

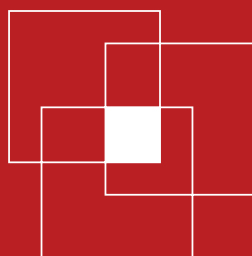


International
Labour
Organization



Kenya child labour baseline survey: Kitui district report

OCTOBER 2011



International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

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Abbreviations

CSPRO	Census and Survey Processing System
EAs	Enumeration Areas
ERS	Economic Recovery Strategy
ISIC	UN International Standard Industrial Classification
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNOCS	Kenya National Occupation Classification Standards
MTP	Medium Term Plan
MoS	Measure of Size
NAP	National Action Plan
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
PSUs	Primary Sampling Units
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TBP	Time Bound Programme
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

Acknowledgements

Child labour, especially in its worst forms remains a major concern for the Government of Kenya. However, statistics on the nature and extent of child labour at the district level remain scanty. The Kitui District Child Labour Baseline Survey was designed to address this data gap. The survey covered 1,369 households selected using a two – stage cluster probability sampling design.

The main objective of the baseline survey was to collect information to enable identification and analysis of the causes and consequences of children engaged in child labour in an effort to provide policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders with comprehensive information and a set of indicators on child labour to guide the development of interventions. The results indicated a high proportion of child labour in Kitui district. These children aged 5-17 years were mainly engaged in domestic chores as well as in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

I wish to acknowledge both the financial and technical support extended to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) by the International Labour Organization (ILO) through the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). I also commend the hard work of the KNBS staff especially James Gatungu, Njoroge Nyoike, David Muthami and Robert Nderitu, the IPEC staff, Wangui Irimu and Enos Omondi in successfully completing the survey, making results available and compiling this report .

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Executive summary

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) recognize the child's right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with his/her education, or to be harmful his/her health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

The 2010 Kitui District Child Labour Baseline Survey is a sample survey based on the 2009 Population and Housing Census Enumeration Areas (EAs) as the sample frame. This involved the determination of the population aged 5-17 years. A child labour preference rate of 0.5 was considered to achieve a maximum sample. A design effect of 2 as well as an error margin of 3 per cent was considered. This resulted in 55 clusters being created in Kitui District.

The interviewers first updated the list of all the households in the selected Enumeration Areas. Among the variables of observation considered were; number of household members, age and sex of household head, and the population aged 5-17 years. The outcome of this process provided the basis of sampling of households participating in the survey. The sampling of EAs was done independently within each stratum using the probability proportional to size (PPS) method with households being the measure of size. In the district sample, 25 households were randomly selected with equal probability in each enumeration area to give a large enough sample to generate reliable district estimates.

The survey was implemented by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) with support from ILO/IPEC. The highlights of the main findings from the survey are presented below.

The total population in Kitui district is 447,613 according to the 2009 Population and Housing Census. More than half of these are youths aged less than 15 years of age. Two thirds, 66.7 per cent, of the population in Kitui district was aged below 20 years. Age dependency ratio is estimated at 112. At 126, the male population has a dependency ratio that is 4.4 percentage points higher than that of females.

The Children's Act 2001 states that every child shall be entitled to education, the provision of which shall be the responsibility of the Government and parents. All persons aged five years and above were asked whether they had attended school the week prior to the survey period. Overall, 96.1 per cent of the survey population had attended school at one point in their lives. There was a slightly higher proportion of males (50.2 per cent) who had attended school than females (45.9 per cent). The proportions who had attended school by age followed the same trend for both sexes.

Overall, 79.5 per cent of the population had primary level as the highest educational attainment, while 5.0 per cent had attained secondary level of education. Only a marginal less than one per cent had university and postgraduate as their highest level of attainment.

Data on household distribution by source of drinking indicate the most common source of drinking water was river/stream at 39.8 per cent. Piped water was reported by 21.0 per cent of households as the main source of drinking water.

Survey results show that almost all households (86.3 per cent) in Kitui use wood fuel for cooking. As expected, kerosene is the most important lighting fuel accounting for 80.8 per cent of all households.

Overall, 64.9 per cent of the target population reported that they worked during the reference period. The proportion of working children is highest amongst the 15-17 year olds at 72.6 per cent followed closely by the proportion in the 10-14 year olds at 71.4 per cent. Slightly more than half of those in the 5-9 years age bracket (53.8 per cent) worked over the same period.

Majority of the working children attend primary school. For those children in primary school who reported having worked in the week before the survey, 20.7, 39.1, and 10.5 per cent were aged 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17 respectively. All the children who had dropped out of school were working, while about two-thirds (63.2 per cent) of those who reported to have completed school were working.

Most of the working children aged 5-17 years work as farm-hand and related labourers at 74.5 per cent. They were followed by those who worked as messengers, porters, watchmen and related workers at 10.3 per cent who were in turn followed closely by cleaners, laundries and domestic workers at 10.1 per cent. The other occupational groups took insignificant shares of working children in the district.

An analysis of the activities occupying working children shows that almost all of them are involved in activities within two industries, namely agriculture/ forestry and fishing, at 74.8 percent.

Overall, 55.4 per cent of the children said they during the day between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. 20.6 per cent said they worked after school. Other said they worked over the weekend (10.0 per cent) while 9.9 per cent they sometimes worked during the day and sometimes in the evening.

In total, 47.4 per cent of the children worked to learn basic skills. A further 25.9 per cent of the working children said they to help in household enterprises, while 10.8 per cent said they worked so as to get additional income. Majority (47.0 per cent) of those who said they worked to learn skills were in the 10-14 years age group.

Out 220,266 children aged 5-17 years, 144,708 said they worked in the week before the survey. Out of this, 102,900 fall in the category of child labourers. This means that in total, 55.1 per cent of children in the district are involved in child labour.

Majority of the children who work in the district are farm-hand and related labourers at 78.7 percent followed by those who work as messengers, porters and related workers and cleaners, launders and domestic workers at 10.8 and 8.1 per cent respectively.

More than three quarters of the children involved in child labour worked in the economic activity of agriculture/ forestry and fishing. The category of activities of households - producing for own use is the second most important with 19.8 per cent of child labourers in Kitui District.

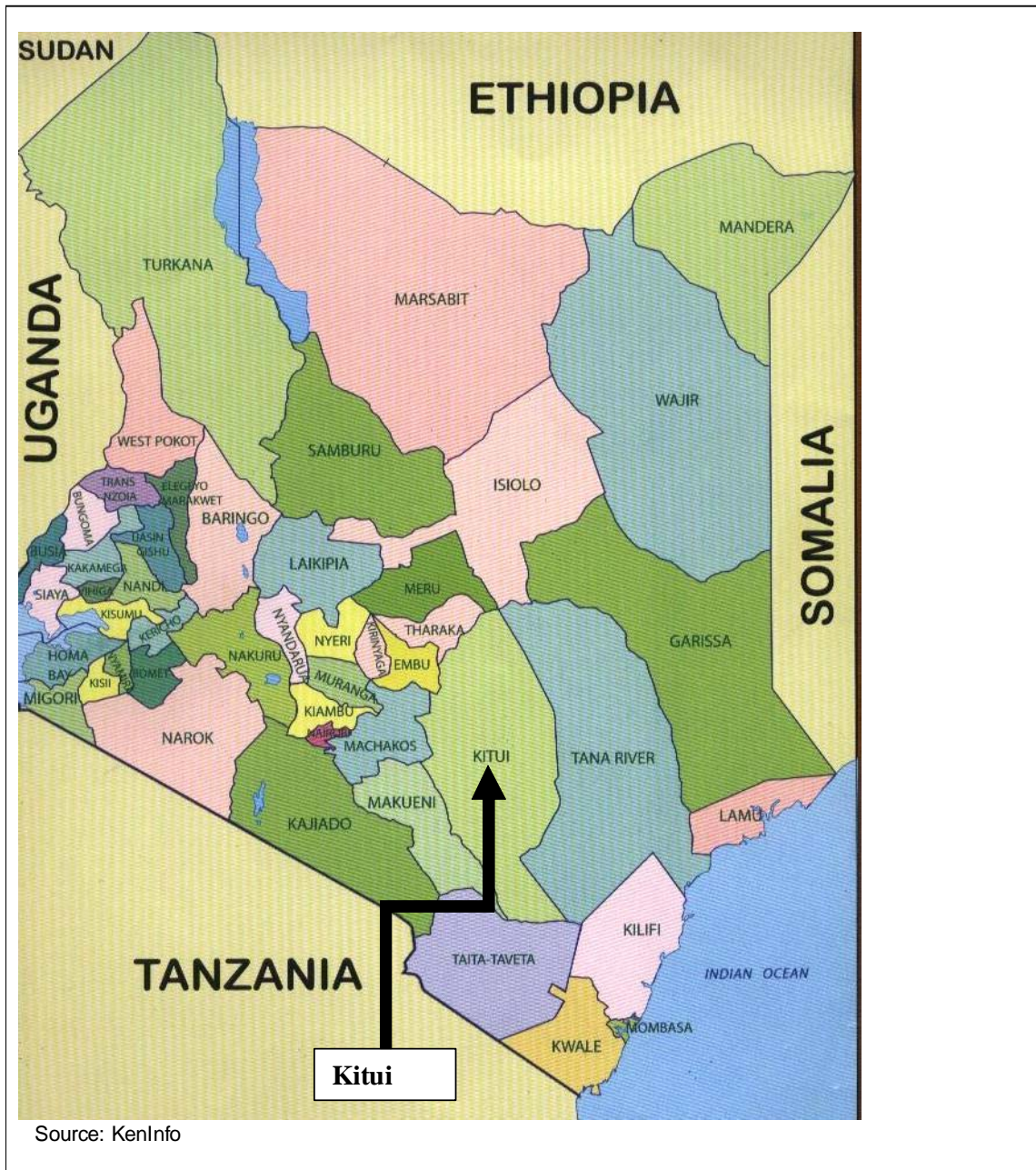
1. Introduction

1.1 Country profile: Geography and economy

Kenya is a developing country situated in the eastern part of Africa lying astride the Equator. The total area of 582,646 square kilometres comprise 571,466 square kilometres of land and the rest, various bodies of water, including the territorial allocation of Lake Victoria and the Indian ocean. Administratively, Kenya is divided into eight provinces and at the time of the 2009 Population and Housing Census, the information was collected on the basis of the 158 districts gazetted by December 2008. There are 42 ethnic groups distributed throughout the country. English and Kiswahili are the official languages while Kiswahili is the national language. Christianity and Islam are the main religions practiced in the country.

