

Socio-Economic Status of Garissa County with COVID-19

Eldah Onsomu, Rose Ngugi, Evelyne Kihiu, Mutuku Muleli, James Gachanja, Rogers Musamali, Paul Lutta, Daniel Omanyo, Hellen Chemnyongoi, Shadrack Mwatu, Nahashon Mwongera, Paul Odhiambo, Beverly Musili, Violet Nyabaro, Japheth Kathenge, Haron Ngeno and Elton Khaemba



The KENYA INSTITUTE for PUBLIC
POLICY RESEARCH and ANALYSIS

Thinking Policy Together



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**Kenya Institute for Public Policy
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List of Acronyms

ADPs	-	Annual Development Plans
AFA	-	Agriculture and Food Authority
AI	-	Artificial Insemination
CIDC	-	Constituency Industrial Development Centres
CIDPs	-	County Integrated Development Plans
DSA	-	Drug and Substance Abuse
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GCP	-	Gross County Product
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
HA	-	Hectares
ICTs	-	Information Communication Technologies
ICU	-	Intensive Care Unit
KCB	-	Kenya Commercial Bank
KDHS	-	Kenya Demographic Household Survey
KNBS	-	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNOCS	-	Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard
LREB	-	Lake Region Economic Bloc
LVSR	-	Low Volume Sealed Roads
M.I.C.E	-	Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions
MSMEs	-	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
MT	-	Metric Tonnes
MTPs	-	Medium Term Plans
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
OSR	-	Own Source Revenue
PFM	-	Public Finance Management
PPEs	-	Personal Protective Equipment
RAI	-	Rural Access Index
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
TVET	-	Technical and Vocational Educational and Training
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UN	-	United Nations
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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Executive Summary

Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting

Garissa county's total revenues have been increasing steadily over the years growing by 130 per cent from Ksh 4.84 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 11.11 billion in FY 2018/19, being the highest ever. Analysis of county revenues shows that the main source of revenue for the county has been the equitable share from the National Government, which averaged 81.96 per cent of the county's total revenues from FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21. Monthly cash transfers from the National Government have always had an increasing trend from January to June over the years. The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Sweden and European Union. The OSR to total revenue averaged 1.22 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21, contributing the least amount of County revenues. County expenditure has over the years been rising as the county escalates its efforts in provision of services to its residents. Total county expenditure has grown significantly since FY 2013/14. In FY 2014/15 the county reported Ksh 460.0 million in pending bills. This increased to Ksh 980.1 million in FY 2017/18 with development spending related pending bills accounting for 872.0 per cent of this. In FY 2018/19 pending bills slowed to Ksh 619.6 million before shooting up to Ksh 877.0 million in FY 2019/20. To ensure continued recovery, the county must now move quickly to tackle the problem of pending bills, mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations, seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county and ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers.

Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Livestock production is the predominant economic activity in Garissa County. Key agricultural value chains commodities in the County include maize, bananas, tomatoes, watermelons, beans and onions, mangoes, cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, camels, poultry production, bee keeping (apiculture). Among the socioeconomic effects on the COVID-19 pandemic on the agri-food sector in the County included negative effects on hours worked by in agriculture related occupations. An additional effect was a slow down on trade and marketing activities due to the restrictions on movements leading to price shocks and shortages of food items. Agricultural productivity in the County is also affected by:- variable and extreme weather events Poor and inadequate infrastructure; water scarcity; low agroprocessing and value addition opportunities; dependence on rainfed agriculture; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low commercialization levels and marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and

post-harvest waste. To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; expansion of water harvesting projects and sustainable irrigation; scale up conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, plant and keep drought-tolerant crops and livestock breeds; link farmers to diverse product markets; strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural inputs and services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; provision of storage and cooling facilities; natural resource management; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance marketing.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Clean water, proper sanitation and good hygiene remains an essential component in protecting human health in times of outbreak of infectious diseases. Frequent and correct hand hygiene has been emphasized by World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the frontline measures to curb transmission of COVID-19. This has placed a higher demand for water use in households, schools, health care facilities, marketplaces, workplaces, and public places. This therefore has necessitated the need for provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene by national and county governments to all. The county has a perennial water shortage problem, despite this, the county is dedicated in providing water to households, though also facing challenges in revenue collections since COVID-19 has resulted into reduced incomes among households and businesses, thus deferring collection of revenue from the water services it provides as well as financial support to water services providers. This in the long run could affect the development of the water and sanitation sector. Additionally, COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers if they get infected, they must be self-isolated, and this may lead to disruption of services. Other constraints to the sector include, drought, water leakages and destruction of water catchment areas. To ensure continuous availability of water, the national and county government should increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties. Partner with private sector, donor agencies, local communities, and NGOs to help develop water infrastructure

Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs is an important sector in Garissa County. However, this sector's momentum was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the containment measures associated with COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the sector. The measures that were taken, such as closure of markets, observance of health protocols in form of social distancing and handwashing served to increase the cost of production and affected access to markets for the produce. In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County will: Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short term. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, will be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges; COVID-19 has increased

demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth; Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing and leverage and exploit its metropolitan areas status (Wajir-Garissa-Mandera) to enhance manufacturing, which is part of the Vision 2030 aspirations

Infrastructure, housing and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is walking at 26.32 per cent, followed by bicycle (bodaboda). The paved County Road network covers 6.51 km, while the paved National roads cover 31.37 km. Out of the total paved road network of 37.88 km, 83.95 per cent is in good condition, 10.93 per cent in fair condition and 5.12 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception of that the individual does not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County do not have internet connection. Majority of the households (89.5%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, despite inability to pay due to the pandemic. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 87.4 per cent, with 12.6 per cent of the households under rental tenure. In addressing the prevailing challenges, the county will Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 24 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70.0 per cent; Collaborate with the Communications Authority and telecom service providers to utilize the Universal Service Fund as a “last resort” in providing ICT access in remote areas where market forces fail to expand access; and avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

Tourism

The key tourism attractions from Garissa County are wildlife, heritage and culture (rich Somali traditional culture) and hospitality. The proximity of the county to the tourist coastal town of Lamu makes it ideal for linkage through a tourist circuit. The County does not have classified (star-rated) hotels. However, there are 5 major hotels with a bed capacity of 450. The county has 6 wildlife conservation areas namely, Garissa Giraffe sanctuary, Ishaqbin Community Conservancy, Waso Conservancy, Arawale National Reserve, Rahole National Reserve and Boni National Reserve. There is need to enhance the exploitation and utilization of these facilities fully. Tourism contributes 0.4 per cent to overall GCP of Garissa reflecting on the need to prioritize development of the sector. The number of domestic and foreign tourists who visit the tourist sites in the county is not documented. There is need to develop a tourist action plan to enhance exploitation of existing tourism opportunities including desert tourism (camel-back expeditions, camping and dessert rallying). The county government will map all the sites with tourism potential in the county; come up with a tourism sector development master plan and set up a cultural documentation centre; tourism information centre.

Health

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 200 which comprised of 180 primary health facilities and 20 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 129 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 13 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10, 000 population. In general, 2.7 per cent of the county population had some form of health insurance cover. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) was the leading health insurance provider reported by 89.5 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 15.4 per cent of the population, private non-contributory insurance cover was reported by 0.9 per cent of the population. The county had 2.6 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months. Teenage pregnancies, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) are some of the health issues affecting the youths in Garissa County. The closure of schools due to COVID-19 has not been any good news, the social impact on the children who are now at home has been huge, the girl child has been affected, this has seen one in ten girls being victims of teenage pregnancies this is alarming. There is an enhanced collaboration within Frontier FCDC counties, which has resulted into training of the health officers and all the frontline staffs. This collaboration has also seen enhanced intercountry screening and testing centralized at the Coast general hospital. In line with the health status in the county, some of the recommendations that need attention include the following: The county should create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county to address risk of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting any health facility; To reduce high burden of both communicable and non-communicable disease, the county should revamp its Community Health Strategy. This is a community based promotive and preventive health services. To make this more effective, the County should engage Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and equip them with the relevant resources and skills.

Education and training

About 80 per cent of public primary schools in Garissa County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP). The infrastructures include learner digital devices (LDD), teacher digital devices (TDD) and the Digital Content Server and Wireless Router (DCSWR). The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 12.3 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 59.1 and 43.9 per cent respectively in 2015/16. The preprimary gross enrolment rate in the county was 12.3 per cent in 2018 and while the net enrolment rate was 4.4 per cent. The closing down of schools has worsened the situation. Cases of Female Genital Mutilation have increased tremendously, including child marriage, defilement, and domestic violence. In collaboration, the county government together with the Anti-FGM Board had beefed community vigilance. There also cases of drug and substance abuse, depression, and school dropout. Several factors are attributed to the number of students declining as the student move from primary to secondary. The county has also low internet access (6.3 percent) which constrain online learning across the County. Furthermore, only 2.6 per cent of the households had access to ICT equipment such as laptops and computers. This made it

difficult for the pupils and other students to benefit from national learning programme which had been started by the government. The county will prioritize projects that improve school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and management in order to reduce future effect of similar or related outbreak while promoting public health in learning institutions, promote remedial/catch up lessons for learners who might have lagged behind also schools to utilize ICT platforms and have a depository of teaching and learning materials that learners could use at their own time and while at home, provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school, also provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners and fight drug and substance abuse among the youths in the county. This can be done through counseling and ensuring that they are not idle especially this period when learning institutions are locked.

Social protection

The overall poverty rates in the county stand at 66per cent which is higher than the national average of 36.1 per cent. The county's food poverty levels are at 66per cent and 46 per cent of the total population is multidimensionally poor. The major shock in the county was droughts or floods which affected 41.7 per cent of the households followed by Severe water shortage, dearth of livestock and large rise in price of food which affected 21 percent,12.8 per cent and 11.1 per cent of the households in the county, respectively. Households in the county received various forms of social assistance or transfers or gift either in form of a good, service, financial asset or other asset by an individual, household or institution. Transfers constitute income that the household receives without working for it and augments household income by improving its welfare. Cash transfers include assistance in form of currency or transferable deposits such as cheque and money orders. COVID-19 exposed lack of preparedness among counties in terms of responding to the emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. It provided an opportunity to measure how county governments are prepared to handle the devolved functions. COVID-19 pandemic created effects with immediate and long-term economic consequences for children, PWDs, elderly and their families. To strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the Garissa County government will conduct mass civic education among the people on COVID-19 prevention measures, how to handle an infected person and avoidance of stigmatization of the affected person, enroll more county residents in welfare programmes such as NHIF which will ensure that they access medical treatment in case of falling sick and give tax exemption for the SMES who have suffered losses in their business as result of diseases outbreak.

Human resources

Pastoralism, agriculture and trade sub-sectors are the main sources of employment in the county. This population sells livestock, livestock products, vegetables and fruits, through retail and wholesale business operations in the county. The unemployment has increased during the period of COVID-19, according to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, 19.9 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 38.2 per cent had never worked, and 41.9 per cent worked in the informal sector. However, 4.2 per cent of employees did not attend to work due to COVID-19 with other 79.2 per cent of employees

working without any pay. On average, workers in the County lost 13.4 hours per week due to COVID-19. With the loss of jobs in the Small and Medium Enterprises the livelihood of people working in these sectors were directly or indirectly affected, particularly youths as the sector employs most of the young population. In addition, the reduction in operation hours and restriction on movement in and outside Nairobi negatively impacted on the transport sector with many relying on it rendered jobless. The loss of jobs in the matatu and boda-boda industry had directly impacted on the lives of the youth as some residents avoided public means of transport in fear of contracting the virus. The Garissa County government will promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development; and invest in livestock sector in the County, promote investment and entrepreneurship through provision of loans, the county Government will improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through lending institutions and formulate measures aimed at encouraging employment creation through corporate social responsibility (CSR), including expanding the national internship programs and promoting Information Technology (IT) enabled jobs.

1. Introduction and Structure of County Economy

1.1 Introduction

Garissa County is one of the counties in the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC). The county occupies a land area of 44,174.1 km². The county had an estimated population of 841,352 people of whom 54.5 per cent were male and 45.4 per cent were female (KNBS, 2019) as indicated in table 1.1. Of the population 5,220 (0.7%) were persons with disability. The youth constituted 38.0 per cent of the population of whom 45.0 per cent were female. The County had a population density of 19 persons per km². About 74.9 per cent of the population live in rural areas of whom 44.6 per cent were female. The elderly population (over 65-year-old) make up 1.7 per cent of the total population of whom 43.5 per cent were female. The population in school going age group (4-22 years) was 57.0 per cent in 2019.

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Garissa County was 66.0 per cent against the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent. In addition, 45.9 per cent of the population were living in food poverty and 61.0 per cent were living in multidimensional poverty, that means being deprived in several dimensions including health care, nutrition and adequate food, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education, knowledge of health and nutrition, housing and standard of living, and access to information. According to KDHS 2014, 15.6 per cent of the children were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26.0 per cent.

Table 1.1: Development indicators in Garissa County

	County	National
Estimated County Population (KNBS, 2019)	841,353	1.5per cent of the total population
Males	458,975	54.5per cent
Females	382,344	45.4per cent
Intersex	34	0.004per cent
Estimated Population Density (km ²)	19	82
Persons with disability	0.7per cent	2.2per cent
Population living in rural areas (per cent)	74.9per cent	68.8per cent
Children (0-14 years) (per cent)	52.7per cent	41.1per cent
School going age (4-22 years) (per cent)	57.0per cent	68.7per cent
Youth 15-34 years (per cent)	38.0per cent	36.1per cent
Labour force (15-64 years) (per cent)	44.5per cent	55.0per cent

Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	1.7per cent	3.9per cent
Number of COVID-19 cases (as of 11th September 2020) (MOH); National cases were 35,232 people	300	0.89per cent of the national cases
Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	66.0per cent	36.1per cent
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	45.9per cent	31.9per cent
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	66.3per cent	56.1per cent
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	15.6per cent	26.0per cent
Gross County Product (Ksh Million)	33,394	0.5 per cent Share to total GDP (2017)
Average growth of Nominal GCP/GDP (2013-2017) (per cent)	9.0per cent	15.3 per cent

Data Source: KNBS (2019)

The age distribution of the county residents as per the 2019 Housing and Population Census is shown in table 1.2. The bulk of the County's population is in the age group of between 15-34 years comprising of 318,945 individuals. They are followed by persons aged between 6-13 years who are the primary school children comprising of 219,861 of the county population. The under 0-3 age comprise of 82,457 of the county population. This shows that the county has a general youthful population.

Table 1.2: Population distribution for selected age groups in the County (2019)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 0-3	41,822	40,635	82,457
Preprimary school age (Under 4-5)	29,224	26,832	56,056
Primary School Age (6 -13)	120,360	99,501	219,861
Secondary school age (14-17)	62,322	39,666	101,988
Youth Population (15-34)	176,200	142,745	318,945
Female Reproductive age (15-49)		184,480	184,480
Labour force (15-64)	244,054	199,383	199,383
Aged Population 65+	8,130	6,252	14,382

Source: KNBS, 2019

1.2 Level of socioeconomic deprivations

In 2015/2016, 2.7 per cent of the population had health insurance cover, 15.9 per cent lived in premises with water, 68.1 per cent lived in their own homes and 40.5 per cent had access to mobile telephone (Table 1.3) and majority of the households (94.1%) had access to toilet facility.

Table 1.3: Level of Deprivations for the various indicators for multidimensional poverty in the county

Indicator	Details	Percentage Distribution (per cent)
Health care	Population with Health Insurance Cover	2.7
Drinking water (Time taken to fetch)	Zero (In premises)	15.9
	less than 30 minutes	77.8
	30 minutes or longer	5.3
Sanitation and Hygiene	Proportion of households with toilet facility	56.2
	Shared Toilet	67.4
	Not Shared	32.6
	Place to wash hands outside toilet facility	6.3
	No place to wash hands outside toilet facility	92.4
Education (Population 3 years and Above by School Attendance Status)	Ever Attended	37.6
	Never Attended	62.2
Knowledge of health and nutrition (children aged 0-59 months that participated in Community Nutrition Programmes)	Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	26.4
	Did not Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	71
Housing and standard of living (house ownership)	Owner Occupier	68.1
	Pays Rent/ Lease	20.3
Access to information (Population Aged 3 years and above by ICT Equipment and Services Used)	Television	15.6
	Radio	52.7
	Mobile phone	40.5
	Computer	0.9
	Internet	3.9

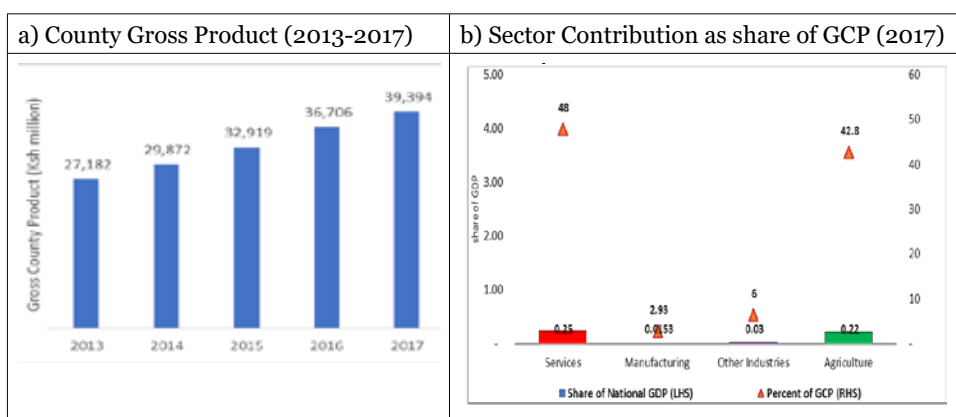
Data Source: KIHBS, 2015/16

1.3 Structure of Garissa County Economy

Garissa County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 0.5 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as of 2017 as reported in figure 1.1. The GCP increased from Ksh 27,182 million in 2013 to Ksh 39,394 million in 2017 representing an annual average growth rate of 9.0 per cent. The agriculture sector contributed 42.8 per cent of GCP while services, manufacturing and other industries sector shared constituted 48.0 per cent, 2.9 per cent and 6.0 per cent, respectively.

The services sector includes such activities as wholesale and retail trade, transportation and construction. Agriculture was mainly dominated by livestock keeping (beef and dairy), bee keeping, and agroforestry while industries and manufacturing include small-scale production of consumer goods.

Figure 1.1: Structure of the County Economy, 2013-2017



Data Source: KNBS (2019)

1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions

As of March 2020, Garissa County had zero cases. However, by August 2020, the County had reported 38 COVID-19 cases with mobility stringency of 70.4. The caseload would rise to 1,306 by August 2021 with mobility stringency of 56.0. The mobility stringency index is a composite measure rescaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100=strictest) based on nine response mobility indicators. The nine metrics used to calculate the mobility stringency index include school closures, workplace closures, cancellation of public events, restrictions on public gatherings, closure of public transport, stay-at-home requirements, public information campaigns, restrictions on internal movements and international travel controls. An index measure closer to 100 means high incidence or severity of mobility restrictions. The County mobility stringency index implies the severity of the restrictions was moderate.

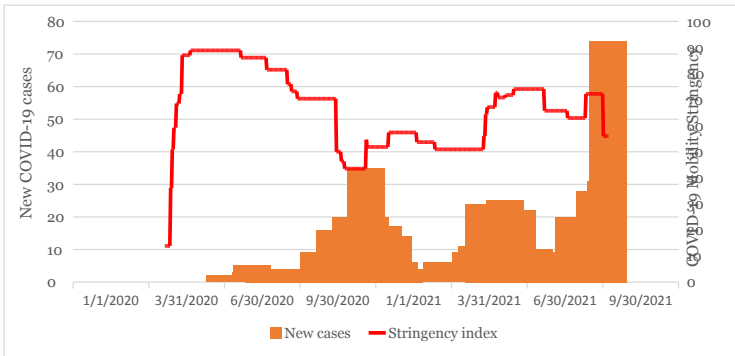
Table 1.4: Total COVID-19 cases and mobility stringency— Garissa County

Date	Total cases	Mobility stringency (0-100)
13th March 2020	0	36.1
23rd August 2020	38	70.4
23rd August 2021	1,306	56.0

Data Source: Oxford University

New COVID-19 cases in Garissa County were highest between September 2020-December 2020, March 2021-May 2021, and July 2021-August 2021. During three time-periods, spikes in new cases in the County were preceded by relaxation of COVID-19 mobility restrictions. Reduction in the County’s new cases was similarly preceded by tightening of mobility restrictions.

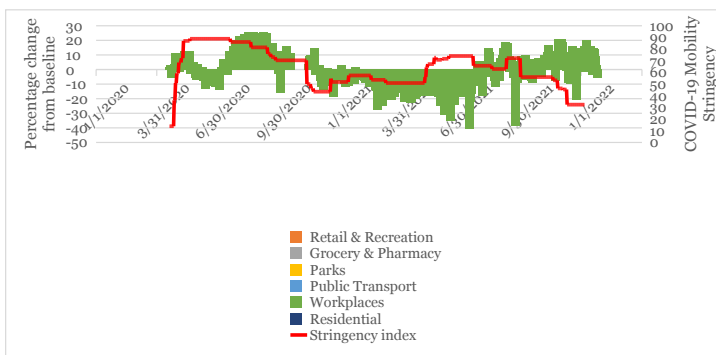
Figure 1.2: New COVID-19 cases



Data Source: Oxford University

Workspaces have been the most responsive to COVID-19 mobility restrictions in Garissa County. The sub-sector has sustained growth in the County since mobility restrictions were vacated in October 2021.

Figure 1.3: Effects of COVID-19 on economic performance



Data Source: Oxford University

The broad objective of the report is to analyze the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 across sectors and propose interventions for mitigating the effects. The report is organized as follows. Chapter 2 focuses on fiscal policy, planning and budgeting; Chapter 3 focuses on agriculture, livestock and fisheries; chapter 4 focuses on water sanitation and hygiene; chapter 5 focuses on manufacturing, trade and MSEs; chapter 6 focuses on transport and information and communication technology; chapter 7 focuses on urban development; chapter 8 focuses on tourism, chapter 9 focuses on health; chapter 10 focuses on education and training; chapter 11 focuses on social protection; chapter 12 focuses on human resources and chapter 13 concludes the report.

2. Socio-economic Effects of COVID-19

2.1 Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting

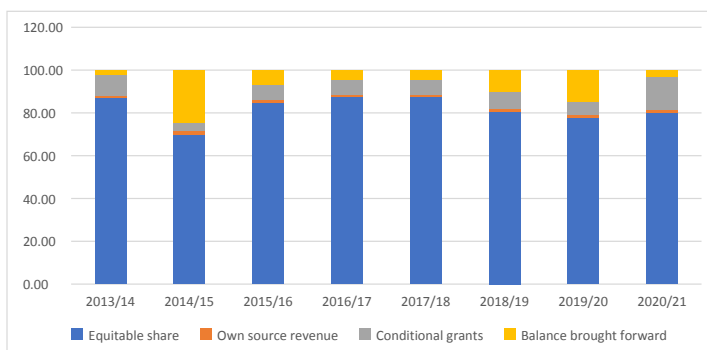
County revenues are critical in financing its development projects and recurrent expenditures. Timely and adequate funding aid in successful implementation of the county's projects. The County's main revenue sources comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants and its own source revenue (OSR).

2.1.1 Transfers from National Government

Garissa county's total revenues have been increasing steadily over the years growing by 130 per cent from Ksh 4.84 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 11.11 billion in FY 2018/19, being the highest ever. The county's total revenue however declined in FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21 to Ksh 8.77 billion in both years following the adverse effect of COVID-19 pandemic that affected various revenue streams. The amount realized in FY 2020/21 was 86.2 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 10.18 million, an improvement from 80 per cent attained in FY 2019/20. The improvement was supported by 100 per cent remittances of equitable share and increase in conditional grants from the national government.

Analysis of county revenues shows that the main source of revenue for the county has been the equitable share from the National Government, which averaged 81.96 per cent of the county's total revenues from FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21 (figure 2.1). The amount of equitable share to the county had similarly increased by 66 per cent from Ksh 4.22 billion to Ksh 7.02 billion over the same period. During FY 2020/21, the County received 100 per cent of the annual budget allocation, significant improvement from 96.3 per cent received in FY 2019/20. This highlights the commitment of the National Government to support county operations through timely financing.

Figure 2.1: Share of county revenues by source



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)

Monthly cash transfers from the National Government have always had an increasing trend from January to June over the years as shown in table 2.1. A similar trend was observed in 2020 with the transfers growing by 108 per cent from Ksh 3.53 billion in January to Ksh 7.34 billion in June. In comparison to 2019, the total amount transferred to Garissa County in March, April, May, and June of 2020 decreased by 5.45 per cent from Ksh 24.13 billion to Ksh 22.82 billion. Transfer of more cash in subsequent months was key to enable the county to undertake its budgetary operations as well as implement the necessary measures to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Table 2.1: Monthly cash transfers from National Government (Ksh Million)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	3,972.05	4,588.10	-	-	-	-	1,981.80	-	-
2020	3,526.24	4,358.81	4,358.81	5,560.50	5,560.50	7,335.24	1,763.60	2,587.17	3,199.94
2019	3,314.70	4,597.54	4,608.71	5,324.61	6,469.61	7,728.15	6,469.61	1,915.38	2,723.18
2018	3,035.01	3,065.67	4,186.28	4,816.63	4,858.06	7,161.70	850.07	2,235.57	2,469.07
2017	-	-	4,423.69	4,951.46	5,507.08	6,565.02	1,040.77	-	-
2016	-	-	3,588.87	4,631.26	5,150.66	5,150.66	-	-	-

Data source: Gazette Notice (Various issues)

2.1.2 Conditional grants

The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Sweden and European Union. Conditional grants continue to be a major source of financing county operations and contributed an average of 8.06 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 (figure 2.1). In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 62.23 million and Ksh 923.79 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The share of conditional grants to total revenue exhibits a steady trend averaging at 8.06 per cent over the period under review. Notably, the amount has grown by 188 per cent from Ksh 475.03 million in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 1.37 billion in FY 2020/21. To sustain the robust contribution and attract more grants, the County Government need to continue fostering the good relationship with development partners as well as adhering to the conditionalities of the grants.

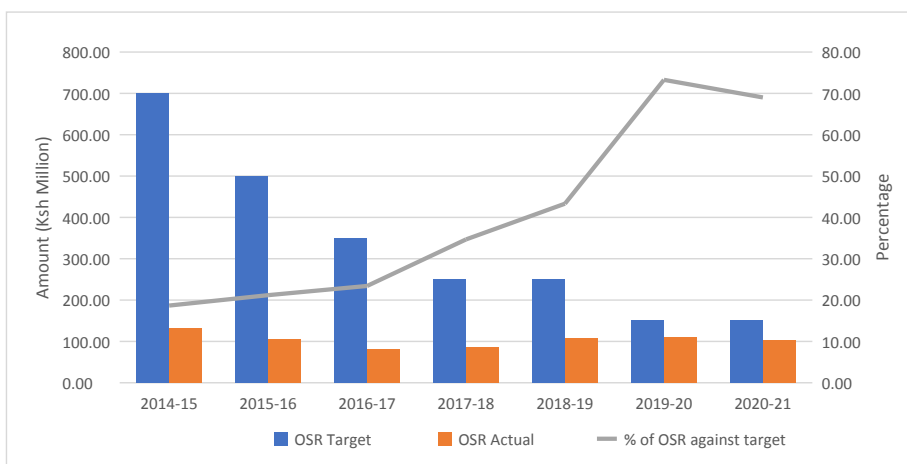
2.1.3 Own Source Revenue

The OSR to total revenue averaged 1.22 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21, contributing the least amount of County revenues (figure 2.1). However, OSR contribution to total revenue has registered significant improvements from 0.74 per cent in FY 2013/14 to 1.16 per cent in FY 2019/20. Going forward, it would be important for the county to strengthen its OSR collection framework as well as policies to sustain the upward trajectory.

