



*Photo by Doug Linstedt on Unsplash*

# Covid-19 Global Pandemic in Nairobi's Low-Income Areas: Children's Learning and Domestic Violence

Round Two Survey Report | 3<sup>rd</sup> Release | 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Activity supported by the  
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

Activité réalisée avec l'appui du  
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

**Canada**

**Hanns  
Seidel  
Stiftung**



# Contents

**Executive Summary**

**Study Background and Objectives**

**Methodology**

**Survey Sponsors**

**Children at Home: Access to Educational Content**

**Domestic Violence: Three Categories of Victims**

**Domestic Violence: Two Categories of Abuse**

**Sample Demographics**

# Executive Summary





**On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020, CS of Education, Prof George Magoha announced that primary and secondary schools will remain closed until January, 2021, meaning that the entire 2020 academic year will have to be repeated.**

**This report shares the perspectives of Nairobi's low income earners on Children's Learning and Domestic Violence**



# Access to educational content

## Households with school going children

□ **77%** of the respondents indicate that they have school going children.

## Children's access to educational content

□ **49%** of those with children indicate that their children are accessing education content and of these;

- **53%** access through TV
- **38%** access through a smart phone
- **20%** through radio
- **3%** through a computer or laptop





# Domestic violence



## Incidence of domestic violence increase

- ❑ **37%** report an increase in violence **against women** in the neighborhood
- ❑ **29%** report an increase in violence **against men** in the neighborhood
- ❑ **22%** report an increase in violence **against children** in the neighborhood

## Types of violence against children

- ❑ **23%** physical abuse
- ❑ **22%** verbal abuse
- ❑ **49%** both physical & verbal abuse



## Types of violence against women



- ❑ **13%** physical abuse
- ❑ **25%** verbal abuse
- ❑ **59%** both physical & verbal abuse

## Types of violence against men



- ❑ **14%** physical abuse
- ❑ **40%** verbal abuse
- ❑ **44%** both physical & verbal abuse



# Study Background and Objectives

# Introduction: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Release



❑ When President Uhuru Kenyatta addressed the nation on 6 July to lay out the 'way forward' with regard to the continuing efforts required to contain the Covid-19 virus pandemic by both government and citizens, he instructed the Cabinet Secretary of Education Professor George Magoha to inform the country "within 24 hours) what the future of this year's education calendar will be.


❑ Consequently, yesterday (7 July) he announced that primary and secondary schools will remain closed until January, 2021, meaning that the entire 2020 academic year will have to be repeated.

❑ Several questions related to how the closure of schools has been affecting children with regard to their access to educational content, as well as domestic violence affecting both adults and children, had been included in TIFA's multi-Round surveys of how the Covid-19 virus and the measures implemented to contain it have been impacting the residents of Nairobi's low-income areas. the results of which had not been included in either of the first two Releases, it was decided to release them now, in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Release.




# Introduction: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Release (con't)



 The results from Round One related to these issues were included in general Release that was posted on TIFA's website in May. This 3<sup>rd</sup> Release from Round Two, conducted in the first half of June, contains results from similar questions. It follows the first two Releases of 30 June and 5 July which focused on the economic impact of the disease and the Government-imposed restrictions (Nairobi area travel ban and curfew), respectively.

The remaining Releases will include results related to awareness of and levels of concern about the virus, sources of and levels of trust in relevant sources of public health information, and assistance to the most needy.

A blue circular icon containing a white lowercase letter 'i', representing information.

❑ The measures in Kenya taken to contain Covid-19 have affected households in many ways, including job loss, loss of remittances, higher commodity prices, heightened insecurity, and disruption to health care services and education. While these impacts have affected most households across the country, they appear to be more profound and longer-lasting amongst low income-earners in more congested urban areas who are inherently more vulnerable.

❑ Nairobi has registered the highest number of Covid-19 cases in Kenya – nearly one-third of the national total (yet fewer than one-in-ten Kenyans reside there). Given the restrictions placed on movement in and out of this county (including the curfew) as well as the recommended (and in some cases enforced) ‘social isolation’ measures in response to the Corona pandemic and the resultant economic slow-down, it has become clear that many people are finding it increasingly difficult to ‘make ends meet’, especially those in the lower-income areas captured in this survey.



- ❑ In this context, TIFA Research, in collaboration with Dr. Tom Wolf, designed and implemented a survey to explore these issues among this section of Nairobi's population over time. Round One of the survey was conducted at the end of April and captured the experiences, views and expectations of 356 respondents resident in Nairobi's main low-income areas. Subsequently, a webinar was held to explore some of the issues captured. (Both the webinar and the entire Round One Release may be accessed from here <http://www.tifaresearch.com/the-covid-19-global-pandemic-in-nairobis-low-income-areas/>).
- ❑ Round Two was completed on 15<sup>th</sup> June. It involved 579 respondents (including 286 who had participated in Round One) in these same low-income areas.
- ❑ Additional Survey Rounds are planned, with Round Three to be conducted later in July 2020.

# Introduction: Overall Study Objectives



- ❑ To measure the level of **awareness of the disease** among residents of selected low-income areas in Nairobi, and their level of concern with it
- ❑ To assess the immediate **social-economic impact** of the Covid-19 crisis on them
- ❑ To understand their current **coping mechanisms and future expectations** of their medical and economic well-being
- ❑ To establish their experience with and opinions about relevant **government enforcement efforts**
- ❑ To determine the proportion who say they have **benefited from any remedial measures** instituted by either state or non-state actors, or even know about them

# Methodology: Data Collection



Sub-topic	Detailed information
Field work dates	2 <sup>nd</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Geographical scope of study	Nairobi County - low income areas (mainly: Huruma, Kibera, Mathare, Korogocho, Mukuru kwa Njenga, Kawangware )
Proportion of Nairobi's adult population covered	29% of the estimated 820,000 i.e., adults living in the low income areas
Target respondents	Adults (18+ years) living
Sample size	579 respondents (Male = 306, Female = 273)
Margin-of-error	+/- 4.1% for the total sample. (Note: Sub-sample results have higher error-margins)
Average duration of interview	35 minutes
Proportion who stated that they enjoyed the interview	99%
Proportion who agreed to participate in a similar future survey	97%
Data collection methodology	Telephonic – calls made to respondents recruited in previous face-to-face/household surveys.

**The safety and well-being of our office and research field staff, as well as of our survey respondents, is paramount during this period of the COVID-19 threat. In aligning with government guidelines to minimize movements and promote safe (i.e., physical) distancing, TIFA has set up a virtual call centre-platform allowing the field staff to make interview-calls from their homes.**



- ❑ In addition to presenting the results based on these Study Objective topics, the presentation also explores some of the contrasting experiences and opinions within the sampled population by using particular sub-groupings of the total sample in terms of both respondents and responses to particular questions.
- ❑ This is done both to underscore the point that even within Nairobi, there is considerable variation in how the Covid-19 virus and the measures implemented by Government to combat it among residents in the city's low-income areas, and that such data can be used to reveal the logic as to why such variations occur. This is considered especially useful for policy-makers and others involved in combating the virus and addressing the needs of those most affected by it. Further, such analysis raises critical issues that could be further explored in subsequent Rounds of the survey.