The country has experienced a high increase in population. The first national census was undertaken in 1948 when a total of 5.5 million people were enumerated. The 2009 Population and Housing census enumerated a total of 38.6 million persons. The rapid high population growth rate, which was recorded at 3.0 per cent between 1999 and 2009 has been caused by high fertility and declining mortality. This has resulted in a youthful population with about half of the population being aged 17 years or younger. The results of the 2009 Population and Housing Census show that the total population of children aged 5-17 years had increased by 17 per cent from 1999 and had reached 13.2 million (approximately 34.2 per cent of national population).

Figure 1: Map of Kenya



Kenya has experienced variable development trends development in the past decade. Between 1997 and 2003, the economic performance was dismal, with an average growth rate of 1.8 per cent against a 2.8 per cent population growth rate. In 2003, the Government started implementing the Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS), aimed at stabilizing the economy and promoting growth, strengthening institutions of good governance and the rule of law, rehabilitating and expanding infrastructure, and improving human capital especially among the poor. These efforts led to an increase in growth rates in the economy from 2.9 per cent in 2003

to 7.0 per cent in 2007. Following the post election violence following the 2007 elections, the growth rate decelerated to 1.6 per cent in 2008. This later improved to a growth of 2.6 per cent in 2009.

With Vision 2030 especially its long-term development blueprint which focuses on development of the labour sector, Kenya intends to create an internationally viable and adaptive human resource base. This is necessary to meet the requirements of a rapidly industrializing economy which could be achieved through life-long training and education. This policy initiative has an elaborate social agenda that aims to reduce illiteracy by increasing access to education, improving transition rate from primary to secondary schools, and raising the quality and relevance of education. These initiatives will have a knockoff effect on child labour in the country. The Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan (MTP 2008 to 2012) has addressed child labour issues extensively.

1.2 District profile

Kitui District is in the lower part of Eastern Province. It borders Yatta and Makueni Districts to the west, Mwingi to the North, Tana River to the east and Kitui South District to the south. The district covers an area of approximately 7,436 square kilometres. During the 2009 Population and Housing Census, the district recorded a total population of 447,613 persons with a sex ratio of 92 males for every one hundred females. Further, the district has an estimated population growth rate of 2.7 per cent per annum.

The District experiences arid and semi arid climatic conditions with erratic and unreliable rainfall in the range of 500-1050 mm annually. As per the District Development Plan of 2008-2012, 55 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line. Only about one third of the district population have access to clean drinking water, a situation that can be attributed to recurring drought and limited investment in the use of alternative sources of water like roof catchments.

HIV/Aids is a major challenge to development in the district. The District Development Plan 2008-2012 indicates that the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 4.8 per cent with about 19,496 people contracting the virus annually. Research findings indicate that HIV/Aids infection rates are higher in areas with high poverty levels as a result of rampant negative behaviour patterns influenced by poor socio-economic status. This is a major cause of child labour in the district due to the emergence of child-headed families or children staying with aging grandparents who cannot adequately fend for them.

Since the introduction of free primary and subsidized secondary education, Kitui District has experienced high enrolment rates in both primary and secondary schools. However, the drop-out rate is still high at 7 per cent in primary and 3 per cent in secondary school. These high drop-out rates can be attributed to the high levels of poverty, child neglect and socio-cultural factors that have a bias against education especially that of girls.

Poor climatic conditions, illiteracy, food insecurity, children with no parents, poverty and other socio-cultural related factors have made child labour one of the most serious socio-economic problems in Kitui District.

The District is inhabited by the Kamba community which culturally prefers to educate the boy child rather than the girl child especially in secondary school. Culturally, accrued benefits attributed to girl child education are less valued than those accruing from the education of boys who are perceived as family heirs. Less emphasis on girls' education has led to high drop-out rates among them which in turn has led to early marriages and child labour. A big challenge in Kitui is that child labour is not clearly visible among the community members because working children are perceived as a necessity to economic contribution to the family livelihood.

As a result of the high school drop-out rates, a big number of girls who are supposed to be in school relocate to urban areas in search of employment. In most cases, they end up as domestic workers which is the most readily available job opportunity given the girls' tender age and lack of skills.

Boys are not spared either. Increasingly, high incidences of boys engaging in child labour have been witnessed especially among boys aged between 12 to 17 years who are employed in the agricultural sector and in other informal sectors activities like the 'matatu' transport business, hawking, sand harvesting, farming, tending cattle, scrap metal collection and charcoal selling. In addition, District Development Office reports show that more children are engaging in child labour because they are perceived as an alternative source of cheap labour in the rapidly growing Kitui town and other commercial centres.

1.3 Overview of child labour

Child labour entails both private and social costs. Children involved in child labour may neglect school or experience problems in learning. This results in lower educational levels which, reported on a national scale, has negative consequences for human capital development and hence for economic growth. The issue of child labour therefore needs to be addressed.

The most apparent characteristic of child labour is the variety of forms in which it can be found. Different forms of child labour in different contexts may have different determinants and they all need to be considered when addressing it. The government works in collaboration with stakeholders, notably the ILO, to monitor and reduce child labour in Kenya by focusing on and reducing factors that lead to child labour.

The term "child labour" is often defined as work that:

- deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity,
- is harmful to their physical and mental development,
- is socially or morally dangerous to children and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to go to school making them leave school

prematurely or requiring them to try to combine school with excessively tedious work over long hours.

In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) recognizes the child’s right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with his/her education, or to be harmful to his/her health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

1.4 Statistical analysis of child labour in Kenya

The Global Report on Child Labour (2003) shows that the number of child labourers declined from 222 million to 215 million from 2004 to 2008. In 2006, the International Labour Organization (ILO) set a global target of eliminating child labour in its worst forms by the year 2016.

Child labour, especially in its worst forms, remains a major concern for the Government of Kenya. The Child Labour Analytical Report released by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in June 2008, with support from ILO/IPEC, indicates that as many as 1 million Kenyan children aged 5-17 or 7.9 percent of the total children in that age bracket, are still working and remain deprived of quality education, good health and other basic needs. However, while the total number of children in child labour remains high, there are encouraging signs that the overall incidence and absolute numbers are declining (KNBS, 2008).

Free primary education and Government efforts to reduce poverty as well as the implementation of ILO-IPEC programmes in Kenya have contributed to the creation of awareness on child labour, supported Government efforts to create an enabling legal and policy environment that has pushed the child labour agenda to the national level and facilitated partnerships as well as the direct support to the children and families affected or at risk of child labour. These demonstrate that the fight against child labour is bearing fruit in the country.

In 2001, the Government of Kenya ratified ILO convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and subsequently developed a National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Kenya. This Plan sets out time-bound measures to address child labour. The Government of Kenya also sought technical assistance from ILO-IPEC to implement the Time-Bound Programme (TBP). A programme of support to the National Plan of Action (NPA) was developed and implemented from January 2005 to April 2009.

Building on IPEC experiences in Kenya (Country, ComAgri, Education and Training and Capacity Building Programmes), the TBP project scaled up on previous activities to implement time-bound effective measures to prevent the engagement of children in the WFCL, provide the necessary assistance for the removal, rehabilitation and social integration of children released from hazardous work, the identification of children at special risk taking into account the special situation of girls and assurance of access to free basic education and wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training for all children rescued from WFCL.

Kenya's National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour was revised in 2008 and the Government's strong commitment to the elimination of child labour is evident from the attention accorded to socio-economic issues surrounding child labour including the development of comprehensive policies and a legislative framework to address it. Under Vision 2030, Kenya's national development framework, the Government has committed itself to the implementation of a far-reaching programme tackling the socio-economic challenges facing its citizens, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable. This includes significant efforts to ensure quality education for all children with some support from the Fast-Track Initiative (FTI), the alignment of national policies and legislation to international conventions relevant to the elimination and prevention of child labour, and continued efforts to update and implement the National Action Plan.

A review of available information on child labour in general reveals that there are some gaps in regard to the existence and extent of child labour in the sectors identified for support by IPEC/ SNAP. Area (district) specific data is also not readily available. This means that it would be difficult to realistically plan for interventions in this area or to set realistic targets and indicators for the project. Monitoring and evaluation will also be hampered in the absence of the baseline information, thereby compounding assessment of the overall impact of projects carried out in the country.

1.5 Objectives of the survey

The main objective of the baseline survey in Kitui District was to collect information to enable identification and analysis of the causes and consequences of children engaged in child labour in an effort to provide policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders with comprehensive information and a set of indicators on child labour to guide the development of interventions. More specifically, the objectives of the baseline survey were:

- a)** Collecting detailed information on the main characteristics of working children and their households;
- b)** Collecting information from the household on those children who are trafficked or at risk of being trafficked, and the main reasons for the malpractice;
- c)** Obtaining through Participatory Appraisal Techniques¹ information on the various forms of child labour prevailing in the district, particularly on Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) and the underlying forces leading to the persistence of child labour;

¹ Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Techniques (KII).

-
- d) Providing policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders with comprehensive information and a set of indicators on child labour to guide the development of interventions;
 - e) Collecting data that will give information to enable identification and analysis of the causes and consequences of children engaged in child labour;
 - f) Assessing the level of social services available in the district including those provided by the Government in order to determine alternative livelihoods and support to target children in the district;
 - g) Identifying some of the possible partners and stakeholders that the programme could work with in these areas and detailing selection criteria;
 - h) Identifying children/families who had received previous IPEC support and establish their current status and the contribution of the support they received;
 - i) Establishing a baseline picture on indicators to be monitored through the project.

