

Socio-Economic Status of Elgeyo Marakwet County with COVID-19

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

Socio-Economic Status of Elgeyo Marakwet County with COVID-19

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

**Kenya Institute for Public Policy
Research and Analysis**

2022

KIPPRA in Brief

The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) is an autonomous institute whose primary mission is to conduct public policy research leading to policy advice. KIPPRA's mission is to produce consistently high-quality analysis of key issues of public policy and to contribute to the achievement of national long-term development objectives by positively influencing the decision-making process. These goals are met through effective dissemination of recommendations resulting from analysis and by training policy analysts in the public sector. KIPPRA therefore produces a body of well-researched and documented information on public policy, and in the process assists in formulating long-term strategic perspectives. KIPPRA serves as a centralized source from which the Government and the private sector may obtain information and advice on public policy issues.

Published 2022

© Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis

Bishops Garden Towers, Bishops Road

PO Box 56445-00200 Nairobi, Kenya

tel: +254 20 2719933/4; fax: +254 20 2719951

email: admin@kippra.or.ke

website: <http://www.kippra.org>

The KIPPRA Special Reports Series deals with specific issues that are of policy concern. The reports provide in-depth survey results and/or analysis of policy issues. They are meant to help policy analysts in their research work and assist policy makers in evaluating various policy options. Deliberate effort is made to simplify the presentation in the reports so that issues discussed can be easily grasped by a wide audience. KIPPRA appreciates any comments and suggestions arising from this report.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
List of Acronyms	ix
Acknowledgements	x
Executive Summary	xi
1.1 Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting	xi
1.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.....	xi
1.3 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).....	xii
1.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs	xii
1.5 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development	xiii
1.6 Tourism	xiii
1.7 Health	xiv
1.8 Education	xiv
1.9 Social protection	xiv
1.10 Labour participation.....	xv
1. Introduction and structure of Elgeyo Marakwet County Economy	1
1.1 Population dynamics	1
1.2 Level of socioeconomic deprivations	3
1.3 Structure of the County Economy.....	4
1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions	4
2. Socio-economic Effect of COVID-19	6
2.1 Fiscal policy	6
2.2 Own Source Revenue.....	7
2.3 Elgeyo Marakwet County Expenditure Analysis	9
2.4 Trends and profile of county government expenditures 2013-2021.....	9
2.5 Utilization of public resources in the county.....	10
2.6 Effectiveness of county spending	12
2.7 Recommendation.....	14
3. Agriculture	15
3.1 Characteristics of the sector	15
3.2 Agri-Food Challenges in COVID-19	20
3.3 Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County	24
3.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Agriculture Sector	25
3.5 Emerging Issues	26
3.6 Recommendations.....	26

4.	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.....	28
4.1	Characteristics of WASH	28
4.2	Access to sources of water by households (Improved and unimproved sources)	29
4.3	Access to safe drinking water	30
4.4	Access and reliability of water sources	31
4.5	Volumes of Water Used by Households per month	32
4.6	Access to sanitation.....	34
4.7	Sharing of a toilet facility.....	36
4.8	Access to Hygiene (Hand Washing) During the COVID-19 Period	37
4.9	Opportunities with COVID-19 in various sectors.....	38
4.10	Emerging Issues	38
4.11	Recommendations	39
5.	Manufacturing, Trade and Industry	41
5.1	Characteristic of Manufacturing Sector	41
5.2	Constraints faced by manufacturing firms	47
5.3	Industrial Parks/ Jua Kali Sheds	47
5.4	Markets.....	48
5.5	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).....	48
5.6	Constraints faced by MSMEs	52
5.7	Labour Dynamics in MSMEs.....	53
5.8	Key Messages:	54
5.9	Opportunities with COVID-19 in Industrial Recovery and Growth.....	55
5.10	Emerging Issues.....	55
5.11	Recommendations.....	56
6.	Infrastructure.....	57
6.1	Transport and roads	57
6.2	Road network in the County.....	59
6.3	Information and Communication Technology	61
7.	Housing and Urban Development	65
7.1	Characteristics of the sector	65
7.2	Opportunities with COVID-19 in Urban Development.....	68
7.3	Emerging Issues and Constraints	68
7.4	Recommendations	68
8.	Tourism	69
8.1	Characteristics of the Sector.....	69
8.2	Opportunities with COVID-19 in Tourism	70
8.3	Emerging Issues	70
8.4	Recommendations	71

9.	Health.....	72
9.1	Characteristics of the sector	72
9.2	Population with health insurance cover	73
9.3	Place of delivery	74
9.4	Immunization for children	74
9.5	Health outputs	75
9.6	Effects of COVID-19.....	77
9.7	Opportunities with COVID-19 on Health sector	79
9.8	Emerging issues on health sector.....	79
9.9	Recommendation.....	80
9.10	Key Highlights.....	80
10.	Education and Training	82
10.1	General Characteristics of the Sector.....	82
10.2	Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) and Net Attendance Ratio (NAR).....	82
10.3	Basic education gross and net enrolment rate	83
10.4	Literacy	83
10.5	Educational Attainment	84
10.6	Highest education	85
10.7	Gender issues in education	85
10.8	ICT in education	86
10.9	Opportunities with COVID-19 in education and training.....	87
10.10	Emerging Issues	87
10.11	Recommendations.....	87
10.12	Key Highlights.....	88
11.	Social Protection	89
11.1	Characteristics of the sector	89
11.2	Distribution of Social Assistance Beneficiaries	91
11.3	Opportunities with COVID-19 in Social protection.	92
11.4	Emerging Issues.....	92
11.5	Recommendation.....	93
12.	Labour Participation	94
12.1	Characteristics of the Sector.....	94
12.2	Effects of COVID-19.....	95
12.3	Opportunities with COVID-19 in Labour participation	97
12.4	Emerging issues	97
12.5	Recommendations.....	97
12.6	Key Highlights.....	98
13.	Conclusion and Key Recommendations	99
13.1	Conclusion.....	99

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Structure of the County Economy, 2017	4
Figure 1.2: New COVID-19 cases in Elgeyo Marakwet and the country's mobility stringency	5
Figure 2.1: Share of county revenues by source.....	6
Figure 2.2: Annual Own Source Revenue Targets and Actual Collections.....	8
Figure 2.3: Quarterly Own Source Revenue collection	9
Figure 2.4 Trends and profile of county government expenditures	10
Figure 2.5: County Government Expenditure by Economic Classification (per cent of Total County Government Expenditure).....	11
Figure 2.6: Approved Versus Actual County Spending and Absorption Rates for Recurrent and Development Expenditures	13
Figure 2.7: Profile of County Pending Bills FY 2014/15 to FY 2020/21.....	14
Figure 3.1: Scale of Operation: per cent of households	16
Figure 3.2: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation	20
Figure 3.3: Changes in Hours Worked by in Agriculture Related Occupations	21
Figure 3.4: Limited access to markets to purchase food items	21
Figure 3.5: Reason for Limited access to markets/ grocery stores	22
Figure 3.6: Proportion of Households Experiencing Change in Food Commodity	22
Figure 3.7: Proportion of households facing large food price shocks	23
Figure 3.8: per cent Households reporting that the following food items were not readily available in their locality	23
Figure 3.9: per cent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day ...	24
Figure 3.10: Percentage of households who experienced the below shocks in the past two weeks the KNBS Wave 2 survey	24
Figure 4.1: Access to source of water by households (per cent).....	29
Figure 4.2: Access to improved and unimproved sources of drinking water by head of households ...	30
Figure 4.3: Access to safe drinking water by households.....	31
Figure 4.4: Household reliability to the main sources of water (per cent)	32
Figure 4.5: Volumes of water used by households in the past month (Litres).....	32
Figure 4.6: Households with a member who is attending schools/learning institutions and who usually fetches water.....	33
Figure 4.7: Distance Covered by Households to and from Water Sources	34
Figure 4.8: Time taken by households to and from water sources (Minutes.....	34
Figure 4.9: Access to sanitation by households in the county	35
Figure 4.10: Access to improved and unimproved sanitation by households.....	35
Figure 4.11: No of households sharing a toilet facility	36
Figure 4.12: Households sharing a toilet facility with other households	37
Figure 4.13: Access to wash during the COVID-19 period	38

Figure 5.1: sector of operation in manufacturing	41
Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size	42
Figure 5.3: Location of manufacturing firms by premises	42
Figure 5.4: Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector	43
Figure 5.5: Education levels of manufacturing firm owners.....	44
Figure 5.6: Source of markets.....	44
Figure 5.7: Source of material inputs	45
Figure 5.8: Sources of finance	46
Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit.....	46
Figure 5.10: Main purpose of credit	47
Figure 5.11: Constraints faced by manufacturing firms	47
Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by size	48
Figure 5.13: Sector of operation by MSMEs	49
Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises.....	49
Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners	50
Figure 5.16: Main constraints faced by MSMEs.....	52
Figure 5.17: Effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses.....	53
Figure 5.18: Labour dynamics on household non-farm and farm businesses	53
Figure 6.1: Main Means of Transport.....	57
Figure 6.2: Change in Cost of Main Means of Transport.....	58
Figure 6.3: Change in Travel Patterns	58
Figure 6.4: Proportion of Residents Whose Service Delivery has been Affected.....	59
Figure 6.5: Road Condition Mix-Classified Road Network.....	59
Figure 6.6: Percentage Distribution of Conventional Households by Ownership of ICT Assets.....	61
Figure 6.7: Reasons for Lack of Internet Connection.....	62
Figure 6.8: Type of Internet Connection	62
Figure 6.9: Mobile Money Transfers Subscription and Mobile Money Banking Platform	63
Figure 7.1: Distribution of households Renting/ Provided with the main dwelling unit by Provider	65
Figure 7.2: Has your household paid the rent for April 2020 on the agreed date.....	66
Figure 7.3: Proportion of Residents Paying Rent per Terms of Contract	67
Figure 7.4: Reasons for not being able to pay rent.....	67
Figure 7.5: Measures Taken by Household to Mitigate COVID-19 Effects on Rent	68
Figure 9.1: COVID-19 Testing ,2020.....	78
Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools.....	86
Figure 12.1: Effects of COVID-19, 2020	96
Figure 12.2: Difference between usual hours worked and actual hours worked during COVID-19 period	96

List of Tables

Table 1.1: Development indicators in Elgeyo Marakwet County.....	1
Table 1.2: Population distribution for selected age groups in the County (2019)	2
Table 1.3 Level of Deprivations for the various indicators for multidimensional poverty in the county	3
Table 1.4: Total COVID-19 cases in Elgeyo Marakwet and the country’s mobility stringency	5
Table 2.1: Monthly cash transfers from National Government (Ksh Million)	7
Table 2.2: County departmental spending	11
Table 3.1: Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture, Fishing and Irrigation by County and Sub County.....	15
Table 3.2: Distribution of Households Growing Crops by Type, County and Sub County	16
Table 3.3: Distribution of Households Growing Permanent Crops by Type and County	17
Table 3.4: Fruits Grown in Elgeyo Marakwet County.....	17
Table 3.5: Vegetables Grown in Elgeyo Marakwet County.....	18
Table 3.6: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) Grown in Elgeyo Marakwet County	18
Table 3.7: Distribution of Households Rearing Livestock and Fish by County and Sub County	19
Table 5.1: Distribution of Manufacturing firms by Gender and Size - N (per cent)	43
Table 5.2: Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms	43
Table 5.3: Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing.....	45
Table 5.4: Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size -N (per cent).....	50
Table 5.5: Employment by gender and Size - N (per cent)	50
Table 5.6: Level of innovation by MSMEs.....	51
Table 7.1: Distribution of Population by Urban Centers by Gender	65
Table 8.1 Classified hotel establishments in Elgeyo Marakwet, 2019	69
Table 9.1: Health provision	72
Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of the Population that reported Sickness/Injury by Type of Health Provider in Elgeyo Marakwet County.....	73
Table 9.3: Percentage Distribution of Elgeyo Marakwet County’s Population with Health Insurance Cover by Type of Health Insurance Provider.....	74
Table 9.4: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by Place of Delivery	74
Table 9.5: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months Immunized Against Measles	75
Table 9.6: Health output indicators	75
Table 10.1: Gross Attendance Ratio and Net Attendance Ratio by Educational Level in Elgeyo Marakwet County.....	82
Table 10.2: Gross and net enrolment rate (per cent), 2018.....	83
Table 10.3: Percentage Distribution of Population aged 15 Years and above by Ability to Read and Write ..	84
Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Highest Educational Qualification	84
Table 10.5: Percentage Distribution of Residents 3 Years and above who had ever Attended School by Highest Level Reached, and Sex for Elgeyo Marakwet County	85
Table 11.1: The proportion of households by the First Severe Shock in Elgeyo Marakwet County	89
Table 11.2: The proportion of households that received cash transfers by source, and household headship	91
Table 12.1: Distribution of Population Age 5 Years and above by Activity Status, and Sex in the County	94

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

Acknowledgements

The development of the County Technical Reports was a combined effort of various departments at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) with support and inputs from the Council of Governors and the 47 Counties. Specifically, the Institute wish to thank KIPPRA's Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi for guiding the process. We would also like to thank the entire KIPPRA technical and research team comprising Dr Eldah Onsomu, Dr Evelyn Kihiu, Mutuku Muleli, James Gachanja, Rogers Musamali, Paul Lutta, Daniel Omanyo, Hellen Chemnyongoi, Shadrack Mwatu, Nahashon Mwongera, Paul Odhiambo, Beverly Musili, Violet Nyabaro, Japheth Kathenge, Haron Ngeno, Elton Khaemba, Ephantus Kimani, Michael Ogolla, Beatrice Mwangi, and Rosemary Murebu for their tireless contributions to the success of preparing the report.

Executive Summary

1.1 Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting

The county's total revenue, grew by 68 per cent from Ksh 3.32 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 5.59 billion in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 9.8 per cent. Analysis of the sources of county revenues indicate that equitable share from the National government contributed the largest share of the total revenues. On average, it contributed 75.87 per cent of the total revenues between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. Conditional grants have been on an upward trajectory, increasing from Ksh 184.2 million in FY 2014/15 to Ksh 552.32 million in the FY 2020/21. The share of OSR to the total revenue has relatively been low. On average, OSR contributed 2.56 per cent to total revenues between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. As such, the County need to strengthen its OSR collection framework to enhance its contribution to the total revenue. 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 1,713.7 million to Ksh 4,764.4 million in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 25.4 per cent. With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate between FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21 was 55.3 per cent (implying that on average over 44.7 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. To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals contained in the ADPs and CIDP, the county government will 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 and 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.

1.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Crop and livestock production are the predominant economic activities in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Key agricultural value chain commodities in the County include: - maize, beans, potatoes, kales, millet, onions, bananas, cabbages., cattle, sheep, goats, poultry production and bee keeping (apiculture). Among the socioeconomic effects on the COVID-19 pandemic on the agri-food sector in the County included negative effects on hours worked by in agriculture related occupations. An additional effect was a slow down on trade and

marketing activities due to the restrictions on movements leading to price shocks and shortages of food items. Agricultural productivity in the County is also affected by:- variable and extreme weather events; unsustainable natural resources management practices ; low adaptive capacity of farmers to Climate change ; low agro-processing and value addition opportunities; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low 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; Promote adoption of modern technologies, conservation agriculture techniques and sustainable land management; link farmers to diverse product markets; strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural inputs and services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; provision of storage and cooling facilities; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives.

1.3 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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

1.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

The momentum in manufacturing, trade and MSMEs was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the containment measures associated with COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the sector. The measures that were taken, such as closure of markets, observance of health protocols in form of social distancing and handwashing served to increase the cost of production and affected access to markets for the produce. In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County to: Exploit the opportunity presented by the pandemic especially in production of essential goods such as masks,

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators; Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify, and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County needs to inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges; Create partnerships with other counties to enhance markets for the County's produce and sustainability; Collaborate with the National government to ensure security is enhanced to reduce on crime and create a peaceful business environment

1.5 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is PSV matatus followed by walking. The population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute due to the pandemic. The unpaved road network is in overall poor condition but the County records good Rural Access Index that is above the national average. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. Majority of internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of 5 per cent relying on mobile broad band that uses a sim card. The perception that the individuals do not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet and the cost of equipment are the leading reasons that people in the County do not have internet connection. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied, with the main challenge being the quality of housing where most houses are constructed using rudimentary materials. In response to the prevailing challenges, the county tol focus on applying labor based and local resource-based approaches for road development and maintenance; adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet; Develop and implement urban planning and design instruments that support sustainable management and use of natural resources and land in line with the New Urban Agenda.

1.6 Tourism

Elgeyo Marakwet County is recognized for scenic physical attractions (natural caves, hot springs, gorges, viewpoints, indigenous forests); Wildlife tourism (Rimoi game reserve); sports tourism; community-based conservation; and cultural and heritage tourism assets. The county has 8 registered hotels out of which 2 are star-rated with a total capacity of 43 rooms and 70 beds (table 28). The other key non-classified hotels are Lelin Campsite, AIC Cheptebo Rural Development and Training Centre, Sego Hotel, Keellu Hotel, Elgon Valley Hotel, Kilima Resort among others. The total bed capacity in the county currently stands at about 300 which is insufficient to meet the demand at peak seasons. The county has done a feasibility study for the construction of an ecolodge in Rimoi Game Reserve to provide hotel and conferencing facilities and to serve as a model for other upcoming facilities to meet sustainable tourism global criteria acceptable for ecologies. To address the emerging issues, the County needs to enforce sanitation and hygiene standards in all accommodation facilities and tourist attraction sites in line with the national guidelines for reopening of hospitality establishments in order to ensure business continuity,

diversify niche tourism product development and marketing incorporating dimensions of COVID-19 containment; and allocate resources for investment and rehabilitation of tourism-supporting infrastructure, including modern M.I.C.E venues, and roads leading to the physical tourist attraction and heritage sites.

1.7 Health

The county has about 129 public health facilities. At the beginning of the pandemic, the county had few single critical care beds and prioritized building on the changes brought about by the crisis to enhance patient care and lock in operational improvements, while also managing the non-COVID patients and building resilience for future waves of the pandemic. The nearest hospital is Kamotho health care center which is 20 km from this area of landslide. Under the health sector, there is need to create 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.

1.8 Education

The county has about 880 Public schools of which 100 per cent have benefitted from 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 a total enrolment of 853,032 students of whom 17.9 per cent, 60 per cent and 18 per cent are placed at ECDE centres, Primary and Secondary schools, respectively. Also, the County has about 1.9 per cent and 1.7 per cent of total students in vocational training colleges (VTCS) and Universities, respectively. The County with support from stakeholders 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 to provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school, and also provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners.

1.9 Social protection

Elgeyo Marakwet County has an estimated population of 454,480 of which 4,861 (1.2 %) are living with disability. A further 4.4 per cent of the total population are older persons aged 65 years and of which 52.5 per cent are females. The overall poverty index in the county stands at 61.5 per cent. This is way above the national average of 39.6 per cent. Further, the county proportion of stunted children stands at about 30 per cent which indicates the nutritional

status of the county. Food and multidimensional poverty levels are 43 per cent and 45 per cent respectively. It is 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 to improve it.

1.10 Labour participation

Agriculture is the main source of revenue in the county and majority of people are involved in livestock keeping and farming, in addition to SMEs, tourism and mining in Kerio Valley. This provides people with source of food as well as revenue which is used to improve their welfare. 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 in SMEs. The profits and savings obtained from business is used in feeding the family members as well as insuring them in future. With the loss of jobs in the Small and Medium Enterprises the livelihood of people working in these sectors was directly or indirectly affected, particularly youths as the sector employs most of the young population. The county needs 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.

1. Introduction and structure of Elgeyo Marakwet County Economy

1.1 Population dynamics

Elgeyo Marakwet County (EMC) is one of the Counties in the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB). The county occupies a land area of 3,029.6 Km². According to the KNBS, 2019 census the county has an estimated population of 454,480 people of which 50.0 per cent are male and 49.9 per cent are female as indicated in table 1. Of this population 4,861 (or 1.2 %) are persons with disability while the young population (15-34) constitutes of 35.0 per cent of the population of whom 50.0 per cent were female. The population in school going age group (4-22 years) was 49.7 per cent in 2019. The county has a population density of 150 per km². About 95.5 per cent of the population lives in rural areas of whom 49.9 per cent are female. The elderly population (over 65year-old) makes up 4.4 per cent of the total population of whom 52.5 per cent were female.

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Elgeyo Marakwet County was 43.0 per cent against the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent. In addition, 45.4 per cent of the population was living in food poverty and 61.5 per cent were living in multidimensional poverty, which denotes the county was highly poverty-stricken in terms of sanitation and hygiene, health care, nutrition and adequate food, drinking water education, knowledge of health and nutrition, housing and standard of living. According to KDHS 2014, 29.9 per cent of the children were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26 per cent.

Table 1.1: Development indicators in Elgeyo Marakwet County

Indicator	County	National
Estimated Total Population (KNBS, 2019)	454,480,	1.2 per cent of total population
Males	227,317	50.4 per cent
Females	227,151	49.5 per cent
Intersex	12	0.002 per cent
Estimated Population Density (km2)	150	82
Persons with disability	1.5 per cent	2.2
Population living in rural areas (per cent)	95.5 per cent	68.8 per cent
Children (0-14 years) (per cent)	42.3 per cent	41.1per cent
School going age (4-22 years) (per cent)	49.7 per cent	68.7 per cent
Youth 15-34 years (per cent)	35.0 per cent	36.1 per cent

Labour force (15-64 years) (per cent)	53.3per cent	55.0per cent
Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	4.4 per cent	3.9 per cent
Number of COVID-19 cases (as of 11th September 2020) (MOH); National cases were 35,232 people	5	0.015 per cent of the national cases
Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	43.0 per cent	36.1 per cent
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	45.4 per cent	31.9 per cent
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	61.5 per cent	56.1 per cent
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	29.9 per cent	26 per cent
Gross County Product (Ksh Million) 2020	117,047	0.9 per cent Share to total GDP (2013-2020)
Average growth of Nominal GCP/GDP (2013-2017) (per cent)	31.4 per cent	15.3 per cent

Data Source: KNBS (2019)

The productive population of the county represents the largest share of the county population as shown in figure 1. This is the 15-64 age group which currently has 244,076 individuals which is 54 per cent of the total county population. This number is expected to rise in future. There is need to create more employment opportunities for women and youth in this category.

The age distribution of Elgeyo Marakwet County residents as per the 2019 Housing and Population Census is shown in figure 1.2. The bulk of Elgeyo Marakwet County's population is in the age group of between 15-34 years comprising of 336,242 individuals. They are followed by persons aged between 6-13 years who are the primary school children comprising of 196,896 of the county population. The under 0-3 age comprise of 86,251 of the county population. This shows that the county has a general youthful population.

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

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 0-3	43,485	42,766	86,251
Preprimary school age (Under 4-5)	23,548	22,967	46,515
Primary School Age (6 -13)	99,133	97,763	196,896
Secondary school age (14-17)	47,308	46,374	93,682
Youth Population (15-34)	163,629	172,613	336,242
Female Reproductive age (15-49)		228,410	228,410
Labour force (15-64)	256,338	257,516	257,516
Aged Population 65+	15,665	17,417	33,082

Data Source: KNBS (2019)

1.2 Level of socioeconomic deprivations

In 2015/2016 20.8 per cent of the population had health insurance cover, 6.7 per cent lived in premises with water, 77.7 per cent lived in their own homes and 75 per cent had access to mobile telephone (Table 1.3) and majority of the households (87.4 %) had access to toilet facility. As a result, the multi-dimensional poverty is 61.5 per cent.

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

Indicator		Percentage Distribution
Health care	Population with Health Insurance Cover	20.8
Drinking water (Time taken to fetch)	Zero (In premises)	6.7
	less than 30 minutes	89.8
	30 minutes or longer	2.4
Sanitation and Hygiene	Proportion of households with toilet facility	87.4
	Shared Toilet	29
	Not Shared	71
	Place to wash hands outside toilet facility	9.9
	No place to wash hands outside toilet facility	89.6
Education (Population 3 years and Above by School Attendance Status)	Ever Attended	90.9
	Never Attended	9.0
Knowledge of health and nutrition (children aged 0-59 months that participated in Community Nutrition Programmes)	Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	59.4
	Did not Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	38.6
Housing and standard of living (house ownership)	Owner Occupier	77.7
	Pays Rent/ Lease	12.8
Access to information (Population Aged 3 years and above by ICT Equipment and Services Used)	Television	50.7
	Radio	92.4
	Mobile phone	75.0
	Computer	9.1
	Internet	11.8

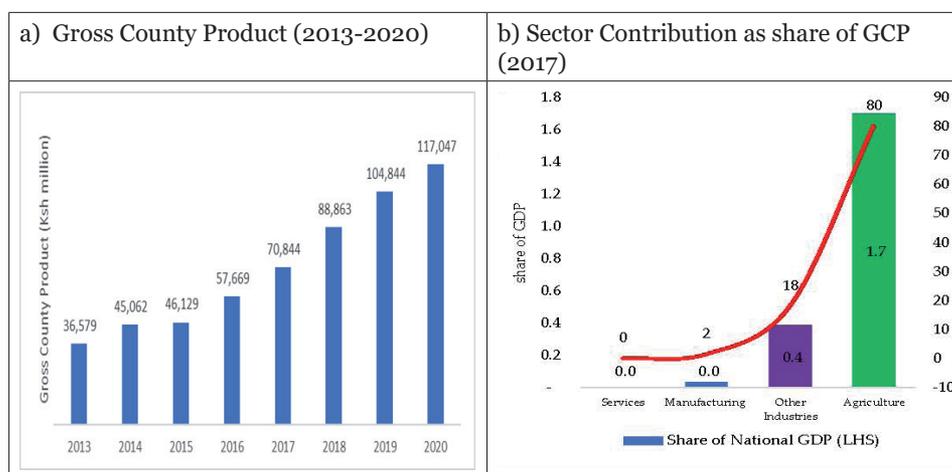
Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

1.3 Structure of the County Economy

Elgeyo Marakwet County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 0.9 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as at 2017 (figure 1). The GCP increased from Ksh 36,579 million in 2013 to Ksh 117,047 million in 2020, an annual average growth rate of 31.4 per cent.

The agriculture sector contributes 80.0 per cent of GCP while services and other industries share constituted 18.0 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively. The services sector included such activities as wholesale and retail trade. Agriculture is mainly dominated by crop farming and livestock rearing activities while industries and manufacturing is mainly dominated by food processing activities.

Figure 1.1: Structure of the County Economy, 2017



Data Source: KNBS (2019)¹

1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions

As of March 2020, Elgeyo Marakwet County had zero cases. However, by August 2020, the County had reported 1 COVID-19 case with mobility stringency of 70.4. The caseload would rise to 245 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 indicates high incidence or severity of mobility restrictions. The County mobility stringency index of 56 per cent implies the severity of the restrictions was moderate.