# Survey Sponsors



For this Second Round of a planned multi-round 'panel' survey, TIFA gratefully acknowledges the support of following organizations;

- The Canadian High Commission in Kenya
- The Hanns Seidel Foundation-Kenya

Activity supported by the  
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives  
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du  
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

| **Canada** 

 **Hanns  
Seidel  
Stiftung**



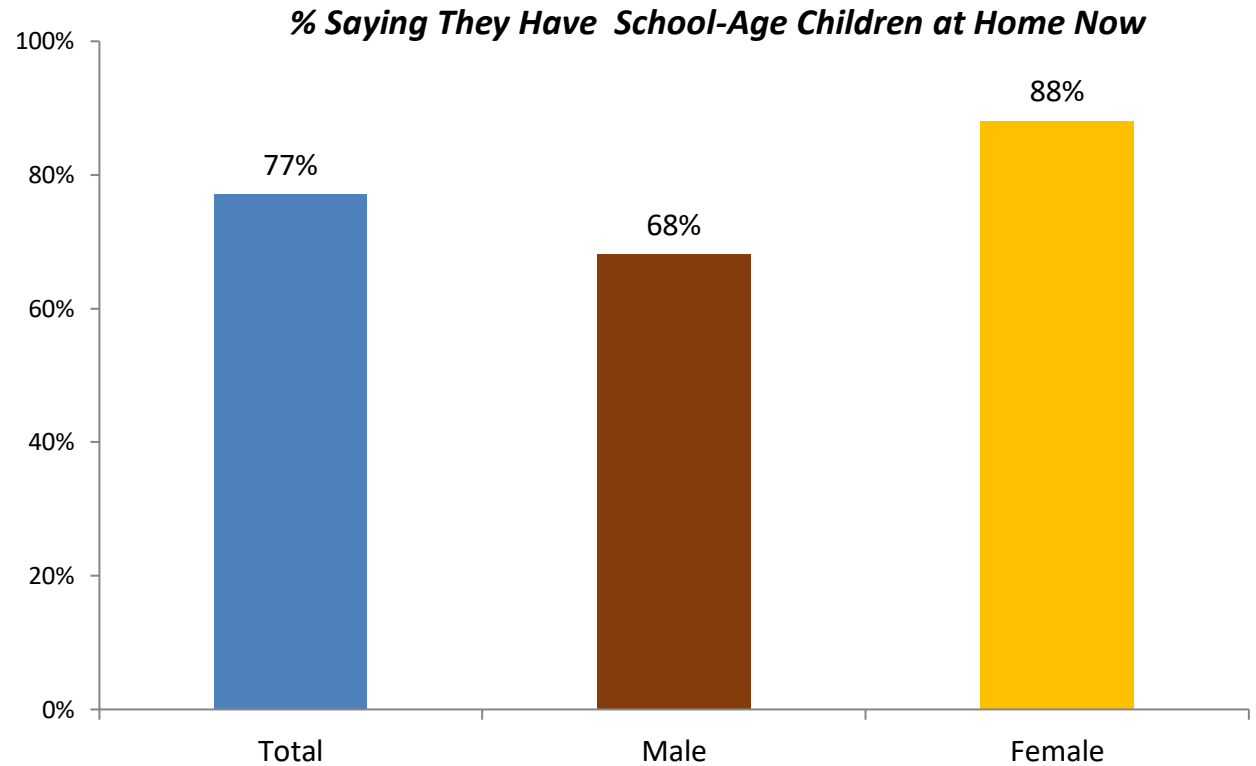
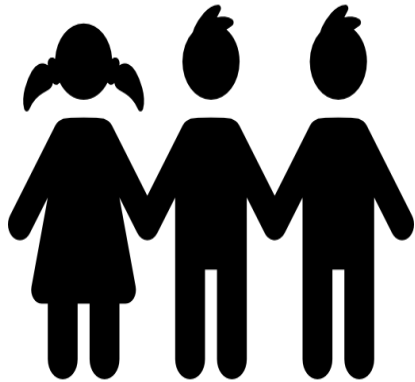
# Socio-Economic Impact of the Virus

## □ Children & Their Education

# School Age Children in the Household: by Total, Gender



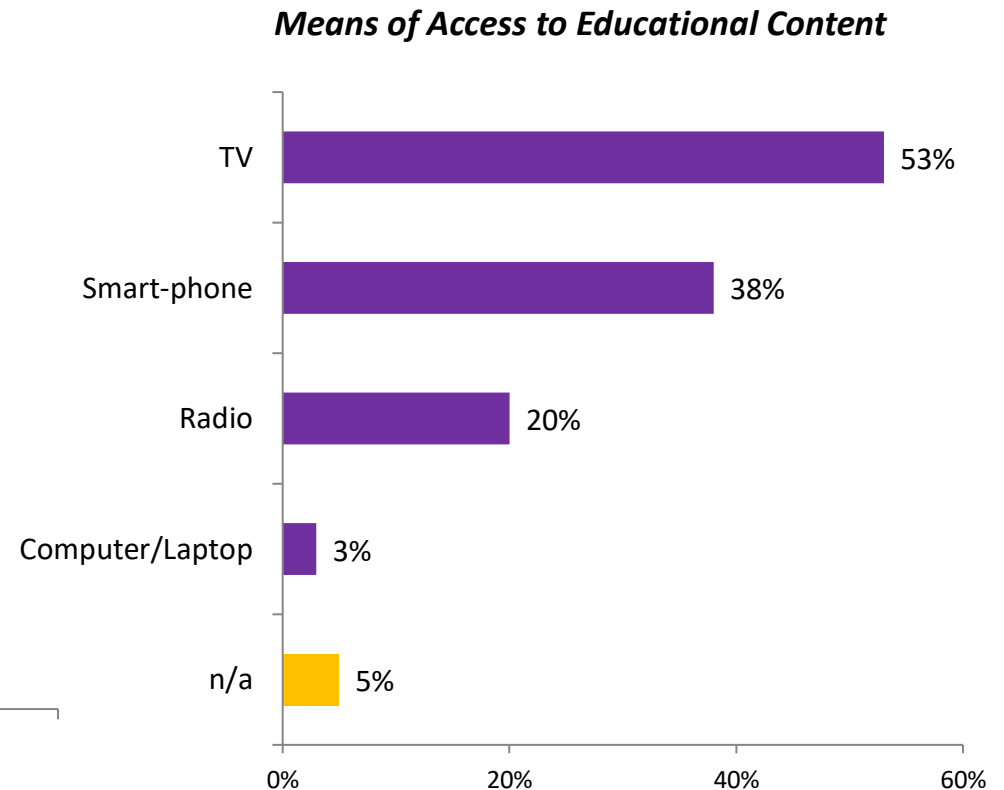
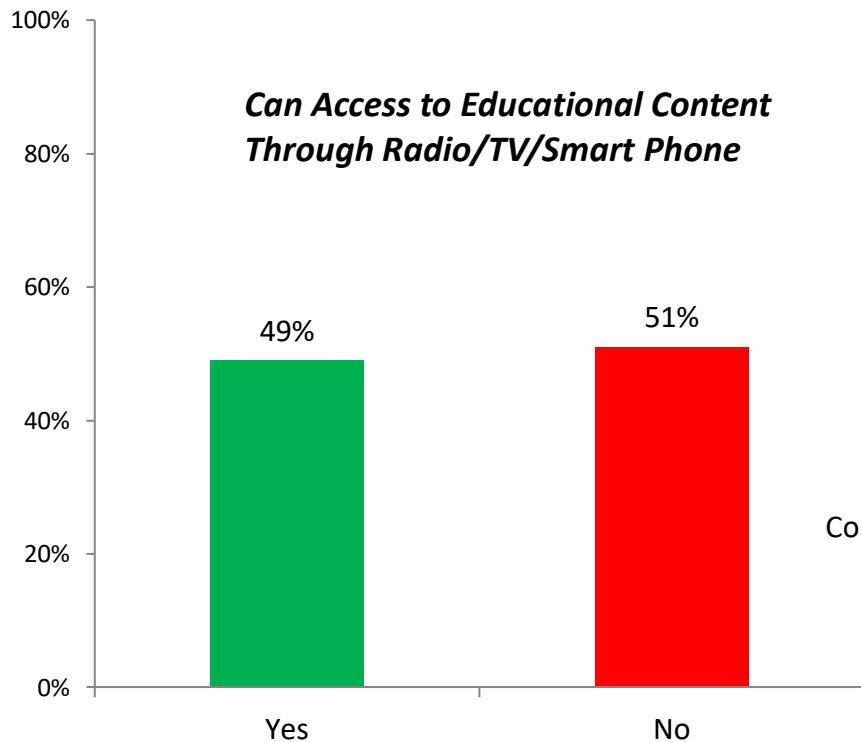
- More than three-quarters of all respondents report the presence of school-age children in their households, with rather more women than men doing so.



