

Socio-Economic Status of Bomet 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

1.1 Fiscal Policy

The County's main revenue sources comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants, and its own source revenue (OSR). The county total revenue has maintained an increasing trend from Ksh 4.09 billion in FY2013/14 to Ksh 6.69 billion in FY 2019/20, an average annual growth rate of 10.6 per cent. In FY 2020/21 the County's total revenue amounted to Ksh 6.69 billion, which was 83.7 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 7.62 billion. Equitable share from the National government has been the main source of county funding, accounting on average 85 per cent of the county's revenues. The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 164.14 million and Ksh 364.24 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The nominal value of conditional grants grew by 173.32 per cent from Ksh 272.58 million in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 745.03 million in FY 2020/21. This indicates a huge potential that the county could leverage to finance its expenditure using conditional grants. The share of own source revenue to total revenue have been low, averaging 3.53 per cent between FY 2013/14 to 2020/21. During FY 2020/20, OSR contributed 2.73 per cent of the total revenues. Nevertheless, the OSR performance has been relatively stable over the years, with the County achieving over 80 per cent of its annual targets

Expenditures have 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. Since the first full year county budgets were enacted in FY 2013/14, actual expenditure in the county rose from Ksh 4,413.4 million to Ksh 5,642.2 million in FY 2020/21, representing an annual growth rate of 4 per cent. Cumulatively the county spent a total of Ksh 41.6 billion between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 27.9 billion and Ksh 13.7 billion on recurrent and development expenditures respectively. This signals weak development expenditure and inadequate deepening of capital spending in the county. Budget execution has averaged 88.1 per cent implying that about 12.9 per cent of the budget remains unspent. Concerning development budget execution in Bomet county, the average absorption rate for development expenditure averaged 76.7 per cent. With regards to recurrent expenditure, the execution has been robust over the years, the average absorption rate has been 93.9 per cent leaving about 6.1 per cent of unspent recurrent budget.

1.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Crop and livestock production is the dominant economic activity in Bomet County. Key agricultural value chain commodities in the County include: - maize, beans, kales, bananas,

sweet potatoes, onions, sorghum, sugarcane, potatoes, cattle, sheep, goats, and camels, poultry production and bee keeping (apiculture). Among the socioeconomic effects on the COVID 19 pandemic on the agri-food sector in the County included negative effects on hours worked by in agriculture related occupations. An additional effect was a slow down on trade and marketing activities due to the restrictions on movements leading to price shocks and shortages of food items. Agricultural productivity in the County is also affected by: - variable and extreme weather events ; 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 will: 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.

1.3 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 government faced challenges in revenue collections since the outbreak of COVID-19, which resulted in reduced incomes among households and businesses, thus deferred collection of revenue from the water services it provides as well as financial support to water services providers. This in the long run could affect the development of the water and sanitation sector. Additionally, COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers. If they get infected, they 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 to increase water supply to 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.

1.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

The momentum in manufacturing, trade and MSMEs was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the containment measures associated with it. 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: Collaborate with the National government to ensure security is enhanced to reduce crime and create a peaceful business environment; Develop appropriate road infrastructure especially the county roads while collaborating with the private sector through PPP's to get financing of the projects; Collaborate with relevant stakeholders and institutions such as Kenya Institute of Business Training (KIBT) and National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) to provide entrepreneurial training and technical training, apprenticeship and certification programmes to MSEs.

1.5 Infrastructure, housing and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is motorbike followed by walking. Residents had changed their travel patterns with many traveling less often due to the pandemic. The paved County Road network covers 27.43 KMs, while the paved National roads covers 174.07KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 201.5KMs, 51.28 per cent is in good condition, 44.32 per cent in fair condition and 4.38 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among the households. The perception that the individual does not need to use the internet and lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons why the people of in the County do not have internet connection. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied. The county has challenges in quality of the housing stock with majority of houses constructed using rudimentary materials.

In responding to the prevailing challenges, the county needs to focus on increasing the share of unpaved roads in good and fair condition to above 62 per cent which is the national average; Adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere) by applying aerial and satellite-based communication technologies; Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme with a focus on improving living conditions and building quality by applying finished materials for walls, floors and roofing.

1.6 Tourism

The key tourism attraction sites in the County include physical attractions / nature-based tourism. While Gross County Product (GCP) from accommodation and food services as accounts for a paltry 0.3 per cent of the total GCP, the County has significant tourism development potential that is yet to be tapped into to increase generation of own source revenue, including eco-tourism, sports tourism, and cultural tourism. The culture of tree planting is fairly entrenched in the citizenry of the county and agro forestry remains an alternative entry point in the conservation of the existing state forests which are currently facing extreme pressure caused by over exploitation for products. The tree cover in the county stands at 12.8 per cent, which complies to the minimum cover of 10 per cent national target. There are no star-rated hotels in the County. However, the County has 3 tourist-class hotels with more than 80 bed capacity. Due to the high tourism potential, more investors are venturing into the development of tourist class hotels in the County. There is an opportunity to develop high class hotels to accommodate the many international athletes who come to train in the county

1.7 Health

The county has a total number of 143 health facilities; one referral hospital, two mission hospitals five sub-county hospitals, 23 health centres and 112 dispensaries. It also has two main isolation centres. The county also has one outreach support through the Beyond Zero mobile clinic and one community outreach supported. The county government need to employ additional staff to bridge the existing gaps in human resource for health. About 35.0 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 28.7 per cent, 27.7 per cent, and 8.4 per cent respectively. The county had 40.6 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 2.4 per cent were fully immunized against measles at 18 months. The proportion of children under 5 years who are stunting stood at 35.5 per cent as compared to 26 per cent at the National level. The proportion of children who are underweight stands at 12 per cent while wasting rate is at 1.8 per cent. 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.

1.8 Education and training

Bomet County has a total of 1571 pre-primary centers, 992 primary and 271 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. The county has 1,221 public Early Childhood Development Education Centres (ECDE) with 2,022 teachers employed by both the county government and School Boards of Management (BOMs). The private centres have 424 teachers and 350 centres managed by individuals' proprietors and faith-based organizations (FBOs). The enrolment as per the current statistics is 53,727 children in public centres and 12,981 children in private ECDE centres. Teacher-pupil ratio stands currently at 1:58 in public and 1:27 in the private centres. The transition and completion rates are at 89 per cent and 95 per cent respectively while retention rate stands at 80 per cent. The County with support from stakeholders to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. 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.

1.9 Social Protection

The county has an estimated population of 875,689, of which, 1.2 per cent of this composition are people living with disability and about 3.6 per cent of the population are older people above the age of 65 years. Bomet county has an overall poverty rate of 83 per cent which more than double the national average which stands at 36 per cent. Further, the

county has a food poverty rate of 49 per cent, and a resulting multidimensional poverty rate of about 33 per cent. About 36 per cent of children in the county are stunted. 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. 6 per cent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (69%), mainly from individuals (70%) while external transfers constituted 35 per cent. It is important for the county to build linkages with NGOs and other partners that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families' support, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and promote vocational training. The county to design and implement a disability grant to all those who are severely disabled, and who are above the age of eligibility for OVC cash transfers and below the age of eligibility for the old age cash transfer support. Increase the number of people benefit from PWDs funds and support from 3000 to at least 5000.

1.10 Labour Participation

The county main source of income is Agriculture accounting for about 80 per cent. Other people are employed in the tea sector where both males and females are engaged in the activities of harvesting and other tea preparation processes. Other source of employment includes trade & businesses, 'jua kali' sector, ICT sector, food processing, livestock farming, which is done on small scale, dairy farming, sand harvesting and boda boda riding which are mostly dominated by males. The county needs to create more employment opportunities through continues investment in education and training and skills development; and investments in the key sectors that drive the county economy, notably agriculture, agri-business; and services sectors. Build and strengthen the capacity of workers and the employers' organizations to enhance their knowledge base, understanding and application of ICT innovations for sustained business continuity. In addition, build capacity in areas related in marketing, operations, finance, and human resource development to enhance the chances of survival of SMEs.

1. Introduction and Structure of County Economy

1.1 Introduction

Bomet County is one of the counties in the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB). The county occupies a land area of 2,037.4 Km². The county's population was estimated at 875,689 people in 2019 of which 49.5 per cent were male and 50.4 per cent were female (KNBS, 2019) as indicated in table 1. Of the population 9,117 (1.2 %) were persons with disabilities. The youth (15-34 years) constituted 37.0 per cent of the population of whom 52.0 per cent were female. The county has a population density of 430 per km². About 96.8 per cent of the population live in rural areas of whom 50.4 per cent are female. The elderly population (65 years-old and above) constituted 3.6 per cent of the total population of whom 56.2 per cent were female. The population in school going age group (4-22 years) was 50.1 per cent in 2019. In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Bomet County was 49.0 per cent against the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent.

In addition, 33.0 per cent of the population were living in food poverty and 82.9 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, 35.5 per cent of the children in the County were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26.1 per cent.

Table 1.1: Development Indicators in Bomet County

Indicator	County	National
Estimated County Population (KNBS, 2019)	875,689	1.7 per cent of total population
Males	434,287	49.5 per cent
Females	441,379	50.4 per cent
Intersex	38	0.002 per cent
Estimated Population Density (km ²)	430	82
Persons with disability	4.1per cent	2.2
Population living in rural areas (per cent)	96.8 per cent	68.8 per cent
Children (0-14 years) (per cent)	46.7 per cent	41.1 per cent
School going age (4-22 years) (per cent)	50.1 per cent	68.7per cent
Youth (per cent)	37.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Labour force (15-64 years) (per cent)	51.0 per cent	55.0 per cent
Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	3.6 per cent	3.9 per cent
Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	49.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	33.0 per cent	31.9 per cent
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	82.9 per cent	56.1 per cent
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	35.5 per cent	26 per cent
Gross County Product (Ksh Million) 2020	152,744	1.4 per cent Share to total GDP
Average growth of Nominal GCP/ GDP (2013-2017) (per cent)	15.4 per cent	2.1 per cent

Data Source: KNBS (2021)

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 320,274 individuals. They are followed by persons aged between 6-13 years who are the primary school children comprising of 204,211 of the county population. The under 0-3 age comprise of 86,495 of the county population. This shows that the county has a general youthful population.

Table 1.2: Population Distribution for Selected age groups in the County (2019)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 0-3	43,690	42,805	86,495
Preprimary school age (Under 4-5)	25,010	23,319	48,329
Primary School Age (6 -13)	102,987	101,224	204,211
Secondary school age (14-17)	49,305	47,853	97,158
Youth Population (15-34)	154,058	166,216	320,274
Female Reproductive age (15-49)		217,070	217,070
Labour force (15-64)	235740	243317	243,317
Aged Population 65+	13,921	17,899	31,820

Source: Bomet County Government

1.2 Level of socioeconomic deprivations

In 2015/2016, 25.5 per cent of the population had health insurance cover, 24.7 per cent lived in premises with water, 82.5 per cent lived in their own homes and 47.7 per cent had access to mobile telephone (Table 1.3) and majority of the households (94.1%) had access to toilet facility. As a result, the multi-dimensional poverty is 82.9 per cent.

Table 1.3: Level of Deprivations for the Various Indicators for Multidimensional Poverty in the County

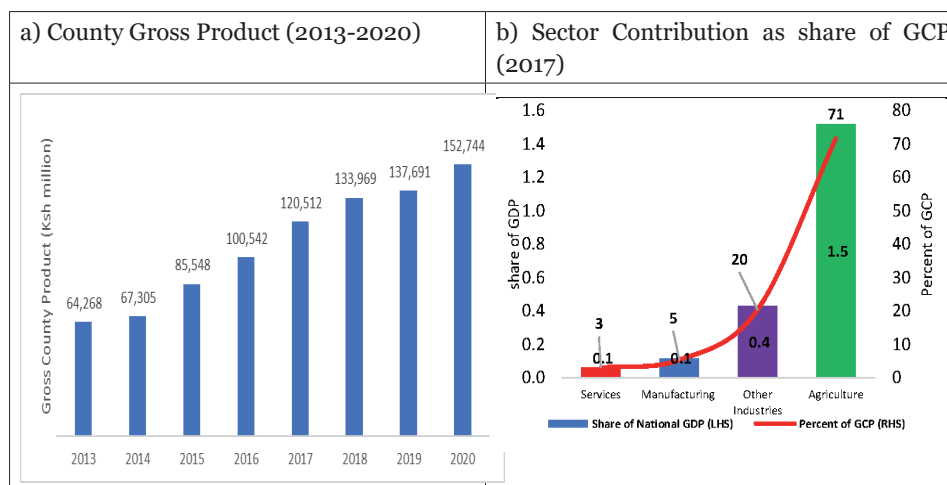
Indicator	Details	Percentage Distribution (per cent)
Health care	Population with Health Insurance Cover	25.5
Drinking water (Time taken to fetch)	Zero (In premises)	24.7
	less than 30 minutes	67.6
	30 minutes or longer	7.1
Sanitation and Hygiene	Proportion of households with toilet facility	94.1
	Shared Toilet	51.7
	Not Shared	48.3
	Place to wash hands outside toilet facility	8.4
	No place to wash hands outside toilet facility	91.3

Education (Population 3 years and Above by School Attendance Status)	Ever Attended	93.3
	Never Attended	6.3
Knowledge of health and nutrition (children aged 0-59 months that participated in Community Nutrition Programmes)	Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	56.5
	Did not Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	42.8
Housing and standard of living (house ownership)	Owner Occupier	82.5
	Pays Rent/ Lease	5
Access to information (Population Aged 3 years and above by ICT Equipment and Services Used)	Television	15.9
	Radio	64.4
	Mobile phone	47.7
	Computer	1.9
	Internet	5

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

1.3 Structure of Bomet County Economy

Bomet County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 1.4 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between 2013 and 2020 (figure 1). The GCP increased from Ksh 64,268 million in 2013 to Ksh 152,744 million in 2020 representing an annual average growth rate of 15.4 per cent. The agriculture sector contributes 71.5 per cent of GCP while services and other industries sector share constituted 20.0 per cent and 5.0 per cent, respectively. The services sector includes such activities as wholesale and retail trade. Agriculture is mainly practiced for subsistence and commercialized cash crop. The major subsistence crops were maize, beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, kales and cabbages while major cash crops were tea, coffee, , pyrethrum. Horticulture was also practiced. Main industries include tea and food processing.

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

Data Source: KNBS (2021)

1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions

As of March 2020, Bomet County had zero cases. However, by August 2020, the County had reported 8 COVID-19 cases with mobility stringency of 70.4. The caseload would rise to 781 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.

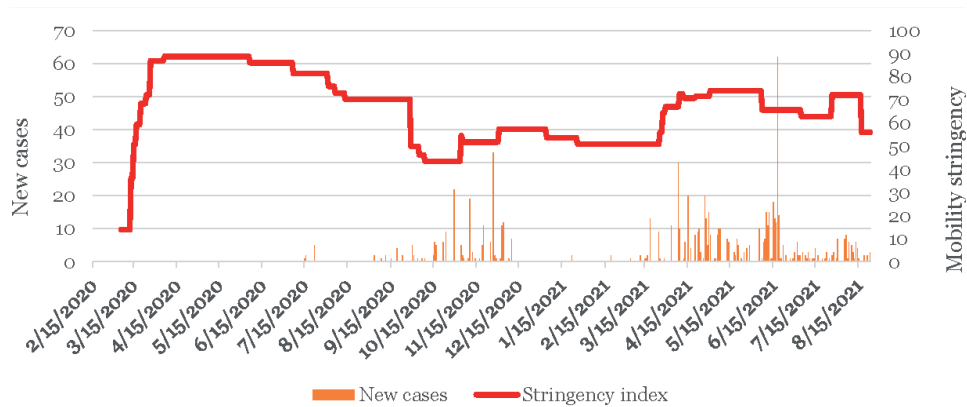
Table 1.4: Total COVID-19 cases in Bomet County and the country's mobility stringency

Date	Total cases	Mobility stringency (0-100)
13 th March 2020	0	36.1
23 rd August 2020	8	70.4
23 rd August 2021	781	56.0

Data Source: Oxford University

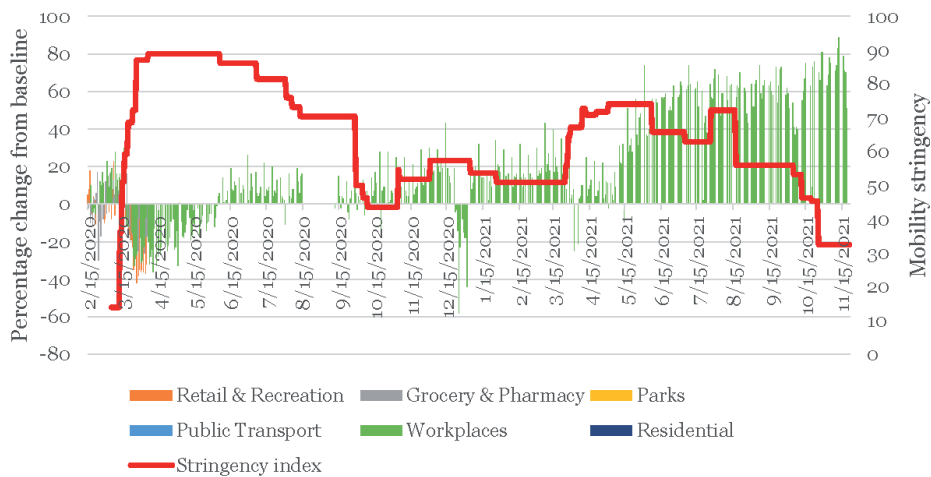
New COVID-19 cases in Bomet County were highest between October 2020-December 2020, March 2021-August 2021. During the two time-periods, spikes in new cases in the County were preceded by relaxation of COVID-19 mobility restrictions. Reduction in the County's new cases was similarly preceded by tightening of mobility restrictions.

Figure 1.2: New COVID-19 cases in Bomet County and the country’s mobility stringency



Data Source: Oxford University

Figure 1.3: COVID-19 effects on economic performance in Bomet 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

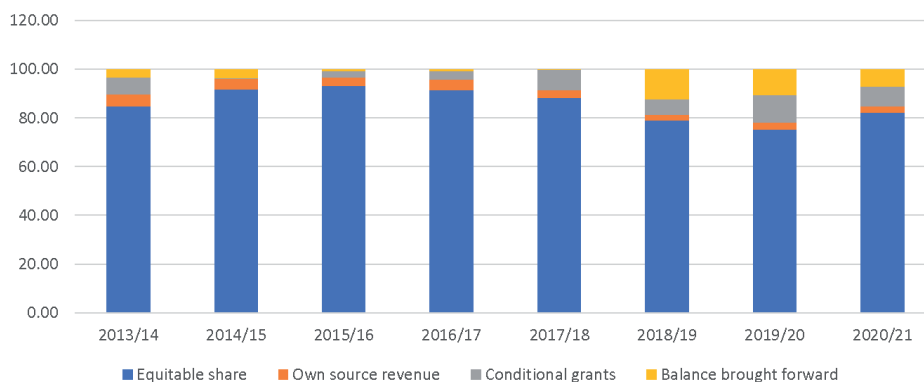
2.1 Fiscal policy

2.1.1 County revenue analysis

Availability of financial resources is 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).

The county total revenue maintained an increasing trend from Ksh 4.09 billion in FY2013/14 to Ksh 6.69 billion in FY 2019/20. In FY 2020/21 the County's total revenue amounted to Ksh 6.69 billion, which was 83.7 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 7.62 billion. Equitable share from the National government has been the main source of county funding, accounting on average 85 per cent of the county's revenues (figure 2.1). Equitable share to the county has similarly grown by 60 per cent from Ksh 3.44 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 5.50 billion in FY 2020/21. Notably, the county received the highest amount of allocation from the National government amounting to Ksh 6.96 billion in 2018/19.

Figure 2.1: Share of county revenues by source



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

2.2 Conditional grants

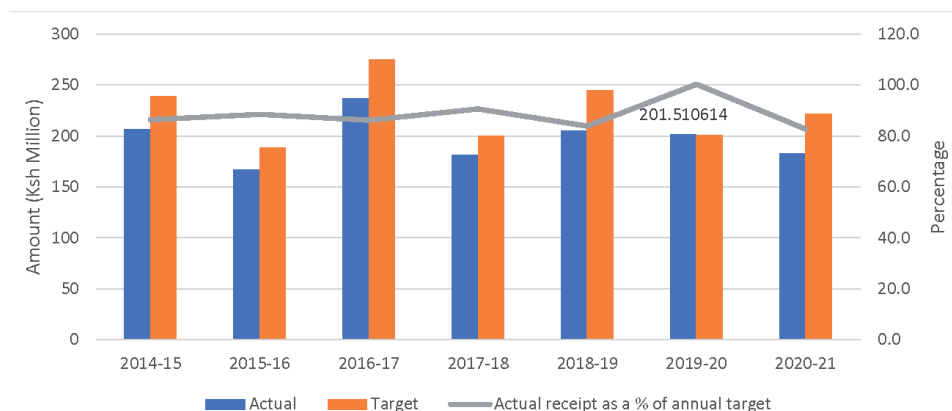
The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 164.14 million and Ksh 364.24 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. On average, the

grants contributed 5.88 per cent of the County total revenue between FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21. Analysis indicates that there was a rebound in the share of conditional grants to total revenues from 0.28 per cent in the FY 2014/15 to 11.14 per cent in FY 2019/20. Similarly, the nominal value of conditional grants grew by 173.32 per cent from Ksh 272.58 million in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 745.03 million in FY 2020/21. This indicates a huge potential that the county could leverage on to finance its expenditure using conditional grants. As such, continued good relations with development partners increases the chances for more funding in form of conditional grants.

2.3 Own Source Revenue

The share of own source revenue to total revenue have been low, averaging 3.53 per cent between FY 2013/14 to 2020/21 (figure 2.1). During FY 2020/20, OSR contributed 2.73 per cent of the total revenues. Nevertheless, the OSR performance has been relatively stable over the years, with the County achieving over 80 per cent of its annual targets (figure 2.2). The highest local OSR collections amounting to Ksh 236.70 million was registered in FY 2016/17 before a slight decline experience in FY 2017/18. In the FY 2019/20, the county generated Ksh 201.5 million as OSR which was a 13.2 per cent decrease compared to Ksh 232.05 million realized in FY 2018/19 following the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the decline, the County surpassed its annual revised target. During FY 2020/21, the County generated Ksh 183.01 million, which was a 9.2 per cent decline compared to the amount collected in FY 2019/20 and 82.7 per cent of the annual targets.

Figure 2.2: Annual Own Source Revenue targets and actual collections

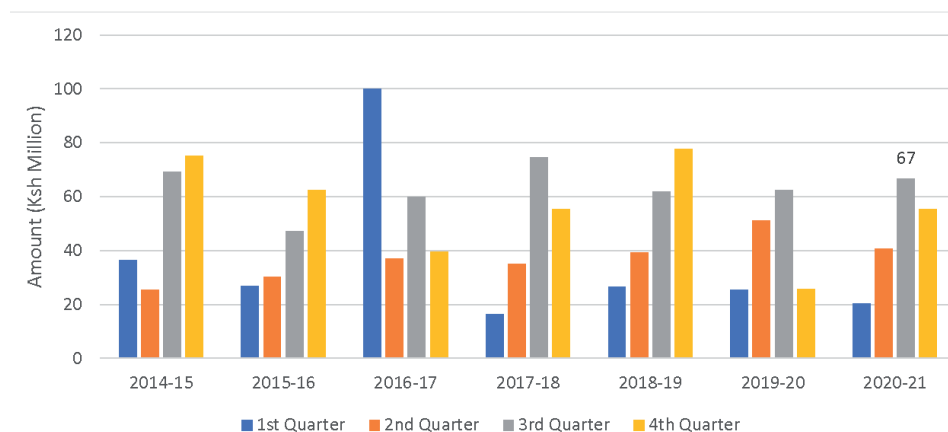


Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)

Analysis of the quarterly OSR show that there has been an increasing trend in the first, second and third quarter collections for the last four years as indicated in figure 2.3. During the fourth quarter of FY 2019/20, the county experienced a 19 per cent decrease in revenue collection from Ksh 77.7 million in FY 2018/19 to Ksh 62.9 million. This was attributed to the effect of COVID-19 pandemic that slowed down economic activities in the country. The decline was in-line with the county projection of suppressed OSR for the last quarter of FY2019/2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact negatively on the economy. The quarterly performance for FY 2020/21 mirrored the last three financial years with

the third quarter registering the highest collection of Ksh 67.73 million. With the easing of the containment measures, it is expected that the OSR collections will increase in the subsequent years.