Analysis of annual County OSR performance shows a fluctuating trend over the years with the highest collection amounting to Ksh 130.7 million in FY 2013/14 and the lowest of Ksh 81.2 million in FY 2016/17 (figure 2.2). Improved performance of OSR collection was registered in FY 2019/20 when the county collected 109.92 million, an increase of 1.6

per cent from Ksh 108.22 million realized in FY 2018/19. The marginal increase indicates some resilience in the County OSR following the disruptions of economic activities due to COVID-19 pandemic. The county has been revising its OSR target downwards from Ksh 700 million in FY 2014/15 to Ksh 150 million in FY 2020/21 (figure 2.2). Based on its revised OSR targets, the ratio of actual OSR versus target OSR indicate that the county is closer to achieving its targets over the years. The performance of actual OSR versus target indicate that the county has registered improvements from achieving 18.67 per cent of its targets in FY 2014/15 to 73.28 per cent in FY 2019/20.

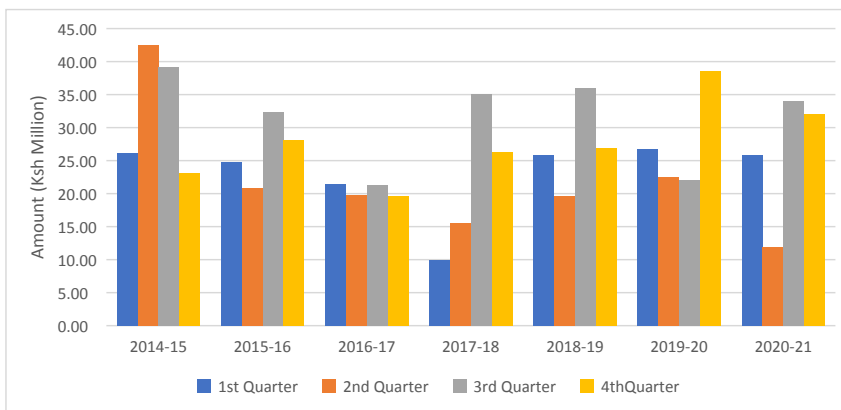
Figure 2.2: Annual Own Source Revenue targets and actual collections



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)

Analysis of the quarterly OSR show that collections in the third quarter have been the highest during the period under review except for the FY 2014/15 and FY 2019/20 when it declined slightly (figure 2.3). During FY 2019/20, OSR collections in the first three quarters exhibit a decreasing trend, having decreased by 17.3 per cent from Ksh 26.7 million in the first quarter to Ksh 22.1 million in the third quarter. As part of the COVID-19 containment measures, the county waived CESS fees, and had not yet collected revenue from business permits and land rates affecting the third quarter collections significantly. The closure of markets such as Dagahley market also affected revenue streams. For instance, the daily County revenue from the market before the pandemic was approximately Ksh 600,000. However, following the onset of the pandemic, the revenue ranged between Ksh 30,000 and Ksh 80,000 per day. The OSR collections during the fourth quarter was robust against the low expectations. The county remained resilient and managed to collect Ksh 38.54 million in the fourth quarter, the highest amount compared to the first three quarters of FY 2019/20. During FY 2020/21, quarterly OSR collections remained high except during the second quarter. The performance show that the County remained resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic period even as the Country experienced low economic activities. With the improved economic activities across the Country, the OSR collection is expected to maintain the upward trajectory.

Figure 2.3: Quarterly Own Source Revenue collection



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)

2.2 County Expenditure Analysis

Economic and political crises, natural disasters (such as droughts and flooding), security challenges and health crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) highlight the consequential risks and underlying vulnerabilities in national and county level budgetary and planning system. These can substantially affect public resources and in cases of weaker planning systems they may impact the nature and level of service delivery to the citizen.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the productive role of targeted and strategic county level expenditure. The 2014 UN Secretary General’s Synthesis Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) states that “many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities”¹. It is at the counties that economic activity takes place and when spending priorities and execution are done just right then the county and country will be set to the desired development trajectory.

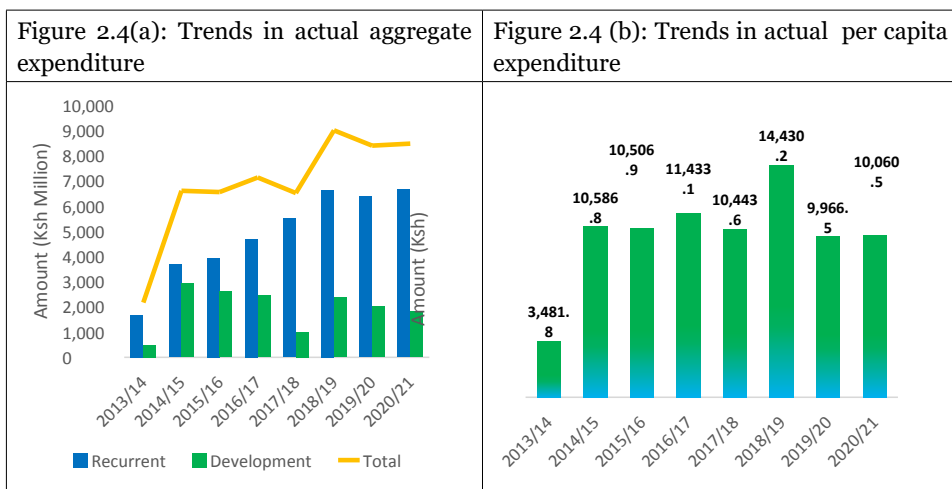
Despite their constrained fiscal autonomy (such as inability to borrow funds) and relatively small budgets, the county government has a key role to play in promoting growth as espoused in the Kenya Constitution. This is particularly the case with development expenditure, which is within the assigned remit of county as per the PFM Act of 2012 and is key to the county’s future growth prospects given several decades of underinvestment which have constrained productive capacity in the local economy.

¹ UN General Assembly (2014), p. 22, par. 94.

2.2.1 Trends and profile of county government expenditures

County expenditure has over the years been rising as the county escalates its efforts in provision of services to its residents. Total county expenditure has grown significantly since FY 2013/14. With the implementation of the first full year county budget in FY 2013/14, actual expenditure in the county increased from Ksh 2,169.4 million to Ksh 8,464.4 million in 2020/21 (Figure 2.4). Cumulatively the county has spent a total of Ksh 54.8 billion between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 39.1 billion and Ksh 15.7 billion on recurrent and development expenditures representing 71.4 per cent and 28.6 per cent of the cumulative recurrent and development expenditure respectively. This signals that there is a greater opportunity to push development expenditure higher and support deepening of capital spending in the county.

Figure 2.4: county expenditure analysis

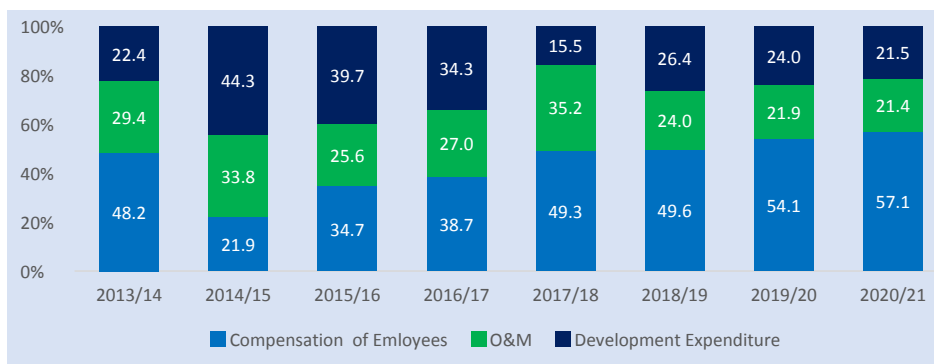


Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

Consistent with the nominal growth in actual county expenditures, spending on a per capita basis has shown upward growth over the period. In FY 2013/14, per capita spending in the county was about Ksh 3,481.8 compared Ksh 14,430.2 in FY 2018/19 and Ksh 10,060.5 in FY 2020/21. The average per capita spending between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 stood at Ksh 10,113.7.

2.2.2 Utilization of public resources in the county

Analysis of expenditures by economic classification and by departments (spending priorities) reveal interesting insights. It is evident that since inception of devolution, the county government prioritized narrowing the economic and social infrastructure gaps. Much of government development expenditures has been dominant in provision of health services, public works, education, agriculture, as well as trade and industry.

Figure 2.5: County government expenditure by economic classification (per cent of total county government expenditure)

Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

County development expenditure accounted for an average of 28.5 per cent of total county spending between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 as represented in Figure 2.5. In FY 2014/15 development expenditure accounted for 44.3 per cent of the county expenditure, the highest since devolution and remained below 30 per cent of most of the past fiscal years save for FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17 when development spending accounted for 39.7 and 34.3 per cent of county expenditure respectively. On the other hand, compensation of employees has been burgeoning between FY 2014/15 and 2020/21. The average share of compensation of employees in total county spending between FY 2015/16 and FY 2020/21 was 47.2 per cent. Surprisingly in FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21, compensation of employees accounted for over half of the county total spending.

Reflecting on expenditures by functional classification (priority spending), the county spent a combined average of 64.6 per cent of the total expenditure during the period FY 2014/15 to FY 2020/21 on non-administrative services such as health and sanitation services (27.7%); roads, and transport (8.8%); water and irrigation services (8.6%); education and labour (6.9%); lands, housing and works and urban development (4.3%); agriculture, livestock and cooperatives (4.3%); trade, enterprise development and tourism (1.3%); environment, energy and natural resources (1.2%); while gender and social services accounted for 1.0 per cent and Garissa Municipality accounted for 0.7 per cent.

Table 2.2: County departmental/priority spending

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Average spending	Average share of spending (per cent)
Health & Sanitation	1,245.6	1,432.2	1,695.0	2,063.3	2,780.5	2,910.8	2,441.7	2,081.3	27.7
Finance & Economic Planning	1,769.2	1,643.0	1,608.0	1,162.5	1,457.6	1,353.8	2,396.2	1,627.2	21.6
County Assembly	346.4	657.5	669.5	697.0	753.5	745.0	763.7	661.8	8.8
Roads and Transport	1,021.2	1,000.1	1,122.0	480.6	206.5	456.3	331.7	659.8	8.8

Water & Irrigation Services	756.6	864.4	740.0	297.4	817.2	698.2	340.7	644.9	8.6
Education & Labour	229.5	371.8	324.0	509.0	918.3	569.0	691.5	516.1	6.9
County Executive Services	427.4	134.4	290.3	568.6	365.4	416.9	292.2	356.5	4.7
Lands, Housing and works, Urban Development	182.7	-	251.0	337.0	826.1	386.8	266.4	321.4	4.3
Agriculture, Livestock & Cooperatives	262.0	262.8	204.0	235.7	415.3	381.2	475.2	319.5	4.3
Trade, Enterprise Development and Tourism	84.7	112.6	102.0	64.4	135.1	94.2	75.1	95.4	1.3
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources	213.6	28.7	80.5	59.3	61.4	117.9	61.4	89.0	1.2
Gender, Social Services & Sports	57.3	38.9	37.2	31.6	155.7	155.4	49.2	75.0	1.0
Garissa Municipality	-	-	-	-	49.3	66.8	246.5	51.8	0.7
County Public Service Board	-	-	-	-	48.9	33.0	33.0	16.4	0.2
Total	6,596.2	6,546.4	7,123.5	6,506.2	8,990.9	8,385.3	8,464.4	7,516.1	100.0

Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

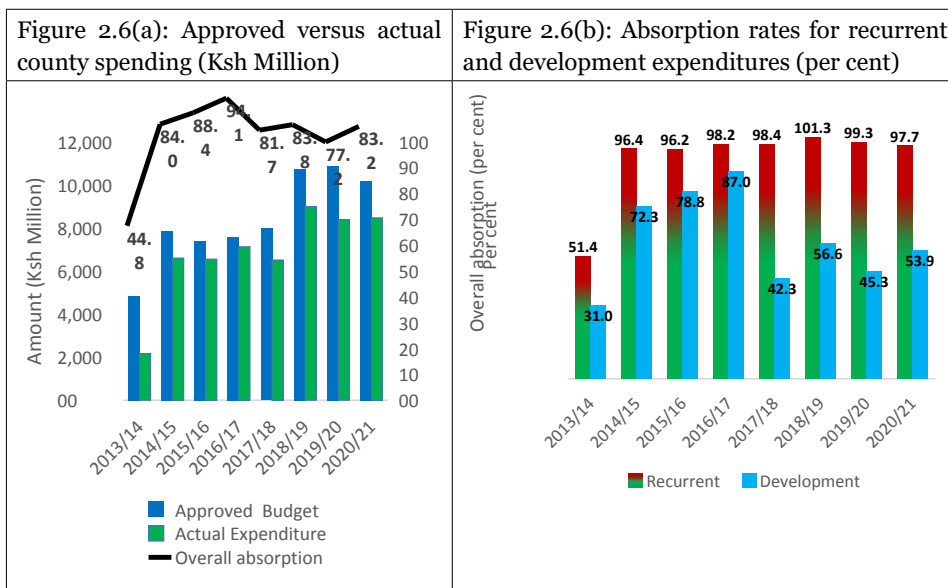
On the other hand, during the review period co-ordination and administrative functions accounted for a combined 35.4 per cent with Finance and economic planning accounting for 21.6 per cent followed by county assembly at 8.8 per cent, county executive services 4.7 per cent, while county public service board accounting for 0.2 per cent.

2.2.3 Effectiveness of County spending

Total budget execution averaged 79.6 per cent in the period FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21. In 2013/14 overall total budget execution stood at 44.8 per cent. This execution improved to 94.1 per cent in FY 2016/17 before taking a downward trend to 77.2 per cent in FY 2019/20. At the end of FY 2020/21 budget absorption stood at 83.2 per cent meaning that in FY 2020/21 only Ksh 8,464.4 million was utilized out of the approved budget of Ksh 10,176.8 million (Figure 2.6).

With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate between FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21 was 58.4 per cent (implying that on average over 41.6 per cent of the development budget is not absorbed). This implies existence of shortfalls in budget implementation and the county should continue tightening budget implementation to ensure achievement of greater absorption rates to keep help achieve the targets in annual development plans (ADPs) and the county integrated development plans (CIDPs). On recurrent expenditure, the execution has been robust over the years, the average absorption rate has been 92.4 per cent leaving about 7.6 per cent of unspent recurrent budget.

Figure 2.6: County Approved Expenditure and Absorption rates

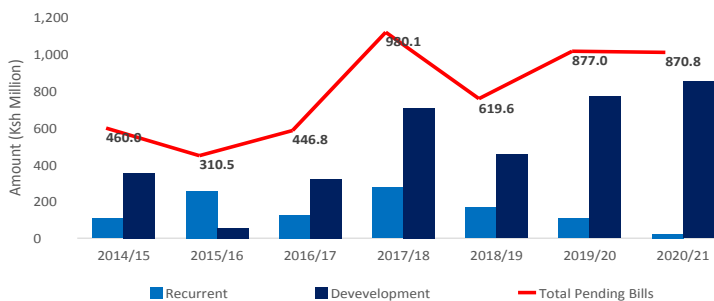


Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

2.2.4 Pending Bills

In FY 2014/15 the county reported Ksh 460.0 million in pending bills. This increased to Ksh 980.1 million in FY 2017/18 with development spending related pending bills accounting for 872.0 per cent of this. In FY 2018/19 pending bills slowed to Ksh 619.6 million before shooting up to Ksh 877.0 million in FY 2019/20. At the end of FY 2020/21 county pending bills amounted to Ksh 870.8 million with development related pending bills accounting for 97.5 per cent. Generally, pending bills related to development have been greater than those related to recurrent expenditure on average accounting for 76.8 per cent of the pending bills portfolio. If pending bills for development were paid in their respective fiscal year, the execution of development budget in subsequent years would improve.

Figure 2.7: Profile of county pending bills



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

In order to achieve its overall goal of improving lives and livelihoods of its residents, the county government must now move quickly to tackle the problem of pending bills. Increasing and persistent pending bills is a threat to the survival of the private sector particularly primary firms that trade with the county government. These firms are critical for employment creation as well as driving economic activity within the county. These bills have not only affected their profitability and overall performance but have also become a threat to private sector in general and the families that depend on these firms through ripple effect. If not well monitored these could grow and eat up on the county's already thin revenue sources.

2.3 Conclusions

- i) Mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations.
- ii) Seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.
- iii) Ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers.
- iv) Ensure the ongoing infrastructure project are completed and suppliers paid within the specified timelines for optimal returns to investment and to spur private sector activity.
- v) Improve budget execution and absorption of development budget by harmonizing project implementation cycles to budgeting and fast-track exchequer releases.
- vi) Reduction of expenditure on compensation of employees within the PFM requirement since ballooning compensation of employees potentially affects execution of key development programs especially if not brought to sustainable levels.
- vii) Monitoring and prompt payment of pending bills as they limit execution of planned activities in subsequent budgets.

3. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

3.1 Characteristics of the sector

Agriculture accounts for a significant share of economic activity in Garissa County. More than 40 per cent of the County economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for Ksh 16,845 million out of the total Ksh 39,394 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 42.8 per cent of the County's GCP.

Over 30 per cent of the households in Garissa County practice farming. About 3.1 per cent of the households produce crops, 32.6 per cent produce livestock, 1.4 per cent practice aquaculture and about 1.0 per cent are involved in fishing. About 1.3 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

Table 3.1: Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture, Fishing and Irrigation by County and Sub County

County/ Sub County	Total Households	Farming Households	Crop Production	Livestock Production	Aquaculture	Fishing	Irrigation
Kenya	12,143,913	6,354,211	5,555,974	4,729,288	29,325	109,640	369,679
Garissa	141,394	47,645	4,406	46,154	1,981	1,411	1,817
Balambala	4,337	1,786	428	1,653	144	109	220
Dadaab	35,793	9,315	410	9,128	313	250	86
Fafi	23,671	6,556	929	6,263	326	263	473
Garissa	30,518	3,335	1,032	2,849	128	99	488
Hulugho	20,254	13,731	1,147	13,478	681	448	341
Ijara	18,481	8,136	413	8,021	311	158	191
Lagdera	8,340	4,786	47	4,762	78	84	18

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

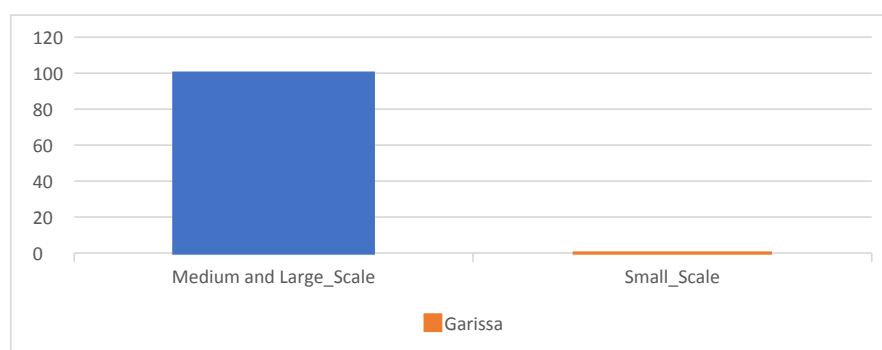
The estimated acreage under food crops in 2020 is 5,850 acres of which 5,500 acres are under small scale farming. A significant share of the land under farming (crops) is under commercial farming compared to the area under subsistence farming.

Table 3.2: Area of land Under Farming

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Area of land Under Farming (Food crops) Acres	3,950	4,250	4,550	5,050	5,550	5,850
Area of land Under Small Scale	3,750	4,050	4,300	4,800	5,300	5,500
Area Under Irrigation Farming (Acres)	3,050	3,200	3,450	3,800	4,150	4,200
Proportion of Farming Households Practicing Farming Strictly for Subsistence	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Area of Land under Subsistence Farming, Acres	900	1,050	1,100	1,250	1,400	1,650
Proportion of Farming Households pursuing farming as a business/commercial purposes (per cent)	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Area of Land Under Commercial Farming	3,050	3,200	3,434	3,777	4,155	4,200

Source: Garissa County

On the scale of production, the FAO criterion on land size is used to identify small holder farmers as those producers that “fall in the bottom 40 per cent of the cumulative distribution” (Khalil et al., 2017). Using this criterion, none of the farming households (Crop Production, Livestock Production, Aquaculture, Fishing and Irrigation) in Garissa County are “small-scale” farming with a land holding of 0.675 or less acres of land.

Figure 3.1: Scale of Operation: per cent of households

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016. Figures for a period of the 12 months

The County is classified as a North ASALS agroecological zone as per the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029. An overall analysis of the County agricultural production indicates among the top food crops produced by households in Garissa include maize, bananas, tomatoes, watermelons, beans and onions.

Table 3.3: Distribution of Households Growing Crops by Type, County and Sub County

County/Sub County	Garissa	Balambala	Dadaab	Fafi	Garissa	Hulugho	Ijara	Lagdera
Maize	2,590	250	260	651	451	724	244	10
Bananas	1,902	171	70	630	655	197	175	4
Tomatoes	1,808	193	98	598	560	177	179	3
Watermelons	1,727	198	119	519	526	205	157	3
Beans	1,326	113	161	315	202	338	192	5
Onions	1,132	180	88	380	229	129	124	2
Kales	804	88	38	226	188	120	143	1
Sorghum	748	82	120	123	31	280	108	4
Potatoes	696	96	46	134	91	166	159	4

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Key permanent crops among households in Garissa include Mangoes.

Table 3.4: Distribution of Households Growing Permanent Crops by Type and County

County/Sub County	Mango
Garissa	1,726
Kenya	796,867

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Resource productivity is another key important factor in determining the agro-processing potential (scale) of the County and would have a great impact on farmers' incomes and the County's GCP. An assessment of horticultural productivity indicates Garissa's value of fruits production in 2019 amounted to Ksh 338.9 million. The area under fruit was 1,795 Ha with a production of 21,601 MT. The major fruits grown in order of value importance are; banana, mango and watermelons.

Table 3.5: Fruits Grown in Garissa

Type of Fruit	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Banana	889	14,190	195,780,000
Mango	604	5,163	66,479,000
Watermelons	171	1,475	62,170,000
Pawpaw	98	690	12,155,000
Sweet Melons	10	50	1,500,000
Lemons	23	33	800,000
Total	1,795	21,601	338,884,000

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of vegetables production in the County amounted to Ksh 14.7 million. The area under vegetables was 206 Ha with a production of 711 MT. The major vegetables grown in order of value importance are tomato and bell pepper/sweet paper.

Table 3.6: Vegetables Grown in Garissa

Type of Vegetables	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Tomato	151	584	11,940,000
Bell Pepper/Sweet Paper	36	90	2,220,000
Kales	19	37	560,000
Total	206	711	14,720,000

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of MAPs production in the County amounted to Ksh 25.3 million. The area under MAPSs was 88 Ha with a production of 453 MT. The major MAPs grown are Bulb Onions.

Table 3.7: Medicinal and Aromatic plants (MAPs) Grown in Garissa

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Bulb Onion	65	419	24,100,000
Long Cayenne Chilies	23	34	1,235,000
Total	88	453	25,335,000

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

Being an ASAL County, animal production is a key economic activity in Garissa County. Other than rearing the traditional livestock (i.e. cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys and camels), the County has promoted poultry production and bee keeping (apiculture) and among farming households in the County.

Table 3.8: Distribution of Households Rearing Livestock and Fish by County and Sub County

County/Sub County	Garissa	Balambala	Dadaab	Fafi	Garissa	Hulugho	Ijara	Lagdera
Goats	41,468	1,464	8,064	5,639	2,517	12,284	7,194	4,306
Sheep	37,684	1,020	6,968	4,844	1,914	12,006	6,950	3,982
Indigenous cattle	23,444	669	3,217	2,359	1,341	10,619	3,825	1,414
Donkeys	20,630	821	5,072	3,431	1,341	5,045	1,891	3,029
Camels	17,624	1,110	6,508	3,871	1,611	891	316	3,317
Indigenous Chicken	5,852	108	476	284	239	3,774	908	63
Exotic cattle -Dairy	1,376	83	291	325	144	170	314	49

Exotic Chicken Layers	1,307	69	240	223	113	301	349	12
Beehives	833	67	64	147	48	362	141	4
Exotic Chicken Broilers	832	63	120	138	22	232	249	8
Exotic cattle -Beef	608	66	124	175	29	71	131	12
Rabbits	285	62	48	86	20	46	19	4

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

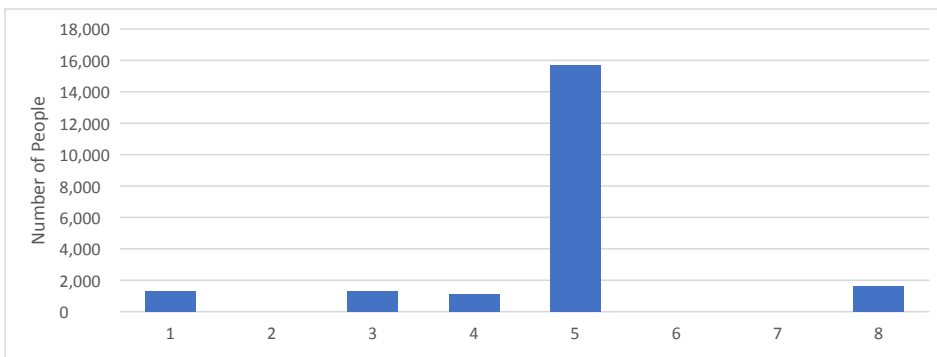
The above characterization of farming households highlights the priority value chain opportunities in maize, bananas, tomatoes, watermelons, beans and onions, mangoes, cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, camels, poultry production, bee keeping (apiculture). With majority of the households farming the identified products, the current Garissa transformation strategy in agriculture should prioritize value chains in the identified areas to positively impact of households’ livelihoods.

3.2 Agri-Food Challenges in COVID-19

i) Human capital/employment levels – by gender

Agricultural labor participation in Garissa indicates relative dominance by either gender in specific agriculture related occupations. Majority of the population in Garissa are farm workers where the group covers occupations related to: Field Crop, Vegetable and Horticultural Farm Workers; Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Producers; and Crop and Animal Producers. This subcategory is strongly dominated by males. The classifications are based on the Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard (KNOCS).

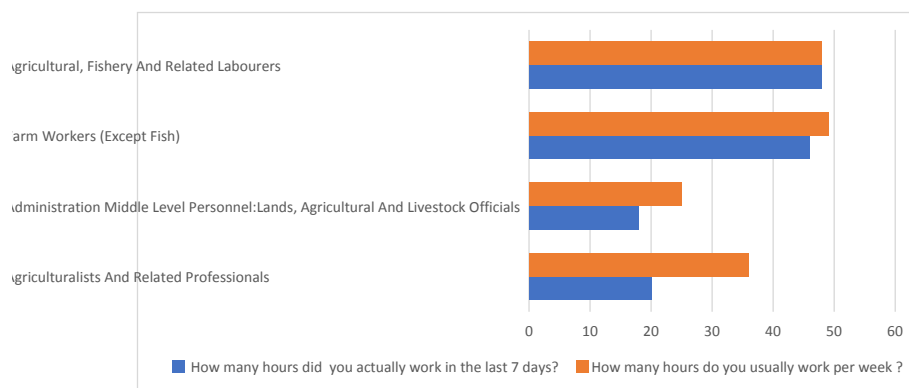
Figure 3.2: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

An assessment of the COVID-19 effects on hours worked by in agriculture related occupations indicates workers in most of the identified sub-sectors worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. The most affected workers are the agriculturalists and related professionals who recorded the highest difference of 16 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. The workers in this sub-major group conduct research and improve or develop concepts, theories and operational methods; apply scientific knowledge relating to crop husbandry.