# Level/Means of Access to Educational Content: by Total (with children)



- ❑ Only half of all school-age children are able to access educational content from home.
- ❑ Among those doing so, some are using more than one platform/means, the most common of which is by a TV.
- ❑ More than half of the children are using a TV to access such content,, though more than one-third are using smart-phones.



**Q: Are any such children able to access the educational content through radio/TV/smart-phone? (Multiple response – up to three)**

**Q: How are they doing this?**

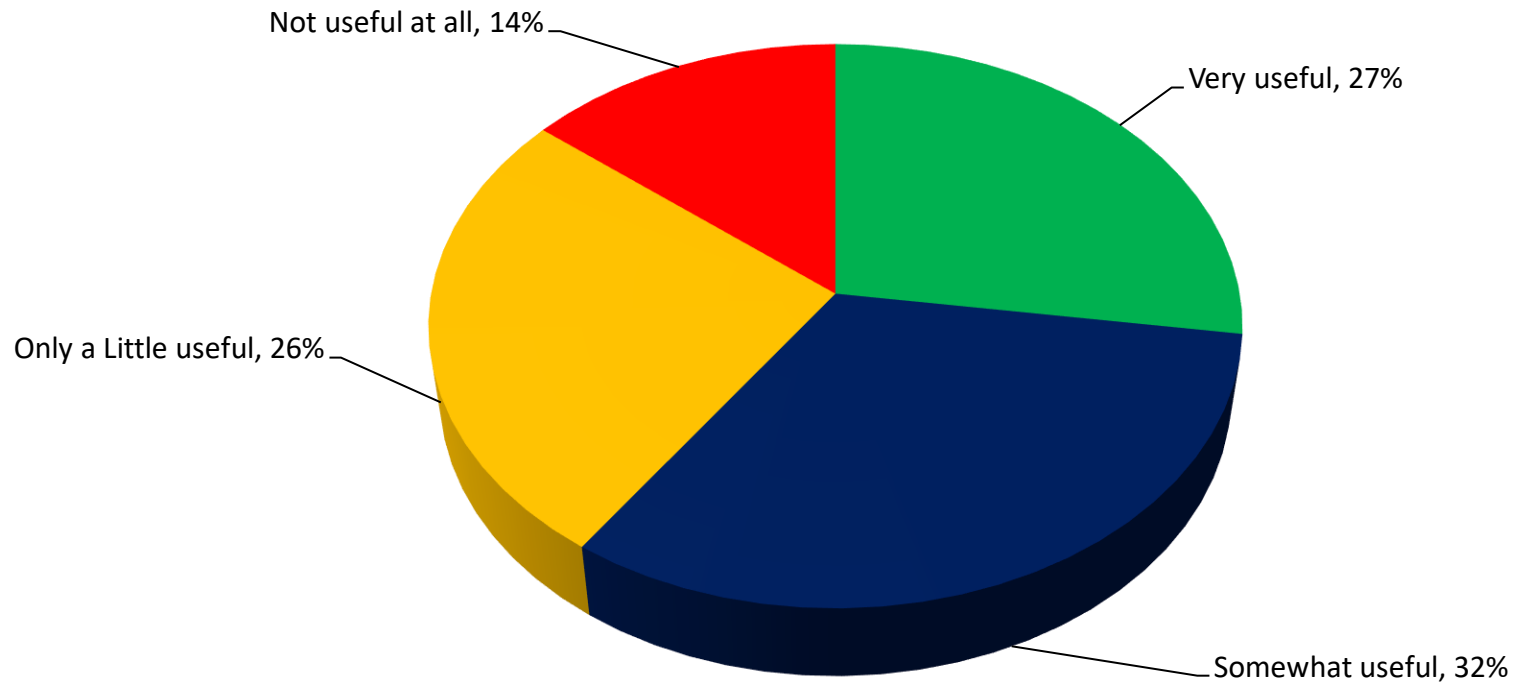
**Base = 448 (Households with school-age children )**  
**Base = 219 (Households with children who can access educational content)**

# Perceived Value of Educational Content That Children Are Able to Access: by Those With Children At Home Who Can Access It



- More than half of those with children who can access educational content through any type of technology consider it as either “very” or “somewhat useful”, while over one-third are of a contrary (negative) opinion.

**Perceived Value of Accessed Educational Content**



**Q: How useful would you say this content is to the child or children? Would you say it is...?**

*Base=219 (households with school-age children who can access educational content)*

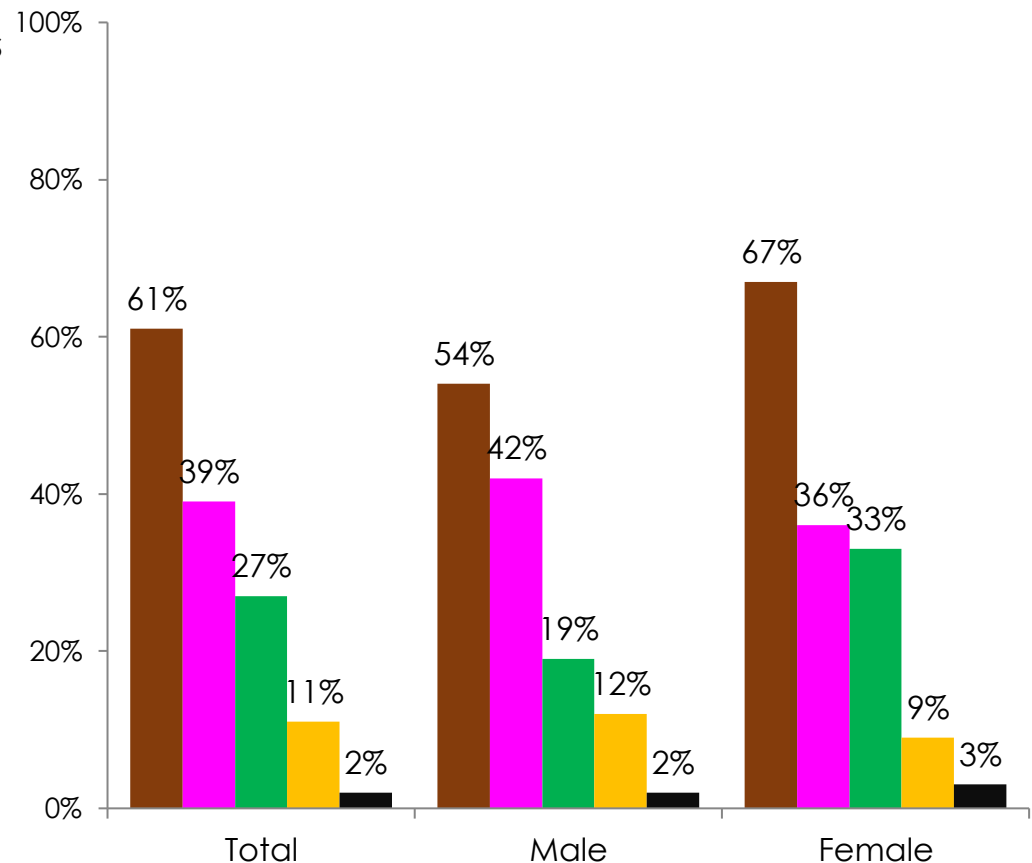
# Challenges of Having Children at Home: by Total, Gender (Round One Data)



Among the challenges that those with children now at home are facing, feeding them is clearly the greatest, more so for women (who usually shoulder that responsibility). But other problems such as the failure to have them continue with their studies and keeping them safe from the virus are also frequently mentioned.

