

PROJECT TITLE

ENHANCING WOMEN'S LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE CRÈCHE PROGRAMME IN THARAKA NITHI COUNTY, KENYA

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PROJECT COMPONENTS: THREE INTERRELATED STUDIES

- Women's Livelihoods
- Impacts of Crèche on FLFP, child development, and women's psychosocial wellbeing
- Female Labor Force Participation (FLFP)



Background to women's livelihoods pilot survey & crèche rapid needs assessment

The surveys were carried out on *13th Sept. – 1st Oct. 2021* and were informed by stakeholder meetings on *3rd and 10th Sept.*

- The surveys were conducted to answer a wide range of livelihoods and childcare questions
- We focus women's work (paid and unpaid, market and non-market)
- Childcare work is strongly linked to women's livelihood activities (crèche is a key aspect of this)
 - How are the women's livelihoods distributed across the agro-ecological zones of the county?
 - What role does childcare/crèche play? (in livelihoods and FLFP)
 - How was the national labor force participation affected by Covid-19? (female's and male's)



Background TNCG project activities

- Stakeholder mapping, gender-power analysis and analysis of women's livelihoods activities
- Map women's participation in the crèche program to assess child development, reduction of childcare burden and improvement of labour force participation
- Evaluate the livelihood strategies undertaken by women and establish their impact on child health and women economic empowerment
- Implementation of crèche and lactation rooms projects and evaluate their impact on WEE and health of children
- KU-WEE Hub and Busara in collaboration with Yale-EGC will collect crèche RCT data and use it to assess impact of crèche on WEE, FLFP and Child development

KU Women's Economic Empowerment Hub: weehub.ku.ac.ke, Email: hubbleader-wee@ku.ac.ke



SURVEY RESULTS FOR LIVELIHOOD PILOT SURVEY



Dairy farming



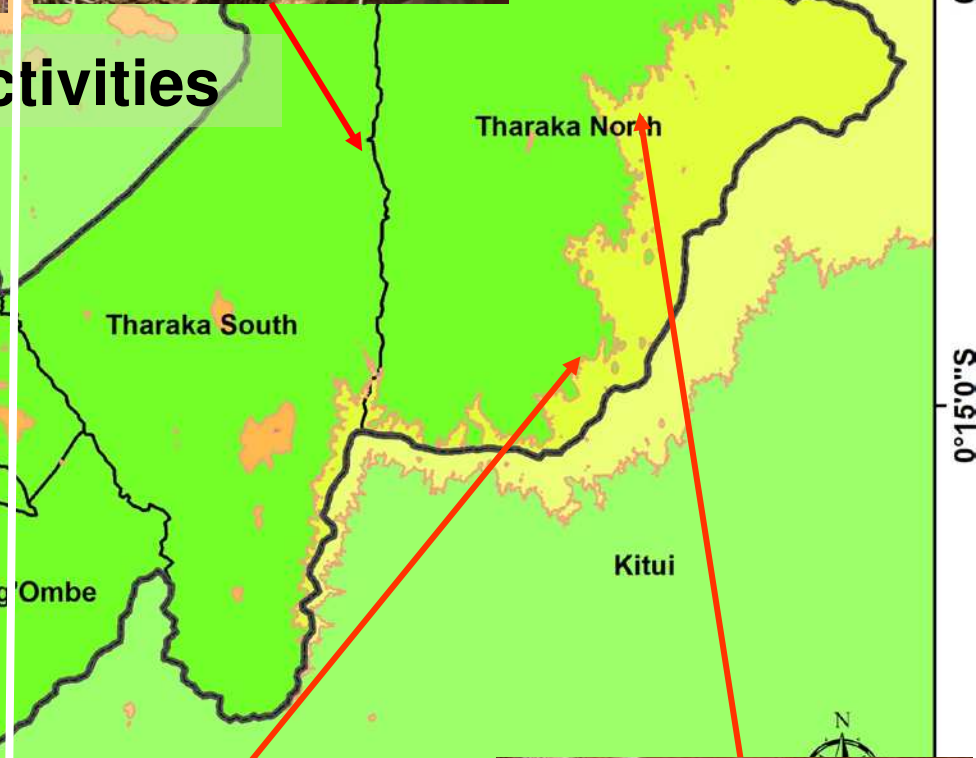
Chuka market



Gatunga market



Well in sand River



Tea farming



Ploughed (maize)