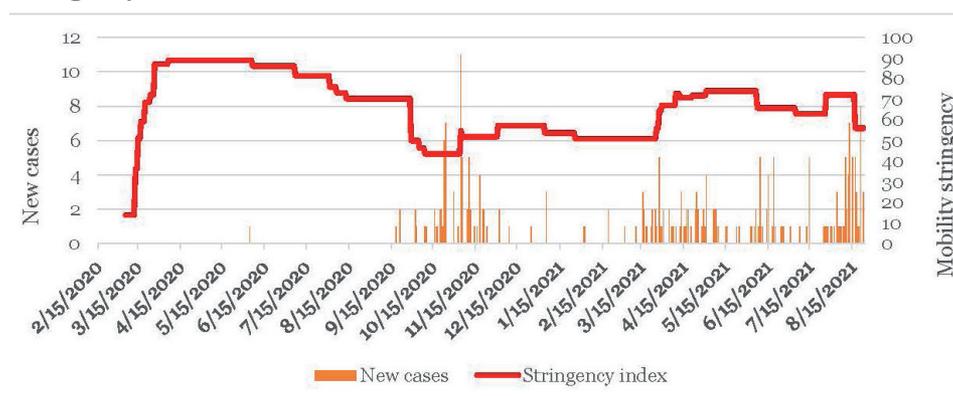
¹ Data on economic performance unavailable for the County

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

Date	Total cases	Mobility stringency (0-100)
13 th March 2020	0	36.1
23 rd August 2020	1	70.4
23 rd August 2021	245	56.0

Source: Oxford University

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

Figure 1.2: New COVID-19 cases in Elgeyo Marakwet and the country's mobility stringency

Data Source: Oxford University

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

2. Socio-economic Effect of COVID-19

2.1 Fiscal policy

2.1.1 County revenue analysis

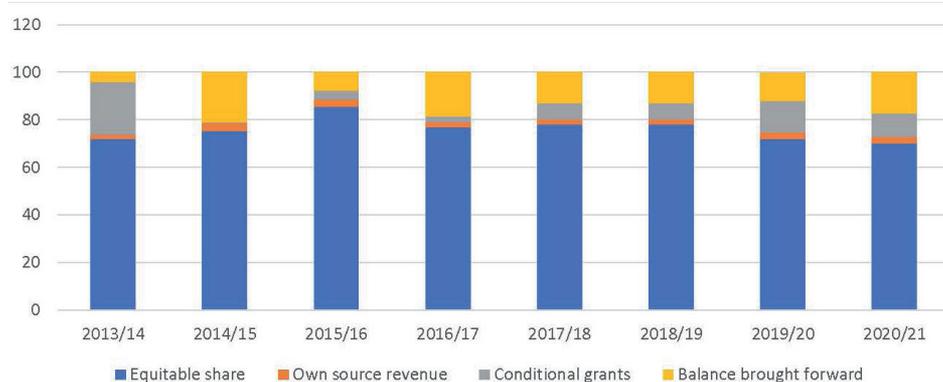
The development plans and other operations in the county can be achieved with the requisite financial resources are available. The County's main sources of revenue are transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants and its own source revenue (OSR).

Transfers from National Government

The county's total revenue has been on an increasing trend over the years, growing by 68 per cent from Ksh 3.32 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 5.59 billion in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 9.8 per cent. The amount received in FY 2020/21 accounted for 93.9 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 5.95 billion for the County. The amount raised was slightly lower than 94.4 per cent of the annual budget allocation realized during FY 2019/20 due to the small increase in the expected budget allocation in FY 2020/21.

Analysis of the sources of county revenues indicate that equitable share from the National government contributed the largest share of the total revenues (figure 2.1). On average, it contributed 75.87 per cent of the total revenues between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. Equitable share grew by 61 per cent from Ksh 2.39 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 3.86 billion in FY 2020/21. The amount received in FY 2020/21 accounted for 100 per cent of the annual budget allocation. This implied that the County received all expected amount from the National Government to finance its operations, underscoring its commitment to support county operations through timely financing.

Figure 2.1: Share of county revenues by source



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

The monthly cash transfers from the National Government further indicate that the county received increasing amounts from January to June over the years. In April and May 2020, the county received Ksh 3.28 billion which was 14.7 per cent increase from Ksh 2.86 billion released in March. The transfers grew further by 16.4 per cent from Ksh 3.28 billion in May to Ksh 3.82 billion in June. Comparing 2019 and 2020, the transfers from national government for the months of April and May grew by 20.6 per cent and 8.6 per cent respectively. The growth may be attributed to the county need of financial resources to implement the COVID-19 regulations to curb the pandemic, amidst its planned budgetary operations. However, the county received 8.38 per cent less in June 2020 compared to June 2019.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	2,087.13	2,156.33	-	-	-	-	1,151.63	-	-
2020	2,209.44	2,556.96	2,865.86	3,287.34	3,287.34	3,824.77	969.19	1,387.77	1,742.84
2019	1,678.73	1,989.79	2,353.83	2,724.51	3,025.95	4,174.52	3,025.95	1,031.77	1,425.48
2018	856.73	1,224.88	1,877.20	2,167.12	2,538.12	3,730.52	458.44	835.33	1,301.93
2017	-	-	2,064.38	2,381.97	2,974.63	3,539.25	253.68	-	-
2016	-	-	1,934.01	2,489.98	2,767.97	2,767.97	-	-	-

Data source: Gazette Notice (Various issues)

Conditional grants

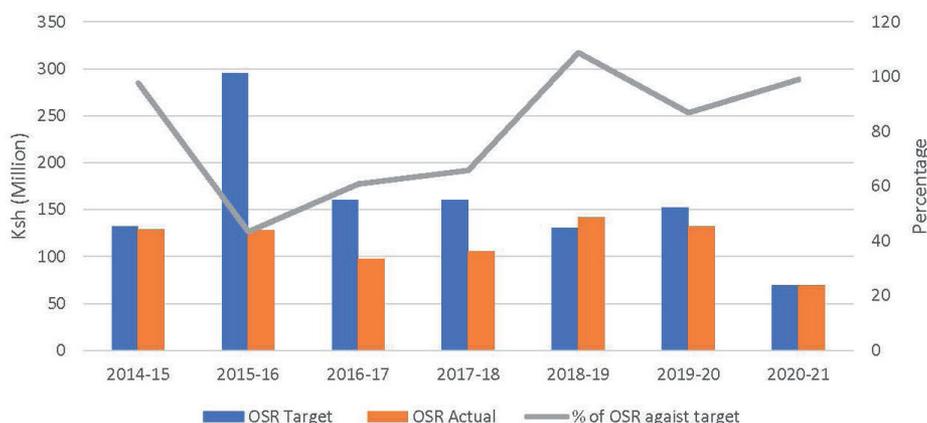
Conditional grants are also a major source of revenue for financing county operations and have been growing over the years. The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), European Union (EU) and Sweden. During FY 2020/21, the County received Ksh 151.78 million and Ksh 400.54 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. The contribution of condition grants to total revenue has been robust. On average, the grants contributed 8.20 per cent of the County total revenue between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21. In nominal terms, conditional grants have been on an upward trajectory, increasing from Ksh 184.2 million in FY 2014/15 to Ksh 552.32 million in the FY 2020/21. As such, continued good relations with development partners and adherence to the conditions of the grants are key to access more funding in form of grants.

2.2 Own Source Revenue

The share of OSR to the total revenue has relatively been low. On average, OSR contributed 2.56 per cent to total revenues between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 (figure 2.1). As such, the County need to strengthen its OSR collection framework to enhance its contribution to the total revenue.

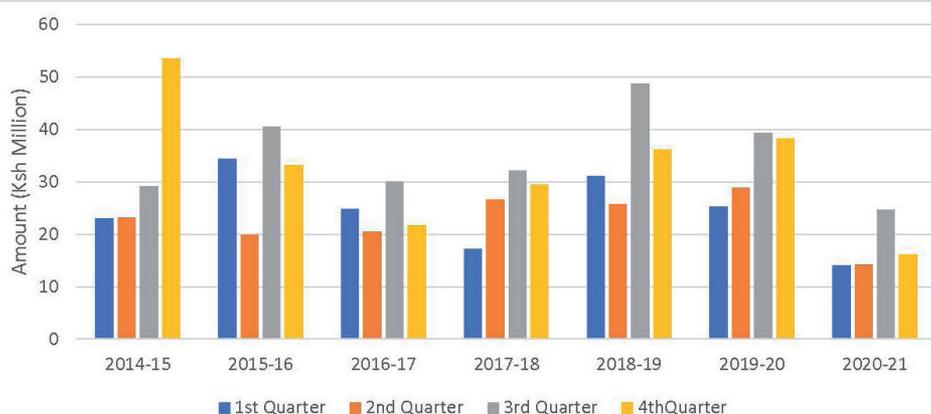
The performance of the county annual OSR has been relatively stable, though with a series of fluctuations as indicated in figure 2.2. The ratio of OSR target versus the actual OSR indicate that the county achieved more than 60 per cent of its target all the years except for the FY 2015/16 when it achieved 43 per cent of its OSR target (figure 2.2). In FY 2020/21, the county generated Ksh 141.27 million as OSR, which was a 0.6 per cent decrease compared to Ksh 142.13 million realised in FY 2019/20. The decrease in performance was premised on the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic that slowed down economic activities across the Country. With the gradual recovery in economic activities, as the Country contain the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccinations and other measures, it is expected that the OSR collections will improve.

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 shows that the County collects most of its revenues during third and fourth quarter (figure 2.3). This could be attributed to the collections of single business permits that are due on 31st March of every year. The quarterly performance for FY 2019/20 was robust and mirrored that of the other financial years, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This indicates the County’s resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic that led to low economic activities across the country. During FY 2020/21, the county experienced low quarterly OSR collections implying that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could have been felt later than expected. Nevertheless, as the Country move towards economic recovery, the OSR performance is expected to improve as well.

Figure 2.3: Quarterly Own Source Revenue collection

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

2.3 Elgeyo Marakwet County Expenditure Analysis

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

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the productive role of targeted and strategic county level expenditure. The 2014 UN Secretary General’s Synthesis Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) states that “many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities”². 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 (e.g. inability to borrow funds) and relatively small budgets, the county government has a key role to play in promoting growth as espoused in the Kenya Constitution. This is particularly the case with development expenditure, which is within the assigned remit of county as per the PFM Act of 2012 and is key to the county’s future growth prospects given several decades of underinvestment which have constrained productive capacity in the local economy.

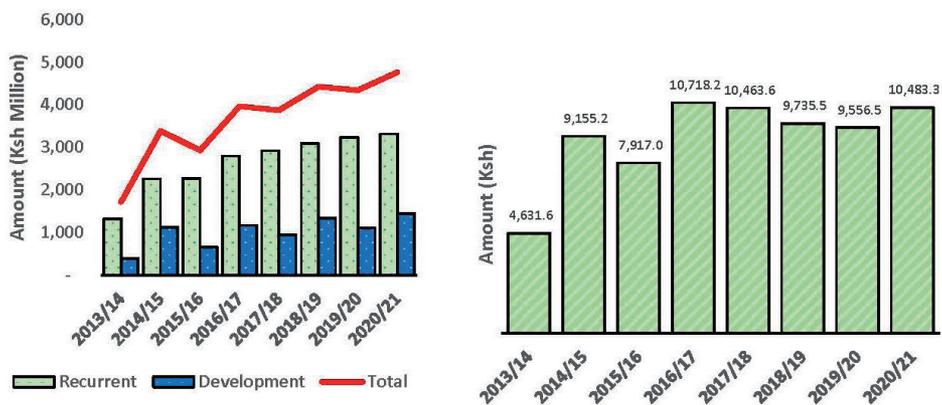
2.4 Trends and profile of county government expenditures 2013-2021

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,

² UN General Assembly (2014), p. 22, par. 94.

actual expenditure in the county increased from Ksh 1,713.7 million to Ksh 4,764.4 million in FY 2020/21 (Figure 2.4). This translates to over 150 per cent increase in county spending over the period. Cumulatively the county has spent a total of Ksh 29.3 billion in that period. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 21.1 billion and Ksh 8.2 billion on recurrent and development expenditures representing 72.1 per cent and 27.9 per cent of the cumulative recurrent and development expenditure respectively. This signals that more development expenditure is required support deepening of capital spending in the county.

Figure 2.4 Trends and profile of county government expenditures



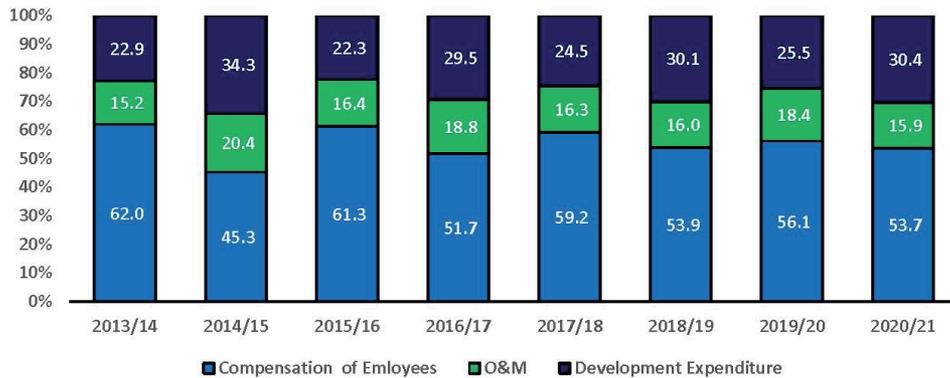
Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

Despite the upward trend in nominal actual county expenditures, spending on a per capita mimic an inverted V-shaped trend. In FY 2013/14, per capita spending in the county was about Ksh 4,631.6 and increased steadily to Ksh 10,718.2 in FY 2016/17 before picking a downward trend. Between FY 2017/18 and FY 2019/20 per capita spending decelerated steadily from Ksh 10,463.6 to Ksh 9,556.5. This has been because of rapid population growth while the growth in county resources is at a slower pace. At the end of FY 2020/21 per capita expenditure increased to Ksh 10,483.3 compared to the Ksh 9,556.5 recorded in FY 2019/20.

2.5 Utilization of public resources in the county

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

Figure 2.5: County Government Expenditure by Economic Classification (per cent of Total County Government Expenditure)



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

County development expenditure has fallen short of 30 per cent of total spending in most years in the review period accounting for an average of 27.4 per cent between FY 2013/14 and FY 2020/21 as represented in Figure 2.5. In FY 2014/15 and FY 2018/19 the share of development expenditure surpassed the 30 per cent mark registering 34.3 per cent and 30.1 per cent respectively. At the end of FY 2020/21 development expenditures accounted for 30.4 per cent of the budget reflecting the need for intensified capital expenditure deepening in the county. While development expenditure regularly performed below 30 per cent of total spending, 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 55.4 per cent accounting for over half of county spending. It is only in FY 2014/15 that compensation of employees accounted for less than half of the county expenditure.

Table 2.2: County departmental spending

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Average	per cent share of spending
Health and Sanitation	1,067.1	1,128.8	1,391.3	1,577.7	1,516.5	1,655.7	1,708.7	1,435.1	36.3
County Assembly	367.7	431.3	468.5	482.8	567.6	537.8	587.8	491.9	12.4
Roads, Public Works, and Transport	466.8	204.6	381.7	250.2	392.3	337.1	484.8	359.6	9.1
Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	272.0	222.7	303.1	268.6	342.9	358.9	670.7*	348.4	8.8
Education and Technical Training	243.8	198.4	396.2	334.5	452.7	399.8	378.7	343.4	8.7
Water, Lands, Environment & Climate Change	211.4	152.9	278.1	268.0	397.8	296.3	274.7	268.5	6.8

Finance and Economic Planning	177.9	168.9	186.8	225.8	219.4	226.4	211.8	202.4	5.1
Office of the Governor and executive administration	256.9	124.0	183.1	134.8	160.0	174.6	140.3	167.7	4.2
Public Service Management & County Administration	135.4	91.9	130.8	109.1	142.3	157.7	115.5	126.1	3.2
Youth Affairs, Sports, ICT & Social Services	66.7	99.0	88.0	88.1	107.1	112.8	102.2	94.8	2.4
Tourism, Culture, Wildlife, Trade & Industry	81.5	68.5	122.4	85.2	74.3	47.7	47.5	75.3	1.9
County Public Service Board	40.5	32.4	34.8	45.3	54.3	38.6	41.8	41.1	1.0
Total	3,387.7	2,923.3	3,964.7	3,869.9	4,427.2	4,343.3	4,764.5	3,954.4	100.0

Source: Controller of Budget

**includes spending by Livestock Production, Fisheries & Cooperative Development department.*

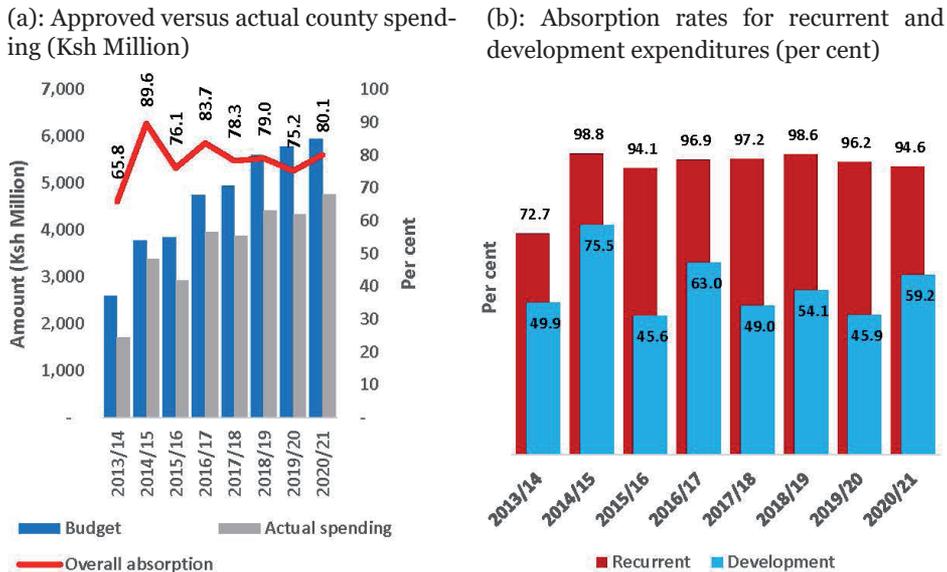
Reflecting on expenditures by functional classification (priority spending), the county spent a combined average of 74.0 per cent of the total expenditure during the period FY 2014/15 to FY 2020/21 on non-administrative functions such as health services; transport infrastructure and public works; education, science, and technology; agriculture, livestock, and fisheries; and trade and industry. Spending on health and sanitation services accounted for 36.3 per cent of the budget in the past seven fiscal years. Roads, public works, and transport accounted for 9.1 per cent of the budget, followed by agriculture, livestock and fisheries at 8.8 per cent, education and technical training at 8.7 per cent, while water, lands, environment and climate change followed closely at 6.8 per cent. On the other hand, the county spent an average of 26.0 per cent on co-ordination and administrative functions with county assembly leading at 12.4 per cent, finance and economic planning 5.1 per cent, office of the governor and executive administration accounted for 4.2 per cent while public service management and county public service board accounting for 3.2 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively as shown in Table 2.2.

2.6 Effectiveness of county spending

The execution of the county budget has remained on a downward trend since FY 2014/15, suggesting absorption capacity challenges. Total budget execution averaged 78.5 per cent in the period FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21. In FY 2013/14 overall total budget execution stood at 65.8 per cent. This execution improved to 89.6 per cent in FY 2014/15 and then nosedived to 75.2 per cent in FY 2019/20 before picking up to 80.1 per cent in FY 2020/21 due to increased expenditure demands following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that in FY 2020/21 the county spent Ksh 4,764.4 million out of the Ksh 5,951.7 million approved budget (Figure 2.6)

With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate between FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21 was 55.3 per cent (implying that on average over 44.7 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 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 93.6 per cent, with 6.5 per cent left as recurrent budget during the review period.

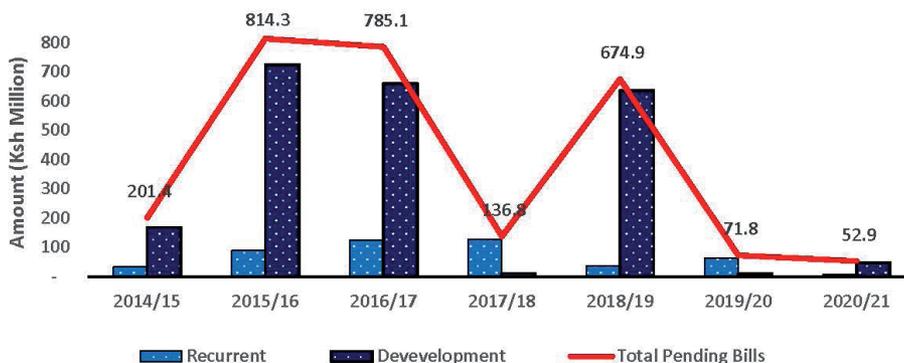
Figure 2.6: Approved Versus Actual County Spending and Absorption Rates for Recurrent and Development Expenditures



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

Pending Bills

In FY 2014/15 the county reported Ksh 201.4 million in pending bills. This sharply increased to Ksh 814.3 million in FY 2015/16 with development spending related pending bills accounting for 89.1 per cent of this. In FY 2016/17 pending bills declined to Ksh 785.1 million and to a further Ksh 136.8 million in FY 2017/18 before increasing sharply to Ksh 674.9 million in FY 2018/19, before plummeting to Ksh 71.8 million at the end of FY 2019/20. In FY 2020/21 the county paid most of its pending bills as a stimulus effort to cushion businesses and families from the effects of the pandemic. As a result, the outstanding bills amounted to Ksh 52.9 million. Generally, pending bills related to development spending have been greater than those related to recurrent expenditure on average accounting for 82.6 per cent of the pending bills portfolio. If pending bills for development were paid in their respective fiscal year, the execution of development budget in subsequent years would improve.

Figure 2.7: Profile of County Pending Bills FY 2014/15 to FY 2020/21

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 Recommendation

- i) Mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations.
- ii) Seek for more funding from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.
- iii) Ensure that the on-going projects are completed before launching new project sand clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers. Ensure the on-going infrastructure project are completed and suppliers paid within the specified timelines for optimal returns to investment and to spur private sector activity.
- iv) Improve budget execution and absorption of development budget by harmonizing project implementation cycles to budgeting and fast-track exchequer releases.
- v) Creation of an autonomous and dedicated ICT department
- vi) Reduction of expenditure on compensation of employees which take over 50 per cent of total expenditure, this potentially affects execution of key development programs especially if not brought to sustainable levels.

3. Agriculture

3.1 Characteristics of the sector

Agriculture accounts for the largest share of economic activity in Elgeyo Marakwet County. About 80 per cent of the County's economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for Ksh 127,967 million out of the total Ksh 159,531 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 80.21 per cent of the County's GCP.

Over 70 per cent of the households in Elgeyo Marakwet County practice farming. About 71 per cent of the households produce crops, 54 per cent produce livestock, 0.28 per cent practice aquaculture and about 0.34 per cent are involved in fishing. About 8.4 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

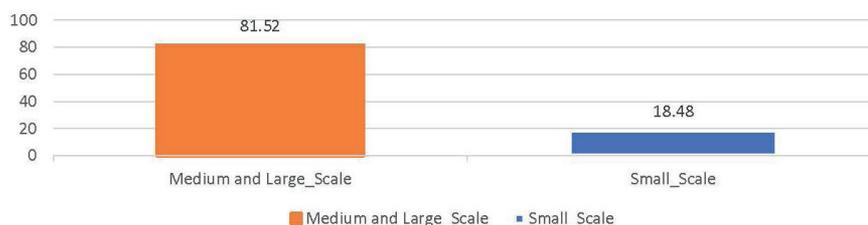
Table 3.1: Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture, Fishing and Irrigation by County and Sub County

County/Sub County	Total Households	Farming Households	Crop Production	Livestock Production	Aquaculture	Fishing	Irrigation
Kenya	12,143,913	6,354,211	5,555,974	4,729,288	29,325	109,640	369,679
Elgeyo/Marakwet	99,861	74,881	71,084	54,322	280	340	8,383
Keiyo North	21,947	15,190	14,339	10,582	29	58	809
Keiyo South	27,029	21,518	20,441	16,550	113	115	1,074
Marakwet East	21,362	15,779	14,723	11,044	36	69	4,250
Marakwet West	29,523	22,394	21,581	16,146	102	98	2,250

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

On the scale of production, the FAO criterion on land size is used to identify small holder farmers as those producers that “fall in the bottom 40 per cent of the cumulative distribution” (Khalil et al., 2017). Using this criterion, about 18.5 per cent of the farming households in Elgeyo Marakwet County are “small-scale” farmers with a land holding of 0.675 or less acres of land.

Figure 3.1: Scale of Operation: per cent of households



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

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

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

County/Sub County	Kenya	Elgeyo/ Marakwet	Keiyo North	Keiyo South	Marakwet East	Marakwet West
Maize	5,104,967	62,633	13,527	18,562	11,779	18,765
Sorghum	904,945	9,624	1,612	2,052	3,887	2,073
Potatoes	1,170,170	27,205	3,018	8,789	4,840	10,558
Beans	3,600,840	39,126	9,650	11,723	6,388	11,365
Cassava	1,050,352	2,276	199	682	1,186	209
Sweet Potatoes	1,134,102	4,123	791	1,443	935	954
Wheat	67,720	1,369	648	285	194	242
Green grams	571,426	1,744	223	484	835	202
Bananas	2,139,421	12,325	2,011	3,660	2,875	3,779
Cabbages	490,588	10,555	1,223	4,234	1,498	3,600
Tomatoes	410,224	4,105	934	1,045	1,160	966
Onions	707,182	13,775	1,346	5,207	2,231	4,991
Ground Nuts	480,812	1,772	83	1,061	535	93
Millet	540,353	20,353	4,971	4,870	5,590	4,922
Watermelons	84,077	548	87	123	225	113
Kales	1,916,898	22,876	3,671	7,646	3,840	7,719
Sugarcane	654,468	2,021	253	305	705	758

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Key permanent crops among households in Elgeyo Marakwet include Mangoes, Avocado, Citrus and Coffee.

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

County/Sub County	Tea	Coffee	Avocado	Citrus	Mango	Macadamia
Elgeyo/Marakwet	751	1,390	5,224	1,632	6,430	518
Kenya	476,613	478,936	966,976	177,445	796,867	195,999

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Resource productivity is another key important factor in determining the agro-processing potential (scale) of the County and would have a great impact on farmers' incomes and the County's GCP. An assessment of horticultural productivity indicates Elgeyo Marakwet's value of fruits production in 2019 amounted to Ksh 1.3 billion. The area under fruit was 3,825 Ha with a production of 68,861 MT. The major fruits grown in order of value importance are; Mangoes, Purple Passion Fruits, Banana and Pawpaw.

Table 3.4: Fruits Grown in Elgeyo Marakwet County

Type of Fruit	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Peaches	1	0	6,153
Macadamia Nuts	12	1	20,500
White Sapote	6	4	184,533
Grapefruits	4	25	327,467
Plums	10	26	964,000
Custard Apple	10	84	982,741
Pears	12	38	1,128,834
Tangerines	22	112	2,247,941
Tree Tomato	22	207	6,255,000
Pineapples	20	501	7,506,000
Lemons	143	1,035	18,685,379
Ground Nuts	172	381	30,141,000
Oranges	214	1,685	51,630,824
Watermelons	217	3,638	67,838,000
Avocado	375	3,493	85,594,035
Pawpaw	295	6,291	186,707,536
Banana	701	19,256	229,584,933
Purple Passion Fruits	462	16,486	254,436,000
Mango	1,127	15,598	316,996,736
Total	3,825	68,861	1,261,237,612

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of vegetables production in the County amounted to Ksh 4.4 billion. The area under vegetables was 15,853 Ha with a production of 531,862 MT. The major vegetables grown in order of value importance are; pumpkin fruit, spinach, garden peas, tomato, kales, cabbage and potatoes.