- Difficulty in feeding them
- Failure to have them continue with/concentrate on their studies
- Difficulty in preventing them from social mixing and possibly contracting/spread the virus
- Problem of tensions/conflicts among the children / between them and neighbors and/or neighboring children
- No one to take care of them while other adults are away

**Main Challenges Faced with Having Children at Home**



**Q: What are the main challenges you have faced with having these children at home during the week?**



- ❑ Some three-quarters of all respondents indicate they have children of school age at home now, with only about half able to access educational content through any electronic/technical device. Given this worrying reality for families in Nairobi, it may be assumed that the level of such access to educational content is generally much lower in most rural areas.
- ❑ Even for the barely half of those with school-age children reporting that they can access any educational content, the opinion of adults is far from unanimous about its benefit, with more than one-third considering it as either “of little use” or “of no use at all.” Given that schools will remain closed until next year, it is unclear how much attention children who can access it will continue to give to such content. Much will depend on whether parents consider this a priority, and have the resources of whatever nature to encourage/require their children to put in at least some time for study.

- While not included in this Round Two of the survey, a question from Round One revealed the range of challenges parents/adults are facing as a result of the constant presence of children at home, especially the absence of anyone to care for them “while adults are away.” Given the continued closure of schools until next year, this challenge (among the others mentioned) is likely to become even greater.





# Socio-Economic Impact of the Virus

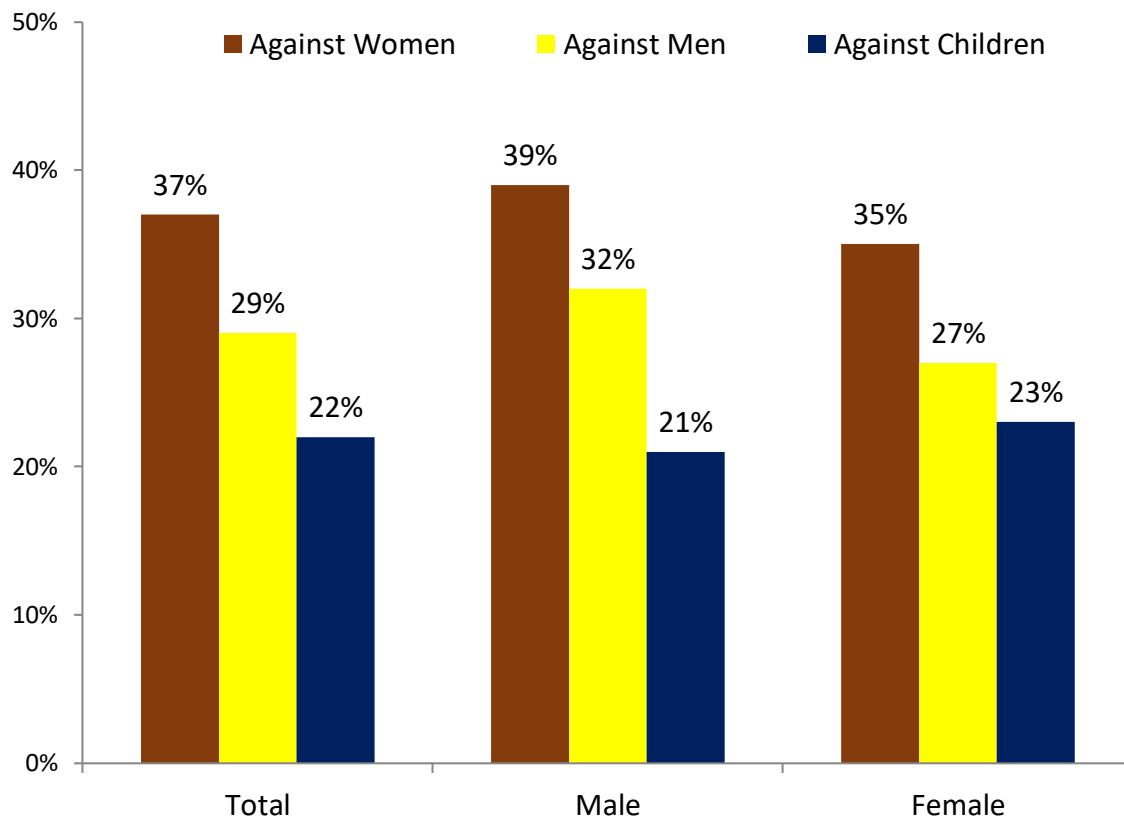
## □ Domestic Violence

# Awareness of Increase in Domestic Violence: by Total, Gender



- More than one-third of all respondents report an increase in violence against women since the imposition of the night curfew, though the figures are somewhat lower for violence against men and children.
- Men are more aware of such violence against men and women, but women are slightly more aware of violence against children.

**Awareness of An Increase in Domestic Violence in the Locality Since the Curfew Began: by Total, Gender**



**Q: Since the curfew began has there been an increase in any of these three types of domestic violence in your area?**

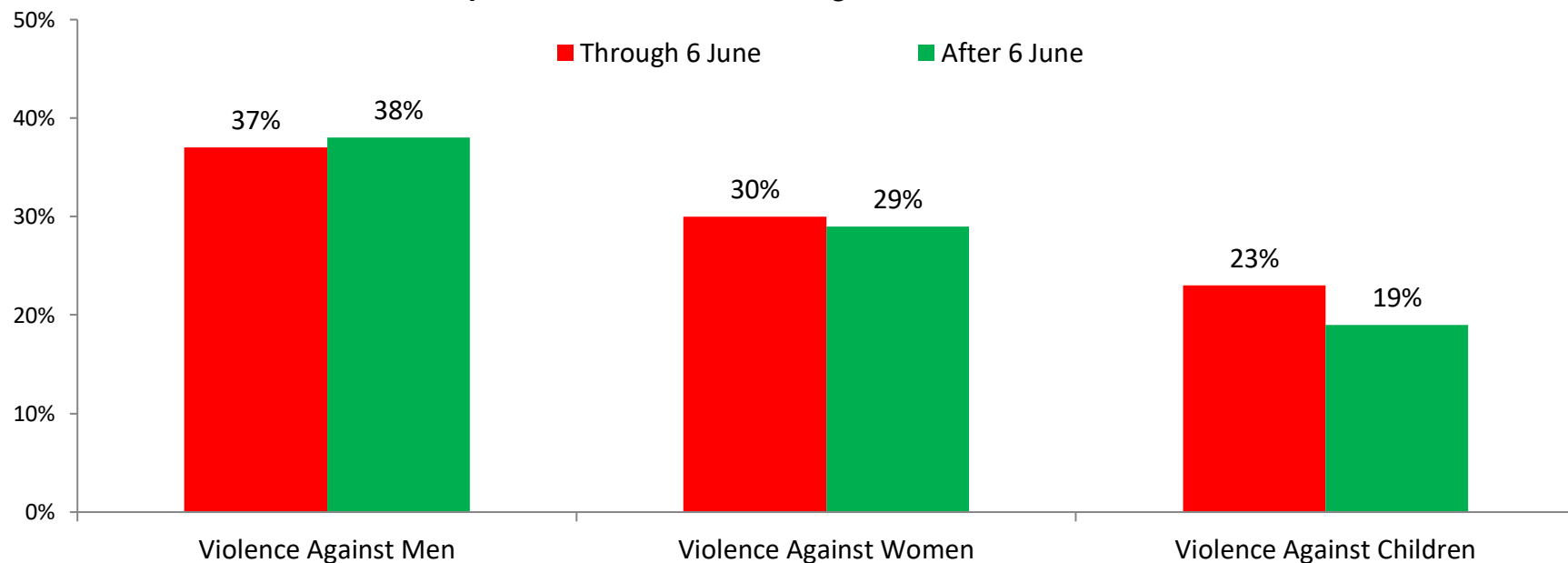
Base=574 (Those who have mentioned/heard about the curfew) <sup>24</sup>