Figure 2.3: Comparative Quarterly Revenue Collection



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

The main revenue streams of the OSR in Bomet County are tea estates (multinational companies), hospital revenues and business permits contributing more than Ksh 10 million every quarter. Table 2.2 below shows a comparison of the various revenue streams during the third quarter of FY 2017/18 to FY 2019/20. The county experienced significant growth of 138 per cent, 100 per cent, 49 per cent and 16 per cent on revenues from rental income, property rates, tea estates and market and slaughterhouses, respectively in FY 2019/20 compared to FY 2018/19. During the same periods, there were declines of 51 per cent, 33 per cent and 15 per cent on revenues collected from business permits, hospitals and cess respectively. This was partly attributed to the extension of the business permits payments by the county government on the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic where the county government allowed business owners to pay it in three instalments. Similarly, the fear of county residents to visit hospitals due to stigmatization brought about by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic led to the decrease in number of hospital visits and hence the decline in revenues.

Table 2.1: Comparative Revenue Collection for Third Quarters between FY 2017/2018 & FY 2019/2020

Revenue Source	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
Property rates	1,983,089.00	712,601.00	1,422,820.00
Business Permit	15,900,645.00	18,315,825.00	9,001,460.00
Cess Collection	957,580.00	997,520.00	847,765.00
Market & Slaughter	2,946,439.00	2,248,165.00	2,606,465.00
Rental Income	603,500.00	173,800.00	412,900.00
Parking charges	2,285,050.00	2,708,970.00	2,863,270.00

Others	1,071,610.00	1,233,482.00	1,404,750.00
Hospital Revenues	26,010,645.00	10,576,412.00	7,035,820.00
Tea Estate Revenues	22,821,299.00	24,789,998.00	36,921,046.00
Total Revenue collected	74,579,857.00	61,756,773.00	62,516,296.00

Data source: Bomet County Treasury

2.4 Expenditure Analysis

2.4.1 Trends and profile of county government expenditures

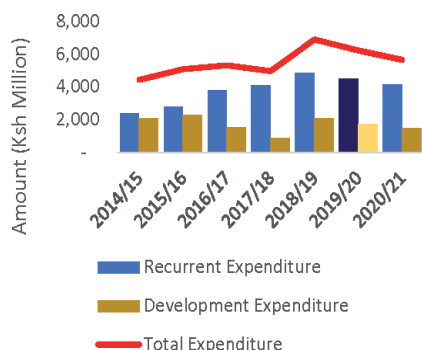
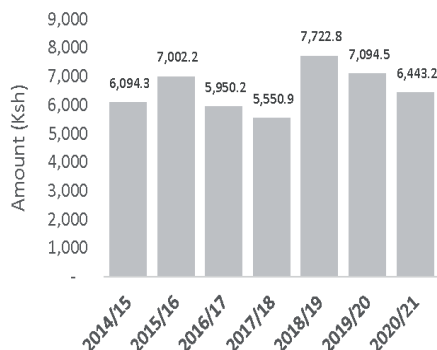
Economic and political crises, natural disasters (such as droughts and flooding), security challenges and health crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) highlight the consequential risks and underlying vulnerabilities in national and county level budgetary and planning system. These can substantially 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.

Over the years, expenditures have 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. Since the first full year county budgets were enacted in FY 2013/14, actual expenditure in the county rose from Ksh 4,413.4 million to Ksh 5,642.2 million in FY 2020/21 (Figure 2.4). Cumulatively the county spent a total of Ksh 41.6 billion between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 27.9 billion and Ksh 13.7 billion on recurrent and development expenditures respectively. This signals weak development expenditure and inadequate deepening of capital spending in the county.

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

Figure 2.4: Trends and profile of county government expenditures**Figure 2.4(a) Actual Aggregate Expenditure****Figure 2.4(a) Actual per Capita Expenditure**

Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

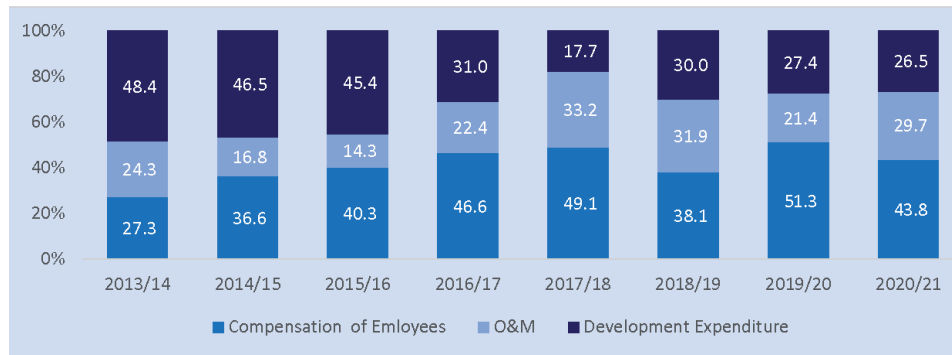
Consistent with nominal growth in actual county expenditures, spending on a per capita basis has shown an increasing trend. In 2013/14, per capita spending in Bomet county was around Ksh 6,094.3 compared Ksh 6,443.2 in 2020/21.

2.5 Utilization of public resources in Bomet County

Analysis of expenditures by economic classification and by departments (spending priorities) reveal that since inception of devolution, Bomet 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, transport and infrastructure, agriculture, education and ECDE projects as well as water and sanitation services.

Figure 2.5 shows that development expenditure as a share of total expenditure has been declining and remained below 30 per cent in the past two fiscal years. Development spending averaged 33.0 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. Development expenditure constituted 48.4 per cent of the budget in FY 2013/14 and declined steadily to 17.7 per cent in FY 2017/18. In 2020/21 development expenditure accounted for 26.5 per cent of totals county spending reflecting a decline from the 27.4 per cent recorded in FY 2019/20.

Figure 2.5: County Government Expenditure by Economic Classification (per cent of total county government expenditure)



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

County compensation of employees has been burgeoning between FY 2013/14 and FY 2018/19. The average share of compensation of employees in total county budget over the review period was 41.6 per cent. Surprisingly in 2019/20 compensation of employees exceeded half of the county budget and accounted for 51.3 per cent of total expenditure. This is indicative of the pressures of wage bill on county revenues at the expense of development.

Table 2.2 give the trends in total county spending between FY 2014/15 and FY 2020/21. It is evident that medical services and public health department gets the largest share of county total expenditure over the review period. It is also evident that spending on children services and social protection has been diminishing during the review period. This is a point of concern given the increased need for children and gender sensitive budgeting.

Table 2.2: Trends in County Spending by departments/functions

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Average	Share of Total spending
Health	723.1	931.9	976.1	1,109.9	1,396.8	1,241.7	1,320.5	1,100.0	20.0
County Executive & PSB	349.1	384.5	392.1	418.0	548.7	1,961.8	1,541.7	799.4	14.5
Roads and Public works	584.5	509.6	460.4	275.2	1,130.2	688.9	759.7	629.8	11.5
County Assembly	296.6	484.2	483.7	612.0	657.94	667.47	799.15	571.6	10.4
Education and Vocational Training	591.8	437.4	424.1	359.1	722.1	186.1	156.3	411.0	7.5
County Administration	345.8	422.0	681.8	591.5	470.7	86.0	43.2	377.3	6.9
Finance and Economic planning	383.9	296.9	387.2	404.4	489.2	339.2	329.3	375.7	6.8

Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives	349.0	327.6	468.8	354.1	409.9	315.7	172.9	342.6	6.2
Water, Sanitation & Environment	221.7	393.3	364.3	258.3	326.3	372.1	319.6	322.2	5.9
Lands, Housing and Urban Planning	196.4	396.2	321.7	261.5	374.2	100.1	73.1	246.2	4.5
Children and Social Service	301.3	427.3	175.5	106.2	182.8	112.9	49.9	193.7	3.5
Trade, Energy, Tourism and Industry, ICT	70.1	60.1	168.4	197.8	175.2	140.5	77.0	127.0	2.3
Total	4,413.4	5,070.9	5,304.0	4,948.0	6,883.9	6,212.6	5,642.2	5,496.4	

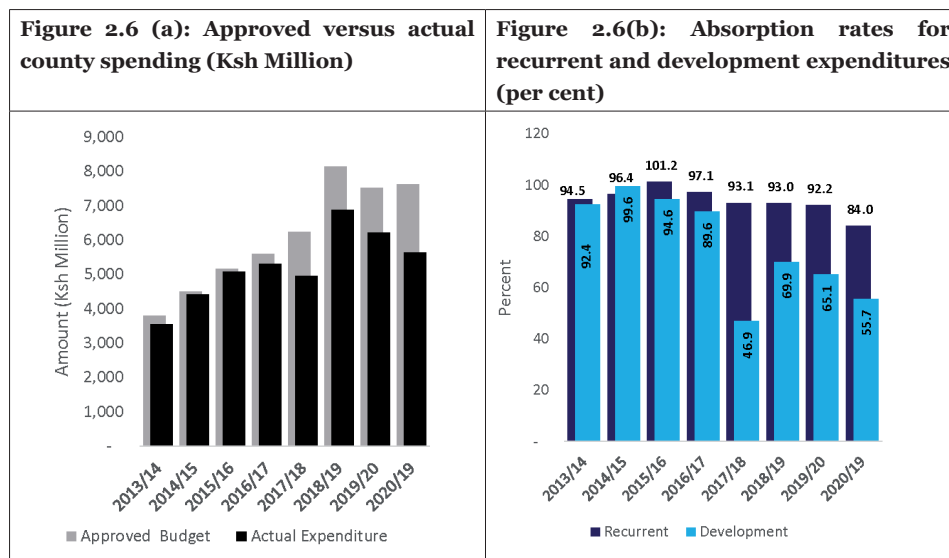
Data Source: Office of Controller of Budget

The county spent a combined average of 61.4 per cent of the total expenditure during the period FY 2014/15 to FY 2020/21 on non-administrative functions such as medical services and public health; education; transport and infrastructure; water and irrigation and agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and marketing. Spending on medical services and public health accounts for the largest share at 20.0 per cent, roads, and public works 11.5 per cent, education, sports, culture and arts accounted for 7.5 per cent, followed by agriculture, water and lands at 6.2 per cent, 5.9 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively. On the flipside, administrative functions accounted for 38.6 per cent with county executive leading at 14.5 per cent followed by county assembly at 10.4 per cent, county administration 6.9 per cent and finance and economic planning at 6.8 per cent.

2.6 Effectiveness of County spending

Overall, budget execution has averaged 88.1 per cent implying that about 12.9 per cent of the budget remains unspent. Concerning development budget execution in Bomet county, the average absorption rate for development expenditure averaged 76.7 per cent (implying that on average well over 24.3 per cent of the development budget is not absorbed). This is a welcome performance, and the county should continue to strengthen its structure to ensure achievement of greater absorption rates to help achieve the targets in ADPs and the CIDP. With regards to recurrent expenditure, the execution has been robust over the years, the average absorption rate is 93.9 per cent, leaving about 6.1 per cent of unspent recurrent budget.

Figure 2.6: Effectiveness of County spending

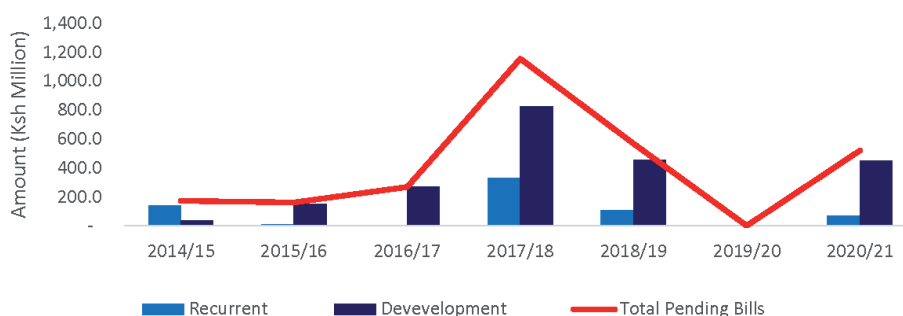


Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

2.7 Pending Bills

Pending bills increased from Ksh 173.4 million in 2013/14, to Ksh 1,155.5 million in 2017/18, and thereafter nosedived to Ksh 1.2 million in 2019/20 and picked up to Ksh 520.7 million in FY 2020/21 (Figure 9). The average development and recurrent expenditure related pending bills was Ksh 313.0 million and Ksh 109.6 million respectively during the 2013/14 to 2020/21 period. If pending bills for development were paid in their respective fiscal year, the execution of development budget in subsequent years would improve.

To achieve its overall goal of improving lives and livelihoods in the county, 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 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.

Figure 2.7: Profile of county pending bills

Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

2.8 Conclusions and Recommendation

- i) Mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations.
- ii) Seek for more funding 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 which take over 40 per cent of total expenditure, this 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 the largest share of economic activity in Bomet County. More than a half of County economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for Ksh 114,076 million out of the total Ksh 159,569 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 71.5 per cent of the County's GCP.

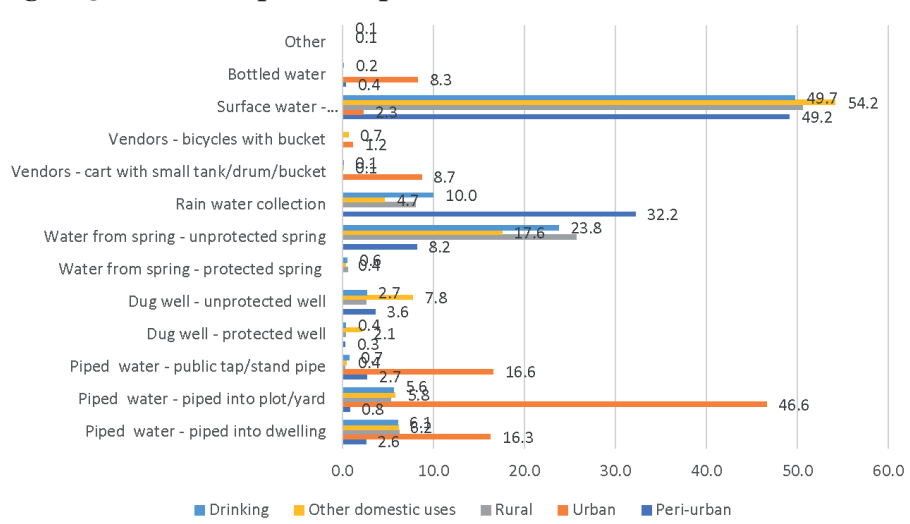
Over 80 per cent of the households in Bomet County practice farming. About 78 per cent of the households produce crops, 68 per cent produce livestock, 0.20 per cent practice aquaculture and about 0.46 per cent are involved in fishing. About 1.06 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

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

Country/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
Bomet	187,641	152,564	146,327	127,375	379	866	1,990
Bomet East	29,958	26,472	25,650	22,463	58	110	428
Chepalungu	33,931	31,910	30,692	28,939	71	217	728
Konoin	38,178	23,845	22,535	17,669	75	102	170
Sotik	47,315	40,497	38,952	34,567	117	277	346
Bomet Central	38,259	29,840	28,498	23,737	58	160	318

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

On the scale of production, the FAO criterion on land size is used to identify small holder farmers as those producers that “fall in the bottom 40 per cent of the cumulative distribution” (Khalil et al., 2017). Using this criterion, almost half of the farming households in Bomet County (49%) 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. Figures for a period of the 12 months

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 Bomet include maize, beans, kales, bananas, sweet, onions, sorghum, sugarcane, and potatoes.

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

County/Sub County	Kenya	Bomet	Bomet East	Chepalungu	Konoin	Sotik	Bomet Central
Maize	5,104,967	122,998	22,805	28,697	14,084	34,994	22,418
Sorghum	904,945	41,522	6,498	14,169	3,169	10,748	6,938
Rice	50,484	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potatoes	1,170,170	37,261	6,545	6,660	3,853	10,699	9,504
Beans	3,600,840	106,434	20,446	25,691	9,161	30,378	20,758
Cassava	1,050,352	3,939	629	1,036	400	1,329	545
Sweet Potatoes	1,134,102	54,045	10,368	20,833	2,978	13,267	6,599
Wheat	67,720	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green grams	571,426	2,331	453	288	270	768	552
Bananas	2,139,421	78,319	12,031	12,660	13,084	23,512	17,032
Cabbages	490,588	26,613	4,747	3,972	3,468	7,467	6,959
Tomatoes	410,224	21,900	4,123	5,955	1,934	5,120	4,768
Onions	707,182	47,758	11,017	10,168	6,315	9,941	10,317

Ground Nuts	480,812	943	199	228	91	238	187
Millet	540,353	28,681	4,019	2,700	2,842	11,923	7,197
Watermelons	84,077	940	154	334	86	208	158
Kales	1,916,898	93,744	13,802	20,038	14,680	26,060	19,164
Sugarcane	654,468	40,551	4,385	10,184	7,131	12,167	6,684
Cotton	22,920	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

3.1.1 Key permanent crops among households in Bomet include Tea and Avocado

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

County/Sub County	Tea	Coffee	Avocado	Citrus	Mango
Bomet	50,704	1,940	44,903	3,298	3,679
Kenya	476,613	478,936	966,976	177,445	796,867

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Resource productivity is another key important factor in determining the agro-processing potential (scale) of the County and would have a great impact on farmers' incomes and the County's GCP. An assessment of horticultural productivity indicates Bomet's value of fruits production in 2019 amounted to Ksh 2.03 billion. The area under fruit was 1,441 Ha with a production of 49,869 MT. The major fruits grown in order of value importance are Avocado, Banana, Pawpaw and Purple Passion Fruits.

Table 3.4: Fruits Grown in Bomet County

Type of Fruit	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Oranges	3	125	3,750,000
Tree Tomato	16	460	4,750,000
Mango	41	969	28,430,000
Watermelons	65	1,625	32,500,000
Pineapples	60	1,800	36,000,000
Purple Passion Fruits	110	705	37,948,000
Pawpaw	90	2,413	41,960,000
Banana	384	12,110	206,590,000
Avocado	672	29,662	1,643,832,000
Total	1,441	49,869	2,035,760,000

Source: AFA, 2019

In 2019, the value of vegetables production in the County amounted to KES 6.6 billion. The area under vegetables was 7,327Ha with a production of 256,050MT. The major vegetables grown in order of value importance are Tomatoes, Kales, Cabbage, and Potatoes.

Table 3.5: Vegetables Grown in Bomet County

Type of Vegetables	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Garden Peas	12	48	2,400,000
Spinach	41	530	5,870,000
Carrots	66	321	7,120,000
Butter Nut	80	1,600	16,000,000
Spider Plant	96	1,334	27,040,000
Leaf Amaranth	70	1,806	36,581,760
Pumpkin Fruit	182	3,640	47,500,000
African Nightshade	215	5,529	114,140,000
Potato	2,500	38,300	855,900,000
Cabbage	1,167	55,580	991,695,810
Kales	1,624	114,225	2,218,360,000
Tomato	1,274	33,137	2,325,900,000
Total	7,327	256,050	6,648,507,570

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of MAPs production in the County amounted to KES 47.2 million. The area under MAPSS was 264Ha with a production of 1,525MT. The major MAPs grown are; Spring Onion/Green Shallots and Bulb Onions.

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

Type of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Bullet Chillies	2	20	1,200,000
African Birds Eye [Abe] Chillies	2	20	1,200,000
Long Cayenne Chillies	6	43	3,600,000
Bulb Onion	76	576	20,328,000
Spring Onion/Green Shallots	178	866	20,885,714
Total	264	1,525	47,213,714

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

Animal production is also a key economic activity in Bomet County particularly for dairy production. Other than rearing the traditional livestock (such as cattle, sheep, and goats), the County has promoted poultry production, donkey and bee keeping (apiculture) among

farming households in the County. A lower percentage of farming households practice aquaculture and pig farming.

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

County/Sub County	Kenya	Bomet	Bomet East	Chepa-Lungu	Konoin	Sotik	Bomet Central
Exotic cattle -Dairy	939,916	39,352	4,894	7,120	6,523	11,994	8,821
Exotic cattle -Beef	167,625	3,224	682	641	422	932	547
Indigenous cattle	2,260,439	79,001	15,643	19,638	9,678	20,554	13,488
Sheep	1,299,893	21,929	2,136	7,051	3,176	6,262	3,304
Goats	1,898,887	20,598	7,070	8,051	974	2,468	2,035
Camels	167,666	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donkeys	500,682	8,856	4,392	2,322	255	876	1,011
Pigs	110,383	54	16	5	7	14	12
Indigenous Chicken	3,337,700	90,671	15,420	24,822	9,764	25,677	14,988
Exotic Chicken Layers	194,517	5,682	901	1,236	987	1,681	877
Exotic Chicken Broilers	79,461	1,463	213	255	304	458	233
Beehives	201,406	4,719	615	1,641	827	968	668
Rabbits	124,122	1,590	336	367	99	579	209
Fish Ponds	22,019	350	54	64	70	110	52
Fish Cages	3,361	48	5	10	16	8	9

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

The above characterization of farming households highlights the priority value chain opportunities in maize, beans, kales, bananas, sweet, onions, sorghum, sugarcane, potatoes, cattle, sheep, goats, and camels, poultry production and bee keeping (apiculture). With majority of the households farming the identified products, the current Bomet transformation strategy in agriculture should prioritize value chains in the identified areas to positively impact of households' livelihoods.

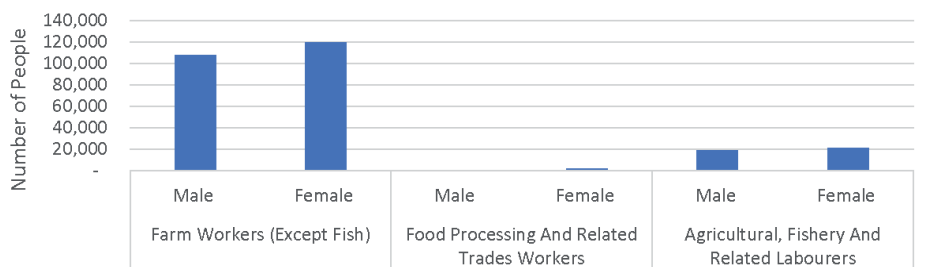
3.2 Agri-Food Challenges in COVID-19

3.2.1 Human capital/employment levels – by gender

Agricultural labor participation in Bomet indicates relative parity between females and males with no strong dominance of either gender in the labor force. Majority of the population in Bomet 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. The second popular sub-category of agricultural related workers 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)

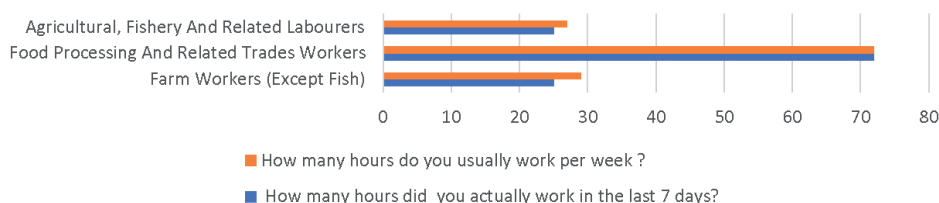
Figure 3.2: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation



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 the two main sub-sectors identified above worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. The most affected workers are the Farm Workers who recorded the highest difference of 4 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week.