Table 3.5: Vegetables Grown in Elgeyo Marakwet County

Type of Vegetables	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Jute Mallow/Mrenda	1	2	30,000
Vine Spinach/Nderema	2	5	250,000
Tindori	3	15	505,000
French Beans	5	14	700,000
Leaf Amaranth	10	33	929,173
Egg Plant	5	40	1,000,000
Runner/Broad Bean	3	9	1,417,500
Snap Peas	11	50	2,540,000
Pumpkin Leaves	24	100	2,760,000
Spider Plant	29	180	2,789,478
Snow Pea	6	58	2,900,000
Butter Nut	23	316	6,771,600
Carrots	62	1,051	9,869,883
Cowpea	119	401	9,941,495
African Nightshade	142	920	14,671,495
Pumpkin Fruit	45	1,546	19,847,000
Spinach	144	1,891	25,980,890
Garden Peas	86	656	30,844,362
Tomato	250	4,017	131,964,636
Kales	564	10,325	140,834,835
Cabbage	951	25,402	529,326,269
Potato	13,368	484,831	3,486,878,071
Total	15,853	531,862	4,422,751,687

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority, 2019

In 2019, the value of MAPs production in the County amounted to Ksh 86.62 million. The area under MAPSS was 219 Ha with a production of 1,785 MT. The major MAPs grown are; Bulb Onion, Spring Onion/Green Shallots, Chillies and Coriander.

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

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Corriander	13	38	356,057
Bulb Onion	20	258	7,630,864
Spring Onion/Green Shallots	176	1,420	77,146,000
Long Cayenne Chilies	10	69	1,485,000
Total	219	1,785	86,617,921

Source: AFA, 2019

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

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

County /Sub County	Kenya	Elgeyo /Marakwet	Keiyo North	Keiyo South	Marakwet East	Marakwet West
Exotic cattle -Dairy	939,916	13,432	1,902	5,304	1,462	4,764
Exotic cattle -Beef	167,625	1,802	177	774	328	523
Indigenous cattle	2,260,439	31,393	6,845	9,063	6,168	9,317
Sheep	1,299,893	27,835	5,631	8,509	5,397	8,298
Goats	1,898,887	10,730	1,816	2,877	4,056	1,981
Camels	167,666	21	7	5	6	3
Donkeys	500,682	1,708	163	531	127	887
Pigs	110,383	49	7	11	6	25
Indigenous Chicken	3,337,700	32,412	6,608	10,318	5,108	10,378
Exotic Chicken Layers	194,517	1,512	207	574	184	547
Exotic Chicken Broilers	79,461	670	60	216	109	285
Beehives	201,406	5,141	910	1,859	1,083	1,289
Rabbits	124,122	530	157	172	22	179
Fish Ponds	22,019	260	27	105	33	95
Fish Cages	3,361	35	2	10	6	17

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

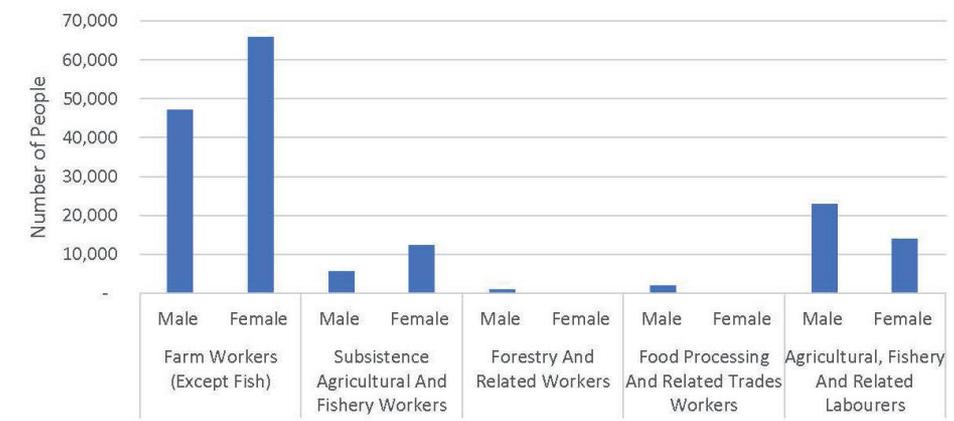
The above characterization of farming households highlights the priority value chain opportunities in maize, beans, potatoes, kales, millet, onions, bananas, cabbages., cattle, sheep, goats, poultry production and bee keeping (apiculture). With majority of the households farming the identified products, the current Elgeyo Marakwet 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 Elgeyo Marakwet indicates relative active participation of both females and males with no strong dominance of either gender in the labor force. Majority of the population in Elgeyo Marakwet are farm workers where the group covers occupations related to: Field Crop, Vegetable and Horticultural Farm Workers; Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Producers; and Crop and Animal Producers. The classifications are based on the Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard (KNOCS). Under this category, women are more active which supports theory on the role women play in providing labor in agricultural production related tasks. The other key sub-sectors where the population in the County is engaged include: (1) agricultural, fishery and related labourers. This sub-category of workers includes: Farm-hands and Related Labourers; Forestry Labourers; and Fishery, Hunting and Trapping Labourers; and (2) subsistence agricultural and fishery workers.

Figure 3.2: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation

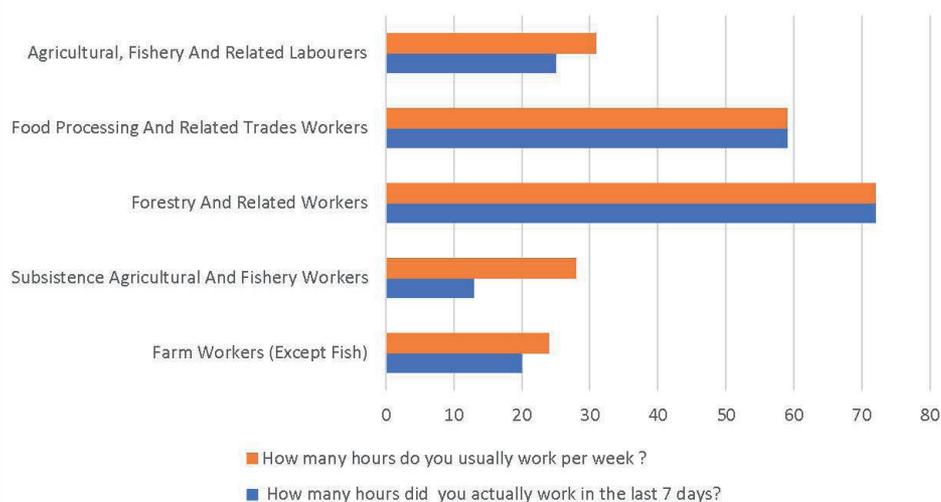


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

An assessment of the COVID-19 effects on hours worked in agriculture related occupations in the County indicates workers in the identified key sub-sectors worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. The most affected workers are those in the subsistence agricultural and fishery sub-category who recorded the highest difference of 15 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. The workers in this sub-major group Examples of occupational titles classified under

subsistence agricultural and fishery sub-category include: Farm worker, skilled/subsistence farming; Farmer, subsistence farming; Fisherman, subsistence fishing; Gatherer, food; and Pastoralist

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

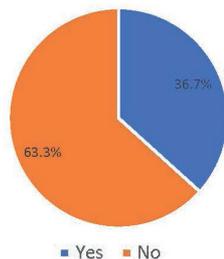
The identification of COVID-19 effects on labour force participation, especially among farm workers, workers in the subsistence agricultural and fishery sub-category and the agricultural, fishery and related labourers' sub-group is likely to have negative effects on output yields thereby increasing yield gaps.

3.2.2 Market operations

Successful transformation of smallholder agricultural production in Elgeyo Marakwet 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 was a slow down on trade activities due to the restrictions on movements. From the KNBS conducted between 30th May and 6th June 2020, 36.7 per cent of the households in Elgeyo Marakwet 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

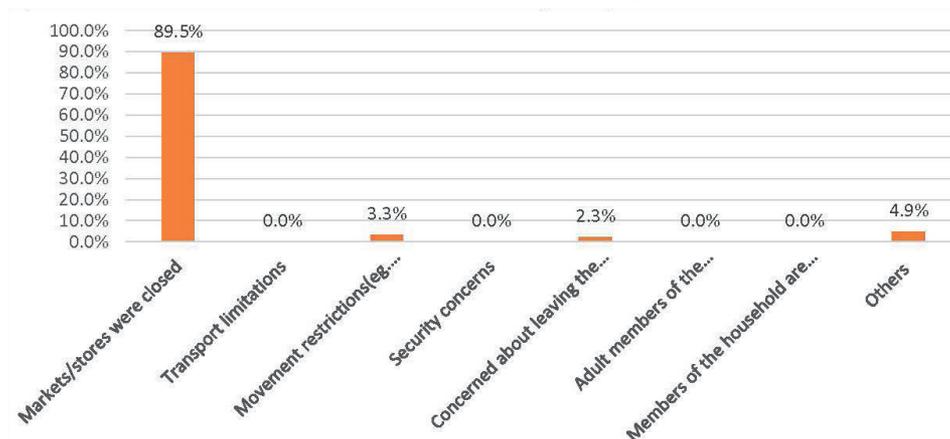
Figure 3.4: Limited access to markets to purchase food items



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 was closure of the markets/grocery stores (89.5%).

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

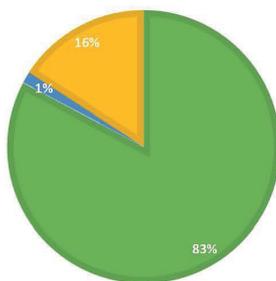


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

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. 83 per cent of households in Elgeyo Marakwet County indicated that over the past 2 weeks from the reference period food process had increased, while 16 per cent indicated that they had not experienced a change in the prices

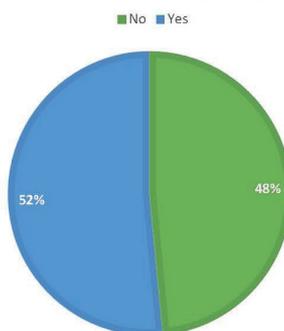
Figure 3.6: Proportion of Households Experiencing Change in Food Commodity



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

On the magnitude of the price shocks, 52 per cent of the households indicated they faced a large rise in food prices in the past two weeks from the reference period.

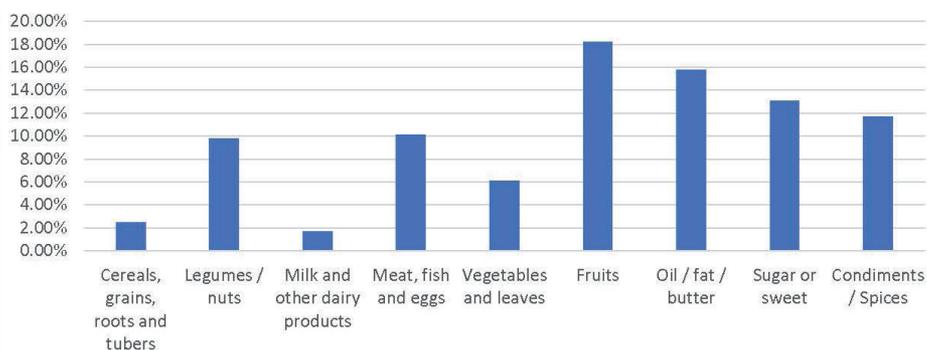
Figure 3.7: Proportion of households facing large food price shocks



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

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

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

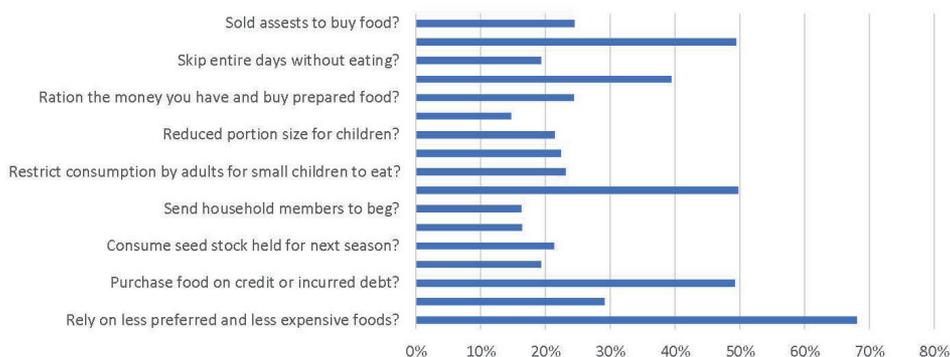


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

A key concern is that the food groups affected most are the nutritious food categories- fruits, meat, fish and eggs, legumes and vegetables-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 (68.1%), decreased buying some non-food products (49.5%), limit portion size at mealtimes (49.8%) and purchase food on credit or incurred debt (49.2%).

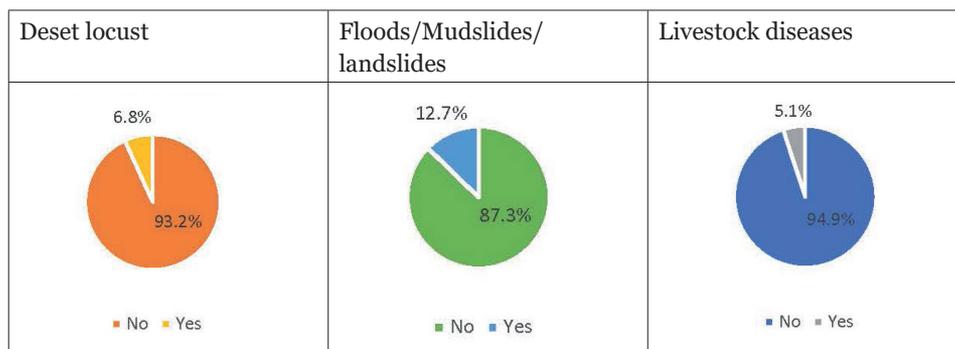
Figure 3.9: per cent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day



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

Additional challenges faced by the County during the COVID-19 pandemic period include: Desert locusts (6.8%); Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides (12.7%); and Livestock Diseases (5.1%).

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



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

3.3 Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County

Among the Key Constraints the County faces include:

- i) Low agro-processing and value addition opportunities among small scale farmers
- ii) Dependence on rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as, drought episodes
- iii) Slow uptake of digital platforms to market agricultural produce.
- iv) Variable and extreme weather events which have increased in frequency and intensity over the years adversely affecting crop and livestock production
- v) Unsustainable land and natural resources management practices
- vi) 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
- vii) Low adaptive capacity of farmers to Climate change
- viii) Low livestock, crops and livestock products marketing opportunities necessary for improved incomes
- ix) Low commercialization levels of farming. Need to undertake livestock farming as a business and not just for cultural purposes
- x) Limited access to extension services in the County
- xi) Diseases and Pests infestation affecting agricultural productivity
- xii) Farm losses and post-harvest waste.

The above challenges combined will led to the overall impact of reducing farm output, farmer incomes and increasing the vulnerability of households to disasters such as COVID-19 and climate variability particularly drought and flood episodes.

3.4 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Agriculture Sector

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

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

The County has opportunities in:

- i) Developing County-private partnership in enhancing agro-processing and value addition and Linking farmers to product markets
- ii) Strengthening farmers access to input supply such as vaccination, animal feed, improved livestock breeds, certified seeds and fertilizer
- iii) Cross border trade especially in exportation of Irish potatoes to neighboring countries such as Tanzania
- iv) Modernization of production from subsistence to commercial agriculture serving both local and export demand
- v) Investment in cooling and storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses
- vi) Adoption of drought resistant livestock pastures/fodder and crops and fodder and feed conservation
- vii) Adoption of early maturing, drought resistant and improved crop varieties
- viii) Strengthening water harvesting, sustainable and efficient irrigation.
- ix) Adoption of natural resource management to include soil and water conservation, tree planting, and changing of crop type.
- x) Enhance supportive services to include early-warning systems, insurance and credit, extension advisory and information services through extension and training on various aspects such as livestock feed conservation techniques.
- xi) Enhancing farmers technical capacities to act on advisory information received
- 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) Climate change- defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods'- is changing at unprecedented rate and poses a great risk to farming activities in the County.
- ii) Environmental degradation as a result of both human and non-human-related activities such as extreme climate conditions. Environmental degradation has reduced productive capacity of farms leading to increased risks to food insecurity and reduced farmers' income and ultimately increased poverty levels within the County.

3.6 Recommendations

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

- i) Develop partnerships with the National Government, NGOs, Research Institutions and the Private sector in enhancing agro-processing and value addition capacities of the County particularly in milk and mango production.
- ii) Improve small holder farmers' incomes, by enhancing commercialization in the County by linking farmers to product markets beyond the County level across the agricultural value chain.
- iii) Invest in storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points to minimize spoilage and post-harvest losses.
- iv) Digitize of the agri-food sector to enhance: - training and building capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies, provision of advisory and information services, marketing agricultural produce at a wider scope beyond the County level, and improving access to innovative support services including; credit and insurance services.
- v) Enhance access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, artificial insemination services, fertilizers, and livestock vaccination. This can be achieved through cooperatives and farmers associations.
- vi) The County to establish programmes for surveillance of disasters such as extreme weather conditions and crop and livestock diseases at the County level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prevent, prepare, respond and prevent risks. There is also need for the County to mitigate disasters, such as those related to floods, through institutional capacity development, vulnerability analyses and updates, monitoring and early warning systems, and public education.
- vii) Enhance quality and diversity of agricultural produce by investing in sustainable irrigation in the County through partnership with development partners. To support expansion of sustainable irrigation, there is need to promote development of Irrigation Infrastructure and technologies in the County.

4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

4.1 Characteristics of WASH

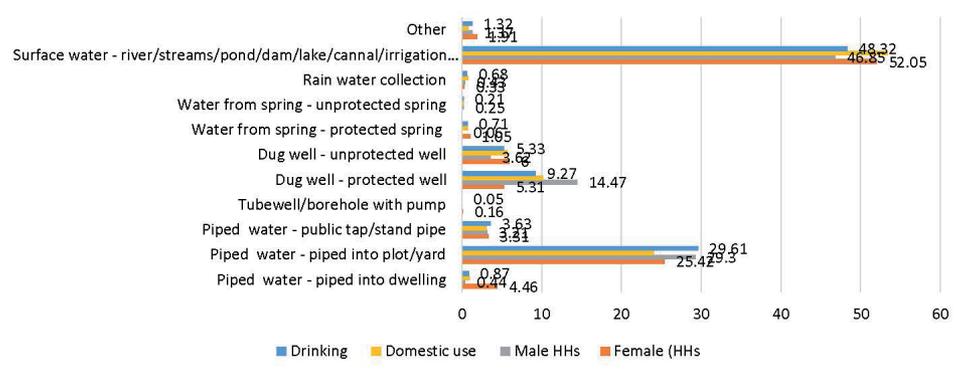
The county has adequate sources of water for drinking and other domestic use as well as for other agricultural purposes. Water resource management is through Iten-Tambach water and Sanitation Company (ITWASCO) currently serving Iten and Tambach areas and Cherangany-Marakwet Water and Sanitation Company (CHEMAWASCO) which serves Kapsowar and Kapcherop Towns. Their mandate is to undertake water provision to consumers commercially. For the rural population, water supply systems are run and operated by Water Users through Project Management Committees (PMCs). PMCs are mandated to levy charges for the operation and maintenance of the supply systems. Water Resource User's Associations ensure control of water abstractions and catchment conservation.

Latrine coverage in the County stands at 87.4 per cent as compared to the national average of 91.1 per cent (KIHBS, 2016). Various wards within the county have different latrine coverage with the lowest ward being Arror, having 42 per cent and Endo having 43 per cent. Hand washing, on the other hand, is practiced by 9.9 per cent of the population (KIHBS, 2016). There are no sewerage systems in the county, but septic tanks are commonly used for disposal of liquid wastes in town centres and institutions and comprise 0.8 per cent as compared to the national average of 4.6 per cent (KIHBS, 2016).

Access to source of water by households

According to KHIBS 2016, the major source of water for drinking utilized by households in Elgeyo Marakwet county surface water at 48.32 per cent (239, 269) which is also the major source of drinking water for both male and female headed households at 46.85 per cent (41,757) and 52.05 per cent (17,642.26) as per the household weighted samples. Only a small portion of households have access to piped water into the plot or yard at 29.61 per cent, (312,100) as the source of drinking water which accesses equally by both male and female headed households at 29.3 per cent and 25.42 per cent respectively. Other sources of water are dug wells (protected) at 9.27 per cent and dug well (unprotected) at 5.33 per cent.

Figure 4.1: Access to source of water by households (per cent)



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

Elgeyo Marakwet is both a rural, urban and peri urban county with majority of its population residing in rural areas and relies on surface water at 59.87 per cent while piped water into the plot forms the major source for drinking water for urban and peri-urban households at 66.2 per cent and 35.89 per cent respectively as per the household weighted sample. For peri-urban dweller, the major source of water is dug well (protected) (26.14%) and surface water (18.7%).

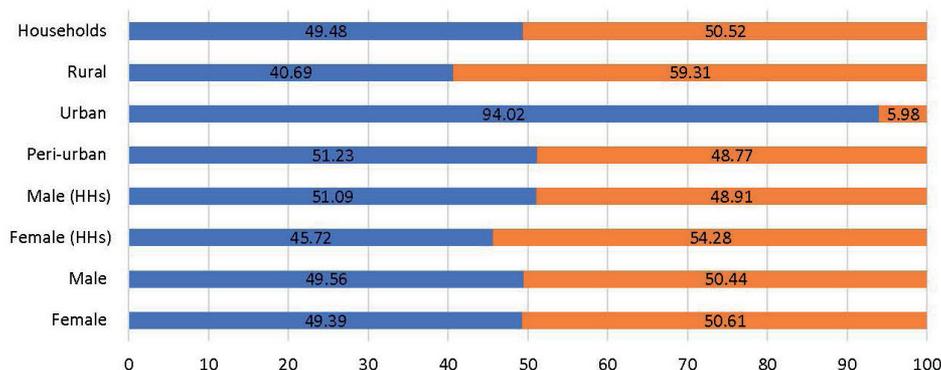
Most of the households in the county rely on surface water, water from dug wells and piped water harvested in dams. There is a risk of the water sources drying up during dry months. This therefore means that households are likely to fail to observe COVID-19 prevention measures of hand washing which may 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 rainwater and surface water harvesting since the county receives enough rainfall. This can be achieved by encouraging and supporting rainwater harvesting at household and institutional level. This may include supporting schools in building rain harvesting and storage structures from the school structure rooftops.

4.2 Access to sources of water by households (Improved and unimproved sources)

Gender access to clean water is an important consideration in provision of water to households, women and girls, poor households, informal settlements, persons with disabilities, marginalized groups and minorities do experience challenges in access to water. According to KNBS there is a higher access to unimproved sources of drinking water in Elgeyo Marakwet county both at the household level, female head household heads and

by different genders. Access to unimproved water source³ at the household level stands at 50.52 per cent, this is in comparison to 49.48 per cent of households with access to improved sources of drinking water. Access to unimproved sources of water is high in rural areas at 50.52 per cent compared to urban (5.98%) and peri-urban (48.77%) areas.

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



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

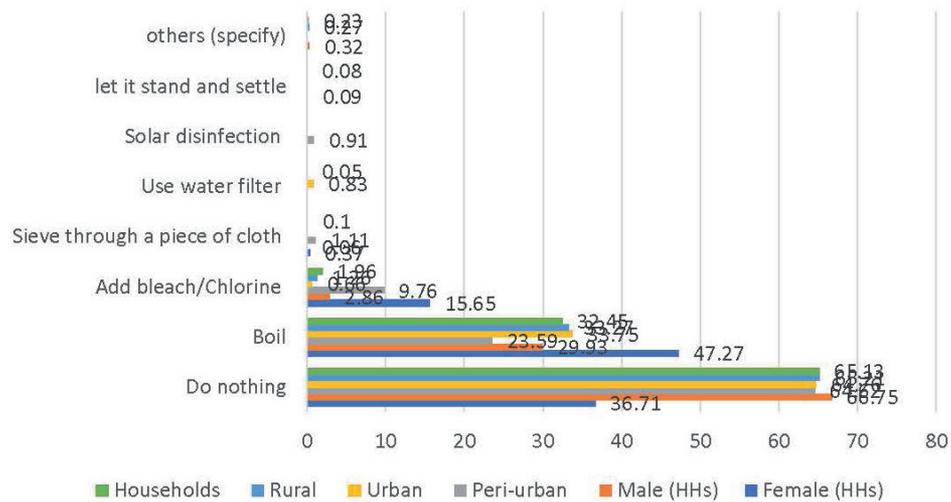
Improved sources of water can also go a long way in reducing infection therefore the need for the county to increase access to improved source of water this may involve increasing piped water coverage, boreholes and wells as well as continuous protection of springs. One mitigation measure that may be 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 by conserving the existing water catchment areas, better methods of farming. Long term measure to support access to water by 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.

4.3 Access to safe drinking water

Clean safe drinking water is important in reducing infectious diseases. Majority of the households (rural urban peri-urban and male and female headed households) do nothing to make it safe for drinking (65.13 %) of the weighted household sample. Female headed households at a higher change of boiling water to make it safe for drinking at 47.27 per cent. Similarly, female headed households (15.65) are likely to use bleach/chlorine to make drinking water safe.

³ 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/canal/irrigation channel Bottled water. This is according to the WHO and UN classification of sources of water.

Figure 4.3: Access to safe drinking water by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Top interventions to make drinking water safe is to sensitize households on the importance of water treatment, supply households with treated piped water, and provision of water treatment facilities and chemicals to households, erecting water treatment facilities at public water points.

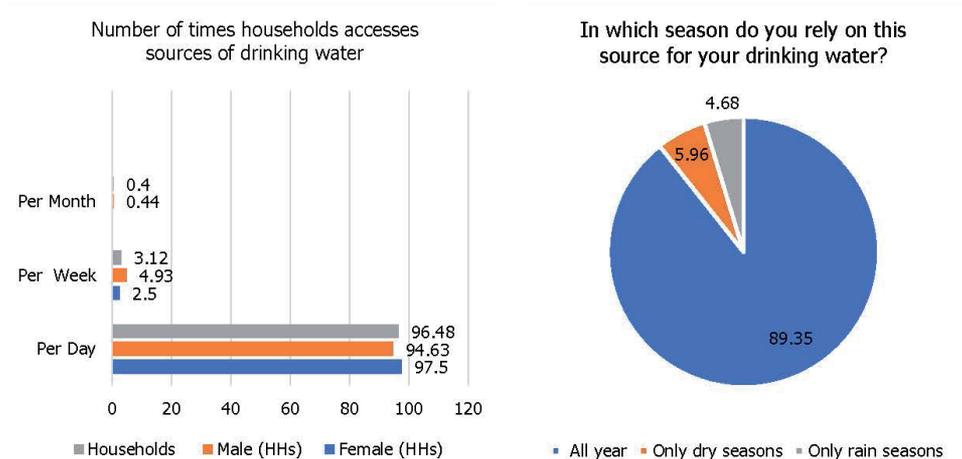
4.4 Access and reliability of water sources

Majority of household access water sources daily at 96.48 per cent with female headed households leading at 97.5 per cent compared to male headed households at 94.63 per cent. Only 3.12 per cent of households have to access water sources on a weekly basis. For households who access water points daily, it means there is more interactions with other household members in areas where water sources are shared,

It also means that these households may be at risk of water shortages during days when supply is low or any interruption in water supply. One intervention to ensure households observe hand-washing is to ensure they have water storage facilities to store water for use all the time in instances where there's water supply interruptions and to minimize more interactions of household members at water points.