1.6 Structure of the Report

The Child Labour Baseline Survey Report is presented in seven chapters structured as follows: Chapter 2 describes the concepts used in the survey and the report as well as a definition of terms applied herein. Chapter 3 gives details on the scope and coverage of the survey in terms of the geographical area, sample size and principles of sample selection, and distribution. Limitations of the survey are also presented in this chapter. Survey findings on the main characteristics of the survey population, prevalence of children's economic activities by various background characteristics and school attendance are presented in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 gives a detailed analysis of characteristics of working children while Chapter 6 presents findings on child labour and hazardous work by children. Finally, Chapter 7 presents the conclusions and recommendations arising out of the Child Labour Baseline Survey.

2. Concepts and definitions

2.1 Introduction

To reduce interviewers' bias, unfamiliar terms and concepts were defined in the enumerator's reference manual and also during training.

Bellow are the main concepts used during data collection and during the analysis of survey results.

2.2 Concepts and definitions

2.2.1 Household

This was the unit of enumeration used in the survey and was defined as a person or a group of persons residing in the same compound, answerable to the same head and pooling and sharing resources for common provisions such as food and house rent.

2.2.2 Head of household

This was defined as the key decision-maker whose authority is acknowledged by other members of the household. Because the survey considered *de jure* household members, the head was to be a usual resident in the compound who made day-to-day decisions for the household.

2.2.3 Labour force framework

The total population was categorized into currently economically active population (labour force) and the economically inactive population. The former was defined as consisting of persons who were either working or holding a job in an economic activity during the past one week plus those who were not working, but were actively looking for work during the reference period. The inactive population covered persons who were not in the labour force, and included persons less than five years of age, the infirm/incapacitated and full-time students. The conventional working age limits were relaxed for this survey to include all persons aged 5 years and above. The age limit was lowered in order to capture the intensity and extent of child labour.

2.2.4 Economically active persons

Economically active persons covered members of the population who were either on leave or off from a job, at work, or looked for work during the survey's reference period. Economic activities related to market production and certain types of non-market production such as production of primary goods for own consumption, the processing of primary

commodities for own consumption by the producers of these items and the production of fixed assets for own use among others.

2.2.5 Reference period

This referred to the time to which the collected data relates. Two reference periods were used in his survey, past week (the week prior to the interviewing week), and the past twelve months.

2.2.6 Work

This concept covered economic activities either for pay, profit or family gain during the reference period.

2.2.7 Employment

This term referred to performance of work as defined in 2.2.6 and was used to measure the number of persons employed, including persons at work during a short reference period, and also persons temporarily absent from work but holding a job.

2.2.8 Household tasks

Household tasks refer to unpaid services carried out by and for household members in own households such as preparing and serving meals; mending, washing and ironing clothes, shopping, caring for siblings, the sick and disabled household members, cleaning and maintaining the household dwelling, repairing household durables and transporting household members and their goods. These are all classified as non-economic activities and also referred to as “household chores”.

2.2.9 Status in employment

This referred to status of an economically active person with respect to his/her employment during a specific time - reference period. It includes:

Paid employees: persons who worked for a public or private employer and received remuneration in the form of wages, salary, commission, tips, and piece-rates or pay in kind.

Working employers: persons who operated their own businesses, agricultural farms or engaged in pastoralist activities and hired one or more employees.

Own account workers: persons who operated their own businesses, agricultural farms, or engaged in pastoralist activities and hired no employees.

Unpaid family workers: persons who worked without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person.

Apprentice: Particular type of trainees who may have been directly engaged in producing goods and services or may have simply been learning by observation without actually performing any meaningful productive tasks.

2.2.10 Occupation

“Occupation” referred to the job held or work performed during the reference period (or kind of work done previously if unemployed). Persons with two or more jobs were asked to report for the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference period. The 3-digit occupational codes and descriptions used during data collection and analysis were based on the Kenya National Occupation Classification Standards (KNOCS).

2.2.11 Industry/Economic activity

This referred to the economic activity of the establishment or work site in which an employed person worked during the survey reference period, or last worked if unemployed. This activity was defined in terms of the kinds of goods produced, or services offered. The 3-digit industrial codes and their descriptions used during data collection and analysis were based on the UN International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC-1990) of all economic activities.

2.2.12 Economic sector

For the purposes of classifying employment data into exhaustive categories, the Kenyan economy was split into three sectors: namely, the modern sector, the informal sector, and the small-scale agriculture and pastoralist sector. These sectors were defined as follows:

Modern sector: Included all establishments operating organized business. It consisted of the entire public sector, private enterprises and institutions that are formal in terms of registration, taxation and official recording.

Informal sector: Referred to as “Jua Kali”, the informal sector was defined to cover all small-scale activities that are normally semi-organised, unregulated and use simple technology. The sector excluded agricultural farm activities.

Small scale agricultural and pastoralist activities: These were defined as unregistered small-holder farming and livestock-keeping activities mainly located in the rural areas.

2.2.13 Hours of work

These were categorized into usual/normal hours of work and actual hours of work. **Usual/normal hours of work** referred to hours of work fixed by or in pursuance of laws or regulations, collective agreements or arbitral awards, excess of which is paid for as overtime.

Actual hours worked referred to the actual number of hours worked during the reference period.

2.2.14 Wages and salaries

These included gross wages and salaries relating to a given period including remuneration for time worked including overtime, piecework, bonus, etc.

2.2.15 Household income

Household income consisted of all receipts that accrued to the household or its individual members. Information on income was sought from three sources:

Income from paid employment consisted of wages and salaries and other benefits and allowances given by the employer.

Income from own business was taken as income from self-employment, and referred to sale of farm produce in the previous month and income from other non-farm businesses also in the previous month.

Income from other sources was taken to represent income that was not from paid employment or own farms and businesses, and included child alimony and insurance claims.

2.2.16 Tenure

The tenure investigated in this survey was that of land on which owner-occupier dwelling units are built. Households who owned both the structures they occupied and the land or plot on which the structures are built may own the land on either freehold or leasehold tenure. Freehold land is a parcel of land held in perpetuity through absolute title, where there is no time limit in ownership and no restrictions on the transfer. On the other hand, leasehold land is a parcel of land held for a fixed term (normally ranging from 30 to 99 years) given by either a local authority or the Commissioner of Lands. There are other owner-occupiers of dwelling units who only own the structures they occupy, but do not own the land or plots on which the structures are built. Such persons are settled on either trust land (land held in trust on behalf of local communities by Local Government) or land owned by either individuals or institutions/Government under different tenure systems.

2.2.17 Child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Conventions 138 and 182 on the minimum age of admission to work and worst forms of child labour (WFCL) designate individuals under 18 years of age as children. This is also true for the Children Act, 2001 and the Employment Act 2007 in Kenya. Since it is rather uncommon for children younger than 5 years of age to work or start schooling, the survey focused on interviews with children aged 5 to 17 years old.

2.2.18 Child labour

Child labour is defined on the basis of ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and national legislation in Kenya. The term reflects the engagement of children in work that is prohibited, or, more generally, in work that is socially and morally undesirable. Not all working children are considered to be in child labour.

“Child labour” includes the worst forms of child labour and employment of children below the minimum age and excludes children in permissible light work, if applicable. In other words, child labour as per the above definition would imply:

- a) Children aged 5-12 years: All children engaged in some form of economic activity or non-economic activity within a household involving working long hours, using dangerous machinery etc.
- b) Children aged 13-15 years: All children engaged in some form of economic activity excluding those who work 14 hours or less per week in non-hazardous activities.
- c) Children aged 16-17 years: All children engaged in some form of economic activity excluding those who work 42 hours or less per week in non-hazardous activities.

On the basis of the System of National Accounts (SNA) production boundary, the survey defines child labour as all persons aged 5-17 years who, during a specified time period, were engaged in worst forms of child labour or did not meet the light work exemption.

2.2.19 Worst Forms of Child Labour

The Worst Forms of Child Labour described in Article 3 of the ILO Convention No. 182 comprise:

- i) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, as well as forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- ii) the use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- iii) the use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs, as defined in relevant international treaties; and
- iv) work which, by either its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Activities covered under clauses (i) to (iii) are referred to as “worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work” (also often termed as “unconditional worst forms of child labour”), whereas activities covered under clause (iv) are referred to as “hazardous work”.

The concept of child labour was not directly used in the survey, but is used in this report through a filtering process which identifies the number of children engaged in child labour in general and worst forms of child labour in particular from working children by use of selected indicators.

2.2.20 Light work exemption

This applies to work performed by children aged 13-15 years engaged in economic activities and who are under the minimum age specified for work, but in cases where, in accordance with Article 7 of ILO Convention No. 138, national legislation permits children in certain age groups to engage in ‘light work’, such work should be excluded from the definition of child labour.

2.2.21 Working children (children in employment)

Working children were defined as persons aged 5 to 17 years old who performed some non-schooling activities during the reference period either for pay, profit or family gain. Child labour is a sub-set of working children.

2.2.22 Gross attendance ratio

The gross attendance ratio is the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, as a percentage of the population in the relevant age group for that level.

2.2.23 Primary school completion rate

The primary school completion rate refers to the number of students completing the highest class in primary school as a percentage of students entering the first class of the same education level.

2.2.24 Sex ratio

This is the ratio of males to females.

3. Survey techniques and methodology

3.1 Introduction

The 2010 Child Labour Baseline Survey Kitui District was designed to provide estimates on the nature, extent, and causes of child labour in general and the Worst Forms of Child Labour in particular and the conditions of work and how it affects the overall development (health, physical, moral, mental) of the working children in the district.

3.2 Sample design

A two-stage cluster probability sampling design was adopted for the survey. The first stage involved selection of Enumeration Areas (EAs) from the sampling frame and the second stage involved selection of the housing units. The unit of study for the survey was the housing unit defined as the dwelling unit (or units) occupied by one household.

3.3 Scope

The baseline survey was designed to provide estimates on the extent of child labour in the three districts. To ensure that the concept of child labour was well understood, ILO IPEC organized a teleconference with experts from ILO where the questionnaire and the child labour conceptual framework were reviewed.

3.4 Sample frame

The districts covered in the survey were based on 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census districts.

