gaps

Key gaps that need to be addressed include:

- mainstreaming disability concerns in the education sector
- revamping adult education programmes
- enabling the return-to-school policy for girls who have given birth (who are frequently barred from returning to school)

- recognizing and streamlining the informal education sector

3.3 Youth and health services

This section explores the status of youth health and youth health services with a view to identifying gaps in policy and programme implementation. The overall goal is to assess whether the youth have sufficient, affordable and satisfactory access to healthcare services as dictated by the MDGs.

Global interest in the social, mental and physical health of adolescents and youth has increased in recent decades. The 1990s saw the affirmation of worldwide commitments to adolescent and youth health that have been shaped within an international legal framework. It has its foundation in the United Nations Charter and reflects the WHO definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity¹⁰. One implication is that the international public health community must adopt an approach to adolescents and youth that goes beyond the health sector to elicit the active participation of all social actors, including young people themselves as agents of change (WHO, 1989).

According to the Kenya Household Health Expenditure and Utilisation survey report (2007) Kenyans of every age reported fewer illnesses in 2007 than they had in 2003. Although some of this improvement may have been a direct result of improved access to healthcare, 2003 to 2007 was also a period of sustained effort to reduce the incidence of malaria in Kenya, which is a significant health issue.

Other common health issues affecting the youth in Kenya are respiratory infections including pneumonia, child-birth complications including maternal mortality, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. Table 3.2 gives a summary of the illnesses.

3.3.1 Health budget in Kenya

Although funding to the health sector has increased (from Ksh 16.4 billion in 2003/04 to Ksh 34.8 billion in 2008/09), health financing continues to pose a special challenge in healthcare delivery. Overall, spending in the health sector (recurrent and development) has been between six and eight percent of total government expenditure. This level of funding is well below the Abuja declaration target of 15 percent and the Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS) target of 12 percent. As a result, major funding gaps for the scaling-up of priority public health interventions exist (Annual Health Sector Statistics Report, 2008).

Recurrent expenditures have been consistently higher than development expenditures over the past years. But the development budget share has increased from 6 percent in 2002/03 to 9 percent in 2004/05 to 13 percent in 2007/08 to 27 percent in 2008/09. This increase reflects the shift in overall government focus to capital and infrastructure improvement in the health sector. Despite this increase, huge deficits in spending still remain.

According to the Annual Health Sector Statistics Report, 2008, households, at 36 percent, remain the largest contributors to health funds (mainly through out-of-pocket spending), followed by development partners at 31

Table 3.2 Causes of illness in Kenya

Outpatient care		Admissions	
Cause	Percentage	Cause	Percentage
Malaria	30.6	Malaria	23.0
Respiratory disease	25.0	Respiratory Infections	17.8
Immunisations	6.4	Accidents and injuries	6.3
Skin diseases	5.5	Normal delivery	5.5
Diarrhoeal diseases	5.5	Diarrhoea	4.9
Prenatal/antenatal care	4.6	Diabetes	3.4
Intestinal worms	4.3	Reproductive health-related cancer	3.0
Accidents and injuries	3.7	Caesarean section	2.3
Physical check-up	3.1	Eye infections	2.0
Eye infections	2.9	Tuberculosis	1.9
All others	8.4	Skin diseases	1.3
Total	100	Intestinal worms	1.2
		HIV/AIDS	1.0
		FP and sterilisation	0.1
		Sexually transmitted infections	0.1
		Other services	26.1
		Total	100

Source: Kenya Household Expenditure and User Survey, 2007

¹⁰ Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; and entered into force on 7 April 1948.

percent, the government at 29 percent and private companies at 3 percent. With such a large proportion of funds coming from donors, there are genuine concerns on the sustainability of the healthcare budget. What would happen if development partners freeze health funds as they have done with the funds for free primary education? Other factors inhibiting Kenya's ability to provide adequate healthcare for its citizens include inefficient use of resources, the increasing burden of diseases, rapid population growth, and corruption.

3.3.2 National health infrastructure

The 2008 Annual Health Sector Statistics Report shows that the number of health facilities in Kenya increased from 4,767 in 2004 to 6,190 in 2008 equalling 16 health facilities per 100,000 people and 11 per 1,000 square kilometres. These facilities vary in terms of ownership, level of services offered, staffing patterns, bed capacity and infrastructure. The GoK owns 48 percent of them, private enterprises 34 percent, faith-based organisations 13 percent, and the remaining 5 percent are owned by local authorities, NGOs or the community.

The Economic Survey 2008 reported that there are 14,000 people per health facility in North Eastern province, and just 5,000 persons per health facility in Nairobi. These figures might suggest that overcrowding is a common problem in health facilities which might affect the youth significantly as they tend to avoid overcrowded facilities. However, the findings of a client satisfaction survey, carried out by the Ministry of Medical Services in March 2009 suggest that 24 percent of the clients interviewed were very satisfied and 70 percent were satisfied with the healthcare services they received. Whether this is a reflection of youth opinion or not is unclear as the study was carried out for the whole population.

3.3.3 Determinants of health index

Some of the important variables that influence the national health index include distance to health facility, drug availability, doctor-patient ratios, prevalence of disease, social behaviour, user fees, and limited access to health information. These variables determine quality of healthcare, including youth health, which in turn will affect their participation in national development.

3.4. Factors influencing youth health

3.4.1 Equipment and staffing

Accessibility to health and medical care varies widely across the country. Many youths in rural areas who are ill and choose to seek care, only have the option of treatment at primary care facilities. These facilities are often under-staffed, under-equipped and have limited drug supplies. While access to appropriate

Even where healthcare services are available the youth may not use them if they do not fit their precise requirements. According to the Kenya Service Provision Assessment, 2004, only 12 percent of health facilities were able to provide youth friendly services.

health services is a challenge to many Kenyans, the youth experience increased barriers due to their sensitivity as young people (fear, embarrassment, privacy concerns) and limited capacity to meet financial costs.

Availability of drugs in health facilities is a major challenge, as confirmed by the client satisfaction survey, 2008, which showed that 48 percent of clients only received a partial prescription.

In Kenya in 2005, there were 15 doctors for 100,000 people; in 2006 the number increased to 16; in 2007 the number increased to 17; and in 2008 the number remained at 17 (Annual Health Sector Statistics Report, 2008). Regional disparities are glaring, whereas Central province has a total 190 doctors and a doctor-patient ratio of 1:21,000, North Eastern province has only 9 doctors and a ratio of 1:121,000. The same scenario exists for nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and laboratory technologists. According to the client satisfaction survey 2008, the average waiting time between registration and seeing the clinician was 56 percent below acceptable standards as defined by the (Kenyan) citizen's service charter for delivery of medical services.

3.4.2 Distance to health facility

Maternal and child mortality rates in Kenya have not reduced since the last assessment was conducted in 2004. Inaccessibility of healthcare costs lives and can be especially significant for pregnant women and their unborn babies. According to the Economic survey (2008), 18 percent of Kenyans who were ill but did not to seek treatment, did so because of the distance to the nearest healthcare facility. In rural areas, 52 percent of patients have to travel over 5 kilometres to reach a healthcare facility, compared with 12 percent in urban areas. In North Eastern province, the ratio increases to 86 percent, while in Nairobi 20 percent of patients have to travel over 5 kilometres to be treated (KIHBS, 2007).

3.4.3 Affordability of healthcare services

Cost of healthcare is an important consideration among the youth. Unemployment is high and this compromises affordability and has a direct impact on whether the youth seek medical attention or not. Even for youths from well-off families, the question of cost remains pertinent because they may be seeking treatment for conditions they do not wish their families to be aware of, e.g. for sexually transmitted diseases or contraceptives.

It is generally recognized that the majority of Kenyans, especially women, do not have access to affordable healthcare (Kenya Vision 2030, p.98). Among those Kenyans who were ill and did not choose to seek care, 44 percent were hindered by cost (Economic survey, 2008). As nearly half of the population lives below the poverty line, unless the government introduces a national healthcare plan for all¹¹, or at least for the youth and the poor, many Kenyans will never have their health needs and rights fulfilled. According to the Client Satisfaction Survey 2008, 20 percent of clients reported user fees as being high. Approximately 30 percent of clients rated charges for medicine and consultation, and for laboratory services as

11 A proposed national healthcare insurance scheme was rejected by Parliament in 2007

high. These results vary significantly from the findings in the 2007 survey where most of the clients (60 percent) reported user fees as being within affordable limits.

3.4.4 Acceptability of youth friendly healthcare services

Even where healthcare services are available the youth may not use them if they do not fit their precise requirements. According to the Kenya Service Provision Assessment, 2004, only 12 percent of health facilities were able to provide youth friendly services. Considering that adolescents and youth

are reluctant to seek reproductive health (RH) services as they are currently provided, it is important to find ways of offering care that is perceived as more welcoming, comfortable, and responsive.

Helping young people to develop good health habits and seek regular care at an early age lays the foundation for ensuring the future of their health. In 2005, the government provided the National Guidelines for Provision of Youth Friendly Services in Kenya. These guidelines aim to direct the provision of youth services specifically to the beneficiaries, provide a minimum package of youth-friendly services, and ensure national uniformity in their distribution.

Table 3.3 Characteristics of youth-friendly services

Provider characteristics	Health facility characteristics	Programme design characteristics	Other possible characteristics
Specially trained staff	Separate space	Youth involvement in design	Educational materials available
Respect for young people	Convenient hours	Drop-in clients welcomed	Group discussions available
Privacy and confidentiality	Convenient location	No overcrowding	Delay of pelvic examination and blood tests available
Adequate time for client	Adequate space and privacy	Short waiting times	
Peer counsellors available	Comfortable surroundings	Affordable fees	Alternative ways to access information, counselling, and services
		Boys and young men welcomed and served	
		Wide range of services available	
		Necessary referrals available	

3.4.5 Prevalence of disease

According to the Kenya Household Expenditure and User Survey, 2007, malaria is the largest cause of illness in Kenya across all age groups. Respiratory infections, including pneumonia and TB follow, and significantly affect the youth since they are often related to HIV/AIDS. Accidents form a large percentage of deaths, illness and disabilities in Kenya, and the youth comprise the largest proportion of people involved in accidents. Diabetes and cancer have traditionally been mid- or old-age diseases in Kenya but this trend is changing, and increasingly both children and the youth are being affected. While the government has taken action to improve treatment, the necessary public awareness and screening campaigns have yet to be introduced. Additionally, some key equipment for treating certain types of cancer is absent in Kenya.

3.4.6 HIV/AIDS

According to the Kenya Aids Indicator Survey, 2007, national HIV prevalence stands at 7.1 percent. HIV prevalence among women age 15-19 is about 3.5 percent while that of men of the same age is 1.0 percent. The

prevalence of HIV among women aged 20-24 is 7.4 percent compared to 1.9 percent in men of the same age. Prevalence is higher in women aged 25-29 at 10.2 percent, compared to 7.3 percent in men. HIV prevalence peaks for young people aged 30-34 where women's prevalence is 13.3 percent and men's is 8.9 percent. These figures show a sharp increase in infection rates from 2003.

Knowledge of HIV/AIDS is almost universal in Kenya, especially amongst the youth. The majority of Kenyans do not know their HIV status: 50 percent of men and 59 percent of young women aged 15-24 have never had voluntary counselling and testing and in 2002, only 7 percent of women aged 15-24 and 6 percent men were tested for HIV and received their results.

"...I remember back in school they told us a lot on how to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission, but I do not remember any one telling us how to live with HIV..."

Rita, university student studying in Nairobi

Studies show that male circumcision can significantly lower the risk of contracting HIV (WHO, UNAIDS, 2007), and male circumcision in Kenya is now considered part of a comprehensive prevention package. In Kenya, male circumcision rates are high among communities that traditionally circumcise their boys as a rite of passage. According to the Kenya Aids Indicator Survey 2007, HIV/AIDS and circumcision are strongly correlated for some age categories. The survey revealed that for men aged 15-24, the HIV infection rate of those circumcised was 1.3 percent as opposed to 1.7 percent for those not circumcised. However, for men aged 25-29, HIV infection rates among the circumcised was 4.6 percent while that of the uncircumcised was 21.7 percent. Last but not least, among men age 30-39, HIV infection rates among the circumcised was 6.3 percent, while that of the uncircumcised was 29.7 percent. Nationally 13.2 percent of uncircumcised men were HIV-infected compared to 3.9 percent of circumcised men. These figures present a strong case for using male circumcision as a tool for reducing HIV infection rates.

Access to HIV/AIDS treatment in Kenya is inadequate, the drugs are relatively expensive, and when freely dispensed, almost always limited in availability. Counselling services are insufficient, and many young women feel coerced or forced into HIV testing during antenatal care. Care and prevention programmes are many and varied but the impact has been minimal. There is therefore a need to increase resources for all aspects of HIV/AIDS management and treatment.

3.5 Youth and reproductive health

Reproductive health (RH) is almost exclusively an issue of the youth, and adolescents and youth suffer disproportionately from negative reproductive health outcomes. They are vulnerable for both physical and social reasons and often suffer serious long-term consequences. As a group, however, they are often neglected by programme efforts and health policies. Key areas in RH include maternal health, fertility regulation and contraception, sexuality, pregnancy and post-abortion care services.

3.5.1 Maternal mortality

Pregnancy-related deaths are the leading cause of premature death and disability among women of reproductive age in Kenya, and more so among younger women. There is no single cause of death and disability that affects men at the same level of magnitude. Maternal mortality in Kenya is thought to be very high: the KDHS 2003 indicates a rate of 414 deaths per 100,000 live births per year. About 14,700 women of reproductive age die each year from pregnancy related complications while between 294,000 and 441,000 suffer from disabilities caused by complications during pregnancy and childbirth (NCPD, CBS, ORC, 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey). Coupled with poverty, malnutrition, diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality is escalated by the poor quality of health facilities in many rural areas, lack of adequately trained personnel and the inaccessibility of health facilities. Youth vulnerability to maternal mortality is further compounded by harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM).

Access to high quality health services is therefore critical in reducing maternal death. The following healthcare interventions would significantly

contribute to a reduction in maternal mortality:

- access to family planning
- access to prenatal care
- access to skilled delivery at birth
- access to emergency obstetric care
- access to post-natal care.

The following extract is adapted from Failure to Deliver: violations of women's human rights in Kenyan health facilities (FIDA and the Centre for Reproductive Rights, 2007):

'According to Carole, young women in need of maternity services face additional stigma and abuse. This is how she narrates her experience when she went to deliver her first baby:

"They were abusive and demanded to know why I had come to give birth while young, they wanted to know what I was looking for in men... they said if I wanted to die, I should just die...I was not even checked. They were choosing who to attend to, and I think they were not attending to younger women..."

3.5.2 Abortion-related deaths

Abortion laws are restrictive in Kenya forcing women to seek illegal abortions. About four out of ten women who die from unsafe abortion complications are adolescents (Ipas, 2003). High rates of unsafe abortion among the youth can be associated with lack of access to responsible sexual and reproductive health and contraceptive information and services (Fergusson, 1988; Kigundu, 1986). Despite the restrictive abortion laws, terminations of unwanted pregnancies take place and young women continue to die from complications. Around 300,000 terminations of pregnancies occur in Kenya every year, with an estimated 20,000 women and girls being admitted to hospital with abortion-related complications (Centre for the study of Adolescents, 2004). Forty-eight percent of abortion cases occur among those aged 14-24 years. Official statistics show that 30 to 50 percent of all maternal deaths are directly attributed to unsafe abortion.

3.5.3 Current use of contraception by the youth

Improving the reproductive health of young people in Kenya requires access to safe and effective methods of fertility control. Trends indicate a great improvement in the uptake of contraception, from 5 percent of girls aged 15-19 in 2003 to 20 percent in 2008/09. Overall, contraceptive use by women of all ages has steadily increased from 7 percent in 1978 to the current 46 percent.

Use of hormonal contraception is restricted by lack of knowledge, obstacles to access and concern over side effects, especially fear of infertility. Although often more accessible, and sometimes more attractive than hormonal methods, condom use is limited by association with disease and promiscuity, together with greater male control. As a result young women are often forced to rely on traditional methods of contraception or abortion. Increasing the use of modern contraceptives will require community-wide interventions and the combined provision of information, life skills, social

support and access to youth-friendly healthcare services. Interventions should aim to counter negative perceptions of modern contraceptive methods, and the dual role of condoms for contraception and STI prevention should be emphasised.

3.5.4 Unmet need for family planning

Women who do not want more children, or wish to wait at least two years before having a child but are not using any method of family planning have an 'unmet need' for family planning. Unmet need for family planning is highest among youth aged 20 – 24, probably because they are sexually active but wish to wait at least 2 years between births. Unmet need for family planning is highest in Nyanza (19 percent) and Rift Valley (17 percent) and lowest in North Eastern (6 percent) and Central (7 percent) provinces.

3.5.5 Youth and fertility

The national total fertility rate (TFR) for Kenya, according to the KDHS 2009 preliminary report, is 4.6. Regional TFRs by area are: urban 2.9; rural 5.2; Nairobi 2.8; Central 3.4; Coast 4.8; Eastern 4.4; Nyanza 5.4; Rift Valley 4.7; Western 5.6; North Eastern 5.9. In 2003, the TFR was 4.9 indicating that the fertility rate might be decreasing. Women aged 20-24 exhibited the highest TFR both in 2003 and 2008. Women aged 15-19 have the lowest fertility rate at 103 births per 1,000 women. Women age 20-24 have the highest fertility rates at 238 births per 1,000 women.

Rural fertility rates are almost twice as high as urban rates for the same age cohort. This calls for policy makers to design intervention programmes targeting rural women, and more specifically the age group 20-24. According to the Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development Policy, the high fertility rate among young Kenyan women is attributable to lack of access to information and services, perceived hostility of service providers, and inadequate policies.

3.5.6 Youth and sex

Sexual activity among Kenyan young people begins early, and is usually unprotected, giving rise to early pregnancy, unsafe abortion and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Almost half of young women have had sex by the time they turn 18 (Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 2003). According to the KDHS (2003) almost one quarter of young Kenyan women aged 15-19 are either pregnant with their first child or are already mothers. It is important to reduce teenage pregnancies because it may mark the beginning of many reproductive health problems.

The reproductive organs of young women may not be mature enough to sustain normal pregnancy and birth. Four percent of young women (age 20-24) were married by age 15; and another 25 percent were married by age 18. Almost half were married by age 20. Men tend to marry later: among men aged 20-24 less than three percent were married by age 18 and only 6 percent were married by age 20. The consequences of early marriage for girls include incapacity to negotiate safe sex with their partner and susceptibility to gender-based violence.

Text box 3.3 Lessons learned from reproductive health programmes for young people

- Knowledge of reproductive health and related issues empowers young women and increases their assertiveness and negotiation skills.
- It is hard to reach young people who are in school because of their academic workload.
- It is difficult to reach and maintain contact with out-of-school youths. The most effective means of communication is through youth groups and activities that promote regular contact.
- Adolescent sexuality is a sensitive issue, and parents and community leaders need to be sensitized and involved if any programme is to succeed.
- Young people prefer to get information about sex and reproduction from trusted adults such as parents, ministers, or teachers.
- Sexual and reproductive health information needs to be linked to service delivery.
- Voluntary counselling and testing needs to be made more accessible in youth centres or other spaces that young people frequent.
- Girls tend not to use voluntary counselling and testing services because of the stigma attached to them. They also prefer obtaining services from female providers.
- Giving young people information on reproductive health encourages responsible sexual behaviour (as opposed to sexual experimentation).
- Some programmes involve the government during pilot stages. However, the continuity of the programmes can be adversely affected by frequent transfers of government staff.

3.6 Social behaviour and ill health

The youth may indulge in risky social behaviours that may predispose them to ill health. These include alcohol, drug and substance abuse, unprotected sex, harmful cultural practices, and religion.

3.6.1 Drug and substance abuse

Drug and substance abuse is a major problem facing the youth in Kenya today. Studies indicate that many youth, both in and out of school, use and abuse drugs. Those identified as being most at risk include sex workers, brewers, sellers of illicit drinks, school dropouts, orphans and young mothers. Substance abuse is marked by a gradual reduction in awareness, a decline in self-esteem, and withdrawal from social interactions. The most abused substances are tobacco, alcohol, khat (miraa), marijuana (bhangi), glue and heroin. Persistent drug use is associated with suicide attempts. Studies indicate that there is a close relationship between drug abuse, violence and reckless sexual behaviour.

According to the survey, Youth in Peril: Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Kenya, which was the first national baseline survey on substance abuse among the youth aged 10-24, the rapid spread of substance abuse can be traced to the breakdown of indigenous culture and the introduction of foreign influences. Substance use by the youth implies a breakdown of family values earlier present in indigenous societies and, as a result, loss of parental control.

The frequency, as well as the type, of substance abuse varies from province to province. Regarding alcohol abuse, the prevalence among students is highest in Western province (43.3 percent), followed by Nairobi (40.9 percent), Nyanza (26.8 per cent), Central (26.3 percent), Rift Valley (21.9 percent), Coast (21.3 percent), Eastern (17.2 percent) and North Eastern, (1.6 percent). Prevalence is high even among non-students in Western at 90.1 percent, followed again by Nairobi at 89.9 percent, then Rift Valley, Central, Nyanza, Eastern, Coast and North Eastern at 86.1, 84.1, 81.5, 73.4, 73.1 and 15.6 percent respectively.

The prevalence of bhang use among non-students aged 10-24 is highest in Nyanza province followed by Nairobi, Coast, Eastern, Western, Rift Valley, Central and North Eastern provinces. Among students, bhang use is highest in Coast and lowest in North Eastern province. Nairobi has the second highest rate of use followed by Central, Eastern, Western, Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces. Nairobi leads again in the level of use of inhalants among both students and non-students. Inhalant use among non-students is lowest in Coast province and among students it is lowest in North Eastern province.

A number of drug rehabilitation programmes and counselling centres are available to the youth in Kenya. However, these tend to be urban-based and are able to reach only small numbers of youths. Programmes should work to incorporate substance abuse into ongoing and future projects and create links with groups working in this area such as the Office of the National Coordinator for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA). In addition, enabling NGOs such as the Kenya AIDS and Drugs Alliance to scale-up their programmes will help to reach the most

Text Box 3.4 FGM and youth health

FGM related health complications include severe bleeding, anaemia, cervical infections, urethral damage, urinary tract infections, excessive growth of scar tissue keloids, dermatoid cysts, chronic pelvic infections, post-birth complications, stillbirths, as well as difficult and often dangerous childbirth, leading to the death of the mother, child or both.

vulnerable youth in Kenyan society.

3.6.2 Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA, 2007). FGM is often practised out of respect for and in conformity to the community's culture and traditions.

The practice of FGM appears to be declining slowly over time. In 1998, the KDHS documented national prevalence at 38 percent. In 2003, that rate had dropped to 32 percent. The latest KDHS (2008-2009) indicates a further reduction to 27 percent. Analysis by the KDHS shows that knowledge of FGM is almost universal. The prevalence of FGM varies by region and age group. The practice is less prevalent among younger women (15 percent of women aged 15-19 have been mutilated compared to 35 percent of women aged 35-39). Women from rural areas are more likely to be circumcised (37 percent) than their urban counterparts (17 percent), and whilst the practice is almost universal in North Eastern province (98 percent) it is almost non-existent in Western province (less than 1 percent).

FGM is a violation of women's sexual and reproductive rights as well as of their physical integrity. FGM also causes a range of sexual and psychological problems for adolescent girls. International treaties have recognized the hideous nature of female circumcision including the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa¹², which is a protocol to the Covenant on Peoples and Human Rights¹³. FGM has been outlawed by the Children Act of Kenya although the Act does not prescribe a specific punishment for persons found guilty of practicing it.

3.6.3 Gender based violence

Gender based violence (GBV) is a major public health as well as human rights problem in Kenya. It is the direct result of power inequity in the relations between men and women. UNESCO defines GBV as:

'Any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.'

(UNESCO, 1999 page 53).

GBV is widespread in Kenya and has, for decades, been accepted as normal behaviour. Police statistics indicate 1440, 1365 and 1291 cases of rape were reported in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. In the case of defilement, 1233, 1067 and 1445 cases were reported in the same three years. These figures are not conclusive as many women who are raped or abused are too intimidated by cultural attitudes, stigma and state inaction to report the violations or seek redress. Kenya's Coalition on Violence against Women estimates that only 8 percent of women who are raped report the attack to health officials or police. They estimate the actual number of rapes per year at approximately 16,500¹⁴.

12 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights to the Rights of women in Africa Covenant adopted by the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union Maputo, 11 July 2003

13 Covenant on Peoples and Human Rights: Adopted by the eighteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government, June 1981 - Nairobi, Kenya

14 <http://www.kenyapolice.go.ke/resources/COMPARATIVE%20FIGURES%202004,2005%20AND%202006.pdf>

3.6.4 Childhood and forced marriages

"No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person after due publicity and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of witnesses, as prescribed by law."¹⁵

(i) Childhood marriage

Childhood marriage is a violation of human rights whether it happens to a girl or a boy, but it represents perhaps the most prevalent form of sexual abuse and exploitation of girls. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) describes childhood marriage as any marriage where the bride is under the age of 18 and is a violation of the basic human rights of women and girls. And UNICEF (2005a) states that 'marriage under the age of 18 may threaten a child's human rights, including the right to education, leisure, good health, freedom of expression, and freedom from discrimination; the best way to ensure the protection of children's rights is to set a minimum age limit of 18 for marriage'. Women and girls with primary education are significantly less likely to be married as children than those who receive no education. In Zimbabwe, UNICEF (2005b) found that 48 percent of women who had attended primary school had been married by the age of 18, compared to 87 per cent of those who had not attended school. Even though Kenya is signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and has incorporated it into its own Children Act (2001), child marriage is still prevalent in Kenya especially among pastoral communities.

Ensuring implementation of existing legislation is the greatest priority to ensure that young girls are protected from early marriage.

(ii) Forced marriage

A forced marriage is one that is performed under physical and emotional pressure without the full and informed consent or free will of one or both parties. Victims may be tricked into false marriage through deception,

abduction, coercion, fear, or inducement. A forced marriage may be between children, a child and an adult, or between adults. Forced marriages are not limited to women and girls, as boys and men are also forced to marry against their will. A forced marriage is considered to be a form of domestic violence, and from an international perspective, is seen as a severe human rights violation and a form of human trafficking. Victims of forced marriages often experience physical violence, rape, abduction, torture, false imprisonment and enslavement, sexual abuse, mental and emotional abuse, and, in the most extreme cases, murder.

3.6.5 Religion

Kenyans are deeply religious people and in some aspects religion may encourage them to engage in a healthier lifestyle, for example through the prohibition of smoking or alcohol use. Most religions promote the family unit and the maintenance of marriage, family, and good parenting, and religious beliefs may offer people support during crises such as illness and family problems.

