

Socio-Economic Status of Busia County with COVID-19

Eldah Onsomu, Rose Ngugi, Evelyne Kihui, Mutuku Muleli, James Gachanja, Rogers Musamali, Paul Lutta, Daniel Omany, 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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List of Acronyms

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

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Executive Summary

Fiscal Policy

The County's main revenue sources comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants and its own source revenue (OSR). The county total revenue increased by 97 per cent from Ksh 4.06 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 8.01 billion in FY 2019/20, an average annual growth rate of 16.3 per cent. In FY 2020/21 the County's total revenue amounted to Ksh 7.19 billion, which was 69 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 10.42 billion. In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 256.20 million and Ksh 505.64 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The value of conditional grants significantly increased from Ksh 266.37 million in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 761.84 million in FY 2020/21. During FY 2014/15, Busia County achieved 97 per cent of OSR target, which declined to 44.76 per cent in FY 2019/20. Development expenditure has performed weakly on average accounting for 28.8 per cent of total county expenditure during the 2013-2021 as the county wage bill has been growing tremendously at the expense of development expenditure. Pending bills plummeted during FY 2020/21 due to county efforts to release cash owed to suppliers to cushion businesses and families from the effects of the pandemic. To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals, the county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations, seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county, ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers.

Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Crop and livestock production are the dominant economic activity in Busia County. Key agricultural value chain commodities in the County include: - maize, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum, bananas, ground nuts, kales, avocado, mangoes, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry production and pig farming. 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; land degradation; low agro-processing and value addition opportunities; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low crops, livestock, and livestock products marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; and pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and post-harvest waste. To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County needs to: explore partnerships to

develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; link farmers to diverse product markets; Strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural inputs and services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; provision of storage and cooling facilities; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted into reduced incomes among households and businesses, thus deferred collection of revenues from the water services it provided as well as financial support to water services providers. This in the long run could affect the development of the water and sanitation sector. Additionally, COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers if they get infected, they have to be self-isolated, and this may lead to disruption of services. Other constraints to the sector include, drought, water leakages and destruction of water catchment areas. To ensure continuous availability of water, the national and county government should increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties. Partner with private sector, donor agencies, local communities, and NGOs to help develop water infrastructure.

Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

The momentum in manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the containment measures associated with COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the sector. The measures that were taken, such as closure of markets, observance of health protocols in form of social distancing and handwashing served to increase the cost of production and affected access to markets for the produce. In sustaining growth in Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County needs to: Collaborate with National government to rehabilitate fish landing sites in Mulukhoba as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the Lake Victoria rehabilitation programme; Adopt the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing and maintain high standards of hygiene through having hand washing facilities in manufacturing establishments; Collaborate with the Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to sensitize MSEs on issues of counterfeits and dumping of goods; and Revive the cotton ginneries in Nambale, Amukura and Mulwanda.

Infrastructure, housing and urban development

Busia –Malaba highway attracts a lot of freight traffic and truck crews. The main means of transport used in the County is walking followed by bicycle. The paved County Road network covers 13.05KMs, while the paved National roads covers 154.44KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 167.49KMs, 61.64 per cent is in good condition, 38.32 per cent in fair condition and 0.04 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception that individuals do not need to use the internet is the leading reason that people 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. Approximately 74.2 per cent of houses are constructed using rudimentary materials. In responding to the prevailing challenges, the county will Design and develop transport infrastructure to cater for the long-distance cargo trucks and freight services that use the border crossing; Invest in terrestrial and aerial telecommunication technology to ensure reliable and affordable access to internet (internet everywhere); and Avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

Tourism

Some of the tourist products and attraction sites in the county include Nature Based tourism, wildlife; Cultural and heritage tourism, water sports and agro-tourism. The hospitality industry in Busia County has attracted many new investors attributed to rising demand for accommodation and conference facilities due to devolution, NGOs, higher learning institutions, long distance truck drivers and increased number of visitors/traders who enter and exit the country through Malaba and Busia border posts. The county does not have star-rated hotel facilities. It has approximately 13 major unclassified hotels with a bed capacity of 526 located mainly in Malaba and Busia Towns and a few others in other parts of the county. The county needs diversify tourism product range, develop databank of tourist attraction site and provide incentives for public-private-partnership investments in star-rated accommodation and M.I.C.E facilities.

Health

Busia county has a total number of 81 health facilities: 4 District Hospitals, 2 Sub-District Hospitals, 49 Dispensaries, 12 Health centres, 10 Medical Clinics, 3 Nursing Homes and one uncategorized. 6.1 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 96.4 per cent of the population. About 39.3 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 32.8 per cent, 21.1 per cent, and 5.4 per cent respectively. The county had 48.7 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months who were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 7.8 per cent were fully immunized against measles at 18 months. For a resilient health sector, there is need for more awareness on immunization so that mothers can

ensure their children get immunized. Implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments and information system to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers, equitably deployed across all sub-counties. This is in addition to paying the salaries in time to avoid cases of strikes and low staff morale. Recruit additional of public health officers and community health workers to strengthen preventive and public health systems.

Education and training

Busia County has a total of 919 pre-primary centres, 638 primary and 162 secondary schools. Infrastructures are in place to support water and sanitation efforts in learning institutions by the county. About 97 per cent of public primary schools in Busia County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) (ICT Authority, 2019). The county has 919 pre-school ECDE centers attached to public primary schools and private ones and the County Government recruited 439 ECDE teachers in 2013-2017 period. In 2018 Busia County, has 155 public and 7 private schools with a total enrollment of 53,488 students. The teacher to student ratio is 1:33 of the total in age cohort of (14017), 82 per cent are attending school. The County has 25 Vocational Training Centres and 3 university constituent colleges located in Amagoro, Nambale Market and Alupe Sub - County Hospital. The County with support from stakeholders needs to continue investing in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. The county would put up measures that encourage learners to complete all levels of education.

Social Protection

The county has 110,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children according to 2009 KNBS report. These are entirely dependent on relatives and well-wishers who volunteer to assist them. Others have been taken to children's homes and other social support facilities for care and educational support. Busia County has an estimated population of 893,681 people of which 2.7 per cent are living with various disabilities. An additional 4.3 per cent of the total population are the elderly and the proportion of stunted children stands at 22 per cent. In terms of poverty levels, 83 per cent of the total population is poor whereas about 60 per cent and 69 per cent are multidimensional and food poor respectively. To strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the county government to provide basic income security, especially for persons whose jobs or livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic. Build linkages with other Ministries, and with NGOs that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training.

Labour Participation

Agriculture is the major economic activity in Busia County and the climatic condition of the region favors production of Robusta coffee. Busia is the only county in Kenya that produces Robusta Coffee. The agriculture sector employs most of the county residents as the uniqueness of Busia County in the production of Robusta coffee, gives it a strategic advantage as an investment hub to produce instant coffee. Other main economic activity include trade especially with neighboring Uganda, with Busia town, which is the county headquarters, and largest town being a cross-border center. The county economy is heavily reliant on fishing and agriculture, with cassava, millet, sweet potatoes, beans, and maize being the principal cash crops. The main source of light is kerosene for cooking the households almost exclusively use charcoal and firewood (hence a high rate of deforestation in the area). County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 373,732 people of whom 351,407 were working and 22,325 were seeking work but work was not available representing an unemployment rate of 6.0 per cent. w The County to promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions especially those working tea sector which is a major employer in Busia County and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training, and skills development.

1. Introduction and Structure of County Economy

1.1 Introduction

Busia County is one of the largest counties in the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB). The county occupies a land area of 1,694.5 Km². The county has population of 893,681 of which 426,252 are males, 467,401 females and 28 intersex persons, (KNBS, 2019) as indicated in table 1. The County occupies land area of about 1,628.4 Km² subdivided into 7 constituencies, 7 sub-counties and 35 wards. The county has a population density of 550/Km² (1,400/sq mi). As of 24th August 2020, Busia County had recorded 968 cases of COVID-19 patients (MOH, 2020). The county is one of most populous rural counties in Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), with 779,928 people living in rural area.

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Busia County was 69 per cent with 27 per cent living in extreme poverty, against overall national rates of 36.1 and 8.6 per cent, respectively. 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. This indicates Busia is one of the poorest counties in Kenya and as such, the economic consequences of COVID-19 are likely to have a significant social impact, as there are few safety nets particularly for the informal sector.

Table 1.1: Development indicators in Busia County

	County	National
Estimated County Population (KNBS, 2019)	1,670,570	3.1 per cent of total population
Males	812,146	48.6 per cent
Females	858,389	51.3 per cent
Intersex	35	0.02 per cent
Estimated Population Density (km ²)	551	82
Persons with disability	2.0 per cent	2.2
Population living in rural areas (per cent)	88.6 per cent	68.8 per cent
Children (0-14 years) (per cent)	45.7 per cent	41.1 per cent
School going age (4-22 years) (per cent)	52.1 per cent	68.7 per cent
Youth 15-34 years (per cent)	34.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Labour force (15-64 years) (per cent)	49.1 per cent	55.0 per cent

Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	3.83 per cent	3.9 per cent
Number of COVID-19 cases (as at 11th September 2020) (MOH); National cases were 35,232 people	37	0.11 per cent of the national cases
Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	36.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	33.2 per cent	31.9 per cent
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	83.2 per cent	56.1 per cent
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	24.4 per cent	26 per cent
Gross County Product (Ksh Million) (2020)	90,817	0.8 per cent Share to total GDP
Average growth of Nominal GCP/GDP (2013-2020) (per cent)	18.1per cent	104.8 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 308,075 individuals. They are followed by persons aged between 6-13 years who are the primary school children comprising of 215,517 of the county population. The under 0-3 age comprise of 90,038 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	44,698	45,340	90,038
Preprimary school age (Under 4-5)	23,543	23,772	47,315
Primary School Age (6 -13)	106,480	109,037	215,517
Secondary school age (14-17)	51,152	51,715	102,867
Youth Population (15-34)	144,245	163,830	308,075
Female Reproductive age (15-49)		217,027	217,027
Labour force (15-64)	222,349	253,451	253,451
Aged Population 65+	15,930	22,393	38,323

Source: KNBS, 2019

1.2 Level of socioeconomic deprivations

In 2015/2016, 6.1 per cent of the population had health insurance cover, 8.4 per cent lived in premises with water, 88.1 per cent lived in their own homes and 60.2 per cent had access to mobile telephone (Table 1.3) and majority of the households (98.7%) had access to toilet facility. As a result, the multi-dimensional poverty is 83.2 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	6.1
Drinking water (Time taken to fetch)	Zero (In premises)	8.4
	less than 30 minutes	81
	30 minutes or longer	10.6
Sanitation and Hygiene	Proportion of households with toilet facility	98.7
	Shared Toilet	57.3
	Not Shared	46.3
	Place to wash hands outside toilet facility	23.5
	No place to wash hands outside toilet facility	76.5
Education (Population 3 years and Above by School Attendance Status)	Ever Attended	89.9
	Never Attended	10.1
Knowledge of health and nutrition (children aged 0-59 months that participated in Community Nutrition Programmes)	Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	15.4
	Did not Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	84.1
Housing and standard of living (house ownership)	Owner Occupier	88.1
	Pays Rent/ Lease	11
Access to information (Population Aged 3 years and above by ICT Equipment and Services Used)	Television	39.8
	Radio	77.2
	Mobile phone	60.2
	Computer	2.3
	Internet	2.5

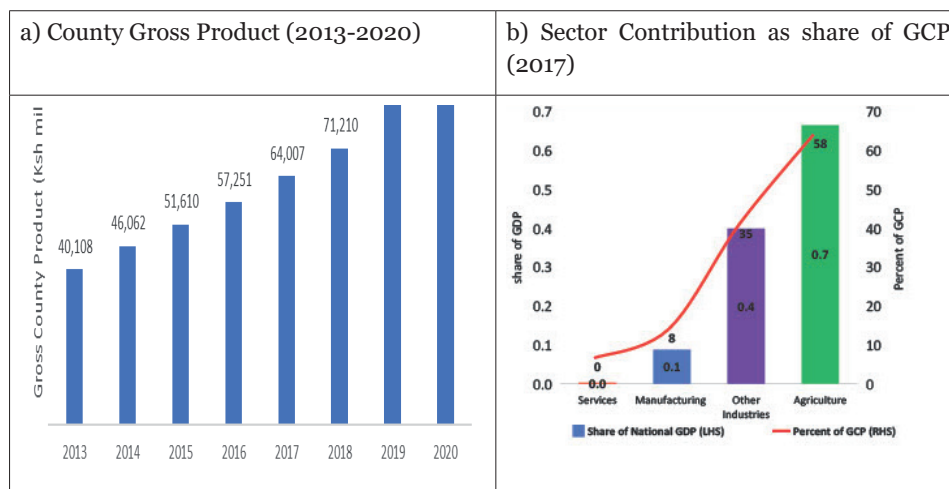
Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

1.3 Structure of Busia County Economy

Busia County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 0.8 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between 2013 and 2017 as shown in table 1.1. The GCP increased from 40,108 in 2013 to 90,817 in 2020, representing 18.1 average percentage growth. This growth is an attribute of the new dispensation – the devolution that begun in earnest in 2013 ushering the two-tier system of government with national equitable share distributed

for own developmental allocation. One key such areas is agriculture, which contributes 57.7 per cent of GCP while services and other industries' share constituted 35 per cent and 8 per cent respectively (Figure 1.4 b).

Table 1.4: Structure of the County Economy, 2013-2020



Data Source: KNBS (2019)

1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions

As of March 2020, Busia County had zero cases. However, by August 2020, the County had reported 633 COVID-19 cases with mobility stringency of 70.4. The caseload would rise to 4,642 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.

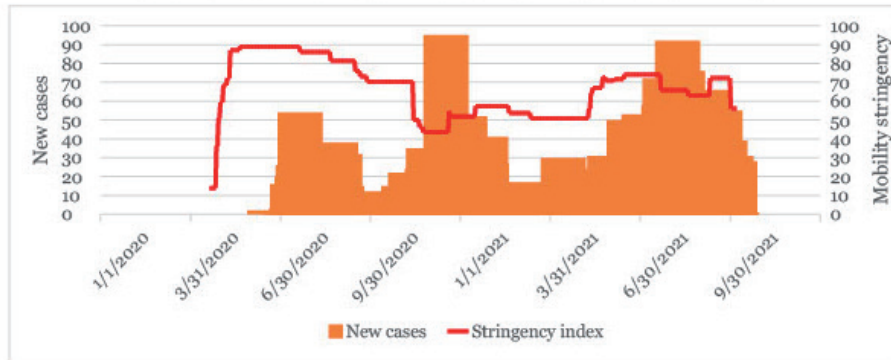
Table 1.5: Total COVID-19 cases in Busia County and the country's mobility stringency

Date	Total cases	Mobility stringency (0-100)
13 th March 2020	0	36.1
23 rd August 2020	633	70.4
23 rd August 2021	4,642	56.0

Source: Oxford University

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

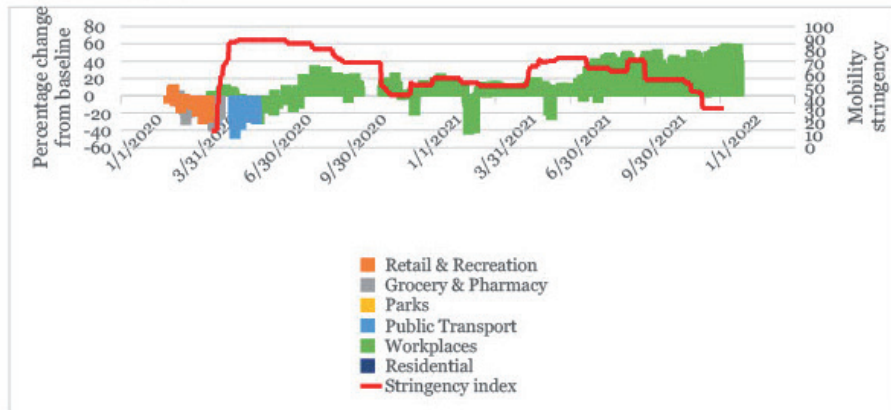
Figure 1.1: COVID-19 cases in Busia County and the country’s mobility stringency



Data Source: Oxford University

Public transport, retail and recreation, workspaces, and grocery and pharmacy have been the worst affected by tighter mobility restrictions in Busia County. Demand for workspaces in the County rebounded between June 2021-November 2021 supported by less stringent mobility restrictions.

Figure 1.3: Effects of COVID-19 on economic performance in Busia 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

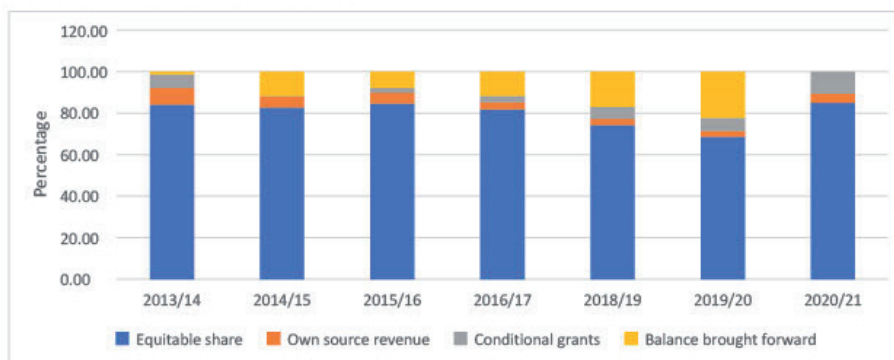
2.1 Fiscal policy

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).

2.2 Transfers from National Government

The county total revenue has significantly grown over the years as the government focusses on enhanced services and amenities for the residents. The county total revenue increased by 97 per cent from Ksh 4.06 billion in FY2013/14 to Ksh 8.01 billion in FY 2019/20, an average annual growth rate of 16.3 per cent. In FY 2020/21 the County's total revenue amounted to Ksh 7.19 billion, which was 69 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 10.42 billion. The low percentage was because of low OSR collections where the county collected only 28 per cent of its target. Setting of attainable OSR targets would be key to enable sustainable budget allocations. Equitable share has been the main source of financing County operations averaging 80.01 per cent of total revenues over the period between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 (figure 2.1). During FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 6.10 billion accounting for 100 per cent of the annual budget allocation. The amount was 79 per cent increase from Ksh 3.41 billion the County received in FY 2013/14. This underscores the significant support by the National Government in financing County operations.

Figure 2.1: Share of county revenues by source



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

Monthly cash transfers from the National government maintained an increasing trend from January to May over the years as shown in table 2.1. A similar trend was observed in 2020 with the cash transfers growing by 168 per cent between January and June. In comparison to 2019, the total amount transferred to Busia County increased save for March, April and June. With the risks including COVID-19 pandemic faced by the county, the increase in monthly cash transfers in 2020 was instrumental to enable the county finance its operations timely and implement the necessary strategies to mitigate the risks.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	4,624.10	5,426.19	-	-	-	-	2,664.86	-	-
2020	4,105.98	4,192.65	5,926.92	6,703.41	6,809.19	8,880.66	2,323.31	3,066.41	3,855.46
2019	4,011.85	4,763.35	5,628.19	6,433.60	7,199.52	9,688.56	7,199.52	2,288.47	3,213.75
2018	2,918.51	2,954.34	4,581.39	5,282.03	6,162.74	9,040.35	1,100.98	1,921.07	3,116.95
2017	-	-	4,845.09	5,590.49	6,964.43	8,289.58	613.06	-	-
2016	-	-	4,364.39	5,480.39	6,006.91	6,006.91	-	-	-

Data source: Gazette Notice (Various issues)

2.3 Conditional Grants

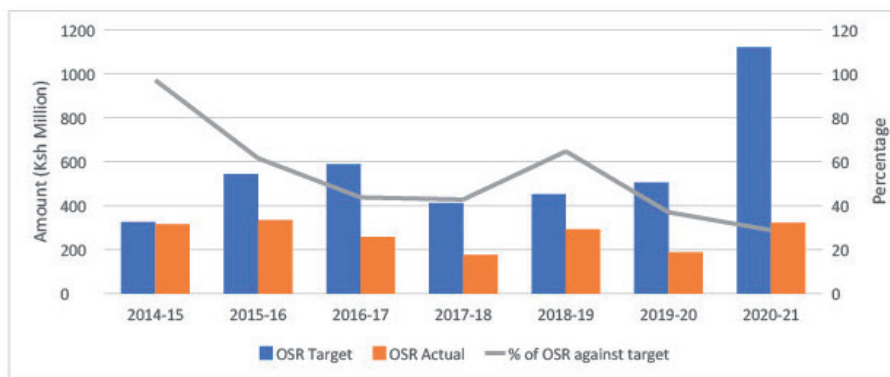
The share of conditional grants to total revenues averaged 4.97 per cent between FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21 (Figure 2.1). The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), European Union and Sweden. In FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 256.20 million and Ksh 505.64 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The value of conditional grants has significantly increased from Ksh 266.37 million in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 761.84 million in FY 2020/21. As a result, it is important that the county leverages on the good relationship with the development partners to benefit from the funding as it improves its total revenue.

Own Source Revenue

The contribution of OSR to total revenue has declined over the years averaging 4.66 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 (Figure 2.2). During FY 2013/14, the share of OSR to total revenue was 8.11 per cent before declining to 4.5 per cent in FY 2020/21.

Analysis of the annual OSR collections against its targets indicate a fluctuating trend (figure 2.2). During FY 2014/15, Busia County achieved 97 per cent of OSR target, which declined to 44.76 per cent in FY 2019/20. The fluctuations are partly attributed to economic cycles and the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. The County could consider developing and implementing measures that enhance OSR collections to improve its performance. During FY 2020/21 the County collected Ksh 322.56 million as OSR which was 29.9 per cent increase from Ksh 225.83 million realized in FY 2019/20. The improved performance was partly attributed to the implementation of the valuation roll in the County and the recovery of business activities following the COVID-19 pandemic.

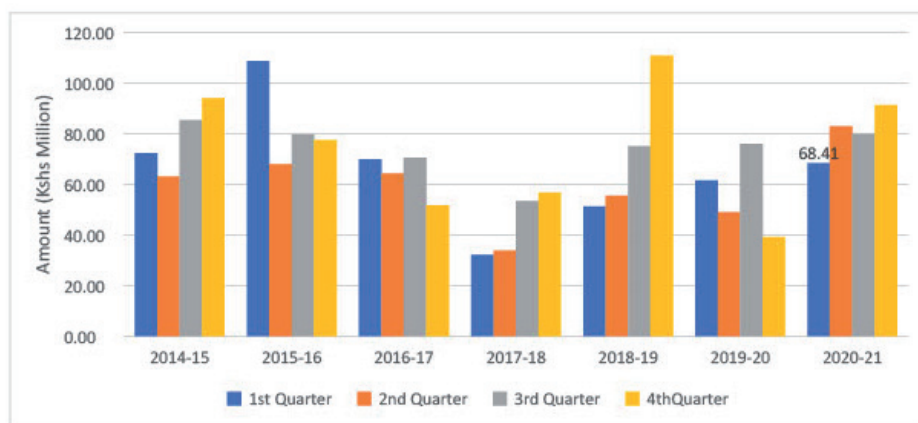
Figure 2.2: Annual Own Source Revenue targets and actual collections



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

Analysis of the quarterly OSR show that the fourth quarter of FY 2018/19 recorded an all-time high quarterly revenue collection over the period between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 (figure 2.3). The quarterly collections have been inconsistent across the financial years with higher collections realized during different quarters. The performance for FY 2020/21 was robust compared to FY 2019/20 as the County collected more than Ksh 68 million for all the quarters. The low performance registered in FY 2019/20 may be premised on the adverse effects of the pandemic. The closure of hotels and bars negatively impacted Busia County given that it is a border county and highly depends on revenues from the hotels to boost its OSR. With easing of the containment measures, the County experienced significant improvements in its OSR collections as shown in figure 2.3. During FY 2020/21, the quarterly OSR maintained an increasing trend with the third and fourth quarter generating the most amount of OSR. In overall, the County OSR performance indicate that the County remained resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic period as the Country experienced low economic activities.