A sampling frame for the study was based on EAs created for 2009 Population and Housing Census. The frame was created at the demarcation of areas conducted between 2006 and 2007 during cartographic mapping prior to the census enumeration. During mapping, estates or villages were split into EAs, each having an average of 100 households with minimum of 50 and maximum of 149 households. Therefore, the frame had Enumeration Areas (EAs) as the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) each Measure of Size (MoS) averaging 100 households.

3.5 Listing process

The interviewers first updated the list of all the households in the selected Enumeration Areas. Among the variables of observation considered in this exercise were: Number of household members, age and sex of household head and, population aged 5-17 years. The outcome of this process provided for the basis of sampling of households participating in this survey.

3.6 Sample size and allocation

In the sample design, information from the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census was utilized to arrive at the sample size. This involved the determination of the population aged 5-17 years. A child labour preference rate of 0.5 was considered to achieve a maximum sample. A design effect of two was considered. Further, to determine an appropriate sample, an error margin of 3 % was considered. This resulted 55 being created in Kitui District.

Table 3.1: Kitui District sample selection (based on 2009 Census Data)

Age		Kitui
TOTAL		447,613
5-9		67,621
10-14		65,174
15		12,617
16		11,087
17		11,968
5-17		168,467
% 5-17		38
Households		94,780
Popper Household		4.7
5-17 population per household		1.8
Sample Size Calculations		4,739
Error: 5%	Households	493
	Persons	876
	Clusters	20
Error: 3%	Households	1,369
	Persons	2,433
	Clusters	55

3.7 Sampling of EAs and households

The sampling of EAs was done independently within each stratum using the probability proportional to size (PPS) method with households being the measure of size. In each district sample, 25 households were randomly selected with equal probability in each EA to give large enough samples to generate reliable district estimates.

The selection of households to be interviewed was done in the field during data collection. Households were first counted to estimate the number of households in the EAs. The sampling interval was then calculated by dividing the total number of households by 25. The

first household to be interviewed was identified by multiplying the random number by the sampling interval. Thereafter, the successive households were selected by adding the sampling interval to the preceding number of the selected household until the five households were identified. A clockwise directional movement was adopted to quickly count and identify the targeted households.

This process was necessary in the development of the survey's sampling frame.

3.8 Training

Data collection personnel were trained by a team led by four trainers who were involved in the technical design of the survey. The three-day training was held at Kilifi District from 3rd January and was attended by a child labour expert to support the team. It covered the contents of the questionnaire as well as survey concepts, logistics and other related issues.

3.9 Development of survey instruments

KNBS in collaboration with ILO/IPEC and with assistance of a child labour expert prepared the survey instruments which were reviewed at the teleconference with experts.

3.10 Fieldwork

The fieldwork commenced on 30th November 2010 and took approximately two weeks. The data collection teams consisted of the coordinators, supervisors and research assistants.

3.11 Data processing

After data was collected, all the questionnaires were sent to the KNBS headquarters for processing. The questionnaire were then sorted and edited ready for data capture.

The data entry was done using the Census and Survey Processing System (CSpro) version 4.0 software. The data entry screen was created with checks to ensure accurate data entry. A total of ten data entry personnel and support staff were engaged for the exercise.

The captured data was exported to the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for cleaning and analysis. The cleaned data was then weighted using application of inflation factors derived from the selection probabilities of the EAs and households. The results in this report are therefore based on the weighted data.

3.12 Limitations of the study

An ideal sampling frame for any survey is an up-to-date complete list of all households in the targeted areas (districts). However, a complete list of all households was not available and constructing one would have involved enormous resources.

In addition, the baseline survey was a household-based survey and it was therefore difficult to capture children who away working in places/environments that were difficult to access.

Thirdly, the survey did not capture street families and those engaged in trades considered morally repulsive and illegal such as commercial sex work.

To make up for the above, key informants were interviewed and focused group discussions were held in the relevant areas.

It should also be noted that the sampling design was not based on rural-urban strata but rather on the whole district. Therefore, a rural urban comparison should be done with caution.

4. Characteristics of survey population

4.1 Introduction

This chapter details findings of the survey population by the various demographic, socio-economic and area of residence. It narrows down to the activities of children aged 5-17 years and looks specifically at their household background characteristics, sex, age-group, area of residence, schooling status and other demographic attributes.

4.2 Population age structure

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1b give the population distribution by age while Figure 4.1a gives a population pyramid highlighting the age-sex population distribution for Kitui District. This population structure comprises 48.5 per cent males i.e. 94 males for every 100 females. As seen in the figures, the proportion of young people is much higher than that of older people, with half the population being less than 15 years of age. More than 60 per cent of the inhabitants are aged below 20 years. This structure is consistent with the national population structure.

Table 4.1: Distribution of population by age and sex

	Male	Female	%	Number
Less than 5 years	52.5	47.5	13.4	69,189
5 – 9	50.5	49.5	17.1	88,480
10 – 14	52.1	47.9	19.1	98,793
15 – 19	55.8	44.2	12.3	63,542
20 – 24	49.7	50.3	6.0	30,812
25 – 29	33.2	66.8	5.3	27,264
30 – 34	35.7	64.3	4.9	25,177
35 – 39	32.6	67.4	5.7	29,693
40 – 44	49.1	50.9	4.1	20,971
45 – 49	50.1	49.9	3.4	17,523
50 – 54	50.8	49.2	2.2	11,283
55 – 59	46.0	54.0	1.9	9,818
60 – 64	40.1	59.9	1.6	8,305
65 and Above	44.8	55.2	3.2	16,614
Total	48.5	51.5	100.0	517,463
5 – 17	52.1	47.9	44.8	231,660

Figure 4.1a: Population pyramid

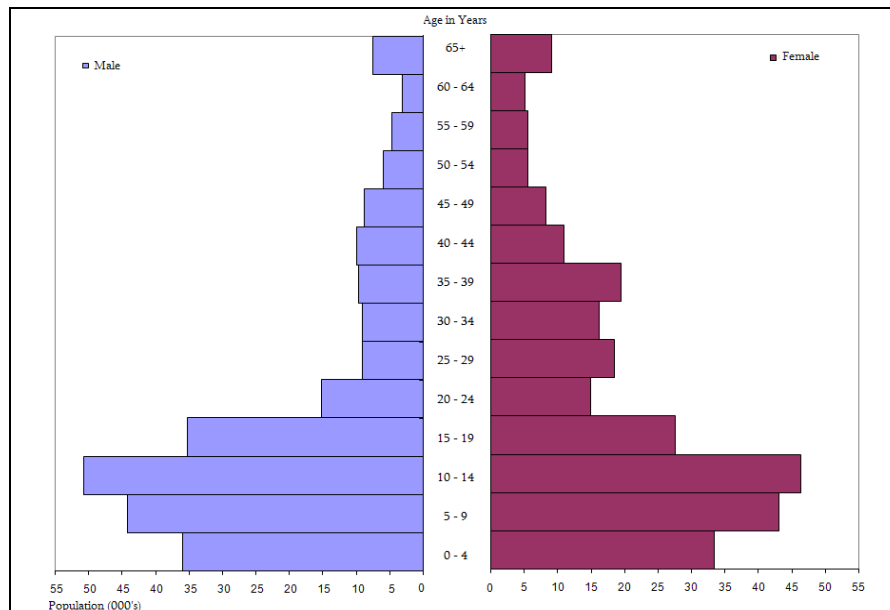
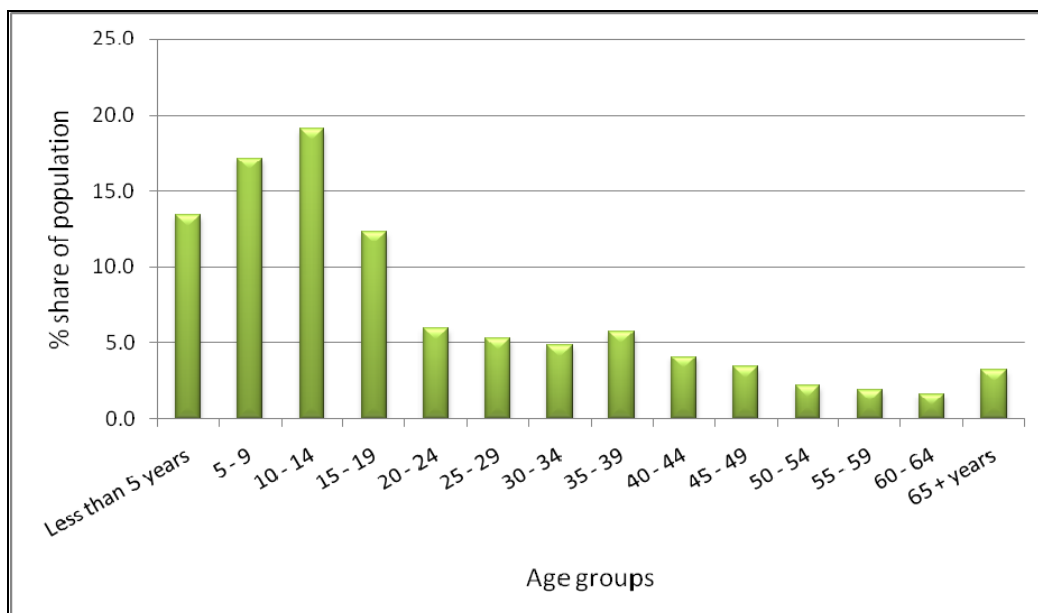


Figure 4.1b: Distribution of population by age



4.3 Age dependency ratio

Table 4.2 gives the population distribution data from which age dependency ratios can be computed. Age dependency ratio is defined as the ratio of the population outside the working age i.e., the sum of those below 15 years and those above 65 years, to the working age population (ages 15 to 64 years).

It is assumed that some people in society are either too young or too old to work and therefore have to depend on the working age population for their basic needs. Given the high proportion of young people who outside the working age, Kitui District has a high age dependency ratio estimated at 112 dependants for every 100 people in the working age group. At 126, the male population has a dependency ratio that is notably higher than that of females, which is estimated at 100.