# Awareness of Increase in Domestic Violence: by Before/After 6 June



- The reduction in the duration of the curfew as announced by the President on the afternoon of 6 June apparently had no impact on the level of domestic violence affecting men or women, though it may have declined slightly with regard to children. (The next Round of the survey will attempt to verify this).

**Awareness of an Increase in Domestic Violence in the Locality  
Since the Curfew Began  
by Those Interviewed Through 6 June/After 6 June**



**Q: Since the curfew began, has there been an increase in any of these three types of domestic violence in your area?**

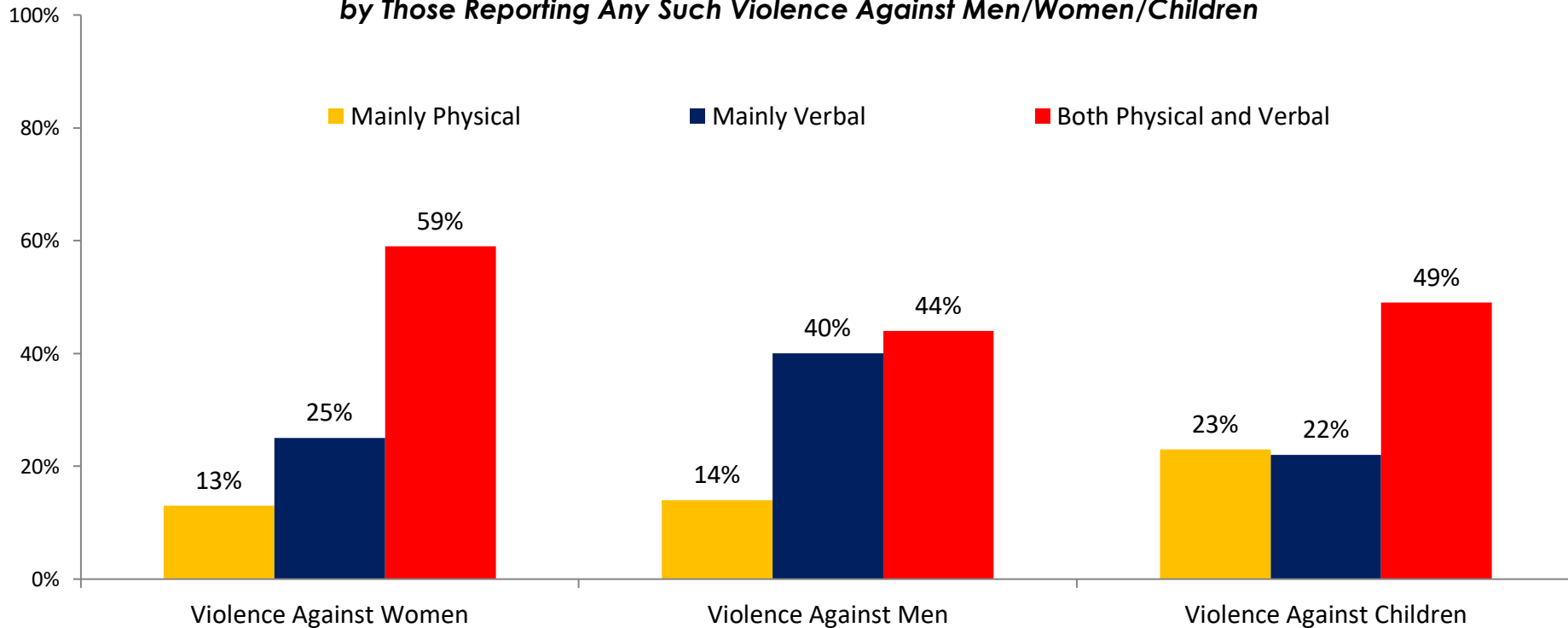
**Base = 369 (Those interviewed through 6 June)  
Base = 205 (Those interviewed after 6 June)**

# Types of Domestic Violence: by Those Reporting Any Increase Since the Curfew



☐ While children have reportedly suffered more domestic violence of a purely physical nature than either women or men, more women have suffered a combination of physical and verbal violence than either men or children. All three categories of violence victims have received more than combines both types of violence than either one type on its own.

**Types of Domestic Violence in the Locality Since the Curfew Began:  
by Those Reporting Any Such Violence Against Men/Women/Children**



Q: Would you say this violence is mainly physical or verbal, or both?

Bases = 214/169/125 (Those reporting an increase in violence against women/men/children since curfew began)



- ❑ The Government's adoption of several strict measures to counter the spread of the COVID-19 virus has clearly resulted in higher levels of domestic violence against men and children as well as women.
- ❑ In comparing the results obtained to this question before and after the reduction in the duration of the curfew on 6 June (from 7pm-4am to 9pm-5am) no significant contrast is found, suggesting that the length of the curfew itself does not account for the overall increase in such violence.
- ❑ A majority of those reporting an increase in such violence against women indicate that it has been both physical and verbal in nature. While the highest level of violence-type for men and children is also a combination of these two types of violence, for both of them it is somewhat lower than it is for women.



- ❑ Yesterday's announcement that primary and secondary schools shall remain closed until next year ("unless the situation changes" will have many ramifications, most if not all of a negative nature. In addition to the challenge of having two Class One groups next year, many if not most families in the meantime will be hard-pressed to manage their children until then. Such "management" includes not just keeping their children virus-free, but also out of many other kinds of 'trouble'. This is on top of the extra burden of feeding them (for those who would otherwise be in boarding schools or at least receiving a midday meal at school), as well as ensuring their security during the day when most adults must be away from home.
- ❑ As for domestic violence, it must also be assumed that for children this is bound to increase, given not just their extended presence at home but also due to the continuing night curfew (requiring potentially 'dangerous' adults to be around them more often).



