

Socio-Economic Status of Homa Bay County with COVID-19

Eldah Onsomu, Rose Ngugi, Evelyne Kihui, 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

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**Kenya Institute for Public Policy
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KIPPRA in Brief

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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

The County's main revenue sources comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants, and its own source revenue (OSR). Total revenue has increased by 44 per cent from Ksh 5.86 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 8.44 billion in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 6.3 per cent. The amount of equitable share to the county had similarly increased by 64 per cent from Ksh 4.12 billion to Ksh 6.74 billion over the same period. Conditional grants continue to be a major source of financing to county operations and contributed an average of 7.73 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 263.51 million and Ksh 307.85 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The share of OSR to total revenue has been declining over the years contributing 1.43 per cent in FY 2020/21 from a high of 3.07 per cent in FY 2014/15. Development expenditure has performed weakly accounting for an average of 28.2 per cent of total county expenditure. A pattern that reveals systemic weaknesses in county public investment management system. County wage bill has been growing tremendously at the expense of development expenditure. To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals the county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operation, 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

Crop, livestock, and fishery activities largely characterize the economic activity in Homa Bay County. Key agricultural value chain commodities in the County include maize, beans, sorghum, ground nuts, cassava, bananas, kales, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, onions, fishing, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry production, pig farming and aquaculture. 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; unsustainable land management practices; low agro-processing and value addition opportunities; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low crops, livestock, and livestock products marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; and pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and post-harvest waste. To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the

agriculture sector, the County needs to: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; 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; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives.

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 governments faced challenges in revenue collections due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in reduced incomes among households and businesses, thus deferred collection of revenue from the water services it provided 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 have to 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

The momentum in manufacturing, trade and MSMEs 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 needs to: Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short run. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify, and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19; Revive the cotton processing ginnery in Homabay town; and Collaborate with National government to rehabilitate fish landing sites in Nyandiwa as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the Lake Victoria rehabilitation programme.

Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is bicycle motorbike followed by walking. The paved County Road network covers 11.75 km, while the paved National roads covers 233.6 km. Out of the total paved road network of 245.35 km, 58.13 per cent is in good condition, 37.63 per cent in fair condition and 1.21 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception that individuals do 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. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied. With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households' ability to pay rent was affected, with 49.7 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent. The county has challenges in quality of the housing stock.

In response to the prevailing challenges, the county to exploit the blue economy by developing and utilizing inland water ways and Lake Victoria ports to facilitate movement of goods and people in the East African Market; 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; Integrate the blue economy in spatial planning for human settlements and urban areas along Lake Victoria with the objective to balance Lake-based and land- based activities livelihoods.

Tourism

Homa Bay County sits in a prominent position to be a lead destination in the Western Tourism Circuit and is home to Ruma National Park which is the only park where unique and rare species like the roan antelope can be found. Key products/services include Nature and Wildlife, Culture, Heritage and Community-Based Tourism, Agro-tourism, Eco-tourism. The county needs to Develop a county strategic plan for tourism, diversification of the tourism product range, develop databank of tourist attraction sites and investment in protection of cultural heritage sites, preservation of artefacts

Health

Homa Bay county a total of 260 health facilities comprising of 185 public health facilities, 45 private health facilities and 30 Faith Based Organization health facilities. The facilities are served by 2,117 personnel, with Ndhiwa sub county having the highest number of personnel of 45 followed by Rachuonyo with 41 personnel (District Health Information Systems (DHIS) 2016). These values though highest in the two sub counties still indicates need for hiring of more personnel and upgrading of the existing facilities since they are spread within the wards of respective sub counties. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) was the leading health insurance provider reported by 97.8 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 6.0 per cent of the population. Private contributions to insurance cover were reported by 1.6 per cent of the population. About 31.5 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 25.3 per cent, 32.6 per cent, and 8.6 per cent respectively. The county had 30.3 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 1.8 per cent were fully immunized against measles at 18 months. 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.

Education and training

HomaBay County has 992 pre-primary centres, 1025 primary and 236 secondary schools. Infrastructures are in place to support water and sanitation efforts in learning institutions by the county. About 71.0 per cent of public primary schools in Baringo County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP). There are over 180 secondary schools in the county catering for the secondary education needs of a total 96,131 eligible children however only the 63,400 children between the ages of thirteen and seventeen are accommodated. With an estimated staff establishment of 1,224 it can be projected that the teacher pupil ratio will jump from 1:49 currently to 1:79 once a gross enrolment rate of 100 per cent is achieved. The county of HomaBay according to the study has 2 public technical training institutions: Mawego, Wanyama and one public Teacher Training College at Asumbi. There is only one Technical Training Institute (TVET) in Homa Bay County known as Mawego TTI in Karachuonyo Sub County according to the most current Utawala, 2014 Survey Report. The County with support from stakeholders needs 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.

Social Protection

Homabay county has an estimated population of 1,131,950 people of which 4.3 per cent are living with various disabilities as shown in table 67. An additional 4.4 per cent of the total population are the elderly and the proportion of stunted children stands at 19 per cent. In terms of poverty levels, 79 per cent of the total population is poor whereas about 23 per cent and 33 per cent are multidimensional and food poor respectively. COVID-19 pandemic created immediate and long-term economic consequences for vulnerable groups including children, PWDs, elderly and their families. To strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the county government needs 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.

Labour Participation

The main economic activity of Homa Bay county is fishing. An assessment on the county labour force indicates the County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 399,954 people of whom 377,888 were working and 22,066 were seeking work representing an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019). In terms of gender employment, more females are employed compared to males at 26.0 and 24.0 per cent respectively. In terms of economically active, more female (21.0%) than male (19.0%) was economically inactive. This pattern shows that females are less employed in comparison with their male counterparts and the social economic fallout of COVID-19 had an impulse effect on the females. 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 to promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions especially those working tea sector which is a major employer in Kericho county and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training, and skills development.



1. Introduction and Structure of County Economy

1.1 Introduction

Homabay County is one of the counties in the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB). The county occupies a land area of 4,267.1 km². The County has estimated population of 1,131,950 of which 47.8 per cent are male and 52.1 per cent female (KNBS, 2019) as indicated in table 1. Of the population 42,181 (4.3%) are persons with disabilities. The youth constituted 34.0 per cent of the population of whom 54.0 per cent were female. The county has a population density of 265 per km². About 90.0 per cent of the population live in rural areas of whom 52.3 per cent are female. The elderly population (over 65 year-old) make up 4.4 per cent of the total population of whom 59.8 per cent were female. The population in school going age group (4-22 years) was 51.1 per cent in 2019.

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Homabay County was 34.0 per cent against the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent. In addition, 23.2 per cent of the population were living in food poverty and 78.7 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 the KDHS 2014, 18.7 per cent of the children were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26.1 per cent.

Table 1.1: Development Indicators in Homabay County

Indicators	County	National
Estimated County Population (KNBS, 2019)	1,131,950	2.1 per cent of the total population
Males	539,560	47.8 per cent
Females	592,367	52.1 per cent
Intersex	23	0.002 per cent
Estimated Population Density (km ²)	265	82
Persons with disability	4.3 per cent	2.2
Population living in rural areas (per cent)	90.0 per cent	68.8 per cent
Children (0-14 years) (per cent)	49.8 per cent	41.1 per cent
School going age (4-22 years) (per cent)	51.1 per cent	68.7 per cent
Youth 15-34 years (per cent)	34.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Labour force (15-64 years) (per cent)	47.3 per cent	55.0 per cent

Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	4.4 per cent	3.9 per cent
Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	34.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	23.2 per cent	31.9 per cent
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	78.7 per cent	56.1 per cent
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	24.4 per cent	26 per cent
Gross County Product (Ksh Million) 2020	122,198	1.2 per cent Share to total GDP
Average growth of Nominal GCP/GDP (2013-2020) (per cent)	13.9 per cent	104.8 per cent

Data Source: KNBS (2020)

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in HomaBay County was 34 per cent compared to the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent. In addition, 23.2 per cent of the population were living in food poverty and 78.7 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, 24.4 per cent of the children were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26.1 per cent.

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 382,586 individuals. They are followed by persons aged between 6-13 years who are the primary school children comprising of 281,116 of the county population. The under 0-3 age comprise of 122,077 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

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 0-3	61,157	60,920	122,077
Preprimary school age (Under 4-5)	33,868	33,403	67,271
Primary School Age (6 -13)	140,283	140,833	281,116
Secondary school age (14-17)	62,435	61,467	123,902
Youth Population (15-34)	176,707	205,879	382,586
Female Reproductive age (15-49)		270,553	270,553
Labour force (15-64)	267,610	310,939	310,939
Aged Population 65+	19,830	29,550	49,380

Source: KNB, 2019

1.2 Level of socioeconomic deprivations

In 2015/2016, 11.3 per cent of the population had health insurance cover, 12.4 per cent lived in premises with water, 85 per cent lived in their own homes and 58.5 per cent had access to mobile telephone (Table 1.3) and majority of the households (81.9%) had access to toilet facility. As a result, the multi-dimensional poverty is 78.7 per cent.

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

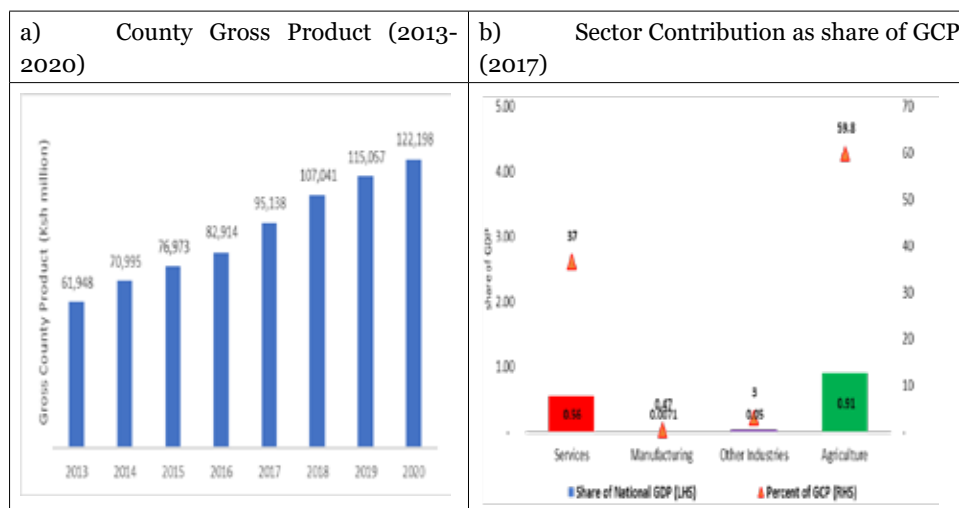
Indicator	Details	Percentage Distribution (per cent)
Health care	Population with Health Insurance Cover	11.3
Drinking water (Time taken to fetch)	Zero (In premises)	12.4
	less than 30 minutes	69.1
	30 minutes or longer	18.1
Sanitation and Hygiene	Proportion of households with toilet facility	81.9
	Shared Toilet	65.3
	Not Shared	34.7
	Place to wash hands outside toilet facility	17.5
	No place to wash hands outside toilet facility	82
Education (Population 3 years and Above by School Attendance Status)	Ever Attended	91.6
	Never Attended	8.1
Knowledge of health and nutrition (children aged 0-59 months that participated in Community Nutrition Programmes)	Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	40.2
	Did not Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	59.2
Housing and standard of living (house ownership)	Owner Occupier	85
	Pays Rent/ Lease	14.4
Access to information (Population Aged 3 years and above by ICT Equipment and Services Used)	Television	31.6
	Radio	78.7
	Mobile phone	58.5
	Computer	2.4
	Internet	4.2

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

1.3 Structure of Homabay County Economy

Homabay County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 1.2 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between 2013 and 2020 as reported in table 1.1. The GCP increased from Ksh 61,948 million in 2013 to Ksh 122,198 million in 2020 representing an average annual growth rate of 13.9 per cent. The agriculture sector contributes 59.8 per cent of GCP while services and other industries sector share constituted 37.0 per cent and 3.0 per cent, respectively. The services sector includes such activities as wholesale and retail trade. Agriculture is mainly dominated by subsistence and cash crop farming and fishing activities while industries include small scale food processing.

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



Data Source: KNBS (2020)

1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions

As of March 2020, Homa Bay County had zero cases. However, by August 2020, the County had reported 7 COVID-19 cases with mobility stringency of 70.4. The caseload would rise to 1,302 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 in Homa Bay County and the country's mobility stringency

Date	Total cases	Mobility stringency (0-100)
13 th March 2020	0	36.1
23 rd August 2020	7	70.4
23 rd August 2021	1,302	56.0

Source: Oxford University

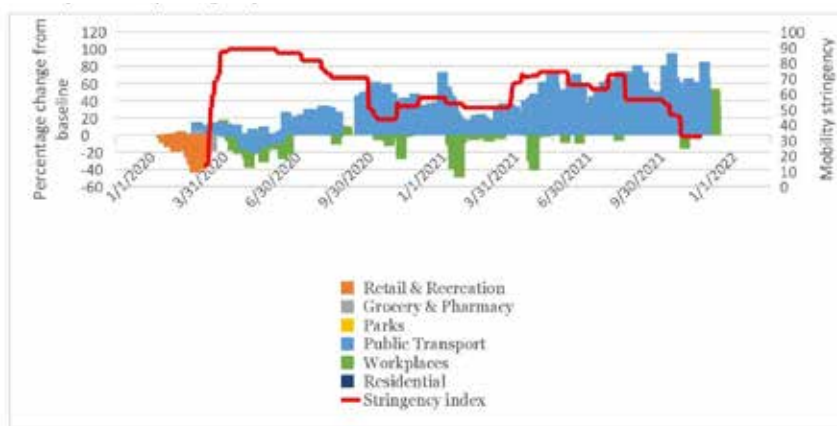
New COVID-19 cases in Homa Bay County were highest between September 2020-January 2021 and April 2021-August 2021. During the two time-periods, spikes in new cases in the County were preceded by relaxation of COVID-19 mobility restrictions. Reduction in the County's new cases was similarly preceded by tightening of mobility restrictions.

Figure 1.2: New COVID-19 cases in Homa Bay County and the country's mobility stringency

Data Source: Oxford University

Retail and recreation, workspaces, and public transport were the most hit by tighter COVID-19 mobility restrictions in Homa Bay County. With easing of mobility restrictions between September 2020-November 2021, public transport and demand for workspaces in the county had rebounded.

Figure 1.3: Effects of COVID-19 on economic performance in Homa Bay County and the country’s mobility stringency.



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 Effect of COVID-19

2.1 Fiscal policy

Financial resources are critical in achieving the counties development plans and settling its recurrent expenditures. The County’s main revenue sources comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants and its own source revenue (OSR).

Transfers from National Government

The county total revenue has significantly grown over the years as the Government focus on enhanced services and amenities for the citizens. Total revenue has increased by 44 per cent from Ksh 5.86 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 8.44 billion in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 6.3 per cent. The amount realized in FY 2020/21 was 95.1 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 8.98 billion. The performance was an improvement from the 92.5 per cent target attained in FY 2019/20. Analysis of the sources of revenues indicate that equitable share has been the main source of county revenues accounting for more than 80 per cent of the total revenues, save for FY 2013/14 when it accounted for 70 per cent (figure 2.1). The amount of equitable share to the county had similarly increased by 64 per cent from Ksh 4.12 billion to Ksh 6.74 billion over the same period. During FY 2020/21, the County received 100 per cent of the annual budget allocation, significant improvement from 91.4 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



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

Monthly cash transfers from the National government have 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 74.38 per cent between January and June. In comparison

to 2019, the total amount transferred to Homa Bay County in April, May, and June of 2020 increased by 7 per cent from Ksh 17.05 billion to Ksh 18.19 billion. The growth in disbursements was partly attributable to financing of programs aimed at mitigating the spread and management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2.1: Monthly Cash Transfers from National Government (Ksh Million)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	October	November	December
2021	3,486.00	4,101.57	-	-	-	-	1,951.34	-	-
2020	3,791.82	4,485.22	5,024.53	5,746.63	5,833.99	6,612.11	1,692.10	2,265.13	2,897.69
2019	2,888.41	3,440.02	4,086.33	4,723.51	5,308.56	7,019.40	5,308.56	1,730.61	2,435.10
2018	2,815.45	3,367.60	4,527.15	5,049.01	5,670.44	6,736.34	8,185.40	1,431.41	2,219.59
2017	-	-	4,104.13	4,590.55	5,119.75	6,092.58	1,500.34	-	-
2016	-	-	3,828.37	4,279.16	5,208.93	5,208.93	-	-	-

Source: Gazette Notice (Various issues)

2.1.1 Conditional grants

The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Conditional grants continue to be a major source of financing county operations and contributed an average of 7.73 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 (figure 2.1). In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 263.51 million and Ksh 307.85 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. Similarly, the nominal value of conditional grants grew by 256 per cent from Ksh 160.47 million in FY 2018/19 to Ksh 645.65 million in FY 2020/21. The growth shows the potential that the county can tap into to improve its revenue. As such, there is need for the county to maintain good relations with its development partners to benefit from more financing inform of grants.

2.1.2 Own Source Revenue

The share of OSR to total revenue has been declining over the years contributing 1.43 per cent in FY 2020/21 from a high of 3.07 per cent in FY 2014/15. On average it has contributed 2.03 per cent of the total revenue between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. Therefore, the County need to strengthen its OSR collection framework to enhance its contribution to the total revenue.

Analysis of the annual OSR performance show that it has been fluctuating over the years (figure 2.2). During FY 2015/16, the County collected Ksh 183.76 million, which was the highest collection before declining to Ksh 101.97 million in FY 2018/19. Notably, the county generated Ksh 118.5 million as OSR in FY 2019/20 representing 57.09 per cent increase compared to the collection realized in FY 2018/19. Similarly, the County generated Ksh 120.4 million in FY 2020/21, representing a 1.6 per cent increase compared to the amount collected in FY 2019/20. The improvements indicate the County's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic that led to low economic activities across the country. Maintaining the same growth trajectory is key for the county to improve on its OSR contribution to the total revenue.

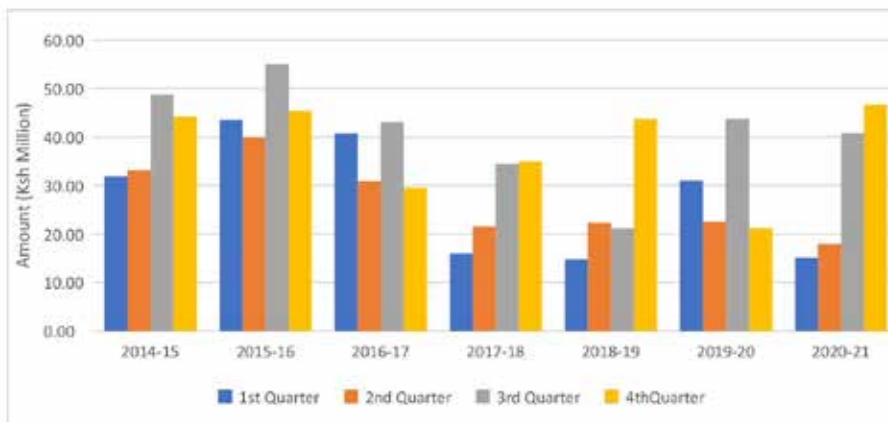
Figure 2.2: Annual Own Source Revenue targets and actual collections



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

Analysis of the quarterly OSR shows that the County collects most of its revenues during third and fourth quarter (figure 2.3). This could be attributed to the collections of single business permits that are due on 31st March of every year. During FY 2019/20, there was a decline in OSR during the fourth quarter compared to the previous financial years. The decline was premised on the effect of COVID-19 pandemic that led the County Government to issue waivers on market fees, single business permits as well as cess to cushion small scale traders. The adverse effects were felt through the first and second quarter of FY 2020/21 as indicated by the low OSR collections. However, the third and fourth quarters of FY 2020/21 registered robust performance due to the easing of the containment measures and recovery of economic activities.

Figure 2.3: Quarterly Own Source Revenue collection



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

2.2 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.

2.3 Trends and profile of county government expenditures 2013-2019

Homa-Bay 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 4,032.5 million to Ksh 7,456.3 million in FY 2020/21 (Figure 2.4). This translates to over 110 per cent increase in county spending over the period, and an average annual growth rate of 15.7 per cent . Cumulatively the county has spent a total of Ksh 46.3 billion between FY 2013/14 and FY 2019/20. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 33.3 billion and Ksh 13.0 billion on recurrent and development expenditures representing 71.9 per cent and 28.1 per cent of the cumulative recurrent and development expenditure respectively. This signals that more development expenditure is required to support deepening of capital spending in the county.

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

Figure 2.4: Trends of county government expenditures 2013-2019

Figure 2.4 (a): Trends in actual aggregate expenditure

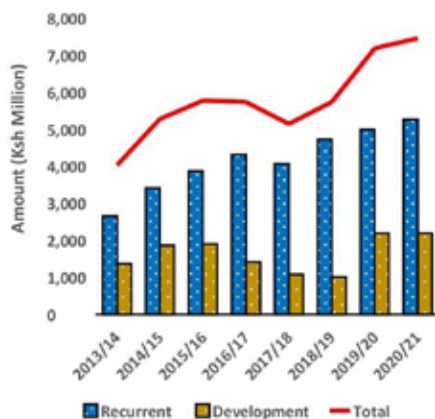
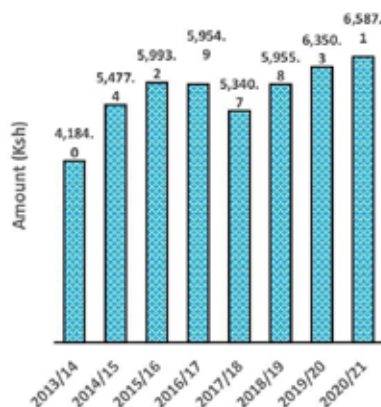


Figure 2.4 (b): Trends in actual per capita expenditure



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

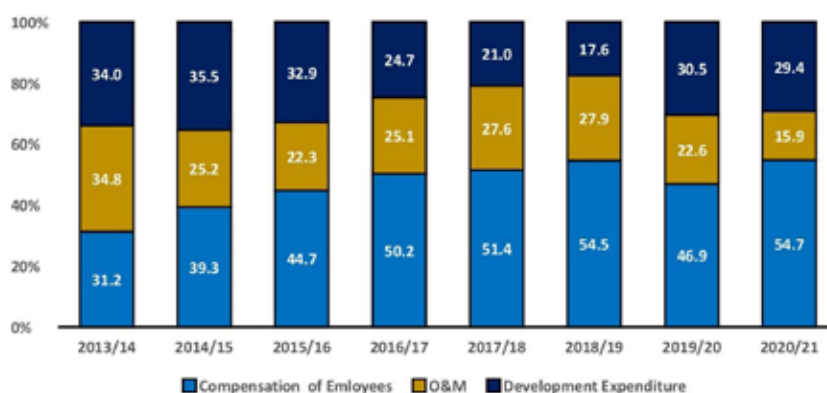
Consistent with the nominal growth in actual county expenditures, spending on a per capita basis has shown upward growth over the period. In FY 2013/14, per capita spending in the county was about Ksh 4,184.0 compared Ksh 6,587.1 in FY 2020/21. During the review period, per capita spending averaged Ksh 5,730.4.

