



# **A STUDY REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN KENYA**

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**THE CASE OF NAIROBI METROPOLITAN AREA**

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**JULY, 2021**

**SECURITY RESEARCH AND  
INFORMATION CENTRE - SRIC**



**EMBASSY OF SWEDEN  
NAIROBI**





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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations
COVID - 19	-	Corona Virus Disease - 2019
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
FBO	-	Faith Based Organization
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
IPOA	-	Independent Policing Oversight Authority
KEMSA	-	Kenya Medical Supplies Authority
KII	-	Key Informant Interview
KNBS	-	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MoH	-	Ministry of Health
NCRC	-	National Crime Research Centre
NMA	-	Nairobi Metropolitan Area
NPS	-	National Police Service
PPE	-	Personal Protective Equipment
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	-	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SMEs	-	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SRIC	-	Security Research and Information Centre
UNDP-K	-	United Nations Development Programme - Kenya
UNECA	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNICEF	-	United Nation's Children Fund
WHO	-	World Health Organization

## Executive Summary

Kenya, like many other countries in the world, has been grappling with an uptick of COVID-19 infections and deaths. The pandemic has extensively affected the development discourse in the country. Literature reviewed show that the pandemic had slowed down the implementation of Vision 2030 projects, African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A securitized approach adopted by the government to control the spread of the disease, which include; partial lockdowns, restriction on gatherings, dawn-to-dusk curfews, and periodic ban on international and domestic flights among others, has significantly disrupted the economy. The informal labor markets have been the most affected, resulting to massive lay-offs; closure of businesses; cash flow constraints; drop in demand for products and services. The knock-on effect is exacerbating existing conflict fault-lines and human rights abuses, as well as limiting civic space, particularly in areas with legacies of conflict between citizens and security actors. This compounds already difficult environment characterized by high levels of poverty, inequality, governance challenges and security threats including violent extremism.

This study sought to understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on peace and security in Kenya with the Nairobi Metropolis<sup>1</sup> being a case study. The study was guided by the following objectives: -

1. To identify different peace and security platforms disrupted by the pandemic.
2. To examine how the most vulnerable groups in the society have so far coped with the pandemic.
3. To understand people's feelings on the approach adopted by the government in fighting the spread of COVID-19.
4. To examine changes in crime trends and typologies as a result of the pandemic.

The choice of study area was informed by the fact that the metropolis was recording the highest number of cases since the onset of the pandemic; has been the epicenter of government operations in terms of enforcing COVID-19 protocols; and also provides both urban and rural contexts in analyzing the subject matter. Various methods of data collection and analysis were used. Secondary data was obtained through a review of previous subject matter literature. Primary data was collected through household questionnaires, interviews and consultations.

A total of 429 questionnaires were administered to randomly selected members of the public in the target areas, taking into consideration age and gender sensitivities. In addition, 20 key informant interviews and 4 focus group discussions were held to enrich the content of the study.

Quantitative data was organized, cleaned, coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel to help generate summaries in terms of tables and graphs for easy analysis and interpretation. The qualitative data was analyzed by interpretation of responses from respondents and analysis of secondary data.

The study highlighted the following as main findings: -

- COVID-19, according to 78.9% of the respondents, is a big threat to peace and security in Nairobi metropolis. In particular, the containment measures seemed to have disrupted various peace and security spaces like; sporting activities that according to many would bring people together (32.4%), reduced police patrols that used to keep criminals and other people with intentions of disrupting peace in check (30.5%) and Barazas and peace meetings (25.6%).
- People across the age groups and gender have been affected to almost equal measures. Closure of schools as part of COVID-19 containment measures exposed the youth and school-going children to all manner of vices; including crime. Livelihoods have also been highly affected by the pandemic as many people lost their main sources of income forcing them to adopt alternative survival mechanisms.
- There exist mixed feelings on the approaches adopted by the government in the management of COVID-19 pandemic. On trust, 26.3% of the sampled respondents, fully trust the government approaches and ongoing processes, 28% mentioning that they partly trusted what the government was doing while 45.7% did not trust. The mixed feelings on containment measures by the government were attributed to allegations of misappropriation of funds in the management of pandemic through tenders by Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) and other government entities. Police officers were also accused of not being keen to enforce containment measures but rather harassing residents and collecting bribes.
- Property related crimes such as theft, robbery and break-ins were the most committed types of crime before and during the pandemic as mentioned by

1. The Nairobi Metropolitan Area, comprises of the capital city, Nairobi, and surrounding areas within the counties of Kajiado, Kiambu, Machakos, and Murang'a. In this study, Nairobi City and areas in the immediate vicinity of the city were chosen. These included areas in Kiambu, Machakos and Kajiado counties in addition to the Nairobi city.

90.4% and 86.3% of the respondents respectively. During this period, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) incidences seemed to have increased from 3.2% to 7.2% with areas in Kajiado County being the most affected.

The study makes the following recommendations:

- **Design and implement a Covid-19 resilience and recovery economic plan.** There is need for the national government to come up with an economic recovery stimulus plan to cushion Kenyans from the negative economic impact of the pandemic. More people sliding to poverty may lead to increased crime and conflicts if the situation is not addressed.
- **Relax some of the COVID-19 containment measures especially curfew hours and inter-county restrictions.** The study has shown that closure of the economy by imposing curfews and inter county restrictions were really affecting low income earners. As such there is need to relax some of these measures in order to sustain some livelihoods.
- **Adopt a hybrid peace building strategy.** Peace building stakeholders, including the government, needs to adjust to the “new normal” occasioned by the pandemic. There is need to strengthen the capacity of community level peace and security structures to adopt both offline and online peace building strategies. In addition, peace building strategies should adopt the COVID-19 containment measures such as social distancing, masking and sanitizing amongst others. The drawback is that the elderly, the custodian of the peace processes in traditional Kenyan communities, have to keep away from peace meetings given their vulnerabilities.
- **Provide free PPEs to the members of the public through the police with a view to build trust between communities and the law enforcement agencies:** To restore the public confidence and trust with the police that was strained during the enforcement of the COVID-19 protocols, the police should be encouraged to provide free PPEs to deserving members of the public instead of arresting or clobbering them. Stakeholders should mobilize enough PPEs and give it to police to distribute during their security operations.  will go a long way in building trust between the members of the public and the police.
- **Enforce ban on political rallies:** In order to restore discipline and ensure adherence to government protocols on containment of COVID-19, there is need for the government to not only ban political rallies but also prosecute politicians, across the political divide, who violate the ban. This will help address the perception that the government is using the ban on political rallies to oppress the opposition.
- **Deal firmly with corruption within the government:** The response to the pandemic has been met by perceptions of high and low levels of corruption within the government. At the lower level, the police have been widely condemned for the widespread corruption within the check points mounted on “disease zone” borders to enforce restriction of movements. At the higher level, there have been allegations that national and county governments have misappropriated or swindled funds meant for COVID-19 containment measures and treatment. This has increased the mistrust between the citizens and the government. As such and to restore public confidence in the government, those involved in corrupt practices within the government should be dismissed and prosecuted.
- **There is need to include psycho-social support in peace building initiatives and programmes:** The pandemic, including its containment measures that have occasioned economic meltdown and the huge hospitalization costs, has worsened the mental health situation in the country. Households have also been traumatized due to livelihood and human losses. As such, peace stakeholders should include psycho-social support and trauma healing in their programmes.





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#### 1.1 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic presents the 'greatest socio-economic shock in a generation'<sup>2</sup> and greatly affects peace and security across the globe.<sup>3</sup> According to the IMF, the pandemic has 'frozen the wheels of commerce', slashed remittances and may cause a global recession as severe as the Great Depression.<sup>4</sup> In Africa, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in their report on protecting lives and economies, indicate that lockdowns have resulted in among others, loss of jobs, drop in demand for products and services, cash flow constraints, closure of businesses, decline in workers' production and productivity - costing the continent about 2.5% of its annual GDP (US\$65 billion).<sup>5</sup>

In Kenya, the pandemic has extensively impacted the development discourse in the country. It has slowed down the implementation of Vision 2030 projects, African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>6</sup> The restricted movements across the globe, has negatively impacted on tourism, agriculture and other key sectors of the economy. Just like in many other African countries, the number of confirmed cases for COVID-19 has been on an upward trajectory further putting the countries under pressure to enforce different protocols aimed at reducing the spread of the disease. The high numbers currently being experienced in Kenya can be attributed to increased testing capacities, growing community transmission, relaxing of containment measures as the government struggles with balancing between lives and livelihoods, and non-adherence to prevention measures by individuals due to Covid-19 precaution fatigue.

In an effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, in Kenya, the government adopted a securitized approach

in restricting gatherings, use of masks, and enforcing a dawn-to-dusk curfew order. A security centric approach to contain COVID-19 can easily lead to or exacerbate conflict, violence, and human rights abuses, as well as limit civic space, particularly in areas with legacies of conflict between citizens and security actors.<sup>7</sup> These trends risk worsening already tense citizen-government relations and driving insecurity and instability. The media has carried numerous stories of police beating-up people found to be working, in entertainment places or in the streets past curfew hours<sup>8</sup>. There have also been numerous arrests of people found to be violating curfew rules. The excessive use of force by the police in enforcing the COVID-19 measures could be counterproductive especially considering that the most affected are the poorest whose livelihoods are threatened by the virus and in no position to work from home or avoid the streets altogether. So far, this approach has led to a number of deaths as the security agencies enforce lockdowns. According to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), more than 15 people have been killed by police and more than 31 injured since the curfew was imposed<sup>9</sup>. According to a report by Elias Opongo, this approach can easily increase the chances of fear and frustration among the civilians, which could lead to social unrest and therefore further impact on the trust between the police and members of the public.<sup>10</sup>

Additionally, the securitized approach in containing the spread of COVID-19 has disrupted the informal labor markets resulting in lay-offs, business closures which have significantly led to income losses for many households<sup>11</sup>. This compounds already difficult environment characterized by high levels of poverty, inequality, governance challenges and security threats including conflict and violent extremism.

