



MURANGA COUNTY INFO

Background to the Demographics of Muranga County

23-Mar-17

Transform Nations

Expansion Focus Department

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Introduction

Transform Nations under the department of Expansion focus carryout a survey through desk top research. This is meant to produce information that aids the work in various ways. This document therefore contains information that is moderately detailed as an aid to the entry. It focuses on the demography and population, challenges within the particular area, town or county, the intervention efforts already on the ground as well as prospective partners with who Transform Nations can work with.

Focusing on Muranga County, Transform Nations uses the information generated to draw baseline on the level of challenges upon which transformation will be measured at the end of the time. It also uses the information to determine the more urgent program required and the possibility of efficacy. This document therefore serves as a baseline survey, intervention to determinant as well as partnership prospecting.

Population distribution and projections of Muranga County

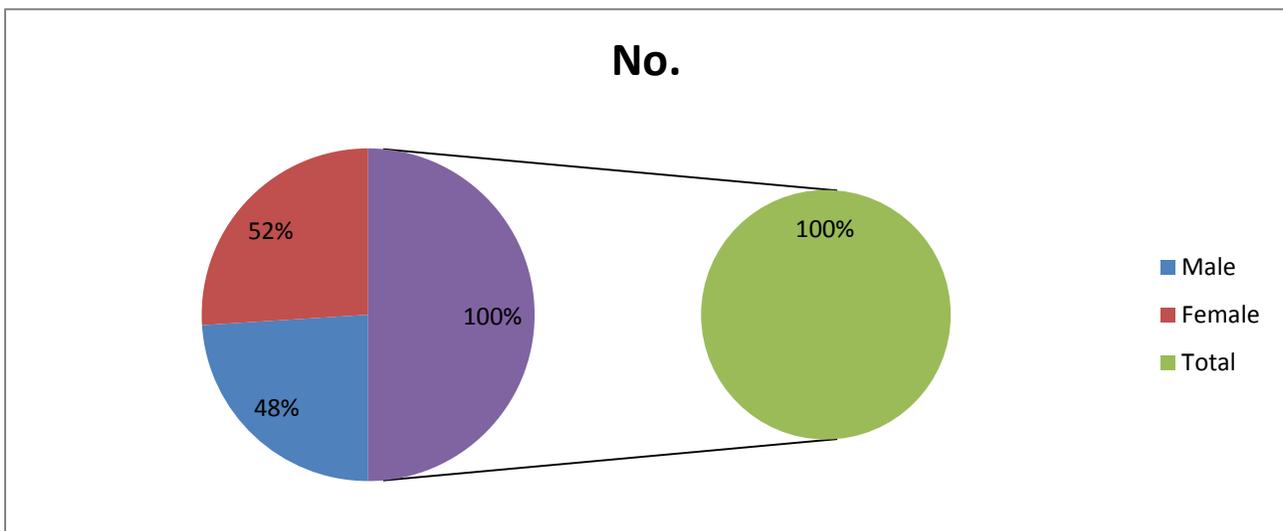
Demographics

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (2009), Muranga County had an estimated population of 936,228 people in 2009. The gender distribution indicated 451,751 and 484,477 females. However, given the annual population growth rate of 0.4% per annum, the size of the population is forecasted to be 1,071,252 by end of 2017. The gender rate is also expected to be at 48:52. The gender ratio difference is attributed to emigration of the men to other counties for jobs and businesses.

Pie chart representation in percentages

Categories	Male	Female	Total
No.	48%	52%	100%

Source: Author, 2017



Source; Author, 2017

Socioeconomic challenges in Muranga County

Muranga county, like many other counties in Kenya face various problems that either as a result of or a contribution to socioeconomic challenges. The following are some of the challenges for which the programs need to address both directly and indirectly.

Sexual Immorality

Early sexual intercourse with multiple concurrent partners is one of the major challenges that Muranga County is facing currently. According to Muranga County HIV/AIDS strategic plan, (2014), 55% of young people usually have their first sexual intercourse experience before the age of 15. This is an alarming rate and a clear indication of sexual debut. This means that with marriage age being at 18years on legal grounds, there are many years of sexual experience before marriage. It is equally possible to infer that this can be the course of widespread sexual immorality that goes on in families. The habits and way of life experienced in this time make it a situation to be intentionally contended.

Poverty

Poverty is a major problem in this county of Muranga. Like many other counties in Kenya and countries across Africa, Poverty is one of the main giants to contend. According to Kenya Integrated Budgetary Survey, (2005), Muranga County has a poverty level so high. It is at 36% of the overall population that live below the poverty line. Using the projection for the population,

it is statistically quantifiable that of 1,071,252, a 36% of them are poor. This adds up to 3, 85,650 of the people in Muranga are poor. The challenges with poverty are such that the poor are unable to get food, shelter. Women, unemployed youth, orphans, neglected old retired people, the street children and those living in the marginal areas of counties.