On the other hand, most households rely on the main source for drinking water all year round at 89.35 per cent, therefore in case of the source drying up, households will lack water resulting into non-observance of COVID-19 measures of hand washing. Top interventions are protection of the existing major water sources for households and development of new water sources to minimize on over dependence on source, this may include rainwater harvesting at individual and institutional level. Protection of water catchment areas.

Figure 4.4: Household reliability to the main sources of water (per cent)

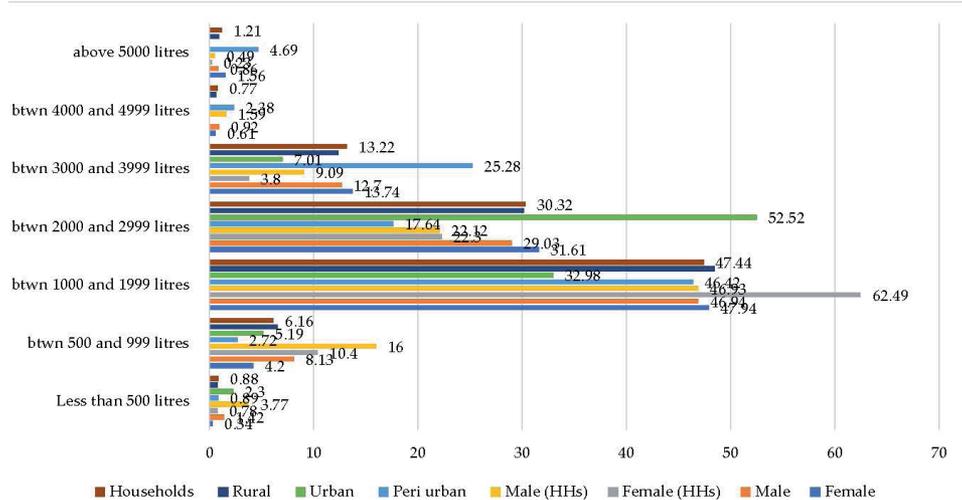


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

4.5 Volumes of Water Used by Households per month

Most of the households use between 1000 and 1,999 litres of water a month at 47.44 per cent with, female headed households leading at 62.49 per cent. Most urban households use between 2000 and 2999 litres of water at 52.52 per cent per month, only small proportions of households use less than 500 litres of water per month. This therefore means that adequate water resources are required by households and therefore better utilization of the resource is required. This may entail conservation of water resources, investing in rainwater harvesting.

Figure 4.5: Volumes of water used by households in the past month (Litres)



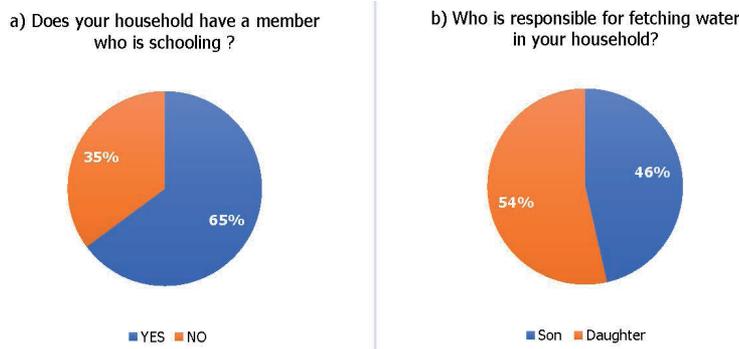
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Children and households’ access to water

Children play an important role in supporting household chores, such as cooking, collecting firewood, and fetching water and looking after the animals. Currently schools are out of sessions and majority of children are at home and may be helping in fetching water thus increasing households’ access to water thus observing COVID-19 guidelines on hand hygiene. According to KNBS (2020) survey on COVID-19, majority of households have a member who attends school representing 65 per cent, (103,710) compared to 35 per cent (56,187) of households who don’t have a schooling member.

Additionally, 54 per cent (7,133) of girls and 46 per cent (6,179) of boys are involved in fetching water for the households. This means that households will be deprived of access to water when schools re-open since boys and girls play an important role in fetching water. Similarly, since girls are more involved in fetching water this means they spend most of their time in the activity and interfere with their schooling leading to school dropouts. Therefore, to ensure households access to water and hand hygiene, the county government can help with low cost supply of water and provision of water storage facilities to those households with schooling member to help increase to water access when schools re-open.

Figure 4.6: Households with a member who is attending schools/learning institutions and who usually fetches water

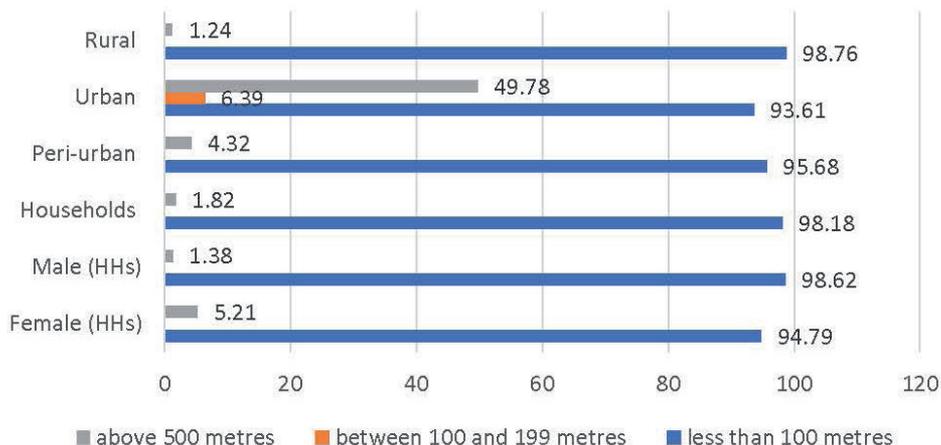


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

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

Majority of the households both rural, urban and peri-urban covers less than 100 metres to water sources at 98.18 per cent meaning they have water within their premises or close to their compounds.

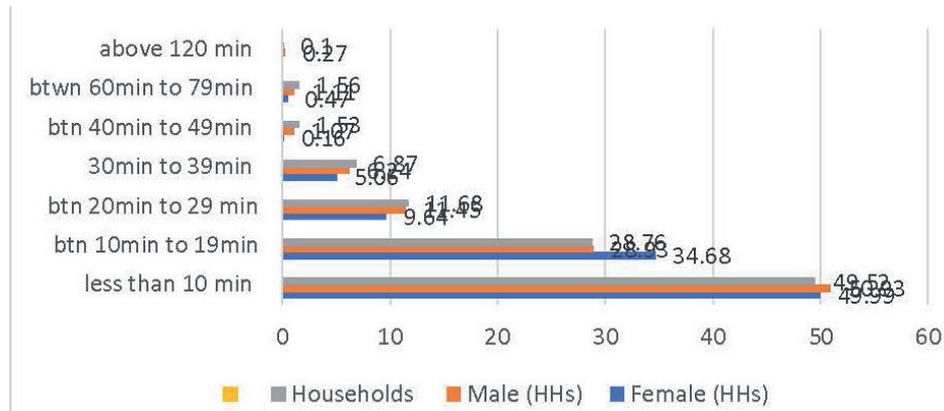
Figure 4.7: Distance Covered by Households to and from Water Sources



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Similarly, majority of the households spends less than 10 minutes to and from water sources at 49.52 per cent, only a small portion of households spends more than 180 minutes to and from water sources.

Figure 4.8: Time taken by households to and from water sources (Minutes)



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

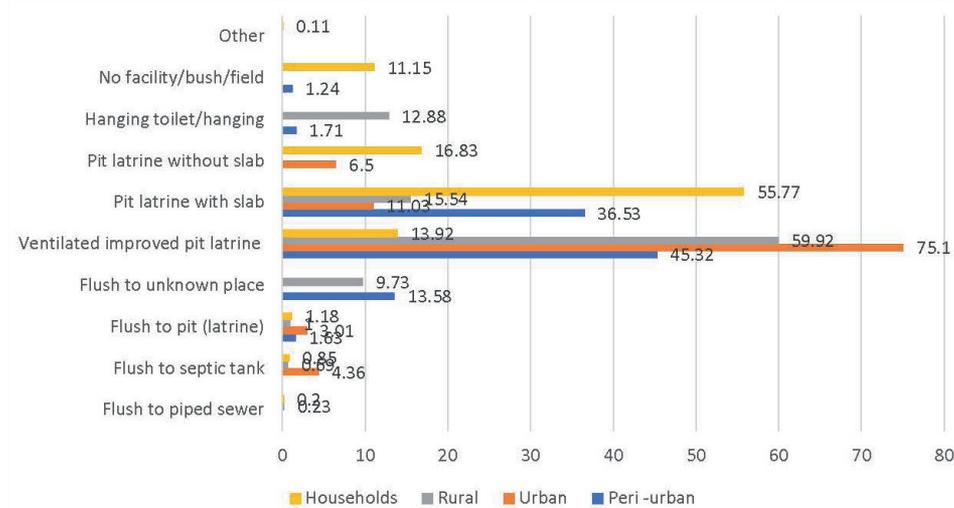
Difficulties in access to water points due to distance and time spend may limit households from hand washing thus putting them at risk from contracting COVID-19, therefore, households living far from water sources can be supported by having water tanks close to their homes and supplying water to them.

4.6 Access to sanitation

On sanitation coverage, there are sewerage plant in major towns and trading centres in the county. Majority of the households uses pit latrine with slab (55.1%) and pit latrine

without slab (16.38%). Majority of urban households (75.1%), rural (59.2%) and peri urban (45.3%) uses ventilated pit latrine Only a small portion of the households do not have a toilet facility. See the figure below

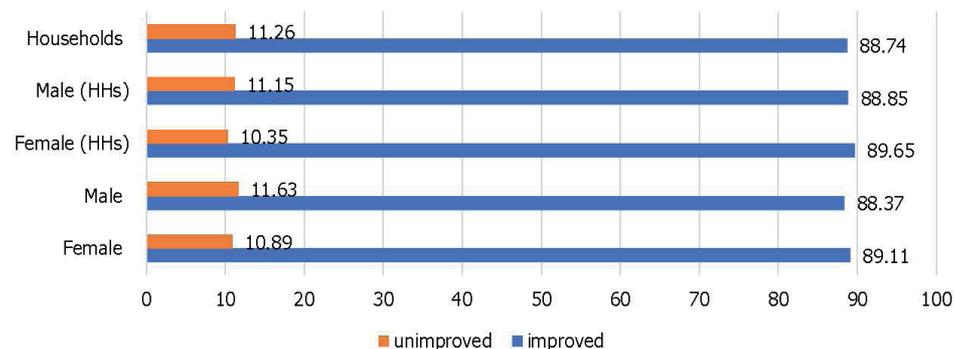
Figure 4.9: Access to sanitation by households in the county



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Additionally, majority of the households (88.74%) have access to improved sanitation⁴ this is also similar among male (88.8%) and female (89.7%) headed households as shown below.

Figure 4.10: Access to improved and unimproved sanitation by households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

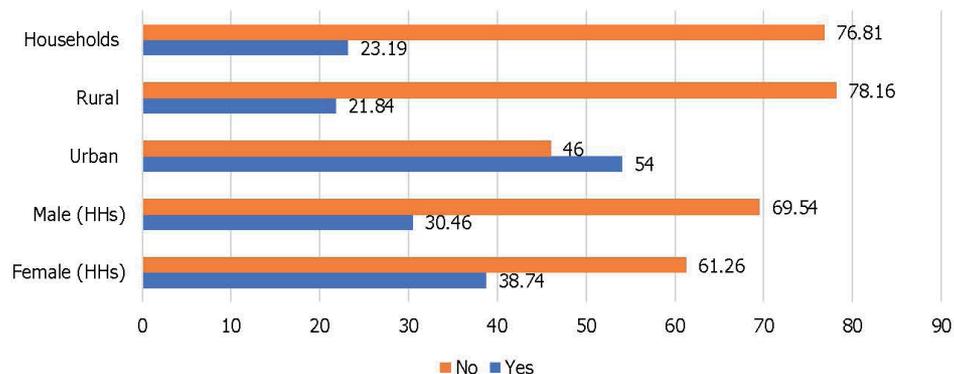
Access to improved sanitation is very important in maintaining hygiene and keeping infectious diseases away, good sanitation can help to detect the genetic residues of diseases in wastewater as those who are infected are thought to shed traces of the virus in faeces thus prompting for immediate action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

⁴ 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

4.7 Sharing of a toilet facility

Sharing of toilet facilities is also common among households where by a small proportion of households (23.19%) do share a toilet facility with other on the other hand 54.93 per cent of the urban households do share a toilet facility.

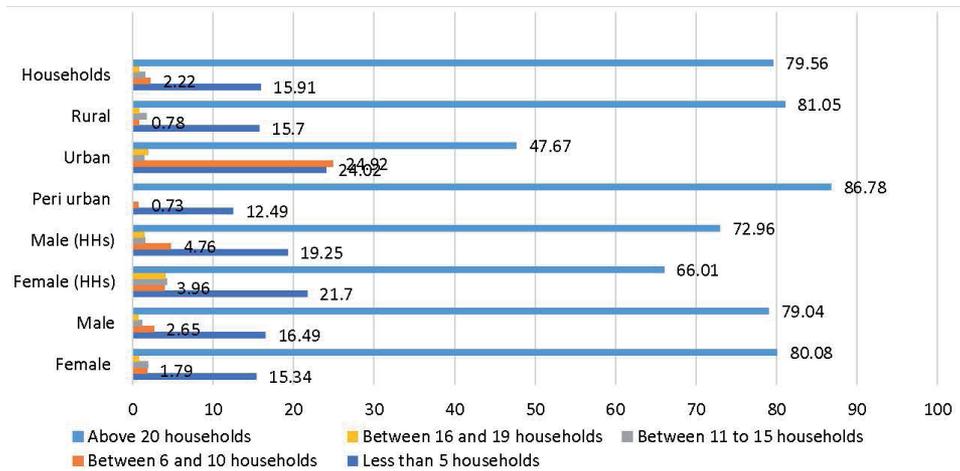
Figure 4.11: No of households sharing a toilet facility



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Additionally, 79.56 per cent of households do share a toilet facility with more than other 20 households, this is more so in rural (81.05%), peri-urban (86%) as well as in male (72.96%) and female headed households (66.01%). Only a small portion of urban households do share a toilet facility with between 6 to 10 households, with both male and female sharing with less than 5 households at 61.49 and 15.34 per cent respectively. 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.

Figure 4.12: Households sharing a toilet facility with other households



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

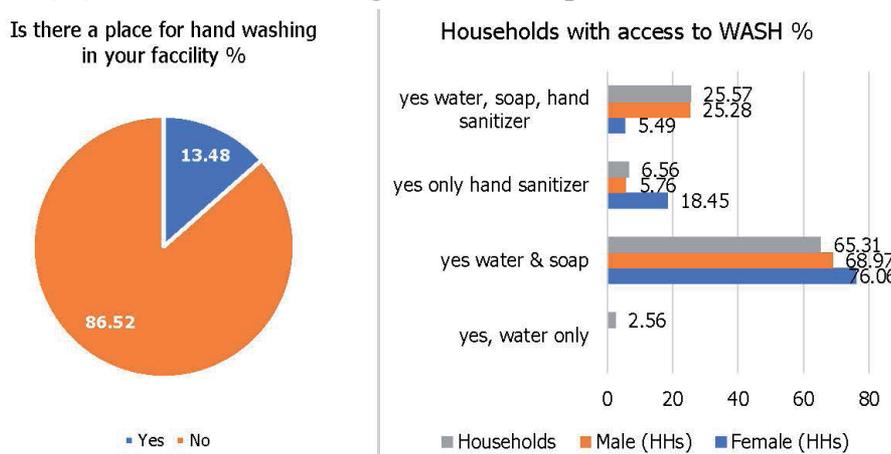
The county government can help achieve access to sanitation by encouraging use of safe sanitation and avoiding open defecation and building of community sanitation to lower the rates of open defecation, support construction of sanitation facilities at household level to minimize sharing among households, increase coverage of sewer line to encourage households to get connected to improved sanitation, other alternative sanitations should be promoted such as bucket toilets though proper hygiene should be observed. Lower the price of access to sanitation, support other sanitation providers by lowering prices of building improved sanitation infrastructures.

To ensure sustainability in provision of sanitation services during this COVID-19 period, ensure proper management of sanitation services, provision of adequate financial and human resources, invest in sanitation technology and have proper policies and regulations on sanitation. Include both men and women in governance of sanitation services.

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

WASH has been identified very important in helping to curb transmission of infectious diseases, 86.52 per cent of the households in Elgeyo Marakwet County do not have a handwashing facility in their households. On the other hand, 65.31 per cent of the households have access to WASH (Water and soap) during this period of COVID-19, female headed households leading at 76.06 per cent, compared to male headed households at 68.97 per cent. 2.56 per cent of households have only access to water, while 25.27 per cent of the households have access to both water, soap and hand sanitizer.

Figure 4.13: Access to wash during the COVID-19 period



Source: KNBS COVID-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 can be facilitated by provision of water, soap/hand sanitizer to households.

4.9 Opportunities with COVID-19 in various sectors

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

4.10 Emerging Issues

- i) The county government has managed to mobilize Ksh 113 million to fight COVID-19
- ii) The county government has allocated 2 per cent of its budget/ project in social protection intended nature targeting the poor, disabled and old people above 65 years. For instance, NHIF subscriptions for the vulnerable in the community

Key messages

- i) There is low access to improved sources of water in rural (40.7%), urban (94.1%) and peri urban (51.2%). Clean and safe water guarantees good health.
- ii) There is low access to piped water both in urban areas (24.1%) rural (8%) and peri urban areas (12.9%). This means low revenue from piped water for the county government. Similarly, it also implies low access to clean and safe water which is guaranteed through piped water system.

- iii) There is low connectivity to piped sewer which is less than 4 per cent both in rural, urban and peri urban. Low connectivity to piped sewer denies households from access to safe sanitation as well as revenue from sanitation services
- iv) Sharing of a toilet facility with other households is common both in rural (21.8%) urban (54.7%). Toilet sharing puts households at risk of contracting COVID-19, and other infectious diseases in cases where proper toilet hygiene is not maintained.
- v) There is a higher access to hand washing, with majority having access to water and soap (65.3%). This minimizes the risks of infections.
- vi) On the other hand, 86.5 per cent of the households do not have a designated hand-washing facility in their households. This may put households at risk of contracting infection due to inability of maintaining hand hygiene.

4.11 Recommendations

To ensure continuous availability of water, the county can undertake the following:

- i) The county to increase water supply in households, institutions and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties. To increase access to water the county government can partner with private sector, donor agencies, local communities and NGOs to help develop water infrastructure
- ii) The county to fast track the implementation of WASH, natural resource management programs
- iii) The county to increase water supply in households, institutions and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties.
- iv) Expand and rehabilitate the existing piped water connection infrastructure to help increase access to water.
- v) Increase piped water connectivity to households to increase access to piped water by households. The county government can collaborate with the private sector, Non-Governmental organization and the local community to expand the water infrastructure.
- vi) The county to increase access to improved sources of water⁵ by households, institutions and public places in rural areas through drilling of boreholes in all the 4 sub-counties. The county government can collaborate with the private sector, Non-Governmental organization and the local community to expand the water infrastructure.
- vii) Support rural households with water treatment facilities and chemicals
- viii) Increase water storage capacity to help more households access to water

5 Improved sources of water included 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 sources to unimproved source of water include; Water from spring - unprotected spring, Rain water collection, Vendors - tankers-truck, Vendors- cart with small tank/drum/bucket, Vendors-bicycles with bucket, Surface water river/streams/pond/dam/lake/cannal/irrigation channel Bottled water. This is according to WHO and UN classification of sources of water.

- ix) Introduce community-based management systems (CBMS) for water for production
- x) Involve both men and women in water management and governance
- xi) Establish water supply monitoring system for efficiency water supply and management.
- xii) The county government to undertake water trucking during times of prolonged drought to households and pastoralist communities.
- xiii) Expand sewer infrastructure to accommodate more households
- xiv) Build toilets in communities, public places to help increase access to sanitation can be achieved through collaboration between county government, national government, development partners and PPP to expand sewer infrastructure and to accommodate more households.
- xv) Build community toilet facilities in rural areas to help increase access to safe sanitation
- xvi) Promote the importance of handwashing and construct WASH facilities to increase access at the household level. Increased access to WASH can be achieved by supporting households with access to water, soap and WASH facilities, sensitization on the importance of handwashing. Collaboration between County Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, local community and the media is important to realize increased access to WASH among households.
- xvii) The county should promote awareness on proper hygiene and sanitation
- xviii) Provide maximum protection to employees working in water and sanitation through provision of personal protection equipment
- xix) The county should fast track and implement policy on water governance and environment conservation and management
- xx) Include both men and women in decision making in water governance

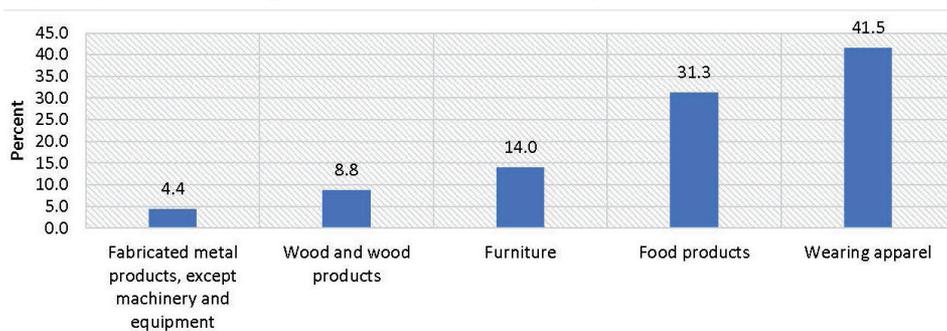
5. Manufacturing, Trade and Industry

5.1 Characteristic of Manufacturing Sector

Elgeyo Marakwet county has 775 establishments involved in manufacturing activities which comprise of 12.7 per cent of a total of 6,126 firms (KNBS, 2016). 96.9 per cent are micro in size while 3.1 per cent are small sized.

5.1.1 Sector of operation

Figure 5.1: sector of operation in manufacturing



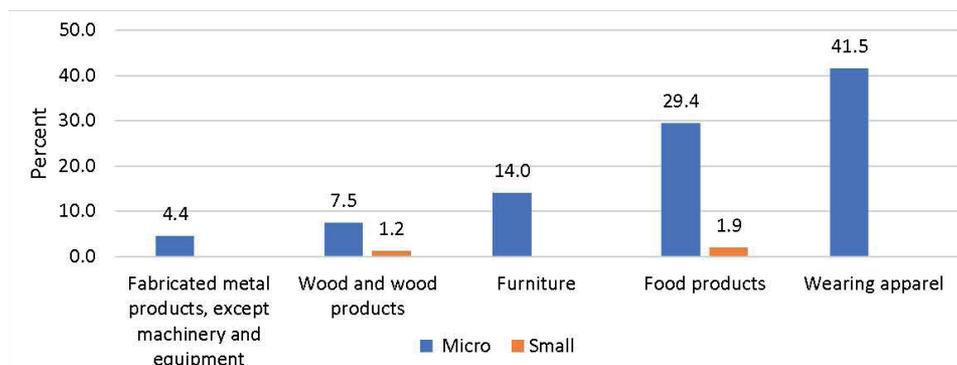
Source: KNBS, 2016 and WBES, 2019.

According to KNBS 2016 survey, the key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing in Elgeyo Marakwet County include: wearing apparel (41.5%), Food products (31.3%), Furniture (14.0%), Wood and wood products (8.8%), and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (4.4%) (Figure 5.1). These are sub-sectors that are considered essential in dealing with COVID-19 are likely to experience increased activity with focus on food production, production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and hospital beds. The key products useful in value addition and driving manufacturing include; maize production and processing, honey production, wheat, Irish potatoes, millet, sorghum, groundnuts and green grams, and textiles. Other areas of focus include production of zebu cattle, poultry, goats and sheep. The main cottage industries in the county are in areas of timber lumbering, coffee, groundnut, green grams, mango, milk and honey value addition.

5.1.2 Sector of operation by size

Most of the establishments in Elgeyo Marakwet County are micro in nature and operate in the wearing apparel (41.5%), Food products (29.4%), Furniture (14%) among others (figure 5.2). The small sized establishments operate in food products as well (1.9%) and Wood and wood products (1.2%).

Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size

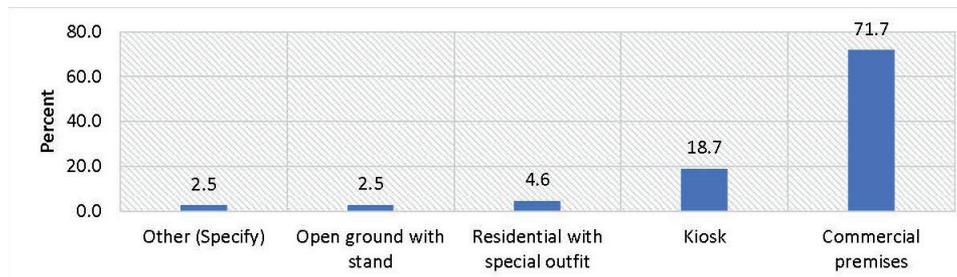


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.3 Location of manufacturing firms by type of premises

Common premises used by manufacturing firms in Elgeyo Marakwet County are commercial (71.7%), Kiosk (18.7%), Residential with special outfit (4.6%), open ground with stand (2.5%), among others (figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Location of manufacturing firms by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.4 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size

Manufacturing establishments in Elgeyo Marakwet are mainly owned by male (50.8%), with females comprising 33.1 per cent while 16 per cent are jointly owned. In terms of micro-sized firms, 52.4 per cent are male owned, 34.2 per cent female owned and 16.5 per cent jointly owned (table 5.1).

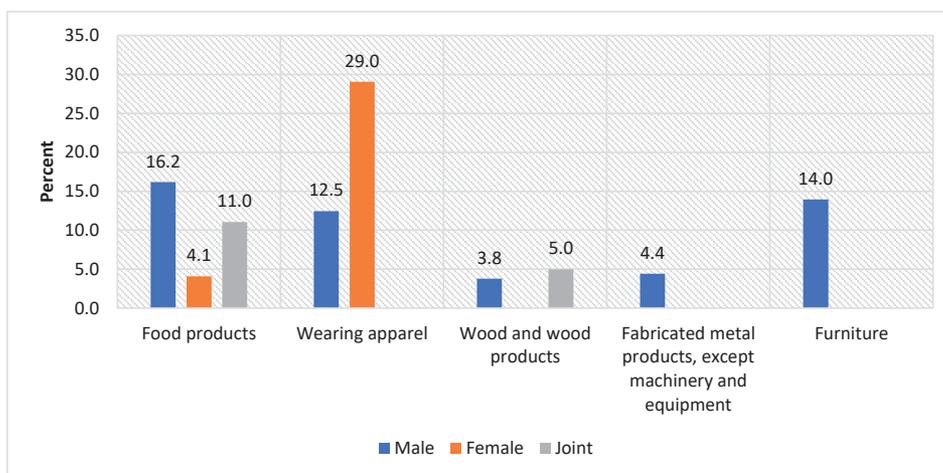
5.1.5 Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

The wearing apparel sub-sector of manufacturing is dominated by women (29%) compared to men at 12.5 per cent. However, men dominate the remaining sub-sectors: Food products (16.2%), Furniture (14%) and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment at 4.4 per cent (figure 5.4).

