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MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
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Division of
Reproductive Health
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Research Agenda on Population and Development in Kenya

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword -----	vi
Acknowledgements-----	vii
List of Acronyms-----	viii
Executive Summary -----	x
Introduction -----	xii

CHAPTER 1: POPULATION GROWTH AND STRUCTURE----- 1

1.0 Summary -----	1
1.1 Methodology-----	1
1.2 Issues-----	1
1.3 Findings -----	1
1.4 Recommendations-----	2
1.5 Research Gaps -----	2
1.6 Research Agenda -----	2

CHAPTER 2: FERTILITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ----- 4

2.0 Fertility and Reproductive Health-----	4
2.1 Reproductive Health-----	4
2.2 Family Planning -----	6
2.3 Adolescent Fertility-----	8
2.4 Male Involvement-----	11

CHAPTER 3: MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY----- 21

3.0 Morbidity and Mortality -----	21
3.1 Diseases -----	22
3.2 Malaria-----	24
3.3 Infant and Child Mortality-----	25
3.4 Maternal Mortality-----	27

CHAPTER 4: HIV/AIDS ----- 34

4.0 HIV/AIDS-----	34
4.1 HIV/AIDS Knowledge and Perception -----	38
4.2 HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling -----	42
4.3 Condom Use -----	42
4.4 HIV/AIDS Impact -----	44
4.5 Home Based Care-----	47

4.6 HIV/AIDS Treatment and Management -----	48
---	----

CHAPTER 5: MIGRATION AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION ----- 52

5.0 Migration and Population Distribution -----	52
5.1 Urbanization -----	54
5.2 Slum Development -----	55
5.3 Brain Drain-----	56

CHAPTER 6: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES ----- 59

6.0 Socio-Cultural and Economic Issues-----	59
6.1 Poverty -----	59
6.2 Family Roles, Rights, Composition and Structures -----	62
6.3 Employment and Occupation -----	65
6.4 Child Labour-----	66
6.5 Food Security-----	67
6.6 Nutrition: Breast Feeding and Supplementation-----	68
6.7 Health Care Services -----	70
6.8 Housing and Settlement -----	75
6.9 Elderly Persons-----	76
6.10 Persons with Disability-----	77
6.11 Female Circumcision-----	78
6.12 Drug and Substance Abuse-----	81
6.13 Sex Commercial Workers -----	83
6.14 Safety and Security-----	84
6.15 Land Use and Systems -----	87
6.16 Corruption-----	87

CHAPTER 7: GENDER PERSPECTIVES ----- 98

7.0 Gender Perspectives -----	98
7.1 Gender Roles -----	98
7.2 Girl Child -----	100
7.3 Gender Empowerment -----	101
7.4 Gender Violence -----	103
7.5 Rape -----	104

CHAPTER 8: INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION; AND RESEARCH----- 110

8.0 IEC and Research -----	110
8.1 Education -----	110
8.2 Training -----	114
8.3 Information, Communication and Advocacy -----	115
8.4 Mass Media-----	116

8.5 Research-----	117
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CHAPTER 9: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT----- 123

9.1 Environmental Pollution -----	123
9.2 Sanitation and Hygiene-----	124
9.3 Environmental Education -----	126

CHAPTER 10: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ----- 130

10.0 Institutional Framework -----	131
10.1 Policies and Procedures-----	131
10.2 Programmes -----	133
10.3 Institutional Management -----	135
10.4 Monitoring and Evaluation -----	137
10.5 Networking and Partnerships-----	138

CHAPTER ELEVEN: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION----- 147

11.1 Introduction-----	147
11.2 Summary-----	147
11.3 Recommendations -----	148
11.4 Conclusion-----	150

APPENDICES ----- 152

Appendix III Organisation Where Information was Gathered -----	152
Appendix V Priority Research Agenda -----	153
Appendix V Research Agenda Matrix -----	158

FOREWORD

Accurate and up-to-date findings from relevant research are necessary for advising policy formulation and programme development. This publication on “Research Agenda on Population and Development in Kenya” is the second one of its kind to be produced by the National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development (NCAPD).

The compilation of this research Agenda was necessitated by the observation that there was too much duplication of effort and enhanced wastage of resources in the researches carried out in Kenya on issues touching on Population and Development. To fulfill its coordinatory role in this field, the NCAPD commissioned the compilation of this document. It is hoped that researchers and other stakeholders will find the document useful as a reference database in undertaking their activities in this field.