But religion may also discourage people from seeking medical care. Some religions in Kenya (such as Legion Maria and some traditional belief systems) believe that healing comes from God, and it is the responsibility of church leaders to confer such healing. Other faiths reject certain aspects of medical science (e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses do not allow blood transfusions) further restricting adherents' choices for medical intervention.

3.6.6 Gender concerns in health

Studies in gender and health-seeking behaviour mainly centre on the differences in access to healthcare between men and women. Gender inequalities exist in all societies, but in developing countries, and among the poor, they usually have a more negative impact on women's health. Stereotypes promoted by society of submissive females and powerful males restrict access to health information for women, hinder communication between young couples and encourage risky behaviour in men.

Table 3.4 Economic and social costs of early pregnancy

Adolescent mothers	Higher probability of raising their children in poverty Lower education levels Lower earnings, productivity and savings Higher welfare dependency
Adolescent fathers	Lower education Lower earnings, productivity and savings No consistent support for adolescent mothers and their children
Children	Lower quality of home environment Reduced cognitive development and educational attainment Delayed entry into primary school or grade repetition during adolescence Lower healthcare treatment, health spending, and health insurance leading to poor health outcomes Higher rates of abuse and neglect leading to placement in foster homes or orphanages Increased risk of behaviour problems, incarceration, and substance abuse

Source: World Bank Report, 2006

¹⁵ Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Text Box 3.5 Gender inequalities and health seeking behaviour

- Women are brought up to place family well-being over their own health
- The triple burden of household chores, child care and agriculture work limits the time available for women to attend healthcare facilities
- To insist on condom use can be interpreted as a lack of trust or as questioning a man's authority
- Women's problems are treated as less important than men's
- Women have limited access to money when coping with illnesses.

3.6.7 Health information

Because many of the decisions people make in adolescence and youth influence them for the rest of their lives, it is imperative that people at this age are supported to make responsible life choices (Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development Policy, 2003). There is great demand for reproductive health information and services in Kenya, yet there has been ambivalence at national and community levels regarding the appropriateness of such services. Part of the reason for this ambivalence has been the suspicion that sex education promotes early sexual activity, despite studies suggesting otherwise. There are no national studies on this issue that can be used to push policy makers in Kenya to promote reproductive health education.

There is a strong correlation between lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortions and maternal deaths. Without access to basic information on their sexual and reproductive health rights, and without empowerment to exercise these rights, adolescents make uninformed decisions, act in ignorance, or succumb to peer pressure to engage in sexual activities. This can lead to unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortions, and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, all of which can have serious consequences for the adolescent's health and well-being.

The youth in Kenya need information about contraception well before they become sexually active. They need to understand how various methods of birth control work, the benefits and drawbacks of using particular methods, and where to access them. They need support and encouragement from their peers, from adults, and from the media to increase their comfort levels with condoms and birth control. Importantly, they need full access to confidential, safe, and convenient family planning services. Parents, educators, healthcare providers, and pharmacy staff can play a critical role in helping the youth learn about, obtain, and use contraception effectively. Health information and services should be available, accessible, affordable and acceptable.

Research on cognitive and social development and on the decision-making

abilities of adolescents with regard to their reproductive health, supports the view that by middle adolescence (age 14 or 15) children have developed many adult-like intellectual and social capacities (Ambuel, 1995). These capacities include the specific abilities necessary for understanding treatment alternatives, considering risks and benefits, and giving legally competent consent.

3.6.8 The Health index and its implications on survival and YDI

This report reveals that the Health Index stands at 0.7040. The probability of a person aged 15 surviving to age 35 years was 89.84%, with the highest recorded in Central (93.41%) and the lowest in Nyanza (82.41%). At a glance one could argue that the health of youth in Kenya is sufficiently above average, indicating that morbidity and mortality is not a major problem among youth aged 15 to 35 years. A closer look however, reveals a somewhat different picture with some provinces enjoying excellent health such as Central Province (0.8453), Eastern (0.7751) and Nairobi (0.7495), while other provinces like Nyanza (0.5139), North Eastern (0.5994) and Western (0.6400) are average. The youth in Kenya, therefore survive with some challenges, but on the whole, they are healthy enough to participate in national development, thereby giving Kenya a national YDI of 0.5817.

3.7 Policy gaps in youth health programming

In the 1990s, the Ministry of Health suffered from declining resources and inefficient utilization of available resources, and the health system was struggling under the increasing burden of HIV/AIDS, increasing poverty levels and rapid population growth¹⁶. All these had a negative effect on healthcare users.

In response, the Ministry of Health, drafted the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP I & II 1999–2004 & 2005–2010) as part of the health sector reform, with the goal of restructuring the health sector delivery service. The strategic plan embodied wider issues of equity, social justice, and democracy, which have previously been ignored in the development of health policy. It also promoted principles such as community and private sector participation, and decentralization of the health service.

The NHSSP II was drafted in alignment with the MDGs and other international standards to reverse the downward trend of health indicators. Its projected targets and outputs have a great significance for women. It targets accessibility of health services to all Kenyans, and proposes to implement the Kenya Essential Package for Health.

In addition, the Ministry of Health introduced a National Social Health Insurance Fund (NSHIF 2009). This is a social health insurance scheme to which anyone can make monthly contributions and benefit from in times of illness. If properly implemented, it will greatly benefit the youth and women from poor or marginalized groups and should enable increased maternal access to health facilities, better uptake of preventative and curative care, and have a positive impact on maternal mortality and youth health in general.

¹⁶ <http://www.health.go.ke/hpdcon.htm>

CHAPTER FOUR

TAPPING INTO YOUTH FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY

4.1 Income and youth development

This chapter highlights the challenges of youth development in Kenya with a focus on the place of youth in the labour market. It analyses a number of variables relating to youth employability and discusses the migration of youths in both domestic and global socio-economic contexts. Finally it discusses ways of optimising the youth contribution to development.

4.1.1 Youth income and YDI

Income is a critical variable in the determination of youth economic conditions. The income of any young person is a function of a multiplicity of variables, which include education, health, aptitude, personal drive and access to an income-earning opportunity. The nature and scale of development the youth of any country achieves is thus dependent on the general level of the income variables. It therefore follows that their capacity to generate their own income is a fundamental factor in their development status and potential.

Any measure of youth development – such as the YDI – is thus invariably premised on their ability to tap into the existing and emerging economic opportunities to boost their incomes, given the state of the national and global economy.

4.1.2 Employment and youth income

In general, there is a direct correlation between employment status and youth income. Employment or access to income-earning opportunities forms the basis for enhancing youth incomes, alleviating poverty and improving standards of living. Although a young person's economic status can be influenced by that of their parents, the ultimate determinant of their income level is access to regular work. The level of employment among the youth is thus a critical factor in their development. Changes in aggregate youth income have a direct bearing on their standards of living and will influence the YDI.

In this report, employment is defined as any work for a wage, monetary or otherwise, carried out by a person for themselves or for their family. A substantial proportion of workers in Kenya is employed, but their earnings are not adequate to raise them above the poverty line. This group of people are described as the 'working poor'.

Proposals for tackling the economic challenges faced by the youth (through unemployment) and national productivity in general include:

- improving practical skills training to enhance the education-to-work transition
- enhancing youth entrepreneurship opportunities through improved access to financing for youth-led employment initiatives
- identifying specific barriers to youth employment

- implementing policy reforms that help to widen opportunities for youth employment.

According to Kenya Vision 2030, the government aspires to build a globally competitive and prosperous youth, and to this end aims to fully integrate issues affecting the youth into every aspect of public programmes. In particular, the flagship projects of the first Medium-Term Plan (2008-2012) for Kenya Vision 2030 entail involving the youth in decisions affecting the economy, and revising education and training curricula to enable vocational training to meet labour market demands.

4.2 Situation analysis

4.2.1 Role, condition and challenges of youth in the economy

Young people are an essential component of a nation's development. The realization of Kenya Vision 2030 and the achievement of the MDGs will depend on the development of Kenya's human resource of which the youth are the majority. In its economic stimulus programme 2009/2010, the government recognizes the important role the youth can play in innovative thinking. For example, if they are equipped with the requisite technical and business skills, the youth can take risks and can start new business where the older generations may not dare.

Gross socio-economic disparities within Kenya have impacted heavily on the youth. The fact that in 2006, 46 percent of Kenyans were living below the poverty line (KIHBS, 2007) means that a majority of the youth (who comprise over 60 percent of the Kenyan labour force) have inadequate access to basic needs such as food, water, shelter, clothing and educational and health facilities¹⁷.

A consequence of this unemployment and poverty has been an increase in anti-social behaviour such as crime, prostitution, alcoholism, and hard drug trafficking and abuse among the youth. Increases in cases of depression and suicides are also partly caused by the disadvantaged position of youth in a society.

4.2.2 Unemployment among the youth

The Director General of the UN's International Labour Organization, Juan Somavia, has said that, "the world is wasting an important part of the energy and talent of the most educated youth generation humankind has ever had through unemployment". His words succinctly depict the youth unemployment situation in Kenya. Youth unemployment is one of Kenya's greatest challenges.

Economic growth has not been sufficient to create enough employment

17 The Kenya Poverty Assessment Report, 2006 rates youth as being the poorest sector of society.

opportunities to absorb the increasing labour force of about 750,000 people annually. Statistics indicate that over two and half million youths in the country are out of work. Of those who do find employment, many have jobs that do not match their qualifications. Although many highly educated youths suffer long periods of unemployment, the prospects for employment are higher for the better educated, especially those with technical skills.

The most frequent explanations of the causes of youth unemployment in Kenya include slow or declining economic growth, rapid population growth, poor dissemination of labour market information, skills mismatch, structural reforms, and high costs of labour. These high unemployment levels and perceived poor prospects in the rural areas cause many youths to migrate to urban centres looking for better opportunities. Moreover, an increasing number of youths, especially those with specialized skills such as medicine and ICT, have been moving outside the country in search of better jobs.

(i) Economic performance and the level of employment

Due to a number of factors including corruption, inefficiency and withdrawal of donor support, the Kenyan economy performed poorly between 1995 and 2001, dropping to a growth rate of 0.6 percent in 2001. Following the election of the NARC government in 2002, concerted efforts were made to improve economic growth. In 2003, the GDP growth rate was 2.8 percent, which rose to 5.9 percent in 2005. In 2006 and 2007, real GDP grew by 6.4 and 7.0 percent respectively (KNBS, 2007a; 2008). While the agricultural sector remained a major contributor to the economic recovery, services sectors also performed well, particularly transport and communication.

Slower economic growth in 2008, largely attributed to the 2007 post-election violence, adversely affected employment creation. The number of new jobs created by the domestic economy declined from 485,500 in 2007 to 467,300 in 2008. In particular, new jobs created in the private sector declined from 74,000 to 23,800 during this time (KNBS 2009, p.69).

In 1999, 12 million Kenyans were in the labour force (KNBS, 2003), and by 2005/06 this had risen to 14.5 million. (GoK, 2008b). Further, the number of young people sitting for their final year post-secondary school level

examinations has been rising. Those who do not get formal jobs engage in low productivity activities. Similarly, many young persons have been sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education but few join universities, leaving a large proportion to join either colleges or work as unskilled labour.

On the labour demand side, data from the government's annual economic surveys show that formal sector employment growth has been sluggish. It rose by 1.2 percent between 1998 and 2001. The estimated increases for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 are 2.2 percent, 2.6 percent, 3.6 percent, 2.5 percent, 2.8 percent, 2.6 percent, 1.8 per cent and 2.8 percent respectively. Public sector employment declined by 7.4 percent from 1998 to 2002 because of public sector reforms, but recorded a growth of 0.3 percent between 2002 and 2004. On the other hand, informal sector employment increased by 10 percent between 1998 and 2002, 6.4 percent between 2002 and 2005, and 12.3 percent between 2006 and 2008. This was attributed to shrinking growth in both public and private sector employment, which forced many youth into the informal sector.

While economic performance has markedly improved in the recent years, growth in productive employment and income-generating opportunities has not kept pace with growth in the labour force. Partly due to rampant corruption, nepotism and demand for experience by employers, significant numbers of youth remain unemployed (National Youth Policy, 2002).

Text box 4.1 Corruption matters in employment

"In getting a job in this country what seems to matter is who rather than what you know. Many university graduates are unemployed while those with much lower education have jobs."

Geoffery Ashioya, member of Mumias youth group

(ii) Unemployment by age group

In line with the International Labour Organization, the working-age population in Kenya includes persons between 15 and 64 years. According to estimates by the KNBS, the working-age population in 1998/1999 was 15.9 million while in 2005/2006 it was close to 20 million. These estimates are based on the 1998/1999 Integrated Labour Force Survey (GoK, 2002) and the Integrated Household Budget Survey of 2005/2006, respectively. The largest rise in the working-age population was among the youth, who accounted for 56 percent of the 4 million increase. Figure 4.1 illustrates the unemployment rates of the youth and the total unemployment rates over time.

Table 4.1 Growth in formal and informal sector employment

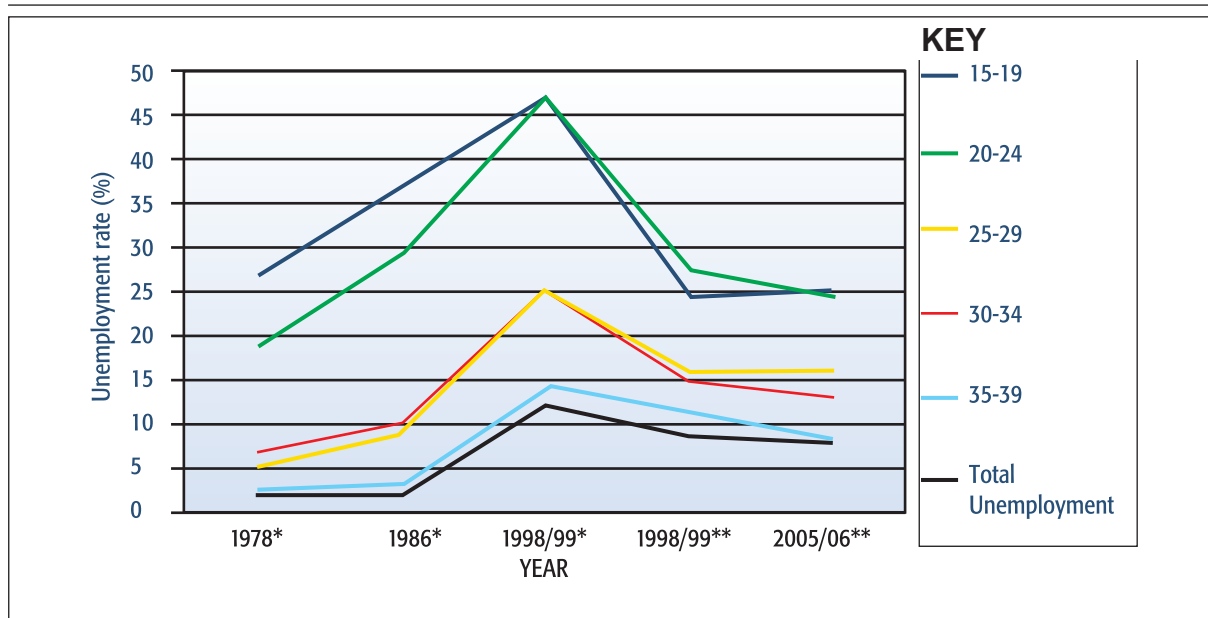
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Formal sector (percent)	2.2	2.6	3.6	2.5	2.8	2.6	1.8 ¹⁸	2.8
Informal sector (percent)				7.4	6.7	6.1	5.8 ¹⁹	4.9 ²⁰

Source: Economic Surveys, 2003-2010

18 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Economic Survey 2009, provisional data

19 Provisional data

20 The slowing down of the sector is attributed to increased enrolment levels in education and training institutions

Figure 4.1 Youth unemployment rate by age

Source: Jan Vandermoortele (1991) and KNBS (2003b; 2008a)

*Urban unemployment rates;

**Total unemployment rates (urban + rural)

The data indicate that the relationship between youth unemployment and age is inversely correlated. Unemployment rates are relatively high among the younger age groups, and much higher than the total unemployment rates. In 1999, the overall unemployment rate among youths aged 15-19 was 24.3 percent; 27.1 percent among those aged 20-24 years, 15.5 percent among those aged 25-29 years, 10.8 percent and 8.4 percent for the age groups 30-34 and 35-39 respectively (KNBS, 2003b). Unemployment rates in 2005/2006 declined with age and were generally lower than in 1998/1999. Nevertheless, the 2005/2006 unemployment rates of youth aged 15-24 were nearly double the overall rate. Factors such as placement challenges, lack of experience, and skills mismatch have been associated with the inverse relationship.

(iii) Unemployment levels by gender

Statistics show that youths with inadequate education and experience are less likely to obtain formal employment than those who are well trained. Table 4.2 shows unemployment rates by gender and age.

Table 4.2 Youth unemployment rates in Kenya by age group and sex (1998/1999 and 2005/2006)

Age(years)	1998/1999			2005/2006		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15-19	24.3	21.8	26.4	19.0	19.2	18.8
20-24	27.1	19.0	33.9	32.6	31.1	33.8
25-29	15.5	8.2	21.6	20.9	20.2	21.5
30-34	10.8	4.8	16.8	8.3	8.1	8.5
Total Unemployment	14.6	9.8	19.3	12.7	11.2	14.3

Data is given in percent

Sources: KNBS (2003b) and KNBS (2008a)

Unemployment rates are relatively high among the younger age groups, and much higher than the total unemployment rates.

The overall unemployment rate among females was 14.3 percent compared to 11.2 percent among males.

The disaggregation of unemployment rates by gender reveals that in both 1998/1999 and 2005/2006 the unemployment rate for female youths was higher than that of males. The overall unemployment rate among females was 14.3 percent compared to 11.2 percent among males. According to the International Labour Organization (2005) female unemployment rates may be under estimated in many countries including Kenya for three reasons:

- women are disproportionately engaged in unpaid work in the home and hence not counted as unemployed
- women are more likely to be discouraged to actively search for a job
- official unemployment rates mask the fact that many women are in the informal sector.

(iv) Unemployment and job searching

According to the KNBS (2003b), out of more than 1 million jobseekers, a majority (94 percent) were looking for paid employment. Only 3 percent sought to be business operators with or without employees. Table 4.3 shows the distribution of unemployed people in Kenya and the type of job sought²¹.

21 The Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey–2005/06 collected only limited information on job search activities. The job search activities reported here refer to the Integrated Labour Force Survey of 1998/99.

Table 4.3 Distribution of unemployed persons in Kenya by type of job sought (1998/99)

Type of work sought	Male (Percent)	Female (Percent)	Total (Percent)
Paid employment	93	95	94
Business operator with employees	0	0	0
Business operator without employees	1	4	3
Farming and pastoral activities	2	0	1
Other	3	1	2
Not stated	-	-	0
Total percent	100	100	100
Total in absolute numbers	374,201	694,735	1,068,936

Source: KNBS, 2003b

With such a large proportion of job seekers looking for limited paid employment, competition is high. The majority of young people remain unemployed and show little interest in venturing into business or farming, or any other form of economic activity.

As indicated in Table 4.4, the most common methods used by job seekers, including young people, to look for jobs, was to ask friends, relatives or an employer. More men than women approached the employer directly, and more women than men asked relatives or friends. There were no major differences between job search methods in urban and rural areas. The data also indicate that government and private employment bureaus were not yet established as job search methods in Kenya. It is also notable that the number of women who borrowed money to start their own businesses was four times higher than that of men.

More men than women approached the employer directly, and more women than men asked relatives or friends. _____

Table 4.4 Distribution of unemployed people in Kenya by job search method (1998/1999)

Job search method	Male (Percent)	Female (Percent)	Total (Percent)
Wrote to employer	9	10	9
Applied to government employment bureau	2	2	2
Applied to private employment bureau	2	1	2
Answered employment advertisement	3	5	4
Asked relatives/friends	38	45	41
Direct approach to employer	40	24	32
Arranged for resources to start self employment	3	13	8
Other	2	0	1
Not stated	0	1	0
Total	216,841	206,559	423,400

Source: KNBS (2003b)

4.3 Population growth and the labour force

4.3.1 Economic implications of the youth bulge

Rapid growth in Kenya's population and labour force relative to formal sector employment has meant that many workers either enter the informal sector, which could reflect disguised unemployment, or are openly unemployed. It is estimated that between 1999 and 2009 the Kenyan population increased by around 10 million. This high increase in the number of youths has led to labour supply outstripping demand. In particular, the urban population has increased considerably faster than the rate of job creation in urban areas.

The youth bulge could push Kenya's economy forward to a faster rate of development because there are more potential workers in the economy than dependants. It gives Kenya a working-age population that, if properly employed, could boost net domestic product and pave the way for more rapid investment and economic growth. However, strategies must be found for tapping into this potential.

4.3.2 Skills mismatch and information problems in labour markets

Due to a mismatch between the skills of the unemployed and the skill requirements of potential employers, a significant proportion of trained youths tend to remain unemployed for long periods. The mismatch is particularly marked for school leavers and fresh graduates, providing a partial explanation for the high unemployment rate among younger people and new entrants into the job market.

Given that lack of labour market information is a binding constraint in searching for work, frictional unemployment may be prevalent. The KNBS (2002) contends that absence of job-placement bureaus is a potential explanation for the high unemployment found in Kenya. Lack of appropriate and updated labour market information may also worsen the discrepancy between labour demand and supply of particular types of skills.

Text box 4.2 The never-ending job search

Keeping workers on temporary (casual) terms is the norm for many firms in Nairobi's Industrial Area. Young people are often hired on a daily basis – meaning that every day is a new job-search day – with the probability of coming back home empty-handed to an often hungry and ill-housed family in one of the ever-mushrooming slums. The luckier ones get jobs for a longer period, say a week, a month or six months but then get dismissed on flimsy grounds lest they become eligible for permanent employment under the Kenyan labour laws.

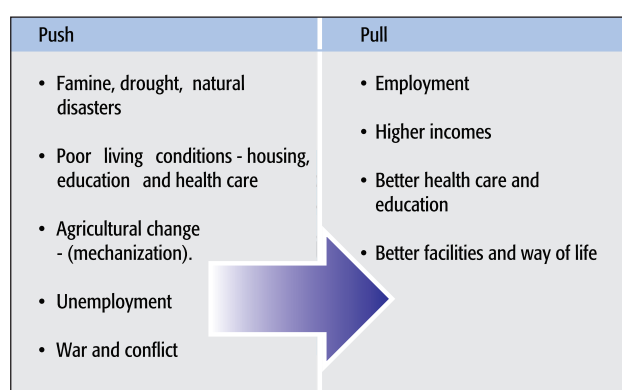
- Excerpts from interviews of participants at a JEPAK Conference on Youth & Vision 2030, (2009)

4.3.3 Economic performance and youth income

Economic performance is directly related to job creation so the erratic economic performance experienced in Kenya in past decades has reduced the employment prospects of the youth. For instance, unemployment was at a peak during the economic slump of 1998/1999, while it had significantly dropped by 2005/2006 when the economy was on an upturn (Table 4.2).

Agriculture plays a significant role in the Kenyan economy, and incidences of prolonged drought have not only impacted negatively on the agriculture and livestock sectors, but also on the entire economy. This has constricted the demand for labour, thus exacerbating the unemployment situation. In general, a poorly performing economy results in high levels of

Figure 4.2 Pull and push factors for migrations



underemployed or unemployment.

4.4 Youth migration and development

People, especially the youth, tend to move to regions where they believe they can improve their well-being, which is generally seen as where work is available. Chart 4.1 highlights the factors that push people from original areas and those that attract them to new settings.

According to the 2006 State of the World's Population report published by the UN Population Fund, young people aged between 15 and 25

years constitute one third of the total international migration flow worldwide. As technology has developed and the world has become a smaller place, young people are travelling more than ever in search of work, education, and health services. The Kenyan youth who migrate are looking for prospects to earn higher incomes than they would have earned at home.

4.4.1 Rural-urban migration

Young people are attracted to urban areas because they think that will provide access to greater opportunities, i.e. that the probability of employment is higher and the wage rate might also be higher.

About 65 percent of the population live in the rural areas and depend mainly on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihood (KIBHS, 2007). Furthermore, 87 percent of all poor households (of which about 36 percent comprise youth) live in rural areas. Kenyan agriculture is still labour-intensive so the migration of the young and productive labour force from rural to urban centres has a direct negative impact on agricultural production. Job creation in other sectors that are directly or indirectly linked to agriculture is also reduced.

Economic development is typically accompanied by a very pronounced migration of labour from rural to urban employment. This migration, in turn, often associated with large-scale urban underemployment. Both factors appear to play a very prominent role in the process of development. Unemployment arises not from any exogenous rigidity, but from an adverse selection problem in labour markets. In the most natural case, rural-urban migration – and its associated underemployment – can be a source of multiple development traps. For example rural-urban migration could lead to underemployment, which creates a class of the “working poor” thus undermining poverty alleviation efforts.

In Kenya, most rural-urban migrants are school leavers who have low skill levels. They have expectations of white-collar jobs but end up in low-paying, menial jobs with the result that they are often forced them to live in slum settlements. Nevertheless, on average, this is still an improvement on rural life and encourages relatives and friends to follow suite.

Challenges facing the rural-urban migrants include the following:

- As youth migrate from rural to urban centres, they contribute to labour supply and lower the chances of obtaining a job, which worsens urban unemployment.
- Higher competition exists for jobs requiring unskilled labour in urban areas.
- Those who migrate to urban areas mostly end up working and living in poor conditions.
- The welfare of migrants to urban areas becomes even worse than that of their counterparts who choose to stay and work in rural areas.

4.4.2 Rural-rural migration

Though rural-rural migration is not well documented in Kenya, there has been a significant rural-rural exodus over the last few decades. This form of migration is associated with youth looking for jobs in plantations such as tea, sugar, coffee and flower.

The second, and maybe the most contentious, rural-rural migration, relates to resettlement patterns in the country, where large populations have moved from one geographic area to another. This can be seen in movements from Central province and parts of Nyanza and Western provinces to the Rift Valley and Coastal provinces through land purchase, government initiatives and other forms of acquisition.

A third form of rural-rural migration is the movement by nomadic pastoralists from one rural place to another in search of grazing and water for their livestock.

Rural-rural movements often intensify competition for resources, which sometimes leads to skirmishes. Challenges relating to rural-rural migration include:

- **Ethnic Sensitivity:** This is a critical challenge and a large part of ethnic tensions in Kenya is derived from rural-rural migrations. This was, apparently, one of the sources of contention during the 2007 post-election violence, during which an estimated 1,500 Kenyans died.
- **Land Degradation:** Farming methods traditionally used on fertile lands and applied to infertile and fragile lands can lead to loss of top soil. This results in further degradation of the land and further competition for dwindling resources.