Figure 2.3: Quarterly Own Source Revenue collection



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

2.4 Expenditure analysis

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

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

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

Trends in county expenditure

Busia county expenditure has over the years been rising as the county escalates its efforts in provision of services to its residents. Total county expenditure has grown significantly since FY 2013/14. With the implementation of the first full year county budget in FY 2013/14, actual expenditure in the county increased from Ksh 2,472.9 million to Ksh 7,474.5 million in FY 2020/21 (Figure 2.4). This translates to over 160 per cent increase in county spending over the period. Cumulatively the county has spent a total of Ksh 45.9 billion between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 32.2 billion and Ksh 13.7 billion on recurrent and development expenditures representing 70.2 per cent and 29.89 per cent of the cumulative recurrent and development expenditure respectively. This signals that more development expenditure is required to support deepening of capital spending in the county.

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

Figure 2.4: Trends in county expenditure

Figure 2.4 (a): Trends in actual aggregate expenditure

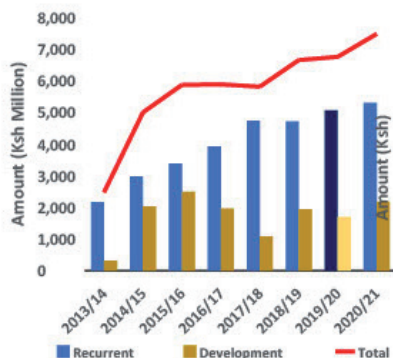
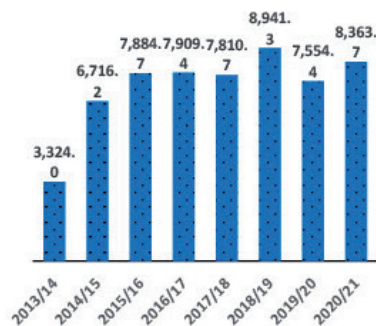


Figure 2.4 (b): Trends in actual per capita expenditure



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

Consistent with the nominal growth in actual county expenditures, spending on a per capita basis has shown upward growth over the period. In FY 2013/14, per capita spending in Busia County was about Ksh 3,324.0 compared Ksh 8,941.3 in FY 2018/19. Between FY 2013/14 and FY 2018/19 per capita spending averaged Ksh 7,852.5. At the end of FY 2019/20 per capita expenditure stood at Ksh 7,554.4 way above achievement in 2013/14, however representing a 15.5 per cent decline for achievement in FY 2018/19. At the end of FY 2020/21 it stood at Ksh 8,363.7 an improvement from those reported in the previous year.

2.5 Utilization of public resources in the county

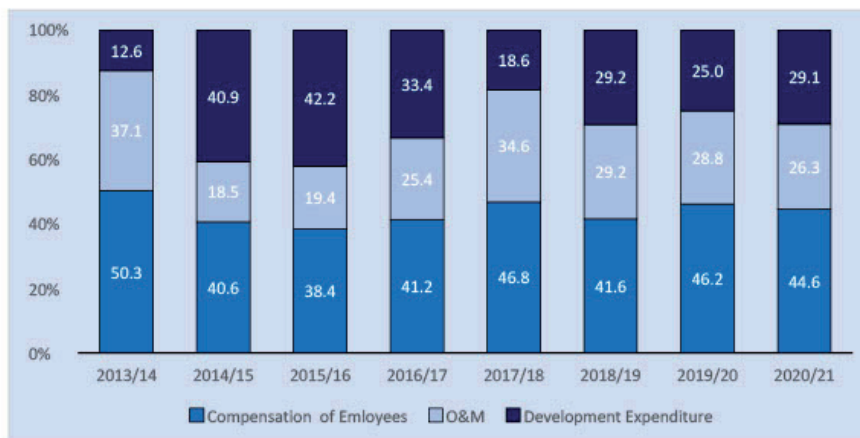
Analysis of expenditures by economic classification and by departments (spending priorities) reveal that since inception of devolution, Busia County government prioritized narrowing the economic and social infrastructure gaps. Much of government development expenditures has been dominant in provision of health services, public works, education, agriculture, and water and environment services.

Relating to the requirement of spending at least 30 per cent of budget on development as per PFM Act of 2012, at the onset of devolution development expenditure accounted for only 12.6 per cent of total county spending. However, the county government did remarkably well between FY 2014/15 and FY 2016/17 when development expenditure accounted for 40.9 per cent in FY 2014/15, 42.2 per cent in FY 2015/16 and 33.4 per cent in FY 2016/17 respectively as represented in Figure 2.6. In FY 2017/18, the share of development expenditure declined to 18.6 per cent thereafter improving to 29.2 per cent in FY 2018/19. At the end of FY 2019/20 development expenditures accounted for 25.0 per cent and 29.1 in FY 2020/21 reflecting the capital expenditure deepening challenge in the county.

County compensation of employees has been burgeoning between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. The average share of compensation of employees in total county budget over the review period was 43.7 per cent. In FY 2013/14, compensation of employees exceeded half of the county budget accounting for 50.3 per cent of the budget. At the end of FY 2020/21 county wage bill accounted for 44.6 per cent of the budget, almost approaching half of county expenditure.

Table 2.2 presents the analysis of expenditure per department. It is evident that over the years spending on health and sanitation has been the highest while spending on county public service bard has been the lowest. Spending on Youth, Culture, Sports, Tourism and Social Services has been on record low, yet this is a critical department that supports youth empowerment and inclusivity in terms of gender and child sensitive budget. Moreover, this is a critical area for ensuring social protection particularly for the elderly and most vulnerable groups during crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic or economic disruptions brought about by floods.

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



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

The county spent a combined average of 60.3 per cent of the total expenditure during the period FY 2014/15 to 2020/21 on non-administrative functions in the county such as health and sanitation; roads and public works; education and vocational training; agriculture, livestock, and fisheries; and water and environment. Spending on health and sanitation services accounted for the largest share of the spending at 25.6 per cent for the last seven years implying that on average one quarter of county spending is on health and sanitation services. Roads and public works accounted for 11.1 per cent of the budget, followed by agriculture, livestock, and fisheries at 7.3 per cent, education, and vocational training at 6.6 per cent, water and environment followed closely at 4.9 per cent and land, housing and urban development accounted for 2.5 per cent respectively. Further during the review period co-ordination and administrative functions accounted for a combined 39.7 per cent with finance and economic planning leading at 17.4 per cent, county assembly 12.0 per cent, county executive/ the governorship at 6.1 per cent while public service management accounted for 3.5 per cent.

Table 2.2: County Departmental spending (Ksh Million)

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Average spending	per cent share of spending
Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	304.85	383.5	363.5	281.2	400.7	681.73	763.87	454.2	7.3 per cent
Education and Vocational Training	229.49	399.9	417.1	313.1	531.8	431.2	561.4	412.0	6.6 per cent
Finance and Economic Planning	1089.13	1,067.7	1,029.4	1,041.5	1,425.1	874.9	1,009.0*	1,076.7	17.4 per cent
Youth, Culture, Sports, Tourism and Social Services	120.52	125.6	145.7	114.7	183.6	114.8	117.3	131.7	2.1 per cent
Roads, Public works, Energy and Transport	398.18	794.3	705.5	563.4	972.3	525.9	873.1	690.4	11.1 per cent
Public Service Management	404.82	333.4	145.7	52.1	45.3	184.5	358.9	217.8	3.5 per cent
Lands, Housing and Urban Development	97.25	112.8	283.2	121.4	101.4	186.7	202.9	157.9	2.5 per cent
Water and Environment	185.73	308.2	292.5	297.1	307.3	352.9	395.8	305.6	4.9 per cent
Health and Sanitation	1307.82	1,219.0	1,340.4	1,616.6	1,580.3	2,095.7	1,940.1	1,585.7	25.6 per cent
County Public Service Board	38.62	28.2	23.5	48.4	43.6	57.5	72.7	44.7	0.7 per cent
The Governorship	178.6	401.2	487.8	484.0	329.5	404.5	373.8	379.9	6.1 per cent
County Assembly	641.45	692.1	647.2	875.0	727.8	840.8	798.7	746.1	12.0 per cent
TOTAL	4,996.5	5,865.8	5,881.4	5,808.4	6,648.7	6,751.2	7,467.4	6,202.8	100.0

Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

*Includes expenditures from trade industrialisation and cooperatives department which amounted to Ksh 116.31 million

2.5.1 Effectiveness of County spending

Total budget execution averaged 74.1 per cent in the period FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21. In FY 2013/14, overall total budget execution stood at 57.4 per cent. This execution improved to 79.0 per cent in FY 2014/15 and thereafter deteriorated slowly but steadily to 75.3 per cent in FY 2018/19 and 71.7 per cent in FY 2020/21. This means that only Ksh 7,474.5 million was utilized out of the Ksh 10,418.9 million approved budget.

Figure 2.6: Effectiveness of County spending

Figure 2.7(a): Approved versus actual county spending (Ksh Million)

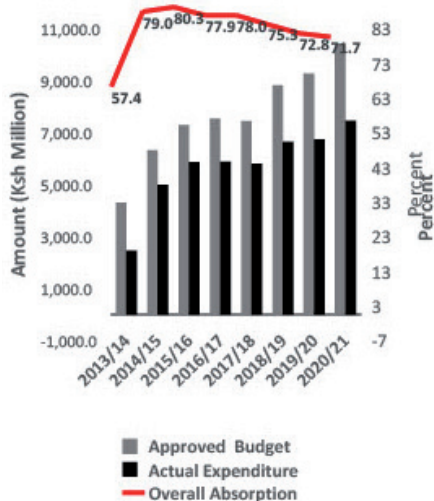
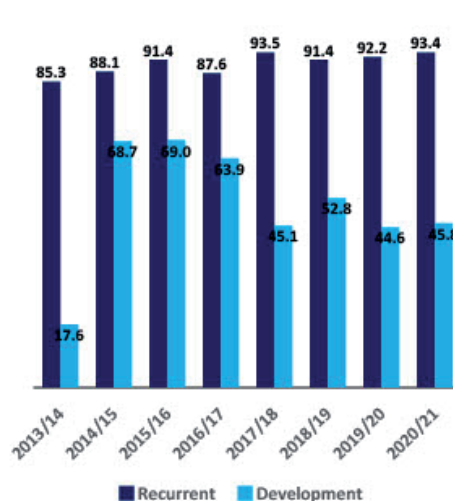


Figure 2.7(b): Absorption rates for recurrent and development expenditures (per cent)

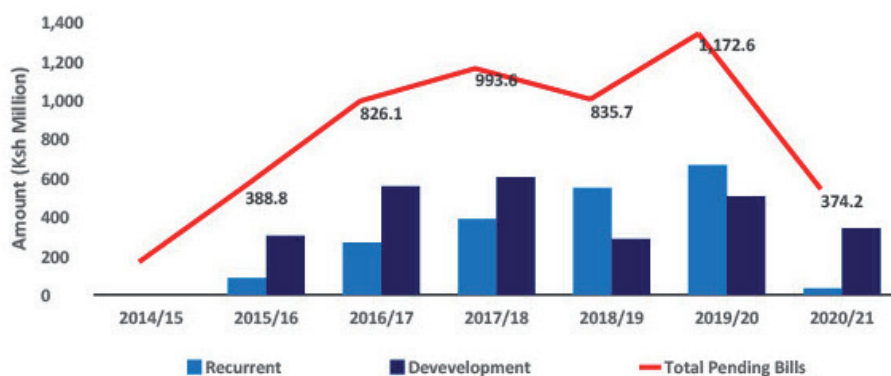


Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate for development expenditure during the review period was 51.0 per cent (implying that on average over 49.0 per cent of the development budget is not absorbed). This is a major budget implementation weakness, and the county should continue tightening budget implementation to ensure achievement of greater absorption rates to keep help achieve the targets in ADPs and the CIDP. On recurrent expenditure, the execution has been robust over the years the average absorption rate was 90.3 per cent, with 9.7 per cent left in unspent recurrent budget.

2.6 Pending Bills

County pending bills have been on an increasing path. In FY 2014/15, the county reported zero pending bills, however in FY 2015/16 county pending bills amounted to Ksh 388.8 million increasing steadily to Ksh 993.6 million in FY 2017/18 before a slight decline to Ksh 835.7 million in FY 2018/19. At the end of FY 2019/20, pending bill increased to Ksh 1,172.6 million before declining to 374.2 million as the county attempted to release cash to its suppliers as a stimulus measure to support businesses and households during the hard times elicited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Generally, pending bills related to development spending have been greater than those related to recurrent expenditure save for FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20 when recurrent expenditure related pending bill outperformed development expenditure related pending bills. The average development and recurrent expenditure related pending bills was Ksh 433.1 million and Ksh 332 million respectively during the FY 2014/15 to FY 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.

Figure 2.7: Profile of county pending bills

Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

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

2.7 Emerging Issues

From the foregoing, the following are observed:

- i) Development expenditure has performed weakly on average accounting for 28.8 per cent of total county expenditure during the 2013-2021 period revealing systemic weaknesses in county public investment management system.
- ii) County wage bill has been growing tremendously at the expense of development expenditure. Between fiscal years 2013/14 and 2020/21 county wage bill was on an upward trend and on average accounted for 43.7 per cent of expenditure, while development expenditure has been plummeting.
- iii) Priority expenditure has been on non-administrative and non-co-ordinational functions such as health, education, agriculture, roads etc., accounting for an average of 60.3 per cent of actual expenditure. Health sector leads at 25.6 per cent. Administrative and co-ordinational functions such as county executive, county assembly, public service management and finance account for 39.7 per cent of expenditure.
- iv) Budget execution as measured by absorption rate has remained above 65.0 per cent over the review period. Average overall absorption rate stands at 74.1 per cent. Average development budget absorption rate stands at 51.0 per cent while that of recurrent expenditure stands at 90.3 per cent.

- v) Pending bills plummeted during FY 2020/21 due to county efforts to release cash owed to suppliers to cushion businesses and families from the effects of the pandemic.

2.8 Recommendations

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

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

3. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

3.1 Characteristics of the sector

Agriculture accounts for a significant share of economic activity in Busia County. More than a half of County economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for Ksh 50,020 million out of the total Ksh 86,712 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 57.7 per cent of the County's GCP.

Over 70 per cent of the households in Busia County practice farming. About 71 per cent of the households produce crops, 53 per cent produce livestock, 0.28 per cent practice aquaculture and about 3.1 per cent are involved in fishing. About 1.5 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

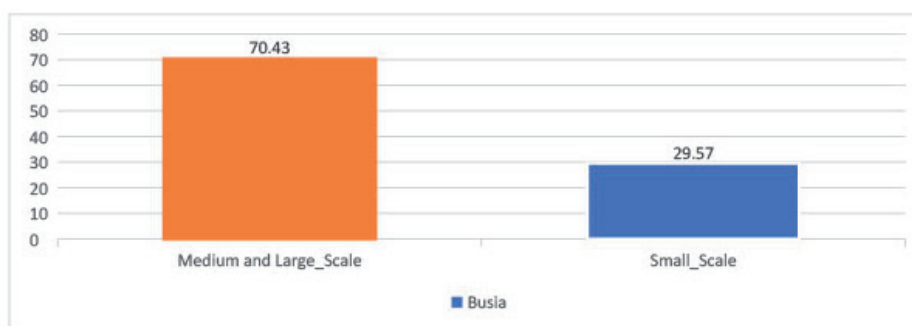
Table 3.1: Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture, Fishing and Irrigation by County and Sub County

County/ Sub County	Total Households	Farming Households	Crop Pro- duction	Livestock Production	Aquaculture	Fishing	Irrigation
Kenya	12,143,913	6,354,211	5,555,974	4,729,288	29,325	109,640	369,679
Busia	198,152	148,257	140,668	105,208	547	6,139	2,888
Bunyala	19,039	12,676	10,930	8,488	65	4,238	1,072
Busia	33,160	19,412	18,083	13,445	80	122	357
Butula	32,213	26,650	25,677	18,428	72	163	332
Nambale	23,892	19,743	19,023	14,208	82	111	222
Samia	23,884	19,701	18,636	13,616	86	1,274	305
Teso North	29,395	23,180	22,404	17,557	79	103	300
Teso South	36,569	26,895	25,915	19,466	83	128	300

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Regarding scale of production, we follow the FAO criterion on land size to identify small holder farmers as those producers that “fall in the bottom 40 per cent of the cumulative distribution” (Khalil et al., 2017). Using this criterion, about 30 per cent of the farming households in Busia County are “small-scale” farming with a land holding of 0.675 or less acres of land.

Figure 3.1: Scale of Operation: per cent of households



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

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 Busia include maize, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum, bananas, ground nuts, and kales.

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

County/Sub County	Kenya	Busia	Bunyala	Busia	Butula	Nambale	Samia	Teso North	Teso South
Maize	5,104,967	135,790	9,683	17,526	25,235	18,550	18,000	21,835	24,961
Beans	3,600,840	99,743	7,818	12,303	18,400	13,547	15,426	17,479	14,770
Cassava	1,050,352	71,591	2,320	7,957	13,465	9,373	11,002	11,893	15,581
Sweet Potatoes	1,134,102	61,973	4,834	7,931	12,450	8,284	10,734	10,092	7,648
Sorghum	904,945	53,701	7,636	7,008	12,232	3,728	12,364	4,052	6,681
Bananas	2,139,421	51,930	1,716	6,163	10,573	8,297	4,160	10,942	10,079
Ground Nuts	480,812	49,979	1,133	5,096	13,314	7,043	6,163	9,374	7,856
Kales	1,916,898	29,615	2,081	4,271	5,932	4,405	3,378	5,081	4,467
Millet	540,353	25,825	1,148	2,696	6,077	2,707	2,375	4,782	6,040
Sugarcane	654,468	13,949	542	1,623	1,850	4,580	717	981	3,656
Potatoes	1,170,170	11,163	856	1,595	2,246	2,030	935	1,499	2,002
Tomatoes	410,224	7,945	1,075	612	776	1,027	979	1,891	1,585
Green grams	571,426	7,815	632	768	941	964	1,116	1,763	1,631
Onions	707,182	3,335	278	669	599	450	494	380	465
Cabbages	490,588	2,572	262	323	423	389	319	509	347
Rice	50,484	2,206	969	131	189	190	95	126	506
Cotton	22,920	2,109	67	135	143	199	416	721	428
Watermelons	84,077	1,638	139	144	177	249	168	320	441
Wheat	67,720	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Key permanent crops among households in Busia include Mangoes and Avocado.

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

County/Sub County	Coffee	Avocado	Citrus	Mango	Macadamia
Busia	1,498	27,498	3,616	35,530	1,148
Kenya	478,936	966,976	177,445	796,867	195,999

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Resource productivity is another key important factor in determining the agroprocessing 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 Busia's value of fruits production in 2019 amounted to Ksh 2.6 billion. The area under fruit was 8,895 Ha with a production of 282,514 MT. The major fruits grown in order of value importance are Banana, Pineapples, Mango, Pawpaw and Avocado.

Table 3.4: Fruits Grown in Busia County

Type of Fruit	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Banana	3,675	229,612	1,291,910,000
Pineapples	328	14,452	550,100,000
Mango	3,108	16,902	297,085,000
Pawpaw	247	5,758	139,784,000
Avocado	730	6,751	121,677,904
Bambara Groundnuts	32	1,503	84,624,000
Watermelons	252	2,815	57,425,000
Ground Nuts	330	598	25,665,000
Oranges	117	671	22,210,000
Coconuts	52	3,376	3,415,000
Purple Passion Fruits	8	16	2,400,000
Yellow Passion	16	60	1,800,000
Total	8,895	282,514	2,598,095,904

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of vegetables production in the County amounted to Ksh 786.4 million. The area under vegetables was 2,571 Ha with a production of 21,829 MT. The major vegetables grown in order of value importance are potato, tomato, kales, pumpkin fruit and garden peas

Table 3.5: Vegetables Grown in Busia County

Type of Vegetables	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Kales	592	4,374	195,890,000
Tomato	217	4,325	124,650,000
African Nightshade	206	1,269	110,270,000
Leaf Amaranth	162	1,207	94,650,000
Spider Plant	175	721	59,330,000
Cowpea	497	1,714	54,160,000
Sweetcorn	480	4,800	48,000,000
Cabbage	16	1,600	19,200,000
Slenderleaf/Rattlepod /Mitoo	63	144	12,040,000
Radish	13	260	10,400,000
Butter Nut	25	500	10,000,000
Pumpkin Fruit	22	185	7,320,000
Broccoli	30	300	6,000,000
Pumpkin Leaves	27	184	5,690,000
Jute Mallow/Mrenda	32	86	5,560,000
Lettuce	12	120	3,600,000
Russian Comfrey/Mafaki	2	40	1,600,000
Total	2,571	21,829	768,360,000

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of MAPs production in the County amounted to Ksh 51.8 million. The area under MAPSs was 77 Ha with a production of 1,185 MT. The major MAPs grown are garlic, bulb onion, parsley, long cayenne chilies and ginger in order of value importance.

