

**HUNGER SAFETY NET PROGRAMME AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-
BEING OF VULNERABLE GROUPS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN LOIMA**

– TURKANA, KENYA

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

APRIL 2024

DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration

This research project is my original work and has not been presented to any other examination body.

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DEDICATION

I unreservedly dedicate this research work to my wife Roseline Ekitela and beloved children for their love, encouragement and prayers.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am grateful to my able supervisor Professor Kennedy Mutundu for his unreserved support, guidance, contribution, and encouragement to the successful completion of this research project. I'm thankful to the lecturers of the Development Studies department at Mount Kenya University for their wonderful support. I owe lots of gratitude and appreciation to my beloved wife and children, for their continued moral support and encouragement throughout the study. Above all, my deep gratitude goes to Almighty God, our Almighty God, for enabling me to accomplish this project.



ABSTRACT

Established in 2009, Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) plays a pivotal role in providing unconditional income support to vulnerable households, especially during severe droughts. Notably, amidst the challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the HSNP successfully maintained its crucial functions. The pandemic had a profound impact on Kenya's economy, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) reporting a 90% increase in individuals requiring urgent assistance from August 2020 to February 2021, particularly in Turkana County. Throughout this period, the HSNP continued its core mission of delivering regular and emergency cash transfers to vulnerable Kenyans without modification. However, the lack of adaptability, including unchanged payment cycles, household cash value, and targeted beneficiaries, posed a significant risk of exacerbating poverty and food insecurity for the 7117 households registered under the HSNP program. The limited research on the HSNP program's effectiveness during the COVID-19 pandemic emphasizes the need to address this knowledge gap. This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of the Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) in enhancing the economic and social well-being of vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Three specific objectives guided the research: evaluating the impact of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households, examining its influence on the health outcomes of beneficiaries, and investigating its effect on the education of beneficiaries during the pandemic. Social Capital Theory and Human Capital Theory were employed as theoretical frameworks to analyze the relationship between the HSNP Program and its socio-economic outcomes on beneficiaries. Adopting a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods, the study utilized a descriptive survey design to collect data on various characteristics, attitudes, beliefs, and opinions related to primary beneficiaries of the HSNP program in Loima sub-county. Self-reported data were gathered through semi-structured questionnaires and interviews from HSNP beneficiaries. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. The analysis revealed that the HSNP program had a limited influence on improving the food security of vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study concluded that the HSNP program had a positive influence on the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county during the COVID-19 pandemic. The investigation into the HSNP's influence on education revealed a significant positive influence on school enrollment rates, attendance, and access to basic education services for children in beneficiary households during the pandemic. Recommendations to strengthen HSNP include program flexibility, expanded coverage, digital payment solutions, and sustainable partnerships. For food security, suggestions include enhancing program communication, targeted interventions, and sustainable food practices. In the education sector, proposals comprise increased parental engagement, addressing technological barriers, and fostering collaborations.

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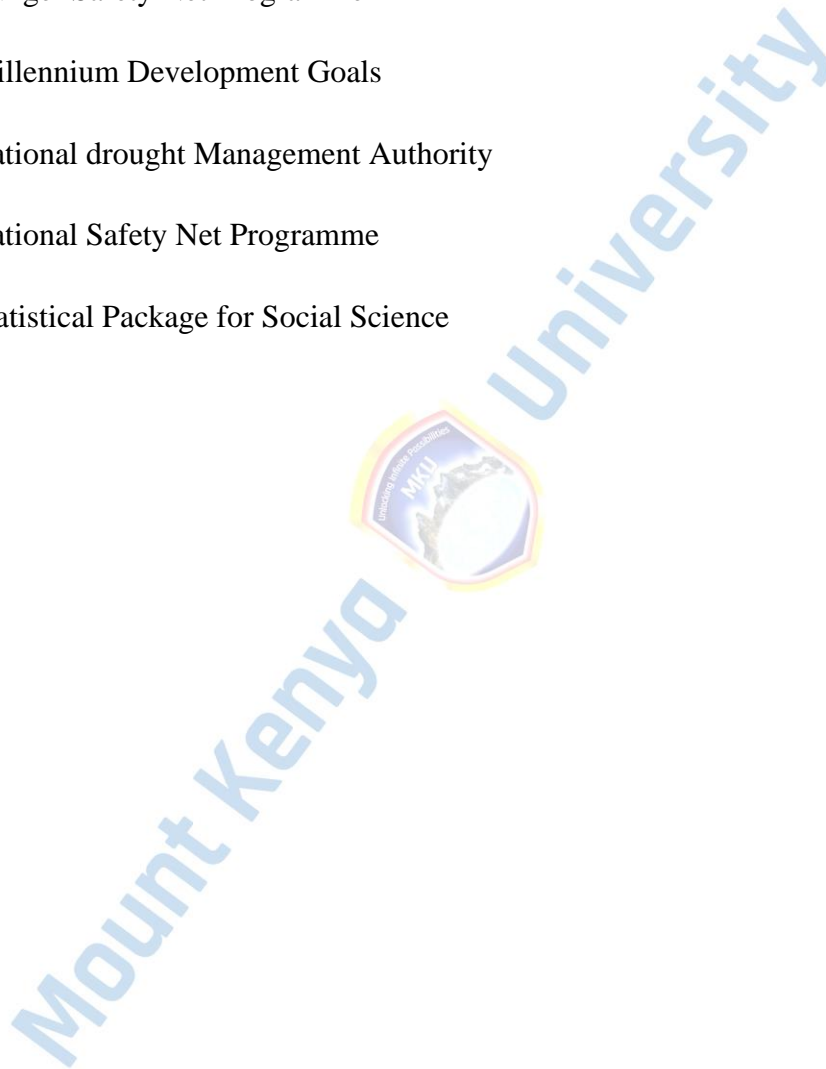
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CTP	Cash Transfer Programme
DFID	Department for International Development
HSNP	Hunger Safety Net Programme
MGDs	Millennium Development Goals
NDMA	National drought Management Authority
NSNP	National Safety Net Programme
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Despite the world's abundant resources, poverty persists as a critical global issue, impacting 2.2 billion individuals and causing 21,000 deaths daily due to hunger and malnutrition-related illnesses. Children, in particular, bear a significant burden, exacerbated by poverty (United Nations Development Programme, 2018). Compounding the issue is the lack of social protection for 80% of the global population, depriving them of the means to build resilience and manage vulnerabilities, hindering efforts to enhance their quality of life. Social cash transfer schemes have emerged as a major tool for alleviating poverty and inequality in emerging nations. These programs serve as a social safety net to elevate marginalized groups and enhance their socioeconomic standing and rights by providing income or consumption assistance to low-income people in the form of cash or in-kind benefits. Reducing severe poverty is vital, as shown by global programs like the Sustainable Development Goals and the Millennium Development Goals. As of 2010, cash transfer programs had positively impacted over 750 million individuals with low to moderate incomes worldwide. Scholars regard social cash transfers as a promising approach to promoting economic inclusion, particularly among vulnerable groups that have yet to experience the benefits of economic growth and enhanced well-being.

Beegle, Coudouel, and Monsalve (2018) assert that social cash transfers provide a reliable and enduring source of income, empowering households to manage expenses, accumulate productive assets, and exercise decision-making authority regarding household income. Many nations have implemented social protection laws and initiatives, including social transfer programs, as a result

of the widespread recognition that social protection is an essential tool for combating poverty, vulnerability, and inequality. These programs have significantly contributed to the attainment of global development goals, particularly in the realms of education and health, while concurrently establishing safety nets for those grappling with poverty (Beegle, Coudouel, and Monsalve, 2018).

According to Sugiyama, (2011) cash transfer programs have a well-established history dating back to the 20th century in Europe, and since then, they have been widely embraced by countries globally, including in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Nations like Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil have observed positive impacts on the health, nutrition, and education of targeted populations at a comparatively lower cost, with Colombia adopting cash transfer programs as part of its social protection measures (Brearley, 2016).

Social safety nets, also referred to as social transfers, constitute a form of aid delivered by governments or other entities to specific groups in need, aiming to provide consistent support to those requiring assistance. Promoting human rights and ensuring that social assistance programs adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are vital tasks for the United Nations and its member nations (United Nations, 2017). The World Bank highlights the growing global adoption of cash transfer programs, with nations in Latin America, Central Europe, Africa, and Asia experiencing the positive outcomes of these initiatives.

Cash transfer programs are gaining prominence in the global south, with many countries tailoring programs to meet their specific needs. Garcia and Moore (2008) reported that at least 150 million families had benefited from cash transfer programs in developing countries. This form of assistance has spurred reforms focused on financial inclusivity, digital innovation, leadership empowerment, accountability, monitoring and evaluation, and the reinforcement of social

protection systems, as highlighted by the United Nations. The African Union has actively encouraged African nations to develop policy frameworks and strategic action plans supported by government commitments to expand and empower social protection (World Bank, 2017). Social cash transfer programs have also gained traction in the Americas, particularly in the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Chile, as a means to address poverty and inequality. These programs aim to provide regular cash transfers to eligible low-income households, alleviating financial hardship, improving access to basic necessities, and enhancing overall social welfare (Sugiyama, 2011 & Brearley, 2016).

In the United States, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides financial aid to low-income families with children. While federally funded, individual states manage the program, allowing for customization and flexibility (Berrick & Skivenes, 2012). In Canada, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) program offers a non-taxable benefit to low-income seniors. Tailored to income levels, this program aims to address basic needs such as housing and food (Government of Canada, 2021). Brazil's Bolsa Familia program extends financial support to low-income families, contingent upon their children attending school and receiving necessary vaccinations. This initiative has demonstrated success in enhancing overall social welfare (Soares et al., 2010). Chile's Sistema de Protección Social (Social Protection System) encompasses various social cash transfer programs, including the Chile Solidario program. These initiatives aim to offer financial assistance and social services to families grappling with extreme poverty, facilitating their journey out of poverty and promoting social inclusion (Bachelet & Veras, 2012). In Europe, the United Kingdom introduced Universal Credit in 2013, a social cash transfer program designed to simplify the benefits system and provide a more adaptable payment structure.

However, it has faced criticism due to implementation delays (Department for Work and Pensions, 2013; National Audit Office, 2018).

Spain has a long-standing history of social cash transfer programs, with the first program introduced in 1908 (González de San Román, 2019). In recent years, the government has implemented several new programs to address poverty and social exclusion, including the Ingreso Mínimo Vital (Minimum Living Income), which was launched in 2020. This program provides a minimum income for households experiencing severe financial hardship (Spanish Government, 2020). Portugal has recently implemented several social cash transfer programs, aimed at supporting low-income pensioners. One of these programs, the Complemento Solidário para Idosos (Solidarity Supplement for the Elderly), provides a monthly supplement for eligible pensioners. In 2019, the government introduced the Complemento de Pensão para Idosos com Carreiras Contributivas Muito Longas (Pension Supplement for the Elderly with Very Long Contributory Careers), which provides additional support for pensioners who have contributed to the social security system for an extended period (Social Security of Portugal, 2019). These programs are part of an effort to address poverty and social inequality in Portugal, although there is ongoing debate regarding their effectiveness and optimal implementation strategies.

Several countries in Asia have also implemented social cash transfer programs. In Thailand, for example, the government has implemented the "Pantawid Siang Pilipino" or "Conditional Cash Transfer for Education" program, which provides cash transfers to families with children enrolled in school to encourage school attendance and reduce dropout rates (Wongboonsin, 2017). Similarly, China has implemented the "Dibao" or "Minimum Livelihood Guarantee" program, which provides cash transfers to individuals or households living below a certain poverty line to ensure a basic standard of living (Kuddus, 2018). In India, the government has implemented the

"Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana" program, which aims to provide financial inclusion to unbanked households by offering access to basic banking services, insurance, and pension schemes, in addition to providing direct cash transfers to vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, senior citizens, and farmers (Vakulabharanam, 2016).