4.4.3 Urban-rural migration

Encouraging migration from urban to rural areas was a government policy at independence, aimed at decongesting the major towns. Urban-rural migrations constitute a smaller percentage of youth migrations. However, due to ever-increasing urban unemployment and poverty levels, some of the youth in urban centres return to rural areas, especially if they have access to arable land. Challenges facing urban-rural migrants include:

- poor infrastructure, poor agricultural extension services and poor market access for agricultural produce
- lack of titles to the land the youth wish to cultivate
- poor agricultural marketing structures, exacerbated by dilapidated or

underdeveloped infrastructure, which increase the costs of doing business in rural areas

- insecurity and poor infrastructure in arid and semi-arid areas.

4.4.4 Out-migrations

The high level of unemployment in Kenya and the presence of the Internet, which offers flashes of 'easily accessible' prosperity abroad, continue to spur many young people to emigrate. Immigration policies generally favour the admission of the better educated and governments tend to be far more ambivalent about allowing low-skilled immigrants into a country. In many countries, agricultural, construction, manufacturing and service sector jobs are filled by such migrants, the majority of whom are young. It is widely believed that while these migrants fill vacant jobs, they also displace local workers and reduce wages.

Through the arrangement of the East African Community, the number of young people from Kenya crossing the national borders to other countries within East Africa continues to rise. Migrations to East African Community countries lead in the intra-continental youth migrations. A big percentage of East African youth migration has been to Uganda, where many youth aged between 17-24 years have moved in pursuit of comparatively cheaper secondary school and tertiary level education.

Kenyan based companies have been expanding regionally, providing the youth with opportunities to migrate with their jobs within Africa. Due to Kenya's higher income status, there are, however, prospects of labour importation from other East African Community countries once the customs union takes effect, with a negative impact on Kenyan youth employment²².

Migration is generating over US\$1 billion every year for Kenya (International Organization for Migration, Kenya²³). However although it provides a positive financial benefit it also results in the loss of professionals, i.e. the brain drain, especially in medicine and ICT.

Table 4.5 Formal wage employment by province, 2003-2008

Province	Number (thousands)					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Nairobi	433.5	443.5	453.6	466.3	479.3	488
Coast	214.3	219.2	224.4	230.4	237	241.1
North Eastern	15.9	16.2	16.6	17.1	17.6	17.8
Eastern	144.1	147	150.8	155	159.3	161.9
Central	245.9	249.9	257.2	264.8	271.9	276.5
Rift Valley	388.1	396.81	406.3	417.3	429.1	437
Nyanza	171.3	74.3	179.2	183.8	189.2	192.5
Western	114.2	116.9	119.7	122.9	126.4	128.5
Total	1,727.3	1,763.7	1,807.8	1,858.4	1,909.8	1,943.5

Source: Kenya National Bureau of statistics, Economic Survey 2007, 2009.

²² For example if Kenyans start employing house maids, shamba workers etc. from Tanzania and Uganda because they accept lower wages, equivalent numbers of Kenyan youth will be displaced from that job segment

²³ www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/kenya

Table 4.6 Wage employment broken down by sector and sex, 2005-2008

		Number (thousands)							
		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Gender		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Agriculture and forestry		246.1	81.3	248.8	85.8	252.7	87.2	253.3	87.4
		327.4		334.6		339.9		340.7	
Mining and quarrying		4.5	1.2	4.7	1.3	4.9	1.4	5.1	1.5
		5.7		6		6.3		6.6	
Manufacturing		204.3	43.2	208.1	45.7	217.1	47.7	216.6	47.5
		247.5		253.8		264.8		264.1	
Electricity and water		16.7	3.6	15.9	3.6	15.5	3.5	15.7	3.6
		20.3		19.5		19		19.3	
Building and construction		73.2	5	74.6	5.3	75.9	5.4	79.2	5.6
		78.2		79.9		81.3		84.8	
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels		128.6	47.1	134.5	51.4	141.7	54.1	146.5	55.9
		175.7		185.9		195.8		202.4	
Transport and communications		91.6	23.3	105.1	27.8	121.7	32.2	124.5	33.2
		114.9		132.9		153.9		157.7	
Finance, insurance, real estate, and business services		64.7	22.6	66.2	24.2	68.4	24.9	70.4	25.7
		87.3		90.4		93.3		96.1	
Community, social and personal services	Public administration	87.1	56.2	84.6	52.7	78.7	49.1	77.1	48.1
		143.3		137.3		127.8		125.2	
	Education	185.7	152.7	188.7	152.4	191.1	154.3	197.7	159.6
		338.4		341.1		345.4		357.3	
	Domestic	58.5	42	60.9	42.4	59.5	41.5	60.3	42
		100.5		103.3		101		102.3	
	Other	99.8	68.8	104.1	69.6	108.8	72.5	112.1	74.9
		168.6		173.7		181.3		187	
Total		1260.8	547	1296.2	562.2	1334.3	575.5	1356.7	586.8
		1807.8		1858.4		1909.8		1943.5	

Source: KNBS Economic Surveys 2007 and 2009

Challenges facing Kenyan emigrants include:

- inadequate migration schemes and frameworks for facilitating migrating professionals and students
- lack of harmony between the migration laws of Kenya and other African states
- strong ethnic and national identity leading to xenophobic violence
- the reality is much worse than expectations, but migrants are unable or unwilling to return home and end up working on the black market or in poorly-paid jobs.

4.5 Youth employment, opportunities and development

4.5.1 Employment prospects

Of the 750,000 youth entering the job market every year, barely 125,000 are employed in formal employment. The informal sector, which has about eight million workers, absorbs the bulk of the job market entrants, 90

percent of which are below 25 years old. In the formal sector, only 10 percent of employees are under 25 years old (Kenya Human Development Report 2001, UNDP). Table 4.5 shows that in Kenya all provinces recorded marginal increases in formal employment, with Nairobi creating the most new jobs (8,900) between 2007 and 2008, followed by Rift Valley province with 7,900. While the transport and communications sector registered the biggest growth, the manufacturing sector recorded the least growth.

Table 4.6 shows waged employment broken down by gender and employment sector. Most sectors are dominated by men. Women were most numerous in educational services comprising 44.8 percent of the total number of employees between 2005 and 2008. Between 2007 and 2008 there was a decline in wage employment for both men and women in the manufacturing sector, while the rest increased marginally.

4.5.2 Employment in the private sector

Private enterprises are an increasingly important element in the Kenyan

Table 4.7 Wage employment in the public sector¹ broken down by employer type

Employer	Number (thousands)					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Central government ²	195	194.2	189.5	187.7	192.3	196.8
Teachers service commission Parastatal bodies ³	234.8	234.5	232.8	233.3	234.6	236.8
Majority control by the public sector ⁴	97.3	95.4	97.5	97.2	80.6	82.4
Local government	46.4	45.9	46.9	46.8	38.8	39.7
Total	85.6	87.4	87.5	85	81.9	82.3
	659.1	657.4	654.2	649.9	628.1	638

Source: KNBS, Economic Surveys 2007 and 2009.

¹ Figures refer to employment stock at 30th June

² Covers all civil servants on government payroll plus casual workers in various ministries

³ Refers to wholly owned government corporations

⁴ Refers to institutions where the government has over 50 percent of shares but does not wholly own them

Table 4.8 Wage employment in public service broken down by industry or sector

Sector	Number in '000's					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Agriculture and forestry	56.5	55.8	54.8	54.3	50.9	51
Mining and quarrying	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Manufacturing	31.4	31.6	31.1	30.8	26.9	27.1
Electricity and water	19.3	18.9	18.3	17.7	16.8	17
Building and construction	23.5	23	22.5	22	20.1	19.9
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.3	6	6
Transport and communications	37.6	37.9	38.9	40.2	36.1	37.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, and business services	14.7	15	16.5	16.8	14.3	14.2
Community, social and personal services	469.3	468.2	465.2	461.1	456.3	464.7
Total public service	659.1	657.4	654.2	649.9	628.1	638

Source: KNBS Economic Surveys 2007 and 2009

labour market, but their number is growing slowly. Of the private businesses registered at the end of 2008, most were small and medium businesses, many of which had only one or two employees. The largest number of private businesses was in the non-manufacturing sector. Around

62 percent of businesses were in trade or catering, 10 percent in transportation, and 4 percent in construction. Meanwhile, just 9 percent were engaged in manufacturing. Youth employment figures were similarly distributed (see Table 4.7). Approximately 45 percent of young people were employed in services and sales businesses, with fewer being employed in the industrial sector.

Text box 4.4 Even the jua kalis have their differences

In Nairobi there are marked contrasts between the relatively small, but solid, stone buildings in Gikomba and the much larger stone buildings with their great steel doors and padlocks of jua kali enterprises at Koma Rock light industrial area. Both of these areas have relatively straightforward access to power provided they can pay and are dramatically different from areas such as Kamukunji and Ziwani. Here tinsmiths, metalworkers, and car and lorry mechanics ply their trades with great vigour, largely without any permanent buildings in which to work. All four areas are different again from the large number of jua kali who have no regular place of work, but make use of pavements, street corners and small plots of waste land, always aware that they may be moved on or harassed.

4.5.3 Employment in the public sector

The public sector recorded growth in waged employment from 2007 to 2008 with the central government registering a 2.4 percent growth, followed by parastatal bodies and institutions with a majority control by the public sector, at 2.3 percent each (Table 4.8). The workforce in the public sector is a mix of youth and the middle-aged.

Many young people, especially university graduates, aspire to work in the formal sector. A public-sector job is seen as an excellent place to start a sustainable professional career. However, young people face numerous obstacles in obtaining public-sector employment, some of which are given below:

- Relatively limited and restrictive recruitment. Recruitment procedures

Table 4.9 Informal business sector: number of people engaged by activity, 2003-2008

Activity	Number (thousands)					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Manufacturing	1,199.3	1,318.3	1,433.6	1,492.7	1,567.1	1,642.5
Construction	158.9	173.7	190.2	194.7	202.8	211.2
Wholesale and retail, hotels and restaurants	3,256.6	3,631.9	3889.7	4,177.3	4,446.2	4,714.6
Transport and communications	165	186.5	197.8	214.2	228.8	243.3
Community, social and personal services	514.5	576.2	614.1	668.2	715.4	762.3
Others	252.1	280.2	301.1	321.5	341.3	361.1
Total	5,546.4	6,167.5	6,626.6	7,068.6	7,501.6	7,935.1

Source: KNBS Economic Surveys 2007 and 2009

1 Include mainly support services to transport activity

often highlight the need for many years of experience in public-sector agencies, which the youth do not necessarily have.

- Conservative behaviour and lack of trust toward young people. Many key decision-makers do not consider the youth to be ready to play important roles in laying the foundations of a modern public administration.
- Limited decision-making responsibilities for youth. Major decisions are usually made by senior managers who often underestimate the potential of the youth, especially women. This is also true with international employers who, in many cases, are thought to monopolize strategic decision-making.

4.5.4 Employment in the informal (micro and small enterprise) sector

Ease of business entry due to the small necessary capital investment, the absence of registration formalities, and high youth unemployment, are major contributors to growth of the informal business sector.

The micro and small enterprise sector, which has expanded rapidly in recent years, is an integral part of Kenyan industry providing over half the total employment for the youth (see Table 4.9). However, the importance of micro and small-scale enterprises is far greater than its employment creation, because it provides a point of entry for many Kenyan entrepreneurs into the manufacturing and services sector, and serves as the testing ground for the development of low-cost products. Government policy should promote synergy between the formal and informal sectors in view of their critical importance for sustainable industrial development.

4.5.5 Employment opportunities and challenges

The perceived benefits of taking a job or venturing into an investment are partly influenced by the expectations of the individual. According to the expectancy value theory (see Chapter 5), a person may opt to remain unemployed because they may consider available opportunities to be inappropriate for them because of their educational, religious or cultural backgrounds.

(i) Agriculture

According to the government's Economic Stimulus Programme fish farming is an area of high potential. _____

Kenya, like other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, depends heavily on the agricultural sector, so agricultural development is crucial for maintaining high levels of socio-economic growth. The sector contributes about 26 percent to the GDP and a further 27 percent through links with other sectors. Around 75 percent of industrial raw materials and 60 percent of export earnings come from the agricultural sector. About 80 percent of the population live in the rural areas and depend mainly on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihood. Furthermore, 87 percent of all poor households live in rural areas where their main activities are anchored in agriculture, livestock, fishing, the environment and natural resources. Agriculture remains a major sector with great potential for growth and it is acknowledged as one of the major employers of the rural youth, directly or indirectly.

Since Independence in 1963, the agricultural sector has experienced cyclical growth patterns, with the first two decades achieving an impressive growth rate of 6 percent, which then declined to 3.5 percent between 1980 and 1990. Between 1990 and 2000, the average growth rate declined again to 1.3 percent.

Although more than half of young Kenyans live in rural areas, their employment in the agricultural sector remains low. Limited employment opportunities for youths in this area are linked to numerous factors including the following:

- The negative effects of study-to-work transition. The school curricula have generally tended to alienate the youth from careers in agriculture, and as a result the negative effects of the youth study-to-work transition have been more extensive in the agricultural sector than in any other sector.
- Young people are less interested in working in the agriculture sector. Despite the vital role that the agricultural sector can play, not only in engaging the youth but also in creating incomes, the majority of the youth in this country consider agricultural work to be for 'those who have not gone to school'. Moreover, many youths who grew up in the villages have a firsthand knowledge of how difficult it is to make a living by farming. They may therefore believe their future lies with a different career that is financially more rewarding and can be found in the 'bright lights' of an urban area.

The GoK, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has initiated reforms aimed at revitalizing the agricultural sector because of its socio-economic importance. Growth in the sector will result in poverty reduction in the country. Reforms aim to reverse the declining trend in agricultural

production in the following ways:

- raising productivity of the sector through efficient research and extension service support and through adequate allocation of budgetary resources and adequate provision of support services such as rural infrastructure
- enhancing irrigated agriculture by increasing land under irrigation and improving extension services
- encouraging the private sector to invest in agriculture at various levels of the market
- undertaking a comprehensive review of the current legal and policy framework to make it conducive to the development of the sector
- encouraging diversification into non-traditional commodities
- improving governance in key agricultural institutions especially cooperatives and farmers' organizations
- promoting regional cooperation in the management and regulation of trans-boundary activities relevant to the sector.

(ii) Livestock production

Livestock production is one of the major activities in the farming sector that presents great opportunities for youth employment and income. It is practised in all parts of the country either under the pastoral extensive system in arid and semi-arid areas or under intensive, ranching or smallholder systems. The pastoral and commercial ranch systems traditionally contribute to the supply of beef, sheep and goat meat. Livestock production in arid and semi-arid areas accounts for nearly 90 percent of the employment opportunities and nearly 95 percent of family incomes. In areas of the country with high rainfall, dairy production is a key source of income to over 600,000 households (first medium-term plan for Kenya Vision 2030).

(iii) Fishing

The fishing industry has continued to show remarkable improvements with its gross value addition growing by 9 percent according to the KNBS Economic Survey, 2007. Expanding markets and the use of modern technology continue to present more opportunities for youth employment in this sector and the government is committed to expanding the sector still further. According to the government's Economic Stimulus Programme fish farming is an area of high potential. Farms could be established in 140 constituencies countrywide and upon implementation the initiative could construct 200 fishponds in each of the selected constituencies, creating 120,000 jobs. As an enterprise, fish farming can easily be integrated into small farming systems, thereby providing jobs and diversifying income options for young farmers. Great potential exists for the development of fisheries activities within Kenya's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), at the coast and in the inland waters.

(iv) Manufacturing

The informal economy accounts for a third of the country's national income. The manufacturing sector's share of GDP has remained stagnant, at little more than 13 percent, for the last two decades. The overall share of the industrial sector has been around 15-16 percent, indicating an increase from 7 percent of GDP at independence. The contribution of manufacturing to the economy

is second to that of agriculture. Currently, the manufacturing sector employs half a million people and, in the last five years, the growth in employment in manufacturing has outpaced that of other private sector activities (KNHDR, 2007). The sector has great prospects for growth and expansion of youth participation and welfare, and improving partnerships with the government continue to enhance its performance.

The National Export Strategy was developed to improve the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector. It has helped manufacturers to expand into new markets as well as further develop traditional ones. The sector also enjoys partnerships and links with foreign players including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which contributes to its success and improved earnings. Following a study for Kenya's Industrial Development (MAPSKID), a plan for the expansion of the sector has been developed, which will see many more opportunities for youth participation. MAPSKID's sectors of priority are agro-processing, agro-machinery, electronics and ICT.

On the negative side, Kenya's manufacturing sector is challenged by cheap imports, especially counterfeits, poor infrastructure and high power costs, all of which undermine its growth and scope for job and wealth creation.

(v) Tourism

The tourism sector directly provides employment to thousands of young people and indirectly to many more. It is the highest foreign exchange earner.

The robust growth in the tourism sector is attributed to increased marketing, particularly in non-traditional markets such as China, Japan and India, as well as in Kenya itself. The diversification away from traditional tourism, such as beaches and wildlife reserves, to new circuits in the western and northern parts of Kenya have contributed to the improved performance of the sector. Looking forward, and with the launch of Kenya Vision 2030, tourism is expected to remain buoyant.

(vi) Sports and the performing arts

In recent years, an increasing number of Kenyans have made money from athletics. Athletics has put Kenya in the international limelight, especially through outstanding performances at the Olympics. With the greater commercialization of sporting activities and more opportunities for professional athletes outside the country, many young Kenyans are engaging in sport as a way of earning a living and improving their standard of living.

Most young people in Kenya love sports and arts – hence the familiar sight of football being played in the open fields in every part of the country, and music blaring from every corner. The youth are particularly passionate and knowledgeable about games such as football, rugby, cricket, basketball and volleyball, and youth dominate the teams in all these sports. Despite this interest, the incomes derived from domestic competitions remain low compared to other countries with established sporting league tournaments. Consequently, youth have been migrating to other countries in an attempt to earn more money through sport.

A well-coordinated sports sector in Kenya could improve the skills of the youth and provide alternative sources of employment thus benefiting the

Since the Internet came to Kenya in 1994 the country has experienced phenomenal growth in its use. _____

The Kenyan government has shown a very keen interest in improving telecommunications in the country, and recently set a target to increase teledensity five fold in both urban and rural areas by the year 2015, i.e. to about 30 million subscribers. —

welfare of some unemployed young people. Diversifying sporting opportunities to include non-traditional games that can provide employment opportunities for the youth is essential. Establishing and mainstreaming sports such as golf, climbing and trekking, tennis, and martial arts can also increase youth welfare opportunities. Expansion and growth of the drama and music industry could also help the youth to engage in more productive activities.

Through Kenya Vision 2030, first medium-term plan 2008-2012, the government stresses the importance of establishing an international academy of sports, regional sports stadia and an international centre for arts and culture. These flagship projects would present many opportunities for the youth.

(vi) Information and communications technology

With the on-going revolution in the ICT sector, many opportunities are available for the youth and many youth possess modern technological skills to enable them to set up ICT-enabled businesses. The increasing interest of the concept of business processing outsourcing that comes with the ICT revolution presents even more opportunities for youth employment²⁴.

Kenya has always been at the forefront of development in information technology and is emerging as one of Africa's leaders in this area. In recent years, there has been a considerable drop in the cost of hardware and software, and this has further led to the growth of this sector (EPZA Kenya, 2009).

Since the Internet came to Kenya in 1994 the country has experienced phenomenal growth in its use. There are now numerous Internet hosts, close to 100 licensed Internet service providers and millions of internet users in the country.

Kenya, having been at the forefront of ICT in Africa, established the first Internet peering point for ISPs in Africa (excluding South Africa). The country also recently produced its first national Internet backbone, connecting six cities with the use of digital switches, fibre optic cable and satellite services. Telkom (K) Ltd is also in the process of laying fibre optic cables to ensure faster connectivity. These developments will further reduce the cost of Internet access, thereby facilitating universal use of the Internet nationwide.

Information technology is now in many private sectors, such as transport, mining, research, defence, agriculture and communications. Key government-owned organizations and some government institutions are also increasing their use of ICT. The Kenyan government has shown a very keen interest in improving telecommunications in the country, and recently set a target to increase teledensity five fold in both urban and rural areas

by the year 2015, i.e. to about 30 million subscribers.

4.6 Initiatives for youth employment and development

Youth development is a relatively new theme in Kenya and there are few programmes devoted to it. Both the government and non-state actors play an integral role in youth development. National initiatives include those steered by organizations and institutions that are broadly involved in policy formulation and advocacy, capacity building, and awareness and sensitization on employment and enterprise development programmes.

4.6.1 Government and public sector Initiatives

(i) General policy arena

Efforts to initiate youth development programmes have been made in a number of policy documents, such as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1992 on Small-scale and Jua Kali Enterprises, the 1997-2001 Development Plan, and the National Poverty Eradication Plan 1999-2015, PRSP, and the Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS) 2003 - 2007. Through Kenya Vision 2030, which proposes several initiatives tailored to meet the needs of the youth, the government has recognized the important role played by the youth in nation building and in achieving national policy plans.

In addition, the government, through the Youth Division, prepared a National Youth Policy in 2003, as a vehicle for prioritizing public actions aimed at creating an enabling environment for the youth. Other government agencies with a role to play in youth policy include the Ministry of Education (general education and vocational training), the Ministry of Labour (youth employment), the Ministry of Planning and National Development (population, sexual and reproductive health education, and adolescent reproductive health), the Ministry of Health (health and HIV/AIDS issues), and the Ministry of Information (information and communication technology). All of these agencies find it difficult to translate their policies into actions partly because young people's issues cover so many different sectors.

(ii) Active labour market policies

The overall objective of active labour market policies (ALMPs) is to improve the employment chances and earning capabilities of individuals who are unemployed through the use of public funds (O'Higgins 2001). ALMPs could also be used in response to underemployment, which is a key problem in Kenya, possibly by helping young people working in the informal economy to find formal employment.

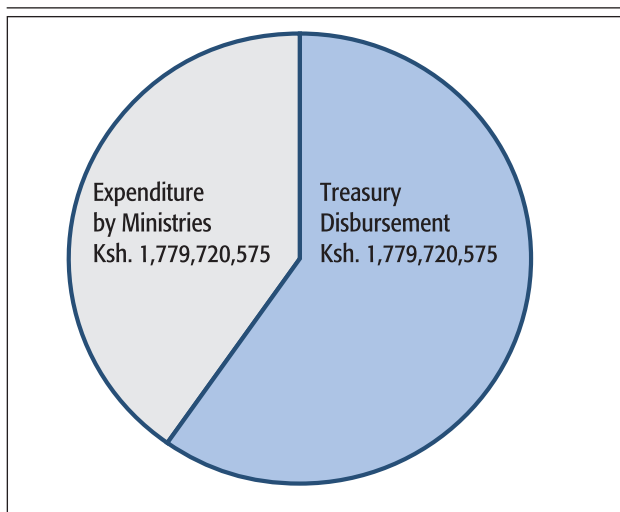
There are two main types of ALMPs, which though applying more generally to unemployed adults, can be specifically tailored to Kenya's disadvantaged youth:

- policies to promote wage employment through subsidized placement, employment assistance and vocational training
- measures to encourage self-employment such as training, and facilitating access to credit/grants and other business requirements.

(iii) Youth employment Marshall Plan

The government, through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has

24 Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)—Kenya's Information and Communications Technology Sector (2005)

Figure 4.3 Treasury spending on the KKV programme

Source: Ministry of Finance

initiated a youth employment Marshall Plan that aims to create 500,000 jobs annually in both the formal and informal sectors, beginning January 2009. The Marshall Plan includes the following:

(iv) Kazi kwa vijana (Jobs for the youth)

A major component of the Marshall Plan are the Kazi kwa Vijana (KKV) projects, which involve labour intensive initiatives to give jobs to the youth. The government launched KKV in March 2009 to tackle the twin problems of hunger and unemployment. The government estimates that about 300,000 youth a year will get jobs throughout the country in public works projects. Some of these projects, particularly those providing irrigation and water, are also intended to enhance food production in areas affected by drought. Waste collection and other cleaning activities in urban areas are also being implemented through local councils, with the aim of improving

living conditions in poor urban neighbourhoods.

By end of September 2009, 296,000 youths aged between 18 and 35 years, had been employed. It is hoped that as the youth are engaged, they will begin to recognize the importance of participating in community development, while at the same time earning a wage that could help them to start their own businesses.

To ensure the successful implementation of KKV, the government set aside Ksh 5billion in the financial year 2009/10. It is projected that the programme will cost the government Ksh 15billion by the time it is completed. Figure 4.2 shows the spending by the treasury on the KKV programme by September 2009.

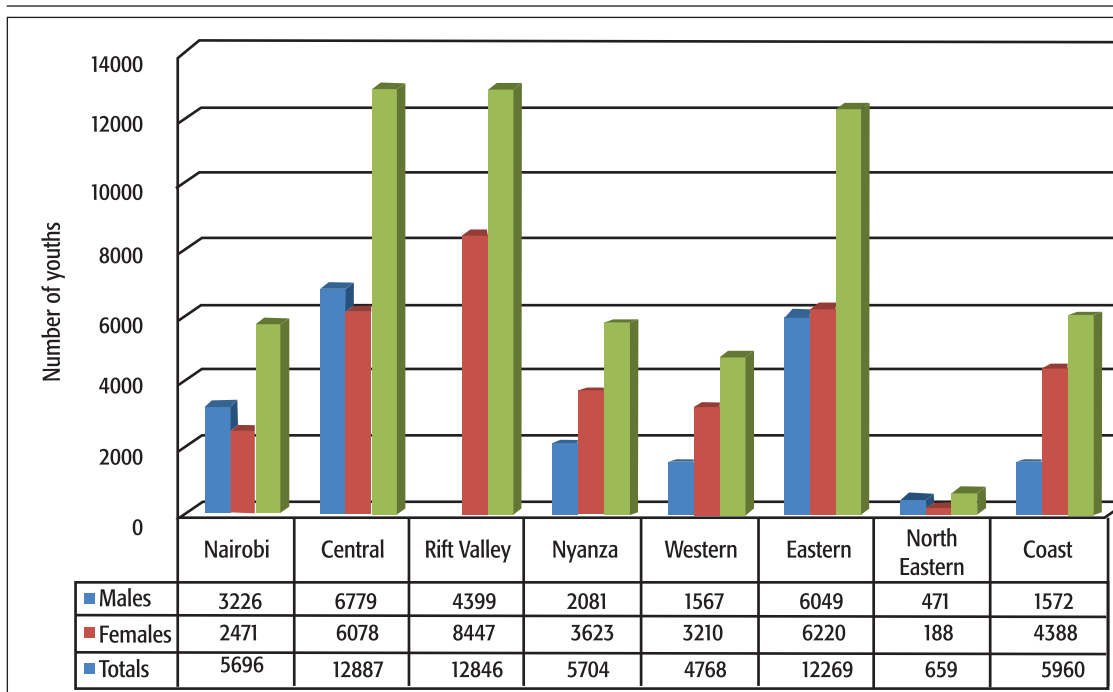
The challenge is to shift KKV from an emergency initiative to a long-term programme that sustainably tackles youth unemployment problems. To succeed in this programme it is increasingly clear that the government and its stakeholders at all levels, must continually strengthen their capacity. The UNDP is currently assisting the government to carry out a systems audit of the KKV and find ways of strengthening the programme.