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

Type of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Garlic	6	150	15,000,000
Bulb Onion	33	642	14,520,000
Parsley	8	280	9,800,000
Long Cayenne Chilies	20	80	9,600,000
Ginger	6	25	2,500,000
Spring Onion/ Green Shallots	4	8	360,000
Total	77	1,185	51,780,000

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

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

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

County/Sub County	Busia	Bunyala	Busia	Butula	Nambale	Samia	Teso North	Teso South
Indigenous Chicken	88,203	6,623	10,949	15,530	11,880	11,395	15,460	16,366
Indigenous cattle	62,969	4,432	7,780	12,105	9,907	7,733	9,919	11,093
Pigs	29,180	2,404	4,663	3,121	3,028	5,103	3,358	7,503
Goats	28,082	3,242	2,714	2,938	2,505	4,595	6,294	5,794
Sheep	7,555	480	1,160	1,541	1,191	1,195	885	1,103
Exotic cattle -Dairy	5,059	211	930	910	1,010	365	731	902
Exotic Chicken Layers	2,895	195	511	454	624	152	356	603
Exotic Chicken Broilers	1,331	146	330	180	212	76	126	261
Exotic cattle -Beef	1,928	106	307	321	293	111	313	477
Rabbits	1,313	38	201	234	160	227	172	281
Beehives	629	16	54	47	63	131	195	123
Fishponds	506	57	65	67	81	83	77	76
Donkeys	145	6	17	10	34	4	58	16
Fish Cages	57	9	8	9	9	6	6	10

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

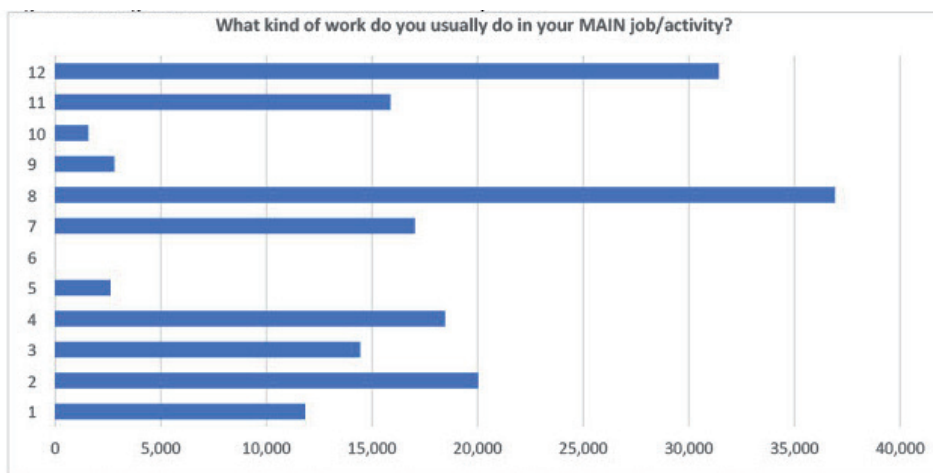
The above characterization of farming households highlights the priority value chain opportunities in maize, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum, bananas, ground nuts, kales, avocado, mangoes, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry production and pig farming. With majority of the households farming the identified products, the current Busia 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 Busia indicates relative dominance of females in agriculture related occupations. Majority of women, as well as men, in Busia County are engaged in the Subsistence Agricultural and Fishery Worker subcategory. Under this category, workers provide labor to provide food, shelter and a minimum of cash income for the individual or household. The second popular agriculture related occupation among women and men in the County is the agricultural, fishery and related labourers subcategory. Workers in this sub-major group include Farm-hands and Related Labourers; Forestry Labourers; and Fishery, Hunting and Trapping Labourers. The other subcategory with significant number of workers is the Agriculturalists and Related Professionals where workers under this subcategory conduct research and improve or develop concepts, theories, and operational methods; apply scientific knowledge relating to crop husbandry. The classifications are based on the Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard (KNOCS)

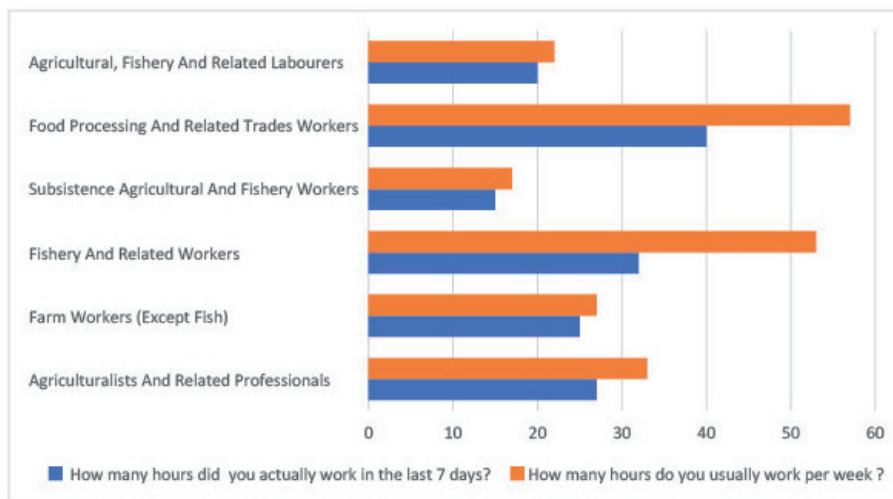
Figure 3.2: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation



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 all the identified sub-sectors worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. The most affected workers are the fishery and related workers who recorded the highest difference of 21 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. The second most affected workers are the Food Processing and Related Trades Workers who recorded at difference of 17 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. The workers in this sub-major group include Butchers, Fishmongers and Related Food Preparers; Bakers, Pastry-cooks and Confectionery Makers; Dairy Products Makers; Fruit, Nut and Related Preservers; Tobacco Preparers and Tobacco Products Makers; Food and Beverage Tasters; Brewers, Distillers and Related Workers; and Other Food Processing and Related Workers.

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

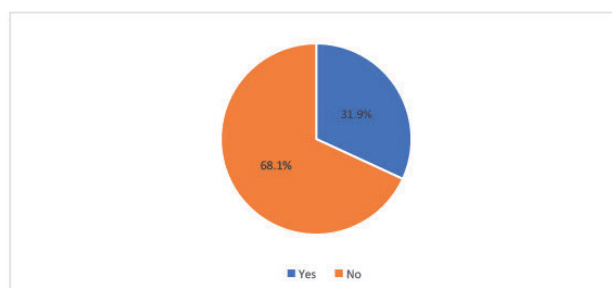
The identified COVID-19 effects on labour force participation are likely to have negative effects on output thereby increasing yield gaps.

3.2.2 Market operations

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

As a result of COVID-19, there has been a further slow down on trade activities due to the restrictions on movements. From the KNBS conducted between 30th May and 6th June 2020, 31.9 per cent of the households in Busia 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.

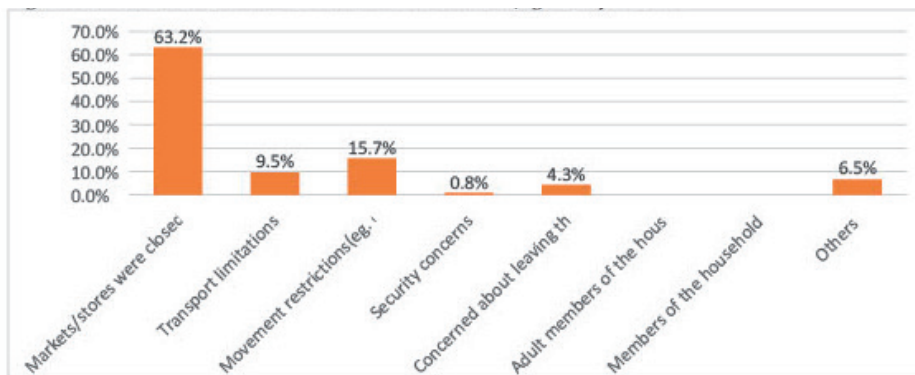
Figure 3.4: Limited access to markets to purchase food items



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 (63.2%), movement restrictions (15.7%) and transport limitations (9.5%).

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

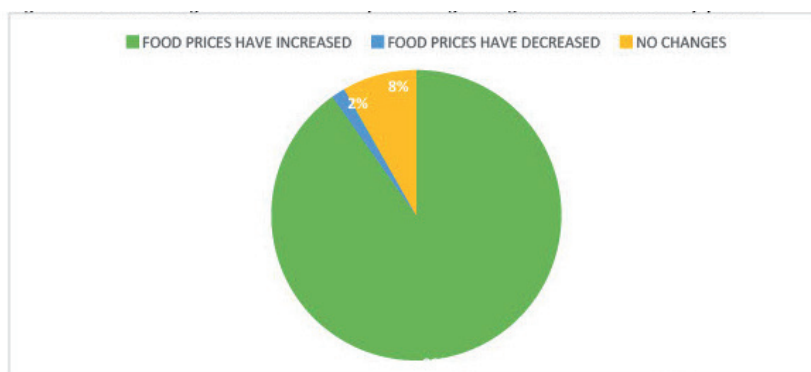


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

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

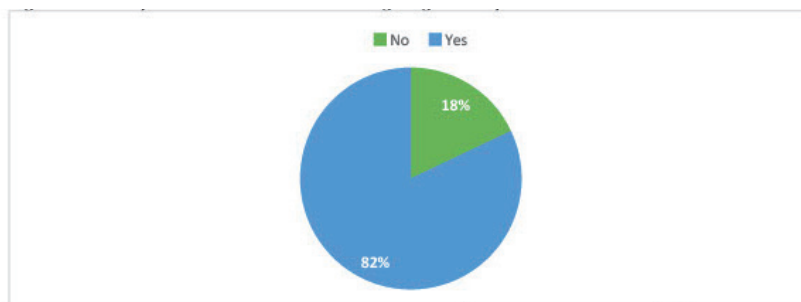
Restrictions affecting seamless movement of food commodities are likely to cause a hike in prices in non-production areas and fall in prices in production areas. 90 per cent of households in Busia County indicated that over the past 2 weeks from the reference period, while 8 per cent indicated that they had not experienced a change in the prices

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



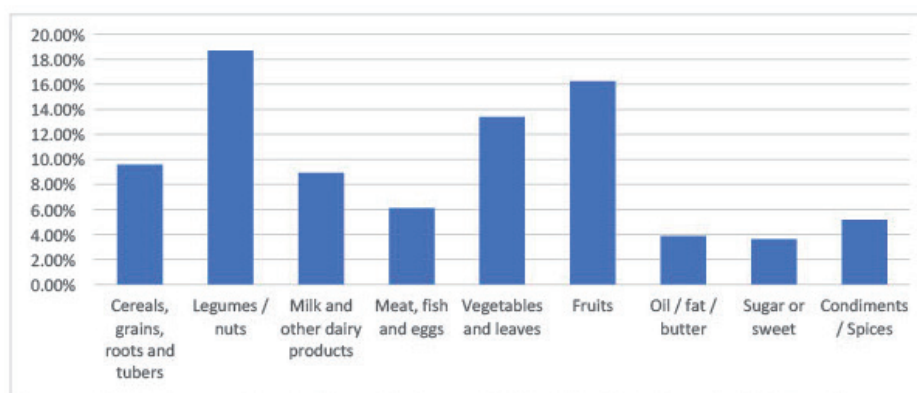
Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

On the magnitude of the price shocks, 82 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.

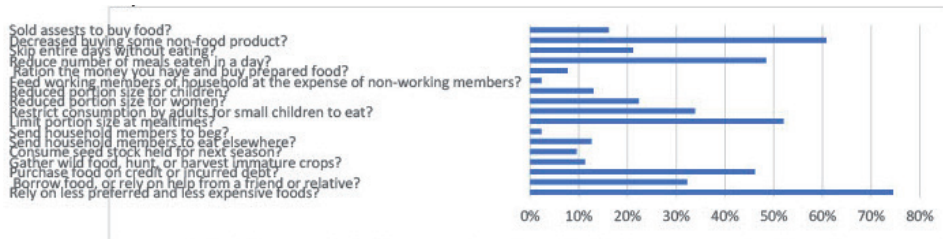
Figure 3.8: Per cent Households reporting that the following food items were not readily available in their locality

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, milk, and legumes -which are necessary for boosting the immune system of the population.

Among the key strategies adopted by households to mitigate COVID-19 effects on food consumption include relying on less preferred and less expensive foods (74.5%), decreased buying some non-food products (60.8%), limit portion size at mealtimes (52.02%), reduce number of meals eaten in a day (48.5%) and purchase food on credit or incurred debt (46.2%).

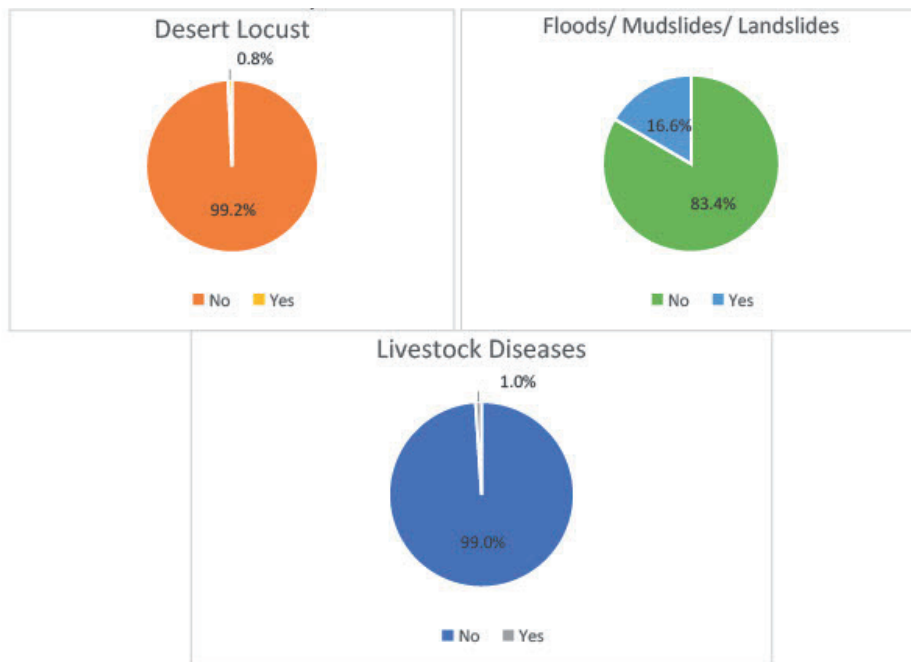
Figure 3.9: Per cent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day



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

Additional significant challenges faced by the County during the COVID-19 pandemic period relate to floods/mudslides/landslides. Others, albeit at low levels, include Desert locusts (0.8%) and Livestock Diseases (1.0%)

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



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

3.3 Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County

Among the Key Constraints the County faces include:

- a) Variable and extreme weather events, including floods, which have increased in frequency and intensity over the years adversely affecting crop and livestock production
- b) Land degradation leading to reduce soil fertility and consequently agricultural productivity.
- c) Dependence of rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as, drought episodes
- d) 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
- e) Low crops, livestock, and livestock products marketing opportunities necessary for improved incomes
- f) Low commercialization of farming where majority of farmers practice farming for subsistence purposes and as a hobby rather than a business. One way is through adoption of high value cash crops (coffee, macadamia, and tea).
- g) Low adoption of high value crops that would increase farmers returns
- h) Low agro-processing and value addition opportunities among small scale farmers
- i) Slow uptake of digital platforms to market agricultural produce.
- j) Need to enhance/ revive extension services in the County
- k) Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides affecting agricultural productivity
- l) Dependence of rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as, drought episodes
- m) Farm losses and post-harvest waste.

The above challenges combined led to the overall impact of reducing farm output, farmer incomes and increasing the vulnerability of households to food insecurity and climate variability particularly drought and floods episodes. On linkages to other sectors, the sector is enabled by:

- Businesses/ MSMEs: Businesses and MSMEs are crucial in providing inputs and requirements to the agricultural sector.
- Transport, Storage and ICT sectors
- Financial and insurance activities
- Accommodation Food services
- Manufacturing: The manufacturing sector plays a crucial role in agro-processing. Agricultural inputs also contribute to the processing of other manufacturing commodities

3.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Agriculture

The County has opportunities in:

- i) Adoption of natural resource management to include soil and water conservation, tree planting, and changing of crop type
- ii) Provision of affordable and quality inputs to include fertilizers, feeds and seeds.
- iii) Developing County-private partnership in enhancing agro processing and value addition capacities of the County and link farmers to product markets
- iv) Enhance market opportunities to transform production from subsistence to commercial agriculture serving local and export demand
- v) Storage and cooling facilities, especially at collection centers, to minimize post-harvest losses.
- vi) Investments to enhance water harvesting, sustainable and efficient irrigation.
- vii) Uptake of digital platforms to build capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies, and market agricultural produce
- viii) 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.
- ix) Adoption of drought resistant livestock pastures/fodder and fodder
- x) Promotion of drought resistant and early maturing crops
- xi) Enhance supportive services to include early-warning systems, insurance and credit products, extension advisory and information services, training, fodder conservation and value addition.
- xii) Improved crop and livestock emergencies surveillance systems in the County.
- xiii) Strengthening farmers' associations and cooperatives as an additional solution to marketing challenges

3.5 Emerging Issues

- i) Environmental degradation because of both human and non-human-related activities such as extreme climate conditions. Environmental degradation has reduced productive capacity of farms leading to increased risks to food insecurity and reduced farmers income and ultimately increased poverty levels within the County.
- ii) Climate change, manifested in increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions such as floods, drought and pest invasion.

3.6 Recommendations

- i) Develop partnership with the National Government, NGOs, Development Partners Research Institutions, and the Private sector in enhancing agro-processing and value addition capacities of the County including in milk, meat, honey and leather processing and adoption of modern farming technologies and practices among farmers as envisioned in the national Agricultural Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS),
- ii) Improve farmers income through linking farmers to product markets beyond the County level including livestock, apiculture, and fish products markets.
- iii) Provision of storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points to minimize spoilage and post-harvest losses.
- iv) Promoting 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, water, animal feeds, artificial insemination (AI) services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and mechanized ploughing services by County tractor hire services.
- vi) Establish programmes for surveillance of disasters such as extreme weather conditions at the County level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prevent, prepare, respond and prevent risks. The County will mitigate disasters, such as those related to floods, through institutional capacity development, vulnerability analyses and updates, monitoring and early warning systems, and public education.
- vii) Establish agricultural parks, for instance the current daily parks that serve as a one stop shop for daily farming where breeding, feeding can be managed in one location.
- viii) Have sensitization programmes and enhance farmers ability to adopt sustainable land management practices to minimize environmental degradation. This is in line with the County's CIDP goal on increasing farmer's awareness on modern land management practices.
- ix) Increase fisheries and aquaculture activities in the County through establishment of Aquaculture parks and establishment of Operational fisheries training center as envisioned in the 2018-2022 CIDP.
- x) Strengthen agricultural cooperatives through effective stakeholder engagement and implementation of interventions for more sustainable models of financing and customized training of cooperative members.

4. Water Sanitation and Hygiene

4.1 Characteristic of the sector

The county has adequate water sources which include permanent rivers, springs, shallow wells, dams, pans and community boreholes as well as rainwater collection which provides clean and safe water for drinking and for livestock use. The region also receives heavy rainfalls during the months of March to June, however water sources dry up during periods of low rainfall and drought thus affecting household's accessibility to water. The county has two main existing water supply schemes in Busia County. The Sio River Water Supply that serves Busia town and its environs and the Bunyala Supply Scheme that serves Port Victoria Town. The National Government has recently launched two more schemes in the county. Kocholia Irrigation Scheme on River Malakisi, which aims to supply water to 10,000 people and Ang'ololo Scheme on River Malaba that will serve residents of Kenya and part of Uganda². The main water sources in Busia are surface water, ground water, and runoff water.

The country has no sewerage treatment plant therefore most of the households tend to use pit latrine as well as septic tank. Households with latrines account for 34.3 per cent of the population. The sanitation facilities used include pit latrines which account for 25.8 per cent, uncovered pit latrines (13.5%), covered pit latrines (12.3%), VIP (6.5%) and 0.2 per cent flush toilets. Waste/garbage disposal is done by public garbage and heap burning which accounts for 19.7 per cent, garbage pit (12.1%), farm garden (8.9%), public garbage heap (1.9%) and 0.4 per cent disposed by local method. Busia has been declared an open defecation free.

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.

The main sources of water in Busia County is raw water from water pans, streams, wells, springs and boreholes, water treatment chemicals and facilities, water storage tanks, drilling facilities as well as water and sanitation infrastructure. There are also personnel and costs involved in provision of water and sanitation services.

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

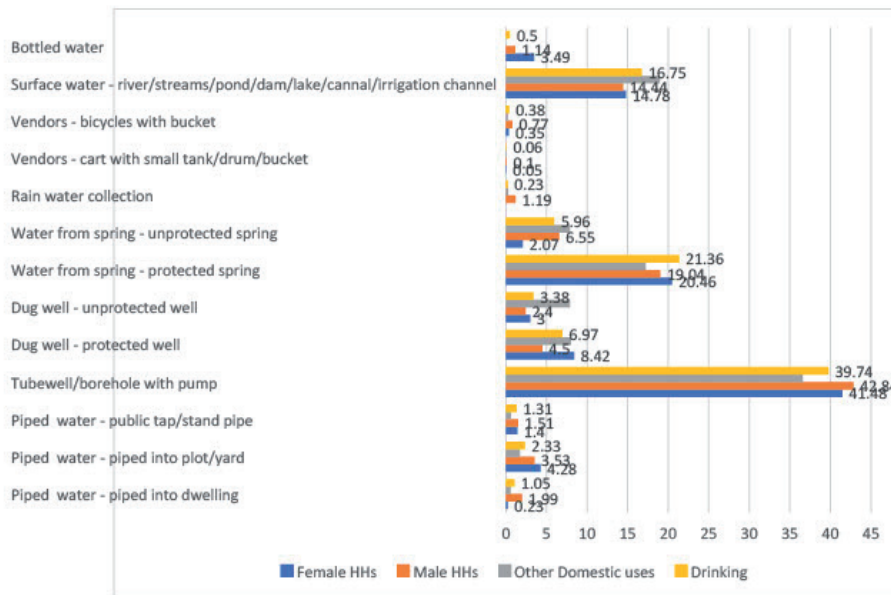
² Busia county 2013-2017 CIDPs

Both men and women are involved in water sourcing; also, 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.

4.2 Access to source of water by households

The major source of water for drinking utilized by households in the county are tubewell/ borehole with pump (39.7%), water from protected springs (21.4%) and surface water³ (16.8%). While most of the male (42.8%) and female (41.8%) headed households use water from tubewell/ borehole, further, there are small portion of the households relies on piped water into plot/yard and piped water (public tap/standpipe) as shown in the figure below.

Figure 4.1: Access to sources of water for drinking and domestic use for households in Busia County



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

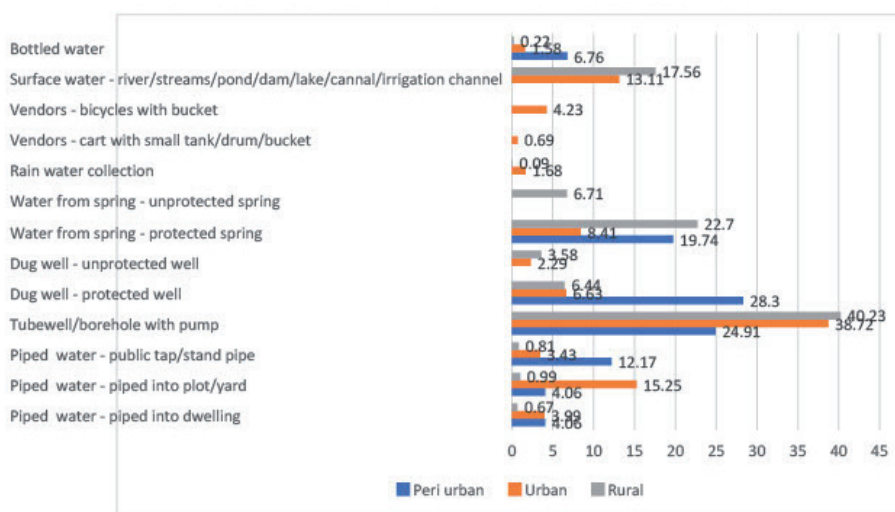
³ Surface water include rivers/dams/lakes/Streams/ponds

both at household and institutional level, this may include supporting schools in building rain harvesting and storage structures in schools from the school structure rooftops, supporting households in rainwater harvesting during rainfall times. Other interventions may include digging boreholes, supply of water to households that experiences water scarcity.

4.3 Access to water by households (rural, urban, and peri-urban)

Busia is both a rural, urban, and peri-urban county with a few urban and trading centres. Majority of the population resides in rural areas and relies on tubewell/borehole water with pump (40.2%) water from protected spring (22.7%) and surface water (17.6%). Similarly, most urban (38.7%) households also rely on tubewell/borehole with pump as well as surface water (13.1%). While most households in peri-urban (28.3%) obtain their drinking water from dug protected and water from protected spring (19.7%).

Figure 4.2: Access to water by households (rural, urban, and peri-urban)



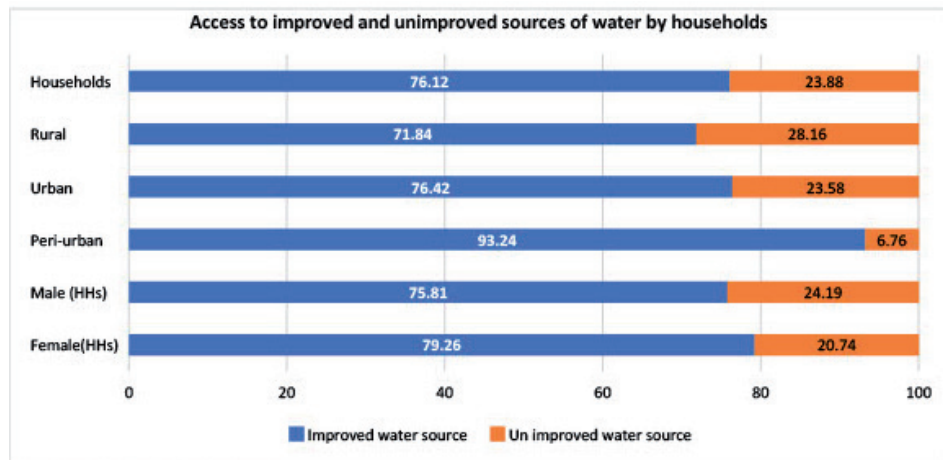
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.4 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 water⁴ is high among households (76.1%) this is same in rural (71.8%) and urban households (76.4%) and peri urban (93.2%). Additionally, both male and female headed households have low access to improved drinking water source of water as shown in the figure below.

