

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON LIVELIHOODS IN KENYA

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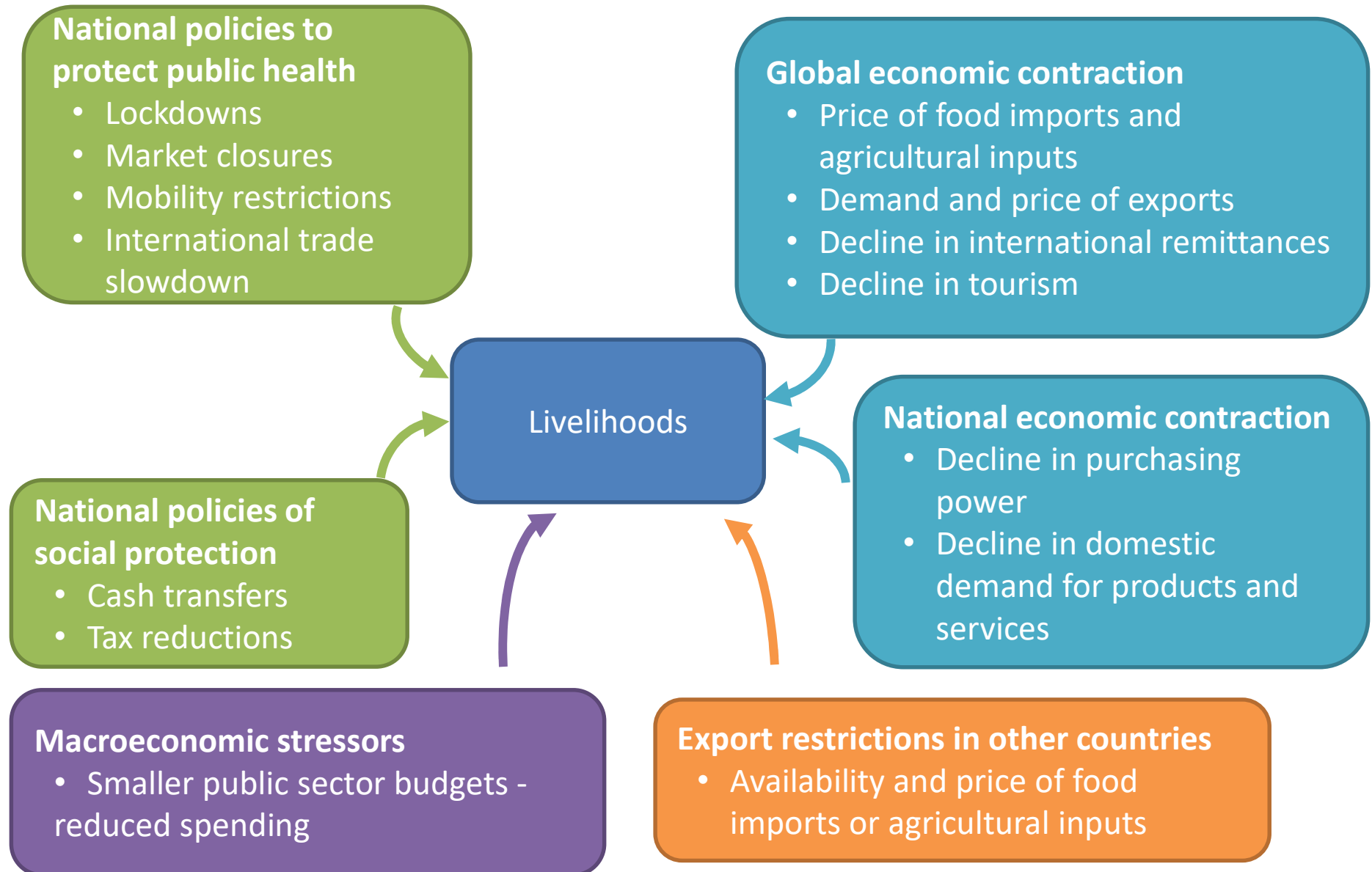
9th KENYA NATIONAL M&E CONFERENCE


M&E within the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives, Practices, and Evidence

17th May –19th May 2021



COVID-19 impacts on livelihoods can be through various mechanisms





How did Kenya
respond to COVID-
19 pandemic?