Table 4.2: Population distribution by age and sex

	Male	Female	Total	
			%	Number
0 – 14	132,506	123,955	49.6	256,461
15 – 64	111,134	133,253	47.2	244,387
65 – 97	7,440	9,174	3.2	16,614
Total	48.5	51.5	100	517,463

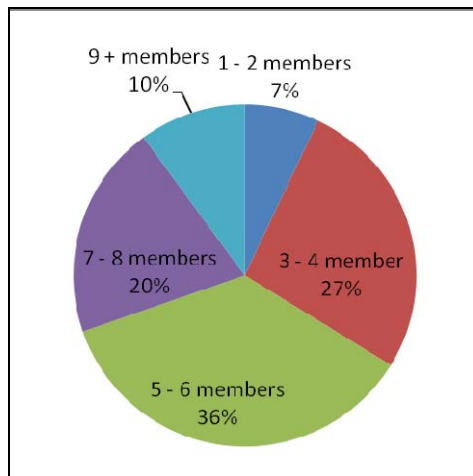
4.4 Households by size, sex of the household head

Table 4.3 and Figure 4.3 present Kitui household distribution by household size and sex of household head. According to this survey, this district has a mean household size of 5.4 persons per household. This mean household size is notably higher than the national average which was estimated at 4.4 persons from the 2009 Population Census results. On average, male headed households have slightly larger households than female headed households, with 72.5 and 56.9 per cent, respectively, having five or more members. Similarly, rural and urban areas have 69.3 and 59.9 per cent of households, respectively, having five or more members.

Table 4.3: Distribution of households by size and sex of the household head

	Female headed	Male headed	Total	
			%	Number
1-2 members	9.2	5.5	7.0	6,546
3-4 member	34.0	21.9	26.8	25,020
5-6 members	36.0	35.8	35.9	33,470
7-8 members	15.0	23.9	20.3	18,954
9 + members	5.9	12.9	10.0	9,361
Total	40.5	59.5	100.0	93,351

Figure 4.2: Distribution of households by household size



4.5 Marital status of Population aged 12 years and above

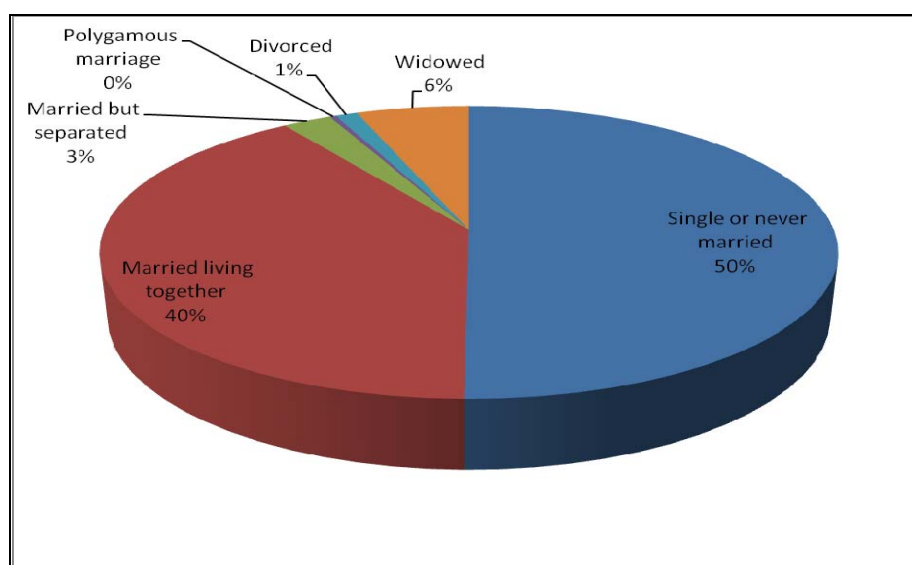
At the time of the survey, marriage of those aged below 18 years in the district was found to be minimal at less than one per cent. More than half of those between 18 and 34 years said they had never married, with this figure declining to 4.5 per cent for those aged 35 years and above.

The response categories were single, married, separated, polygamous married, divorced or widowed. Table 4.4 and Figure 4.4 give details of marital status.

Table 4.4: Marital status of people aged 12 years and above

	12-17	18-34	35 and Over	Total	
				%	Number
Never married	99.3	51.4	4.5	50.2	160,695
Married	0.6	43.8	72.8	40.2	128,656
Separated	0.0	3.1	4.2	2.5	7,943
Polygamous married	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.3	1,024
Divorced	0.0	0.6	2.6	1.1	3,575
Widowed	0.1	1.1	15.0	5.7	18,327
Total	32.4	32.0	35.7	100.0	320,222

Figure 4.3: Distribution of population by marital status



Polygamy appears to be a rare phenomenon in Kitui District. Only a negligible proportion of people, mainly restricted to the older age group of 35 or more years, reported to be in polygamous unions. An estimated 6.8 per cent of respondents were found to be either divorced or widowed.

4.6 School attendance by age and sex

Table 4.5 and Figure 4.5 provide details of schooling status. Schooling is an important social process that prepares one to interact with the rest of the world in a more organized and beneficial manner. Education empowers people academically, socially and economically and is an important part of enhancing the stock of human capital in a country.

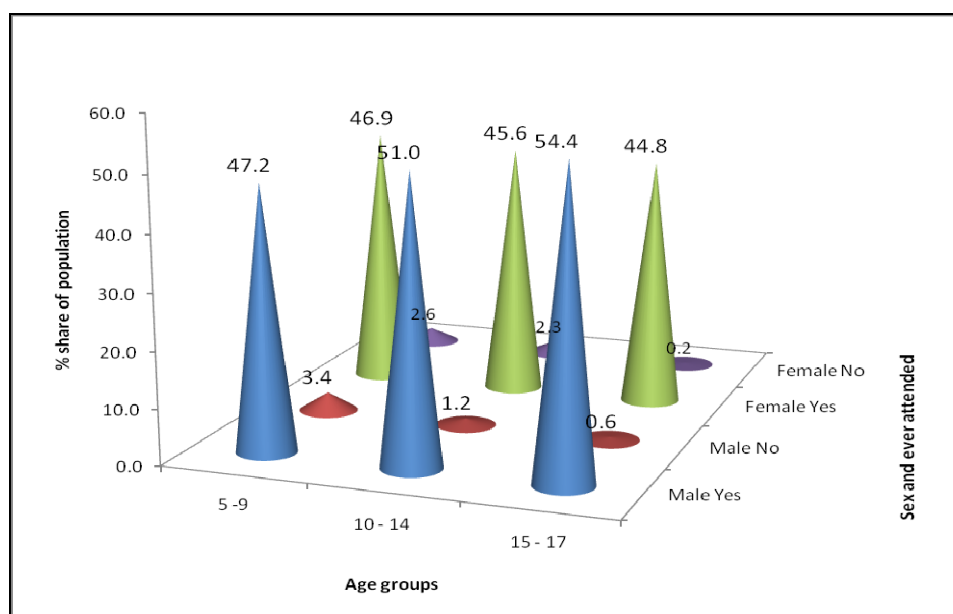
All persons aged 5-17 years were asked whether they had attended school the week prior to the interview date. Table 4.5 presents the analysis, which shows that overall, 96.1 per cent of the survey population had ever attended school. There was a slightly higher proportion of males (50.2 per cent) who had attended school than females (45.9 per cent). The proportions who had attended school by age followed the same trend for both sexes.

Table 4.5: Distribution of children by ever attended school, age and sex

	Female		Male		%		Number
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
5-9	94.7	5.3	93.3	6.7	94.0	6.0	88,480
10-14	95.2	4.8	97.8	2.2	96.5	3.5	98,793
15-17	99.5	0.5	99.0	1.0	99.2	0.8	44,387

	Female		Male		%		Number
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total	45.9	2.0	50.2	1.9	96.1	3.9	231,660

Figure 4.4: Distribution of children who ever attended school by age and sex



4.7 Highest grade ever attended by sex

Table 4.6 details the highest schooling level attained by the surveyed population by sex. Overall, 79.5 per cent of the population had primary level as the highest educational attainment, while 5.0 per cent had attained secondary level of education.

Table 4.6: Education attainment for population aged above 5 years

	Male	Female	%	Number
Pre-School	50.8	49.2	11.0	25,373
Primary	52.2	47.8	79.5	184,099
Secondary	57.5	42.5	5.0	11,627
Other	23.5	76.5	0.5	1,104
Not Stated	49.7	50.3	4.1	9,456
Total	52.1	47.9	100.0	231,660

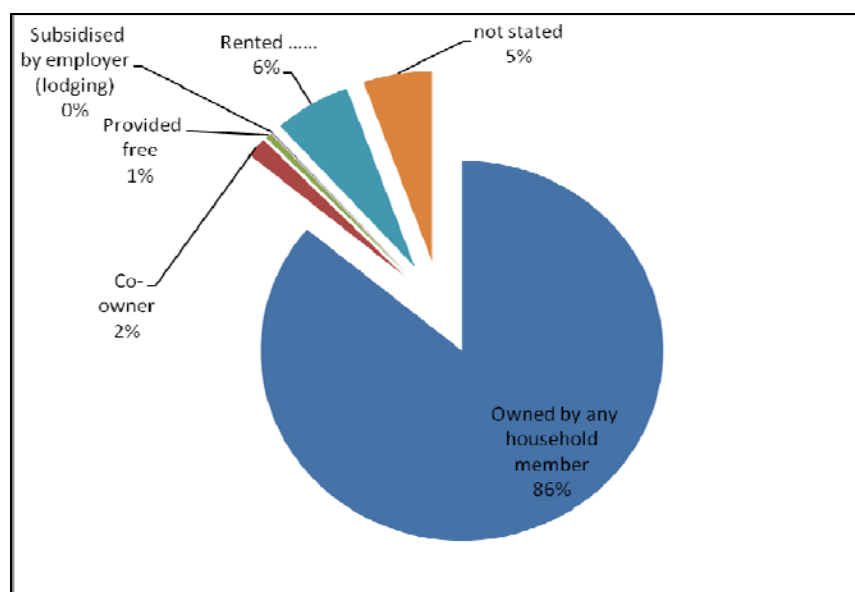
4.8 Distribution of households by type and tenure of main dwelling

As seen in Table 4.7, Table 4.8 and Figure 4.7, 86.0 per cent of Kitui residents reside in their own premises. Only a small proportion, less than ten per cent, has other forms of tenure including co-ownership, free occupancy, subsidized or renting. Household distribution by type of main dwelling unit shows that most about 90 per cent of households occupy private houses.