Figure 4.3: Access to improved and unimproved sources of water by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

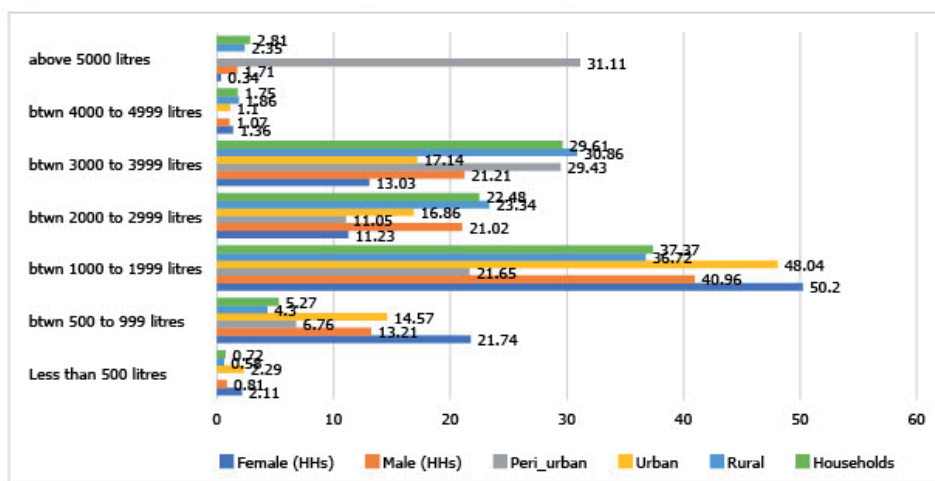
Other important consideration is to have separate water drinking point for livestock, different from the household water drinking water sources to minimize water contamination as well as conflict over water resource. Other long-term measures is to avoid agricultural activities along the upstream to minimize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

4 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.

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

Most households (37.3%), rural (36.7%) and urban (48%) have use between 1000-1999 litres of water in a month compared to peri urban (21.7%). Similarly, female (50%) than male (41%) headed households use between 1000 to 1999 litres of water in a month.

Figure 4.4: Volumes of water used by households in the past month

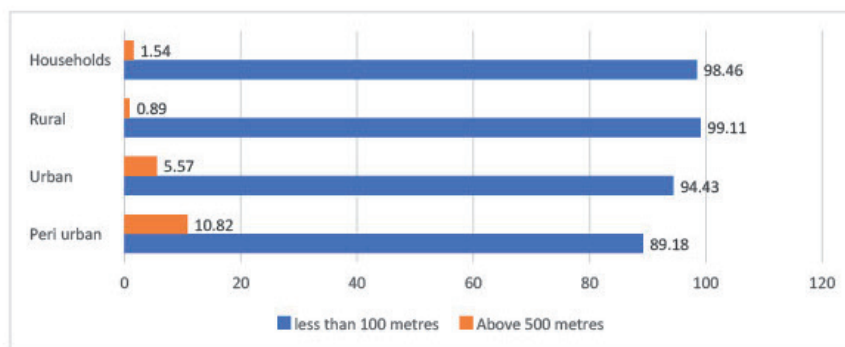


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

Majority of the households (98.5%) 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. (See the figure below).

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



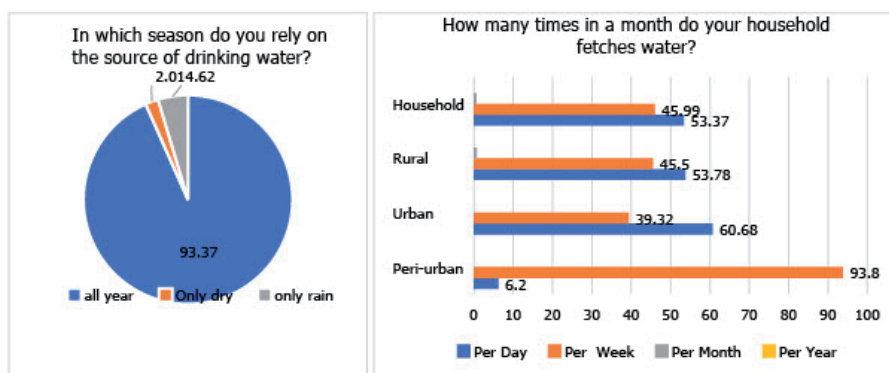
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.7 Access and reliability of water sources

Majority of households (93.4%) in the county relies on the main source of drink water all year round,. Most households (53.4%) must fetch drinking water from the sources on a daily basis both rural (53.9%) urban (60.7%) compared to peri-urban (6.2%) household. This implies that households may not be having water enough water storage facilities that can minimize number of trips to water points in a day putting them at risk of water shortages as well as saving on time for other economic activities.

Figure 4.6: Access and reliability to water sources by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

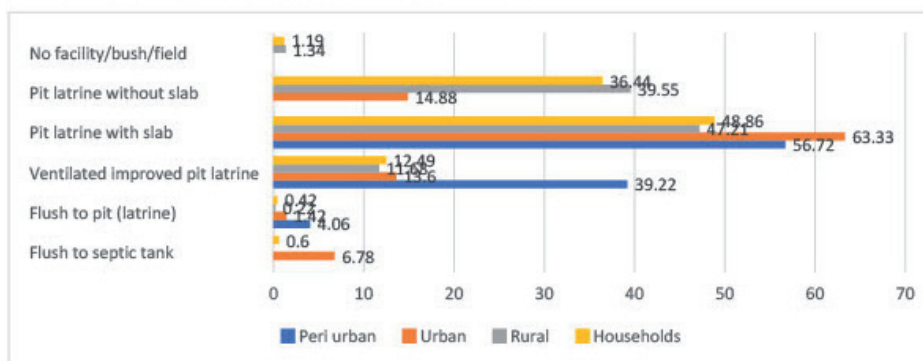
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.8 Access to sanitation

Majority of the households use pit latrine with slab (48.9%), both rural (47.2%) urban (63.3%), and peri-urban (56.7%). There are also proportions of urban households use pit latrine with slab pit latrine without slab (14.9%) and ventilated improved pit latrine (13.6%). See the figure below.

Figure 4.7: Access to sanitation by households in the county



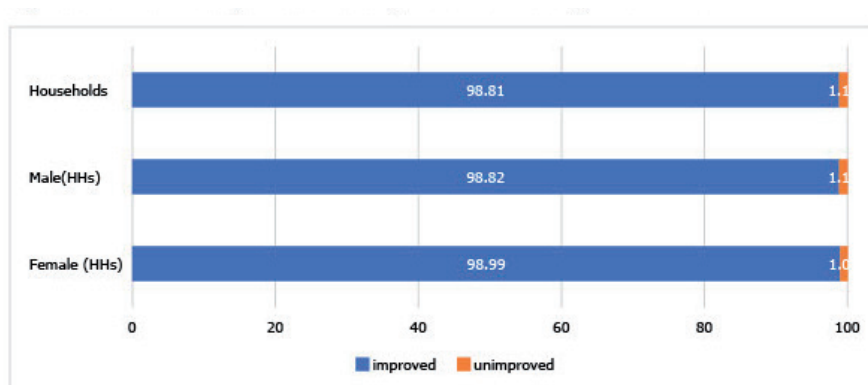
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.9 Access to improved and unimproved sanitation

Majority of the households (98.8%) have access to improved sanitation facilities⁵. This is also similar among male (98.8 per cent and female (99%) headed households.

Figure 4.8: Access to improved and unimproved sanitation by households



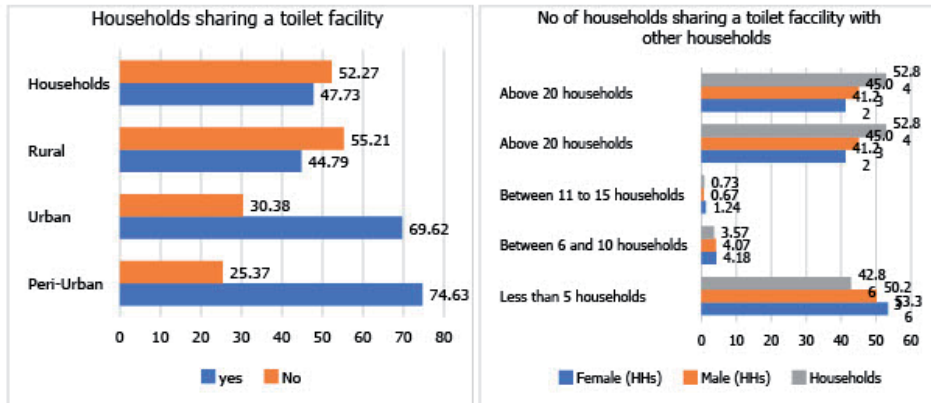
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

⁵ 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

4.10 Sharing of a toilet facility

Additionally, more than half of the households (52.3%) do not share a toilet facility with other households, this is more in rural (55.2%) urban (30%) compared to peri urban (25.4%). On the other hand, most of households (52.4%) share a toilet facility with more than 20 households (male-headed households 45 per cent and female headed households 41%).

Figure 4.9: No of households sharing a toilet facility



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

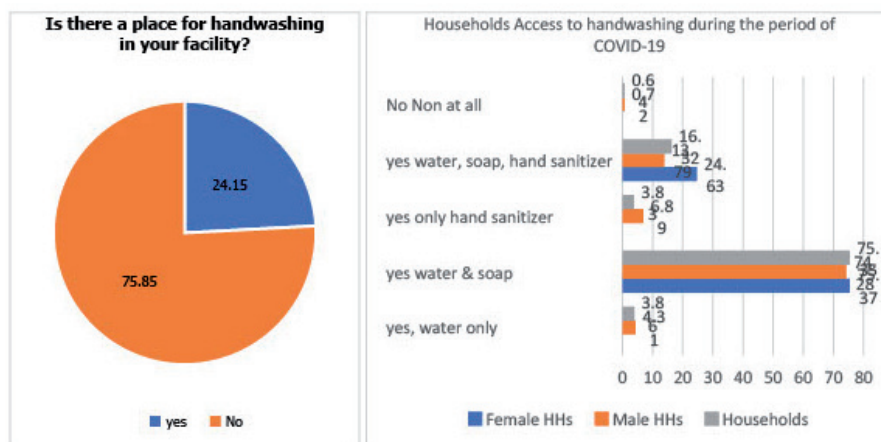
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

4.11 Access to Hygiene (Hand Washing) During the COVID-19 Period

Hygiene has been identified very important in helping to curb transmission of infectious diseases, despite this most households (75.8%) do not have a handwashing facility in their households. Most households (75.4%) have access to WASH (*Water and soap*) during this period of COVID-19. This is more among female (24.6%) than male (13.8%) headed households. Additional 16.3 per cent of the households having access to both water soap and hand sanitizer.

Figure 4.10: Access to hand washing during the COVID-19 period



Source: KNBS KIHBS 2015/2016 Source: KNBS COVID-19 wave 2, 2020

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

4.12 Constraints faced

Currently the county government is facing challenges in revenue collections since COVID-19 has resulted into reduced incomes among households and businesses, this has forced the county government to defer collection of revenue from the water services it provides as well as financial support to water services providers.

COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers if they get infected, they have to be self-isolated, and this may lead to disruption of services. Other constraints include, drought, water leakages

4.13 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.

4.14 Opportunities with COVID-19 in WASH

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

4.15 Emerging Issues

4.15.1 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) Most households in the county have higher access to improved sources of water both in rural (75.4%), urban (78%) and peri urban (93.2%). Clean and safe water guarantees good health leading to low health expenditures among households.
- ii) There is low access to piped water in rural (2.5%), urban (23.7%) and peri urban areas (20.3%). 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.
- iii) Access to improved sanitation remains high in the county both in rural (98.0%), urban (100.0%) and peri urban households (100%).
- iv) Households' connectivity to piped sewer is low at less than 1 per cent in both rural urban and peri urban areas. Low connectivity to piped sewer denies households from access to safe sanitation as well as revenue from sanitation services.
- v) Sharing of a toilet facility with other households is common among households, this is more in urban (69.6%), peri urban (74.6%) compared to rural areas (69.6%). Toilet sharing puts households at risk of contracting COVID-19, and other infectious diseases in cases where proper toilet hygiene is not maintained.
- vi) There is a higher access to hand washing, with majority of households (75.4%) having access to WASH (water and soap) while only 16.3 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.
- vii) On the other hand, 75.8 per cent of the households 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.

4.16 Recommendations

- i) Increase water supply in households, institutions and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties and increasing the water storage capacity to meet the demand.
- ii) Increase private sector involvement in water for production programmes
- iii) Introduce community-based management systems (CBMS) for water production.
- iv) Involve both men and women in water management and governance.

- v) Establish water supply monitoring system for efficiency water supply and management.
- vi) Expand and rehabilitate the existing piped water connection infrastructure to help increase access to water.
- vii) Expand sewer infrastructure to accommodate more households and improve access to safe toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces and public places through building of toilets in communities, schools, hospitals and in public places.
- viii) Conduct sensitization on programs on the importance of handwashing and construct WASH facilities to increase access at the household level.

5. Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

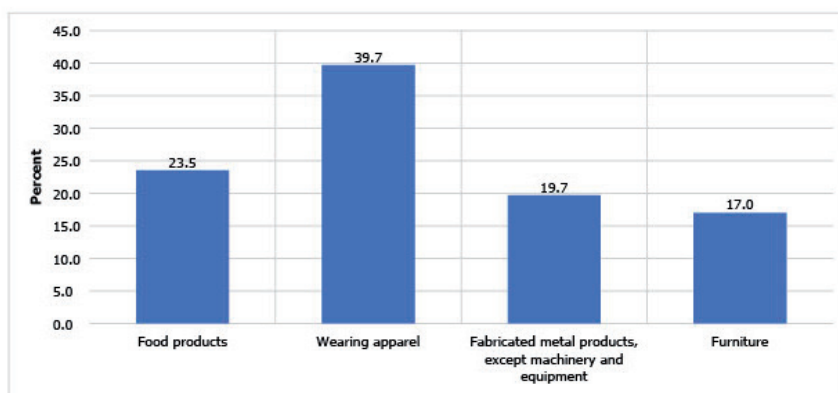
5.1 Characteristic of the Manufacturing sector

Busia county has 2,224 establishments involved in manufacturing activities which comprise of 6.4 per cent of a total of, 34,998 firms (KNBS, 2016). In terms of size, 2,165 (97.4%) are micro while 59 (2.6%) are small.

Sector of operation

A survey done by KNBS in 2016 establishes the key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing in Busia County to include: wearing apparel (39.7%), food products (23.5%), Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (19.7%), and furniture (17%) (figure 5.1). These are some of the sub-sectors that are considered essential in dealing with COVID-19 which are also likely to experience increased activity with focus on food production, production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and hospital beds. The key products that support value addition and drive manufacturing agenda in Busia County include sunflower, maize, poultry, cassava, sorghum, millet, honey, groundnuts, fish, leather, sugarcane and dairy. The large industries driving manufacturing sector in the county are involved in sugar processing, fish filleting and flour milling with potential in cotton ginneries.

Figure 5.1: Sector of operation in manufacturing

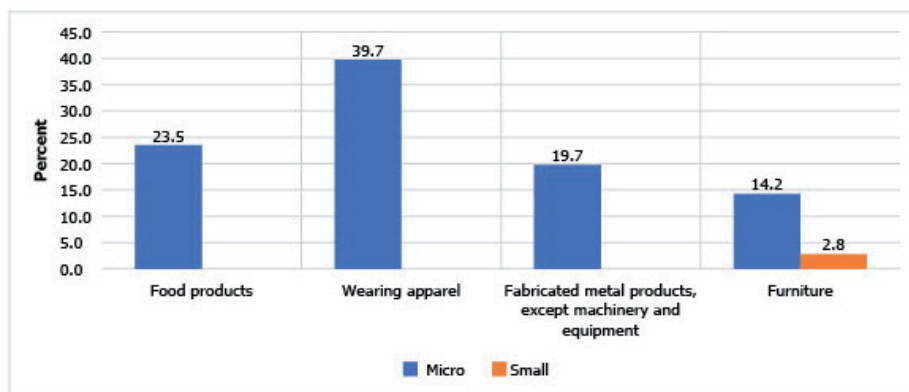


Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.2 Sector of operation by size

Majority of the establishments in Busia County are micro in nature and operate in the wearing apparel (39.7%), food products (23.5%), fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (19.7%), and furniture (14.2%) (figure 5.2). Small sized establishments operate only in furniture (2.8%).

Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size

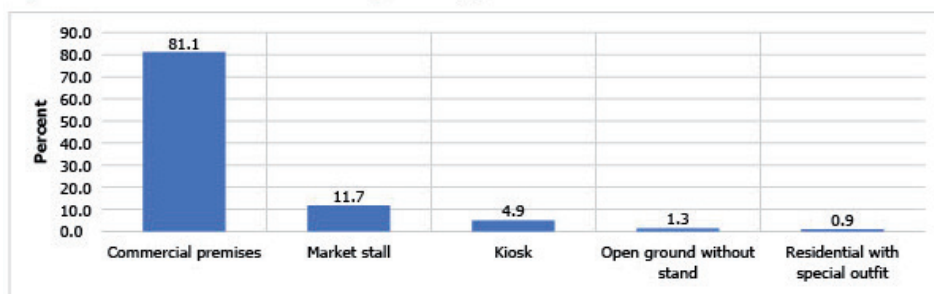


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2.1 Location of manufacturing firms by type of premises

Common premises used by manufacturing firms in Busia County are commercial (81.1%), market stall (11.7%), kiosks (4.9%), and open ground without stand (1.3%) (figure 5.3)

Figure 5.3: Location of manufacturing firms by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.3 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size

Manufacturing establishments in Busia County are male dominated (59.9%), with females comprising 26.3 per cent while 13.8 per cent are jointly owned. Micro-sized firms are 59.9 per cent male owned, 26.3 per cent female owned and 11.5 per cent jointly owned (table 5.1). For small sized firms they are fully joint owned.

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

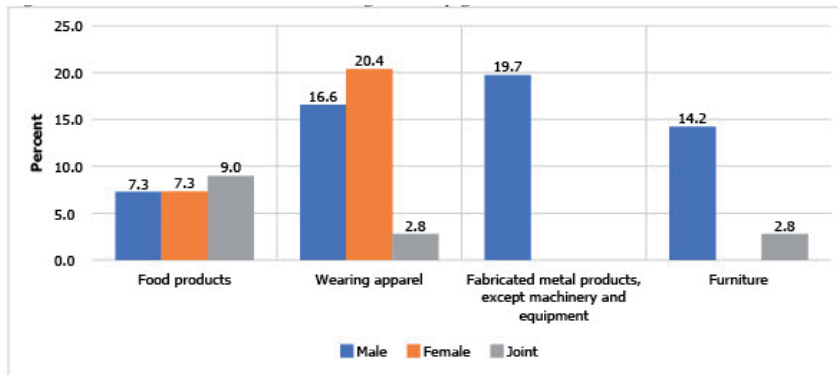
Gender	A11	Micro	Small
Male	1,333 (59.9)	1,333 (59.9)	0 (0)
Female	584 (26.3)	584 (26.3)	0 (0)
Joint	307 (13.8)	248 (11.5)	59 (100)
Total	2,224 (100)	2,165 (100)	59 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.4 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

Majority of the sub-sectors in manufacturing are dominated by males including fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment (19.7%), wearing apparel (16.6%), furniture (14.2%), and food products (7.3%). Females are mostly found in the wearing apparel (20.4%) and food products (7.3%) (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 (77.8%) than women (22.2%). Most men are found in the micro-sized enterprises (69.8%) while 8 per cent are in small-sized enterprises. Women are also largely found in micro-sized establishments (21.3%) (table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms

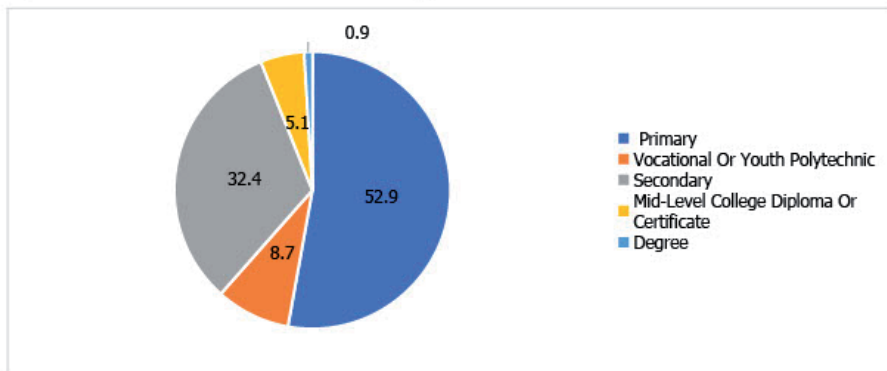
Number of employees	Micro	Small	Total
Male	4,609 (69.8)	528 (8)	5,138 (77.8)
Female	1,407 (21.3)	59 (0.9)	1,466 (22.2)
Total	6,017 (91.1)	588 (8.9)	6,604 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

Education levels of Manufacturing firm owners

Most of the owners of manufacturing enterprises have primary (52.9%), secondary (32.4%), vocational or youth Polytechnic (8.7%), mid-level college diploma or certificate (5.1%), and education (figure 5.5). About 1 per cent of the manufacturing firm owners also have a degree education.

Figure 5.5: Education levels of manufacturing firm owners

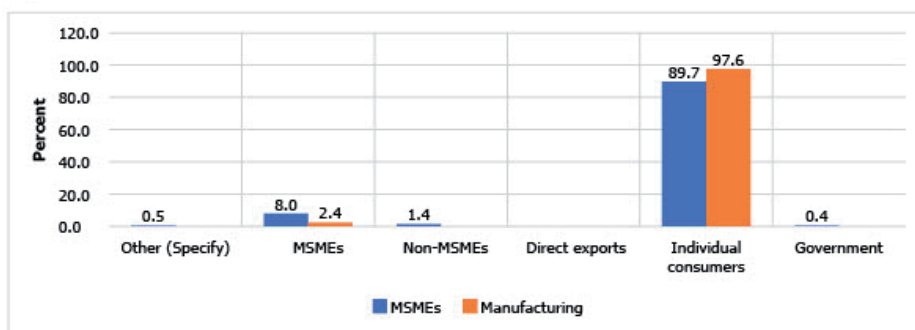


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.5 Source of markets

Majority of manufacturing establishments and MSMEs in general rely on individual consumers for markets at 97.6 per cent and 89.7 per cent respectively (figure 5.6). Other sources of markets for these sectors include MSMEs and non-MSMEs.

Figure 5.6: Source of markets

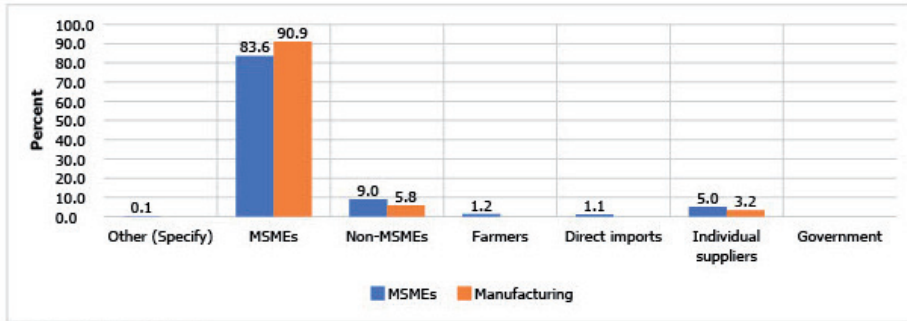


Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.6 Source of material inputs

Generally, manufacturing establishments and MSMEs source for material inputs from amongst MSMEs at 90.9 per cent and 83.6 per cent respectively (figure 5.7). Non-MSMEs as well as Individual suppliers are also important to the supply of inputs in Busia County as shown in figure 5.7.

