

Remote data collection for GBV and other gendered dynamics of Covid-19 among youth in Nairobi, Kenya:

Methods, ethics, and
preliminary results

October 2020



Background

- **Baseline Youth Respondent Driven Sampling Survey (YRDSS) fielded in 2019 in Nairobi**
 - Unmarried youth ages 15-24 (n= 1354) in Nairobi
 - Identified unmet contraceptive needs and gender power imbalances
 - Provides a platform for research on gendered impact of Covid-19 including social, economic, and safety (GBV) impact

Comprehensive Mixed-Methods Data Collection

Quantitative

- **Phone-based surveys (target n=1293)**
 - Follow-up to 2019 YRDSS, youth now ages 16-25
 - Addresses contraceptive use, gendered impact of Covid-19 (protective behaviors and social, violence, economic impacts)
 - 6m follow-up in Feb 2021
- **Monthly text message-based mini-survey**

Qualitative

- Youth Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (n=8, 6-8 per FGD)
- Stakeholder FGDs (n=4, 6-8 per FGD)
- Key informant interviews (n=12)
- In-Depth interviews (n=20 per round [10 female, 10 male]; total n=40)

GBV/ Ethical Protections and Considerations

- **Gender-based violence (GBV) protections**
 - Training and protocol in accordance with international standards and best practices on ethical protections for GBV research
 - Specialized training on validating, non-judgmental approach to GBV-related topics
 - Discreet referral to support services

*Preliminary results; not for distribution.

GBV/ Ethical Protections and Considerations

- **Unique to phone-based data collection:**
 - Auditory privacy screener
 - Discreet codeword for privacy interruptions
 - Risk for phone sharing
 - Broke survey into two distinct sessions to reduce participant burden and enhance data quality

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Ethical Protections and Considerations

- **Virtual qualitative research**
 - Nonidentifiable ID for Zoom display name
 - Zoom security features:
 - password protection
 - waiting room
 - locked meeting
 - Voluntary video participation
 - Required extensive logistics in preparation!

Implementation Parameters (as of Oct 7, 2020)

Activity	Population	# Discussions	# Participants	Out of Goal	Response Rate	Element Completed
Quantitative						
Part 1: YRDSS Follow-up			1223	1293	95%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Part 2: Gender/Covid*			1216	1292	94%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Qualitative						
FGD	Stakeholders	4	32	24-32		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Youth	8	64	48-64		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KII			12	12		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IDI	Young men			20		
	Young women			20		
TOTAL		12	108	148		

Preliminary Findings: Gender-based Violence and Safety

Male risks for police violence

"I think young people are being violated based on this Corona virus because... let me say for example, you are supposed to be at home by 9, and by mistake you find yourself outside and if you go the way you might meet police and they might brutally beat you, or beat you physically, which is, which is abusive."

– FGD with male youth ages 15-19

Female risk of GBV and Covid-19 restrictions

"Now there are curfew hours so maybe you went out... and time went by without you noticing... And you are with this guy... And now he has the chance to do with you anything he likes because he knows you can't go anywhere, it is past curfew, you can't leave the house. So he might do anything to you."

– FGD with female youth ages 15-19

Preliminary results; not for distribution.

Preliminary Findings: Gender-based Violence and Safety

- Feel somewhat or very unsafe in **public**: 73% female; 66% male
- Feel somewhat or very unsafe at home: ~5% for both male and female
- Physical or sexual **partner violence**: 14% of young women (past year)
 - for ~38% of those affected, IPV began since the start of Covid-19 restrictions

Preliminary, unweighted results with 78% data collection completed as of Sept 25, 2020. Not for distribution.

Preliminary Findings: Gender-based Violence and Safety

- Only **37%** of young women have received information about violence support services since Covid-19
- **Sexual harassment:** 20% of young women (past year)
 - The majority of those affected reported sexual harassment both prior to, and during, Covid-19
 - 35% indicate it has increased in intensity since Covid-19 restrictions

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Preliminary Findings: Time, Mobility Restrictions & Relationships

- Chief **mobility barriers** for both men and women are government restrictions on movement, concern for Covid exposure
- Gender-specific barriers to mobility:
 - Fear of police harassment; 37% of boys
 - Household disapproval: 13% of girls

Preliminary, unweighted results with 78% data collection completed as of Sept 25, 2020. Not for distribution.