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

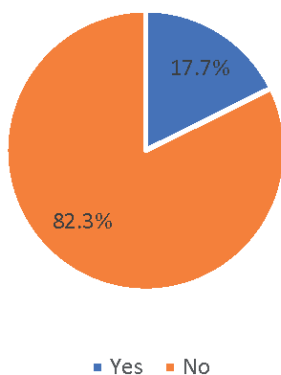
The identified COVID-19 effects on labour force participation are likely to have negative effects on output thereby increasing yield gaps.

3.2.2 Market operations

Successful transformation of smallholder agricultural production in Bomet 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 to 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, 82.3 per cent of the households in Bomet 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

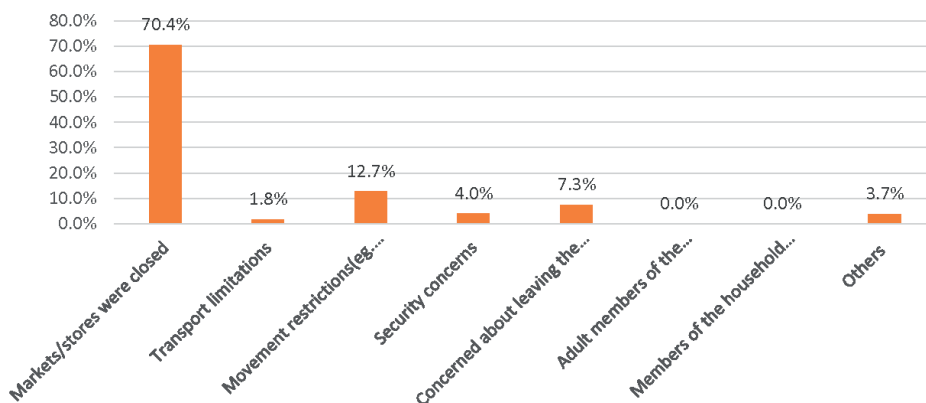
Figure 3.4: Limited access to markets to purchase food items



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 closure of the markets/grocery stores (70.4%) and movement restrictions (12.7%).

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

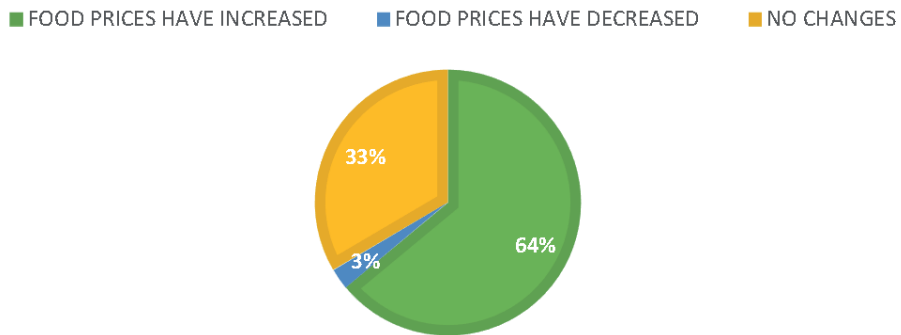


Source: Estimates from the KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

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. 64 per cent of households in Bomet County indicated that over the past 2 weeks from the reference period, while 33per cent indicated that they had not experienced a change in the prices

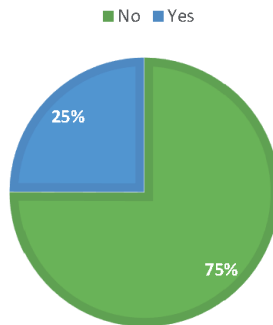
Figure 3.6: Percentage of households experiencing change in food commodity prices



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

On the magnitude of the price shocks, 75 per cent of the households indicated they faced a large rise in food prices in the past two weeks from the reference period.

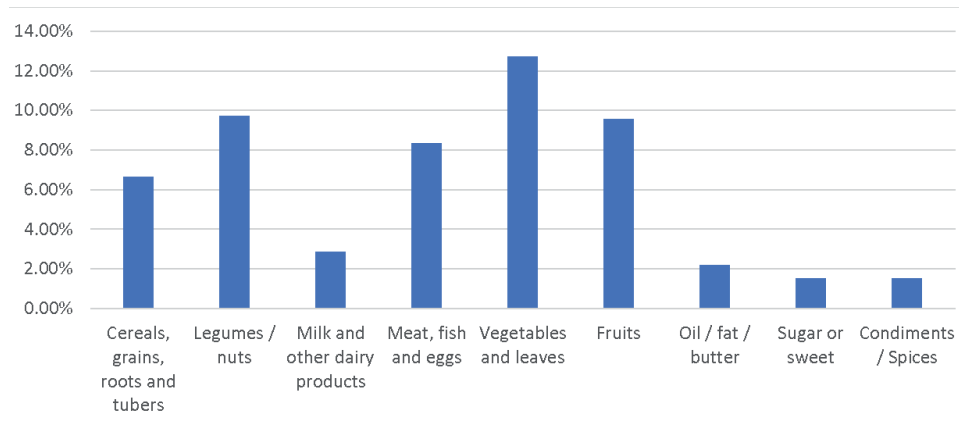
Figure 3.7: Proportion of households facing large food price shocks



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

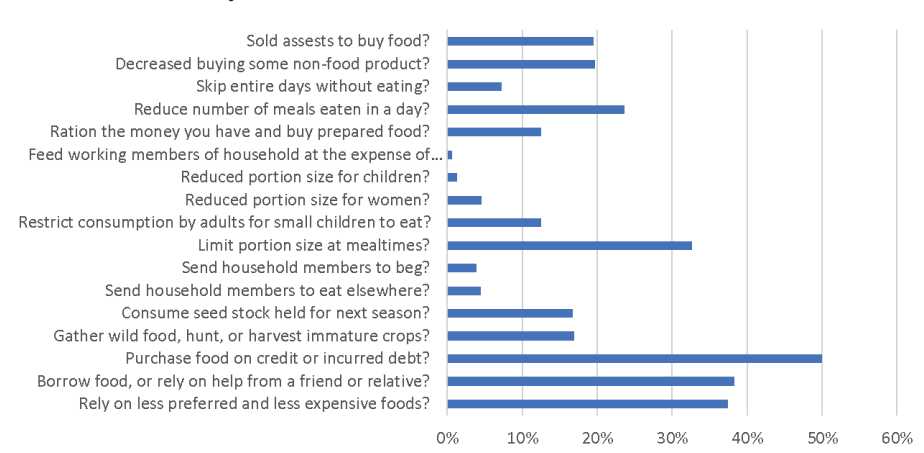


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

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-vegetables, fruits, legumes and meat -which are necessary for boosting the immune system of the population.

Among the key strategies adopted by households to mitigate COVID19 effects on food consumption include purchase food on credit or incurred debt (50%), borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative (38.2%), relying on less preferred and less expensive foods (37.5%), limit portion size at mealtimes (32.6%) and reduce number of meals eaten in a day (23.7%).

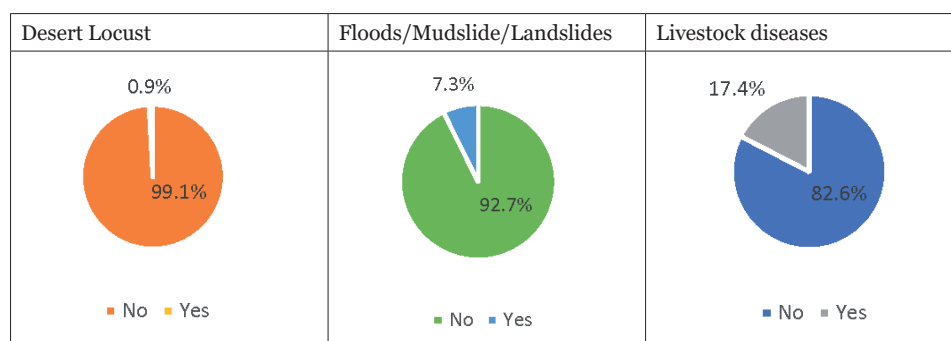
Figure 3.9: per cent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day



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

Additional challenges faced by the County during the COVID-19 pandemic period include Desert locusts (0.9%); Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides (7.3%); and Livestock Diseases (17.4%)

Figure 3.10: Percentage of households who experienced the below shocks in the past two weeks the KNBS Wave 2 survey



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

3.3 Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County

Among the Key Constraints the County faces include:

- Variable and extreme weather events which have increased in frequency and intensity over the years adversely affecting crop and livestock production
- Dependence of rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as, drought episodes
- Low agro-processing and value addition opportunities among small scale farmers
- Farmers low access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, artificial insemination (AI) services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and mechanized ploughing services by County tractor hire services
- Low crops, livestock, and livestock products marketing opportunities necessary for improved incomes
- Low commercialization of farming where majority of farmers practice farming for subsistence purposes and as a hobby rather than a business.
- Slow uptake of digital platforms to market agricultural produce.
- Low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services.
- Pests and livestock diseases affecting agricultural and livestock productivity.
- Farm losses and post-harvest waste.

The above challenges lead 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 flood episodes.

3.4 Opportunities with COVID19 in Agriculture sectors

An assessment of the sector linkages to other sectors highlights that the sector

- 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 and 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 agro-processing and value addition capacities of the County particularly in tea and dairy processing plants and linking farmers to product markets.
- b) The agricultural sector linkages with agro-based industries in Bomet County as well as other counties for supply of raw materials
- c) Improve access to affordable modern and high-quality inputs including AI services, bananas and avocado seeds, and mangoes seeds for the lower zone
- d) Storage and cooling facilities particularly for dairy products which is a main production activity in the County.
- e) Expansion of output collection centers with appropriate storage and cooling facilities including tea collection centers in adherence to the ministry of Health distancing protocols
- f) Investments to enhance water harvesting, sustainable and efficient irrigation.
- g) Adoption of natural resource management to include soil and water conservation, tree planting, and changing of crop type.
- h) Uptake of digital platforms to:- build capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies; and market agricultural produce
- i) Increased livestock production through: - routine vaccination, deworming and vector control to maintain animal health; Rearing livestock breeds adapted to drought; decentralized veterinary services; disease surveillance; storing and conserving pastures and fodder; capacity building on animal management and training on preservation and value addition techniques; and improved milking hygiene and animal housing.
- j) Adoption of drought resistant livestock pastures/fodder and fodder
- k) Promotion of drought resistant and early maturing crops
- l) Strengthening farmers' associations and cooperatives as an additional solution to marketing challenges

- m) Enhance supportive services to include early-warning systems, insurance and credit products, extension advisory and information services and training, fodder conservation and value addition.
- n) Improved crop and livestock emergencies surveillance systems in the County.

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.
- ii. Climate change- defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods'- is changing at unprecedented rate and poses a great risk to agricultural activities in the County.

3.6 Recommendations

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

- i) Develop partnership with development partners, such as, the National Government, NGOs, Research Institutions and the Private sector in enhancing agro-processing and value addition capacities of the County in establishing, upgrading, and reviving agro-processing plants/industries particularly tea and dairy processing plants. Bomet is branded as the dairy County and a high tea production zone and thus has comparative advantage in value chain activities of these two commodities. Current initiatives include establishment of a cooperative society at Chebunyo which helps in value addition of milk products. Additional Value addition opportunities are bananas, avocado, and mangoes processing plants.
- ii) Link farmers to diverse product markets beyond the County level. For instance, for the dairy milk products, the main markets are brookside, KCC and the local market. Diverse trading options, for instance, through the factories and cooperatives offers crucial competitive interventions for the farmers. The international market is also viewed as key destination market for fruit products (avocados) from the County.
- iii) In addition to agro-processing, provision of storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points to minimize spoilage and post-harvest losses. This intervention is in line with the County's 2018-2022 CIDP strategy on establishment of modern storage facilities at strategic points.
- iv) 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.

- v) Enhance access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds (e.g. bananas, avocado seeds, mangoes), animal feeds, artificial insemination (AI) services, fertilizers and livestock vaccination. This can be achieved through partnership with research institutes, such as the engagements the County had had with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in provision of affordable avocado and bananas seeds. The County will also support vulnerable farmers/needier farmers e.g. the Njaa Marfuku Programme that was in existence before.
- vi) Towards mitigating the effects of disasters in the County, 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. There is also need for the County to mitigate disasters, such as those related to floods, through institutional capacity development, vulnerability analyses and updates, monitoring and early warning systems, and public education.
- vii) Strengthen agricultural cooperatives through effective stakeholder engagement and implementation of interventions for more sustainable models of financing and customized training of cooperative members.
- viii) Promote revival of pyrethrum growing which was traditionally one of the best cash crops for many residents of the County. The crop which is less costly to maintain is harvested on weekly basis. The growers will be assured of payment every month creating a steady source of income for the farmers.

4. Water Sanitation and Hygiene

4.1 Characteristics of the sector

The county is well endowed with water resources. Permanent rivers originating from the Mau Forest and flowing through the county are Oinab Ng'etunyet, Nyongores, Kipsonoi, Itare, Kiptiget, Chemosit, Amalo and Maramara. Access to safe and clean water is still low in the county. Access to piped water is currently at 25 per cent. Average walking distance to the nearest water point in the county is about 1km. Bomet Water Company Limited, a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) of the County Government, currently manages nine (9) water supply schemes. These are Itare, Sotik, Bomet, Longisa, Sigor, Chepalungu (Olbutyo), Kamureito, Ndanai and Sergutiet.

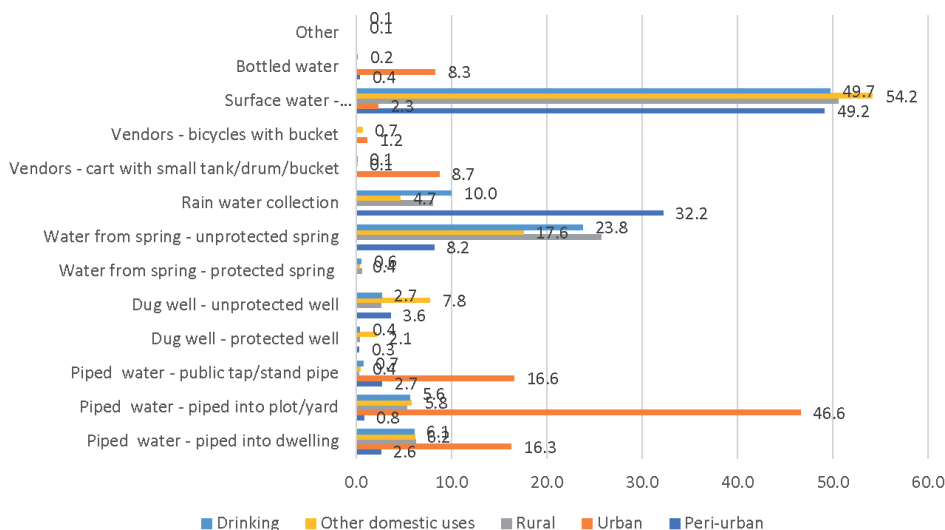
Water management in the county is under Water and Sanitation Company which is mandated to manage water supplies in the County in urban centres. There are also water vendors, who sell water to residents especially in urban centres and small market centres. Sanitation coverage remain low in the county with little access to piped sewer. This presents an opportunity for the county to increase sanitation coverage to increase its additional revenue collection from sanitation services. Similarly, increased access to piped water by rural and peri urban households can also be potential for revenue.

Both men and women are involved in water sourcing. The county has 182 (source: Bomet Water Company) staff involved in water resource and management in the county. Both men and women are involved in water and sanitation provision in the county in areas such as office administrations, billing, repair and maintenance. More men are more involved in water and sanitation development infrastructures than women. Though there are also water vendors, who sell water to residents especially in urban centres and small market centres. 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

4.2 Access to source of water

The major source of water for drinking utilized by households in the county are surface water (49.7%), water from unprotected spring (23.8%) and rainwater 10%). Only a small portion of the households (6.1%) relies on piped water into their dwellings and piped water into their compound (5.6%). Most of the population in the county resides in rural areas and relies on surface water (50.6%), water from unprotected spring (25.7%), rainwater (8.1%). On the other hand, majority of urban households relies on piped water into plot/yard (46.6%), piped water (public tap/stand) (16.6%).

Figure 4.1: Sources of Water for Drinking and Domestic use for Households in Bomet County



Source: KNBS KIHBS 2015/2016

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

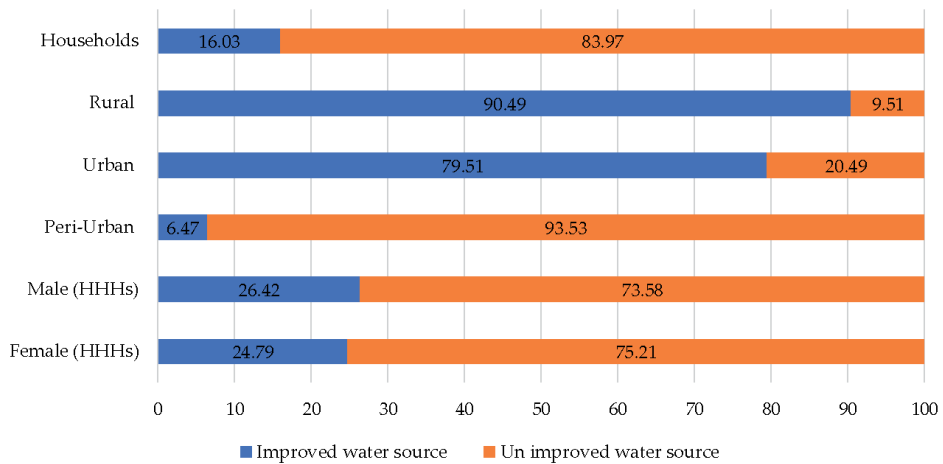
4.2.1 Access to improved and unimproved sources of water by households

Clean and safe water is essential for good health and goes a long way in ensuring reduced infections. Access to improved sources of drinking water² by households (16%) in the county is low. This is more in peri urban (6.5%) compared to rural (90.5%) and urban (79.5%), similarly, both male and female headed households³ have low access to improved sources of water.

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/lake/cannal/irrigation channel Bottled water. This is according to the WHO and UN classification of sources of water.

³ the main decision maker or the main bread winner of the household

Figure 4.2: Access to Improved and Unimproved Sources of Water by Households (per cent)



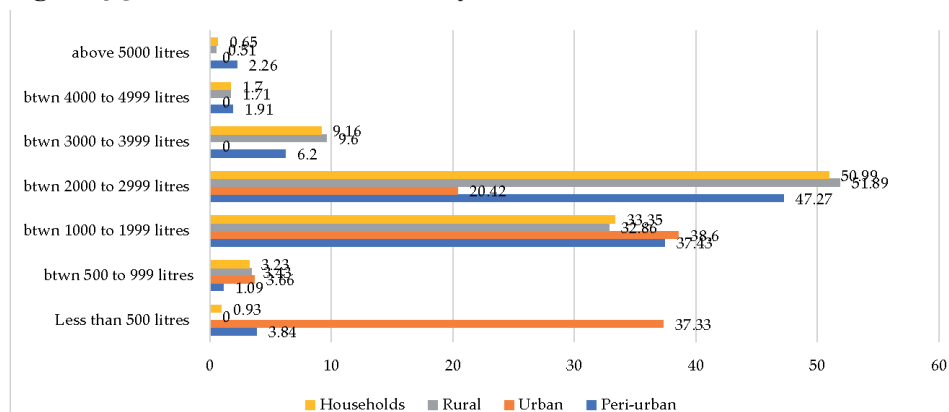
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Inequalities in access to safe and clean drinking water may put households at risk of contracting infectious diseases as well as make the households less observance of COVID-19 measures of hand hygiene. One mitigation measure that may be undertaken by the county to increase access to improved water source, include connecting the households with piped water, increase the development of improved sources of water especially in rural areas. Long term measure to support access to water all households is to have both male and female headed households to be part of water management/governance team and in decision making in water management. Other important consideration is to have separate water drinking point for livestock, different from the household water drinking water sources to minimize water contamination as well as conflict over water resource. Other long-term measures are to avoid agricultural activities along the upstream to minimize water pollution.

4.2.2 Volumes for water used by households in the past one month

Most households (51%) both rural (51.9%) and urban (20.4%) peri urban (47.3%) have use between 2000 and 2999 litres of water in a month. Additionally, majority of male (43.7%) and female (43.2%) headed households have used between 1000-1999 litres of water per month.

Figure 4.3: Volumes of Water used by Households in the Past Month

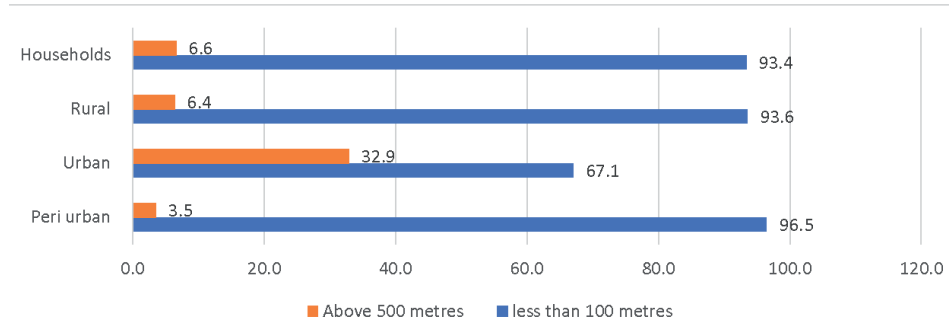


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

Majority of the households (93.4%) both rural, urban, and peri-urban covers 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



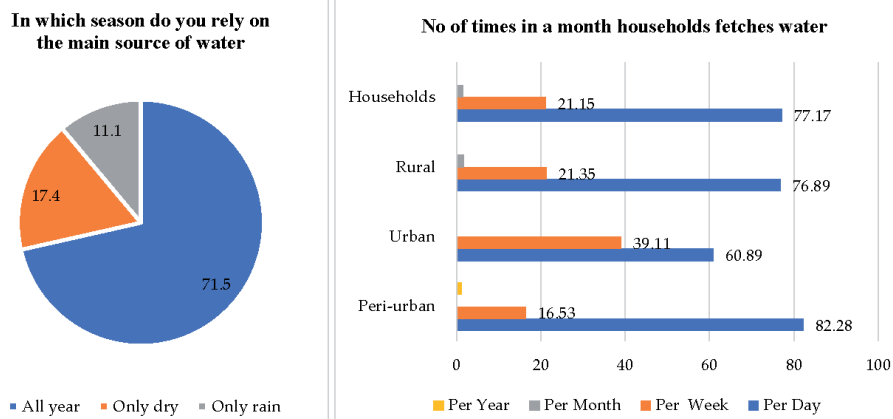
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.4 Access and reliability of water sources

Majority of households (71.5%) in the county rely on the main source of drink water all year round. On the other hand, most households (77.2%), rural (76.9%) urban (60.9%) must go to fetch drinking water from the sources per day. This means 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



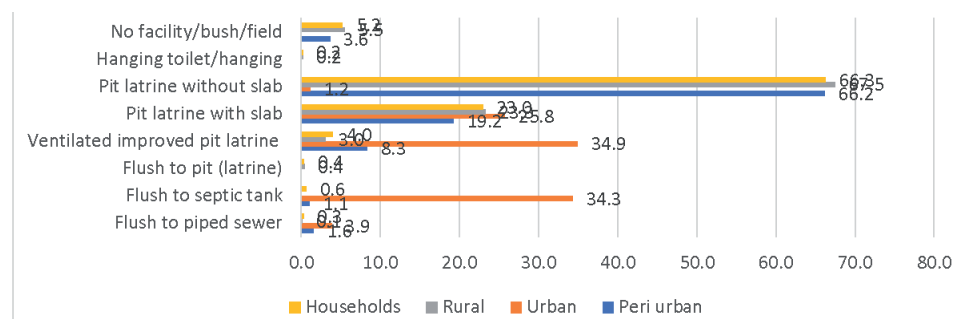
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.4.1 Access to sanitation

Most households (66.3%), both rural (67.5%) and peri-urban (66.2%) use pit latrine without slab. While most of the urban households (32.3%) use ventilated improved pit latrine and flush to septic tank (34.2%). There are small proportions of households using flush to piped sewer.