In Africa, various social cash transfer programs have been implemented to provide assistance to households facing extreme poverty (Mensah et al., 2020). Notably, Ghana has established the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program, which offers cash transfers to households with vulnerable children, orphans, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities (Mensah et al., 2020). Similarly, Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) provides cash transfers to vulnerable households participating in public works programs, with the overarching goal of improving their livelihoods and resilience to shocks (Boccia et al., 2020).

In Kenya, the HSNP stands out as a social cash transfer initiative providing regular income support to vulnerable households in the country's most impoverished and food-insecure regions. The HSNP delivers unconditional cash transfers bi-monthly, with the amount contingent on household size and location. It targets extremely poor and vulnerable households, including those headed by elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and those with orphans or vulnerable children. The primary objectives of the program are to assist households in meeting their basic needs, encompassing food, healthcare, and education, and to fortify their resilience against adversities such as droughts and floods (Owino et al., 2017).

The HSNP has received significant investment from various stakeholders, including the Kenyan government, DFID, and other development partners. For instance, the Kenyan government allocated Ksh 4.4 billion (approximately USD 41 million) to the program in the 2021/2022 fiscal year, while DFID has invested over GBP 120 million (approximately USD 170 million) since its inception (DFID, n.d.). By December 2022, the HSNP had reached over 100,000 households in Turkana, Marsabit, and Mandera counties, benefiting approximately 500,000 individuals (HSNP, 2021).

While the HSNP has remained unchanged, there is a notable scarcity of information on how it has supported households affected by the pandemic. Given the potential exacerbation of poverty levels and vulnerability due to the pandemic, the lack of information on the HSNP's implementation during the crisis raises questions about its effectiveness in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable households. Assessing the program's impact and effectiveness becomes challenging without sufficient information on its implementation during the pandemic (HSNP, 2021). Therefore, this study aims to assess the effectiveness of the HSNP in enhancing the economic and social welfare of vulnerable populations in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, Kenya, during the COVID-19.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unparalleled strain on global economy, with a disproportionate effect on marginalized communities and a worsening of pre-existing vulnerabilities. This crisis has brought attention to the serious problems marginalized groups in Kenya confront, especially in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), where resource shortages and socioeconomic instability exacerbate the consequences of global pandemics. The Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), one of the many initiatives to lessen these effects, is a vital attempt by

the Kenyan government and development partners to give emergency and regular financial transfers to disadvantaged groups. But little is known about how successful these kinds of programs were during the COVID-19 pandemic's peak, especially when it comes to how well they adjusted to the demands of the situation. Turkana County provides a dramatic case study for analyzing the responsiveness and resilience of social safety net programs such as the HSNP during the epidemic, given its socioeconomic problems and arid environment. The HSNP has not significantly changed to meet the growing needs over this time, despite the population's rising vulnerability. Among Turkana, the Loima sub-county stands out due to its extreme susceptibility to the socio-economic shocks made worse by COVID-19. The choice to concentrate on Loima was made because of its unique socioeconomic environment, which includes its heavy reliance on the HSNP and makes it an important place to evaluate how well the program is working to mitigate pandemic-related hardships.

There is a significant vacuum in the literature concerning the efficacy of the HSNP in Loima sub-county in responding to the issues brought about by the COVID-19 epidemic. By critically analyzing the effects of the HSNP on the socioeconomic well-being of vulnerable populations in Loima during the pandemic, this study aims to close this gap. Through an evaluation of the program's impact on important domains like food security, health outcomes, and education, this study seeks to provide thorough insights into the program's effectiveness and areas for development. Comprehending the mechanisms operating in the Loima sub-county amidst the COVID-19 epidemic, concerning the HSNP, presents a significant chance to contemplate the wider consequences for social protection structures in analogous circumstances. The purpose of this study's conclusions is to provide evidence-based suggestions to stakeholders, policymakers,

and development partners to improve safety net program responsiveness and resilience to future crises.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the influence Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) and the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable groups during the covid-19 pandemic in Loima – Turkana, Kenya.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- i. To analyze the influence of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households in Loima sub county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ii. To evaluate the influence of the HSNP program on the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima sub county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- iii. To investigate the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households in Loima sub county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- ii. How does HSNP program influence the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima sub county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- iii. What is the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The COVID-19 epidemic has brought to light Kenya's economic and public health systems' vulnerabilities, especially with regard to the country's most vulnerable citizens. One crucial measure to lessen the negative impacts of such events is the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP). Regarding the program's ability to support the economic and social well-being of its participants during the epidemic in Turkana County, Kenya, there is still a substantial knowledge vacuum. By carefully assessing the HSNP's effects on recipients' health, education, social protection, financial stability, and food security in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, this study aims to close that gap. The results provide evidence-based insights to inform decision-making, impacting resource allocation and optimizing implementation tactics to maximize the efficacy of the HSNP. In order to make sure that the program adapts to the changing requirements of the vulnerable people it serves, this is essential. Entities tasked with creating and endorsing social protection programs acquire invaluable insights into optimal methodologies and obstacles in implementing programs throughout emergencies. This can aid in improving the planning and execution of related programs in other locations. This study offers future researchers a point of reference by adding to the body of literature on the effectiveness of social protection programs during catastrophes. It establishes the framework for academic research into adaptive tactics and interventions that can strengthen disadvantaged populations' capacity for resilience in times of crisis. The knowledge gathered from this study aims to enhance program outcomes, which result in more efficient support for disadvantaged groups, both directly and indirectly. Improved program effectiveness results in improved emergency help for these people and their homes, raising their standard of living and general wellbeing. A better knowledge of the effects of the HSNP can

encourage community involvement and support, which can result in more coordinated and efficient local crisis management.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The study focused on Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) and the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable groups. The study specifically looked at HSNP program influence on; food security, health outcomes, education of beneficiaries. The study was conducted in Loima sub county, Turkana County. The study was interested in the period of COVID-19 pandemic especially at the peak with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, including pastoralist communities. The research period covers the initial year of the pandemic in Kenya, spanning from March 2020 to February 2021. To comprehensively collect data, a mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating quantitative surveys, secondary data sources, qualitative key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. A descriptive study design was used.

1.8 Study Limitations

This study focused on Turkana County in northwest Kenya, a region profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a specific emphasis on vulnerable groups such as pastoralist communities. The research duration spanned the initial year of the pandemic in Kenya, from March 2020 to February 2021, with a particular focus on the early phase of the pandemic and its impact on vulnerable groups. To comprehensively gather data, a mixed-methods approach was employed, integrating quantitative surveys, secondary data sources, qualitative key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Data analysis encompassed descriptive and inferential statistics, content analysis, and thematic analysis.

The primary objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of the HSNP in alleviating poverty and reducing food insecurity among vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkana County. Additionally, the study aimed to contribute valuable insights to the existing literature concerning the influence of social protection programs during crises, providing pertinent information for future research initiatives and policy decision-making processes. Policymakers, development partners, and other stakeholders stand to benefit from the study's findings, utilizing them to refine the program's resource allocation and implementation strategies. This refinement is crucial for enhancing the program's effectiveness in supporting vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkana County and comparable contexts.

Nonetheless, it is imperative to recognize specific inherent limits of the research. The results of this study may not be as applicable to other areas with different socioeconomic or cultural features due to its geographic focus on Turkana County. Additionally, the study's temporal scope concentrated on the initial year of the pandemic, potentially excluding longer-term effects that could manifest in subsequent years. The mixed-methods approach employed, while providing comprehensive insights, might pose challenges in terms of data integration and interpretation. Despite these drawbacks, the research adds to our understanding of the efficacy of social protection programs in times of crisis by providing insightful information on the particular setting under investigation.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

The assumptions of this study were as follows:

- i. The data collected in the study were assumed to be representative of the population of interest and were considered valid and reliable for research purposes.
- ii. It was assumed that the beneficiaries of the HSNP program in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, had received regular and emergency cash transfers as intended by the program during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- iii. The study operated under the assumption that there were no significant external factors or interventions that could influence the outcomes of the study, other than the HSNP program, during the period of data collection and analysis.



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1.10 Operational Definition of Key Terms

Beneficiaries	Households including individuals who are officially registered and are actively receiving cash transfers from the HSNP in Turkana County.
Cash transfer	It refers to the financial assistance provided to households officially registered under the HSNP in Turkana County. The HSNP is a program designed to offer both regular and emergency cash transfers to the most vulnerable households in Kenya, with a specific focus on those residing in arid and semi-arid regions.
Education	Refers to the level of access to and quality of formal education received by individuals and households officially registered under the HSNP in Turkana County.
Food security	Refers to the level of access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food by individuals and households officially registered under the HSNP in Turkana County. This includes aspects such as food availability, affordability, utilization, and stability, as well as the capacity of individuals and households to access and utilize food through their own production, exchange, or purchase.
Health Outcomes	For the purposes of this study, "health outcomes" for Turkana County HSNP beneficiaries include social, mental,

and physical well-being, with access to high-quality medical facilities and services being specifically included. This covers access to health treatments as well as one's physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Household

Refers to a collective unit of individuals officially registered under the HSNP in Turkana County.

Hunger Safety Net Programme

This is a social protection program that systematically provides regular and emergency cash transfers to the most vulnerable and food-insecure households in Kenya, particularly those dwelling in arid and semi-arid regions. The implementation of the program is overseen by the Kenyan government through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) with support from development partners, including the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and the European Union.

Socio-economic wellbeing

refers to the condition of individuals and households officially registered under the HSNP in Turkana County. It encompasses their financial status, access to basic social services such as healthcare and education, food security, as well as their level of social inclusion and protection.

Vulnerable groups:

refer to individuals and households officially registered under the HSNP in Turkana County, meeting the program's eligibility criteria based on poverty and vulnerability. This includes households with low income, limited access to basic social services, and those facing multiple forms of disadvantage, such as those living with disabilities, single-parent households, and those affected by conflict or natural disasters.



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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter initiates a comprehensive exploration of both theoretical and empirical studies relevant to the variables being investigated. Additionally, a conceptual framework for the study is presented. The literature review is organized around three primary domains: (1) the correlation between the HSNP and the health of beneficiary households, (2) the impact of the HSNP program on the food security of beneficiary households, and (3) the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiary households during the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkana County, Kenya. By focusing on these key areas, the literature review establishes a solid foundation for the study and aids in identifying gaps in existing research that the current study aims to address.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

This section offers a literature review concentrating on empirical studies pertinent to the current research. The objective is to deliver a comprehensive analysis of existing scholarly works, organized in alignment with the study's objectives and variables as outlined in the conceptual framework.

2.2.1 Social Protection Program and Food Security of Vulnerable Groups During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a global increase in food insecurity among susceptible populations, which has led to the introduction of social protection programs as a corrective remedy. Numerous studies have looked into how these initiatives affect food security in various nations. Maripuu and Parvinen (2021) conducted research in the USA, finding that initiatives like the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) positively influenced the food security of vulnerable groups amid the pandemic. Similarly, Martins et al. (2021) revealed through a study in Brazil that social protection programs significantly enhanced vulnerable groups' access to food during the pandemic. These results highlight the critical function that social protection programs have in reducing the negative consequences of the epidemic on food security.

In Chile, López-Osses et al. (2021) observed a positive impact of social protection programs, particularly the Emergency Family Income, on food security among vulnerable groups. Correspondingly, a study by Castrillo et al. (2021) in Uruguay highlighted the effectiveness of social protection programs, such as the Social Emergency Plan, in bolstering the food security of vulnerable groups during the pandemic. Devereux et al. (2020) conducted a study in Malawi, concluding that social protection programs significantly improved food security among vulnerable groups during the pandemic. Additionally, Oyekale (2021) reported a positive impact of social protection programs on the food security of vulnerable groups in Nigeria during the pandemic.