Table 4.7: Distribution of households by tenure

	Owned by any household member	Co-owner	Provided free	Subsidised by employer (lodging)	Rented	Not stated	%	Number
Apartment/flat	26.0	19.7			54.4	2.6		2,442
Private house	95.0	1.2	0.6		3.2	0.1	89.7	83,737
Part of a private house		4.5		5	90.9	2.1		1,964
Shelter not meant for living purposes	100.0					0.1		75
Shanty	100.0					0.1		75
Not stated						100	5.4	5,060
Total	86.0	1.7	0.5	0.1	6.2	5.5	100.0	93,351

Figure 4.5: Distribution of households by tenure status



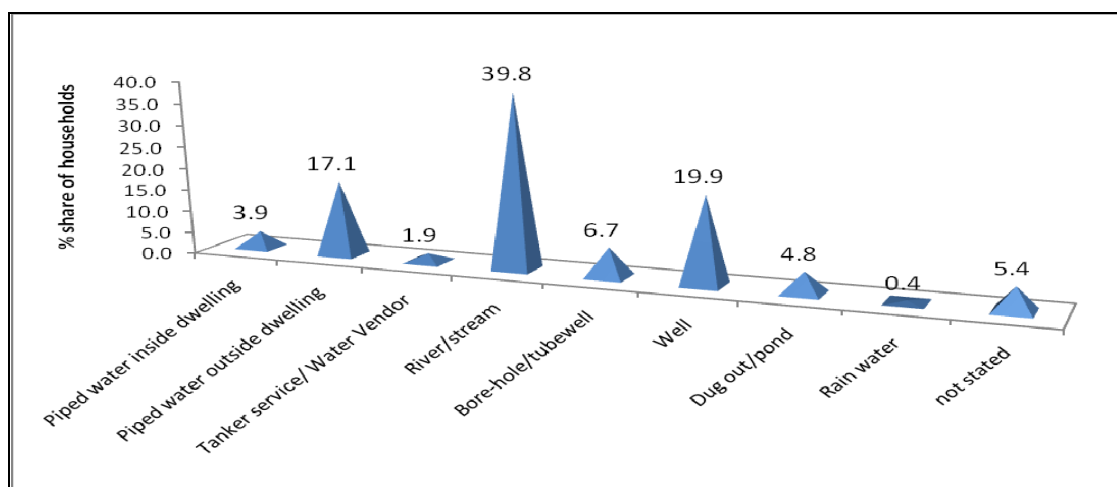
4.9 Households distribution by main source of drinking water

If piped, borehole and rain water are considered as the safe sources of drinking water, then only 28 per cent of households may be considered to be using safe water for drinking. The main source of drinking water for households in Kitui was river/stream at 39.8 per cent followed by wells at 19.9 per cent. Rain water harvesting is considered a cheap source of water especially in the rural areas. However, only a negligible number of people are utilizing this source both in the rural and urban areas of Kitui District.

Table 4.8: Distribution of households by source of drinking water and region

	Apartment/ flat	Private house	Part of a private house	Shanty	Not stated	%	Number
Piped water inside dwelling	2.3	93.2	4.5			3.9	3,624
Piped water outside dwelling	7.8	82.6	9.6			17.1	15,986
Tanker service/ Water Vendor		100.0				1.9	1,764
River/stream	2.0	97.8				39.8	37,168
Bore-hole/tubewell	1.2	97.4	1			6.7	6,226
Well	1.1	97.5	1	0		19.9	18,609
Dug out/pond	2	98.2				4.8	4,497
Rain water		100.0				0.4	418
Not stated					100	5.4	5,060
Total	2.6	89.7	2.1	0.2	5.4	100.0	93,351

Figure 4.6: Distribution of households by main source of drinking water



4.10 Distribution of cooking and lighting fuels used and type of housing

The kind of cooking and lighting sources of fuel used has important health implications for members of a household. Some cooking fuels like kerosene and wood are considered unsafe because of the pollution they cause through production of pollutants in the form of smoke. Similarly, the use of wood and charcoal fuel has adverse environmental consequences due to the felling of trees to obtain the fuels.

The source of cooking or lighting fuel is also an important indication of the socio-economic status of a household. The findings below show that more than three quarters of all households (86.3 per cent) in Kitui use wood fuel for cooking. Charcoal comes a distant second at 6 per cent of all households. As expected, kerosene is the most common lighting fuel accounting for 80.8 per cent of all households. Solar energy, a cost effective and environmentally clean source of energy, is only used by small proportions of households. These details are outlined in Table 4.9 and Table 4.10 below.

Table 4.9: Distribution of households by main source of cooking fuel

	Apartment /flat	Private house	Part of a private house	Shelter not meant for living purposes	Shanty	Not stated	%	Number
Wood	1.8	97.9	0.1	0.1	0.1		86.3	80,579
Charcoal	16.5	63.1	20.5				6.0	5,594
Kerosene	5.7	56.3	38.1				1.6	1,493
Gas/lpg		56.2	43.8				0.4	370
Electricity		100.0					0.2	174
Bio-gas		100.0					0.1	81
Not stated						100.0	5.4	5,060
Total	2.6	89.7	2.1	0.1	0.1	5.4	100.0	93,351

Table 4.10: Distribution of households by main source of lighting fuel

	Apartment /flat	Private house	Part of a private house	Shelter not meant for living purposes	Shanty	Not stated	%	Number
Wood	3.0	93.8	3.2				2.7	2,564
Kerosene	2.0	97.5	0.3	0.1	0.1		80.8	75,454
Gas/lpg	22.6	77.4					0.4	375

	Apartment /flat	Private house	Part of a private house	Shelter not meant for living purposes	Shanty	Not stated	%	Number
Electricity	13.8	56.9	29.3				6.0	5,565
Solar		100.0					3.6	3,345
Other		100.0					1.1	987
Not stated						100.0	5.4	5,060
Total	2.6	89.7	2.1	0.1	0.1	5.4	100.0	93,351

5. Working children

5.1 Distribution of population aged 5-17 by activity status

Table 5.1a shows distribution of children by activity status as defined by general production boundaries. Under this definition, those doing non economic activities such as household chores in their own households are considered to be working. However, for the rest of the report we will consider working children by system of national accounts (SNA) production boundaries definition whereby, children undertaking non economic activities such as household chores in their own household are excluded. Hence under general production boundaries working children equals working children under SNA production boundaries plus children working in non- SNA production boundary non-economic activities.

Table 5.1b and Figure 5.1 highlight the activity status of the population aged 5 -17 years in Kitui District. Persons considered to have worked in the seven days before the survey are those who undertook economic activities either for pay, profit or family gain during the reference period. Overall, 64.9 per cent of the target population reported that they worked during the reference period. The proportion of working children is highest amongst the age bracket of 15-17 years (72.6 per cent), but is followed closely by the proportion in the 10-14 years (71.4 per cent). Slightly more than half of those in the 5-9 years age bracket (53.8 per cent) worked over the same period.

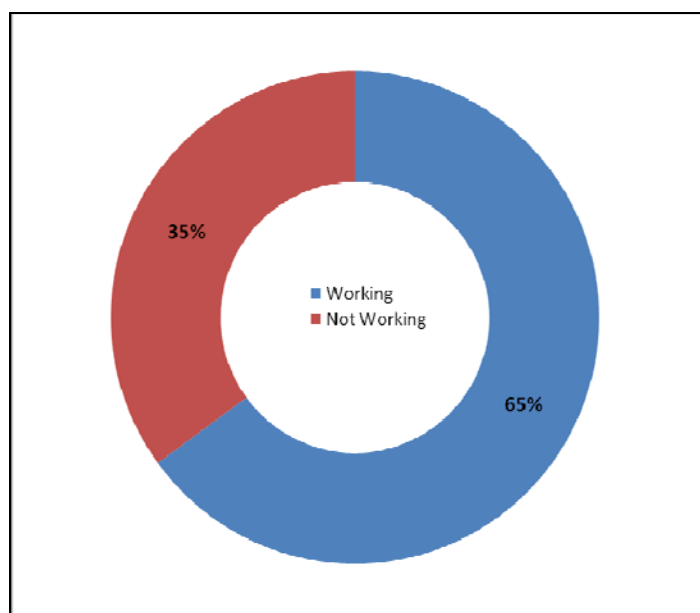
Table 5.1a: Distribution of children by working status and age

	Working household chores	Working non household chores	Not working	%	Number
5-9	5.2	52.8	42.0	38.2	88,480
10-14	4.7	70.8	24.6	42.6	98,793
15-17	5.0	73.5	21.5	19.2	44,387
Total	4.9	64.4	30.7	100.0	231,660

Table 5.1b: Distribution of children by working status and age

	Working	Not Working	%	Number
5-9	53.8	46.2	38.0	84,572
10-14	71.4	28.6	42.8	95,321
15-17	72.6	27.4	19.3	42,922
Total	64.9	35.1	100.0	222,816

Figure 5.1: Distribution of children by working status



5.2 Distribution of children by activity status and household headship

Table 5.2 presents the distribution of children by activity status and household headship and activity status. The results do not show a major variation in the proportion of working children by household headship. There was however, a slightly higher proportion of working children in female-headed households than in the male-headed households in the 15-17 years age group where 76.9 and 69.9 per cent of children, respectively, reported to have worked. Corresponding figures for the 10-14 years group were 72.0 and 71.0 per cent.