2.4 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, water, and environment services as well as trade activities.

At the onset of devolution, county development expenditure performed remarkably accounting for 34.0 per cent in FY 2013/14, 35.5 per cent in FY 2014/15 and 32.9 per cent in FY 2015/16 respectively as represented in Figure 2.5. In FY 2016/17 the share of development expenditure declined to 24.7 per cent and declined steadily thereafter to 17.6 per cent in FY 2018/19. At the end of FY 2019/20 development expenditures accounted for 30.5 per cent and 29.4 per cent in FY 2020/21 reflecting the room for capital expenditure deepening in the county.

While development expenditure has been on the decline, compensation of employees has been burgeoning between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. The average share of compensation of employees in total county budget over the review period was 46.6 percent. Surprisingly between FY 2016/17 and FY 2018/19, compensation of employees exceeded half of the county budget accounting for 50.2 per cent in FY 2016/17, 51.4 per cent in FY 2017/18 and 54.5 per cent in FY 2018/19. At the end of FY 2019/20 county wage bill accounted for 46.9 per cent of total county spending and increased to 54.7 per cent in FY 2020/21.

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

Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

Reflecting on expenditures by functional classification (priority spending), the county spent a combined average of 65.2 per cent of the total expenditure during the period FY 2014/15 to FY 2020/21 on non-administrative functions such as health and sanitation; roads and public works; education and vocational training; water and environment; agriculture, livestock, and fisheries; and trade and industry. Spending on health services accounted for the largest share at 30.4 per cent. Roads, transport, and public works accounted for 10.5 per cent, followed by education and ICT at 7.8 per cent, water, environment, and natural resources 5.0 per cent while agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and food security as well as trade and industry followed closely at 4.2 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively. Further during the review period co-ordination and administrative functions accounted for a combined 34.8 per cent with county assembly service board leading at 13.7 per cent, office of the governor at 10.4 per cent, finance, economic planning, and service delivery 9.7 per cent, while county public service board accounting for 0.9 per cent.

Table 2.2 County departmental spending

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Average	Average per cent share of spending
Health Services	995.2	1,276.0	1,800.8	1,704.8	1,857.5	2,483.7	2,731.3	1,835.6	30.4
County Assembly	980.6	698.2	717.5	704.3	828.1	859.4	1,017.8	829.4	13.7
Roads, Transport and Public Works	604.5	812.1	599.8	409.9	437.2	583.4	1,016.4	637.6	10.5
Office of the Governor	530.1	758.8	686.8	537.2	656.3	695.4	547.4	630.3	10.4
Finance, Economic Planning and Service Delivery	1,014.7	707.2	552.3	551.3	406.8	472.9	417.4	588.9	9.7

Education and ICT	356.4	390.3	385.8	505.1	509.8	540.8	608.5	471.0	7.8
Water, Environment and Natural Resources	194.6	366.0	322.7	234.2	245.6	357.7	402.6	303.3	5.0
Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security	243.5	252.1	204.4	133.6	235.0	379.6	329.1	253.9	4.2
Trade, Industrialization, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development	169.6	176.5	178.3	115.3	257.4	401.5	162.7	208.8	3.5
Tourism, Sports, Youth Gender, Culture and Social Services	52.2	56.4	95.9	57.9	78.7	196.6	132.9	95.8	1.6
Lands, Housing, Urban Development and Physical Planning	61.7	149.1	80.9	51.8	154.0	88.4	53.1	91.3	1.5
County Public Service Board	28.9	78.1	72.6	97.4	24.3	50.5	24.7	53.8	0.9
Energy and Mining	47.1	55.5	40.4	42.6	47.5	78.5	12.5	46.3	0.8
TOTAL	5,279.1	5,776.2	5,738.2	5,145.5	5,738.1	7,188.3	7,456.3	6,046.0	100.0

Source: Controller of Budget

2.5 Effectiveness of County spending

Total budget execution averaged 81.7 per cent in the period FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21. In FY 2013/14 overall total budget execution stood at 75.9 per cent. This execution improved to 105.2 per cent in FY 2014/15 and thereafter deteriorated slowly and steadily to 67.8 per cent in FY 2018/19 followed by a remarkable improvement to 80.1 per cent at the end of FY 2019/20 and 83.0 per cent in FY 2020/21 where only Ksh 7,456.3 million was utilized out of the Ksh 8,984.9 million approved budget (Figure 2.7).

With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate between during the review period was 64.0 per cent (implying that on average over 36.0 per cent of the development budget is not absorbed). The county should continue tightening budget implementation to ensure achievement of greater absorption rates to keep help achieve the targets in ADPs and the CIDP. On recurrent expenditure, the execution has been robust over the years, the average absorption rate was 91.9 per cent, with 8.1 per cent left in unspent recurrent budget.

Figure 2.6: Effectiveness of County spending

Figure 2.6(a): Approved versus actual county spending (Ksh Million)

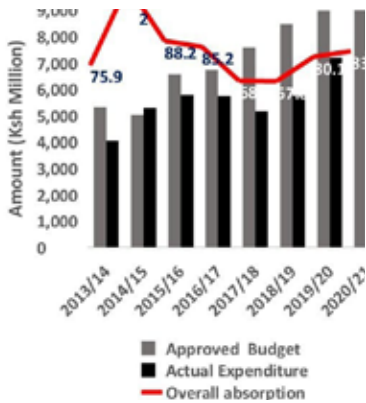
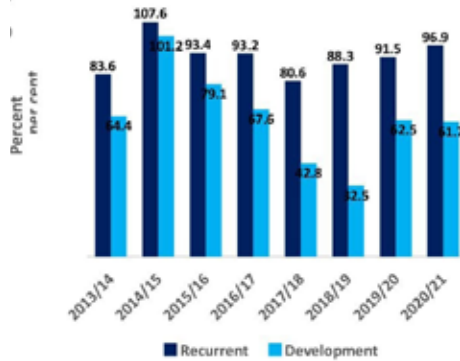


Figure 2.6 (b): Absorption rates for recurrent and development expenditures (per cent)



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

2.5.1 Pending Bills

In FY 2014/15 the county reported Ksh 441.6 million in pending bills. This sharply increased to Ksh 1,710.1 million in FY 2015/16 with development spending related pending bills accounting for 92.2 per cent of this. In FY 2016/17 pending bills slowed to Ksh 532.2 million then slowly picked up to Ksh 746.5 million in FY 2017/18 and to a further Ksh 1,039.4 million in FY 2018/19. At the end of FY 2019/20 pending bill declined to Ksh 692.9 million and further to Ksh 544.0 million in FY 2020/21. If pending bills for development expenditures 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



Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

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.

2.6 Key Messages

From the foregoing, the following are observed:

- i) Development expenditure has performed weakly accounting for an average of 28.2 per cent of total county expenditure. A pattern that reveals systemic weaknesses in county public investment management system.
- ii) County wage bill has been growing tremendously at the expense of development expenditure. Between fiscal years 2013/14 and 2020/21 county wage bill was on an upward trend and on average accounted for 46.6 per cent of expenditure, while development expenditure has been plummeting.
- iii) Priority expenditure has been on non-administrative and non-co-ordinational functions such as health, education, agriculture, roads etc., accounting for an average of 65.2 per cent of actual expenditure. Health sector leads at 30.4 per cent. Administrative and co-ordinational functions such as county executive, county assembly, public service management and finance account for 34.8 per cent of expenditure.
- iv) Budget execution as measured by absorption rate has remained above 70.0 per cent over the review period. Average overall absorption rate stands at 81.7 per cent. Average development budget absorption rate stands at 64.0 per cent while that of recurrent expenditure stands at 91.9 per cent.
- v) Pending bills have been burgeoning over the review period with development related pending bills accounting for over 78.4 per cent on average.

2.7 Recommendations

To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals contained in the ADPs and CIDP, the following measures are proposed:

- i) Mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations.
- ii) Seek 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 Homa Bay County. More than a half of County economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for Ksh 68,247 million out of the total Ksh 114,198 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 59.8 per cent of the County's GCP.

Over 70 per cent of the households in Homa Bay County practice farming. About 70 per cent of the households produce crops, 49 per cent produce livestock, 0.40 per cent practice aquaculture and about 6.8 per cent are involved in fishing. About 2 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

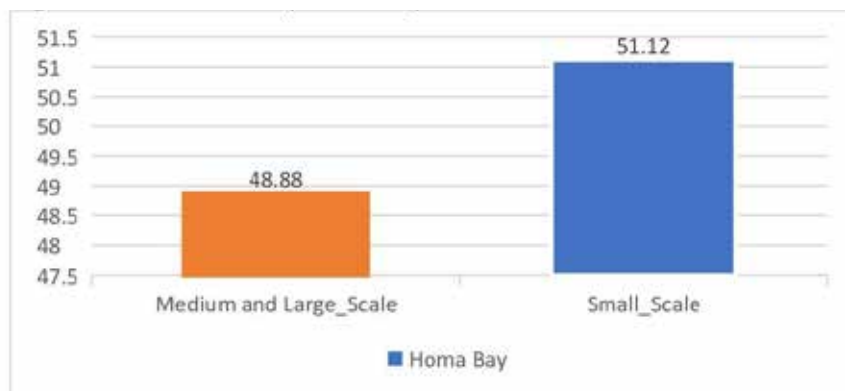
Table 3.1: Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture, Fishing and Irrigation by County and Sub County

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
Homa Bay	262,036	193,812	184,367	127,914	1,056	17,770	5,214
Homa Bay	29,318	16,401	15,287	10,763	68	499	712
Ndhiwa	48,062	40,976	40,095	26,414	217	439	559
Rachuonyo North	41,809	32,414	30,579	22,122	153	3,824	1,325
Rachuonyo East	27,319	23,388	22,723	16,064	120	186	247
Rachuonyo South	30,990	23,419	22,592	15,379	124	149	336
Rangwe	27,003	22,145	21,456	14,437	112	461	763
Suba North	29,766	17,645	15,729	11,588	137	7,173	865
Suba South	27,769	17,424	15,906	11,147	125	5,039	407

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Regarding scale of production, we follow the FAO criterion on land size 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, more than half of the farming households in Homa Bay 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: Estimated using the KIHBS 2015/2016.

Classified in the Western - High Population Density, Mixed Staples and Cash agroecological zone as per the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029, crop production is key in the County. An overall analysis of the County agricultural production indicates among the top food crops produced by households in Homa Bay include maize, beans, sorghum, ground nuts, cassava, bananas, kales, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, and onions.

Table 3.2: Distribution of Households Growing Crops by Type, County and Sub County

County/Sub County	Homa Bay	Homa Bay	Ndhiwa	Rachuonyo North	Rachuonyo East
Maize	179,727	14,776	39,664	29,483	22,300
Beans	111,932	9,772	30,245	14,962	14,948
Sorghum	68,877	5,642	8,752	16,472	7,449
Ground Nuts	61,360	5,257	16,062	13,057	6,550
Cassava	58,238	4,272	14,918	7,063	8,576
Bananas	56,152	3,994	14,761	4,168	13,021
Kales	53,518	5,302	14,267	5,679	8,042
Sweet Potatoes	47,972	3,300	11,860	4,294	10,275
Sugarcane	25,278	2,270	17,233	765	1,419
Onions	23,022	2,416	4,692	1,340	3,721
Potatoes	21,889	1,725	7,601	1,673	2,606
Millet	18,769	1,614	2,732	4,247	1,681
Green grams	16,258	1,466	3,376	5,872	840
Tomatoes	15,109	1,741	2,731	2,742	1,456
Cabbages	3,462	325	869	350	412

Cotton	3,263	222	328	1,494	125
Watermelons	2,532	315	403	452	161
Rice	1,977	99	337	154	91
County/Sub County	Rachuonyo South	Rangwe	Suba North	Suba South	
Maize	22,164	21,005	14,975	15,360	
Beans	14,084	12,531	7,190	8,200	
Bananas	9,752	5,824	2,006	2,626	
Ground Nuts	8,186	8,898	1,431	1,919	
Cassava	7,991	9,251	1,731	4,436	
Sweet Potatoes	7,969	6,651	1,346	2,277	
Kales	7,198	7,448	2,914	2,668	
Sorghum	6,122	7,651	8,722	8,067	
Onions	3,930	4,123	1,044	1,756	
Potatoes	2,608	3,273	782	1,621	
Millet	2,352	2,167	1,711	2,265	
Tomatoes	1,281	1,863	1,726	1,569	
Sugarcane	968	1,634	424	565	
Green grams	710	1,420	1,399	1,175	
Cabbages	355	576	198	377	

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Key permanent crops among households in Homa Bay include mangoes and avocado.

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

County/Sub County	Tea	Coffee	Avocado	Citrus	Mango	Macadamia
Homa Bay	1,365	2,864	29,880	7,496	34,557	1,554
Kenya	476,613	478,936	966,976	177,445	796,867	195,999

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 Homa Bay's value of fruits production in 2019 amounted to Ksh 3.9 billion. The area under fruit was 13,372 Ha with a production of 359,255 MT. The major fruits grown in order of value importance are pineapples, ground nuts, banana, guavas, watermelons, and pawpaws.

Table 3.4: Fruits Grown in Homa Bay County

Type of Fruit	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Pineapples	857	33,930	1,728,600,000
Ground Nuts	5,703	246,907	740,973,160
Banana	1,377	19,866	434,371,000
Guavas	3,433	30,830	312,350,000
Watermelons	431	8,745	180,674,000
Pawpaw	332	4,536	172,628,550
Bambara Groundnuts	265	5,300	159,000,000
Coconuts	550	5,500	55,000,000
Mango	175	1,509	46,657,400
Avocado	92	886	24,614,000
Lemons	41	378	20,960,000
Oranges	62	425	16,530,000
Tangerines	27	182	9,315,000
Yellow Passion	28	262	5,659,200
Total	13,372	359,255	3,907,332,310

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of vegetables production in the County amounted to Ksh 1.6 billion. The area under vegetables was 4,645 Ha with a production of 52,463 MT. The major vegetables grown in order of value importance are kales, tomato, cabbage, African nightshade, spider plant and butter nut.

Table 3.5: Vegetables Grown in Homa Bay County

Type of Vegetables	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Kales	1,671	26,640	707,614,811
Tomato	463	4,648	213,282,391
Cabbage	315	6,205	150,095,000
African Nightshade	624	3,868	104,715,026
Spider Plant	572	3,263	90,266,111
Butter Nut	130	1,548	54,870,000
Cowpea	387	2,206	48,583,031
Grain Amaranth	115	934	44,327,500
Broccoli	75	750	37,500,000
Sweetcorn	75	750	37,500,000
Leaf Amaranth	75	750	37,500,000
Bell Pepper/Sweet Paper	10	250	15,000,000

Slenderleaf/ Rattlepod/Mitoo	22	132	3,960,000
French Beans	12	156	3,900,000
Spinach	49	253	1,037,130
Pumpkin Fruit	24	49	552,039
Jute Mallow/Mrenda	5	11	480,013
Pumpkin Leaves	13	43	95,018
Cucumber	8	8	200
Total	4,645	52,463	1,551,278,269

Source: AFA, 2019

In 2019, the value of MAPs production in the County amounted to Ksh 233.4 million. The area under MAPSs was 850.2 Ha with a production of 5,910 MT. The major MAPs grown are garlic, parsley, bulb onion, rosemary, and spring onion/green shallots.

Table 3.6: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) Grown in Homa Bay County

Type of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Garlic	65	1,300	104,000,000
Parsley	70	1,000	50,000,000
Bulb Onion	512	1,790	36,371,517
Rosemary	46	530	23,950,000
Spring Onion/Green Shallots	151	1,282	19,026,234
Long Cayenne Chillies	3	4	60,005
Corriander	4	4	96
Total	850.2	5,910	233,407,851

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

Animal production is also a key economic activity in Homa Bay County. Other than rearing the traditional livestock (i.e. cattle, sheep, and goats), the County has promoted poultry production, pig farming and aquaculture. among farming households in the County. A lower percentage of farming households practice bee keeping (apiculture).

Table 3.7: Distribution of Households Rearing Livestock and Fish by County and Sub County

County/Sub County	Homa Bay	Homa Bay	Ndhiwa	Rachuonyo North	
Indigenous Chicken	106,788	8,727	22,526	18,564	
Indigenous cattle	87,253	7,288	19,548	15,057	
Goats	43,402	2,833	5,856	10,279	

Sheep	36,093	3,442	6,628	7,564	
Donkeys	8,416	596	862	1,556	
Exotic cattle -Dairy	5,830	551	1,131	609	
Exotic Chicken Layers	3,457	294	552	472	
Exotic cattle -Beef	2,512	186	563	278	
Pigs	1,973	31	1,763	23	
Exotic Chicken Broilers	1,780	94	242	300	
Fishponds	939	53	201	134	
Rabbits	762	66	138	59	
Beehives	608	26	60	88	
Fish Cages	174	16	36	22	
County/Sub County	Rachuonyo East	Rachuonyo South	Rangwe	Suba North	Suba South
Indigenous Chicken	13,734	13,298	11,676	9,316	8,947
Indigenous cattle	11,294	10,889	9,759	6,829	6,589
Sheep	5,233	4,415	4,852	2,290	1,669
Goats	4,893	3,523	4,019	6,336	5,663
Exotic cattle -Dairy	1,161	813	1,030	283	252
Exotic Chicken Layers	475	495	753	247	169
Donkeys	402	342	465	1,876	2,317
Exotic Chicken Broilers	355	233	348	98	110
Exotic cattle -Beef	303	413	536	101	132
Rabbits	209	148	66	38	38
Beehives	152	100	43	45	94
Fish Ponds	117	113	105	105	111
Pigs	24	25	28	40	39
Fish Cages	6	18	16	35	25

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

The above characterization of farming households highlights the priority value chain opportunities in maize, beans, sorghum, ground nuts, cassava, bananas, kales, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, onions, fishing, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry production, pig farming and aquaculture. With majority of the households farming the identified products, the current Homa Bay transformation strategy in agriculture should prioritize value chains in the identified areas to positively impact of household livelihoods.

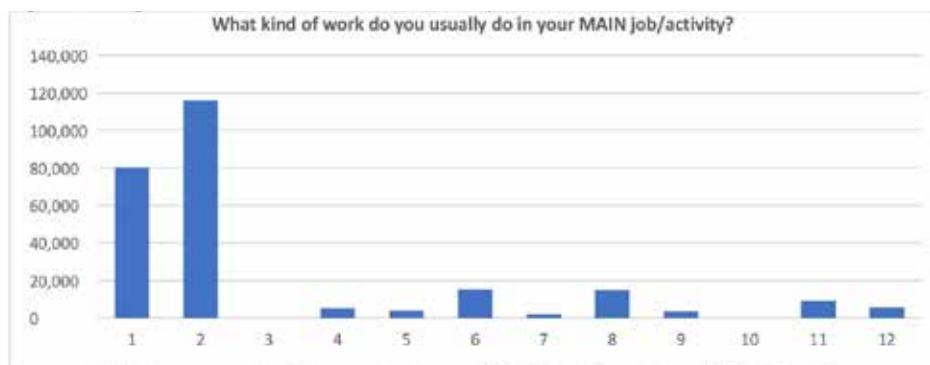
3.2 Agri-Food Challenges in COVID-19

3.2.1 Human capital/employment levels – by gender

Agricultural labor participation in Homa Bay indicates relative dominance of females in agriculture related occupations. Majority of the population in Homa Bay 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. Women dominate the Farm Workers sub-category. The second popular sub-category among women is the Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery Worker subcategory. Under Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery Worker subcategory, workers provide labor to provide food, shelter and a minimum of cash income for the individual or household. The third popular sub-category among women in the County is the food processing and related trade workers. The workers in this sub-major group include Butchers, Fishmongers and Related Food Preparers; Bakers, Pastry-cooks and Confectionery Makers; Dairy Products Makers; Fruit, Nut and Related Preservers; Tobacco Preparers and Tobacco Products Makers; Food and Beverage Tasters; Brewers, Distillers and Related Workers; and Other Food Processing and Related Workers.

The popular sub-category among men in the County is the Agricultural, Fishery and Related Labourers. Occupations in this sub-major group are namely: Farmhands and Related Labourers; Forestry Labourers; and Fishery, Hunting and Trapping Labourers. The classifications are based on the Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard (KNOCS).

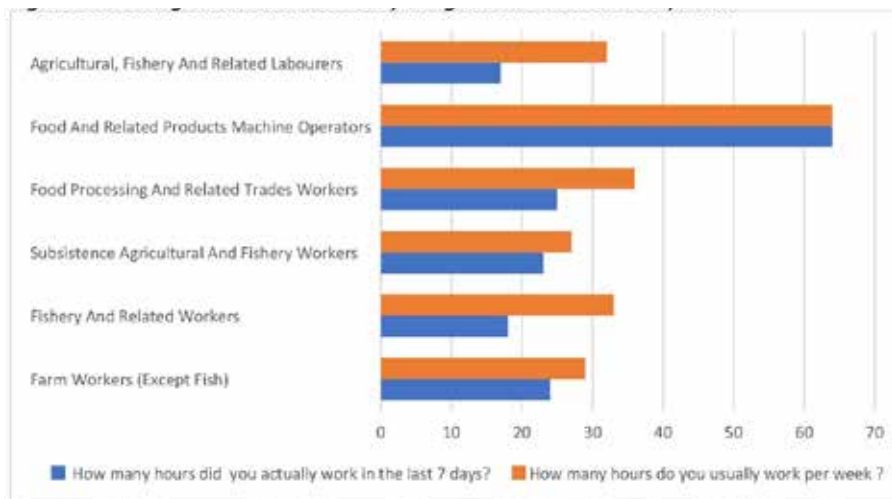
Figure 3.2: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation



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 almost all the identified sub-sectors above worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. The most affected workers are the agricultural, fishery and related labourers who recorded the highest difference of 15 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. Equally affected are fishery and related workers who also recorded a difference of 15 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. Occupations in this sub-major group relate to breeding and cultivating fish and other forms of aquatic life for sale or delivery on a regular basis or enforce rules and regulations governing fishing.

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.

3.2.2 Market operations

Successful transformation of smallholder agricultural production in Homa Bay 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.

As a result of COVID-19, there has been a slow down on trade activities due to the restrictions on movements. From the KNBS conducted between 30th May and 6th June 2020, 25.1 per cent of the households in Homa Bay 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.

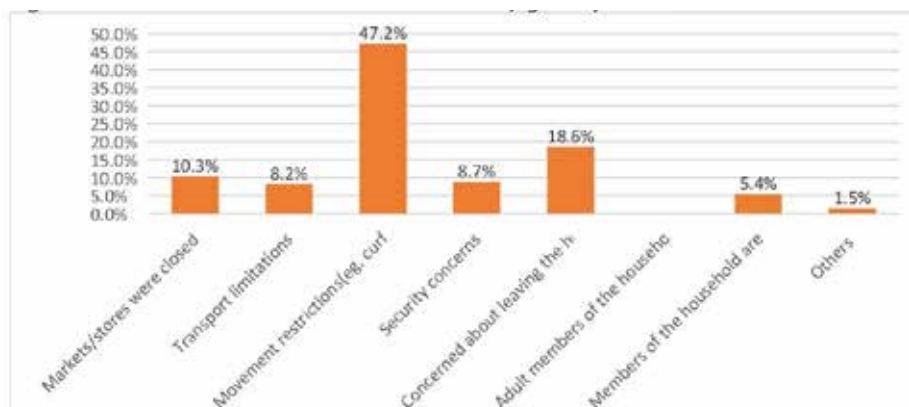
Figure 3.4: Limited access to markets to purchase food items



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 (47.2%), concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak (18.6%) and closure of the markets/grocery stores (10.3%).