Notwithstanding the favorable results, these countries' social protection policy execution during the pandemic faced a number of difficulties. Maripuu and Parvinen (2021) identified inadequate funding, administrative delays, and communication barriers as significant hurdles in the USA. Similarly, Martins et al. (2021) reported limited funding and administrative difficulties as major challenges in Brazil. In Uruguay, Castrillo et al. (2021) found that certain vulnerable groups faced ineligibility for social protection programs, and the application process was intricate and time-consuming. López-Osses et al. (2021) identified administrative challenges in the Emergency Family Income program in Chile, where not all eligible families received benefits, particularly affecting informal workers and those in overcrowded housing. López-Osses et al. (2021) stress the imperative for more effective coordination among government agencies and the adoption of

inclusive and accessible program delivery methods. This ensures that intended beneficiaries, especially informal workers and those in overcrowded housing, receive benefits during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This underscores the importance of adapting program delivery to be more responsive and inclusive during challenging times.

Numerous global studies have investigated the effectiveness of social protection programs in addressing food security during the COVID-19 pandemic. While some studies report positive outcomes, others suggest challenges in achieving desired impacts. Nkegbe et al. (2021) examined the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) programs in Ghana, finding that these initiatives did not significantly enhance the food security of vulnerable households during the pandemic. Logistical challenges and movement restrictions disrupted program implementation, and the assistance provided fell short of meeting the needs of vulnerable households.

Aggarwal et al. (2020) assessed social protection programs in India and identified that vulnerable populations, particularly migrant workers and those in the informal sector, faced heightened challenges during the pandemic. The study emphasizes the necessity for improved information dissemination and outreach efforts to enhance the reach and efficacy of existing programs such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Furthermore, the study highlighted that the benefits provided by these programs were insufficient to address the food security needs of vulnerable populations. The authors recommended revising and expanding the coverage and benefit amounts of these programs to adequately support vulnerable groups during crises. An inclusive approach to social protection programs in India was underscored, emphasizing the importance of reaching all vulnerable groups and providing sufficient support during times of crisis. The findings of this study underscore the

imperative for policymakers to explore alternative strategies in addressing the food security needs of vulnerable households during the pandemic. It emphasizes the critical importance of monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of social protection programs during crises to ensure they fulfill their intended purpose. Adopting a comprehensive and inclusive approach is crucial to guarantee that social protection initiatives effectively reach and support all vulnerable groups during challenging times.

Two distinct studies scrutinize the implementation of social protection programs in different countries, examining their influence on both food security and health during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Ghana, Nkegbe et al. (2021) discovered that the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) programs struggled to enhance the food security of vulnerable households. Logistical challenges and inadequate assistance were identified as key hindrances. Similarly, in India, Aggarwal et al. (2020) reported shortcomings in programs like the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), particularly in reaching vulnerable populations such as migrant workers and those in the informal sector. Insufficient coverage and benefit amounts were identified as limiting factors. A parallel study in Malawi by Devereux et al. (2020) highlighted challenges including limited funding, flawed targeting mechanisms, and a lack of awareness among vulnerable groups, underscoring the importance of adequate funding and effective targeting mechanisms for social protection programs to be effective during crises. The findings emphasize the need for improved information dissemination and outreach efforts to heighten awareness among vulnerable groups.

Moreover, studies indicate that social protection programs have positive ramifications for the health of vulnerable groups, contributing to the reduction in COVID-19 incidence. Bussolo et al. (2021) and Huicho et al. (2020) revealed that such programs led to enhancements in physical and

mental health, as well as improved access to healthcare for vulnerable groups in low- and middle-income countries.

Studies conducted in Italy, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Kenya similarly underscore the positive impact of social protection programs on the health of vulnerable groups during the pandemic. For instance, Cucinotta et al. (2021) found that these programs alleviated anxiety and depression among vulnerable groups in Italy. In South Africa, Makhado and Magadzire (2021) demonstrated that social protection programs mitigated the impact of COVID-19 on both physical and mental health. These collective findings emphasize the dual role of social protection programs in addressing both food security and health concerns among vulnerable populations during the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the global implementation of social protection programs during the pandemic has faced significant challenges, hampering their overall effectiveness. Bussolo et al. (2021) identified major impediments in low- and middle-income countries, including inadequate funding, administrative difficulties, and limited outreach. In Peru, Huicho et al. (2020) highlighted administrative delays and insufficient funding as obstacles, while Cucinotta et al. (2021) found that social protection programs in Italy encountered difficulties in reaching all vulnerable groups. In Finland, Kangas et al. (2020) noted challenges in adapting programs to the evolving needs of vulnerable groups during the pandemic.

Addressing these challenges is imperative to ensure the efficacy of social protection programs in providing vulnerable groups with sufficient, safe, and nutritious food and healthcare during the ongoing pandemic. Makhado and Magadzire (2021) reported challenges in implementing social protection programs in South Africa, including administrative difficulties, limited funding, and

inadequate outreach. Adekunle et al. (2021) similarly identified administrative delays and limited funding as major challenges in Nigeria, emphasizing the necessity for effective coordination and collaboration among different government agencies and departments. Assefa et al. (2021) outlined challenges in Ethiopia, including a complex application process and limited coverage, underscoring the need for simplified administrative procedures and expanded program coverage. The study emphasized the vital role of adequate funding for social protection programs to effectively support vulnerable groups during crises. Gitonga et al. (2021) reported challenges in Kenya, including limited coverage and access, delays in cash transfers, inadequate targeting, and insufficient funding. The authors recommended innovative approaches, such as utilizing mobile money platforms for cash transfers and expanding program coverage, to alleviate the impacts of crises on vulnerable groups. To ensure that social protection programs comprehensively support vulnerable groups, it is imperative to address the identified challenges and prioritize well-targeted, well-funded, and effectively implemented programs. The global community must collaboratively work towards innovative solutions and streamlined processes to enhance the resilience of social protection programs in the face of ongoing challenges.

2.2.2 Social Protection Program and Health Status of Vulnerable Groups During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Social protection measures have been put in place all around the world in reaction to the COVID-19 epidemic to lessen its effects on the health of vulnerable populations. This section summarizes research looking at how these initiatives affected vulnerable people' social, mental, and physical health during the epidemic. Bussolo et al. (2021) reported a positive impact of social protection programs on the physical and mental health of vulnerable groups in low- and middle-income countries. Similarly, a study by Huicho et al. (2020) in Peru revealed that these programs improved healthcare access and reduced the incidence of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups. Cucinotta et

al. (2021) found that social protection programs in Italy enhanced the mental health of vulnerable groups by reducing the prevalence of anxiety and depression.

Studies conducted in Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Kenya also investigated the impact of social protection programs on the health status of vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Makhado and Magadzire (2021) observed improvements in healthcare access, a reduction in the incidence of COVID-19, and enhanced mental health outcomes in South Africa due to social protection programs. Adekunle et al. (2021) in Nigeria similarly found that these programs improved healthcare access and reduced the incidence of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups. Assefa et al. (2021) in Ethiopia reported a reduction in the prevalence of anxiety and depression among vulnerable groups due to social protection programs.

However, challenges in implementing social protection programs were identified in various countries. Bussolo et al. (2021) highlighted inadequate funding, administrative difficulties, and limited outreach as major challenges in low- and middle-income countries. Similarly, Huicho et al. (2020) identified administrative delays and limited funding as significant hurdles in Peru. Cucinotta et al. (2021) found that social protection programs in Italy faced challenges in reaching all vulnerable groups and had a complex application process. Kangas et al. (2020) noted difficulties in Finland's social protection programs adapting to changing needs during the pandemic. Makhado and Magadzire (2021) identified administrative difficulties, limited funding, and inadequate outreach as major challenges in implementing social protection programs in South Africa. Adekunle et al. (2021) in Nigeria reported administrative delays and limited funding as significant challenges. Major obstacles to Nigeria's cash transfer programs, school food programs, and public works initiatives intended to benefit underprivileged communities were found to be inadequate money and coordination. In order to ensure that social protection programs are effective in

supporting vulnerable populations' health during the ongoing epidemic, it is imperative that these problems be addressed.

Adekunle et al. (2021) focused on the challenges encountered by social protection programs in Nigeria amid the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting specific issues such as administrative delays and limited funding. The study underscores the pivotal role of effective program implementation and ample funding in ensuring the efficacy of social protection programs, particularly in supporting vulnerable groups during crises. Similarly, Assefa et al. (2021) conducted a study in Ethiopia, examining the hurdles in reaching all vulnerable groups through social protection programs during the pandemic. Despite Ethiopia's diverse array of social protection initiatives, including cash transfers, public works, and food assistance programs, several challenges were identified. The complex and time-consuming application process emerged as a major impediment, particularly affecting individuals in rural areas. Moreover, informal sector workers and those in urban areas often found themselves excluded due to the limited coverage of these programs. Funding constraints further hampered the implementation of measures announced by the Ethiopian government to expand coverage and increase cash transfers. To address these challenges, the study recommends ensuring adequate funding, streamlining application processes, and expanding the coverage of social protection programs, especially during crises.

The insights from Assefa et al. (2021) underscore the need for policymakers and development practitioners to adopt more inclusive and efficient approaches to social protection delivery. Embracing digital solutions and simplifying application processes can enhance accessibility for all vulnerable groups. Moreover, the study emphasizes the critical role of adequate funding in ensuring the effectiveness of social protection programs, particularly during crises. These

recommendations provide valuable guidance for improving the reach and impact of social protection initiatives in Ethiopia and offer broader insights applicable to similar contexts.

Gitonga et al. (2021) conducted a study in Kenya to assess the challenges faced by social protection programs in adapting to the evolving needs of vulnerable groups amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors observed that although existing programs, including cash transfers, food assistance, and public works initiatives, were designed to support vulnerable populations during crises, the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic necessitated innovative solutions. The study revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the socioeconomic well-being of vulnerable groups in Kenya, aggravating existing vulnerabilities. Despite the vital role of social protection programs, they encountered difficulties in addressing the dynamic needs of vulnerable groups during the pandemic. Challenges identified included limited coverage and access, delays in disbursement, inadequate targeting, and insufficient funding.

To overcome these challenges, the authors proposed innovative approaches. These include leveraging mobile money platforms for efficient cash transfer disbursement, expanding program coverage to encompass a broader spectrum of vulnerable groups, and adopting a more participatory approach in program design and implementation. In summary, while social protection programs globally have positively influenced the health status of vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges in their implementation have curtailed their effectiveness. Addressing these challenges through adequate funding, precise targeting, and efficient implementation is crucial to ensuring the physical, mental, and social well-being of vulnerable groups amidst the ongoing pandemic. The insights from Gitonga et al. (2021) offer valuable recommendations for refining social protection strategies not only in Kenya but also in similar contexts worldwide.

2.2.3 Social Protection Programs and the Education of Beneficiary Households

Numerous studies have delved into the influence of cash transfer programs on education-related expenditures. For example, Kakwani, Son, and Khandker (2019) discovered that Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Program empowered households to meet school expenses, resulting in enhanced academic performance. Similarly, research on Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs in Latin America, such as Scriven, Rawling, and Rubio (2003), has indicated positive effects on both school enrollment and retention. However, scant research has explored their impact in sub-Saharan Africa. Wangui Wanyama's (2018) study in Eldoret West Sub-County identified a robust positive correlation between cash transfers and school retention. Nonetheless, the study's regional focus and descriptive methodology constrain its generalizability. In contrast, Schady, Pounce, and Osterbeek's (2008) examination of Ecuador's Bono de Desarrollo Humano (BDH) program, utilizing randomized experiments and regression designs, evaluated the program's impact on school enrollment. The findings revealed that the program incentivized impoverished households to enroll their children in school, leading to a substantial increase in enrollment for children in the first income quintile. However, the program exhibited no significant impact on children in families around the second quintile. Consequently, the authors advocate for targeting cash transfer programs specifically to households in the lowest income quintile to maximize the impact on school enrollment.