- ❑ Without further research, however, it remains unclear whether the levels of domestic violence against all three victim-categories and across both types (i.e., physical, verbal) are more the consequence of mere proximity due to such extended household confinement, or due to the economic stress on ‘providers’ and ‘care-givers’ as a consequence of the Government’s Covid-19 containment measures, as well as the precautions exercised by citizens themselves. Indeed, it is likely that both sets of factors are contributing to such an increase.
- ❑ Whether the increasing efforts of those in both the public and NGO sector to both document and intervene so as to at least reduce such violence is an area of concern that future Rounds of this multi-round TIFA survey, even if limited to Nairobi’s low-income areas, will seek to reveal.

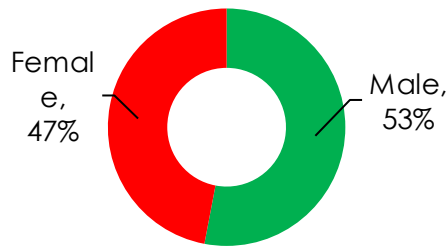
# Sample Demographics



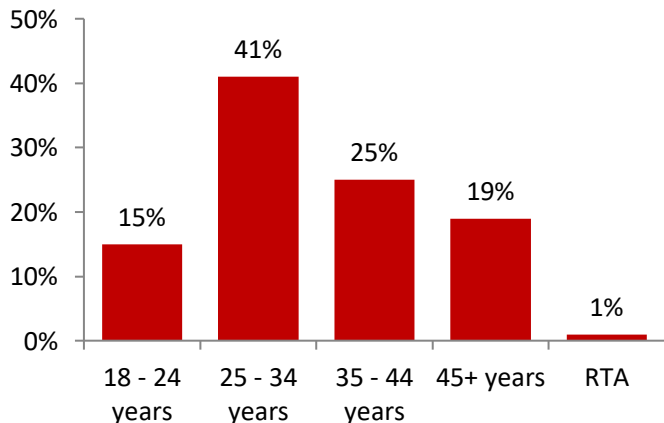
# Demographics: Gender, Age and Education

## Gender

- ❑ The sample has a slightly higher number of men than women.
- ❑ The largest age group category is that of 25-35 years.
- ❑ In terms of education, 44% did not study past primary school and another. 11% did not complete secondary school, and only 19% went beyond this level.

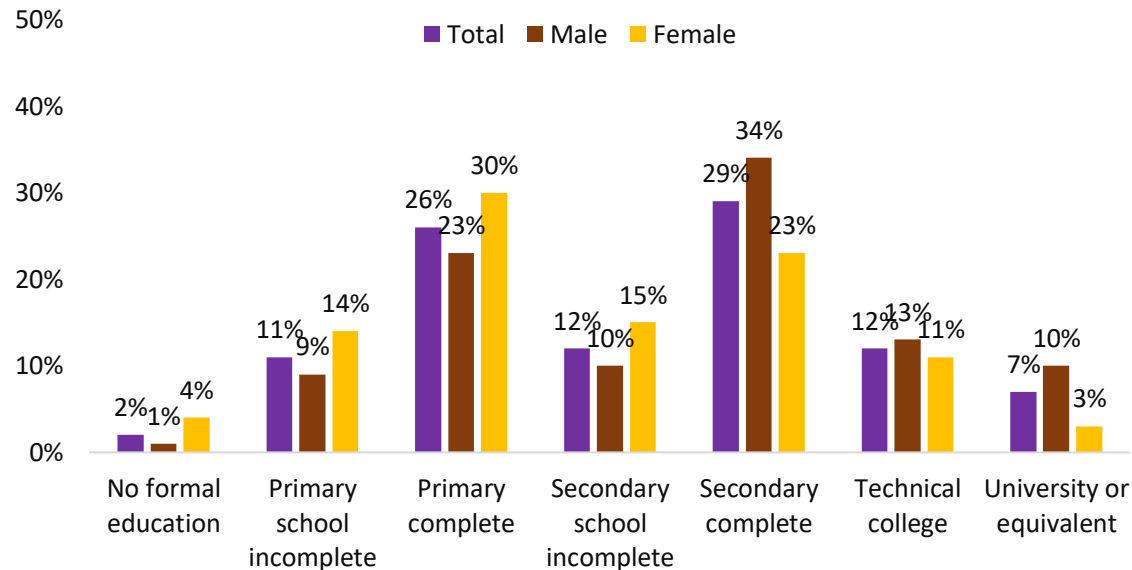


## Age Group



Base= 579 (all respondents)

## Level of Education



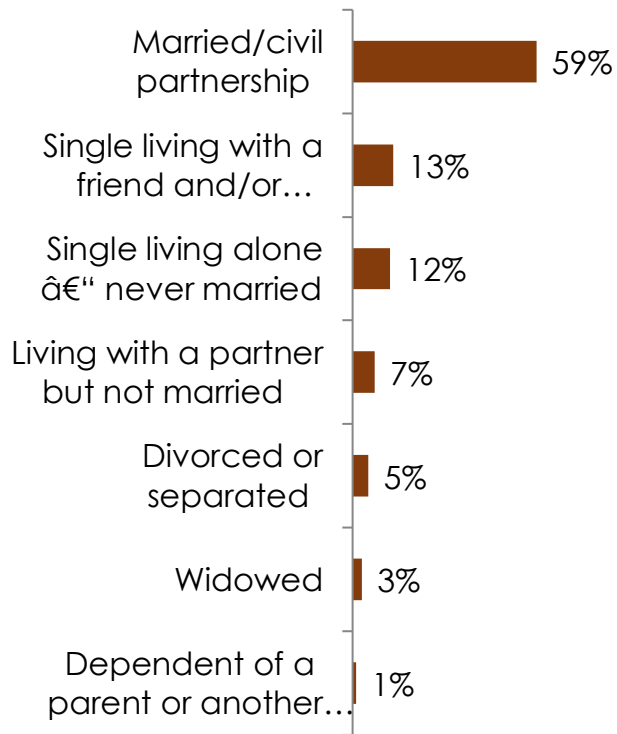
Base= Total = 579 ; Male = 306; Female = 273



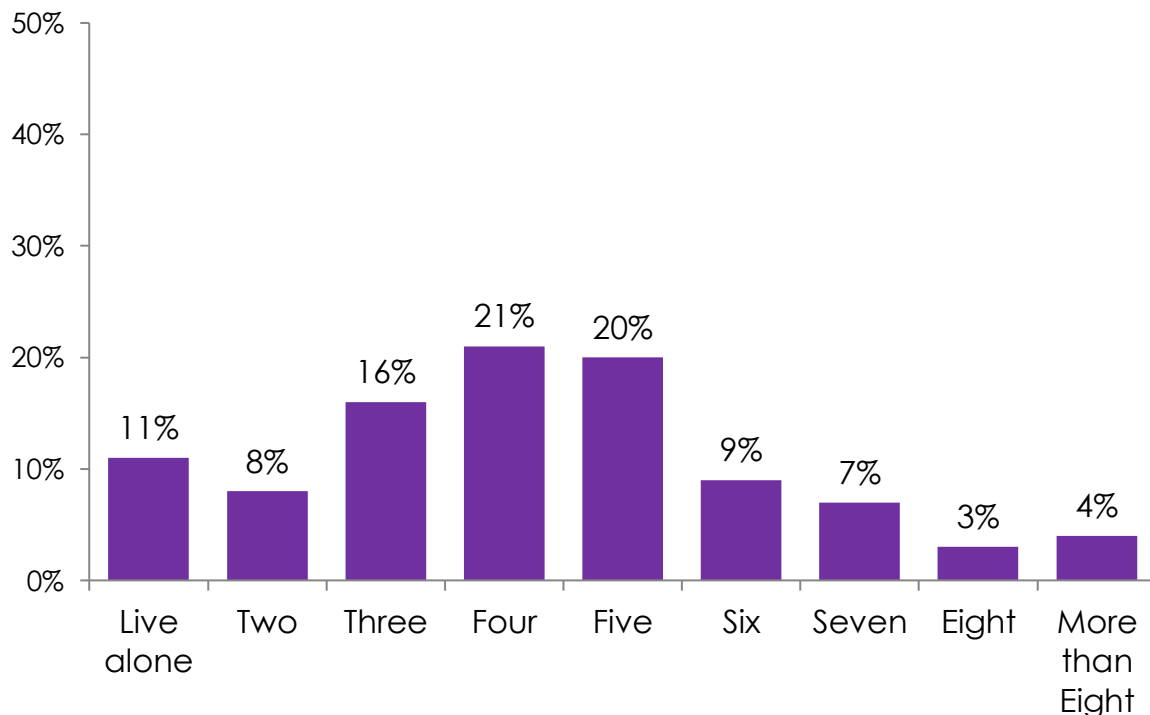
# Demographics: Marital Status and Household Size