Figure 3.3: Changes in Hours Worked by in Agriculture Related Occupations



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

The identified COVID-19 effects on labour force participation are likely to have negative effects on output thereby increasing yield gaps. The effects are also likely to have negative effects on household's income.

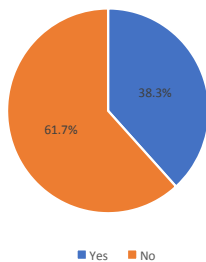
ii) Market operations

Successful transformation of smallholder agricultural production in Garissa County from subsistence to an innovative, commercially oriented and modern agricultural sector, as aspired in the national ASTGS, is dependent on the ability of the County market its commodities both in domestic, regional and international markets.

Among the marketing issues faced by the County is road access, a key indication of access to markets. Garissa's rural access index (RAI)- which measures "the number of rural people who live within two kilometers (typically equivalent to a walk of 20-25 minutes) of an all-season road as a proportion of the total rural population- fares poorly at 24 per cent. This is low compared to the national average of 69.38 per cent.

As a result of COVID-19, there has been a further slow down on trade activities due to the restrictions on movements. From the KNBS conducted between 30th May and 6th June 2020, 38.3 per cent of the households in Garissa County indicated over the past 1 week there had been instances where the household or a member of the household could not access the markets/grocery stores to purchase food items.

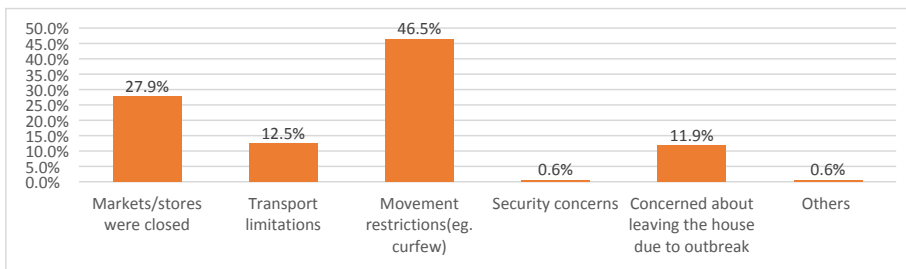
Figure 3.4: Limited access to markets to purchase food items



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Majority of the households indicated the key reasons for not accessing the markets/grocery stores to purchase food items were movement restrictions (46.5%) and closure of the markets/grocery stores (27.9%).

Figure 3.5: Reason for Limited access to markets/ grocery stores

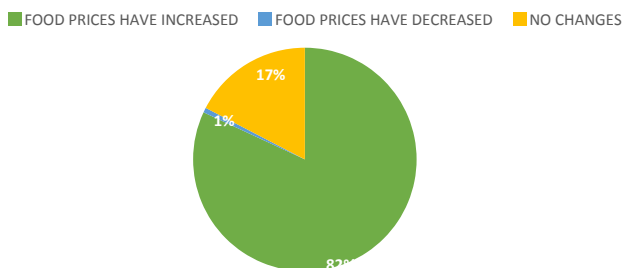


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Livestock trade has especially been majorly affected as traders are unable to take the livestock to the market.

Restrictions affecting seamless movement of food commodities are likely to cause a hike in prices in non-production areas and fall in prices in production areas. 82 per cent of households in Garissa County indicated that over the past 2 weeks from the reference period, while 17 per cent indicated that they had not experienced a change in the prices

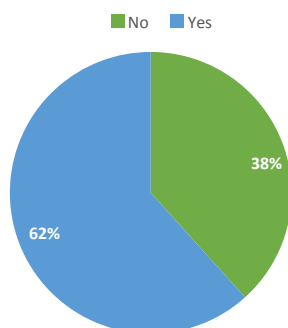
Figure 3.6: Percentage of households experiencing change in food commodity prices



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

On the magnitude of the price shocks, 62 per cent of the households indicated they faced a large rise in food prices in the past two weeks from the reference period.

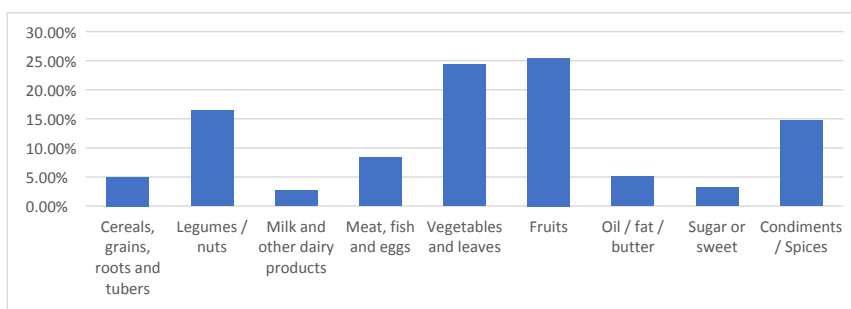
Figure 3.7: Proportion of households facing large food price shocks



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Poor access to markets also hinders the ability to supply food to the population as shown in the below figure.

Figure 3.8: per cent Households reporting that the following food items were not readily available in their locality

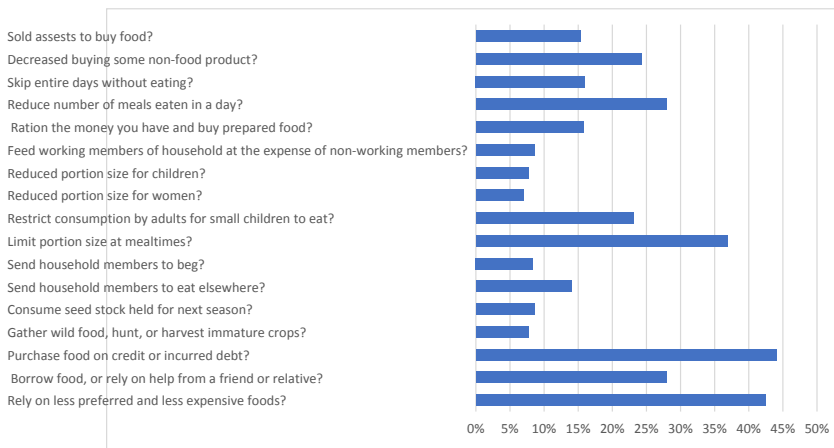


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

A key concern is that the food groups affected most are the nutritious food categories-vegetables, and fruits-which are necessary for boosting the immune system of the population.

Among the key strategies adopted by households to mitigate COVID-19 effects on food consumption include purchase food on credit or incurred debt (44.1%), relying on less preferred and less expensive foods (42.4%), limit portion size at mealtimes (36.9%) and borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative (27.9%).

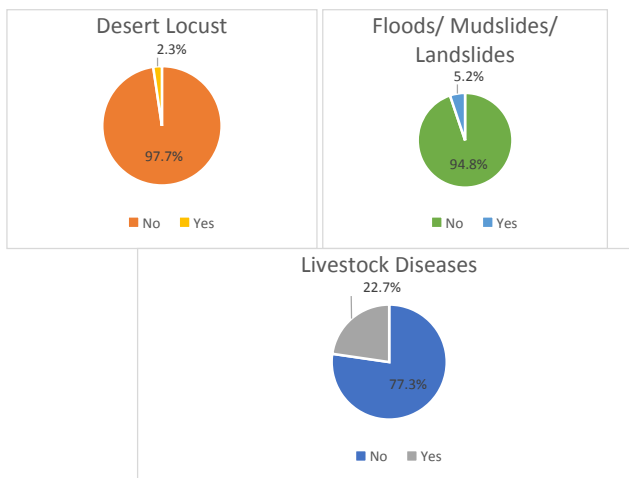
Figure 3.9: Figure 3.10: per cent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Additional significant challenges faced by the County during the COVID-19 pandemic include Desert locusts (2.3%); Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides (5.2%); and Livestock Diseases (22.7%).

Figure 3.11: Percentage of households who experienced the below shocks in the past two weeks the KNBS Wave 2 survey



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Further, the County faced the following COVID effects:

- a) Garissa County is the largest supplier of livestock and livestock products in East and Central Africa. There was a decline in livestock in the region owing to livestock diseases; this was compounded by the closure of Wajir-Somalia Border since Garissa supplies livestock to Somalia.

- b) The closure of the borders and livestock markets such as Dagahley market affected trade in the region. Also, the news that livestock can contract the COVID-19 virus motivated the closure of the markets.
- c) The livelihoods of farmers and traders were further affected due to the closure of the Wednesday market (which is the main market day of the week) in Dadawa and Mogadasha. Market routes, particularly the Garissa, Nairobi and Garissa, Mombasa routes were affected by the partial lockdowns.
- d) During the COVID period, the farmers in Garissa lost most of their produce due to floods; the losses included funds lent to Farmer Organizations (FOs). Further, access roads to markets were destroyed by the floods. Only fruit crops for mango and lemons survived the harsh weather.

3.3 Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County

Among the key constraints the County faces include:

- i) Comparatively low road networks in comparison to other counties, critical for access to input and output markets.
- ii) Need to undertake livestock farming as a business and not just for cultural purposes
- iii) Farmers low access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, artificial insemination (AI) services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and mechanized ploughing services by County tractor hire services.
- iv) Dependence of rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as drought episodes, delayed and erratic rains, floods, and high temperatures among other climate shocks,
- v) Low productivity due to poor natural resource management
- vi) Water scarcity which is a constraining factor that limits productivity for both livestock and food crops production
- vii) Low livestock, livestock products and food crops marketing opportunities necessary for improved incomes
- viii) Low commercialization of farming where majority of farmers practice farming for subsistence purposes and as a hobby rather than a business.
- ix) Low adoption of early-maturing plant varieties, water harvesting, and post-harvest storage that would increase farmers returns
- x) Desert locusts' infestation, Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides, and Livestock Diseases
- xi) Low livestock and crops processing and value addition opportunities among small scale farmers
- xii) Slow uptake of digital platforms to market agricultural produce.
- xiii) Inadequate extension and veterinary services
- xiv) Farm losses and post-harvest waste.

The above challenges combined will lead to the overall impact of reducing farm output, farmer incomes and increasing the vulnerability of households to food insecurity and climate variability particularly flood and drought episodes.

3.4 Opportunities of COVID-19 in agriculture sector

An assessment of the sector linkages to other sectors highlights that the sector is enabled by:

- i) **Businesses/ MSMEs:** Businesses and MSMEs are crucial in providing inputs and requirements to the agricultural sector. The sector would facilitate the efficient access to
- ii) Transport, Storage and ICT sectors
- iii) Financial and insurance activities
- iv) Accommodation Food services
- v) **Manufacturing:** The manufacturing sector plays a crucial role in agro-processing. Agricultural inputs also contribute to the processing of other manufacturing commodities

The County has opportunities in:

- a) Developing County-private partnership in enhancing agroprocessing and value addition and Linking farmers to product markets
- b) Access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seedlings, water and hay for animals, AI services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and ploughing services by County tractor hire services.
- c) In addition to agroprocessing, provision of storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points to minimize spoilage and post-harvest losses particularly for milk.
- d) Uptake of digital platforms to build capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies; access advisory and information services; and market agricultural produce.
- e) Expansion of water harvesting projects and sustainable irrigation in the County through partnership with development partners with the aim of increasing food productivity at the County.
- f) Scaling up conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, planting drought-tolerant, early maturing varieties and modern crop varieties, and agro-forestry.
- g) Increased livestock production through: - routine vaccination, deworming and vector control to maintain animal health; destocking and change of livestock species; decentralized veterinary services; disease surveillance; storing and conserving pastures and fodder; capacity building on animal management and training on preservation and value addition techniques; controlled movement of animals ; capacity building on stock route and market inspection ; and improved milking hygiene and animal housing.

- h) Adoption of drought resistant livestock pastures/fodder and crops and also fodder and feed conservation
- i) Rearing livestock breeds adapted to drought
- j) Livestock Production for Niche Markets
- k) Adoption of natural resource management to include soil and water conservation, tree planting, changing of crop type and water harvesting.
- l) Enhance supportive services to include early-warning systems, financial services such as insurance schemes for livestock / crop and credit facilities, advisory and information services through extension and training.
- m) Enhancing farmers technical capacities to act on advisory information received
- n) Improved crop and livestock emergencies surveillance systems in the County.
- o) Strengthening farmers' associations and cooperatives as an additional solution to marketing challenges

3.5 Emerging Issues

- i) Environmental degradation has reduced productive capacity of farms leading to increased risks to food insecurity and reduced farmers income.
- ii) Climate change, manifested in increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions such as floods, droughts and pest invasion

3.6 Recommendations

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will:

- i) Develop partnership with the National Government, NGOs, Development partners, Research Institutions and the Private sector in establishment of fully equipped meat and leather processing plants and horticultural processing and value addition plants to include banana, mango and watermelons processing plants.
- ii) Establishment of abattoirs and cold storage facilities (on-site cold storage and refrigerated vehicles to transport the meat to markets in Kenya and abroad).
- iii) Invest in access roads to enhance linkage between farms and markets. Extensive rural road infrastructure plays a central role in provision of affordable access to both markets for agricultural outputs and modern inputs. Garissa's rural access index (RAI) fairs poorly at 24 per cent compared to the national average of 69.4 per cent. There is thus need for the County to invest in access roads to enhance linkage between farms and markets. Other crucial market infrastructure includes lighting and water services to facilitate trade activities.
- iv) Digitize the agri-food sector to enhance: - training and building capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies, provision of advisory and

information services, marketing agricultural produce at a wider scope beyond the County level, and improving access to innovative support services including credit and insurance services.

- v) Access to quality and affordable inputs including: - water, animal feeds, AI services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and ploughing services by County tractor hire services. In addition, there are opportunities in enhanced access to agriculture, livestock and fisheries extension services for improved agricultural and livestock production.
- vi) Promote uptake of agricultural insurance, particularly livestock insurance among households. With recurrent natural disasters like droughts, floods, land/mudslides, pest and disease outbreaks in ASALs, it is crucial that the County seeks affordable index-based insurance from development finance institutions (DFIs) to safeguard livelihoods.
- vii) Empower livestock producers to participate in high-value product markets, such as, niche markets for livestock products (e.g. organic milk and meat). This will create value for the County in several ways including: - farmers accessing premium process for the produce; rearrangement of the food chain to marketing structures that bypass exploitative middlemen; steady revenues for farmers; and increased economic incentives in adopting SLM practices.
- viii) Diversify production in the County to suite the high heterogeneity of land associated with ASALs, the selection of products which fit in each niche and into each climatic cycle. Potential areas of production include horticultural production (mainly fruits), beekeeping and fisheries and aquaculture
- ix) Invest in sustainable irrigation and water pan projects for provision of water to be used for livestock, food and horticultural production in the County through partnership with development partners. Current completed include: - Galma Water Pan and Irrigation Project, Waldena water pan, Hirimani DM and Walestoka water pan. To support expansion of sustainable irrigation, there is need to promote development of Irrigation Infrastructure and technologies in the County.
- x) Establish programmes for surveillance of disasters, such as extreme weather conditions and livestock disease, at the County level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prepare, respond and prevent risks. The County will mitigate disasters, such as those related to floods, through institutional capacity development, vulnerability analyses and updates, monitoring and early warning systems, and public education.
- xi) Strengthen agricultural cooperatives through effective stakeholder engagement and implementation of interventions for more sustainable models of financing and customized training of cooperative members.

4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

4.1 Characteristics of the sector

Garissa County has a water scarcity problem with only 23.8 per cent of the population having access to safe water. Access to piped water is limited to the sub-county headquarters where approximately 27,725 households have connection. The main source of water in the county is River Tana and seasonal Laghas. Other water sources include 25 shallow wells, 109 boreholes, 195 water pans and one dam. The average distance to the nearest water point is 25 km. Water supply is by the Garissa Water and Sewerage Company, GAWASCO, which supplies water to approximately 27,725 households in Garissa Town and its environs.

The proportion of the population of the county that uses pit latrines as a means of sanitation is 46.76 per cent while 2.6 per cent use VIP latrines. Majority of the population (50.63%) uses other means of sanitation such as bushes. There is only one sewerage connection that is currently being constructed in Garissa town. However other towns in the county do not have sewerage connections.

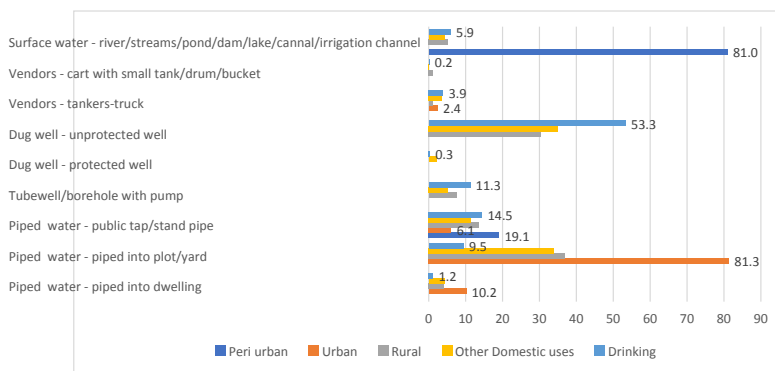
Over the last two years, the County has suffered from consistent drought and lack of water. During the FY 2019/20 they received an allocation of Ksh 1.4 billion from the national Government for the sector. The County has provided 50,000 cubic meters of water within sub-Counties using dams. The dams have been solarized. Note: the sub-Counties do not have any permanent water sources. Currently, the County has 85 per cent water supply/coverage due to water programs being implemented by development partners² such as drilling boreholes; however, the county foresees a water shortage soon due to competing needs for water by the human population and livestock. The challenges being faced is that the boreholes were submerged due to floods thus requires repairs

4.1.1 Access to source of water by households

The major source of water for drinking utilized by households in the county is water from dug well(unprotected) (34.8%), piped water into plot/yard (34%) and piped water (public tap/standpipe) (11.6%). Water from unprotected dug wells and piped water into plot/yard are also majorly used for other domestic purposes at 34.99per cent and 34per cent respectively. Additionally, most households in rural areas uses water from unprotected wells (53.3%), piped water (public tap/standpipe) at (14.5%) and piped water into plot/yard (9.5%). While majority of urban households relies on piped water into plot/yard at 81.3 per cent, piped water into dwelling at 10.2 per cent. Households in peri-urban obtain their drinking water from surface water(rivers/dams/streams/pond/lake) at 81 per cent followed by piped water (public tap/standpipe) at 19.1 per cent.

2 For instance, Partnerships with UNICEF through the Kasha Water Supply has enhanced access to water for residents.

Figure 4.1: Access to sources of water by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Combating COVID-19 pandemic has already placed high demand for water for both domestic usage in households, health care institutions, learning institutions, marketplaces, and other public places. Water also remains important to other sectors of the economy such as agriculture and industrial usage, among others. With the planned re-opening of schools and upcoming low rain seasons means that the pressure on water resources will be high, this therefore means that the demand for water will be high and if the supply will be low, households are likely to fail to observe COVID-19 prevention measures of hand washing which may in turn lead to high transmission of COVID-19.

To ensure continuity of quality water supply, there is need for the county to invest in water harvesting and storage facilities both at household and institutional level, this may include supporting schools in building rain harvesting and storage structures in schools from the school structure rooftops, supporting households in rainwater harvesting during rainfall times. Other interventions may include digging boreholes, supply of water to households that experiences water scarcity.

Therefore, for equality in access to water the county government can waive or reduce the water bills for urban households who uses piped water as well as support water vendors in access to clean safe water at a reduced cost. This will mean financial support to water service companies. Other long-term measures include inclusion of both rural, urban, and peri-urban dwellers into decision making in regard to water management and governance.

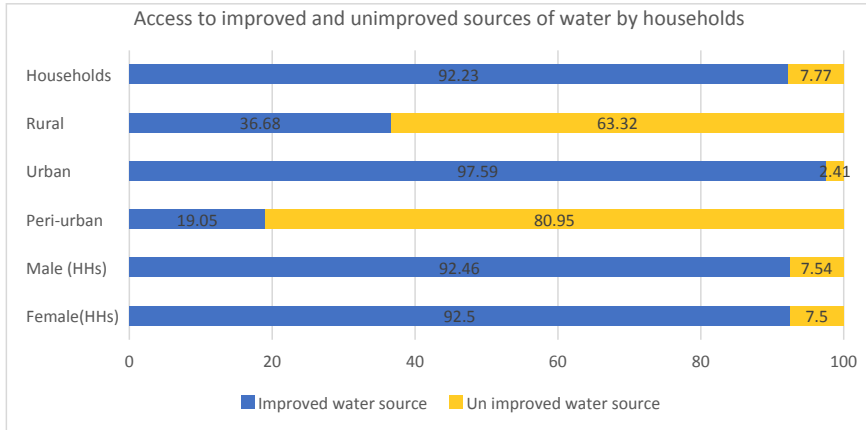
4.1.2 Access to improved and unimproved sources of water by households

Clean and safe water is essential for good health and goes a long way in ensuring reduced infections. Access to improved drinking water³ is high in the county among households at 92.2 per cent, improved source of drinking water. Only a small portion of the households have access to unimproved source at 7.8 per cent unimproved sources of water. Both male

3 improved sources of water include water from the following sources Piped water - piped into dwelling, Piped water - piped into plot/yard, Piped water - public tap/stand pipe, Tubewell/borehole with pump, Dug well - protected well, Dug well - unprotected well, Water from spring - protected spring). Unimproved sources of water include Water from spring - unprotected spring, Rain water collection, Vendors - tankers-truck, Vendors - cart with small tank/drum/bucket, Vendors-bicycles with bucket, Surface water river/streams/pond/dam/lake/cannal/irrigation channel Bottled water). This is according to WHO and UN classification of sources of water

and female headed households as well as both rural, urban and peri urban households have similar higher chances of access to improved drinking water source of water as shown in the figure below.

Figure 4.2: Access to improved and unimproved sources of water by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

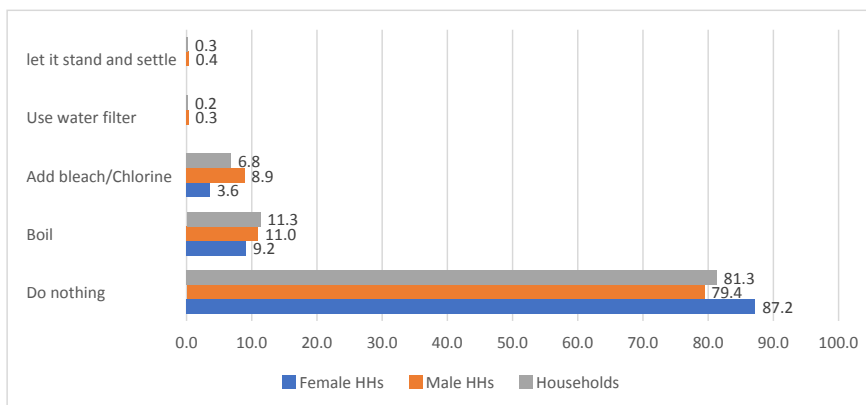
Inequalities in access to safe and clean drinking water may put households at risk of contracting infectious diseases as well as make the households less observance of COVID-19 measures of hand hygiene. One mitigation measure that may be undertaken by the county to increase access to improved water source, include connecting the households with piped water, increase the development of improved sources of water especially in rural areas. Long term measure to support access to water all households is to have both male and female headed households to be part of water management/governance team and in decision making in water management.

Other important consideration is to have separate water drinking point for livestock, different from the household water drinking water sources to minimize water contamination as well as conflict over water resource. Other long-term measures are to avoid agricultural activities along the upstream to minimize water pollution.

Access to water treatment methods

Majority of the households (81.3%), both male (79.4%) and female (87.2%) do nothing to make it safe for drinking. Other methods of water treatment are boiling and chlorination. See the figure below

Figure 4.3: Access to safe drinking water by households

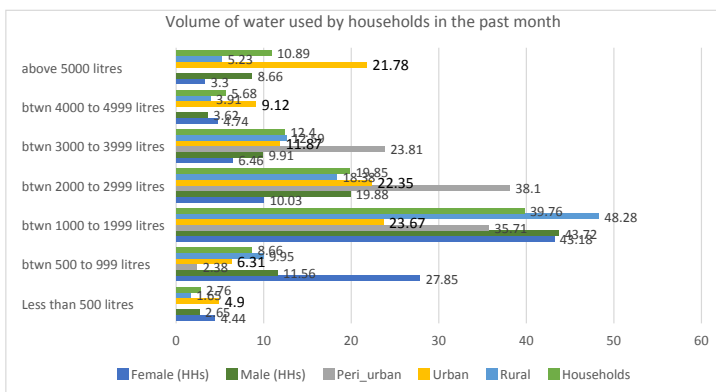


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.3 Volumes for water used by households in a month

Most households use between 1000-1999 litres of water in the past one month at 39.8 per cent which is the same volume used by rural households per month at 48.3 per cent, compared to 38.1 per cent utilized by urban households and 38.1 per cent used by peri-urban households. Additionally, majority of male headed households use between 1000-1999 litres of water per month at 43.7 per cent while female headed households uses between 1000-1999 litres of water in the past one month at 43.2 per cent.

Figure 4.4: Volumes of water used by households in a month



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

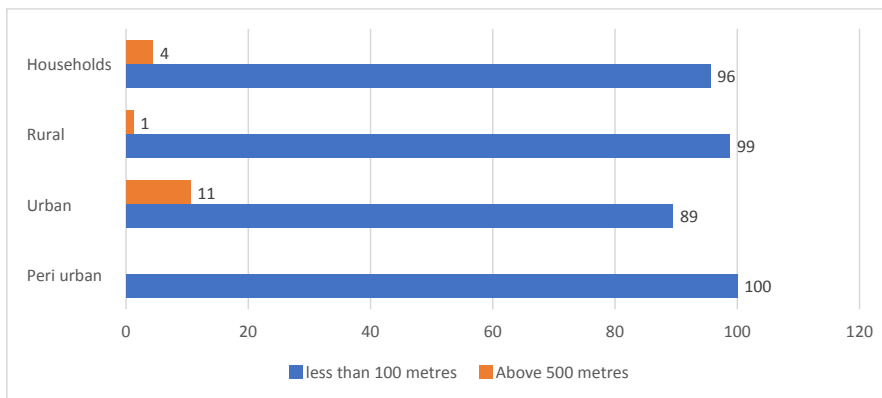
From the above figure, most households utilize large volumes of water per monthly with most households using between 1000 to 1999 litres of water (39.8%) followed by rural households (48.3%) urban households (23.7%) and peri urban (35.7%). With the opening of schools, it means more water will be needed by the institutions. Water remains a

scarce commodity and in places or months where water is scarce, this may have an effect on families and hinder them from observing COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Correct utilizations of water resources should be emphasized at households' level, similarly, there is need for conservation of water catchment areas.

4.1.4 Distance covered to water source and average time spend to and from the water source

Majority of the households both rural, urban, and peri-urban covers less than 100 metres to water sources at 95.6 per cent meaning they have water within their premises or close to their compounds. Only a small portion of households covers more than 500 metres to water sources at 4.4 per cent and 1.2 per cent rural.