Duryea and Morrison's (2004) study assessed the effects of CCT programs on school attendance and child labor in Colombia, Mexico, and Nicaragua. The findings indicated that while CCTs increased school attendance, they did not enhance academic performance or reduce child labor. The authors propose complementing CCT programs with policies addressing poverty reduction and improving access to education to tackle the root causes of poor school performance and child

labor. Durr-E-Nayab and Shujaat Farooq (2012) conducted a study in Pakistan to assess the effects of a cash transfer program on school enrollment, attendance, and retention among children from low-income households. The program, designed to incentivize families through cash transfers, resulted in a noteworthy 13.5% increase in school enrollment. However, the study revealed that the program did not have a significant impact on attendance or retention. The authors argued that while cash transfers successfully encouraged families to enroll their children, they fell short of addressing the root causes of absenteeism and dropout, including inadequate education quality, lack of facilities, and teacher absenteeism.

To foster sustainable improvements in education outcomes, Durr-E-Nayab and Shujaat Farooq (2012) recommended that cash transfer programs should be complemented by initiatives to enhance education quality and tackle the fundamental causes of absenteeism and dropout. Policymakers in Pakistan were urged to prioritize enhancing education quality, providing adequate facilities, and addressing teacher absenteeism to ensure that children from low-income households not only access but also benefit from education. In summary, the study found that cash transfer programs increased school enrollment among children from low-income households in Pakistan, though no significant impact on attendance or retention was observed. The authors stressed the importance of concurrent efforts to improve education quality and address the underlying causes of absenteeism and dropout for sustained advancements in education outcomes. While acknowledging the positive impact of cash transfer programs on enrollment, it is crucial to conduct further research to assess their effectiveness in promoting attendance and retention, especially in sub-Saharan African countries. Additionally, tailored solutions considering diverse regional challenges are essential, as highlighted by Kakwani, Son, and Khandker (2019).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

This study employs two key theories, Social Capital Theory and Human Capital Theory, to analyze the relationship between the HSNP Program and its socio-economic outcomes for beneficiaries in Loima, Turkana County, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These theories are utilized in a complementary manner, both emphasizing the pivotal role of social and economic development in alleviating poverty and improving livelihoods. Social Capital Theory underscores the significance of social networks and relationships in poverty alleviation and livelihood enhancement. It posits that robust social capital leads to increased access to resources, opportunities, and support systems, enhancing resilience and coping mechanisms during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Social capital facilitates access to vital information, knowledge, and skills crucial for economic development. It provides avenues for social support, financial assistance, and credit access, potentially aiding HSNP Program beneficiaries in Turkana County to overcome economic challenges during the pandemic. Additionally, social capital fosters trust, cooperation, and collaboration among community members, enabling collective action to address socio-economic issues and improve livelihoods.

Human Capital Theory underscores the importance of knowledge and skills in economic development and poverty reduction. It argues that investments in education, health, and training result in improved livelihoods and socio-economic outcomes, enhancing individuals' adaptability to changing economic circumstances, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Human capital development can increase productivity, income generation, and employment opportunities, positively impacting HSNP Program beneficiaries' socio-economic outcomes. Investments in education and training improve beneficiaries' capacity to acquire new skills, adapt to evolving job markets, and access better employment opportunities, even during a pandemic. Human capital

development also contributes to long-term poverty reduction and sustainable economic development by equipping beneficiaries with the necessary skills and knowledge to break the cycle of poverty.

Despite their strengths, these theories face potential counter-arguments. Social capital distribution might be uneven, leading to inequalities in accessing resources and opportunities, especially in the context of the HSNP Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social networks may not always be reliable or effective in providing support. Additionally, social capital might not be sufficient to address structural issues and systemic challenges perpetuating poverty, and it may not necessarily lead to sustainable socio-economic outcomes. Similarly, human capital development might necessitate substantial investments in education and training, which may be challenging for all HSNP Program beneficiaries, especially during the pandemic. The impact of human capital development may take time to materialize, with immediate socio-economic outcomes not apparent in the short term. Structural barriers, like a lack of access to quality education, health services, and training facilities, may impede human capital development among beneficiaries, limiting potential impacts on socio-economic outcomes. In this study, Social Capital Theory and Human Capital Theory are integrated to examine how social networks, relationships, knowledge, and skills contribute to poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement among HSNP Program beneficiaries in Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of how social and human capital development act as potential mechanisms through which the HSNP Program can positively impact beneficiaries' socio-economic outcomes. It explores how these theories can address potential challenges, considering factors such as the inequalities in social capital distribution and the difficulties of human capital development within the context of the HSNP Program and the pandemic.

2.3.1 Social Capital Theory

Social Capital Theory posits that the cultivation of social networks, trust, and emerging norms within these networks can yield economic advantages. The theory was propagated by Gary Becker (1964) and Pierre Bourdieu (1986). According to Putnam (1993), social capital can stimulate cooperation and collective action, fostering economic growth. This study applies Social Capital Theory to elucidate how the HSNP Program nurtures social networks among beneficiaries, and how these networks can alleviate poverty, enhance livelihoods, and bolster social and economic prospects. The theory is instrumental in explaining the program's impact on the social cohesion and resilience of beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous research, exemplified by the study conducted by Narayan and Pritchett (1997), has successfully utilized social capital theory to investigate the correlation between social networks and economic development.

2.3.2 Human Capital Theory

Human Capital Theory underscores the significance of individuals' knowledge, skills, and abilities, positing that investing in these aspects can foster economic growth and poverty reduction. The theory is propagated by Gary Becker (1964) and Theodore Schultz (1979). This study applies the theory to elucidate how the HSNP Program enhances the education and skills of beneficiaries, ultimately resulting in heightened productivity, income, and expanded economic opportunities. The theory further facilitates an assessment of the program's impact on the health and nutrition of beneficiaries during the pandemic. Prior research, exemplified by Psacharopoulos and Patrinos' (2004) study, has effectively employed Human Capital Theory to scrutinize the interplay between education and economic development.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

This research aims to investigate the correlation between the HSNP and the socio-economic well-being of beneficiaries in Loima, Turkana County. The independent variable is the HSNP, encompassing factors such as amount, intervals, medium of payment, and the number of beneficiaries. The dependent variable is the socio-economic welfare of beneficiaries' households, gauged through health, education, and food security indicators. Health was assessed based on the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals and households. The HSNP is anticipated to positively impact health by providing financial support for health services and medication. Education was evaluated through school enrolment rates, attendance, completion rates, and access to basic education services. The HSNP is expected to positively influence education by offering financial support for school fees and educational materials. Food security was appraised by the degree of access to safe, nutritious food, with the HSNP anticipated to positively affect food security by providing financial support for food and household necessities. Previous research supports the notion that cash transfer programs, including the HSNP, positively impact health, education, and food security in beneficiary households.

The study also considered household characteristics, such as size, composition, and demographics, as an intervening variable influencing the link between the HSNP and the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households. Larger households, for instance, may require increased financial assistance for improved food security and health outcomes. Existing research indicates that household characteristics can shape the impact of cash transfer programs on beneficiary households. In summary, the conceptual framework highlights the relationships between the HSNP, the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households, and the intervening variable of household characteristics. Through these analyses, the study seeks to offer insights into the

effectiveness of the HSNP in enhancing the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households in Turkana County, while respecting their dignity.



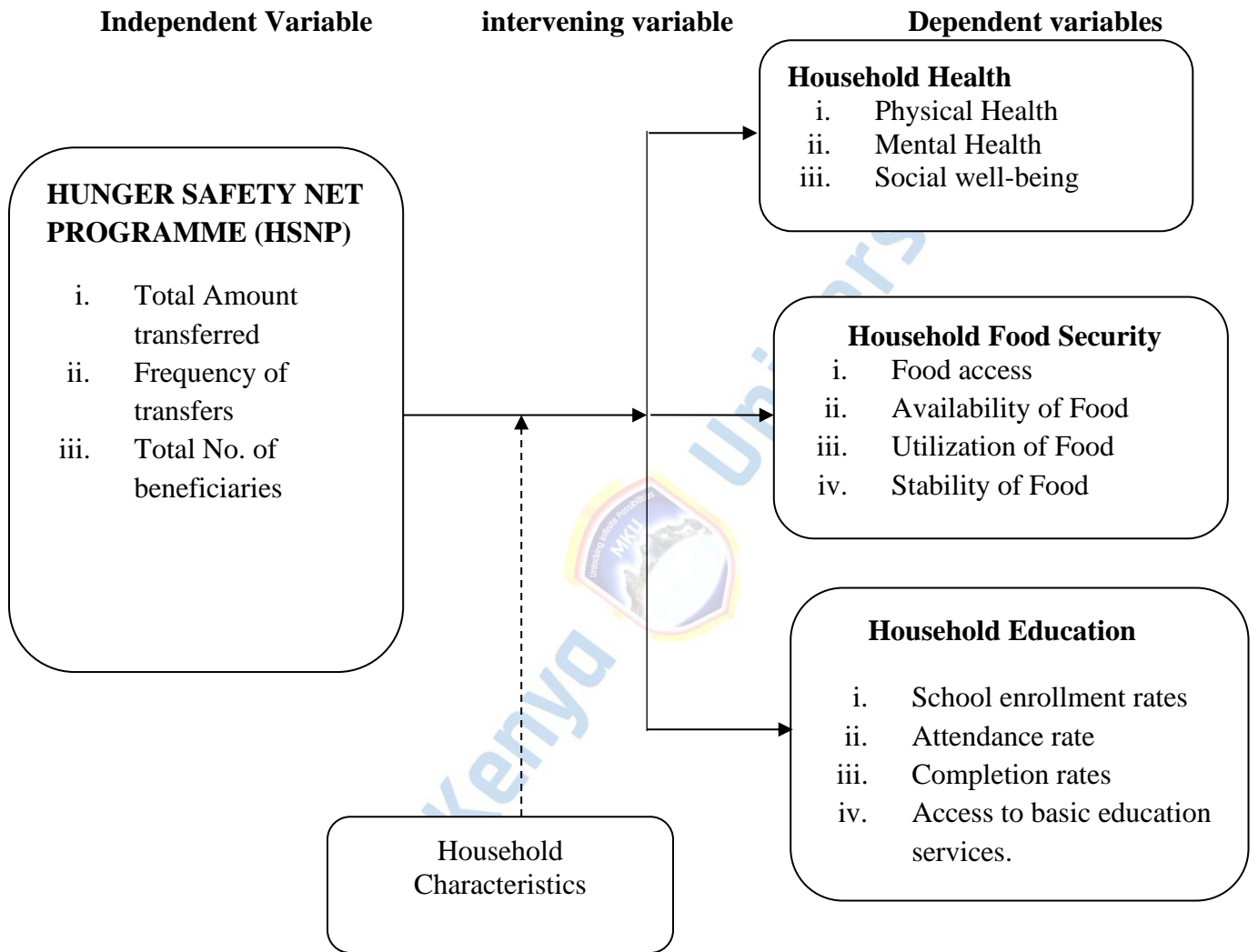


Figure 2. 1: Conceptual Framework
Sources: Researcher (2024)

2.5 Recap of Literature Review

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of literature pertinent to the study, offering valuable insights into the impact of social protection programs on vulnerable groups during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Prevailing research consistently underscores the positive influence of such programs on the food security and health status of vulnerable populations. However, challenges such as inadequate funding, ineffective targeting, and suboptimal implementation have impeded their overall effectiveness. It is crucial to address these challenges to ensure that social protection programs play their pivotal role in providing sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, as well as promoting positive physical, mental, and social well-being among vulnerable groups amidst the pandemic. Cash transfer programs have emerged as effective tools for enhancing school enrollment, yet further investigation is warranted to assess their impact on school retention and attendance, particularly within sub-Saharan African countries. The study employs Social Capital and Human Capital Theories to explore the intricate relationships between social and economic development, poverty reduction, and livelihood improvement. By leveraging these theories, the research aims to illuminate the nuanced dynamics shaping the effectiveness of social protection programs, specifically the HSNP, in Turkana County, Kenya. The chapter concludes by presenting the conceptual framework, elucidating the interconnectedness between the HSNP, the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households, and household characteristics as an intervening variable. This framework serves as a visual representation of the study's focal points, seeking to contribute original insights into the efficacy of the HSNP in enhancing the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households in Turkana County.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the research design, target demographic, sample size, sampling process, pilot testing, data collection, data presentation and analysis, and ethical issues that were taken into account during the research process. The aim is to provide a lucid and comprehensive comprehension of the methods employed, ensuring that the conclusions derived from this study are systematic, logical, and reliable. The research methods have been meticulously chosen to guarantee the validity and relevance of the collected data to the research questions. These methods have steered the collection, analysis, and presentation of data, facilitating the generation of robust findings for informed decision-making. Furthermore, ethical considerations have been thoroughly addressed to uphold the highest level of integrity and respect for the rights and dignity of the participants.