Kenya's response to COVID-19 pandemic

- **Broad fiscal policies** (Budget adjustments ; Financial support to private companies; General stimulus; Public sector salary donations; Reduction of consumer taxes (e.g. VAT); Tax postponement/ reduction)
- **Business policies** (Restrictions on bars and entertainment places; Restrictions on formal markets; Restrictions on informal markets; Restrictions on restaurants; Support to tourism)
- **Farm policies** (Farm input subsidies (e.g. through e-voucher program); Price support to farmers through procurement; Price support to farmers through regulation)
- **Governance restrictions** (Ban on political rallies)

Kenya's response to COVID-19 pandemic

- **Health responses** (Expanded testing; Financial support for health sector; Health information dissemination; Hiring more healthcare workers; Importation of test kits; Importation of ventilators; Importation or donations of PPE; Manufacture of ventilators; New facilities for care; PPE regulations/production)
- **Monetary and Financial policies** (Debt restructuring; Defer loan repayment; Eliminate ICT Fees; Increased bank liquidity; Lowered interest rates)
- **Policies on population movement** (Bans on public gatherings; Curfew; Localized lockdown; Closure of schools/religious institutions; Transport limited; Travel bans)
- **Social protection policies** (Cash transfers; Food aid)
- **Trade policies** (Export ban on masks; Import ban on secondhand apparel)



How have the pandemic and Kenya's containment measures affected rural livelihoods?

Results from rapid assessment in rural areas in June &
October 2020

(Conducted under Agricultural Policy Research in Africa with
financial support from DFID)

Effect on farm production

- Decreased participation in farming activities and on-farm labour demand
- Reduced availability and higher prices of key agricultural inputs (e.g. fertilizers, certified seeds, agrochemicals, and veterinary drugs)
 - Transportation problem in the supply chain
- Reduced availability of agricultural extension services
 - Few public extension officers and majority of whom are advanced in age; advised to work from home.

Effect on agricultural marketing

- Reduced farmer access to markets
 - Fewer traders going to villages to buy produce
 - Limited and more expensive transport services
 - Closure of open-air markets
 - Cessation of movement into and out of some counties (Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi)

Effect on rural employment

- Decreased demand for labour on- and off-farm
 - *“When COVID-19 struck, many large export-oriented farms lost contracts and laid off workers”. – Agricultural Official, Nakuru County*
 - *“With the COVID-19 outbreak, finding casual work for small-scale farmers was a challenge as demand for off-farm labour decreased drastically. This has made it difficult for those farmers to get the extra income they need to purchase much needed agricultural inputs.” - Agricultural Officer, Kilifi County*

