

The Future of Population Data Systems

What Must be Done?

Introduction

The government of Kenya acknowledges population data systems as a critical pillar towards realization of sustainable development, particularly in enabling tracking of national and international development goals and commitments. Kenya has made tremendous progress towards realization of effective, efficient and reliable population data systems. This has been made possible through the establishment of critical statistical infrastructure, digital infrastructure, policy and legal frameworks necessary to support a robust population data system.

Achievements

Some of the notable milestones include the National Statistics System, an operational Kenya Health Management Information System (KeHMIS) and District Health Information System (DHIS2), the launch of the Integrated Population Registration System (IPRS), the Kenya Labour Market information Systems (KLMIS), the National Education Management Information System (NEMIS), the adoption of Computer-Assisted

Personal Interviewing (CAPI) innovation in data management, the establishment of a Data Science Training Center and a Center of Excellence for Population and Development as well as the enactment of various laws on data governance.

Existing Gaps

The observed success, has been achieved through the collaboration of the Government of Kenya with research institutions, academia, development partners, CSOs and the private sector. However, challenges and gaps related to the entire data ecosystem such as data fragmentation, limited technical capacity, inadequate funding, limited data access and openness and inadequate data on migration need to be addressed while leveraging on emerging opportunities. In addition, availability and use of disaggregated data on various population groups and issues remain outstanding.

Recommendations

Increase Domestic Financing on data and Statistics up to 50% of Required Budget: The National Treasury and State Department of Economic planning should increase domestic financing for data and statistics up to 50% of the total budget required to enhance the capacity of relevant institutions and strengthen population data systems in the country.

Data policy and accountability: The data Protection Commission should take lead in



development of robust data governance frameworks and standards to ensure data quality, privacy, security, and ethical use throughout the data lifecycle. Promote community engagement and participatory approaches in data collection and analysis processes to enhance data relevance, ownership, and trust among local populations

Digital data: Leverage available technologies to improve data availability and accessibility through:

- Progressively strengthening existing population data systems such as DHIS2 among other data infrastructure and innovations that enable the collection, analysis and dissemination of timely, accurate and disaggregated data, especially for hard-to-reach marginalized population.
- Harnessing potential of digital technologies such as mobile telephony, internet and artificial intelligence to improve its data collection, analysis and dissemination as well as to create new opportunities for innovation and growth. Progressively adopt artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science by KNBS, NCPD and other institutions involved in data collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and vital statistics.
- Expanding Geospatial Capabilities: Harness the power of geospatial data and mapping technologies to visualize population dynamics, identify demographic trends, and target interventions in geographically defined areas.

Citizen generated data: Supplement the census and surveys data with alternative data sources which include citizen generated data and administrative data.

Enhance Data Integration: Foster integration among diverse data sources, including censuses, surveys, administrative records, and geospatial data, to create a unified and comprehensive population database.

Strengthen Technical Capacity: Public and Private institutions including KNBS, NCPD, CRS, KIPPRA, PSRI and other institutions involved in management of population data to invest in training programs necessary to equip technical staff with skills and tools needed for effective population data management and analysis.

Promote Data Accessibility: Implement policies and mechanisms to ensure the accessibility, usability, and transparency of population data for various stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, and the public.

Foster Collaborative Partnerships: Facilitate collaboration among data producers and data users from government agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia, and private sector entities to pool resources, expertise, and best practices in population data management.