2. UNDP, COVID-19 UNDP's Integrated Response,
3. Remarks by the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the security council in a July, 2020 videoconference debate.
4. IMF Finance and Development, Policies, Politics and Pandemics, June 2020.
5. UNECA, COVID-19: Lockdown Exit Strategies for Africa, 4 May 2020
6. Mutege, K. (2020). Public-private partnerships to drive final leg of Vision 2030. The Vision 2030 secretariat is banking on signing up increased PPPs as governments struggle over the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Retrieved from: <http://vision2030.go.ke/public-private-partnerships-to-drive-final-leg-of-vision-2030/> on 24th June, 2021.
7. Securitization of COVID-19 Response: Implications for Human Security in Kenya and the Horn of Africa" co-hosted by Search for Common Ground and the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law on June 23, 2020. Retrieved from: [https://www.sfcg.org/covid-19/files/Securitization-of-COVID-19-Response\\_Lessons-from-Kenya.pdf](https://www.sfcg.org/covid-19/files/Securitization-of-COVID-19-Response_Lessons-from-Kenya.pdf) on 3rd November, 2020.
8. Human Rights Watch (April, 2020). Kenya: Police Brutality During Curfew: Several dead, Others with Life-Threatening Injuries. Retrieved from: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/22/kenya-police-brutality-during-curfew> on 24th June, 2021.
9. Aljazeera Bulletin (July, 2021). News: Police; Kenyan police 'killed 15' since start of coronavirus curfew. Policing oversight body reportedly says 15 deaths, 31 injuries were linked to police actions during curfew enforcement: Retrieved from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/5/kenyan-police-killed-15-since-start-of-coronavirus-curfew> on 3rd October, 2020
10. Elias Opongo. COVID-19 In-depth Analysis. Country profile: The impact of COVID-19 on citizens, state and society relations in Kenya. Retrieved from: <https://www.accord.org.za/analysis/impact-of-covid-19-on-on-citizens-state-and-society-relations-in-kenya/> on 21st November, 2020.
11. UNDP. Policy Brief (Issue No: 4/2020). Articulating the Pathways of the Socio-Economic Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the Kenyan Economy. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/COVID-19-CO-Response/Socio-Economic-Impact-COVID-19-Kenya-Policy-Brief-UNDP-Kenya-April-2020.pdf> on 24th June, 2021

It is against this backdrop that Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC) with support from UNDP-Kenya conducted this study in order to understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on peace and security. Specifically, the study sought to understand different peace and security spaces disrupted by the pandemic, the most vulnerable groups, people's feelings on the approaches adopted by the government in fighting the spread of the pandemic and to examine changes in crime trends as a result of the pandemic.

## 1.2 Study Objectives and Methodology

### 1.2.1 Study Objectives

The general objective of the study was to understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on peace and security in Kenya. The study was guided by the following specific objectives: -

1. To identify different peace and security platforms disrupted by the pandemic.
2. To examine how the most vulnerable groups in the society have so far coped with the pandemic.
3. To understand people's feelings on the approach adopted by the government in fighting the spread of COVID-19.
4. To examine changes in crime trends and typologies as a result of the pandemic.

### 1.2.2 Overall Design

The study adopted descriptive research design to generate the required data. The research process involved a desktop review of different studies conducted by various researchers on the impact of COVID-19 on peace and security. Additionally, primary data was collected from sampled locations within the Nairobi Metropolitan area. The study made use of the following methods in collecting primary and secondary data to meet the study objectives:

#### Desk Review

The research process made use of both secondary and primary approaches of collecting data. In secondary data collection, previous reports done on COVID-19 and the impact it has had on peace and security were reviewed.

This involved reviewing different reports from peace and security scholars; Ministry of Health; National Police Service (NPS); International and National Non-Governmental Organizations; print and digital media to enrich the scope of the study.

#### Field Data Collection

The study made use of both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. The qualitative approach was used to allow for open-ended questions while the quantitative approach made use of a closed ended tool. This approach was adopted because it allows for verification of fieldwork reports through triangulation of the information received from the KII, FGD's and the general questionnaire.

The study targeted key resource persons working in institutions that deal with peace and security issues based in Nairobi Metropolitan area. It adopted stratified sampling method using the main administrative units in the area. Under each stratum, the study employed random sampling for identifying respondents for the general questionnaires and purposive sampling for key informants. A coded questionnaire was used to collect general data from the members of the public from the study area.

### 1.2.3 Methods of Data Collection

The study adopted the following approaches in data collection: -

#### Structured Questionnaire

The study used a structured questionnaire to collect data from different households. A total of 429 questionnaires were administered in select locations. Respondents were selected from a sample population of those aged 18 years and above targeting the general public including women and youth to give their perceptions on the impact of COVID-19 on peace and security in their areas of residence. The respondents were randomly picked with a view to ensure each individual stood an equal chance of selection. In determining the sample size, the study made use of Andrew Fisher's Formula,<sup>12</sup> which is the most appropriate for studies in which target population is known. The sample size was calculated based on the number of households in targeted areas and a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error.

$$\text{Sample size} = (Z\text{-score})^2 \times \text{StdDev} \times (1 - \text{StdDev}) / (\text{Confidence interval})^2$$

$$\text{Sample size} = ((1.962) \times .5(.5)) / (0.052) = 384.16 \sim 385$$

385 people across the targeted areas were adopted as the minimum viable sample for the study. Through standardization, the study settled for a sample size of 429 respondents as shown in the table below.

12. Kibuacha F. (2021). Geopoll: Determining sample size for a research study. Retrieved on 24th June, 2021 from: <https://www.geopoll.com/blog/sample-size-research/>

**Table 1: Tabulation of Sample Size**

Nairobi Metropolitan Area						
County	Sub-County	Population <sup>13</sup>	No. of HH <sup>14</sup>	Sample Size	KI	FGD
Nairobi	Starehe	194,726	69,389	80	2	
	Westlands	301,295	104,980	83	3	1
Machakos	Mavoko	319,526	109,735	90	5	1
Kiambu	Ruiru	369,618	129,470	100	8	1
Kajiado	Kajiado North	304,404	101,378	76	5	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,489,569</b>	<b>514,952</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>

### Key Informant Interviews

Key Informant interviews were conducted among government officers, non-governmental officials, researchers, county government officials, Nyumba Kumi officials, community policing committee members, business people, teachers and religious leaders with knowledge on peace and security. A semi structured questionnaire was used to guide the interviews. A total of twenty-three (23) key informant interviews were conducted.

The KI interviews were useful in validating findings from the general questionnaires. The informants were purposively selected to ensure that the study captured different diversities of individual experiences and also to suit different contexts. The key informants were selected from areas within Nairobi, Machakos, Kiambu and Kajiado that fall under the Nairobi Metropolitan area.

The basic criteria for the selection of the key informants was knowledge and level of involvement in peace and security issues in Kenya.

### Focus Group Discussions

In order to buttress information collected from key informants, the study conducted four FGD's, one in each sample point within Nairobi metropolitan area. An FGD guide was used to ensure that the discussions were properly structured. Participants were drawn from different institutions involved in peace and security issues in Kenya such as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Policing Committees (CPCs) and peace committees among others.

### 1.2.4 Study Area

The study was conducted in the Nairobi Metropolitan area. The choice for Nairobi Metropolitan area was based on the fact that the area has been the epicenter of government operations in terms of enforcing COVID-19 protocols and also the fact that the area has recorded the highest number of cases since March, 2020<sup>15</sup>. The area also provides both urban and rural contexts in analyzing the subject matter.

13. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2019). 2019 Kenya population and housing census. Volume I: population by county and sub-county. Retrieved from: <http://housingfinanceafrica.org/app/uploads/VOLUME-I-KPHC-2019.pdf> on 3rd November, 2020.

14. Ibid

15. Jerving S. (March, 2021). Devex. Inside Development: COVID-19. In Brief: Kenya hits new peak for COVID-19 cases. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/in-brief-kenya-hits-new-peak-for-covid-19-cases-99519> on 26th June, 2021.





## CHAPTER II STUDY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the study findings. The findings are clustered as per the study objectives and includes sections on peace and security spaces/ platforms disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic, gives a highlight of the most vulnerable groups in the society, people's perceptions on approaches adopted by the government in fighting the spread of COVID-19 and finally provides an analysis of changes in crime trends and typologies as a result of the pandemic.

### 2.2 Peace and Security Issues Disrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

The study sought to identify different peace and security processes that had been disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. This included assessing peace and security situation in the study areas and identifying peace and security spaces that have been disrupted by the pandemic.

#### 2.2.1 Security Situation

Generally, security situations were different across different areas within Nairobi Metropolitan Area. This assertion is informed by majority of people consulted for the study who gave a mixture of security situations, an indication that different areas were experiencing different security situations. As shown in figure 1 below, areas within Nairobi County recorded the highest scores for all the security situations compared to other areas within the other counties under Nairobi Metropolitan area. Majority of the people who mentioned that the security situations were good, somehow good, not good and also hardly think about the security situation were from the capital city, followed by Machakos and Kiambu that have almost similar security dynamics and finally Kajiado county. This shows the complexities of explaining security situation across the counties considering that each part of the county experiences different security dynamics informed by different factors.

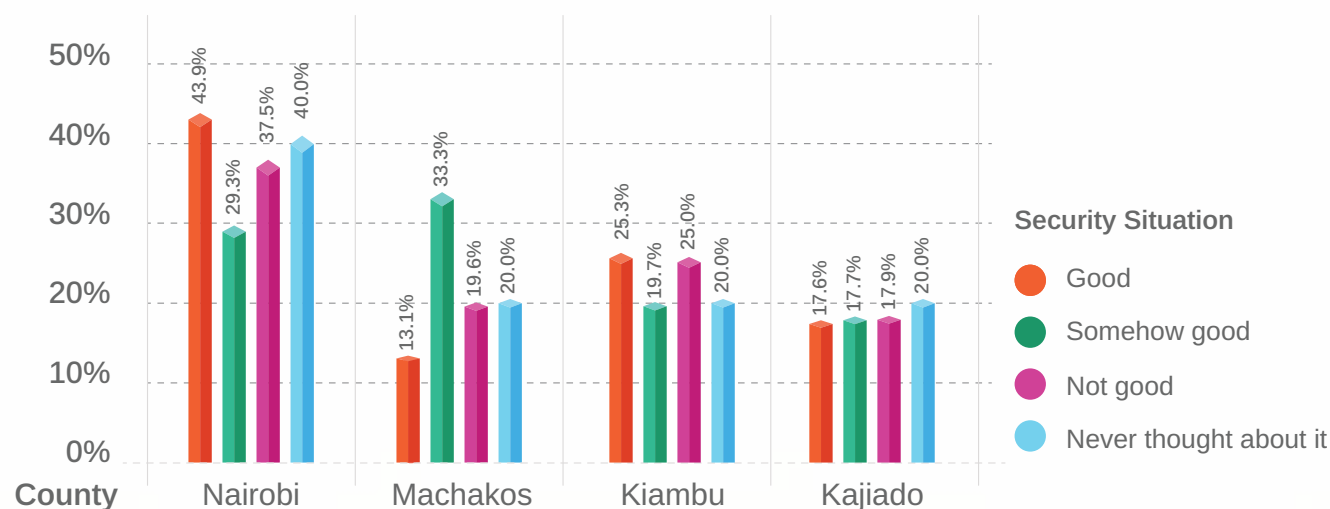


Figure 1: Security situations of the counties

The factors seemed to vary across different areas in these counties. In some areas, respondents were of the view that curfews, closure of bars, reduced carrying capacity in PSVs and cessation of movement imposed in containing the spread of COVID-19 that forced people to work from homes had greatly contributed to reduction in crime. This was well summarized by a key informant who noted that: -