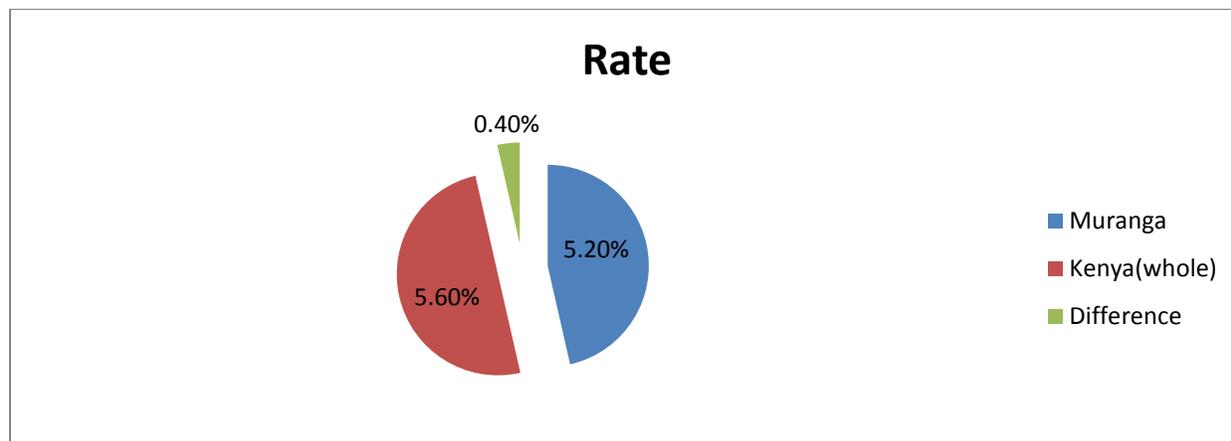
HIV/AIDS situation in Muranga County

HIV/AIDS is an epidemic that is posing serious challenges to the Kenyan socioeconomic and political development. According to Kenya Aids Indicator Survey, (2012), Muranga County is standing at a prevalence rate of 5.2% compared to the national prevalence rate which is at 5.6%. This indicates high prevalence that needs immediate address. Based on clusters upon which HIV levels are classified, three clusters of high, medium and low clusters. Muranga County falls in the Medium cluster of the HIV/AIDS prevalence level (KAIS, 2012).

Prevalence rate comparison& pie chart representation

No.	Muranga	Kenya(whole)	Difference
Rate	5.2%	5.6%	0.4%

Source; Author, 2017



Source; author, 2017

Following the 2013 statistics, Muranga being among the 28 medium HIV prevalence counties, it recorded 1984 new infections among the adults. Alongside this were also 65 new cases among the children. However, the most recent infections reached 20,020 adults and 67 children below 14 years old the prevalence that stands at 5.2% has varying rates across the gender with women leading with 7.7% against men who stands at 2.8 % (KAIS, 2013).

The decline in the Church's influence

The church is progressively losing its grip of the faithful in Kenya. Central Kenya has however presented various cases upon which this building has been based. As Daily Nations, 22 Aug. 2016, reports, a catholic Nun in Nyeri invoked the Kikuyu culture as a back up to her decision of getting married. While this might an isolated case, the fact the nun invoked her traditional cultural belief against the church indicates the increasing recognition of tradition against the faith.

The Mungiki sect has been a thorn in the flesh of the church in Muranga County. According to (Mwangi, 2009), The Mungiki sect chose to take the war to the church making the people overwhelmed at such an atrocities made. The Leaders in Muranga has stated that the Mungiki's main agenda is to steer off Christianity and prevent the evangelism to the kikuyu community. This could as well be conceptualized as the renaissance of the Kikuyu culture. Mwangi, (2009), continues to posit that Pastors in various localities in Muranga now says that Mungiki has succeeded in creating the rift between the church and society as a whole by presenting it as a slaving tool of the western civilization.

The Crime rate in Muranga

According to Kenya News agency, (2016), Muranga County has experienced various security challenges especially in the recent times. There are challenges with poaching in Aberdare Park, the brew of illicit drinks, the political rivalries and conflicts as well as rivalries among the Matatu Sacco operations. These security challenges among others resulted in the formation of a quick response security team to help curb the otherwise increasing crime in the County.

Muranga County comes fourth in the lineup of the most crime prone County in Kenya. By trailing major cities such as Nairobi, Nakuru and Mombasa, this is an alarming statistics. According to Daily Nations, 25th of February, 2015. Nairobi County was leading with 6,732 cases reported followed by Nakuru with 4,525 cases. Others were Kiambu 4,449, Mombasa 2,946 and Murang'a 2,501. Comparing this with the safest counties in Kenya, Isiolo 219, Mandera 252 Lamu 316, and Marsabit 370.