3.2 Research Methodology

This study used a mixed-methodologies approach to examine the socio-economic effects of the HSNP on recipients in Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods. The selection of this extensive approach was made with the intention of offering a thorough and sophisticated comprehension of the study topics. Structured surveys were implemented and given to a representative sample of recipient families as part of the quantitative component. The amount received by each household, the frequency of payments, the mode of payment, and the total number of beneficiaries were among the independent variables that were gathered by these surveys. Through the survey, the dependent variable, which represents the socioeconomic well-being of beneficiaries, was also evaluated, taking into account variables

related to food security, education, and health. Concurrently, the qualitative approach involved conducting semi-structured interviews with significant informants, including officials from HSNP, community leaders, and local non-governmental organizations. These interviews explored the stakeholders' perspectives of the socio-economic effects of the HSNP on beneficiaries during the pandemic. They were performed either in-person or over the phone, depending on participant preferences. The qualitative data aimed to complement and enrich the insights derived from the quantitative data, offering a more profound understanding of the experiences of beneficiaries and the perspectives of involved stakeholders. The implementation of this mixed-methods approach sought to ensure a robust and comprehensive exploration of the socio-economic impacts of the HSNP on beneficiaries in Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the research process, strict adherence to ethical considerations, including obtaining informed consent, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring data protection, was prioritized. This approach contributes to the credibility and reliability of the study's findings.

3.3 Research Design

The research design selected for this study is a descriptive survey design, widely acknowledged for its effectiveness in providing a precise representation of a population or phenomenon by collecting information on various characteristics, attitudes, beliefs, and opinions (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). This design has demonstrated success in previous studies, such as Muga and Iravo's (2017) analysis of the impact of the Kenya Social Protection Programme on household welfare in rural areas of Kisumu County and Omolo et al.'s (2014) investigation of the effect of social protection programs on the well-being of households in Kenya. Both studies revealed positive impacts of the programs on household well-being. The descriptive survey design facilitated the collection of data from a substantial sample of respondents, enabling a detailed

description of the research variables. To assess the impact of the HSNP on the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households in Turkana County, a structured questionnaire was employed for data collection. Ethical considerations were fulfilled by paying close attention to participant needs and rights throughout the data gathering process. By using this method, the study's findings are more legitimate and reliable.

3.4 Location of the Study

The research was conducted in Loima sub-county, located in the northwest region of Kenya within Turkana County. Encompassing an area of approximately 7,776.10 square kilometers, this region is inhabited by an estimated population of 128,480 people (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). The predominant community in this area is the Turkana, recognized for their pastoralist way of life. The locale contends with challenges associated with its arid and semi-arid environment, resulting in restricted access to essential resources such as water, food, and healthcare. Loima sub-county is identified as the most economically disadvantaged sub-county in Turkana County, emphasizing its significance as a focal point for investigating the impact of the HSNP on vulnerable households. The HSNP, established in collaboration with the World Bank, is a social protection program designed to provide cash transfers to the most marginalized communities in Kenya. In Loima sub-county, the program specifically targets 7117 households residing below the poverty line, prioritizing the most vulnerable households dealing with challenges like drought, disability, and those led by females. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the influence of the HSNP on the socio-economic well-being of beneficiary households in Loima sub-county, particularly considering the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.5 Target Population

The target population for this research comprises the primary beneficiaries of the HSNP in Loima sub-county. According to the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) report of 2021, a total of 7117 households residing below the poverty line in Loima sub-county have received cash transfers through the HSNP (NDMA, 2021). The respondents for this study are specifically the heads of these households who directly receive the cash transfers on behalf of their families, ensuring that the selected participants possess firsthand experience with the HSNP. The study also encompassed those who are directly involved in the program's delivery, such as HSNP officials, community leaders, and representatives from nearby non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Their perspectives are deemed crucial for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the program's impact on beneficiaries, especially considering the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. To establish eligibility, respondents must have received HSNP cash transfers for a minimum of three years, be residents of Loima sub-county, and function as primary beneficiaries of the program. The selection process utilized household data from the HSNP program manager's Management Information System to verify personal details, including age, marital status, number of children, and the duration of enrollment in the HSNP program. Throughout the study, ethical considerations were diligently observed to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of all participants.

Table 3. 1: Target Population (beneficiaries)

Ward	Number of respondents	Proportion (P)
Turkwel Ward	1,636	23%
Loima Ward	2,064	29%
Lokiriama/Lorengippi Ward	1,850	26%

Lobei/Kotaruk Ward	1,567	22%
Total	7,117	100%

Source, Researcher (2024)

3.6 Sample Size

The determination of the appropriate sample size for this study employed Fisher's formula, a widely utilized method in research studies. The formula is expressed as:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

where; n represents the sample size, N denotes the population size, and e signifies the margin of error, conventionally set at 5%. For this study, with a population size of 7117 and a 5% margin of error, the sample size was calculated as:

$$n = 7117 / (1 + 7117(0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 372$$

Rounding up to the nearest whole number, the study required a sample size of 372 participants. It is crucial to highlight that Fisher's formula was employed for this calculation, a method commonly applied to ensure a suitable sample size in research studies (Fisher, 1935). A well-determined sample size is imperative for obtaining results that are both reliable and valid while minimizing the risk of sampling bias (Cochran, 1977).

3.7 Sampling Procedure

To guarantee the representativeness of the sample, a stratified random sampling approach was implemented to select participants from the four wards in Loima sub-county, Turkana County. This strategy involved selecting a proportionate number of participants from each stratum, as advised by Babbie and Mouton (2018), aligning with the population distribution. The utilization of this method aimed to minimize potential sampling errors and enhance the overall representativeness of the sample. After the strata were identified, respondents were selected using a basic random sample method. According to Cooper and Schindler (2019), this method made guaranteed that each component in the population had an equal chance of being chosen for the sample. By using this technique, the respondents were fairly chosen, reducing the possibility of prejudice and encouraging a more objective portrayal of the population.

This information on sampling procedure is as presented in Table 3.1

Table 3. 2: Sample distribution by Wards using proportional allocation (beneficiaries)

Ward	Number of respondents	Proportion (P)	Sample Size (P*n=372)
Turkwel Ward	1,636	23%	86
Loima Ward	2,064	29%	108
Lokiriama/Lorengippi Ward	1,850	26%	97
Lobei/Kotaruk Ward	1,567	22%	81
Total	7,117	100%	372

Source, Researcher (2024)

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

For the acquisition of primary data from HSNP beneficiaries, this study employed questionnaires and interview guides, ensuring the originality and reliability of the collected information. The use of questionnaires offered a structured format that facilitated efficient data collection within a concise timeframe. Moreover, questionnaires provided a level of anonymity to respondents, fostering candid and honest responses. This method proved to be cost-effective, particularly when conducting interviews with a substantial number of respondents across a wide geographical area (Malhotra, 2006; Walliman, 2011). The questionnaires were administered to households within the study area. In addition, key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted to gather data directly from HSNP beneficiaries. Interviews, being a more flexible method, allowed for the establishment of rapport between the interviewer and the interviewee. This approach ensured a nuanced understanding of the beneficiaries' perspectives and experiences within the HSNP program.

3.8.1 Questionnaires

The study employed structured questionnaires administered through household head interviews to collect original primary data. Because many household heads lack literacy, the study recognized the potential difficulties and used an interview-based method to administer the questionnaires. This approach made sure that every participant could fully comprehend and answer the questions, irrespective of their reading level. A combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire in order to gather a variety of data regarding the impact of HSNP cash transfers on the beneficiaries' social and economic welfare. Factors including age, marital status, number of children, and duration of program enrollment were included to account for the diversity of households. Proficient in the local languages, the field researchers were trained and employed a combination of direct questioning for closed-ended questions and conversational

probing for open-ended answers during the interviews. This methodology facilitated a more profound and intricate comprehension of the participants' experiences and viewpoints.

While taking into account the literacy difficulties that the research population experienced, the use of standardized questionnaires delivered through direct interviews allowed for in-depth investigation of important variables such household income, education, and food security. The ability of field researchers to modify their questioning strategies based on respondents' comprehension levels guaranteed that the information gathered was accurate and true to the participants' experiences. This methodology guaranteed that the data collected was rich, comprehensive, and inclusive of all beneficiary households, regardless of literacy levels, in addition to facilitating a methodical examination of the HSNP's impact.

3.8.2 Key Informant Interviews

Recognizing the multifaceted nature of the HSNP program, this study underscored the significance of engaging diverse stakeholders involved in its implementation and delivery. These stakeholders encompassed government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), local leaders, and other pertinent actors operating at various levels. In a bid to capture qualitative data from these stakeholders, Key Informant Interviews were conducted. These interviews were designed to be adaptable, fostering a conducive environment for open dialogue between the interviewer and the key informants. This flexibility aimed to encourage the sharing of insights and experiences related to the study topic.

A comprehensive guide for the Key Informant Interviews was meticulously developed, ensuring that the responses obtained directly addressed the study objectives. By tapping into the perspectives and experiences of these diverse stakeholders, the interviews yielded valuable

insights that complemented the quantitative approach. This dual-method strategy facilitated a more thorough and nuanced understanding of the impact of the HSNP cash transfer program, enriching the overall comprehension of its effects.

3.9 Validity and Reliability of the Research Instruments

3.9.1 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments

A random sample of thirty HSNP recipients from Turkana County, beyond the Loima sub-county's defined geographic boundaries, was chosen for the pilot study in order to assess the validity and reliability of the research instruments. By carefully choosing participants, the pilot study's findings were kept valid and applicable to the Loima sub-county without involving members of the main study's target population. Evaluating the research tools' comprehensibility, coherence, clarity, structure, and sequencing was the main objective of the pilot. Prior to the primary data collection in the Loima sub-county, this preparatory stage was essential for detecting and resolving possible problems. Important changes to the research tools were brought about by participant feedback from the pilot study. In order to improve the questionnaire's logical flow, questions were rearranged and sequenced, and their language was improved for greater clarity and comprehension. Without sacrificing the distinctiveness of the target population's responses in the main study, conducting the pilot study inside Turkana County but outside of Loima sub-county allowed for a thorough test of the research tools in a contextually similar setting. By pre-testing the instruments on the actual study population, this method reduced the possibility of biases or errors being introduced. In order to ensure that the research instruments were optimally developed for efficacy and efficiency throughout the main study's execution in the Loima sub-county, the pilot study's insights and adjustments played a crucial role in their finalization.

3.9.2 Validity of Research Instruments

Expert opinion was sought from university supervisors in order to support the validity of the study instruments. To make that the design and content of the research instruments matched variables including sample size, time limits, and item count, these supervisors were consulted. This improved the instruments' validity and reliability for gathering data related to the study issue. Discussions with university supervisors centered on refining the research instruments to accurately measure the intended variables and effectively address the research questions. Their expertise and guidance played a pivotal role in determining the appropriate content, format, and structure of the instruments. By involving university supervisors, the research team aimed to elevate the overall quality and rigor of the study. Securing approval of the research tools from university supervisors was imperative for establishing the validity and representativeness of the study results. Their evaluation and endorsement of the research instruments ensured that the data collected would aptly capture the desired information, contributing to the comprehensive addressing of the research questions. The input from university supervisors added credibility and confidence to the research process and outcomes.