Figure 4.5: Distance covered by households to and from water sources



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

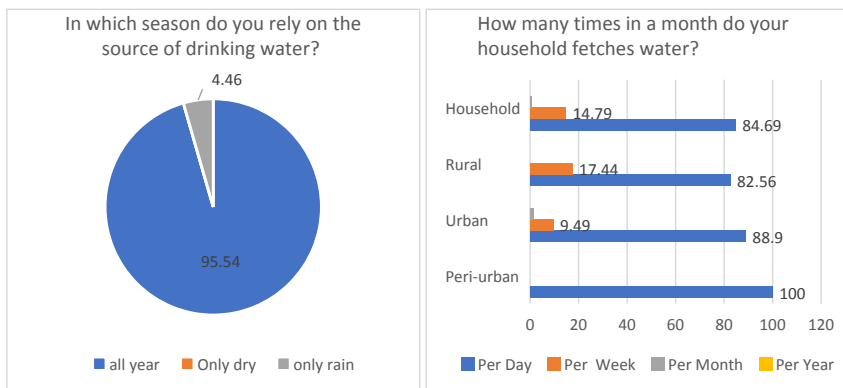
If water is available to households, schools, health institutions within the shortest distances possible, it easily encourages observing hand hygiene thus minimizing infections. In learning institutions, it minimizes rates of school dropouts among girls. Women headed households are disadvantaged in access to drinking water within shortest distances and this may make them vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 as well as other infectious diseases. To support hand hygiene among households there is need to have water supply closer to households headed by women.

4.1.5 Access and reliability of water sources

Majority of households in Garissa County must rely on the main source of drink water all year round at 95.5 per cent, therefore in case of the source drying up, households will lack water resulting into non observance of COVID-19 measures of hand washing. On the other hand, most households must go to fetch drinking water from the sources per day at 17.4 per cent, rural households at 14.8 per cent and urban households at 88.9 per cent. This means there may be more of interactions with other household members in areas where water sources are shared, this may lead to increase on infections where COVID-19 guidelines of social distance and avoidance of crowded place may not be observed.

It also implies that households may not be having water storage facilities that can minimize number of trips to water points in a day, therefore they may be at risk of water shortages during dry months.

Figure 4.6: Access and reliability to water sources by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

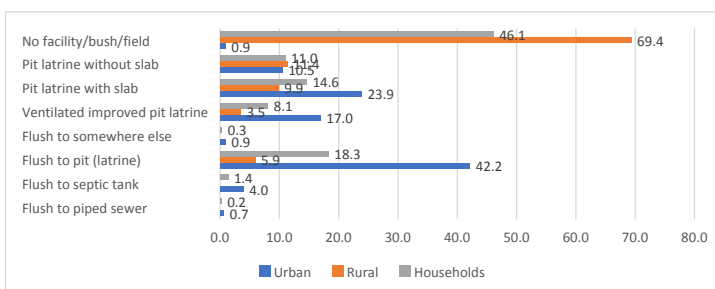
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Top interventions are protection of the existing major water sources for households and development of new water sources, this may include rainwater harvesting at individual and institutional level. Protection of water catchment areas.

4.1.6 Access to sanitation

Access to sanitation is very important since it can help to detect the genetic residues of diseases in wastewater as those who are infected are thought to shed traces of the virus in faeces thus prompting for immediate action from the health officials. There is no sewerage plant in all the major towns and trading centres in the county. Majority of the households (46.1%) have no toilet facility; this is more among rural households (69.4%). On the other hand, urban households use pit latrine with slab (23.9%) followed by improved pit latrines (17%) and flush to septic tank at 7 per cent.

Figure 4.7: Access to sanitation in Garissa County



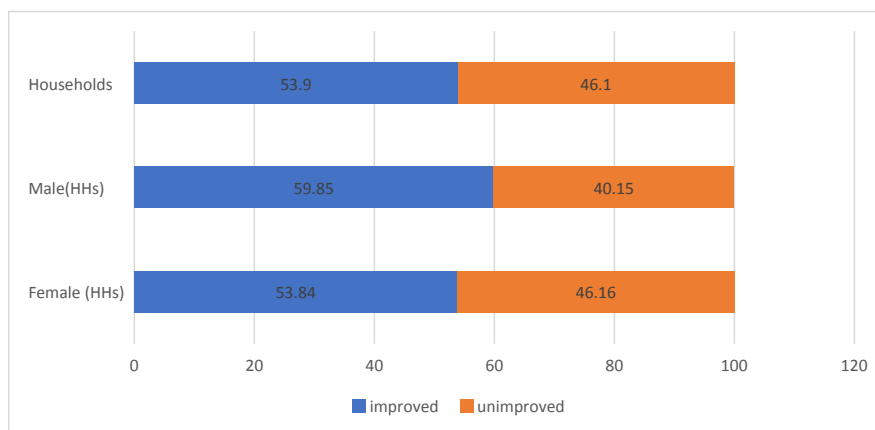
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.7 Access to improved and unimproved sanitation

Access to improved sanitation is very important in maintaining hygiene and keeping infectious diseases away, good sanitation can help to detect the genetic residues of diseases in wastewater as those who are infected are thought to shed traces of the virus in faeces thus prompting for immediate action from the health officials.

Majority of the households have access to access to improved sanitation facilities at 53.9 per cent, improved sanitation includes (*Flush to piped sewer, flush to septic tank, flush to pit (latrine), flush to somewhere else, flush to unknown place, ventilated improved pit latrine, pit latrine with slab, pit latrine without slab*). Only a small proportion have access to unimproved sanitation at 46.1 per cent these include (*Composting toilet, bucket toilet, hanging toilet/hanging, no facility/bush/field, others*). Male headed households have a higher access to improved sanitation at 59.85 per cent compared to female headed households at 53.8 per cent.

Figure 4.8: Access to improved and unimproved sanitation by households

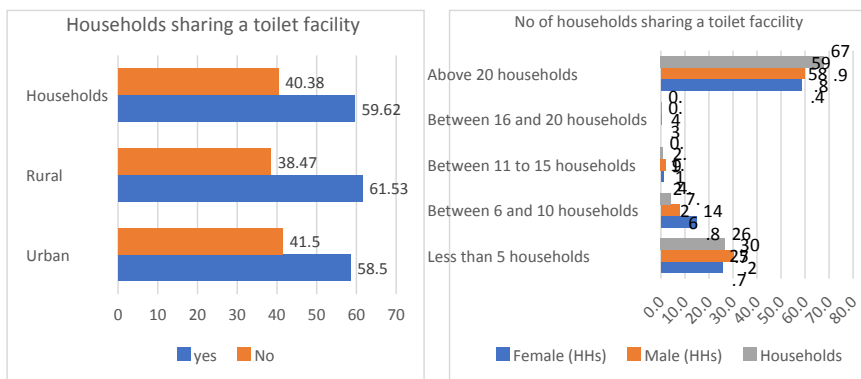


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.8 Sharing of a toilet facility

Additionally, 59.6 per cent of the households do share a toilet facility with other households, this is also similar in rural areas at 61.5 per cent and urban areas at 58.5 per cent. There are large proportions of households who share a toilet facility with 20 other households at 67.9 per cent, male headed households at 59.8 per cent, and female headed households at 58.4 per cent. Only a small proportion of households do share a toilet facility with less than 5 other households at 26.7 per cent and 30.2 per cent for male headed households and 25.7 per cent for female headed households.

Figure 4.9: Number of households sharing a toilet facility



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

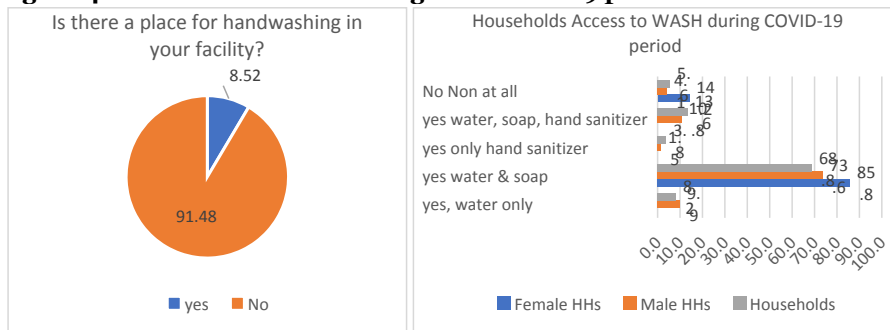
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Sharing of toilet facilities with large number of households puts individuals at risk of contracting COVID-19, and other infectious diseases in cases where proper hygiene is not maintained as well as social distancing measures. Similarly, WHO guidelines require separate sanitation facilities for suspected COVID-19 cases which households may not be able to achieve

4.1.9 Access to WASH during the COVID-19 period

WASH has been identified very important in helping to curb transmission of infectious diseases, despite this most of the households (91.5%) in the county do not have a handwashing facility in their households. On the other hand, 68.8 per cent of the households have access to WASH (*Water and soap*) during this period of COVID-19, male headed households at 73.6 per cent and female headed households at 85.8 per cent. Additional 13.6 per cent of the households having access to both water, soap and hand sanitizer, male headed households 10.8 per cent. Only a small portion of households have access to water only at 8.2 per cent while 14.2 per cent of female headed households do not have access to water, soap nor hand sanitizer.

Figure 4.10: Access to wash during the COVID-19 period



Source: KNBS KIHBS 2015/2016

Source: KNBS COVID-19 wave 2, 2020

More of hand washing should be emphasized especially to those who are not observing hand hygiene to help decrease the spread of the virus, this should be facilitated by provision of water, soap/hand sanitizer to households

4.2 Opportunities of COVID-19 in WASH

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to maintain a clean safe water, proper sanitation and hand hygiene which places more demand on water and therefore the county needs to leverage on lessons learned from COVID-19 by improving its water and sanitation coverage.

4.3 Emerging Issues

The County has provided wash taps within shops in the town center as well as handwashing facilities in County and sub-County offices.

The county has undertaken a distribution of water tanks, water and soaps at points of entry as well as developed hand washing booths in the informal settlements. The booths are made by students from the TVET institutions

4.4 Recommendations

The recovery strategy recommends the following strategies for implementation:

- i) The county to increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places by fast-tracking ongoing water projects such as drilling of boreholes, construction of dams and water pans.
- ii) Construct water storage facilities
- iii) The county to promote water harvesting through roof catchments and provision of tanks to poor households
- iv) Fasttrack rehabilitation of the existing water sources by protection of water springs and wetlands
- v) The county to facilitate water tracking to households and communities during times of droughts and emergencies.
- vi) Map out water sources and their capacity to help in the management and conservation of water resources
- vii) Expand and rehabilitate the existing piped water connection infrastructure to help increase access to water. There is low access to piped water which stands at 32.5 per cent in urban 12.6 per cent in rural and 6.4 per cent in peri urban areas. This means low revenue from piped water for the county government. Similarly, it also implies low access to clean and safe water which is guaranteed through piped water system. To increase piped water connectivity to households. The county government can collaborate with the private sector, Non-Governmental organization and the local community to expand the water infrastructure.

- viii) The county to put in place a decentralized wastewater and faecal sludge management plan
- ix) Establish water supply monitoring system for efficiency water supply and management.
- x) Expand sewer infrastructure to accommodate more households, currently there is low access to piped sewer among households which is 15.6 per cent urban and less than 1 per cent coverage both in rural and peri urban areas. Low connectivity to piped sewer denies the county the much-needed revenue from sanitation services as well as access to safe sanitation.
- xi) Improve access to safe and improved toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces and public places. Additionally, 69.4 per cent of rural peri urban households do not have a toilet facility. On the other hand, 42.6 per cent rural, 39.61 per urban and 2.6 per cent urban households have no access to toilet facility. Similarly, sharing of a toilet facility with other households is common which stands at 61.5 per cent rural, 58.5 per cent urban. Toilet sharing puts households at risk of contracting COVID-19, and other infectious diseases in cases where proper toilet hygiene is not maintained. Increased access to sanitation can be achieved through collaboration between county government, national government, development partners and PPP to expand sewer infrastructure and to accommodate more households.
- xii) Promote the importance of handwashing and construct WASH facilities to increase access at the household level. Currently access to WASH is high among households with majority having access to water and soap at 68.8 per cent, water soap. On the other hand, 91.5 per cent of the households do not have a designated handwashing facility in their households. This may compromise hand washing hygiene of households thus making households vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. Increased access to WASH can be achieved by supporting households with access to water, soap and WASH facilities, sensitization on the importance of handwashing. Collaboration between County Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, local community and the media is important to realize increased access to WASH among households.
- xiii) Enforce the WASH regulation of having toilets in all public facilities such as supermarkets, hotels and banks etc.
- xiv) The county to organize sensitization forums on the importance of handwashing through the media and in community forums.

5. Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

5.1 Characteristics of the sector

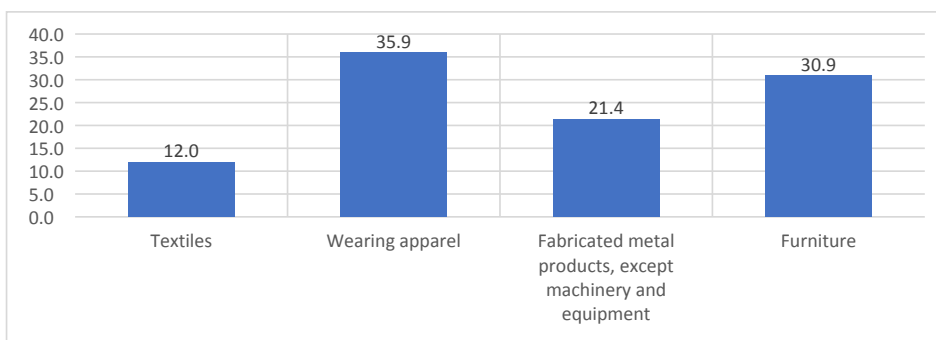
5.2 Manufacturing sector

Garissa County has 157 establishments involved in manufacturing activities which comprise of 2.9 per cent of a total of 5,458 firms (KNBS, 2016). In terms of size, 142 (90.6%) are micro while 15 (9.4%) are small. The main drivers of the economy of the county include agriculture (43%), services (44%) and manufacturing (3%) (GCP, 2019).

5.2.1 Sector of operation

According to the KNBS 2016 survey, the key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing to include: wearing apparel (35.9%), furniture (30.9%), Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (21.4%), and textiles (12%) (figure 5.1). These are some of key sub-sectors that are essential in dealing with COVID-19 and are likely to experience increased activity, and especially in production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and hospital beds. The key products useful in value addition and driving manufacturing include Meat, dairy, livestock and honey production, and skins and hides processing.

Figure 5.1: Sector of operation in manufacturing

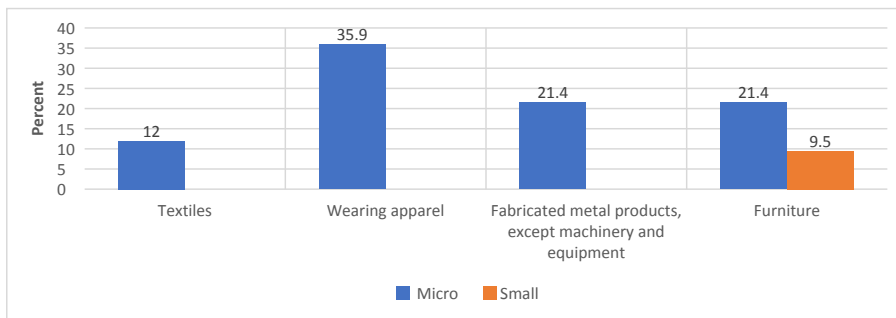


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.2 Sector of operation by size

Most establishments in Garissa County are micro in nature and operate in the wearing apparel (35.9%) and furniture (21.4%), and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (21.4%) (figure 5.2). Small sized establishments only operate in furniture (9.5%).

Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size

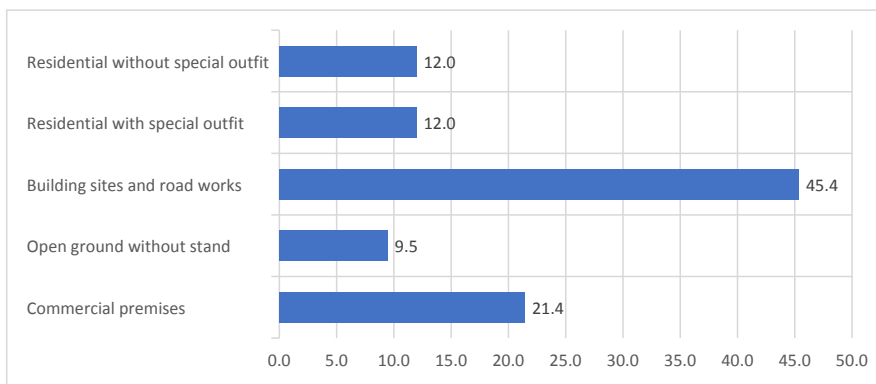


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.3 Location of manufacturing firms by type of premises

Common premises used by manufacturing firms in Garissa County are building sites and road works (45.4%), commercial premises (21.4%), residential without special outfit and residential with special outfit, both at 12 per cent (figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Location of manufacturing firms by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.4 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size

Manufacturing establishments in Garissa County are dominantly owned by males (76.1%), with females comprising 23.9 per cent. In terms of micro-sized firms, 73.6 per cent are male owned, while 26.4 per cent are female owned. Small sized firms are all owned by males (100%) (table 5.1).

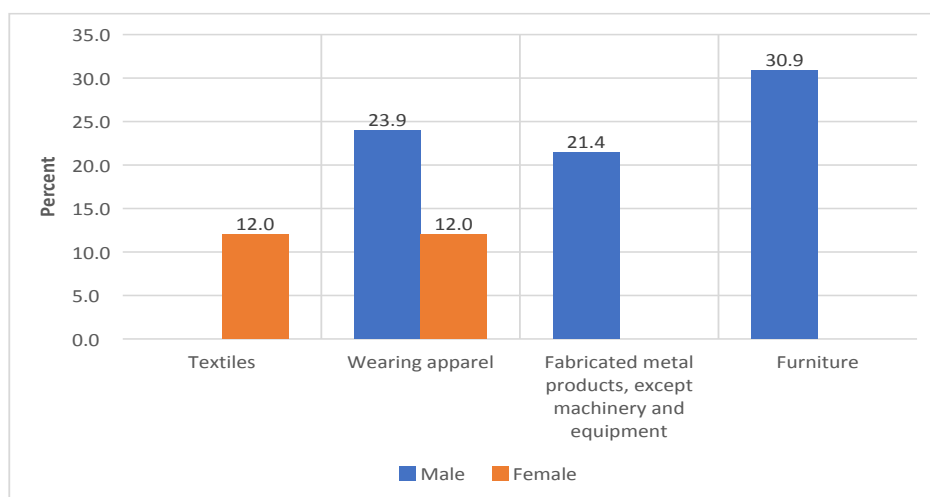
Table 5.1: Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size - N (per cent)

Gender	A11	Micro	Small
Male	120 (76.1)	105 (73.6)	15 (100)
Female	38 (23.9)	38 (26.4)	0 (0)
Joint	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	157 (100)	142 (100)	15 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.2.5 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

Most of the sub-sectors in manufacturing are male dominated including furniture (30.9%), wearing apparel (23.9%), and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (21.4%). Females are mostly found in textiles (12%) and the wearing apparel (12%) (figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4: Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

Source: KNBS, 2016.

In terms of employment, the manufacturing sector employs more men (91.6%) than women (8.4%). Most men are found in the micro-sized enterprises (51.4%) while 40.2 per cent are in small-sized establishments. All women (100%) are found in the micro enterprises (table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms

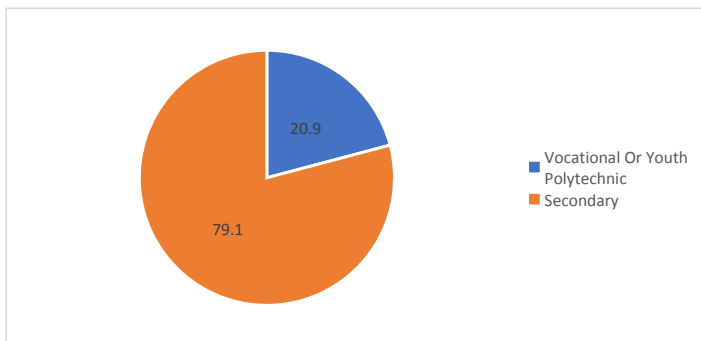
Number of employees	Micro	Small	Total
Male	228 (51.4)	178 (40.2)	406 (91.6)
Female	38 (8.5)	0 (0)	38 (8.4)
Total	265 (59.9)	178 (40.2)	443 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.6 Education levels of Manufacturing firm owners

Nearly all the owners of enterprises in manufacturing have secondary (79.1%), and vocational or youth Polytechnique (20.9%) (figure 5.5).

Figure 5.5: Education levels of manufacturing firm owners

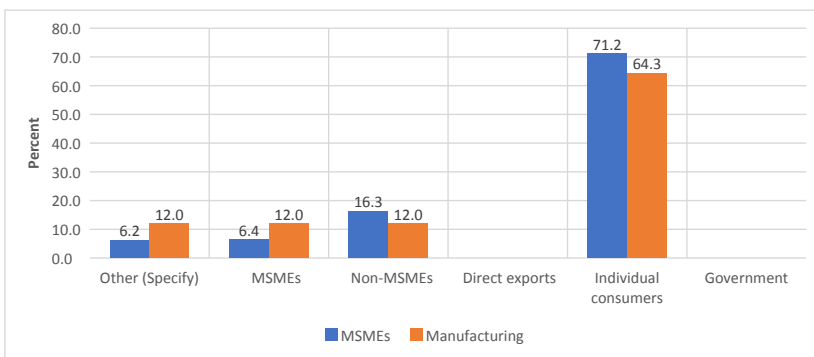


Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.2.7 Source of markets

Most of manufacturing firms and MSMEs rely on individual consumers for markets at 64.3 per cent and 71.2 per cent respectively (figure 5.6). Additionally, non-MSMEs are also important sources of markets for these sectors at 12 per cent and 16.3 per cent respectively. Manufacturing and MSMEs markets in Garissa County are both not involved in export markets, hence reducing potential negative exposure to them and especially as a result of COVID-19.

Figure 5.6: Source of markets

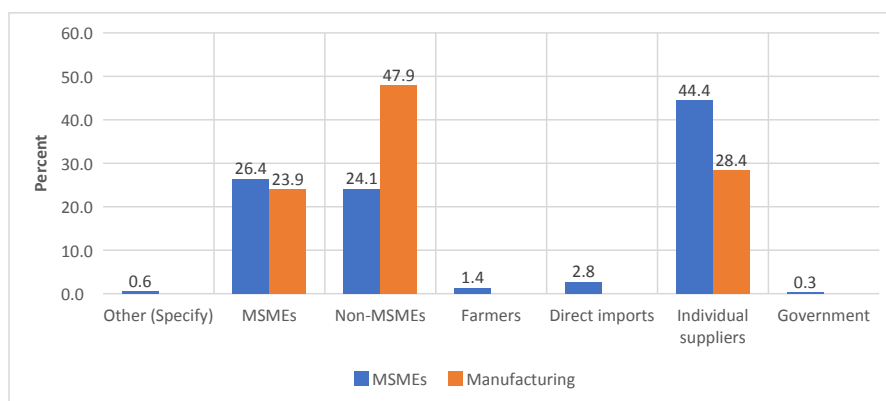


Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.2.8 Source of material inputs

Overall, manufacturing firms and MSMEs source for material inputs from amongst non-MSMEs at 47.9 per cent and 24.1 per cent respectively (figure 5.7). Individual suppliers as well as MSMEs are also important to the supply of inputs. MSMEs also source for inputs from direct imports (2.8%) and farmers (1.4%). Disruptions in the external source markets therefore has adverse implications to MSME operations in Garissa County.

Figure 5.7: Source of material inputs



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.9 Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

Manufacturing establishments in Garissa County were involved in both process and market innovations. However, only the small-sized category was involved: process (9.3%) and market (9.3%) innovations respectively (table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

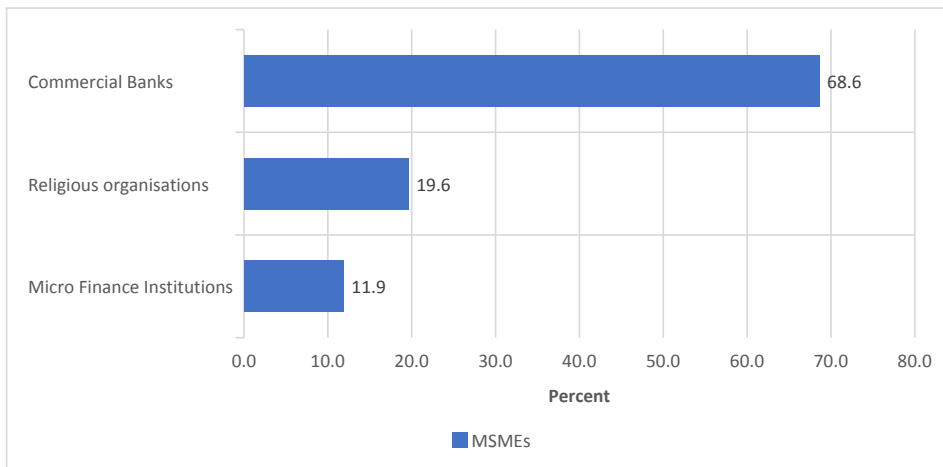
Type of innovation	Micro			Small		Total
	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	142 (90.7)	0 (0)	15 (9.3)	0 (0)	157 (100)
Process	0 (0)	142 (90.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (9.3)	157 (100)
Market	0 (0)	142 (90.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (9.3)	157 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.2.10 Access to credit for Manufacturing and MSMEs firms

According to the MSME 2016 survey, 95.6 per cent of MSMEs and all of those in manufacturing applied for credit. The major sources of credit for MSMEs are: commercial banks (68.6%), religious organisations (19.6%), and micro finance institutions (11.9%) (figure 5.8).

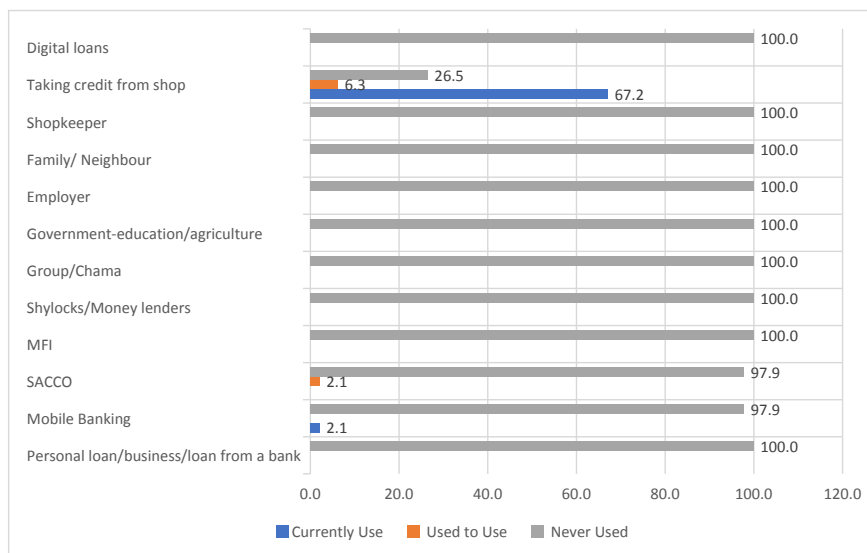
Figure 5.8: Sources of finance



Source: KNBS, 2016

Recent evidence from FinAccess 2019 provides further insights on sources of credit for businesses in Garissa County. Businesses commonly obtain credit from the conventional sources such as shops (67.2%). Emerging sources of credit for businesses in Garissa County include mobile money (2.1%) (figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit

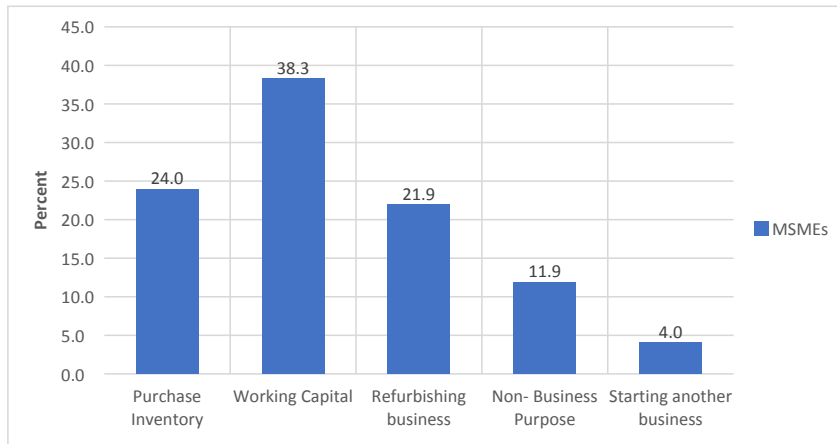


Source: FinAccess, 2019

5.2.11 Purpose of credit

The major purpose for credit by MSMEs is shown in figure 5.10. Generally, MSMEs firms require credit for: working capital (38.3%), purchase inventory (24%), and business refurbishment (21.9%).