Figure 4.6: Access to Sanitation in the County by Households



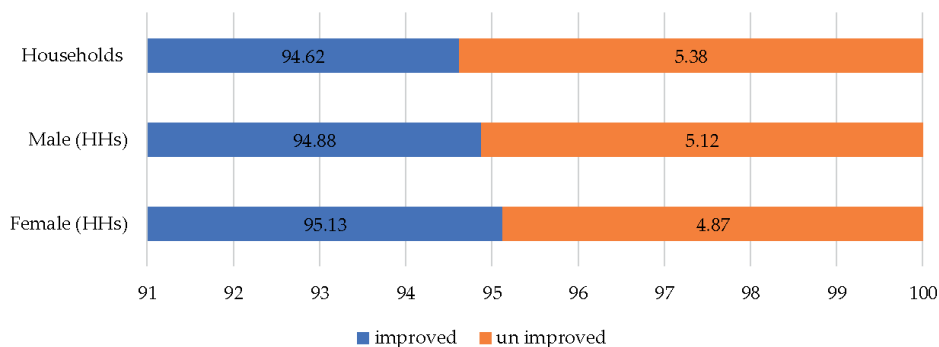
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.4.2 Access to improved and unimproved sanitation

Majority of the households (94.6%) have access to improved sanitation facilities⁴. This is also similar among female (95.1%) and male (94.9%) headed households.

Figure 4.7: Access to Improved and Unimproved Sanitation by Households



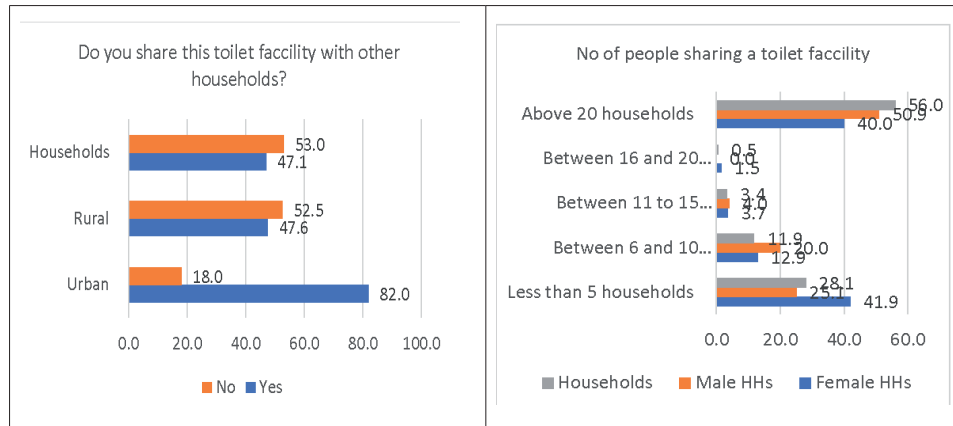
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.4.3 Sharing of a toilet facility

Most households (47.1%) both in rural (47.6%) and peri urban (35.3%) compared to urban (82%) do not share a toilet facility with other households. Further, most households (50%) do share a toilet facility with more than 20 other households, this is more among male (50.9%) than female (40%) headed households as shown below.

⁴ 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 4.8: Households sharing a toilet facility



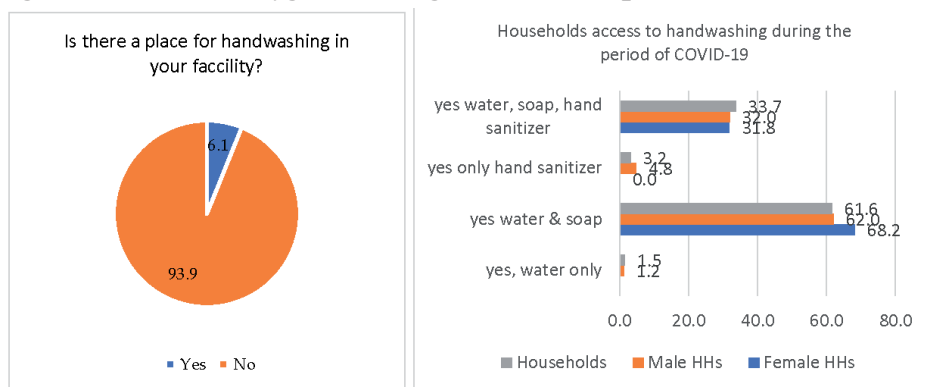
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.4.4 Access to hygiene (hand washing) during the COVID-19 period

WASH has been identified very important in helping to curb transmission of infectious diseases, currently most households (96%) do not have a handwashing facility in their households. Despite this most households (61.6%) have access to WASH (*Water and soap*) during this period of COVID-19. Additional 33.7 per cent of the households having access to both water, soap and hand sanitizer.

Figure 4.9: Access to hygiene during the COVID-19 period



Source: KNBS KIHBS 2015/2016

Source: KNBS COVID-19 wave 2, 2020

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

4.4.5 Constraints faced

- i. The county government faced challenges in revenue collections since COVID-19 resulted in reduced incomes among households and businesses. This forced the county government to defer collection of revenue from the water services it provides as well as financial support to water services providers.
- ii. COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers if they get infected, they will have to self-isolated and this may lead to disruption of services. Other constraints include, drought, water leakages

4.4.6 Linkages to other sectors

- 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.

4.5 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Water and hygiene sectors

- 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.

4.6 Emerging Issues

The County has provided wash taps within shops in the town center as well as handwashing facilities in County and sub-County offices. The county provided 10 sanitizing booths at border points – with neighboring Counties and Countries and purchased 1000-liter tanks that were placed in every market to promote handwashing. Also, encouraged shopkeepers to put in place water tanks and hand wash at their doorsteps.

4.6.1 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 provides.

- i. The county has adequate water sources, though the sources tend to dry up during times of droughts and short rains.
- ii. Most households in the county have low access to improved sources of water. This is more in rural (15.5%) and peri urban (10%) compared to urban (79.5%). Clean

and safe water guarantees good health leading to low health expenditures among households.

- iii. There is low access to piped water in rural (11.9%), and peri urban (6.1%) compared to urban areas (79.5%). 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 (94.4%), urban (100%) and peri urban households (96.4%).
- v. Households' connectivity to piped sewer is low at less than 1 per cent per cent in both rural and peri urban areas compared to urban (3.9%). 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 (82%), peri urban (35.2%) compared to rural areas (47.6%). 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 (61.6%) having access to WASH (water and soap) while only 33.7 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.
- viii. On the other hand, most households (96%) do not have a designated handwashing facility in their households. This may put households at risk of contracting infection due to inability of maintaining hand hygiene.

4.7 Recommendations

- i) Increase water supply in households, institutions and public places through drilling of boreholes and access to piped water in all the sub-counties.
- ii) Up-scale the construction of water pans and dams as well as ground water in order to increase access to shortage, especially during dry seasons.
- iii) Upscale abstraction of water from rivers, spring protections, harvesting of rainwater from roof and other catchments to help achieve increase to water access.
- iv) Undertake chlorination of water sources through provision of chlorination tablets across the county to help access to increased safe and clean water.
- v) Undertake water trucking during times of prolonged drought and emergencies to households.
- vi) Improve access to safe and improved toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces and public places through drilling of boreholes

5. Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

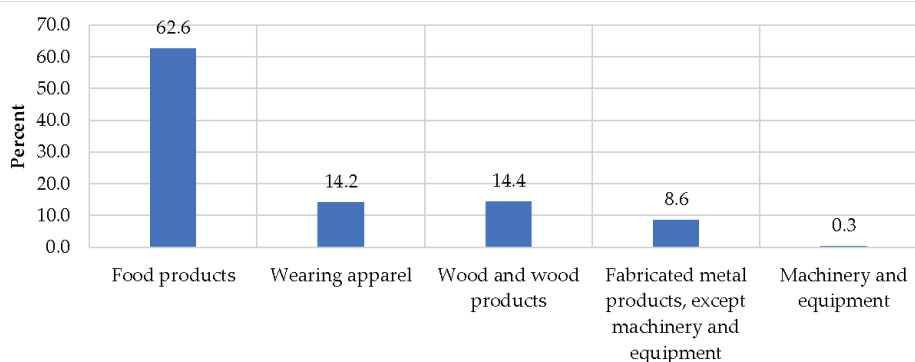
5.1 Characteristics of the manufacturing sector

Bomet county has 1,619 establishments involved in manufacturing activities which comprise of 10.4 per cent of a total of, 16,290 firms (KNBS, 2016) and all are micro in size.

5.1.1 Sector of operation

A Survey carried out by the KNBS (2016) shows that the key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing to include: food and food products (62.6%), wood and wood products (14.4%), wearing apparel (4.2%), and fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment (8.6%) (Figure 5.1). These are sub-sectors that are considered essential in dealing with COVID-19 are likely to experience more activities 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 tea, dairy, maize, leather, textiles, and poultry. The large industries driving manufacturing in the County are largely agriculturally based specializing in tea, milk, and maize. The To spur manufacturing, an industrial park providing incubation opportunities to establishments in baking, furniture and livestock meal production was established by Kenya Industrial Estate (KIE).

Figure 5.1: Sector of Operation in Manufacturing



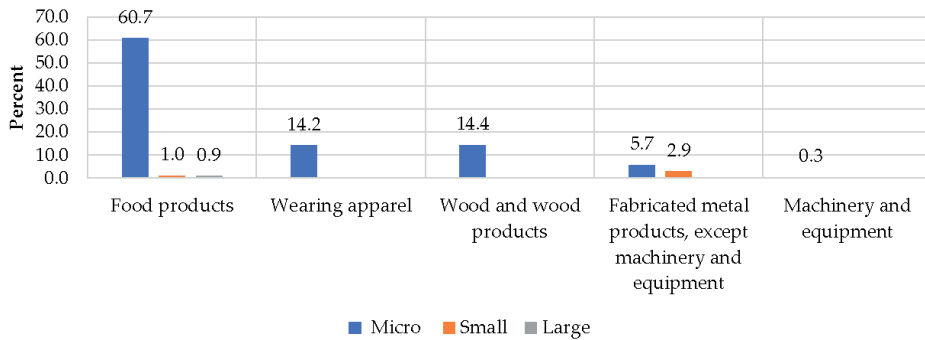
Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.2 Sector of operation by size

Majority of the establishments in Bomet County are micro in nature and operate in food products (60.7%), wood and wood products (14.4%), wearing apparel (14.2%), fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment (5.7per cent). Small sized establishments operate in fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment (2.9%), and

machinery and equipment (0.3per cent), while large enterprises operate mainly in food products (0.9%).

Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size

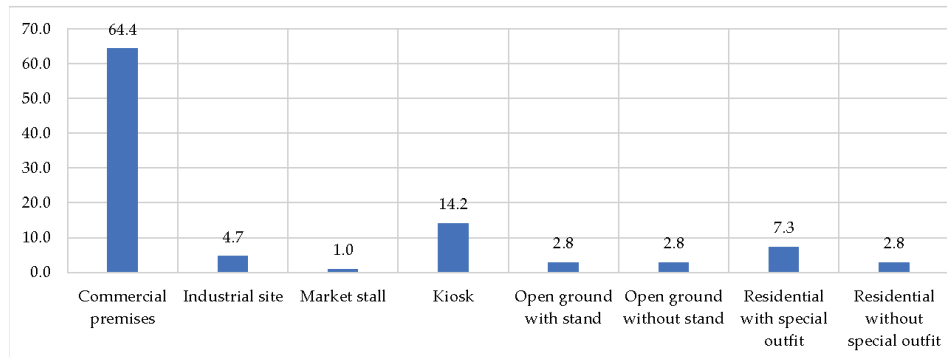


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2 Location of manufacturing firms by type of premises

Common premises used by manufacturing firms in Bomet County are commercial (64.4%), kiosks (14.2%), residential with special outfit (7.3%), and industrial site (4.7%)

Figure 5.3: Location of Manufacturing firms by Premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.1 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size

Manufacturing establishments in Bomet County are male dominated (76.1%), with females comprising 14.2 per cent while 9.7 per cent are jointly owned. Micro-sized firms are 75.9 per cent male owned, 14.9 per cent female owned and 9.2 per cent jointly owned (table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Distribution of Manufacturing Firms by Gender and Size - N (per cent)

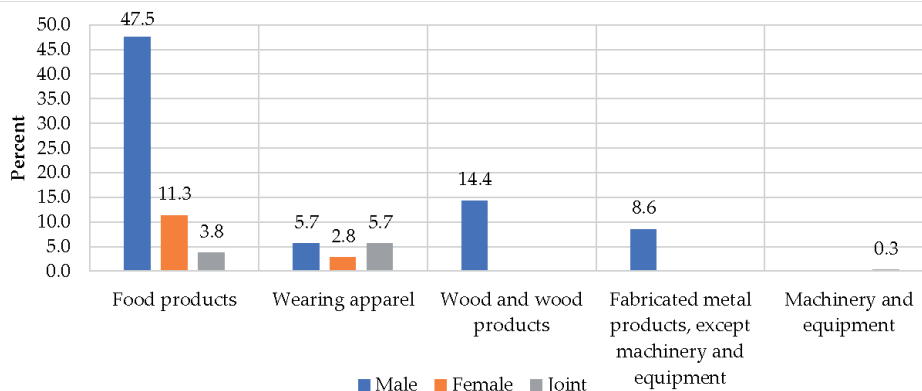
Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Large
Male	1,294 (76.1)	1,228 (75.9)	66 (100)	0 (0)
Female	241 (14.2)	241 (14.9)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joint	165 (9.7)	150 (9.2)	0 (0)	16 (100)
Total	1,700 (100)	1,619 (100)	66 (100)	16 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.2 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

Majority of the sub-sectors in manufacturing are male dominated as shown in figure 24: food products (47.5%), wood and wood products (14.4%), fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment (8.6%). Females are mostly found in food products (1.3%) and wearing apparel (2.8%) (Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4: Distribution of Manufacturing Firms by Gender and Sector



Source: KNBS, 2016

Regarding employment, the manufacturing sector employs more men (78.2%) than women (21.8%). Most men are found in the large-sized enterprises (36.7%) while 32.8 per cent are in micro-sized enterprises. Women are also largely found in large-sized establishments (13.5%) (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Employment by Gender and Size for Manufacturing Firms

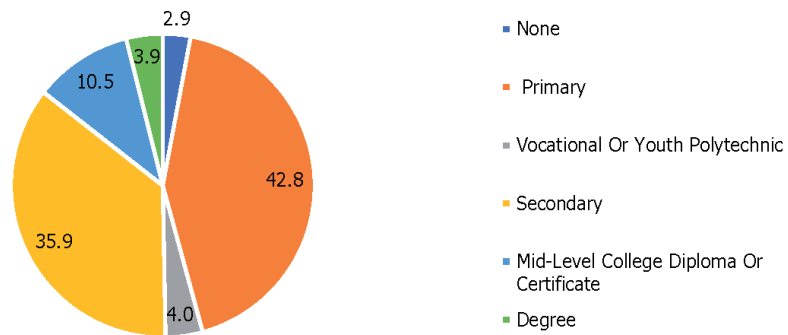
Number of employees	Micro	Small	Large	Total
Male	2,690 (32.8)	723 (8.8)	3,011 (36.7)	6,424 (78.2)
Female	680 (8.3)	0 (0)	1,108 (13.5)	1,787 (21.8)
Total	3,370 (100)	723 (8.8)	4,119 (50.2)	8,211 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.3 Education levels of Manufacturing firm owners

Majority of owners of firms in manufacturing have primary (42.8%), secondary (35.9%), vocational or youth polytechnic (4%), degree (3.9%), mid-level college diploma or certificate (10.5%) education (figure 5.5). About 2.9 per cent of the manufacturing firm owners do not have a formal education.

Figure 5.5: Education levels of Manufacturing Firm Owners

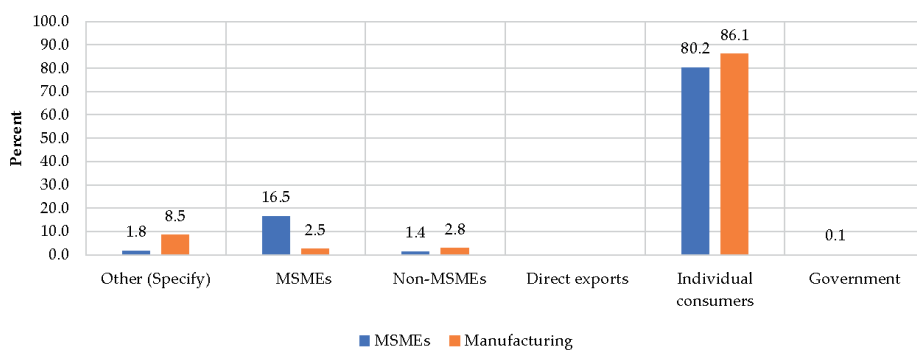


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.4 Source of markets

Majority of manufacturing firms and MSMEs rely on individual consumers for markets at 86.1 per cent and 80.2 per cent respectively (Figure 5.6). MSMEs and non-MSMEs are also important sources of market to these sectors. It is important to also note that manufacturing firms and MSMEs in Bomet County do not depend on external markets and hence turbulences in those markets and especially as a result of COVID-19 may not have an adverse effect to their produce.

Figure 5.6: Source of markets

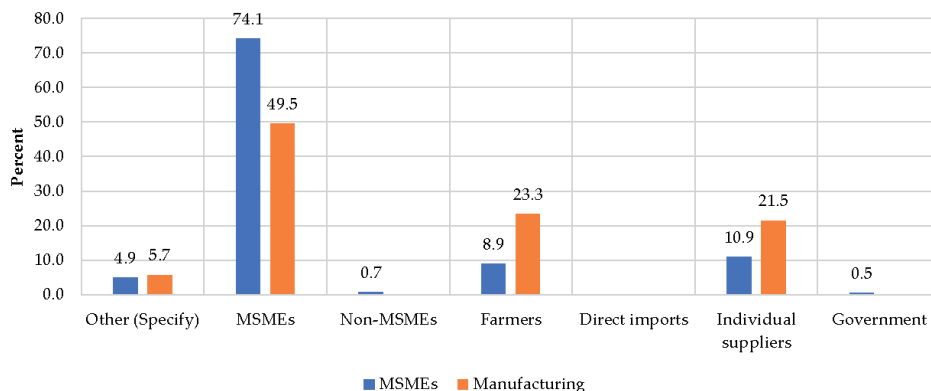


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.5 Source of material inputs

Overall, manufacturing enterprises and MSMEs source for material inputs from amongst MSMEs at 49.5 per cent and 74.1 per cent respectively. Individual suppliers and are also important to the supply of inputs as shown in figure 5.7.

Figure 5.7: Source of Material Inputs



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.6 Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

Manufacturing establishments in Bomet county are involved in product and process innovations. More product innovations are seen under the micro category at 2.8 per cent while process innovations are seen under small enterprises (1.9%) (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Level of Innovation by Firms in Manufacturing

Type of innovation	Micro			Small		Large		Total
	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	1,570 (92.4)	48 (2.8)	66 (3.9)	0 (0)	16 (0.9)	0 (0)	1,700 (100)
Process	0 (0)	1,619 (95.2)	0 (0)	33 (1.9)	33 (1.9)	16 (0.9)	0 (0)	1,700 (100)
Market	0 (0)	1,619 (95.2)	0 (0)	66 (3.9)	0 (0)	16 (0.9)	0 (0)	1,700 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.7 Access to credit for Manufacturing and MSMEs firms

According to the MSME 2016 survey, 53.2 per cent of MSMEs and 57.3 per cent of those in manufacturing applied for credit. The main sources of credit for establishments in manufacturing are: commercial banks (56.5%), microfinance institutions (27.9%), public financing agencies and cooperatives (8%), Saccos (6.6%), among others. MSMEs largely

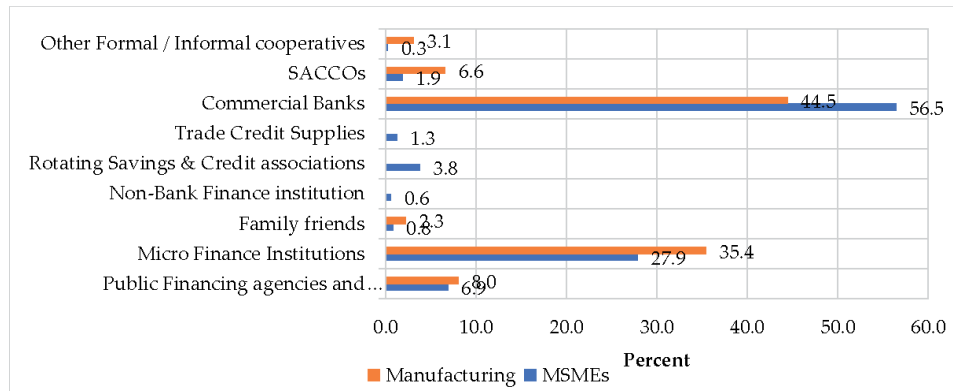
rely on commercial banks (56.5%), micro finance institutions (27.9%), and public financing agencies and cooperatives (6.9%) (Figure 5.8).

Figure 5.8: Sources of Finance

Source: KNBS, 2016

Recent evidence from FinAccess 2019 provides further insights on sources of credit for businesses in Bomet County. Businesses commonly obtain credit from the conventional sources such as shops (20.3%), SACCO (10.9%), and personal/business loans from banks (3.4%). Emerging sources of credit for businesses in Bomet county include mobile money (5.6%) and digital loans (1.2%) (Figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit

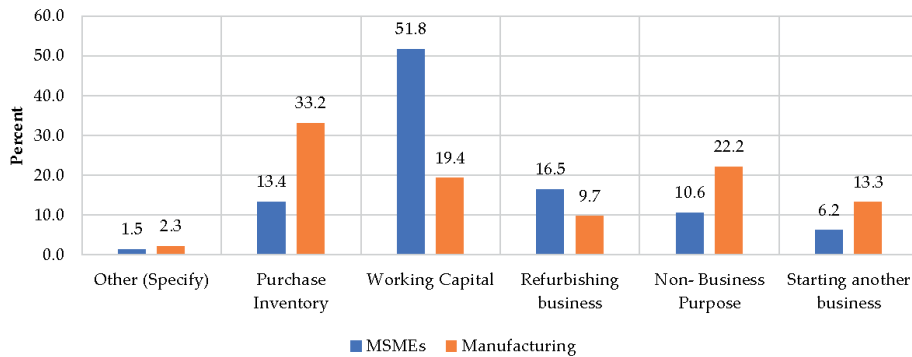


Source: FinAccess, 2019

5.2.8 Purpose of credit

Figure 5.10 presents the main purpose of credit by both MSMEs and establishments in manufacturing. Broadly, manufacturing enterprises require credit for: purchase inventory (33.2%), working capital (19.4%), starting another business (13.3%), refurbishing business (9.7%), among others. MSMEs in Bomet County require financing for: working capital (51.8%), refurbishing business (16.5%), purchase inventory (13.4%) and starting another business (6.2%).