(v) The trees for jobs initiative programme

The trees for jobs initiative was developed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2009. It is partly financed by UNDP and aims to plant 90 million seedlings per year and employ over 29,000 youth in its first two years. The programme contributes to addressing two problems facing Kenya: deforestation and youth unemployment. For the programme to benefit a large cross-section of the youth, projects are spread throughout the country.

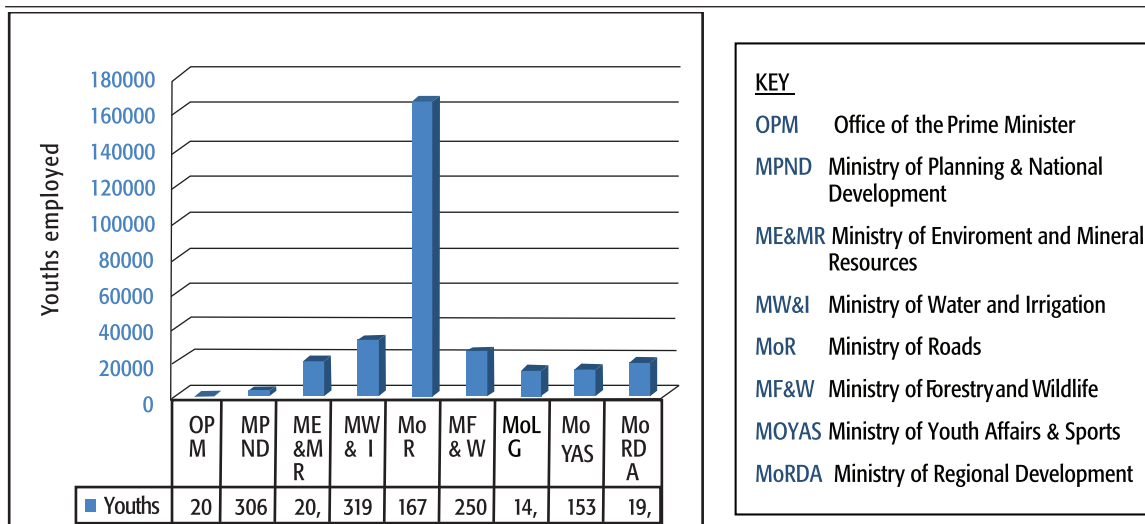
(vi) Roads 2000 project

The Roads 2000 project was implemented by the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. The project was designed to create short-term labour-

Figure 4.4 Number of youths who have benefited from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund by province

Source: Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030

25 Daily Nation, 8 December 2008.

Figure 4.5 Number of youths employed by Kazi kwa Vijana by Ministry, 2009

Source: Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030, and Ministry of Finance, 2009

intensive employment for young people.

(vii) Youth Enterprise Development Fund

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund seeks to enhance youth participation in socio-economic development through the provision of credit to youth enterprises. In the 2006/07 budget, the government allocated one billion Kenya shillings to the fund to enable young entrepreneurs to access finance to set up or expand businesses. By September 2008, 1.34 billion shillings had been disbursed through financial intermediaries to finance 47,722 youth enterprises. The fund had also disbursed 322 million shillings to 7,840 youth groups spread across Kenya²⁵.

According to statistics, a total of 34,616 female youths and 26,144 male youths had benefited from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund by September 2009. The higher number of women recipients was a result of a specific policy bias towards helping women.

(viii) Technical industrial vocational education and training (TIVET)

The TIVET component of the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme enhances hands-on youth education and training for developing self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

4.6.2 Other youth strategies

Other organizations, including NGOs and development partners, have also put forward a number of initiatives in support of youth employment. They include:

(i) Companionship of Works Association

The Companionship of Works Association provides job orientation and micro enterprise development services for youth.

(ii) Emerging Young Leaders

The Emerging Young Leaders' mission is to provide resources for identifying, training and mentoring emerging young leaders for the significant service and development of others.

(iii) Students in Free Enterprise

Students in Free Enterprise is a university-based organization that allows students and their faculty mentors to apply the free-market philosophy they learn in the classroom to the concrete difficulties faced in the real world.

(iv) AIESEC

This facilitates student transitions from school to work by developing student life skills on socializing and networking in the private sector.

(v) Community development initiatives

The Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), established in 1996, is a joint initiative of the European Union and the GoK. CDTF supports poverty reduction in Kenya by funding community-based development projects. CDTF's mandate is to oversee the transfer of funds from the European Development Fund to community development projects in Kenya. CDTF also receives funds from other donors. The objective of the CDTF is to reduce poverty among poor communities by enabling them to access social and economic services, to improve livelihoods and employment opportunities. The CDTF phase 3 (January 2007 to December 2009) has a budget of 350 million Kenya shillings targeting 150 projects countrywide.

4.6.3 International initiatives

(i) Millennium Development Goal 8

MDG 8 seeks to develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for the youth. It focuses and commits the government to achieving specific targets not only on overall economic and social advancement but also on employment growth.

(ii) International Labour Organization

The main aim of the ILO is to promote rights of work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection, and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

(iii) Youth Employment Network

The Youth Employment Network is involved in developing youth employment programmes and policies in partnership with the ILO and other development organizations. Through collaborative work with the UNDP-Kenya and the GoK, the network has been instrumental in developing the National Youth Action Plan, 2007-2012.

(iv) European Union

The European Investment Bank provides loans to viable capital spending programmes in both the public and private sectors. The loans are extended to large corporations, municipalities and small- and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, a venture capital fund managed by the European Investment Fund is available.

(v) World Bank

The World Bank and its agencies, including the International Development Agency and the International Finance Corporation, are involved (mainly as funders) in projects and programmes that have great potential for reducing unemployment in Kenya. The International Finance Corporation also provides the following services that have the potential to enhance economic activities and reduce unemployment levels:

- small- and medium-sized development initiatives: a programme to facilitate women entrepreneurs' access finance through local banks
- a programme to develop credit bureaus
- a programme to facilitate better access to finance for private schools in Kenya.

(vi) United Nations

The United Nations, through its various agencies including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, is involved in international initiatives that address the Kenyan unemployment problem both directly and indirectly.

4.7 Youth entrepreneurship and development

To harness the energy of the youth, policy initiatives and resources need to be targeted at improving the youth's leadership abilities and channelling them to tackling development challenges. With the right combination of motivation, ideas and opportunities, young people are able to establish productive and creative business ventures and shift themselves from the status of job seekers to job creators, thereby reducing their social dependency.

Good examples of successful youth initiatives that continue to contribute to economic and social development are available, but bottlenecks occur in accessing market information, finance and business support.

4.7.1 Business skills among the youth

Many Kenyan youth lack the skills and experience to successfully compete for jobs or start their own businesses. The shortage of both a skilled, confident work force, and the education infrastructure to fuel that work

force are among the most critical constraints to economic diversification and the achievement of broad-based economic growth in Kenya.

Some of the factors that affect youth entrepreneurship skills development in Kenya include:

- inadequate or inappropriate vocational training
- inequity or regional disparity: poor youths and those living in disadvantaged areas have severely limited access to services and opportunities
- corruption: those who lack connections or money to bribe have difficulty in getting assistance to set up their businesses
- society's attitude towards the youth: the youth tend to face discrimination purely on the grounds of age.

4.7.2 Business development services

The two most binding constraints to small business success are inadequate business development skills and poor access to credit. Among the youth, the lack of business skills is aggravated by inadequate experience in the work environment. Most youth who intend to go into business have inadequate, or no skills, to identify the appropriate business lines to invest in and effective product development and marketing. This is the reason for the high failure rates of small enterprises, with up to 80 percent of new business collapsing within their first three years of operation (Sessional Paper No.2 of 1992).

Recognising this state of affairs, the government, NGOs and a few private sector organizations have developed programmes to boost the business skills of prospective or practising entrepreneurs, through the provision of business development services. The services include basic business skills training (e.g. record keeping and marketing), business counselling services and business incubation services.

Specific constraints towards effective enterprise development include the following:

- lack of appropriate technical and life skills
- unclear and uncoordinated youth policies and programmes
- resource constraints: most youth programmes, run by the government or NGOs lack adequate funds and equipment
- low status of the youth: existing structures and prevailing attitudes do not provide an enabling environment for youth participation in decision-making, planning and implementation processes.

In support of small enterprise development several organizations, including those in the public sector and NGOs, have put forward initiatives that cover a range of services including:

- creation of group income-generating projects
- youth saving and credit projects and programmes
- micro-leasing projects
- business information and communication centres
- research and development units
- business skills capacity development
- marketing support services
- construction and improvement of small business infrastructure
- influencing legal and policy making processes in support of small- and medium-sized enterprise development

- fostering youth networks and collective investments, such as investment clubs. (Developing viable youth investment plans and mobilising youths to invest should be spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth. Some community based organizations have made commendable efforts towards this end, and these need to be reinforced, scaled up and replicated.)
- utilizing schools and learning institutions as building grounds for youth investments
- enhancing networking and strategic partnerships at local, regional and global levels.

4.8 Volunteer positions, internships and apprenticeships

Work related volunteer positions, internships and apprenticeship enable the youth to build networks by providing them with an opportunity to strengthen their professional experience. This will make them more competitive in the market place and give them the opportunity to be responsible individuals in the community.

4.8.1 Internships and apprenticeships

Internships greatly increase the chances that a student will gain full-time employment after graduation and can help the youth to perform well in their jobs. By using internships, the youth are provided with experiences that expose them to the work environment and thus build their capacity to work, improve their work ethic and give them confidence. Internships also allow students to learn about time management, discipline, and effective communication skills.

A wide range of organizations offer internships to students in Kenya, including private companies, public corporations and non-profit organizations. A number of studies have shown that the attributes that employers are looking for in an intern are motivation, leadership, oral communication skills, experience, and interpersonal skills.

In 1973, the government enacted legislation to formalize apprenticeship training through a comprehensive national industrial training scheme. Each apprenticeship, which lasted for three to four years, had on-the-job and theoretical training at government institutes or industrial vocational training centres. To encourage industries to participate, those who provided training would be reimbursed from the fund at the end of the year and would have no obligation to retain the apprentices at the end of the apprenticeship. A small number of youths obtain training through this system but many of them were not taken on by their industries at the end of their apprenticeships and so returned to the informal employment sector.

4.8.2 Volunteer positions

In 1973, the government enacted legislation to formalize apprenticeship training through a comprehensive national industrial training scheme.

Kenya lacks a national volunteer policy and, in most cases, the concept of volunteering is misconceived by youths and adults alike. Volunteering in Kenya is often seen as philanthropy and volunteers may be perceived as being unemployed and time wasters. Volunteering is also viewed as something the government and NGOs should be involved in and is valued less at an individual level. Despite the negative perceptions about volunteering, it offers individuals an opportunity to advance their employment skills. Most voluntary projects and activities are initiated by international organizations, the most notable being the UN.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is currently developing a national volunteer service scheme to give 15 million youths aged 15-30 years a chance to contribute effectively to their society. The National Youth Service Scheme was established in 1964 to train young citizens in technical and entrepreneurial skills. However, lack of proper funding has seen the absorption rate of youths into the service go down; in some years there have been no new entrants at all. It is also characterized by a lack of modern and adequate training facilities and staff shortages in training institutions. The number of youth absorbed is very low compared to the number who could benefit from the programme. It needs to be reviewed and given a broader mandate to expand facilities countrywide and develop a modern curriculum.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development is charged with coordinating and promoting volunteerism in Kenya. Civil society, the private sector and the government need to coordinate to develop a national volunteering policy framework that will champion the spirit of volunteerism across the country.

4.9 Gaps in policy and strategies for youth employment

Policies that foster youth opportunities need to be reviewed and revised, especially as some existing policies have the potential to inhibit youth employment²⁶. A national employment policy is being considered that would include the following strategies relating to youth development and participation:

- manage student transition from school to work, including measures to ensure that vocational training is relevant to industry needs
- establish employment resource centres to disseminate knowledge about the labour market and to match available skills and opportunities
- work with critical stakeholders to design common strategies that foster growth and employment creation
- develop education and training programmes to equip students with the necessary skills for employment, with specific strategies targeted at young people.

This policy needs to be finalised as a matter of priority and implemented without further delay.

The government has also designed medium- and long-term strategies for promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship. However a number

26 For example the recent attempt by Ministry of Education to employ interns as teachers was contested by the Kenya National Union of Teachers in court.

of these are in draft form while others need to be reviewed. These include:

- revision of education and training curricula to enhance skills and competencies relevant to the labour market
- revitalisation of polytechnics to enable them to equip youths with the technical, technological and entrepreneurial skills required to participate fully in the work place
- achievement of regional and gender balance in the beneficiaries of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund
- development of youth empowerment centres to tap and promote youth talent and create opportunities
- construction of regional sports stadia to promote the development of sports and tap into the youth sporting talent
- revitalization and broadening of the mandate of the National Youth Service through improved funding.

Even though a framework exists for supporting industrial attachment, there is no national framework to support the exposure of business and business related trainees to best business practices. Effort needs to be directed

Text box 4.5 Views of a youth on retirement age for civil servants

Is it really ethical for civil servants to work until the age of 60, when the government has frozen new employment? The only 'good news' is that the NARC government can claim it 'recreated' jobs for some of our parents and other members of society who are advanced in age.

However, by freezing new employment and retaining experienced (mostly in how not to get work done) staff, the government has effectively denied youth a place in nation building and refused to play their role as a force for effective transition. We have been training a new batch of administrators and other professionals every year for the last sixty years. Is it that we did not train the young well enough to take over?

The world has changed and we need a government that changes. We must grow and rejuvenate or else we perish. Our systems must change fast enough to keep up with the needs of the post-computing age. We need an economy that creates millions of jobs each year. We need a young, vibrant, ambitious leadership that is in touch with the aspirations of the computer game generation, yet is sober enough to respect the wisdom of age. In 2005, it is wrong for our civil service to be run by employees conditioned to underdevelopment and inefficient ways of serving Kenyans.

I ask fellow young leaders to start correcting these wrongs we see today instead of waiting to blame the World War II generation for stealing our children's future. Someday soon, even the young will grow old and our children will ask us to hand over the keys to the nation's future. We ask our fathers and grandfathers to hand over our future to us. We ask for intergenerational justice. We are the leaders of the future and the future is already here.

Wainaina

Author Gathecha Kamau

Chief Executive Officer - Youth Employment Network

CHAPTER FIVE

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

5.1 Rationale

Numerical strength cannot be overemphasized when discussing governance in any democracy. The youth in Kenya have numerical strength but the mystery is their inability to convert it into real gains in terms of youth representation and participation in national governance. They tell me, "If you find a slave asleep, don't wake him up; he may be dreaming of freedom" I reply, "If you find a slave asleep, wake him up and talk to him about freedom". Should Kenyan youth be allowed to continue dreaming of freedom or should someone wake them up and talk to them about freedom? As put by a youth representative during the launch of Vision 2030, the policies enacted today will affect the youth tomorrow when they are public servants, investors, and tax payers.

Text box 5.1 Excerpt from a speech by a youth representative

"It gives me great pleasure to stand here on this historic occasion to speak as a representative of the youth of this country.... The former American president John F. Kennedy once said that the future of any nation is directly proportional to its leader's investment in youth and women of that nation....Before I go on I would want to remind Kenyans By the completion of the first 5 year MTP most of the youth in their 20s will be nearer the age of 30. By the completion of the 2nd 5 year MTP most of the today's youth will have established small families and perhaps sired another generation for Kenya.... by completion of the 3rd 5 year MTP most of today's youth will have formed the working population and supporting their children and their retired parents whom I guess are sitting here today.... As a country we must ask ourselves some hard questions, our dear parents and politicians, about what kind of legacy you desire to leave your children. Let it be known that the youth of this nation are willing to guard the Kenya Vision 2030 because it's our path to a better future"

Ms Caren Wakoli Youth Representative - NSLF

Youth involvement in national governance will take a new turn as more young people begin to understand the relationship between political power and resource distribution in Kenya. According to the Electoral Commission Voter Register, Kenya has about 13 million registered voters, most of whom are young people below the age of 40. Given their numbers and discounting that those below the age of 18 years are not eligible for voting, the youth aged between 18 and 35 years could easily constitute 62 percent, equivalent of over 8 million voters. In a similar vein, those between 36 and 64 years may represent about 4 million voters and those above 64 years

may be about 700,000. Following from this, the youth generation has the voting strength to take control and decide the destiny of the country. It is therefore ridiculous to conventional democracy if the majority of the populace inadequately participates in the national governance process, yet they determine who governs the country.

Text box 5.2 Youth voice on their involvement in political processes

Paul Mwangi Maina argues that Kenya government has failed to involve the youth in political processes, despite pre-election promises to do so. Maina portrays a system in Kenya where youth participation is dependent on wealth and connections. The youth, he says, are then merely used as political pawns, corrupted by politicians even before they enter politics at a national level. He stresses: 'These people do not represent the young people of Kenya accurately.'

Paul Mwangi Maina is an intern with the Fahamu Kenya office

Youth play a deliberate part in the complex mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights and obligations, and mediate their differences.

Youth participation has been described as the "involvement of young people in policy and programme development". A participatory approach requires an intentional process that progressively enlarges young people's capacity to contribute²⁷. Youth participation in national governance implies that the youth are involved in the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a nation's affairs. Youth play a deliberate part in the complex mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights and obligations, and mediate their differences. Youth participation in national governance implies that youth contribute to the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's social and economic resources for development²⁸.

The discussion on youth participation in national governance will be based on the 'youth as an asset' model. This recognises young people as an asset to their societies, builds on youth capacities to overcome poverty and engages young people in decision-making as partners in democracy and development.

5.1.1 Youth participation measured in the YDI

The Kenya Youth Development Index considered three components, education, income and health, as a determinant of youth survival between 15 to 35 years. However, as Allen C. Kelley recognizes in his article 'Human

27 Ewen, 1998 cited in Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

28 Peter McCawley, Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo: paper on governance.

Text box 5.3 Quote from youth on participation

Emmanuel believes that "young people need a youth-branded platform, from where they can speak powerfully, take appropriate action, and inspire belief that will have a catalytic impact all over the world through youth-led development initiatives."

Emmanuel Dennis Ngongo is from Kenya. He is 29 years old. He is the country leader of YES Kenya country network and the coordinator of the YES Africa regional hub. Emmanuel is a distinguished and experienced young leader. He has shown tremendous passion and dedication to the youth of Kenya by investing in their creativity and ideas

Development Index: Handle with care"²⁹, the considerable difficulty in conceptualizing and measuring the somewhat nebulous conditions of youth development is the in exhaustiveness of the index to adequately capture and measure other variables that significantly contribute to youth well-being and development outcomes such as youth participation. The Kenya YDI therefore opens a critical debate that is expected to lead to refining both the analytical framework and the empirical inputs over time.

One of the pertinent variables that greatly contribute to youth development is participation and its associated outcomes in youth development. While this chapter confines its focus to youth participation in national governance, the figures from the Kenya Youth Development Index, form a basis for further studies on how youth participation variables can be captured in the measurement of a comprehensive Youth Development Index in Kenya.

5.1.2 The role of youth participation in enhancing youth development

Too often youth are left out of the processes that shapes their future. Participation is part of the process of empowering young people. Nevertheless, societies often do not view young people as indispensable contributors to policy formulation implementation and evaluation. Recently, the Government of Kenya has taken significant steps to create space for youth participation in decision-making. Greater involvement of the youth in the home, school and community e.g. youth participation in school governance through students' councils or community projects, will not only benefit their socio-economic situation, but also their personal development. Participation must be seen as a means and an end. Active and informed participation by young people is not only consistent with, but also demanded by, the rights-based approach. Without the voice and participation of the youth, the vision of the World Programme of Action for the Youth cannot be achieved (see 5.3.3).

Though youth participation itself can cost time and money in the short term, the process will result in youth-based activities and will be more relevant to the needs of their generation. It can also secure the sustainability of activities, as youth being the primary stakeholders, will have more invested in the outcome. Youth participation in policy formulation can help

Text box 5.4 Declaration from the Kenyan national youth conference on climate change

We, the youth of Kenya, attending the second National Youth Conference on Climate Change (NYCC) from November 12 to 15 2009 in Nairobi Kenya, are concerned that the impacts of climate change are severely affecting our country and our communities. We are saddened by the slow speed of the climate negotiations at the international level. We are saddened that 3.8 million of us are in need of food aid due to drought; farmers, fishermen, and pastoralists have lost their source of livelihood due to extreme weather events such as droughts and floods; and our people are facing serious threats to their lives and livelihoods. We strongly acknowledge the great beauty of our country; the diverse wildlife, the breathtaking landscapes, the scenic coastline and the industrious people; all these are threatened if we don't act now. Our country does not have sufficient water as a result of erratic rainfall and drying up of lakes and rivers from the water towers, which has led to frequent electricity supply cuts, thus compromising productivity in all major sectors. We are facing enormous crises of water, energy, and food, not to mention tropical diseases such as malaria, as a result of climate change.

Source: Adopted by the Youth of Kenya on November 14, 2009.

to highlight the link between public spending and youth development, to sensitize people in ministries to the concern of young people and to monitor progress in fulfilling the World Programme of Action for the Youth. In addition to influencing budget to reflect the needs of youth, young people can also help to reform institutions that affect their lives. Youth should be engaged, not just with government or in policy making, but in all aspects of society, setting the stage for their continued participation throughout adulthood.

5.2 Theoretical framework of youth participation

There are at least two reasons why activity involvement should hold particular interest for researchers interested in social development. Firstly, social processes are likely to be important in both initiating and maintaining participation. For example, there is evidence that youth will join activities if their friends do, and will stay in them if their friends do likewise (e.g., Persson, Kerr, & Stattin, 2007). In addition, successful performance in high-status activities may confer social status on participants (e.g., Eder & Kinney, 1995), whereas involvement in 'geekier' pursuits may have the opposite effect.

Secondly, social development researchers should focus on activity involvement because social processes may be the key causal 'ingredient' of activity involvement. Relationships with peers and adults, for example, are often cited as important elements in explaining the positive impact of participation (e.g., see reviews by Eccles & Gootman, 2002; Feldman & Matjasko 2005). It is remarkable, in fact, that in spite of extensive theorizing about the mediating role of social interaction, there has been little direct

29 The Human Development Index: "Handle with care" by Allen C. Kelley 1991 Population Council

assessment of either the overall quality of adult and peer relationships, or of specific interactive behaviours between participants as they occur in activities. It remains to be seen whether it is the social aspects of activities or other activity characteristics (e.g., opportunities to learn non-social skills such as planning) that explain the links between participation and development.

5.2.1 Integrative youth engagement framework

Much of the existing research on youth participation has been piecemeal, in which only small segments of the involvement process have been examined in relative isolation. COEYE has developed an integrative framework representing this process (see Figure 5.1; Busseri, Rose-Krasnor, & COEYE, 2007), which has been useful in guiding understanding, research, and programming. This evolving framework is rooted both in Bronfenbrenner's (1992) ecological model and Pancer and Pratt's (1999) representation of youth volunteering.

The framework has four major components or 'bubbles':

- the activity itself, at the centre of the diagram
- the initiating factors, which influence the likelihood of starting an

activity

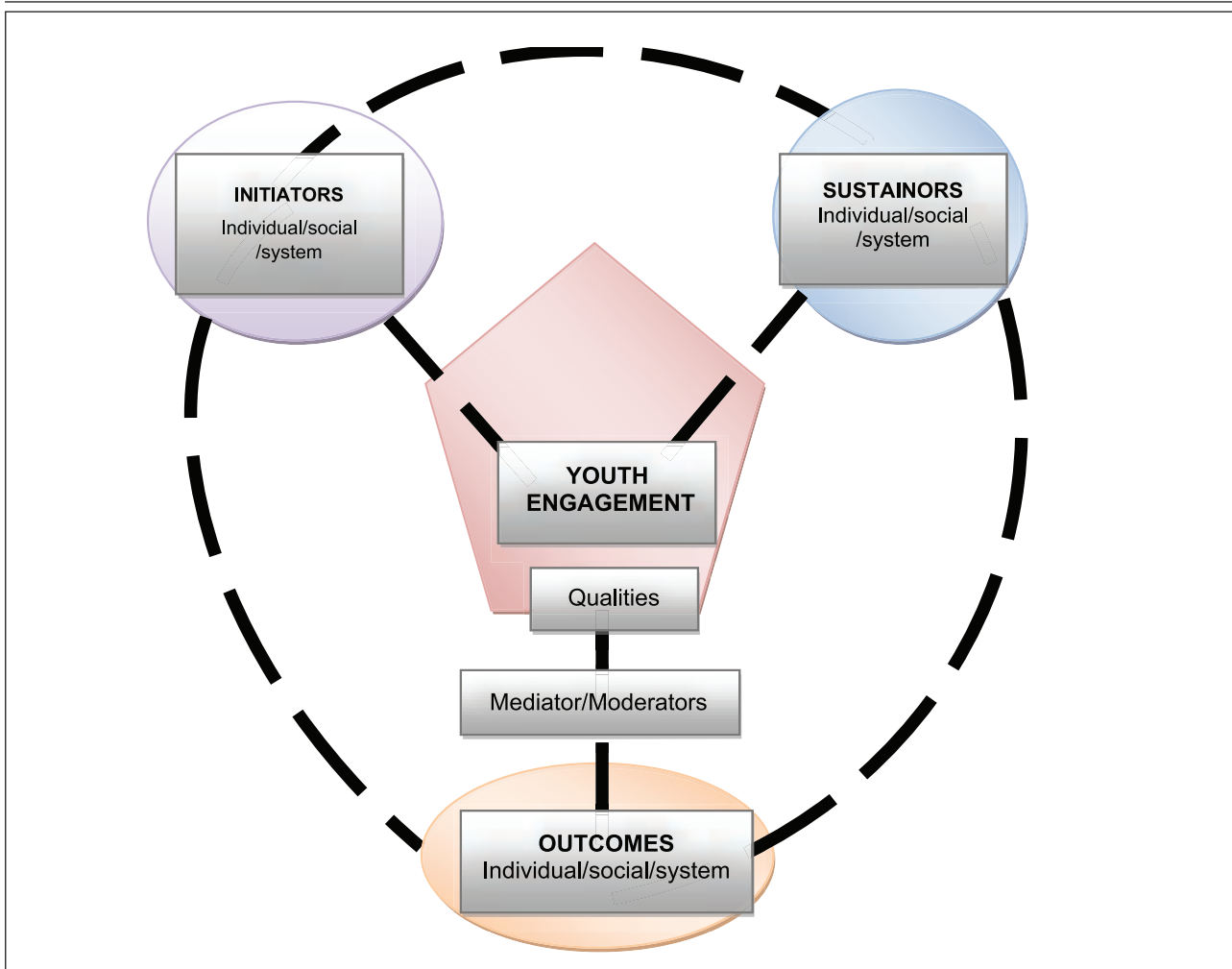
- sustaining factors, which affect whether or not participation continues
- Involvement outcomes.