Table 5.2: Distribution of children by working status, household headship

	Female headed		Male headed		Total	
	Working	Not Working	Working	Not Working	%	Number
5-9	49.8	50.2	56.2	43.8	38.0	84,572
10-14	72.0	28.0	71.0	29.0	42.8	95,321
15-17	76.9	23.1	69.9	30.1	19.3	42,922
Total	64.9	35.1	64.9	35.1	100.0	222,816

5.3 Distribution of working children by activity status and school attendance

School attendance levels for the two activity status categories are given in Table 5.3a. Majority of the working children are in primary school. For those children in primary school who reported having worked in the week before the survey, 20.7, 39.1, and 10.5 per cent were aged 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17, respectively. All the children who had dropped out of school were working, while about two-thirds (63.2 per cent) of those who reported to have completed school were working.

Table 5.3a: Distribution of children by activity status and school attendance

	5-9		10-14		15-17		Total	
	Working	Not Working	Working	Not Working	Working	Not Working	%	Number
Pre-School	39.7	57.6	2.0	0.3	0.3		11.1	24,744
Primary	20.7	12.9	39.1	13.6	10.5	3.1	73.6	163,907
Secondary			9.3	5.4	53.3	31.9	4.9	10,869
Completed			14.7	9.1	52.5	23.7	5.4	12,038
Dropped out			16.6	3.5	76.4	3.5	1.0	2,202
Not Stated	18.4	40.1	2.7	35.0	0.8	3.1	4.1	9,056
Total	20.4	17.5	30.5	12.2	14.0	5.3	100.0	222,816

Table 5.3b presents the distribution of children by activity status, age group and sex. As shown in the table, there were a higher proportion of boys who reported having worked (36.0 per cent) compared to the girls (29.0 per cent).

Table 5.3b: Distribution of children by activity status, age and sex

	Male		Female		Total	
	Working	Not Working	Working	Not Working	%	Number
5-9	28.4	21.6	25.4	24.7	38.0	84,572
10-14	39.7	12.9	31.7	15.7	42.8	95,321
15-17	42.6	13.4	30.0	14.0	19.3	42,922
Total	36.0	16.3	29.0	18.8	100.0	222,816

5.4 Distribution of working children by age and occupation

During the interviews, all working children were asked about the kind of work they engaged in and these were coded according to the Kenya National Occupational Codes. These details are outlined in Table 5.4. The working children are distributed across various occupations

although a few occupations took relatively larger shares than others. Most of these children were engaged in elementary occupations across various industries. This is expected since a child below 18 years is not likely to have undergone any specialized training.

Most of the working children aged 5-17 years were engaged in farm-hand and related labours 74.5 per cent followed closely by messengers, porters, watchmen and related workers at 10.3 per cent who were in turn followed by cleaners, launders and domestic workers at 10.1 per cent of all working children. The other occupational groups took insignificant shares of working children.

Table 5.4: Distribution of working children by age and occupation

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Shop Assistants and Demonstrators	100.0			0.2	311
Cooks and Other Catering Service Workers	100.0			0.1	85
Field Crop, Vegetable and Horticultural Farm Workers	100.0			0.1	149
Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Producers	47.9	52.1		0.1	156
Crop and Animal Producers		56.1	43.9	0.4	555
Motor Vehicle Drivers		100.0		0.1	170
Street Vendors and Related Workers	3.3	57.1	39.6	1.6	2,385
Shoe Cleaning and Other Street Services Elementary Occupations	100.0			0.1	75
Cleaners, Launderers and Domestic Workers	39.6	44.9	15.5	10.1	14,571
Messengers, Porters, Watchmen and Related Workers	58.8	35.4	5.8	10.3	14,970
Farm- Hand and Related Labourers	26.4	49.4	24.2	74.5	107,869
Forestry Labourers	57.5	28.1	14.4	0.4	590
Transport Labourers and Handlers		33.6	66.4	0.3	505
Not stated	55.4	30.5	14.1	1.6	2,317
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

5.5 Distribution of working children by age and industry

Analysis of the activities occupying working children shows that almost all these children are involved in activities within two industries, namely agriculture/ forestry and fishing, where 74.8 percent worked and activities of households producing for own consumption with 21.4 percent. As seen in Table 5.5, these two categories make up 96.2 per cent of all working children. Each of the other industrial activities has a share of less than one per cent of all working children. This pattern is observed across the three age groups. This may suggest that majority of the reported working children are involved in tasks at household level.

Table 5.5: Distribution of working children by age and industry

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	26.4	49.5	24.1	74.8	108,288
Construction			100.0	0.1	81
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and mot	59.3	16.1	24.7	0.7	1,034
Transportation and storage		50.0	50.0	0.2	339
Accommodation and food service activities		67.6	32.4	1.1	1,649
Activities of households -producing for own use	48.5	39.7	11.8	21.4	30,999
Not stated	55.4	30.5	14.1	1.6	2,317
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

5.6 Distribution of working children by age and usual working time

Figures on distribution of working children by age group and usual working time are presented in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Distribution of working children by age and usual working time

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
During the day (between 6 am and 6 pm)	29.4	47.2	23.3	55.4	80,171
In the evening or at night (after 6 pm)		100.0		0.1	160
During both the day and the evening (for the entire day)	31.2	34.4	34.4	0.8	1,131
On the week-end	29.7	48.8	21.5	10.0	14,404
Sometimes during the day, sometimes in the evening	25.4	52.7	21.9	9.9	14,295
After school	38.8	43.7	17.5	20.6	29,752
Both before or after school	100.0			0.1	156
During missed school hours/days	33.3	50.0	16.7	0.3	467
Not stated	42.5	44.3	13.2	2.9	4,172
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

Overall, 55.4 per cent of the children said they work during the day between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Another 20.6 per cent said they work after school. Others children said they work over the weekend (10.0 per cent) while 9.9 per cent said they sometimes work during the day and sometimes at night. A negligible number of children were working at night or working during school times in the district according to the survey.

Table 5.7: Distribution of working children by age and main workplace

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
At (his/her) family dwelling	32.0	46.9	21.1	68.2	98,758
Client's place		21.4	78.6	0.3	379
Factory/ Atelier	100.0			0.1	163
Plantations/ farm/ garden	30.9	46.8	22.4	22.1	31,999
Construction sites	17.4	50.0	32.6	0.3	489
Shop/ kiosk/ coffee house/ restaurant/ hotel	47.7		52.3	0.1	170
Different places (mobile)		47.7	52.3	1.4	2,008
Fixed, street or market stall	37.5	62.5		0.2	249
Pond/lake/river	30.5	55.5	14.0	4.6	6,695
Not stated	41.4	41.6	17.0	2.6	3,798
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

Besides the time of day that a child works, the workplace is another important aspect that is used to give an indication of the severity of work and the potential risks that a child faces while at work. More than half (68.2 per cent) of the children reported having worked at the family dwelling, another 22.1 per cent worked at plantations/farm/garden. For each of the three age groups, family dwelling had the highest proportion reported as the working location. This, as indicated earlier, may imply that majority of working children may not be working in hazardous conditions.

5.8 Distribution of working children by age and employment status

Table 5.8 gives details of the employment status of children by broad age groups. Almost all children (93.9 per cent) who reported to have worked during the week prior to the survey indicated that they worked as unpaid family workers. This means that these children worked either for family gain or profit and did not receive any direct compensation in the form of monetary or in-kind payment. Age-group segregation shows only minimal variation. However, a small proportion of children, i.e. 1.7 per cent indicated that they were employees at their working places.

Table 5.8: Distribution of working children by age and employment status

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Employee	5.9	50.8	43.3	1.7	2,514
Own account worker (His/her own business without employees)	24.4	23.3	52.3	0.5	712
Unpaid family worker	31.3	47.3	21.4	93.9	135,882

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Not stated	48.1	40.5	11.4	3.9	5,599
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

5.9 Distribution of working children by age and reason for working

Table 5.9 outlines the responses obtained from working children on the various reasons for them being involved in work. In total, 47.4 per cent of the children worked to learn basic skills. A further 25.9 per cent of the working children reported that they were working to help in household enterprise, while 10.8 per cent of working children are doing so in pursuit of additional income. The biggest proportion (47.0 per cent) of children who reported having worked to learn skills were in the 10-14 years age group.

Table 5.9: Distribution of working children by age and reasons for working

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Supplement family income	23.8	47.3	29.0	10.8	15,671
Help pay family debt		58.6	41.4	0.3	451
Help in household enterprise	26.2	48.3	25.5	25.9	37,487
Learn skills	37.8	44.6	17.6	47.4	68,546
Schooling not useful for future	100.0			0.1	75
School too far/ no school		100.0		0.1	78
Cannot afford school fees			100.0	0.1	78
Not interested in school			100.0	0.1	170
Not stated	26.8	52.4	20.9	15.3	22,153
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

5.10 Distribution of working children by age and person who receives earnings

Consistent with the findings on reasons for working, Table 5.10 indicates that about 90 per cent of working children did not report on who receives earning, while the remainder was mainly unpaid family works.

Table 5.10: Distribution of children by person who receives earnings

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Self	15.1	34.6	50.3	0.7	992
Parents		100.0		0.2	325

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Guardian		32.3	67.7	0.2	251
Unpaid Worker	34.0	46.9	19.1	9.6	13,892
Not stated	31.4	47.0	21.6	89.3	129,248
Total	31.4	47.0	21.5	100.0	144,708

6. Children in child labour

6.1 Introduction

The survey on child labour focused on working children aged five years and above in Kitui district. This chapter presents results on child labourers aged 5–17. The schooling status, sex, domicile (urban/rural), and broad age groups are the domains on which most of the results of the analysis are presented.

6.2 Child labour filtering criterion

The filtering process used a set of indicators related to child labour in general that were considered to be sufficient in identifying children engaged in the practice. The measurement framework for child labour was structured around (i) the age of the child; and (ii) the productive activities by the child including their nature and the conditions under which these were performed, and the duration of engagement by the child in such activities, that is, the hours of work.

Age: The Kenya Employment Act (2007) states that no person shall employ a child who has not attained the age of thirteen years whether gainfully or otherwise in any undertaking. It further states that a child aged 13-15 years of age may be employed to perform light work which is:

- a) work not designated as hazardous in activities included in the SNA production boundary performed for less than 14 hours per week,
- b) not likely to be harmful to the child's health or development; and
- c) not such as to prejudice the child's attendance at school, his participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved or his capacity to benefit from the instructions received.