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. 83 per cent of households in Homa Bay County indicated that over the past 2 weeks from the reference period, while 15 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, 78 per cent of the households indicated they faced a large rise in food prices in the past two weeks from the reference period.

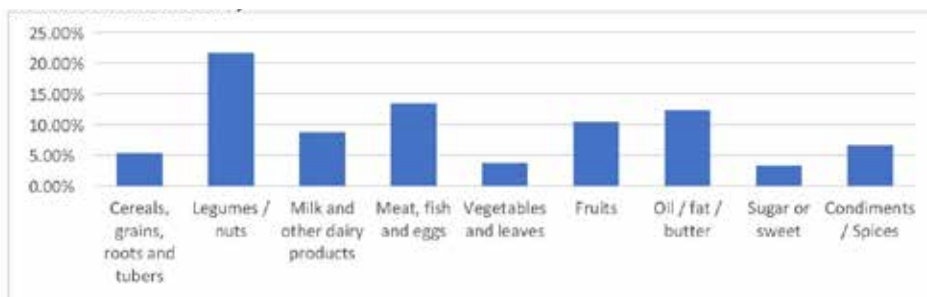
Figure 3.7: Proportion of households facing large food price shocks



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

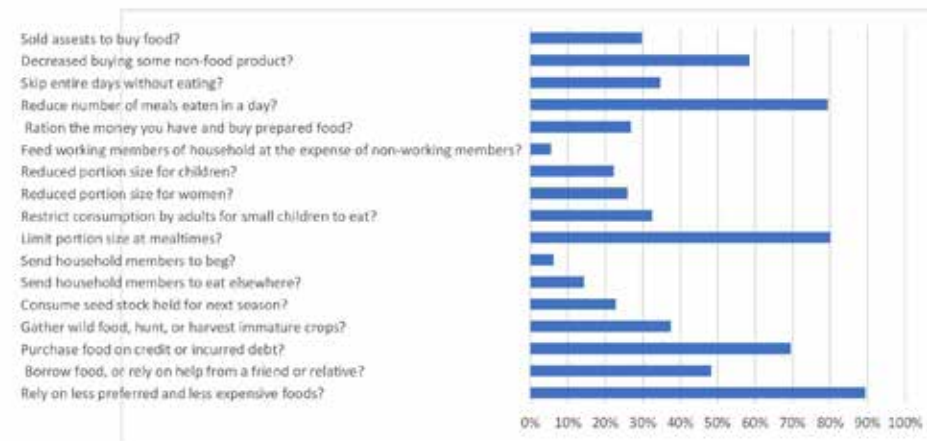


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

While access to all food groups were affected as shown in the figure above, a key concern is that the food groups affected most are the nutritious food categories-legumes, meat, fruits and milk-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 relying on less preferred and less expensive foods (89.4%), limit portion size at mealtimes (80.1%), reduce number of meals eaten in a day (79.4%), purchase food on credit or incurred debt (69.5%) and decreased buying some non-food products (58.4%).

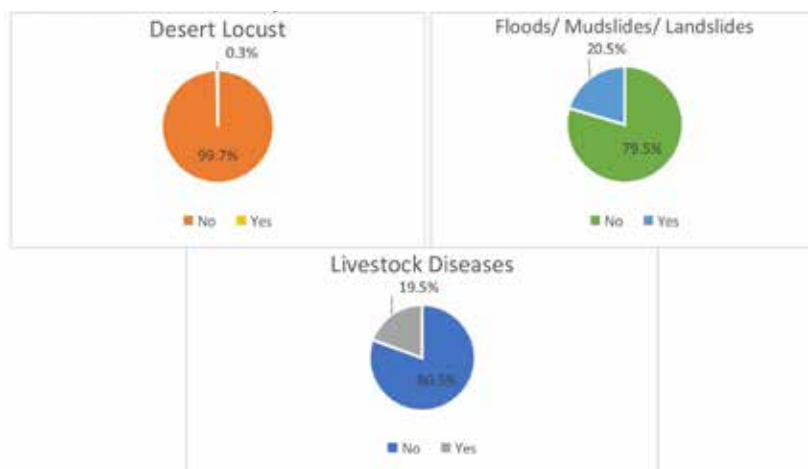
Figure 3.9: Per cent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day



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 period are related to Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides (20.5%) and Livestock Diseases (19.5%). fish farming has been affected due by floods and the rising levels of the lake. The effect of desert locusts in the County is low (less that 1%).

Figure 3.10: 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

3.3 Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County

3.3.1 Among the Key Constraints the County faces include:

- a) Unsustainable land management practices leading to low farm productivity
- b) Variable and extreme weather events which have increased in frequency and intensity over the years adversely affecting crop and livestock production
- c) Farmers low access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, fish feeds, diversified fish species, artificial insemination (AI) services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and mechanized ploughing services by County tractor hire services
- d) Low fish, crops, livestock, and livestock products marketing opportunities necessary for improved incomes
- e) Low commercialization of farming where majority of farmers practice farming for subsistence purposes and as a hobby rather than a business. One way is through adoption of high value cash crops (coffee, macadamia and tea).
- f) Low adoption of high value crops that would increase farmers returns
- g) Low agroprocessing and value addition opportunities among small scale farmers
- h) Slow uptake of digital platforms to market agricultural produce.
- i) Need to enhance/ revive extension services in the County
- j) Floods, Pests and Livestock diseases affecting agricultural productivity
- k) Dependence of rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as drought episodes, and the huge potential of the County to utilize irrigation.

- l) Farm losses and post-harvest waste.

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

3.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in various sectors

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. Transport, Storage and ICT sectors
- ii) Financial and insurance activities
- iii) Accommodation Food services
- iv) 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 capacities and linking farmers to product markets.
- b) Enhance fishing through financial and technical capacity building of fishers on cage culture and fish value addition.
- c) Provision of modern quality equipment and inputs to farmers, including fishing gear, feeds, seeds and fertilizers, to improve productivity of the sector in the County.
- d) Adoption of drought resistant livestock pastures/fodder and fodder
- e) Promotion of drought resistant and early maturing crops
- f) Strengthening farmers' associations and cooperatives as an additional solution to marketing challenges
- g) Enhance supportive services to include early-warning systems, insurance and credit products, extension advisory and information services, training, fodder conservation and value addition.
- h) Storage and cooling facilities, particularly at collection centers, to improve storage and preservation of food.
- i) Uptake of digital platforms to :- build capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies; and market agricultural produce
- j) Adoption of natural resource management to include soil and water conservation, tree planting, and changing of crop type.
- k) Improved crop and livestock emergencies surveillance systems in the County.
- l) Enhance farmers technical and resource capacities to act on agricultural advisory information received

3.5 Emerging Issues

- i) Environmental degradation as a result of both human and non-human-related activities such as extreme climate conditions. Environmental degradation has reduced productive capacity of farms leading to increased risks to food insecurity and reduced farmers income and ultimately increased poverty levels within the County.
- 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, Research Institutions and the Private sector in enhancing agro-processing and value addition capacities of the County to spur business activities in the markets and economic growth as envisioned in the national Agricultural Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS).
- ii) Invest in fisheries and aquaculture activities particularly in: - suitability mapping; infrastructure development; availing affordable and sustainable fish feeds; diversification and domestication of fish species; and investment in hatcheries for good quality seed. To support these activities, there is need for policies to enhance environmental management and create a conducive environment for investment to attract development partners.
- iii) Enhance a vibrant commercial agricultural sector in the County by linking farmers to product markets beyond the County level across the agricultural value chain.
- iv) To improve storage and preservation of food, in addition to agro-processing, investments in of storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points.
- v) Access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, AI services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and ploughing services by County tractor hire services.
- vi) Promote uptake of digital platforms to: - train and build capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies, provision of advisory and information services, marketing agricultural produce, and improving access to innovative support services including credit and insurance services.
- vii) Establish programmes for surveillance of disasters such as extreme weather conditions at the County level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prevent, 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.
- viii) Establish County multisectoral committees to deal with cross-cutting issues such as

marketing of agricultural produce that cuts across the trade, ICT and infrastructure sectors that provide crucial market infrastructure such as road infrastructure, lighting and water services.

- ix) 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

The major sources of water in Homa Bay county are rivers which includes rivers AwachKibwon, AwachTende, Maugo, Kuja, Rangwe, Riana, Sondu-Miriu and Lake Victoria. These sources are also supplemented by boreholes, water pans and water wells/ springs spread as follows; 71 shallow wells, 43 protected springs, 78 unprotected springs, 383 water pans, 119 boreholes and rainwater catchment in 8,553 households. Lake Victoria has suffered severe pollution because of environmental degradation what with flash floods and domestic uses which have led to huge deposits of pollutants in the Lake. Water management in the county is under Homa Bay Water and Sanitation Company have been mandated to manage water supplies in the County. However, many areas of the county are characterized by low levels of access to water and sanitation, especially the urban slums and in rural areas. Majority of urban areas are also characterized by poor service quality in the form of intermittent water supply.

The country has no sewerage treatment plant therefore most of the households tend to use pit latrine as well as septic tank. Water management and supply in the county is under Homa Bay Water and Sanitation Company. However, most areas of the county are characterised by low levels of access to water and sanitation, especially the urban slums and in rural areas. Majority of urban areas are also characterized by poor service quality in the form of intermittent water supply.

4.1.1 Human capital/employment levels – by gender, age, skills (education levels), etc

The county has 92 staff out of the expected 161 under water and irrigation in the position of directors, land reclamation officers, geologists, technicians/ designers, surveyors, draughtsman, masons, pump attendants, plumbers, meter readers, charge hand (mechanical), chemical attendants, water supply operators, lab technologists, water supply operators, line patrollers, support staff and drivers. Though there are there are also water vendors, who sell water to residents especially in urban centres and small market centres. Priority for water and environment sub-sector include capacity building of communities on sustainable management of environment, water and sanitation resources, enforcement of regulations and standards, harnessing underground and surface water capabilities using modern technologies, and improving development and maintenance of environment, water and sanitation resources.

Water and sanitation coverage remain low in the county with only 17.5 per cent households accessing piped water. This presents an opportunity for the county to increase water coverage to increase its additional revenue collection from water and sanitation through water licensing and billing

4.1.2 Raw materials

The main sources of water in the county are dams, lake, water pans, streams, wells, springs and boreholes. Others include water treatment chemicals, storage tanks, drilling facilities, water and sanitation infrastructure construction equipment's and materials, personnel and costs involved in provision of water and sanitation services.

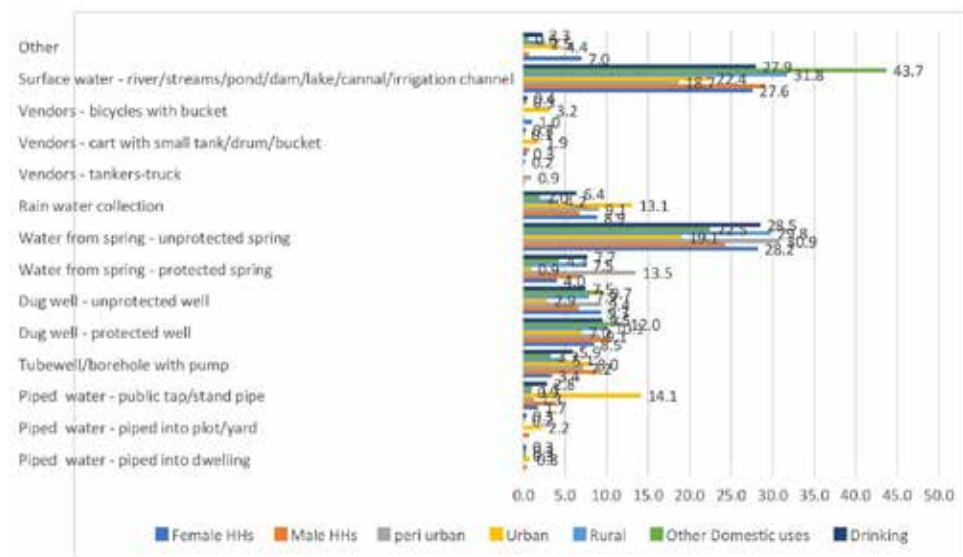
4.1.3 Key products/services

The main key products are access to improved water and sanitation services at the household and institutional level, and the time utilized in access to these services

4.1.4 Access to source of water by households (rural urban and peri urban)

Most households rely on water from unprotected spring (28.5%) and surface water (27.9%) for drinking, further most of rural (29.8%) and peri urban (30.9%) depend on water from unprotected springs, on the other hand most of the urban relies on surface water (22.4%) and water from unprotected spring (19.1%). On the other hand, most of the male (27.6%) and female (31.8%) headed households depends on surface water. Additionally, only a small portion of the households have access to piped water (2.8%) and piped water into their plot/yard (0.3%).

Figure 4.1: Access to Water by Households



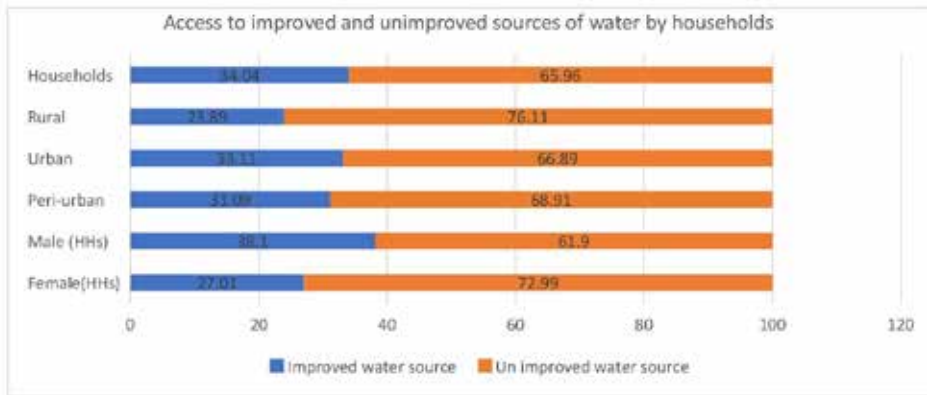
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.5 Access to sources of water by households (improved and unimproved sources)

Clean and safe water is essential for good health and goes a long way in ensuring reduced

infections. Access to improved sources of drinking water² is low in the county among households (34%), this is also similar in both rural, urban and peri urban households as well as among male and female headed households as shown in the figure below.

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



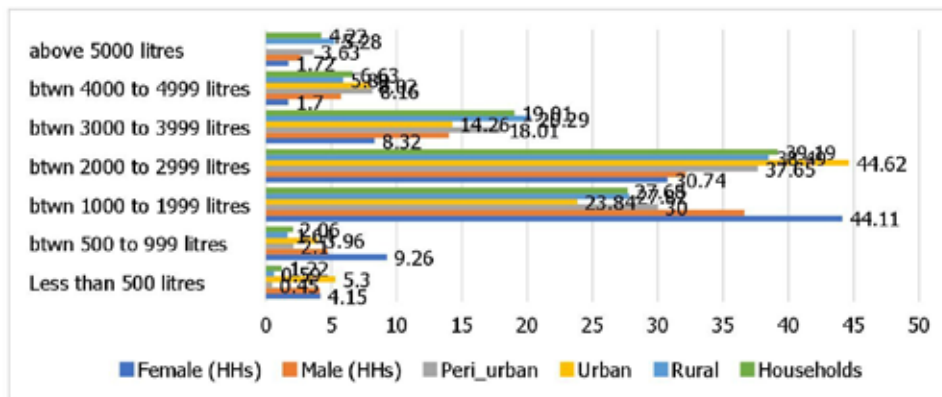
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Gender access to clean water is an important consideration in provision of water to households, women and girls, poor households, informal settlements, persons with disabilities, marginalized groups and minorities do experience challenges in access to water.

4.1.6 Volumes for water used by households per month

Most households (39.2%), rural (38.5%), urban (44.6%) and peri urban (37.7%) have used between 2000 to 2999 litres of water in a month. See the chart below.

Figure 4.3: Volumes of water used by households in the per month



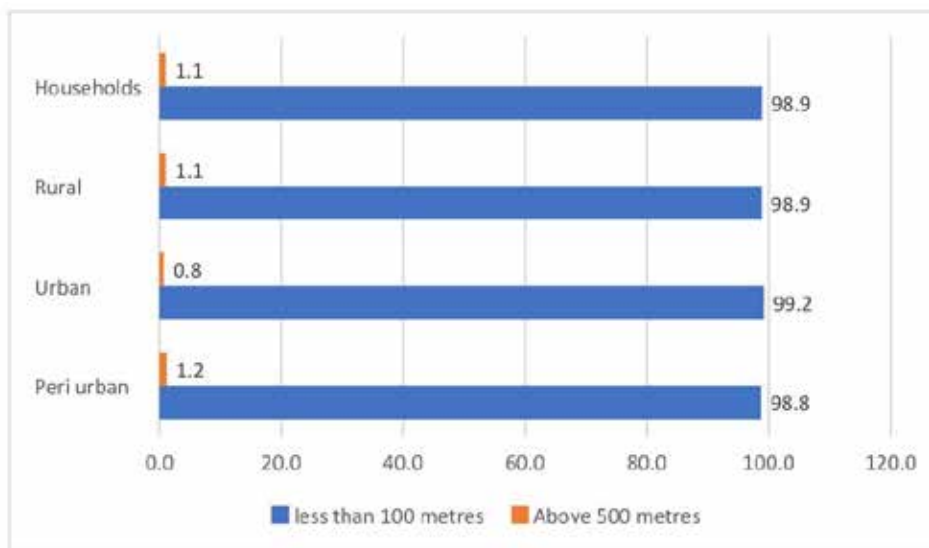
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

² Improved source of drinking water includes; 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). While unimproved sources of water include water from spring - unprotected spring, Rainwater collection, Vendors - tankers-truck, Vendors - cart with small tank/drum/bucket, Vendors-bicycles with bucket, Surface water, river/streams/pond/dam/cannal/irrigation channel Bottled water. This is according to the WHO and UN classification of sources of water.

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

Majority of the households (98.9%) both rural, urban and peri-urban cover less than 100 metres to water sources meaning they have water within their premises or close to their compounds.

Figure 4.4: Distance covered by households to and from water sources

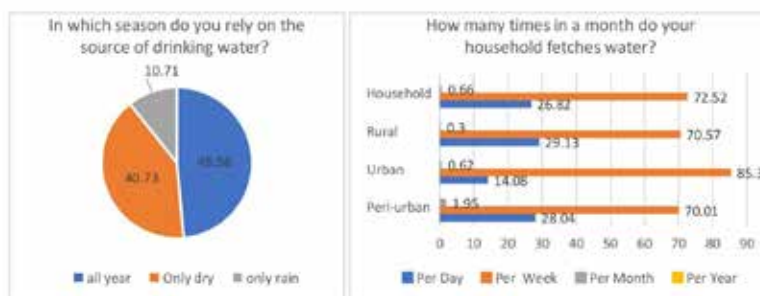


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.8 Access and reliability of water sources

Majority of households (45.6%) in the county rely on the main source of drink water all year round, therefore in case of the source drying up, households will lack water resulting into non observance of COVID-19 measures of hand washing. Further some urban households (14.1%) and peri urban (28%) have to access to water sources daily. This 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 4.5: Access and reliability to water sources by households



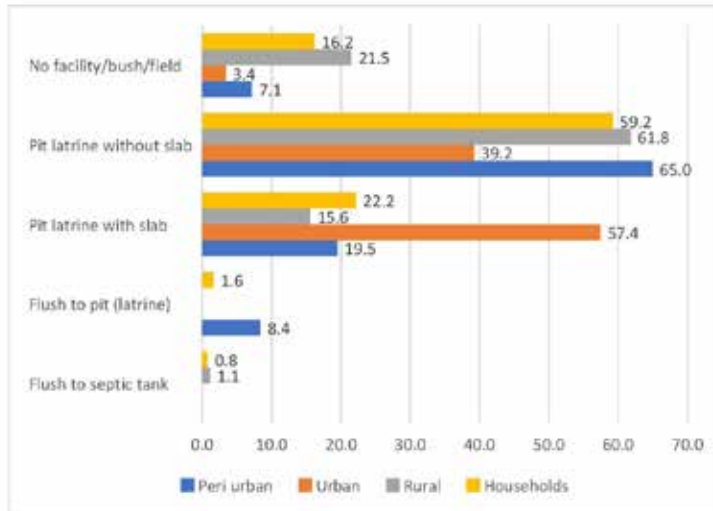
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.9 Access to sanitation

Majority of the households (59.2%), both rural (61.8%), urban (57.4%) and peri-urban (65%) use pit latrine without slab. While most of the urban (57.4%) uses pit latrine with slab. A few households (16.2%) do not have a toilet facility.

Figure 4.6: Access to sanitation in HomaBay County



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

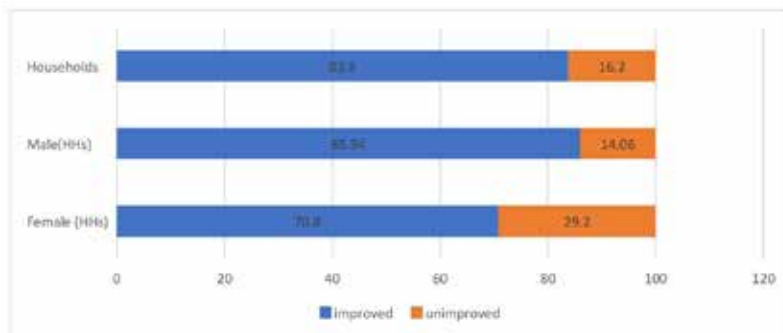
Access to sanitation is very important since it can help to detect the genetic residues of diseases in wastewater as those who are infected are thought to shed traces of the virus in faeces thus prompting for immediate action from the health officials. There is no sewerage plant in all the major towns and trading centres in the county.

4.1.10 Access to improved and unimproved sanitation

Majority of the households (83.8%) have access to improved sanitation facilities³. This is also similar among male (85.9%) and female (70%) headed households.

³ 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). Unimproved sanitation includes; composting toilet, bucket toilet, hanging toilet/hanging, no facility/bush/field, others

Figure 4.7: Access to improved and unimproved sanitation by households

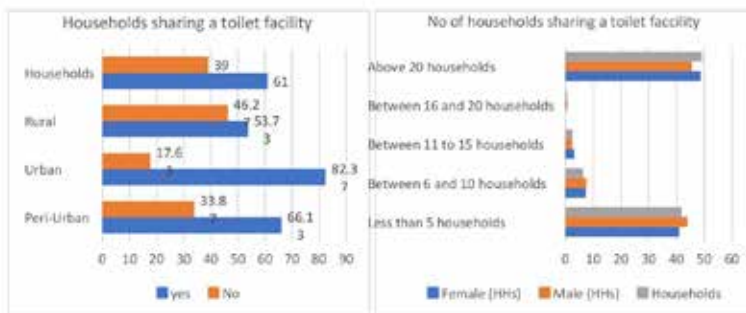


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.1.11 Sharing of a toilet facility

Most households (39%), as well as more rural (46.3%) peri urban (33.9%) than urban households (17.6%) do not share a toilet facility with other households. On the other hand, most of households (49.1%) do share a toilet facility with more than 20 other households, this is more among male (45.5%) than female (48.7%) headed households.