Figure 5.10: Main purpose of credit

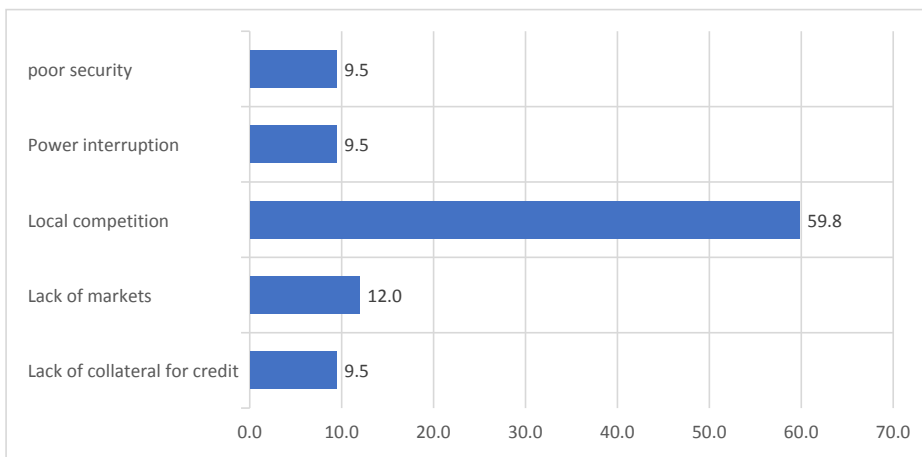


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.12 Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

The key constraints faced by manufacturing establishments include local competition (59.8%), lack of markets (12%), lack of collateral for credit, power interruption, poor security, all at 9.5 per cent (figure 5.11).

Figure 5.11: Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

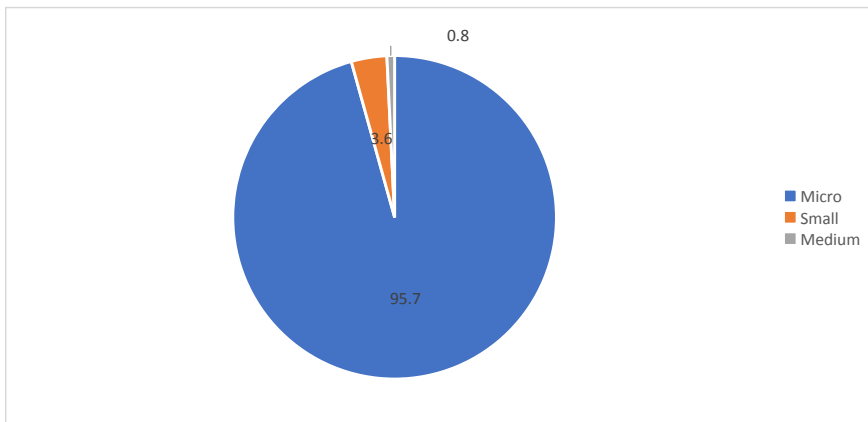


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Garissa County has 5,458 establishments⁴ with 5,223 (95.7%) being micro; 194 (3.6%) are small; and 42 (0.8%) are medium enterprises (KNBS, 2016) (figure 5.12).

Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by size

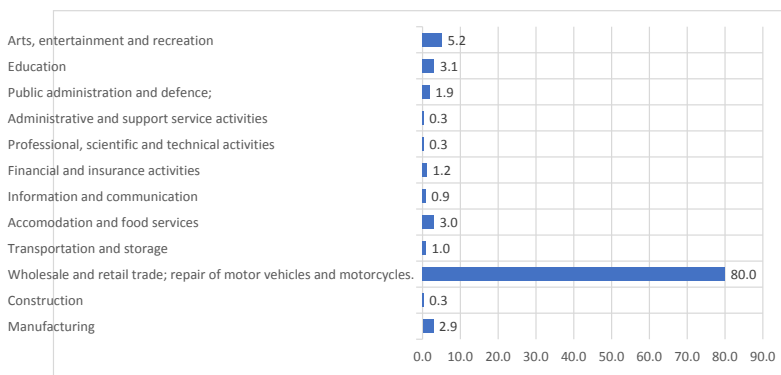


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3.1 Sector of operation by MSMEs

Most MSMEs in Garissa County operate in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (80%), arts, entertainment and recreation (5.2%), education (3.1%), accommodation and food services (3%), and manufacturing (2.9%) (figure 5.13).

Figure 5.13: Sector of operation by MSMEs

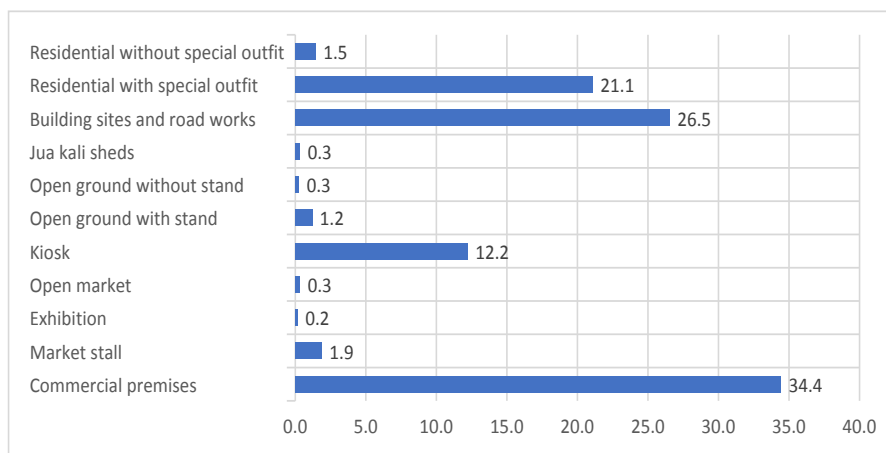


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3.2 Location of the businesses by type of premises

MSMEs in Garissa County are largely located in commercial premises (34.4%), building sites and road works (26.5%), residential with special outfit (21.1%), and kiosks (12.2%) (figure 5.14).

⁴ After applying weights

Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises

Source: KNBS, 2016

Due to income disruptions occasioned by COVID-19, MSMEs in Garissa County faced difficulties in meeting their rental obligations considering quite a number are in commercial premises (34.4%). According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey 62.3 per cent of the non-farm businesses attributed non-payment of household rental obligations to reduced incomes/earnings while 37.7 per cent attributed the same to delayed incomes/earnings. For those involved in farm businesses, 66.7 per cent attributed the same to temporary layoffs/closure of businesses while 33.3 per cent were affected by reduced incomes/earnings.

5.3.3 Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size

Table 5.4 shows the distribution of MSMEs in Garissa County by gender: 73 per cent are male owned, 20.9 per cent are female owned, while 6.1 per cent are jointly owned (male/female). For Micro establishments, 73.1 per cent are male owned, 21.6 per cent are female owned, while 5.3 per cent are jointly owned. Male owners also dominate ownership among small sized establishments at 63.2 per cent, females own 6.8 per cent, and 30 per cent are jointly owned. Considering medium sized establishments, ownership is fully controlled by males (100%).

Table 5.4: Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size - N (per cent)

Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Medium
Male	3,982 (73)	3,818 (73.1)	123 (63.2)	42 (100)
Female	1,142 (20.9)	1,129 (21.6)	13 (6.8)	0 (0)
Joint	334 (6.1)	276 (5.3)	58 (30)	0 (0)
Total	5,458 (100)	5,223 (5.3)	194 (100)	42 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

In terms of employment, the micro sized establishments employ more people (61.4%) compared to small (23.2%), and medium (15.4%) (table 5.5). Micro firms employ 47.7 per cent male and 13.8 per cent female and small sized employ 18.2 per cent male and 5 per cent

female. Equally, more men are employed among medium establishments at 10.3 per cent while females include 5.1 per cent respectively. Overall, more men (76.1%) are employed by MSMEs in Garissa County than women (23.9%).

Table 5.5: Employment by gender and Size - N (per cent)

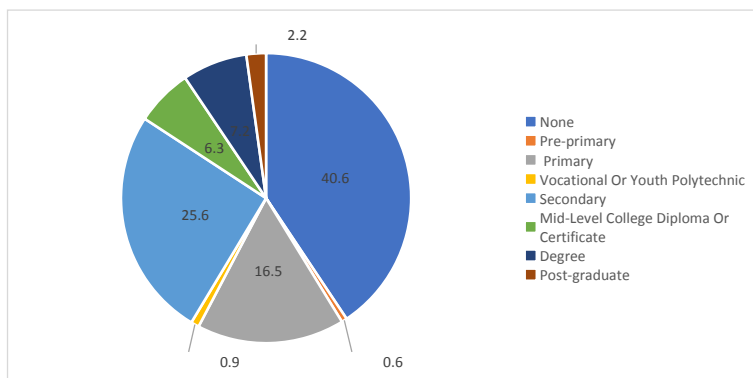
Gender	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
Male	8,171 (47.7)	3,114 (18.2)	1,767 (10.3)	13,053 (76.1)
Female	2,359 (13.8)	863 (5)	866 (5.1)	4,089 (23.9)
Total	10,530 (61.4)	3,977 (23.2)	2,634 (15.4)	17,141 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3.4 Education levels of MSME owners

Figure 5.15 indicates that majority of MSME owners in Garissa County have a secondary education (25.6%); primary education (16.5%), and mid-level college diploma or certificate (6.3%). It is very worrying though that 40.6 per cent of the MSMEs owners did not have a formal education.

Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3.5 Level of innovation by MSMEs

Table 5.6 presents the levels of innovation in Garissa County by MSMEs according to size. Overall, there were low levels of innovation across MSMEs with 3.2 per cent involved in product, 1.1 per cent for process, and 0.5 per cent in market innovation for micro-sized enterprises. Regarding small-sized enterprises, 0.6 per cent engaged in product, 0.4 per cent process and 0.4 per cent market innovation. With regards to medium sized enterprises, only 0.7 per cent were involved in product innovations.

Table 5.6: Level of innovation by MSMEs

Type of Innovation	Micro				Small				Medium		Total
	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	0 (0)	5,039 (92.5)	174 (3.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	162 (3)	31 (0.6)	4 (0.1)	38 (0.7)	5,449 (100)
Process	0 (0)	0 (0)	5,153 (94.6)	61 (1.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	169 (3.1)	25 (0.4)	42 (0.8)	0 (0)	5,449 (100)
Market	0 (0)	0 (0)	5,184 (.1)	29 (0.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	169 (3.1)	25 (0.4)	42 (0.8)	0 (0)	5,449 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3.6 E-commerce

Participation in e-commerce by households in Garissa County is below the national average. About 1.6 per cent of the households participate in online e-commerce which is below a national average of 4.3 per cent (KPHC 2019). In comparison, men participate more in online e-commerce (1.8%) than women (1.3%). With introduction of stay-at-home protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Garissa County since fewer households participate in the same.

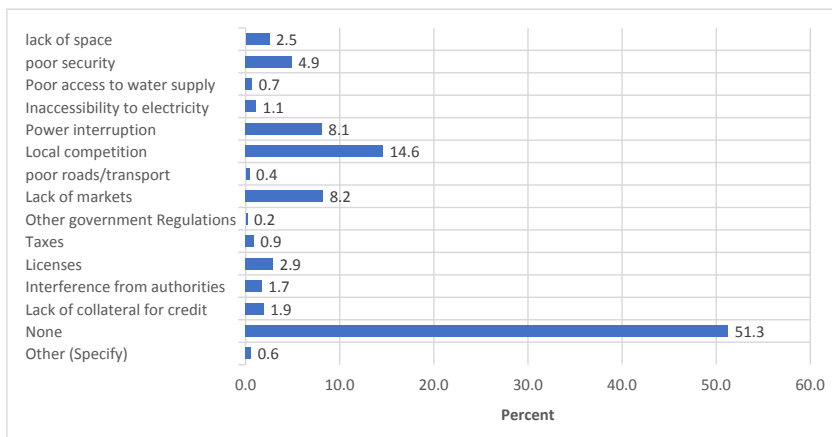
5.3.7 Turnover tax

Only 12 per cent of MSMEs in Garissa County (658) had a previous monthly turnover of above Ksh 83,333 which translates to Ksh 1 million a year. Ideally, this would be the establishments that are eligible for turnover tax with the new thresholds recently introduced vide the tax laws (Amendment) Act, 2020. The actual impact of this move may be difficult to estimate due to data challenges on actual revenue streams and the number of establishments that comply with the same.

5.3.8 Constraints faced by MSMEs

The major constraints faced by MSMEs in Garissa County include local competition (14.6%), lack of markets (8.2%), power interruption (8.1%), and poor security (4.9%) (figure 5.16).

Figure 5.16: Main constraints faced by MSMEs



Source: KNBS, 2016

A study on County Business Environment for MSEs (CBEM) identified other constraints faced by MSMEs in Garissa County as: financial and technical capacity, market environment, and worksite and related infrastructure (KIPPRA 2019). On worksites, MSEs face inadequate and unequipped worksites, lack of public toilet facilities, lack designated areas for waste disposal, poor road infrastructure, frequent power interruptions. On technical capacity MSEs are characterised by low levels of innovation, lack of training and apprenticeship programme for artisans, fragmentation due to multiplicity of players who offer training and capacity building, and lack of monitoring and evaluation of training programmes. With the market environment, MSEs face inadequate market for their local products; stiff competition among themselves; and unfair trade practises which manifest through; contract enforcement, counterfeiting, dumping (substandard goods) and misrepresentation (through weight, price, ingredient). MSEs also face bottlenecks related to; insecurity; multiple licences and permits; numerous procedures for obtaining licenses; and shortage of raw materials.

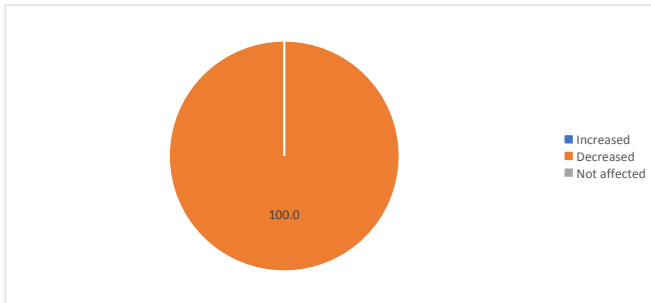
These findings are supported by a study on Assessment of the Investment Climate in Kenya by World Bank (2009) which attempted to identify the impediments of productivity growth among Kenyan firms. The findings showed that the business environment in Kenya is characterised by poor infrastructure, poor governance, insecurity, and complex bureaucratic administrative and regulatory systems.

5.4 Effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses

Figure 5.17 provides key highlights on the effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses in Garissa County. 100 per cent of the respondents report a decrease in their business activities due to the pandemic meaning they were all affected. Equally 100

per cent of the respondents have had a decrease in their income due to COVID-19. This is an indication that COVID-19 is already having a negative toll on the non-farm and farm businesses even though the situation is still evolving.

Figure 5.17: Effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses

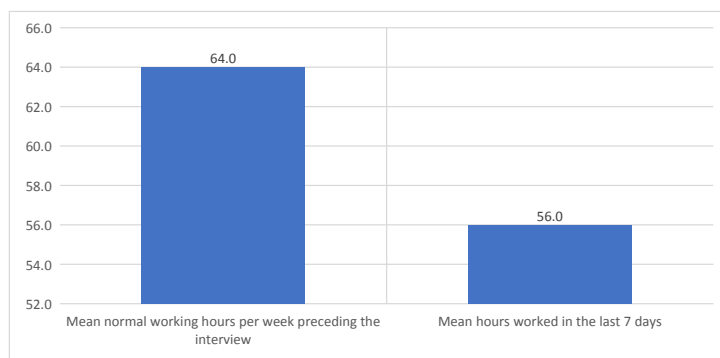


Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

5.5 Labour dynamics

During the period considered in KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020 data collection, respondents reported a decrease of 8 hours in the mean working hours for household non-farm and farm businesses in Garissa County which implies a deterioration in economic activities between the interview periods (figure 5.18). This could be as a result of agriculture, service and manufacturing activities considering they significantly form the main stay of the County.

Figure 5.18: Labour dynamics on household non-farm and farm businesses



Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

Further, the wholesale and retail trade sector lost 10 hours in usual and actual hours worked in a week. This is an indicator of the adverse effects on the service sector of Garissa County due to the pandemic which could imply loss of productivity, output and employment. Equally, the manufacturing sector lost 6 hours.

5.6 Key Messages:

- a) The key sectors that drive the Garissa County economy include: Agriculture, services and Manufacturing. Hence, support should be targeted to these sectors to ensure re-engineering of the County economy.
- b) The key constraints faced by manufacturing firms in the County include: local competition, lack of markets, lack of collateral for credit, power interruption, and poor security. Similarly, the major constraints faced by MSMEs in Garissa County include: local competition, lack of markets, power interruption, and poor security.
- c) COVID-19 presents opportunities that could be harnessed like development and support of innovations to address the pandemic. These include production of essential goods such as; masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators.
- d) Training and capacity building are important in assisting MSMEs to surmount the shocks faced during the pandemic but also allow for re-emergence.
- e) In terms of re-engineering, there is need to consider establishing support measures to re-vitalize and re-open businesses that collapsed during the crisis within the county.

5.7 Opportunities of COVID-19 in Industrial Recovery and Growth

The following are some of the opportunities created by COVID-19 in trade, manufacturing and the MSMEs sector:

- i) Agro - processing for value addition with important areas of focus include livestock production, skins and hides processing, and honey production.
- ii) The textile and wearing apparel sectors can be enhanced to provide PPEs for use within the County and potentially for the export market.
- iii) Exploration and processing of minerals such as gypsum, alluvial sand, conglomerate rock, quartz pebbles, and oil.

5.8 Recommendations

To support trade, manufacturing and the MSMEs sector, the County will:

- i) Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short term. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, will be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit, waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges.

- ii) COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth.
- iii) Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- iv) Leverage and exploit its metropolitan areas status (Wajir-Garissa-Mandera) to enhance manufacturing, which is part of the Vision 2030 aspirations.
- v) Mainstream the National Urban Development Policy to spur its industrial development.
- vi) Establish and equip the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as outlined in MTP III.
- vii) Fast track construction of a new sewerage scheme.
- viii) Enhance Livestock marketing value addition and processing.
- ix) Set up, equip, and operationalise a Gypsum Products Manufacturing Plant in Garissa as per MTP III aspirations.
- x) Address insecurity to spur the growth of industries in the County.
- xi) Fastrack development of County Industrial Development Policy to facilitate investment of industries in the County.

6. Infrastructure

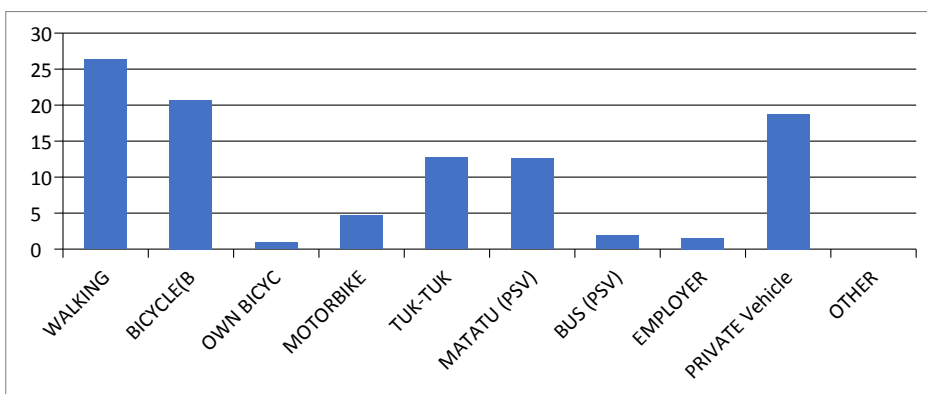
6.1 Transport and roads

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County responded by delaying the implementation of some of the projects that are likely to exhaust the budget to next financial year. Some of these projects include construction of roads and TVETs. As a result, this budget was reallocated to public health.

6.1.1 Characteristics of the sector

Majority of households own Car ownership is at 4.1 per cent, a bicycle (3.5%) and a motorcycle (3.2%) and (KNBS, 2019). The main means of transport used in the County is walking at 26.32 per cent, followed by bicycle (bodaboda) 20.71 per cent, private car at 18.75 per cent, Tuk Tuk 12.68 per cent, PSV matatus at 12.56 per cent, and motorbike 4.71 per cent figure 6.1, while 76.79 per cent of the population had not changed the main means of transport (KNBS, 2020b). On average, residents travel 2.65 kilometers to their workplace at an average cost of Ksh 156.19. For the commute to school, residents spend on average Ksh 402.44 (KIHBS, 2015/16).

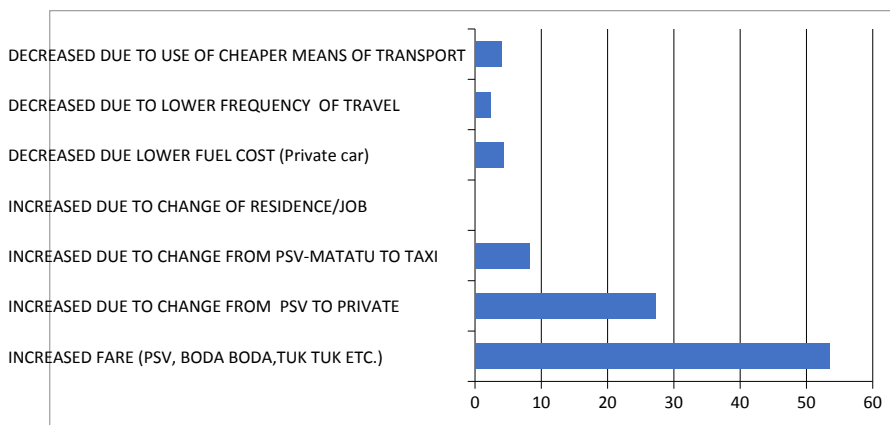
Figure 6.1: Main Means of Transport



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

The KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 revealed that 44.8 per cent of the population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute. The expenditure on transport decreased by 22.06 per cent from Ksh 272 before February 2020 to Ksh 212 in May 2020 for a oneway trip. The main change (53.47%) in transport cost was attributed to increased fares for PSV, BodaBoda and TukTuk.

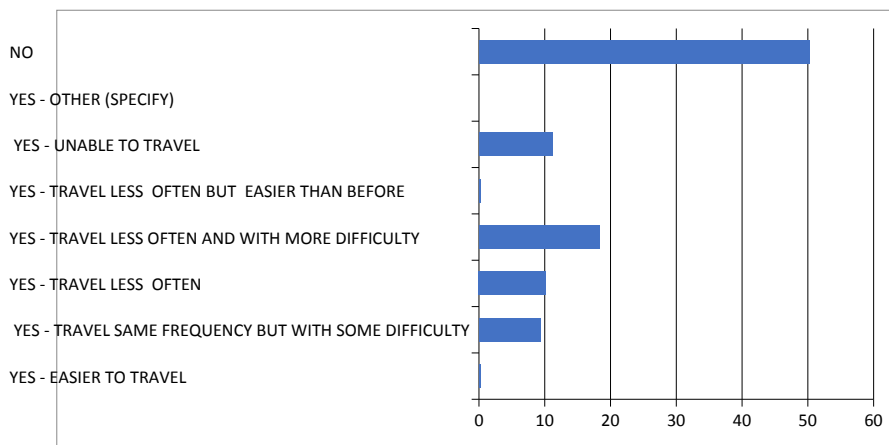
Figure 6.2: Change in Cost of Main Means of Transport



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

Residents had changed their travel patterns with 10.19 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 9.37 per cent travelled with the same frequency but with some difficulty, and 11.23 per cent were unable to travel. However, 50.28 per cent of the population did not change their travel pattern.

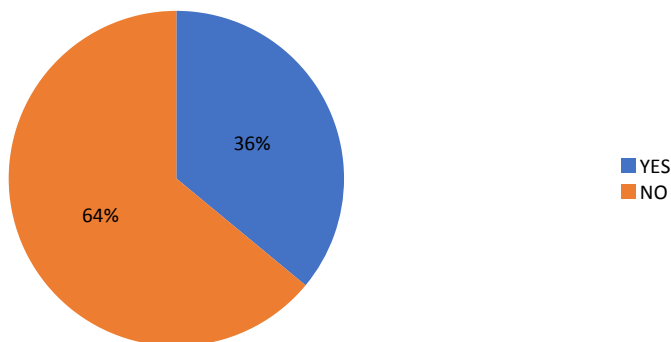
Figure 6.3: Change in Travel Patterns



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

The pandemic has affected delivery of goods and services for 36 per cent of households.

Figure 6.4: Proportion of Residents Whose Service Delivery has been Affected



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

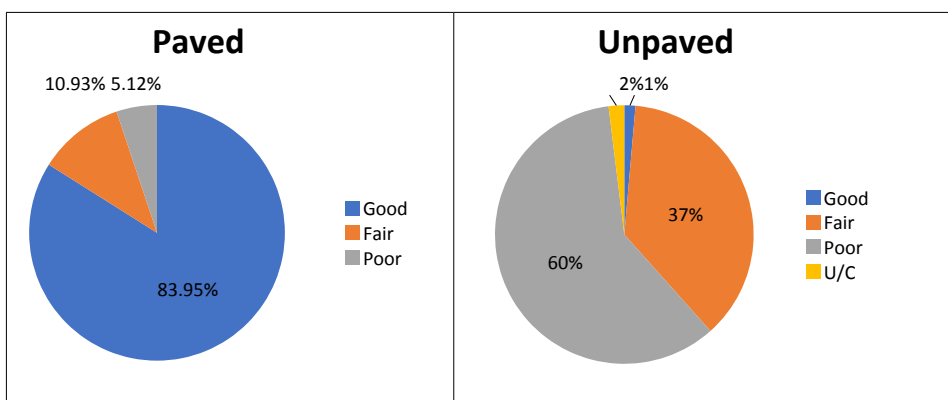
6.1.2 Potential for revenue collection

The County was allocated a total of Ksh 245,913,933 from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund towards road maintenance in the Financial 2017/18 (OCOB, 2019).

6.1.3 Road network in Garissa County

The county has a total of 5,434.93 Kilometres of classified road network. The paved County Road network covers 6.51 km, while the paved National roads cover 31.37 km. Out of the total paved road network of 37.88 km, 83.95 per cent is in good condition, 10.93 per cent in fair condition and 5.12 per cent in poor condition. The unpaved road network in the county covers 1585.59 km (county roads) and 1119.71 km (National roads), of this, 1 per cent is in good condition, 37 per cent fair and 60 per cent in poor condition as depicted in figure 1 (KRB, 2019).