Ploughed (sorghum)



Livestock (goats)



Muthambi Ward (Upper Zone)



- Relatively high and reliable average rainfall (840 mm pa)
- High land productivity on account of deep red volcanic soils and adequate rainfall (**Tea, coffee, bananas, maize, legumes grown at suitable elevations**)
- Small land sizes per capita – may force people to move to the lowland areas or invade the forest in the near future
- Higher population density – more space being taken up by housing needs.
- Better and accessible schools



Gatunga Ward Lower Zone

- Rainfall is, much less <500mm and unreliable.
- Agricultural yields are relatively low (**Sorghum, Millet, Green Grams, Cow Peas**)
- Greater reliance on **pastoralism or casual labor in market centers** or other people's farms during the growing season
- Slash-burn-plant and move is common – aggravating soil erosion and water scarcity
- Shallow soils varying in pH Level from acidity (Baobab evidence) to Saline (Duam palm evidence)



Survey Results

- Women spend an average of 5-6 hours on unpaid work per day (**varies from 1-15 hours**)
- Proportion of the money controlled by the women determines labor force participation
- Ownership and control of land and assets is mainly vested in men
- Married women participate less in an unpaid work compared to single women
- The hours women spend on taking care of their children per day, is 8 hours (**varies from 1 hr – 19 hrs**)



SURVEY RESULTS

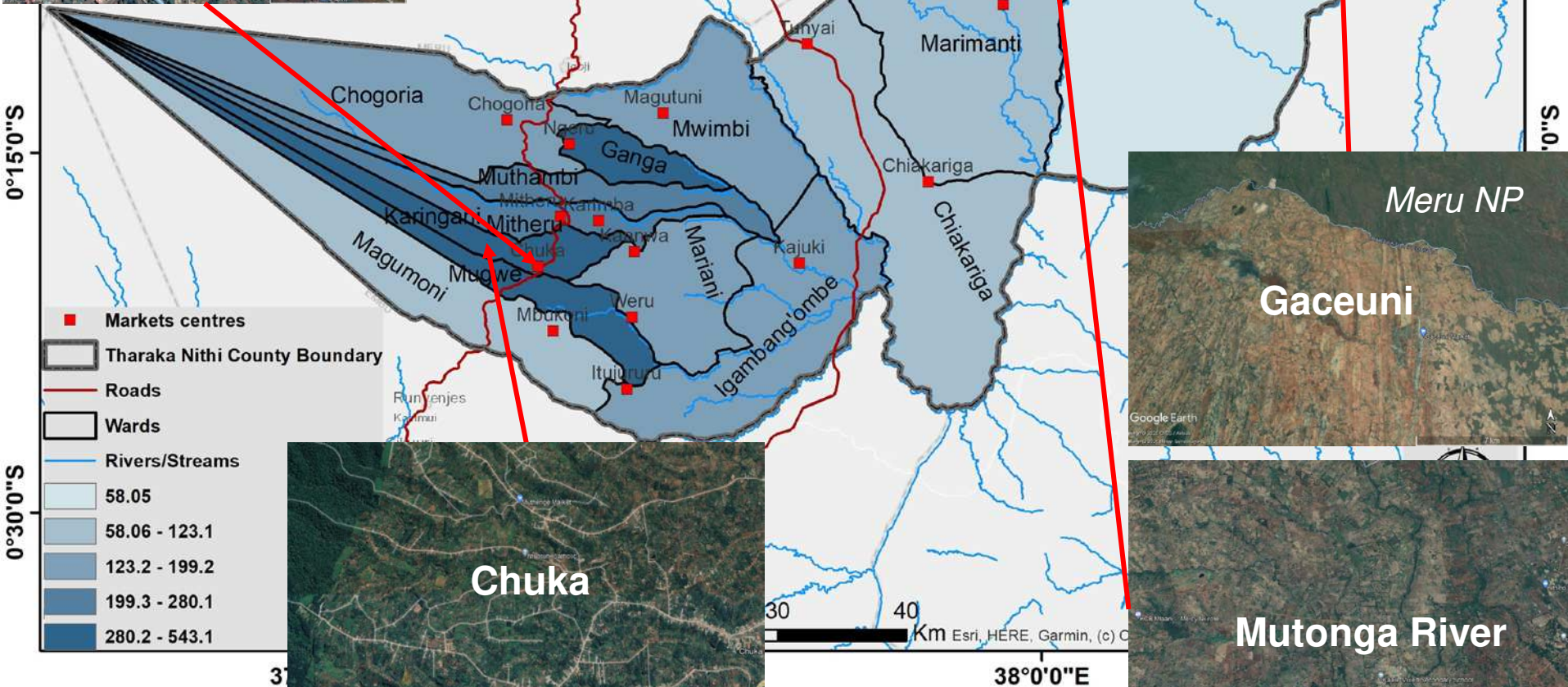
FOR RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Crèches)