The Agenda tries to identify research gaps in selected priority areas in the Population growth and structure: fertility, mortality, HIV/AIDS, socio-cultural and economic issues, gender perspectives, information education and communication, research, environmental management and institutional framework. It is hoped that the information to be obtained in researching in these areas will facilitate the implementation of Sessional Paper No.1 of 2000 on the National Population Policy for Sustainable Development.

The National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development wishes to acknowledge the joint effort of the organizations and individuals who contributed immensely towards the success of the compilation of this Agenda.

Dr. Richard O. Muga, MBS
Chief Executive Officer-NCAPD

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	-	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Variance
ARH	-	Adolescent Reproductive Health
ARI	-	Acute Respiratory Infections
ARV	-	Anti-Retro-Viral
BCC	-	Behaviour Change Communication
CBD	-	Community Based Distributors
CBO	-	Community Based Organisation
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDAW	-	Convention to the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEI	-	Community Education Initiative
CHW	-	Community Health Workers
CNSP	-	Children in Need of Special Protection
CSW	-	Commercial Sex Workers
C-T-C	-	Child-to-Child
DCR	-	Development Cooperation Report
DFID	-	Department for International Development
EFA	-	Education For All
FGM	-	Female Genital Mutilation
EHE	-	Environmental Health Education
EMC	-	Environmental Management Conservation
EMCA	-	Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act
ERSWEC	-	Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation
FC	-	Female Circumcision
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FLE	-	Family Life Education
FP	-	Family Planning
FPAK	-	Family Planning Association of Kenya
FPE	-	Free Primary Education
FPP	-	Family Planning Programme
GOK	-	Government of Kenya
HBC	-	Home Based Care
HCS	-	Health Communication Strategy
ICPD	-	International Conference on population and Development
IEC	-	Information, Education and Communication
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GOK	-	Government of Kenya
HBC	-	Home Based Care
HC	-	Health Communication
HE	-	Health Education
HIV	-	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HR	-	Human Resources
ITBN	-	Insecticide Treated Bed Nets
ITN	-	Insecticide Treated Nets
KASPA	-	Kenya Service Provision Assessment
KAP	-	Knowledge Attitude and Practice
KDHS	-	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

KEPIM	-	Kenya Participatory Impact Monitoring
KFFHC	-	Kenya Freedom From Hunger Council
LIFDC	-	Low Food Deficit Country
MOEST	-	Ministry of Education Science and Technology
MOH	-	Ministry of Health
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
M & E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MICS	-	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MOH	-	Ministry of Health
NACADA	-	National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse
NASSEP	-	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NCAPD	-	National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development
NGR	-	Natural Growth Rate
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NLTP	-	National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Programme
NPP	-	National Population Policy And Programme
ODA	-	Official Development Assistance
OHS	-	Occupational Health and Safety
OHSP	-	Occupational Health and Safety Professionals and Personnel
OVC	-	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PMTCT	-	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (of HIV)
PEM	-	Protein Energy Malnutrition
PEP	-	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PHC	-	Primary Health Care
PLHA	-	People Living With HIV/AIDS
PLWAS	-	People Living With AIDS Society
PPI	-	People's Participatory Index
PSRI	-	Population Studies and Research Institute
RH	-	Reproductive Health
RHS	-	Reproductive Health Strategy
SAP	-	Structural Adjustment Programme
SDP	-	Service Delivery Points
SPSS	-	Statistical package for Social Scientists
STD	-	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	-	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TB	-	Tuberculosis
TBA	-	Traditional Birth Attendant
TFR	-	Total Fertility Rate
TNI	-	Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative
UEPM	-	Urban Environmental Planning and Management
UN	-	United Nations
USA	-	United States of America
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Educational Fund
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UN-HABITAT	-	United Nations Human Settlements Program
UON	-	University of Nairobi
UPE	-	Universal Primary Education
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
VCT	-	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
WHO	-	World Health Organization
WSC	-	World Summit for Children

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accurate and up-to-date information is essential for effective population policy formulation, implementation and decision-making for sustainable development based on empirical evidence. Therefore, regular research in *Population and Development* must be conducted for information generation as proposed in this agenda.

In Kenya, there is duplication of effort in population and development research activities due to lack of a database for reference on past and on-going researches. Researchers need to be guided by an agenda that identifies priority areas. This would encourage them to pursue study areas where findings may have practical and realistic applications.