Figure 4.8: No of households sharing a toilet facility



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.2 Access to Hygiene (handwashing) during the COVID-19 period

Hygiene has been identified very important in helping to curb transmission of infectious diseases, most households (84.9%) in the county do not have a handwashing facility in their households. Further, On the other hand, many households (68.2%) have access to WASH (Water and soap) during this period of COVID-19, this is more among male (67.6%) than female (46.9%) headed households. Additional 28.9 per cent of the households have access to both water, soap, and hand sanitizer.

Figure 4.9: Access to hand washing 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. Men are more involved in water sourcing than women, though women spend more time in water sourcing, an average of 41minutes than men as shown below.

4.3 Constraints faced

Currently the county government is facing challenges in revenue collections since COVID-19 has resulted into reduced incomes among households and businesses, this has forced the county government to defer collection of revenue from the water services it provides as well as financial support to water services providers. COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers if they get infected, they have to, be self-isolated, and this may lead to disruption of services. Other constraints include, drought, water leakages. The demand for water remains high not only at household level but it has become essential in institutions, offices, marketplaces, and other public places. Water is also supportive to agriculture, livestock keeping, tourism and manufacturing.

4.4 Opportunities with 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.

4.5 Emerging Issues

Among measures put in place to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 under water and sanitation include; a budget of Ksh 200 million has been set aside by the Baringo County to fight the pandemic where Ksh70 million is directed towards food items and water. Other planned measures include provision of water tanks and handwashing facilities to schools once the schools reopen to ensure compliance with COVID-19 safety requirements. Infrastructure is being boosted to support water and sanitation efforts.

4.6 Key messages

Frequent and correct hand hygiene has been emphasized by WHO as one of the measures to curb transmission of COVID-19. This has placed a higher demand for water more so at the households, health care facilities, marketplaces, public places and among essential services providers.

- i) The county has adequate water sources now though the sources tend to dry up during times of droughts and short rains.
- ii) Most households in the county have a low access to improved sources of water both in rural (30.7%), urban (33.7%) and peri urban (40.8%). Clean and safe water guarantees good health leading to low health expenditures among households.
- iii) There is low access to piped water in the county both in rural (1.9%), urban (16%) and peri urban areas (1.6%). This means low revenue from piped water for the county government. Similarly, it also implies low access to clean and safe water thus putting households at risks to water related diseases.
- iv) Access to improved sanitation remains high in the county both in rural (79%), urban (96.3%) and peri urban households (93%).
- v) Households, connectivity to piped sewer is low at less than 1 per cent in both rural urban and peri urban areas. Low connectivity to piped sewer denies households from access to safe sanitation as well as revenue from sanitation services.
- vi) Sharing of a toilet facility with other households is common among households, this is more in urban (67.7%), peri urban (84.8%) compared to rural areas (55%). Toilet sharing puts households at risk of contracting COVID-19, and other infectious diseases in cases where proper toilet hygiene is not maintained.
- vii) There is a higher access to hand washing, with majority of households (68.2%) having access to WASH (water and soap) while only 28.9 per cent of the households had access to both water, soap, and hand sanitizer during this period of COVID-19. This minimizes the risks of infections.

4.7 Recommendations

- i) Expand the existing piped water connection infrastructure to help increase access to water. This can be achieved by expanding water infrastructure. The county government can collaborate with the private sector, non-Governmental organization, and the local community to expand the water infrastructure.
- ii) The county to increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties. The county has adequate water resources, as well as access to improved water sources, but access reduces during times of droughts.
- iii) Rehabilitate existing water infrastructure to reduce water leakages to reduce water losses.

- iv) The county to upscale the construction of water pans and dams as well as round water to increase access to shortage, especially during dry seasons. This will help to increase water supply in households, institutions and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties.
- v) The county to upscale abstraction of water from rivers, spring protections, harvesting of rainwater from roof and other catchments to help achieve increase to water access.
- vi) Introduce automated billing software to help curb the increasing value of non-revenue water.
- vii) The county government to undertake water trucking during times of prolonged drought and emergencies to households
- viii) Establish water supply monitoring system for efficiency water supply and management.
- ix) Increase access to piped sewer to households and institution
- x) Build toilets in communities, schools, health centres, marketplaces and other public places to help increase access to safe sanitation. Increased access to sanitation can be achieved through collaboration of the county government, development partners and PPP to expand sewer infrastructure and to accommodate more households.
- xi) Promote the importance of handwashing and construct WASH facilities to increase access at the household level. Increased access to WASH can be achieved by sensitization on the importance of handwashing and construction of WASH facilities at the household level. Collaboration between County Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, local community, and the media is important to realize increased access to WASH.

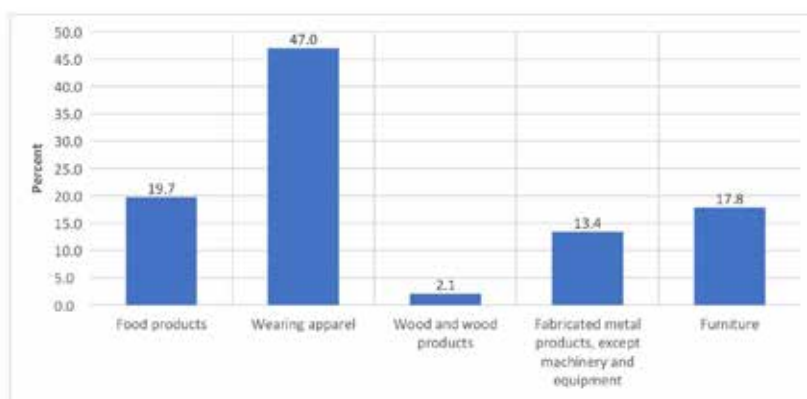
5. Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

5.1 Characteristic of Manufacturing Sector

Homabay County has 9,907 establishments involved in manufacturing activities which comprise of 17.9 per cent of a total of 55,404 firms (KNBS, 2016). In terms of size, 9,811 (99%) are micro while 96 (1%) are small.

5.1.1 Sector of operation

Figure 5.1: Sector of operation in manufacturing



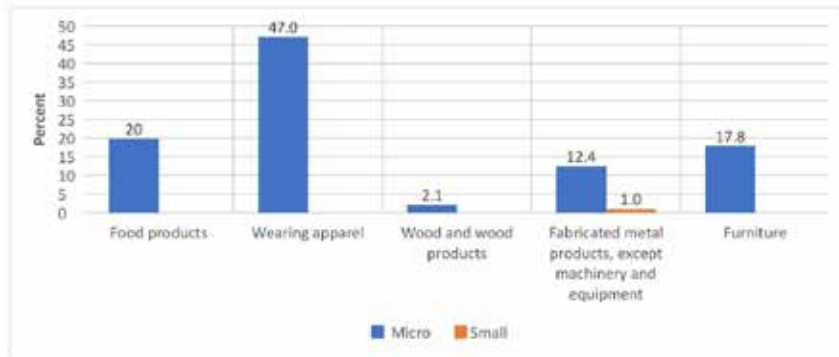
Source: KNBS, 2016

A survey conducted by the KNBS in 2016 establishes the key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing in Homabay County include: wearing apparel (47%), food products (13.4%), and wood and wood products (2.1%). These are sub-sectors that are considered essential in dealing with COVID-19 and are likely to experience increased activity with focus on food production, production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and hospital beds. The key products useful in value addition and driving manufacturing include: maize, sorghum, millet, leather, textiles, poultry, watermelon, dairy, livestock, and fishing. The industries driving manufacturing sector in the county are involved in fish processing, sugar processing, drinking water packaging and processing, forest products processing. Potential also exists in cotton processing.

5.1.2 Sector of operation by size

Majority of the establishments in Homabay County are micro in nature and operate in the wearing apparel (47%), food products (20%), and furniture (17.8%) (figure 5.2). Small sized establishments operate only in fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (1%).

Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size

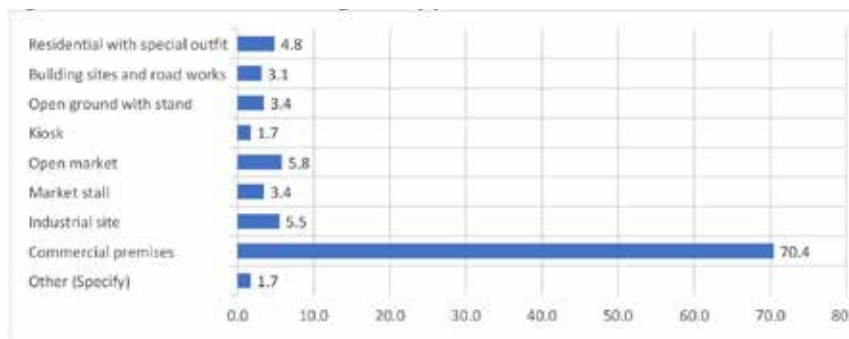


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.3 Location of manufacturing firms by type of premises

Common premises used by manufacturing firms in Homabay County are commercial (70.4%), open market (5.8%), industrial site (5.5%), and residential with special outfit (4.8%) figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Location of manufacturing firms by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.4 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size

Manufacturing establishments in Homabay county are dominantly owned by male (76.1%), with females comprising 25.1 per cent while 7.8 per cent are jointly owned. In terms of micro-sized firms, 66.7 per cent are male owned, 25.4 per cent female owned and 7.9 per cent jointly owned. Small sized firms are fully male owned (table 5.1).

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

Gender	A11	Micro	Small
Male	6,640 (76.1)	6,544 (66.7)	96 (100)
Female	2,490 (25.1)	2,490 (25.4)	0 (0)

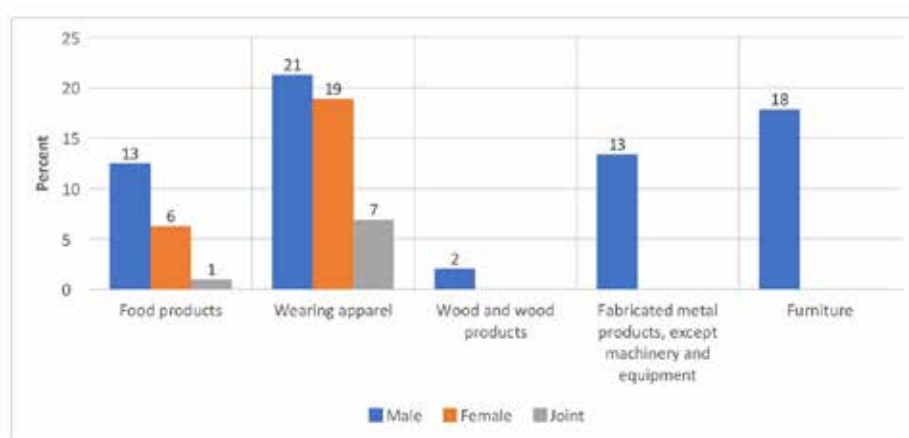
Joint	777 (7.8)	777 (7.9)	0 (0)
Total	9,907 (100)	9,811 (100)	96 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.1.5 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

Most of the sub-sectors in manufacturing are male dominated and are found in wearing apparel (21%), furniture (18%) and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (13%), food products (13%) and wood and wood products (2%). Females are mostly found in the wearing apparel (19%) and food and food products (6%). There is also joint ownership in the following sub-sectors: wearing apparel (7%) and Food and food products (1%) (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 (71.6%) than women (28.4%). Most men are found in the micro-sized enterprises (68%) while 3.6 per cent are in small-sized establishments. Women are predominantly in the micro-sized enterprises (28.4%) (table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms

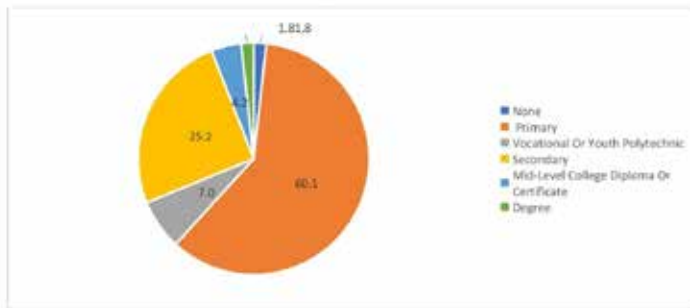
Number of employees	Micro	Small	Total
Male	19,835 (68)	1,058 (3.6)	20,892 (71.6)
Female	8,292 (28.4)	0 (0)	8,292 (28.4)
Total	28,127 (96.4)	1,058 (3.6)	29,185 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.6 Education levels of Manufacturing firm owners

Majority of owners of firms in manufacturing have primary (60.1%), secondary (25.2%), vocational or youth Polytechnique (7%), and mid-level college diploma or certificate (4.2%) (figure 5.5). It is noted that about 1.8 per cent of the manufacturing firm owners do not have a formal education.

Figure 5.5: Education levels of manufacturing firm owners



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.7 Source of markets

Majority of firms in manufacturing and MSMEs in general rely on individual consumers for markets at 90.1 per cent and 90.7 per cent respectively (figure 5.6). Additionally, MSMEs and non-MSMEs are also important sources of markets for both manufacturing enterprises and MSMEs as shown in figure 36.

Figure 5.6: Source of markets

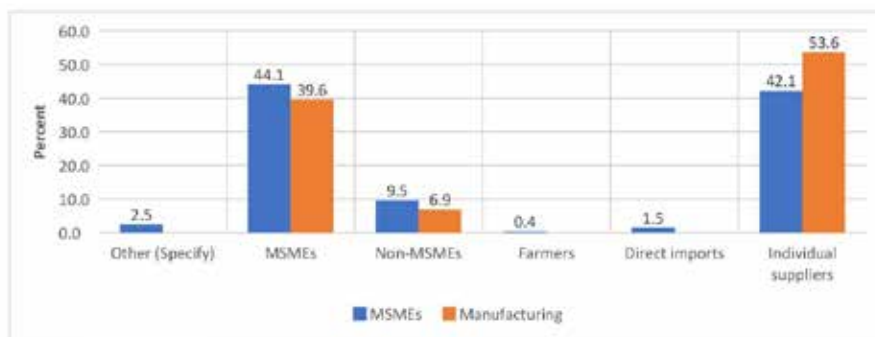


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.8 Source of material inputs

Overall, manufacturing establishments and MSMEs source for material inputs from amongst individual suppliers at 53.6 per cent and 42.1 per cent respectively (figure 37). MSMEs and non-MSMEs are also important sources of inputs to both firms in manufacturing and MSMEs, Moreover, direct exports are important sources of inputs to MSMEs (1.5%) but not enterprises in manufacturing (figure 5.7). Hence turbulence in external markets is likely to have severe effects on MSMEs operations in Homabay County.

Figure 5.7: Source of material inputs



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.9 Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

Manufacturing establishments in Homabay county were involved in both product, process and market innovations. Innovations are seen under the micro category at 17.4 per cent, process (5.4%) and market (6.1%) (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

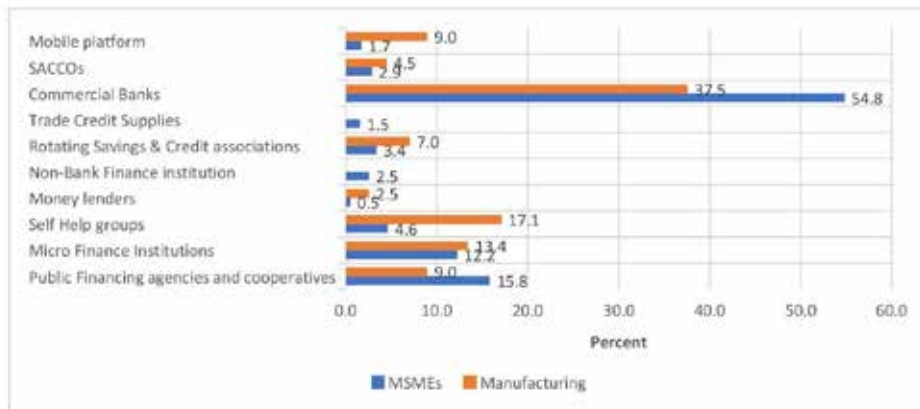
Type of innovation	Micro			Small		Total
	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	8,087 (81.6)	1,723 (17.4)	96 (1)	0 (0)	9,907 (100)
Process	0 (0)	9,278 (93.7)	532 (5.4)	96 (1)	0 (0)	9,907 (100)
Market	0 (0)	9,204 (92.9)	606 (6.1)	96 (1)	0 (0)	9,907 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.1.10 Access to credit for Manufacturing and MSMEs firms

From the MSME 2016 survey, 63.9 per cent of MSMEs and 61.6 per cent of those in manufacturing applied for credit. The main sources of credit for establishments in manufacturing include: commercial banks (37.5%), self-help groups (17.1%), microfinance institutions (13.4%), mobile platform (9%), rotating savings and credit associations (7%), among others MSMEs largely rely on commercial banks (54.8%), public financing agencies and cooperatives (15.8%), and microfinance institutions (12.2%) (figure 5.8).

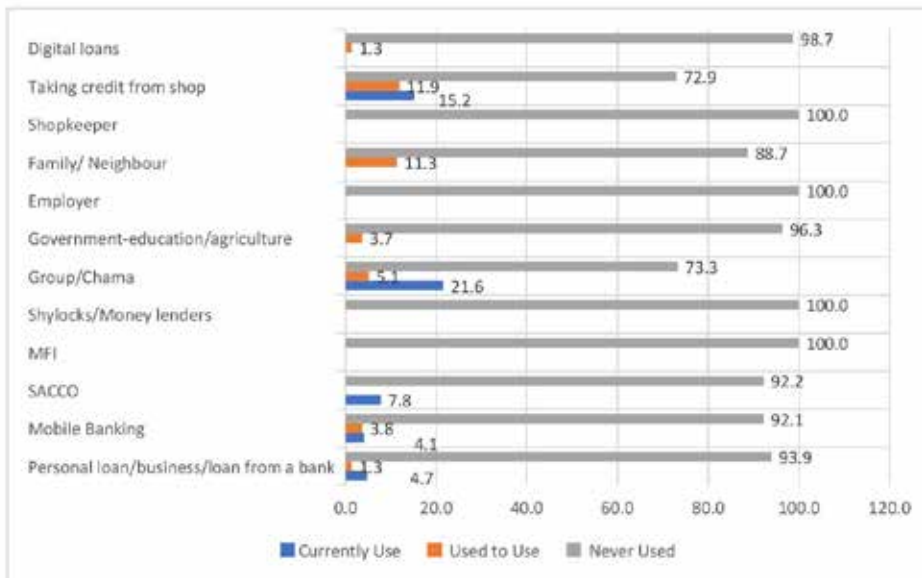
Figure 5.8: Sources of finance



Source: KNBS, 2016

Recent evidence from FinAccess 2019 provides further insights on sources of credit for businesses in Homabay County. Businesses commonly obtain credit from the conventional sources such as groups/chama (21.6%), shops (15.2%), SACCOs (7.8%), and personal/business loans from banks (4.7%). Emerging sources of credit for businesses in Homabay county include mobile money (4.1%) (figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit

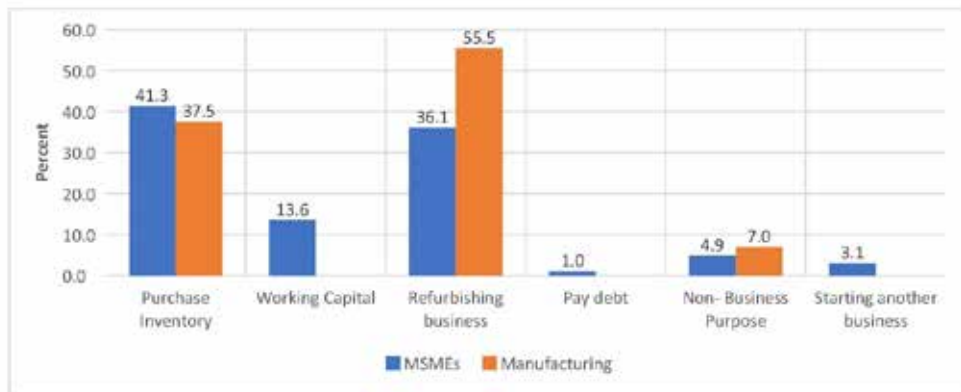


Source: FinAccess, 2019

5.1.11 Purpose of credit

Figure 5.10 presents the main purpose of credit by both MSMEs and firms in manufacturing. Broadly, manufacturing firms require credit for: refurbishing business (55.5%), and purchase of inventory (37.5%). MSMEs in Homabay County require credit for purchasing inventory (41.3%), starting another business (3.1%) among others.

Figure 5.10: Main purpose of credit

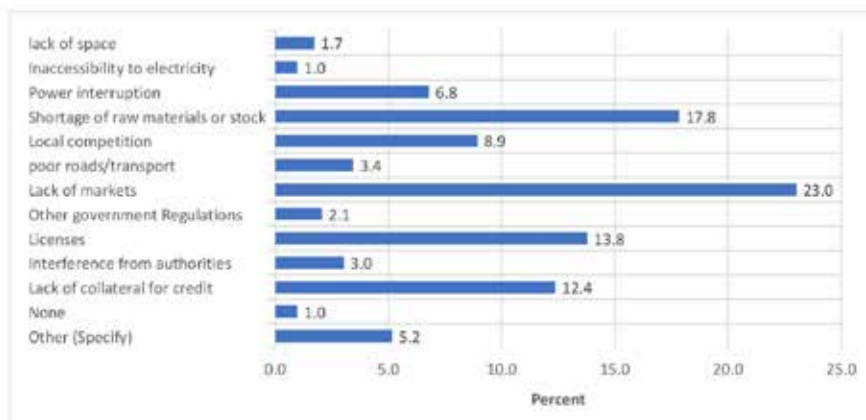


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.12 Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

The main constraints faced by establishments in manufacturing include lack of markets (23%), shortage of raw materials or stock (17.8%), licenses (13.8%), lack of collateral for credit (12.4%), local competition (8.9%), and power interruption (6.8%) (figure 5.11). Addressing some of these challenges by creating and maintaining an enabling environment would be key to re-engineer and promote business growth and investment during and post the COVID-19.

Figure 5.11: Constraints faced by manufacturing firms



Source: KNBS, 2016.

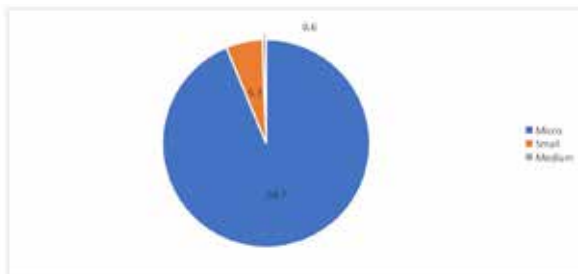
5.1.13 Industrial Parks/ Jua Kali Sheds

There are no industrial parks in Homabay County. There are 103 major markets in the County.

5.1.14 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Homabay County has 55,404 establishments⁴ with 51,929 (93.7%) being micro; 3,158 (5.7%) are small; and 316 (0.6%) are medium enterprises (KNBS, 2016) (figure 5.12).

Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by size

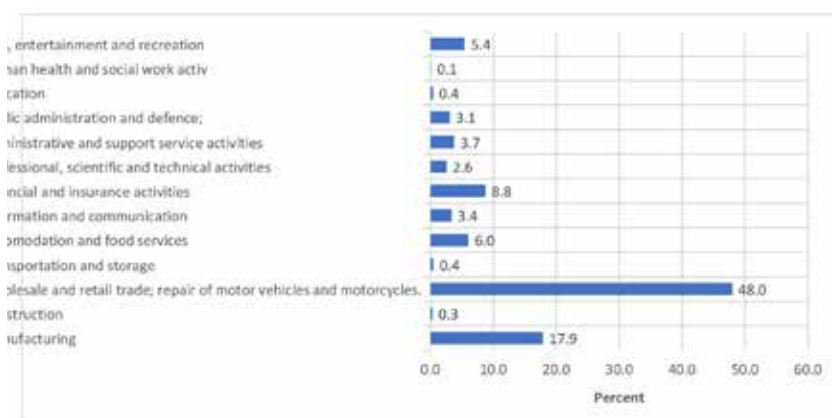


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2 Sector of operation by MSMEs

Majority of MSMEs in Homabay County operate in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (48%), manufacturing (17.9%), financial and insurance activities (8.8%), and arts, entertainment and recreation (5.4%) (figure 5.13). Ideally, these are the sectors that have been worst hit by the pandemic and need focus in achieving reengineering and recovery.

Figure 5.13: Sector of operation by MSMEs



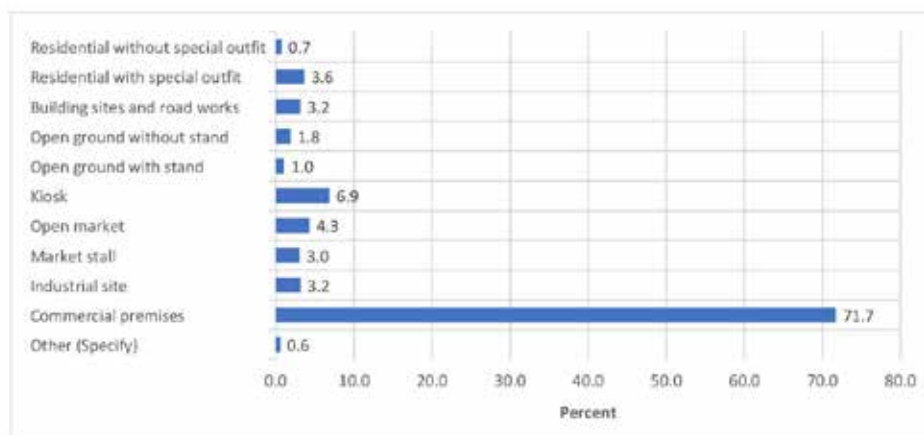
Source: KNBS, 2016

⁴ After applying weights

5.2.1 Location of the businesses by type of premises

MSMEs in Homabay County are largely located in commercial premises (71.7%), kiosks (6.9%), residential with special outfit (3.6%), and market stalls (3%), (figure 5.14).

Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

Majority of the businesses in the county faced a lot of difficulties in meeting their rental obligations due income disruptions occasioned by COVID-19. According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey 92.9 per cent of the non-farm businesses attributed non-payment of household rental obligations to reduced incomes/earnings while 7.1 per cent attributed the same to delayed incomes/earnings. For those involved in farm businesses, 73.6 per cent attributed the same to reduced incomes/earnings, 10.4 per cent due to delayed incomes/earnings while 8 per cent were affected by temporary layoffs/closure of businesses and permanent layoffs/closure of businesses each.

5.2.2 Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size

Table 1.4 shows the distribution of MSMEs in Homabay county by gender: 59.4 per cent are male owned, 23.4 per cent are female owned, while 17.2 per cent are jointly owned (male/female). For Micro establishments, 59.4 per cent are male owned, 24.1 per cent are female owned, while 16.5 per cent are jointly owned.

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

Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Medium
Male	32,922 (59.4)	30,831 (59.4)	1,921 (60.8)	170 (53.8)
Female	12,947 (23.4)	12,522 (24.1)	426 (13.5)	0 (0)
Joint	9,534 (17.2)	8,576 (16.5)	812 (25.7)	146 (46.2)
Total	55,404 (100)	51,929 (100)	3,158 (100)	316 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

Male owners also dominate ownership among small sized establishments at 60.8 per cent, females own 13.5 per cent, and 25.7 per cent are jointly owned. Considering medium sized establishments ownership is controlled by males (53.8%) while the rest is joint (46.2%).

In terms of employment, the micro sized establishments employ more people (67.4%) compared to small (23.6%), and medium (9%) (table 1.5). Micro firms employ 40.1 per cent male and 27.3 per cent female and small sized employ 14.9 per cent male and 8.6 per cent female. Contrarily, more women are employed among medium establishments at 6.3 per cent compared to men (2.7%). Overall, more men (57.7%) are employed by MSMEs in Homabay county than women (42.3%).

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

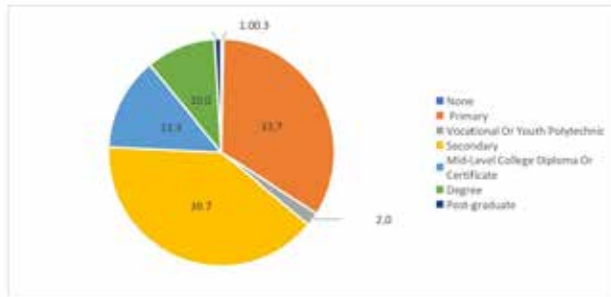
Gender	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
Male	90,562 (40.1)	33,755 (14.9)	6,138 (2.7)	130,456 (57.7)
Female	61,783 (27.3)	19,492 (8.6)	14,293 (6.3)	95,568 (42.3)
Total	152,345 (67.4)	53,247 (23.6)	20,431 (9)	226,023 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.3 Education levels of MSME owners

Figure 44 indicates that majority of MSME owners in Homabay County have a secondary education (39.7%) while 33.7 per cent have primary and 10 per cent degree education respectively (figure 5.15).

Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3 Level of innovation by MSMEs

Table 1.6 presents the levels of innovation in Homabay County by MSMEs according to size. Generally, there were low levels of innovation across MSMEs with 14.1 per cent involved in product, process, market innovations respectively for micro-sized enterprises. Regarding small-sized enterprises, 0.6 per cent engaged in product, process and market innovations respectively.

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)	44,141 (79.8)	7,788 (14.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2,345 (1.3)	744 (1.3)	316 (0.6)	0 (0)	55,335 (100)
Process	0 (0)	0 (0)	44,141 (79.8)	7,788 (14.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2,345 (1.3)	744 (1.3)	316 (0.6)	0 (0)	55,335 (100)
Market	0 (0)	0 (0)	44,141 (79.8)	7,788 (14.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2,345 (1.3)	744 (1.3)	316 (0.6)	0 (0)	55,335 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3.1 E-commerce

Participation in e-commerce by households in Homabay County is below the national average. About 2.6 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 (3.4%) than women (1.9%). With introduction of stay-at-home protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Homabay County since fewer households participate in the same.

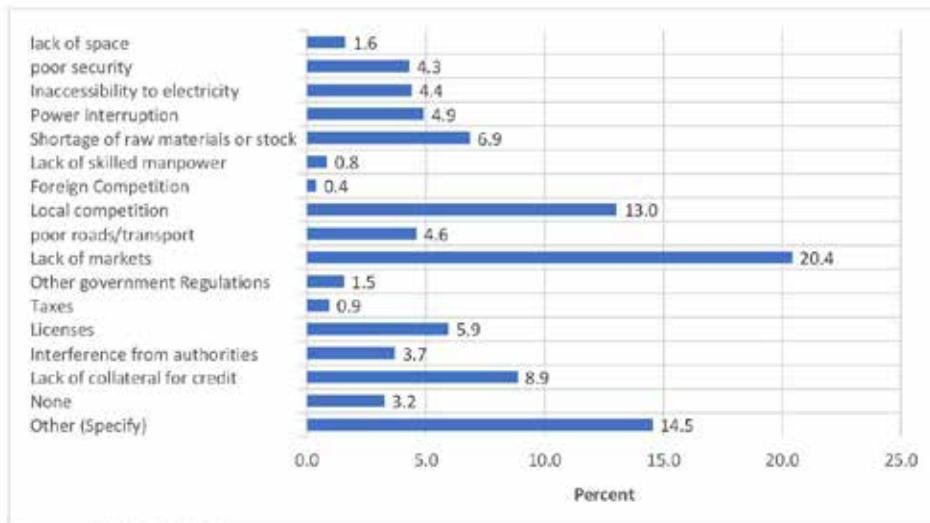
5.3.2 Turnover tax

Only 11 per cent of MSMEs in Homabay County (6,089) 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.

5.3.3 Constraints faced by MSMEs

The major constraints faced by MSMEs in Homabay County include: lack of markets (20.4%), local competition (13%), lack of collateral for credit (8.9%), shortage of raw materials/stock (6.9%), and difficulty in obtaining licenses 5.9%) (figure 5.16).

Figure 5.16: Main constraints faced by MSMEs



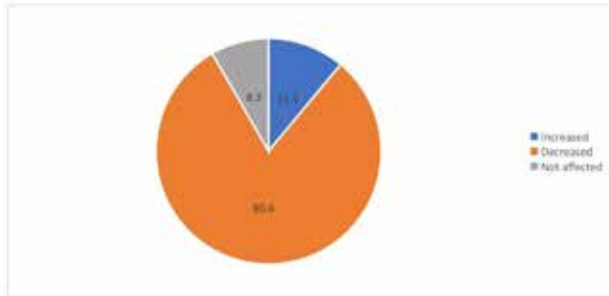
Source: KNBS, 2016.

A study on County Business Environment for MSEs (CBEM) identified other constraints faced by MSMEs in Homabay 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.

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

Figure 5.17 presents the effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses in Homabay County. 80.6 per cent of the respondents report a decrease in their business activities due to the pandemic while 8.3 per cent were not affected. Equally 80.6 per cent of the respondents have had a decrease in their income due to COVID-19. This is an indicator that COVID-19 is already having a negative effect 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

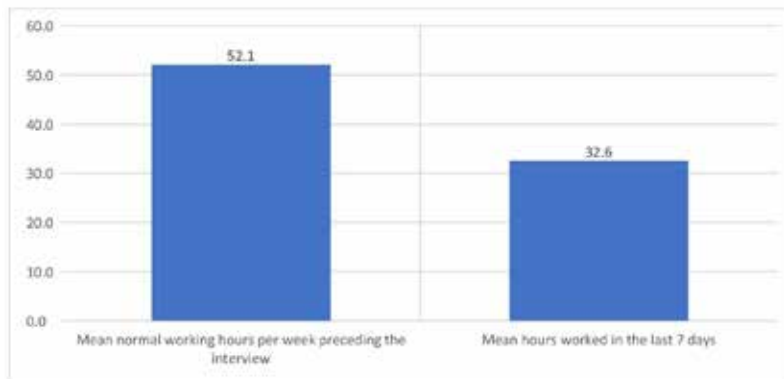


Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

5.3.5 Labour dynamics

During the period considered in KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020 data collection, respondents reported a decrease of 19.5 hours in the mean working hours for household non-farm and farm businesses in Homabay County which implies an improvement in economic activities between the interview periods (figure 5.18). This could be as a result of agriculture, services and manufacturing activities considering these considerably form the backbone of the County.

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



Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

The survey also indicates wholesale and retail trade sector were worst hit and lost 16.1 hours in usual and actual hours worked while accommodation and food services lost 14.7 hours in a week. In addition, manufacturing sector lost 11.6 hours.

5.4 Key Messages

- i) The key sectors that drive the economy of Homabay include: Agriculture, Services and Manufacturing. During re-engineering of the County economy, these sectors should be prioritised and targeted for intervention.
- ii) The main constraints faced by establishments in manufacturing include: lack of markets, shortage of raw materials or stock, licenses, lack of collateral for credit, local competition and power interruption.
- iii) The major constraints faced by MSMEs in Homabay County include: lack of markets, local competition, lack of collateral for credit, shortage of raw materials/stock poor road infrastructure, multiple licences and permits, fragmentation due to multiplicity of players who offer training and capacity building, lack of training needs assessment for MSEs, among others.
- iv) MSMEs in Homabay County are largely located in commercial premises, kiosks, residential with special outfit, and market stalls. Majority of the businesses in the County could be having a lot of difficulties in meeting their rental obligations due income disruptions occasioned by COVID-19.
- v) 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. However as the pandemic subsides, the transition need to be managed smoothly.
- vi) Manufacturing establishments must also adopt to cope with the new guidelines which could include rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- vii) Training and capacity building are important in assisting MSMEs to surmount the shocks faced during the pandemic but also allow for re-emergence.
- viii) 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.

5.5 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Manufacturing

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 including maize, sorghum, millet, leather, textiles, poultry, watermelon, dairy, livestock, and fishing production and processing.
- 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 production of minerals in Lake Victoria.

- iv) COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods. It is an opportunity for industry and MSMEs development and generation of jobs for the youth.

5.6 Emerging Issues

- i) There has been reduced income from traders, manufacturers and MSMEs and a corresponding decrease in taxes collected from them. This will affect implementation of Homabay County's planned activities due to reduced projected revenues.
- ii) The need to identify and promote specific and emerging value chains as a result of COVID-19, and which Homabay County has comparative advantage.
- iii) Review all the ongoing interventions by the County and also the national government to assess their effectiveness and especially regarding trade, manufacturing and MSMEs.
- iv) There is need for legislative amendments to ensure the Buy Kenya Build Kenya initiative is implemented at the County.

5.7 Recommendations

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

- i) Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short run. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can 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) Revive the cotton processing ginnery in Homabay town.
- v) Collaborate with National government to rehabilitate fish landing sites in Nyandiwa as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the Lake Victoria rehabilitation programme.

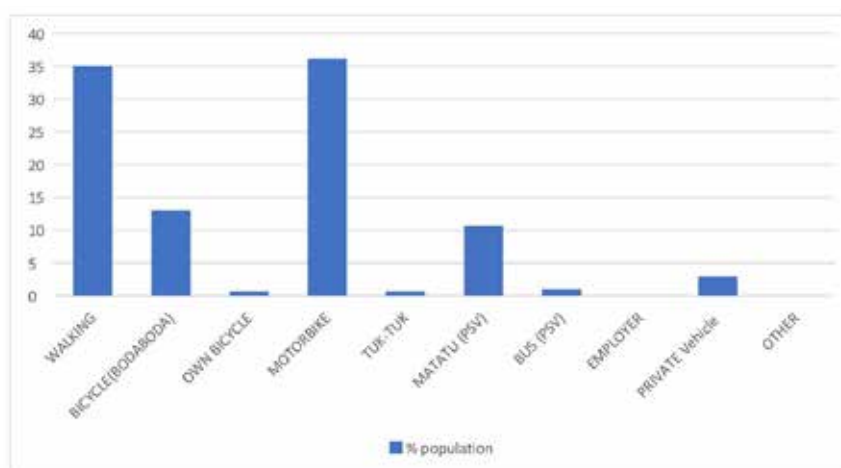
6. Infrastructure

6.1 Transport and Roads

6.1.1 Characteristics of the sector

Majority of households own a bicycle (12.8%) and motorcycle (10.7%). Car ownership is at (2.6%) KNBS, 2019. The main means of transport used in the County is bicycle motorbike 36.18 per cent, followed by walking at 35.06 percent, bodaboda 9.47 percent, PSV matatus at 8.31 per cent, and own bicycle 6.68 per cent, figure 6.1, while per cent 82.68 per cent of the population had not changed the main means of transport (KNBS, 2020b). On average, residents travel 1.84 kilometers to their workplace at an average cost of Ksh 86.48. For the commute to school, residents spend on average Ksh 305.79 (KIHBS, 2015/16).

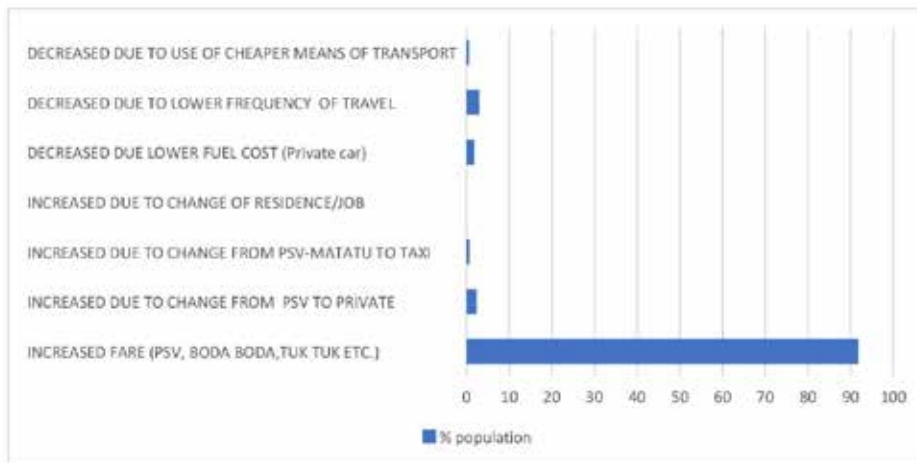
Figure 6.1: Main means of transport



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

The KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 revealed that 53.83 per cent of the population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute (figure 6.1). The expenditure on transport increased by 28.18 per cent from Ksh 110 before February 2020 to Ksh 141 in May 2020 for a one-way trip. The main change (91.75%) in transport cost was attributed to increased fares for PSV, BodaBoda and TukTuk.

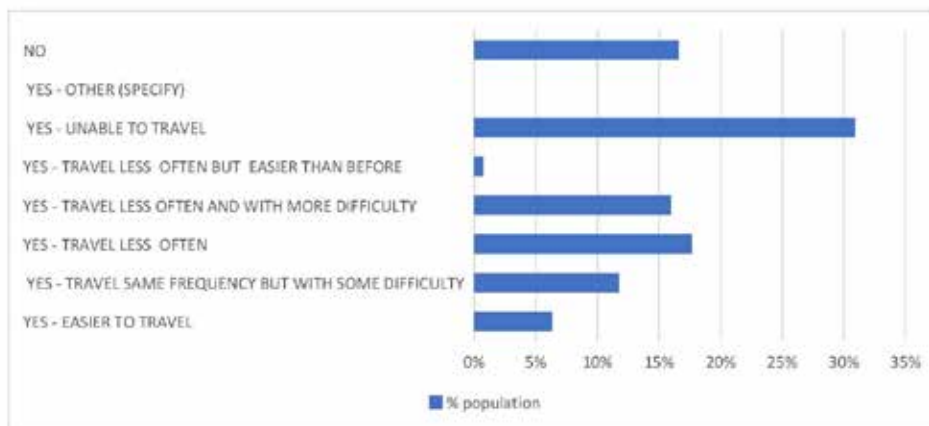
Figure 6.2: Change in Cost of Main Means of Transport



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

Residents had changed their travel patterns with 17.7 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 11.78 per cent travelled with the same frequency but with some difficulty, and 30.91 per cent were unable to travel. However, 16.58 per cent of the population did not change their travel pattern (figure 6.3).

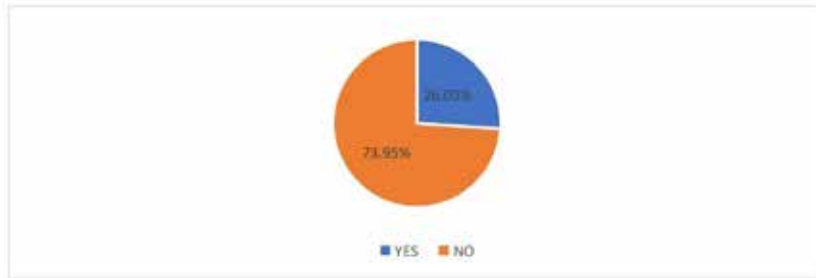
Figure 6.3: Change in travel patterns



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

The pandemic has affected delivery of goods and services for 26.05 per cent of households.

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



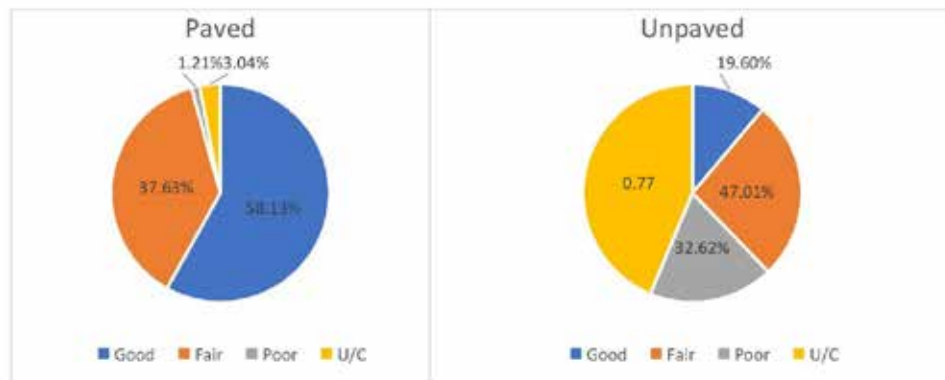
Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

The County was allocated a total of Ksh 240,088,313 from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund towards road maintenance in the Financial 2017/18 (OCOB, 2019).

6.1.2 Road network

The county has a total of 4,253.11 Kilometres of classified road network. The paved County Road network covers 11.75 km, while the paved National roads covers 233.6 km. Out of the total paved road network of 245.35 km, 58.13 per cent is in good condition, 37.63 per cent in fair condition and 1.21 per cent in poor condition. The unpaved road network in the county covers 1896.71 km (county roads) and 424.76 km (National roads), of this, 19.6 per cent is in good condition, 47.01 per cent fair and 32.62 per cent in poor condition as depicted in figure 1 (KRB, 2019).

Figure 6.5: Road condition mix-classified road network



Source: KRB (2019)

The unclassified road network in the County covers 1,686.3 km, with 1,085.12 km of narrow roads, that is, road with a reserve of between 4 -9 meters, while there is a total of 601.18 km of new roads.

6.1.3 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 92 per cent which is above the National Average of 70 percent, indicating that access to transport in rural areas is above average (KRB,2019). This has positive implications regarding sectors that rely on accessibility such as agriculture, trade and overall development. The road condition mix of the unpaved network at 33 per cent is a constraint to development.

6.1.4 Linkages to other sectors

Transport sector has linkages in facilitating access to farm inputs and markets. It is key in trade facilitation. The quality and accessibility of the road network plays a role in supporting the fisheries sector by ensuring that fish reach the market on time without getting spoilt.

6.1.5 Opportunities with COVID-19 in 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.

6.1.6 Emerging Issues

- i) Buses from Homabay to Nairobi have been affected. Also, in an effort to maintain social distancing fares within the County have been increased however, the expense has been offset by the reduced cost of fuel.
- ii) Road construction will be prioritized to improve market access. For instance, by building networks between markets to ease the movement of fish produce.
- iii) The County is working on policies to improve infrastructure such as roads, water and sanitation in informal settlements. So far, the County is working with development partners such as Belgium and African Development Bank.