*".... curfews and other COVID-19 containment measures have reduced crimes in this area, people hardly walk in the dark, some people here are working from homes and therefore break-ins and muggings incidences have reduced. In matatus where pick-pocketing incidences used to be rampant have reduced because of the spacing and decongestion strategies...."*<sup>16</sup>

16. A key informant comment in Ziواني – Starehe constituency, Nairobi – Kenya. Interview held in December, 2020



In the informal settlements such as Mukuru-Kayaba and Kangemi, residents were of the view that insecurity was higher since March, 2020 when the first COVID-19 case was reported in Kenya. Locals mentioned that there were more cases of mugging and robbery with violence reported in the area. These were attributed to high levels of unemployment, idleness, dismissals from casual jobs occasioned by low production levels in the industries and desperation among locals as they strive to eke a living. An administrator mentioned that: -

*“There were over 10 thugs arrested by the police in possession of pistols, this tells you that theft, robbery*

*with violence incidences and other petty crimes are there”<sup>17</sup>*

### 2.2.2 Levels of Peace

In terms of levels of peace and as shown in Figure 2 below, the situation was quite similar with the security situation in the sense that all selected areas within the Metropolis seemed to be experiencing different levels of peace. Nairobi ranked highest for both extremes of either very peaceful and not peaceful followed by Machakos and Kiambu counties that seems to share similar peace and security situations and finally Kajiado county.

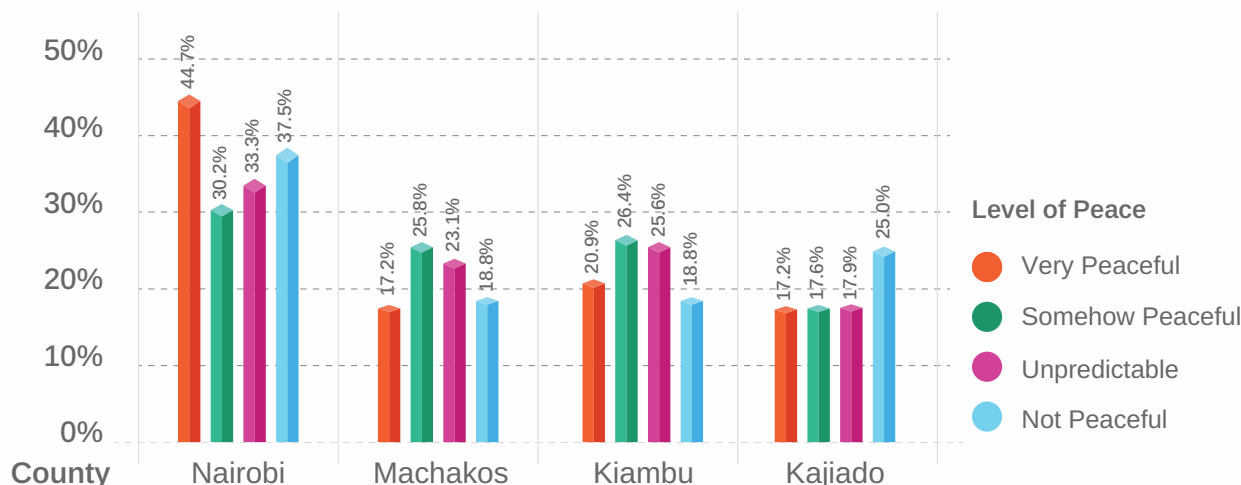


Figure 2: Levels of peace

Generally, the level of peace has been affected by COVID-19. Study findings pointed to the fact that many sources of income had been adversely affected by the pandemic. This seemed to have affected peaceful coexistence of people as many struggled to eke a living. Majority of the administrators interviewed as key informants to this study mentioned that since the onset of the pandemic, cases of landlords threatening or evicting their tenants for failure to pay rent in good time have been on the rise. Prolonged closure of schools also exposed children to ill vices such as rape, defilement, sodomy, teenage pregnancies and so on. Reviewed literature seemed to also point to an upsurge in teenage pregnancies since school closures were imposed. According to a report by Africa News published in June, 2021, Machakos County recorded about 4000 pregnant girls aged 19 years and below within the first 5 months of the pandemic<sup>18</sup>.

Other issues threatening peace as mentioned by key informants included family disputes which were

reported to have increased during the lock-down period. According to key informants, the increment can be attributed majorly to the inability of breadwinners to provide for their families as a result of loss of income or source of income and job losses occasioned by downscaling by some companies and industries.

A key informant summed up this by noting that: -  
*“...women are pressuring their husbands who happens to have lost sources of income. This causes wrangles which sometimes escalate to conflicts or in other cases resorts to wife battery or he’s pushed to depression, turns to alcoholism or commits suicide... in other circumstances men are chased away by their spouses when they lose sources of income...”*

Another key informant also mentioned that: -  
*“Since March when lockdowns occasioned by COVID-19 started, we receive on average, 4 to 5 cases of family disputes in a day”<sup>20</sup>*

17. Views expressed by an administrator while commenting on security situation in Mukuru-Kayaba slums. Interview held in December, 2020.
18. Africa News (June, 2021). Close to 4,000 school girls impregnated in Machakos during COVID-19 lockdown. Retrieved from: <https://www.africanews.com/2020/06/17/close-to-4000-school-girls-impregnated-in-kenya-during-covid-19-lockdown/> on 18th June, 2021.
19. Key informant’s comment on domestic violence. Interview held in Mukuru – Kayaba in December, 2020.
20. Comment by a key informant in Kangemi – Nairobi. Interview held in December, 2020

### 2.2.3 Impact of COVID-19 on Level of Peace

Generally, COVID-19 seemed to have negatively affected levels of peace in Nairobi metropolitan area. The level of impact seemed bigger in areas within Nairobi and Kiambu Counties since, for instance, as shown in the figure 3 below, a significant number of respondents from Nairobi (48%) mentioned that they lived in fear of crime while in Kiambu, a majority 40% indicated that their areas of residence were less peaceful. Analysing this

from the perspective that Nairobi, as a capital city that attracts more people seeking the promise of a better life and that majority of people living in the capital city are faced with difficulties of accessing basic services, employment and housing, then the temptation for the youth to gravitate towards crime as a means of survival than it is the case with youth living in rural set-ups is huge.

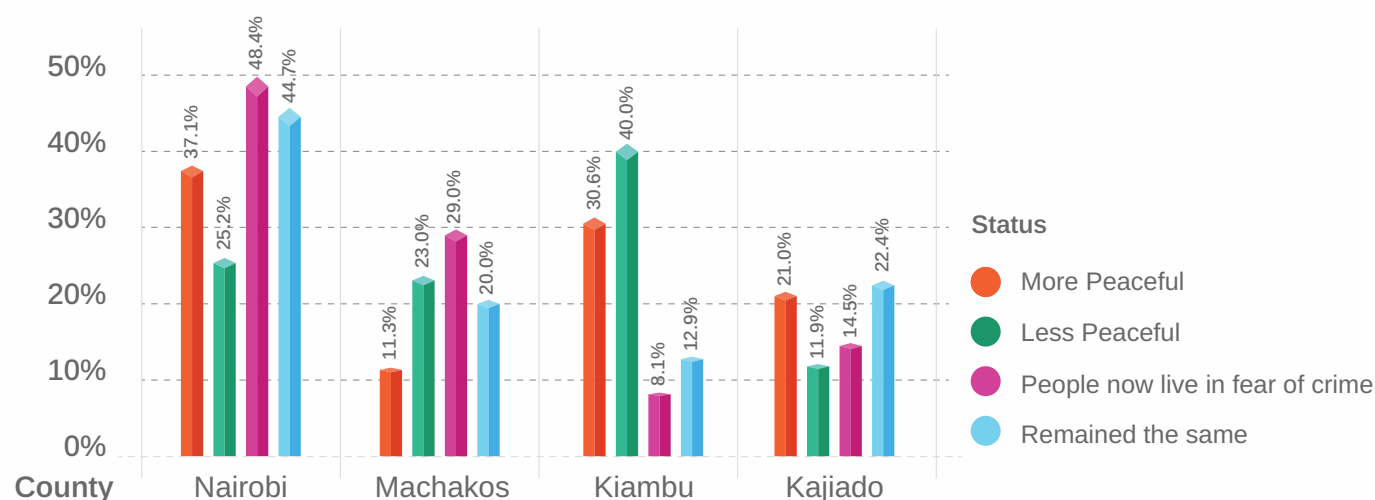


Figure 3: Impact of COVID-19 on level of peace

This explains perceptions of people in urban centres (as shown in figure 3 below) who felt that their areas were less peaceful or people lived in fear of crime, a situation that seemed to have worsened by the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2.2.4 COVID as a Threat to Peace and Security

On whether COVID-19 was a threat to peace and security, a majority of 78.1%, responded in the affirmative while 21.9% responded in the contrary as shown in the chart below. On probing further, respondents mentioned that there were a number of peace and security platforms or spaces that had either been disrupted by COVID-19 or totally made impossible by the containment measures put in place. The issues mentioned included sporting activities that according to many would bring people together and also engage idle youth thus preventing them from engaging in crime as mentioned by 32.4% of the respondents, police patrols that used to keep criminals and other people with intentions of disrupting peace in check had reduced as mentioned by 30.5% of the respondents and finally Barazas, social gatherings and peace meetings that have been rendered impossible by the pandemic as mentioned by 25.6% of the respondents.