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

Gender	All	Micro	Small
Male	394 (50.8)	370 (52.4)	24 (3.1)
Female	257 (33.1)	257 (34.2)	-
Joint	124 (16)	124 (16.5)	-
Total	775 (100)	751 (100)	24 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

Figure 5.4: Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector

Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.1.6 Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms

In terms of employment, the manufacturing sector employs more men (71.4 %) than women (28.6 %). Most men are found in the micro-sized enterprises (49.3 %) while 22.1 per cent are in small-sized enterprises. All women are found in micro-sized establishments (28.6 %) (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms

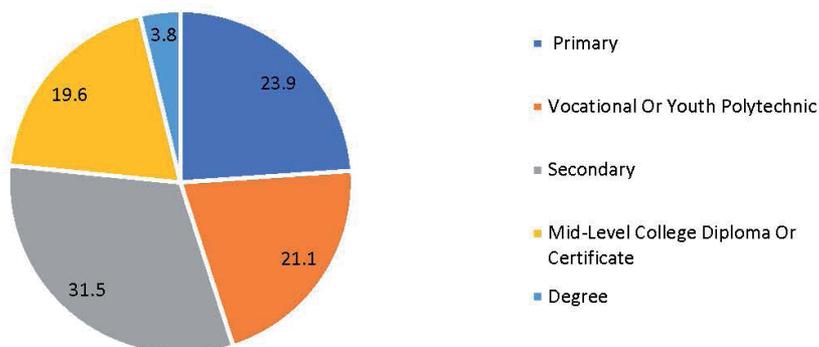
Number of employees	Micro	Small	Total
Male	971 (49.3)	434 (22.1)	1,406 (71.4)
Female	564 (28.6)	0 (0)	564 (28.6)
Total	1,535 (78)	434 (22.1)	1,969 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.1.7 Education levels of Manufacturing firm owners

Majority of owners of firms in manufacturing have secondary (31.5 %), primary (23.9 %), vocational or youth Polytechnic (21.1 %) and mid-level college diploma or certificate (19.6%) education (figure 5.5). About 3.8 per cent of manufacturing firm owners have a degree.

Figure 5.5: Education levels of manufacturing firm owners

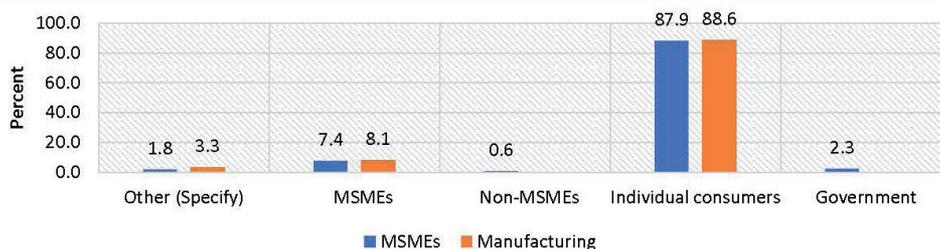


Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.1.8 Source of markets

Majority of manufacturing establishments and MSMEs in general rely on individual consumers for markets at 88.6 per cent and 87.9 per cent (figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Source of markets



Source: KNBS, 2016.

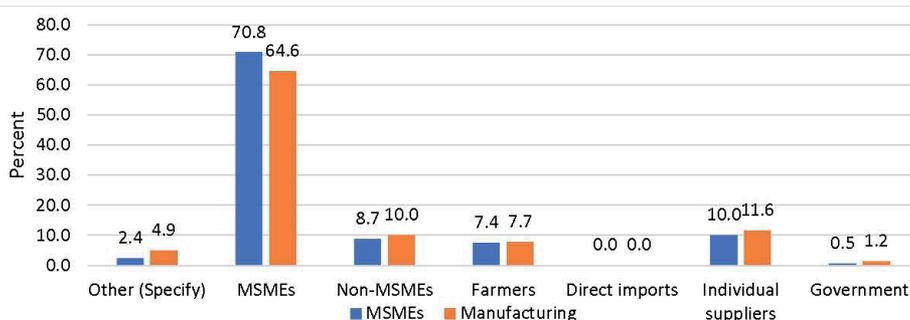
Additionally, trading amongst MSMEs is profound between manufacturing establishments at 8.1 per cent and 7.4 per cent for MSMEs. About 2.3 per cent of MSMEs trade with the government meaning only a few proportions of them would benefit from affirmative measures. It is also worth noting that none of the manufacturing establishments or MSMEs are involved in direct exports, implying limited susceptibility to external shocks as a result of COVID-19 (figure 5.6)

5.1.9 Source of material inputs

Broadly, manufacturing establishments and MSMEs source for material inputs from amongst MSMEs at 70.8 per cent and 64.6 per cent respectively (figure 5.7).

Individual suppliers as well as non-MSMEs are also important to the supply of inputs. MSMEs also source for inputs from farmers (7.4%), and government (0.5%). Manufacturing establishments from Elgeyo Marakwet County do not source their inputs from external markets. Hence, disruptions in the external source markets may not have adverse implications to their operations.

Figure 5.7: Source of material inputs



Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.1.10 Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing

Manufacturing establishments in Elgeyo Marakwet county were involved in product, process and market innovations. More product innovations are seen under the micro category at 4.6 per cent, process (7.1%), and market (3.8%). There were no innovations observed in the small category (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)	715 (92.3)	36 (4.6)	24 (3.1)	0 (0)	775 (100)
Process	0 (0)	696 (89.8)	55 (7.1)	24 (3.1)	0 (0)	775 (100)
Market	0 (0)	721 (93)	30 (3.8)	24 (3.1)	0 (0)	775 (100)

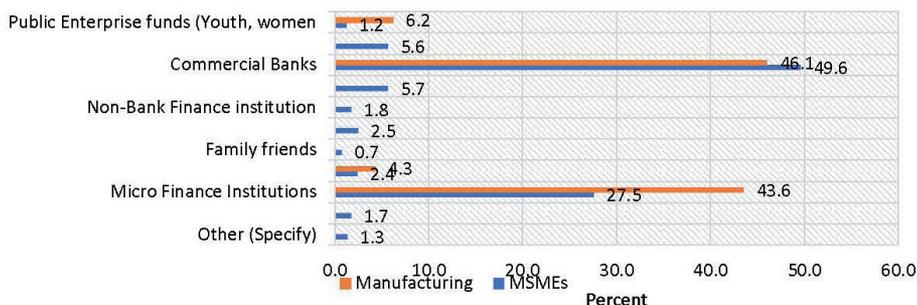
Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.1.11 Access to credit for Manufacturing and MSMEs firms

According to the MSME 2016 survey, 67.1 per cent of MSMEs and 70 per cent of those in manufacturing applied for credit.

The main sources of credit for establishments in manufacturing include commercial banks (46.1%), microfinance institutions (43.6%), Public enterprise funds (6.2%) and self-help groups (4.3%). MSMEs mostly rely on commercial banks (49.6%), microfinance institutions, rotating savings and credit associations, among others (figure 5.8).

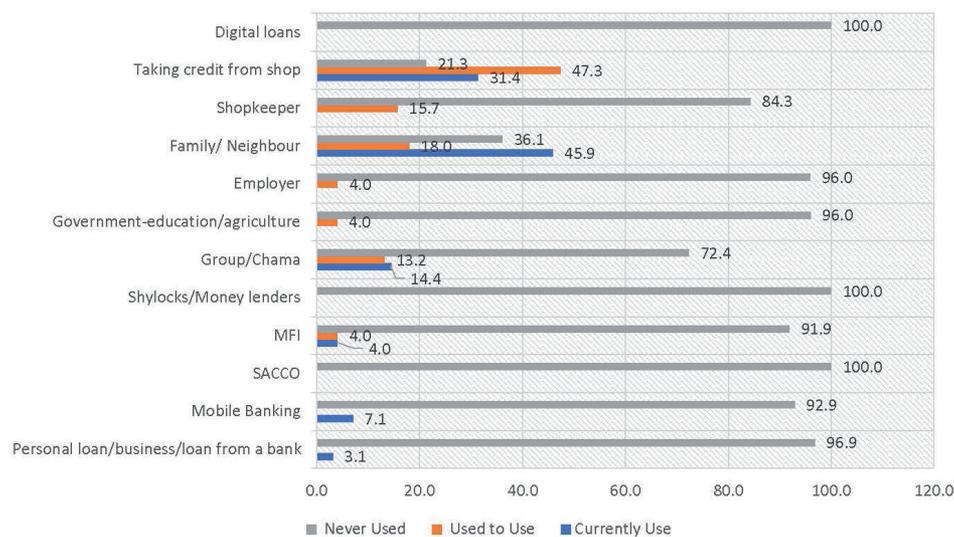
Figure 5.8: Sources of finance



Source: KNBS, 2016

Recent evidence from FinAccess 2019 provides further insights on sources of credit for businesses in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Businesses commonly obtain credit from the conventional sources such as family/neighbour (45.9%), shops (31.4%), group/chama (14.4%) and personal/business loans from banks (3.1%). Emerging sources of credit for businesses in Elgeyo Marakwet county include mobile money (7.1%) (figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit

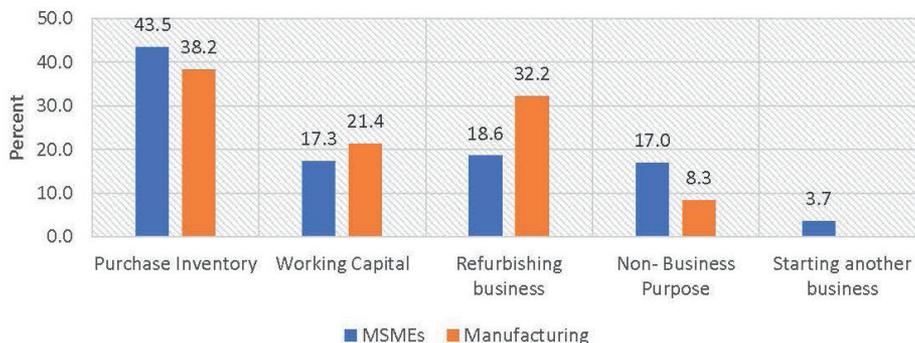


Source: FinAccess, 2019

5.1.12 Purpose of credit

The main purpose of credit by both MSMEs and establishments in manufacturing. Broadly, manufacturing firms require credit for: Purchase inventory (38.2%), Refurbishing business (32.2%), working capital (21.4%) and non-business purpose (8.3%), among others.

Figure 5.10: Main purpose of credit

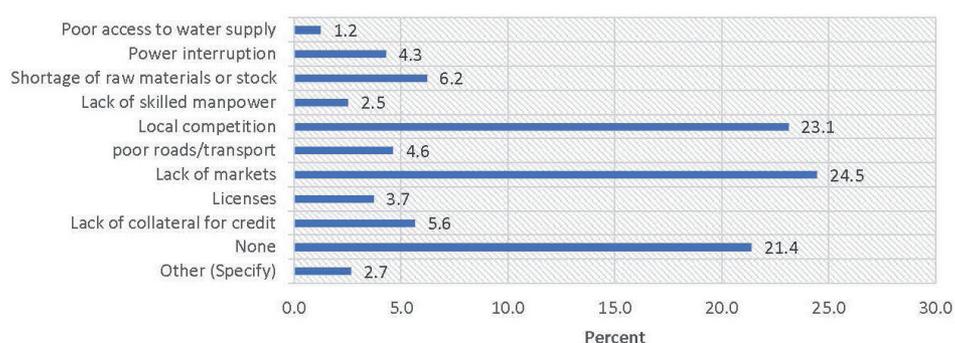


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.2 Constraints faced by manufacturing firms

The main constraints faced by establishments in manufacturing on the County include: lack of markets (24.5%), local competition (23.1%), and shortage of raw materials or stock (figure 5.11). Hence, addressing some of these challenges by creating and maintaining an enabling environment would be key to re-engineer and promote business growth and investment during and post the COVID-19.

Figure 5.11: Constraints faced by manufacturing firms



Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.3 Industrial Parks/ Jua Kali Sheds

There are no industrial parks in Elgeyo Marakwet County. However, a Jua Kali shed is operational in Iten town although its output is not at optimum levels (CIDP 2018-2022).

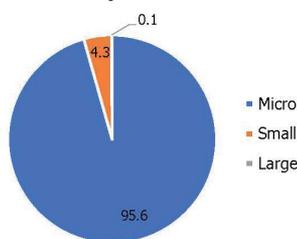
5.4 Markets

There are four major markets in the county namely: Iten, Kapsowar, Kapcherop and Kamwosor. However, there are also various small markets dealing in fresh farm produce and livestock across the County

5.5 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

The MSME 2016 survey estimates indicate that Elgeyo Marakwet County has 6,126 establishments⁶ (KNBS, 2016). Out of this: 5,858 (95.6%) are micro; 264 (4.3%) are small and 5 (0.1%) are large enterprises (figure 5.12).

Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by size



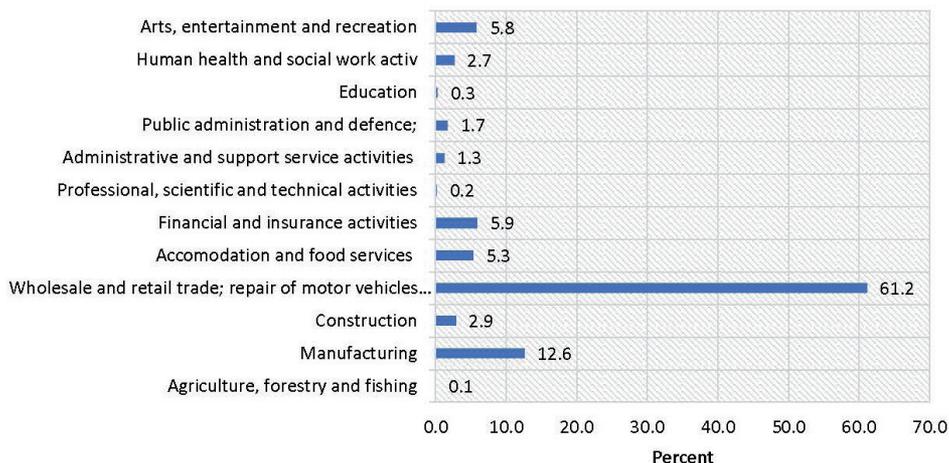
Source: KNBS, 2016.

5.5.1 Sector of operation by MSMEs

Majority of MSMEs in Elgeyo Marakwet county operate in the service sector; wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (61.2%), manufacturing (12.6%), financial and insurance activities (5.9%), arts, entertainment and recreation (5.8%), and accommodation and food services (5.3%) (Figure 5.13). Ideally, these are the sectors that have been worst hit by the pandemic and need focus in achieving reengineering and recovery.

⁶ After applying weights

Figure 5.13: Sector of operation by MSMEs

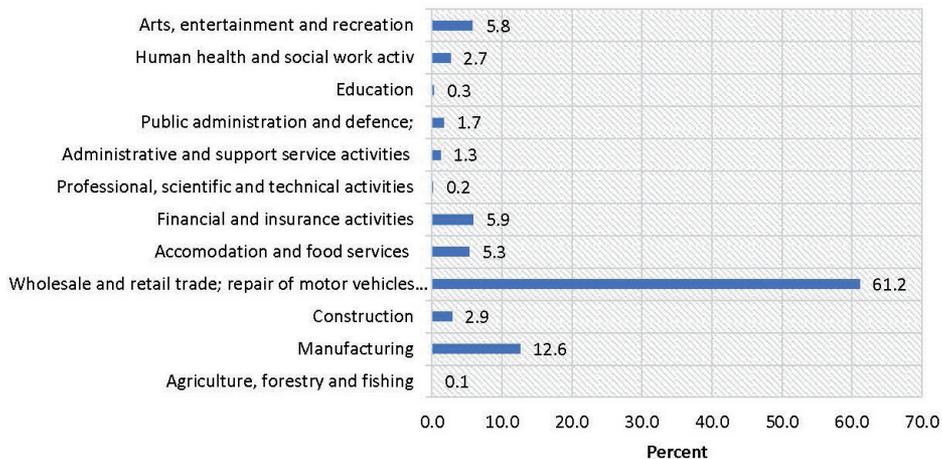


Source: KNBS, 2016

5.5.2 Location of the businesses by type of premises

MSMEs in Elgeyo Marakwet County are largely located in commercial premises (73.9%), kiosk (13.7%), market stall (5.3%), and residential with special outfit (3.8%) (Figure 5.14).

Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises



Source: KNBS, 2016

Majority of the businesses in the county faced a lot of difficulties in meeting their rental obligations due income disruptions occasioned by COVID-19. The May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey indicates 53.6 per cent of the non-farm businesses attributed non-payment of household rental obligations to temporary layoffs/closure of businesses, 35.1 per cent reduced incomes/earnings while 11.3 per cent attributed the same to delayed

incomes/earnings. For those involved in farm businesses, 64.9 per cent attributed the same to temporary layoffs/closure of businesses, 25 per cent reduced incomes/earnings, while 10.1 per cent were affected by delayed incomes/earnings.

5.5.3 Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size

Table 5.4 shows the distribution of MSMEs in Elgeyo Marakwet county by gender: 47 per cent are male owned, 32.9 per cent are female owned, while 20.2 per cent are jointly owned (male/female). For Micro establishments; 47.8 per cent are male owned, 34.4 per cent are female owned, while 17.8 per cent are jointly owned.

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

Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Large
Male	2,877 (47)	2,800 (47.8)	77 (29.3)	0 (0)
Female	2,014 (32.9)	2,014 (34.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joint	1,236 (20.2)	1,236 (17.8)	187 (70.7)	5 (100)
Total	6,126 (100)	5,858 (100)	264 (100)	5 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

Males owners also dominate ownership among small sized establishments at 29.3 per cent, while 70.7 per cent are jointly owned. Considering medium and large sized establishments ownership is fully controlled by males (100%).

In terms of employment, the micro sized establishments employ more people (62.8%) compared to small (31.1%), and large (6.1%) (Table 5.5). Micro firms employ 32.8 per cent male and 30.1 per cent female and small sized employ 19.4 per cent male and 11.7 per cent female. However, more women are employed among large establishments at 3.9 per cent compared to men at 2.2 per cent. Overall, more men (54.4%) are employed by MSMEs in Elgeyo Marakwet county than women (45.6%).

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

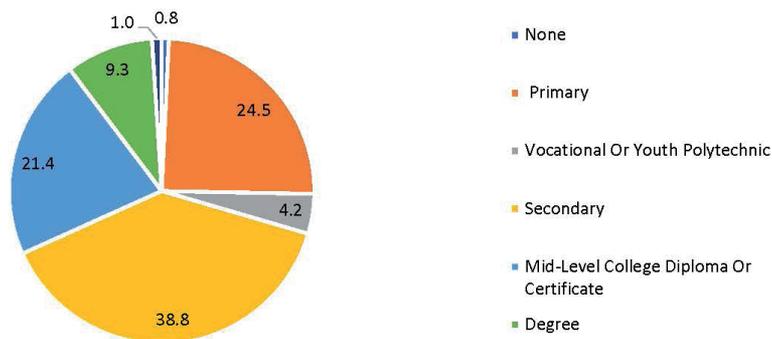
	Micro	Small	Large	Total
Male	5,622 (32.8)	3,333 (19.4)	374 (2.2)	9,329 (54.4)
Female	5,161 (30.1)	2,001 (11.7)	665 (3.9)	7,827 (45.6)
Total	10,783 (62.8)	5,335 (31.1)	1,039 (6.1)	17,157 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.5.4 Education levels of MSME owners

Figure 5.15 indicates that majority of MSME owners in Elgeyo Marakwet County have a secondary education (38.8%) while 24.5 per cent have primary and 21.4 per cent vocational or youth polytechnic education respectively (figure 36). About 1 per cent of the owners had a post-graduate education and only 0.8 per cent did not have a formal education at all.

Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners



Source: KNBS, 2016

5.5.5 Level of innovation by MSMEs

Table 5.6 presents the levels of innovation in Elgeyo Marakwet County by MSMEs according to size. Generally, there were low levels of innovation across MSMEs with 5.4 per cent involved in product, 1.7 per cent for process and 1.8 per cent in market innovation for micro-sized establishments. Regarding small-sized enterprises, 0.2 per cent engaged in product, 0.2 per cent process and 0.1 per cent market innovation. There were no medium sized enterprises involved in any form of innovation, while for large enterprises 0.1 per cent were involved in process and market innovations respectively.

Table 5.6: Level of innovation by MSMEs

Type of In- novation	Micro				Small				Large			Total
	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Don't know	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	0 (0)	5,511 (90.2)	332 (5.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	144 (2.3)	120 (2)		5 (0.1)	0 (0)	6,112 (100)
Process	0 (0)	0 (0)	5,740 (93.9)	103 (1.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	252 (4.1)	12 (0.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0.1)	6,112 (100)
Market	0 (0)	0 (0)	5,734 (93.8)	109 (1.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	257 (4.2)	7 (0.1)		5 (0.1)	84 (0.1)	6,112 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016

5.5.6 E-commerce

Participation in e-commerce by households in Elgeyo Marakwet County is above the national average. About 1.7 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 (2.2%) than women (1.2%). With introduction of stay-at-home

protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Elgeyo Marakwet County since fewer households participate in the same.

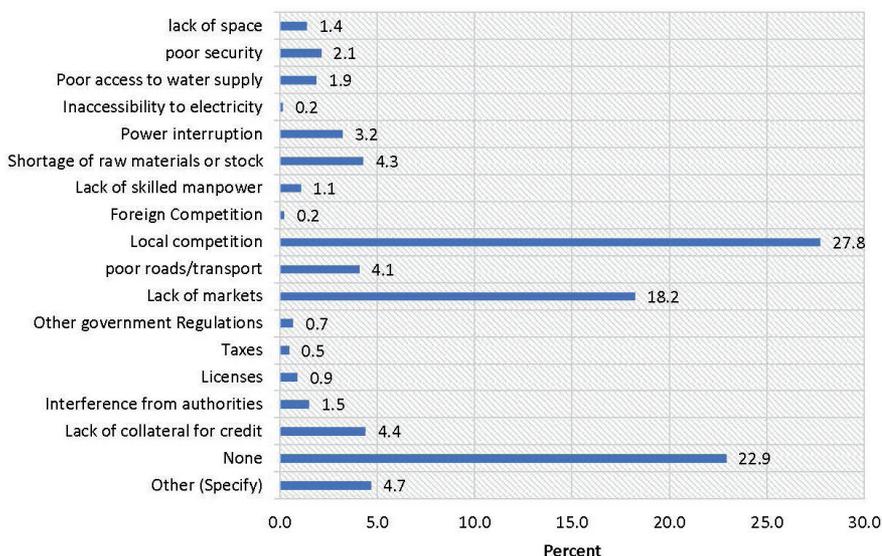
5.5.7 Turnover tax

Going by the MSME 2016 survey, only 8.1 per cent of MSMEs in Elgeyo Marakwet County (497) had a previous monthly turnover of above Ksh 83,333 which translates to Ksh 1 million a year. Holding all other factors constant, 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.

5.6 Constraints faced by MSMEs

The main constraints faced by MSMEs in Elgeyo Marakwet County include: local competition (27.8%), lack of markets (18.2%), lack of collateral for credit (4.4%), shortage of raw materials or stock and (4.3%) (figure 5.16).

Figure 5.16: Main constraints faced by MSMEs



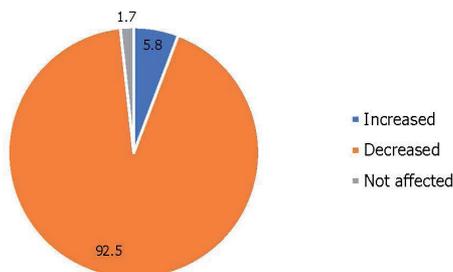
Source: KNBS, 2016

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

Figure 5.17 presents the effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses in Elgeyo Marakwet County. 92.5 per cent of the respondents report a decrease in their business activities due to the pandemic. This is an indicator that COVID-19 is already having a negative toll on the non-farm and farm businesses even though the situation is still evolving.

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

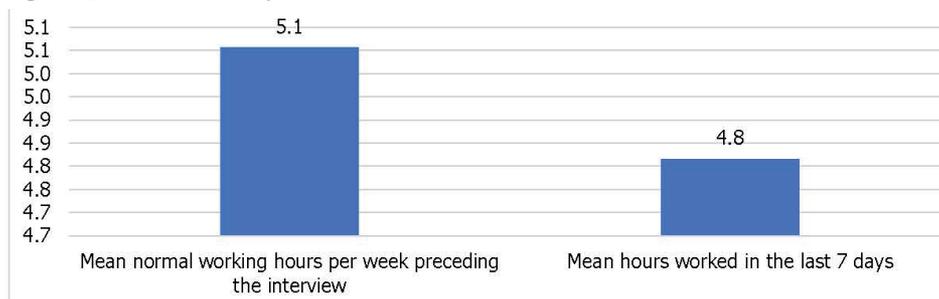


Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

5.7 Labour Dynamics in MSMES

During the period considered in KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020, respondents reported a decrease of 0.3 hours in the mean working hours for household non-farm and farm businesses in Elgeyo Marakwet county which implies a deterioration in economic activities between the interview periods (figure 39). This could be as a result of decrease in agriculture, services, and manufacturing, considering that these sectors are the key drivers of the County economy.

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



Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

The survey also indicates the wholesale and retail trade sector lost 7.3 hours in usual and actual hours worked in a week. This is an indicator of the adverse effects on the service sector of Elgeyo Marakwet County due to the pandemic which imply loss of productivity, output and employment. The manufacturing sector lost 3.1 hours. This implying loss of productivity, output and employment.

5.8 Key Messages:

- a) The key sectors that drive the economy of Elgeyo Marakwet include: Agriculture, Services and Manufacturing. Hence, support should be targeted to these sectors to ensure re-engineering of the County economy.
- b) Access to market and local competition remains a constraint to MSMEs which hinders growth and expansion of businesses, even more so now during the pandemic. There is need to provide access to markets to support MSMEs that have demand, employ large number of people, and those that provide essential goods and services.
- c) COVID-19 presents opportunities that could be harnessed like development and support of innovations to address the pandemic. These include production of essential goods such as; masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators. However as the pandemic subsides, the transition need to be managed smoothly.
- d) Manufacturing establishments must also adopt to cope with the new guidelines which could include rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- e) Training and capacity building are important in assisting MSMEs to surmount the shocks faced during the pandemic but also allow for re-emergence.
- f) 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.

5.9 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 maize production and processing, honey production, wheat, Irish potatoes, millet, sorghum, groundnuts and green grams. and textiles. Other areas of focus include production of zebu cattle, poultry, goats and sheep.
- ii) The textile and wearing apparel sectors can be enhanced to provide PPEs for use within the County and potentially for the domestic and export market.
- iii) COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods providing an opportunity for industry and MSMEs development, and generation of jobs for the youth.

There have been both positive and negative effects of COVID-19 on this sector. These are outlined below:

- 1) The pandemic has affected free movement of people. As a result, traders such as those dealing with imported second hand clothes “mitumba” have been affected.
- 2) There has been an increased wave of innovations during the pandemic. Examples include production of masks
- 3) There is a decrease in trade activities in the County due to restrictions on movements due to fear of attending physical markets, where there is fear of contracting the disease.
- 4) Businesses are faced with challenges of increased costs resulting from the need to comply with new protocols in form of; provision of handwashing and sanitization points, wearing of masks even for workers, rearrangement of floor plans for social distancing especially for manufacturers and awareness creation.