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/roads_per_cent202000_per_cent20strategic_per_cent20plan.pdf

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

6.1.7 Recommendations

- i) Exploit the Blue Economy by developing and utilizing inland water ways and Lake Victoria ports to facilitate movement of goods and people in the East African Market
- ii) Promote access for all to safe, age- and gender-responsive, affordable, accessible and sustainable land and lake transport systems.
- iii) Encourage urban-rural connectivity by investing in sustainable transport and mobility infrastructure linked to lake and land.
- iv) 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 policy⁹.
- v) 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.
- vi) Adopt climate smart road engineering designs to safeguard road and bridge infrastructure from floods and to harvest storm water for irrigation and productive use.
- vii) Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 63 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70 per cent
- viii) Sensitize PSV and boda boda operators on COVID-19 prevention measures and assist vehicle owners in retrofitting the seating designs.

6.2 Information and Communication Technology

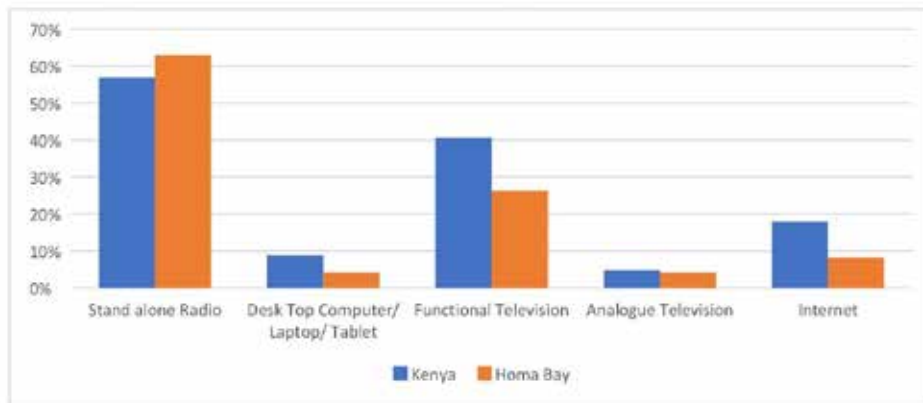
Homabay is a rural based County that mainly relies on television for online education due to the lack of ICT infrastructure. The County has limited technology-based equipment which results in inadequate access to information.

6.2.1 Characteristics of the Sector

The analysis of the 2019 KPHC reveals that only 8.2 per cent of the conventional households in the county 'own' internet with 4.1 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).

9 Roads 2000 programme http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roads_per_cent202000_per_cent20strategic_per_cent20plan.pdf

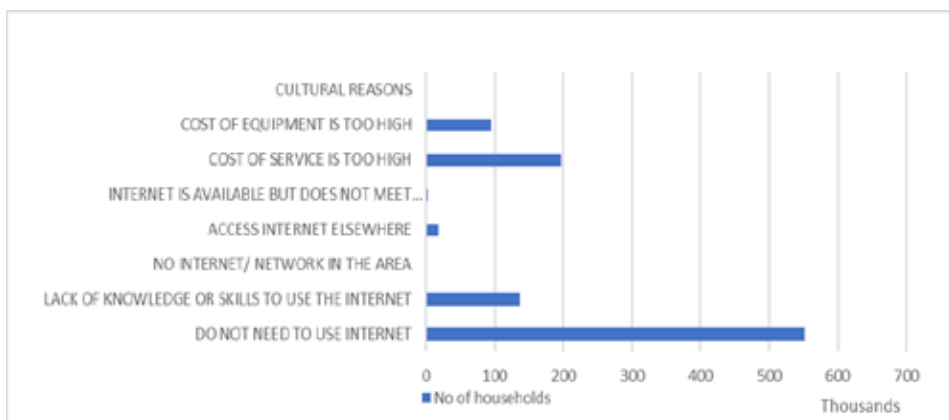
Figure 6.6: Percentage distribution of conventional households by ownership of ICT assets KPHC 2019



Source: KNBS (2019), Population and Housing Census

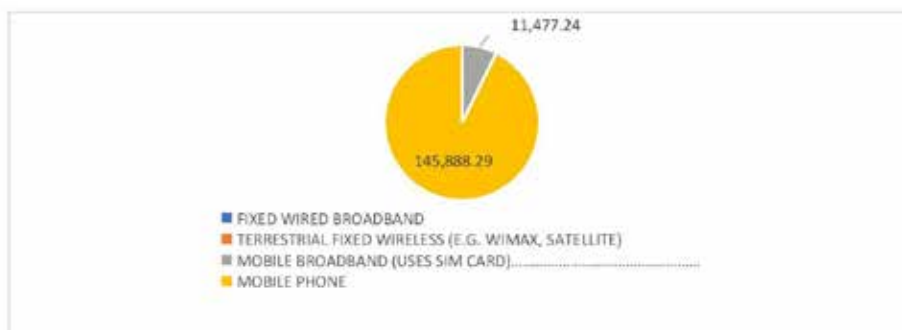
Online shopping is not prevalent in the County. 2.6 per cent of the conventional households searched and bought goods/services online. There exists gender disparity in online shopping with more men (3.4%) than women (1.9%) undertaking online shopping. The perception of that the individual does not need 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 (KHIBS) (figure 6.7). Other key factors include the lack of internet/network in the area, and the high cost of service and equipment (Figure 2a). Approximately 93 per cent of the internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of 7 per cent relying on mobile broad band that uses a sim card for connectivity.

Figure 6.7: Reasons for Lack of Internet Connection



Source: KHIBS 2015/2016

Figure 6.8: Type of internet connection

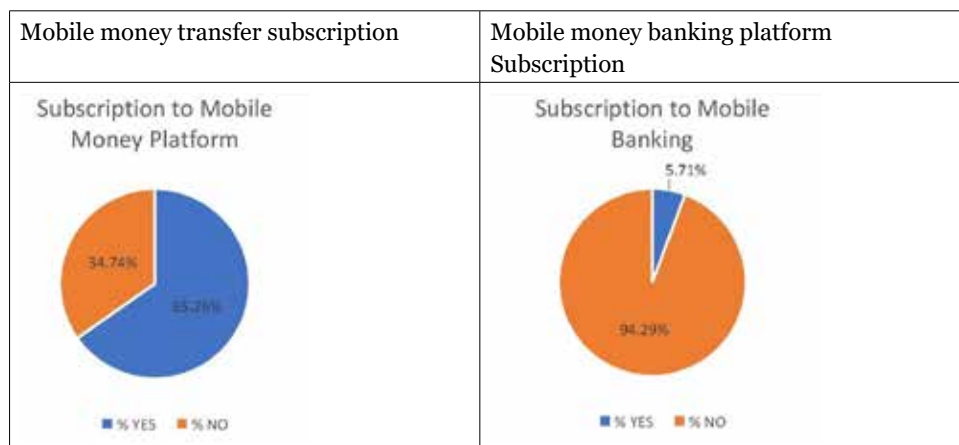


Source: KHIBS 2015/2016

Approximately 41.1 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 65.26 per cent of the people in the county have a mobile money subscription (figure 6.9) compared with only 5.71 per cent that have a mobile money banking platform subscription (KHIBS 2015/16)

Figure 6.9: Mobile money transfer subscription and Mobile money banking platform Subscription



Source: KHIBS 2015/16

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 18.4 per cent of the men and 12.3 per cent of the women using internet, while 8.5 per cent of the men and 5.2 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.

6.2.2 Constraints faced

Homabay is a rural based County that mainly relies on television for online education due to the lack of ICT infrastructure.

6.2.3 Linkages to other sectors

Under human resource and training development, the County seeks to build its ICT capacity so that staff training can be conducted online as well as foster easier online communication with other Countries.

6.2.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in ICT

Partner with National Government under NFOBI and private sector to enhance access to internet and its use.

6.2.5 Emerging Issues

They County has limited technology-based equipment which results in inadequate access to information.

6.2.6 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 the low of 41.1 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony¹⁰
- ii) Adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere) by applying both terrestrial and aerial communication technologies.
- iii) Collaborate with the Communications Authority and telecom service providers to utilize the Universal Service Fund¹¹ 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 to enhance utilization of ICT and to promote.
- 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.
- 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.

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

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

- vii) Develop and implement ICT policies and procedures to manage ICT and mitigate cyber threats. Collaborate with the national Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) and the Communications Authority (CA) towards managing cyber threats. This is because enhanced use of ICT is known to raise threats and risks related to cyber-crime and misinformation.

7. Urban Development

The County has discouraged property developers and homeowners from selling their property now due to the present economic climate occasioned by reduced money circulation in the Country due to the pandemic.

There are eight urban centers in the County with a total population of 47.4 per cent males and 52.6 per cent females (table 7.1). The urban land area covers 41 square kilometers with a population density of 2754 persons per sq.km

Table 7.1: Distribution of population by Urban Centers by gender

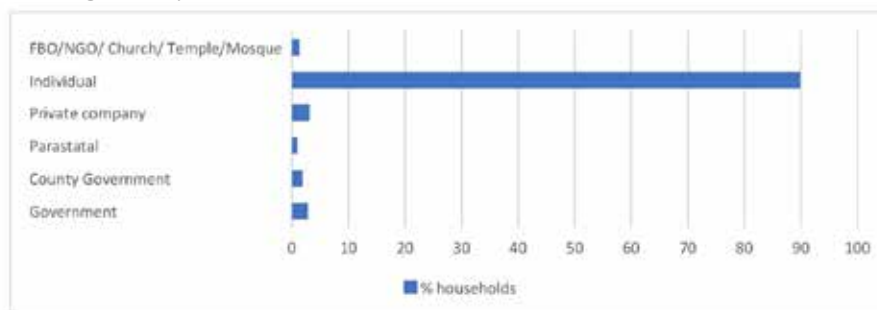
	Total	Male	Female
HOMA BAY	44,949	21,440	23,507
OYUGIS	19,947	9,286	10,661
MBITA	14,916	7,166	7,748
SINDO	10,286	4,866	5,420
RODI KOPANY	8,122	3,760	4,362
KENDU BAY	6,064	2,920	3,144
NDHIWA	4,762	2,182	2,580
NYANDIWA BEACH	4,033	1,949	2,084

Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019

7.1 Characteristics of the Sector

The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 81.4 per cent, with 18.6 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 89.9 per cent, followed by Private Companies (3.1%); National Government (2.8%) figure 7.1); and for those who own homes, 98.0 per cent constructed the houses while 0.8 per cent purchased the house and 1.3 per cent inherited their homes (KNBS, 2019).

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



Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019

Majority of households are headed by men (57.7%) compared to women (42.3%) in the County (KIHBS, 2015/16).

7.1.1 Housing quality

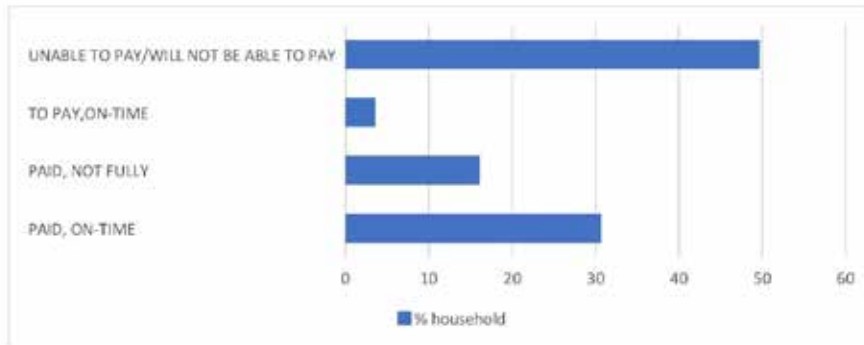
On average, the main dwellings of houses in the County have 1.95 habitable rooms against an average household size of 5.65 persons in a household, translating to approximately 2.9 people per room. According to the UN-Habitat, overcrowding occurs when there are more than three people per room¹². In terms of housing quality (building material), 31.15 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing compared to 68.85 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials (KIHBS, 2015/16). Majority of households (96.3%) have iron sheets for roofing, mud/cow dung walls (58.4%) and concrete/cement/terrazo floors (36.5%) (KNBS, 2019).

7.1.2 Rent payment

On average, rental households spend approximately Ksh 34.06 on rent with a minimum of Ksh 600 and the maximum of Ksh 15000 (KNBS, 2020b). The county recorded a rent to income ratio of 10.01 per cent which is within the acceptable threshold of 30 per cent (KNBS, 2012/13).

¹² Household crowding measure: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowding%20occurs%20if%20there%20are,per%20cent%20habitable%20room%20\(88\).&text=Crowding%20occurs%20if%20there%20is,%20Drooms%20\(89\).](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowding%20occurs%20if%20there%20are,per%20cent%20habitable%20room%20(88).&text=Crowding%20occurs%20if%20there%20is,%20Drooms%20(89).)

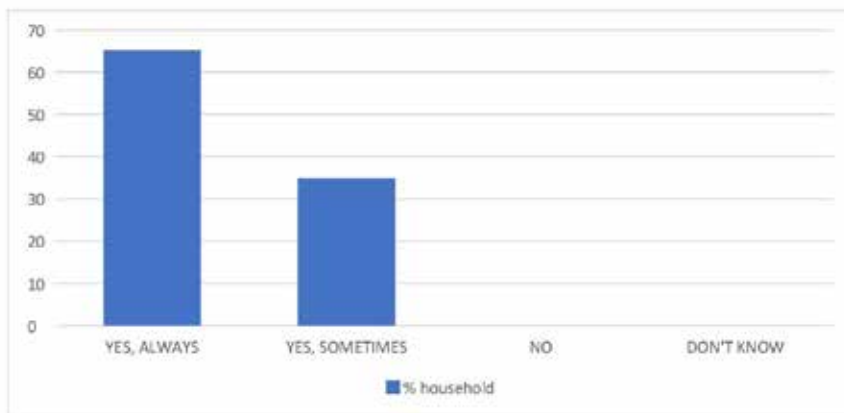
Figure 7.2: Has your household paid the rent for April 2020 on the agreed date



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

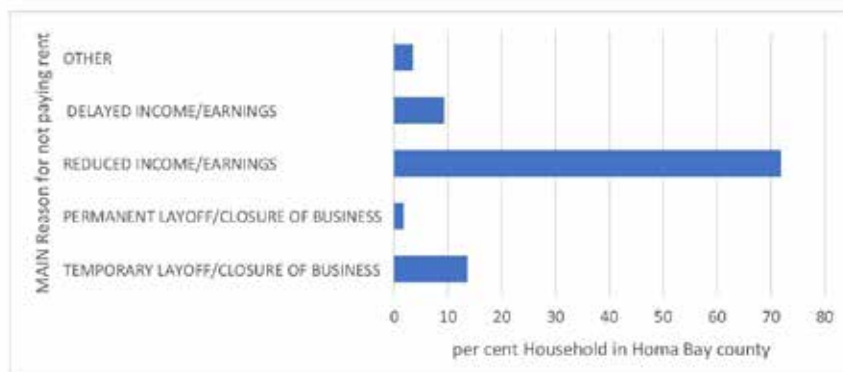
With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households' ability to pay rent has been affected, with 49.66 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date for April 2020 (figure 7.2), compared to 30.68 per cent of the population that were able to pay rent on the agreed date and 65.1 per cent who paid rent on agreed date before COVID-19 pandemic (figure 7.3).

Figure 7.3: Proportion of Residents Paying Rent per Terms of Contract



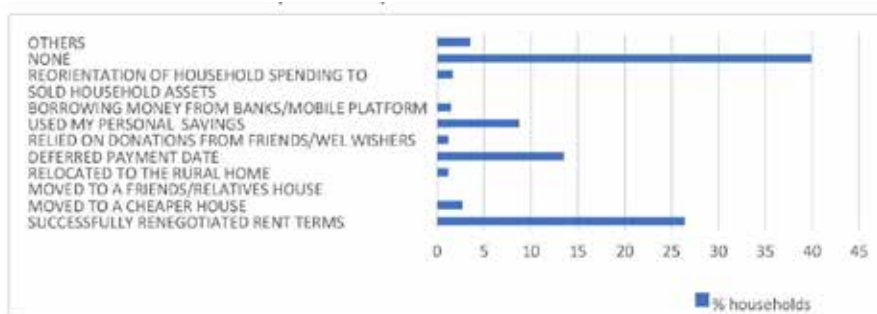
Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

The main reason that has made households unable to pay rent was attributed to reduced incomes /earnings, reported by 71.88 per cent of the population. The inability to pay rent was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by 98.61 per cent of the population (figure 7.4).

Figure 7.4: Reasons for not Being Able to Pay Rent

Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

Majority of the households (78.05%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, with 7.81 per cent reporting a partial waiver and 1.16 per cent reporting a full waiver. To overcome the effects of Corona virus on payment on rent, majority 26.36 per cent of households renegotiated rent terms, while 39.89 per cent of households did not take any measures. Approximately 8.69 per cent used personal savings to pay rent (figure 7.5).

Figure 7.6: Measures Taken by Household to Mitigate COVID-19 Effects on Rent

Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-Wave2

Regarding primary energy source for cooking, 92.7 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.

7.1.3 Constraints faced

- i) Household inability to pay rent due to livelihood shocks.
- ii) Possible crowded housing with 2.9 persons per habitable room.

7.2 Opportunities for COVID-19 in Urban Development

Existing stock of owner-occupied homes that can be improved using finished building materials for roofing, walls and floors.

7.3 Emerging Issues

The County has discouraged property developers and homeowners from selling their property now due to the present economic climate occasioned by reduced money circulation in the Country due to the pandemic

7.4 Recommendations

- i) Integrate the blue economy in spatial planning for human settlements and urban areas along Lake Victoria with the objective to balance Lake-based and land-based activities livelihoods.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme with a focus on improving living conditions and building quality applying finished materials for walls, floors, and roofing. Upgrade informal settlements.
- vi) Identify and designate urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019
- vii) Formulate and seek approval of urban development plans and development control policies to support investment and development of urban areas.
- viii) 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 Characteristics of the Sector

Homa Bay County sits in a prominent position to be a lead destination in the Western Tourism Circuit and is home to Ruma National Park which is the only park where unique and rare species like the roan antelope can be found. The county also hosts events and sites of mythical interest like the Tom Mboya Mausoleum, the Mfangano Rock Art, Oyugis Bird Sanctuary, Homa Hills Hot Spring and Simbi Nyaima. There are over 18 islands such as Rusinga and Mfangano, peninsulas and bays some with unique fauna and flora and an impressive array of physical features with great aesthetic value. There is need to improve these tourism sites to bring in revenue to the county. It also boasts of breath-taking scenery and forested landscape leading to and around the Lake Victoria coastline, especially within Mbita and Suba, such as is the case with the Sikri peninsula. There are also opportunities for sports and cultural tourism especially as relates to the way of life of the Luo and the Abasuba whose traditional boat racing and artefacts continue to attract a lot of local and international tourists.

The county does not have star-rated hotels. According to KNBS 2015, Ruma National Park recorded 3,313 local tourists / residents and 444 non-resident tourists in the year 2014.

8.1.1 Raw materials

The raw materials for tourism in Homa Bay County include physical attractions, Wildlife, cultural and heritage assets, history.

8.1.2 Key products/services

Nature and Wildlife, Culture, Heritage and Community-Based Tourism, Agro-tourism, Eco-tourism.

8.1.3 Constraints faced

- i) The Lake Victoria Basin continues to face major ecological challenges including deforestation coupled with bad agricultural practices that has persistently exacerbated the problem of land degradation in the basin and sedimentation in the lake. This affects fishing; tourism and other social-economic activities around the lake basin.
- ii) Unsustainable fishing methods; poaching.
- iii) Climate change; water and air pollution, deforestation, changing water levels, prolonged drought a threat to wildlife.

- iv) Lack of clear guidelines on funding mechanisms for sector programs.
- v) Inadequate use of ICT and disaster management.
- vi) Inadequate internet and intra-net connectivity and integration of ICT into all operations of all County Sectors and Learning Institutions.
- vii) Cancellation of cultural and sports tourism events due to the pandemic.
- viii) Cancellation of flights to Kisumu Airport, including reduced movement by road in the region affected tourist arrivals to the county; the tourist circuit that runs from Maasai Mara has also been affected due to movement restrictions.
- ix) Hotels have been affected due to travel restrictions and cancellation of events owing to the ban on gatherings. Consequently, most of the hotels have laid off their workers.

8.1.4 Linkages to other sectors

Homa Bay County has two gazetted forests covering an area of 29.6 km². These forests are Gwasssi and Wire Hills. The county also has eight non-gazetted forests covering an area of about 128 km². They are Ngorome Hills, Ruri Hill, Gembe Hills, Mfangano, Homa Hills, Asego Hill and Koderia Forest. The forestry resources provide an unexploited opportunity to develop agro-forestry and eco-tourism.

8.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Tourism

- i) Untapped tourism potential in terms of culture, conference tourism and ecotourism.
- ii) Public-private partnership in tourism sector development.
- iii) Promotion of domestic tourism.
- iv) Upgrading of infrastructure connecting tourism attraction sites.

8.3 Emerging Issues

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

8.4 Recommendations

- i) Enforcement of guidelines for observing high sanitation and hygiene standards in tourism establishments to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ii) Develop a county strategic plan for tourism
- iii) Diversification of the tourism product range:
 - a) Sports tourism: finalize development of the county stadium and 8 sub-county stadia.
 - b) Wildlife conservation centers

- c) Ecotourism investments
- d) Development of talent academy; enhancement of both tangible and intangible cultural talent and arts;
- e) Traditional medicine
- f) County cultural festivals
- iv) Develop databank of tourist attraction sites / resources
- v) Investment in protection of cultural heritage sites; preservation of artefacts
- vi) Tourism infrastructure development:
 - a) Provide incentives for investment in star-rated accommodation facilities; Improve hospitality facilities; Improvement of selected tourism sites and development of beach fronts
 - b) Open up access roads to potential Tourism Attraction Sites; avail timely and adequate funds for tourism infrastructure development.
 - c) Enhanced ICT connectivity in the county
 - d) Development of recreational facilities along the beaches
 - e) Modernize and maintain existing tourism sites
 - f) Allocation of land for development of tourism facilities
- vii) Mapping, Profiling, development branding and marketing of potential attraction sites; marketing and promotion of tourism attraction sites within the Lake Victoria region.
- viii) Demarcation of sensitive areas; securing protected environmental areas such as water catchment and forested areas.
- ix) Funding for and enforcement of environmental protection and natural resources management.

Increase conservation of natural and cultural Heritage: Policy formulation and review; promote protection of wildlife species; develop capacity of the County government to protect, conserve and restore critical tourist products

9. Health

9.1 Characteristics of the sector

9.1.1 General health provision in the County

Homa Bay county a total of 260 health facilities comprising of 185 public health facilities, 45 private health facilities and 30 Faith Based Organization health facilities. The facilities are served by 2,117 personnel, with Ndhiwa sub county having the highest number of personnel of 45 followed by Rachuonyo with 41 personnel (District Health Information Systems (DHIS) 2016). These values though highest in the two sub counties still indicates need for hiring of more personnel and upgrading of the existing facilities since they are spread within the wards of respective sub counties. Additionally, these numbers are not adequate to achieve the WHO recommended staff to patient ratio and meet the health demand services for 1,131,950 population in the county (2019 Census). To achieve this, the county government need to employ additional staff to bridge the existing gaps in human resource for health.