The initiating and sustaining bubbles are segmented into three concentric levels namely

- individual (intrapersonal characteristics such as values and interests)
- social (interpersonal factors such as peer relationships and adult mentoring)
- System (community, organizational, and cultural factors, including neighbourhood opportunities for involvement).

Similarly, potential outcomes are also conceptualized as occurring at individual (e.g., skills), social (e.g. social support), and system (e.g. cultural attitudes toward youth) levels. The central engagement bubble is divided into wedges, representing different qualities of the activity (e.g. activity content, frequency of attendance) and youth's subjective experiences within it (e.g. challenge, enjoyment). The three-dimensional cylindrical structure of the components reflects their dynamic quality, extending forward and backward in time. Finally, potential direct and mediated connections between initiating, sustaining, engagement, and outcome

Figure 5.1 Youth engagement framework



Source: Future Directions in Youth Involvement Research by Linda Rose-Krasnor, Psychology Department, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, Canada (Modified figure)

factors are represented by dotted lines connecting their respective bubbles. Specific mediators can be identified by placing boxes along the lines connecting relevant model components. An example is the box placed between engagement and its outcomes; this box could be filled with one of the many potential mediating processes (e.g. increased self-confidence, skill development), which explain how engagement may affect development. In summary, a number of issues and concerns have been identified, including the need for more complex, multivariate measurements of engagement, recognition of its dynamic nature, and examining the potential role of individual differences.

5.2.2 Linking youth participation and outcomes

Further, the discourse of participation has led to several studies making concerted attempts to link participation and the beneficial outcomes in the youth who participate. Researchers who have examined participation have grouped youth into one of two categories: those who participate in activities and those who do not. Although this grouping has been useful in understanding participation, it overlooks several other indicators of participation such as intensity, duration and breadth. Breadth means the variety of participation. Variety refers (Eccles & Barber, 1999) to whether participation is focused on one or more types of activities within and/or across programmes. Breadth is particularly interesting to examine in relation to outcomes because a small but growing research base is indicating that breadth has implications for programme quality. However, of the three dimensions of participation, breadth has received the least attention from the research and evaluation community. Baker and Witt (1996) studied breadth within a multi-component programme by examining differences in outcomes depending on the number of activities in which youth participated within the same programme.

Researchers have come up with three general models to explain how participation breadth is necessary to impact on youth participation outcomes³⁰. Several researchers have found a linear relationship between participation breadth and various outcomes (Baker & Witt, 1996; Gerber, 1996; Gilman, 2001; Marsh & Kleitman, 2002). The linear model suggests that as participation breadth increases, youth outcomes will increase. According to this model, the more variety in activities, the better the outcomes. However, some of the linear relationships may, in fact, be thresholds. A threshold model suggests that people will benefit if their participation exceeds a certain level or threshold. The findings from Baker and Witt (1996) suggest that there may be a threshold, or a bump in outcomes, when youth participate in three to four activities, and an additional threshold at five or more activities. While this pattern may hold true for studies that involve middle school students, studies on breadth during adolescence suggest that the relations may be curvilinear (Elder, Leaver-Dunn, Wang, Nagy, & Green, 2000; Marsh, 1992; Marsh & Kleitman,

According to expectancy-value theory, behaviour is a function of the expectancies one has and the value of the goal one is working towards.

2002; Swanson, 2002). Moderate amounts of breadth are associated with the best outcomes. High breadth is still associated with better outcomes than no breadth or low breadth.

The argument that the depth and breadth of youth participation is linked to outcomes is further supported by the works of Hart (1992) who developed the Ladder of Participation as a tool for describing participation. Hart suggested that participation occurs at eight different levels as shown in Table 5.1.

The lower three rungs – manipulation, decoration and tokenism – are described by Hart as non-participation. The case studies that follow reflect a variety of participation practices. However, all are examples of meaningful participation that move away from manipulation, decoration and tokenism. Central to the ethos of the youth service is encouraging and facilitating the participation of young people in a way that is appropriate for the relevant age group. Participation can take place in a number of dimensions, such as:

- The development of individual capabilities and confidence
- local communities and communities of interest
- decision-making in the youth service
- The development of public policy.

5.2.3 Why youth numerical strength may not translate into gains in participation

According to expectancy-value theory³¹, behaviour is a function of the expectancies one has and the value of the goal one is working towards. Such an approach predicts that, when more than one behaviour is possible, the behaviour chosen will be the one with the largest combination of expected success and value. Expectancy-value theories hold that people are goal-oriented beings. The behaviours they perform in response to their beliefs and values, are undertaken to achieve some end.

From the above theory, one can share an opinion that the youth of Kenya perhaps do not link their participation in elections to the benefits they intend to get from the person they elect, and if they do, then they don't see elected youth being able to provide those benefits. This may explain why the youth numerical strength has not necessarily translated to more youth being elected in parliament and local governments. However, other factors such as competition from the older and wealthy politicians who promise the youth immediate gains and rewards of money continue to make it difficult for the youth to think more about long term gain. The majority of the youth are discouraged by the performance of the political leaders and do not expect a lot from them. This may explain why most of the political leaders in the 9th Parliament were voted out by the youth who form the majority in the voter register. This has precipitated a situation where youth participation in national governance takes on a mainstreaming approach, rather than an integration approach, where the situation of youth can be planned for and taken on board at all stages of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

5.2.4 The debate for and against affirmative action for the youth

³⁰ Three models include Linear, threshold and curvilinear as documented in Harvard Family Research project: the Evaluation Exchange

³¹ The theory was founded by Martin Fishbein in the 1970s

Table 5.1 Ladder of participation

No	Level of participation	Description of nature of youth participation
1	Youth - initiated, shared decisions with adults	Young people have the ideas, set up the project, and invite adults to join them in making decisions.
2	Youth - initiated and directed	Young people have the initial idea and decide how the project is to be carried out. Adults are available but do not take charge.
3	Adult - initiated, shared decisions with young people	Adults have the initial idea but young people are involved in every step of the planning and implementation. Their views are not only considered but they are also involved in making decisions.
4	Consulted and informed	The project is designed and run by adults, but young people are consulted. They have a full understanding of the process and their opinions are taken seriously.
5	Assigned but informed	Adults decide on the project but young people volunteer for it. Young people understand the project and know who
		decided they should be involved and why. Adults respect their views.
6	Tokenism	Young people are asked to say what they think about an issue but have little or no choice about the way they express those views or the scope of ideas they can express.
7	Decoration	Young people take part in an event, but they do not really understand the issues.
8	Manipulation	Young people do or say what adults suggest they do, but have no real understanding of the issues, OR young people are asked what they think; adults use some of the ideas but do not tell them what influence they have on the final decision.

It has been argued that the youth require affirmative action in order to fast-track their participation in politics and national governance. However, critics of affirmative action have argued that when a group comprises the majority, then in conventional democracy it does not require affirmative action, but empowerment, to enable it to take advantage of its numerical strength.

The majority of the youth are discouraged by the performance of the political leaders and do not expect a lot from them. —

This argument challenges the youth of Kenya to explore other ways of gaining representation and participation, rather than affirmative action.

5.3 Global initiatives in support of youth participation

5.3.1 World Programme of Action for the Youth

The World Programme of Action for Youth is a blueprint for national action and international support to foster conditions to promote improved well-

Text box 5.5. Voices of the youth on how public expectations have hindered their participation in politics.

In Kabete, Mr Anthony Kimani Ichung'wah, 30, is an aspiring politician. A graduate in economics from the University of Nairobi and a Certified Public Accountant trained at Strathmore University, he is a senior accountant in Nairobi. Ichung'wah aspired to the Kikuyu parliamentary seat on "one of the PNU affiliates," driven by a strong desire to see generational change in leadership. "For a long time, leadership was left to an older generation. It is time to change this. Professionals tend to be guided by certain minimal ethical standards that they must adhere to. I want to believe that what this nation requires today, is professionals, who will manage public affairs in an ethical and professional manner," he says.

Mr Anthony Kimani Ichung'wah – aspiring youth politician

Many of the young aspirants talk of being frustrated with Kenya's leadership. "Like many, I have grown increasingly frustrated with our current political leadership, so I want to play a role in changing it," Macharia says. Macharia sees himself as a Kenyan of the future: young, educated, widely travelled, connected, confident and ready to take risks. "Great ideas could lie dormant if there is no political push for them. Similarly bad ideas could gain life simply because they were pushed politically," he says.

Macharia also believes a "generational-shift in leadership" is emerging. But he believes that "a generational shift for its own sake" will not mean much "unless the bar is raised for future leaders." "This is exactly why we need to get a solid crop of new, capable leaders of our generation in this election cycle so they can be the benchmark for what a good leader is for 2012. If this does not happen, it will mean we will have the same type of leaders, just different faces," Macharia says.

Macharia - Aspiring youth politician Source: Leaving the Professional Nest for Political Train, Published on October 6, 2007, By Saturday Standard Team

In Westlands Nairobi, Mweke says that a reliable way to reach voters is via the media. But the media are only interested in the MP he is trying to beat. "I watched Mr Barack Obama's campaign and saw the attention the media paid to him. I guess if Obama was running in Kenya, the media would have told him they do not cover aspirants, while they focus on people who make our country look backward," Mweke complains. He worries that powerful, policy-driven speeches count for nothing "if you don't top up." Topping-up means giving handouts. "People come and tell you they are the ones who single-handedly put so-and-so in parliament. But I insist on working with groups, not individuals," he says.

Mweke says he has a dream for Westlands. "I studied the link between technology and development. The Asian Tigers overtook us using ICT. I want to exploit my connection with the Fortune 500 companies and have them create call centres in Nairobi as they have done in India and Thailand," he says. But he is feeling the pressure from the culture of handouts whose seeds were sown by the past politicians. The tragedy is, those willing to spend money, many a time have nothing to offer in vision. Some have money, but not the language to speak in parliament," Mweke says.

Jonathan Mweke, MBA – Aspiring youth politician aged 30

Years of running programmes on governance and strengthening of parliamentary committees taught Oloo a lesson. "I realised it was not going to be enough to advise. I decided to take a plunge and provide leadership. The country is looking for leaders who stand for something; whose integrity is above reproach. I encourage my lot to come out and let us save the country," he says.

Oloo is particularly concerned about the "blame game" Kenyans are stuck in. "We need to go beyond finger-pointing and take responsibility for what is wrong and right. Responsibility must begin with the individual," he says.

Oloo, running in Mumias, is convinced he can help change the mindset of leaders from parliament. "Our institutions need to project servant leadership. We have leaders not keen to remember that authority comes from the people. It is common to hear a minister saying, 'we are the government,' yet the reverse is the case. The people are the government," Oloo says.

Oloo – Youth consultant on governance, aspiring youth politician

"I studied the link between technology and development. The Asian Tigers overtook us using ICT. I want to exploit my connection with the Fortune 500 companies and have them create call centres in Nairobi as they have done in India and Thailand," _____

being and better livelihood among young people. The World Programme of Action for Youth covers fifteen priority areas. In each of these areas, the programme looks in-depth at the nature of the complex challenges and presents proposals for action.

Kenya has made good progress in mainstreaming the World Programme of Action for Youth into youth policy planning, implementation and monitoring. However, there are still some areas where youth policies are inadequate, even with the challenges and gaps in implementation, coordination and monitoring. In discussing youth participation in national governance, this chapter will focus more on priority number fifteen – full and effective participation in society and decision-making.

5.3.2 The UN General Assembly

At the sixth UN General Assembly member states welcomed youth representation in national delegations. They urged member states to consider being represented by youth on a continuing basis during relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance³².

Through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kenya has been supporting participation of the youth in the UN General Assemblies. In 2009, Kenya supported 20³³ youth in the UN General Assembly

5.3.3 The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment

The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment is the framework for Commonwealth action in youth affairs. The Plan of Action

Text box 5.6 Fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Poverty and hunger
4. Environment
5. Drug abuse
6. Juvenile delinquency
7. Leisure time activities
8. Health
9. Girls and young women
10. HIV/AIDS
11. Information & communication technology
12. Inter generational issues
13. Armed conflict
14. Mixed impact of globalization
15. Full and effective participation in society and in decision making

Source: Guide to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Text box 5.7 Youth at the United Nations

The underlying principle of youth participation in the work of the United Nations is that it leads to better policy and programmatic responses to the problems facing young people today. Not only do youth delegates enrich the debate and policy dialogue; they strengthen existing channels of communication and co-operation between governments and young people. Youth may participate in the general work of their missions through attending a range of mission receptions and informal negotiations and by providing assistance in monitoring general debates and drafting reports. Very often they liaise with youth representatives from other countries to exchange and build upon their experiences. They may be invited to speak at side events or panel discussions organized by their missions, the United Nations Secretariat or non-governmental organizations.

Missions should provide a briefing to youth delegates before their arrival, to discuss and determine their role in the delegation. The selection process is frequently overseen by the government authority directly responsible for youth, such as Ministry of Education or equivalent, or is delegated to the national youth council. The name of the selected delegate is then submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or equivalent and later to the country Permanent Mission to the United Nations. It is also useful to inform the United Nations programme for the youth, so that the youth delegate can be supported in understanding the work of the United Nations.

Source: Guide to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) takes its place alongside human rights instruments, poverty reduction strategy papers, national budgets and other policy frameworks relevant to the youth. Since it was launched in the year 2000, its contribution has been to stimulate an 'assets-based' approach to youth development, namely:

- recognising young people as an asset to their societies
- building on young people's capacities and agency to overcome poverty

Kenya has made good progress in mainstreaming the World Programme of Action for Youth into youth policy planning, implementation and monitoring.

Text box 5.8 A rights-based approach to youth development

1. Express linkage to rights
2. Accountability to all stakeholders
3. Empowerment
4. Participation
5. Non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups

Source: The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2007-2015

32 A/RES/60/2, para 9

33 MOYA

- engaging young people in decision-making as partners in democracy and development.

5.4. Policy and legislative frameworks for promoting youth participation in national governance in Kenya

Kenya has ratified most of the international protocols touching on youth participation. Further, Kenya has formulated policies and developed programmes to ensure youth participation is mainstreamed in national long-term and medium-term policies. Consequently, the country has created relevant institutions and structures to spearhead youth participation in national governance and in all other areas of national development. Such efforts include the creation of a Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, which until 2003, existed as youth departments in respective ministries. Since its creation, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has formulated the following policies and plans in support of youth participation:

5.4.1 The National Youth Policy

The goal of the National Youth Policy is to promote youth participation in community and civic affairs and to ensure that youth programmes are youth-centred and engage the youth. Its motivation is a society where youth have equal opportunity to realise their fullest potential, productively participating in economic, social, political, cultural and religious life. The policy provides a blueprint for youth development stakeholders to promote youth participation and development.

5.4.2. National Youth Council Act 2009

The National Youth Council Act was passed by parliament in 2009. Despite efforts to formulate sound youth policies and development of youth participation programmes, Kenya's youth still participates very little in national governance. There are still major gaps in representation of youth in governance institutions and decision-making structures such as parliament, commissions and government task forces, boards of state corporations, local authority councils and senior levels of ministries, departments and agencies. Although the government has tried to address the gap between youth participation policies and implementation, there are still things missing, among them inadequate skills and requisite competencies, such as leadership.

5.4.1 Youth participation in government national policy formulation

It has been argued especially by civil societies, that the reason why government policies have not succeeded in promoting youth participation is because there are not enough strategies for youth participation in policy formulation. Traditionally in Kenya, policy formulation emerges either from recommendations of task forces and commission reports, or executive directives, among others. When the youth participate adequately in established structures e.g. commissions, task forces, committees, boards, councils, either by way of representation or in the execution of various mandates, there is a

Text box 5.9 Functions of the National Youth Council

Functions of the National Youth Council

- Register all youth groups and youth-focused community-based organizations
- Promote and popularize the National Youth Policy and other policies that affect the youth
- Facilitate a periodic review of the National Youth Policy in line with other government policy statements
- Mobilize resources to support and fund youth programmes and initiatives
- Lobby for legislation on issues affecting the youth
- Liaise with other organizations to ensure that the youth gain access to appropriate resources
- Promote relationships between youth organizations and other bodies with similar objectives, both nationally and internationally
- Inspire and promote a spirit of unity, patriotism, volunteerism and service among the youth
- Mobilize and sensitize stakeholders on the concept of community youth service
- Act as a voice for the youth to ensure that the government and other policy makers are kept informed of their views and aspirations
- Promote research and analysis of data on youth issues
- Perform any other function that may directly or indirectly contribute to the above.

likelihood that the policies formulated will achieve more in promoting youth participation in policy implementation. To promote youth participation in national policy formulation, this report recommends the following strategies:

- i) Government should give the youth increased access to decision-making processes and policy implementation at a local level, such as governance of schools, health centres, local authority councils and community projects.
- ii) Government, through the respective ministries, should offer civic education for the youth to learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens.
- iii) Government should review the organizational structures of institutions to allow youth to play a role in their core functions.

5.5 Youth participation in politics

5.5.1 Youth participation in elective politics

Youth involvement in Kenyan politics is increasing as more young people begin to understand the relationship between political power and resource distribution. Youth make up the majority of the population and are a large proportion of voters.

Despite their numbers, many obstacles discourage youth from playing a positive role, including the fact that the political environment often precludes them from participation in policy discussions. Additionally, their frequent lack of resources for campaigning and the prevailing negative cultural perceptions of youth among the population, result in many aspiring youthful leaders being kept off party lists. Other challenges faced by the youth include a lack of ID cards and apathy to the voting process by some who believe it will not make

Table 5.2 Registered voters per province

	Female	Male	Total Registered
Nairobi	439,261	722,447	1,161,708
Coast	493,959	589,914	1,083,873
North - Eastern	124,797	141,035	265,832
Eastern	1,052,291	1,137,799	2,190,090
Central	951,566	1,065,507	2,017,073
Rift Valley	1,427,365	1,628,329	3,055,694
Western	703,675	730,427	1,434,102
Nyanza	880,716	954,532	1,835,248
National Total	6,073,630	6,969,990	13,043,620

Source: Electoral Commission of Kenya, May 2007 – Provisional Results of Voter Registration.

a difference. In addition, some vote for their ethnic groups (with or without merit), while others elect those who have dished out the most money. Peer pressure or patronage by senior politicians also plays a part in the voting process. This is a problem affecting even those beyond the age of 35 years. Kenyan elective politics operates at two main levels, namely, members of parliament and councillors of civic wards. Becoming a member of parliament or a councillor allows a person to participate in leadership and governance in public affairs. Being leaders of society, parliamentarians and other elected persons have a mandate, moral obligation and the public trust to act in the interest of their constituents. The youth play a critical role in voter mobilization, party politics and leadership, and because they make up the majority of registered voters, they could virtually determine who gets elected. To enhance youth participation in politics, it is recommended that:

- the government, through the Independent Electoral Commission, should conduct a survey on voter participation rates of eligible youth and campaign to increase voter participation among identified, inactive youth.
- the government should explore the creation of a national youth parliament and local youth councils as mechanisms to include youth in decision-making processes.

5.5.2 Youth participation in party politics

Kenya has completed over four decades of self-rule. The government recognizes that the youth are important partners in national governance, demonstrated by numerous policy pronouncements and the existence of clear policies defining the need for youth participation. Such policies include the National Youth Policy, the Youth Council Bill, Kazi kwa Vijana (KKV) and the National Youth Service. In spite of youth numbers, they are the least represented in political party governance.

The two parties are now in power, yet have failed to nominate to parliament a single youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years.

In the first and second items of its 2007 manifesto, the Party of National Unity (PNU) pledged to “ensure that all Kenyans, including women, youth and people living with disabilities are fully involved in the management of party affairs”. The Orange Democratic Movement manifesto pledged to “promote greater youth participation in Kenyan political and cultural activities, entrench the rights of young people in decision-making and introduce a new national youth leadership programme to integrate the youth in leadership”. The two parties are now in power, yet have failed to nominate to parliament a single youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years.

5.5.3 Youth participation in grassroots governance

At the community and grassroots level, the youth play a very visible role

Text box 5.10 Youth voice on the misuse of the youth by political parties

A casual glance at the secretariat of the main political parties will reveal an almost total exclusion of youth, especially at the top. The trend with political parties has been to form youth wings that are parallel to, but not integrated into, the mainstream party. According to Godwin Murunga and Shadrak Wasong'o (2007), this trend was inherited by the post-colonial government from the colonial administration: ‘youth wings existed on both sides of the divide and were basically charged with carrying out instructions from above’. These youth wings are usually led by well-connected, mostly former university student leaders, who use them as vehicles to launch their political careers. The youth wings are most visible during general elections and are mainly used by politicians for intimidating rivals, but also serve as votes for sale. Youth during this time, unfortunately, are reduced to pawns, with most of them blindly engaging in politically instigated violence in support of ‘mtu wetu’ (our man) after a small bribe and incitement into tribal bigotry.

Source: Youth Voice Pambazuka News

in mobilizing community members in discussions and interpretations of party manifestos and government policies. The youth are active in rallying support for leaders whom they consider appropriate; and engage leaders on pertinent issues that affect people at the grassroots. Most of them end up with responsibility for community projects such those supported by the government through Constituency Development Fund and Local Authority Transfer Fund. At this level, the youth become critical determinants of governance issues through their active participation. It appears that leaders of political parties and members of parliament prefer giving the youth leadership opportunities at community level.

5.5.4 Student participation in politics

Given that a number of prominent politicians started their careers in student politics, it is clear that institutions have provided alternative avenues for youth to participate in politics. At universities and colleges the youth have played a critical role through participating in active party politics. They have the capacity to engage leaders at a higher level of intellectual debate. In the 2007 elections, the students played an important role in mobilizing constituents to rally support for their preferred leaders. This was an avenue

Text box 5.11 Youth voice on student participation in politics

Concerned Kenyans will decry the decline in varsity students' activism in matters of national interest. Gone are the days when student leaders were fiery, vibrant and outspoken critics who caused government officials headaches and sleepless nights. The large number of heads that rolled during those 'heydays' is still something to reckon with. In those golden days, students won unwavering support from the public. Today's student leaders, however, are a pale shadow of their former selves. As corruption scandals rock the government, they have remained quiet. It seems they have taken a cue from the political bigwigs tearing the country apart. After all, the only news from their ranks is about leadership wrangles, betrayal and monetary scandals. Most varsity administrators have mastered the art of neutralising the dynamism of students after they assume leadership roles and turning them into puppets. In some cases, leaders betray their 'comrades' if they refuse to subscribe to their selfish personal plans, which are usually detrimental to the student body's welfare. Students thus lack a platform to speak out against corruption and poor governance. Today's students are no less intelligent than their colleagues in the 1980s and 1990s. They must realise that their voice in matters of graft and poor governance would be a signal to the two principals that the youth are watching. Leaders must not be allowed to jeopardise the prosperity that would make Kenya a bulwark of democracy, stability and good governance.

Ber Nanjira Mutoma – Youth

for students to contribute to the policies and party manifestos of their preferred parties. Although this active participation has strengthened student engagement in governance at their institutions, it has also weakened their unity on matters of common interest at the institutions because they tend to be aligned to political parties.

5.5.5 Negative youth participation in politics

According to the Economic Survey 2009, a total of 44,080 out of 88,414 prisoners were youths aged 16 to 25 years. Further the report showed that the daily average population of prisoners increased by 11.2 percent (an annual average but reduced to an average index of prisoners present in days of the year), the majority within the youth age bracket. While inclusion and participation of youth might improve the quality of national governance, exclusion and despair can lead to resentment, crime and political violence by the youth. The economic hardship and rising unemployment experienced in the early '90s gave rise to youth associations that later became a threat to the social stability and peaceful co-existence of Kenyan communities. The climax of this was the 2007 post-election violence where youth associations converted themselves into private armies in the name of defending their communities. The existence of vigilante groups such as Nchikororo, Amachuma, Sungusungu, Baghdad Boys, Angola Msumbiji, Mungiki Taliban, Jeshi la Mzee, and the SLDF, among others, may be the climax of youth exclusion. These groups tend to promise their members alternative avenues for participating in decision-making processes.

The most visible manifestation of youth participation in Kenyan politics was the ubiquitous presence of the party youth wings introduced by the KANU political party. Ostensibly, each of these youth wings existed to give direction to the young people, providing purpose, resources and support, so as to harness their energies productively. However, in reality, they served to protect and consolidate political power bases by any means necessary. While youth may have limited authority within these wings, they are a powerful influence on the Kenyan political scene, since few people dared confront those who control them. This is perhaps a prominent form of political participation by the youth. In today's politics, it has become difficult to draw the line between vigilante groups and political youth wings, as when the need arises to protect their political masters, they appear to unite their leaders.

5.6 Youth participation in governance of ministries, departments and agencies

Government ministries and agencies carry the ultimate responsibility for administering policies and programmes that affect the youth. It is therefore paramount that they develop tools to support data collection, to take opinion polls and to use other reporting systems on the youth and the fulfilment of their right to participate. Youth represent only 40 percent of the total number of civil servants³⁴, and the gender disparity shows a big gap between males and females, with three times more males than females. The challenges faced by young people are compounded by their lack of a political voice or of any participation in public decision-making processes. During the early years of Kenya's independence, a number of the country's leading politicians were young people. However, since the 1970s, Kenya's political and public life has been dominated by older people, especially men.

Just as colonialism occasioned major constraints to people's political participation, independence brought new challenges for the youth. The new political context changed some fundamental elements of Kenyan

34 Source: Ministry of State for Public Service, Integrated Payroll and Personnel Database, IPPD, Nov 2009

politics, but this had little impact on the political role of the youth. A number of young people distinguished themselves in the political realm in the first three decades of the post-colonial period. But the politics of exclusion was most glaring in the ninth constitutional amendments of 1968, which, by imposing a minimum age of 35 years for the presidency, reinforced the association of young people with immaturity. Youth became associated in the public imagination with one role, that of 'watu ya mkono' meaning handymen and women to be used for the purposes of others. The identification of youth as an important human resource to be exploited for productive purposes became government policy, illustrated in the formation of the National Youth Service³⁵.