37°30'0"E

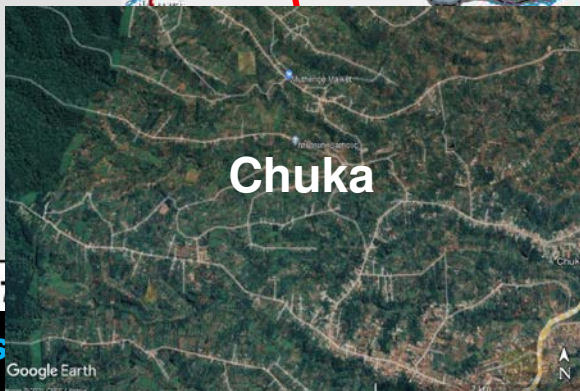
Nkondi-Gatithini

Chuka Town

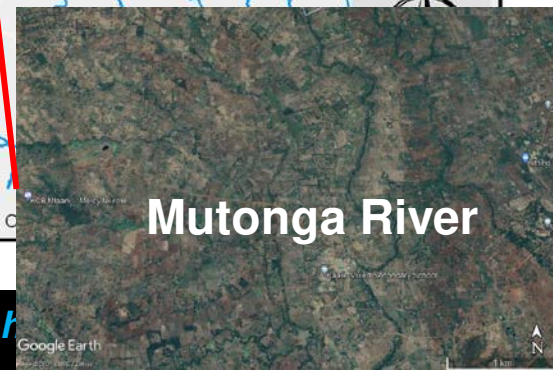
Population Distribution
- creches are far from homes in low density areas