Figure 5.10: Main Purpose of Credit

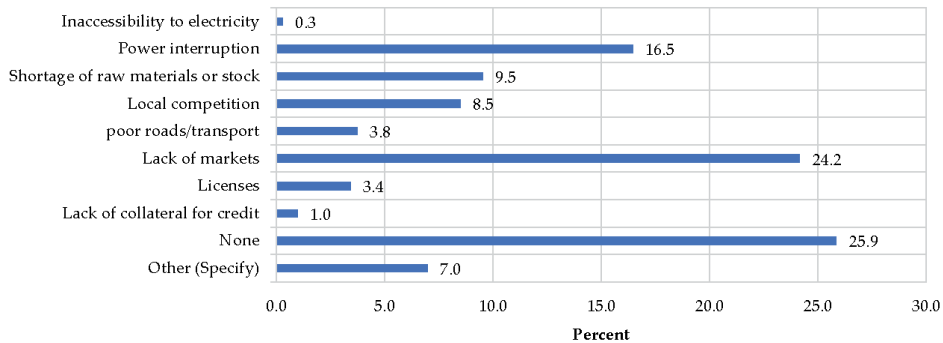


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.9 Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

The main constraints faced by manufacturing enterprises include lack of markets (24.2%), power interruption (16.5%), shortage of raw materials or stock (9.5%), local competition (8.5%), and poor roads/transport (3.8%) (figure 5.11).

Figure 5.11: Constraints Faced by Manufacturing Firms



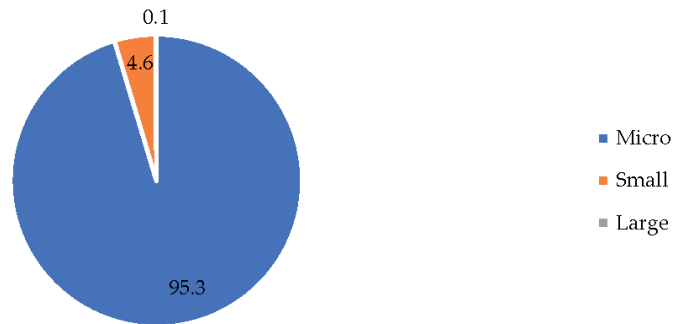
Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.10 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Bomet County has 16, 290 establishments⁵ with 15,531 (95.3%) being micro; 743 (4.6%) are small; and 16 (0.1%) are large enterprises (KNBS, 2016) (Figure 5.12).

5 After applying weights

Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by Size

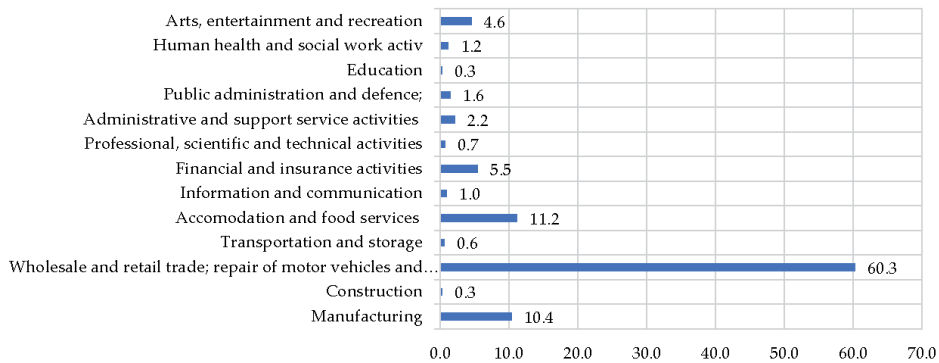


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.11 Sector of operation by MSMEs

Most of MSMEs in Bomet County operate in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (60.3%), accommodation and food services (11.2%), manufacturing (10.4%), financial and insurance activities (5.5%), arts, entertainment and recreation (4.6%), among others (Figure 5.13). Broadly, 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



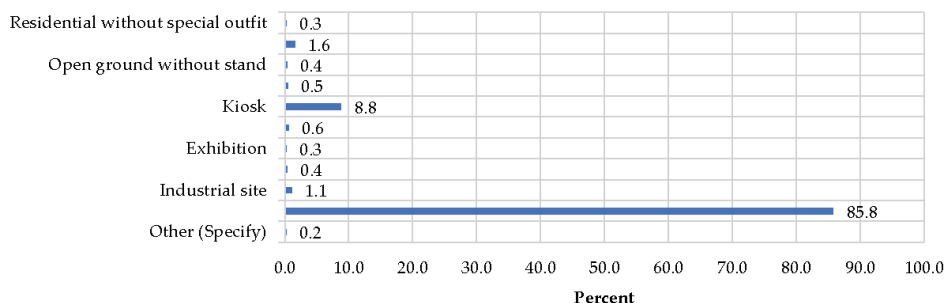
Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.12 Location of the businesses by type of premises

MSMEs in Bomet County are largely located in commercial premises (85.8%) and kiosks (8.8%), among others (Figure 5.14). 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. According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 survey, all the non-farm businesses interviewed attributed non-payment of household rental obligations to reduced incomes/earnings. For those involved in farm businesses, 82 per cent attributed the same

to reduced incomes/earnings while 18 per cent were affected by temporary layoffs/closure of businesses. The survey also indicates the wholesale and retail trade sector lost 7.3 hours in usual and actual hours worked while accommodation and food services lost 2.7 hours in a week.

Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.13 Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size

Table 5.4 shows the distribution of MSMEs in Bomet county by gender: 57.6 per cent are male owned, 20.3 per cent are female owned, while 22.1 per cent are jointly owned (male/female). For Micro establishments, 57.2 per cent are male owned, 21.1 per cent are female owned, while 21.7 per cent are jointly owned.

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

Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Large
Male	9,375 (57.6)	8,877 (57.2)	498 (67)	0 (0)
Female	3,310 (20.3)	3,281 (21.1)	29 (3.9)	0 (0)
Joint	3,605 (22.1)	3,373 (21.7)	216 (29)	16(100)
Total	16,290 (100)	15,531 (100)	743 (100)	16(100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

Male owners also dominate ownership among small sized establishments at 67 per cent, women own 3.9 per cent while 29 per cent are jointly owned in the same category. Considering large sized establishments ownership is fully controlled by joint ownership (100%).

In terms of employment, the micro sized establishments employ more people (71.8%) compared to small (20.5%), and large (7.7%). Micro firms employ 45.8 per cent male and 26 per cent female and small sized employ 13.9 per cent male and 6.6 per cent female. Equally large enterprises employ more men (5.7%) than women (2.1%). Overall, more men (65.3%) are employed by MSMEs in Bomet county than women (34.7%).

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

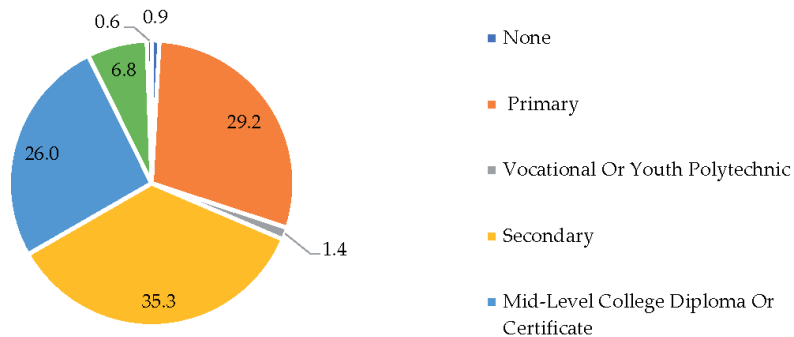
	Micro	Small	Large	Total
Male	24,384 (45.8)	7,403 (13.9)	3,011 (5.7)	34,798 (65.3)
Female	13,838 (26)	3,523 (6.6)	1,108 (2.1)	18,468 (34.7)
Total	38,222 (71.8)	10,926 (20.5)	4,119 (7.7)	53,266 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.14 Education levels of MSME owners

Figure 5.15 indicates that majority of MSME owners in Bomet County have a secondary education (35.3%) while 29.3 per cent have primary and 26 per cent mid-level college diploma or certificate education respectively. About 6.8 per cent of the owners have a degree in education. About 0.6 per cent of the owners have no education.

Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.15 Level of innovation by MSMEs

Table 5.6 presents the levels of innovation in Bomet County by MSMEs according to size. Generally, there were low levels of innovation across MSMEs with 3.7 per cent involved in product, 0.4 per cent for process and 1 per cent in market innovation for micro-sized establishments. Regarding small-sized enterprises, 0.5 per cent engaged in product, 0.4 per cent process and 0.2 per cent market innovation. Large enterprises were not involved in any innovations.

Table 5.6: Level of innovation by MSMEs

Type of Innovation	Micro				Small				Large			Total
	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Don't know	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	23 (0.1)	14,901 (91.5)	608 (3.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	656 (4)	87 (0.5)		16 (0.1)	0 (0)	16,290 (100)
Process	0 (0)	23 (0.1)	15,451 (94.8)	58 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	676 (4.2)	66 (0.4)	0 (0)	16 (0.1)	0 (0)	3,273 (100)
Market	0 (0)	0 (0)	15,369 (94.3)	162 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	709 (4.4)	34 (0.2)		16 (0.1)	0 (0)	3,273 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.16 E-commerce

Participation in e-commerce by households in Bomet County is below the national average. About 2.1 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 (2.8%) than women (1.4%). With introduction of stay-at-home protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Bomet County since fewer households participate in the same.

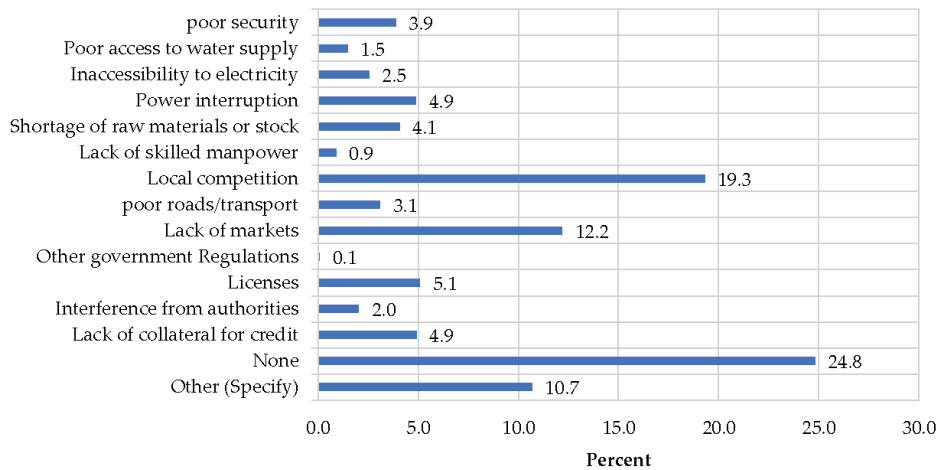
5.2.17 Turnover tax

Only 12.3 per cent of MSMEs in Bomet County (1,998) 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.

5.2.18 Constraints faced by MSMEs

The main constraints faced by MSMEs in Bomet County include: local competition (19.3%), lack of markets (12.2%), licenses (5.1%), lack of collateral or credit (4.9%), power interruption (4.9%), and shortage of raw materials or stock (4.1%).(figure 5.16).

Figure 5.16: Main Constraints Faced by MSMEs



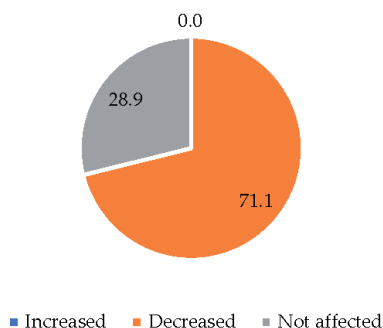
Source: KNBS, 2016

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

5.2.19 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 Bomet County. 71.1 per cent of the respondents report a decrease in their business activities due to the pandemic while 28.9 per cent were not affected. Equally 71.1 per cent of the respondents have had a decrease in their income due to COVID-19 pandemic. This is an indicator that COVID-19 is already having a negative toll on the non-farm and farm businesses even though the situation is still evolving.

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

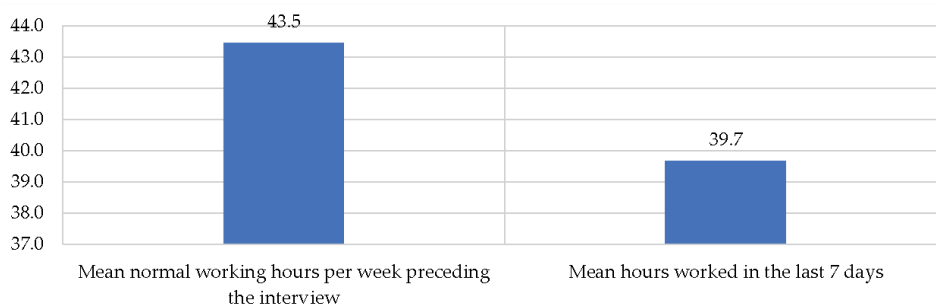


Source: KNBS, COVID_19 Survey 2020

5.2.20 Labour dynamics

During the period considered in KNBS COVID-19 Survey 2020 data collection, respondents reported a decrease in 3.8 hours in the mean working hours for household non-farm and farm businesses in Bomet County which implies a deterioration 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 main stay 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 the wholesale and retail trade sector lost 7.3 hours in usual and actual hours worked while accommodation and food services lost 2.7 hours in a week. This is an indicator of the adverse effects on the service sector of Bomet County due to the pandemic which imply loss of productivity, output and employment.

5.3 Key Messages:

- a) The key sectors that drive the economy of Bomet County include Agriculture, Services, and Manufacturing. Hence, targeted interventions should be directed to these sectors to ensure re-engineering of the County economy.

- b) The main sources of credit for establishments in manufacturing are: commercial banks, microfinance institutions, public financing agencies and cooperatives, and Saccos.
- c) Majority of the establishments in Bomet County are micro in nature and operate in food products, wood and wood products, wearing apparel, fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment.
- d) Participation in e-commerce by households in Bomet County is below the national average. About 2.1 per cent of the households participate in online e-commerce which is below a national average of 4.3 per cent. In comparison, men participate more in online e-commerce (2.8%) than women (1.4%). With introduction of stay at home protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Bomet County since fewer households participate in the same.
- e) The main constraints faced by MSMEs in Bomet County include: local competition, lack of markets, licenses, lack of collateral or credit, power interruption, and shortage of raw materials or stock
- f) MSMEs in Bomet County are largely located in commercial premises and kiosks. Majority of the businesses in the County could be having a lot of difficulties in meeting their rental obligations due to income disruptions occasioned by COVID-19.
- g) COVID-19 presented 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.
- h) Manufacturing establishments must also adopt to cope with the new guidelines which could include rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- i) Training and capacity building are important in assisting MSMEs to surmount the shocks faced during the pandemic but also allow for re-emergence.
- j) 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.

5.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Industrial Recovery and Growth

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

- 1) Agro-processing for value addition with important areas of focus include maize, tea, dairy, wheat, leather, textiles, and poultry and dairy production and processing.
- 2) The textile and wearing apparel sectors can be enhanced to provide PPEs for use within the County and potentially for export market.

5.5 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 Bomet 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 Bomet County has comparative advantage.
- iii. Review all the ongoing interventions by the County and the national government to assess their effectiveness and especially regarding trade, manufacturing and MSMEs.

There is need for legislative amendments to ensure the Buy Kenya Build Kenya initiative is implemented at the County.

5.6 Recommendations

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

- i) COVID-19 increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and sanitizers. It is an opportunity for manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth.
- ii) Provide a cushion to businesses and traders, with affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges.
- iii) Put in place an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19. 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.
- iv) Collaborate with the National government to ensure security is enhanced to reduce on crime and create a peaceful business environment.
- v) Develop appropriate road infrastructure especially the county roads while collaborating with the private sector through PPP's to get financing of the projects.
- vi) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders and institutions such as Kenya Institute of Business Training (KIBT) and National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) to provide entrepreneurial training and technical training, apprenticeship and certification programmes to MSEs.

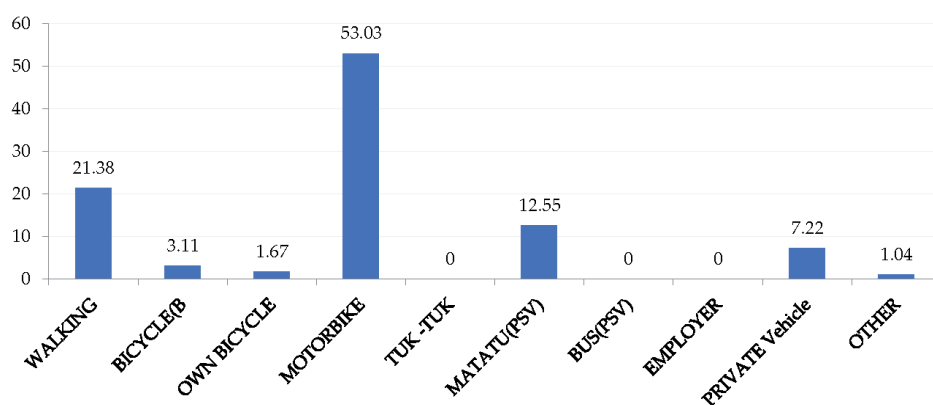
6. Infrastructure

6.1 Transport

6.1.1 Characteristics of the transport sector

Majority of households own a motorcycle (12.0%) and a bicycle (5.5%). Car ownership is at 3.7 per cent (KNBS, 2019). The main means of transport used in the County (figure 6.1) is motorbike at 53.03 per cent, followed by walking at 21.38 per cent, matatu (PSV) 12.55 per cent, and private car at 7.22 per cent, figure 6.1 while 88.56 per cent of the population had not changed the main means of transport (KNBS, 2020b). On average, residents travel 2.49 kilometers to their workplace at an average cost of Ksh 108.51. For the commute to school, residents spend on average Ksh 161.51 (KIHBS, 2015/16).

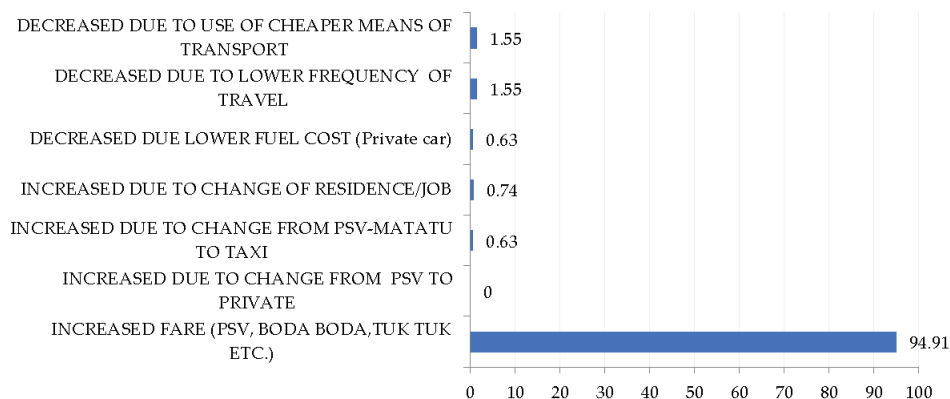
Figure 6.1: Main Means of Transport



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

The KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 revealed that 43.76 per cent of the population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute, figure 6.2. The expenditure on transport increased by 17.05 per cent from Ksh 88 before February 2020 to Ksh 103 in May 2020 for a one-way trip. The main change (94.91%) in transport cost was attributed to increased fares for PSV, Bodaboda and TukTuk.

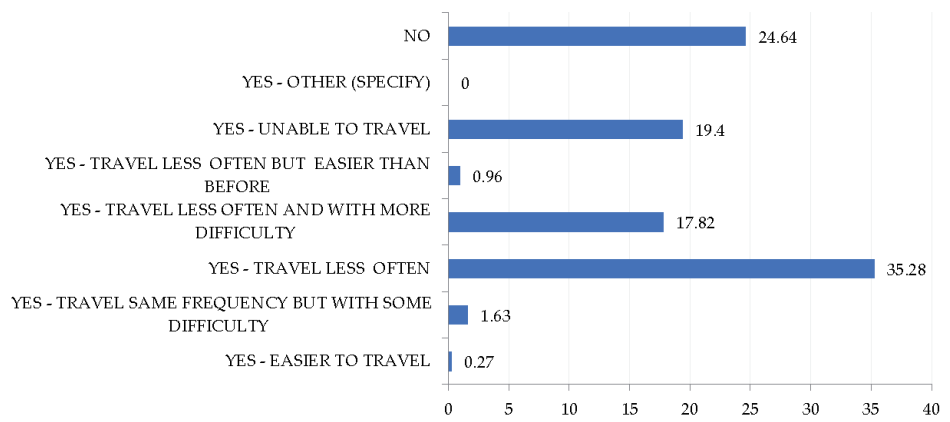
Figure 6.2: Impact of COVID-19 of the Cost of Travel



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

Residents had changed their travel patterns with 35.28 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 1.63 per cent travelled with the same frequency but with some difficulty, and 19.4 per cent were unable to travel, figure 6.3. However, 24.64 per cent of the population did not change their travel pattern.

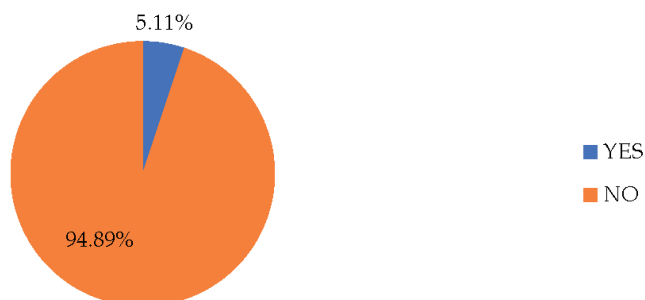
Figure 6.3: Change in Travel Patterns



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

The pandemic has affected delivery of goods and services for 5.11 per cent of households, figure 6.4.

Figure 6.4: Has delivery of your household goods and services been affected by COVID-19?



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

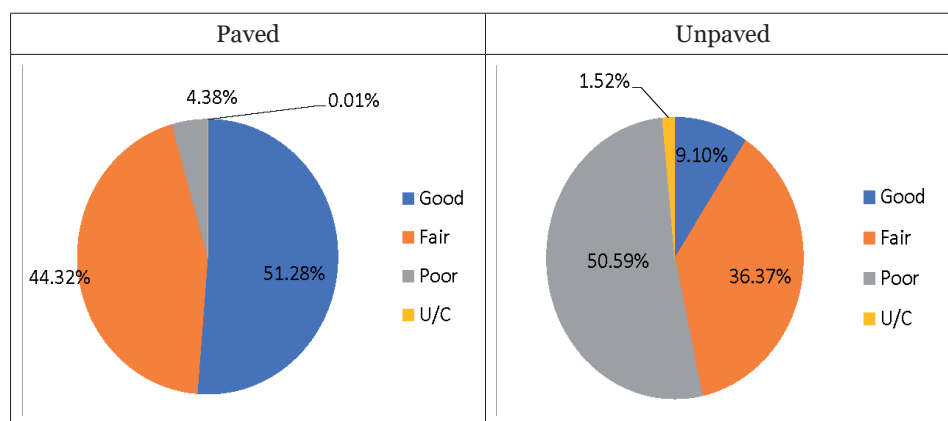
6.2 Potential for revenue collection

The County was allocated a total of KES 200,546,244 from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund towards road maintenance in the Financial 2017/18 (OCOB, 2019).

6.3 Road network

The county has a total of 3,867.77 Kilometres of classified road network. The paved County Road network covers 27.43 KMs, while the paved National roads covers 174.07 KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 201.5KMs, 51.28 per cent is in good condition, 44.32 per cent in fair condition and 4.38 per cent in poor condition. The unpaved road network in the county covers 1,470 KMs (county roads) and 394.98 KMs (National roads), of this, 9.1 per cent is in good condition, 36.7 per cent fair and 50.59 per cent in poor condition as depicted in figure 1 (KRB, 2019).

Figure 6.5: Road condition mix-classified road network



The unclassified road network in the County covers 1,845.51 KMs, with 1,148.78KMs of narrow roads, that is, road with a reserve of between 4 -9 meters, while there is a total of 696.73 KMs of new roads.

6.4 Constraints faced

The Rural Access Index (RAI) measures the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road. The county has a RAI of 96 per cent which is above the National Average of 70 per cent, 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 50.59 per cent is a constraint to development.