Figure 5.7: Source of material inputs



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.7 Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

Manufacturing establishments in Busia County are involved in product and process innovations. Innovations are seen under the micro category at 12.1 per cent product while 3.6 per cent are process (table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

Type of innovation	Micro			Small		Total
	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	1,895 (85.2)	270 (12.1)	59 (2.6)	0 (0)	2,224 (100)
Process	0 (0)	2,085 (93.7)	80 (3.6)	59 (2.6)	0 (0)	2,224 (100)
Market	0 (0)	2,165 (97.3)	0 (0)	59 (2.6)	0 (0)	2,224 (100)

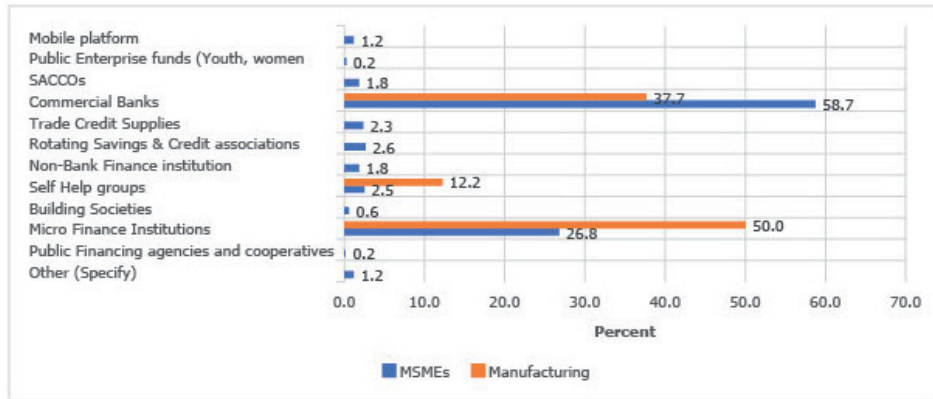
Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.8 Access to credit for Manufacturing and MSMEs firms

As per the MSME 2016 survey, 61 per cent of MSMEs and 63 per cent of those in manufacturing applied for credit. The major sources of financing for establishments in manufacturing include: Micro Finance Institutions (50%), commercial banks (37.7%), and

self help groups (12.2%). MSMEs largely rely mainly on commercial banks (58.7%), and micro finance institutions (26.8%) for their credit (figure 5.8).

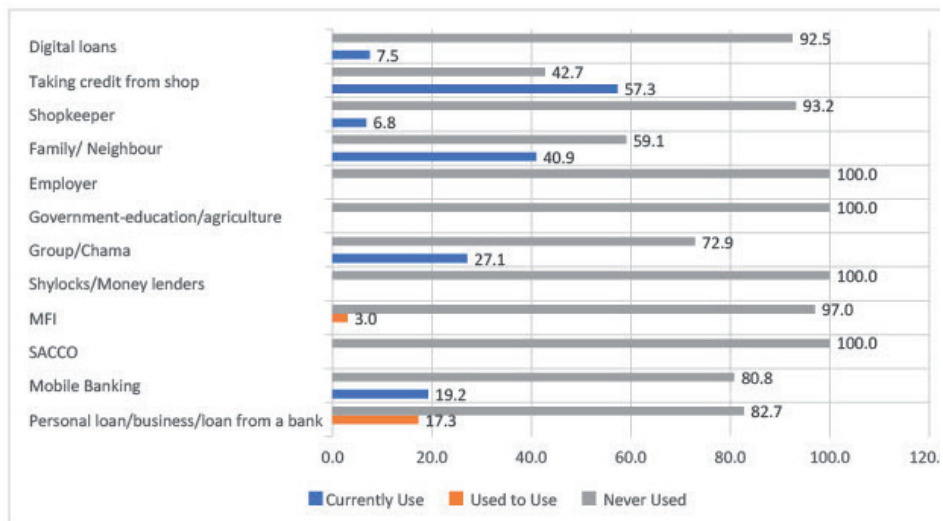
Figure 5.8: Sources of finance



Source: KNBS, 2016

Recent evidence from FinAccess 2019 provides further insights on sources of credit for businesses in Busia County. Businesses commonly obtain credit from the conventional sources such as shops (57.3%), family/neighbour (40.9%), groups/chama (27.1%), and some obtain credit in kind from shops in form of goods (6.8%). Emerging sources of credit for businesses in Busia County include mobile money (19.2%) and digital loans (7.5%) (figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit

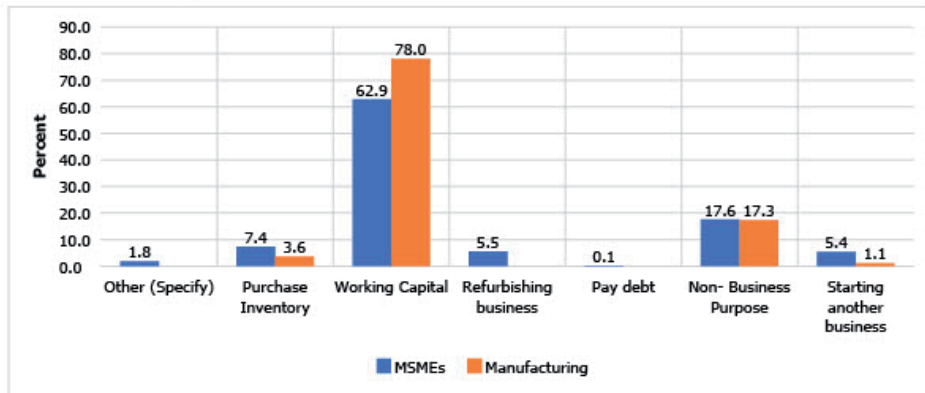


Source: FinAccess, 2019

5.9 Purpose of credit

Figure 5.10 presents the main purpose of credit by both MSMEs and manufacturing firms. Overall, manufacturing firms require credit for: working capital (78%), purchase inventory (3.6%), starting another business (1.1%), among others. MSMEs in Busia County require credit for purchase inventory (7.4%), business refurbishment (5.5%), and starting another business (5.4%).

Figure 5.10: Main purpose of credit

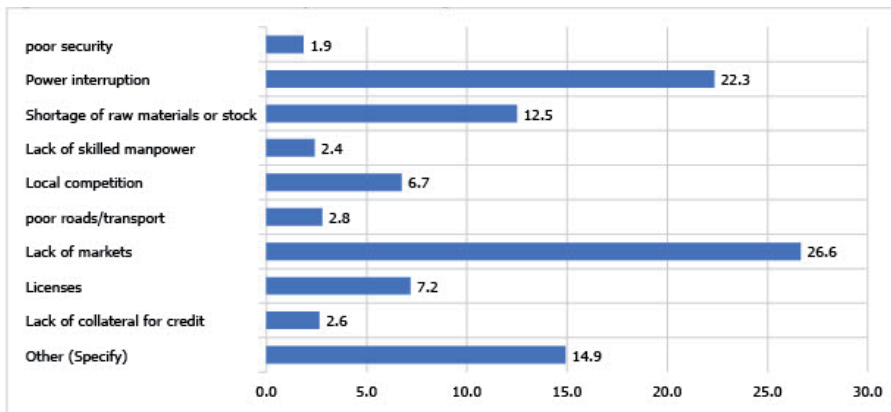


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.10 Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

The main constraints faced by establishments in manufacturing include lack of markets (26.6%), power interruption (22.3%), shortage of raw materials or stock (12.5%), licenses (7.2%), and local competition (6.7%) (figure 5.11).

Figure 5.11: Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

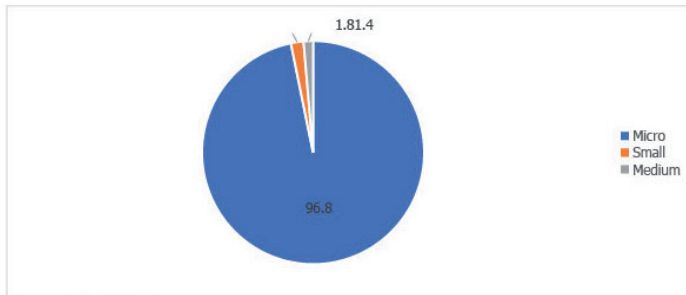


Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.11 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Busia County has 34,998 establishments⁶ with 33,874 (96.8%) being micro; 644 (1.8%) are small; and 481 (1.4%) are medium enterprises (KNBS, 2016) (figure 5.12).

Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by size

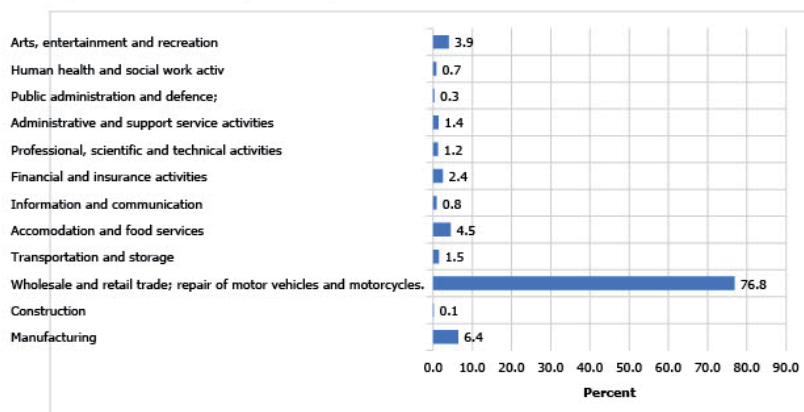


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.11.1 Sector of operation by MSMEs

Most MSMEs in Busia County operate in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (76.8%), manufacturing (6.4%), accommodation and food services (4.5%), and arts, entertainment and recreation (3.9%) (Figure 5.13). Ideally, these sectors have been worst hit by the pandemic and need targeted interventions in achieving reengineering and recovery.

Figure 5.13: Sector of operation by MSMEs



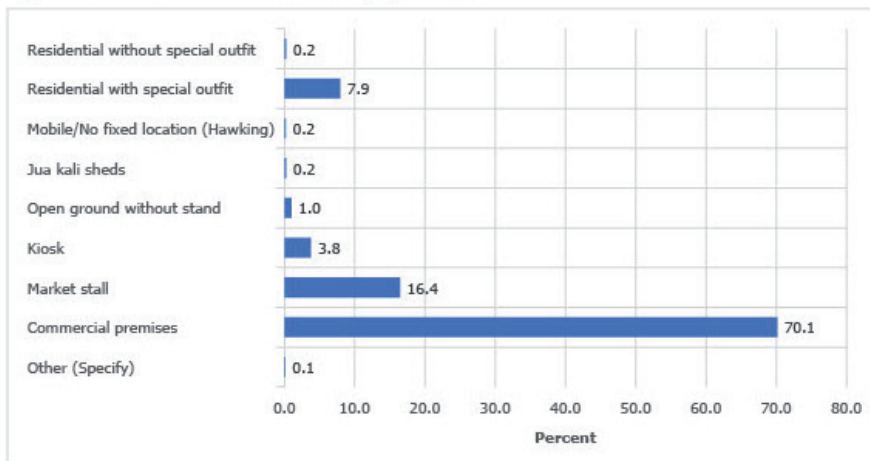
Source: KNBS, 2016

6 After applying weights

5.11.2 Location of the businesses by type of premises

MSMEs in Busia County are largely located in commercial premises (70.1%), market stalls (16.4%), residential with special outfit (7.9%), and kiosks (3.8%) (Figure 5.14). Majority of the businesses in the County could be having many difficulties in meeting their rental obligations due income disruptions occasioned by COVID-19. According to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey 53.9 per cent of the non-farm businesses attributed non-payment of household rental obligations to reduced incomes/earnings, 23.1 per cent due to temporary layoffs/closure of businesses, while 7.7 per cent attributed the same to permanent layoffs/closure of businesses. For those involved in farm businesses, 50 per cent attributed the same to temporary layoffs/closure of businesses while 25 per cent were affected by permanent layoffs/closure of businesses and reduced incomes/earnings each.

Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.11.3 Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size

Table 5.4 shows the distribution of MSMEs in Busia County by gender: 42.2 per cent are male owned, 23.3 per cent are female owned, while 34.5 per cent are jointly owned (male/female). For Micro establishments, 42.2 per cent are male owned, 24 per cent are female owned, while 33.8 per cent are jointly owned.

Table 5.2: Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size -N (per cent)

Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Medium
Male	14,776 (42.2)	14,299 (42.2)	397 (61.7)	80 (16.7)
Female	8,135 (23.3)	8,138 (24)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joint	12,085 (34.5)	11,437 (33.8)	247 (38.3)	400 (83.3)
Total	34,998 (100)	33,874 (100)	644 (100)	481 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

Males' owners also dominate ownership among small sized establishments at 61.7 per cent while 38.3 per cent are jointly owned in the same category. Considering medium sized establishments majority are jointly owned (83.3%).

Regarding employment, more male (67.7%) are employed in MSMEs in Busia County followed by females (32.3%). Micro sized establishments employ more people (66%) compared to small (7.5%) and medium (26.5%) (Table 5.5). Micro firms employ 39.2 per cent male and 26.7 per cent female, small sized employ 5.7 per cent male and 1.8 per cent female while medium sized establishments employ 22.8 per cent male and 3.7 per cent female.

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

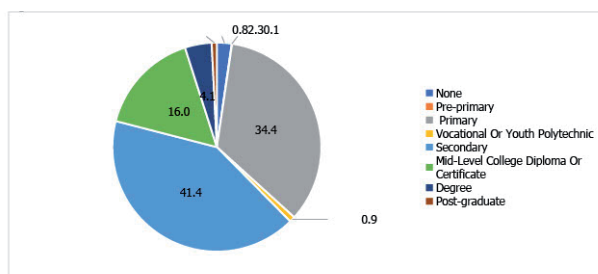
Gender	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
Male	47,172 (39.2)	6,811 (5.7)	24,470 (22.8)	81,454 (67.7)
Female	32,157 (26.7)	2,215 (1.8)	4,405 (3.7)	38,777 (32.3)
Total	79,329 (66)	9,026 (7.5)	31,875 (26.5)	120,230 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.11.4 Education levels of MSME owners

Figure 5.15 indicates that majority of MSME owners in Busia County have a secondary education (41.4%) while 34.4 per cent have primary and 16 per cent mid-level college diploma or certificate education respectively (figure 5.15). About 4.1 per cent of the MSMEs owners have a degree education.

Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.11.5 Level of innovation by MSMEs

Low levels of innovation are reported in Busia County with only micro and medium establishments recording the same. For micro sized and medium establishments 14.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent engage in product, process and market innovation respectively and in each (table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Level of innovation by MSMEs Level of innovation by MSMEs

Type of Innovation	Micro				Small				Medium		Total
	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	0 (0)	28,739 (82.5)	4,975 (14.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	644 (1.8)	0 (0)	320 (0.9)	160 (0.5)	3,273 (100)
Process	0 (0)	0 (0)	28,739 (82.5)	4,975 (14.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	644 (1.8)	0 (0)	320 (0.9)	160 (0.5)	3,273 (100)
Market	0 (0)	0 (0)	28,739 (82.5)	4,975 (14.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	644 (1.8)	0 (0)	320 (0.9)	160 (0.5)	3,273 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.12 E-commerce

Participation in e-commerce by households in Busia County is below the national average. About 1.9 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 (2.6%) than women (1.4%) do. With introduction of stay-at-home protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Busia County since fewer households participate in the same.

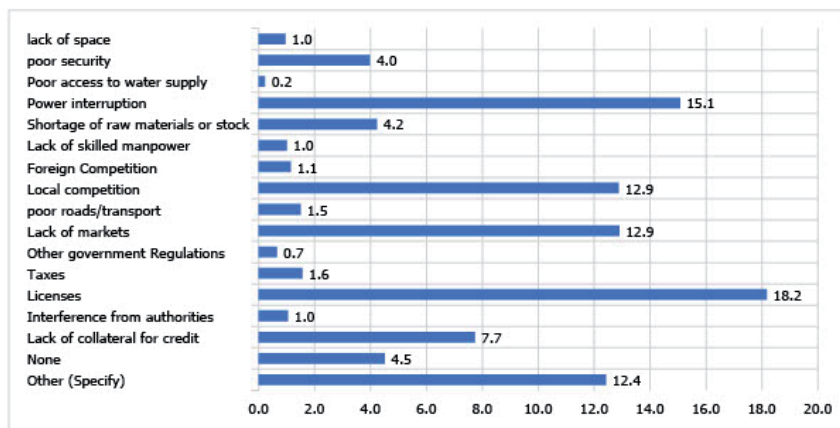
5.13 Turnover tax

Only 15.3 per cent of MSMEs in Busia County (5,341) 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.

5.14 Constraints faced by MSMEs

The key constraints faced by MSMEs in Busia County include licences (18.2%), power interruption (15.1%), lack of markets (12.9%), local competition (12.9%), lack of collateral for credit (7.7%), and shortage of raw materials or stock (figure 5.16).

Figure 5.16: Main constraints faced by MSMEs



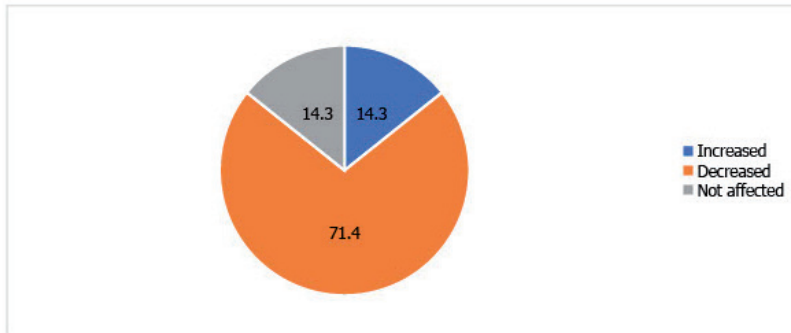
Source: KNBS, 2016.

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

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

The effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses in Busia County are presented in figure 5.178. 71.4 per cent of the respondents report a decrease in their business activities due to the pandemic while 14.3 per cent were not affected. Equally 71.4 per cent of the respondents have had a decrease in their income due to COVID-19. This is an indicator that COVID-19 is already having a negative effect on the non-farm and farm businesses even though the situation is still evolving.

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

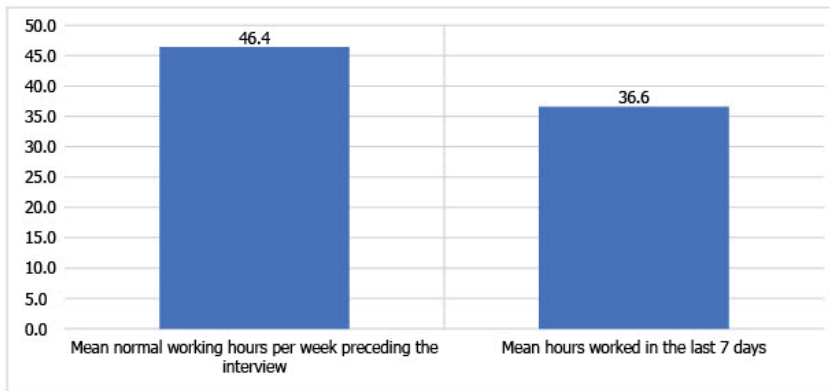


Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

5.16 Labour dynamics

During the period considered in KNBS COVID_19 Survey 2020 data collection, respondents reported a decrease of 9.8 hours in the mean working hours for household non-farm and farm businesses Busia County which implies a decrease in economic activities between the interview periods (figure 5.18). This could be as a result of agriculture, service and manufacturing activities considering these significantly form the main stay of the County.

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



Source: KNBS, COVID-19, Survey 2020

The survey also indicated the wholesale and retail trade sector lost 12.4 hours in usual and actual hours worked while accommodation and food services were hard hit and lost 31 hours in a week. This is an indicator of the adverse effects on the service sector of Busia County due to the pandemic, which imply loss of productivity, output, and employment. The manufacturing sector lost 11.5 hours.

5.17 Key Messages:

- a) The key sectors that drive the economy of Busia County include: Agriculture, Services, and Manufacturing. Hence, support should be prioritised to these sectors to ensure re-engineering of the County economy.
- b) Most MSMEs in Busia County operate in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; manufacturing; accommodation and food services; and arts, entertainment and recreation. Ideally, these are the sectors that have been worst hit by the pandemic and need targeted interventions in achieving reengineering and recovery.
- c) MSMEs in Busia County are largely located in commercial premises, market stalls, residential with special outfit, and kiosks. Hence 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.
- d) COVID-19 presents opportunities that could be harnessed like development and support of innovations to address the pandemic. These include production of essential goods such as; masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators. However as the pandemic subsides, the transition need to be managed smoothly.
- e) Manufacturing establishments must also adopt to cope with the new guidelines which could include rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- f) Training and capacity building are important in assisting MSMEs to surmount the shocks faced during the pandemic but also allow for re-emergence.
- g) 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.

5.18 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:

- i) Agro-processing for value addition with important areas of focus include production and processing of sunflower, maize, poultry, cassava, sorghum, millet, honey, groundnuts, fish, leather, sugarcane, and dairy.
- ii) The textile and wearing apparel sectors can be enhanced to provide PPEs for use within the County and potentially for the export market.
- iii) COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods. It is an opportunity for industry and MSMEs development and generation of jobs for the youth.

5.19 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 Busia County's planned activities due to reduced projected revenues.
- ii) The need to identify and promote specific and emerging value chains because of COVID-19, and which the 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.
- iv) There is need for legislative amendments to ensure the Buy Kenya Build Kenya initiative is implemented at the County.

5.20 Recommendations

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

- i) Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short run. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify, and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit, waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges.
- ii) COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth.
- iii) Collaborate with National government to rehabilitate fish landing sites in Mulukhoba as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the Lake Victoria rehabilitation programme.
- iv) Adopt the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing and maintain high standards of hygiene through having hand washing facilities in manufacturing establishments.
- v) Collaborate with the Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to sensitize MSEs on issues of counterfeits and dumping of goods.
- vi) Revive the cotton ginneries in Nambale, Amukura and Mulwanda.

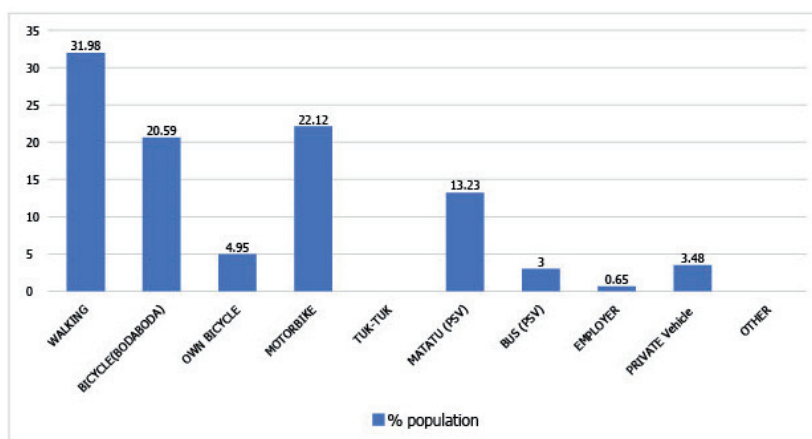
6. Infrastructure

6.1 Transport sector

6.1.1 Characteristics of the sector

Busia – Malaba highway is attracting more and more truck drivers, which has led huge traffic. In Busia majority of households own a bicycle (34.3%) and motorcycle (11.8%). Car ownership is at (2.9%) KNBS, 2019. The main means of transport used in the County is walking at 31.98 per cent, followed by bicycle motorbike 22.12 per cent, bodaboda 20.59 per cent, PSV matatus at 13.23 per cent, and own bicycle 4.95 per cent, figure 6.1, while per cent 85.45 per cent of the population had not changed the main means of transport (KNBS, 2020b). On average, residents travel 1.00 kilometers to their workplace at an average cost of KES 84.79. For the commute to school, residents spend on average KES 135.93 (KIHBS, 2015/16).