Figure 6.5: Road Condition Mix-Classified Road Network



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey, 2020

The unclassified road network in the County covers 2691.76 km, with 649.33 km of narrow roads, that is, road with a reserve of between 4 - 9 meters, while there is a total of 2042.43 km of new roads.

6.1.4 Constraints faced

The Rural Access Index (RAI) measures the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road⁵. The county has a RAI of 24 per cent which is below the National Average of 70 per cent, indicating that access to transport in rural areas is below average (KRB,2019). This has negative implications with regard to sectors that rely on accessibility such as agriculture, trade and overall development. The road condition mix of the unpaved network at 60 per cent is a constraint to development.

6.2 Opportunities of COVID-19 in the Transport sector

With reference to the 8-point stimulus programme by the National Government⁶ and resources allocated to road development and maintenance, the County has the opportunity to strategically improve the road network for economic development, while creating jobs for youth, women and vulnerable groups as espoused in the Roads 2000 programme⁷ on labour based road development approaches.

The Roads 10,000 programme being implemented nationally by the Roads Subsector actors, and specifically, the Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSr) approach⁸ offers a strategic and cost-effective approach to improve rural accessibility in the County.

Residents predominantly rely on matatu PSV transport and walking; this is an opportunity during the pandemic period as this mode reduces the risk of infections that would arise from use of motorized public transport⁹.

6.2.1 Emerging Issues

- Poor road conditions for unpaved network
- Reliance on PSV transport requires enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures

6.2.2 Recommendations

- i) Sensitize PSV and boda boda operators on COVID-19 prevention measures and assist vehicle owners in retrofitting vehicle designs for social distance, hygiene and ventilation.
- ii) Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 24 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70.0 per cent.
- iii) Expand the county capability for telecommuting and teleworking and develop relevant policies in support of the same.

5 RAI defined : <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/rural-access-index-rai>

6 GoK eight point stimulus programme <https://www.president.go.ke/2020/05/23/the-seventh-presidential-address-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic-the-8-point-economic-stimulus-programme-saturday-23rd-may-2020/>

7 Roads 2000 programme <http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roadsper cent202000per cent20strategicper cent-20plan.pdf>

8 LVSr /Roads 10,000 programme <https://www.kerra.go.ke/index.php/lvsr>

9 Non-Motorized Transport strategy <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/cities-support-people-walking-and-cycling-work/>

- iv) Identify county significant infrastructure projects for implementation under a stimulus programme to support economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic. For these, apply labor based and local resource-based approaches for road development and maintenance, where technically and economically feasible, in line with the Roads 2000 national policy¹⁰.
- v) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) in urban areas and along roads with heavy -highspeed traffic to promote sustainable mobility options and enhance road safety for all road users. This is in line with the Integrated National Transport Policy 2009 and the Sustainable Development Goals¹¹.
- vi) Re-develop bus parks and termini to address crowding and social distancing concerns stipulated in the public health guidelines.
- vii) Focus on increasing the share of unpaved roads in good and fair condition to above 62 per cent which is the national average. For the unpaved road network, focus on adopting the Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSR) technology for greater network coverage cost effectively.
- viii) Adopt climate smart road engineering designs to safeguard road and bridge infrastructure from floods and to harvest storm water for irrigation and productive use. Use the Kenya Urban Support Programme funding to build storm water management systems in urban areas.

6.3 Information and Communication Technology

The County has been expanding especially using e-platform and IFMIS however some of these projects has slowed down because of low connectivity but overall, they have improved in ICT. The county can now hold meetings using ICT. The county has also improved its ICT software and communication platforms, for example, it is making use of ZOOM and WhatsApp applications. One overall challenge is delay in ICT infrastructure like IFMIS and OSR application, the budget was reallocated to COVID-19 related issues.

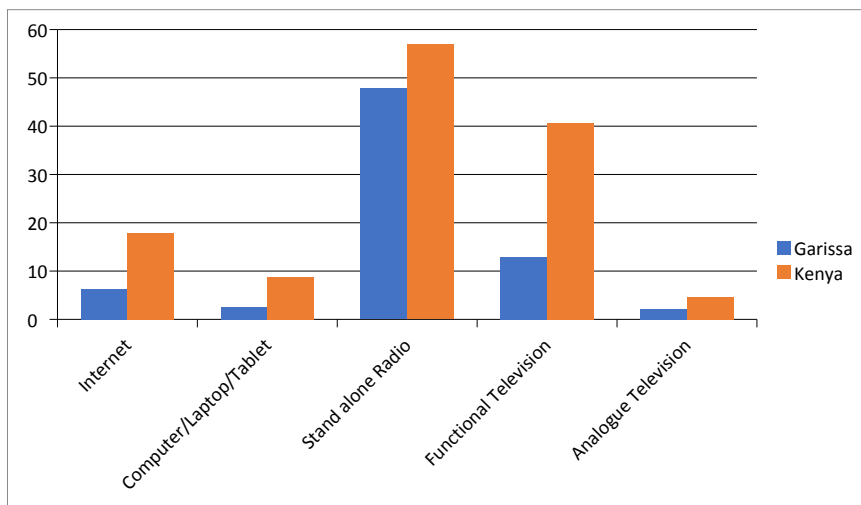
6.3.1 Characteristics of the sector

The analysis of the 2019 KPHC reveals that only 6.3 per cent of the conventional households in the county 'own' internet with 2.6 per cent owning a desktop, computer laptop or tablet. Internet access, ICT device ownership and TV ownership is particularly critical not only for access of COVID-19 information, but as well as supporting remote learning by the pupils as well as remote working (Figure 6.6).

¹⁰ Roads 2000 programme <http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roadsper cent202000oper cent20strategicper cent-20plan.pdf>

¹¹ Sustainable Mobility for All: <https://sum4all.org/implementing-sdgs>

Figure 6.6: Percentage Distribution of Conventional Households by Ownership of ICT Assets



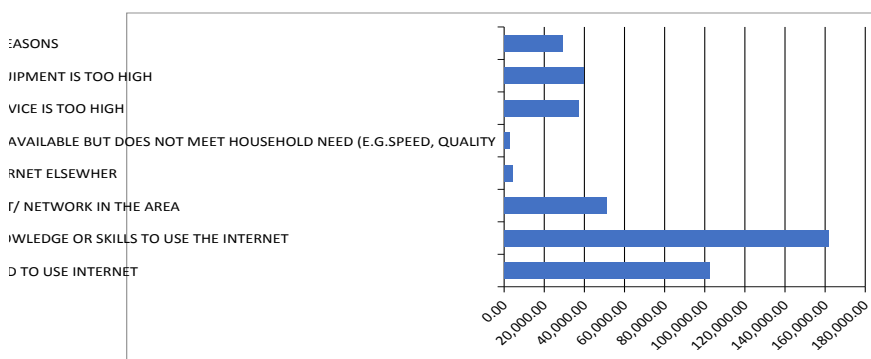
Source: ICT Data 2020

Online shopping is not prevalent in the County. 1.6 per cent of the conventional households searched and bought goods/services online. There exists gender disparity in online shopping with more men (1.8%) than women (1.3%) undertaking online shopping.

The perception of that the individual does not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County don't have internet connection (KIHBS). Other key factors include the lack of internet/network in the area, and the high cost of service and equipment (Figure 6.7).

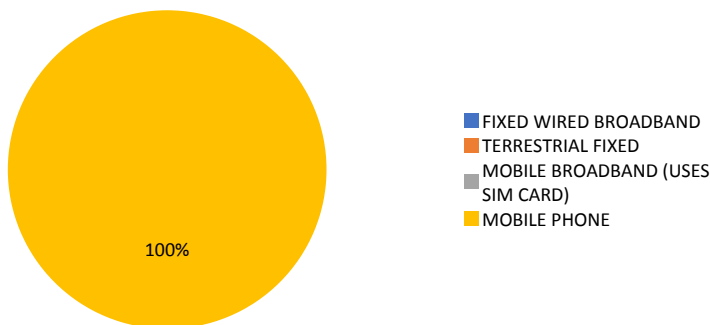
Approximately 100 per cent of the internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of None relying on mobile broad band that uses a sim card for connectivity.

Figure 6.7: Reasons for Lack of Internet Connection



Source: KNBS, 2016. KIHBS 2015/16

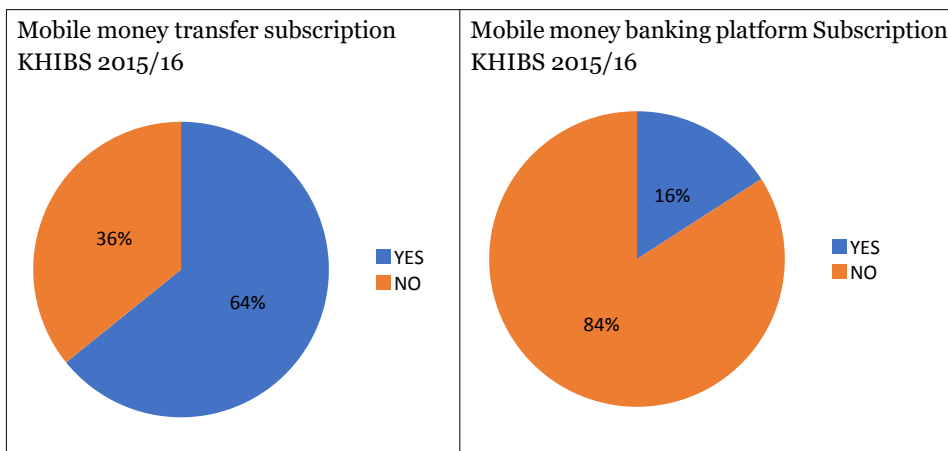
Figure 6.8: Type of Internet Connection



Source: KNBS, 2016. KIHBS 2015/16

Approximately 30.3 per cent of the population aged 3 years and above own a mobile phone which is lower than the national average of 47.3 per cent. Approximately 64 per cent of the people in the county have a mobile money subscription compared with only 16 per cent that has a mobile money banking platform subscription (KIHBS 2015/16).

Figure 6.9: Mobile Money Transfers Subscription and Mobile Money Banking Platform



Source: KNBS (2016), KIHBS (2015/16)

Gender and youth

The county experience gender divide in use of internet and ICT devices as well as mobile money subscriptions. Both internet and ICT device use is higher among the male with 13.2 per cent of the men and 11.0 per cent of the women using internet, while 5.2 per cent of the men and 3.8 per cent of the women using Desktop/Laptop/Tablet devices (KPHC 2019). While the usage is below the national averages, the county recorded a similar gender disparity with the national averages in internet and ICT usage.

6.4 Opportunities of COVID-19 in ICT

Potential to use ICT infrastructure and services in public primary schools for community access to ICT.

6.4.1 Emerging Issues

Emerging technology such as satellite and airborne transmitters for internet connectivity

6.4.2 Recommendations

- i) Support programmes in partnership with the private sector that will enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile phone ownership from 42.5 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony¹²
- ii) Harness the power of technology and use innovative solutions to bridge the gender digital divide and promote technology adoption in daily socio-economic activities.
- iii) Collaborate with the Communications Authority and telecom service providers to utilize the Universal Service Fund¹³ as a “last resort” in providing ICT access in remote areas where market forces fail to expand access.
- iv) The IT personnel in public primary schools can be deployed to support the development of ICT competence and skills among the public.
- v) Enhance internet connectivity to public buildings and key trade centres to boost e-commerce especially for MSMEs in trade and business. The NOFBI programme can be expanded to the sub-county administrative units to further enable deployment of e-governance solutions. Develop an ICT based document management system for appropriate records and documentation management as outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018-2022.
- vi) Make ICT a standalone sector for planning and budget allocation. This is aimed at giving strategic prominence to planning, budgeting and investment in ICT.
- vii) Review and implement ICT policies and procedures to manage ICT as provided in the CIDP and mitigate the cyber threats. Collaborate with the national Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) and the Communications Authority (CA) towards managing cyber threats, disasters, and pandemics. This is because enhanced use of ICT is known to raise threats and risks related to cyber-crime and misinformation.

¹² Universal access to mobile telephony: <http://www.itu.int/itu/news/manager/display.asp?lang=en&year=2007&issue=07&ipage=universal-telephony>

¹³ Universal Service Fund: <https://ca.go.ke/industry/universal-access/purpose-of-the-fund/>

7. Housing and Urban Development

Majority of households are headed by men (79.18%) compared to women (20.82%) in the County (KIHBS, 2015/16). There are four urban centers in the County with a total population of 51.9 per cent males and 48.0 per cent females. The urban land area covers 176 square kilometers with a population density of 1199 persons per sq.km

Table 7.1: Distribution of Population by Urban Centers by Gender

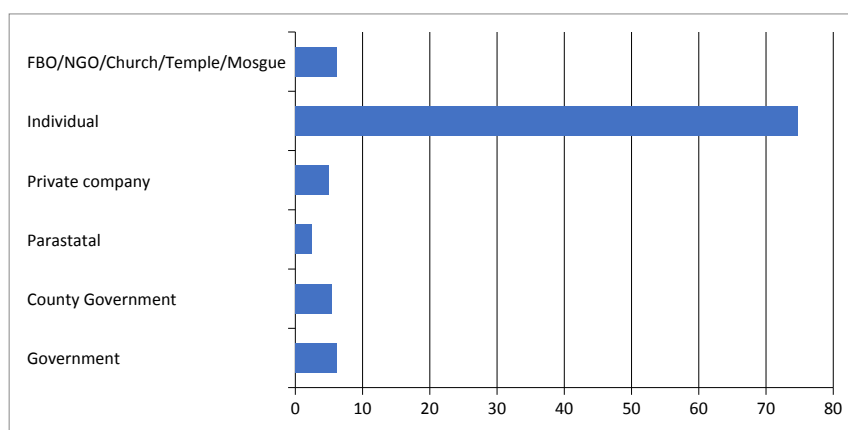
GARISSA	MASALANI	43,642	23,662	19,979
GARISSA	IJARA	11,792	7,248	4,544
GARISSA	DADAAB	11,525	6,532	4,993
GARISSA	BURA EAST	6,496	3,530	2,965

Source: KNBS, 2019- Kenya Population and Housing Census

7.1 Characteristics of the sector

The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 87.4 per cent, with 12.6 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 74.7 per cent, followed by National Government (6.2%); and County Government (5.4%); For those who own homes, 84.8 per cent constructed the houses while 11.7 per cent purchased the house and 3.5 per cent inherited their homes (KNBS, 2019).

Figure 7.1: Distribution of households Renting/ Provided with the main dwelling unit by Provider



Source: KNBS, 2019 -Kenya Population and Housing Census

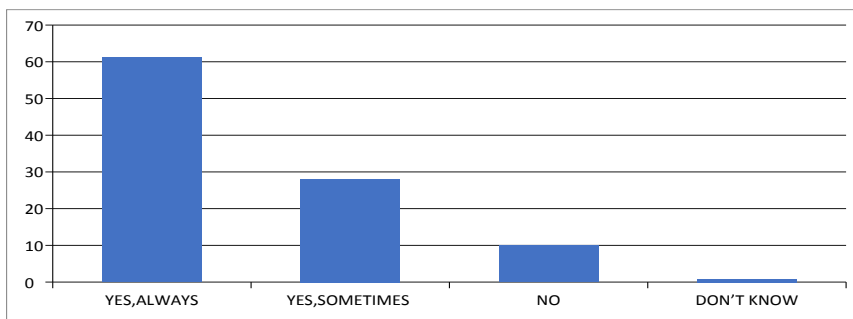
7.1.1 Housing Quality

On average, the main dwellings of houses in the County have 1.50 habitable rooms against an average household size of 4.23 persons in a household, translating to approximately 2.82 people per room. According to the UN-Habitat, overcrowding occurs when there are more than three people per room¹⁴. In terms of housing quality (building material), 37.96 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing compared to 62.04 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials (KIHBS, 2015/16). Majority of households (53.0%) have iron sheets for roofing, Grass/Reeds walls (29.2%) and Earth/Sand floors (68.2%) (KNBS, 2019).

7.1.2 Rent Payment

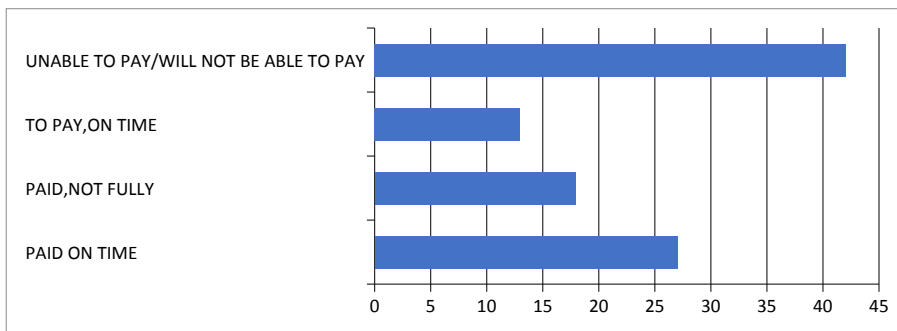
On average, rental households spend approximately Ksh 10,722 on rent with a minimum of Ksh 500 and the maximum of Ksh 60,000 (KNBS, 2020b). With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households' ability to pay rent has been affected, with 42.08 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date for April 2020, compared to 27.03 per cent of the population that were able to pay rent on the agreed date and 61.21 per cent who paid rent on agreed date before COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 7.2: Proportion of Residents Paying Rent per Terms of Contract



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

Figure 7.3: Has your household paid the rent for April 2020 on the agreed date

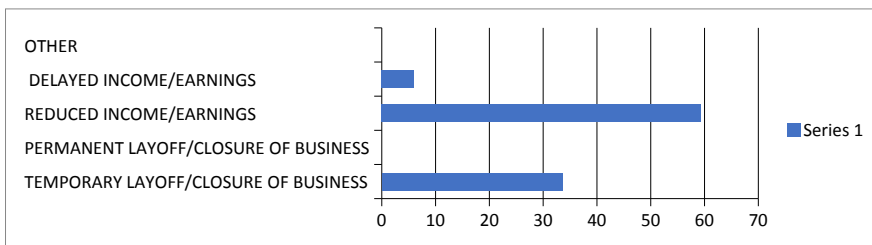


Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

14 Household crowding measure: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowdingper cent20occursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20are,perper cent20habitableper cent20roomper cent20\(88\).&text=Crowdingper cent20occursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20is,per cent20Drooms\)per cent20\(89\).](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowdingper cent20occursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20are,perper cent20habitableper cent20roomper cent20(88).&text=Crowdingper cent20occursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20is,per cent20Drooms)per cent20(89).)

The main reason that has made households unable to pay rent was attributed to reduced incomes /earnings, reported by 59.34 per cent of the population. The inability to pay rent was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by 91.82 per cent of the population.

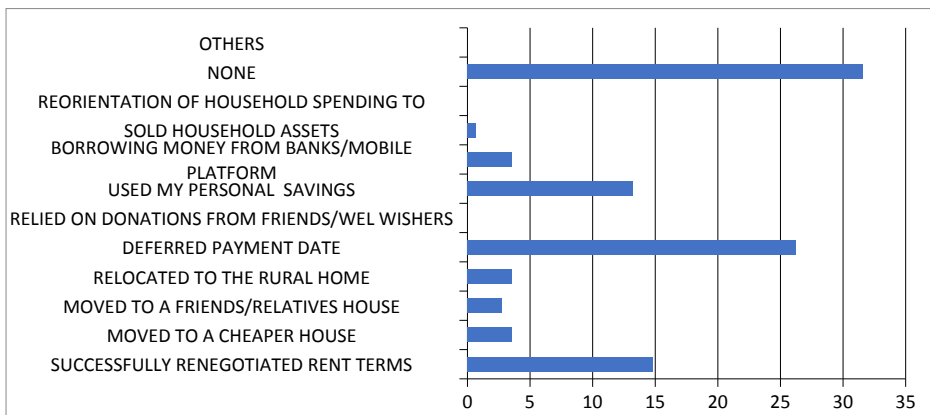
Figure 7.4: Reasons for not Being Able to Pay Rent



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

Majority of the households (89.5%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, with 1.35 per cent reporting a partial waiver and 0.66 per cent reporting a full waiver. To overcome the effects of Corona virus on payment on rent, majority 14.84 per cent of households renegotiated rent terms, while 31.55 per cent of households did not take any measures. Approximately 13.18 per cent used personal savings to pay rent.

Figure 7.5: Measures Taken by Household to Mitigate COVID-19 Effects on Rent



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

With regard to primary energy source for cooking, 91.8 per cent of households rely on unclean sources of energy for cooking such as firewood, paraffin and charcoal, which could adversely affect respiratory health of women and children.

7.2 Opportunities in housing and urban development

Partnership with National Government and Private Sector for home improvement (roof, floor and walls) under the Big Four Agenda.

7.3 Emerging Issues

Majority of the households (89.5%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, despite inability to pay

7.4 Recommendations

- i) Develop and implement an addressing system with complete, correct and unique address data in line with the National Addressing System. To be used pandemic and disaster surveillance and emergency response.
- ii) Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme in partnership with the private sector targeting urban centers.
- iii) Develop a policy to promote home ownership to address the problem of rent distress during times of emergency.
- iv) Avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.
- v) Identify and designate urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019.
- vi) Develop and implement urban planning and design instruments that support sustainable management and use of natural resources and land in line with the New Urban Agenda and as mitigative measure to future pandemics and disasters.
- vii) Adopt programmes aimed at an increasing household access to clean energy sources and technologies for cooking to mitigate against exposure to respiratory diseases.

8. Tourism

8.1 Characteristic of the sector

The key tourism attractions from Garissa County are wildlife, heritage and culture (rich Somali traditional culture) and hospitality. The proximity of the county to the tourist coastal town of Lamu makes it ideal for linkage through a tourist circuit. The County does not have classified (star-rated) hotels¹⁵. However, there are 5 major hotels with a bed capacity of 450. The county has 6 wildlife conservation areas namely, Garissa Giraffe sanctuary, Ishaqbin Community Conservancy, Waso Conservancy, Arawale National Reserve, Rahole National Reserve and Boni National Reserve. There is need to enhance the exploitation and utilization of these facilities fully. Tourism contributes 0.4 per cent to overall GCP of Garissa reflecting on the need to prioritize development of the sector.

The number of domestic and foreign tourists who visit the tourist sites in the county is not documented. There is need to develop a tourist action plan to enhance exploitation of existing tourism opportunities including desert tourism (camel-back expeditions, camping and dessert rallying).

8.2 Opportunities of COVID-19 in Tourism Sector

- i) Improving sanitation aspects in tourism attraction sites.
- ii) Refurbishment of accommodation facilities
- iii) Promoting domestic tourism

8.3 Emerging Issues

Sanitation as a key component in ensuring business continuity in the tourism sub-sector;

8.4 Recommendations

- i) Mapping all the sites with tourism potential in the county; coming up with a tourism sector development master plan.
- ii) Tourism product diversification and marketing; niche products such as annual cultural festivals, annual camel derby and animal sanctuaries.
- iii) Setting up a cultural documentation centre; tourism information centre.

¹⁵ Tourism Regulatory Authority, Classified Establishments Register, 2019

- iv) Developing a tourist circuit connecting Garissa and Lamu; rehabilitating road infrastructure in the region to enhance accessibility by tourist.
- v) Ensuring high sanitation standard in the hotel facilities to deter spread of COVID-19 in line with the national guidelines for reopening of the hospitality sector.

9. Health

9.1 Characteristics of the sector

Garissa County has 205 health facilities. Out of these, 68 are level two facilities, seven are level four, 85 are private clinics, 13 level three private hospitals, 4 are private Nursing Homes, one is private Hospital, 21 are level three facilities and one is a level five facility based in Garissa Town. There are also three Non-Governmental Organization dispensaries and two mission health facilities. Good health care services are mostly in the urban areas. The average distance to the nearest health facility is 25km. Most of the health facilities are along the river and urban centres where there are settlements.

Table 9.1: Health provision

Year	2017	2018	2019/20
Health facility density			
Primary health facilities		120	180
Hospitals		9	20
Number of health facilities		129	200
Health facility density		2.2	2.9
Bed density			
Hospital beds		827	857
No. of Beds per 10,000 population		13	13
Human resource density			
Total workforce		861	1,429
Human Resources for Health (Technical)		751	817
Number per 10,000 population		7.5	7.0

Source: MOH, 2021

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 200 which comprised of 180 primary health facilities and 20 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 129 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 13 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10,000 population. The health facilities and personnel serve a growing population of 841,353 people according to 2019 census. In 2019, total health workforce was approximately 1,429 representing 7 health workers per 10,000 population which is below the WHO target of 23 health workers per 10,000.

Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of the Population that reported Sickness/ Injury by Type of Health Provider in the County (per cent)

Type of Health Provider	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Government hospital	11.7
Government health centre	18.4
Government dispensary	32.6
Faith Based (church, Mission) Hospital / Clinic	0.0
Community Health	0.0
Private hospital / clinic	36.7
Nursing/ Maternity Home	0.0
Pharmacy/ chemist	0.0
Community health worker	0.0
Shop/ Kiosk	0.0
Traditional healer	0.0
Faith healer	0.6
Herbalist	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	24

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

Table 9.2 presents the distribution of population reported to have been sick or injured and the type of health provider they visited. Majority of the County residents who reported illness visited private hospitals (36.7%) followed by those who visited government health dispensaries (32.6%), government health centres at 31.1 and Government hospital (11.7%).

9.1.1 Population with health insurance cover

The percentage distribution of the population with health insurance cover by type of insurance provider is presented in Table 9.3. In general, 2.7 per cent of the county population had some form of health insurance cover. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) was the leading health insurance provider reported by 89.5 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 15.4 per cent of the population, private non-contributory insurance cover was reported by 0.9 per cent of the population.

Table 9.3: Percentage Distribution of the County's Population with Health Insurance Cover by Type of Health Insurance Provider (per cent)

Source of Health Insurance	Percentage Distribution of the Population (per cent)
Population ('000)	432
Share of population with health insurance (per cent)	2.7
NHIF	89.5
Private-Contributory	0.0
Private-Non-Contributory	0.9
Employer-Contributory	15.4
Employer-Non-Contributory	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	12

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.2 Place of delivery

In the 2015/16 KIHBS, women in Garissa County were asked the place where children aged 5 years and below were delivered. Table 9.4 shows the percentage distribution of children by place of delivery, in the county. About 54 per cent of children were delivered at home which is higher than the national percentage of 31.3 per cent. The proportion of children born in hospitals, health centres, dispensary/clinics was 33.5 per cent, 7.9 per cent, and 1.5 per cent respectively.

Table 9.4: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by Place of Delivery (per cent)

Place of Delivery	Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by place of delivery (per cent)
Hospital	33.5
Health Centre	7.9
Clinic/ Dispensary	1.5
Maternity Home	0.5
At Home	54.0
Other	0.0
Not stated	2.5
Number of Individuals ('000)	63

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.3 Immunization for children

The 2015/16 KIHBS covered data on measles immunization for children below 5 years at; 9 months (Measles I) and at 18 months (Measles II). The information was collected from vaccination cards where they were available while mother's recall was used where the card

was not available. Table 9.5 presents information on the proportion of children immunized (from vaccination cards) against measles. The analysis focused on children aged 12-23 months (or one year). The county had 2.6 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months.