3.9.3 Reliability of Research Instruments

Several strategies were used in this investigation to guarantee the dependability of the research tools. The split-half technique was used in the pilot test, where the questionnaires were split into two sets and given to the same responders each time. This method made it easier to evaluate internal reliability by comparing the two parts' responses. Apart from the split-half method, Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient was also employed to assess the research instrument's internal consistency. This coefficient, which was calculated using SPSS software, examined the coherence and connectivity of the instrument's items. A composite Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.7 or above,

following Creswell's (2012) recommendation, denoted a satisfactory level of instrument reliability. Through the implementation of these techniques, the study aimed to ensure that the research instruments yielded consistent and reliable data. The reliability assessment was crucial for affirming the consistency of measurements and the instrument's trustworthiness in furnishing accurate and dependable results. Reliability guaranteed that the collected data could be employed with confidence to derive valid conclusions regarding the study variables, substantiating the research findings.

3.10 Data Collection Procedures

This study meticulously adhered to ethical and legal standards, securing authorization for data collection from Mount Kenya University and obtaining a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). To ensure consistency in data collection, a proficient research assistant was recruited and trained extensively on the questionnaire flow and interviewing skills. Each item in the instrument was comprehensively covered during the assistant's training to guarantee clarity for respondents.

Face-to-face interviews constituted the primary method for questionnaire administration. This approach enabled interviewers to elucidate any ambiguous responses, employing persuasion techniques to enhance the completion rate (Walliman, 2011). The researchers went to considerable lengths to make sure that participants understood the goal of the study, that their participation was voluntary, and that their answers would be kept private. Prior to the gathering of data, each participant provided their full informed consent. Key Informant Interviews were conducted with project managers and relevant stakeholders, with meticulous coding applied to capture all pertinent information. Summaries of these interviews were documented on a concise sheet, facilitating subsequent analysis and interpretation. To preserve data integrity, all collected information was

initially stored in hard copies before entry and analysis. Rigorous confidentiality measures were enacted to safeguard participant identities and data security. Identifiable information was either anonymized or maintained confidential, adhering strictly to ethical guidelines. Additionally, secondary sources were scrutinized to acquire supplementary data, enhancing the contextual understanding and supporting the analysis and interpretation of findings.

3.11 Data analysis procedures

Following the culmination of fieldwork, the amassed data underwent thorough analysis. The quantitative dataset was subjected to scrutiny using SPSS software version 24, a widely recognized tool for statistical data analysis (Fernández-Collado, 2016). The software facilitated the application of diverse statistical techniques, allowing for the exploration and interpretation of the quantitative findings. To uphold academic integrity, meticulous referencing and citation practices were observed throughout the data analysis process to preclude any possibility of plagiarism. Any pertinent sources or references instrumental in the analysis were duly acknowledged and cited. Descriptive statistical methods, including frequency distributions, means, standard deviations, and percentages, were employed to succinctly summarize and present the quantitative results. These statistical measures afforded a lucid portrayal of the data, enabling the identification of patterns, trends, and relationships within the variables of interest. The findings were presented in an organized manner, effectively addressing the research questions. In the analysis of qualitative data, a thematic approach was embraced. The qualitative dataset underwent thorough review, with subsequent coding and categorization based on central themes and emerging patterns from participant responses. The qualitative analysis aimed to unearth recurring themes and derive meaningful insights aligned with the research objectives. In adherence to academic standards,

proper referencing was maintained to attribute any pertinent sources or literature that influenced the interpretation of the qualitative data (Bazeley, 2013).

3.12 Ethical Consideration

In upholding ethical research standards, the present study strictly adhered to principles and guidelines governing the treatment of human subjects, data handling, and overall research conduct (Mertens, 2014). This section outlines the ethical considerations meticulously implemented to ensure the study's ethical integrity and alignment with established standards. Firstly, the study secured necessary ethical approvals and permissions from relevant institutions. Authorization for data collection was obtained from Mount Kenya University, and a research permit was acquired from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). These approvals were essential to ensure the study's alignment with legal and ethical frameworks.

Informed consent constituted a fundamental aspect of the research process. Participants were provided with thorough and lucid information regarding the study's goals, methods, possible risks and benefits, and their rights prior to data collection. They had a chance to ask questions, get answers to their inquiries, and provide their consent voluntarily. The parents or legal guardians of minors provided informed consent. Confidentiality and privacy were paramount throughout the study. Personal information and collected data were treated with the utmost confidentiality and securely stored. Anonymization of data and reporting in aggregate form guaranteed individual participant identities remained undisclosed. Participant well-being and safety were prioritized, with measures in place to minimize potential harm or distress. Sensitive questions were approached with care, and participants received appropriate support and referrals when necessary.

The study acknowledged power dynamics and potential conflicts of interest. Efforts were made to cultivate a respectful and equitable relationship between researchers and participants, valuing participants' perspectives and experiences. Integrity and professionalism were maintained, ensuring transparency in reporting the research process and findings. Proper referencing and citation practices were followed to acknowledge the contributions of other researchers and sources.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This section presents the study's findings, encompassing the response rate and socio-demographic characteristics of the research participants. Additionally, a descriptive analysis elucidates each research objective.

4.2 Response Rate

For this study, 372 participants were targeted for engagement through questionnaires, and an additional 20 respondents participated through an interview schedule. Impressively, a total of 308 questionnaires were returned out of the 372 issued, resulting in a commendable 82.8% response rate, as detailed in Table 4.1.

Table 4. 1: Response Rate Results

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Unreturned questionnaires	64	17.2%
Returned questionnaires	308	82.8%

Source, Researcher (2024)

According to Creswell (2014), researchers consider a response rate of at least 50% as sufficient, 60% as indicative of good quality, and 70% or more as exceptional. In this study, the achieved response rate of 82.8% surpasses the exceptional threshold, indicating an outstanding level of interest and active participation from the research participants. This elevated response rate not only reflects positively on the study's design and execution but also enhances the validity and reliability of the research results. The substantial engagement ensures that the sample size remains highly representative of the population under study.

4.3 Descriptive Analysis of Demographics

The survey encompasses questions related to respondents' general information and bio-data, including age, gender, education level, household size, disability, and the duration of enrollment in the program. These questions construct a foundational demographic profile of the respondents, facilitating an understanding of the sample population's characteristics. The results are detailed in Table 4.2.

Table 4. 2: Respondents Demographics

		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	120	39.0%
	Female	188	61.0%
Highest education level	None	200	65.0%
	Primary	92	30.0%
	Secondary	16	5.0%
Size of household	2 people and below	16	5.0%
	3-4 people	61	20.0%
	5-6 people	200	65.0%
	7-8 people	22	7.0%
	9 people and above	9	3.0%
Age	40 - 50 years	61	20.0%
	50-60	77	25.0%
	60-70	109	35%
	Above 70 years	61	20%
Length of enrollment in HSNP program	1- 5 years	80	26.0%
	6-10 years	154	50.0%
	More than 10 years	74	24.0%
Disability	Yes	22	7%
	No	286	93%

Source, Researcher (2024)

The gender distribution in the survey reveals a fairly balanced representation, with 61.0% female respondents and 39.0% male respondents. This balanced gender representation enhances the study's validity, allowing for gender-specific analyses of the program's impact on socio-economic well-being. This finding is consistent with the research conducted by Maripuu and Parvinen (2021)

and López-Osses et al. (2021), which also underscored the importance of gender-balanced data in poverty alleviation studies. In terms of education levels, the majority of respondents (65.0%) had no formal education, 30.0% had completed primary education, and only 5.0% had attained secondary education. This distribution highlights a predominance of lower educational levels in the surveyed population, potentially influencing their vulnerability during the pandemic. This educational profile aligns with findings from Castrillo et al. (2021), emphasizing the correlation between education and socio-economic well-being.

Household size emerges as another critical demographic factor, with the majority of households (65.0%) consisting of 5-6 people, while smaller households of 2 people and below make up only 5.0%. The prevalence of larger households may indicate challenges in meeting basic needs, particularly during the pandemic, aligning with research by Devereux et al. (2020) that emphasizes the significance of household size in poverty studies. The age distribution of respondents is diverse, with the highest proportion (35.0%) falling within the 60-70 years age range, followed by 25.0% between 50-60 years. This age distribution indicates a relatively older population, which may have unique needs and vulnerabilities during the pandemic. Comparisons with other research, such as Maripuu and Parvinen (2021) and López-Osses et al. (2021), show consistency in the prominence of older age groups in poverty studies during crises.

Examining the duration of enrollment in the HSNP program provides insights into the long-term engagement of respondents with the program. Most respondents (50.0%) had been enrolled for 6-10 years, 26.0% for 1-5 years, and 24.0% for more than 10 years. This data enriches the study's reliability, offering a comprehensive view of respondents' program engagement and its potential impact on their socio-economic well-being. Such long-term engagement aligns with findings from Devereux et al. (2020), emphasizing the importance of program continuity. Lastly, a small

percentage (7.0%) of respondents reported having a disability, a critical factor in assessing the program's inclusiveness and its effectiveness in supporting vulnerable individuals. Comparisons with the research by Castrillo et al. (2021) reveal similarities in the consideration of disability as a significant factor in poverty alleviation studies. In summary, the demographic analysis demonstrates that the surveyed population exhibits diverse gender representation, lower education levels, varying household sizes, a range of ages, and different lengths of enrollment in the HSNP program. These demographics strengthen the validity and reliability of the study's findings and enable meaningful comparisons with the demographics explored by other researchers, including Maripuu and Parvinen (2021), López-Osses et al. (2021), Castrillo et al. (2021), and Devereux et al. (2020). These comparisons underscore the importance of these demographic factors in understanding the impact of poverty alleviation programs during crises.

4.4 The HSNP Program and Food Security of Vulnerable Households During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the impact of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The assessment focused on four key parameters: availability of food, accessibility of food, utilization of food, and stability of food.

4.4.1 Availability of Food

Examining the availability of food is pivotal for understanding the HSNP influence on vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were asked to articulate their perspectives on how the HSNP program affected the availability of food in their households, and the results are presented in Figure 4.1.