Experience, qualification, age, economic strength and political connectedness are some of the factors that continue to stop the youth from ascending to policy and management positions. Out of 82,090 youth in the civil service, only 380 are in job group PQRSTU while the rest are in job group N and below³⁶. Policy and management decisions are usually made by civil servants in upper job levels. The absence of youth in those jobs implies that they do not participate in decision-making but are more involved in implementing the decisions and directives. However, according to IPPD data, the proportion of youth in job groups P and above has increased from 58 in 2008 to 308 in 2009.

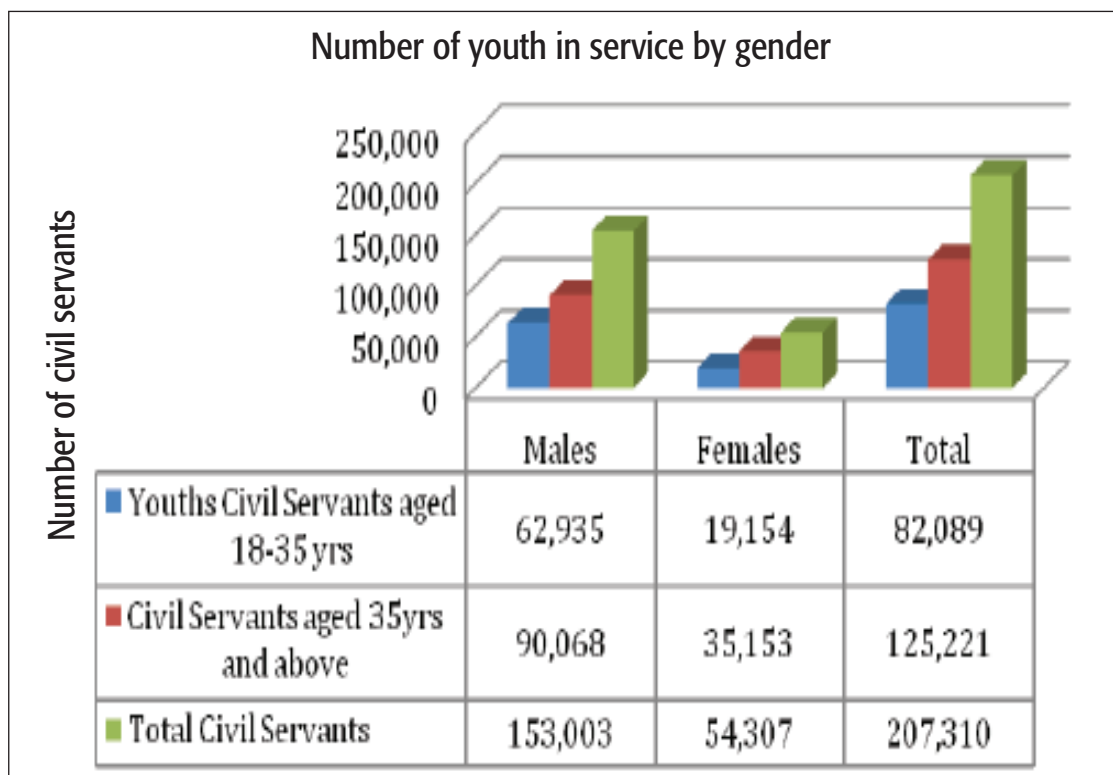
5.6.1 Local authorities

In the 2007 election, most of the successfully elected councillors were within the youth age bracket. Nationally, there are 46 municipal and city councils, 67 county councils and 62 town councils³⁷. Local authorities formulate by-laws that determine and govern the services they provide to their constituents and they manage a sizeable share of the government budget through the Local Authority Transfer Fund. They also raise revenue through the services they provide to the public. With the youth being the majority in local authorities, and perhaps the most literate in terms of schooling, they play a critical role in the decision-making. Just as in ministries and state corporations, the youth head most of the ICT departments in local authorities. This gives them some level of participation in terms of information management and control of communications.

5.6.2 Ministries and departments

The Ministry of Youths Affairs and Sports has established youth desk officers in 46 government ministries. The functions of the desk officers are to ensure that youth issues are mainstreamed in the ministry activities and programmes. Although the youth may be the minority in higher job groups in the civil service, they play an important part in governance at department

Figure 5.2 Distribution of youth participation in the civil service by gender



Source: Ministry of State for Public Service, Integrated Payroll and Personnel Database, Nov 2009

35 See Mboya 1970.

36 Source: Ministry of State for Public Service, Integrated Payroll and Personnel Database, IPPD, Nov 2009

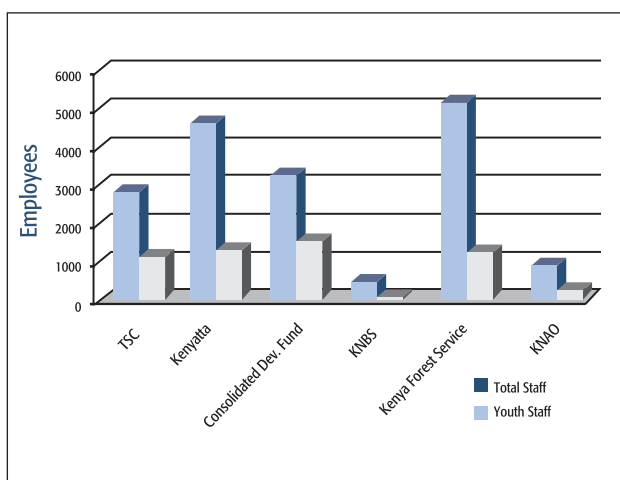
37 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government

level. They are the dominant group in management of the ICT and e-government departments in the ministries. This gives them room to participate in improving the quality and speed of information flow and communication within the ministries. All ministries have well-established ICT departments, which have helped to improve efficiency through ICT innovations.

5.6.3 Government state corporations

The government has a total of 146³⁸ state corporations, which provide specialised services in areas such as financial, commercial and manufacturing, regulatory, public universities, training and research, regional development, tertiary education and other services. The youth

Figure 5.3 Proportion of youth staff in selected state corporations



Source: Inspectorate of State Corporations; IPPD, Nov 2009

participates in the governance of state corporations through departments and management units. As in the ministries and departments, the youth dominate the ICT departments of the state corporations. They have participated in strengthening ICT through the provision of requisite ICT skills and competencies.

5.6.4 Youth participation in national governance through internal and national security

Youth have played a large role in national governance through their prominence and participation in internal and national security organs. They are the majority in the security forces including the National Defence Forces, Administration Police and the Kenya Police. This extends to other specialized units of disciplined officers such as prison officers, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forestry Service, National Youth Service and local authority by-laws enforcement officers. The youth also participate in the private sector through various private security firms in the country. All the recruitment criteria for the disciplined forces require that officers seeking

Text box 5.12 Functions of administration officers

Coordination and stewardship of government business and responding to emerging policy and development initiatives; promotion of statehood and nationhood; policy formulation, analysis and general administration; office management; management of staff in areas of deployment; responding to parliamentary business; co-ordination of official and state functions; preparation of reports, speeches and briefs; arbitration of disputes; customer care; responding to emerging issues and initiatives such as economic recovery strategies and millennium development goals; implementation and follow ups of presidential directives with respective sectors; inter-ministerial liaison; promotion of ethics and integrity; management of public resources and assets; promotion of the Government image; and promotion of good governance.

Source: Provincial Administration and Internal Security

recruitment are youth. Other than providing security functions, the youth play important management and administrative roles in the disciplined forces. These include office management and formation commanders of forces. They also provide technical services such as operating equipment, and implementing projects, medical and education services within the disciplined forces.

Effective youth participation in security agencies is hindered by many challenges. For instance, police officers are generally poorly resourced. Most salaries and allowances are low and they often lack the basic equipment that police require to function properly and professionally. Many live in appalling, inadequate conditions and their morale is low. Where accommodation is provided, it is often overcrowded with married and single police officers sometimes having no alternative but to share single rooms. Many of these quarters are dilapidated. The Kenya Police Service has a housing shortfall of about 69 per cent, while the shortage for the Administration Police Service is about 78 per cent³⁹. Their effectiveness is inhibited by, amongst others, a lack of motor vehicles to undertake policing work, a lack of adequate protective clothing and equipment such as gloves and effective bulletproof vests, and the necessary tape for sealing crime scenes. When dealing with public disorder policing, most police officers are not provided with helmets and other necessary equipment for their protection. Other equipment essential to effective policing was also found to be in short supply or outdated. This included computers, communication systems and equipment, evidence-gathering tools such as cameras, operational aircraft and maritime equipment⁴⁰. In order to enhance youth participation in national governance through strengthening internal and national security agencies, the following recommendations are made:

- provide the youth in the security agencies with proper working equipment necessary to perform their duties
- provide the youth with decent housing for comfortable living and effective performance of duties
- provide the youth in the security agencies with appropriate medical insurance schemes to cover them and their families for any risks

38 Inspectorate of State Corporations

39 Report of the National Task Force on Police Reforms

40 Report of the National Task Force on Police Reforms

involved in their profession

- equip workstations for security agents with computers, communication systems and equipment, evidence-gathering tools, operational aircraft and maritime equipment.
- build the capacity of the youth in the security agencies to gain the necessary skills and competencies for the professional performance of their jobs.

5.6.5 Role of ICT in enhancing youth participation in national governance

Access to technology is spreading rapidly and has proven to be an effective tool for development, fostering information-sharing and opportunities for youth to express their ideas and opinions. The youth, being the principal users of computers, communications technology and new media, have challenged traditional forms of engagement. New technologies have been a force for advancing youth participation in national governance. The youth have taken advantage of this window of opportunity to create room for their role in national governance. It is increasingly common for management and governance structures to include youth specifically for the purpose of operating technological equipment. The youth are effectively playing the role of personal assistants to leaders, in addition to complementing ICT functions.

With a great deal of content emanating from youth, one of the most salient observations is the way they use the Internet to share ideas and express themselves. While there is clearly a distinct culture among youth on the Internet, youth are also creating strong links with the school, community, teachers, government and work places.

ICT provides an opportunity for youth to contribute to the shared values of transparency, accountability, performance, efficiency and speed in government transactions and operations. ICT has facilitated the use of programmes for financial accountability and transparency and quick sharing of information. Through the use of ICT the government can move towards a paperless money economy where transactions are done using appropriate ICT applications. This is critical for functioning government ministries, departments and agencies. However, government operations tend to favour bureaucratic and lengthy processes, which may not conform to ICT speed of operations. The government can enhance youth participation in national governance by ensuring total automation of its operations.

To enhance youth participation in national governance through ICT it is recommended that the government explore the following strategies:

- use ICT to advance youth participation in government and decision-making through encouraging all elected members of parliament and councillors to maintain accessibility to youth on the internet
- provide accurate and timely information on government resources and programmes for the youth on the internet
- give youth a more prominent role in national task forces, commissions and inter-ministerial bodies that develop ICT national strategies
- provide incentives for local television and radio stations to broadcast youth produced programmes
- provide for automation and high ICT standards in government

ministries, departments and agencies to encourage youth participation.

5.7 Recognizing good practices for nurturing youth participation in governance in Kenya

There are certain youth leadership programmes that may be considered good practices based on the outcomes they have produced in youth development. This section attempts to highlight some of these best practices, which if replicated, have the potential for promoting youth participation and preparing them as leaders in various areas.

5.7.1 School based leadership training programmes

In Kenya, there seems to be a direct relationship between the youth who have undergone leadership exposure in schools and other institutions of learning, and the level of participation in national development. School provides an opportunity for the youth to practise leadership and school governance through student boards of prefects. The relevant ministries responsible for education and training require that student participate and are represented in school boards of governors, parent-teacher associations and councils. This requirement is entrenched in the statutes that establish the school governance bodies.

Trends have shown that most youth who have held leadership responsibilities in schools, tend to be better equipped with leadership skills than youth who have not. More often than not, most successful leaders have confessed that back in their school days they held some leadership responsibilities, either as prefects or club leaders. Student leadership structure has provided avenues for the youth to participate in school governance. While this exposes them to certain leadership skills, competencies and experiences gained tend to become useful in life after school. Although schools have inbuilt youth participation programmes, certain schools in Kenya such as Starehe Boys Centre have some exemplary youth participation programmes to cite.

5.7.2 Kenya National Schools and Colleges Drama Festival

Although less prominent in the public eye, secondary school and middle level college students are also active in engaging public debate on national issues. Evidence of young people in national politics has been regularly provided at the annual Kenya National Schools and Colleges Drama Festival. This has been part of the school calendar since its inception in the '50s. Students have taken advantage of the platform provided through the festival to articulate their concerns on national issues. Political issues tend to dominate the festival, enabling the observer to gauge grassroots opinion on volatile issues of the day. Popular themes of the last couple of years include the land and ethnic clashes, the worsening economic situation, abuse of political power and office, drug and substance abuse, and patriotism. Religious organizations also offer a variety of opportunities for the youth to participate in the political agenda of the day.

Text box 5.13 Starehe Boys Centre prefects' system

Starehe follows a rank-based prefect system to enforce high disciplinary standards in its student body. A student may become a prefect only when he is second year at the school. Even then, they never are full prefects. They only bear the rank of sub-prefect and are so confirmed during assembly where the Director announces their promotion. Promotion through the ranks is based on character and dutifulness, assessed by School Prefects (normally referred to as House Captains), who form the Cabinet of the School. Any potential prefect is vetted by the Cabinet, which consists of the School Prefects, the School Captains and the Director. Most decisions are made by a simple majority vote. However, power to appoint and dismiss Prefects lies solely with the Director, who is advised by the Cabinet.

The School Captain and his two deputies are often referred to as the 'Red Lions'. The two deputies are equal in rank. The House Captains take charge of the 12 boarding houses and other departments in the school such as the library, games department, chapel and assembly. Each boarding house is considered a student's home during his four-year sojourn in the school. Here, he will make connections that will carry him through his entire Starehe walk. Normally students tend to attach themselves to their houses long after they have gone. At the bottom of the Sub-Prefects are the 'commoners', students who have no prefectural powers. The force is identified with the following according to their ranks:

- School Captain - embroidered Red Lion above two silver stripes on the blazer.
- Two Deputy School Captains - also Red Lions, but single silver stripe on blazer.
- House Captains - Silver Lion Pin.
- Senior Prefects - Silver Star Pin.
- Prefects - Badge (grey crossing stripes).
- Sub prefects

Source: Starehe Boys Centre website

5.7.3 Universities and colleges student leadership

Universities and colleges student leadership associations can be cited as good practices in nurturing youth participation in national governance. Governance of universities is a complex undertaking given the population of students and possible diverse interests. This requires that students should be organized in bodies through which their contributions in university governance can be made. The students carry out the election of their representatives in a democratic way. Like any other elections the positions are highly contested. As with other political contentions, university student leadership tends to be infiltrated by national politics and political party divides, because the political leaders encourage elite youth support for their parties. Student leadership offers the youth an opportunity to learn and build experience in leadership that later becomes a lifelong asset. Given that a number of prominent politicians started their careers in student politics, it is clear that institutions have provided alternative avenues

for youth to participate in politics. Looking back from the current 10th Parliament, for example, most politicians played an active role in student leadership at university and had an opportunity to build up their experience in politics.

The University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) in collaboration with the University of Nairobi (Kenya), Makerere University (Uganda) and the University of California, Los Angeles' James S. Coleman African Studies Center inaugurated the Uongozi (Leadership) Institute in 1998, in Tanzania. This project involves undergraduate students in the arts, humanities, social sciences, law and related fields from the three African universities and North America. The school's main goal is to foster civic and intellectual leadership qualities among the next generation of East African leaders and to contribute to the promotion of rational and dynamic policy-making processes that are informed by African, as well as global perspectives.

5.7.4 President's Award schemes

Through the Presidential Award scheme for the youth, the award's alumni members are engaged in the public and private sectors, contributing to the socio-economic progress of the country. The president underscores the need to equip the youth with knowledge and skills that will empower them to embrace opportunities and overcome challenges.

In 2009, the president presented gold awards to 463 young Kenyans for their invaluable contribution to national development through free services at various levels of the President's Award-Kenya programme. This was a large increase from 383 awards in 2005 and 349 in 2004⁴¹. The head of state emphasized that in order to enhance harmony and cohesiveness among Kenyans, young people must continually be empowered with skills, knowledge and positive attitudes required for nation building.

During the 2009 President's Award, the president reiterated that "With such exposure, I am confident that the experience gained will help to contribute meaningfully to our country's development. This is important because one of the core objectives of the President's Award scheme is to impart positive life skills in young people,"

5.7.5 Peace Corps volunteer schemes

Engaging youth through volunteerism is an excellent way to tap into that potential, benefiting both society at large and the young people themselves. It is also part of the creative, participatory and quick-win strategy to tackle the significant challenges facing the youth. The main purpose of Peace Corps Volunteer schemes is to support and promote the emergence of empowered and effective youth leadership in order to direct their energy and creativity into peace-building, integration and development actions. The scheme seeks to deal with the challenge of 'skills mismatch' referring to the incongruence between the skills acquired by a young person and what employers demand should be addressed. Since its inception in Kenya, Peace Corps Volunteer schemes have contributed immensely to youth development and participation in national governance.

41 Speech by His Excellency the President during the President Award – Kenya Gold Award Certificate, 5th Aug 2005

The government should formulate and implement a youth volunteer and Internship policy in order to enhance youth participation in national governance through the following ways:

- promote an enabling environment for the exchange of youth knowledge and expertise through the utilization of their skills and the recognition of youth as agents of socio-economic growth and development
- harness through volunteerism, the reservoir of competence, potential and energy of youth on the continent as a human resource component and as partners in development programming and planning
- enhance the programme management capacity of qualified youth by deepening their knowledge of the world of work and improving their employability skills, positive social capital and civic liberties and responsibilities
- promote links to, and complement volunteer programmes, to establish a viable and harmonized volunteerism framework at national, regional and continental levels.

5.7.6 St John Ambulance youth leadership programme

St John Ambulance has defined youth participation as 'the involvement of young people in every part of the organization, at a level of their choice, in cooperation with other members.' This means that young people have a say about things that happen in their units and groups, and ensures that they are represented, consulted and listened to, when decisions are made at county and national levels. Equally, they have young volunteers on a youth participation lead team whose mission is to organize events that involve young people, and get their thoughts and opinions on issues, as well as provide the structure to ensure that young people are being involved through representation and participation. They are also

Text box 5.14 Scouts and Girl Guides

About the Scouts and Girl Guides:

The Kenya Girl Guides Association and the Kenya Scouts Association have a long history of working with young people from an early age. A primary aim of these organizations is the development of caring citizens. Their other aims are to cultivate self-reliance, a desire to serve the community, and spiritual development in young people.

The Girl Guides (girls only) and the Scouts (girls and boys) meet in small clubs in schools as an after-school activity. They also organize joint outdoor activities such as hiking or camping at least once a month in addition to larger national and international events. Their activities are geared towards members in different age groups. The age range for Scouts is 6 to 30 years and for Girl Guides, it is 7 to 25 years. These regular meetings and activities provide young people with friends and companions who share similar values and interests. These activities also reduce their exposure to risky environments. The training manuals for Scout and Guide leaders incorporate many issues, including environmental conservation, personal hygiene, reproductive health, and drug abuse.

responsible for organizing and planning events to encourage greater youth participation, such as youth assemblies. The St. John Ambulance Youth Programme gives young people the chance to contribute to their communities by learning new skills and helping others. The Youth Services Programme provides training in first aid, healthcare, life and safety skills and promotes social, educational and personal development through community service and leisure activities for youth.

5.7.7 The Scouts and the Girl Guides

The Scouts and the Girl Guides have been very useful in promoting youth participation in national governance matters. The movement has prepared youth for leadership through a value system and discipline necessary for leadership. The movement has also formed a partnership with like-minded organizations aimed at promoting youth participation. Some of these partners include Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the President's Award, the Junior Achievement, and the Kenya Red Cross, with whom the Scouts and Guides have formed a network called Partners Collaborating in Youth Empowerment in Kenya.

5.7.8 Youth mentorship programmes

Youth mentorship is strategic for helping young people succeed in school, work and life. It gives young people the confidence, resources and support they need to achieve their potential. However, the fact is this: these positive outcomes are only possible when young people are engaged in high-quality mentoring relationships. Youth mentorship programmes have a great potential for enhancing youth participation in national governance. Experience has shown that youth who have been exposed to mentorship have gained the requisite skills, confidence and competence to participate in activities and have produced the desired outcomes.

Longer-term mentoring relationships are associated with more benefits to youth than shorter-term relationships. Evidence for this has emerged from studies of community- and school-based models of volunteer youth mentoring. For example, youth who participated in a mentorship relationship that lasted at least 12 months had more positive benefits as compared to youth in relationships that lasted fewer than 12 months. Mentorship programmes, coupled with volunteer and internship programmes, can be very useful in preparing the youth to participate in national governance. In formulating a national volunteer and internship policy, the government should mainstream mentorship programmes to provide policy guidance to those implementing them in the government and private sector. A mentorship policy will contribute to enhanced youth participation in the following ways:

- promote an enabling environment for the exchange of knowledge and expertise through the utilization of mentees' skills and the recognition of youth as agents of socio-economic growth and development
- harness through mentorship the reservoir of competence, potential and energy of mentees in the country, as a human resource component and as partners in development programming and planning
- enhance the programme management capacity of qualified youth, by deepening their knowledge of the world of work and improving their employability skills, positive social capital and civic liberties and

- responsibilities
- promote links to, and complement mentor programmes, to establish a viable and harmonized mentor and volunteerism framework at

Text box 5.15 Youth voice on political incitement

As the youth it is up to us to say no to the leaders who incite the youth to violence and do not fulfil the mandate for which they were sent to parliament.

Eldoret youth – Picha Mtaani

Usikubali kundanganywa tusivutwe na upepo (Let's not agree to lies or be easily misled) this is our country and we are the ones to protect it ama vipi (or what?)

Romerez Odhiambo - Eldoret youth – Picha Mtaani

national, regional and continental levels.

5.8 Youth participation in Agenda Four

Although the post-election violence of 2007 may have caused untold pain among the Kenyans, it also generated an impetus for institutional reforms for the benefit of all Kenyans, and in particular, the youth. According to the Waki Commission Report, 1,133 people died, 117, 216 private properties

Text box 5.16 Youth participation in post-election violence

Lest we forget! This is truly the perfect forum for us to evaluate our actions during political turmoil, especially in 2007. Were our actions the perfect response or were there other options that were more peaceful and that could have saved the lives of the 1000+?

Edwin Maxwel Gichohi – Concerned youth

were destroyed, and about 350,000 people were displaced. Agenda Four of the Coalition Accord proposed far-reaching reforms to address the root causes of recurrent conflict and to create a better, more secure and prosperous Kenya for all.

Six long-term issues were addressed under Agenda Four. These were:

- constitutional, legal and institutional reforms
- land reform
- poverty, inequality and regional imbalances
- unemployment, particularly among the youth
- consolidation of national cohesion and unity
- transparency, accountability and impunity.

5.8.1 Youth participation in the constitution review process

The clamour for a new and democratic constitution in Kenya has continued for more than 20 years; and the youth of Kenya have been in the forefront, among other stakeholders, in steering the constitutional process. The youth's visibility in pushing for the youth agenda was seen in the street

demonstrations of the late 1990s to the Bomas meeting, through Kilifi⁴² and Naivasha⁴³ and lastly to Delta House, the headquarters of the Committee of Experts.

The youth applauded the draft constitution for including the following pertinent issues, providing a foundation for youth participation in national governance in future:

- Article 85 provides for an independent candidature, giving young people who have previously been locked out of leadership due to lack of goodwill from political parties, a chance to vie for various seats
- there is no minimum age for contesting the presidency, which is a significant gain for the youth
- provision in Article 152 for nomination to the cabinet from outside parliament is a major gain for professional youth who may not necessarily be interested in politics yet could participate in national

Text box 5.17 Constitution review from a youth perspective

- Article 98(1) makes provision for two seats in the Senate, which will not reflect and ensure adequate representation of the youth despite them forming the majority of Kenyan population.
- The Constitution fails to entrench the National Youth Council as a representative body for Kenya youth in the Constitution.
- Article 97(1)(c) provides that the National Assembly shall consist of 12 members nominated by parliamentary political parties to represent the special interest of youths, persons with disabilities and workers with no specific seats dedicated for each group.
- Lack of affirmative action for younger women for the 16 slots provided for women in the senate may leave the young women vulnerable at the expense of older women

Source: The Youth Agenda Daily Nation March 12, 2010

governance

- Article 43 on economic and social rights is a gain for youth struggling to access decent housing, health and other social amenities
- Article 16 on dual citizenship will open up regional and global development opportunities for the youth

Clause 104 and 119 provides an opportunity to recall non-performing MPs and to petition parliament for legislative action to redress their concerns. This is an opportunity for the youth to use their ICT prowess to devise programmes to monitor performance of MPs and ensure that their plight is not relegated to a footnote. However, the youth fault the draft constitution for inadequately failing to address their plight, as shown in the text box 5.17:

5.8.2 The importance of youth participation in the success of Agenda Four

The reform issues are central to national governance and youth

42 Kilifi is the town where the forum to complete the draft constitution of 2005 was held

43 Naivasha is the town where the Parliamentary Select Committee on constitution built consensus on the contentious issues in the draft constitution of 2010.

participation in the reform process is critical. Reforms must be driven by both inspirations and aspirations of young people, especially in the socio-economic and political realms. This can be ensured largely through creating joint platforms for the youth to participate and build ownership of the reforms. The reforms should promote youth participation in the development process, support skills development and capacity- building programmes, advocate for the rights of youth, their communities and environs, and support young people in grassroots initiatives to achieve social justice, sustainable development and a culture of peace.

As with new laws, reforms do not apply to the past but to the future. In Kenyan politics the future has been synonymous with the youth. In recognition of this fact the youth of Kenya have been very instrumental in participating in peace-building and reconciliation programmes, patriotism building and fostering unity among Kenyans.

5.8.3 Success initiatives for youth participation in peace building

Youth are the creative change agents of today, and must be helped in every way to drive this effort. This is based on the premise that no movement for social change in recent history has taken place without the energy and vitality of young people. Youthful creativity and resilience has made, and will continue to make, the world a better place. The more the youth are

informed about the social, political and cultural realities of the world in which they live, the more empowered and active they become. The sooner young people understand the nature of peace-building and involvement, the sooner social justice and peace will prevail. "Peace is not just about the time between two wars," but rather "Peace is all about building a culture of peace - peace between individuals, families, and communities."⁴⁴

(i) Voluntary Youth Philanthropists

The youth have been involved in implementing various programmes on peace building and conflict resolution, such as the Road for Peace, the Peace Caravan and Peace Clubs in High Schools by Voluntary Youth Philanthropists.