Table 9.5: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months Immunized Against Measles

		Proportion of Children
Vaccination Card	Yes Seen	10.7
	Yes, Not Seen	38.1
	No	48.5
	Not stated	2.7
Measles Vaccination	Measles I (At 9 months Card)	2.6
	Measles II (At 18 months Card)	0.0
	Measles II (Mother/ Guardian memory)	59.7
	Either (card or memory)	62.3
Number of Individuals ('000)		63

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.4 Health outputs

The number of trained health personnel is also very low with the doctor population ratio being currently 1:41,538 while the nurse population ratio is 1:2,453. The WHO recommended Doctor and Nurse Population ratio is 1:10,000 for doctors and 1:1,000 for Nurses. This shows that, there is need for recruiting more Doctors and Nurses in the county. The department of Health Garissa County has a personnel strength of 1,483 people consisting of 877 males and 606 females. There are 57 Doctors and 388 Nurses in the County.

The five most prevalent diseases in Garissa County are Upper Respiratory Tract Infections, Urinary Tract Infection, Diarrhea diseases, Diseases of the skin and Pneumonia; with a prevalence of 30.9 per cent, 15.2 per cent, and 9.5 per cent, 7.4 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively. HIV and AIDS general prevalence rate is low at 1 per cent as compared to the 5.6 per cent at the national level, however the adult prevalence rate is at 2.1 per cent as compared to 6.04 per cent at the national level. This however is a sharp increase from zero per cent recorded during the Kenya Demographic Health Survey of 2003. This rise can be attributed, among other reasons, to the fact that only 10 per cent of the population has comprehensive knowledge on HIV prevention as per the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2007

The prevalence of wasting in Garissa County among children 6-59 months is 11.4 per cent (weight for height of less than -2 SD). On the other hand, the prevalence underweight is 13.1 per cent in the county. The prevalence of stunting in the county is 15.6 per cent (KDHS, 2014). These can be attributed to continued food insecurity in the region with a majority

of the population relying on food assistance, which is vegetable oil, pulses and cereals/rice. The proportion of children under five at a risk of malnutrition based on mid-upper-arm-circumference (MUAC, 2007).

The vaccination coverage in Garissa County is 58 per cent. This is attributed to the inaccessibility of the area, long distances to health facilities and poor road network. The maternal health care in the county has improved in the recent past having attained antenatal and post-natal coverage of 48 per cent. The number of mothers delivering at health facilities stand at 40 per cent and those delivering at home is 63 per cent. The county Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is at 646/100,000, Infant mortality stood to 33/1000 live births and under-5 mortality was 44/1000 live births (KDHS,2014). There is need to put in place programmes and upscale, the existing initiative geared towards improving maternal health care in the county.

Table 9.6: Health indicators in Garissa County

Key Health Indicators	County Estimates
Maternal and Child Services	
Skilled delivery (per cent)	39.8
Children born at home	62.7
Fully immunized child	57.9
Child Mortality	
Infant mortality (* /1000)	33
Under-5 mortality (* /1000)	44
Neo-natal mortality (* /1000)	24
Nutrition Status	
Stunted children (per cent)	15.6
Wasted children (per cent)	11.4
Underweight children (per cent)	13.1
HIV (per cent)	
HIV adult prevalence (per cent)	2.1
Children with HIV(No.)	0
ART adult coverage (per cent)	55
ART children coverage (per cent)	13

Source: KDHS, 2014; DHIS 2018

9.2 Effects of COVID-19

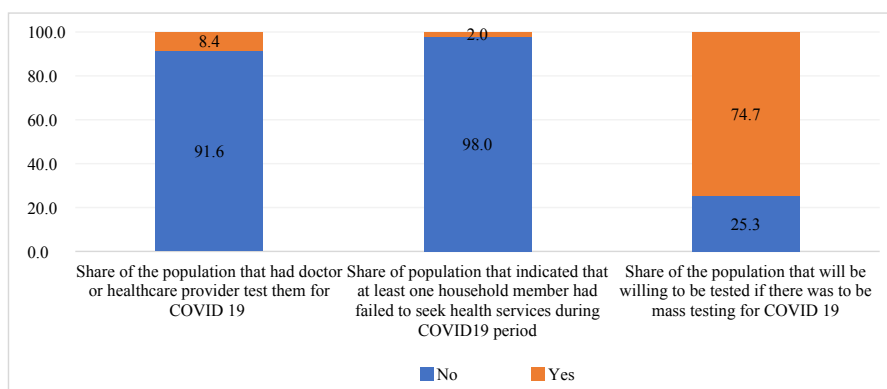
Following the directive by His Excellency the President to lockdown the Country to curb the spread of the virus, Garissa County prepared for the pandemic by securing and preparing quarantine centers. The existing COVID-19 cases within the Garissa Township have been monitored by the County pursuant to the Ministry of Health guidelines, also in collaboration with UNHCR who have tracked cases within the Refugee Camps.

As of June 2020, the County did not have a COVID-19 testing center thus all the samples were taken to Wajir or Nairobi for testing. However, they preferred sending the samples for testing to Nairobi since the infrastructure is better and faster. The County collaborated with NGOs such as the Red Cross to test the temperatures of individuals who enter and leave the County.

In collaboration with partners, the county has managed to supply masks to every ward and in public places and has obtained sprayers to disinfect markets. Further, the county has set up washing hand booths at strategic places like hospitals and markets, public office and public areas, where the county has provided water tanks, soaps and sanitizers. The county has also put effort in ensuring there is enough supply of water as well as reviving water points and continuous takes prompt measures to address water challenges where required.

In June 2020, Kenya National Bureaus of Statistics conducted a survey of COVID-19. The results showed share of the population that had doctor or healthcare provider testing or confirming to them the status in regards COVID-19 was estimated at 8.4 per cent in 2020 (COVID-19, Wave 2 survey). This small number shows that there is a large population of people in the county who have not yet been tested for COVID-19. Further, only 2 per cent of the population indicated that at least one household member had failed to seek health services and 75 per cent of the population indicated they will be willing to be tested if there was mass testing for COVID-19. Therefore, a lot of awareness need to be created among the county population.

Figure 9.1: COVID-19 Testing, 2020



Source: COVID-19 Wave 2 (June 2020)

Teenage pregnancies, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) are some of the health issues affecting the youths in Garissa County. The closure of schools due to COVID-19 has not been any good news, the social impact on the children who are now at home has been huge, the girl child has been affected, this has seen one in ten girls being victims of teenage pregnancies this is alarming. Other challenges experienced by the youths includes Sexually transmitted diseases, early marriages, Drug, and substance abuse. These problems are contributed by parental negligence, negative cultural practices, and poverty. They have led to school dropout, early marriages, deaths, and mental illness.

Other health problems affecting youths are Malaria, abortion, abortion dug and substance abuse (DSA), malaria, mental health, malnutrition sexually transmitted infections such as HIV and AIDS. Some of contributing factors include idleness, lack of health education,

negative cultures as highlighted above, parental negligence and lack of guidance, peer pressure, illiteracy and high poverty levels. The results of these problems are mental illness, suicide, school dropout, low economic and social productivity, low self-esteem, stigma, and premature deaths. Therefore, action need to be taken to prevent such from occurring. This can be achieved through parental guidance, economic empowerment, sex education, employment creation among the youths, early school enrolment and guidance and counselling.

Lack of adequate health infrastructural facilities across the county, negatively impact on access and equity in the availability of essential health care aimed at promoting a healthy population that will effectively participate in the development of the nation. Those unable to access the health services are sometimes rendered economically unproductive. In cases where the sick person is the breadwinner, the family may become impoverished. This has led to high cases of dependency. Inaccessibility to health facility has also led to high mortality rates. The average distance to the nearest health facility is 25 km.

There are incidences of health facilities that are not being utilized especially those constructed under the various funding programmes. This is because they lack necessary equipment and are understaffed. Further, there are inadequate public education programmes to encourage Kenyans to change their lifestyles in ways that will improve the health status of individuals, families and communities.

The county is undertaking awareness to dissuade the fears among the public most of whom had stopped going to the hospital thus cutting the revenue stream. The local productions of masks have provided opportunity for revenue creation. The county was also experiencing challenges in meeting her local revenue collection. The county has been experiencing downward trend in revenue collection due to weak systems in place for collecting revenue. However, with more sensitization about COVID-19, people will resume looking for health services from the hospitals and other health centers. This will increase revenue collection in the county.

Main raw materials in the health sector are the services offered by health professionals and other employees. Medicine and drugs are also key materials. County is also producing masks, which are in high demand during this COVID-19 period. Access and provision of these materials were affected by the outbreak and spread of the virus, resulting to higher demand relative to the supply.

Medical services in Garissa County are inadequate in terms of the number of health facilities and the services provided to the local populace. The county has a total of 126 health facilities comprising of 71 (68 public and three private) level two facilities, seven level four facilities, 19 level three facilities, one level five and five mission health facilities. The health facilities are distributed all over the county. The doctor patient ratio is 1:41,538. People are forced to travel long distances to access health services (average distance to the nearest health facility 35 km). This coupled with poor road network, many of them prefer to forgo treatment.

Though the county has been putting a lot of efforts in fighting the pandemic, there other several challenges that have been slowing the fight. Lack of finances- the county had not envisaged a health pandemic of this magnitude hence overreliance on the national government for support. I addition, local revenue collection is bound to happen since

many economic activities had been disrupted by the country lock down and curfew. Many commodities, which were being sold outside the county, had been affected as well.

The county is also likely to face protracted labor disputes especially with medical officers who might demand more risk allowances during this pandemic period. The county is also struggling with the health sector after devolution. There were enough structures to handle the responsibilities given to the county government. There are no enough health workers to serve the large population in the county. Also, there is a problem of procurement of medicine and other drugs as the counties are not allowed to procure for drugs themselves but are forced to buy from KEMSA. This sometimes results into delays in delivery of the needed drugs. The county also does not have adequate bed capacity to handle all her patients. It is in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak that the county has rushed against time to establish more ICU beds.

The sector has linkages with the Education, ICT, WASH and Agriculture sectors. There is a direct proportionality between education and health. The high the education level of members of the county, the healthier they are. High level of education reduces instances of disease outbreaks due to ignorance. This particularly reduces health diseases such as sexually transmitted among the youths and adults.

Advancement in ICT also helps improve health sector. This is because with ICT, it is easy to scan for diseases and manage the treatment. With advancement in ICT, it is possible to do diagnosis to patients and treat them promptly. A good example is the scan for pregnant mothers and cancer patients. Some countries such as Rwanda, drones are being used to deliver bloods. This is helping in mortality rate reduction. Good water and sewerage facilities also contributes greatly to reduction of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and other waterborne. This is because my maintaining good hygiene such as washing hands after visiting toilets, washing fruits before eating and boiling/treating drinking water.

Good disposal of waste by avoiding open defecation and using toilets also helps reduce spread of diseases spread through human waste. Agriculture sector also plays a key role in ensuring that people get balanced diet and good nutrition. This reduces cases of malnutrition and stunted growth among children due to lack of certain nutrients and vitamins. Agriculture also serves as a source of revenue and employment mostly for the females. This reduces cases of family conflicts and stresses, hence reducing mental diseases.

9.3 Opportunities of COVID-19 in Health Sector

There is an enhanced collaboration within Frontier FCDC counties, which has resulted into training of the health officers and all the frontline staffs. This collaboration has also seen enhanced intercountry screening and testing centralized at the Coast general hospital.

Additionally, due to reduced social contacts many meetings have been taking place virtually. This has provided an opportunity for the development of ICT. This has saved the county money, which could have used in the movement from place to another, conference hall fee as well as accommodation for her staff. This has also promoted of ICT and other communication channels within the county hence speedy transfer of information.

The pandemic has also led to utilization of local capacity in production of masks and PPEs. This has promoted growth of local industries, hence creating employment. It has

also challenged the county government hence exposing the health sector since it lacked enough ICU beds. More attention is now being given to the sector leading to improved health services. The county has also received a number of donations in terms of bed and PPEs which have contribute to general improvement of the health sector in general.

9.4 Emerging Issues

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for isolation centres, admission beds, ICU and HDU beds. It has also overstretched the existing health facilities. Additionally, with spread of pandemic across counties it has created fear among the residents and some of them have opted not to visit the hospital in fear of contracting the virus.

The outbreak of the virus has caused the county to reprioritize its health sector priorities and some preventative and promotive health services such: malaria control; expanded programmes on immunization; integrated management of childhood illness; and control and prevention of environmentally communicable diseases have been affected to some extent.

9.5 Recommendations

In line with the health status in the county, some of the recommendations that need attention include the following:

- i) The county should create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county to address risk of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting any health facility.
- ii) To reduce high burden of both communicable and non-communicable disease, the county should revamp its Community Health Strategy. This is a community based promotive and preventive health services. To make this more effective, the County should engage Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and equip them with the relevant resources and skills.
- iii) The county needs to consistently allocate resources towards nutrition specific and sensitive programmes in the various sectors by establishing specific budget lines for nutrition support initiatives.
- iv) More sensitization about negative effects of FGM and Early marriages need to be carried out by the county government in collaboration with national government and other change agents.
- v) The county should revamp, expand, modernize and equip health facilities and recruit additional public health officers and Community health workers to strengthen preventive and primary health systems.
- vi) The county should invest in research and development to spur innovation in health sector including in the area of service provision and medicine.

- vii) The county should also implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers are equitably deployed.
- viii) Promote and support public and community health including the installation of hand washing facilities in homes and institutions such as schools, workplaces and health care facilities within Garissa County.
- ix) Address the mental health needs including those of the health workforce, mental illnesses from depression, especially in response to shut-downs, economic downturns, uncustomary care and burial of affected relatives.

10. Education and Training

10.1 Characteristics of the sector

The county has 131 primary schools with a total enrolment rate of 41,474 consisting of 24,939 boys and 16,535 girls. The enrolment rate is low in the county. The primary school net enrolment rate is 23.5 per cent while the completion rate is 62.7 per cent. The transition rate stands at 58.3 per cent. This is due to the nomadic lifestyle of the people and early marriages among the girl children.

The county has 18 secondary schools with a total enrolment of 6,580 students with 4,774 boys and 1,806 girls. This represents four per cent of the secondary school age population. The secondary school net enrolment rate is 3.50 per cent and the completion rate is 77 per cent.

Garissa County has 184 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) Centres with a total enrolment of 24,091 consisting of 13,285 boys and 10,806 girls. The pre-school net enrolment rate is 9.6 per cent and the completion rate is 89.34 per cent while the retention rate is 11 per cent. This is due to the nomadic lifestyle of the people. In addition to formal schooling there are also Madarasa where young children are taught religious studies.

Public and private university campuses are being set up in the town. These include the Kenyatta University and Al Mustaqbal University. There is one Science and Technology Institute, North Eastern Technical Training Institute, one Kenya Medical Training College and one Teachers Training College all located in Garissa town. The county also has three youth polytechnics; one each in Bura East, Dadaab and Garissa. In addition, there are six private accredited colleges and four non-accredited colleges in Garissa.

About 80 per cent of public primary schools in Garissa County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) (ICT Authority, 2019). The infrastructures include learner digital devices (LDD), teacher digital devices (TDD) and the Digital Content Server and Wireless Router (DCSWR).

10.1.1 Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) and Net Attendance Ratio (NAR)

The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 12.3 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 59.1 and 43.9 per cent respectively in 2015/16 (Table 10.1). Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) represents the total number of persons attending school regardless of their age, expressed as a percentage of the official school age population for a specific level of education. The GAR for pre-primary school was higher for males, 12.5 per cent, compared to that for females, 12 per cent. The GAR for primary school was higher for males, 64.8 per cent, compared to that for females, 52.9 per cent. The GAR for secondary school was higher for males, 52.4 per cent, compared to that for females, 35.6 per cent. Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) is the total number of persons in the official school

age group attending a specific education level to the total population in that age group. Table 10.1 shows that total NAR for pre-primary, primary and secondary school was 4.4 per cent, 37.8 per cent and 17.2 per cent, respectively.

Table 10.1: Gross Attendance Ratio and Net Attendance Ratio by Educational Level in Garissa County

Education Level	Gender	Gross Attendance Ratio	Net Attendance Ratio
Pre-Primary School	Male	12.5	1.9
	Female	12	6.8
	Total	12.3	4.4
Primary School	Male	64.8	41.8
	Female	52.9	33.5
	Total	59.1	37.8
Secondary School	Male	52.4	15.3
	Female	35.6	19.0
	Total	43.9	17.2

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.1.2 Basic education gross and net enrolment rate

The preprimary gross enrolment rate in the county was 12.3 per cent in 2018 and while the net enrolment rate was 4.4 per cent (table 10.2). The Gross Primary and Secondary enrolment rates stood at 59.1 per cent and 43.9 per cent respectively in 2018 while the Net enrolment rates (NER) were 37.8 per cent and 17.2 per cent for primary school and secondary school respectively during the same period. The huge difference between primary and secondary school enrolment is due to primary to secondary school dropouts. Free primary education policy has substantially increased school enrollment rates. The success and sustainability depend on teachers' perception, motivation, and proper implementation of the policy in the classroom.

Table 10.2: Gross and net enrolment rate (per cent), 2018

Preprimary	Total
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	12.3
Net Enrollment rate (NER)(per cent)	4.4
Gender parity index	.8
Primary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	59.1
Net Enrollment rate (NER)(per cent)	37.8
Gender parity index	.8
Secondary	

Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	43.9
Net Enrollment rate (NER)(per cent)	17.2
Gender parity index	.8

Source: Education statistical booklets 2014-2018

10.1.3 Literacy

The analysis of literacy is based on respondents' self-assessment as no reading and writing tests were administered during the data collection. Further it was assumed that anybody with secondary level of schooling and above could read and write. The percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by ability to read and write is presented in Table 10.3. The proportion of literate population in the county was 41.7 per cent with the male population being more literate (53.6%) compared to their female counterparts (30.3%).

Table 10.3: Percentage Distribution of Population aged 15 Years and above by Ability to Read and Write (per cent)

	Ability to Read and Write	Percentage Distribution (per cent)
Overall county	Literate	41.7
	Illiterate	56.8
	Not Stated	1.4
	Number of Individuals ('000)	203
Male	Literate	53.6
	Illiterate	45.7
	Not Stated	0.8
	Number of Individuals ('000)	100
Female	Literate	30.3
	Illiterate	67.6
	Not Stated	2.1
	Number of Individuals ('000)	104

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.1.4 Educational Attainment

The distribution of population aged 3 years and above by educational qualification attained is presented in Table 10.4. Approximately 63.5 per cent of the population do not have any educational qualification. This is high than the national percentage of 49.7. Only 0.7 per cent of the population has attained university degree. The proportion of the population with CPE/ KCPE qualification is 21.1 per cent and that of KCE/ KCSE qualification is 7.1 per cent.

Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Highest Educational Qualification

Highest Educational Qualification	Percentage Distribution of Population
None	63.5
CPE/ KCPE	21.1
KAPE	0
KJSE	0
KCE/ KCSE	7.1
KACE/ EAACE	0
Certificate	1.8
Diploma	1.7
Degree	0.7
Basic/post literacy certificate	0.3
Other	0.7
Not Stated	3
Number of individuals ('000)	150

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Percentage distribution of Garissa County residents aged 3 years and above who had ever attended school by the highest level reached, and sex is presented in table 10.5. The proportion of males who had reached primary school level was 59.6 per cent while that of females was 67.4 per cent. For all persons who reported to have attended school, 6.3 per cent of males and 9.7 per cent females had reached pre-primary school level in the County. There was a high disparity between the proportion of persons who had reached university education level, with male recording a higher percentage than female at 2.5 per cent and 0.1 per cent, respectively.

Table 10.5: Percentage Distribution of Residents 3 Years and above who had ever Attended School by Highest Level Reached, and Sex for Garissa County (per cent)

Educational Level	Gender	Percentage Distribution of Population 3 Years and above
Pre-primary	Male	6.3
	Female	9.7
Primary	Male	59.6
	Female	67.4
Post primary vocational	Male	0.7
	Female	0
Secondary	Male	20.1
	Female	13.6

College (Middle-level)	Male	3.3
	Female	2.3
University	Male	2.5
	Female	0.1
Madrassa / Duksi	Male	5.2
	Female	4.4
Other	Male	0
	Female	0
Not Stated	Male	2.2
	Female	2.6
Number of Individuals ('000)	Male	89
	Female	61

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

The closing down of schools has worsened the situation. Cases of Female Genital Mutilation have increased tremendously, including child marriage, defilement and domestic violence. In collaboration, the county government together with the Anti-FGM Board had beefed community vigilance. There also cases of drug and substance abuse, depression and school dropout. Several factors are attributed to the number of students declining as the pupils transit from primary to secondary. They include Early marriages mostly among the girls, teenage pregnancies where girls drop out of school after becoming pregnant for the few of ridicule by colleagues, Lack of school fee especially if one is admitted in a boarding school, Drug and Substance abuse, school absenteeism by teachers and pupils and indiscipline among some pupils leading to expulsion. These challenges have been contributed by many factors such poor parenting which leaving children unguided, poverty which pushes girls to be married at early age, negative cultural practices such as FGM and forced early marriages, peer pressure and easy drugs accessibility. To address the issues, there is need to create awareness against drug and substance abuse, offer guidance and counselling to students, introduce free and compulsory secondary education, discourage negative cultural practices that affects school attendance and ensure there is no teacher absenteeism

There are 229 teachers hence a teacher pupil ratio of 1:105. There are 672 teachers giving a teacher pupil ratio stands at 1:61. The teacher student ratio stands at 1: 36. Private schools could not sustain the salary for their employees, both teaching and support staffs (casuals) staff. Public schools have also faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity and security bills. This because the national government had not released the money to the schools. Apart from the other expenses, public schools cannot pay teachers who were hired on contracts and were under BOGs.

There are three main players as far as education is concerned. We have parents, teachers and students. Other stakeholders include county and national governments as well as the donors. They play a critical role in ensuring that the education is supported, and learners are learning smoothly. Their interaction brings about success in the education sector.

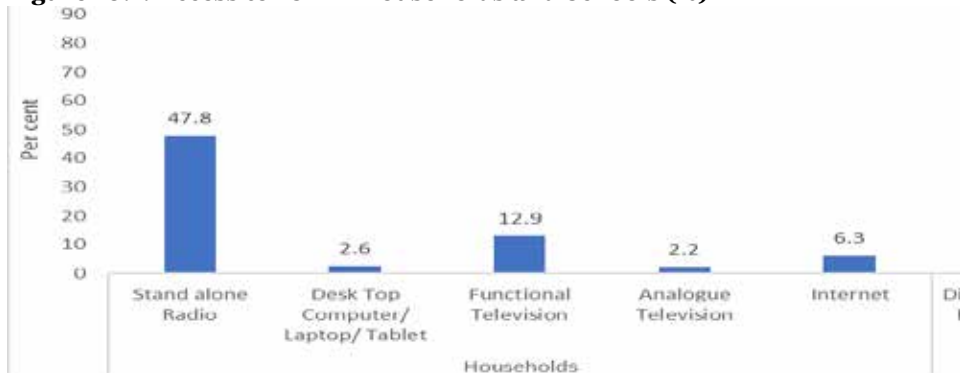
There are several constraints in the education sector. The main one right now is COVID-19 which led to closing of schools. This has disrupted education calendar posing a great

challenge to both county and national government. The national government announced that the education calendar 2020 a waste. Closure of all schools has led to loss to learning time and teaching time. The school infrastructure in the County is not only limited but also is of poor quality. High illiteracy level is another issue of concern as not all county persons can read and write. Lack of parental guidance and early marriages are other challenges being experienced. There is also lack of enough ICT infrastructure in the county making it difficult for the online learning to take place.

10.1.5 ICT in education

The county has also low internet access (6.3 percent) which constrain online learning across the County. Furthermore, only 2.6 per cent of the households had access to ICT equipment such as laptops and computers. This makes it difficult for the pupils and other students to benefit from national learning programme which had been started by the government. Even if the programme was to be done through radio, it would be difficult since only 47.8 per cent of the county population has a radio.

Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools (%)



Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHS, 2019).

Agriculture provides food for the school going children. Therefore, it plays a key role in ensuring that the school going children get food of the required quality and quantity. It is always children who are in the right health status who are able to concentrate and learn in classes. Therefore, good health ensures continuity of learning among the pupils and students. It is in schools where children are taught about good health hygiene which contributes in reduced diseases spread. ICT plays a key role especially now that schools have been closed down and people are advocating for online classes. Good internet connectivity, possession of laptop/desktop computer, iPad, TV, and radio would greatly facilitate the online learning.

10.2 Opportunities of COVID-19 in Education and Training

The demand for PPEs such as masks in the County has led to local production by VTCs hence creating employment and income for youth. It will however be important to address issues of standards and quality of the local produced PPEs. COVID-19 pandemic has also provided opportunity for the county government to forge partnerships to ensure enough

network coverage across all the sub-counties and counties in the Central region. There is also the opportunity of exploring online classes. This if effective, can save time spent on travelling from home to schools to teach. Teachers will be able to reach at the comfort of their seats. This can reduce the cases of lateness and absenteeism. Learning from homes will also reduce accidents and injuries among pupils at school. It will also reduce indiscipline and drug abuse as parents will be able to closely monitor their children at home. The disease has also created an opportunity for creativity among students who are involved in making of ventilators and researching on vaccines.

10.3 Emerging Issues

The County with support from stakeholders will need to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers, provision of sanitation facilities and enhanced school feeding programme. To achieve these objectives, the county will require to partner with the national government and private sector to enhance ECDE and vocation training through infrastructural development as well as equipment of all ECDE, primary, secondary and vocational training, and University branches in the County with adequate WASH and adequate learning spaces upon reopening. High cases of school dropout especially transition from primary to secondary level of education. There is also the issue of drug and substance abuse among the students which need to addressed has it has great impact on education. There is the issue of low ICT development in the county. Recruitment of school going children into terror groups.

10.4 Recommendations

- i) The County with support from stakeholders should continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities.
- ii) The county should involve communities to mobilize learners when schools will be reopening process and while deepening implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures. The county will combine community participation and large-scale direct communication campaigns to parents, and where possible, increase attendance options to accommodate all children, including those with highest risk of dropping out, also promote back to school campaign and community outreach to ensure that no child is being dropped out of school due to COVID-19 emergency.
- iii) The County should prioritize projects that improve school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and management in order to reduce future effect of similar or related outbreak while promoting public health in learning institutions.
- iv) The county should promote remedial/catch up lessons for learners who might have lagged behind also schools to utilize ICT platforms and have a depository of teaching and learning materials that learners could use at their own time and while at home.

- v) The county should provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school, also provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners.
- vi) Concerted efforts will also be required to fight drug and substance abuse among the youths in the county. This can be done through counseling and ensuring that they are not idle especially this period when learning institutions are locked.
- vii) Government needs to come in and support private institutions which are facing threat of closure due to losses as a result of closing school indefinitely. This can involve giving grants and loans to the private schools.

11. Social Protection

11.1 Characteristics of the sector

11.1.1 Sources of vulnerabilities in the County

According to the KNBS census 2019, Garissa County has a population of 841,352 of which 1.7 per cent are the elderly and 0.7 per cent are people living with disabilities which is among the lowest in the country. The overall poverty rates in the county stand at 66 per cent which is higher than the national average of 36.1 per cent. The county's food poverty levels are at 66 per cent and 46 per cent of the total population is multidimensionally poor. Further, about 16 per cent of the children population is stunted. The impact of the COVID-19 to the county's economy cannot be gainsaid.

11.1.2 Severe shocks to the households

Severe shocks have had negative impact to the household's economic and social welfare of county residents. Table 11.1 presents the proportion of households by the first severe shock in the county.