59% of the respondents are married/living together. The average household size is 4 members.

### Marital Status



### Household Size

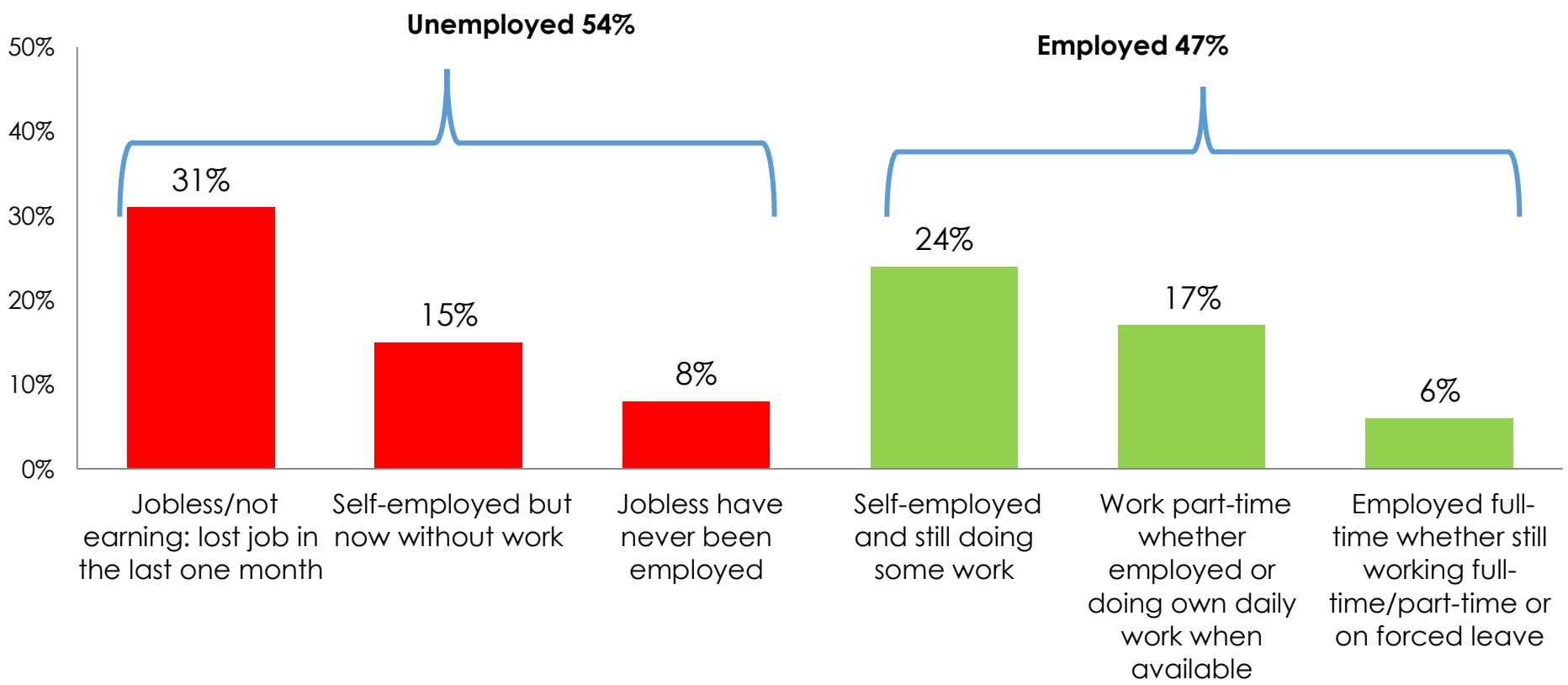




# Demographics: Employment Status

❑ A majority of the sample are unemployed with half of them having recently lost their source of livelihood.

## Current Employment Status



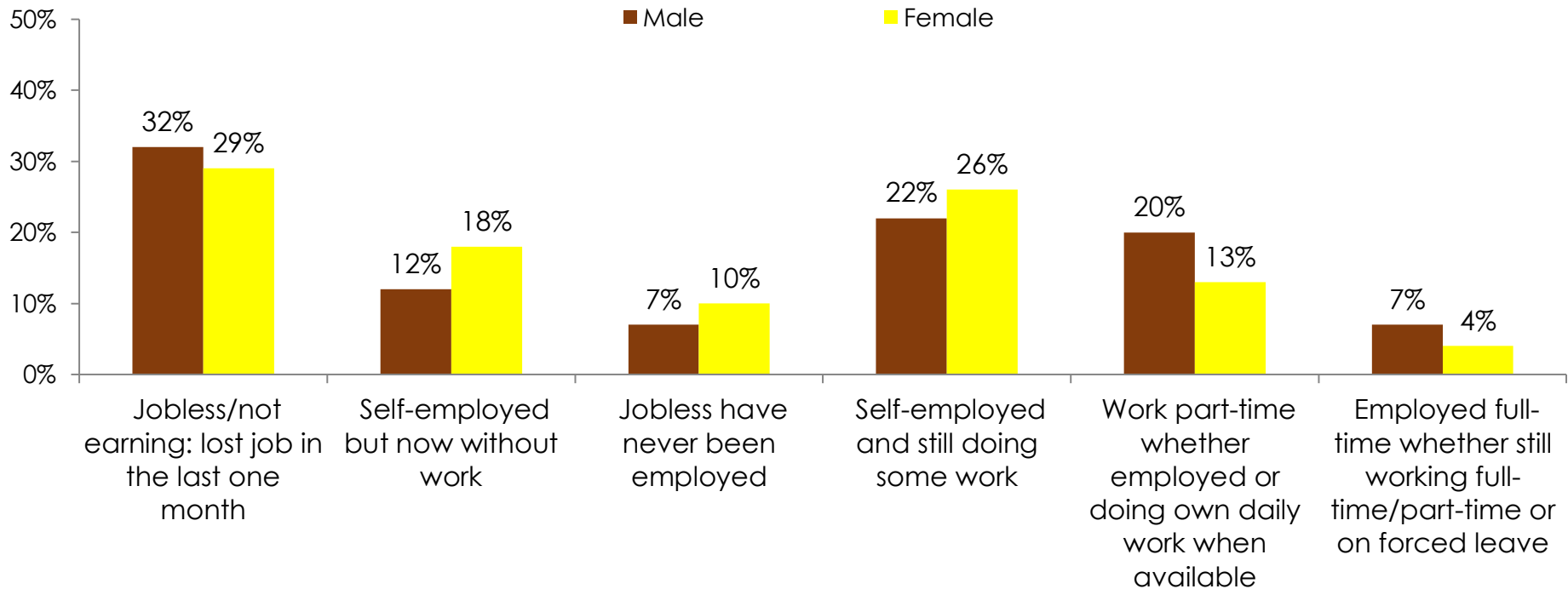
Base= 579 (all respondents)



# Demographics: Employment Status: by Gender

- There are moderate but significant disparities in employment status by gender, especially the fact that a higher proportion of women have never been employed. This includes part-time as well as full-time work.