This research agenda is a collection of searches from print and electronic sources, and analysis of questionnaires filled by 48 people, randomly selected, from *Population and Development* field. It was developed to identify research gaps and priority areas in population and development studies in the last decade. It is meant to guide generation of information to facilitate the implementation of the National Population Policy for Sustainable Development (Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2000).

The report is categorized into two parts consisting of the Introduction, and the Research Agenda on population and growth structure; fertility; mortality; HIV/AIDS; socio-cultural and economic issues; gender perspectives; Information, Education and Communication (IEC); and research, environmental management and institutional framework. The report ends with a summary and conclusion. The organizations where information was gathered, priority research areas and framework showing issues, methodology, findings, recommendations, research gaps and research agenda are also appended (Appendices I-III).

The search and review approach of available researches on *Population and Development* in Kenya (1995-2004) was used. These included relevant published and unpublished works particularly from institutions of higher learning, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), specialized agencies, and Internet sourced works. Methodologies employed, key issues, main findings, recommendations, research gaps and

agenda were covered in each area. Up to 48 persons were also interviewed to complement reviewed literature. The compilers then gave a proposed research agenda for the period under review.

Most reviewed studies used quantitative methods of data analysis using KDHS and census data. Primary data collected through interviews, structured questionnaires and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was also used. Some studies used quantitative and qualitative methods; only a few studies exclusively used the qualitative method.

Population structure and growth studies addressed population profile: size, composition and distribution. Also covered were levels, trends and differentials of fertility. Mortality and morbidity works are mainly on infant and child mortality, emphasizing survival. HIV/AIDS control and management, projections, impacts and policy interventions received much attention.

Mobility and migration researchers mainly covered reasons and impact of migration, linkage between migration and poverty; household, socio-economic and demographic health characteristics of migrants. Socio-cultural and economic issues were further classified under poverty, family, nuptiality, employment, food security, healthcare services and nutrition. Further, housing, safety and security, aging, disability, Female Circumcision (FC), drugs and substance abuse, commercial sex workers, corruption and land use systems were included here.

Researchers on gender perspectives covered disparities in socio-economic status. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and research works included relationship between job market and school curricular, training, channels of disseminating Family Planning (FP) information, and challenges facing researchers. Finally, Institutional framework studies examined policies, programmes, procedures, and institutional management, financing mechanism of public services, partnerships and networking.

From the main findings, Kenya has a young population, and recorded decline in growth rate that still remains one of the highest globally. On fertility, women with higher formal education have fewer children. The health indicators have

generally shown a continuous decline, casting doubt on Kenya's ability to realize health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Kenya has reduced HIV/AIDS prevalence of 6.7% (KDHS, 2003), but over 2 million people are infected and more than 500 people succumb to the pandemic daily. Migration was also found to be a strategy to escape poverty. Studies confirmed usefulness of Natural Growth Rate (NGR) method in computing migration rate in stable populations.

On socio-cultural and economic issues, the greatest challenge is widespread poverty. Family instability and declining extended family role contribute to child abuse and neglect. There is high unemployment and lack of professional skills among the under 34 years. Drug and substance abuse is a major problem especially among the youth.

Women's contribution to national development has been taken for granted. They have no control over economic resources, but assume more responsibilities than men. Their level of empowerment is therefore low. Further, there seems to be little hope of womankind considering the low status of the girl child reviewed from the studies and respondents.

On IEC and research, it was found that Kenya has made great strides in education. The liberalization of education has led to more competition especially among private schools. However, demand for education has greatly outpaced the capacity of education institutions. Mass media was identified as important source of public population information. The studies warn that generally, people believe that what is reported is true. Reportedly, poverty has causal-effect on environmental degradation, while population growth places undue pressure on resources. Researches on institutional framework established that policies and programmes guide public action. The Government of Kenya (GOK) is improving public facilities, supplemented by mushrooming private health institutions. It was also found that partnerships have been formed in this field.

The research recommendations focused on economic improvement. For, example, low population density regions should be made more economically attractive. A key recommendation is to intensify Family Planning Programmes (FPP) and enforce Universal Primary Education (UPE) especially for girls, which lowers mortality levels,

delays marriage and family formation for their socio-economic status to be improved. On mortality and morbidity, it is proposed that quality and efficiency of pre and post-natal care be improved.

HIV/AIDs is a major development problem in Kenya. There is need to avoid denial, break the silence surrounding the pandemic and make it a discussion subject in schools, workplaces and homes.