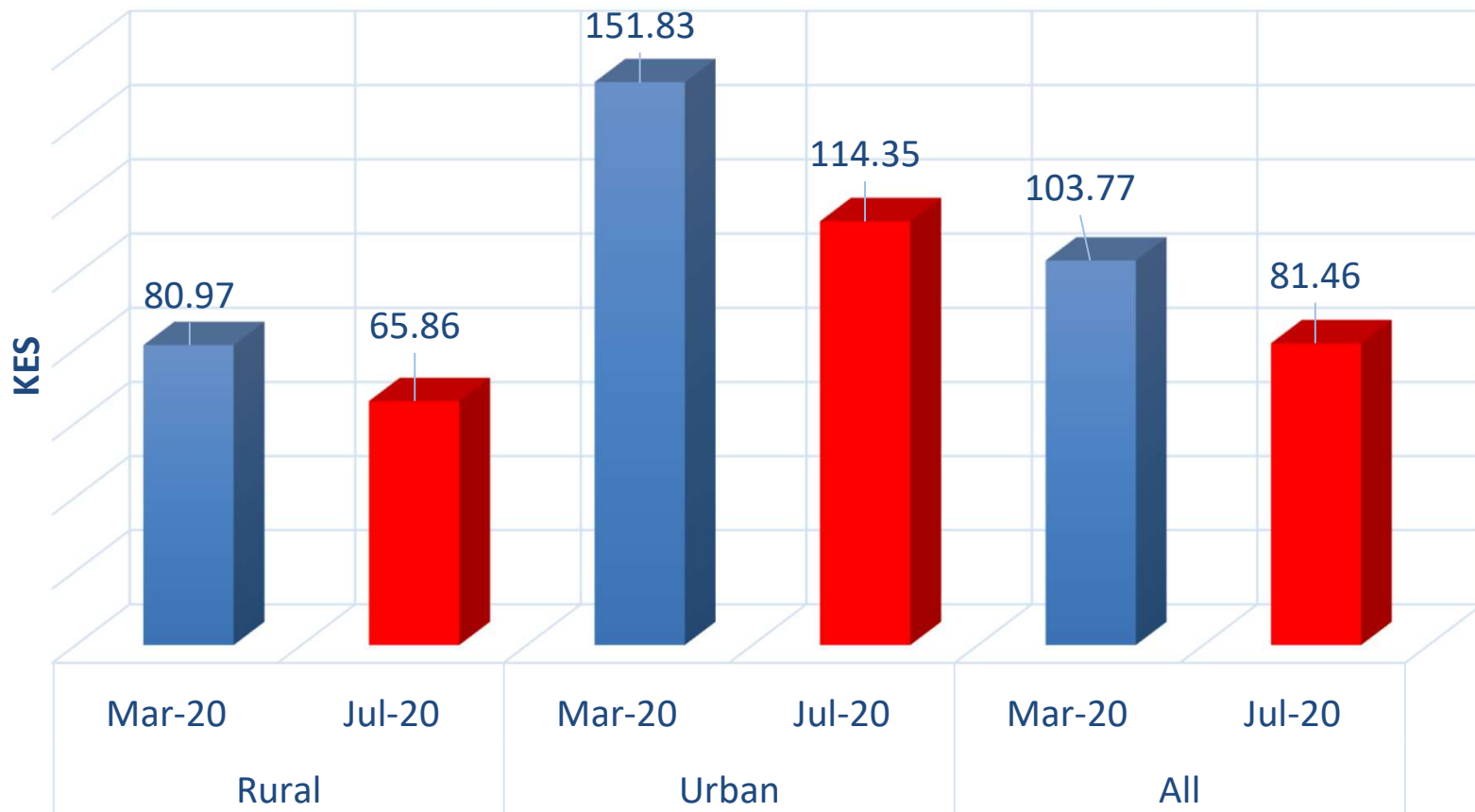
Effect on food and nutrition security

- Reduced availability of food in local markets
 - Over 40% of respondents reported reduced availability of fruits & vegetables, pulses & nuts, and roots & tubers in local markets
 - Over one third of respondents reported a decrease in the supply of grains, processed foods and fish and seafood
 - Nearly 90% of households had inadequate food
 - 97% reported cost of living to have gone up since COVID-19 restrictions came into effect.