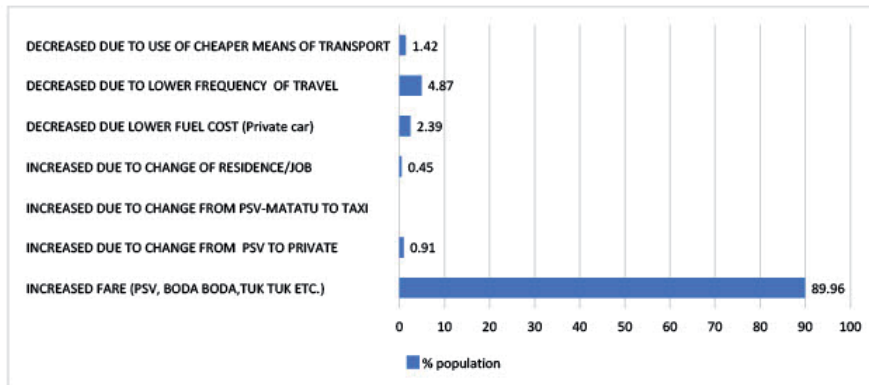
Figure 6.1: Main means of transport



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

The KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 revealed that 52.85 per cent of the population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute (figure 6.2). The expenditure on transport increased by 49.45 per cent from Ksh 91 before February 2020 to Ksh 136 in May 2020 for a one-way trip. The main change (89.96%) in transport cost was attributed to increased fares for PSV, BodaBoda and TukTuk.

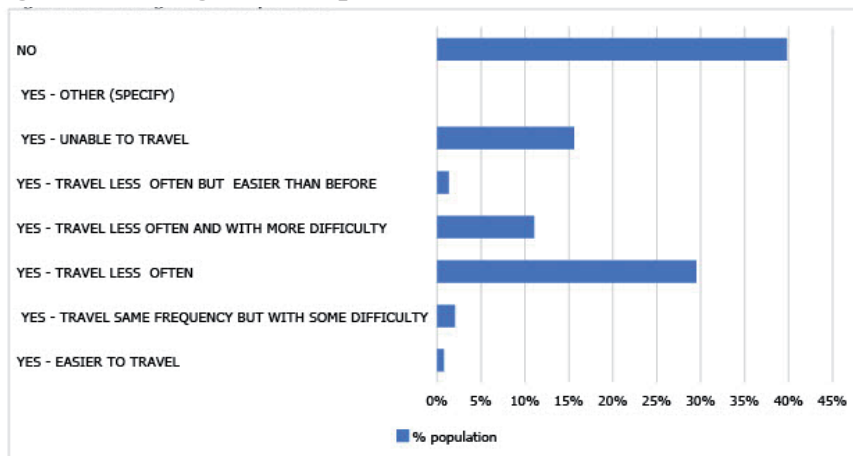
Figure 6.2: How has the cost of your MAIN travel changed



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

Residents had changed their travel patterns with 29.5 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 2.01 per cent travelled with the same frequency but with some difficulty, and 15.58 per cent were unable to travel. However, 39.79 per cent of the population did not change their travel pattern (figure 6.3).

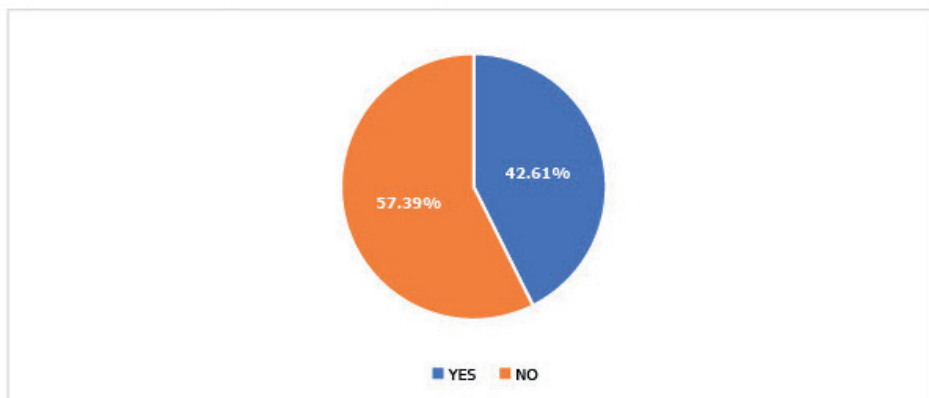
Figure 6.3: Change in travel patterns



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

The pandemic has affected delivery of goods and services for 42.61 per cent of households (figure 6.3).

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



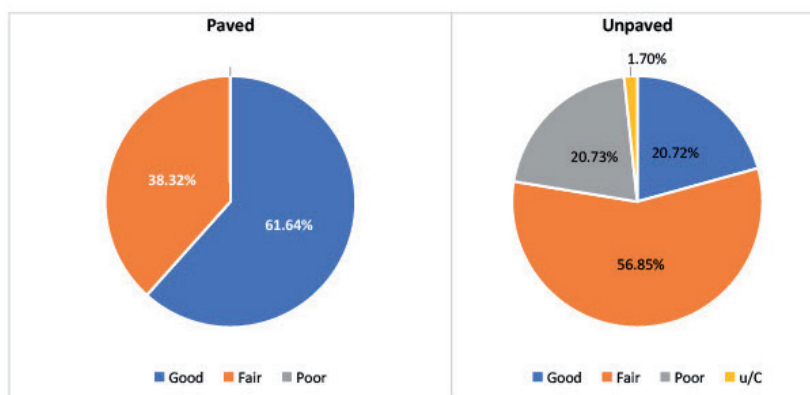
Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

The County was allocated a total of Ksh 231,792,232 from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund towards road maintenance in the Financial 2017/18 (OCOB, 2019).

6.2 Road network

The county has 3,241.61 Kilometres of classified road network. The paved County Road network covers 13.05 Kms, while the paved National roads covers 154.44 Kms. Out of the total paved road network of 167.49 Kms, 61.64 per cent is in good condition, 38.32 per cent in fair condition and 0.04 per cent in poor condition. The unpaved road network in the county covers 1151.09 Kms (county roads) and 241.22 Kms (National roads), of this, 20.72 per cent is in good condition, 56.85 per cent fair and 20.73 per cent in poor condition as depicted in figure 6.5 (KRB, 2019).

Figure 6.5: Road condition mix-classified road network



Source: Transport data

The unclassified road network in the County covers 1,681.81KMs, with 1220.06KMs of narrow roads, that is, road with a reserve of between 4 -9 meters, while there is a total of 461.75 kilometres of new roads.

6.3 Constraints faced

The Rural Access Index (RAI) measures the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road⁷. The county has a RAI of 97 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 with regard to sectors that rely on accessibility such as agriculture, trade and overall development. The road condition mix of the unpaved network at 57 per cent is a constraint to development.

6.3.1 Opportunities with COVID-19 in transport sector

With reference to the 8-point stimulus programme by the National Government⁸ and resources allocated to road development and maintenance, the County can strategically improve the road network for economic development, while creating jobs for youth, women and vulnerable groups as espoused in the Roads 2000 programme⁹ 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) approach¹⁰ offers a strategic and cost-effective approach to improve rural accessibility in the County.

6.3.2 Emerging Issues

Poor road conditions for unpaved network

Reliance on PSV transport requires enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures

6.4 Recommendations

- i) Design and develop transport infrastructure to cater for the long-distance cargo trucks and freight services that use the border crossing.
- ii) Sensitize PSV and boda boda operators on COVID-19 prevention measures and assist vehicle owners in retrofitting the seating designs
- iii) 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 policy¹¹.

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

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

9 Roads 2000 programme <http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roads-per-cent202000-per-cent20strategic-per-cent20plan.pdf>

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

11 Roads 2000 programme <http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roads-per-cent202000-per-cent20strategic-per-cent20plan.pdf>

- iv) 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.
- v) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) in urban areas and along roads with heavy -highspeed traffic to promote sustainable mobility options and enhance road safety for all road users. This is in line with the Integrated National Transport Policy 2009 and the Sustainable Development Goals¹².
- vi) Adopt climate smart road engineering designs to safeguard road and bridge infrastructure from floods and to harvest storm water for irrigation and productive use.

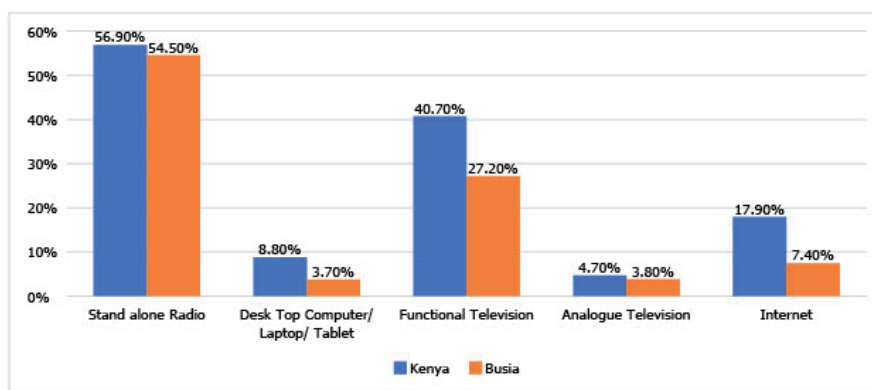
6.5 Information and Communication Technology

ICT is up and running, the county has plans to develop an ICT data Centre and money was budgeted.

6.5.1 Characteristics of the sector

The analysis of the 2019 KPHC reveals that only 7.4 per cent of the conventional households in the county ‘own’ internet with 3.7 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 6.7).

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



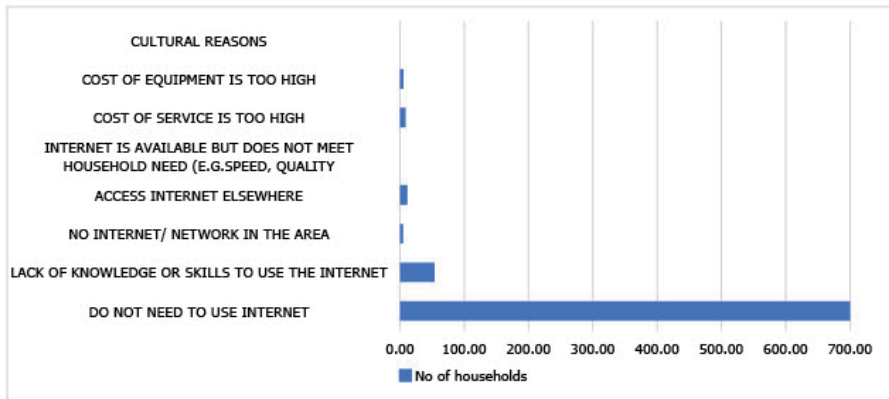
Source: KNBS (2019), Kenya Population and Housing Census

Online shopping is not prevalent in the County. 1.9 per cent of the conventional households searched and bought goods/services online. There exists gender disparity in online shopping with more men (2.6%) than women (1.4%) undertaking online shopping.

¹² Sustainable Mobility for All: <https://sum4all.org/implementing-sdgs>

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).

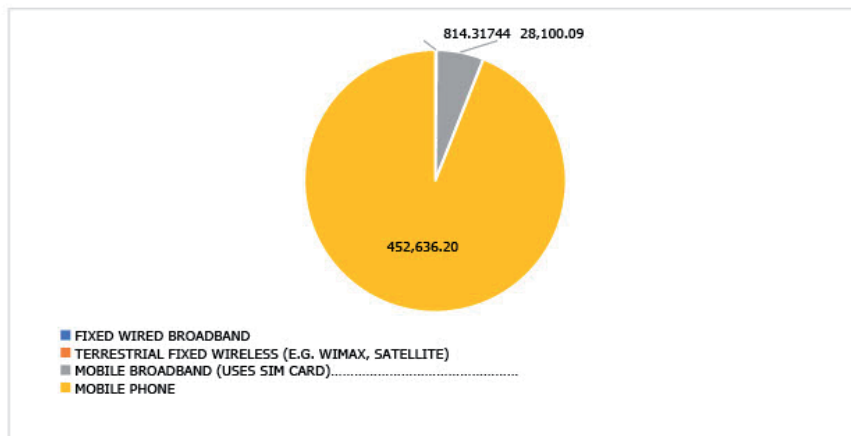
Figure 6.7: Why doesn't this household have any type of internet connection? KHIBS 2015/16



Source: KHIBS 2015/2016

Approximately 94 per cent of the internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of 6 per cent relying on mobile broad band that uses a sim card for connectivity.

Figure 6.8: Type of internet connection

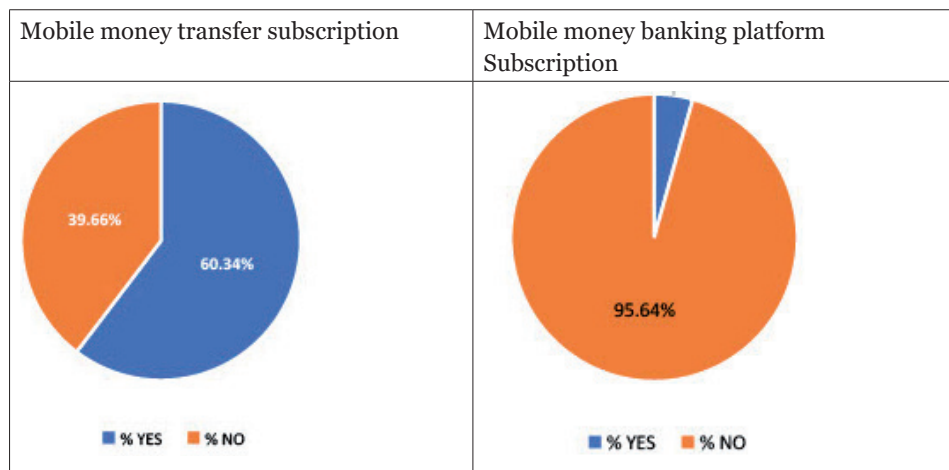


Source: KHIBS 2015/2016

Approximately 38.4 per cent of the population aged 3 years and above own a mobile phone, which is lower than the national average of 47.3 per cent.

Approximately 60.34 per cent of the people in the county have a mobile money subscription compared with only 4.36 per cent that have a mobile money banking platform subscription (KHIBS 2015/16) (figure 6.9).

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



Source: KHIBS 2015/16

The county experience gender divide in use of internet and ICT devices as well as mobile money subscriptions. Both internet and ICT device use is higher among the male with 16.3 per cent of the men and 10.9 per cent of the women using internet, while 7.2 per cent of the men and 4.7 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.

6.5.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 on ICT

Working with the national government to connect the county to the fiber network under the NFOBI programme. Public primary schools have installed ICT capability

6.6 Emerging Issues

ICT sector is up and set and a budget have been allocated to construct an ICT data centers to ensure connectivity in the entire county. Currently, we are connecting the entire County Government to ICT services to ensure communication between departments and sectors

6.7 Recommendations

- i) Support programmes in partnership with the private sector that will enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile

- phone ownership from the low of 38.4 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony¹³
- ii) Invest in terrestrial and aerial telecommunication technology to ensure reliable and affordable access to internet (internet everywhere). Collaborate with the Communications Authority and telecom service providers to utilize the Universal Service Fund¹⁴ as a “last resort” in providing ICT access in remote areas where market forces fail to expand access.
 - iii) Negotiate with the public primary schools for community access to ICT infrastructure and collaboratively build and equip youth empowerment, ICT centers and ICT laboratories as provided in the CIDP.
 - iv) The IT personnel in public primary schools can be deployed to support the development of ICT competence and skills among the public.
 - v) Enhance internet connectivity to public buildings and key trade centres to boost e-commerce especially for MSMEs in trade and business. The NOFBI programme can be expanded to the sub-county administrative units to further enable deployment of e-governance solutions.
 - vi) Make ICT a standalone sector for planning and budget allocation. This is aimed at giving strategic prominence to planning, budgeting and investment in ICT.
 - vii) Develop and implement ICT policies and procedures to manage ICT and mitigate cyber threats. Collaborate with the national Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) and the Communications Authority (CA) towards managing cyber threats. This is because enhanced use of ICT is known to raise threats and risks related to cyber-crime and misinformation.

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

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

7. Housing and Urban Development

No informal settlements for instance slums in Busia County. Busia is formulating its spatial plan, which will be instrumental in mitigating informal settlements and ensure proper planning in towns. The biggest issue with housing is floods, temporary shelter has been provided in schools, churches and through tents to mitigate.

There are six urban centers in the County with a total population of 48.3 per cent males and 51.7 per cent females (table 7.1). The urban land area covers 45 square kilometers with a population density of 2508 persons per sq.km

Table 7.1: Distribution of population by Urban Centers by gender

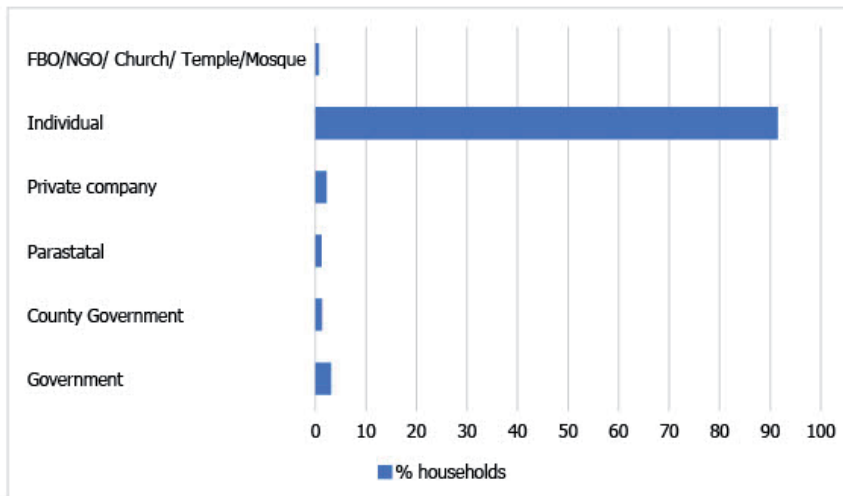
Urban Center	Population	Male	Female
Busia	71,886	34,978	36,908
Malaba	15,581	7,573	8,008
Port Victoria	12,194	5,916	6,278
Amagoro	4,182	1,990	2,192
Nambale	3,993	1,802	2,191
Funyula	3,645	1,675	1,970

Source: KNBS 2019- Kenya Population and Housing Census

7.1 Characteristics of the sector

The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 81.7 per cent, with 18.3 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 91.5 per cent, followed by National Government (3.1%); and Private Companies (2.2%) (figure 7.1); For those who own homes, 97.9 per cent constructed the houses while 0.8 per cent purchased the house and 1.3 per cent inherited their homes (KNBS, 2019).

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



Source: KNBS, 2019 -Kenya Population and Housing Census

7.1.1 Gender and youth

Majority of households are headed by men (61.3%) compared to women (38.7%) in the County (KIHBS, 2015/16).

7.1.2 Housing quality

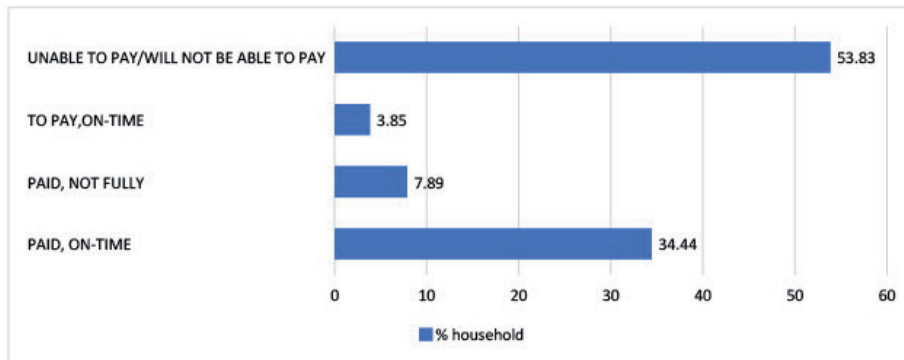
On average, the main dwellings of houses in the County have 2.07 habitable rooms against an average household size of 5.89 persons in a household, translating to approximately 2.85 people per room. According to the UN-Habitat, overcrowding occurs when there are more than three people per room¹⁵. In terms of housing quality (building material), 25.79 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing compared to 74.21 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials (KIHBS, 2015/16). Majority of households (86.6%) have iron sheets for roofing, mud/cow dung walls (60.8%) and dung floors (46.3%) (KNBS, 2019).

7.1.3 Rent payment

On average, rental households spend approximately Ksh 6306 on rent with a minimum of Ksh 500 and the maximum of Ksh 110003 (KNBS, 2020b). The county recorded a rent to income ratio of 16.33 per cent which is within the acceptable threshold of 30 per cent (KNBS, 2012/13).

15 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).)

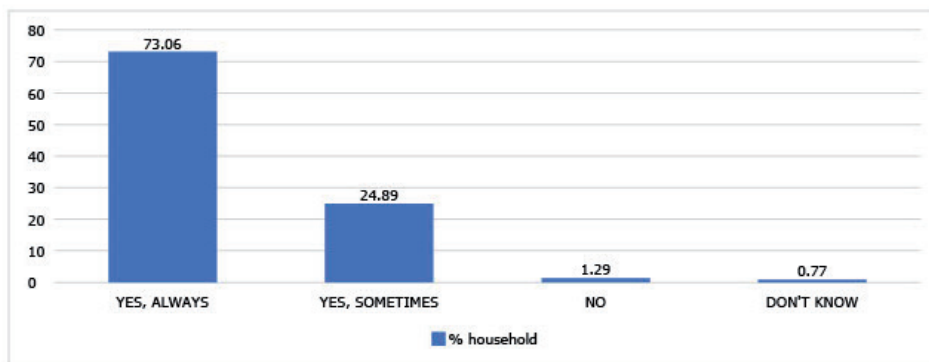
Figure 7.2: Has your household paid the rent for April 2020 on the agreed date



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

With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households’ ability to pay rent has been affected, with 53.83 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date for April 2020 (figure 7.2), compared to 34.44 per cent of the population that were able to pay rent on the agreed date and 73.06 per cent who paid rent on agreed date before COVID-19 pandemic (figure 7.3).

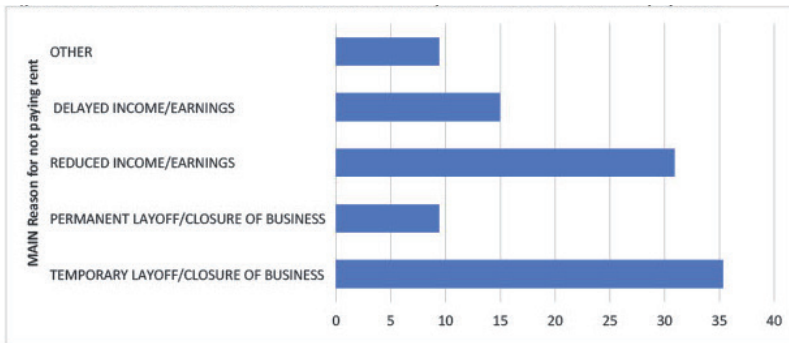
Figure 7.3: Was the household paying rent on the agreed date with the landlord before COVID-19?



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

The main reason that has made households unable to pay rent was attributed to Temporary layoff/closure of business reported by 35.31 per cent of the population. The inability to pay rent was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by 94.45 per cent of the population (figure 7.4).