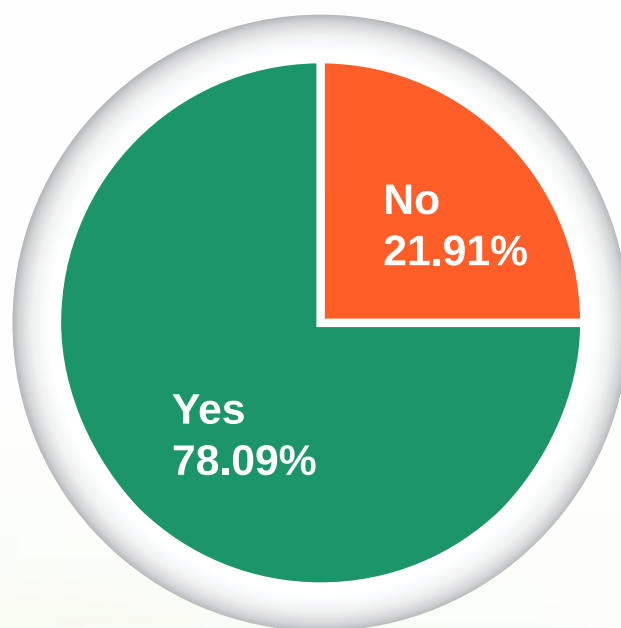


Figure 4: Whether COVID-19 is a threat to peace and security

Hypothetically, this points to disruption of traditional ways of conducting peacebuilding activities at the community levels. Measures such as social distancing and lockdowns within certain areas limit interactions and movements thereby undermining local peacebuilding efforts, which often rely on in-person gatherings and people-to-people approaches. In Kenya as a whole, elders (male and female) are the custodians of the peace building process. In informal areas within the Metropolis, elders do mediate disputes between individuals, families or communities. With Ministry of Health having identified those above 58 years as highly vulnerable to the pandemic, the elders have been forced to keep off peace building processes. This has disrupted the traditional way of conflict resolution in the study area. This corroborates findings from a report done in 2020 by Peace Direct that established that COVID-19 management protocols had greatly disrupted local peacebuilding efforts that mostly relied on in-person gatherings and people-to-people approaches <sup>21</sup>.

## 2.3 Vulnerable Groups and Coping Mechanisms

In order to propose better ways of managing or helping groups adversely affected by COVID-19 pandemic, the study sought to identify vulnerable groups and different mechanisms put in place by these groups to survive through the pandemic. This involved identifying the groups and probing on sources of livelihoods before the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on the livelihoods.

### 2.3.1 Most Affected Group by COVID-19

On being asked about the most affected group of people by COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of respondents mentioned the youth as indicated by 27.7%. More than 22% of the respondents indicated that everyone was affected with a further 20.7% mentioning that school going children were the most affected. This could be attributed to the fact that schools had been closed as part of COVID-19 containment measures and therefore exposing school-going children to all manner of vices. Other groups mentioned included men (14.2%), women (8.2%) and business people (5.6%).

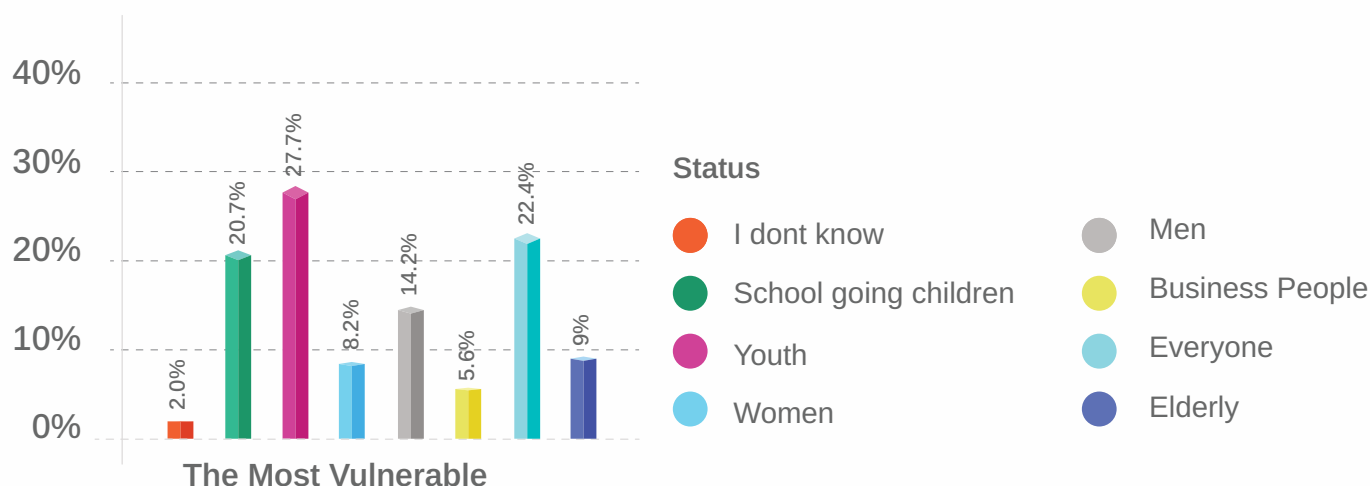


Figure 5: The most affected group by COVID-19

The state of vulnerability seemed to vary across the counties. In Nairobi, majority of respondents (30%) mentioned that everyone had been affected by the pandemic while Machakos, Kiambu and Kajiado parts of Nairobi metropolitan counties mentioned school going children as indicated by 23.3%, 31% and 27.7% of the respondents respectively. This shows that the urban and rural dynamics especially linked to the sources of income, social support structures and coping mechanisms had a direct impact on people's feelings

and perception on impact of COVID-19 pandemic. In the capital city, majority of people are capitalistic in nature compared to probably strong family ties and support in the rural areas where most people are persuaded to support one another in times of social and economic challenges. Hypothetically, this study infers that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic is likely to be bigger and felt by more people across age groups and gender in urban towns and centers than it would be the case in the rural areas.

21. Peace Direct (2020). COVID-19 and the impact on local peacebuilding. Retrieved from: <https://www.peacedirect.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/p4d-covid-19-report-v5.pdf> on 4th July, 2021.

### 2.3.2 Main Source of Livelihood Before COVID-19

The study sought to establish the main sources of livelihood among communities before the COVID-19 pandemic. As shown in Figure 6 below, business was the leading occupation for most people across the 4 counties as indicated by more than 55% of the respondents. This was followed by 32.6% of the respondents who mentioned that they were earning income from employment, then casual laborers (9.3%) and finally students as indicated by 2.8% of the respondents.

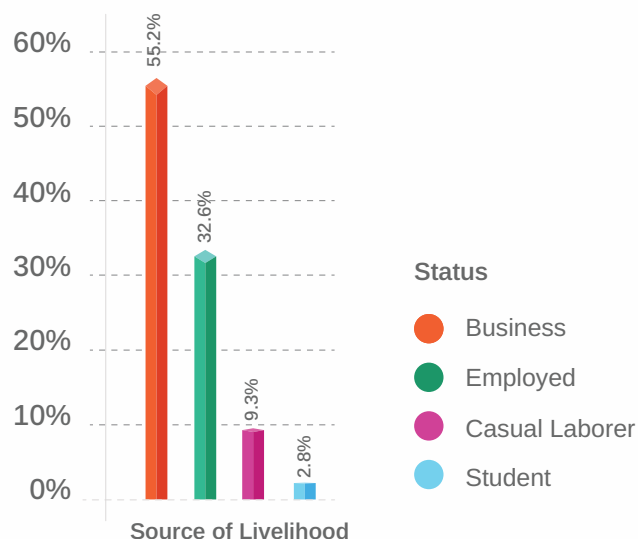


Figure 6: Main sources of livelihoods

This corroborates findings by Hannah Timmis in 2018 which established that commerce was the biggest employment sector and provided 29 percent of urban jobs<sup>22</sup>. Other services, including the public sector, provided a further 54 percent. Within industry, manufacturing employed 10% of urban workers, and the remaining 7% were split between construction, mining and utilities which are majorly casual jobs<sup>23</sup>. The report further indicated that four out of five urban jobs are in the services sector as reported by a World Bank, report in 2016: 27-8.

### 2.3.3 Effects of COVID-19 on the Source of Livelihood

The study noted that livelihoods have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures that government has put in place to curb the pandemic have resulted to the collapse of small and medium enterprises. This has had a significant effect on sources of livelihoods as people have lost their jobs with others forced to close their businesses thus alleviating

poverty levels and suffering among communities. The study was informed that loss of livelihoods has seen many people resort to taking loans, attempting online businesses while others have turned to illegal ventures like prostitution and robbery.

Domestic workers were also negatively affected, as many families were unable to afford monthly salaries having lost their jobs or others who were working remotely took up the task of raising their children. For instance, majority of female teachers who had hired house helps terminated their services.

As of December 2020, data from the Federation of Kenya Employers estimated more than 600 firms to have laid off staff due to Covid-19<sup>24</sup>. KNBS quarterly labour force survey estimated the rate of unemployment to be at 10.4% as of September 2020. It further estimates over 1.7 million people to have lost their jobs or put-on unpaid leave<sup>25</sup>.

The study learnt that despite the government providing economic relief packages including income tax reliefs, the effects have not directly trickled down to the majority of the population since the most affected are those working in the informal sectors whose income fall below the tax threshold thus not affected by tax relief.

*A key informant lamented:*

*“we were asked to forward names of the most vulnerable in the society which we did but we have never heard of any help from the government, we are worried maybe the money was pocketed by someone.”<sup>26</sup>*

However, the modification and adjustment in the work environment to meet government containment measures in curbing the spread of the pandemic initiated demand for items such as sanitizers and face masks. This created new avenues for business where small and medium scale business people quickly filled by making and selling face masks and sanitizers on streets, shops and even in public transport vehicles.

Others in an attempt to cushion themselves from job losses ventured into selling of vegetables and other food stuffs on the roadside from their car boots in suburban areas such as along the northern bypass, which is a development owing to COVID-19.

22. Timmis, H. (March, 2018). Jobs in Kenya: Opportunities and Challenges. Retrieved from: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5afacd43ed915d0df4e8ce4d/Jobs\\_in\\_Kenya.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5afacd43ed915d0df4e8ce4d/Jobs_in_Kenya.pdf) on 4th May, 2021.

23. Ibid

24. Wasike, A. (September, 2020). Coronavirus fallout: ‘At least 1.7M jobs lost in Kenya’: 604 firms sent workers home between March and August 2020, says Federation of Kenya Employers. Retrieved on 24th June, 2021 from: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/coronavirus-fallout-at-least-17m-jobs-lost-in-kenya/1973072>

25. Ibid

26. Key informant comment on how COVID-19 has affected sources of livelihoods. Interview held in December, 2020

### 2.3.4 Coping Mechanisms

As shown in the Table 2 below, people resorted to different ways of coping with disruptions in their sources of livelihoods. In Nairobi, Kiambu and Kajiado counties, majority of people seem to have resorted to starting new business ventures as indicated by 32.5%,

47% and 42.1% of the respondents respectively while in Machakos, a majority of the people interviewed mentioned that they had resorted to soliciting support from family and friends as indicated by 47.8% of the respondents. Refer to the Table 2 below.