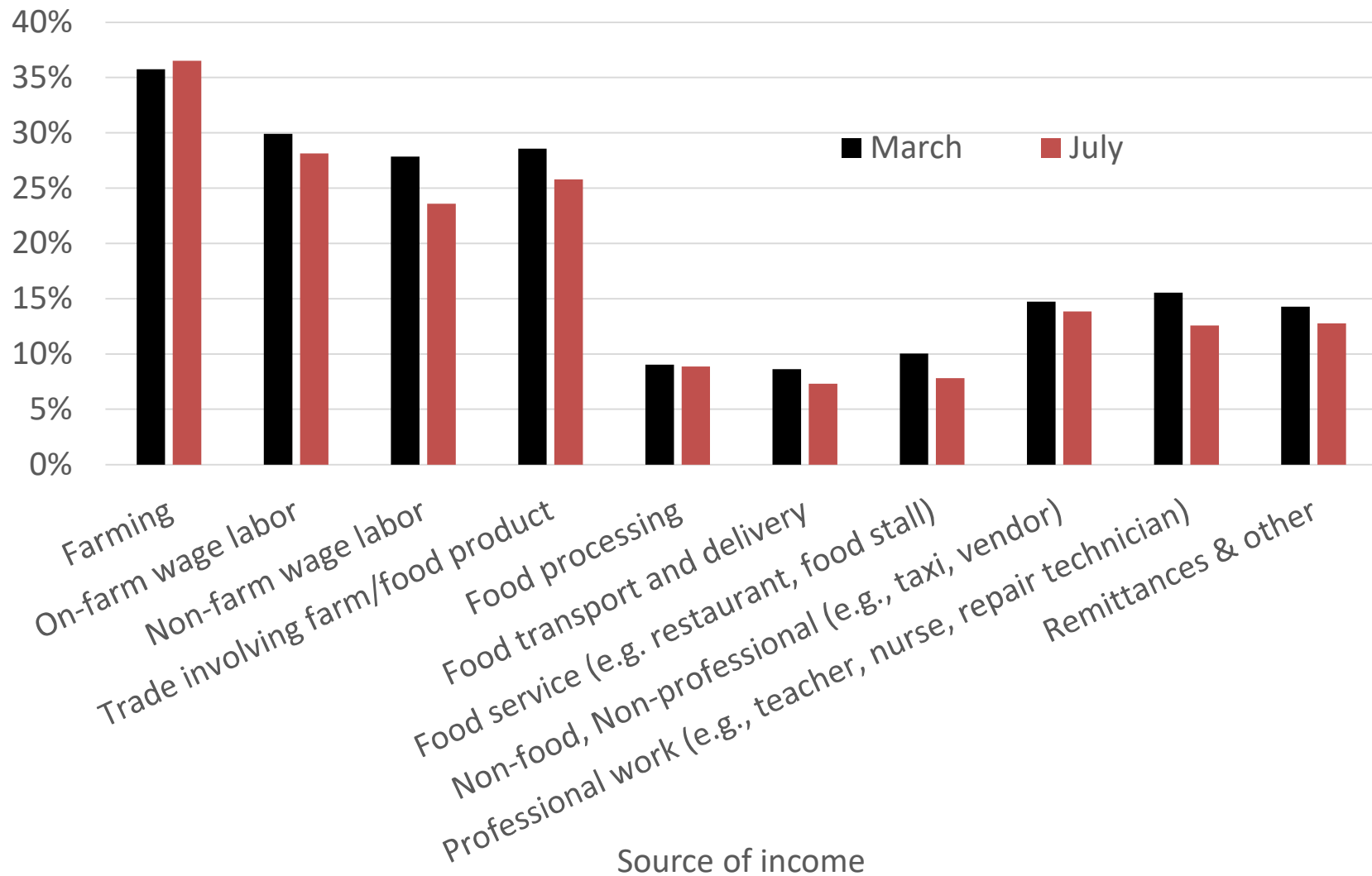
Results from rural & urban household survey in Sep - Oct 2020
(In collaboration with Michigan State University with financial support from
USAID)

Significant reduction in reported income in rural & urban households between March and July 2020