Tabulated comparison

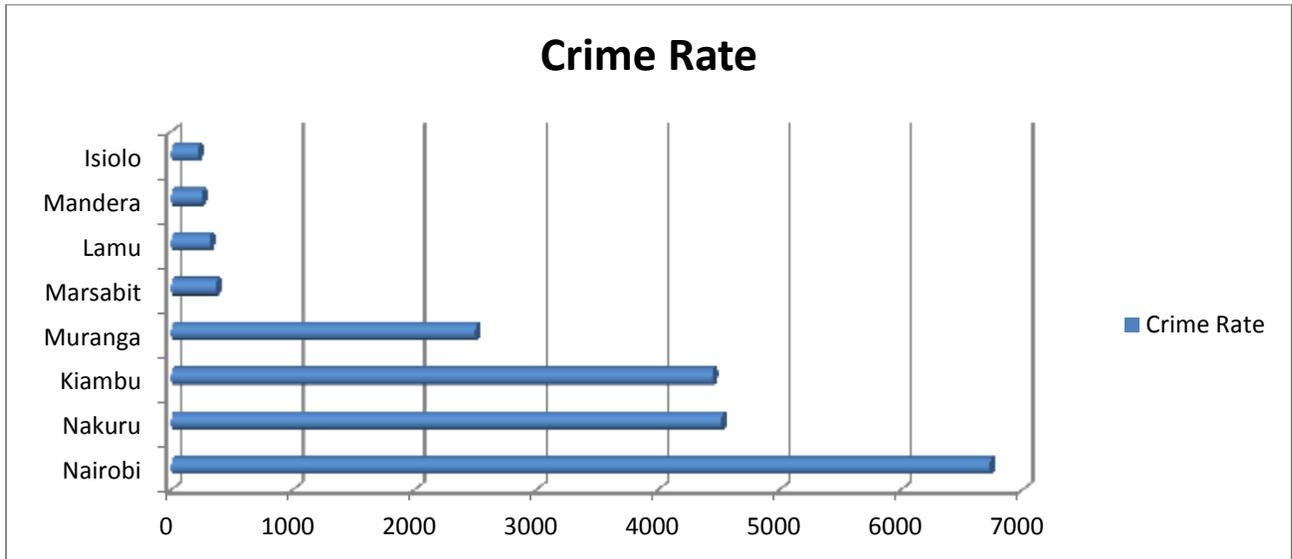
County	Nairobi	Nakuru	Kiambu	Muranga	Marsabit	Lamu	Mandera	Isiolo
Crime Rate	6732	4525	4449	2501	370	316	252	219

Source; Author, 2017

Using the data given above, Muranga is at high level of proneness to crime given its location and the population, culture, political and economic makeups. Compared to other similar one ethnic dominated counties, with relatively traditional economic activities such as; agriculture and the one traditional language, Murang'a crime rate and proneness is comparatively high indicating

unique contributing factors that are particularly peculiar to the county. In the graphical representation below, the figures represents the actual level of crime incidences.

Graphical representation



Source; Author, 2017

More socioeconomic and spiritual challenges facing Muranga County

The information given below is sourced from the discussion held on Pastors and leadership fellowship forum in Muranga County. This section therefore discusses the issues on basis of the observation and reports of the church leaders of the county some of which have statistical backup from early 2000 survey.