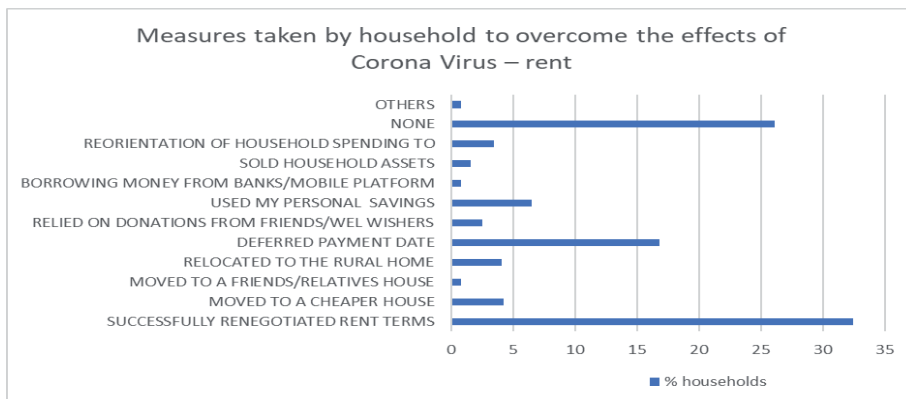
Figure 7.4: What is the MAIN reason that has made your household unable to pay rent?



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

Majority of the households (85.65%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, with 10.5 per cent reporting a partial waiver and 1.59 per cent reporting a full waiver. To overcome the effects of Corona virus on payment on rent, majority 32.42 per cent of households renegotiated rent terms, while 26.14 per cent of households did not take any measures. Approximately 6.47 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



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-Wave2

Regarding primary energy source for cooking, 92.9 per cent of households rely on unclean sources of energy for cooking such as firewood, paraffin and charcoal, which could adversely affect respiratory health of women and children.

7.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in housing and Urban development.

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

7.3 Emerging Issues

- i) Through the department of lands, the county put resources to acquire land in this financial year and for land titling
- ii) The county has plans in the next financial year to construct civil servants and public houses in the county. The county is renovating county government houses.
- iii) Through the World Bank Kenya Urban Support Programme, Busia has received funds to develop infrastructure such as roads within Busia municipality, (5-10 kms) have been constructed. And development of infrastructure in Malaba
- iv) No informal settlements eg slums in Busia county. Busia is formulating its spatial plan which will be instrumental in mitigating informal settlements and ensure proper planning in towns.

7.4 Recommendations

- i) 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.
- ii) Identify and designate urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019.
- iii) 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.
- 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.

8. Tourism

8.1 Characteristics of the Sector

Some of the tourist products and attraction sites in the county include Nature Based tourism (Lake Victoria; River Nzoia and Yala swamp; Kakapel National Monument / rock site; The Kavirondo series rocks; The samia hills; Rock art); Wildlife; Cultural and heritage tourism (Traditional songs and dances; Traditional medicine, rock art); Water sports (boat-racing on the lower Samia); and agro-tourism (Cotton and tobacco farming; agroforestry).

The hospitality industry in Busia County has attracted many new investors attributed to rising demand for accommodation and conference facilities due to devolution, NGOs, higher learning institutions, long distance truck drivers and increased number of visitors/traders who enter and exit the country through Malaba and Busia border posts. The county does not have star-rated hotel facilities. It has approximately 13 major unclassified hotels with a bed capacity of 526 located mainly in Malaba and Busia Towns and a few others in other parts of the county such as Amagoro, Bumala and Port Victoria. Accommodation and food services account for 0.5 per cent of total GCP, despite the potential of the sector to contribute more to socio-economic development of the county.

In terms of linkage of tourism with other sectors, according to the second CIDP, the county government is working on improving connectivity through water transport to link its islands; Sumba and Nabuduma and other counties bordering Lake Victoria such as Kisumu and Homabay. The county is improving marine transport through acquisition of motorized boats, clearing of papyrus reeds on rivers to create water ways. Ports have been set up and improved through construction of jetties and recreational centres constructed in these areas to improve tourist activities such as Port Victoria, Sio Port and Sisenye. Improvement in water transport will also contribute to opening up the islands for tourism.

The County has natural forests and exotic forests covering the farmlands, riverbanks, hilltops, hillsides, catchment areas, and open spaces. There are two gazetted forests located in Budalangi Sub - County totaling to only 328. 8 ha. The forestry resources provide an unexploited opportunity to develop agro-forestry and eco-tourism.

8.1.1 Constraints faced

- i) Cancellation of cultural and sports tourism events due to the pandemic.
- ii) Lack of classified hotels and conference tourism facilities
- iii) Limited funding on tourism department.
- iv) Under-developed tourism products with great potential
- v) Low adoption of ICT in service delivery
- vi) Under-funding of the tourism sector

8.1.2 Linkages to other sectors

The county government is working on improving connectivity through water transport to link its islands; Sumba and Nabuduma and other counties bordering Lake Victoria such as Kisumu and Homabay. The county is improving marine transport through acquisition of motorized boats, clearing of papyrus reeds on rivers to create water ways. Ports have been set up and improved through construction of jetties and recreational centres constructed in these areas to improve tourist activities such as Port Victoria, Sio Port and Sisenye. Improvement in water transport will also contribute to opening up the islands for tourism.

Busia County has natural forests and exotic forests covering the farmlands, riverbanks, hilltops, hillsides, catchment areas, and open spaces. There are two gazetted forests located in Budalangi Sub - County totaling to only 328. 8 ha. The forestry resources provide an unexploited opportunity to develop agro-forestry and eco-tourism.

8.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Tourism

- i) Private public partnership on investment in the hospitality sub-sector
- ii) Untapped tourism potential in terms of culture, conference tourism and ecotourism
- iii) Vantage location to leap from cross-border tourism.
- iv) Emergence of domestic tourism

8.3 Emerging Issues

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

8.4 Recommendations

- i) Diversification of the tourism product range: cultural tourism in the western tourism circuit; Invest in water sports; boat racing; Conference tourism; Medical tourism; Homestay tourism; ecotourism.
- ii) Develop databank of tourist attraction sites / resources; set up a tourism information centre.
- iii) Provide incentives for public-private-partnership investments in star-rated accommodation and M.I.C.E facilities.
- iv) Invest in protection of cultural heritage sites, preservation of artefacts.
- v) Enforce sanitation as a key component in ensuring business continuity in the tourism sub-sector.

9. Health

9.1 Characteristics of the sector

9.1.1 General health provision in the County

Busia county has a total number of 81 health facilities: 4 District Hospitals, 2 Sub-District Hospitals, 49 Dispensaries, 12 Health Centres, 10 Medical Clinics, 3 Nursing Homes and one uncategorized. The county established two COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres at the Alupe Sub County Hospital and Busia Agricultural Training Centre.

Table 9.1: Health provision

Year	2018	2019/20
Health facility density		
Primary health facilities	73	169
Hospitals	7	11
Number of health facilities	80	180
Health facility density	1.4	2.6
Bed density		
Hospital beds	1,272	1,272
No. of Beds per 10,000 population	19	19
Human resource density		
Total workforce	873	3,366
Human Resources for Health (Technical)	704	987
Number per 10,000 population	8.9	10.7

Source: MOH, 2021

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 180 which comprised of 169 primary health facilities and 11 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 80 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 19 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10,000 population. The health facilities and personnel serve a growing population of 1,670,570 people according to 2019 census. In 2019, total health workforce was approximately 3,366 representing 10.7 health workers per 10,000 population which is below the WHO target of 23 health workers per 10,000.

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

Type of Health Provider	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Government hospital	21.1
Government health centre	23.5
Government dispensary	41.0
Faith Based (church, Mission) Hospital / Clinic	0.4
Community Health	0.0
Private hospital / clinic	15.3
Nursing/ Maternity Home	0.9
Pharmacy/ chemist	0.0
Community health worker	0.5
Shop/ Kiosk	1.3
Traditional healer	0.0
Faith healer	0.0
Herbalist	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	83

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

Table 9.2 presents the distribution of population reported to have been sick or injured and the type of health provider they visited. Majority of the County residents who reported illness visited government dispensaries at 41 per cent followed by those who visited government health centres at 23.5 per cent. About 21.1 per cent of county residents who reported illness also visited government hospitals and 15.3 per cent visited private hospitals.

9.1.2 Population with health insurance cover

The percentage distribution of the population with health insurance cover by type of insurance provider is presented in Table 9.3. In general, 6.1 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 96.4 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 5.5 per cent of the population. Private contributions to insurance cover were reported by 1.7 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)	840
Share of population with health insurance (per cent)	6.1
NHIF	96.4
Private-Contributory	1.7
Private-Non-Contributory	4.9
Employer-Contributory	5.5
Employer-Non-Contributory	2.3
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	51

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Place of delivery

In the 2015/16 KIHBS, women in Busia 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 39.3 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 32.8 per cent, 21.1 per cent, and 5.4 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	32.8
Health Centre	21.1
Clinic/ Dispensary	5.4
Maternity Home	0.0
At Home	39.3
Other	1.4
Not stated	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	110

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.3 Immunization for children

The 2015/16 KIHBS covered data on measles immunization for children below 5 years at 9 months (Measles I) and at 18 months (Measles II). The information was collected from vaccination cards where they were available while mother's recall was used where the card was not available. Table 9.5 presents information on the proportion of children immunized (from vaccination cards) against measles. The analysis focused on children aged 12-23 months (or one year). The county had 48.7 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 7.8 per cent were fully immunized against measles at 18 months.

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

		Proportion of Children
Vaccination Card	Yes Seen	61.0
	Yes, Not Seen	29.3
	No	9.8
	Not stated	0.0
Measles Vaccination	Measles I (At 9 months Card)	48.7
	Measles II (At 18 months Card)	7.8
	Measles II (Mother/ Guardian memory)	37.7
	Either (card or memory)	86.4
Number of Individuals ('000)		110

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.1.4 Health outputs

In Busia County, 31 per cent of the children below five years are malnourished while 26.5 per cent are stunted. The proportion of children who are underweight stands at 31 per cent while wasting rate is at 2.2 per cent. There has been concerted efforts to improve the situation by both the Government and NGOs including provision of food supplements and promoting income generating activities to vulnerable groups. National Government policy objective is to achieve good nutrition for optimal health of all Kenyans. Enhancing food access, provision special nutrition interventions for specific vulnerable groups and creating awareness to provision of nutritious food to all family members and especially children are among other major Government objectives. Busia County can initiate and implement these policy interventions.

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 80.4 per cent, which is above national average of 68 per cent (DHIS, 2018). In the same reporting period, 58.5 per cent of the expectant mothers were delivered by skilled personnel in the health facilities while 40.3 per cent of children were born at home. Those who seek maternal services in health centres are estimated to be 0.9 per cent, as those who attend dispensaries/clinics are at 3.3 per cent.

However, it is important to note that deliveries by skilled birth attendants have improved gradually; with a decline in 2016/2017 attributed to the national industrial unrest that led to non-operation of health facilities skilled care during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum has highly contributed to prevention, detection, and management of complications during delivery in the County. There is a notable decline in facility based maternal deaths in the County health facilities The decline is attributed to improved uptake of skilled deliveries experienced during the period.

HIV prevalence in the county was documented at 7 per cent in 2013. In 2017, National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP) estimated the prevalence to have reduced to 7.7 per cent. This reduction was attributed to a combination of strategies including scaling up HIV testing and treatment services in the County in tandem with the broader 90:90:90 strategy. Partner support for HIV activities, continuous health education at the health facilities, adherence to standard operating procedures, and the test and treat protocol, have all contributed to this recorded decline. The county has also ensured that HIV+ mothers receive preventive antiretroviral (ARVs).

The poor health sector performance in some indicators was caused by among others: 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.

Table 9.6: Health indicators in Busia County

Key Health Indicators	County Estimates
Maternal and Child Services	
Skilled delivery (per cent)	58.5
Children born at home	40.3
Fully immunized child	80.4
Child Mortality	
Infant mortality (* /1000)	65
Under-5 mortality (* /1000)	149
Neo-natal mortality (* /1000)	24
Nutrition Status	
Stunted children (per cent)	26.5
Wasted children (per cent)	2.2
Underweight children (per cent)	31
HIV (per cent)	
HIV adult prevalence (per cent)	7.7
Children with HIV(No.)	0
ART adult coverage (per cent)	95
ART children coverage (per cent)	78

Source: KDHS 2014, KIHBS 2015/16

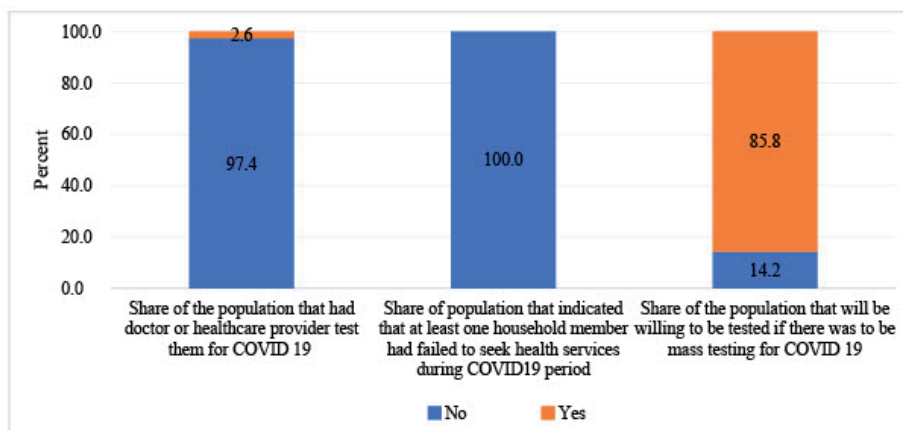
9.2 Effects of COVID-19

On the onset of the pandemic, Busia County had been mapped as having high COVID-19 burden amidst its plans to level up its level of preparedness. The county government had attributed the rise on confirmed positive of the coronavirus are those who have mingled with the long-distance truck drivers especially in Busia and Malaba thus necessitating the European Union to offer support Kenya fast track results of the COVID-19 testing for the long-distance truck drivers in Busia and Malaba border points by coming up with a regional electronic cargo driver-tracking system which will help track the COVID-19-status of truck drivers electronically.

The COVID-19 Fund board donated disposable gowns, surgical masks, N-95 masks, gloves, head and shoe covers and gumboots worth Sh237 million to Busia County. The personal protective equipment will be used by healthcare workers handling coronavirus patients in the county. This will boost efforts by the administration to combat COVID-19.

Share of the population that had doctor or healthcare provider testing or confirming to them the status in regards COVID-19 was estimated at 2.6 per cent in 2020 (COVID-19, Wave 2 survey). This small number shows that there is a large population of people in the county who have not yet been tested for COVID-19. Further, no member of the population indicated that at least one household member had failed to seek health services and 85.8 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)

Busia youths received hand sanitizer from the National Youth Council to help in combating the spread of coronavirus. The items which included liquid soap and tissue paper were handed over to county government by National Youth Council.

At least 3,204 youth and 214 supervisors in Busia County will be recruited to participate in the National Hygiene Programme also known as Kazi Mtaani. The programme will involve youth aged between 18 and 35 years who will be recruited through mobile applications within Busia and Teso South Sub Counties, the application is open to both those with

skilled and unskilled labor, and the successful applicants will work for 11 days in a month the programme will last for six and a half months, adding that it is expected to give youth financial support during this COVID-19 pandemic.

There have been cases of rise on the number of teenage pregnancies and the county government is on the toes to ensure that culprits who impregnate teenage girls are arrested and prosecuted.

In a bid to nurture the talents and abilities of the Youths in Busia County The County Government is keen on establishing a talent academy to tap and nurture talents in the county. Busia county is home to legendary sports men/women, the late Wangila, McDonald Mariga and Victor Wanyama. The county intends to leverage on this goodwill to promote sports and creative arts.

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 because 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.

The county is undertaking awareness to dissuade the fears among the public most of whom had stopped going to the hospital thus cutting the revenue stream. The local productions of masks have provided opportunity for revenue creation. County can increase revenue collection by promoting opening of businesses, which had closed while at the same time observing the Ministry of health guidelines in fighting COVID-19. County can also diversify it source of income by encouraging local production of masks and PPEs. This will create employment among the youths and the same time save the county the money it could have used to buy from other countries or counties. The county also generates revenue from the truck drivers who use the route when transporting goods to the rest of East Africa countries.

This has also been affected due to COVID-19, which has slowed the clearing process at the border.

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 higher 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 contribute 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 stress, hence reducing mental diseases.

9.3 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Health Sector

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

9.4 Emerging issues

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

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

9.5 Recommendations

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

- i) The county to 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 when visiting a health facility.
- ii) The county to upgrade and equip health centres infrastructures, number of bed capacity need to be increased in Kocholiya Level Four hospital among other health facilities and deploy more health officers to enhance health service delivery in the County.
- iii) The county to ensure there are enough water collection points and water use facilities in the health care centres and health commodities in order to increase health service delivery.
- iv) Strengthen collaboration with the private sector and other non-state stakeholders in the health sector.
- v) Promote the expansion of Universal Health Coverage through NHIF coverage in the county.
- vi) Create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county; and address fear of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting a health facility through community health workers.
- vii) Consistently allocate resources towards nutrition specific and sensitive programmes in the county through deepening community awareness; and establishing specific budget lines for nutrition support initiatives in the County.
- viii) The county to recruit and promote health officers especially those working in Busia referral hospitals. This will reduce the number of health strikes like the one experienced during the COVID-19 period.

10. Education and Training

10.1 Characteristics of the sector

10.1.1 General Education Provision in the County

Busia County has a total of 919 pre-primary centres, 638 primary and 162 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 97 per cent of public primary schools in Busia 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 919 pre-school ECDE centers attached to public primary schools and private ones and the County Government recruited 439 ECDE teachers in 2013-2017 period. The teacher: pupil ratio stands at 1:100. The County had a population of 51,160 attending pre-school according to 2009 census however the total pre-school population within the county stands at 71,519 in 2018.

The percentage of children attending school as a proportion of the total number in the age cohort of 6013 stands at 81 per cent. According to the 2009 Census Report, teacher pupil ratio in primary stood at 1:64. By 2009, total population of children who were in the primary school going age group was 432,088. There are 638 primary schools and a total of 252,057 pupils attending primary school.

In 2018 Busia County, has 155 public and 7 private schools with a total enrollment of 53,488 students. The teacher to student ratio is 1:33 of the total in age cohort of (14017), 82 per cent are attending school. The school enrollment has gone. At present, there are a total of 252,057 pupils enrolled in primary schools. This is higher than 239,253 recorded in 2017. The secondary school enrollment stands at 53,488. This was an increase from 40,379 recorded in 2017.

The County has 25 Vocational Training Centres and 3 university constituent colleges located in Amagoro, Nambale Market and Alupe Sub - County Hospital. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, 75.3 per cent of the population, aged 15 years and above in Busia County can read and write which is 4.7 per cent below the national target. Adult learning and continuous education centres are being rejuvenated with at least five such facilities established in every Sub - County.

There are 109 adult education centres in the county spread across the sub - Counties. Most of these centres are situated in churches, chief camps and community resource centres. Daily attendance: male 40.5 per cent and Female 33.3 per cent.

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

The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 114.8 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 116.7 and 53.7 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, 118.8 per cent, compared to that for males, 109.7 per cent. The GAR for primary school was higher for males, 124.3 per cent, compared to that for females, 110.7 per cent. The GAR for secondary school was higher for males, 53.9 per cent, compared to that for females, 53.5 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 60.5 per cent, 80.3 per cent and 22.9 per cent, respectively.

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

Education Level	Gender	Gross Attendance Ratio	Net Attendance Ratio
Pre-Primary School	Male	109.7	61.9
	Female	118.8	59.6
	Total	114.8	60.5
Primary School	Male	124.3	83.0
	Female	110.7	78.1
	Total	116.7	80.3
Secondary School	Male	53.9	23.9
	Female	53.5	21.9
	Total	53.7	22.9

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.1.3 Basic education gross and net enrolment rate

The preprimary gross enrolment rate in the county was 106.2 per cent in 2019 and while the net enrolment rate was 55 per cent. The Gross primary and secondary enrolment rates stood at 113.4 per cent and 71.8 per cent respectively in 2019 while the Net enrolment rates (NER) were 79.8 per cent and 34 per cent for primary school and secondary school respectively during the same period.

The transition rate has improved. Currently it stands at 95 per cent compared to 83 per cent and 77 per cent for 2017 and 2016 respectively. Butula and Teso South Sub - Counties have the highest number of students transiting to secondary schools in the County at 3,706 and 3,906 respectively. The total number of students who transited stands at 20,680 from a total of 21,837 candidates who sat the KCPE

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

Preprimary	Total
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	106.2
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	55
Gender parity index	0.96
Primary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	113.4
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	79.8
Gender parity index	0.98
Secondary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	71.8
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	34
Gender parity index	0.99

Source: Education statistical booklets 2014-2018

10.2 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 83 per cent with the male population being more literate (91%) compared to their female counterparts (76.1%).

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	83
	Illiterate	16.2
	Not Stated	0.8
	Number of Individuals ('000)	456
Male	Literate	91
	Illiterate	8.1
	Not Stated	0.9
	Number of Individuals ('000)	210
Female	Literate	76.1
	Illiterate	23.2
	Not Stated	0.7
	Number of Individuals ('000)	246

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 66.4 per cent of the population do not have any educational qualification. This is high than the national percentage of 49.7. Only 0.7 per cent of the population has attained university degree. The proportion of the population with CPE/KCPE qualification is 21.1 per cent and that of KCE/ KCSE qualification is 6.4 per cent.

The Education department in Busia County is committed to the provision of quality education and training in the county, including providing support to all levels of education in line with the Provisions of the Intergovernmental Act, 2012.

Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Highest Educational Qualification

Highest Educational Qualification	Percentage Distribution of Population
None	66.4
CPE/ KCPE	21.1
KAPE	0.3
KJSE	0.1
KCE/ KCSE	6.4
KACE/ EAACE	0.1
Certificate	1.2
Diploma	0.6
Degree	0.7
Basic/post literacy certificate	0.1
Other	0.1
Not Stated	3
Number of individuals ('000)	696

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Percentage distribution of Busia 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 64.3 per cent while that of females was 64.2 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, 13.3 per cent of males and 13.6 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 1.1 per cent and 0.9 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 Busia County (per cent)

Educational Level	Gender	Percentage Distribution of Population 3 Years and above
Pre-primary	Male	13.3
	Female	13.6
Primary	Male	64.3
	Female	64.2
Post primary vocational	Male	0.2
	Female	0.1
Secondary	Male	16.3
	Female	14.8
College (Middle level)	Male	2.5
	Female	1.8
University	Male	1.1
	Female	0.9
Madrassa / Duksi	Male	0
	Female	0
Other	Male	0.3
	Female	0.1
Not Stated	Male	2.1
	Female	4.3
Number of Individuals ('000)	Male	328
	Female	368

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

With the tough times of COVID-19, the county education sector faced tough times, as children were home for close to one academic year this impacted negatively on the socio-economic status of many families that had paid school fees. Secondly, parents who must now engage in taking care of their children who ought to be in schools such times is proving a challenge and as a result, gender-based violence has been on the increase, however they have people on the ground who offer counseling services. Not everyone in the county accesses the internet: no smart phones- this has adversely affected the e-learning programs. The main challenges facing adult education is the lack of teaching and learning material, learning facilities; and Lack of teaching staff (majority are volunteers).