Table 9.1: Health provision

Year	2018	2019/20
Health facility density		
Primary health facilities	167	329
Hospitals	13	25
Number of health facilities	180	354
Health facility density	3.1	5.1
Bed density		
Hospital beds	1,875	2,035
No. of Beds per 10,000 population	28	30
Human resource density		
Total workforce	1,178	4,703
Human Resources for Health (Technical)	905	2,678
Number per 10,000 population	9.1	22.9

Source: MOH, 2021

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 354 which comprised of 329 primary health facilities and 25 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 180 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 30 against which was equal to WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10, 000 population. The

health facilities and personnel serve a growing population of 1,131,950 people according 2019 census. In 2019/20, total health workforce was approximately 4,703 representing 22.9 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	12.8
Government health centre	22.2
Government dispensary	37.2
Faith Based (church, Mission) Hospital / Clinic	2.6
Community Health	0.6
Private hospital / clinic	26.0
Nursing/ Maternity Home	0.3
Pharmacy/ chemist	0.0
Community health worker	0.4
Shop/ Kiosk	0.2
Traditional healer	0.2
Faith healer	0.0
Herbalist	0.0
Other	0.2
Number of Individuals ('000)	222

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 government dispensaries at 37.2 per cent followed by those who cent visited private hospitals at 26 per cent while those who visited government health centres were 22.2 percent. About 12.8 per cent of county residents who reported illness also visited government hospitals.

9.1.2 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, 11.3 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 97.8 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 6.0 per cent of the population. Private contributions to insurance cover were reported by 1.6 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)	1,072
Share of population with health insurance (%)	11.3
NHIF	97.8
Private-Contributory	1.6
Private-Non-Contributory	1.4
Employer-Contributory	6.0
Employer-Non-Contributory	0.0
Other	3.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	122

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.3 Place of delivery

In the 2015/16 KIHBS, women in Bomet 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 31.5 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 25.3 per cent, 32.6 per cent, and 8.6 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 (%)
Hospital	25.3
Health Centre	32.6
Clinic/ Dispensary	8.6
Maternity Home	0.0
At Home	31.5
Other	1.8
Not stated	0.3
Number of Individuals ('000)	177

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.4 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 30.3 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 1.8 per cent were fully immunized against measles at 18 months.

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

		Proportion of Children
Vaccination Card	Yes Seen	51.7
	Yes, Not Seen	32.1
	No	15.7
	Not stated	0.5
Measles Vaccination	Measles I (At 9 months Card)	30.3
	Measles II (At 18 months Card)	1.8
	Measles II (Mother/ Guardian memory)	40.5
	Either (card or memory)	70.8
Number of Individuals ('000)		177

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.5 Health outputs

The county has improved its health status in some of key health indicators while some are still below the national averages. For Maternal health care WHO recommends a minimum of four antenatal visits. Maternal mortality rate is a key indicator of a health status of a population. Moreover, levels and trends in overall adult mortality have important implications for health and social programs especially about the population impact of HIV epidemic, other infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases. Over the period of the last CIDP the County together with the partners has made significant investment in the health care system including building new facilities and maternity wards.

According to a UNFPA (2014) report on Counties with highest burden of maternal mortality, Homa Bay has a mortality rate of 583 per 100,000 live births, which is higher than the national average of 362 per 100,000 live births. Also, the infant mortality rate of 112 and under-five mortality rate 170 are still high. Currently the county has 8 comprehensive emergency obstetric and neo-natal care (CEMONC) and 25 basic emergency obstetric and neo-natal care (BEMONC) facilities to respond to obstetric and neo-natal emergencies. According to DHIS 2017, the skilled care delivery was at 60.4 per cent from 61 per cent in 2016 due to continuous industrial action of the health care workers.

Children's nutritional status reflects their overall health. When children have access to an adequate food supply, are not exposed to repeated illness, and are well cared for, they reach their growth potential and are considered well nourished. Malnutrition is associated

with more than half of all child deaths worldwide. Undernourished children are more likely to die from common childhood ailments, and for those who survive, have recurring sicknesses and faltering growth. Three-quarters of the children who die from causes related to malnutrition are only mildly or moderately malnourished – showing no outward sign of their vulnerability. A reduction in the prevalence of malnutrition will also assist in the goal to reduce child mortality. The overall nutrition status in Homa Bay County is classified as normal based on the WHO classification for wasting and underweight. However, the stunting levels in the county are high at 18.7 per cent (DHIS, 2018).

The performance of Fully Immunized Children (FIC) in 2014/15 from routine DHIS2 data is consistent with the KDHS 2014 findings, which put the performance of the county at 64.4 per cent. There is need to improve on the immunization coverage to enhance child health expectancy and eliminate polio in the county. The objective of immunization is to ensure that children are protected against childhood diseases such as tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, hepatitis B and hemophilia, influenza and measles. Immunization is carried out among children less than 5 years old. Sensitization on immunization will have to be up scaled to achieve this objective.

Table 9.7: Health Indicators in Homabay County

Key Health Indicators	County Estimates
Maternal and Child Services	
Skilled delivery (per cent)	60.4
Children born at home	35.7
Fully immunized child	64.4
Child Mortality	
Infant mortality (* /1000)	112
Under-5 mortality (* /1000)	170
Neo-natal mortality (* /1000)	19
Nutrition Status	
Stunted children (per cent)	18.7
Wasted children (per cent)	2.3
Underweight children (per cent)	5.4
HIV (per cent)	
HIV adult prevalence (per cent)	20.7
Children with HIV(No.)	0
ART adult coverage (per cent)	79
ART children coverage (per cent)	90

Source: KDHS, 2014

9.1.6 Effects of COVID-19

Homa Bay has been one of the counties highly hit by the pandemic owing to its low level of preparedness in combating the virus. The county currently has one isolation centre at Malela Health Centre having 16 isolation beds. However, in a move to boost the county's state of preparedness to contain the coronavirus pandemic, the county government has established nine existing health facilities at the sub county level to be converted to high dependency units that will enable them to handle the acute level of coronavirus pandemic. Among the facilities were Nyagoro, Nyang'ieia, Ober, Kisegi, Tom Mboya, Pala Masogo and Kandiege. The move is in response to a recent presidential directive that over 300 bed facilities be established in all the 47 counties.

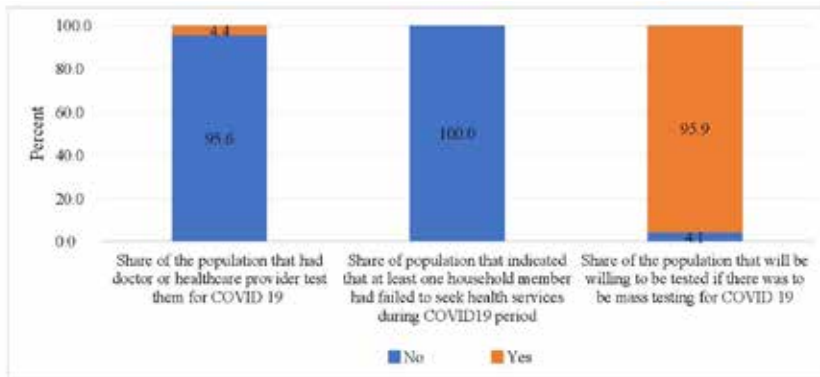
The county in line with adhering to the president's directive on putting in place 300 isolation beds has so far put in place 30 beds and this is an ongoing process. In terms of health workers, the County has recruited 200 health workers and purchased PPE's as well as other medical supplies. The county government in cooperation with development partners have distributed the PPE's worth Ksh 53 million.

The infrastructure has been a key challenge during this pandemic, however, the county has strived to improve the hospital infrastructure within its (40) wards. It has also hastened the construction of new hospitals that will host (2) health centers and (2) dispensaries. The county is also in the process of introducing re-usable face masks- an act that has been driven by the improper disposal of masks in the informal settlements thereby messing up the hygiene in the county. The county has made an undertaking to collect all the used disposed masks and burned.

The sector initiated many projects including the establishment of the blood bank, oxygen plant, maternity wards, and new facilities, among many other projects. The program indicators have improved in the same period with an increase of children being immunized, mothers giving birth in facilities and HIV positive mothers getting prophylaxis. The department is however cognizant of the fact that more investments are required in the sector.

In June 2020 Kenya National Bureaus of Statistics conducted a survey of COVID-19. The results showed the share of the population that had doctor or healthcare provider testing or confirming to them the status in regards COVID-19 was estimated at 4.4 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, no member of the population indicated that at least one household member had failed to seek health services and 95.9 per cent of the population indicated they will be willing to be tested if there was mass testing for COVID-19.

Figure 9.1: COVID-19 Testing, 2020



Source: COVID-19 Wave 2 (June 2020)

In a bid to support local talents and abilities, the County Government of Homa Bay has entered negotiation with the National Government to support the development of Homa Bay County Stadium at a cost of Ksh 1.5 billion. The focus of this current CIDP (2018 – 2022) is on the development of Homa Bay County Stadium as a Regional Sports Stadium, development of 8 Sub-County Stadia, Development of an ultra-modern Sports Gymnasia and establishment of Homa Bay County Sports Fund to promote sports activities in the County.

The County Government will, in the next five years, also focus on developing at least one sports ground in each of the 40 wards and one stadium in each of the 8 sub-counties. Besides, the County Government, following up on the CIDP (2013 – 2017), will also focus on developing one ultra-modern sports gymnasia and establishing of Homa Bay County Sports Fund to support the development of youth sports talents and participation of County Sports Teams (Football, Volleyball, Handball, Tennis, Hockey, Athletics) in county, inter-county, national and international tournaments.

Various sectors such as the private sectors laid off their workers, the informal sectors have been adversely affected with many rendered jobless. The county workers were working from home in adherence to government directives. The county has also recruited more health workers who have been trained adequately on management of COVID-19 cases.

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. County can increase revenue collection by promoting opening of businesses which had closed while at the same time observing the Ministry of health guidelines in fighting COVID-19. County can also diversify its source of income by encouraging local production of masks and PPEs. This will create employment among the youths and the same time save the county the money it could have used to buy from other countries or counties.

Fish as source of food in the county has been helping in promoting food security. It is also a source of acids and vitamins such as D and B2 (riboflavin). Fish is rich in calcium and phosphorus and a great source of minerals, such as iron, zinc, iodine, magnesium, and potassium. Considering the County has access to the shores of Lake Victoria, it has become a source of tourism attraction.

Due to of COVID-19 fear, many people avoided going to the hospital and this led to a direct adverse effect on generation of revenues by the health department. The fear might also lead to emergence of diseases that had been controlled such as those that could have been controlled through immunization. Medical personnel shortage is another challenge that is likely to derail delivery of health services. Lack of enough ICU beds and PPEs are also hindrances to the success of fight against COVID-19 in the county. The latest constraint is the strike by the health workers strike which begun on 3rd August 2020 due to delayed salary payment for two months. The health workers also complained of risk of contracting COVID-19 due to lack of PPEs. This is a few days after a nurse died due to COVID-19.

Health sector is linked to the agricultural sector, the education sector as well as trade. 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.

9.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Health Sector

COVID-19 had led to the improvement of the health facilities in Homa Bay County. It had also created awareness on the need to improve the capacity of the TVET institutions which had also been useful in finding local solution to production of requisite protective gears. COVID-19 had also enhanced the use of technology in transacting various county business online. COVID-19 has also contributed to the ICT development where meetings are being held virtually without physical contacts. Security has also improved in the area due to restricted movement and curfew. It has also created cooperation opportunities among the counties especially the LREB block.

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.

9.3 Recommendations

Following the adverse effect and pressure exerted by the spread of the pandemic, the county health sector requires enhanced investment in health systems, including in the health workforce, capacity building of community health workers and the medical officers on COVID-19 control and management, upgrading of working conditions and provision of requisite health commodities and equipment, especially in relation to personal protective equipment and occupational safety. Providing support in health-care teams and among families, and friends, information, and guidance for health workers on how to deal with stress, and post-traumatic stress counselling must be an integral part of the COVID-19 response.

The county will implement the following specific recommendations.

- i) The county to strengthen preventative and promotive health services through malaria control; expanded programmes on immunization; integrated management of childhood illness; and control and prevention of environmentally communicable diseases. Expand and equip Homabay county referral hospitals to serve the entire population of the county.
- ii) The county to invest in community and primary health including community health workers, water, sanitation, immunization and public health; provide enough water collection points and water use facilities in the health facilities to allow convenient access to, and use of water for medical activities, drinking, personal hygiene, food preparation, laundry and cleaning. Priority will be given to isolation centers such as Malela Health Centre which has only 16 isolation beds.
- iii) Promote construction, upgrading and equipping of health facilities through additional funding to health sector, this will enable the county to achieve the CIDP 2018-2022 goal of improving of Health Infrastructure and systems. Hospitals such as Rachuonyo Sub-County Hospital in Homa Bay need upgrading so that they can handle all health cases including COVID-19.
- iv) Promote collaboration with other sectors in generation and application of new knowledge for improved service delivery and for investment in health research and development.
- v) Establish Homabay County health insurance scheme and assistance system for entire county population. The health insurance agencies will be encouraged to allocate part of the health insurance fund in advance to ensure that hospitals provide treatment efficiently.

10. Education and Training

10.1 Characteristics of the sector

10.1.1 General Education Provision in the County

Homa Bay County has 992 pre-primary centres, 1025 primary and 236 secondary schools. Infrastructures are in place to support water and sanitation efforts in learning institutions by the county. The county has rolled out plans to provide hand washing facilities in schools in preparation for re-opening.

About 71.0 per cent of public primary schools in Baringo 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).

There are over 180 secondary schools in the county catering for the secondary education needs of a total 96,131 eligible children however only the 63,400 children between the ages of thirteen and seventeen are accommodated. This represents an average enrolment of 66 per cent of the children eligible for secondary school education. With an estimated staff establishment of 1,224 it can be projected that the teacher pupil ratio will jump from 1:49 currently to 1:79 once a gross enrolment rate of 100 per cent is achieved. To achieve the national target of 100 per cent gross enrolment and a teacher pupil ratio of 1:40, measures must be in place to hire additional teachers for the existing secondary schools in the county. With 42.8 per cent of the married having got married at between 15 and 17 years and with over 56 per cent of the children who attend school being involved in some form of child labour, it is imperative that challenges of child marriages and child labour are addressed as a matter of priority.

The county of Homa Bay according to the study has 2 public technical training institutions: Mawego, Wanyama and one public Teacher Training College at Asumbi. There are 6 private accredited Teacher Training Colleges: Nyandiwa, Nyabola, GEBS, St. Francis, Mbita ECD, Joy ECD and, one private accredited commercial college in Homa Bay (Yolifa Institute). There are also two University Branches in the county: Tom Mboya University College and University of Nairobi and Homa Bay Extra-Mural Centre. With poverty rates of Homa Bay at 48.4 (KNBS), most of the students who complete secondary is not able to proceed to tertiary institutions. The low 58 transition to post-secondary institutions must be addressed first by building tertiary institutions within the reach of the populations in each sub-county and then support in terms of tuition, transport and accommodation given to students from those households of poor wealth quintiles.

There is only one Technical Training Institute (TVET) in Homa Bay County known as Mawego TTI in Karachuonyo Sub County according to the most current Utawala, 2014 Survey Report.

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

The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 115.1 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 107 and 58.2 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, 118.7 per cent, compared to that for females, 110.9 per cent. The GAR for primary school was higher for females, 110.1 per cent, compared to that for males, 103.9 per cent. The GAR for secondary school was higher for males, 68.8 per cent, compared to that for females, 49.3 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 67.4 per cent, 79.5 per cent and 29.7 per cent, respectively.

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

Education Level	Gender	Gross Attendance Ratio	Net Attendance Ratio
Pre-Primary School	Male	118.7	67.4
	Female	110.9	67.4
	Total	115.1	67.4
Primary School	Male	103.9	76.5
	Female	110.1	82.6
	Total	107	79.5
Secondary School	Male	68.8	30.1
	Female	49.3	29.4
	Total	58.2	29.7

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.1.3 Basic education gross and net enrolment rate

The preprimary gross enrolment rate in the county was 118.4 per cent in 2019 and while the net enrolment rate was 68.7 per cent. The Gross Primary and Secondary enrolment rates stood at 107.51 per cent and 80.1 per cent respectively in 2019 while the Net enrolment rates (NER) were 79.4 per cent and 42.0 per cent for primary school and secondary school respectively during the same period.

Table 10.2: Gross and net enrolment rate (per cent), 2019

Preprimary	Total
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	118.4
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	68.7
Gender parity index	0.97

Primary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	107.5
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	79.4
Gender parity index	0.99
Secondary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	80.1
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	42.0
Gender parity index	0.95

Source: Education statistical booklets 2014-2020

The percentage of children of primary school age 6-13 years are attending primary or secondary school. The majority (75%) of children of primary school age are attending school. However, 25 per cent of the children are out of school. In urban areas, 82 per cent of children attend school while in rural areas attendance is at 74 per cent. Primary school attendance increases with increasing levels of household wealth index. For example, 70 per cent of the primary school age children from poorest wealth index households are currently attending primary school contrasted with 85 per cent for those from the richest wealth index households

10.1.4 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 86.4 per cent with the male population being more literate (92.4%) compared to their female counterparts (81.4%).

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	86.4
	Illiterate	12.8
	Not Stated	0.8
	Number of Individuals ('000)	538
Male	Literate	92.4
	Illiterate	7.3
	Not Stated	0.3
	Number of Individuals ('000)	244

Female	Literate	81.4
	Illiterate	17.4
	Not Stated	1.2
	Number of Individuals ('000)	294

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Literacy rates in the County are quite low. Given the general apathy towards adult education, the County should seek ways of attracting more adults to continuing education to improve literacy among the general population. As a way of doing this and of increasing the number of existing designated adult education centres, new adult education units could be started at minimum cost within existing public institutions such as primary schools, secondary schools, vocational and technical institutions.

10.1.5 Educational Attainment

The distribution of population aged 3 years and above by educational qualification attained is presented in Table 10.4. Approximately 67.2 per cent of the population do not have any educational qualification. This is high than the national percentage of 49.7. Only 0.8 per cent of the population has attained university degree. The proportion of the population with CPE/KCPE qualification is 22 per cent and that of KCE/ KCSE qualification is 5.1 per cent.

Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Highest Educational Qualification

Highest Educational Qualification	Percentage Distribution of Population
None	67.2
CPE/ KCPE	22
KAPE	0
KJSE	0.1
KCE/ KCSE	5.1
KACE/ EAACE	0.1
Certificate	0.5
Diploma	0.9
Degree	0.8
Basic/post literacy certificate	0
Other	0
Not Stated	3.3
Number of individuals ('000)	888

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Percentage distribution of Bomet County residents aged 3 years and above who had ever attended school by the highest level reached, and sex is presented in 10.5. The proportion of males who had reached primary school level was 57.4 per cent while that of females was

67.6 per cent. Except for primary school level and college (middle level), the proportion of males who had reached other levels of education were comparatively higher than females. For instance, for all persons who reported to have attended school, 17.2 per cent of males and 14.7 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 1.5 per cent and 0.5 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 Bomet County (per cent)

Educational Level	Gender	Percentage Distribution of Population 3 Years and above
Pre-primary	Male	17.2
	Female	14.7
Primary	Male	57.4
	Female	67.6
Post primary vocational	Male	0
	Female	0.2
Secondary	Male	16.3
	Female	11.7
College (Middle level)	Male	2.1
	Female	1.5
University	Male	1.5
	Female	0.9
Madrassa / Duksi	Male	0
	Female	0
Other	Male	1.5
	Female	1
Not Stated	Male	3.9
	Female	2.5
Number of Individuals ('000)	Male	432
	Female	456

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

The County Governments mainly deals with Early Childhood Development (ECD). To observe social distancing guidelines, the expansion of ECD classrooms is underway to address congestion in the high populated schools in readiness for school reopening. The schools are required to increase hand washing areas within the schools as well as provide sanitizers and face masks for learners. The County is working closely with the national Government to reopen secondary and primary schools.

About 51 per cent of children aged 3-4 years are attending pre-school above. About 48 per cent of children born to mothers with primary education and 60 per cent of children born to mothers with secondary or higher education attend pre-school. The proportions of children currently attending early childhood education by gender are similar. About 71 per cent of children ages 4-5 years attend pre-school, while the figure drops to 31 per cent among children aged 3-4 years.

Non-formal learning includes various structured learning situations, such as swimming sessions for toddlers, community-based sports programs and conference style seminars, which do not either have the level of curriculum, syllabus, accreditation and certification associated with 'formal learning', but have more structure than that associated with 'informal learning', which typically take place naturally and spontaneously as part of other activities. Adult literacy is an SDG indicator, relating to both men and women. 74 per cent of women in Homa Bay County are literate. According to MICS 2011, literacy varies by age, education level and levels of household wealth index. 68 per cent of young women aged 20-24 and 79 per cent of young women aged 15-19 years are literate. Also, 63 per cent and 98 per cent of women who have attained primary school and secondary school/higher education respectively are literate. Literacy rate is at 61 per cent in women from the lowest wealth quintile and 87 per cent in women from the highest wealth quintile

The county has in the most current Cedia Utawala Survey Report, 2014, 50 Youth Polytechnics with a total enrolment of 2,970 students. The number of Youth Polytechnics in Homa Bay increased from 24 in the year 2013 to 26 in the year 2016. There is a need to establish more youth polytechnics to cater for the growing youth population.

GBV and youth unemployment are some of the challenges facing youths and women in the county. As earlier noted, 68 per cent of young women aged 20-24 and 79 per cent of young women aged 15-19 years are literate. Also, 63 per cent and 98 per cent of women who have attained primary school and secondary school/higher education respectively are literate. Generally, Literacy rate is at 61 per cent in women from the lowest wealth quintile and 87 per cent in women from the highest wealth quintile. COVID-19 has worsened the situation since has forced the closure of schools. Most of the children are now at home idle since no learning taking place. This has contributed to increased cases of pregnancies among the young girls. Other challenges facing youths in the education sector includes drug and substance abuse, poverty, peer pressure, and poor parenting.

Loss of jobs due to COVID-19 has also affected education sector. Private schools that 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.

Private schools in Homa Bay County have been severely affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic because they could no longer receive income in form of school fees. Suppliers and vendors who sold their goods and services to schools also lost their target market after the government ordered all schools to shut down.

As the schools prepare to re-open the opportunity will be created for revenue collection. However, the collections from the market, SMEs and agricultural produce forms the basis of own revenue. Even after reopening of schools, private schools will still be struggling to come back to the feet as many of them had suffered huge losses. There is a likelihood that some of the schools will close permanently unless the government comes for their rescue.