	County				Average (%)
	Nairobi	Machakos	Kiambu	Kajiado	
No Response	3.7	4.4	1.0	5.3	<b>3.5</b>
Source of livelihood not affected	3.7	11.1	7.0	0	<b>5.4</b>
Government support	5.5	0	0	9.2	<b>3.7</b>
Friends and family support	20.9	47.8	16.0	36.8	<b>28.2</b>
Started a business	32.5	16.7	47.0	42.1	<b>34.3</b>
Struggling	31.5	12.2	27.0	4.0	<b>5.6</b>
Working in shifts	0	0	1.0	2.6	<b>0.7</b>
Got another job	0.6	2.2	1.0	0	<b>0.9</b>
Started farming	0	5.6	0	0	<b>1.2</b>
Took a loan	1.2	0	0	0	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2: Coping mechanisms

Across the counties, two coping mechanisms emerged from across the four counties. According to the respondents, starting new business ventures and friends and family support seemed to be the most common mechanisms adopted to cope with disruptions occasioned by COVID-19.

### 2.3.5 Gender Dynamics

The study sought to also establish gender dynamics associated with COVID-19 pandemic. Available literature shows that COVID-19 pandemic has affected men and women differently. For instance, statistics from

all over the world indicate that men were more likely to contract and die of the disease than women<sup>27</sup>. Some of the justifications given to explain this finding are; that women tend to have stronger immune systems than men as a result of the extra x chromosome, men tend to engage in more risky behavior such as ignoring social distance and other preventive measures, culturally men are more likely to engage in outdoor activities increasing their rate of exposure<sup>28</sup>. According to the same study, men hardly take symptoms seriously and therefore are more likely to succumb to some diseases more than women.

27. Healthline. Why COVID-19 is Hitting Men Harder Than Women. Retrieved on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 from: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/men-more-susceptible-to-serious-covid-19-illnesses>.

28. Ibid



Effects on Women	Percent	Effects on Men	Percent
High cases of family disputes/ separation/ divorce	20.5	High cases of separation/ Divorce	12.6
Increased incidences of drug and alcohol abuse	1.9	Drug/ Alcohol abuse	14.5
Early/ forced marriages	1.6	Highly stressed/ depressed	11.9
Unwanted pregnancies	4.2	Many have lost their sources of livelihood	29.4
Increased cases of women turning to prostitution	7.2	Turned to crime	3.5
Highly stressed/ depressed	3.5	They are the sole breadwinners	3.0
Loss of source of livelihood	12.8	All have been affected the same	9.6
Relocated to rural homes	2.6	Men have been adversely affected than women	1.9
Women have been neglected/ left with the burden of raising children	9.8		
Pregnant women cannot access health care	1.6		
All have been affected the same	11.9		

Table 3: Effect of COVID-19 on Men and Women

COVID-19 instilled fear in people; the fear of exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, being driven off to a quarantine facility and the stigma associated with being an ex-quarantined patient. This fear has kept people away from seeking medical attention in hospitals and health facilities. Further, the pandemic saw health facilities overstretched by huge numbers of the sick. To mitigate this challenge, the government advised on self-isolation, quarantine and home-based care for non-critical patients. This had the effect of overstressing women care burden who mostly are the primary care givers. The situation was made worse by school closures where children were sent home for more than 9 months. Women had to take-on increased unpaid care giving needs like cleaning, food preparation and attending to the sick. These care responsibilities to the COVID-19 patients have exposed women to contracting the disease and therefore the likelihood of the pandemic widening gender inequalities. For instance, increased household responsibilities might make women more financially dependent. Moreover, weak property rights may see women and girls lose homes and productive land if the male household members die.

The study established that high cases of family disputes, separation, divorce and loss of sources of livelihood

scored highest among issues directly affecting women as shown in the Table 3. On men, loss of sources of income, drug/ alcohol abuses and high cases of family disputes which sometimes lead to separation and divorce were identified as the leading effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Generally, loss of income or sources of income and family disputes that sometimes would result to separation and divorce cases were the leading effect of COVID-19 pandemic on both men and women.

Other effects identified among women included that women felt neglected or left with the burden of raising children by their spouses which agrees with the existing literature which in some cases forces them (women) into other vices such as prostitution in order to be able to sustain their families. This could lead to unwanted or unplanned pregnancies that strains their families further.

## 2.4 People's Perceptions on Approaches Adopted by the Government to Contain Spread of COVID-19.

In addressing the spread of COVID-19, the Kenyan government undertook numerous measures. These measures impact peace and conflict issues across the country. To some, the measures have disrupted their main sources of livelihoods, put them in collision with

the National Police Service (NPS) while to others the pandemic has opened new doors of opportunities. In order to understand the link between the raft of measures put in place by the government and peace, the study sought to understand people's perceptions on the approaches adopted and also different ways of enforcing the regulations without affecting the public-police relations.

#### 2.4.1 Awareness on COVID-19 control measures

Like many other countries globally, the Kenyan government adopted a raft of measures in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The containment measures have had both positive and negative socio-economic impacts. Majority of Kenyans within the study area seemed to be aware of almost all measures put in place in addressing the spread of COVID-19. As shown in Figure 7 below, rural and urban differences emerged in terms of knowledge on the approaches adopted by the government. Majority of people who mentioned that they were aware of the COVID-19 control measures came from Nairobi (38.5%), followed by Kiambu (23.8%), Machakos (22.1%) and then Kajiado (15.7%).

This could be analyzed in two different perspectives; one, the spread of the disease has been more rampant in the town centers especially the major urban centers and therefore people in those urban centers are more informed and likely to understand different ways of protecting themselves. According to a report by World Health Organization (WHO) and as quoted in the special report published by African Union and UNDP regional service centre, most COVID-19 cases are concentrated in urban centres. The report further mentioned that, there were 50,066 COVID-19 cases and 1,392 deaths reported in the Horn of Africa countries as at July, 2020

29.

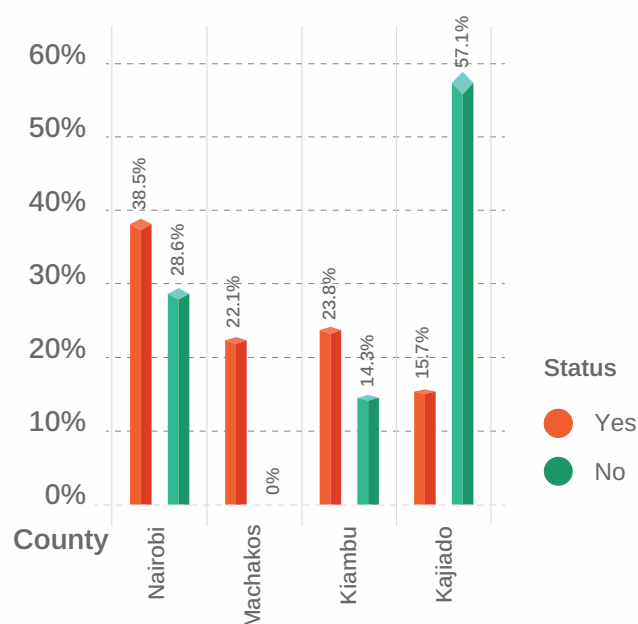


Figure 7: Awareness on COVID-19 control measures

Secondly, enforcement level in the urban centres is greater than in rural town centres. This is probably because of either the high population in urban areas or the higher number of COVID-19 cases reported.

Among different measures undertaken as shown in Table 4 below, wearing a mask seemed to be the most common among people within the Nairobi Metropolitan area as mentioned by 54.5% of the sampled respondents. This was followed by washing hands as indicated by 24.9% of the respondents and then social distancing or avoiding social gatherings as mentioned by 13.5% of the sampled group. The most unpopular protocols among the populace in the Metropolitan area were the restrictions on operation of bars and restaurants and also the curfew hours as mentioned by 3.5% of the respondents apiece. This might also be linked to the preferences based on the impact the restrictions or the protocols have on people's lifestyles.

Measures	Frequency	Percent
Wash your hands	107	24.9
Putting on a mask	234	54.5
Social distance/ Avoid social gatherings	58	13.5
Controlled operation of bars and restaurants	15	3.5
Curfew	15	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4: Awareness levels on different measures and protocols put in place to address the spread of COVID-19

29. REGIONAL BRIEF 27 JULY 2020. The Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Governance, Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa. Jointly published by the African Union Commission and UNDP Regional Service Center Africa (2020). Available at: [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/COVID-19-CO-Response/UNDP-AU-Horn-Africa-RegionalBrief\\_final.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/COVID-19-CO-Response/UNDP-AU-Horn-Africa-RegionalBrief_final.pdf). Retrieved on 30th March, 2021.

### 2.4.2 Level of Trust on Management of COVID-19 Pandemic

The government has been communicating regularly about the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. According to a report by ACAL consulting, published in 2020, the Kenyan government has done a commendable job in its role of educating its citizens on COVID-19, and in its swift response towards reducing the spread of the killer virus<sup>30</sup>. Based on this and other reports done on the government response to the pandemic, the study sought to establish the levels of trust on management of COVID-19. As shown in the pie chart below, 26.3% indicated that they fully trusted the process, 28% mentioned that they partly trusted the way the government had managed the pandemic while 45.7% returned a negative verdict that they did not trust the way the government had managed the COVID-19 pandemic.

This shows that Kenyans harbor mixed feelings on the processes surrounding the management of COVID-19 pandemic. This could be attributed to the fact that the pandemic is a new phenomenon and people hardly understand many issues about it or it could just be a vote of no confidence on public institutions charged with managing the pandemic. Allegations of misappropriation of funds in the management of the pandemic by Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) and other government entities could have contributed to the lack of trust among Kenyans. Indeed, after an investigation done and aired to the public by a local television station - The Nation TV, on Covid-19 millionaires, majority of people began to doubt the existence of the virus. One

of the key informants summed this up by commenting that: -

*“.....hakuna Corona, hii ni biashara ya serikali. (there’s no COVID-19, the government is in business.”*<sup>31</sup>

Majority of informants interviewed seemed to disagree with the daily updates issued by the government on the spread of the virus with some dismissing the statistics as a ploy by the government to inflate and report high numbers in order to attract grants and loans from well-wishers.

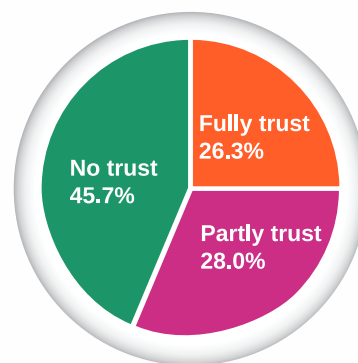


Figure 8: Levels of trust in the way the government has managed COVID-19 pandemic.