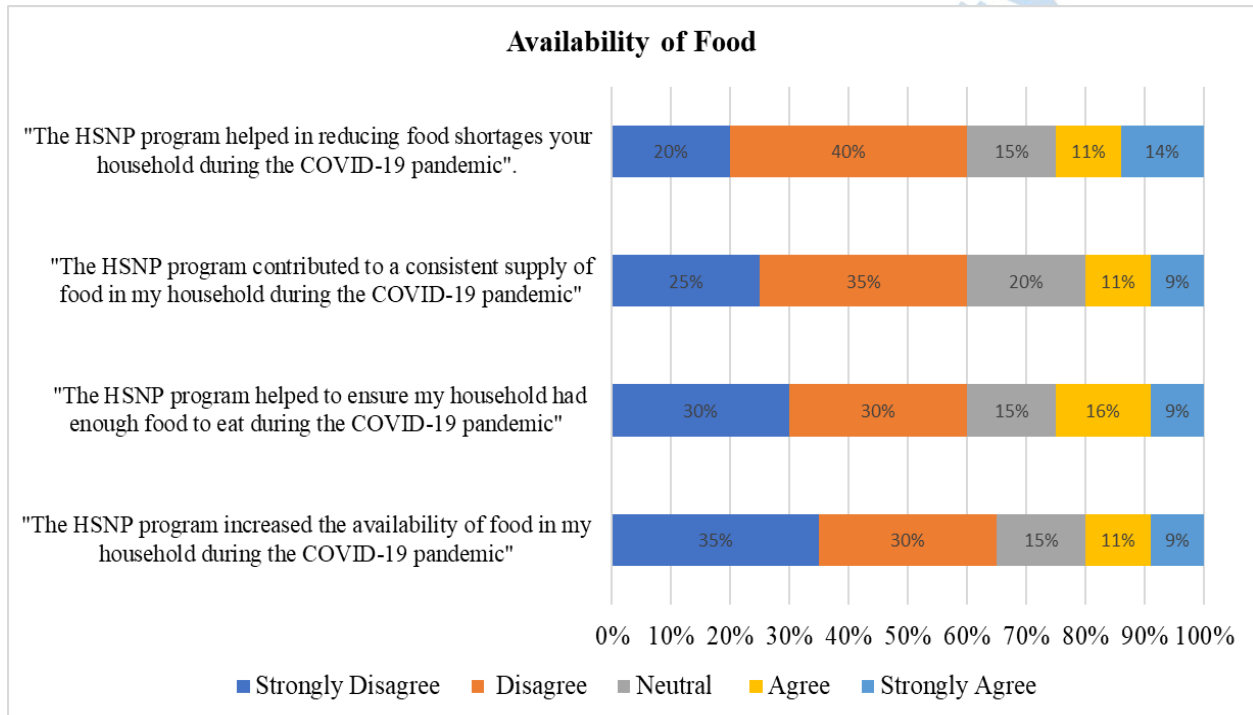


Figure 4. 1: Availability of Food

Source, Researcher (2024)

Participants were surveyed regarding the impact of the HSNP on food availability in their households during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results indicated a diverse range of perceptions among respondents. For the statement, "The HSNP program increased the availability of food in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic," 20% agreed, while 65% disagreed, and 15% remained neutral. Similarly, on the statement "The HSNP program helped to ensure my household had enough food to eat during the COVID-19 pandemic" and "The HSNP program contributed to a consistent supply of food in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic." For both

statements, around 25% agreed, while 60% disagreed, and 15% were neutral. Furthermore, participants were questioned about their beliefs regarding the HSNP program's effectiveness in reducing food shortages in their households during the pandemic. Results showed that 25% agreed, 60% disagreed, and 15% provided a neutral response. These findings highlight a spectrum of perceptions among respondents regarding the HSNP program's influence on food security during the pandemic. While some participants expressed positive views, a significant proportion held skeptical or negative opinions.

Comparing these outcomes with the existing literature, the study aligns with previous research emphasizing the varied effects of social safety net programs during crises. Scholars like Maripuu and Parvinen (2021) and López-Osses et al. (2021) have highlighted the nuanced impacts, consistent with our diverse findings. The study underscores the importance of localized insights into poverty alleviation programs during crises. Engaging directly with the vulnerable population in Turkana County provides a nuanced perspective that complements broader literature on social safety nets. The research emphasizes the significance of both quantitative and qualitative data, along with insights from various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local leaders.

In conclusion, the study reveals complex dynamics surrounding the impact of the HSNP program on food security among vulnerable households in Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. The varied perceptions highlight the need for context-specific program assessments and a holistic approach incorporating diverse data sources. This research contributes localized insights and emphasizes further investigation into the nuanced experiences of vulnerable populations during crises, aligning with existing literature on the multifaceted nature of social safety net programs.

4.4.2 Accessibility of Food

The second parameter used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic was the Accessibility of Food. Examining food accessibility is pivotal in evaluating the impact of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on vulnerable households during the pandemic. Respondents were queried to ascertain their perspectives on how the HSNP program influenced the accessibility of food in their households, yielding the subsequent results presented in Figure 4.2.

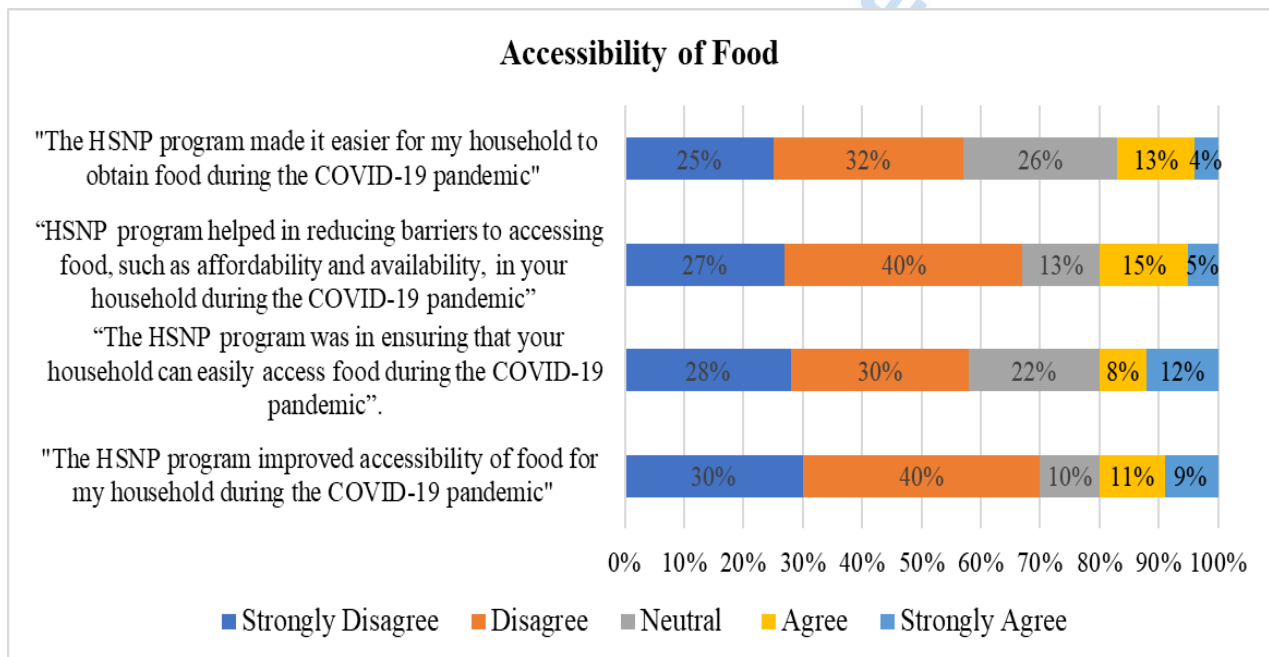


Figure 4. 2: Accessibility of Food

Source, Researcher (2024)

Participants were surveyed on their agreement with statements related to the Hunger Safety Net Programme's (HSNP) impact on food accessibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results showed diverse perspectives among respondents. For the statement, "The HSNP program improved the accessibility of food for my household during the COVID-19 pandemic," 20% agreed or strongly agreed, while 70% disagreed, and 10% remained neutral. Regarding the

declaration, "The HSNP program was instrumental in ensuring that your household can easily access food during the COVID-19 pandemic," 22% were neutral, 58% disagreed, and 20% agreed. Participants were asked to score how much they agreed with the following statement: "During the COVID-19 pandemic, the HSNP program assisted in lowering barriers to food access, such as affordability and availability, in your household." According to the results, 20% of respondents agreed, 67% disagreed, and 13% were neutral.

Regarding the perception of the HSNP program's impact on easing the process of obtaining food during the pandemic, 17% agreed, 57% disagreed, and 26% were neutral. These findings reveal a range of perspectives on the HSNP program's influence on food accessibility. While some respondents see positive effects, a significant proportion holds contrary views. These varied perceptions align with the complexities highlighted in the empirical literature, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of interventions aimed at improving food accessibility. The study employed qualitative data analysis and gathered insights from key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local leaders. Their concurrence with the quantitative findings enhances the robustness of the results, providing a nuanced understanding of the program's strengths and weaknesses.

In conclusion, this research underscores the intricate nature of food accessibility within the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic. By comparing findings with existing literature and incorporating stakeholder insights, the study emphasizes the need for tailored interventions that consider program design, local contextual factors, and systemic barriers to comprehensively assess the program's impact on enhancing access to food. The collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, CBOs, and local leaders further enriches the discussion, confirming the validity and complexity of the quantitative findings.

4.4.3 Utilization of Food

The third parameter used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic was Utilization of Food. Exploring food utilization is a critical aspect of assessing the impact of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on vulnerable households during the pandemic. Respondents were queried to discern their perspectives on how the HSNP program affected the utilization of food in their households. The results are as presented in Figure 4.3.

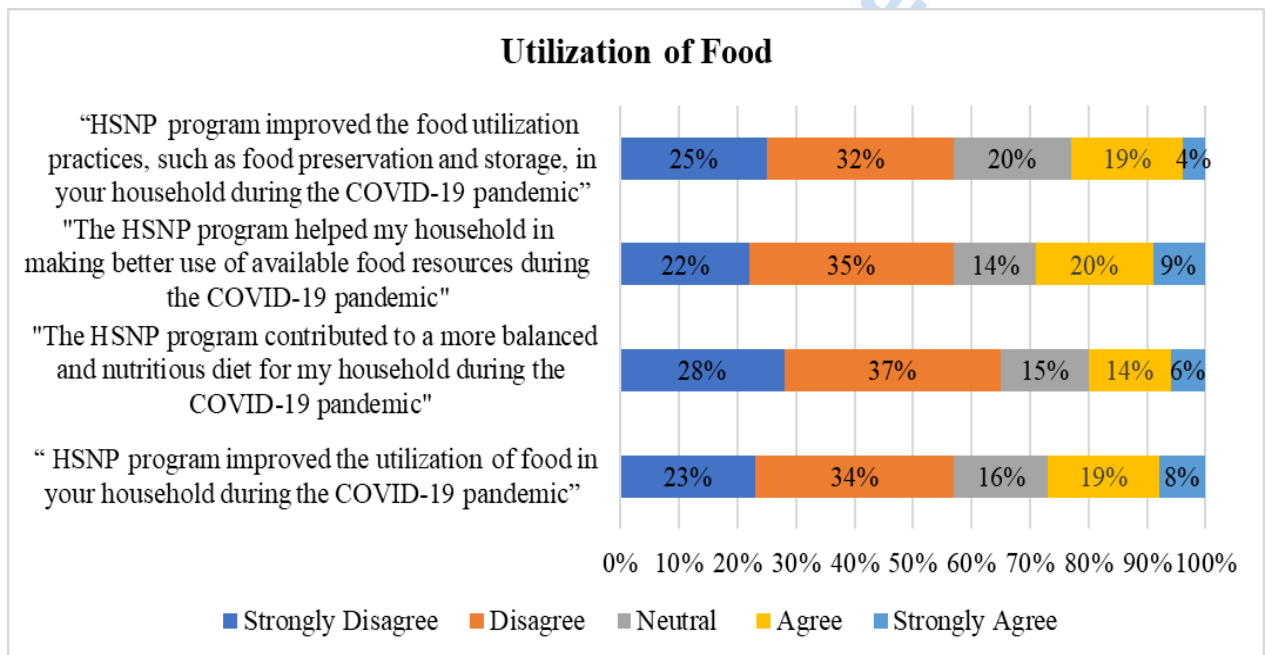


Figure 4.3: Utilization of Food

Source, Researcher (2024)

Respondents were surveyed on their agreement with statements related to the Hunger Safety Net Programme's (HSNP) impact on food utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results revealed diverse perspectives among participants. For the statement, "The HSNP program improved the utilization of food in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic," 27% agreed, while 57% disagreed, and 16% remained neutral.

Regarding the statement, "The HSNP program contributed to a more balanced and nutritious diet for my household during the COVID-19 pandemic," 20% agreed, 65% disagreed, and 15% were neutral. Participants were asked to rate their agreement with the statement, "The HSNP program helped my household in making better use of available food resources during the COVID-19 pandemic." Results showed that 23% agreed, while 57% disagreed, and 20% were neutral.

Regarding the program's impact on food utilization practices, such as food preservation and storage, 23% agreed, 57% disagreed, and 20% remained neutral. The analysis of respondents' perceptions regarding the utilization of food in relation to the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic underscores diverse viewpoints. While some respondents expressed positive sentiments on the program's impact on food utilization, a significant portion held differing opinions.