6.5 Linkages to other sectors

Transport has linkages to trade facilitation and providing accessibility to the agriculture sector

6.5.1 Opportunities with COVID-19 in various sectors

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 programme⁶ 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) approach⁷ offers a strategic and cost-effective approach to improve rural accessibility in the County.

6.6 Emerging Issues

- i) Poor road conditions for unpaved network
- ii) Reliance on motorbike transport requires enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures
- iii) Unregulated motorbike transport system

6.7 Recommendations

- i) 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.
- ii) 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 policy.
- iii) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) in urban areas and along roads with heavy -highspeed traffic to promote sustainable mobility options and enhance road safety for all road users. This is in line with the Integrated

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

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

National Transport Policy 2009 and the Sustainable Development Goals8.

- iv) Adopt climate smart road engineering designs to safeguard road and bridge infrastructure from floods and to harvest storm water for irrigation and productive use.
- v) Improve regulations for motorbike transport operations including provision of exclusive sideways for the two wheeled means of transport.

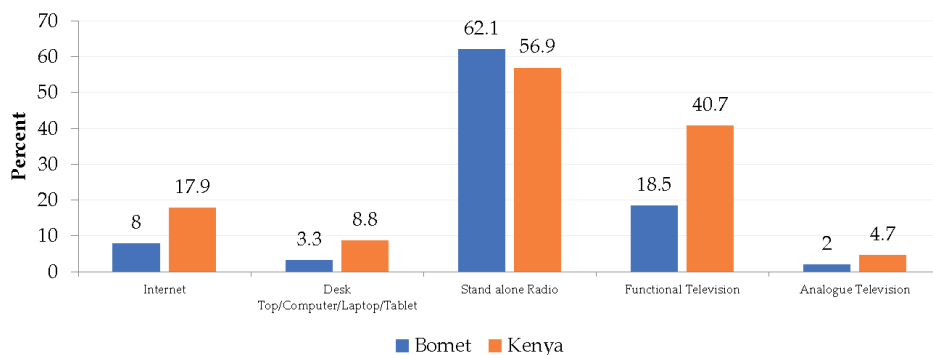
6.8 Information and Communication Technology

ICT in Bomet County has been enhanced and has enabled people to work from home. People can now hold meeting using e-platforms. In Education, children can learn using e platforms although not all

6.8.1 Characteristics of the sector

The analysis of the 2019 KPHC reveals that only 8.0 per cent of the conventional households in the county ‘own’ internet with 3.3 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).

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

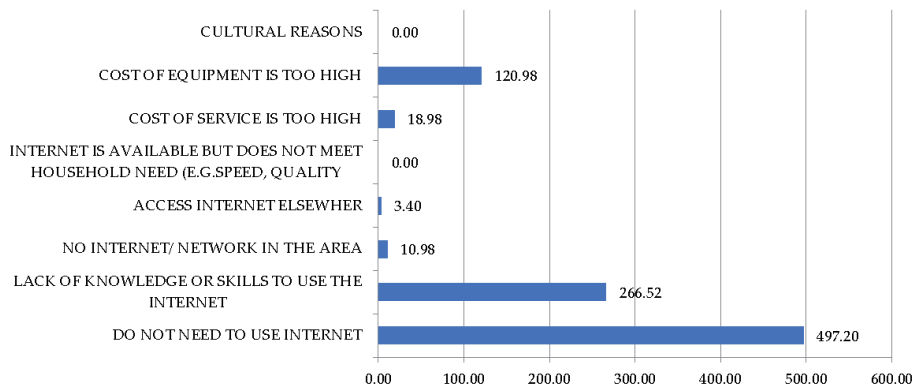


Source: KNBS (2019), Population and Housing Census

Online shopping is not prevalent in the County. 2.1 per cent of the conventional households searched and bought goods/services online. There exists gender disparity in online shopping with more men (2.8%) than women (1.4%) 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). Other key factors include the lack of internet/network in the area, and the high cost of service and equipment (Figure 6.7).

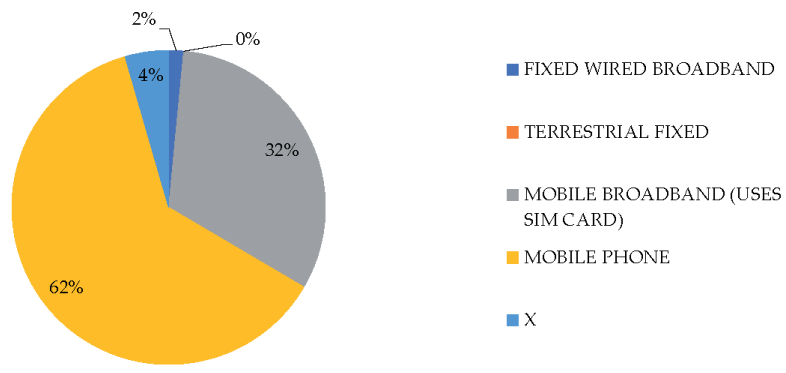
Figure 6.7: Why doesn't this household have any type of internet connection? KHIBS 2015/16



Source: KNBS (2019), Population and Housing Census

Approximately 62 per cent of the internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of 32 per cent relying on mobile broadband that uses a sim card for connectivity (Figure 6.8).

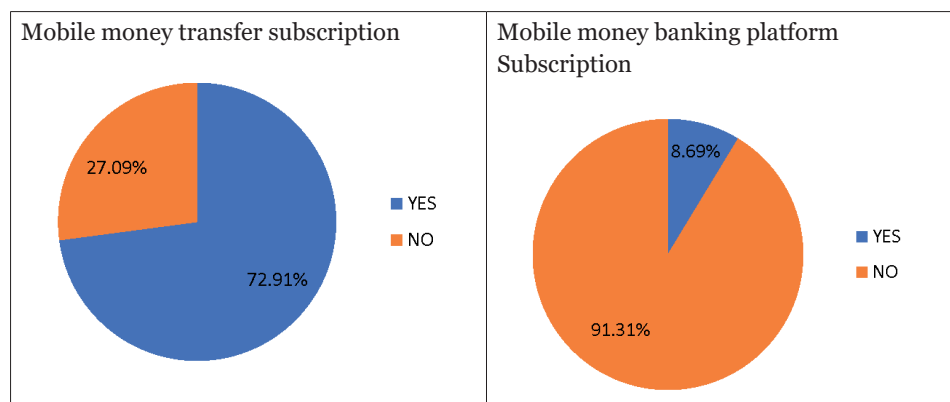
Figure 6.8: Type of internet connection



Source: KNBS (2019), Population and Housing Census

Approximately 40.9 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. Figure 6.9 presents the level of subscriptions for mobile money and mobile money banking.

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



Source: KNBS (2019), Population and Housing Census

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 20.8 per cent of the men and 12.6 per cent of the women using internet, while 8.0 per cent of the men and 5.3 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.

6.9 Constraints faced

- i) Low household ownership of internet and ICT devices limiting potential use of ICT for livelihood support.
- ii) Households perceive that they do not need to use the internet,
- iii) Households lack knowledge and skills on internet

6.10 Linkages to other sectors

ICT has linkages to public service delivery and education sectors and is an enabler to business continuity in different sectors.

6.11 Opportunities

Working with the national government to connect the county to the fiber network under the NFOBI programme

6.12 Emerging Issues

ICT in Bomet County government has been enhanced and has enabled people to work from home. People can now hold meeting using e-platforms. In Education, children can learn using e platforms although not all.

6.13 Recommendations

- i) Support programmes in partnership with the private sector that enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile phone ownership from the current 40.9 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony⁹
- ii) Adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere) by applying aerial and satellite-based communication technologies.
- iii) Negotiate with the public primary schools on community access to ICT infrastructure and collaboratively build and equip youth empowerment and ICT centers. The IT personnel in public primary schools to be deployed to support the development of ICT competence and skills among the public.
- iv) 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 as provided in the ADP programme on e-government services.
- v) Make ICT a standalone sector for planning and budget allocation. This is aimed at giving strategic prominence to planning, budgeting and investment in ICT.
- vi) Develop and implement ICT policies and procedures to manage ICT as provided in the ADP and mitigate the cyber threats. Executing policy on Business Continuity and Disaster recovery. 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.
- vii) Develop County ICT masterplan so as to guide implementation of ICT activities

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

7. Housing and urban development

There are four urban centers in the County with a total population of 50.7 per cent males and 49.3 per cent females (table 7-1). The urban land area covers 11 square kilometers with a population density of 2536 persons per sq.km.

Table 7.1: Distribution of population by Urban Centers by gender

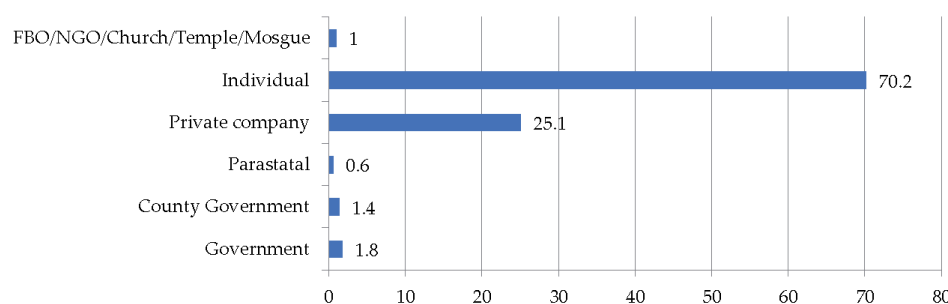
Urban Centre	Total	Male	Female
Bomet	11,765	6,037	5,728
Sotik	4,194	2,221	1,973
Mulot	3,149	1,569	1,579
Chebilat	5,373	2,717	2,656

Source: KNBS, 2019 -Kenya Population and Housing Census

7.1 Characteristics of the sector

The housing sector in the county is not affected because the county is predominantly rural. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 83.1 per cent, with 16.9 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 70.2 per cent, followed by Private Companies (25.1%); and National Government (1.8%) (figure 7.1); For those who own homes, 97.2 per cent constructed the houses while 1.0 per cent purchased the house and 1.8 per cent inherited their homes (KNBS, 2019).

Figure 7.1: Distribution of households renting/ provided with the main dwelling unit by Provider



Source: KNBS, 2019 -Kenya Population and Housing Census

Majority of households are headed by men (73.32%) compared to women (26.68%) in the County (KIHBS, 2015/16).

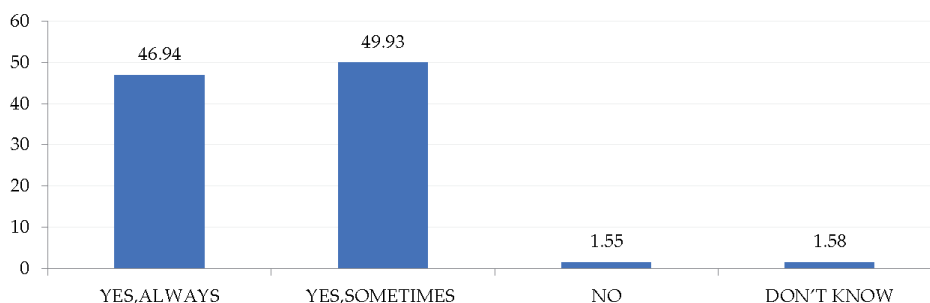
7.2 Housing quality

On average, the main dwellings of houses in the County have 1.93 habitable rooms against an average household size of 4.23 persons in a household, translating to approximately 2.19 people per room. According to the UN-Habitat, overcrowding occurs when there are more than three people per room¹⁰. In terms of housing quality (building material), 34.79 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing compared to 65.21 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials (KIHBS, 2015/16). Majority of households (90.5%) have iron sheets for roofing, mud/cow dung walls (51.5%) and dung floors (41.2%) (KNBS, 2019).

7.3 Rent payment

On average, rental households spend approximately Ksh 4,535 on rent with a minimum of Ksh 300 and the maximum of Ksh 38,000 (KNBS, 2020b). The county recorded a rent to income ratio of 12.29 per cent which is within the acceptable threshold of 30 per cent (KNBS, 2013).

Figure 7.2: Was the household paying rent on the agreed date with the landlord before COVID-19?

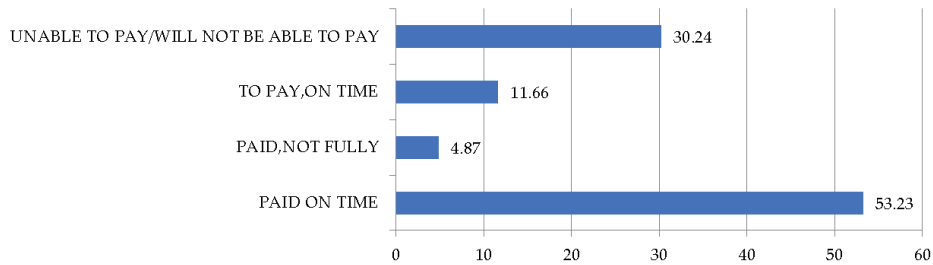


Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households' ability to pay rent has been affected, with 30.24 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date for April 2020 (Figure 7.3), compared to 53.23 per cent of the population that were able to pay rent on the agreed date and 47.84 per cent who paid rent on agreed date before COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 7.2).

¹⁰ Household crowding measure: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowding per cent20occurs per cent20if per cent20there per cent20are,per per cent20habitable per cent20room per cent20\(88\).&text=Crowding per cent20occurs per cent20if per cent20there per cent20is,per cent20rooms\) per cent20\(89\).](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowding per cent20occurs per cent20if per cent20there per cent20are,per per cent20habitable per cent20room per cent20(88).&text=Crowding per cent20occurs per cent20if per cent20there per cent20is,per cent20rooms) per cent20(89).)

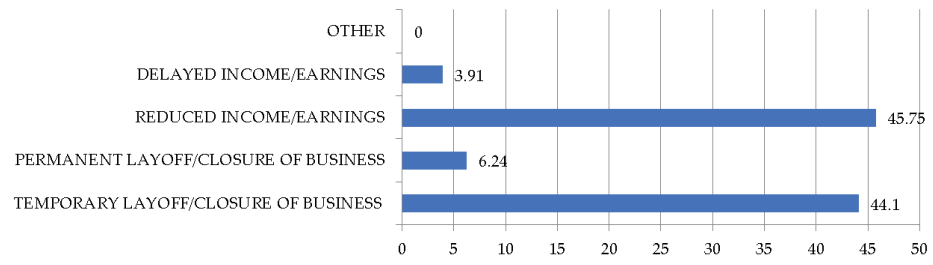
Figure 7.3: Has your household paid the rent for April 2020 on the agreed date



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

The main reason that has made households unable to pay rent was attributed to reduced incomes /earnings, reported by 45.75 per cent of the population. The inability to pay rent was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by 96.09 per cent of the population (Figure 7.4).

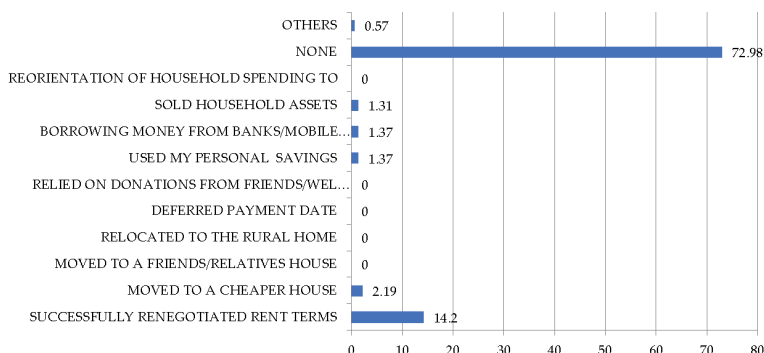
Figure 7.4: What is the MAIN reason that has made your household unable to pay rent?



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

Majority of the households (90.87%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, with 6.39 per cent reporting a partial waiver and 0 per cent reporting a full waiver. To overcome the effects of Corona virus on payment on rent, majority 14.2 per cent of households renegotiated rent terms, while 72.98 per cent of households did not take any measures. Approximately 1.37 per cent used personal savings to pay rent (Figure 7.5).

Figure 7.5: What measures has your household taken to overcome the effects of Corona Virus – rent



Regarding primary energy source for cooking, 93.3 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.

7.3.1 Constraints faced

- i) Household inability to pay rent due to livelihood shocks
- ii) Owner occupied housing built with rudimentary materials for floors and walls

7.3.2 Opportunities

- i) Existing stock of owner-occupied housing.

7.3.3 Emerging Issues

- i) The housing sector in the county is not affected because the county is predominantly rural.
- ii) The county has arranged with landlords for the tenants to pay a certain amount as they can afford.

7.3.4 Recommendations

- i) Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme with a focus on improving living conditions and building quality houses applying finished materials for walls, floors and roofing.
- ii) 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.
- iii) Identify and designate urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019, as provided in the CIDP
- iv) Formulate and seek approval of urban development plans and development control policies to support investment and development of urban areas.
- v) Adopt programmes aimed at an increasing household access to clean energy sources and technologies for cooking to mitigate against exposure to respiratory diseases.
- vi) Set a side sufficient land space and invite housing developers for partnership in the development of low cost housing as espoused by Agenda four

8. Tourism

8.1 Characteristic of the sector

The key tourism attraction sites in the County include physical attractions / nature-based tourism (Kipsegon warm springs, Mosonik Hills; Mau Forest which is home to different tree species, wildlife and birds; Abosi Hills, Nairotia which is home to colombus monkeys, Iria Maina and Tenwek waterfalls); wildlife in the Mau, Chepalungu, Chelelach and Kipsegon forests; cultural and heritage tourism; agro-tourism around the tea estates; medical tourism (the famous Tenwek hospital); and sports tourism (training camps in Terek and Tegat).

While Gross County Product (GCP) from accommodation and food services as accounts for a paltry 0.3 per cent of the total GCP, the County has significant tourism development potential that is yet to be tapped into to increase generation of own source revenue, including eco-tourism, sports tourism and cultural tourism. The county has 802.3 square Km of Gazetted forests which provides an unexploited opportunity to develop agro-forestry, eco-tourism, herbal medicine (medical tourism) and apiculture.

The culture of tree planting is fairly entrenched in the citizenry of the county and agro forestry remains an alternative entry point in the conservation of the existing state forests which are currently facing extreme pressure caused by over exploitation for products. The tree cover in the county stands at 12.8 per cent, which complies to the minimum cover of 10 per cent national target.

There are no star-rated hotels in the County. However, the County has 6 tourist-class hotels with more than 150 bed capacity. There is an opportunity to develop high class hotels to accommodate the Growing demand.

Notably, more investors are venturing into the development of tourist class hotels in the County.

Table 8.1: Potential for revenue collection

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Total Gross County Product (GCP), (Ksh Million)			168	
GCP from accommodation and food services, (KSh Million)			0.44	
GCP from accommodation and food services as per cent of Total GCP			0.26	
Total taxes, levies & fees collected from all county tourism establishments (KSh Million)				

Data source: KNBS GCP report, 2019

Table 8.2: Trend in expenditure in the Trade, Energy, Tourism and Industry Sector, 2013-2018 (Ksh)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	per cent of Expenditure
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	
Personnel emoluments		13,650,263	9,680,424	60,854,385	64,940,132	32.1
Operation & maintenance		790,990	4,863,826	49,182,600	28,910,000	18.0
Development	27,409,270	55,766,576	41,671,572	58,320,322	49,000,000	49.9
Total	27,409,270	70,207,829	56,215,822	168,357,307	142,850,132	

Data source: Bomet County CIDP 2018-2022

8.2 Raw materials

The raw materials for tourism in Bomet County include physical attractions, cultural heritage assets, and tea plantations.

8.2.1 Key products/services

Agro-tourism, culture and heritage tourism.

8.2.2 Constraints faced

Constraints threatening tourism development include Loss of biodiversity as a result of pressure from increasing population; erratic weather conditions and climate change; and deforestation.

During Quarter 2 of 2019/20, the hotels were closed hence limiting income to the owners, and reduced revenue collected in the sector by the county government. The issuance of travel restrictions limiting entry of citizens to and from the affected counties has greatly affected traders who normally participate in transportation of goods and services.

8.2.3 Linkages to other sectors

The county has 802.3 Km² of Gazetted forests which provides an unexploited opportunity to develop agro-forestry, eco-tourism, herbal medicine (medical tourism) and apiculture. The culture of tree planting is fairly entrenched in the citizenry of the county and agro-forestry remains an alternative entry point in the conservation of the existing state forests which are currently facing extreme pressure caused by over exploitation for products. The tree cover in the county stands at 12.84 per cent.

Direct support to enterprises and particularly SMEs should be prioritised. The county Government of Bomet through the department of Trade, Tourism and Industry has established County Enterprise Fund to provide for a business stabilization fund to cushion businesses from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, especially for SMEs.

8.3 Opportunities with COVID-19 in various sectors

- Improving sanitation aspects in tourism attraction sites.
- Refurbishment of accommodation facilities

8.4 Emerging Issues

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

8.5 Recommendations

- i) The county has significant tourism development potential that has yet to be tapped into. Key areas of potential include nature-based tourism, agro tourism, sports tourism and cultural tourism. Opportunities exist to create demand led tourism by expanding the hospitality industry and undertaking aggressive marketing of the region to local and international markets
- ii) Develop and market tourist sites and products
 - a. Tea Estates/Zones,
 - b. Kipsegon, Mosonik Hills, Mau Forest, Abosi Hills, Nairotia, Iria Maina and Tenwek waterfalls.
 - c. Kapkimolwa, Tenwek
 - d. Bomet IAAF stadium, Training Camps in Terek and Tegat
 - e. Cultural extravaganzas and exhibitions
 - f. Annual tourism conference
- iii) Tourism circuit developed connecting Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Nyamira and Nakuru Counties
- iv) Map all tourism sites and developing a long-term tourism development plan, developing a tourism information centre.
- v) Create demand-led tourism by expanding the hospitality industry and undertaking aggressive marketing of the region to local and international markets. Key areas of potential include nature-based tourism, agro tourism, sports tourism and cultural tourism.

- vi) Develop a tourism circuit connecting Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Nyamira and Nakuru Counties.
- vii) Enforce sanitation and hygiene standards in all accommodation facilities and tourist attraction sites in line with the national guidelines for reopening of hospitality establishments in order to ensure business continuity.

9. Health

9.1 Characteristics of the sector

9.1.1 General health provision in the County

The county has a total number of 143 health facilities; one referral hospital, two mission hospitals five sub-county hospitals, 23 health centres and 112 dispensaries. It also has two main isolation centres Longisa County Referral Hospital with 20 isolation beds and Koiwa Sub- County Hospital with 24 isolation beds. The county also has one outreach support through the Beyond Zero mobile clinic and one community outreach supported by Tenwek Mission Hospital. However, these numbers are not adequate to achieve the WHO recommended staff to patient ratio to serve 875,689 population in the county (2019 Census). To achieve this, the county government needs 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	106	185
Hospitals	5	8
Number of health facilities	111	193
Health facility density	1.9	2.8
Bed density		
Hospital beds	842	845
No. of Beds per 10,000 population	13	13
Human resource density		
Total workforce	809	1,551
Human Resources for Health (Technical)	607	839
Number per 10,000 population	7.9	9.3

Source: MOH, 2021

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 193 which comprised of 185 primary health facilities and 8 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 111 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 13 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10, 000 population. The health facilities and personnel serve a growing population of 875,689 people according 2019 census. In 2019, total health workforce was approximately 839 representing 9.3 health workers per 10,000 population which is way below the WHO target of 23 health workers per 10,000.

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

Type of Health Provider	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Government hospital	11.5
Government health centre	32.5
Government dispensary	31.1
Faith Based (church, Mission) Hospital / Clinic	4.1
Community Health	0.9
Private hospital / clinic	23.6
Nursing/ Maternity Home	0.2
Pharmacy/ chemist	0.0
Community health worker	0.0
Shop/ Kiosk	0.0
Traditional healer	0.0
Faith healer	0.0
Herbalist	1.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	91

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 Bomet County residents who reported illness visited government health centres (32.5%) followed by those who visited government dispensaries at 31.1 per cent. About 11.5 per cent of county residents who reported illness also visited government hospitals and 23.6 per cent visited private hospitals.