5.10 Emerging Issues

- 1) The County has organized the market to allow decongestion
- 2) The County is encouraging production of local produce, for instance, maize milling factories
- 3) The County plans to get innovative ways of utilizing the existing Fund to support the manufacturing industry and MSMEs
- 4) The private sector, a key stakeholder, is providing ideas, sanitizers and soaps, creating awareness and mobilizing people to adhere to MoH measures.
- 5) There has been reduced income from traders, manufacturers and MSMEs and a corresponding decrease in taxes collected from them. This will affect implementation of Elgeyo Marakwet County’s planned activities due to reduced projected revenues.

5.11 Recommendations

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

- i) Exploit the opportunity presented by the pandemic especially in production of essential goods such as masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators.
- ii) Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. 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.
- iii) Create partnerships with other counties to enhance markets for the County's produce and sustainability.
- iv) Collaborate with the National government to ensure security is enhanced to reduce on crime and create a peaceful business environment.

6. Infrastructure

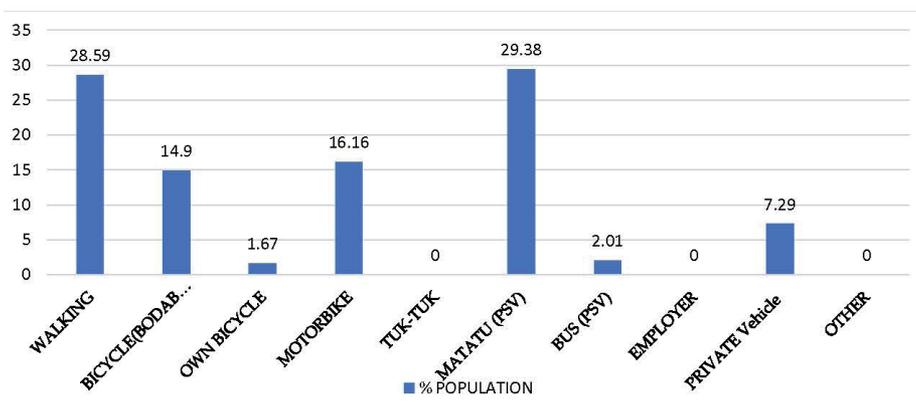
6.1 Transport and roads

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

6.1.1 Characteristics of the sector

Majority of households own a motorcycle (6.9%) and a bicycle (3.7%). Car ownership is at 3.1 per cent (KNBS, 2019). The main means of transport used in the County is PSV matatus at 29.38 per cent, followed by walking at 28.59 per cent, bicycle (boda boda) 14.9 per cent, motorbike 16.16 per cent and private car at 7.29 per cent, figure 6. 1, while 88.28 per cent of the population had not changed the main means of transport (KNBS, 2020b). On average, residents travel 1.76 kilometers to their workplace at an average cost of Ksh 137.57. For the commute to school, residents spend on average Ksh 435.86 (KIHBS, 2015/16).

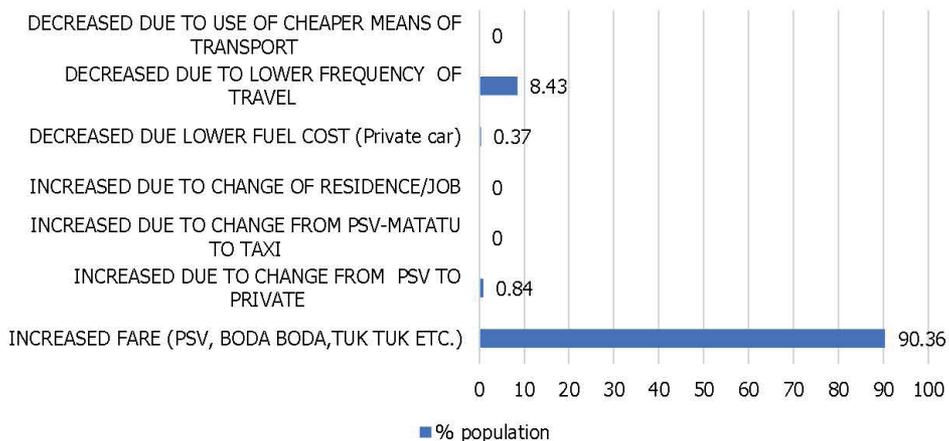
Figure 6.1: Main Means of Transport



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

The KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 revealed that 70.88 per cent of the population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute, figure 6.2. The expenditure on transport decreased by 1.43 per cent from Ksh 279 before February 2020 to Ksh 275 in May 2020 for a one-way trip. The main change (90.36%) in transport cost was attributed to increased fares for PSV and Boda Boda.

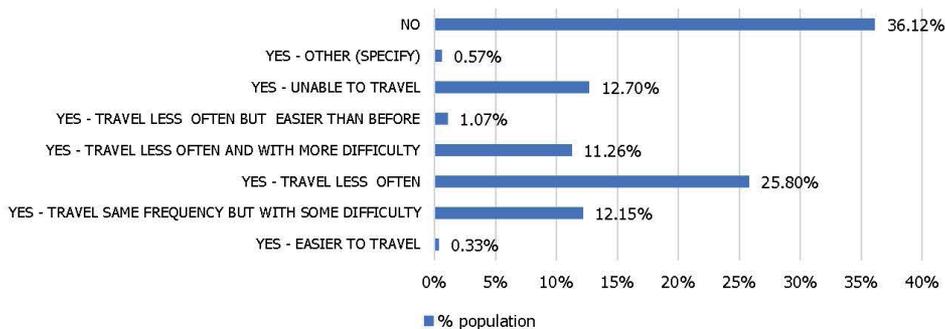
Figure 6.2: Change in Cost of Main Means of Transport



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

Residents had changed their travel patterns with 25.80 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 12.15 per cent travelled with the same frequency but with some difficulty, and 12.70 per cent were unable to travel. However, 36.12 per cent of the population did not change their travel pattern, figure 6.3.

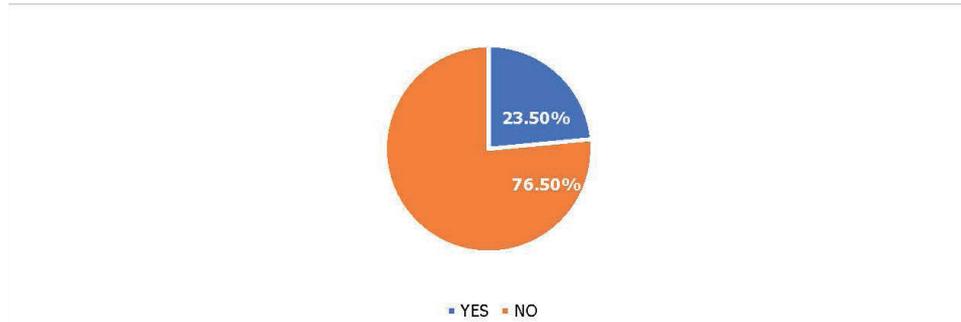
Figure 6.3: Change in Travel Patterns



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

The pandemic has affected delivery of goods and services for 23.50 per cent of households.

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

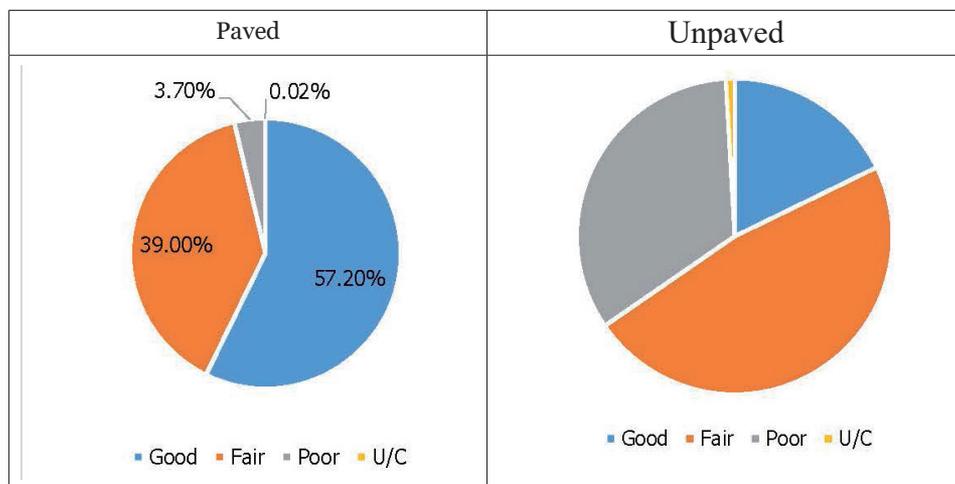


Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

6.2 Road network in the County

The county has 2,196.88 Kilometres of classified road network. The paved County road network covers 49 KMs, while the paved National roads covers 155 KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 204 KMs, 57 per cent is in good condition, 39 per cent in fair condition and 3.7 per cent in poor condition. The unpaved road network in the county covers 1,193 KMs (county roads) and 693 KMs (National roads), of this, 17.8 per cent is in good condition, 47.6 per cent fair and 33.7 per cent in poor condition as depicted in figure 6.5 (KRB, 2019).

Figure 6.5: Road Condition Mix-Classified Road Network



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey, 2020

The unclassified road network in the County covers 322 KMs, with 226 KMs of narrow roads, that is, road with a reserve of between 4 -9 meters, while there is a total of 96 KMs of new roads.

6.2.1 Emerging Issues

- i) Poor road conditions for unpaved network
- ii) Reliance on PSV transport requires enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures
- iii) 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 85 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 33 per cent is a constraint to development.

6.2.2 Recommendations

- i) Sensitize PSV and boda boda operators on COVID-19 prevention measures and assist vehicle owners in retrofitting vehicle designs for social distance, hygiene and ventilation.
- ii) 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 policy⁸. This can be incorporated into the CIDP programme to grade and open new roads.
- iii) 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.
- iv) Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve rural access to farms, markets and support natural resource exploration as provided in the CIDP.
- v) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) in urban areas and along roads with heavy -high-speed 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 Goals⁹.
- 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.

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

8 Roads 2000 programme <http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roadsper cent202000per cent20strategicper cent20plan.pdf>

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

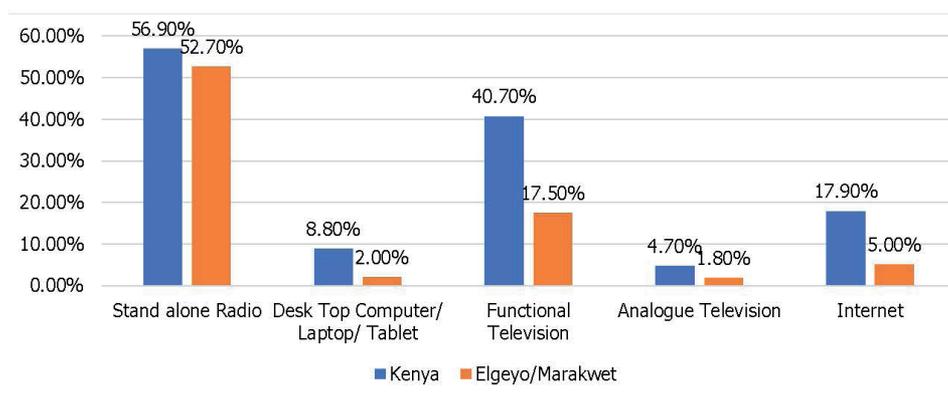
6.3 Information and Communication Technology

6.3.1 Characteristics of the Sector

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

The analysis of the 2019 KPHC reveals that only 5 per cent of the conventional households in the county 'own' internet with 2 per cent owning a desktop, computer laptop or tablet. Internet access, ICT device ownership and TV ownership is particularly critical not only for access of COVID-19 information, but as well as supporting remote learning by the pupils as well as remote working, figure 6.6.

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

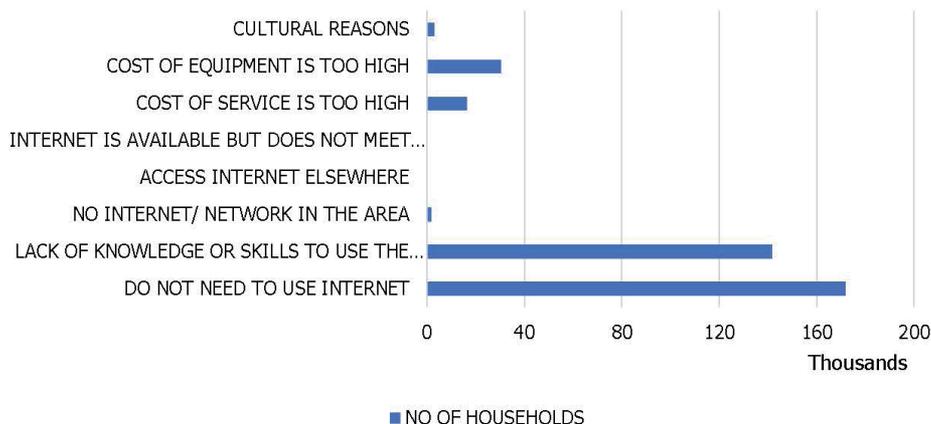


Source: KNBS, 2019- Kenya Population and Housing Census

Online shopping is not prevalent in the County. 1.7 per cent of the conventional households searched and bought goods/services online. There exists gender disparity in online shopping with more men (2.2%) than women (1.2%) undertaking online shopping.

The perception of that the individual does not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County do not 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.

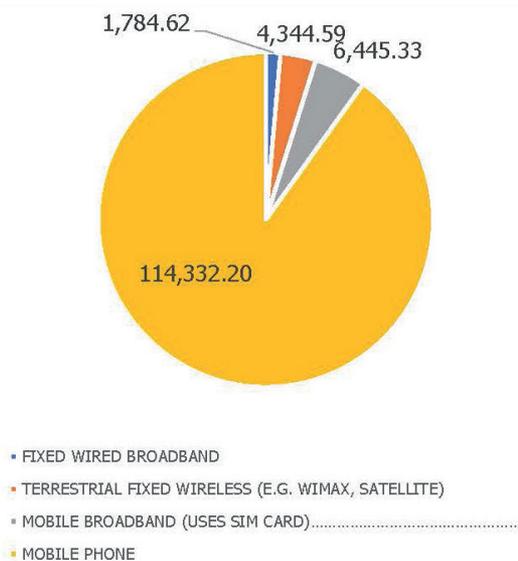
Figure 6.7: Reasons for Lack of Internet Connection



Source: KNBS, 2016-KHIBS 2015/2016

Approximately 90 per cent of the internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of 5 per cent relying on mobile broadband that uses a sim card for connectivity, figure 6.8.

Figure 6.8: Type of Internet Connection

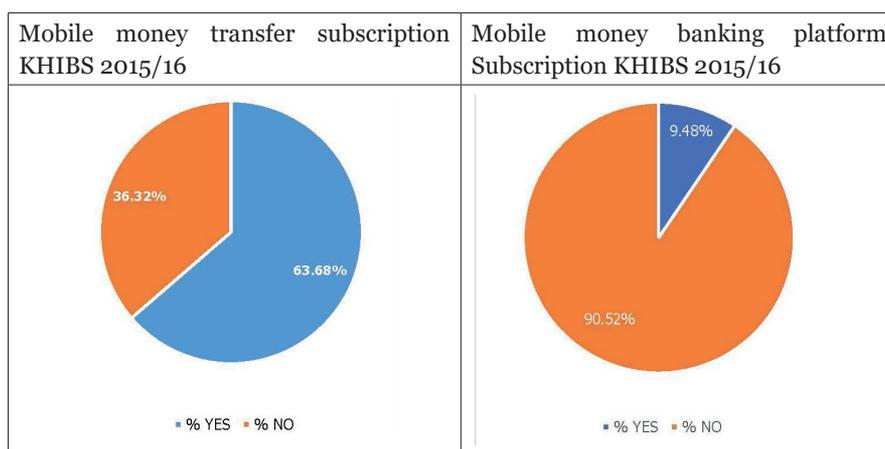


Source: KHIBS 2015/2016

Approximately 37.6 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 63.7 per cent of the people in the county have a mobile money subscription compared with only 9.48 per cent that have a mobile money banking platform subscription (KHIBS 2015/16), figure 6.9.

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



KNBS, 2016- KIHBS 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 16.9 per cent of the men and 11.6 per cent of the women using internet, while 6.3 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.

6.3.2 Opportunities for COVID-19 in ICT

- i) The County has enhanced its ICT framework in Iten to promote virtual learning
- ii) The County is relatively rural and thus not well equipped with ICT infrastructure.
- iii) Previously, county government members were forced to hold critical meetings with stakeholders in Eldoret due to poor network access across sub-Counties.

6.3.3 Emerging Issues

- i) Since the pandemic began the County has developed its ICT framework¹⁰ to include a robust call center for educational, health and agricultural purposes. The County has capitalized on the ICT framework to conduct contact tracing.
- ii) They have developed a Hospital Management Information Center at Iten District Hospital. The information system will collect various critical data on a patient's medical history, demographics, location etc. The management system will be connected to health facilities within sub-Counties to encourage sharing of information across health centers.
- iii) Within the Public Private Partnership framework, the County has partnered with Safaricom to roll out a Digicow application. The application will help farmers input daily records of their produce

¹⁰ Some Counties have visited Nandi to understand and benchmark their robust ICT framework.

6.3.4 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 37.6 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony.¹¹
- ii) Adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet (internet everywhere) by applying aerial and satellite-based communication technologies.
- iii) Stimulate technology adoption and diffusion of IT capability by working with IT personnel in institutions of learning to support the development of ICT competence and skills among the public.
- iv) Enhance internet connectivity to public buildings and key trade centres to boost e-commerce especially for MSMEs in trade and business. The NOFBI programme can be expanded to the sub-county administrative units to further enable deployment of e-governance solutions. This is in line with the CIDP programme to automate services and operations.
- v) Make ICT a standalone sector for planning and budget allocation. This is aimed at giving strategic prominence to planning, budgeting and investment in ICT.
- vi) Develop and implement ICT policies and procedures to mitigate the cyber threats and 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.

¹¹ Universal access to mobile telephony: <http://www.itu.int/itu/news/manager/display.asp?lang=en&year=2007&issue=07&ipage=universal-telephony>

7. Housing and Urban Development

7.1 Characteristics of the sector

Majority of households are headed by men (72.3%) compared to women (27.6%) in the County (KIHBS, 2015/16). There are three urban centers in the County with a total population of 48.5 per cent males and 51.5 per cent females, table 7.1. The urban land area covers 11 square kilometers with a population density of 1894 persons per sq.km

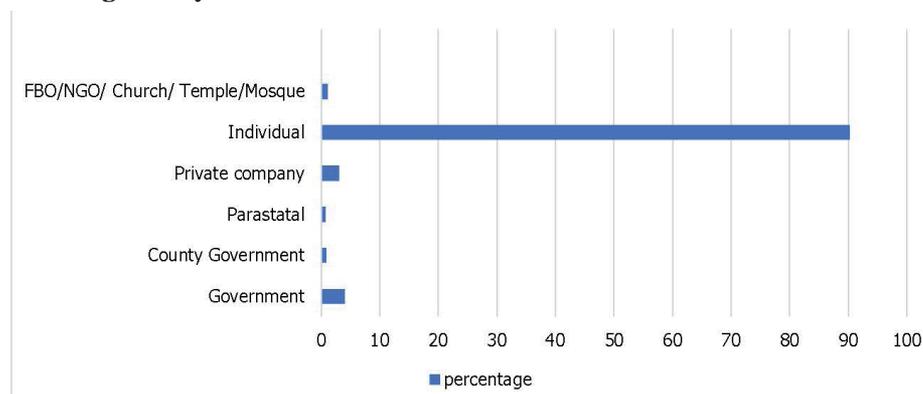
Table 7.1: Distribution of Population by Urban Centers by Gender

Urban Center	Total population	Male	Female
Iten	12,630	6,126	6,504
Kapsowar	4,709	2,295	2,412
Kapcherop	3,240	1,552	1,687
Total	20,579	9,973	10,603
Per cent		48.46202	51.5234

Source: KNBS 2019- Kenya Population and Housing Census

The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 81.9 per cent, with 19.9 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 90.3 per cent, followed by National Government (4%);and Private Companies (3.1%), Figure 7.1; For those who own homes, 96 per cent constructed the houses while 1.3 per cent purchased the house and 2.7 per cent inherited their homes (KNBS, 2019).

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

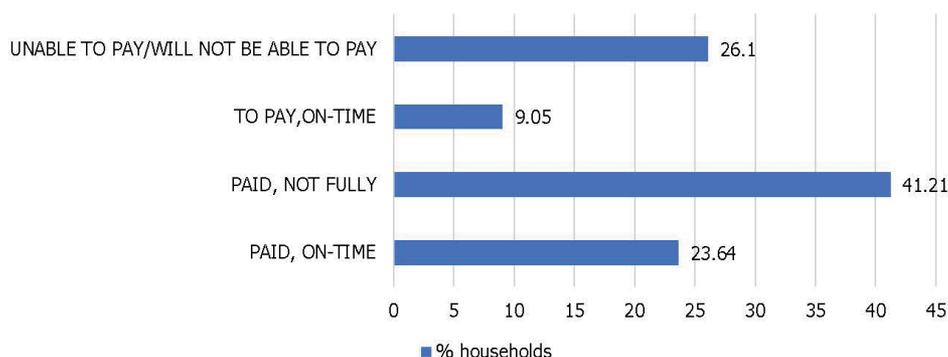


Source: KNBS, 2019 -Kenya Population and Housing Census

On average, the main dwellings of houses in the County have 2.32 habitable rooms against an average household size of 5.97 persons in a household, translating to approximately 2.57 people per room. According to the UN-Habitat, overcrowding occurs when there are more than three people per room¹². In terms of housing quality (building material), 29.28 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing compared to 81.49 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials (KIHBS, 2015/16). Majority of households (80.4%) have iron sheets for roofing, mud/cow dung walls (36.6%) and dung floors (39.5%) (KNBS, 2019).

On average, rental households spend approximately Ksh 5,126 on rent with a minimum of Ksh 300 and the maximum of Ksh 25,000 (KNBS, 2020b). The county recorded a rent to income ratio of 12.68 per cent which is within the acceptable threshold of 30 per cent (KNBS, 2012/13).

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

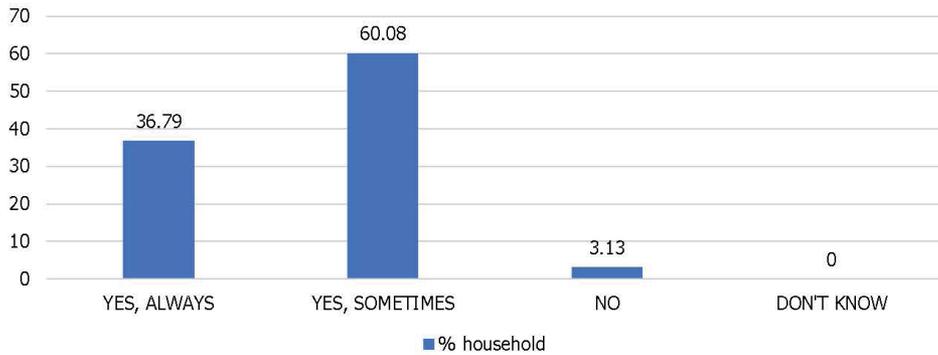
With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households' ability to pay rent has been affected, with 26.1 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date for April 2020, Figure 7.2, compared to 23.6 per cent of the population that were able to pay rent on the agreed date and 36.8 per cent who paid rent on agreed date before COVID-19 pandemic, Figure 7.3.

The main reason that has made households unable to pay rent was attributed to reduced incomes /earnings, reported by 50.14 per cent of the population. The inability to pay rent was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by 100 per cent of the population. (figure 7.4).

Majority of the households (89.28%) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, with 9.43 per cent reporting a partial waiver and 1.28 per cent reporting a full waiver. To overcome the effects of Corona virus on payment on rent, majority 49.51 per cent of households renegotiated rent terms, while 25.81 per cent of households did not take any measures. Approximately 6.67 per cent used personal savings to pay rent, Figure 7.5.

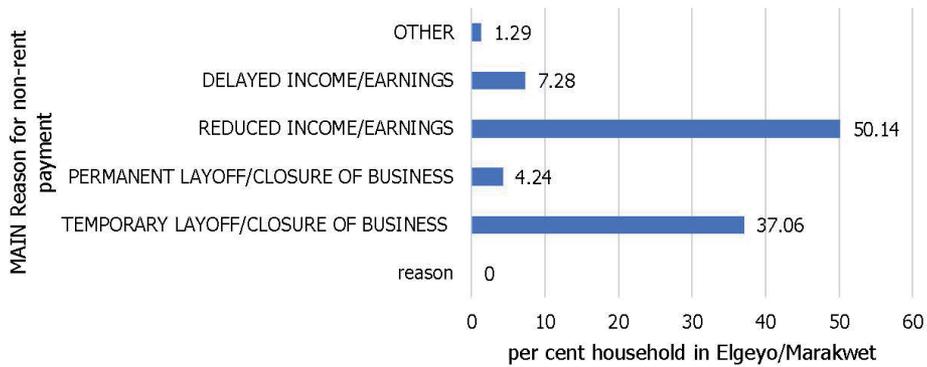
12 Household crowding measure: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowding per cent20occurs per cent20if per cent20there per cent20are,per per cent20habitable per cent20room per cent20\(88\).&text=Crowding per cent20occurs per cent20if per cent20there per cent20is,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

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



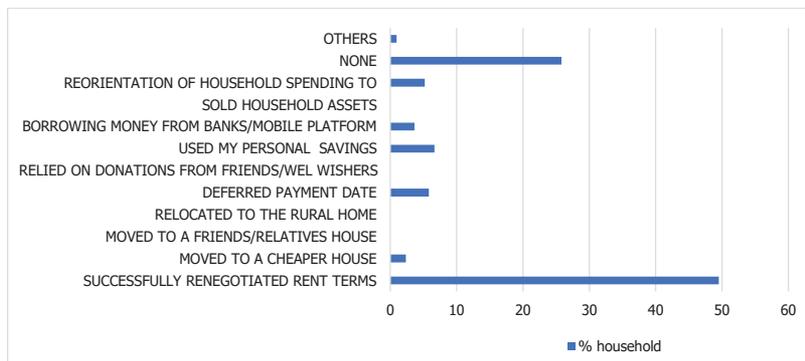
Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

Figure 7.4: Reasons for not being able to pay rent



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 wave 2

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



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-Wave2

With regard to primary energy source for cooking, 96 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 Urban Development

- i) Partnership with National Government and Private Sector for home improvement (roof, floor and walls) under the Big Four Agenda.
- ii) Alternative sources of cooking fuel such as: briquettes, clean cooking stoves and LPG under the mwananchi gas programme

7.3 Emerging Issues and Constraints

- i) Delayed implementation of affordable housing project
- ii) Household reliance on unclean sources of fuel.
- iii) Housing inadequacy for the home-based isolation and care

7.4 Recommendations

- i) Develop and implement urban planning and design instruments that support sustainable management and use of natural resources and land in line with the New Urban Agenda and as mitigative measure to future pandemics and disasters.
- ii) Improve capacity for urban planning and design and the provision of training for urban planners at all subcounty offices.
- 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) Undertake spatial planning of urban areas, and fast track identification and designation of urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019.
- v) Formulate and seek approval of urban development plans and development control policies in line with the CIDP objectives to achieve orderly coordinated efficient and environmentally sound land uses and development in both urban and rural areas.
- vi) 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

The main tourism attractions in Elgeyo Marakwet county are:

- Physical attractions: natural caves (Kiplachoch); hot springs (Kurewswu); international migratory routes (Tugumoi); Gorges (Cheploch gorge); viewpoints; indigenous forests.
- Safari / wildlife: Rimoi game reserve; Wildlife - elephants, giraffes, waterbucks, antelopes, warthogs, crocodiles, snakes and the pangolin which is a highly endangered species. Variety of bird species is found in the reserve and nearby forests.
- Sports tourism: high altitude training areas, Kamariny stadium; extreme sporting and adventure activities (paragliding, roller skating, cycling and Ziplining).
- Community-based conservation: Koisungur community conservancy.
- Agro-tourism: Aror irrigation furrows (UNESCO cites); agro-forestry; apiculture.
- Cultural tourism: cultural museums (Biretwo, Sambirir and Tambach). Cultural heritage (Tot); herbal medicine.