Gaceuni



Chuka



Mutonga River

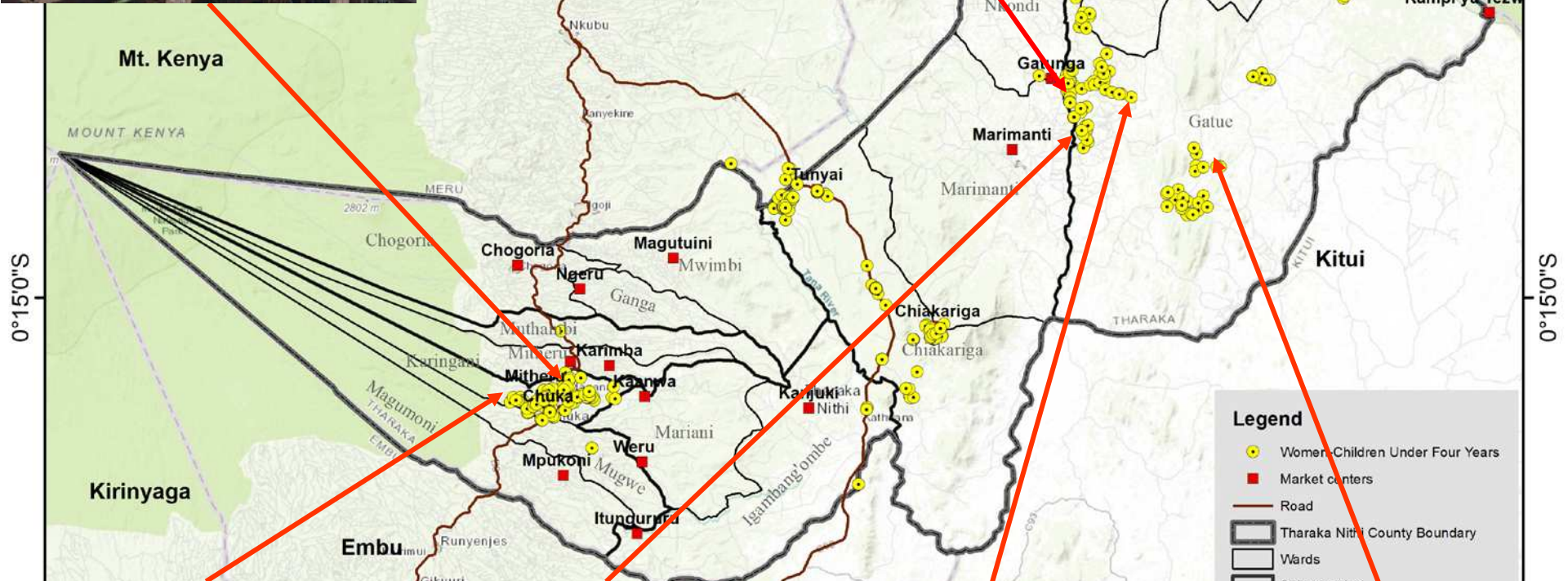


Milk goats in zero grazing unit



Women in Gatunga Market centre

Women's work



Tea picking



Livestock grazing

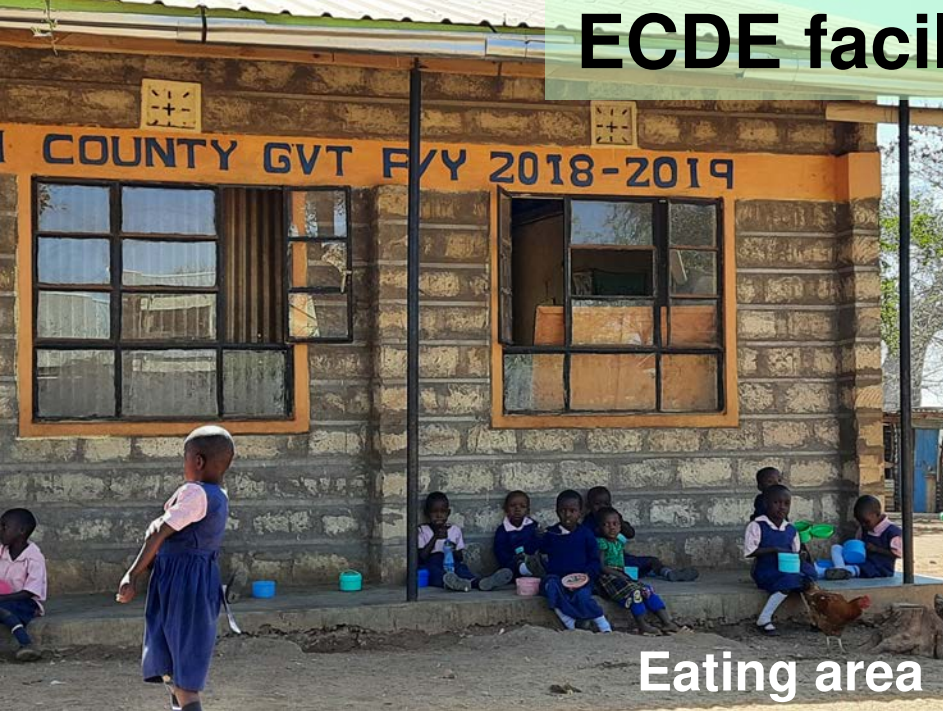


Queuing for water



Well in a sand river

ECDE facilities





Survey Results

- Women in upper zone spend less time with their children than those in lower zone
- Use of daycare centre increases women's participation in wage employment
- Women with total control of their income, participate more in wage employment than those with partial or no control
- But giving ALL women total control of income, will increase their total female labour force participation by at most 23% (implying other factors are at play)