On probing further, 31.9% of respondents pointed out that there were high levels of corruption incidences reported from the government such that it was hard to believe government actions towards managing the spread of COVID-19 were genuine. A further 11.9% mentioned that the government was not doing enough in cushioning the most affected and vulnerable groups in the society against the effects of the pandemic. According to 5.6% of the respondents, the government was not genuine in

	Frequency	Percent
No response	91	21.2
High levels of corruption	137	31.9
The government is not helping the vulnerable	51	11.9
Increased levels of police harassment	7	1.6
Enforcement of health measures has helped minimize spread of COVID-19	59	13.8
Some are breaking the rules they should enforce/ Politicking/ campaigns	24	5.6
Ministry of health doing great in managing the virus	34	7.9
Exaggerated/ doubting the number of infections as shared by MoH	26	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 5: Perceptions of the effectiveness of government measures and protocols put in place to address the spread of COVID-19

30. Kamau, F. (2020). ACAL Consulting - Governance. Essential Role of Government in Combating the Covid-19 Pandemic. Retrieved on 30/03/2021 from: <https://www.acalconsulting.co.ke/essential-role-of-government-in-combating-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

31. A comment by a key informant in Mavoko Sub-County of Machakos County on management of COVID-19 in the country. Interview held in December, 2020.

how it was managing the spread of COVID-19 because politicians and other top government officials were in the forefront breaking the rules they ought to be enforcing as they engaged in politics and other activities that were against the containment measures put in place. Others expressed doubts on the daily number of COVID-19 cases reported by the government and also accused the police of excessive use of force leading to increased number of police harassment incidences as mentioned by 6.1% and 1.6% of the respondents respectively.

On the flipside, there were individuals that gave the government a clean bill of health as far as management of COVID-19 pandemic was concerned. According to 13.8% of the respondents, the enforcement of the Ministry of Health protocols was helping minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Kenya and therefore should be supported. A further 7.9% of the respondents lauded the government's efforts in managing the spread of the virus.

### 2.4.3 Role of the Police

The National Police Service (NPS) has been in the forefront in enforcing the MoH COVID-19 containment measures. In order to understand the state of interaction with community members, the study sought to establish people's perceptions on the conduct of police in enforcement of the COVID-19 MoH protocols. As shown in the chart below, the NPS drew almost equal measure of commendation and condemnation. Enforcement seemed to be more aggressive in the urban centres

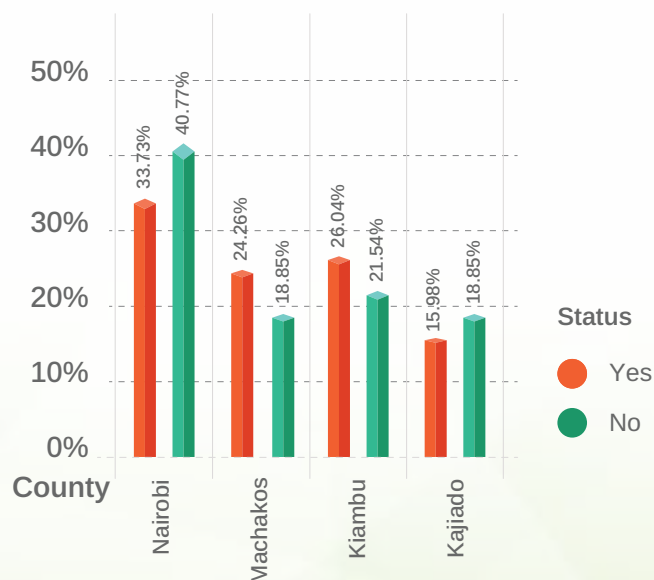


Figure 9: Perceptions on the work of police in enforcing government measures on COVID-19.

compared to rural set-ups. As shown in figure 9 below, of all the people who indicated that they did not think the police officers were doing enough in enforcing the COVID-19 containment measures, a majority of 40.8% came from Nairobi, followed by Kiambu at 21.5% and then Machakos and Kajiado counties tied at 18.8%. This order was also true for respondents who approved the efforts of NPS in enforcement of the MoH protocols.

When asked about why they disapproved the efforts by the NPS in enforcement of COVID-19 protocols, a majority of respondents (43.6%) mentioned that police officers were not keen to enforce the measures but rather collect bribes and also decried the increased cases of police harassment incidences (17%). On the contrary, 33.8% of the respondents lauded efforts by NPS in enforcing the MoH protocols. This shows mixed feelings by Kenyans within the Nairobi Metropolitan area in regards to how the police officers have conducted themselves in enforcement of COVID-19 containment measures.

Key informants consulted for the study also had similar views in regards to police conduct in enforcement of COVID-19 protocols. Some of the key informants felt that the police were doing a splendid job in enforcing the government measures while others condemned them for harassment and soliciting bribes instead of genuinely enforcing the measures. A key informant summarized this position by stating that: -

*.....police are not treating us right.....see I have no front teeth; I was beaten up by police for walking home past curfew hours .....I was held up in my workplace by a boss who did not seem to care about the curfew.... these guys should treat us like fellow human beings, life is hard and we have to look for food for our children. The President should do away with the curfew because it is only helping the police who are swindling bribes while we others are suffering....*<sup>32</sup>

They accused the police for using excessive force in enforcing the curfew where in some instances it resulted to injuries and deaths. This was a concern also for IPOA who reported to have received reports of 15 deaths and 31 injuries as at June, 2020<sup>33</sup>.

### 2.4.4 Perceptions on Measures to Curb the Spread of COVID-19

On the approaches of managing the pandemic that citizens were happy about, a majority of 33.3% mentioned wearing of masks, 17.0% indicated regular

32. A comment by an FGD discussant on the work of police in enforcement of COVID-19 protocols. Interview held in December, 2020.

33. Bulletin by IPOA (June, 6th 2020). COVID-19 Curfew Enforcement; IPOA gets Multi-agency support. Retrieved on 23rd December, 2020 from: <https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/kenyans-march-in-capital-against-police-violence-20200608>



washing of hands and a further 14% posited that they were comfortable avoiding crowded places and keeping social distance. This implies that the populace was increasingly adjusting to the new normal and also appreciating that these practices were not only helpful in curbing the spread of COVID-19 but also useful in prevention of other ailments brought about by poor hygiene.

However, a significant proportion of the respondents, 37.3% indicated that they were not happy with curfew hours. Majority of the respondents from the town centres expressed their displeasure with the curfew hours insisting that it reduced their working hours and exposed them to extortions from police officers as they enforced it. These sentiments were common among small scale traders and individuals working in informal sectors who depend on daily wages and whose operational hours were highly affected by the curfew hours. The minimized

hours not only affected mode of operation but also profit margins where majority of businesses were making losses due to low customer turn up. The study also noted that security agents were inconsiderate to everyone found in the streets or along the highways past curfew hours and were using excessive force in enforcing the curfew. According to Human Rights Watch, at least six people died and scores were injured in Nairobi from police violence during the first 10 days of Kenya's dusk-to-dawn curfew to contain the spread of COVID-19<sup>34</sup>.

According to the article, police officers were too aggressive while enforcing the curfew and some were caught on camera shooting and beating up people without apparent justification in the markets and also as people walked home from work, even before the daily start of the curfew. The excessive use of force was also condemned by the president of Kenya who apologized to Kenyans over police brutality during curfew hours<sup>35</sup>.

Happy About	Percent	Not Happy About	Percent
No Response	2.8	No Response	3.0
Putting on masks	33.3	Curfew	37.3
Washing hands	17.0	Partial opening of schools	2.3
Advocating for social distancing	14.0	Closure of schools	1.6
None	8.9	Putting on masks	11.0
Curfew	7.0	Controlled operation of bars	2.3
All	13.3	None	26.1
Closure/ Controlled operation of bars and hotels	2.6	Social distance/ ban on gatherings	8.9
Closure of schools	1.2	Washing hands	.9
		All	4.7
		Restriction of inter-county movement/ lockdown	1.6
		Forced quarantine	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>

Table 6: Approval or Disapproval of COVID-19 containment measures by Kenyans within the Nairobi Metropolitan area.

34. Kenya: Police Brutality During Curfew; Several dead, Others with Life-Threatening Injuries (April, 22 2020). Retrieved on 23rd December, 2020 from: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/22/kenya-police-brutality-during-curfew>.

35. Aljazeera (Published April 1st, 2020). Kenyan president apologizes for police violence during curfew: Police accused of using heavy-handed tactics to enforce the dusk to dawn curfew since its introduction on Friday. Retrieved from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/4/1/kenyan-president-apologises-for-police-violence-during-curfew> on 23rd December, 2020.



Key informants raised concerns over the enforcement of the curfew where they highlighted that majority were out to fend for their families since life had become unbearable as majority had lost their main sources of livelihood. Indeed, majority were of the view that police officers needed to be kind since harsh circumstances were forcing them to be late. Other respondents questioned the purpose of the curfew other than just disrupting livelihoods. They failed to establish the link between the curfew and spread of the virus. A key informant questioned the importance of the curfew by posing that: -

*“.... kwani Corona hutembea usiku?” (Is corona only active during night hours)<sup>36</sup>*

## 2.5 Impact of COVID-19 on Crime Trends and Typologies

On crime trends and typologies, the study sought to establish the relationship between COVID-19 pandemic and crime commission in the Metropolitan area. This adopted a comparative approach and compared status of crime commission before and during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

### 2.5.1 Crime Rates

The study sought to establish the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on crime trends and typologies. This was done through establishing perceptions on the status of crime before March, 2020 and comparing it with crime perceptions since lockdown in March, 2020. It was found that crime incidences had generally increased in all the regions as shown in the Table 7 below. Across the four counties within the Nairobi Metropolitan area, majority of

respondents reported that crime commission had gone up since lockdown in March, 2020. Kiambu recorded the highest number of people who felt that crime incidences had increased as indicated 63.0% of respondents, followed by Machakos 47.8% then Kajiado 42.1% and finally Nairobi as mentioned by 41.1%. The fact that Nairobi county recorded the lowest number of people who mentioned that crime incidences had increased may not necessarily mean that crime commission was lowest in the capital city. This is because the city also recorded the highest number of people who indicated that the crime commission had remained the same.

This could therefore be understood to mean that counties that would normally record low numbers of crime incidences would be quick to notice any change in that pattern as opposed to counties that normally record high incidences or are in a way used to certain crime trends. According to criminological theory, disruptions of norms brought about by lockdowns or pandemics normally affect crime commission differently, in the short-term period, crime rate are likely to go down as lockdowns lead to reduced opportunities to commit street crime and also limit the possibility of criminals breaking into private homes<sup>37</sup>. Measures synonymous with lockdowns, such as social-distancing, restrictions on public gatherings or the closure of bars, restaurants and other entertainment joints, also have a significant impact on interpersonal violence, as circumstances in which crimes are committed, such as physical assault outside the domestic sphere, mugging, shoplifting, theft and robbery, are not likely to occur.