The county has 8 registered hotels out of which 2 are star-rated with a total capacity of 43 rooms and 70 beds (table 28). The other key non-classified hotels are Lelin Campsite, AIC Cheptebo Rural Development and Training Centre, Sego Hotel, Keellu Hotel, Elgon Valley Hotel, Kilima Resort among others. The total bed capacity in the county currently stands at about 300 which is insufficient to meet the demand at peak seasons. The county has done a feasibility study for the construction of an ecolodge in Rimoi Game Reserve to provide hotel and conferencing facilities and to serve as a model for other upcoming facilities to meet sustainable tourism global criteria acceptable for ecologies.

Table 8.1 Classified hotel establishments in Elgeyo Marakwet, 2019

Name of establishment	No. of Rooms	No. of Beds	Star rating
Kerio View Lodge	28	40	3
Samich Resort	15	30	3
TOTAL	43	70	

Source: Tourism Regulatory Authority, 2019

Out of the total number of persons employed in tourism sector, 44.9 per cent are women while 55.1 per cent are men.

The raw materials for tourism in Elgeyo Marakwet County include physical attractions, accommodation and sports facilities. These include rich cultural diversity, sports and excursions. As at 2017, the county has a total road network of 2,060.64 KM of which 374.84

KM is Bitumen (178 KM is under construction and is expected to be complete by 2020), 1,121.4 KM is gravel surface, and 564.4 KM is earth surface. The county is divided into three geographical areas with different economic potential namely: the agriculturally rich highlands – produces dairy milk, potatoes, horticultural produce and cash crops such as tea; the hanging valley – hosts the paragliding tourism and honey harvesting; the Kerio valley – has a high potential for irrigated agriculture (Kabonon-Kapkamak, Kipchukuku and Tot-Kolowa irrigation schemes), Mango, honey production and hosts Rimoi national game reserve.

Development of interconnecting all weather road network in the three areas is key to realization of improved livelihoods, agricultural output as well as allowing tourists to access all attractive scenic areas conveniently. Challenges facing transportation network in the county include; inadequate funding, difficult terrain connecting the three-topographical zone and frequent landslides during the rainy season that render most roads impassable.

8.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Tourism

- Rehabilitation of sporting facilities;
- Tourism product development and marketing to incorporate dimensions of COVID-19 pandemic
- Promotion of and sensitization on hand washing, use of masks and sanitizers in hotels, restaurants and tourism establishments.

8.3 Emerging Issues

Elgeyo Marakwet County is recognized for scenic physical attractions (natural caves, hot springs, gorges, viewpoints, indigenous forests); Wildlife tourism (Rimoi game reserve); sports tourism; community-based conservation; and cultural and heritage tourism assets. The County has 2 star-rated hotels with a total capacity of 43 rooms and 70 beds; and 6 other registered hotels with a total bed capacity of 230. This is insufficient to meet demand during peak seasons. An estimated 13 per cent of tourists out of an estimated 20,000 visitors to the county annually, visit the Rimoi game reserve, which provides an excellent opportunity for construction of an ecolodge to provide accommodation and conferencing facilities. Tourism sector in the County has potential to socio-economically to development of the county. In 2017/18, accommodation and food services accounted for 0.16 per cent of Total GCP, implying low prioritization of tourism in development planning. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an opportunity for promotion of domestic tourism and improving sanitation aspects in tourism attraction sites and accommodation facilities.

- Sanitation as a key component in ensuring business continuity in the hospitality sub-sector;
- Implementing hygiene measures in cultural and heritage tourism activities
- Cancellation of cultural events due to the pandemic
- Loss of employment and income by workers in tourism establishments;

- Low uptake of tourism ventures by local community
- Inadequate bed capacities at Kerio Valley Game Reserve
- Adopting environmentally viable tourism infrastructure development practices

8.4 Recommendations

To address the emerging issues, the County will:

- Enforce sanitation and hygiene standards in all accommodation facilities and tourist attraction sites in line with the national guidelines for reopening of hospitality establishments in order to ensure business continuity.
- Diversify niche tourism product development and marketing incorporating dimensions of COVID-19 containment;

Allocate resources for investment and rehabilitation of tourism-supporting infrastructure, including modern M.I.C.E venues, and roads leading to the physical tourist attraction and heritage sites.

9. Health

9.1 Characteristics of the sector

9.1.1 General Health Characteristics of The County

The county has about 129 public health facilities. At the beginning of the pandemic, the county had few single critical care beds and prioritized building on the changes brought about by the crisis to enhance patient care and lock in operational improvements, while also managing the non-COVID patients and building resilience for future waves of the pandemic.

The nearest hospital is Kamotho health care center which is 20 km from this area of landslide. About 139 households comprising 229 people from Kipchumwa and 72 from Kaben need social have been affected by landslides and they need both food, shelter and psychological support.

The indicators for deliveries under skilled health workers (64%) and latrine coverage (33%) indicates that more than have of the county population have limited access to skilled health deliveries, sanitation and reproductive health services. The county performed relatively better than national averages in terms of the prevalence of communicable conditions including Malaria and TB.

Table 9.1: Health provision

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Health facility density				
Primary health facilities	182	163	234	
Hospitals	14	11	16	
Number of health facilities	196	173	250	
Health facility density		3.0	3.6	
Bed density				
No. of Beds per 10,000 population		28.4	27.8	27.4
Hospital beds		1,872	1,876	1,886
Human resource density				
Total workforce	1,558	1,074	2,215	
HRH Technical		824	1,436	
Number per 10,000 population		10.3	15.4	

Source: MOH, 2021

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 250 which comprised of 234 primary health facilities and 16 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 173 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 27.4 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10,000 population. The health facilities and personnel serve a growing population of 901,777 people according 2019 census. In 2019, total health workforce was approximately 2,215 representing 15.4 health workers per 10,000 population which is below the WHO target of 23 health workers per 10,000. The county proportion of stunted children of 29.9 per cent, wasted children of 7.9 per cent and underweight children of 21.2 per cent are higher than the national averages of 26 per cent, 4 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

The county had earlier in 2020 acquired three ventilators which had been mounted at the Tambach isolation center. The county expects more from Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (Ampath) programme in the county.

Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of the Population that reported Sickness/ Injury by Type of Health Provider in Elgeyo Marakwet County

Type of Health Provider	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Government hospital	13.7
Government health centre	22.0
Government dispensary	53.2
Faith Based (church, Mission) Hospital / Clinic	8.8
Fhok/ Fpack Health	0.6
Private hospital / clinic	3.7
Nursing/ Maternity Home	0.0
Pharmacy/ chemist	0.0
Community health worker	1.7
Shop/ Kiosk	0.3
Traditional healer	0.1
Faith healer	0.0
Herbalist	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	45

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 Elgeyo Marakwet County residents who reported illness visited government dispensaries, 53.2 per cent followed by those who visited government health centres at 22.0 per cent. 13.7 per cent of Elgeyo Marakwet county residents who reported illness also visited government hospitals and 8.8 per cent visited Faith based clinics.

9.2 Population with health insurance cover

The percentage distribution of the population with health insurance cover by type of insurance provider is presented in Table 9.3. In general, 20.8 per cent of the county population have some form of health insurance cover. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) is the leading health insurance provider reported by 97.6 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 1.6 per cent of the population. Private contributions to insurance cover were reported by 3.2 per cent of the population.

Table 9.3: Percentage Distribution of Elgeyo Marakwet County's Population with Health Insurance Cover by Type of Health Insurance Provider

Source of Health Insurance	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Population with Insurance	20.8
NHIF	97.6
Private Contributory	3.2
Private Non-Contributory	1.8
Employer Contributory	1.6
Employer Non-Contributory	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	154

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.3 Place of delivery

In the 2015/16 KIHBS, women in Elgeyo Marakwet 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 Elgeyo Marakwet county. 29.1.0 per cent of children were delivered at home which is slightly lower than the national percentage of 31.3 per cent. The proportion of children born in hospitals, health centres, dispensary/clinics is 41.9, 21.9, and 5.9 per cent respectively

Table 9.4: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by Place of Delivery

Place of Delivery	Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months
Hospital	41.9
Health Centre	21.1
Clinic/ Dispensary	5.9
Maternity Home	1.0
At Home	29.1
Other	0.0
Not stated	1.0

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.4 Immunization for children

The 2015/16 KIHBS collected data on measles immunization for children below 5 years at; 9 months (Measles I) and at 18 months (Measles II). Information was collected from vaccination cards where they were available while mother's recall was used where the card was not available. Tables 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). In Elgeyo Marakwet county, 44.6 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 2.9 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	44.6
	Yes, Not Seen	51.3
	No	3.1
	Not stated	1.0
Measles Vaccination	Measles I (At 9 months Card)	28.3
	Measles II (At 18 months Card)	2.9
	Measles II (Mother/ Guardian memory)	49.8
	Either (card or memory)	78.1

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

9.5 Health outputs

A review of the health sector status as reflected by selected health indicators reveals mixed performance (Table 9.6) Life expectancy for the county population was 58 years which was close to the National average of 59 years. Infant mortality, under-five mortality and maternal mortality rates for the county were relatively high. Similarly, the indicators for deliveries under skilled health workers (64%), latrine coverage (33%) indicate that more than half of the county population have limited access to skilled health deliveries, sanitation and reproductive health services. The county performed relatively better than national averages in terms of the prevalence of communicable conditions including HIV, Malaria and TB.

Table 9.6: Health output indicators

Impact Level Indicators	Elgeyo Marakwet County Estimates	National Estimates
Life Expectancy at birth (years)	58	59
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	31	22

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	49	39
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	60	52
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 births)	388	362
County latrine coverage (per cent)	33	51 per cent
Open Defecation Rate (per cent)	12	14 per cent
Immunization Coverage (per cent)	77	68 per cent
per cent of deliveries by skilled birth attendants (per cent)	64	61 per cent
Contraceptive Prevalence (per cent)	-	40 per cent
HIV Prevalence (per cent)	-	4.8 per cent
Malaria (as per cent of all 1 st outpatient visits) (per cent)	12.9	27.7 per cent
TB Prevalence (in every 10,000 persons)	5	39
Stunted children (per cent)	29.9	
Wasted children (per cent)	7.9	
Underweight children (per cent)	21.2	

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

Assessing on the challenges facing the health system in the county, the frontline healthcare providers lack proper accommodation plans thereby increasing the possibility of cross- infection to their families. Related to this, there is inadequate psychological support to the frontline HealthCare Workers working under undue pressure of increased patient load and inadequate PPEs.

About 20 per cent of children in the county are at risk of contracting preventable diseases such measles and polio. In addition, about 12 per cent of the community members are prone to Waterborne Diseases, Diarrhea and other problems associated with ingesting and exposure to human waste associated with open defecation. This affects children under the age of 5 year since they are very susceptible to diseases.

According to 2014 KDH, total fertility rate for the county was is 4.1 children per woman in 2014. The report further indicates that 55 per cent of the married women were using contraception compared to 58 per cent nationally. The proportion of births assisted by a skilled provider is 65 per cent. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the county is 3 per cent compared to the national rate of 6.4 per cent. Eight-five per cent of the children 12-23 months in the county are fully vaccinated.

According to 2015 Kenya National adolescent and Youth Survey (NAYS) there are several health issues which mostly affected youths. The findings also reveal that the proportion of working population (15-64 years) was 50 per cent in 2009 and would increase to 62 per cent in 2030 and to 69 per cent in 2050. Despite the fact that the proportion of this economically active age group is on the upward trend, the dependency ratio is still high in the County but declining. In 2009, the dependency ratio was high at 102 and was expected to decline to 61 by 2030 and to 44 by 2050. This clearly shows the County has a high dependency ratio as well as a high potential for future labour force. The demographic window of opportunity for the county is expected to open in the year 2041 and close 2081 people.

The sector has linkages with the Education, ICT, WASH and Agriculture sectors. There is a direct proportionality between education and health. 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. This is helping in mortality rate reduction. Good water and sewerage facilities also contributes greatly in reduction of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and other waterborne. This is because my maintaining good hygiene such as washing hands after visiting toilets, washing fruits before eating and boiling/treating drinking water. Good disposal of waste by avoiding open defecation and using toilets also helps reduce spread of diseases spread through human waste. Agriculture sector also plays a key role in ensuring that people get balanced diet and good nutrition. This reduces cases of malnutrition and stunted growth among children due to lack of certain nutrients and vitamins. Agriculture also serves as a source of revenue and employment mostly for the females. This reduces cases of family conflicts and stresses hence reducing mental diseases

9.6 Effects of COVID-19

Due to the stigma of COVID-19, the health-seeking behavior of the county citizens was affected. There has been significant decline in the number of pregnant women attending maternal child health clinic thereby increasing their risk of early and late pregnancy complications. Also there has been acute decline in the number of children going for immunization services therefore this could lead to increased susceptibility of these children to infections and nutritional imbalances.

It had also become difficult to conduct public health community interventions, notably community health promotion campaigns, door to door health campaigns and immunization campaigns. There is therefore potential for an increased threat of outbreaks of other diseases like cholera, air borne diseases as well as malaria and immunizable diseases such as polio. Access to other services like patient support centres (PSC) for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) is also at risk as people shy away from health facilities; causing another risk of likely surge in new HIV infections and reduced viral suppression.

Just like other counties, the county government had been adversely affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Normal operation affected, due to the guidelines for social distancing coupled with the fear, hospitals have been deserted, and the number of patients visiting the hospital or seeking medical services has reduced significantly due to fear of contracting COVID-19 thus significantly reducing the health revenue stream. To address this, the county negotiated with different departments to delay the implementation of some of the projects that are likely to exhaust the budget to 2020/21 financial year and to reallocate the budgets to matters health.

Various sectors such as the private sectors laid off their workers, the informal sector was adversely affected with many rendered jobless. The county workers were working from home in adherence to government directives. The county recruited more health workers who were trained adequately on management of COVID-19 cases. The county government prepared a supplementary budget to reallocate Ksh 123 million to COVID-19 related projects like expansion of intensive care unit (ICU) and establishment of health centers. Health infrastructure has been improved: the county has increased the number of ICU beds and has trained more staffs on

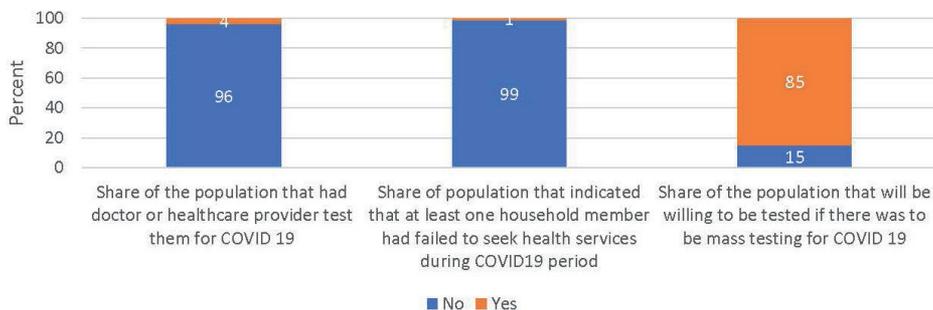
COVID-19; thermo screening especially on truck drivers along the highway and at all entry points. The county government in collaboration with the chiefs and National government administrator has enhanced contact tracing of all citizens entering the county from COVID-19 hotspots. The county also managed to mobilize Ksh 113 million to address the pandemic.

The county has procured additional personal protection gears to be distributed to health personnel in addition to the two more ventilators which was in the procuring process for Iten referral hospital bringing the total to five. The county had earlier in 2020 acquired three ventilators which had been mounted at the Tambach isolation center. The county expects more from Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (Ampath) programme in the county.

COVID-19 is a double tragedy to the county which was yet to come out of the effects of malaria and seasonal floods which are the main causes of morbidity and mortality in the county. Malaria affected learners in the region with a number admitted at the county hospital which led to lose of lives in the region. Resulting from the short rain in 2019 year. In 2019, the county was affected by floods and mudslides due to heavy rains which also lead to loss of lives and destruction of property and further displacement of families a tragedy that affected the county again in 2020 with over 20 people losing their lives and a number of families seeking refuge in schools and church such as Wewo Catholic Church and Sambalat Schools with no access to basic need. This poses a great danger to people especially now that there is COVID-19. The first case in the county was reported on June 4 2020. This triggered panic especially to those at Kipchumwa camp which highly congested. Apart from the risk of spread of COVID-19, people at this camp lacks food and other basic needs such as health care. The nearest hospital is Kamotho health care center which is 20 km from this area of landslide. About 139 households comprising 229 people from Kipchumwa and 72 from Kaben need social have been affected by landslides and they need both food, shelter and psychological support.

Share of the population that had doctor or healthcare provider testing or confirming to them the status in regards COVID-19 was estimated at 4 per cent in 2020 (COVID-19, Wave 2 survey). Further only 1 per cent of the population indicated that at least one household member had failed to seek health services and 85 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: KNBS, June 2020 COVID-19 survey

9.7 Opportunities with COVID-19 on Health sector

The county had an opportunity of improving the Health infrastructure. The county has increased the number of ICU beds and has trained more staffs on COVID-19 diagnosis and management; thermo screening especially on truck drivers along the highway and at all entry points. The county also had an opportunity of strengthening the health care system through purchase of personal protective gears to all the health personnel as well as purchase and installation of ventilators in Iten referral hospital.

There is an enhanced collaboration within the NOREB regional block counties which has resulted into training of the health officers and all the frontline staffs. This collaboration has also seen enhanced inter-county screening and testing centralized at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital. The pandemic has also led to utilization of local capacity in production of masks and PPEs. This has promoted growth of local industries, hence creating employment.

9.8 Emerging issues on health sector

Malaria and seasonal floods have been the main causes of morbidity and mortality in the county. During the pandemic, Malaria affected learners in the region with a number admitted at the county hospital while others lost their lives. In 2019, the county was affected by floods and mudslides due to heavy rains which also lead to loss of lives and destruction of property and further displacement of families a tragedy that affected the county again in 2020 with over 20 people losing their lives and a number of families seeking refuge in schools and church such as Wewo Catholic Church and Sambalat Schools with no access to basic need.

Teenage pregnancies, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) are some of the health issues affecting the youths in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The closure of schools due to COVID-19 has not been any good news, the social impact on the children who are now at home has been huge, the girl child has been affected, this has seen one in ten girls being victims of teenage pregnancies this is alarming given the fact that only 2 per cent of teenage mothers always return to school.

According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS), 2014 around 21 per cent of women and girls between the ages of 15-49 years have undergone FGM and the presence of young girls at home raised a lot of fears and concern during this COVID-19 period. However, the dawn to dusk curfew directive imposed by the government in addition to the collaboration between the county and the ministry of Public Service, Gender and Youth Affairs helped in curbing the practice. Other health problems affecting youths are; Malaria, abortion, abortion dug and substance abuse (DSA), malaria, mental health, malnutrition sexually transmitted infections such as HIV and AIDS. Some of contributing factors include idleness, lack of health education, negative cultures as highlighted above, parental negligence and lack of guidance, peer pressure, illiteracy and high poverty levels. The end results of these problems are mental illness, suicide, school dropout, low economic and social productivity, low self-esteem and stigma and premature deaths. Therefore, action need to be taken to prevent such from occurring. This can be achieved through parental guidance, economic empowerment, sex education, employment creation among the youths, early school enrolment and guidance and counseling.

Again, as observed, more females are not economically active compared to males. This can be attributed to many factors such as negative cultural practices where males are taken to school at the expense of females. Some cultural practices also do not allow women to own factors of production such as land hence leaving the economic activities to men. This has contributed to more males engaged in economic activities as compared to females.

9.9 Recommendation

- i) Increasing the number of ventilators in Tambach isolation Centre from three (3) to at least twenty (20), also provide additional funding to health sector to help in upgrading and equipping of health centres.
- ii) Equipping Iten referral hospital to provide equitable services all through the COVID-19 pandemic period, consider mounting more ventilators in the hospital.
- iii) Training and recruiting high number of health officers to enable health centres provide equitable essential services throughout an emergency, limiting direct mortality and avoiding increased indirect mortality.
- iv) Enhancing screening at the borders; strengthen inter-county collaboration in contract tracing; and train more medical personnel to be able to county effectively manage COVID-19 patients. In additionally, more resources need to be allocated to the health sector in order to sustain the mitigation measures against COVID-19.
- v) Providing frontline caregivers mental and physical health assessment and support during health crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, psychological support for families of frontline health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response.
- vi) Promoting construction, upgrading and equipping of health facilities through additional funding to health sector, this will enable the county to achieve improved health outcomes.
- vii) Promoting and supporting public and community health programmes including the installation of hand washing facilities in homes and institutions such as schools, workplaces and health care facilities within Elgeyo-Marakwet county.
- viii) Creating awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other factors constraining access to maternal health services in the county while enhancing community awareness on the effects of COVID-19 and the mitigation measures by both national and county governments; and other non-state actors; NGOs included.

9.10 Key Highlights

The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) is the leading health insurance provider reported by 97.6 per cent of the population. Employer contributory insurance cover was reported by 1.6 per cent of the population.

The county proportion of stunted children of 29.9 per cent, wasted children of 7.9 per cent and underweight children of 21.2 per cent are higher than the national averages of 26 per cent, 4 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

Majority of Elgeyo Marakwet County residents who reported illness visited government dispensaries, 53.2 per cent followed by those who visited government health centres at 22.0 per cent. 13.7 per cent of Elgeyo Marakwet county residents who reported illness also visited government hospitals and 8.8 per cent visited Faith based clinics.

The county had improved its health status in some of key health indicators. The most affected groups during COVID-19 pandemic were the infant, young children, mothers, adults and elderly. For instance, the 67 per cent of children are fully immunized which below the expected national target of 90 per cent, 64 per cent of the mothers had accessed skilled delivery in 2018 while 35 per cent of children are still being born at home.

10. Education and Training

10.1 General Characteristics of the Sector

10.1.1 General Education Provision in the County

The county has about 880 Public schools of which 100 per cent have benefitted from 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 a total enrolment of 853,032 students of whom 17.9 per cent, 60 per cent and 18 per cent are placed at ECDE centres, Primary and Secondary schools, respectively. Also, the County has about 1.9 per cent and 1.7 per cent of total students in vocational training colleges (VTCS) and Universities, respectively.

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

Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) is 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. Table 10.1 presents the GAR by sex and schooling level for Elgeyo Marakwet county. GAR for pre-primary school was 97.6 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 122.6 and 65.6 per cent respectively. The GAR for pre-primary school was higher for females, 104.9 per cent, compared to that for males, 92.8 per cent. The GAR for primary school was higher for males, 128.2 per cent, compared to that for females, 118.3 per cent. The GAR for secondary school was higher for females, 66.0 per cent, compared to that for males, 65.1 per cent.

Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) is the total number of persons in the official school age group attending a specific level to the total population in that age group. Table 10.1 shows that total NAR for pre-primary, primary and secondary school was 71.5, 88.0 and 27.2 per cent, respectively.

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

Education Level	Gender	Gross Attendance Ratio	Net Attendance Ratio
Pre-Primary School	Male	92.0	67.3
	Female	104.9	65.8
	Total	97.6	71.5

Primary School	Male	128.2	85.6
	Female	118.3	89.8
	Total	122.6	88.0
Secondary School	Male	65.1	23.2
	Female	66.0	31.3
	Total	65.6	27.2

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

10.3 Basic education gross and net enrolment rate

The preprimary gross enrolment rate in the county was 97.6 per cent in 2018 and while the net enrolment rate was 71.5 per cent. The Gross Primary and Secondary enrolment rates stood at 122.6 per cent and 65.6 per cent respectively in 2018 while the Net enrolment rates (NER) were 88.0 per cent and 27.2 per cent for primary school and secondary school respectively during the same period. The main difference between primary and secondary enrolment is due to school dropouts; and other retrogressive factors such as early marriages. The high enrollment rate at primary level is subsequent of free and compulsory primary education by the national government.

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

Preprimary	Total
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	97.6
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	71.5
Gender parity index	-
Primary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	122.6
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	88.0
Gender parity index	-
Secondary	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER) (per cent)	65.6
Net Enrollment rate (NER) (per cent)	27.2
Gender parity index	-

Source: Education statistical booklets 2014-2018

10.4 Literacy

The analysis of literacy is based on respondents' self-assessment as no reading and writing tests were administered during the data collection. Further it was assumed that anybody with secondary level of schooling and above could read and write. The percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by ability to read and write is presented in Table 10.3. The proportion of literate population in the county is 84.6 per cent with the male population more literate (87.3%) compared to their female counterparts (81.9%).

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

	Ability to Read and Write	Percentage Distribution
Overall county	Literate	84.6
	Illiterate	14.9
	Not Stated	0.5
Male	Literate	87.3
	Illiterate	12.3
	Not Stated	0.4
Female	Literate	81.9
	Illiterate	17.5
	Not Stated	0.7

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

10.5 Educational Attainment

The distribution of population aged 3 years and above by educational qualification attained is presented in Table 10.4. Approximately 54.8 per cent of the population do not have any educational qualification. This is high than the national percentage of 49.7. Only 1.3 per cent of the population has attained university degree. The proportion of the population with CPE/KCPE qualification is 24.7 per cent and that of KCE/ KCSE qualification is 12.4 per cent.

Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Highest Educational Qualification

Highest Educational Qualification	Percentage Distribution of Population
None	54.8
CPE/ KCPE	24.7
KAPE	0.0
KJSE	0.1
KCE/ KCSE	12.4
KACE/ EAACE	0.0
Certificate	2.3
Diploma	1.3
Degree	1.3
Basic/post literacy certificate	0.0
Other	0.0
Not Stated	3.2

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Percentage distribution of Elgeyo Marakwet County residents 3 years and above who have ever attended school by the highest level reached, and sex is presented in Table 10.6. The proportion of males who had reached primary school level was 55.1 per cent while that of females was 61.1 per cent. There was a slight disparity between the proportion of persons who had reached university education level, male recording a higher percentage than female (3.2per cent and 2.7per cent respectively).