According to the Uwezo County Learning Assessment Report (2019) about 6 out of 100 children in Class 8 in Busia County cannot do class 2 level work. Only 26 out of 100 children in Class 3 can do class 2 level work. 29 out of 100 children sit on the floor compared to 15 out of 100 nationally while one textbook is shared among 3 pupils compared to 2 pupils nationally. The report revealed that 16 out of 100 pupils were absent from school compared

to 12 out of 100 teachers. Some of the school going children are currently out of school. COVID-19 is therefore not helping at all the wellbeing and future of children in Busia. 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. Poverty is a key hindrance to the education sector and mostly youths. Many cannot afford to pay school fee. In addition, drug and substance abuse has greatly contributed to absenteeism hence affecting the education standards. Peer pressure is another factor leading to early marriages and school dropouts. All these factors lead to poor transition from primary to secondary school. To address the challenges, government needs to enforce free and compulsory secondary education.

Just like other counties, many people in Busia County lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Private schools were forced to lay off both teaching and support (casuals) staff because they could not sustain their salaries. Public schools have also faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity, water and security bills. This is because the national government halted the release of money to the schools. Apart from the other expenses, public schools could not pay teachers who were hired on contracts and were under BOGs.

Private schools in Busia County have been severely affected because 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 share of ECDE spending in the county increased from Ksh 300 million in 2014/15 to Ksh 600 million in 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was on average 9.4 per cent during the review period. Spending on primary and secondary education increased from 2.8 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 4.1 billion in 2017/18 and Ksh 1.5 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 1.9 billion in 2017/18 respectively.

The share of ECDE budget in the total County budget allocation averaged 8 per cent over the review period, comprising of 49 per cent development and 51 per cent recurrent. The absorption rate averages 68 per cent during the period under review. On average the execution rate of the education spending was 68 per cent with the highest rate of 85 per cent in 2014/15 and the lowest of 52 per cent and in 2017/18.

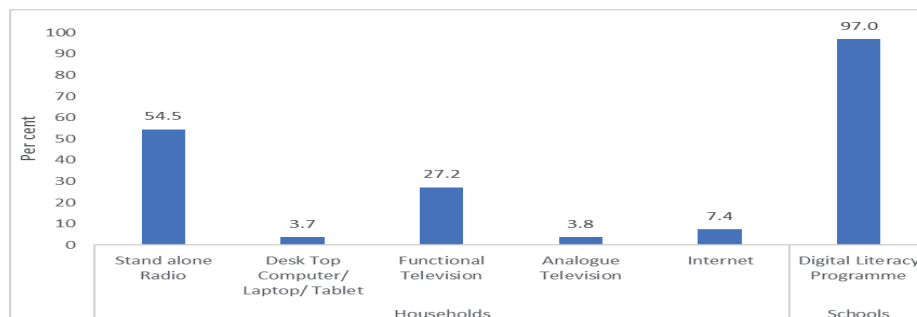
There are several constraints facing education sector in the county. The main one right now is COVID-19 which led to closing of schools. This disrupted education calendar posing a great challenge to both county and national government. Closure of all schools has led to loss to learning and teaching time in the county. The school infrastructure in the County is not only limited but also is of poor quality. High Illiteracy level is another issue of concern as not all learners in the county can read and write. Additionally, there is the challenge of poverty among many school going children. Some children depended on the school feeding programme supported by the government and other development partners. Lack of parental guidance and early marriages also affects learning in the county.

10.3.1 ICT in education

There is lack of enough ICT infrastructures in the county making it difficult for e-learning

to take place. The county has low internet access, 7.4 per cent, which constrain online learning across the County. Furthermore, only 3.7 per cent of the households had access to ICT equipment such as laptops and computers. This makes it difficult for the learners to benefit from national learning programme, which was started by the government. Even if the programme was to be done through radio, it would be difficult for learners in the county to access it since only 54.5 per cent of the county population has access to stand-alone radio. Another challenge is the inability of the private schools to pay their teachers while they are not in operation.

Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools



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

Agriculture provides food for the school-going children. Therefore, it plays a key role in ensuring that the school going children get food of the required quality and quantity. 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.

10.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in education and training

The demand for PPEs such as masks in the County has led to local production by VTCs hence creating employment and income for youth. It will however be important to address issues of standards and quality of the local produced PPEs. COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for the county government to forge partnerships to ensure enough network coverage across all the sub-counties and counties in the Lake region. There is also the opportunity of exploring online classes. This if effective, can save time spent on travelling from home to schools to teach. Teachers will be able to reach at the comfort of their seats. This can reduce the cases of lateness and absenteeism. Learning from homes will also reduce accidents and injuries among pupils at school. It will also reduce indiscipline and drug abuse as parents will be able to closely monitor their children at home. The disease has also created an opportunity for creativity among students who are involved in making of ventilators and researching on vaccines.

10.5 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.

10.6 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 will combine community participation and large-scale direct communication campaigns to parents, and where possible, increase attendance options to accommodate all children, including those with highest risk of dropping out, also promote back to school campaign and community outreach to ensure that no child is being dropped out of school due to COVID-19 emergency.
- iii) The County prioritize projects that improve school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and management 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 110,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children according to 2009 KNBS report. These are entirely dependent on relatives and well-wishers who volunteer to assist them. Others have been taken to children's homes and other social support facilities for care and educational support. Recent findings from the KNBS, 2019 census survey indicate that Busia County has an estimated population of 893,681 people of which 2.7 per cent are living with various disabilities. An additional 4.3 per cent of the total population are the elderly and the proportion of stunted children stands at 22 per cent. In terms of poverty levels, 83 per cent of the total population is poor whereas about 60 per cent and 69 per cent are multidimensional and food poor respectively.

11.1.2 Severe shocks to the households

Severe shocks have had negative impact to the household's economic and social welfare of county residents. Table 11.1 presents the proportion of households by the first severe shock in the county. The major shock in the county was droughts and floods and death of family member at 13.9 and 11 per cent, respectively. Crop disease or crop pests were experienced by 0.8 per cent of households while the death of livestock affected 3 per cent of the households. Break-up of the household and large price of food are other experienced shocks affecting 6 per cent and 3.5 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	13.9
Crop disease or crop pests	0.8
Livestock died	3
Livestock were stolen	1.1
Household business failure, nonagricultural	1.7
Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary	8.2

End of regular assistance, aid, or remittances from outside the household	1
Large fall in sale prices for crops	0
Large rise in price of food	3-5
Large rise in agricultural input prices	-
Severe water shortage	1
Birth in the household	0
Death of household head	3
Death of working member of household	-
Death of other family Member	11
Break-up of the household	6
Bread winner jailed	-
Fire	1
Robbery / Burglary / Assault	1
Carjacking	-
Dwelling damaged, destroyed	1
Eviction	1
Ethnic/ Clan Clashes	-
Conflict	1
HIV/ AIDS	1
Other	2
Number of households with Shock	53,000

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, 32 per cent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (74%), mainly from individuals (76%) while external transfers constituted 41 per cent.

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

		Beneficiaries
	Total Number of Households	177,000
	Households receiving transfers (per cent)	32
From Inside Kenya	Individual	24,273
	Non-Profit Institution	370
	National Government	1,293
	County Government	49
	Corporate Sector	-
Inside Kenya		25,986
Outside Kenya		498
Total		22,810
Number of households that received transfers		56,000

Busia County is affected by street children menace. The county hosts a sizeable number of street children from the neighboring country, Uganda. Approximately 50 children have been identified in Busia town, 40 in Malaba and 20 in Bumala urban centre. The county has 7 children's officers who handle the various matters on children welfare. The county has 10 children's charitable institutions (orphanages), 1 rehabilitation centre at Odiado and 1 child protection unit. The county has a number of operational rescue centres and correctional facilities. There is cash transfer programme for older persons and PLWDs. Currently about 8,630 beneficiaries are on cash transfer – OVC and 734 beneficiaries are on presidential bursary in secondary schools.

There is need for special program for social protection specially to caution youths and women who are the most vulnerable in the society. Women and youths were highly affected, and the food distribution and cash transfers helped curb domestic violence brought about by poverty and COVID-19. Many women who were working in markets did not have source of income after closure of markets due to social distance requirement by the ministry of health. Additionally, many youths some who were working in the matatu and boda boda industry were rendered jobless. Kazi mtanii initiative was aimed as cushioning such groups from the pain of losing source of income.

Open air markets were closed which mostly serve as place of trade. Most people in this market are females. This has therefore affected their welfare in terms of finances and access to food and other goods. This has an impact of lowering their living standards. Livestock auction was also closed making it hard for people to sell their livestock which serves as a main source of income. This means that they no longer feed their households members. Other small-scale traders such as those in transport industries like *matatu* and *bodaboda*

have been affected since the number of passengers they carry per trip has been reduced. Thus, due to introduction of social distance requirements. This has therefore reduced their income with some operating at losses. Shops and Kiosks, social centers such as club and bars, hotels have been affected by the curfew and social distance requirements thus reducing the amount of income that they get.

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

The county revenue collection declined because of outbreak of COVID-19. The border points were closed hence no people were allowed to leave the county through them to other countries. Many people leave Busia for Uganda to do trade and other businesses. Resumption of services and free movement across borders and opening of markets will enable the county to collect bore revenue, hence boosting her targets.

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

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

Additionally, social protection is directly related to education. The more one is educated the more is informed of existing welfare schemes. Educated people also are aware of the need for and importance of engaging in social protection programmes such as insurance and investment for future to benefit after retirements. With good education, one is able to understand government role in ensuring good life for its citizens.

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

There are challenges of COVID-19 spread through the long-distance drivers who move from one county to another. This exposed the local people especially the elderly who have

low immunity. Loss of jobs and business opportunities led to an increase in poverty and declining of people welfare. With loss of jobs and businesses, most youths were involved in the activities such as crimes, prostitution and other social evils.

11.3 Opportunities with COVID-19 in social protection

The Lake region provided an opportunity to pool resources towards improving the health facilities within the region and opening to enhance intercounty trade. The counties within the regional block 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 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.

11.5 Recommendations

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

- i) There is need to partner within the regional block to ensure borders are manned and enhance cross border screening especially among long distance drivers dodging main route to Uganda. This would drastically slow the spread of the virus.
- ii) There is also need to conduct mass civic education among the people on COVID-19 prevention measures, how to handle an infected person and avoidance of stigmatization of the affected person.
- iii) There is need to enroll more county residents in welfare programmes such as NHIF which will ensure that they access medical treatment in case of falling sick. County government also need to give tax exemption for the SMES who have suffered losses in their business as result of diseases outbreak.
- iv) County government need to create a kit where they can collaborate with local banks in offering loans to the SMEs to restart and boost their businesses.
- v) The elderly also need to be provided with food and other basic wants since their movement have been reduced as they are at great risk of contracting the virus. Therefore, their life has been affected and cannot afford to feed themselves anymore.

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, 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 Busia County, domestic violence has been reported to be on the rise amidst COVID-19. Based on the May 2020 KNBS COVID_19 survey 33 per cent of the respondents in the county indicated to have witnessed or heard of domestic violence in your community since MoH instituted COVID-19 measures. Further, the Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) reports that six GBV cases were recorded in the county during the month of April 2020. Of the reported cases, two were from women, 3 from girls and 1 from a man.

Addressing these challenges becomes important and the following will 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) Online sensitization and GBV education as a preventive measure on the prevalence of GBV during emergencies periods. The county governments can identify GBV champions to serve as agents change, changing harmful attitudes and behavior in communities that lead to GBV.
- iv) Lastly, designate gender safe spaces to provide accommodation GBV survivors.

12.Labour Participation

12.1 Characteristics of the Sector

12.1.1 Sources of employment in the County

Agriculture is the major economic activity in Busia County and the climatic condition of the region favors production of Robusta coffee. Busia is the only county in Kenya that produces Robusta Coffee. The agriculture sector employs most of the county residents as the uniqueness of Busia County in the production of Robusta coffee, gives it a strategic advantage as an investment hub to produce instant coffee. However, the Tea farmers in the county have been greatly affected by COVID-19, mainly because of national lockdowns and social distancing policies. The tea industry was experiencing a low traffic on sales and movement of goods, which in turn had an adverse effect on market operations and cash flow for tea producers. The export and import restrictions created uncertainty on the tea market, and farmers were undertaking emergency response measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in tea communities, this resulted to loss of jobs and income amongst the farmers.

Other main economic activity include trade especially with neighboring Uganda, with Busia town, which is the county headquarters, and largest town being a cross-border center. The county economy is heavily reliant on fishing and agriculture, with cassava, millet, sweet potatoes, beans, and maize being the principal cash crops. The county has recently shown a lot of economic potential, with agribusiness, real estate and commercial businesses booming the most. The main source of light is kerosene. For cooking the households almost exclusively use charcoal and firewood (hence a high rate of deforestation in the area).

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

	Male	Female	Total
Population	365,514	408,321	773,860
Working	158,748	192,652	351,407
Seeking Work/ No Work Available	12,551	9,774	22,325
Persons outside the Labour Force	194,182	205,858	400,058
Not Stated	33	37	70
per cent Working	92.7	95.2	94.0
per cent Seeking Work/ No Work Available	7.3	4.8	6.0

Source: KNBS, 2019

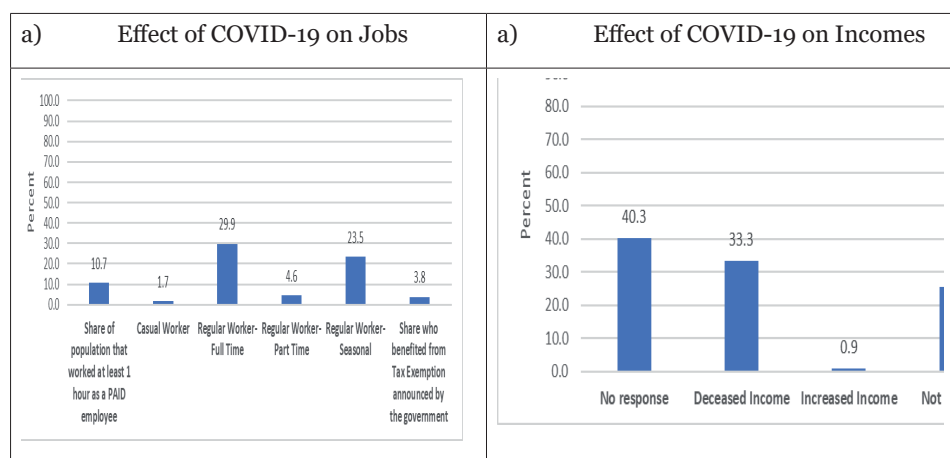
Distribution of Population Age 5 Years and above by Activity Status, and Sex in the County is shown in Table 12.1 above. An assessment on county labor force reveals County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 373,732 people of whom 351,407 were working and 22,325 were seeking work but work was not available representing an unemployment rate of 6.0 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019).

Effects of COVID-19

The social economic impact of the novel Coronavirus led to increase in unemployment rates in the county, particularly in the informal sector which employ most young people in the county. The loss of jobs in the matatu and boda-boda industry had directly impacted on the lives of the youth as some residents avoided public means of transport in fear of contracting the virus. In addition, the lockdowns in Mombasa and Nairobi counties had a negative impact on long distance drivers in these sectors. In education sector the workers employed by school Board of management (BOM) lost their jobs as well as those employed by Private schools because the schools could not sustain their salaries due to closure of schools. Public schools also faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity and security bills.

According to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, 10.7 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 88.7 per cent of employees worked without pay; 13.6 per cent had never worked and 75.7 per cent worked in the informal sector. However, 9.0 per cent of employees did not attend to work due to COVID-19 related factors. On average, workers in the County lost 18.7 hours per week due to COVID-19. During the pandemic, about 1.7 per cent of workers in the county were casual workers while 29.9 per cent were regular workers (full time), other 4.6 per cent employees were working as part time. About 3.8 per cent of workers indicated to have benefited from government tax exemptions which indicates about 96 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.

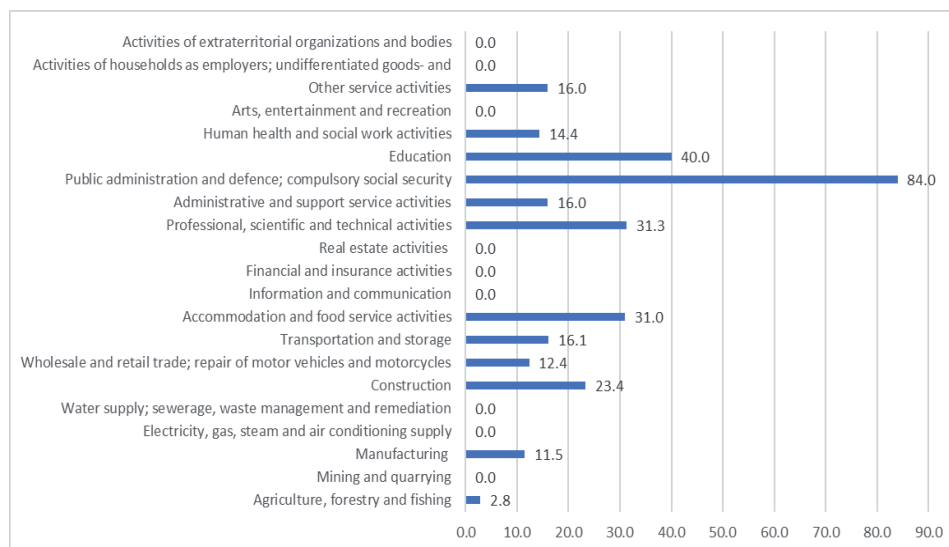
Figure 12.1: Effects of COVID-19, 2020



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey

In Busia County, the COVID-19 had most sectors of the county economy. According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, the public administration and defence; compulsory social security reported the highest level of loss of hours worked (84 hours). The high number of hours lost in administration and defense sector was attributed to the fact that the workers in the sector were working beyond normal working hours and during weekends to enforce security in the areas prone to cattle raids. Education sector lost 28 hours (figure 69). Professional, scientific, and technical activities and accommodation and food service activities lost a total of 31.3 hours and 31 hours per week, respectively. Construction and Administrative and support service activities recorded on average loss of 23.4 hours and 16 hours per week, respectively. Workers in the agriculture sector which is the economic mainstay of the county lost 2.8 hours in a week. Further, the hotel industry in the county laid off some staff due to low profits.

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



Data source KNBS 2020

According to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, about 9.0 per cent of employees did not attend to work while 88.7 per cent of the employees worked without pay. Following the containment measures put in place by both national and county governments, some other businesses such as bars, hotels, market centres had closed, leading to reduced business activities. Some workers in the transport sector also recorded reduced business activities due to imposition of curfews and restrictions of moving in and out of Nairobi city county and Mombasa County. As a result, about 33 per cent of workers reported decrease in income due to the COVID-19, while 1.0 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income.

12.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in human resource sector

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.

While the “future of work” was well underway before the pandemic, COVID-19 has clearly hastened its arrival as the economic effect of the global pandemic (COVID-19) provides 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

12.3 Emerging issues

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

12.4 Recommendations

- i) Mount capacity building initiatives through sustained investment in education and training and skills development; and investments within the key sectors of technology and innovation.
- ii) Invest in community and public health including community health workers, water, sanitation, immunization and nutrition support.
- iii) The County in partnership with private sector will establish a common pool fund to finance SMEs, seasonal public works or employment guarantee scheme for workers in the informal sector. In addition, build capacity in areas related to marketing, operations, finance, and human resource development to enhance the chances of survival of SMEs.
- iv) Establish counselling centers across 7 sub-counties to offer counselling services to those affected both emotionally and psychologically by COVID-19.

13. Conclusion and Key Recommendations

13.1 Conclusion

13.1.1 Fiscal policy

Development expenditure has performed weakly on average accounting for 28.8 per cent of total county expenditure during the 2013-2021 as the county wage bill has been growing tremendously at the expense of development expenditure. The county total revenue increased by 97 per cent from Ksh 4.06 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 8.01 billion in FY 2019/20, an average annual growth rate of 16.3 per cent. Between fiscal years 2013/14 and 2020/21 county wage bill was on an upward trend and on average accounted for 43.7 per cent of expenditure, while development expenditure has been plummeting. Budget execution as measured by absorption rate has remained above 65.0 per cent over the review period. Average overall absorption rate stands at 74.1 per cent. Average development budget absorption rate stands at 51.0 per cent while that of recurrent expenditure stands at 90.3 per cent. Pending bills have also plummeted during FY 2020/21 due to county efforts to release cash owed to suppliers to cushion businesses and families from the effects of the pandemic. The county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations and seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.

13.1.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

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

13.1.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

Access to piped water remains low in the county and most households relies on springs as the source for drinking water, which may dry up in drought season, and destruction of water catchment areas. Similarly, access to piped sewer remains low in the county thus denying the much-needed revenues to the counties by connecting households to piped water and sewer.

13.1.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

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

13.1.5 Tourism

Some of the tourist products and attraction sites in the county include Nature Based tourism, wildlife, Cultural and heritage tourism, water sports and agro tourism. The hospitality industry in Busia County has attracted many new investors attributed to rising demand for accommodation and conference facilities due to devolution, NGOs, higher learning institutions, long distance truck drivers and increased number of visitors who enter and exit the country through Malaba and Busia border posts. The county needs diversify tourism product range, develop databank of tourist attraction site and provide incentives for public-private-partnership investments in star-rated accommodation and M.I.C.E facilities.

13.1.6 Health

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

COVID-19 has worsened the situation as far as youths and women are concerned. These are the groups of people that have been facing several challenges even before the outbreak of the COVID-19. FGM and Gender based violence cases have increased with the lock down. Youths who are entrepreneurs have also been affected losing jobs and businesses due to the lockdown. Other problems facing youths includes teenage pregnancies, malnutrition, STI/HIV and Aids, poor environment, drug and substance abuse and malnutrition

13.1.7 Education and training

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

13.1.8 Social protection

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

13.1.9 Labour Participation

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

13.2 Key Recommendations

13.2.1 Fiscal policy

To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals, the county needs to mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations and seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county. The county can also ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers and further ensure the ongoing infrastructure project are completed and suppliers paid within the specified timelines for optimal returns to investment. Additionally, the county needs to improve budget execution and absorption of development budget by harmonizing project implementation cycles to budgeting and fast-track exchequer releases.

13.2.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

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

13.2.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

To build resilience and mitigate the effect of COVID-19, the county 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.

13.2.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

In sustaining growth in the Trade, Manufacturing and MSMEs sector, the County will: Collaborate with National government to rehabilitate fish landing sites in Mulukhoba as per the Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 flagship programmes and projects as support of the Lake Victoria rehabilitation programme; Adopt the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing and maintain high standards of hygiene through having hand washing facilities in manufacturing establishments; Collaborate with the Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to sensitize MSEs on issues of counterfeits and dumping of goods; and Revive the cotton ginneries in Nambale, Amukura and Mulwanda.

13.2.5 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

Busia –Malaba highway attracts a lot of freight traffic and truck crews. The main means of transport used in the County is walking followed by bicycle. The paved County Road network covers 13.05 Kms, while the paved National roads covers 154.44 Kms. Out of the total paved road network of 167.49 Kms, 61.64 per cent is in good condition, 38.32 per cent in fair condition and 0.04 per cent in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception that individuals do not need to use the internet is the leading reason that people 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. Approximately 74.2 per cent of houses are constructed using rudimentary materials. In responding to the prevailing challenges, the county will Design and develop transport infrastructure to cater for the long-distance cargo trucks and freight services that use the border crossing; Invest in terrestrial and aerial telecommunication technology to ensure reliable and affordable access to internet (internet everywhere); and Avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

13.2.6 Tourism

The county should diversify the tourism product range and develop databank of tourist attraction sites. Additionally, the county should provide incentives for public-private-partnership investments in star-rated accommodation and M.I.C.E facilities and invest in protection of cultural heritage sites. Further, the county should enforce sanitation as a key component in ensuring business continuity in the tourism sub-sector.

13.2.7 Health

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

13.2.8 Education and training

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

13.2.9 Social Protection

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

13.2.10 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 Busia County and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County to deepen technical education, training, and skills development.

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