Crime Rate	County				Average
	Nairobi	Machakos	Kiambu	Kajiado	(%)
Remained the same	33.13	28.89	30.0	31.58	31.24
Crime cases increased	41.10	47.78	63.0	42.11	47.79
Crime incidences reduced	11.66	18.89	6.0	14.47	12.35
Never thought about it	14.11	4.44	1.0	11.84	8.62
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7: Rate of crime since lockdown began in March, 2020

36. A key informant while questioning the importance of curfew in management of COVID-19. Interview held in Kiambu in December, 2020.

37. Manuel Eisner and Amy Nivette (April, 2020). "Violence and the pandemic – Urgent questions for research" (New York, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation,). Retrieved on 23rd April, 2020 from: [www.hfg.org/Violence%20and%20the%20Pandemic.pdf](http://www.hfg.org/Violence%20and%20the%20Pandemic.pdf).

In the longer term however, the closure of businesses and subsequent unemployment and loss of income may affect crime, especially in environments where economic and social safety nets are not sufficient to sustain livelihoods. In the Kenyan context, the increment in crime can be seen from the extent of longer than expected lockdown which has greatly affected livelihoods forcing people to adopt desperate mechanisms of survival. This links well with strain theory which states that socioeconomic strains that affect a large group of the population, especially the most vulnerable ones, have the potential to create an atmosphere of pressure that drives individuals to commit crime.

### 2.5.2 Changes in Leading Types of Crime as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic

Property related crimes were all time the most prevalent before and during the pandemic. Theft, robbery, break-ins and car theft were indicated by a majority of 90.4% before COVID-19 and 86.3% during the pandemic period as the leading types of crime in the Nairobi Metropolitan area.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidences increased from 3.3 % to 7.2%. This was corroborated by findings from key informants especially administrators who reported that they had noted a spike of GBV since March, 2020 when lockdown measures were announced. The key informants were quick to point out that the cases reported may not necessarily be a true reflection of the exact picture since GBV is always underreported.

A study by UNICEF found out that one-third of crime incidences reported since the outbreak of Covid-19 was linked to sexual violence with a similar observation having been made by the chief justice who mentioned that the number of SGBV had increased by 35.8% as of march 2020. This finding also collaborates with an assessment carried out by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in parts of Nairobi between February and July 2020 whereby muggings, robberies, murder, and defilement of children were reportedly the most committed crimes.<sup>38</sup>

Leading Crime Type Before the Pandemic		Leading Type of Crime During the Pandemic	
No Response	2.1	None	1.9
I don't know	4.2	I don't know	4.7
Robbery with violence	14.7	Robbery with violence	15.4
Break-ins	15.4	Break-ins	13.8
Theft	59.4	Theft	55.9
Gender based violence	3.3	Gender based violence	7.2
Carjacking and car theft	.9	Carjacking and car theft	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 8: Crime types before and after the lockdown, March, 2020

As seen in the Table 9 below, theft was the most common type of crime across the counties as indicated by an average of 56% of the respondents reached during this study. Kiambu and Machakos people reported the highest number of theft incidences as indicated by 88% and 68.9% of the respondents respectively. Robbery with violence was common in Nairobi, Kajiado and Machakos counties as indicted by 22.7%, 15.8% and

13.3% of the respondents respectively. Kajiado county residents reported break-ins as the leading type of crime as mentioned by 44.8% of the respondents sampled for this study. This particular finding is consistent with revelations by a report by National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) that identified burglary and break-ins as the leading types of crime in Kajiado county<sup>39</sup>.

38. UNODC (2020). UNODCity: Safety governance approach in urban environments for safe, inclusive and resilient cities. Report on the Urban Safety Governance Assessment in Mathare, Nairobi City. Retrieved from: [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice/UrbanSafety/Report/USGA\\_UNODCity\\_Nairobi\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/UrbanSafety/Report/USGA_UNODCity_Nairobi_Final_Report.pdf)

39. National Crime Research Centre (NCRC, 2018). Fighting crime through research. Kajiado Crime Outlook for 2018. Retrieved on 23rd April, 2020 from: <https://www.crimeresearch.go.ke/kajiado/>.

Kajiado county reported relatively the highest incidences of gender-based violence as mentioned by 11.8% of the respondents drawn from the county followed by Nairobi and Machakos counties in which GBV was reported by 9.2% and 6.7% of the respondents (respectively) as

the leading type of crime. This can be attributed to two factors; the patriarchal nature of majority of residents of Kajiado county and also high population density in major town centres.

	County				Average
	Nairobi	Machakos	Kiambu	Kajiado	%
None	3.68	0	0	2.63	<b>1.86</b>
I don't know	11.04	1.11	1.0	0	<b>4.66</b>
Robbery with violence	22.70	13.33	5.0	15.79	<b>15.38</b>
Break-ins	6.75	10.0	5.0	44.74	<b>13.75</b>
Theft	46.63	68.89	88.0	18.42	<b>55.94</b>
Gender based violence	9.20	6.67	1.0	11.84	<b>7.23</b>
Carjacking and car theft	0	0	0	6.58	<b>1.17</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 9: Leading types of crime per County

### 2.5.3 Frequency of Crime Incidences

In order to understand the intensity of crime as a security threat in the Nairobi Metropolitan area, the study sought the perception of respondents on the frequency of crime commission within their areas of resident. It was observed that Nairobi county had the highest number of people who mentioned that crime commission was

often or frequently witnessed. As shown in the bar chart below, of all the people who indicated that crime occurred frequently or regularly witnessed, 43% were from Nairobi, followed by Kiambu as mentioned by 35%, then Machakos at 13% and finally Kajiado as indicated by 8% of the respondents.

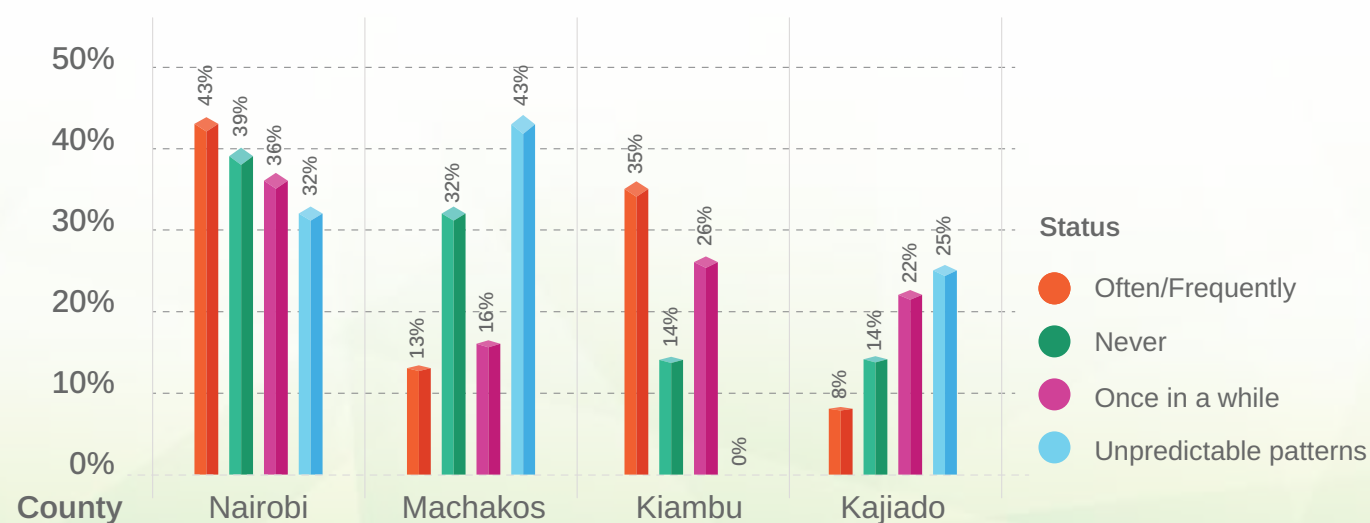


Figure 10: Crime patterns across different counties within the Nairobi Metropolitan area.

The study notes that Nairobi county registered highest percentages on number of crimes, crime types and frequency among others. This shows that the county experiences all manner of situations in regards to crime commission mostly depending on location and occupation of the respondents. This is consistent with findings from a survey done by UN-HABITAT that indicated that the area where respondents live-in and work influences the likelihood of someone falling victim to a particular crime<sup>40</sup>. This is majorly because occupation and area of residence is likely to influence trends such as time to leave for work, time to get back from work, friends to keep and so on that can easily create or limit opportunities for crime commission.

Additionally, in terms of area of residence, people living in suburbs and uptown which are mostly inhabited by the affluent, will hardly witness crime since majority of them invested heavily in security apparatus and personnel compared to informal settlements and middle-class estates where people are more likely to witness or fall victim to crime activities. This can also be linked to areas inhabited by people worst hit by the effects of COVID-19 considering that there is high likelihood of such people engaging in crime for subsistence.

Majority of residents of Machakos County, reported that they hardly witnessed crime commission and in cases where crime activities were reported, in most cases, they'll be unpredictable or not easily explained.

#### 2.4.4 Crime-Time Patterns

The study sought to establish the time of the day or night when crime was likely to happen. As shown in Table 10 below, it was found that one was highly likely to fall victim or witness crime late at night across the four counties as opined by an average of 35.9% of all respondents reached for this study. Particularly, Machakos and Kajiado registered the highest percentages on crimes happening at night as indicated by 67.8% and 46.1% of respondents respectively. Just like with the frequency of crime, respondents were torn on the exact time or periods in which crimes were likely to occur. However, 25% of respondents felt that crime was more likely during rush hours in the evening as people headed back home from work. Residents in Kiambu particularly identified the same, that is, evening as people headed back home as the most notorious time for crime, as indicated by 34% of the respondents.

	County				Average
Time	Nairobi	Machakos	Kiambu	Kajiado	%
I don't know	3.07	0	1.0	1.32	1.63
No Response	9.20	1.11	5.0	0	4.90
Early in the morning as people go to work	11.66	1.11	16.0	3.95	9.09
During the day	21.47	6.67	24.0	35.53	21.45
In the evening as people go back home after work/ rush hours	25.15	21.11	34.0	11.84	24.01
Late at night/ in the dark	23.31	67.78	20.0	46.05	35.90
Any time	6.13	2.22	0	1.32	3.03
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 10: Crime-time patterns

40. UN-HABITAT (2002). *Safer Cities: Series #4. Crime in Nairobi results of a citywide victim survey* Retrieved from: <https://www.osac.gov/Country/Kenya/Content/Detail/Report/03c822af-2922-4a4c-ba8b-15f4aead1599> on 23rd December, 2020.