The major shock in the county was droughts or floods which affected 41.7 per cent of the households followed by Severe water shortage, dearth of livestock and large rise in price of food which affected 21 percent, 12.8 per cent and 11.1 per cent of the households in the county, respectively. Death of family Members and Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary were also other major shocks in the county affecting 8 per cent and 2.5 per cent, respectively.

Table 11.1: The proportion of households by the First Severe Shock in the County

First Severe Shock	The proportion of households (per cent)
Droughts or Floods	41.7
Crop disease or crop pests	0
Livestock died	12.8
Livestock were stolen	0.7
Household business failure, nonagricultural	0
Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary	2.5

End of regular assistance, aid, or remittances from outside the household	0
Large fall in sale prices for crops	0
Large rise in price of food	11.1
Large rise in agricultural input prices	-
Severe water shortage	21
Birth in the household	1
Death of household head	-
Death of working member of household	1
Death of other family Member	8
Break-up of the household	-
Bread winner jailed	-
Fire	1
Robbery / Burglary / Assault	-
Carjacking	-
Dwelling damaged, destroyed	-
Eviction	-
Ethnic/ Clan Clashes	-
Conflict	-
HIV/ AIDS	
Other	4
Number of households with Shock	22,000

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

11.1.3 Distribution of Social Assistance Beneficiaries

Households in the county received various forms of social assistance or transfers or gift either in form of a good, service, financial asset or other asset by an individual, household or institution. Transfers constitute income that the household receives without working for it and augments household income by improving its welfare. Cash transfers include assistance in form of currency or transferable deposits such as cheque and money orders. The proportion of households that received cash transfers by source, household headship, residence and county is presented in Table 11.2. Overall, 6 per cent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (93%), mainly from individuals (93%) while external transfers constituted 13 per cent.

Table 11.2: The proportion of households that received cash transfers by source, and household headship

		Beneficiaries
	Total Number of Households	78,000
	Households receiving transfers (per cent)	6
From Inside Kenya	Individual	69,043
	Non Profit Institution	-
	National Government	5,798
	County Government	-
	Corporate Sector	-
Inside Kenya		74,840
Outside Kenya		10,350
Total		79,149
Number of households that received transfers		5,000

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

The county has tried to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. The absolute poverty level in Garissa County currently stands at 50 per cent. This can be attributed to the harsh climatic condition coupled with the high dependence on relief food supplies. In the recent past however, there has been a massive expansion of irrigation farming along the river Tana. The government has also come up with various interventions such as the Youth and Women Enterprise Funds, Njaa Marufuku Kenya, Cash Transfers for the elderly, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) program among others. There is also several Non-Governmental Organizations offering a variety of cash transfers for social security safety nets. This has seen a large proportion of the population receiving these cash transfers.

The county has partnered with several individuals and organization like Red Cross, KNHRC, UNICEF, WHO who have donated food and other materials to the vulnerable groups. So far, the county has supported about 7,000 households with food hampers, water, and water tanks. More households need to be covered. Some of the recipients of free masks offered by the county government include children's homes, prisoners, and refugee camps.

Youth engagements activities were halted thus affecting counter-extremism fora, sports, and agri-business. Also, religious teachers who engage youth in Madrasas have been rendered jobless. Youth constitutes about 28.5 per cent of the total population. The county's youthful population is therefore large, and more resources should be allocated towards activities and programmes that will benefit the youth. These include setting up of more vocational institutions, technical institutions, and putting in place policies that promote job creation for the youth. The social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic increased households' susceptibility to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the county. Response measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, such as movement restrictions, lockdown, and curfew hours, have led to loss of income, isolation, high levels of stress and anxiety exposing

household members to psychological, economic, sexual violence and physical harm as couples spend more time in close contact. Other challenges affecting the youth include unemployment and drug use, especially alcohol and substance abuse.

Livestock Markets were closed which mostly serve as places of trade. Most people in this market are females. This has therefore affected their welfare in terms of finances and access to food and other goods. This has an impact of lowering their living standards. Livestock markets were closed making it hard for people to sell their livestock which serves as a main source of income. This has therefore reduced their income with some operating at losses. Shops and Kiosks, social centers such as club and bars, hotels have been affected by the curfew and social distance requirements thus reducing the amount of income that they get. Unemployment rate in the county has increased due to close of many businesses and learning institutions. This has led to the decline in living standards and family conflicts due to limited sources of income.

Most of the social protection operations were undertaken through non-contributory transfers in cash for the elderly, OVCs and PWDS. In some instances, in kind transfers which include school feeding programmes were also used to reach a wider audience and age group.

The county revenue collection declined because of outbreak of COVID-19. The border points were closed hence no people were allowed to leave the county through them to other counties. This has affected most businesses which serve as a source of income for many families. Resumption of services and free movement across borders and opening of markets will enable the county to collect bore revenue, hence boosting her targets.

The main source of revenue to implement social protection activities in the county were mostly government budgetary allocations and donor contribution to OVCs, PWDs, and the elderly. The county government has been complementing the work of the national government on taking care of the OVCs. The county government aims at protecting children from abuse, neglect, and discrimination in accordance with the Children's Act, 2001, and the Education Act, 2012.

Loss of jobs and business opportunities led to an increase in poverty and declining of people welfare. With loss of jobs and businesses, most youths were involved in the activities such as crimes, prostitution, and other social evils. Job losses also increased suffering among county residents. In addition, decreased county revenue made it hard for the county to cater for the needy cases and mostly those affected by COVID-19. In addition, unemployment and recruitment to the terror groups posed a great danger to the youths in the county.

Social protection is directly linked to the health sector. When people's social welfare is good, that is people have good health insurance, they can be able to access health services in case of sickness. When people welfare is affected by loss of employment and closing of businesses, they are more likely to suffer from diseases such as stress and depression. ICT also plays a key role in terms of information dissemination through media such as radio, television, mobile phones e.tc. Communication is key especially for the people in business as one need to place order for goods or services. ICT is also involved in record keeping of those people in schemes such as NHIF and NSSF as well as other insurances.

Additionally, social protection is directly related to education. The more one is educated the more is informed of existing welfare schemes. Educated people also are aware of the

need for and importance of engaging in social protection programmes such as insurance and investment for future to benefit after retirements. With good education, one can understand government role in ensuring good life for its citizens.

Agriculture is the main source of revenue in the country and most of the counties. Garissa county is not an exception. Majority of people are involved in livestock keeping and farming. This provides people with source of food as well as revenue which is used to improve their welfare. Agricultural sector also creates employment among many county residents who would otherwise have been jobless. Trade and industry play an important role bettering life of the residents. This is where majority of people derive their livelihood from especially those engaging SMEs. The profits and savings obtained from business is used in feeding the family members as well as insuring them in future.

11.2 Opportunities of COVID-19 in social protection

COVID-19 exposed lack of preparedness among counties in terms of responding to the emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. It provided an opportunity to measure how county governments are prepared to handle the devolved functions. Health being a devolved function, it has really exposed the counties as many of them lack required health facilities such as ICU beds and enough medical personnel. The virus has also given an opportunity to develop social protection programs to cushion the vulnerable groups in the community in case of outbreak of other diseases.

11.3 Emerging Issues

Due to social distancing and curfew hours, GBV victims had limited contact with family and friends who would act as the first contact persons during violence. Survivors also experienced challenges accessing healthcare services, counselling services and access shelters. These challenges underscore the need for deliberate measures at the county level to prevent and support GBV survivors in times of emergencies as experienced with the pandemic. Further, the pandemic has exposed the level of lack of comprehensive social protection at the county level.

11.4 Recommendations

COVID-19 pandemic created effects with immediate and long-term economic consequences for children, PWDs, elderly and their families. In an effort to strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the Garissa County government should:

- i) Form economic block partnership to ensure borders are manned and enhance cross border screening especially among long distance drivers. This will drastically slow the spread of the virus.
- ii) Conduct mass civic education among the people on COVID-19 prevention measures, how to handle an infected person and avoidance of stigmatization of the affected person.

- iii) Enroll more county residents in welfare programmes such as NHIF which will ensure that they access medical treatment in case of falling sick.
- iv) Give tax exemption for the SMES who have suffered losses in their business as result of diseases outbreak.
- v) Create a kit where they can collaborate with local banks in offering loans to the SMEs to restart and boost their businesses.
- vi) Provide food and other basic wants for the elderly since their movement have been reduced as they are at great risk of contracting the virus. Therefore, their life has been affected and cannot afford to feed themselves anymore.
- vii) Have programmes to incorporate youths in development are needed. This will ensure they do not get involved in drug and substance abuse and other crimes. More employment opportunities to be created for the youths. This will ensure they do not remain idle hence joining terror groups.

Garissa County has a population distribution of more male (54.6%) than female (45.4%). The Kenya Health Information System (KHIS, 2020) reported 1,417 cases of teenage pregnancies between January and May 2020. While this is a drop from 1,992 cases compared to a similar period in 2019, there is need to ensure zero tolerance to such cases since they are associated with high rates of school dropouts, stigma, increased mental health concerns, postpartum depression and suicidal ideation. The May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 survey indicates that 14.9 per cent of the respondents in the County had witnessed or heard of any form of domestic violence. According to the Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) 2020, the county recorded 2 cases of GBV in April 2020.

To address the gender related challenges, the County will:

- i) Strengthen enforcement of laws related to teenage pregnancies especially where adults are involved.
- ii) Prioritize elimination of gender stereotypes, transforming gender norms and revoke discriminatory practises for effective realization of the rights of women and girls.
- iii) Community training and sensitization programmes targeting teenage boys and girls to deal with increased cases of teenage pregnancies.
- iv) Identify and train champions (individual actors) including using elders active in combating GBV and who can carry advocacy messages and contribute strongly to changing harmful and retrogressive practices.
- v) Launch hotlines/helplines using toll-free calls and SMS numbers for gender-based violence victims. This will assist GBV victims access support and guidance to include psycho-social support, counselling and health care.
- vi) Collaboration between the county, state agencies, and other partners to strengthen capacities of various stakeholders including, political leadership within the county, women's groups, religious leaders, and community leaders to combat harmful practices that breed GBV.
- vii) Designate gender safe spaces to provide accommodation GBV survivors

12. Human Resources

12.1 Characteristics of the Sector

12.1.1 Sources of employment in the County

Pastoralism, agriculture, and trade sub-sectors are the main sources of employment in the county. This population sells livestock, livestock products, vegetables and fruits, through retail and wholesale business operations in the county. Other sources of employment are government departments, Non-Governmental Organizations, donor agencies and business organizations. Most of these wage earners are in formal employment. About three per cent of the total population is self-employed and they engage in milk vending, jua kali, hawking and livestock selling among others economic activities. Youths' unemployment rate remains high in the county which has contributed to increase in insecurity and terrorism in the county.

Table 12.1: Distribution of Population Age 5 Years and above by Activity Status, and Sex in the County

	Male	Female	Total
Population	397,437	326,443	723,880
Working	142,610	110,683	253,293
Seeking Work/ No Work Available	101,275	71,721	172,996
Persons outside the Labour Force	153,459	143,980	297,439
Not Stated	93	59	152
per cent Working	58.5	60.7	59.4
per cent Seeking Work/ No Work Available	41.5	39.3	40.6

Source: KNBS 2019

Distribution of Population Age 5 Years and above by Activity Status, and Sex in the County is shown in Table 12.1 above. An assessment on the county labour force indicates the County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 60,650 people of whom 27,604 people were working and 33,046 were seeking work but work was not available representing an unemployment rate of 54.5 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019).

12.2 Effects of COVID-19

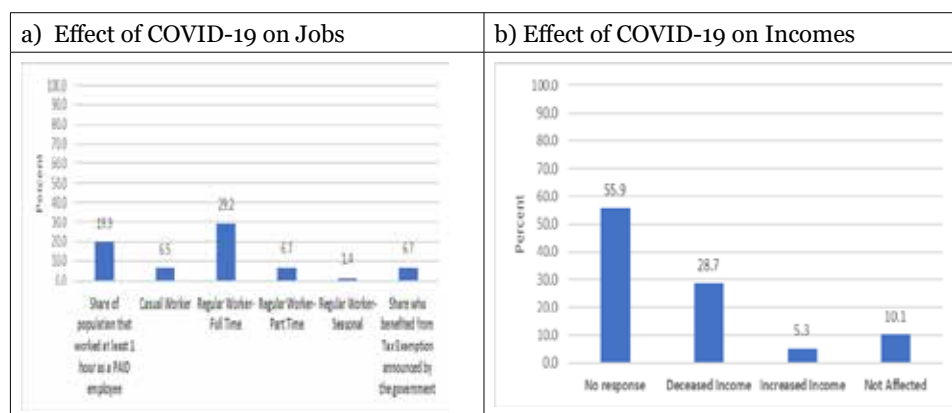
With the loss of jobs in the Small and Medium Enterprises the livelihood of people working in these sectors were directly or indirectly affected, particularly youths as the sector employs most of the young population. In addition, the reduction in operation hours and restriction on movement in and outside Nairobi negatively impacted on the transport sector

with many relying on it rendered jobless. The loss of jobs in the matatu and boda-boda industry had directly impacted on the lives of the youth as some residents avoided public means of transport in fear of contracting the virus. In addition, the lockdowns in Mombasa and Nairobi counties had a negative impact on long distance drivers in these sectors. The impacts of the pandemic were also felt on the service sectors as it affected workers in both private and public sector. Several people working in restaurants and bars were rendered jobless due closure as ordered by the government.

The unemployment has increased during the period of COVID-19, according to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, 19.9 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 38.2 per cent had never worked, and 41.9 per cent worked in the informal sector. However, 4.2 per cent of employees did not attend to work due to COVID-19 with other 79.2 per cent of employees working without any pay. On average, workers in the County lost 13.4 hours per week due to COVID-19

During the pandemic, about 6.5 per cent of workers in the county were casual workers 29.2 per cent were regular workers (full time), 6.7 per cent employees were working as part time. However, about 28.7 per cent of workers reported decrease in income while 5.3 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income. These could be the people working in the health sector who are supplying medical equipment such as masks and PPEs. About 6.7 per cent of workers indicated to have benefited from government tax exemptions which indicates about 93 per cent did not benefit from National government tax relief for low-income-earning persons, a reduction in the top Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) rate, and other changes such as cash transfers, credit relief, lower VAT, and a corporate tax cut.

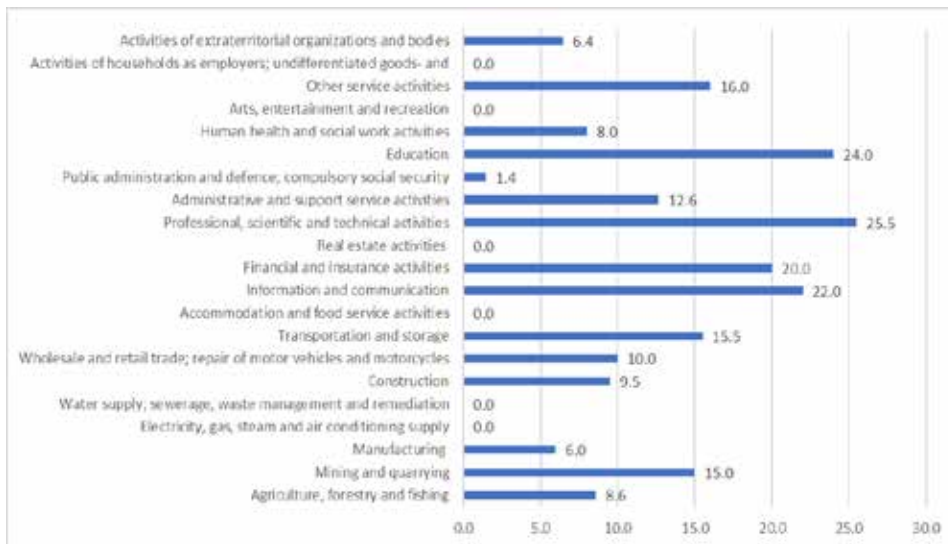
Figure 12.1: Effects of COVID-19, 2020



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey

According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey workers in professional, scientific, and technical activities recorded the highest number of hours lost per week (25.5 hours) followed by workers in education and information and communication who lost 24.0 hours, 22.0 hours per week, respectively (Figure 12.2). Workers in financial and insurance activities lost 20.0 hours in a week while workers in administrative and support service activities lost 12.6 hours in a week. Workers in human health and social work activities services lost 8.0 hours in a week, while workers in construction and manufacturing lost 9.5 and 6.0 hours in a week, respectively.

Figure 12.2: Difference between usual hours worked and actual hours worked during COVID-19 period



Source: May 2020 COVID-19 Survey

Further, 29.0 per cent of workers in Garissa County recorded decreased income; 76.9 per cent recorded working as unpaid workers; and 4.2 per cent never attended to work due to COVID-19 related activities. In private sector schools, teachers and other workers lost their incomes. Some other businesses such as bars, hotels, market centres were totally closed, leading to reduced business activities. Some workers in the transport sector had also been rendered jobless due to restrictions of moving in and out of Nairobi and Mombasa counties. On average, the county lost 13.4 hours worked in a week and the hours lost in the leading economic activities of the county like service sector (16.0 hours) and agriculture sector (8.6 hours) will negatively affect the county economy.

12.3 Opportunities of COVID-19 in human resource sector

The county government have been provided with the opportunity to use digital platforms to enable remote access to jobs for their employees where the Human Resource Management will have an essential role to play in navigation of the situation caused by the pandemic. There have been notable efforts by the county government to invest more money in training health workers. The county government now has an opportunity to recalibrate its employees and develop strategies (mid- and post-pandemic strategies) to adapt to the evolving reality.

ICT was very significant and had enabled the county programs to run smoothly since the pandemic and provided an opportunity for exploitation for adequate internet coverage especially to the education sector.

The pandemic has provided opportunity for county government to invest more money in training health workers. The economic block can serve as a market for the locally produced goods, hence creating more employments.

The county government has created opportunities for the youths so that they can get some income especially during this period of COVID-19. For example, county launched the Kazi Mtaani National Hygiene Programme (NHP) initiative to give youths a source of income. The countrywide programme being implemented jointly by the national and the county governments will benefit some 3,000 youths from Garissa.

12.4 Emerging issues

The COVID-19 pandemic has expedited the speed at which different firms and businesses within the county are changing their pay programmes through pay reductions and incentive resets. The county governor and his deputy experienced a 30 per cent pay cut. In addition, the County executives took a 20 per cent pay cut while county chief officers took 15 per cent pay cut.

There has been reframing of the way the county government segment its workforces to include essential and frontline workers especially in health sector. As it continues, the county will consider long-term strategies to determine which changes will be temporary versus those that will be permanent.

With the widespread stay-at-home orders, most of county employers are adjusting operations and shifting workforces online, all of which have affected overall employee well-being.

The county is not well prepared in terms of response to health-related risks such as the current COVID-19. Opportunities within the regional economic block needs to be exploited to enhance economic competitive advantage. There are emerging talents among the youths which can tapped to benefit the county especially this time of COVID-19 such as making of ICU bed, masks and PPEs. There is an increase in unemployment rate.

12.5 Recommendations

- i) Promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development; and invest in livestock sector in the County.
- ii) Promote investment and entrepreneurship through provision of loans, the county Government will improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through lending institutions.
- iii) Formulate measures aimed at encouraging employment creation through corporate social responsibility (CSR), including expanding the national internship programs and promoting Information Technology (IT) enabled jobs.
- iv) Leverage on private sector programmes such as the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation KIJANI movement to create green jobs for the unemployed.

- v) Tap into national government programs like Ajira Digital Training Program (ADTP) to enable young people access work opportunities available online and provide them with the right tools, awareness, infrastructure, skills, training, mentorship and access to dignified work that can earn them a decent income.
- vi) Provide support to Micro, Small and Medium scale Enterprises (MSMEs) through creation of enabling business environment, provision of market information and infrastructure, improving transport systems and provision of affordable energy. In addition, build capacity in areas related to marketing, operations, finance, and human resource development to enhance the chances of survival of SMEs.
- vii) Invest in ICT and online job opportunities. Access to ICT will contribute to the County's economic growth by reducing transaction costs, increasing business efficiency, improving education standards and ensuring accountability and transparency in usage of public funds. The County in collaboration with business partners will establish innovation hubs with internet connectivity for use by locals to interface and do business with others across the world, hence increasing their income.

13. Conclusion and Key Recommendations

13.1 Conclusion

13.1.1 Fiscal Policy, planning and budgeting

The OSR to total revenue averaged 1.22 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21, contributing the least amount of County revenues. County expenditure has over the years been rising as the county escalates its efforts in provision of services to its residents. Total county expenditure has grown significantly since FY 2013/14. In FY 2014/15 the county reported Ksh 460.0 million in pending bills. This increased to Ksh 980.1 million in FY 2017/18 with development spending related pending bills accounting for 872.0 per cent of this. In FY 2018/19 pending bills slowed to Ksh 619.6 million before shooting up to Ksh 877.0 million in FY 2019/20.

13.1.2 Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

The Agri-food analysis highlights the sector was negatively affected by COVID-19 in terms of labour supply, trade and marketing operations, food supply and the resulting effects on food prices. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic period, the County also suffered from desert locusts, floods and livestock diseases. The County's agricultural productivity is also affected by: - variable and extreme weather events Poor and inadequate infrastructure; water scarcity; low agro-processing and value addition opportunities; dependence on rainfed agriculture; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low commercialization levels and marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and post-harvest waste. This adversely affects the productivity of the sector and impairs marketing and consequently places livelihoods and food security at risk especially in times of emergencies. The analysis calls for strategies to enhance productivity, profitability, and resilience of the sector for improved livelihoods.

13.1.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

The county relies more on surface water as well as water from dug wells and piped water for rural households. Similarly, sanitation, coverage remain low in the county, with majority of households having no toilet facilities, thus helping themselves in the bush, there is also low access to piped sewer. The county has an opportunity to increase sanitation coverage by connecting households to sewer as well as to piped water to increase its additional revenue collection from sanitation and water services.

13.1.4 Manufacturing, trade and MSMEs

Garissa County's Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs momentum was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the containment measures associated with COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the sector. In sustaining growth and building resilience in this sector, it is important to strengthen trade and production capacity of MSMEs and especially those involved in manufacturing in the County by exploiting opportunities afforded by the pandemic such as production of masks, PPEs, hospital beds, ventilators, reagents, gloves, and sanitizers.

13.1.5 Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development

The main means of transport used in the County is walking at 26.32 per cent, followed by bicycle (bodaboda). The paved County road network covers 6.51 km, while the paved National roads cover 31.37 km. Out of the total paved road network of 37.88 km, 83.95 per cent is in good condition, 10.93 per cent in fair condition and 5.12 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception of that the individual does not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County do not have internet connection. Majority of the households (89.5%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, despite inability to pay due to the pandemic. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 87.4 per cent, with 12.6 per cent of the households under rental tenure.

13.1.6 Tourism

The key tourism attractions from Garissa County are wildlife, heritage and culture (rich Somali traditional culture) and hospitality. The proximity of the county to the tourist coastal town of Lamu makes it ideal for linkage through a tourist circuit. The County does not have classified (star-rated) hotels. However, there are 5 major hotels with a bed capacity of 450. The county has 6 wildlife conservation areas namely, Garissa Giraffe sanctuary, Ishaqbin Community Conservancy, Waso Conservancy, Arawale National Reserve, Rahole National Reserve and Boni National Reserve.

13.1.7 Health

Under the health sector, there is need for more awareness on immunization so that mothers can ensure their children get immunized. Implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments and information system to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers, equitable deployed across all sub-counties. This is in addition to paying the salaries in time to avoid cases of strikes and low staff morale. Recruit additional of public health officers and community health workers to strengthen preventive and public health systems. COVID-19 has worsened the situation as far as youths and women are concerned. These are the groups of people that have been facing several challenges even before the outbreak of the COVID-19. FGM and Gender based violence cases have increased with the lock down. Youths who are entrepreneurs have also been affected losing jobs and businesses due to the lockdown. Other problems facing youths includes Teenage pregnancies, malnutrition, STI/HIV and Aids, poor environment, drug and substance abuse and malnutrition

13.1.8 Education and Training

The County with support from stakeholders would continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. The county to provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school and provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners during and after the pandemic.

13.1.9 Social Protection

It will be important for the County to build linkages with other Ministries, and with NGOs that work with vulnerable groups to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training. Undertake research to get a better understanding of the actual situation of disability and chronic illness in the County, and to map existing initiatives on social protection.

13.1.10 Human Resource

The county will enhance investments and mechanisms for up skilling and reskilling, deepening technical skills as well as ICT skills; and retraining employees on how to work from home, where applicable. The county government will also protect workers in the informal economy by pursuing innovative policies to reach them quickly through a combination of non-contributory and contributory social security schemes and facilitating their transition to the formal economy in the longer term.

13.2 Key Recommendations

13.2.1 Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting

To ensure continued recovery, the county must now move quickly to tackle the problem of pending bills, mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations, seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county and ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers.

13.2.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; expansion of water harvesting projects and sustainable irrigation; scale up conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, plant and keep drought-tolerant crops and livestock breeds; link farmers to diverse product markets; strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural inputs and services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; provision of storage and cooling facilities; natural resource management; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance marketing.

13.2.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

To build resilience and mitigate the effect of COVID-19, the county will; increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes, dams, and access to piped water in all the sub-counties. Promote the use of safe and improved toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces, and public places by connecting households to piped sewer. Support households in building low-cost sanitation. Promote handwashing as a measure to contain the spread of COVID-19.

13.2.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County will: Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short term. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, will be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges; COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth; Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing; Leverage and exploit its metropolitan areas status (Wajir-Garissa-Mandera) to enhance manufacturing, which is part of the Vision 2030 aspirations; Mainstream the National Urban Development Policy to spur its industrial development; Establish and equip the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as outlined in MTP III; Fast track construction of a new sewerage scheme; Enhance Livestock marketing value addition and processing; Set up, equip, and operationalise a Gypsum Products Manufacturing Plant in Garissa as per MTP III aspirations; Address insecurity to spur the growth of industries in the County; and Fastrack development of County Industrial Development Policy to facilitate investment of industries in the County.

13.2.5 Infrastructure, housing and urban development

In addressing the prevailing challenges, the county will Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 24 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70.0 per cent; Collaborate with the Communications Authority and telecom service providers to utilize the Universal Service Fund as a “last resort” in providing ICT access in remote areas where market forces fail to expand access; and avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

13.2.6 Tourism

The number of domestic and foreign tourists who visit the tourist sites in the county is not documented. There is need to develop a tourist action plan to enhance exploitation of existing tourism opportunities including desert tourism (camel-back expeditions, camping

and dessert rallying). The county government will map all the sites with tourism potential in the county; come up with a tourism sector development master plan and set up a cultural documentation centre; tourism information centre.

13.2.7 Health

For a resilient health sector, there is need for more awareness on immunization so that mothers can ensure their children get immunized. Implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments and information system to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers, equitable deployed across all sub-counties. This is in addition to paying the salaries in time to avoid cases of strikes and low staff morale. Recruit additional of public health officers and community health workers to strengthen preventive and public health systems.

13.2.8 Education and training

The County with support from stakeholders will need to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. The county would put up measures that encourage learners to complete all levels of education.

13.2.9 Social Protection

COVID-19 pandemic created immediate and long-term economic consequences for vulnerable groups including children, PWDs, elderly and their families. In an effort to strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the county government will need to provide basic income security, especially for persons whose jobs or livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic. Build linkages with other Ministries, and with NGOs that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training.

13.2.10 Human resources

The COVID-19 pandemic has expedited the speed at which different firms and businesses within the county are changing their pay programmes through pay reductions and incentive resets. It will be important for the County to promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions especially those working tea sector which is a major employer in Garissa County and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development.

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