Hours of Work: The hours-of-work criterion is embodied in the child labour concept both at the lower and higher risk (worst form) levels. Children who work for long hours are considered to be exploited as this not only endangers their health, but also affects school performance as full-time pupils.

Child labour is measured on the basis of the general production boundary. A child may be considered to be in child labour when the total number of hours worked in employment and unpaid household services exceed the thresholds. A cut-off point for identifying child labour with respect to hours worked was therefore established by reference to the existing regulations and the average hours of work for the Kenyan adult work force.

Average hours of work for adults in the modern sector of the economy vary between 39 and 42 hours in a week (Employment in the Modern Sector Report, various issues). The national labour laws in Kenya categorize working hours by sector but the normal working hours are considered to be 42 hours per week.

All children aged 5-12 years in the survey were therefore categorized as having been in child labour if they engaged in any economic activity during the reference period irrespective of the time. Those aged 13-15 years were considered to be in child labour if they worked for 14 hours or more while those aged 16-17 years were classified as being child labourers if they worked for more than 42 hours in a week.

Other criteria

Any child who worked in risky or hazardous occupations or undertakings was also classified to be in child labour irrespective of their ages or the number of hours they worked.

6.3 Distribution of child labourers by sex

Table 6.1 shows the distribution of child labourers in Kitui District by sex and schooling status. The incidence of child labour is very high in the district. Of 220,266 children aged 5-17 years, 144,708 children reported to have worked in the week before the survey. Out of this number, 102,244 fall in the category of child labourers. This means that in total, 55.2 per cent of children in the district are involved in child labour. About 71.0 per cent of the child labourers are children aged 5-12 years who are in school but worked for at least one hour in a week. Those aged 13-15 years constituted 24.7 per cent of child labourers.

Table 6.1: Distribution of child labourers by sex and schooling status

	Male	Female	%	Number
Worked > 1 hrs and aged 5-12 yrs	55.3	44.7	71.1	72,703
Worked > 14 hrs and aged 13-15 yrs	55.2	44.8	24.7	25,258
Worked > 42 hrs and aged 15-17 yrs	53.0	47.0	4.2	4,282
Total	55.2	44.8	100.0	102,244

6.4 Distribution of child labourers by age, region and sex

Distribution of child labourers in Kitui District by age and region is shown in Table 6.2. The majority of child labourers in this district are children aged 10-14 years. This age group accounts for 51.6 per cent of all child labourers in the district. The distribution of child labourers across the three age groups was almost equal among the male and female.

Table 6.2: Distribution of child labourers by age, region and sex

	Male	Female	%	Number
5-9	52.6	47.4	36.2	37,044
10-14	56.2	43.8	51.6	52,803
15-17	58.4	41.6	12.1	12,396
Total	55.2	44.8	100.0	102,244

6.5 Distribution of child labourers by age and occupation

Details on the distribution of children labourers by occupation are presented in Table 6.3. Approximately three out of every four (78.7 per cent) children involved in child labour are farm-hand and related labourers. This occupation is followed by the category of messengers, porters and related workers and cleaners, launders and domestic workers with 10.8 and 8.1 per cent respectively. Each of the other occupations had less than one per cent of the working child labourers in the district. Most of the child labourers are concentrated in the 10-14 year age group.

Table 6.3: Distribution of child labourers by age and occupation

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Field Crop, Vegetable and Horticultural Farm Workers	100.0			0.1	149
Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Producers		100.0		0.1	81
Crop and Animal Producers		100.0		0.1	81
Street Venders and Related Workers	7.8	67.1	25.2	1.0	1,003
Shoe Cleaning and Other Street Services Elementary Occupations	100.0			0.1	75
Cleaners, Launders and Domestic Workers	44.7	49.3	6.0	8.1	8,322
Messengers, Porters, Watchmen and Related Workers	62.9	34.9	2.2	10.8	11,088
Farm- Hand and Related Labourers	31.8	54.2	14.1	78.7	80,452
Forestry Labourers		66.2	33.8	0.2	251
Transport Labourers and Handlers		100.0		0.1	85
Not stated	76.8	23.2		0.6	657
Total	36.2	51.6	12.1	100.0	102,244

6.6 Distribution of child labourers by age and economic activity

Table 6.4 shows details on child labourers grouped by economic activity. Three out of every four children involved in child labour worked in the economic activity of agriculture/forestry and fishing. The category of activities of households 'producing for own use' is the second most common with 19.8 per cent of child labourers in Kitui District. The other categories of economic activities have much lower numbers with a combined share of less than 3 per cent of child labourers. As seen in the table, the majority of child labourers are children aged 10-14 years.

Table 6.4: Distribution of child labourers by age and activity

	5-9	10-14	15-17	%	Number
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	31.5	54.6	13.9	78.5	80,301
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	55.0	30.2	14.8	0.5	549
Accommodation and food service activities		82.0	18.0	0.5	519
Activities of households -producing for own use	54.2	40.7	5.1	19.8	20,217
Not stated	76.8	23.2		0.6	657
Total	36.2	51.6	12.1	100.0	102,244

7. Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

Child labour has consistently been identified as a significant threat to child development in Kenya. Kitui District is not an exception to this worrying trend of involving children in child labour.

With more than two thirds of children aged 5 – 17 years currently engaged in work that is conventionally regarded as child labour, it is imperative that the government, parents and other stakeholders undertake focused interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of child labour in the district. Although majority of the working children are working within their homes, agricultural holdings or family enterprises, a large number of them were found to be working for more than 24 hours in a week. It is considered exploitative and detrimental to children's normal development for children to work for such long durations as this not only endangers their health but also affects school performance for full-time pupils.

In order to realize quick gains and a positive impact in reducing child labour in the district, players in mitigation efforts need to address the large numbers of children who are engaged in the agriculture/forestry and fishing economic sector. Engagement and sensitization of parents and guardians will ensure that child labour reduction strategies are more effective by addressing the problem at its formative stage within the household.

At national level, studies have shown that the overall incidence of child labour is declining. This is mainly the result of implementation of the free primary and subsidized secondary education and continued efforts to reduce poverty across the country. These interventions have been strengthened by the favourable legal environment under the Children's Act (2006) and the newly enacted Constitution of Kenya which spell out an expanded regime of children's rights and entitlements. At the same time, the fight against child labour has greatly benefited from the implementation of the ILO-IPEC programme in Kenya. This programme continues to complement government child labour reduction initiatives mainly through increasing awareness on child labour issues, facilitating partnerships as well as providing direct support to children and families affected or at risk of child labour.

Increased collaboration between development partners, government officials at the district level and local leaders will ensure a comprehensive but targeted approach through which it will be possible to identify and list the most vulnerable children in a specific area and offer them the support they require to live a dignified life, continue with schooling and fully exploit their potential in life. This Baseline Study provides a reliable basis for the government and stakeholders to plan and monitor child labour reduction initiatives at district level. It is necessary to carry out similar studies periodically in order to provide timely feedback on gains and possible constraints to those charged with implementing these initiatives.

In response to findings of this study, several recommendations can be made to expedite implementation of programmes and projects as well as improve the environment for carrying out child labour interventions in the country.

7.2 Recommendations

7.2.1 Short term recommendations

These are action points that can be completed within a relatively short duration spanning not more than one year. They include the following:

- 1.** The Government should as a matter of urgency conclude the enactment of Children's Policy and the National Child Labour Policy.
- 2.** The Government should ensure that its capacity to deal with child labour is strengthened through consistent deployment of staff implementing child labour intervention programmes. The challenge of high staff turnover, especially at district-level Government officers and teachers, should be addressed as a matter of priority.
- 3.** Clear implementation mechanism and guidelines should be put in place to deal with the protection of children including: Children's Act (2001), Sexual Offences Act (2006) and the Employment Act (2007). In addition, the Government should support the enactment of any new laws including the proposed bill on trafficking of persons and the review of the constitution to ensure the protection of children from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

7.2.2 Medium to long term recommendations

These are action points that will require a longer time horizon to accomplish but may be initiated without undue delay. They include the following:

- 1.** The Government should ensure continued economic growth and improved standards of living in order to eradicate poverty which is a major cause of child labour.
- 2.** More targeted information on child labour should be collected through child labour surveys, research and studies. These should be undertaken more frequently. They should include capacity strengthening of institutions that contribute towards research on child labour.
- 3.** Although there is overwhelming evidence that communities' awareness of the negative consequences of child labour had increased due to government efforts and the large number of actors involved in the efforts towards the elimination of child labour, there is need to sustain child labour intervention programmes at the community level. It will take the combined efforts of all actors through capacity building, networking and linkages to achieve total change in the attitude of Kenyans towards rejection of child labour.
- 4.** Severe poverty remains a challenge among the community members in the country. Efforts to withdraw and protect children from joining the worst forms of child labour are still viewed as tantamount to foregoing much-needed household income.

Awareness enhancement and poverty alleviation programmes need to be increased and sustained.

5. The coordination role of the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development (MoLHRD) should be strengthened. Additional resources should be allocated to the Ministry for this purpose.
6. The Government should continue to promote quality education for all children. The Government should especially promote policy and programme support for non-formal schools which is attractive to child labourers and their parents due to its flexibility. Since child labour is now more prevalent in the age category 15-17, more attention should be paid to the promotion of TIVET for the provision of skills to the youth. Further steps should be taken to make the FPE compulsory in order to maximize its impact.
7. The Government should continue to promote access to and quality of good medical care for its population including the working one to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. This will contribute towards reduction of the adverse effects of the HIV/AIDS scourge that remain a major hindrance in the effort towards elimination of child labour in many communities.
8. More attention should be focused on sustainability of programmes addressing elimination of child labour taking advantage of resources available through such funds as the Constituency Development, Local Authority Transfer, Bursary, Youth Enterprise, and Women's Development.
9. Data collection on child labour in the country should be carried out on a continuous basis. The KNBS has endeavoured to and will continue to mainstream child labour data collection in relevant national data collection surveys and studies.

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