When asked whether crime time trends had changed as a result of COVID-19, a majority of Nairobi residents as shown in Figure 11 below, indicated that there was notable change. Of all the respondents who mentioned that time trends had changed 51.05% were from Nairobi, followed by Machakos, 23.4%, then Kajiado, 15.4% and finally Kiambu at 11.2%. This was attributed to containment measures put in place such as the curfew, closure of bars and restriction of inter-county movements. A key informant pointed out that: -

*“...obviously with the restricted movements and curfew hours, criminals had to change their mode of operation...mostly to daytime and during rush hours.....even the closure or controlled operation of bars, restaurants and other entertainment joints has also helped minimize crime, especially the opportunistic kind...”*<sup>41</sup>

In Machakos and Kajiado, respondents were sharply divided on whether crime trends had changed or not. In Machakos, 22.4% felt that crime trends had changed while 20.3% were of the contrary opinion. In Kajiado 15.4% mentioned that time trends had changed while 18.9% felt that time trend had remained the same. In Kiambu, 29.4% reported that time trends had not changed compared to 11.2% who indicated the contrary. The change in crime-time trends was blamed on numerous reasons, key among them loss of jobs and high levels of unemployment, high poverty levels worsened by loss of income, peer pressure and influence as most people are forced to stay at home and also early closure of businesses that seemed to allow criminals more time to engage in criminal activities. A focus group discussant explained that: -

*“.....many people have lost their sources of livelihood and the pressure to provide for their families is leading them to seek illegal ways of acquiring income like theft.....this is also putting strain in families and may be that explains the high cases of domestic related disputes...”*<sup>42</sup>

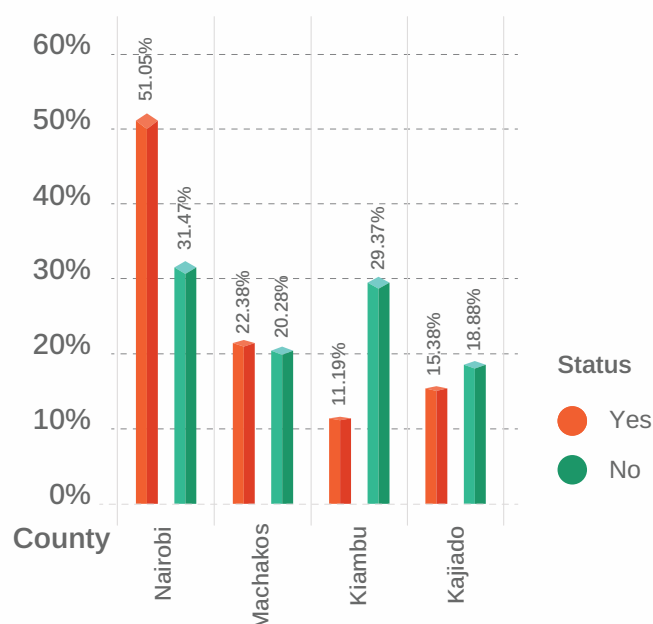


Figure 11: Changes in Crime-Time trends

#### 2.4.5 Crime Hotspot Areas

The study sought to identify crime hotspot areas across the study areas and also establish whether there was any change as a result of COVID-19. Respondents identified numerous areas that locals believed were notorious for crime commission. These are areas residents tend to avoid during certain time periods. Findings seemed to also suggest that there was little or no impact on crime hotspot areas. Majority of people reached through this study noted that crime hotspot areas had remained the same, that is, before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following table presents areas mostly mentioned in each of the four counties.

41. A key informant in Kiambu while explaining changes in crime time trends in the county. Interview held in December, 2020.

42. An FGD participant commenting on reasons for time-crime trends in Mavoko sub-county, Machakos county. Interview held in December, 2020.



County	Sample Point	Crime Hotspot
Nairobi	Land mawe	Muthurwa bridge (Rami field)
		Kayaba Slum
		Kambi Moto
	Westlands	Ring Road (Tepsi)
		Parklands Road
		Waiyaki Highway-Around Kianda school
	Kangemi	Chemilil
		Kwa bridge (Stage)
		Lower kabete
		Sodom
	Ngara/ Kirinyaga Road	Along Nairobi River
		Riverside/ OTC
		Globe Roundabout
		Mlango Kubwa
Machakos	Mavoko	Devki
		Kanaani
		Makadara
		Bondeni
	Mlolongo/ Syokimau	Phase 3
		Kathangaita
		Olympic stage
		Madharau street
		Kasina
		Kicheko slum
Kiambu	Ruiru	Katani
		Kinguro
		Ruiru stadium
		Some sections along the super highway
		Ruiru stage
		Reli
		Kitambaa
	Githurai/ Kahawa Wendani	Bypass
		Githurai stage
		Reli
		Kwa Ng'ethe
		Kwa mto
Kajiado	Ongata Rongai	Bosnia
		Quarry
	Kiserian	5th Avenue
		Reli
		Ureka
		Rimpa
		Dam area
		Matasia
	Ngong	PCEA
		Kibiku
		Maasai road

Table 11: Known Crime hotspot areas across the metropolitan area



#### 3.2 Conclusion

Generally, the level of peace and security has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Study findings revealed that COVID-19 pandemic and the management measures are aggravating the underlying roots of conflicts. Existing patterns of inequality, peace processes, and the risks of violence in communities have all been affected. Government responses have not been adequately conflict-sensitive. Many sources of income and livelihoods have been adversely affected by the pandemic. This has exposed both middle- and low income-classes of people into difficulties as they struggle to eke a living. Many people within the Nairobi Metropolitan area live from hand to mouth and hardly have savings to sustain basic needs. The urban poor, women, youth, school going children who were forced to stay at home as part of COVID-19 containment measures were identified as the most affected groups in the study area. Notable increases in domestic violence, as well as crime rates, were reported in this study. The study noted acute desperation from communities as majority had been forced to remain at home with no known source of income impacting their abilities to feed their families. Cases of landlords threatening or evicting their tenants for failure to meet their rental obligations in good time were also reported to be on the rise.

Some of the measures put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19 directly impacts the traditional way of doing peacebuilding in the country. Social distancing and lockdowns that limit interactions and movements undermines many existing peacebuilding efforts. The local peacebuilding initiatives, which often rely on physical meetings and people-to-people approaches, are directly undermined by necessary restrictions on gatherings and social distancing measures. Some of these activities and approaches disrupted include sporting activities that have been used by many to bring people together, barazas that are majorly used by administrators to preach cohesion and integration between different community members and other peace meetings normally organized by both state and non-state actors to steer the peace agenda at the community levels have been adversely affected.

There exist blame games, mistrusts and a lot misinformation on COVID-19 pandemic within the Nairobi Metropolitan area. People within the Nairobi Metropolitan area harbour mixed feelings on the management of COVID-19 by the government. Some people lauded government efforts in informing them about the spread of COVID-19 while others did not

seem to agree with the daily updates issued by the government on the spread of the virus with some quick to dismiss the statistics as a ploy by the government to inflate and report high numbers in order to attract grants and loans from international partners and well-wishers. Allegations of misappropriation of public funds in the management of pandemic through tenders by Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) and other government entities could have contributed to the lack of trust among Kenyans. This points to the need by the government to find ways of restoring public confidence and trust on the mentioned institutions including investigating and instituting necessary actions on those found culpable and also constantly updating Kenyans on ongoing processes.

#### 3.3 Recommendations

In light of the above findings, the study makes the following recommendations:

- **Design and implement a COVID-19 resilience and recovery economic plan.** There is need to come up with an economic stimulus plan to cushion Kenyans from the negative economic impact of the pandemic. In addition to tax relief measures, the government should enhance the youth empowerment programs such as 'Kazi Mtaani' initiative to continue cushioning youth from the economic effects of the pandemic cumulatively strengthening their resilience to crime.
- **Relax some of the COVID-19 containment measures especially curfew hours and inter-county restrictions.** The study has shown that closure of the economy by imposing curfews and inter county travel restrictions were really affecting low income earners. Small and medium sized enterprises were on the verge of collapsing and this could render more people jobless thus increasing vices in the community like domestic violence, crime, prostitution, drug abuse, divorce and even suicidal tendencies.
- **Adopt a hybrid peace building strategy.** Peace building stakeholders, including the government, needs to adjust to the "new normal" occasioned by the pandemic. There is need to strengthen the capacity of community level peace and security structures to adopt both offline and online peace building strategies. With the restricted movements and other COVID-19 containment measures that restrict physical gatherings, there is need to further explore virtual engagements despite of the infrastructural limitations. In addition, peace building strategies should adopt the COVID-19 containment

measures such as social distancing, masking and sanitizing amongst others.

- **Provide free PPEs to members of the public through the police with a view to build trust between communities and law enforcement agencies:** To restore the public confidence and trust with the police that was also trained during the enforcement of the COVID-19 protocols, the police should be encouraged to provide PPEs to deserving members of the public instead of arresting or clobbering them. Stakeholders should mobilize enough PPEs and give it to police to distribute during their security operations. This will go a long way in building trust between the members of the public and the police.
- **Enforce ban on political rallies:** Majority of Kenyans within the Nairobi Metropolitan area seemed to blame the spread of COVID-19 to politicians who have been consistently violating measures put in place by the MoH to contain the spread of COVID-19 especially through holding rallies and taking part in activities that are not in conformity with the guidelines. This seems to be contributing to some narratives that COVID-19 is not as serious as has been presented by the government. In order to restore discipline and ensure adherence to government protocols on containment of COVID-19, there is need for the government to not only ban political rallies but also prosecute politicians, across the political divide, who violate the ban, this will help address the perception that the government is using the ban on political rallies to oppress the opposition.

#### **Deal firmly with corruption within the government:**

The response to the pandemic has been met by perceptions of high and low levels of corruption within the government. At the lower level, the police have been widely condemned for the widespread corruption within the ranks of the police service. Check points mounted on orders by the government to enforce restriction of movements within counties hard hit by the virus became a laughing stock as most of them were turned into bribe collection centres by police officers manning them. As long as one had money to bribe the police, the check points were mere public relation exercise by the authorities. At the higher level, there have been allegations that national and county governments have misappropriated or swindled funds meant for COVID-19 containment measures and treatment. This has increased the mistrust between the citizens and the government. As such and to restore public confidence in the government, those involved in corrupt practices within the government should be dismissed and prosecuted.

- **There is need to include psycho-social support in peace building initiatives and programmes:** The pandemic, including its containment measures that have occasioned economic meltdown and the huge hospitalization costs, has worsened the mental health situation in the country. Households have also been traumatized due to livelihood and human losses. As such, peace stakeholders should include psycho-social support and trauma healing in their programmes.



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