Sometimes, migration succeeds in improving women's status from extreme poverty and access to resources in spite of the numerous cultural and structural barriers, which should be addressed through deliberate, gender sensitive, programmed migrations. Mobile populations should also be addressed in decision-making forums.

On socio-cultural issues, it was noted that the key challenges facing Kenyans are reversal of rising levels of poverty and income disparities. Design of policy interventions to increase productivity for sustainable development and poverty reduction is recommended.

Community participation in school management is further recommended as a basic education policy principle. This will ensure that education providers dispense all inclusive, life long and quality education capable of spurring better living standards for the current and future generations.

The main research gaps that comprise the agenda include regional disparities in demographic indicators, impact evaluation of past and existing programmes, and policy priorities on *Population and Development*. There is need to study and mitigate the widening gap between knowledge and practice in such areas as FP, and HIV/AIDs.

Compilers of this research agenda are convinced that quality research is essential for meaningful and sustainable development. It is, therefore, necessary for identified gaps to be bridged and population and development issues tackled based on empirical evidence.

The compilers of this research agenda suggest that NCAPD, through its coordinating role, should lead stakeholders in ensuring implementation of priority areas at all levels once agreed upon. The Agency should emphasise development issues, creation and sustainability of researchers and networks in population and development field.

INTRODUCTION

This report is divided into two parts: The Introduction, and The Research Agenda. Part I introduces the report, highlights the purpose, search strategy, research themes, structure and main topics covered in the agenda. Consultant's observations, executive summary and list of acronyms are also given.

Many studies have been conducted on different aspects on *Population and Development* in Kenya. Yet, there has not been any comprehensive database that puts these studies together for the purpose of the furtherance of research, policy formulation and planning. Many people have expressed the need for improved access to such a database. Duplication of *Population and Development* researches occurs very frequently as has been established in the course of developing this agenda, with the many past and ongoing research activities in the country that are known only to very few people. Further, information regarding these activities is scattered since it is not available in a centralized database. This makes it difficult for individuals and institutions to share it. In the current information technological age, there is need for free flow and sharing of *Population and Development* information with ease for related problems to be addressed in time by stakeholders.

The guiding orientation of *Population and Development* research is the concern with effects of major economic, social and political transformations on demographic behaviour. Researches undertaken on the interactions between demographic trends, causal factors and sustainable development help in creating an understanding of the social, cultural, economic, technological, political and other factors that influence the implementation of the population policy.

This research agenda was developed by a team of consultants to establish the research gaps in the studies undertaken in Kenya in the last ten years (1995-2004) and those cited by the people who were interviewed. The studies were selected with the aim of including substantively

relevant data and summarizing the most important findings for which supportive evidence is acknowledged.

The research agenda is organized into broad categories and reference made to past researches undertaken in each category as advised. The key concerns emanating from these studies and interviews were: methods of data collection and analysis, issues addressed, main findings, recommendations of the studies, research gaps and the proposed research agenda put forward mainly from suggested areas for further studies and from interviewees.

The broad categories have further been disintegrated into the type of methodology (ies) used in each category. Most of the studies have used quantitative approach, but some studies have also combined both qualitative and quantitative methods. Only a few studies have exclusively used qualitative methods. Specifically, most studies have used the survey design and few case studies. No experimental or quasi-experimental designs were used. The interview method, using questionnaires and schedules were popularly used in the generally cross-sectional studies. A few researchers used the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to gather in-depth data, but no cohort/longitudinal studies were found.

Purpose

This research agenda was developed to establish the research gaps in the studies undertaken in Kenya (1995-2004). It is also aimed at creating a Research Agenda Matrix to highlight studies undertaken and the knowledge gaps identified. More importantly, it was to update the 1995 research agenda (Kekovole, 1995), incorporating the current research gaps in the field of population and development.

This research agenda is intended to be a resource for different groups of people such as, researchers, programme planners, demographers, policy makers and the academia that require proposed areas for study on

Population and Development in Kenya. It will provide an appropriate agenda for the future and assist in formulation of appropriate policies and programmes in the country. The agenda may serve the following purposes:

- Highlight the main issues in *Population and Development* field.
- Highlight the main findings of reviewed studies.
- Give the recommendations.
- Cite main research gaps.
- Suggest research areas in each case.

The agenda will also enable NCPD to capture the *Population and Development* research trends and inform its partners accordingly.