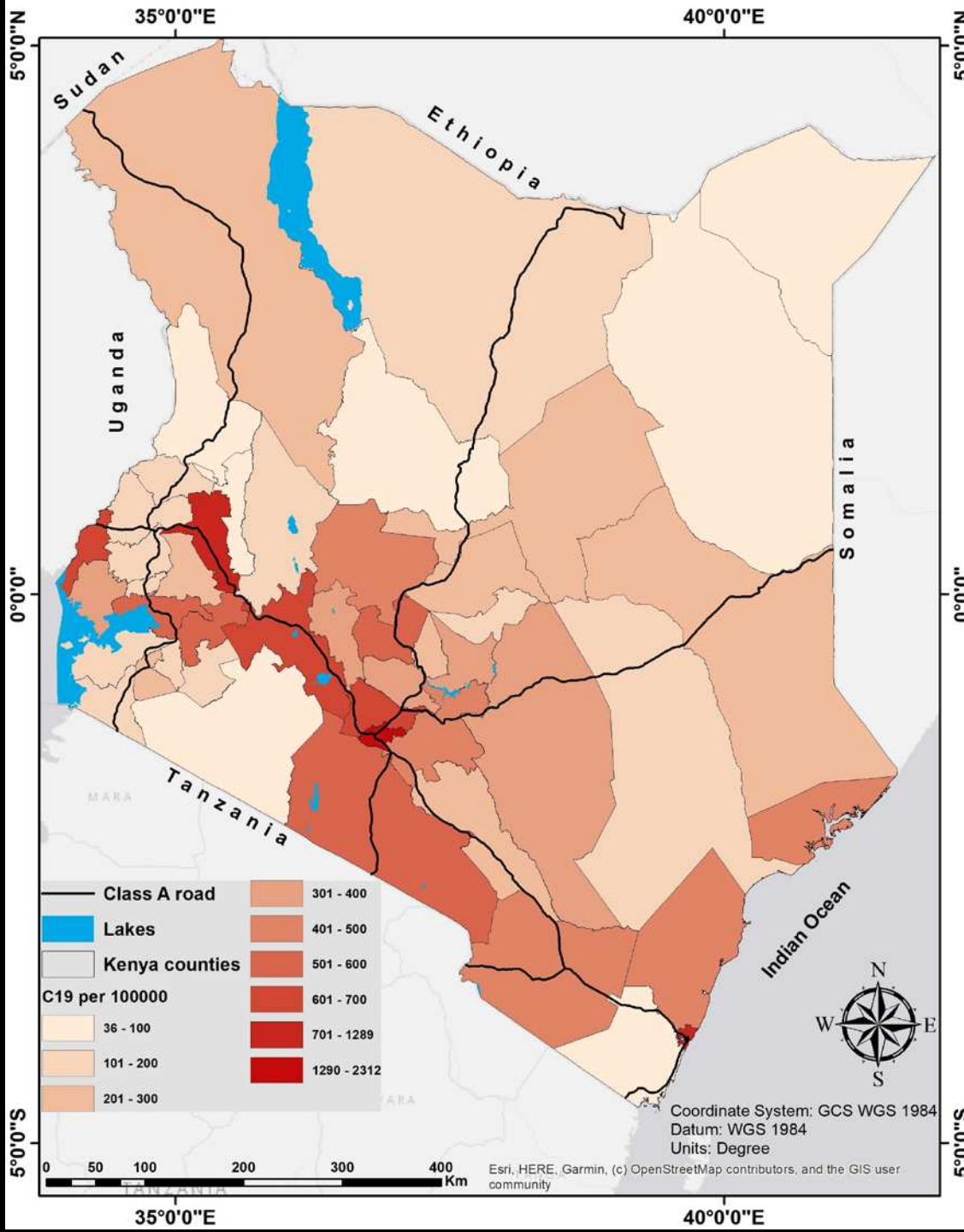


Survey Results

- **Women work on wage jobs which are near their homes**
- **Mothers who cared for their children at home reported that their children enjoyed better health (excellent health was reported more often) than by mothers of children in ECDE or informal daycare centres**
- **Many informal daycare centre and creches did not have playground or children's sleeping places during the day**
- **Women are willing to use creches which are within 3 Km from their homes but not further than that**
- **Lactating rooms preferred in market centres or in a shared office/business areas for use by all mothers**



Additional Results on LFP from National panel data (Kenyan Life Panel Survey (KLPS) Data on Covid-19, UC-Berkeley) & MoH data sets



- Infections: Covid symptoms, and positive tests
- Infections and Vulnerability (risk) to Covid-19 are high along the major highways & roads
- Nairobi affected most because it is a roads convergence point and port of entry
- Mombasa is also a convergence point and a port of entry

Source data: MoH, 16th Nov. 2021 report

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High Level Labor force participation at the Highway Corridor





Additional Results Gendered impacts of C19

- The key driver of covid-19 spread was the commercial vehicular movements on major roads (Labour Force Participation corridor) as is evidenced by the concentration of cases along highways
- Covid-19 infections and vulnerability to C19 both reduced labor force participation a lot
 - Men's labor force participation was reduced more by covid-19 infections than women's (men were not as resilient to C19 as women)
 - But women's participation was reduced more by Covid-19 vulnerability relative to men's (women did not take the risk to go to work but men did) Covid-19 infections and vulnerability to C19 both reduced labour force participation a lot