9.2 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, 25.5 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 97.9 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 0.6 per cent of the population. Private contributions to insurance cover were reported by 2.4 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)	916
Share of population with health insurance (per cent)	25.5
NHIF	97.9
Private-Contributory	2.4
Private-Non-Contributory	0.0
Employer-Contributory	0.3
Employer-Non-Contributory	0.6
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	234

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.3 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 35.0 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 28.7 per cent, 27.7 per cent, and 8.4 per cent respectively.

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

Place of Delivery	Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by place of delivery (per cent)
Hospital	28.7
Health Centre	27.7
Clinic/ Dispensary	8.4
Maternity Home	0.0
At Home	35.0
Other	0.0
Not stated	0.1
Number of Individuals ('000)	131

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

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 40.6 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 2.4 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	60.0
	Yes, Not Seen	37.3
	No	0.6
	Not stated	2.1
Measles Vaccination	Measles I (At 9 months Card)	40.6
	Measles II (At 18 months Card)	2.4
	Measles II (Mother/ Guardian memory)	33.3
	Either (card or memory)	73.9
Number of Individuals ('000)		131

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.4 Health outputs

The county has improved its health status in some of key health indicators while some are still below the national averages. The most affected groups during COVID-19 pandemic were the infant, young children, mothers, adults and elderly. For instance, protein and energy malnutrition are still below the national averages and targets. All forms of malnutrition (chronic, moderate and severe) exist. The proportion of children under 5 years who are stunting stood at 35.5 per cent as compared to 26 per cent at the National level. The proportion of children who are underweight stands at 12 per cent while wasting rate is at 1.8 per cent.

Immunization is one of the major considerations in the health sector since it promotes the longevity of life span and reduces child mortality. It is also critical since a healthy population promotes socio economic development in the society. Immunization coverage in the county for children between the age of twelve and eighteen months is 81 per cent, which is above national average of 68 per cent (DHIS, 2018). In the same reporting period, skilled personnel in the health facilities delivered about 52.2 per cent of the expectant mothers while 48.3 per cent of children were born at home. Infant mortality and under-five mortality rates for the county were relatively high.

There poor health sector performance was a result of the following but not limited to: low staffing levels, inadequate and inconsistent information, faulty assessment tools, hard to reach areas, inadequate nutrition commodities and low immunization uptake.

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 to children less than 5 years old. According to the District Health Information System (DHIS2) 2016 report, 60.2 per cent of the children were fully immunized against the expected target of 80 per cent. This leaves a proportion of 20 per cent under the danger of these diseases. Sensitization on immunization will have to be up scaled in order to achieve this objective.

Table 9.6: Health Indicators in Bomet County

Key Health Indicators	County Estimates
Maternal and Child Services	
Skilled delivery (per cent)	52.2
Children born at home	48.3
Fully immunized child	81.3
Child Mortality	
Infant mortality (* /1000)	46
Under-5 mortality (* /1000)	55
Neo-natal mortality (* /1000)	-
Nutrition Status	
Stunted children (per cent)	35.5
Wasted children (per cent)	1.8
Underweight children (per cent)	12
HIV (per cent)	
HIV prevalence (per cent)	5.8
Children with HIV(No.)	0
ART adult coverage (per cent)	94
ART children coverage (per cent)	99

Source: KDHS, 2014; DHIS 2018

9.5 Effects of COVID-19

Geographically, the county of Bomet is located right on the highway to many destinations. The scare of the spread of the virus in the county through the truck drivers moving across the through the county to western parts of Kenya was very high. This has prompted the county to be alert. Health services have been prioritized, currently, the county has identified and set up centers for COVID-19 pandemic making them COVID-19 hospitals to limit interference and contact with those seeking services in the big hospital. The county is in the progress of improving the bed capacity from 22 beds to the requisite 300 beds. The county

also identified and set up centers for the pandemic making them COVID-19 hospitals to ensure there is no interference with services in the big hospital.

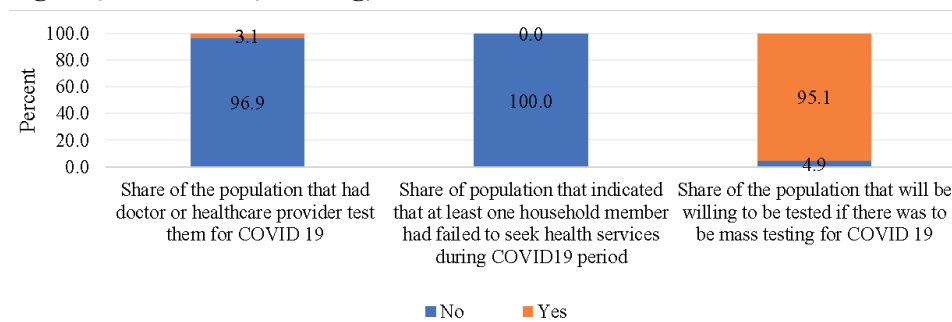
Recruitment for more health workers is in place to boost the human resource (nurses and clinical officers) in the hospitals. The county also offers counselling services to her health care professionals over and above the safety measures for the front-line health providers. To enhance mobility and access, the county has purchased a new vehicle to facilitate more efficient transportation of reagents to Kisumu County which is depended upon for testing services.

In terms of support, the county has so far received Kshs 115 million from the national government, which has, been used to secure oxygen supply, improvement of bed capacities and other health equipment, the county also received three PPE from the national government. It is worth noting that the political class are also significantly involved in supporting the development of health centers in the county.

As a way toward the re-opening of the economy, and to undertake economic development post-covid, the County Government has engaged through a partnership with the Bomet University to undertake research on socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 pandemic

In June 2020, Kenya National Bureaus of Statistics conducted a survey of COVID-19. The results showed that 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 3.1 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 tested for COVID-19. Further, no member of the population indicated that at least one household member had failed to seek health services and 95.1 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)

According to the National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS, 2014), the main health problems affecting young people are teenage pregnancies, drug and substance abuse (DSA), STI and/or HIV and AIDS infections, malnutrition, mental health problems, SGBV and abortion. Other’s problems that were mentioned are poor sanitation and existence of diseases such as malaria. The main causes of the health issues in the county are high levels of poverty in households, fear of knowing HIV status. Addiction to DSA, idleness, parental negligence / lack of parental guidance and lack of or inadequate health information and services

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. High cases of STIs and HIV are due to cultural practices and initiation in the Moran where young people are prepared to adulthood and marriage. The young men are put under pressure to engage in unprotected sex with multiple partners. The case is no different for young, circumcised girls who are under pressure to have sex and get married. Teenage pregnancies were as a result of harmful cultural practices which encourages young boys and girls to engage in sex after the circumcision. Young girls are married to old men immediately after circumcision. This leads to majority of girls dropping out of school after getting pregnancy. Drug abuse has also caused major damages to the young people who indulge in it due to peer pressure. This leads to mental health problems hence dropping out of school and other getting involved in crimes and other social evils such as prostitution. Malnutrition was attributed to high poverty levels in the county whereby people cannot afford food of good nutrients. There is also poor sanitation and lack of water. This catalyze the spread of other diseases such as typhoid and cholera which are causes of morbidity and mortality rates in the county.

The above challenges can be addressed by introducing guidance and counselling among the youths, expanding school feeding programmes, starting campaigns against drugs and substance abuse, Provision of clean water, free sanitary pads issuance and health education that promotes positive cultural practices.

According to 2014 KDH, total fertility rate for the county was 4.3 children per woman in 2014. This is above the national average rate of 3.9 per woman. The report further indicates that only 55 per cent of the married women were using contraception compared to 58 per cent nationally. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the county is 6 per cent almost equal to the national rate of 6.4 per cent.

According to 2015 Kenya National adolescent and Youth Survey (NAYS) there are several health issues which mostly affected youths. The findings also reveal that the proportion of working population (15-64 years) was 50.7 per cent in 2009 and would increase to 61.8 per cent in 2030 and 69 per cent in 2050. Even though the proportion of this economically active age group is on the upward trend, the dependency ratio is still high in the County but declining. In 2009, the dependency ratio was high at 97.2 and was expected to decline to 61 by 2030 and to 69 by 2050. This clearly shows the County has a high dependency ratio as well as a high potential for future labor force.

Health workforce in Bomet County has not met the World Health Organization (WHO) doctor to patient ratio of 36:100,000, however an effort has been made by the county government to bridge the gap through the employment of more doctors. The county has 30 medical officers, 315 nurses and 527 technical officers.

According to Kenya Population census (2019), the county has employment rate of 53.6 per cent compared to national rate of 48.6. In terms of gender, males and females are equally employed at 27 per cent respectively. In terms of those not economically active, males are 19 per cent while females are 20 per cent. This pattern shows that females are less

employed in comparison with their male counterparts. Again, as observed, more females are not economically active compared to males. This can be attributed to many factors such as negative cultural practices where males are taken to school at the expense of females. Some cultural practices also do not allow women to own factors of production such as land hence leaving the economic activities to men. This has contributed to more males engaged in economic activities as compared to females. Negative cultural practices also lead to early teenage pregnancies which force young girls to drop out of school and therefore not able to secure job in future.

During the COVID-19 period, the county has taken the necessary measures such as allowing the county officers more so the vulnerable to work from home. Many have lost their jobs in different sectors, with the informal sector being the worst hit. Health workers had been recruited and training conducted to enhance their capacity in handling 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 target to increase revenue by digitizing revenue collection and management in some of the key revenue streams, expanding revenue collection base and increasing services offered. The county will have to adjust her target since was also set in the absence of COVID-19 which has greatly impacted the economy and affected several revenue generations.

Many people due to fear of COVID-19 have avoided going to the hospital and this has had direct implication 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. High Poverty levels have also divided the county attention as it focusses in feeding the residents as well as fighting Covid-9.

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 in reduction of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and other waterborne. This is because by 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.

9.6 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Health Sector

COVID-19 had led to the improvement of the health facilities in Bomet 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.

9.7 Emerging issues

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

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

9.8 Recommendations

The county should 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.

To realize these new milestones, the county needs to address various challenges including limited funds relative to health needs for the county including those associated with COVID-19; those for children and mothers; sexual and reproductive health needs for all; and access to medical and psychosocial support for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

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

- (i) Create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county to address fear of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting a health facility. Also, the County needs to consistently allocate resources towards nutrition specific and sensitive programmes in the various sectors by establishing specific budget lines for nutrition support initiatives.

- (ii) Promotive health care should be advanced to lower the incidence of preventable prevalent diseases such as malaria and skin diseases as well as the childhood diseases, which include anemia, marasmus, eye infection, pneumonia, malaria, Kwashiorkor etc. This can be achieved by facilitating of community level care units comprising of well-trained community health extension workers (CHEW) to serve the local population. Devolved funds in the health sector will be used to fast track this process.
- (iii) Promote construction, upgrading and equipping of health facilities through additional funding to health sector. This will enable the county to achieve quality and affordable health care. The county will also resource isolation centres to pave way for re-location of the isolation centre in Chebonet and Longisa schools. This is in addition of the newly acquired 2 ambulances to facilitate movement of people to the isolation centers.
- (iv) 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; and for schools in the County in collaboration between County government and Bomet Water Company (BOMWASCO). This is in addition to extended pipeline works from 76kms in 2018/2019 to 89.4kms in 2019/2020 translating to an increase of 13,605 households to 17,516 registered connections.
- (v) Prepare and enroll high number of health officers to offer basic health support assistance. This is to supplement 950 Community health volunteers trained on Covid 19 preparedness.
- (vi) Promote and support public and community health including the installation of hand washing facilities in homes and institutions such as schools, workplaces and health care facilities within the county.
- (vii) Improve the health insurance and assistance system for infectious diseases. In the event of emergencies health insurance agencies will allocate part of the health insurance fund in advance to ensure that health facilities and hospitals are able to offer emergency medical support.
- (viii) Consider investment in research and development to spur innovation in health sector in collaboration with Bomet University College.

10. Education and Training

10.1 Characteristics of the sector

10.1.1 General Education Provision in the County

Bomet County has a total of 1571 pre-primary centers, 992 primary and 271 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 79.6 per cent of public primary schools in Bomet 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).

The county has 1,221 public Early Childhood Development Education Centres (ECDE) with 2,022 teachers employed by both the county government and School Boards of Management (BOMs).

The private centres have 424 teachers and 350 centres managed by individuals' proprietors and faith-based organizations (FBOs). The enrolment as per the current statistics is 53,727 children in public centres and 12,981 children in private ECDE centres. Teacher-pupil ratio stands currently at 1:58 in public and 1:27 in the private centres. The transition and completion rates are at 89 per cent and 95 per cent respectively while retention rate stands at 80 per cent.

The county government inherited 17 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) from the national government which have since increased to 30. The enrollment has increased over the years to 1,872 trainees. The VTCs are distributed across the 5 sub counties i.e. Sotik has 8, Bomet East 4, Bomet Central 5, Chepalungu 5 and Konoin 8. There are 195 instructors in all the VTCs. The transition rate stands at 55 per cent with completion rate at 65 per cent. The current retention rate is at 50 per cent

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

The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 84.4 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 117 and 68 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 females, 84.9 per cent, compared to that for males, 83.9 per cent. The GAR for primary school was higher for males, 119.1 per cent, compared to that for females, 115.5 per cent. The GAR for secondary school was higher for males, 73.5 per cent, compared to that for

females, 61.3 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 59.3 per cent, 90.1 per cent and 30.5 per cent, respectively.

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

Education Level	Gender	Gross Attendance Ratio	Net Attendance Ratio
Pre-Primary School	Male	83.9	56.3
	Female	84.9	60.9
	Total	84.4	59.3
Primary School	Male	119.4	90.6
	Female	115.2	89.5
	Total	117.4	90.1
Secondary School	Male	73.5	30.7
	Female	61.3	30.4
	Total	68	30.5

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.2 Basic education gross and net enrolment rate

The preprimary gross enrolment rate in the county was 84.4 per cent in 2018 and while the net enrolment rate was 81.5 per cent (table 10.2). The Gross Primary and Secondary enrolment rates stood at 117.4 per cent and 68 per cent respectively in 2018 while the Net enrolment rates (NER) were 90.1 per cent and 30.5 per cent for primary school and secondary school respectively during the same period. The huge difference between primary and secondary school enrolment is due to primary to secondary school dropouts

Free primary education policy has substantially increased school enrollment rates. The success and sustainability depend on teachers' perception, motivation, and proper implementation of the policy in the classroom. As at 2007 population and housing census, primary enrolment was 116,868 in Bomet county. There has been an increase in primary education enrolment as follows.

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

Preprimary	Total
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	89.7
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	58.6
Gender parity index	0.97
Primary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	115.2

Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	87
Gender parity index	0.97
Secondary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	81.8
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	45.3
Gender parity index	0.98

Source: Education statistical booklets 2014-2020

High rate of school dropouts can be attributed to factors like Harsh environment, Early marriages mostly among the girls, teenage pregnancies where girls drop out of school after becoming pregnant for the fear of ridicule by colleagues, Lack of school fee due to poverty especially if one is admitted in a boarding school, Drug and Substance abuse, school absenteeism by teachers and pupils and indiscipline among some pupils leading to expulsion.

These challenges have been contributed by many factors such poor parenting which leaving children unguided, poverty which pushes girls to be married at early age, negative cultural practices such as FGM and forced early marriages, peer pressure and easy drugs accessibility. To address the issues, there is need to create awareness against drug and substance abuse, offer guidance and counseling to students, introduce free and compulsory secondary education, discourage negative cultural practices that affects school attendance and ensure there is no teacher absenteeism

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 78.9 per cent with the male population being more literate (84.5%) compared to their female counterparts (73%).

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	78.9
	Illiterate	14.3
	Not Stated	6.9
	Number of Individuals ('000)	489
Male	Literate	84.5
	Illiterate	11.5
	Not Stated	4
	Number of Individuals ('000)	250

Female	Literate	73
	Illiterate	17.2
	Not Stated	9.8
	Number of Individuals ('000)	239

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.3 Educational Attainment

The distribution of population aged 3 years and above by educational qualification attained is presented in Table 10.4. Approximately 58.6 per cent of the population do not have any educational qualification. This is high than the national percentage of 49.7. Only 0.9 per cent of the population has attained university degree. The proportion of the population with CPE/ KCPE qualification is 23.7 per cent and that of KCE/ KCSE qualification is 8.6 per cent.

Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Highest Educational Qualification

Highest Educational Qualification	Percentage Distribution of Population
None	58.6
CPE/ KCPE	23.7
KAPE	0.2
KJSE	0.2
KCE/ KCSE	8.6
KACE/ EAACE	0
Certificate	2.9
Diploma	0.9
Degree	0.9
Basic/post literacy certificate	0.2
Other	0.1
Not Stated	3.7
Number of individuals ('000)	789

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 61 per cent while that of females was 67.5 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, 9.8 per cent of males and 10.1 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 1.7 per cent and 1.4 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	9.8
	Female	10.1
Primary	Male	61
	Female	67.5
Post primary vocational	Male	1.1
	Female	0.8
Secondary	Male	18.3
	Female	13.9
College (Middle level)	Male	5.2
	Female	2.5
University	Male	1.7
	Female	1.4
Madrassa / Duksi	Male	0
	Female	0
Other	Male	0
	Female	0
Not Stated	Male	3
	Female	3.9
Number of Individuals ('000)	Male	407
	Female	382

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Most of the youth in the county are formally unemployed and the county government has taken the initiative to empower them in productive activities. There are three youth empowerment centres in the county located in Konoin, Sotik and Bomet East sub-counties, with over 2,229 registered youth groups. Many of them are benefiting from government funds such as the Youth Enterprise Fund and HIV/AIDS funds while others are given grants to undertake business ventures. The county government has identified land in Tegat (Kembu Ward) for the construction of a talent academy and funds have been set aside to start the facility during the plan period.

According to the latest NAYS report, the main issues affecting education of young people in the county are poverty and lack of school fees, drug and substance abuse, rising cases of indiscipline in schools, teenage pregnancies, inadequate learning facilities in schools, child labour, early marriages, teacher and student absenteeism, corporal punishment in schools and negative perception of education.

The county's education sector was negatively affected after the government directed the

closure of all learning institutions in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closing down of schools has worsened the situation. Cases of Female Genital Mutilation had increased tremendously, including child marriage, defilement and domestic violence. In collaboration, the county government together with the Anti-FGM Board had beefed community vigilance.

The education issues were attributed to mainly to peer pressure among the young people who end up abusing drugs as a way of relieving stress and cases of illiterate parents who do not value the education of their children. The consequences resulting from these issues included; increased cases of schools drop-out, pupils' absenteeism from school, lack of concentration of pupils in classes and also poor academic performance.

Private schools in Bomet 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.

The raw material for the education sector in the county is the amount of county budget allocation to the sector. The county allocated 9 per cent of its budget to the education sector in the 2017/18 to 2018/19 period. This was divided in different proportions like Kshs 42.4 million for Bursaries and Support services, Kshs 129.77 million for Construction of ECD Class rooms, Kshs 15.12 million for Furniture in ECD, Kshs 45.38 Million for Educational Infrastructure, Kshs 3.02 million for Provision of ECD Teaching/Learning Materials Vocational Training institutes, Kshs 6.2 million for Purchase Of Workshop Tools and Equipment, Kshs 58.6 million for Infrastructure Development and Expansion and Kshs 7.5 million for Tuition Support. There is need to increase allocation for education so that measures can be put in place in readiness for reopening of schools.

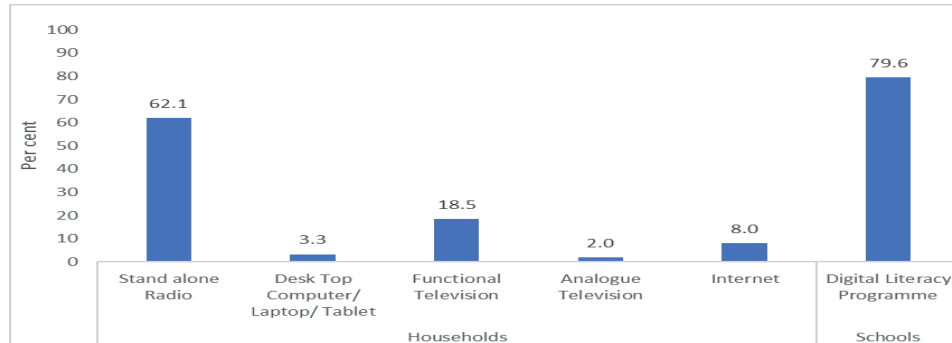
The main purpose of education for learners is to enable them to live an independent life. The new curriculum advocates for children with special needs to access education. The curriculum has proposed three pathways of special needs that will ensure none of them fails to access education. The special needs curriculum is skills oriented. According to Kenya National Survey for Persons with Disabilities (2008), approximately 1.2 million children in Kenya live with disability and 30 per cent of this population cannot access education. Such exclusion from education further perpetuates the cycle of poverty and disability. In Bomet county special needs education is provided in special schools, integrated units and in inclusive settings in regular schools. St. Kizito Secondary School and Ndanai primary small home for physically impaired children have operational special needs facilities ranging from classrooms, resource room and dormitories. Establishment and operationalization of special needs facilities is ongoing in 3 special units in regular schools.

10.4 ICT in education

There is a major problem when it comes to access to e-learning materials because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With regards to access to ICT in Bomet County, 37.1 per cent of households were found to have no access to stand alone radio. 3.3 per cent of households were found to have access to a desk top computer/laptop/tablet. Only 18.5 per cent of the county households had functional television while 2.0 per cent still had analogue television. Only 8.0 per cent of households had access to internet. This means that adoption of

e-learning program during the COVID-19 era was constrained due to limited access to ICT materials as only little number of households had the requisite tools for effective e-learning programme. This is despite a record 79.6 per cent of schools having installed digital literacy programme tablets.

Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools



Source: KNBS, 2019

Other challenges in the education sector include limited programmes aimed at improving online learning through radio and television, lack of enough funds to implement COVID-19 education in emergencies responds, limited number of partners offering mental health and psycho-social support among girls, boys and teachers and destruction of school infrastructure during this lock down period. These constraints are making it difficult for the government to sustain learning during this COVID-19 period.

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. Always children who are in the right health status 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 to 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. Health workers also help in making sure that schools are adhering to COVID-19 protocols and teaching school going children, teachers and school staff how to wash their hands, sanitize, and keep social distance.

10.5 Opportunities with COVID-19 in education and training

COVID-19 pandemic has provided 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.

The county under the education department is helping in production of masks through TVETS and polytechnics. This local venue has seen production 50,000 face masks in the first round with a target of another 200,000 masks besides providing opportunity for employment. There is local production of hand sanitizers and soaps where youths are fully engaged. The focus is mainly on the ECDEs. Meetings to deliberate on what to be done when the schools reopen considering that schools are being used as quarantine centers. The presence of children at home away from school has also provided human resource to the parents in the tea zone Bomet where they have been engaged constructively in planting and picking tea.

10.6 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.

10.7 Recommendations

- (i) The County with support from stakeholders to continue investing 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 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

The county has an estimated population of 875,689, of which, 1.2 per cent of this composition are people living with disability and about 3.6 per cent of the population are older people above the age of 65 years. Bomet county has an overall poverty rate of 83 per cent which more than double the national average which stands at 36 per cent. Further, the county has a food poverty rate of 49 per cent, and a resulting multidimensional poverty rate of about 33 per cent. About 36 per cent of children in the county are stunted.