### Current Employment Status : By Gender



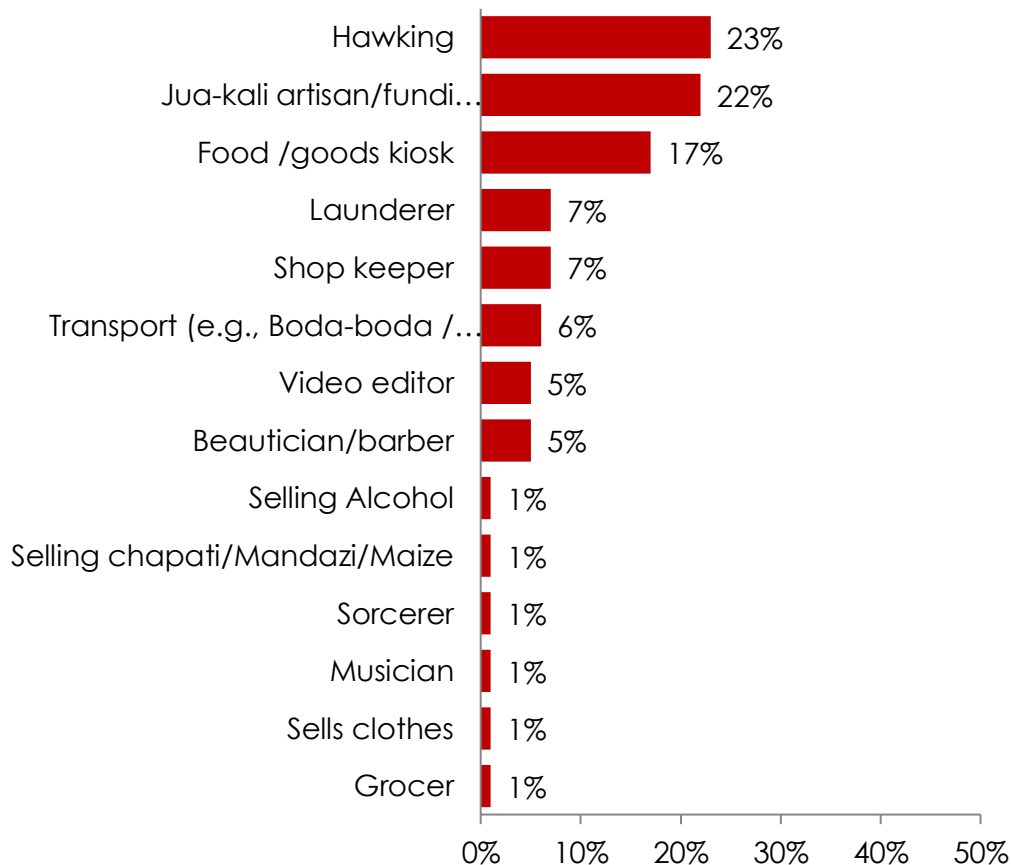
Base= Total = 579 ; Male = 306; Female = 273



# Demographics: Type of Self-Employment

- Amongst those who are self-employed, more are in the informal sector working as hawkers, jua-kali artisans and kiosk vendors.

## Work or Business Activity (Among the Self-Employed)



*Q: What kind of work or business did you most recently do/are currently doing?*

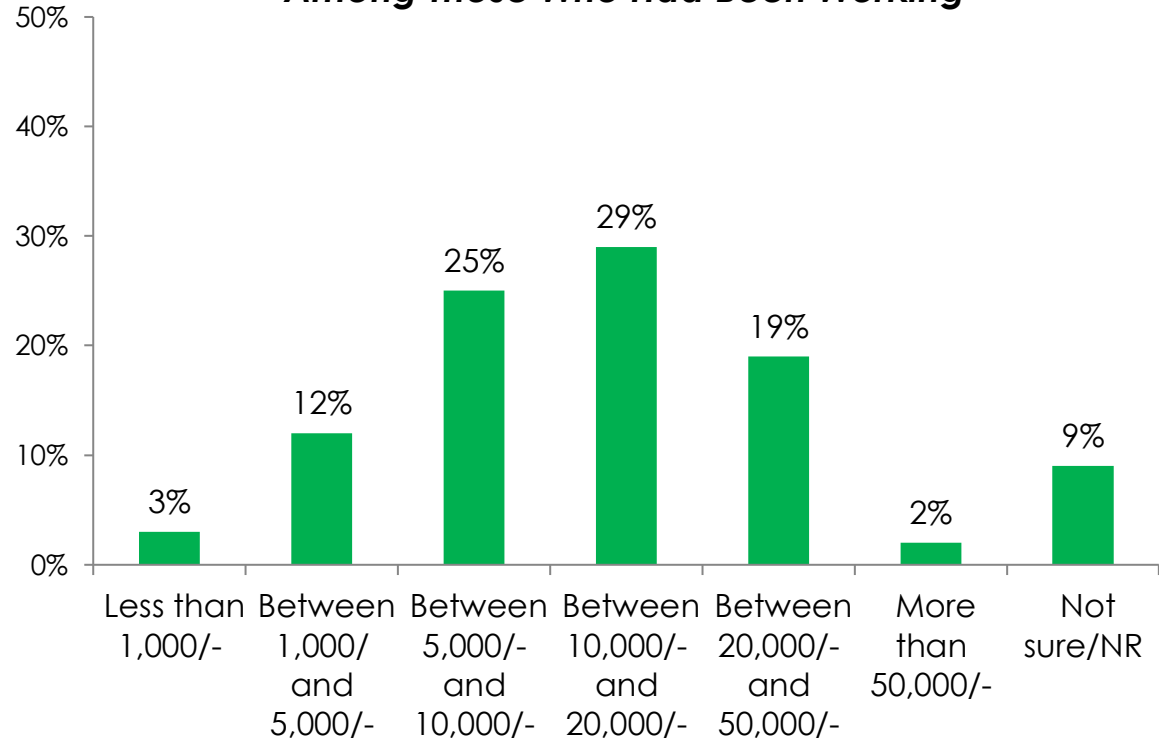
Base=137 (those who are self-employed)



# Sample Demographics: Pre-Virus Monthly Income Levels (among those who had been working then)

- ❑ Only about one-fifth of all respondents who had been working earned more than KES 20,000 per month before the restrictions to counter the virus were implemented.
- ❑ 40% of the sample earned less than the minimum wage as set by the Government of Kenya's Regulation of Wages Order (2019).

**Estimated Monthly Income Before the Virus Crisis:  
Among Those Who Had Been Working**



*Q: About how much money, if any, were you earning per month before this virus crisis began?*

*Base=507 (Those who are/were employed and self employed)*



**For Inquiries and Suggestions Contact:**

**Tom Wolf:**

**[tpwolf1944@gmail.com](mailto:tpwolf1944@gmail.com)**

**Maggie Ileri:**

**[maggie.ileri@tifaresearch.com](mailto:maggie.ileri@tifaresearch.com)**