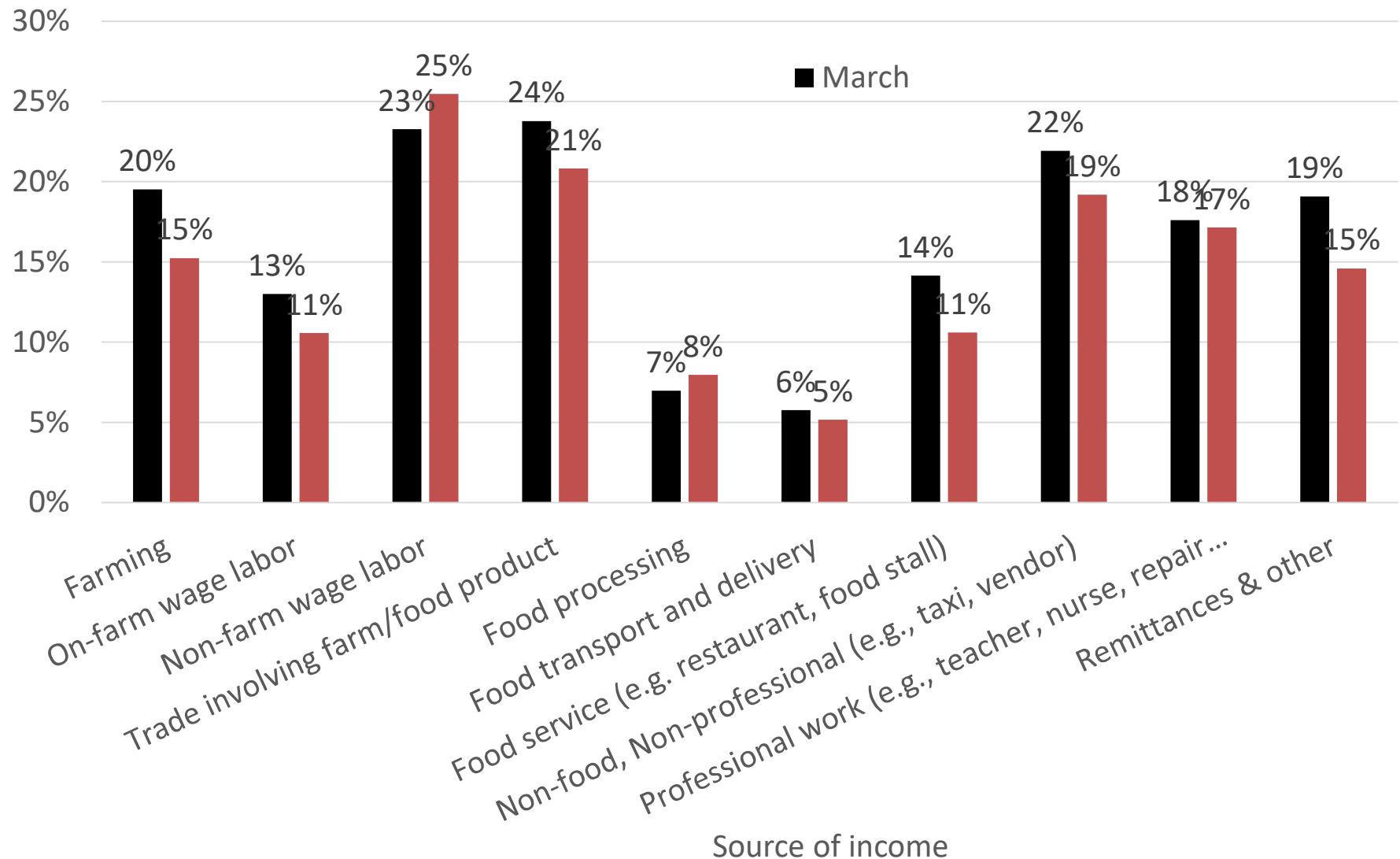
Per capita per day income in March and July 2020 (KES)