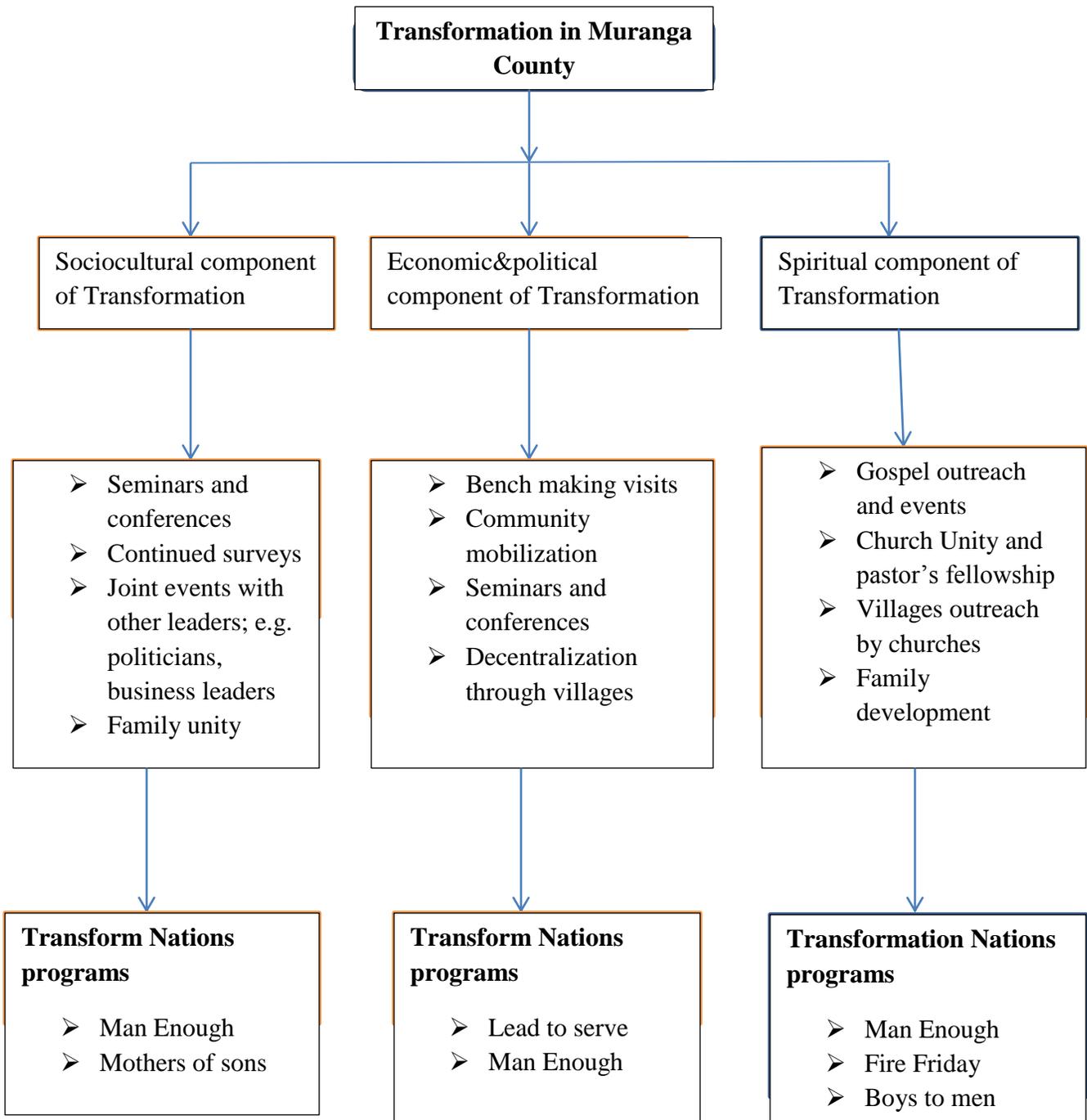
Muranga county is by all standards one of the major counties in Kenya. It is rich in culture, economy and also political class. What the county faces are however challenges that are familiar in other counties as well. Some of these challenges might be unique or more experienced in

Muranga however. Identity crisis, Family dysfunctionality, Increased irrelevance of the church thus the rise of other cultural religious practices, Leadership crises, security and safety concerns, Poverty and lifestyle diseases; e.g. depression, suicide, historical injustices and unfinished debts, increasingly falling education standards and Drug and Substance abuse.

Strategic Intervention points

- Share Vision with others
- Individual churches to spearhead the work although under the guidance of the Pastors fellowship of Muranga County with occasional strategy meetings at the county level.
- Promote Unity within and among churches through collective events and feasts.
- Involve other leaders; County government officials, education sectors and even agricultural society of Muranga.
- Gather more data for updated information and for the baseline surveying against which to measure the impact of Transformation output.
- Visits for Benchmarking with other communities and/or countries
- Seminars and conferences on Socio-economic and political issues of Transformation
- Form groups to spearhead certain areas of transformation. E.g. can be based on the 7 mountains of Transformation.
- Organize event and roadshows
- Programs for Men and Women Leaders

Compartmentalized approach and the place of Transform Nations



Programs on the ground/possible partners

In Muranga County, there various Organizations engaged on particular activities that are geared toward social change and community development. One of the most noticeable of such organizations are as follows;

No	Organization	Focus	Activities
1.	(Spiritans) St. Martin's rehabilitation and treatment center	Alcohol and Drug addiction alleviation	Counseling, provision of financial literacy training and spiritual support
2.	Muranga Pastor's fellowship forum.	Spiritual and emotional transformation	Pastors forums, prayer movements, collective fellowship
3.	Muranga County Government	Holistic approach	Free Rehabilitation, health, education, socioeconomic and political development programs.
4.			

Reference

Daily Nations, Martin Mwaura, 22nd, August, 2016

Worldwide Religious news, Mwangi Muiruri. 22nd, April, 2009

Daily Nations, Angira Zadak, 25, 2015

Standard Digital, Jeffery Maganya. 1st, Sep. 2015

Muranga County HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2014/2015-2018/2019