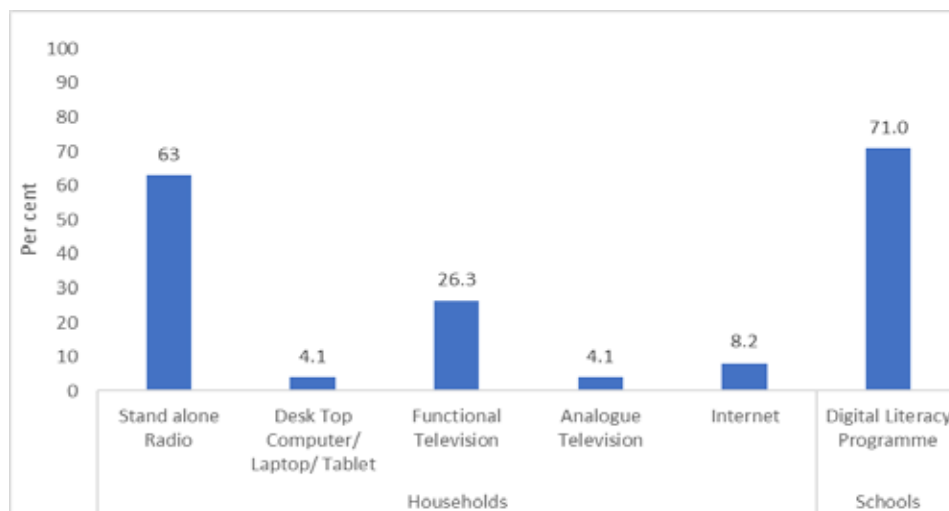
The county's budget allocation for education was 8 per cent and 7 per cent in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. In absolute terms, the budget increased from Ksh 401 million in 2014-2015 to Ksh 467 million in 2015-2016. From 2014-15 to 2015-16, overall absorption of education budget decreased from 89 per cent to 84 per cent. During the same period, execution of recurrent budget had improved however the development budget absorption was as low as 40 per cent in 2015-2016. The development budget was mainly spent on construction of ECDE centres and new ECD classrooms; employment of supervisors; recruitment of ECDE teachers since devolution and development of Maseno University. There is need to allocate more funds to the education sector in order to facilitate the reopening of schools.

The main one was 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. Additionally, there is challenge of poverty among many school going children. Some used to eat from schools in the school feeding programs some of which were supported by donors and NGOs. Lack of parental guidance and early marriages are other challenges being experienced.

10.2 ICT in Education

There is lack of enough ICT infrastructures in the county making it difficult for the online learning to take place. The county has also low internet access (8.2%) which constrains online learning across the County. Furthermore, only 4.1 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 63 per cent of the county population has a radio. Another challenge is the inability of the private schools to sustain their teachers while they are not in operation.

Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools



Source: KNBS, 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 can 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 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.

10.3 Opportunities with 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 provided an opportunity for the county government to forge partnerships to ensure enough network coverage across all the sub-counties and counties in the Lake 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.

10.4 Emerging Issues

Limited access to desktops, laptops and internet connectivity by many school going children who have missed the studying at home program. Lack of clear schools re-opening strategy among the private and public schools.

10.5 Recommendations

- i) The County with support from stakeholders should continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities.
- ii) The county to 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 to 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 to 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 to 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.

11. Social Protection

11.1 Characteristics of the sector

11.1.1 Sources of vulnerabilities in the County

Recent findings from the KNBS, 2019 census survey indicate that Homabay county has an estimated population of 1,131,950 people of which 4.3 per cent are living with various disabilities. An additional 4.4 per cent of the total population are the elderly and the proportion of stunted children stands at 19 per cent. In terms of poverty levels, 79 per cent of the total population is poor whereas about 23 per cent and 33 per cent are multidimensional and food poor respectively.

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 large fall in sale prices for crops which affected 26.6 per cent of the households followed by droughts and floods and death of family member at 12.5 and 14 per cent, respectively. Crop disease or crop pests were experienced by 2.7 per cent of households while the death of livestock affected 6.1 per cent of the households. Livestock dearth and large price of food are other experienced shocks affecting 6.1 per cent and 8.7 per cent of households, 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	12.5
Crop disease or crop pests	2.7
Livestock died	6.1
Livestock were stolen	1.3
Household business failure, nonagricultural	3.4
Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary	0.5
End of regular assistance, aid, or remittances from outside the household	0.4
Large fall in sale prices for crops	26.6
Large rise in price of food	8.7

Large rise in agricultural input prices	1
Severe water shortage	3
Birth in the household	1
Death of household head	4
Death of working member of household	2
Death of other family Member	14
Break-up of the household	2
Bread winner jailed	1
Fire	2
Robbery / Burglary / Assault	1
Carjacking	-
Dwelling damaged, destroyed	0
Eviction	0
Ethnic/ Clan Clashes	2
Conflict	1
HIV/ AIDS	1
Other	2
Number of households with Shock	200,000

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, 42 per cent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (69%), mainly from individuals (77%) while external transfers constituted 38 per cent.

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

		Beneficiaries
	Total Number of Households	224,000
	Households receiving transfers (per cent)	42

From Inside Kenya	Individual	9,884
	Non-Profit Institution	697
	National Government	1,653
	County Government	229
	Corporate Sector	-
Inside Kenya		12,462
Outside Kenya		-
Total		11,630
Number of households that received transfers		94,000

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

The number of Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVC) benefiting from the cash transfers is currently estimated at 11,069. In addition, the childcare facilities in the entire County are 22. However, there are 6 children offices (Rangwe and Homa Bay Town share an officer whilst Suba North and Suba South share another one). The county however lacks rescue and rehabilitation centre. Efforts should therefore be put in place to ensure there exists a rescue/rehabilitation centre in the county. The county has 11,069 orphans. Homa Bay Town records the greatest number of orphans at 2,115, 1,818 in Karachuonyo, and 1,703 in Kabondo Kasipul while Rangwe on the other hand hosts the least number at 803. The county through the department of social protection has put in place programmes that embrace the marginalized (OVC) group into the system

The Makongeni health Center acts as safe haven for adolescent youth. The county should make efforts in ensuring additional correctional centres and orphanages are built since their existence is of great need in the county considering the high number of orphans in the county. Table 20: Orphanages by Sub County Sub County Number of Orphanages Homa Bay 5 Rangwe 4 Kasipul 5 Karachuonyo 2 Mbita 1 Suba 1 Total 18 Source: Ministry of East Africa Community, our and Social Protection Homa Bay County has 1 rescue centre located at Makongeni Health Center in Homa Bay town and 18 orphanages spread in different sub counties as shown in the table 20. The county still lacks a correction/rehabilitation facility.

The county government flagged off the distribution of food items to vulnerable households in all 40 wards. The exercise followed a decision by the county leadership to cushion the vulnerable during this pandemic as they are among the worst hit, with their livelihoods affected. The consignment which consisted of assorted food items including, seed variety of maize, beans, green grams, and rice will be distributed to farmers and the vulnerable at the ward level. The distribution of food is to aid 24,000 vulnerable households.

Women and vulnerable people received donations from well-wishers after the president appealed for people to support during COVID-19 period. One of the well-wisher distributed rice, maize flour, sugar, cooking oil and bars of soap in Suba South, Kabondo Kasipul, Ndhwa and Rangwe constituencies. More than 1,500 vulnerable and needy people in Homa Bay benefited from food and non-food items donated by businessman Jared Kiasa. Youths are a very critical group that needs to be carefully nurtured by ensuring that they have access to quality education and skills development at middle level colleges, universities and in

employment. In this regard, they need skills development that can guarantee them quality jobs in a rapidly evolving and dynamic labour market characterized by rapid technological advancements. A total of 3,200 youths from four informal settlements within the Homa Bay Municipality benefited from the 2nd phase of Kazi Mtaani National Hygiene Program which was rolled in the county.

Open air markets were closed which mostly serve as place of trade mostly for fish and products. 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. Fishing has also been affected by the curfew and social distance requirement making it hard for people to sell fish which serves as a main source of income. This means that they no longer feed their households members. Other small-scale traders such as those in transport industries like *matatu* and *bodaboda* have been affected since the number of passengers they carry per trip has been reduced. Thus, due to introduction of social distance requirements. This has therefore reduced their income with some operating at losses. Shops and Kiosks, social centers such as club and bars, hotels were affected by the curfew and social distance requirements thus reducing the amount of income that they get.

Most of the social protection operations were undertaken through noncontributory 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 as a result of outbreak of COVID-19. Closing of markets and reduction in fishing time has affected business activities and revenue collected by the county government. County will need to capitalize on fishing revenue as the curfew hours have been adjusted. County also needs to diversify its source of revenue by engaging in other activities such as tourism.

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.

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. Homabay 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 with COVID-19 in social protection

COVID-19 pandemic provided opportunity for the county government to forge partnerships to ensure enough network coverage across all the sub-counties and counties in the LREB region. The County provided food, mosquito nets, water and water tanks to vulnerable women, children and persons with disabilities. In collaboration with development partners the County built houses for homeless women and provided them with furniture such as chairs. The County held meeting with landlords and requested them to accommodate tenants especially the vulnerable in society. In conjunction with the national Government, the County implemented ‘*Kazi Kwa Vijana*’ programs to keep the youth active and enable them to earn livelihoods during this time. (The County is tasked with identifying the youth who qualify for the programs). Through partnership, the Lake Victoria Conference of the SDA Church bought food and other supplies for distribution to various families in the county.

A total of 3,200 youths from four informal settlements within the Homa Bay Municipality including Got Rabuor, Makongeni, Sophia and Shauri Yako have benefited from the 2nd phase of Kazi Mtaani National Hygiene Program which was rolled out by the Principal Secretary, State department for Gender, Ministry of Public Service and Gender. The Kazi Mtaani initiative would cushion youth and women who have been devastated by coronavirus pandemic

11.3 Emerging Issues

The county lacks clear policy to cushion youths and vulnerable in the case of pandemics. There are no clear policies by the county government that aims at cushioning the youths and women from the impacts of COVID-19. Apart from national government of “*Kazi Mtaani*”, county government need to come up with her own initiatives. Addressing teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence during and after COVID-19 need to be prioritized in Homabay County. Evidence indicates that 5,961 teenage pregnancy cases were reported between January and May 2020 (KHIS, 2020) while 25 cases of GBV in April 2020 (HAK, 2020). These are children experiencing poverty, homelessness or both, who are living on the streets of a city, town, or village. Homeless youth are often called street kids or street youth; the definition of street children is contested, but many practitioners and policymakers use

UNICEF's concept of boys and girls, aged under 18 years, for whom "the street" (including unoccupied dwellings and wasteland) has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised. The number of street children in Homa Bay County is currently estimated at 250.

11.4 Recommendations

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 county government should:

- i) Build linkages with other ministry in charge of PWDs, and with NGOs that work with people with disabilities to strengthen family support systems, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training.
- ii) Ensure basic income security, for persons whose jobs or livelihoods have been disrupted by the crisis, also coordinate social protection programmes and strengthen linkages across various social protection interventions in the county.
- iii) Protect vulnerable groups of the population from health costs by increasing coverage of the NHIF; improving knowledge of the existing insurance scheme (NHIF) to improve uptake; and subsidizing NHIF premiums for targeted populations

Homabay County has a population distribution of more female (52.3%) than male (47.7%). The youth (15-34 years) comprise 34 per cent of the population. The county was worst hit with teenage pregnancies recording 5,961 cases between January and May 2020 (KHIS, 2020) and ranked third in this unfortunate statistic. While this is an existing problem with 5,933 cases being reported during the same period in 2019, the 0.5 per cent increment could be attributed to COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting measures that led to staying at home and closure of schools. 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. Homabay County is also faced with the challenge of Gender Based Violence both women, men, boys, and girls. The May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey indicates that 28.1 per cent of the respondents in the County had witnessed or heard of domestic violence. According to the HAK, 2020 the county recorded 25 cases of GBV in April 2020.

Addressing these challenges become paramount and the following should be considered:

- i) Prioritize elimination of gender stereotypes, transforming gender norms and revoke discriminatory practices for effective realization of the rights of women and girls
- ii) Community training and sensitization programmes targeting teenage boys and girls to deal with increased cases of teenage pregnancies.
- iii) Strengthen enforcement of laws related to early pregnancies especially where adults are involved.

- iv) Creation of help lines to facilitate reporting of GBV cases; this could be through toll-free calls and SMS numbers for victims.
- v) Identify and train champions (individual actors) active in combating GBV and who can carry advocacy messages and contribute strongly to changing harmful and retrogressive practices.
- 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 for GBV survivors and create spaces to be used as recovery centers preferably County Referral Hospitals.

12.Labour Participation

12.1 Characteristics of the Sector

12.1.1 Sources of employment in the County

The main economic activity of Homa Bay county is fishing. The pandemic has affected the industry as demand from the hospitality, restaurant and catering sector represents a significant share of fish consumption in the county. The closure of restaurants and cancellation of both public and private events resulted into a collapse in demand for these fish products and reduced markets hence affecting the livelihood of sellers. The loss of domestic demand of fish had often been further heightened by a collapse in export markets.

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

	Male	Female	Total
Population	458,186	512,195	970,400
Working	185,239	233,878	419,128
Seeking Work/ No Work Available	14,683	12,739	27,424
Persons outside the Labour Force	258,225	265,535	523,766
Not Stated	39	43	82
per cent Working	92.6	94.8	93.8
per cent Seeking Work/ No Work Available	7.3	5.2	6.1

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 399,954 people of whom 377,888 were working and 22,066 were seeking work representing an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019). In terms of gender employment, more females are employed compared to males at 26.0 and 24.0 per cent respectively. In terms of economically active, more female (21.0%) than male (19.0%) were economically inactive. This pattern shows that females are less employed in comparison with their male counterparts and the social economic fallout of COVID-19 had an impulse effect on the females.

12.1.2 Effects of COVID-19

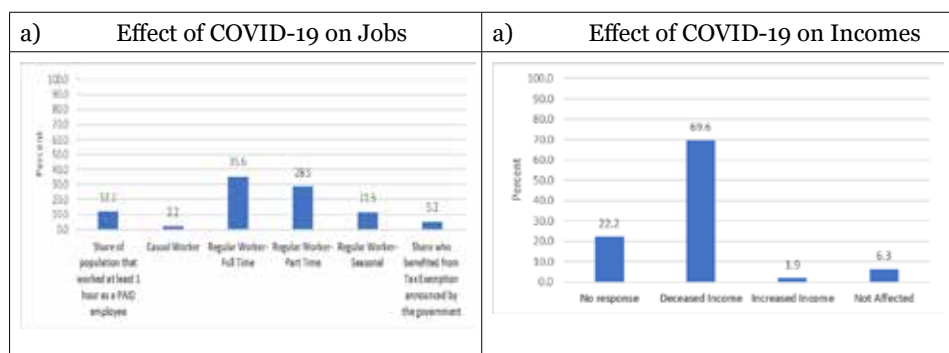
The social economic impact of the novel Coronavirus resulted to loss of jobs, particularly in the informal sector which employ most people in the county. The loss of jobs in the

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. In education sector the workers employed by school Board of management (BOM) loosed their jobs as well a those employed by Private schools as the schools could not sustain their salaries due to closure of schools. Public schools have also faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity and security bills.

During the pandemic, the county government of Homabay prioritized protection of lives and health of the citizens. Most of social and economic activities were suspended and the labor market activities declined substantially. According to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, 12.2 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 82.6 per cent of employees working without pay; 5.2 per cent had never worked, and 75.7 per cent worked in the informal sector. However, 9.0 per cent of employees were absent from work due to COVID-19 related issues. On average, workers in the County lost 16.9 hours per week due to COVID-19.

In addition, about 2.2 per cent of workers in the county were casual workers while 35.6 were regular workers (full time), 28.5 per cent employees were working as part time. However, majority of these workers (69.6%) reported decrease in income while 1.9 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 5.2 per cent of workers indicated to have benefited from government tax exemptions which indicates about 94 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



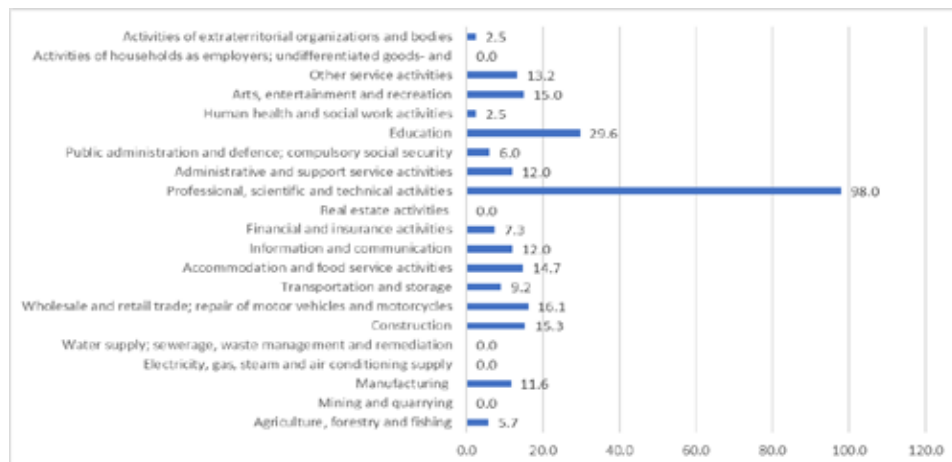
Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey

The county experienced the closing of open-air markets which serves as source of income and food for most county residents negatively affected the wellbeing of people. The Nyakwere market which serves over 20,000 people in Wang'chieng' ward was closed leaving most of subsistence farmers and small-scale traders in worries of where to sell their products. According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, the professional, scientific and technical activities sector reported the highest level of loss of hours worked

per week (98 hours) followed. The large number of working hours lost can be attributed to the possibility that workers in the sector were previously working overtime and including weekends. The high number of hours lost in professional, scientific and technical activities was attributed to the fact that some workers in the sector like consultants were working beyond normal working hours and during weekends.

Education sector lost 29.6 hours while wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycle and construction lost a total of 16.1 per cent and 15.3 per cent, respectively. Workers in arts, entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food service activities recorded on average loss of 15.0 hours and 14.7 hours per week, respectively. The loss of working hours in service sectors which contributes to 50.0 per cent of county GCP implied the county economy was affected by the implications of COVID-19.

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



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey

According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, 87.0 per cent of the employees were under the category that worked without pay while 12.2 per cent worked for at least one hour for pay. About 7.0 per cent of employees did not report to work due to COVID-19 related reasons. Following the containment measures put in place by both national and county governments, some other businesses such as bars, hotels, market centres had closed during the COVID-19 period, leading to reduced business activities. Workers in the transport sector also reported a decline in economic activities.

12.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Labour Participation

The County has proposed policies for youth engagement mainly through economic activities. The County wants to invest in building storage facilities and post-harvest facilities. The decision has been informed by increased farming activities in the County since most individuals have opted for farming owing to the decline in economic activities in various sectors of the economy. The county plans once the economy is opened up post-COVID-19 to

come up with various economic activities in an effort to stimulate the markets. To this end the County is working on developing value chains to spur business activities in the markets and economic growth, marketing strategies have been employed within municipalities to establish markets and promote local produce.

The pandemic has strengthened the desire for Private Public Partnership (PPP) which is very significant for counties development. Currently, Homa Bay county has been working closely on various measures aimed at managing the adverse effects of the pandemic with all stakeholders such as private institutions, landlords, development partners and member Counties.

12.3 Emerging issues

youth unemployment is very high. The only intervention was the Kazi Kwa Vijana initiative by the National Government. Most of the youth in the County engaged menial and labor-intensive activities in the construction and mining industries. Currently they have been incorporated in the second phase of government programme of Kazi Mtaani.

12.4 Recommendations

- i) The County to on what has worked; while bringing into perspective the implications of COVID-19 on work arrangements; continue investment in education and training; retooling and re-skilling employees in both public and private sectors on flexible working arrangements; enhancing skills development; and investments within the key sectors of manufacturing, agriculture and services.
- ii) Rethink work dynamics, workforces and workplaces; improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through online lending; and emerging new products' demand while ensuring sustained businesses continuity.
- iii) The county government to reengage and redeploy the workforce to maximize their contribution and potential in the rapidly evolving workplace and organizational priorities.
- iv) Promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions and policy reforms that drive employment creation under the new normal. The County to deepen technical education, training and skills development; and recommit to employee well-being through a focus on employees' physical, psychological and financial needs, both at home and in the workplace. The county public and private sector employers will engage their workers with clear direction on changes in work priorities; routines including emerging technologies and virtual work arrangements; and combination of onsite and virtual work arrangements.

13. Conclusion and key recommendations

13.1 Conclusion

13.1.1 Fiscal policy

Total county revenue has increased by 44 per cent from Ksh 5.86 billion in FY2013/14 to Ksh 8.44 billion in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 6.3 per cent. Actual expenditures in the county increased from Ksh 4,032.5 million in FY 2013/20 to Ksh 7,456.3 million in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 15.7 per cent. Development expenditure has performed weakly accounting for an average of 28.2 per cent of total county expenditure. County wage bill has been growing tremendously at the expense of development expenditure. Between fiscal years 2013/14 and 2020/21 county wage bill was on an upward trend and on average accounted for 46.6 per cent of expenditure, while development expenditure has been plummeting. Budget execution has remained above 70.0 per cent over the review period. Average overall absorption rate at 81.7 per cent with the average development budget absorption rate stands at 64.0 per cent while that of recurrent expenditure stands at 91.9 per cent. Pending bills have been burgeoning over the review period with development related pending bills accounting for over 78.4 per cent on average. The county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operation and seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.

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 COVI-19 pandemic period, the County also suffered from floods and livestock diseases. The County's agricultural productivity is also affected by: variable and extreme weather events; unsustainable land management practices; low agroprocessing and value addition opportunities; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low crops, livestock, and livestock products marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; and 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 springs, to minimize the risks of households missing water, it's important to put in place measures to ensure protection of water resources for continuity of access to clean and safe water by households. Similarly, most households do not have a toilet facility and relieve themselves in the bush or open field thus put households at risk of infections.

13.1.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

Homabay 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 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 Tourism

Homa Bay County sits in a prominent position to be a lead destination in the Western Tourism Circuit and is home to Ruma National Park which is the only park where unique and rare species like the roan antelope can be found. Key products include Nature and Wildlife, Culture, Heritage and Community-Based Tourism, Agro-tourism, Eco-tourism. The county needs to develop a county strategic plan for tourism, diversification of the tourism product range, develop databank of tourist attraction sites and investment in protection of cultural heritage sites, preservation of artefacts

13.1.6 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

13.1.7 Education and training

The County with support from stakeholders would continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development; 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.

13.1.8 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.

13.1.9 Labour Participation

The county to 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

To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals, Homa bay county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations. The county to also 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. Further the county to 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.

13.2.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County needs to: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives.

13.2.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

To build resilience and mitigate the effect of COVID-19, the county to; 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. Promote handwashing as a stop gap measure against COVID-19.

13.2.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County to: Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short run. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19; Revive the cotton processing ginnery in Homabay town; and Collaborate with National government to rehabilitate fish landing sites in Nyandiwa as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the Lake Victoria rehabilitation programme.

13.2.5 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is bicycle motorbike followed by walking. The paved County Road network covers 11.75 km, while the paved National roads covers 233.6 km. Out of the total paved road network of 245.35 km, 58.13 per cent is in good condition, 37.63 per cent in fair condition and 1.21 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception that individuals do 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. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied. With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households' ability to pay rent was affected, with 49.7 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent. The county has challenges in quality of the housing stock. In response to the prevailing challenges, the county will Exploit the Blue Economy by developing and utilizing inland water ways and Lake Victoria ports to facilitate movement of goods and people in the East African Market; 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; Integrate the blue economy in spatial planning for human settlements and urban areas along Lake Victoria with the objective to balance Lake-based and land- based activities livelihoods.

13.2.6 Tourism

The county needs to enforce guidelines for observing high sanitation and hygiene standards in tourism establishments to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, the county needs to develop a county strategic plan for tourism and diversify the tourism product range. Further the county needs to develop databank of tourist attraction sites, protect cultural heritage sites, and develop the tourism infrastructure.

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 needs to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development; 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. To strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the county government needs 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 Labour Participation

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 Homa Bay county and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County to deepen technical education, training, and skills development.

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