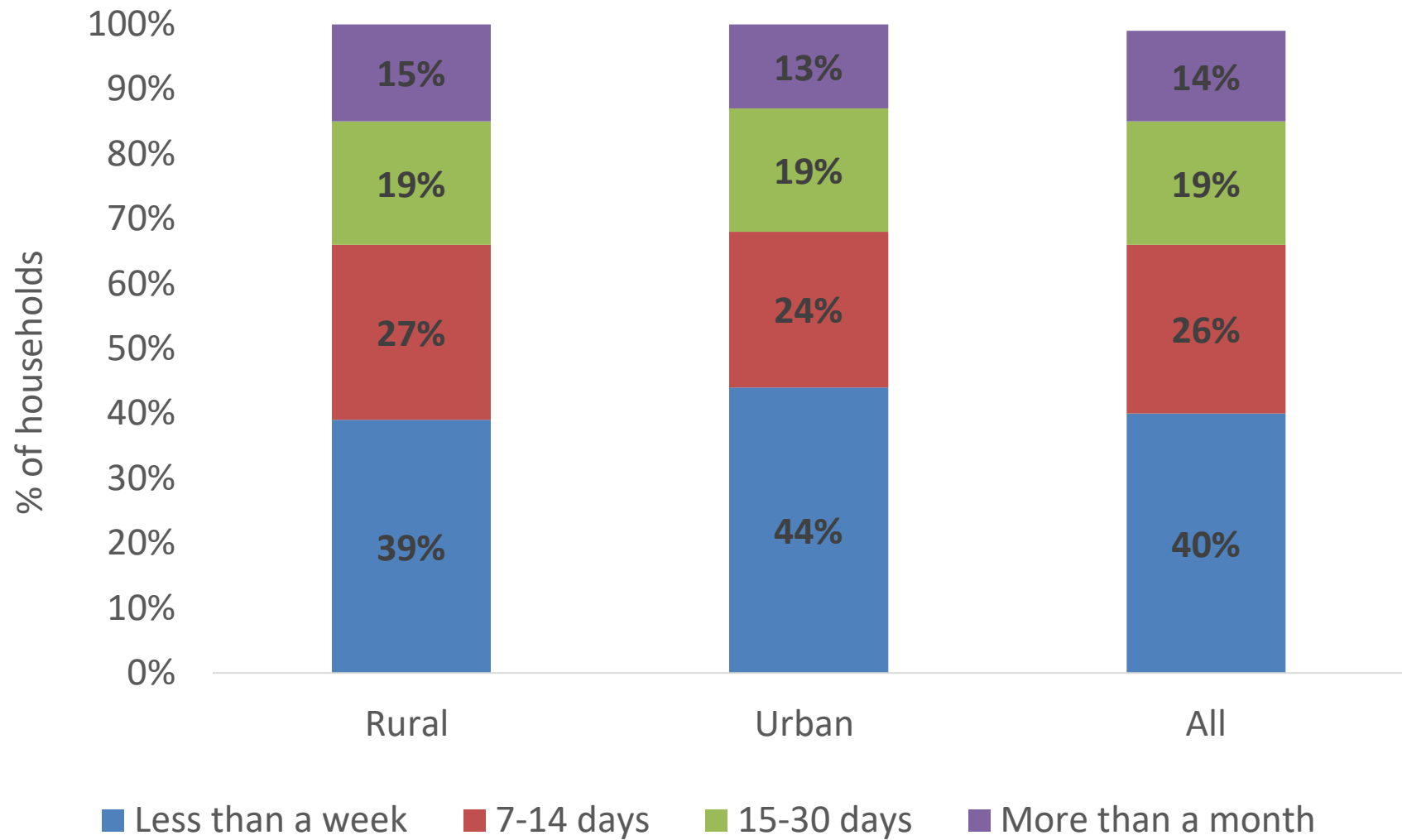
Drop in the percentage of rural households that received income from various sources - March and July 2020



Drop in the percentage of **urban** households that received income from various sources - March and July 2022



Fewer households could meet food consumption needs with available income / saving resources for extended period from the time of the survey





Concluding thoughts

- Containment measures for COVID-19 seems to have affected many people's livelihoods more than the disease itself
- The measures seem to disproportionately harm those who work in the informal sector
- Policies that close access to open air markets and restrict operations of informal businesses in the food system threaten the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of both farmers and low-income consumers
- Need to monitor longer-term impacts of the pandemic on livelihoods



THANK YOU!

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