Preliminary Findings: Time, Mobility Restrictions & Relationships

- Covid restrictions had mixed impact on **time with dating partners**
 - Increased time for 38%
 - Decreased time for 46%
 - Non-differential by gender

Female mobility limitations: relationship impact of Covid-19

“As a girl you will find that parents are in the house and for you to leave and tell your mother that you are going to visit your boyfriend it will be hard. So you find the boy starts saying you do not have his time, you break up. So it has led to breakups.”

- FGD with female youth ages 15-19

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Preliminary Findings:

Economic Impacts to Households and Individuals

Household loss of income due to Covid-19

“You find that a member of the family may be used to work in a certain industry, yeah then due to this Covid-19 they lose their jobs... So the breadwinner becomes one person so challenges are many in the house... Shopping for food for the house, everything has just changed... You may find even that in some families both the breadwinners have lost their jobs.”

– FGD with male youth ages 15-19

Youth engaging in informal labor due to Covid-19

“I have seen after people losing their jobs mostly there is a design they have started hustling. You find that even though children are not at school there is a design they have started to look for themselves money. They themselves are selling fruits on the road.”

– FGD with male youth ages 15-19

Preliminary results; not for distribution.

Preliminary Findings:

Gender differences in flow of resources

	Male	Female
Primary income generator for household	Self: 46%	Mother: 38%
If not self, significant increase in reliance on others for resources	33%	39%
Expected to support the basic needs of others	45%	45%
Whose needs are being supported:		
Own children	<1%	12%
Family members outside the home	28%	14%
Household members	10%	23%
Dating partner/spouse	17%	5%
Significant increase in their reliance on you for resources	33%	29%

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Preliminary Findings: Women's Economic Reliance on Transactional Partnerships

Young girls meet basic needs through transactional relationships

"People are dating many people... We girls look at the needs... Let this one [partner] do this, this one [partner] will be for the hair, this one [partner] for rent, I mean someone who can be able to back us up." – FGD
with female youth ages 15-19

Covid-19 economic impacts on transactional relationships

"Covid-19 has affected the economy. And because of that maybe in our relationship most of them are built on money and because you do not have money, our relationships are not... very healthy there is not that nourishment because the money is there to nourish our relationships..."

– FGD with male youth ages 15-19

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Preliminary Findings: Women's Economic Reliance on Transactional Partnerships

- 34% reported transactional dating/sex relationship in the past year (started/continued for resources)
 - The majority (67%) of those involved had transactional relationships **both prior to and during** Covid-19
 - Since Covid-19, **dependence** on the exchange increased for 47%

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Preliminary Findings: Covid & Sexual and Reproductive Health

Perceived risk of Covid-19 exposure limiting access to contraceptives

“Covid [Covid-19] is affecting the youths from getting access to these contraceptives... Going to hospitals where actually people leave the Corona virus... is a major risk. We are exposing ourselves... we are afraid to go [for contraceptives] because we might get it [Covid-19].” – FGD with male youth ages 15-19

Concern for rise in early/unintended pregnancy since Covid-19

“And for the girls mostly, [the greatest challenge] it’s actually pregnancy because even in the news, we can see that the number of teenage pregnancy is rising just like the number of Covid-19 is rising every day... So it is like teenage pregnancy is competing with Covid- 19.”

– FGD with male youth ages 15-19

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Preliminary Findings: Covid Risks, Perceptions and Behaviors

	Male	Female
Level of concern about spread in community: high	60%	68%
Level of concern about becoming infected: high	63%	74%
Limited ability to self-isolate	23%	17%
Preventive behaviors:		
Mask wearing	93%	93%
Hand washing	93%	98%
Limiting contact with others	79%	87%
Staying in the home	56%	69%

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Preliminary Impressions

- Conducting remote data collection on sensitive gender and GBV topics was feasible in this setting
- GBV, safety and economic risks of Covid restrictions are gendered
 - situational risk of Covid exacerbates underlying epidemics

Gender/Covid-19 Acknowledgments

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