Search Strategy

This research agenda is a collection of searches. The agenda for inclusion in this report was, however, mainly drawn from published and unpublished studies, and other materials indexed in established databases, research journals, occasional, books, working papers, materials from websites, magazines and newspapers. In addition, analysis of a questionnaire filled by 48 people versed in population and development field randomly selected is included. Its details methodologies, issues, findings, recommendations, research gaps and research agenda emanating from wide topical areas in population and development covering the last decade (1995-2004).

Searches were undertaken. First, in electronic databases for the years 1995 –2004, included *Population and Development* indices covering publications in respective disciplines. The key words, “*Population and development*” in Kenya were used in the searches. Additional systematic Internet or manual searches were also carried out while other references cited in reviewed literature were systematically checked to identify additional studies. Second, the existing literature in newspaper articles, research papers and reports, journals and books covering *Population and Development*, was reviewed. Some abstract databases and full texts were also used. Third, some key persons versed in population and development issues were interviewed mainly from institutions of

higher learning, government departments, research institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and practitioners in the field of *Population and Development*.

Given the search criteria and strategies, and in spite of the extensive efforts to include all relevant studies, it is likely that some relevant research studies may have been excluded from this agenda because they were not available to the compilers for indexing at the time of the review. Indeed, the bulk of information was gathered from unpublished academic research reports, especially from institutions of higher learning.

Research Themes

Given the diverse research interest in *Population and Development*, it was natural that any demographic research considers not only traditional dimensions of population such as age, gender, residence and race/ethnicity, but also other selected issues. In this regard, a wide focus on demographic and interrelated areas characterized the research agenda.

Structure of the Agenda

This research agenda is composed of some aspects of reviewed studies and interviews, which were selected for inclusion in the summary. These were selected with the aim of including substantively relevant information and summarizing the most important findings for which supportive evidence is presented. The research gaps identified and recommendations by respondents were also included.

Main Topics Covered

All the selected articles explicitly focused on *Population and Development* related subjects.

The research agenda is divided into two parts: part one, that covers the preamble to the research agenda, and part two which covers the research agenda. This falls into ten broad areas, which are branded as chapters. The agenda ends with a summary and conclusion.

Each of the ten chapters ended with an alphabetical list of respective references using the APA referencing style, which has listed publications by name of the author, year, italicised title, edition, place, and publisher. In the alphabetical author index, each author's work(s) is arranged in a classified order with the surname of the author or first-named author in case of joint authorship, starting with the most recent reference.

Observations

The development of this agenda may have some limitations given the extensive area covered and diverse population groups addressed. There is a paucity of information available electronically; Kenya also lacks a website where government legislative and policy documents can be viewed, and neither all organizations have websites.

Most of the issues raised are contemporary, mainly informing policy makers on what should be addressed in specific areas but many are, however, not adequately addressed. Some findings are inconsistent, repetitive, research formats variable or presentation not well thought out. Few of the revealed researches seem to be contributing much to new knowledge in *Population and Development* because they are repetitive and they all have a skeleton research process.

Whereas there were many inconsistencies in the works reviewed especially those undertaken by individuals, information from published materials such as books was generally presented in a more orderly manner *pooling* together a wider range of topics and information. It was noted that there are very few published works that have been written on *Population and Development* in Kenya.

Further, materials in some books were not quite up to date. None of the locally published books reviewed was supported by web pages to provide additional information as is conventionally expected today.

Generally, some of the reports reviewed were not well indexed compared to books, journals and articles. Some conference research oriented materials reviewed did not follow research conventions.

Reviewed newspapers had special interesting reports on topical *Population and Development* issues. Both current and back copies were used. Some newspapers however, contained some biased *Population and Development* reporting, while in some cases, news presented was seemingly filtered depending on the prevailing events, priority being given to more headlines grabbing stories.

Theses found mainly at awarding institutions are unique and major sources of detailed information. Similarly, handbooks or collection of facts unique to a topic on *Population and Development* in most cases acted as gateway to even more in-depth information.

Many writers are quiet on the sponsorship of the researches. There is little evidence to show that the researches were monitored and evaluated before, during or after the study or any dissemination carried out to the stakeholders.

The consultant has drawn a list of priority researches that can be undertaken in each area (Appendix II). This is further supported by a proposed research agenda Matrix (Appendix III) showing the key issues, methodology, findings, recommendations, research gaps and research agenda in each area.