(ii) 'Tuelewane' Youth Exchange

The 'Tuelewane' Youth Exchange was mooted in 2007, a few months before the elections, recognizing that Kenya was teetering on the brink of ethnic fallout. Between October 2007 and December 2009, six Tuelewane activities have taken place, with 360 youth directly targeted for training and education on peace and conflict resolution. Six major conflicting communities have been involved. Each youth leader reached has been able to reach 12 more youth, and the exchange has reached over 4,320 youth leaders across the country in the conflict prone areas. Political leaders led the activities and encouraged hundreds and thousands of community members, including chiefs, councillors and religious leaders, to participate.

Text box 5.18 Voluntary Youth Philanthropists Peace Caravan initiatives

The first Peace Caravan themed 'Vijana kwa Undugu Milele', brought together youth leaders from all the provinces of Kenya in a campaign for peace and reconciliation, going to the grassroots, to showcase their solidarity and their brotherhood. Our team travelled for 21 days from Nairobi to Naivasha, Nakuru, Molo, Kuresoi, Burnt Forest, Eldoret, Nandi Hills, Kericho, Sotik coming to an end in Kisumu. In each community we were able to perform peace-themed drama and theatre presentations, sports challenges, road shows, workshops and motivational talks, and we showcased unique cultural conflict resolution systems that we had learned from the different communities we had visited.

The youth in the host communities also had an opportunity to showcase their own presentations and talk about the way forward in the reconciliation and peace building process, which they thought would work best for their communities and which they would own and push forward successfully. Before embarking on the actual caravan, 40 youth leaders from all over the country underwent an intensive training on the mechanisms of peace building, and how the caravan was expected to be conducted in order for it to leave maximum impact on the ground. The 5-day residential training was conducted at CMM in Ongata Rongai starting from 28th April to 2nd May. The training covered self-awareness, youth and diversity, conflict management, peace building and advocacy,

Source: Voluntary Youth Philanthropists (VYP) website

Text box 5.19 Youth voice on initiatives for peace

I left the Standard newspaper newsroom where I had worked as a photographer for five years. I decided to do something about my country. That is how Picha Mtaani (Street exhibitions) was born. I joined forces with other young like-minded Kenyans to form an organization that will go where young people are, to show them the horror of post election violence through photographs and invoke them to dialogue.

Boniface Mwangi – Founder Picha Mtaani

44 International Youth Forum - Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt 2007

Text box 5.20 Tuelewane Youth Exchange

The Youth Exchange Programme conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports with the support of UNDP Kenya, has made it possible for youth to travel to other communities and engage in dialogue with the intergenerational members of these communities, to broaden their world views, promote diversity, inculcate tolerance and promote acquisition of technical and life skills. Rarieda, Tetu, Turkana and Eldoret East were among the 16 constituencies that the youth were drawn from and which were actively integrated into the cultural exchange.

The Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme (KYEP) has set up a network of all the empowering projects established by the youth who participated in the exchange programmes. The network links the groups formed through the exchange programme and drawn from the 16 constituencies. 75% of the groups in KYEP have initiated socio-economic activities ranging from cereal banking, tree planting, joint reconstruction of houses destroyed during post-election violence, peace dialogues and empowering projects.

“Tuelewane” has enabled youth mentorship, enhanced intergenerational dialogues, directed linkages with traditional communities in conflict and built an entrepreneurial culture amongst the youth.

Source: UNDP Kenya

Text box 5.21 Peace and Youth Empowerment Programme

This project is being implemented in an initial 20 constituencies in Kenya, which had high youth militia activities during the Kenya 2007/08 post election crisis. The project targets 10,000 youth in each constituency with a potential of impacting on 200,000 youth over a two-year period. The constituencies include: Kapenguria, Mt. Elgon, Saboti, Laikipia East, South Mugirango, Tetu, Bura, Garsen, Mandera East, Wajir South, Sigor, Turkana Central, Turkana South, Baringo East, Mukuruweini, Gichugu, Kandara, Mathira, Kieni and Igembe South.

PichaMtaani: Seeks to create a platform for peace building, national healing and cohesion through street picture galleries, dialogues, reflections and discussions. The peace caravan tours towns hardest hit by the spate of the post-election violence in 2007/08, provides trauma and healing counselling support, and links to youth empowerment.

The Armed Violence and Small Arms Reduction Project also targets the youth. The project has the overall objective of strengthening the capacity of national and local government and civil society to effectively prevent and reduce armed violence, thus nurturing peace and enhancing development opportunities in six pastoral districts. It is envisaged that the project will expand to at least 10 districts. In view of the fact that the majority of gun runners and victims of illicit gun use are youth, this project intends to mitigate this through creating awareness of the dangers of illicit gun use, encourage voluntary surrender, provide alternative livelihoods and support community based development projects.

Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS): This scheme seeks to engage youth as volunteers to serve as mediators and reconcilers in their communities, by serving as agents of positive change. The scheme provides jobs and life skills, peer-to-peer counselling, and prepares youth for gainful economic engagement. The scheme has been rolled out in 11 districts including the Nairobi slums and in districts predominantly affected by the post election violence.

Source: UNDP Kenya

CHAPTER SIX

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF KENYAN YOUTH: THE ROAD AHEAD

6.1 Key messages and conclusions

6.1.1 The untapped youth resource

- A vibrant youth population is a valuable asset for national development and presents an investment potential for social, political and economic growth.
- The realisation of Vision 2030 and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), depend on the degree of inclusion of youth in the development agenda.
- The youth in Kenya are numerically the most significant part of Kenya's population. They are energetic, politically minded, and form part of the economic, cultural and social life of the country.
- Reaping the demographic dividend for Kenya that comes with the 'youth bulge' depends on the ability of the economy to absorb and employ the youth, thereby reducing the dependency ratio. The experience of the 'Asian Tigers' in harnessing the youthful population is a good example of how the youth bulge can be used to accelerate a country's development growth.
- The report observes that in a number of instances ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) formed their own policies with inadequate reference to the National Youth Policy, leading to insufficient mainstreaming of youth issues in the respective agencies.
- Whereas the National Youth Policy recognizes that youth diversity is a diverse group, it is also caught in the trap of imposing interventions for a homogeneous group, leading to difficulties in targeting. There are therefore a number of policy gaps, especially in reproductive health, life education and information dissemination strategies for youth development, that need to be harmonized and consolidated for more effective youth development.

6.1.2 Youth and human development: potentials and challenges

- Once people attain the age 15 they are likely to reach 35 years. Their relative young age means that they are likely to be at their best both physically and mentally. This gives them an advantage with regard to education and health variables, which are key determinants of HDI and YDI. However, they are challenged when it comes to decent jobs and income.
- The YDI (0.5817) and the HDI (0.561) are trailing each other with a very marginal difference. It should be noted that the YDI is a subset of HDI since it is the youth, plus others, that make up the entire populace. Since the youth are the dominant proportion of the population and are better endowed in terms of education and high survival probability to age 35, then when focusing on the youth alone the YDI is expected to be higher than HDI.
- The goal of Vision 2030 to realise a HDI growth from 0.532 to 0.750

(in a scale of 0-1 where 1 is best) cannot be realised without the YDI growing at the same projected pace. The report finds that two years into the first MTP, the YDI has grown from 0.532 to 0.5608, which shows a positive trend.

- Kenya is one of the first countries in Africa to have developed YDI as a measure of youth development. Nigeria, and a few other African countries have developed something similar.
- The national YDI value has been calculated at 0.5817, with four provinces indicating values below the national average and the other four registering values above the national average. At a glance, this shows that the overall welfare of the youth is slightly above average in Kenya. But there are also wide regional imbalances, with some provinces doing very well in advancing the youth interests in social development, while others are apparently performing below average.
- The National Education Index measured in respect of weighted variables of the literacy of the population aged 15-34 years, secondary school enrolment and quality of education, gives a composite index of 0.597. This shows that government initiatives and policies in the education sector are serving the youth need in securing education. However, there still exist challenges of access, equity, quality, efficiency and relevance that need to be addressed across the various regions of Kenya.
- A survival Index of 0.7040 paints a picture of good health investment in the youth, giving a high survival probability between 15 and 35 years. This is critical when looking at youth as a resource and a potential wealth for a nation. Its implication is that the country is assured of a health workforce which, when exploited, can spur economic growth as envisaged in Vision 2030
- The dependency ratio among the youth is still very high, with most of them struggling to earn a living. The challenge has been how to translate education and a high survival index into income for the youth. The government programmes targeting youth income such as the Kazi Kwa Vijana and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund as well as policies targeting youth in procurement of locally produced goods, which employ most of the youths are good initiatives.
- The computation of the human development indices, such as YDI, HDI, HPI, GDI and GEM, requires an established system for capturing, storage and analysis of the pertinent data. Though this capacity is building up at KNBS, it is relatively weak at most MDAs. This limitation is further exacerbated by inadequate ICT capacity in most public offices. There is therefore an apparent need for a well-equipped unit to spearhead future human development reporting.
- Although Kenya has prepared five human development reports since 1999, there has been no systematic approach to generate HDR specific data. Consequently, HDR has been developed with data references from various sources, which are not attuned to human development reporting. There is therefore a need to develop appropriate data systems and build necessary capacity to support future HDR reporting.
- According to the computed YDI national average of 0.5817, the status

of the youth in Kenya is above average in a scale of 0-1. However, the YDI has been computed using only three variables namely income, education and health. It is worth noting that these variables may not be exhaustive. It is recommended that a project for developing a comprehensive Youth Development Index for Kenya be undertaken in future.

6.1.3 Investing in the youth: education and health

- The youth need to be nurtured and equipped with literacy, numeracy, skills and knowledge in order to steer growth and break the intergenerational spiral of poverty, morbidity, illiteracy and inequality. Literate, numerate and skilled youth are a tremendous asset for development.
- While many youth are educated, skilled and healthy, a larger group is potentially at risk of engaging in harmful and antisocial behaviours, including unsafe sex, substance abuse, delinquency and crime. The consequences of these risks include: dropping out of school, unwanted and early pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, early/forced marriages, abortion related concerns, violence, social exclusion and imprisonment.
- The National Education Index is 0.597. This shows that government initiatives and policies in the education sector are advancing the interests of the youth in securing education. Regional differences are great, with Nairobi province registering a value of 0.728 and North Eastern 0.280. This means that access to education is highly restricted in some parts of the country and quite accessible in others. Access to education usually determines the level of participation of youth in their environment, and is a pointer to their incomes, health status, and life choices.
- The National Health Index (survival) is 0.7040. This value paints a picture of a vibrant health sector that truly recognises the youth as important assets that need adequate nurturing and health support. Central Province registered the highest survival value of 0.8453 and Nyanza Province had the lowest value of 0.5139.
- There has been a long-term concern that the 8-4-4 system of education does not sufficiently prepare young people for employment, self-sufficiency and the current realities of the nation. For example, there appears to be a disconnect between the university system and the local labour demands, with commentators observing that the pedagogical processes are not linked to competencies required in the labour market.
- Universal access to education will not yield much advantage if school graduates cannot read and write properly or have no general skills, such as critical thinking and effective problem solving, which are vital in today's world.
- At university level, the number of men is increasing at a faster rate than that of women, which may indicate that university education is increasingly becoming a preserve of men. This raises concern about requisite participation of both genders in nation building, and may indicate why men dominate the decision-making in Kenya. While the government has established a policy of affirmative action to improve women's enrolment at university by reducing the entry points for girls

by two points less than for boys, this report notes that additional measures will need to be put in place to correct the gender imbalance.

- According to the Client Satisfaction Survey 2008, the average waiting time between registration and seeing a clinician was 56% below acceptable standards as per the Citizen's Service Charter for delivery of medical services. However, waiting time during consultation met the standards by 75% and service delivery at pay point met the standards by 80%.
- Physical inaccessibility of healthcare facilities poses dangers, especially to the lives of pregnant mothers and their unborn babies. Given the long distances that people have to walk to access some inadequately staffed healthcare facilities, the gains made in reducing maternal and child mortality rates in Kenya are at risk of reversal.
- Considering that adolescents and youth are reluctant to seek reproductive health (RH) services currently provided in many health facilities across the country, it is important to find ways to offer care in a manner that they perceive as more welcoming, comfortable, and responsive.
- According to the Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development Policy, the high fertility rate among Kenyan youth is attributed to lack of access to information and services, perceived hostility of service providers, and inadequate policies.
- Studies in gender and health-seeking behaviour mainly centre on the differences in access to healthcare between men and women. Stereotypes of submissive females and powerful males restrict access to health information, hinder communication between young couples and encourage risky behaviour.
- This report reveals that the Health Index stands at 0.7040. The probability of a person aged 15 surviving to age 35 years was 89.84%, with the highest recorded in Central (93.41%) and the lowest in Nyanza (82.41%). At a glance one could argue that the health of youth in Kenya is sufficiently above average, indicating that morbidity and mortality is not a major problem among youth aged 15 to 35 years.

6.1.4 Tapping into the economic potential of the youth

- The high level of unemployment in the country undermines the country's potential for development, as it leaves youth energy and resourcefulness untapped, while raising dependency levels. The youth bulge in Kenya's population has the potential to catapult Kenya's economy to faster development, because there are potentially more workers (providers) in the economy than dependants.
- Due to high youth unemployment levels and perceived poor prospects in the rural areas, rural-urban migration is bound to remain high for the foreseeable future.
- One of the critical challenges facing Kenya is ethnic sensitivity. A large part of ethnic tensions in Kenya is derived from rural-rural migrations, which was apparently one of the sources of contention during the 2007 post election violence
- An increasing proportion of youth, especially those with better education and specialized skills such as medicine and ICT, have been moving outside the country in search of better employment opportunities. Though this relieves the unemployment situation, while

improving the country's foreign exchange earnings through remittances, lack of a clear policy on emigration fails to optimize benefits from emigration for both individuals and the country.

- There are possibilities to import labour from other East African Community countries, due to Kenya's higher income status, a scenario that would exacerbate Kenyan youth unemployment, especially at lower skill levels, including domestic workers.
- Youth unemployment in Kenya is attributed to a number of factors that include skills mismatch, information problems in the labour market and the way it is set up, and unexploited entrepreneurial skills, among others.
- About 94 percent of unemployed young people seek paid employment. This results in competition for the few available formal jobs. Since paid employment windows are limited, the majority of young people remain unemployed instead of venturing into business or other forms of legitimate income generation (which may require funding and other resources).
- With the right combination of motivation, ideas and opportunities, young people are able to establish productive and creative business ventures and shift themselves from the status of job seekers to job creators, thereby reducing their social dependency.
- Due to the significant role that agriculture plays in the Kenyan economy, any shortfalls in the sector impact negatively on the entire economy, resulting in constriction in the demand for labour, thus exacerbating the unemployment situation.
- The micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector is an integral part of Kenyan industry, providing over half the total employment for youth. In addition to employment creation, the sector provides a point-of-entry for many Kenyan entrepreneurs into the manufacturing and services sector, and serves as the testing ground for the development of low cost products.
- With the increasing commercialization of sporting activities and growing opportunities for the creative arts, many young Kenyans are engaging in sports, music and the performing arts as a way of earning an income and improving their standard of living. However, this sector enjoys mixed fortunes, largely due to poor governance, especially in sports.
- ICT is the fastest growing sub-sector in Kenya with the youth forming the critical mass of ICT businesses and jobs. The increased opportunities of business processing outsourcing that come with the ICT revolution present even more opportunities for youth employment.
- It is encouraging that the Kenya government has shown a keen interest in improving telecommunications in the country through various initiatives. However, Kenya is still weak in formal structures that would support innovative interventions to engage the youth e.g. online work, value addition and bulking, development of cottage industries, youth talents etc
- The National Youth Service was established in 1964, to train young citizens in technical and entrepreneurial skills. However, the absorption rate of youth into the service is low compared to the increasing number of young people who need to benefit from the programme. It is also characterized by a lack of modern and adequate training facilities and staff shortages.
- Work related volunteerism, internships and apprenticeships enable the youth to build networks by providing individuals with mentorship

opportunities that strengthen professional experience, make youth more competitive, and prepare them for the future by being responsible individuals in the community.

- Kenya lacks a National Volunteerism Policy and in most cases the concept of volunteering is misunderstood by both the young and the old. Volunteering in Kenya is often seen as an act of philanthropy and volunteers may be perceived as unemployed and time-wasters. It is also viewed as the function of governmental and non-governmental organizations and is valued less by individuals.
- In view of the escalating youth unemployment, there is a need to formulate and implement policies that foster youth employment and to review a number of existing policies, which may have the potential to inhibit youth employment.

6.1.5 Youth participation in national governance

- The youth in Kenya have numerical strength but they have not converted this into real gains in terms of youth representation and participation in national governance. As clearly put by youth representatives during the launch of the Vision 2030 for Kenya, the policies enacted today will affect the youth tomorrow, as public servants, investors, and tax payers. This is all the more reason for youth participation.
- The youth form the majority of the population and a large proportion of voters. Following on from this, they have the voting strength to decide the destiny of the country. Yet the same youth do not adequately participate in the national governance process.
- Though youth participation can cost time and money in the short run, the process will result in activities based on youth issues and on their understanding of problems, and will therefore be more relevant to the needs of their generation.
- Youth participation can help to secure the sustainability of activities, because youth are the primary stakeholders and will have more investment in the momentum. Youth participation can influence budgets to reflect youth needs and help to reform institutions that affect their lives. Institutions should provide mechanisms for the youth to participate in policy and to help guide priority-setting in such discussions.
- Meaningful youth participation should not be tokenistic, decorative or manipulative. It should enable youths to initiate, share and direct decisions together with other stakeholders as equal partners.
- Youth expertise in ICT provides an opportunity for them to participate in, and contribute to the shared values of transparency, accountability, performance, efficiency and speed in government transactions and operations. A window of opportunity for youth participation exists because much of the ICT content emanates from them and Internet competence gives them the power to share ideas and express themselves.
- Reform Agenda Four must be driven by both the inspirations and aspirations of young people, especially because youth are the creative change agents of today, and through participation they should drive this effort.
- At the community and grassroots level the youth play a visible role in organizing community members in discussions and interpretations of party manifestos and government policies
- Youth have played a role in national governance through their

prominent participation in internal and national security. Youth are the majority in the security forces including the National Defence Forces, the Administration Police and the Kenya Police.

6.2 Recommendations

To get the best out of Kenya's youth and to shape future policy debate and its implications on youth development, this report makes the following recommendations:

1. The potential that comes with a youth bulge in the population, when tapped, is capable of spurring the desired economic growth necessary to realise and exceed the long-term projections of Vision 2030. It is recognized that the government has made efforts to improve the well-being of youth through formulation and implementation of policies and programmes, such as creation of a fully-fledged Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, development of a National Youth Policy and establishment of a National Youth Council. However, gaps exist in cascading and mainstreaming youth policies into sector and strategic plans of government MDAs. In order to address this challenge, this report recommends the following:
 - i) Income-earning opportunities to be expanded to absorb and employ the youthful population, thereby reducing the dependency ratio.
 - ii) The experience of the Asian Tigers should be adopted to harness the demographic gift of a youthful population, by benchmarking Kenya with best practices on how the youth can be utilized to catapult a country's development growth trajectory.
 - iii) A review of the national youth policy should provide specific affirmative guidelines on youth representation in governance organs at local, regional and national levels.
 - iv) The capacity of youth desk officers in the MDAs should be strengthened to mainstream youth issues in their specific policies with adequate reference to the National Youth Policy.
 - v) Specific MDA policies should recognize youth diversity and provide guidelines to deal with specific issues such as reproductive health, life education and information dissemination strategies for youth.
2. According to the computed YDI national average of 0.5817, the status of the youth in Kenya is above average (on a scale of 0-1 where 1 is the best). However, the YDI has been computed using only three variables namely income, education and health. While the index will suffice for now, it is worth noting that these variables may not be exhaustive. Further, this YDI does not analyse other independent variables to ascertain the linkages of various agents and determinants affecting the development of youth in Kenya. It is observed that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is working towards this in accordance with the special programmes sector report for the year 2009/2010⁴⁵. This will enable the government through its respective ministries, and in partnership with UNDP Kenya, to develop a more robust Kenya Youth Development Index. To address the inadequacies and data limitations in the development of a YDI for Kenya, this report recommends the following:
 - i) A national longitudinal study and survey on Kenya's youth transition to adulthood to be carried out, with a focus on the National Youth Policy domains within each thematic area of proposed policy strategic interventions. This will enable the government, in partnership with UNDP Kenya, to develop a more robust Kenya Youth Development Index.
 - ii) A system should be established for capturing, storing and analysing the pertinent data for computation of the human development indices, namely YDI, HDI, HPI, GDI and GEM in the Kenyan context.
 - iii) The capacity of KNBS should be built and ICT capacity in relevant ministries, departments and agencies strengthened, to be able to collect, analyse and interpret youth and human development data for Kenya.
 - iv) A unit should be established, in collaboration with UNDP Kenya, to spearhead future human development reporting and serve as a government host for human development reporting in future.
 - v) At intervals of two years the YDI should be computed along future choice of NHDR thematic areas. This will monitor the YDI alongside the other conventional human development indices.
3. The National Education Index of 0.597 shows that government initiatives and policies in the education sector are advancing the interests of youth in securing education, given that it is above average on a scale of 0-1. Regional differences are great with Nairobi Province registering a value of 0.728 and North Eastern 0.280. This means that access to education is highly restricted in some parts of the country and quite accessible in others. In order to address the shortcomings in education for the youth and to increase the contribution of education towards better youth development, this report recommends the following:
 - i) Improve physical infrastructure in primary education, to cope with the demands of successful implementation of free primary education.
 - ii) Address the teacher shortage in many districts, recruit volunteer and intern teachers, and rationalize and harmonize teacher distribution in the districts.
 - iii) Expand the bursary scheme to needy youths from poor backgrounds so as to improve the transition to secondary education.
 - iv) Review the policy on affirmative action on girls' education with the aim of correcting and addressing gender imbalances in tertiary level and higher education, especially regarding access to courses and completion rates.
 - v) Establish clear and appropriate policies for monitoring, integrating and creating harmony between regular and parallel university programmes.
 - vi) Improve supervision of students at higher education level to reduce the number of students who graduate only by employing professional researchers and writers to do their papers.
 - vii) Revamp adult literacy programmes in Kenya to give adult learners a second chance to improve their life skills and choices.
 - viii) Strengthen systems to ensure the recognition, validation and accreditation of non-formal and informal learning for young people. Replicate a non-formal model of education in Nairobi's

⁴⁵ It is recognised that the government has made past attempts to develop a comprehensive Youth Development Index (YDI) in accordance with the special programmes sector report for the year 2000/2010

slums and in other parts of rural Kenya.

4. The National Youth Survival Index of 0.7040 shows a picture of a vibrant health sector that truly recognises the youth as an important asset, needing adequate nurturing and health support. However there are great disparities, with Central province registering the highest survival value of 0.8453 while Nyanza province registered the lowest value of 0.5139. This was due to a host of factors including unsafe sex, substance abuse, delinquency and crime that led to dropping out of school, unwanted and early pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, early/forced marriages, abortion related concerns, violence, social exclusion, and imprisonment. These are compounded by inaccessibility to health facilities, either because of distance or affordability. In order to address these challenges the report recommends the following:
 - i) Review the policy on drug procurement and supplies in order to address the problem of drug unavailability in public health facilities.
 - ii) Review the policy on user fees to make it clear who qualifies for a waiver. The youth are among the poorest in this country and this policy should be shaped to recognize youth vulnerabilities.
 - iii) Scale-up the ongoing efforts aimed at making health facilities more youth friendly and allocate sufficient resources.
 - iv) Scale-up the necessary public awareness and screening campaigns on diabetes and cancer, which is increasingly common among children and the youth. While the government has taken action to improve treatment, this has yet to take root.
 - v) Ensure adequate equipment for treating cervical cancer, which is lacking in major hospitals, forcing patients to seek treatment in Kampala, Uganda.
 - vi) Increase funds to address HIV/AIDS behaviour change, prevention and care problems. Even though knowledge on HIV/AIDS among the youth is almost universal in Kenya, this knowledge has not translated to behaviour change. Increasingly the youth continue to bear the greatest burden of the disease.
 - vii) Mainstream major RH youth concerns such as abortion, free RH services, as well as other strategies to reduce maternal mortality in the proposed national RH policy.
 - viii) Introduce, monitor and regulate RH information in schools so that youth sexual and RH behaviour is governed by early knowledge.
 - ix) Enforce the policy on harmful cultural practices. The government has enacted the Children Act, 2001, which addresses the majority of the concerns such as FGM and sexual abuse.
5. The high level of unemployment in the country undermines its potential for development, as it leaves youth energy and resourcefulness untapped, while raising dependency levels. The youth bulge in Kenya's population has the potential to catapult Kenya's economy to faster development, because there are potentially more

With the increasing commercialization of sporting activities and growing opportunities for the creative arts, many young Kenyans are engaging in sport, music and the performing arts as a way of earning income and improving their standard of living.

workers (providers) in the economy than dependants. There are prospects to import labour from other East African Community countries, due to Kenya's higher income status, a scenario that would exacerbate Kenyan youth unemployment, especially at lower skill levels, including domestic workers. To raise youth income and increase their economic potential this report recommends the following:

- i) Develop a policy on Kenyan emigrants to address such issues as dual citizenship, support in securing foreign jobs and assisting those in the Diaspora to invest at home.
 - ii) Develop a policy covering all aspects of school to work transition, including an effective labour information and employment bureau. As a first step, a study should be undertaken to find out why the existing employment bureau in the Ministry of Labour is not working.
 - iii) Mainstream a strong entrepreneurship culture in school curricula. In addition, deliberate efforts should be made to spur entrepreneurship, especially in the provision of capital, business skills and market information.
 - iv) Develop a national sub-contracting policy between small and big enterprises as a matter of priority. There is a need for a policy to promote synergy between the formal and informal sectors, in view of their critical importance for sustainable industrial development.
 - v) Develop a national volunteerism policy that will, among other things, define the concept within the country's context and establish guidelines and incentives for both state and non-state actors.
 - vi) Establish a government school of talents to develop a policy to guide young talented people to earn income from their talents.
6. The youth in Kenya have numerical strength and form a large proportion of voters. Even though they have the voting strength to decide the destiny of the country, too often youth policies are shaped by negative stereotypes of young people with excessive attention given to delinquency, drug abuse and violence. This type of policy focus ignores the majority of the youth who do not engage in such high-risk behaviours and diverts attention from the need for investment in youth participation. The government has made concerted efforts to expand the space for youth participation. Such efforts include a Ministry for Youth Affairs, formulation of a National Youth Policy, and establishment of a National Youth Council. In addition, numerous programmes and projects targeting the youth have been developed. However, these efforts have not yielded a real participation by the youth in national governance. This report accords great importance to the role of youth participation in national governance as a prerequisite for accelerated youth development. It therefore recommends the following:
 - i) Review the Political Parties Act to create an affirmative policy statement that will guide political parties to nominate youth to parliament. This will give youth increased representation in parliament.
 - ii) Fast track a review of the policy on promotion of public servants based on service duration, so that promotion is based on competencies and achievement. This will create an opportunity for the youth to rise to job group PQRSTUV and above, where governance and policy decisions are made.
 - iii) Review the policy on extending the retirement age from 55 to 60

- years, to apply to specialized areas of government service only and to be determined by outstanding performance. This will provide an opportunity for public servants in non-critical areas to retire at the normal age and for the youth to move to the next job group.
- iv) Review the National Youth Policy to include affirmative policy statements on the representation of youth in governance bodies, such as boards of state corporations and institutions, policy making task forces and commissions, and grassroots governance structures such as district development committees, CDTF committees and local authorities.
 - v) Review the sports policy to give the youth a more active role in sports governance in this country. The management of sport, especially football, has been faced by various challenges. The youth should be given more space to participate in sports governance, as they are the main stakeholders.
 - vi) Establish and strengthen the National Youth Parliament and local youth councils as mechanisms to include the youth in decision-making processes and increase their access to their elected members of parliament.
 - vii) Undertake a national survey on voter participation rates of eligible youths and launch campaigns to increase youth participation in voting during general elections and referendums.
 - viii) Establish an alumni association of President's Award winners and high school student prefects, to create a government school of young leaders to prepare the youth to participate in various areas of national governance. The government school of young leaders should include expansive programmes such as mentorship, values and ethics and patriotism.
- ix) Increase ICT capacity and connectivity in national governance processes and establish high ICT standards in national governance to advance youth participation in government decision-making and policy formulation processes.
 - x) Strengthen youth participation in fighting against corruption by using their high ICT competencies to contribute to the shared values of transparency, accountability, performance, efficiency and speed in government transactions and operations. Youth can play an important role in fighting corruption in the country through the automation of programmes, such as those designed for whistle-blowers.
 - xi) Establish a policy to ensure that all elected members of parliament and councillors are accessible to the youth on the Internet and provide accurate and updated Internet-based information on government resources and programmes.
 - xii) Replicate good practices in youth participation in the reform agenda, such as the peace initiatives like Tuelewane Youth Exchange and the peace caravan initiatives, to seize the opportunity to unite the youth and build their patriotism.