- Lockdowns and curfews reduced labour force participation for both women and men

Source: Manda et al 2021 (19 October). "Gendered impacts of covid-19 and business lockdowns on wage employment in Kenya". (Joint work by KNBS, UoN-ACEIR, KU-WEE Hub & Researchers)

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ONE PAGE POLICY BRIEFS based on compelling evidence in the Field (high internal validity – Localised interventions)

- **Intrusion of Livestock in Gatunga Market, Tharaka North**
- **Up Scaling Covid-19 Vaccination in Mugui Village, Chuka Township**
- **Rescuing and Rehabilitating Teenage Mothers**
- **School Feeding Program**
- **Negligence of Men & Boys in Development Agenda, Gatunga Ward**
- **Provision of Mattresses to ECDE Centers in Tharaka Nithi County**
- **Crèches in ECDE Centres: A New Regulation is Needed (National)**
- **Provision of Quality Child Care Services to All Children**
- **Protection of Water Sources**
- **Farming Practices, Land Management & Women's Livelihoods are Interlinked**



Evidence Uptake and its Utilisation

Policy dialogue based on the evidence

The County Policy Committee

The ECDE and crèche programme implementation technical committee

Supporting structures on the ground

- County Executive Committee members (CEC) same as County Cabinet; and County Assembly
- County Technical Committee – includes National Government Department Heads
- 47 county governments
- Council of Governors - CoG (Governors' Caucus) – tender any matter to National Cabinet
- National Government

WAY FORWARD

- Finalize data cleaning (4)
- Clean the Tools based
- Clearance from Ethical Review and the research permit
- Practice use of KoBoCollect
- Planning for field work on livelihoods and FLFP
- Creche RCT Implementation in March

*Thank You
Asante*