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. Crop disease or crop pests were experienced by 35 per cent of households followed by drought or floods affecting 26.7 per cent while the death of livestock affected 8.6 per cent of the households. Death of other family member and large price of food are other experienced shocks affecting 6 per cent and 6.9 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	26.7
Crop disease or crop pests	35
Livestock died	8.6
Livestock were stolen	2.2
Household business failure, nonagricultural	1.7
Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary	0
End of regular assistance, aid, or remittances from outside the household	0
Large fall in sale prices for crops	1.9
Large rise in price of food	6.9
Large rise in agricultural input prices	-
Severe water shortage	-
Birth in the household	1
Death of household head	3
Death of working member of household	-
Death of other family Member	6
Break-up of the household	5
Bread winner jailed	-
Fire	1
Robbery / Burglary / Assault	2
Carjacking	-
Dwelling damaged, destroyed	-
Eviction	-
Ethnic/ Clan Clashes	-
Conflict	0
HIV/ AIDS	-
Other	9
Number of households with Shock	51,000

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

11.2 Distribution of Social Assistance Beneficiaries

Households in the county received various forms of social assistance or transfers or gift either in form of a good, service, financial asset or other asset by an individual, household

or institution. Transfers constitute income that the household receives without working for it and augments household income by improving its welfare. Cash transfers include assistance in form of currency or transferable deposits such as cheque and money orders. The proportion of households that received cash transfers by source, household headship, residence and county is presented in Table 11.2. Overall, 6 per cent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (69%), mainly from individuals (70 per cent) while external transfers constituted 35 per cent.

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

		Beneficiaries
	Total Number of Households	179,000
	Households receiving transfers (per cent)	6
From Inside Kenya	Individual	5,364
	Non-Profit Institution	320
	National Government	2,635
	County Government	883
	Corporate Sector	-
Inside Kenya		9,201
Outside Kenya		-
Total		3,473
Number of households that received transfers		11,000

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

There is special program in place for social protection, however, the county provided sector and need specific support to some entities. For instance, to cushion the public especially those living in the informal settlements, the county set aside funds food supply and distribution. To enhance awareness, the county set aside resources to educate people about the pandemic. A total of 55 million was set aside to purchase food where money from other departments was sacrificed to help in meeting challenges caused by the pandemic. The traders using the county stalls for their trade were allowed to pay the fees post COVID-19. There are minimal cases of street children in the county. The only known cases are two children who were rehabilitated, and one is in Kakamega Approved School while the other is in Kericho Approved School. The county government is mandated to protect children from abuse, neglect and discrimination in accordance with the legislations. In fulfilling this mandate, the county government supports charitable children's institutions and special needs institutions that are listed below:

Table 11.3: Child Care Facilities and Institutions in Bomet County

	Institution Name	Sub County
a) Charitable Children Institutions		
1	Umoja children's home	Bomet central
2	Kenduiywo children's home	Bomet East
3	Laura/mosop children's home	Sotik
4	Chongenwo children's home	Konoin
5	AIC mogogosiek baby home	Konoin
6	Davila children's home	Bomet central
7	Kitoben children's home	Bomet central
8	Bosto children's home	Konoin
9	Saseta children's home	Konoin
10	Chebaraa children's home	Chepalungu
b) Special Needs Institutions		
1	Bomet primary and special unit for the physically challenged	Bomet Central
2	Korara special school for the blind	Bomet East
3	Korara day secondary	Bomet East
4	Kapkesosio primary and special unit for the blind	Chepalungu
5	Kiriba day secondary	Chepalungu
6	Ndanai small home for the physically challenged	Sotik
7	Kipngosos special needs inst	Sotik
8	St kizito girls for the deaf	Sotik
9	St Augustine special unit and rehabilitation for the physically challenged	Sotik
10	Tegat primary and special unit for the basically handicapped	Bomet East

Source: KNBS, 2019

To cushion businesses against the effects of the pandemic, the Bomet county government stopped collection of single business permit while through the revenue department, people were allowed to pay their revenue in instalment in addition to waiver of the licensing fees. Wards with low economic vibrancy were cushioned through subsidies to farmers- the Artificial Insemination to livestock farmers, banana and avocado seeds to highlands and mangoes to the lower zone. These seeds from the Jomo-Kenyatta university at sh 150 are then sold to farmers at a low cost of sh 60. All these efforts were geared towards ensuring that the county population including the vulnerable groups had an improved welfare despite the pandemic.

Women were highly affected, and the food distribution and cash transfers helped curb domestic violence brought about by poverty. There was an increase in early marriages, poverty and vulnerability. The county received support from national government in partnership with the county in partnership with other volunteers to address the issues. The county had come up with several programmes that were aimed at promoting youth and women. Over 600 Women group leaders drawn from different groups such as WEF, NGAAF, YEDF, UWEZO, savings and credit cooperatives support groups, maendeleo ya wanawake were sensitized. This includes sensitization on access to government procurement, disability and gender mainstreaming, socio-economic opportunities available and requirement to access affirmative funds. The SHIFT program under Bethel Network's sexual reproductive health and Rights (SRHR) and other partner's focusses on mentoring both primary and secondary school going children both boys and girls. It engages the adolescents through education and entertainment.

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.

Potential sources for revenue were adversely affected by the floods and COVID-19. However, through lifting of up restrictions and the measures taken by the county on local business is picking up which would eventually revive the revenue stream though it might take time but there are positive signs to that effect. County support to the Small and Medium Enterprises and different business industries within the county will help revive the revenue base. Financial support from the national government was crucial in facing the pandemic.

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. The Department of Children Services in the county has so far registered 6,337 households with approximately 18,000 OVCs. In addition, the department has disbursed presidential bursary to a total of 511 orphans.

The economy of the county is dominated by agriculture and most households earn their livelihood from the sector. The main products of the sector are tea, maize, milk and other livestock products. These products are exposed to the vagaries of the weather and international markets. The industrial sector is very small and limited to agro-processing mainly of tea and milk. The services sector such trade and tourism is small.

The social protection programme, which targeted persons of age 70 years and above and persons with severe disability, was started following the enactment of the Bomet County Support for the Needy Act, 2014. The programme entailed cash transfers to the elderly persons and persons with disabilities and in the payment of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) premiums for the elderly to cater for their medical cover. The programme ran for the two financial years from inception where approximately 15,000 persons aged 70 and above benefited.

Agriculture sector, trade and industry, health as well as education are directly connected to social protection. 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 and 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.

11.3 Opportunities with COVID-19 in social protection

The LAKE region Block has provided an opportunity to pool resources towards improving the health facilities within the region and opening up to enhance intercounty trade. The counties within the regional block had developed four regional protocols: Business, agriculture, movement of goods and homecare for COVID-19 patients. This was very significant not only for enhancing the mitigation against COVID-19 but also for economic stability of the member counties. It has also provided an opportunity for county government to invest more money in training health workers.

11.4 Emerging Issues

The County was not well prepared in terms of response to health-related risks such as the current COVID-19. Opportunities within the regional economic block needs to be exploited to enhance economic competitive advantage. There are emerging talents among the youths which can tapped to benefit the county especially this time of COVID-19 such as making of ICU bed, masks and PPEs. Due to social distancing and curfew hours, GBV victims had limited contact with family and friends who would act as the first contact persons during violence. Survivors also experienced challenges accessing healthcare services, counseling Services and access shelters. These challenges underscore the need for deliberate measures at the county level to prevent and support GBV survivors in times of emergencies as experienced with the pandemic.

11.5 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 will:

- (i) Conduct mass civic education among the people on COVID-19 prevention measures, how to handle an infected person and avoidance of stigmatization of the affected person.
- (ii) Build linkages with NGOs and other partners that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families' support, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and promote vocational training.
- (iii) Design and implement a disability grant to all those who are severely disabled, and who are above the age of eligibility for OVC cash transfers and below the age of eligibility for the old age cash transfer support. Increase the number of people benefit from PWDs funds and support from 3000 to at least 5000.
- (iv) Extend sickness benefit coverage to all, with attention given to reaching women and men in informal employment and the vulnerable groups.
- (v) 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 intervention.

The social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased households' susceptibility to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the county. Response measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, such as movement restrictions, lockdown and curfew hours, have led to loss of income, isolation, high levels of stress and anxiety exposing household members to psychological, economic, sexual violence and physical harm as couples spend more time in close contact. In Bomet county, domestic violence was reported to be on the rise amidst COVID-19. Based on the May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 survey, 16.7 per cent of the respondents in the county indicated to have witnessed or heard any form of domestic violence in your community since MoH instituted COVID-19 measures. Further, the Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) reports that 2 GBV cases were recorded in the county during the Month of April 2020. The reported cases were all from women. Other challenges affecting the youth include unemployment and drug use, especially alcohol and substance abuse. Addressing these challenges become paramount and the following should be considered;

- i) Launch hotlines/helplines using toll-free calls and SMS numbers for gender-based violence victims. This will assist GBV victims access support and guidance to include psycho-social support, counselling and health care.
- ii) Establish platforms for Tele Counselors to offer virtual counseling services to affected persons during emergencies/pandemics to mitigate the effects of the high levels of stress and anxiety associated with such emergencies
- iii) Promote online sensitization and GBV education as a preventive measure on the prevalence of GBV during emergencies periods. The county governments will identify GBV champions to serve as change, agents changing harmful attitudes and behavior in communities that lead to GBV.
- iv) Designate gender safe spaces to provide accommodation GBV survivors.

12.Labour Participation

12.1 Characteristics of the Sector

12.2 Sources of employment in the County

The county main source of income is Agriculture accounting for about 80 per cent. Other people are employed in the tea sector where both males and females are engaged in the activities of harvesting and other tea preparation processes. Other source of employment includes trade & businesses, 'jua kali' sector, ICT sector, food processing, livestock farming, which is done on small scale, dairy farming, sand harvesting and boda boda riding which are mostly dominated by males. All these employment sources were affected by COVID-19 where some people were rendered jobless including the boda boda sector where strict MOH guidelines had to be followed especially social distancing. This reduced the amount of income they were getting because they had to carry one passenger at a time.

The service sectors, including the education and hospitality sector; hotels, bars and restaurants were highly affected by the pandemic because the working hours were reduced by imposition of curfews. This was further heightened by closure of bars, hotels and restaurants in adherence to national government measures of curbing the spread of virus. Open air market traders and workers were most affected with closing of Kapkwen, Chebunyo, Mulot, Silibwet and Kapkoros markets. Cattle auctions business was also closed leading to loss of jobs. Public sector was also affected as County banned any public from visiting county offices therefore affecting service delivery to citizens

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

	Male	Female	Total
Population	376,450	385,806	762,274
Working	171,774	190,224	362,007
Seeking Work/ No Work Available	9,984	6,265	16,249
Persons outside the Labour Force	194,653	189,284	383,946
Not Stated	39	33	72
per cent Working	94.5	96.8	95.7
per cent Seeking Work/ No Work Available	5.5	3.2	4.3

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. A review on county labour force reveals the county population

aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 378,256 people of whom 362,007 were working and 16,249 were seeking work hence representing an unemployment rate of 4.3 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019).

Among the key challenges faced by young people in accessing income and employment opportunities in the County are Corruption, poor academic qualifications, unfair business practices/competition, negative attitude towards business as opposed to white collar jobs, limited opportunities, insecurity of businesses, high cost of registering business entities, high taxation regimes/levies, lack of adequate capital and lack of knowledge and skills.

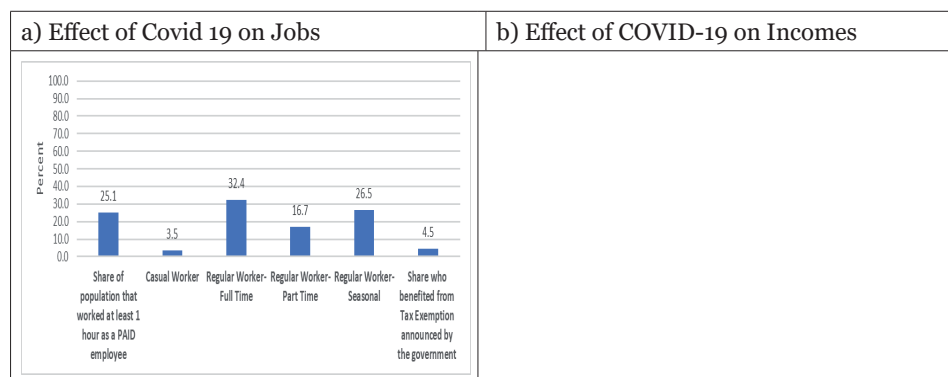
12.3 Effects of COVID-19

The social economic impact of the novel Coronavirus resulted to loss of jobs and income particularly for the workers in the informal sector. For some instances, the loss of jobs in the matatu and boda-boda industry had directly impacted on the lives of the youth as some residents avoided public means of transport in fear of contracting the virus. In addition, the lockdowns in Mombasa and Nairobi counties had a negative impact on long distance drivers in these sectors.

The unemployment has increased during the period of COVID-19, according to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, during the pandemic about 25.1 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay while 74.9 per cent of employees worked without any pay. About 6.6 per cent had never worked hence were unemployed and 68.3 per cent worked in the informal sector. Further, 3.0 per cent of employees did not attend to work due to COVID-19 related factors. On average, workers in the County lost 7.5 hours per week due to COVID-19.

During the pandemic, about 3.5 per cent of workers in the county were casual workers while 32.4 were regular workers (full time), 16.7 per cent employees were working as part time. About 4.5 per cent of workers indicated to have benefited from government tax exemptions which indicates about 95 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

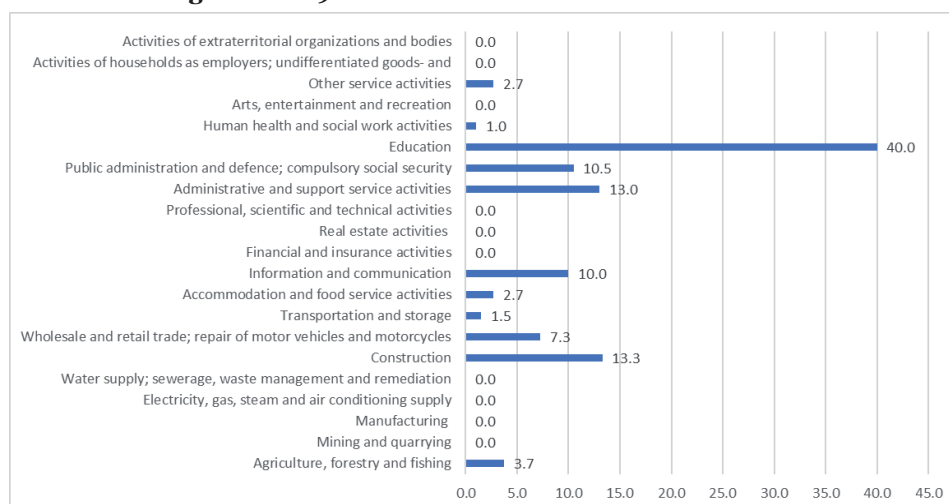


Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 Survey

Majority of workers (58.2%) indicated to have experienced a decrease in income, while only 0.7 per cent reported to have experienced an increase in income. Other 21.3 per cent indicated to have not been by the pandemic.

According to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, workers in the County reported a decrease of 7.5 hours in the mean working hours per week. This can be attributed to the pandemic due to the cessation measures and closure of businesses. As a result of closure of schools, the workers in education sector reported the highest level of loss of hours worked in a week (40.0 hours) followed by construction where workers lost 13.3 hours per week. Workers in administrative and support service activities and information and communication lost 13.0 hours and 10.0 hours per week, respectively. The workers in transportation and storage and accommodation and food service activities lost 1.5 hours and 2.7 hours per week, respectively. Workers in agriculture sector which is the main economic activity for the county lost 3.7 hours in a week.

Figure 12.2: Difference Between Usual Hours Worked and Actual Hours Worked During COVID-19 Period



Source: May 2020 COVID-19 Survey

Further, about 25.1 per cent of workers in the County worked for pay while 74.9 per cent of the employees were working without a pay. These include self-employed, farm workers and individuals who own businesses. About 68.3 per cent of the workers were in the informal sector. About 6.6 per cent of the labour force in the county reported to have never worked in the time of pandemic while 3.1 per cent of employees reported to have been absent from work due to COVID-19 related factors. The containment measures put in place including closure of marketplaces and some business activities led to loss of jobs among the people working in the affected sectors of the county economy. On average, workers in the County lost 7.5 hours per week. In effect, most of workers (58%) reported decrease in income due to the COVID-19 while 1.0 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income. The water sector workers indicated no loss in working hours.

12.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Labour Participation

While the “future of work” was well underway before the pandemic, COVID-19 clearly hastened its arrival as the economic effect of the global pandemic (COVID-19) provided an opportunity for the acceleration of the digitalisation processes in the work environment. The county government need to immediately use digital platforms to enable remote access to jobs for their employees where the Human Resource Management will have an essential role to play in navigation of the situation caused by the pandemic. There have been notable efforts by the county government to invest more money in training health workers. The county government now has an opportunity to recalibrate its employees and develop strategies (mid- and post-pandemic strategies) to adapt to the evolving reality.

12.5 Emerging issues

The national government in collaboration with county government has started a programme that aims at cushioning the youths who have lost jobs due to COVID-19. The “Kazi Mtaani” project in Bomet county is aimed at creating employment among the youths under national hygiene programme. Youths are involved in various activities that aims at ensuring clean environment around the main towns.

There is a civic education facilitated by the county government to the residents of the county on COVID-19 prevention measures, handling an infected person as well teaching the residents on avoidance of stigmatization of affected person.

12.6 Recommendations

- (i) Enhance universal health access to health services for all, including informal sector workers, by constructing more health centers in the informal sectors on top of the existing Bomet health center, Longisa among others.
- (ii) Invest in community and public health including deployment and training of community health workers; sustain initiatives aimed at enhancing access to improved water, sanitation, immunization and hygiene at household level; and at all public spaces.
- (iii) Create more employment opportunities through continued investment in education and training and skills development; and investments in the key sectors that drive the county economy, notably agriculture, agri-business; and services sectors. This can be done in collaboration with private sector players such as Unilever Tea Company which has already supported county in setting aside 35 beds while James Finlays has 25 beds for quarantine cases.
- (iv) Build workplace resilience to public health emergencies and outbreaks of infectious diseases through continued public awareness through local media channels such as Taach Fm.

- (v) Build and strengthen the capacity of workers and the employers' organizations to enhance their knowledge base, understanding and application of ICT innovations for sustained business continuity. In addition, build capacity in areas related to marketing, operations, finance, and human resource development to enhance the chances of survival of SMEs.

13. Conclusion and Key Recommendations

13.1 Conclusion

13.2 Fiscal policy

The County's main sources of revenue comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants, and its own source revenue (OSR). The county total revenue has maintained an increasing trend from Ksh 4.09 billion in FY2013/14 to Ksh 6.69 billion in FY 2019/20, an average annual growth rate of 10.6 per cent. In FY 2020/21 the County's total revenue amounted to Ksh 6.69 billion, which was 83.7 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 7.62 billion. Equitable share from the National government has been the main source of county funding, accounting on average 85 per cent of the county's revenues. In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 164.14 million and Ksh 364.24 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The share of own source revenue to total revenue have been low, averaging 3.53 per cent between FY 2013/14 to 2020/21. During FY 2020/20, OSR contributed 2.73 per cent of the total revenues. Total county expenditure has grown significantly since FY 2013/14. Since the first full year county budgets were enacted in FY 2013/14, actual expenditure in the county rose from Ksh 4,413.4 million to Ksh 5,642.2 million in FY 2020/21, representing an annual growth rate of 4 per cent.

13.3 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

The Agri-food analysis highlights the sector was negatively affected by COVID-19 in terms of labour supply, trade and marketing operations, food supply and the resulting effects on food prices. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic period, the County also suffered from floods and livestock diseases. The County's agricultural productivity is also affected: - variable and extreme weather events; 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. 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. To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; 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.

13.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

Bomet 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. In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County will: Collaborate with the National government to ensure security is enhanced to reduce on crime and create a peaceful business environment; Develop appropriate road infrastructure especially the county roads while collaborating with the private sector through PPP's to get financing of the projects; Collaborate with relevant stakeholders and institutions such as Kenya Institute of Business Training (KIBT) and National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) to provide entrepreneurial training and technical training, apprenticeship and certification programmes to MSEs.

13.5 Water sanitation and hygiene

To build resilience and mitigate the effect of COVID-19, the county will increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes, dams, and access to piped water in all the sub-counties. Promote the use of safe and improved toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces, and public places through drilling of boreholes.

13.6 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is motorbike followed by walking. Residents had changed their travel patterns with many traveling less often due to the pandemic. The paved County Road network covers 27.43 KMs, while the paved National roads covers 174.07 KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 201.5 KMs, 51.28 per cent is in good condition, 44.32 per cent in fair condition and 4.38 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among the households. The perception of that the individual does not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County do not have internet connection. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied. The county has challenges in quality of the housing stock with majority of houses constructed using rudimentary materials. In responding the prevailing challenges, the county will Focus on increasing the share of unpaved roads in good and fair condition to above 62 per cent which is the national average; Adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere) by applying aerial and satellite-based communication technologies; 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.

13.7 Tourism

The key tourism attraction sites in the County include physical attractions / nature-based tourism. While Gross County Product (GCP) from accommodation and food services as accounts for a paltry 0.3 per cent of the total GCP, the County has significant tourism development potential that is yet to be tapped into to increase generation of own source revenue, including eco-tourism, sports tourism, and cultural tourism. During Quarter 2 of 2019/20, the hotels were closed hence no income to the owners, and no revenue collected in the sector by the county government thus the tourism department is struggling. The issuance of travel restrictions limiting entry of citizens to and from the affected counties has greatly affected traders who normally participate in transportation of goods and services. The county has significant tourism development potential that has yet to be tapped into. Key areas of potential include nature-based tourism, agro tourism, sports tourism, and cultural tourism. Opportunities exist to create demand led tourism by expanding the hospitality industry and undertaking aggressive marketing of the region to local and international markets

13.8 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 include Teenage pregnancies, malnutrition, STI/ HIV and Aids, poor environment, drug and substance abuse and malnutrition

13.9 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.

13.10 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.

13.11 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 to 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.

13.12 Key Recommendations

13.12.1 Fiscal policy

The county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations and seek for more funding from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county. Additionally, the county to ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers. The county to ensure that the ongoing infrastructure project are completed, and suppliers paid within the specified timelines for optimal returns to investment and to spur private sector activity. Further, the county to improve budget execution and absorption of development budget by harmonizing project implementation cycles to budgeting and fast-track exchequer releases.

13.12.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the county; 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.

13.12.3 Trade, Manufacturing and MSMEs

To support Trade, Manufacturing and the MSMEs sector, the County will: 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; Spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth; Collaborate with National government to equip a Tea Research Factory as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the value chain programme; Complete maize flour grinders being set up within the county; and Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing. In response to the challenges, it recommended that the county will 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 policy; focus on the balanced development of information infrastructure and technological innovation capabilities through development of ICT centers in collaboration with public primary and secondary schools; avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

13.12.4 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

In response to the challenges, it recommended that the county will 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 policy; focus on the balanced development of information infrastructure and technological innovation capabilities through development of ICT centers in collaboration with public primary and secondary schools; avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

13.12.5 Tourism

Bomet County is among the top tea producing counties in Kenya. Its vast tea plantations (cash crop farming) provide both employment and a source of livelihood for majority of the population. In addition, the plantations are a key tourism attraction for the County. However, this tourism product has not been marketed well, as reflected by the low number of visitors recorded in the county annually. To re-engineer the tourism sector the county will need to document the tourism potential sites and developing a sectoral development master plan to increase both the number of visitors to the county, and the sector's contribution to the gross county product; publicize potential historical/tourist sites to the public to promote both domestic and foreign tourism; develop tourist sites and niche products; and demarcate tourist sites, survey and acquire ownership documents.

13.12.6 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.

13.12.7 Education and training

The County with support from stakeholders to continue investing 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.

13.12.8 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 will need to provide basic income security, especially for persons whose jobs or livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic. Build linkages with other Ministries, and with NGOs that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training.

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

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