10.6 Highest education

Table 10.5: Percentage Distribution of Residents 3 Years and above who had ever Attended School by Highest Level Reached, and Sex for Elgeyo Marakwet County

Educational Level	Gender	Percentage Distribution of Population 3 Years and above
Pre-primary	Male	10.2
	Female	10.6
Primary	Male	55.1
	Female	61.1
Post primary vocational	Male	0.4
	Female	0.7
Secondary	Male	22.1
	Female	18.1
College (Middle-level)	Male	4.7
	Female	4.2
University	Male	3.2
	Female	2.7
Madrassa / Duksi	Male	0.0
	Female	0.0
Other	Male	0.2
	Female	0.1
Not Stated	Male	4.0
	Female	2.5
Number of Individuals (‘000)	Male	191
	Female	197

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

10.7 Gender issues in education

Gender issues are key concern in the County. According to the National Crime Research Centre report (2016) on the County Crime Outlook, the gender-based violence in the

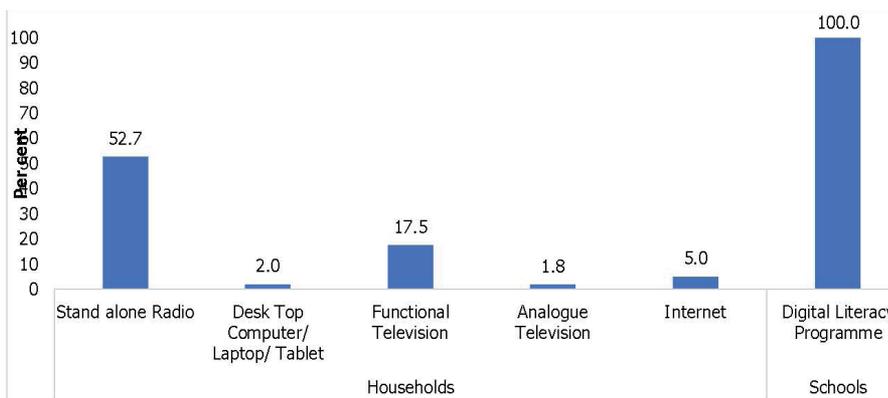
county was at 5.5 per cent against the national level of 9.2 per cent. This report further posits that the defilement cases were 2.8 per cent against 7.1 per cent at the national level. The pandemic and its repercussions in the education sector where all schools had been closed was a challenge to the many school girls who were at home. In 2019, the child abuse including neglect other than sexual abuse stood at 1.7 per cent against the national 4.3 per cent (NCRC Report, 2018).

Just like other counties, many people in the 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 had also faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity, water and security bills. Private schools in the County were severely affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Suppliers and vendors who sold their goods and services to schools also lost their target market during the pandemic.

10.8 ICT in education

The entire county is not fully networked hence limited access to the e-learning programme for the larger portion of school children at home. Although almost all schools had access to the digital literacy programme, only 5 per cent of households had access to internet. This means that doing online classes in the county is almost impossible since 95 per cent do not have internet access. Additionally, online classes require one to have at least a desktop computer/laptop or tablet. From figure 2, only 2 per cent of the county households have access to such gadgets. Therefore, conducting online classes would leave the other 98 per cent of the population behind. Another challenge is the inability of the private schools to sustain their teachers while they are not in operation. There is also a problem of uncertainty as it is not clear when the schools are likely to open. This makes planning for the future classes and programmes difficult.

Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools



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

With regards to access to ICT in Elgeyo Marakwet County, 47.3 per cent of households were found to have no access to stand alone radio. 2.0 per cent of households were found to have access to a desk top computer/laptop/tablet. Only 17.5 per cent of the county households

had functional television while 1.8 per cent still had analogue television. Only 5.0 per cent of households had access to internet. This means that adoption of e-learning program during the COVID-19 era was constrained due to limited access to ICT materials as only little number of households had the requisite tools for effective e-learning programme. This is despite a record 100 per cent of schools having installed digital literacy programme materials.

Through ICT, other children within the county have managed to continue with their school work at home. Health is concerned with operation of education sector as it defined the guidelines on the measure to put in place in preparation to re-open schools under the new normal. Education is also directly linked to agriculture sector to enhance food security. Some of school dropout cases are due to lack of food. That is why agriculture comes in to provide food for the students enabling them to concentrate in classes.

10.9 Opportunities with COVID-19 in education and training

Expansion of schools and construction of new structures to provide room for smooth operation under the new normal. There is also the opportunity of exploring online classes. There is potential in counties producing uniforms, masks, sanitizers, replacing desks, renovations in all learning institutions, fumigation cans, health insurance of all learners, health and nutrition; wash and preparedness of health centers in case of emergencies; provide adequate number of testing kits if all teachers and workers in schools (public and private) have to be tested before reopening, among others. The public and private schools' employers will need to adjust work spaces to be able to comply with social distancing.

10.10 Emerging Issues

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

The county government is keen on enabling youths to leverage on ICT in skills as a driver for enterprise development. In this regard, the county is working with partners to roll out free Wi-Fi in all our urban centers, starting with Kabarnet and Eldama Ravine. This is fundamental if the county enables its resident to take up offshore business and employment opportunities and keep up with the contemporary world.

10.11 Recommendations

- i) The County with support from stakeholders 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.
- ii) The county to involve communities to mobilize learners when schools will be reopening process and while deepening implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures. The county will combine community participation and large-scale direct

- communication campaigns to parents, and where possible, increase attendance options to accommodate all children, including those with highest risk of dropping out, also promote back to school campaign and community outreach to ensure that no child is being dropped out of school due to COVID-19 emergency.
- iii) The County to prioritize projects that improve school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and management in order to reduce future effect of similar or related outbreak while promoting public health in learning institutions.
 - iv) Promote remedial/catch up lessons for learners who might have lagged behind also schools to utilize ICT platforms and have a depository of teaching and learning materials that learners could use at their own time and while at home.
 - v) The county to provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school, also provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners.

10.12 Key Highlights

About 100 per cent of public primary schools in the County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) (ICT Authority, 2019). The infrastructure includes learner digital devices (LDD), teacher digital devices (TDD) and the Digital Content Server and Wireless Router (DCSWR). The proportion of literate population in the county is 86.3 per cent with the male population more literate (87.3%) compared to their female counterparts (81.9).

11. Social Protection

11.1 Characteristics of the sector

11.1.1 Sources of vulnerabilities in the County

Elgeyo Marakwet County has an estimated population of 454,480 of which 4,861 (1.2%) are living with disability. A further 4.4 per cent of the total population are older persons aged 65 years and of which 52.5 per cent are females. The overall poverty index in the county stands at 61.5 per cent which is way above the national average of 39.6 per cent. further, the county proportion of stunted children stands at about 30 per cent which indicates the nutritional status of the county. Food and multidimensional poverty levels are 43 per cent and 45 per cent respectively. With the presence of COVID-19 pandemic. The county has experienced a rise in demand for cash transfers which to maintain the county's social and economic progress made over the years.

11.1.2 Severe Shocks to The Households

Severe shocks have had negative impact to the household's economic and social welfare of Elgeyo Marakwet county residents. Table 11.1 and figure 66 presents the proportion of households by the first severe shock in Elgeyo Marakwet county. Death of other family Member were experienced by 39.7 per cent of households followed by death of livestock at 8.1 per cent.

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

First Severe Shock	The proportion of households
Droughts or Floods	3.9
Crop disease or crop pests	6.4
Livestock died	8.1
Livestock were stolen	1.1
Household business failure, nonagricultural	0.3
Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary	1.4
End of regular assistance, aid, or remittances from outside the household	0.0
Large fall in sale prices for crops	2.0
Large rise in price of food	0.0
Large rise in agricultural input prices	0.0

Severe water shortage	1.5
Birth in the household	0.9
Death of household head	6.9
Death of working member of household	0.0
Death of other family Member	39.7
Break-up of the household	2.6
Bread winner jailed	0.0
Fire	0.0
Robbery / Burglary / Assault	0.3
Carjacking	0.0
Dwelling damaged, destroyed	0.3
Eviction	1.2
Ethnic/ Clan Clashes	2.7
Conflict	1.4
HIV/ AIDS	0.0
Other	5.7

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

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 groups.

The county revenue collection declined as a result of outbreak of COVID-19. Closing of markets affected business activities and revenue collected by the county government. The county will therefore need to capitalize on other sources of revenue. The county also needed to diversify its source of revenue by engaging in other activities such as tourism. 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 likely to be affected.

Among those who have been affected by COVID-19 are young female athletes in the County. In collaboration with the Sunblest Kisumu the world marathon holder Eliud Kipchoge has provided foodstuffs and sanitary pads to over 30 female athletes. The pads were donated by PadMad. Additionally, open air markets were closed which mostly serve as place of trade. Most of 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. Other small-scale traders such as those in transport industries like *matatu* and *bodaboda* were affected since the number of passengers they carry per trip was reduced as a result of social distance requirements; this reduced their income with some operating at losses. Shops and Kiosks, social centers such as club and bars, hotels were affected by the curfew and social distance requirements thus reducing the amount of income that they get.

Due to COVID-19, most of the markets were closed down leading to increased poverty levels through the value chain. With this increase in demand, the County government will initiate cash transfers targeting the elderly and food distribution to vulnerable households during the COVID-19 period. As a result, the county government allocated 2 per cent of its budget/ project in social protection programmes targeting the poor, disabled and old people above 65 years and the county was supporting NHIF subscriptions for the vulnerable in the community. In addition, ward budget allocation/distribution was based on different parameters like population, poverty index which ensures equity and social protection.

Social protection is directly linked to the health sector as when people's social welfare is good, people have good health insurance, and they can access health services in case of sickness. When people welfare is affected by loss of employment and closing of businesses, they 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 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. Majority of people are involved in livestock keeping and farming. Agricultural sector has created employment among many county residents while Trade and industry has played an important role bettering life of the residents. This is where majority of people derive their livelihood from especially those engaging SMEs. The profits and savings obtained from business is used in feeding the family members as well as insuring them in future.

11.2 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, 12 per cent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (69%), mainly from individuals (70%) while external transfers constituted 31 per cent.

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

	Beneficiaries 2015/16
Total Number of Households	99,000
Households receiving transfers (per cent)	12
From Inside Kenya: Individual	16,532
Non-Profit Institution	-
National Government	6,313
County Government	1,242
Corporate Sector	-
Inside Kenya	24,086
Outside Kenya	-
Total	20,873
Number of households that received transfers	12,000

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

11.3 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Social protection.

The pandemic has enhanced exploitation of opportunities with the NOREB economic block. The region had come together to undertake a joint surveillance of infections. Intercounty screening had been implemented while resources had been mobilized and centralized to support the COVID-19 mitigation process such as buying of sanitizers, and a further negotiation with RIVATEX for a special price for quality masks at Ksh 35 while others went for Ksh 50.

11.4 Emerging Issues.

There is a regional unity in the fight against Corona pandemic and exploitation of the economic potential. The disease exposed lack of preparedness among counties in terms of responding to the emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. Further, it provided an opportunity to measure how county governments are prepared to handle the devolved functions. Health being a devolved function, it has really exposed the counties as many of them lack required health facilities such as ICU beds and enough medical personnel. With the effects of COVID-19, the Elgeyo Marakwet County government needs to explore ways in which to protect its vulnerable population that is, the poor and children from deteriorating social and economic conditions. This can be done through

With the support of county government, the public health promotion team had enhanced sensitization in Cheborowa and Kondabilet units within the county. The county has also engaged effectively the county health volunteers during this period of the pandemic.

Support had also been provided for the health workers to enhance their human resource capacity.

The County has an estimated population of 454,480 with which 1.5 per cent are living with disabilities and 4.4 per cent are older persons aged 65 years and above. Overall poverty levels in the county are at 43 per cent, while 61.5 per cent and 45.4 per cent of the population is multi-dimensionally and food poor. The proportion of stunted children in the county is 29.9 per cent of the total population.

11.5 Recommendation

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. 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. The elderly also need to be provided with food and other basic wants since their movement has 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. Specific recommendations include:

- i) Innovatively reach out to the vulnerable in the informal sector, including agriculture sub-sectors. Expansion will focus on the most vulnerable, but also aim to cover those with significant livelihood risks; immediate measures should consider support for livelihood preservation and recovery; enhancing community schemes should seek to reach informal and small-scale agricultural workers.
- ii) Build resilience and promote affirmative action for addressing challenges facing vulnerable groups through implementation of special programs.
- iii) Promote gender mainstreaming, protection and response against gender-based violence and involvement in all sectors.
- iv) Ensure basic income security, for persons whose jobs or livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic; and coordinate social protection programmes and strengthen linkages across various social protection interventions.
- v) Promote the Universal Healthcare Programme (UHC), to support the vulnerable communities and register them with NHIF to enhance access to health service.
- vi) Extend social protection support for informal employment, the self-employed and vulnerable groups; to protect them vulnerability to income losses due to the pandemic.
- vii) There is need for the County 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. 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.

12.Labour Participation

12.1 Characteristics of the Sector

12.1.1 Sources of employment in the County

Agriculture is the main source of revenue in the county and majority of people are involved in livestock keeping and farming, in addition to SMEs, tourism and mining in Kerio Valley. This provides people with source of food as well as revenue which is used to improve their welfare. 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. With the loss of jobs in the Small and Medium Enterprises the livelihood of people working in these sectors was directly or indirectly affected, particularly youths as the sector employs most of the young population. In addition, the reduction in operation hours and restriction on movement in and outside Nairobi negatively impacted on the transport sector as many relying on it were rendered jobless.

Other main economic activities that they are involved in includes *boda boda* business, small scale business, farming of livestock and horticulture, herding, charcoal burning and manual/casual works. Most of the business activities have been affected by COVID-19. A good example is that of *boda boda* where one is required to carry only one passenger ensuring the passenger has mask and sanitized. This is on top of other challenges such as insecurity, poor road infrastructure, low levels of education and lack of capital.

The dawn to dark curfew had affected the operation of the main source of livelihood in Elgeyo-Marakwet County whose main economic activity is agriculture. The closing of market and livestock auction center means that most people cannot sell their farm produces. Additionally, with the close of businesses, unemployment rate in the county has been on the rise. The county is also likely to experience reduced revenue collection.

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

	Male	Female	Total
Population	196,039	196,455	392,505
Working	85,221	87,674	172,899
Seeking Work/ No Work Available	10,079	5,328	15,407
Persons outside the Labour Force	100,710	103,422	204,139
Not Stated	29	31	60
per cent Working	89.4	94.2	91.8
per cent Seeking Work/ No Work Available	10.6	5.7	8.2

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. The County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 188,306 people of whom 172,899 million were working and 15,407 were seeking work representing an unemployment rate of 8.2 per cent. (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019). In terms of gender, more males are employed compared to females at 25.0 and 20.0 per cent respectively. In terms of economically active, more female (females are 26.0%) than male (20.0%) were economically inactive. This pattern shows that females are less employed in comparison with their male counterparts. About 17.3 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 79.7 per cent of the employees worked but for no pay (May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey).

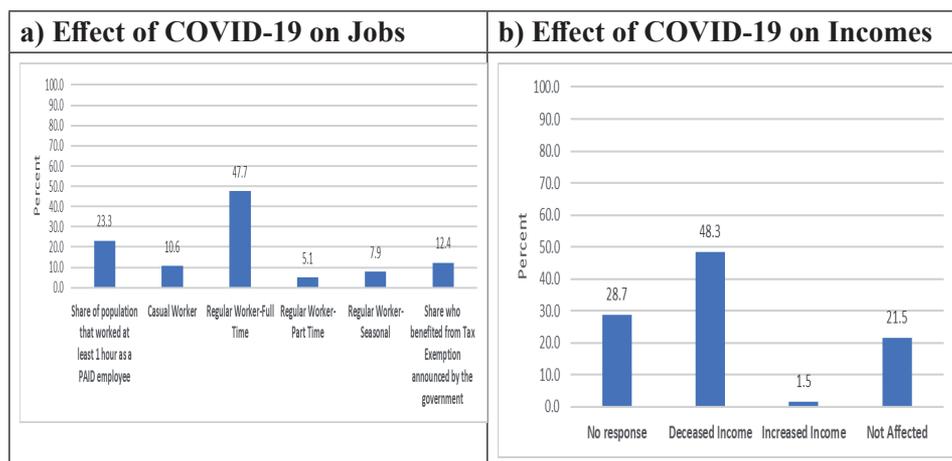
The average years of schooling was 7.7 years out of the target of at least 12 years if entire population was to attain basic education up to complete secondary education (KIHBS 2015/16). Human development index was 0.56 compared to 0.52 at national level and maximum of 1. The HDI at county level measures extent to which the counties can mobilize the economic and professional potential of the citizens. With a rating of 0.56 it means the county lost about 44 per cent of her economic potential due to limited education and health. About 29.9 per cent of the children were stunted. Childhood stunting is associated with developmental delays that can significantly and adversely impact a person's ability to learn (both during and after the years in school), thereby limiting their ability to reach their full potential. As a such, this perpetuates inequality across generations.

The NHIF coverage was 16.7 per cent as compared to the average national level at 24.7 per cent while the number of children vaccinated was 85.2 per cent as compared to the average national level at 74.9 per cent. The data indicated only 14.2 per cent of the children had not been immunized against preventable diseases such as polio and measles. The pandemic however brings an opportunity of enhancing levels of innovation and development of skills relevant to all the sectors of economy with attention on production sectors especially agriculture which contributes to over 80.0 per cent of county GCP.

12.2 Effects of COVID-19

According the May 2020 COVID-19 survey, about 17.3 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 79.7 per cent of the employees worked but for no pay (May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey). About 23.3 per cent of the workers were in formal employment and worked for pay and 47.7 were regular workers. However, majority of these workers (48,3 %) reported decrease in income due to COVID-19. This shows an impact that COVID -19 had on people income. Most of workers were given unpaid leave due to reduced activities at workplace as a result of implemented strict health guidelines. Some other business such as bars, hotels, market centers had totally closed sending all the employees' home. People in the transport sector had also been rendered jobless due to restrictions of moving in and out of Nairobi county. As per Figure 12.1 b, only 1.5 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income. These could be the people working in the health sector who are supplying medical equipment such as masks and PPEs. Generally, COVID-19 had a negative impact on majority of county dwellers' income compared to the only 1.5 per cent of people who benefitted from the same.

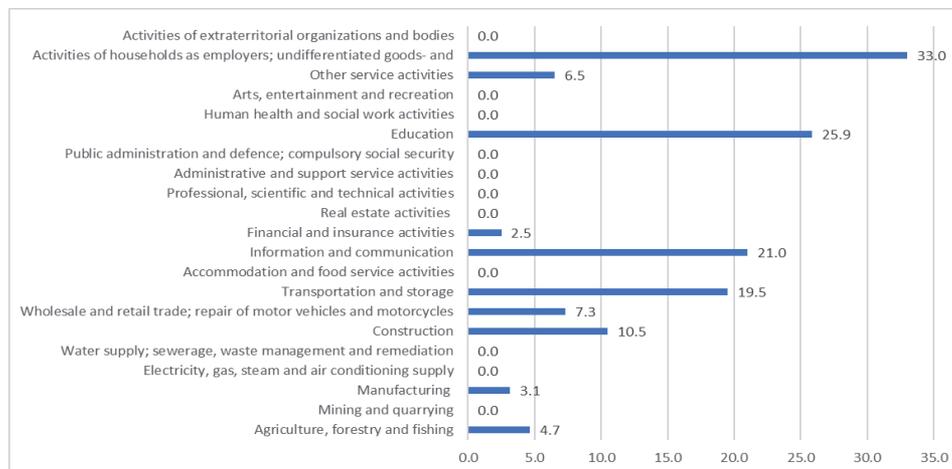
Figure 12.1: Effects of COVID-19, 2020



Source: May 2020 COVID-19 survey

According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, activities of extraterritorial organization and bodies reported the highest level of loss of hours worked in a week (33 hours) followed by education sector (25.9 hours per week) and information and technology which lost 21 hours in a week (figure 12.2). Construction and manufacturing sectors lost an average of 10.5 hours and 3.1 hours per week, respectively. Agriculture sector lost about 4.7 hours every week and this having a significant adverse effect on the economy of the county since the sector contributes over 80 per cent of county GCP.

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



Source: May 2020 COVID-19 Survey

Majority of the workers in the private sector were given permission to work from home due to reduced activities at workplace as a result of implementing strict COVID-19 containment guidelines. About 7.0 per cent of employees were absent from work due to COVID-19 related

issues and 82.3 per cent worked for no pay. Majority of workers in private schools including teachers and other workers lost their incomes due to closure of learning institutions. The imposition of curfew and restriction of movement in and out of major towns (notable Nairobi and Mombasa) rendered some employees in transport sector jobless. As a result, majority of workers (61.0%) reported decrease in income due to the COVID-19.

According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey, only 3.0 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income. Staying at home resulted to rise in demand of basic amenities among households such as electricity hence the sector did not record any loss in hours lost.

12.3 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Labour participation

There is a greater opportunity within the NOREB region which needs to be exploited by the county. County leadership across needs move with speed in ensuring full operation of the block to enhance inter-county trade. This will also provide opportunities for sharing expertise across and expansion of human resource base.

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

12.4 Emerging issues

There was potential of exploiting the opportunities within the regional block. Through partnerships the member counties had ensured training of the medical staffs over and above putting in place testing centers at Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital. There are emerging talents among the youths which can be tapped to benefit the county especially this time of COVID-19 such as making of ICU bed, masks and PPEs.

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

12.5 Recommendations

- i) Create more employment opportunities through adequate investment in education, technical training and skills development; and investments within the key sectors of agriculture, infrastructure, technology and innovation. The county will also consider enhancing production of quality masks and PPEs for the population and promote training of workers in the informal economy.
- ii) Create farmers' organizations to enable small scale farmers strengthen their market network with agricultural and food supply chains, generate more income from their products and achieve a fairer distribution of the added value.

- iii) Promote investment and entrepreneurship through provision of loans, the county government will improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through lending institutions. In addition, build capacity in areas related to marketing, operations, finance, and human resource development to enhance the chances of survival of SMEs.
- iv) Expand access to collectively financed pension programmes to ensure income security for both formal and informal sector employees.

12.6 Key Highlights

Agriculture is the main source of revenue in the county and majority of people are involved in livestock keeping and farming, in addition to SMEs, tourism and mining in Kerio Valley.

According to KNBS 2019 census, the county had employment rate of 48.6 per cent. In terms of gender, more males are employed compared to females at 25.0 and 20.0 per cent respectively. In terms of economically active, more female (females are 26.0%) than male (20.0%) was economically inactive.

The County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 188,306 people of whom 172,899 million were working and 15,407 were seeking work representing an unemployment rate of 8.2 per cent. About 17.3 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 79.7 per cent of the employees worked but for no pay (May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey).

13. Conclusion and Key Recommendations

13.1 Conclusion

13.1.1 Fiscal policy

The county's total revenue, grew by 68 per cent from Ksh 3.32 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 5.59 billion in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 9.8 per cent. 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 1,713.7 million to Ksh 4,764.4 million in FY 2020/21, an average annual growth rate of 25.4 per cent. With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate between FY 2013/14 to FY 2020/21 was 55.3 per cent (implying that on average over 44.7 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 help achieve the targets in ADPs and the CIDP.

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 livestock diseases, floods and livestock diseases. The County's agricultural productivity is also affected by: - variable and extreme weather events; unsustainable natural resources management practices ; low adaptive capacity of farmers to Climate change ; low agroprocessing and value addition opportunities; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; and pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and post-harvest waste. This adversely affects the productivity of the sector and impairs marketing and consequently places livelihoods and food security at risk especially in times of emergencies. The analysis calls for strategies to enhance productivity, profitability, and resilience of the sector for improved livelihoods.

13.1.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

The county relies more on surface water, water from springs and dug well, with a few urban households having access to piped water. To minimize the risks of households missing water, it's important to put in place measures to ensure protection of water resources for continuity of access to clean and safe water by households.

13.1.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

Elgeyo Marakwet 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 also 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

Elgeyo Marakwet County is recognized for scenic physical attractions (natural caves, hot springs, gorges, viewpoints, indigenous forests); Wildlife tourism (Rimoi game reserve); sports tourism; community-based conservation; and cultural and heritage tourism assets. The county has 8 registered hotels out of which 2 are star-rated with a total capacity of 43 rooms and 70 beds (table 28). The other key non-classified hotels are Lelin Campsite, AIC Cheptebo Rural Development and Training Centre, Sego Hotel, Keellu Hotel, Elgon Valley Hotel, Kilima Resort among others. The total bed capacity in the county currently stands at about 300 which is insufficient to meet the demand at peak seasons. The county has done a feasibility study for the construction of an ecolodge in Rimoi Game Reserve to provide hotel and conferencing facilities and to serve as a model for other upcoming facilities to meet sustainable tourism global criteria acceptable for ecologies.

13.1.6 Health

The county had improved its health status in some of key health indicators. The most affected groups during COVID-19 pandemic were the infant, young children, mothers, adults and elderly. For instance, the 72 per cent of children are fully immunized which below the expected national target of 90 per cent, 64 per cent of the mothers had accessed skilled delivery in 2018 while 35 per cent of children are still being born at home. It will be important for the County to address access to health care for improved health outcomes.

13.1.7 Education and training

Infrastructures are in place to support water and sanitation efforts in learning institutions by the county. The county had rolled out plans to provide hand washing facilities in schools. About 85 per cent of public primary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County had been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP).

13.1.8 Social protection

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

13.1.9 Labour participation

The COVID-19 pandemic has expedited the speed at which different firms and businesses within the county are changing their pay programmes through pay reductions and incentive resets. The county governor and his deputy experienced a 30 per cent pay cut. In addition, the County executives took a 20 per cent pay cut while county chief officers took 15 per cent pay cut. It will be important for the County to promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions especially those working tea sector which is a major employer in the county and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development.

13.2 Key Recommendations

13.2.1 Fiscal policy

To steer the county towards achieving its budgetary objective and development goals contained in the ADPs and CIDP, the county government 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 and ensure the ongoing infrastructure project are completed and suppliers paid within the specified timelines for optimal returns to investment and to spur private sector activity.

13.2.2 Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County 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; promote adoption of modern technologies, conservation agriculture techniques and sustainable land management; provision of storage and cooling facilities; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives.

13.2.3 Water sanitation and hygiene

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

13.2.4 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County to: Exploit the opportunity presented by the pandemic especially in production of essential goods such as masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators; Consider an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, can be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. 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; Create partnerships with other counties to enhance markets for the County's produce and sustainability; Collaborate with the National government to ensure security is enhanced to reduce on crime and create a peaceful business environment.

13.2.5 Infrastructure, housing, and urban development

The main means of transport used in the County is PSV matatus followed by walking. The population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute due to the pandemic. The unpaved road network is in overall poor condition but the County records good Rural Access Index that is above the national average. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. Majority of internet users in the county rely on mobile phone for connectivity, with a marginal population of 5 per cent relying on mobile broad band that uses a sim card. The perception that the individuals do not need to use the internet, lack of knowledge and skills on internet and the cost of equipment are the leading reasons that people in the County do not have internet connection. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied, with the main challenge being the quality of housing where most houses are constructed using rudimentary materials. In response to the prevailing challenges, the county needs to focus on applying labor based and local resource-based approaches for road development and maintenance; adopt programmes to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable internet; Develop and implement urban planning and design instruments that support sustainable management and use of natural resources and land in line with the New Urban Agenda.

13.2.6 Tourism

To address the emerging issues, the County to enforce sanitation and hygiene standards in all accommodation facilities and tourist attraction sites in line with the national guidelines for reopening of hospitality establishments in order to ensure business continuity, diversify niche tourism product development and marketing incorporating dimensions of COVID-19 containment; and allocate resources for investment and rehabilitation of tourism-supporting infrastructure, including modern M.I.C.E venues, and roads leading to the physical tourist attraction and heritage sites.

13.2.7 Health

Create 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.

13.2.8 Education and training

The County with support from stakeholders should continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. 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.

13.2.9 Social protection

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

13.2.10 Labour participation

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

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
Bishops Garden Towers, Bishops Road
P.O. Box 56445-00200, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 4936000; +254 20 2719933/4
Fax: +254 20 2719951
Email: admin@kippra.or.ke
Website: <http://www.kippra.org>