Establish an alumni association of President's Award winners and high school student prefects, to create a government school of young leaders to prepare the youth to participate in various areas of national governance. The government school of young leaders should include expansive programmes such as mentorship, values and ethics and patriotism. _____

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.1 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT

Province and district within province	Life expectancy (years)	Literacy (%)	School enrolment rate (%)	PPP ⁴⁶ (\$)	LE ⁴⁷ index	Education index	GDP index	HDI
Nairobi*	57.0	88.1	71.3	3,673	0.5333	0.8250	0.6015	0.6533
Central*	64.2	79.8	72.3	1,443	0.6533	0.7731	0.4455	0.6240
Kiambu	56.3	89.9	71.5	1,749	0.5217	0.8380	0.4777	0.6124
Kirinyaga	62.8	73.1	64.7	1,354	0.6300	0.7032	0.4349	0.5894
Murang'a	63.1	68.0	78.7	1,354	0.6350	0.7158	0.4349	0.5952
Nyandarua	63.7	77.3	74.4	1,059	0.6450	0.7631	0.3938	0.6006
Nyeri	63.9	86.5	73.0	1,349	0.6483	0.8199	0.4343	0.6342
Thika	55.6	77.9	70.7	1,744	0.5100	0.7550	0.4771	0.5807
Maragua	63.7	72.2	74.5	1,157	0.6450	0.7295	0.4087	0.5807
Coast*	55.1	62.9	63.7	1,460	0.5017	0.6313	0.4475	0.5268
Kilifi	53.6	56.0	70.0	1,063	0.4767	0.6068	0.3945	0.5807
Kwale	53.0	58.6	66.8	821	0.4667	0.6134	0.3514	0.4771
Lamu	56.0	67.5	69.0	1,545	0.5167	0.6800	0.4570	0.5512
Mombasa	53.3	79.2	55.5	2,286	0.4717	0.7128	0.5223	0.5689
Taita Taveta	57.9	66.2	74.3	1,256	0.5483	0.6893	0.4223	0.5533
Tana River	53.8	31.4	49.8	651	0.4800	0.3751	0.3127	0.3892
Malindi	54.3	54.0	65.4	1,303	0.4883	0.5782	0.4285	0.4983
Eastern*	61.5	68.5	72.8	1,070	0.6083	0.6990	0.3957	0.5677
Embu	66.3	78.3	71.1	1,228	0.6883	0.7594	0.4185	0.6221
Isiolo	57.6	42.8	60.1	792	0.5433	0.4856	0.3453	0.4581
Kitui	57.1	62.3	72.5	802	0.5350	0.6573	0.3475	0.5133
Makueni	57.2	77.6	77.8	875	0.5367	0.7767	0.3619	0.5584
Machakos	59.0	80.8	75.0	1,134	0.5667	0.7884	0.4053	0.5868
Marsabit	60.7	19.9	40.0	560	0.5950	0.2661	0.2876	0.3829
Mbeere	63.0	75.8	77.6	938	0.6333	0.7642	0.3736	0.5904
Meru Central	64.7	71.0	71.4	1,465	0.6617	0.7115	0.4480	0.6071
Moyale	56.3	34.5	57.2	714	0.5217	0.4208	0.3282	0.4235
Mwingi	60.7	64.1	72.1	853	0.5950	0.6677	0.3579	0.5402
Meru North	60.8	43.6	71.3	1,286	0.5967	0.5286	0.4263	0.5172
Tharaka	52.8	59.4	77.2	795	0.4633	0.6534	0.3461	0.4876
Meru South	64.6	79.9	79.0	1,104	0.6600	0.7965	0.4009	0.6191
North Eastern*	61.9	24.8	47.6	644	0.6150	0.3238	0.3109	0.4166
Garissa	59.4	38.0	48.3	930	0.5733	0.4142	0.3721	0.4532
Mandera	61.0	13.3	39.8	465	0.6000	0.2210	0.2566	0.3592
Wajir	61.8	19.6	53.1	465	0.6133	0.3077	0.2566	0.3925
Nyanza*	44.8	76.9	75.1	1,093	0.3300	0.7628	0.3991	0.4973
Gucha	56.8	72.3	80.0	779	0.5300	0.7485	0.3426	0.5404
Homa Bay	38.3	74.8	70.5	1,118	0.2217	0.7335	0.4029	0.4527
Kisii	55.2	82.7	72.7	899	0.5033	0.7936	0.3665	0.5545
Kisumu	40.5	85.4	80.1	1,653	0.2583	0.8364	0.4682	0.5210
Kuria	52.6	54.8	72.6	914	0.4600	0.6072	0.3693	0.4788
Migori	40.3	84.8	71.9	1,151	0.2550	0.8051	0.4077	0.4893
Nyamira	63.2	82.1	76.9	966	0.6367	0.8039	0.3786	0.6064
Rachuonyo	41.9	73.5	81.0	936	0.2817	0.7599	0.3733	0.4716
Siaya	40.0	67.2	71.2	1,058	0.2500	0.6854	0.3938	0.4430

Province* and district within province	Life expectancy (%)	Literacy (%)	School enrolment rate (%)	PPP ⁴⁶ (\$)	LE ⁴⁷ index	Education index	GDP index	HDI
Suba	39.3	70.8	68.9	1,017	0.2383	0.7015	0.3871	0.4423
Bondo	41.1	72.6	73.7	1,288	0.2683	0.7295	0.4266	0.4748
Nyando	40.3	75.2	72.4	1,118	0.2550	0.7424	0.4029	0.4668
Rift Valley*	62.7	67.0	68.5	1,230	0.6283	0.6753	0.4189	0.5742
Baringo	61.6	65.9	79.8	984	0.6100	0.7052	0.3817	0.5656
Bomet	66.1	77.7	82.4	711	0.6850	0.7931	0.3273	0.6018
Keiyo	66.2	64.7	78.9	995	0.6867	0.6944	0.3835	0.5882
Kajiado	63.7	65.2	55.9	2,191	0.6450	0.6212	0.5152	0.5938
Kericho	58.6	81.1	76.4	1,438	0.5600	0.7954	0.4449	0.6001
Koibatek	66.0	70.3	79.4	1,034	0.6833	0.7336	0.3899	0.6023
Laikipia	64.9	69.0	71.2	1,407	0.6650	0.6973	0.4414	0.6012
Marakwet	65.6	67.3	72.2	955	0.6767	0.6895	0.3766	0.5809
Nakuru	55.6	76.4	64.7	1,332	0.5100	0.7253	0.4321	0.5558
Nandi	60.2	76.8	77.3	1,046	0.5867	0.7698	0.3918	0.5828
Narok	63.5	48.3	56.4	1,319	0.6417	0.5101	0.4306	0.5275
Samburu	60.7	27.0	55.9	517	0.5950	0.3660	0.2743	0.4118
Trans Mara	58.9	50.7	62.3	782	0.5650	0.5458	0.3432	0.4847
Trans Nzoia	60.2	65.1	70.9	969	0.5867	0.6706	0.3791	0.5455
Turkana	56.9	16.9	39.3	383	0.5317	0.2433	0.2243	0.3331
Uasin Gishu	60.6	82.4	75.1	1,832	0.5933	0.7999	0.4854	0.6262
West Pokot	58.3	49.5	59.1	658	0.5550	0.5269	0.3145	0.4655
Buret	60.6	82.9	80.3	1,468	0.5933	0.8205	0.4484	0.6208
Western*	52.8	72.1	75.0	903	0.4633	0.7305	0.3673	0.5204
Bungoma	57.9	76.2	81.8	819	0.5483	0.7804	0.3509	0.5599
Busia	43.8	62.2	71.0	643	0.3133	0.6515	0.3106	0.4251
Mt. Elgon	61.0	66.8	73.1	754	0.6000	0.6886	0.3371	0.5419
Kakamega	53.3	71.3	72.6	1,081	0.4717	0.7176	0.3973	0.5289
Lugari	60.7	84.7	71.4	831	0.5950	0.8024	0.3534	0.5836
Teso	50.4	63.2	77.8	910	0.4233	0.6810	0.3686	0.4910
Vihiga	55.9	74.8	72.0	1,103	0.5150	0.7389	0.4007	0.5516
Butere/Mumias	48.5	69.3	71.5	895	0.3917	0.7007	0.3657	0.4860
NATION	56.6	71.4	70.5	1,436	0.5267	0.7111	0.4447	0.5608

ANNEX 1.2 GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT

Province* and district within province	Life expectancy (years)		Literacy (%)		School enrolment rate (%)		Income (\$PPP)		GDI
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Nairobi*	54.1	59.8	92.0	84.2	75.8	67.7	4,142	3,209	0.5845
Central*	60.4	68.0	84.4	75.8	72.6	72.0	1,857	1,068	0.5357
Kiambu	53.4	59.2	93.2	87.0	71.8	71.3	2,426	1,128	0.5395
Kirinyaga	58.3	67.3	76.8	69.7	64.3	65.0	1,679	1,053	0.5132
Murang'a	59.1	67.1	70.5	65.9	77.7	79.6	1,665	1,103	0.5048
Nyandarua	59.5	67.9	81.4	73.5	71.3	77.8	1,137	987	0.5143
Nyeri	60.2	67.7	91.3	82.4	76.5	69.9	1,404	1,301	0.5498
Thika	53.0	58.1	85.6	71.4	73.7	68.3	2,325	1,229	0.5116
Maragua	60.2	67.3	77.3	67.5	72.2	77.1	1,308	1,010	0.5074
Coast*	52.0	58.3	73.8	53.0	68.3	59.2	2,057	898	0.4609
Kilifi	50.7	56.5	71.0	43.3	73.9	65.9	1,504	646	0.4194
Kwale	51.7	54.2	73.7	44.0	73.8	59.1	1,114	528	0.4083
Lamu	54.9	57.0	74.6	60.2	70.7	67.2	1,739	1,346	0.4863
Mombasa	52.7	53.9	84.5	74.4	60.4	51.7	3,283	1,359	0.5184
Taita Taveta	54.4	61.3	80.1	54.9	71.3	77.6	1,645	895	0.4725
Tana River	52.6	55.0	37.8	25.3	56.2	43.2	922	387	0.3398
Malindi	52.2	56.4	68.2	42.3	68.6	62.4	1,993	721	0.4252
Eastern*	57.6	65.5	72.6	64.6	70.9	74.7	1,138	1,005	0.4880
Embu	60.7	71.9	81.3	75.4	71.7	70.6	1,167	1,288	0.5327
Isiolo	54.3	60.9	51.6	33.2	58.7	61.6	708	878	0.3958
Kitui	53.0	61.1	67.0	58.5	71.3	73.6	878	739	0.4439
Makueni	53.9	60.4	83.9	71.5	75.4	80.7	998	748	0.4810
Machakos	55.1	62.8	85.6	76.6	74.7	75.2	1,283	994	0.5096
Marsabit	57.4	64.0	23.3	16.7	38.5	41.5	679	441	0.3380
Mbeere	59.2	66.8	81.9	69.9	73.4	81.8	1,127	754	0.4992
Meru Central	61.8	67.6	71.9	70.1	68.5	74.9	1,288	1,652	0.5214
Moyale	55.7	56.9	44.3	24.1	59.4	54.8	832	589	0.3654
Mwingi	55.7	65.7	70.2	58.6	71.3	73.0	1,160	579	0.4559
Meru North	58.4	63.3	44.5	42.8	67.5	75.2	1,597	972	0.4384
Tharaka	48.9	56.2	69.8	50.1	79.2	75.9	1,132	529	0.4105
Meru South	61.7	67.5	84.6	75.5	70.7	88.3	1,213	997	0.5253
North Eastern*	62.2	61.5	37.5	11.6	58.2	35.4	790	490	0.3466
Garissa	60.0	58.7	52.8	21.3	54.8	41.4	1,113	739	0.3875
Mandera	61.4	60.5	22.7	4.0	51.2	27.4	577	349	0.2998
Wajir	61.3	62.3	31.7	8.1	66.5	35.5	531	393	0.3194
Nyanza*	41.7	48.0	85.0	69.7	78.8	71.5	1,386	824	0.4482
Gucha	52.4	61.3	77.6	67.2	78.7	81.4	1,161	412	0.4478
Homa Bay	35.9	40.7	87.9	62.8	76.0	65.5	1,810	521	0.4033
Kisii	50.5	60.0	89.8	76.6	75.5	69.6	973	830	0.4885
Kisumu	37.8	43.2	90.5	80.8	86.3	74.6	1,814	1,500	0.4797
Kuria	49.8	55.4	63.3	45.5	72.4	72.9	912	916	0.4161
Migori	37.8	42.8	94.9	76.2	76.6	67.5	1,769	626	0.4431
Nyamira	59.2	67.2	85.1	79.6	81.9	72.7	1,174	786	0.5173
Rachuonyo	39.4	44.4	84.3	64.1	83.9	78.5	789	1,063	0.4233
Siaya	36.9	43.0	79.5	56.6	73.2	69.1	1,290	835	0.4079
Suba	36.5	42.0	80.2	62.3	76.4	61.1	1,473	592	0.4039
Bondo	38.3	43.9	87.7	60.3	77.1	70.0	1,361	1,224	0.4360
Nyando	37.7	42.9	83.3	68.0	81.5	62.5	1,417	834	0.4307

Province* and district within province	Life expectancy (years)		Literacy (%)		School enrolment rate (%)		Income (\$PPP)		GDI
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Nairobi*	54.1	59.8	92.0	84.2	75.8	67.7	4,142	3,209	0.5845
Central*	60.4	68.0	84.4	75.8	72.6	72.0	1,857	1,068	0.5357
Kiambu	53.4	59.2	93.2	87.0	71.8	71.3	2,426	1,128	0.5395
Kirinyaga	58.3	67.3	76.8	69.7	64.3	65.0	1,679	1,053	0.5132
Murang'a	59.1	67.1	70.5	65.9	77.7	79.6	1,665	1,103	0.5048
Nyandarua	59.5	67.9	81.4	73.5	71.3	77.8	1,137	987	0.5143
Nyeri	60.2	67.7	91.3	82.4	76.5	69.9	1,404	1,301	0.5498
Thika	53.0	58.1	85.6	71.4	73.7	68.3	2,325	1,229	0.5116
Maragua	60.2	67.3	77.3	67.5	72.2	77.1	1,308	1,010	0.5074
Coast*	52.0	58.3	73.8	53.0	68.3	59.2	2,057	898	0.4609
Kilifi	50.7	56.5	71.0	43.3	73.9	65.9	1,504	646	0.4194
Kwale	51.7	54.2	73.7	44.0	73.8	59.1	1,114	528	0.4083
Lamu	54.9	57.0	74.6	60.2	70.7	67.2	1,739	1,346	0.4863
Mombasa	52.7	53.9	84.5	74.4	60.4	51.7	3,283	1,359	0.5184
Taita Taveta	54.4	61.3	80.1	54.9	71.3	77.6	1,645	895	0.4725
Tana River	52.6	55.0	37.8	25.3	56.2	43.2	922	387	0.3398
Malindi	52.2	56.4	68.2	42.3	68.6	62.4	1,993	721	0.4252
Eastern*	57.6	65.5	72.6	64.6	70.9	74.7	1,138	1,005	0.4880
Embu	60.7	71.9	81.3	75.4	71.7	70.6	1,167	1,288	0.5327
Isiolo	54.3	60.9	51.6	33.2	58.7	61.6	708	878	0.3958
Kitui	53.0	61.1	67.0	58.5	71.3	73.6	878	739	0.4439
Makueni	53.9	60.4	83.9	71.5	75.4	80.7	998	748	0.4810
Machakos	55.1	62.8	85.6	76.6	74.7	75.2	1,283	994	0.5096
Marsabit	57.4	64.0	23.3	16.7	38.5	41.5	679	441	0.3380
Mbeere	59.2	66.8	81.9	69.9	73.4	81.8	1,127	754	0.4992
Meru Central	61.8	67.6	71.9	70.1	68.5	74.9	1,288	1,652	0.5214
Moyale	55.7	56.9	44.3	24.1	59.4	54.8	832	589	0.3654
Mwingi	55.7	65.7	70.2	58.6	71.3	73.0	1,160	579	0.4559
Meru North	58.4	63.3	44.5	42.8	67.5	75.2	1,597	972	0.4384
Tharaka	48.9	56.2	69.8	50.1	79.2	75.9	1,132	529	0.4105
Meru South	61.7	67.5	84.6	75.5	70.7	88.3	1,213	997	0.5253
North Eastern*	62.2	61.5	37.5	11.6	58.2	35.4	790	490	0.3466
Garissa	60.0	58.7	52.8	21.3	54.8	41.4	1,113	739	0.3875
Mandera	61.4	60.5	22.7	4.0	51.2	27.4	577	349	0.2998
Wajir	61.3	62.3	31.7	8.1	66.5	35.5	531	393	0.3194
Nyanza*	41.7	48.0	85.0	69.7	78.8	71.5	1,386	824	0.4482
Gucha	52.4	61.3	77.6	67.2	78.7	81.4	1,161	412	0.4478
Homa Bay	35.9	40.7	87.9	62.8	76.0	65.5	1,810	521	0.4033
Kisii	50.5	60.0	89.8	76.6	75.5	69.6	973	830	0.4885
Kisumu	37.8	43.2	90.5	80.8	86.3	74.6	1,814	1,500	0.4797
Kuria	49.8	55.4	63.3	45.5	72.4	72.9	912	916	0.4161
Migori	37.8	42.8	94.9	76.2	76.6	67.5	1,769	626	0.4431
Nyamira	59.2	67.2	85.1	79.6	81.9	72.7	1,174	786	0.5173
Rachuonyo	39.4	44.4	84.3	64.1	83.9	78.5	789	1,063	0.4233
Siaya	36.9	43.0	79.5	56.6	73.2	69.1	1,290	835	0.4079
Suba	36.5	42.0	80.2	62.3	76.4	61.1	1,473	592	0.4039
Bondo	38.3	43.9	87.7	60.3	77.1	70.0	1,361	1,224	0.4360
Nyando	37.7	42.9	83.3	68.0	81.5	62.5	1,417	834	0.4307

ANNEX 1.3 HUMAN POVERTY INDEX BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT

Province* and district within province	1-P40 (%) ⁴⁸	Illiteracy rate (%)	Households with no access to safe water (%)	Children underweight (%)	HPI ⁴⁹⁻¹ value
Nairobi*	24.24	11.90	2.9	11.7	17.6
Central*	16.79	20.17	48.1	13.8	24.2
Kiambu	23.20	10.08	22.0	12.7	18.4
Kirinyaga	18.71	26.85	45.0	11.0	25.2
Murang'a	16.70	31.97	75.0	16.4	35.4
Nyandarua	17.02	22.75	59.7	9.8	26.9
Nyeri	15.57	13.53	48.9	8.6	21.6
Thika	24.86	22.11	46.0	16.6	26.6
Maragua	16.69	27.85	64.7	24.0	33.6
Coast*	28.79	37.15	36.6	23.1	32.4
Kilifi	30.25	43.96	39.6	27.9	36.9
Kwale	31.12	41.38	18.6	20.3	33.1
Lamu	26.19	32.49	78.4	24.4	39.7
Mombasa	28.72	20.84	35.7	12.1	24.9
Taita Taveta	24.44	33.77	33.7	23.7	29.5
Tana River	30.31	68.63	52.9	40.0	53.2
Malindi	28.80	45.96	50.9	28.2	39.4
Eastern*	19.68	31.52	53.9	30.3	33.6
Embu	16.06	21.66	49.8	5.6	22.8
Isiolo	25.78	57.22	50.3	32.9	45.2
Kitui	25.86	37.65	83.5	39.0	46.4
Makueni	24.12	22.41	57.1	31.1	33.3
Machakos	21.87	19.22	51.6	31.8	31.1
Marsabit	20.30	80.08	34.4	32.3	57.1
Mbeere	18.28	24.16	71.7	21.2	34.2
Meru Central	17.24	28.98	22.4	31.6	25.4
Moyale	26.92	65.50	60.6	30.1	50.8
Mwingi	24.04	35.91	86.0	46.6	48.9
Meru North	19.36	56.35	44.6	22.8	42.1
Tharaka	31.96	40.60	69.6	28.4	41.7
Meru South	18.48	20.05	40.9	16.5	23.3
North Eastern*	21.40	75.23	65.4	31.3	56.8
Garissa	23.64	62.04	70.3	26.8	49.6
Mandera	22.31	86.74	66.2	41.2	64.9
Wajir	21.81	80.38	60.2	25.5	58.7
Nyanza*	41.57	23.15	49.4	17.8	34.4
Gucha	27.65	27.71	41.8	20.7	29.0
Homa Bay	51.19	25.24	63.7	19.3	42.0
Kisii	27.88	17.31	20.1	14.6	22.0
Kisumu	47.77	14.59	43.5	18.6	36.2
Kuria	30.83	45.23	68.0	27.5	42.5
Migori	48.26	15.19	53.9	21.6	38.4
Nyamira	15.91	17.86	47.9	21.1	25.7
Rachuonyo	45.58	26.50	85.9	11.9	42.5
Siaya	48.76	32.79	54.6	14.9	40.1
Suba	49.80	29.23	40.6	18.0	38.7

Province* and district within province	1-P40 (%) ⁴⁸	Illiteracy rate (%)	Households with no access to safe water (%)	Children underweight (%)	HPI ⁴⁹ -1 value
Bondo	46.80	27.41	65.1	9.1	38.7
Nyando	47.97	24.82	33.0	15.5	36.0
Rift Valley*	19.48	32.97	49.4	20.4	30.6
Baringo	21.41	34.12	79.9	29.9	41.5
Bomet	15.18	22.26	84.1	14.5	35.5
Keiyo	14.66	35.30	30.1	22.0	27.8
Kajiado	18.42	34.77	24.7	19.4	27.0
Kericho	26.19	18.87	27.6	22.0	23.7
Koibatek	15.06	29.68	55.0	16.7	29.3
Laikipia	16.84	30.98	44.6	14.6	27.2
Marakwet	15.98	32.66	77.1	20.0	37.1
Nakuru	24.27	23.56	34.7	16.8	24.6
Nandi	20.59	23.20	78.2	22.1	36.6
Narok	18.87	51.66	84.0	22.2	46.1
Samburu	19.51	73.04	66.1	44.0	57.3
Trans Mara	26.33	49.27	74.3	30.1	45.4
Trans Nzoia	24.73	34.86	28.5	14.1	28.2
Turkana	23.97	83.14	59.2	34.5	61.3
Uasin Gishu	20.86	17.57	24.6	12.2	19.0
West Pokot	28.12	50.53	77.3	17.1	44.0
Buret	22.08	17.05	51.2	20.0	27.3
Western*	31.89	27.93	37.0	20.2	29.6
Bungoma	27.01	23.82	33.8	23.7	26.7
Busia	43.26	37.78	12.3	18.3	35.9
Mt. Elgon	22.77	33.24	34.8	25.6	29.4
Kakamega	31.91	28.65	68.5	16.5	35.4
Lugari	22.27	15.33	36.3	4.7	19.8
Teso	33.53	36.77	39.0	22.5	33.9
Vihiga	27.72	25.18	37.2	18.7	27.0
Butere/Mumias	37.85	30.66	25.7	23.7	32.0
NATION	26.19	28.59	43.0	20.9	29.1

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There is a strong correlation between lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortions and maternal deaths. Without access to basic information on their sexual and reproductive health rights, and without empowerment to exercise these rights, adolescents make uninformed decisions, act in ignorance, or succumb to peer pressure to engage in sexual activities. This can lead to unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortions, and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, all of which can have serious consequences for the adolescent's health and well-being.

The youth in Kenya need information about contraception well before they become sexually active. They need to understand how various methods of birth control work, the benefits and drawbacks of using particular methods, and where to access them. They need support and encouragement from their peers, from adults, and from the media to increase their comfort levels with condoms and birth control. Importantly, they need full access to confidential, safe, and convenient family planning services. Parents, educators, healthcare providers, and pharmacy staff can play a critical role in helping the youth learn about, obtain, and use contraception effectively. Health information and services should be available, accessible, affordable and acceptable.

The 2009 KNHDR introduces a new measure for youth development in Kenya, the Youth Development Index (YDI). The index assesses the degree of inclusion and social integration of the youth in national development processes with respect to education, health and income.

