

# WE ARE KENYA'S FUTURE: YOUNG PEOPLE AND OUR NATION'S GROWTH



DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Introduction

This discussion guide supplements the video *We are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth*, produced in 2017 by Population Reference Bureau and Centre for the Study of Adolescence. The guide is a reference for users of the video as they disseminate the important messages in the video to audiences in Kenya and internationally. The guide includes three sections to support dissemination efforts:

1. Video Goals and Objectives.
2. Ideas for Opportunities to Screen the Video, including description of target audiences.
3. Discussion Questions.

## Video Goals and Objectives

This video seeks to inspire greater political and financial commitment to Kenyan young peoples' health, education, development, and participation.

Specific objectives of the video are to:

1. Educate Kenyan decisionmakers about the role of young people in achieving a demographic dividend.
2. Inform Kenyan decisionmakers about specific investments in youth health, education, job growth, and participation that will support Kenya's economic growth.
3. Excite Kenyan youth advocates about the demographic dividend and their role in achieving it.
4. Provide an advocacy tool that Kenyan youth advocates and other professionals can use when engaging with decisionmakers.

## Opportunities to Screen the Video

This video is a communication tool for those involved in promoting youth development in Kenya. The video can be shown in academic, policy, and community settings.

The target audiences for this multimedia product are:

- **Primary:** National and county level policymakers in Kenya, including those focused on health, education, economics, and governance, who can influence political commitment to and level of investment in young people.
- **Secondary:** Youth program staff and advocates in Kenya.

## Screening the Video to Different Audiences

### Policymakers

*We Are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth* can be screened at advocacy events and national and local meetings to:

- Educate policymakers about the policy commitments needed to capitalize on a changing age structure and facilitate a demographic dividend.
- Urge policymakers to strengthen their support for and investment in youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health care, general health care, quality education, job growth and entrepreneurship, and good governance.
- Demonstrate that investing in young people's health, education, development, and participation are vital components of Kenya's efforts to achieve the demographic dividend.

## Young People

*We Are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth* can be presented at youth outreach events and youth centers to:

- Educate youth advocates on what a demographic dividend is and how Kenya's young people can be the drivers of a potential future demographic dividend.
- Inform youth advocates of how improvements in their health, education, economic opportunity, and participation are fundamental to Kenya's growth and development.
- Offer youth a new communication tool and strategy to enhance their advocacy efforts.

## Program Staff From Youth-Serving Organizations

*We Are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth* can strengthen the activities of youth-serving organizations to:

- Engage young people on cross-cutting topics including health, education, economy, and public participation.
- Inform audiences about the demographic dividend, particularly the importance of investing in Kenya's youth to achieve the demographic dividend.
- Shed light on the importance of providing accurate, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and care so that young people can delay pregnancy, achieve higher education levels, and pursue economic opportunities.

## Community and Religious Leaders

*We Are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth* can be shown during community and faith-based events, forums, and trainings to:

- Educate community leaders on how young people's health, education, economic growth, and participation are crucial to achieving the demographic dividend.
- Support religious leaders in promoting improved health and education for young people for Kenya's growth.

## The Media

Assembling journalists and media outlets at *We Are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth* video screenings will enable members of the media to:

- Report with greater precision on the topic of the demographic dividend, and understand the links between improved youth health and education, job opportunities, and participation.
- Use data from the video in their reporting on young people and Kenya's growth.

## Discussion Questions

After screening the video, it is best to foster discussion among audience members on the topics they learned about in *We Are Kenya's Future: Young People and Our Nation's Growth*. Time should also be allowed for audience members to ask questions. Sample discussion questions are:

### Discussion About the Video

1. What did you learn in the video about how investment in young people can contribute to Kenya's future?
2. What is a demographic dividend?
3. Why are young people important to Kenya's social and economic development?

4. How can widespread family planning use and improved educational attainment impact the age structure of a population?
5. What policies in Kenya support young people and Kenya's path towards a demographic dividend?

### Discussion About Investing in Young People for Kenya's Growth

6. What benefits have you observed when young people have access to contraceptives and accurate information on sexual and reproductive health?
7. Why is it important for health centers to offer accurate, high-quality sexual and reproductive health information and services? Do you think young people in your county currently have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and care?
8. What is the relationship between delaying marriage and/or pregnancy and subsequent education levels, job opportunities, and household wages?
9. Does education sufficiently prepare youth to move into formal sector jobs? Why or why not?
10. What does quality education mean to you? How can Kenya improve educational attainment and outcomes for its young people?
11. The video suggests that expanding job growth is critical for young people entering the workforce. As Kenya's economy evolves, what types of new jobs should be created and where?
12. How can Kenya's youth ensure they have a designated space at the table with policymakers? And, how can policymakers ensure they are listening to young people when making decisions?

### Discussion About the Recommendations

13. What role can you play in increasing political and financial support for young people's health, education, economic opportunity, and participation?
14. What specifically do you think is needed for Kenya to achieve a demographic dividend?
15. How can decisionmakers better support young people in Kenya as a whole or in your community or county?
16. How can young people make decisions and pursue opportunities that will enable them to better contribute to Kenya's future demographic dividend?
17. Who else do you think should see this video? What do you want for them to do after hearing the messages in the video?

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