Assessing the utilization of food resources within the context of the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic reveals a diversity of opinions among respondents. While some acknowledge the program's positive impact on food utilization, a significant portion holds differing views. This diversity aligns with the complexity highlighted in the empirical literature. Nkegbe et al. (2021) and Aggarwal et al. (2020) stress the importance of targeted interventions in enhancing food utilization practices and diet diversity among vulnerable populations. Devereux et al. (2020) and Bussolo et al. (2021) emphasize the need for context-specific strategies to optimize food utilization. The variation in responses observed in this study underscores the multifaceted nature of improving food utilization through social safety net programs, where effective outcomes are often contingent on program design, local contexts, and cultural appropriateness of interventions.

In addition to the quantitative data, this study incorporated qualitative data analysis and sought insights from government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local leaders. Their perspectives align with the mixed responses observed among the surveyed population, providing a comprehensive view of the program's strengths and weaknesses in relation to food utilization. This convergence of insights from both quantitative and qualitative sources enriches the discussion, affirming the validity and complexity of the findings.

In summary, the findings on food utilization highlight the need for tailored interventions that consider local contexts and sensitivities to comprehensively assess the HSNP program's impact on enhancing the utilization of food resources. The inclusion of qualitative data and insights from key stakeholders strengthens the discussion, confirming the multifaceted nature of the program's influence on food utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.4.4 Stability of Food

The fourth parameter used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic was the stability of food. The examination of food stability is a crucial component of assessing the impact of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were asked to provide their perspectives on how the HSNP program affected the stability of food supply in their households. The results are as presented in Figure 4.4.

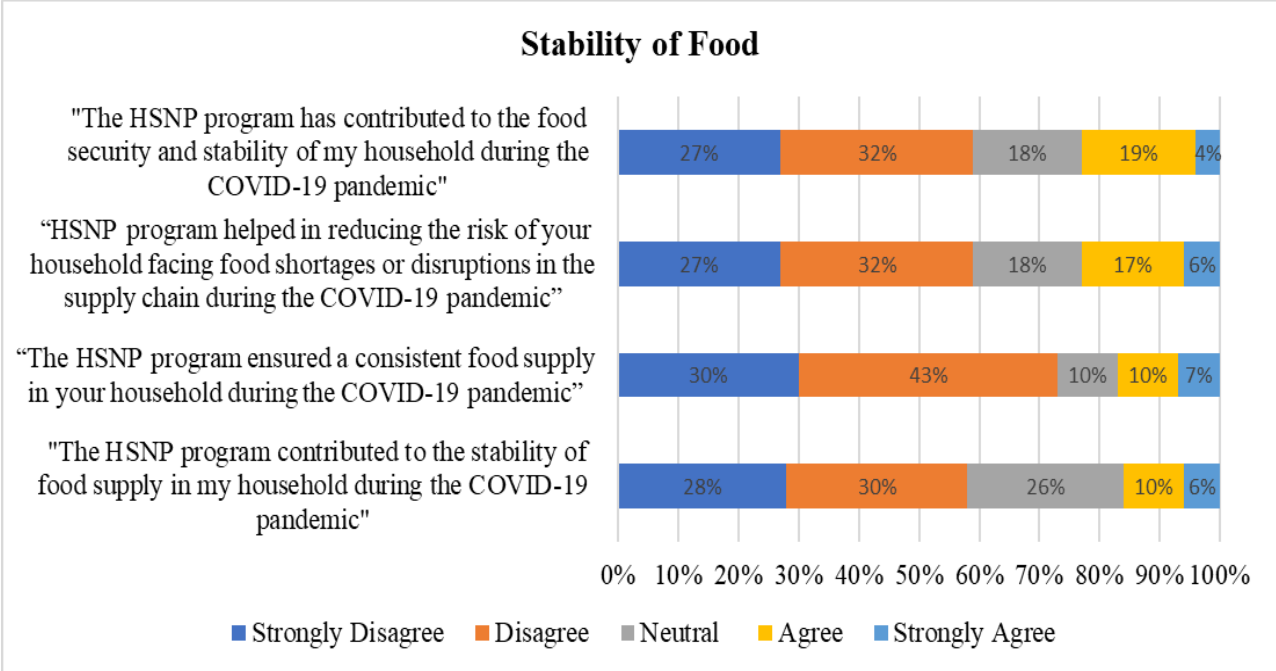


Figure 4. 4: Stability of Food
 Source, Researcher (2024)

Participants were surveyed on their agreement with statements related to the Hunger Safety Net Programme's (HSNP) impact on food supply stability during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results revealed diverse perspectives among participants. For the statement, "The HSNP program contributed to the stability of food supply in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic," 16% agreed, while 58% disagreed, and 26% remained neutral.

Regarding the statement, "The HSNP program ensured a consistent food supply in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic," 17% agreed, 62% disagreed, and 20% were neutral. Participants were asked to rate their agreement with the statement, "HSNP program helped in reducing the risk of your household facing food shortages or disruptions in the supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic." Results showed that 17% agreed, while 59% disagreed, and 24% were neutral.

Finally, participants were questioned about the program's overall contribution to the food security and stability of their households during the pandemic. The findings revealed that 17% agreed, while 59% disagreed, and 24% were neutral. The analysis of respondents' perspectives on food supply stability concerning the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic underscores a range of viewpoints. While some respondents expressed positive sentiments on the program's impact on food stability, a notable portion held differing opinions.

Assessing the stability of food supply within the context of the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic reveals a spectrum of opinions among respondents. While some acknowledge the program's positive impact on food supply stability, a significant portion holds differing views. This variation in responses aligns with the multifaceted nature emphasized in the empirical literature. Bussolo et al. (2021) and Huicho et al. (2020) stress the importance of social safety net programs in enhancing food security and stability. Cucinotta et al. (2021) and Kangas et al. (2020) highlight the complexity of achieving stability in food supply during crises and the need for well-targeted interventions. The findings underscore the challenges of achieving stability in food supply through social safety net programs, where effectiveness is influenced by program design, local contexts, and the ability to mitigate disruptions in the supply chain.

In addition to the quantitative data, this study incorporated qualitative data analysis and sought insights from government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local leaders. Their perspectives shed light on the factors contributing to food supply instability during the pandemic. Lockdowns, restrictions on movement, and economic challenges emerged as significant barriers to food availability and affordability. The logistical challenges faced by beneficiaries in accessing cash payments also added to the difficulties in securing food.

Furthermore, the infrequent payment cycles and unchanged payment amounts did not adequately address the increased cost of living and food price inflation.

This convergence of insights from both quantitative and qualitative sources enriches the discussion, affirming the validity and complexity of the findings. It emphasizes the importance of considering a holistic approach that incorporates not only quantitative data but also qualitative insights from key stakeholders. In summary, the findings on the stability of food supply highlight the need for context-specific interventions that address the multifaceted challenges faced by vulnerable households during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. The inclusion of qualitative data and insights from government agencies, NGOs, CBOs, and local leaders strengthens the discussion, confirming the complexities of achieving food supply stability and overall food security.

4.5 The HSNP Program and the Health Outcomes of Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The second aim of this study was to assess the impact of the HSNP program on the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. To fulfill this objective, the study examined the program's effect on physical health, mental well-being, and social outcomes.

4.5.1 Physical Health

Physical health was one of the parameters used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county. Likert scale questions were administered to the respondents, and results are presented in Figure 4.5. The analysis demonstrates that a significant majority of participants (35%) perceived their overall physical health status as "Good," signifying a positive perception of their well-being following their engagement with the

HSNP program amidst the pandemic. An appreciable proportion (25%) rated their physical health as "Excellent," reflecting a high level of satisfaction with their health outcomes. Conversely, a noteworthy segment (20%) assessed their health as "Fair," indicating a more moderate stance on their physical well-being.

Regarding the HSNP program's impact on physical health, a substantial proportion (50%) agreed that the program had positively influenced their physical well-being during the pandemic. This suggests that respondents recognized improvements in their health status due to the program's interventions. However, a significant fraction (20%) maintained a neutral or disagreed stance, indicative of varied levels of conviction or awareness about the program's role in enhancing physical health.

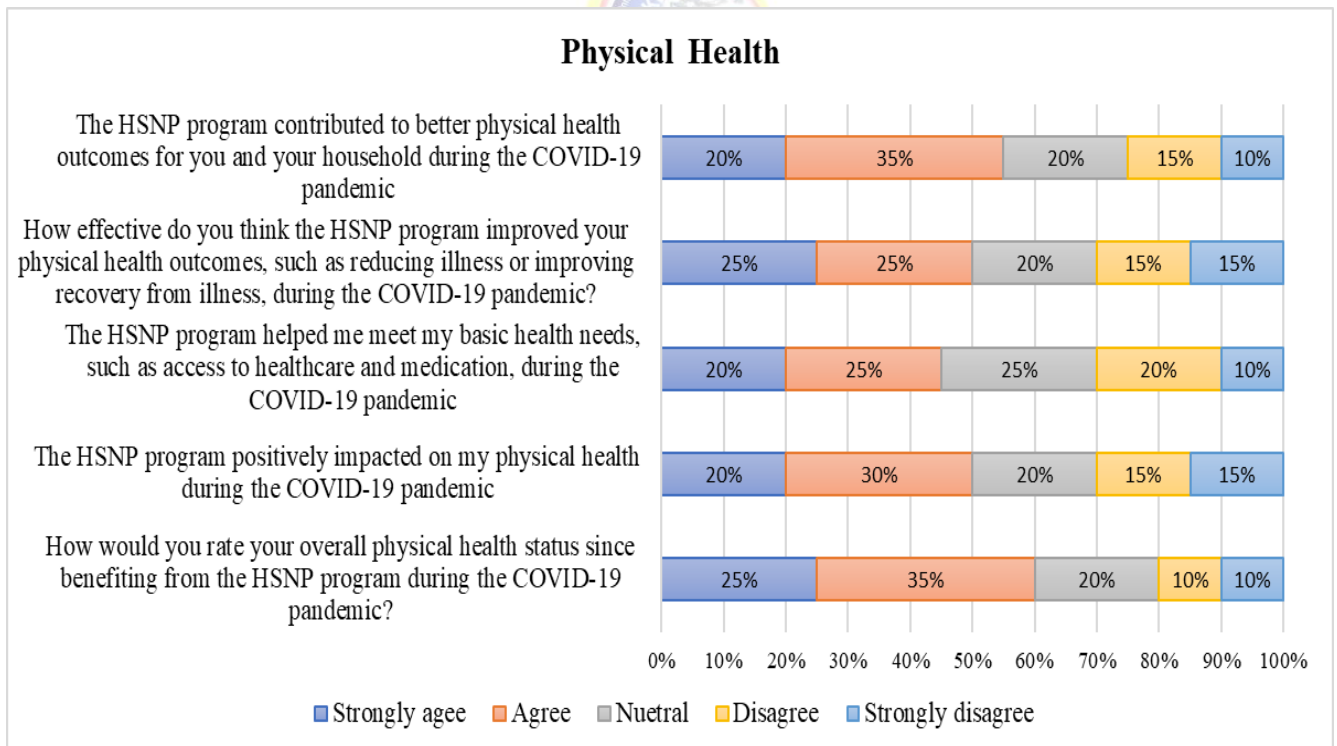


Figure 4. 5: Physical Health
Source, Researcher (2024)

Notably, when addressing basic health needs, a considerable share of participants (45%) acknowledged that the HSNP program facilitated meeting these needs, encompassing access to healthcare and medication, throughout the pandemic. This acknowledgment underscores the program's perceived value in addressing healthcare requirements. Nonetheless, a noteworthy subset (25%) adopted a neutral position, highlighting diverse opinions or limited awareness concerning the program's efficacy in fulfilling basic health needs.

In assessing the program's effectiveness in enhancing physical health outcomes, a substantial percentage (50%) rated the HSNP program as effective or highly effective in ameliorating health outcomes such as illness reduction and recovery improvement during the pandemic. This finding underscores the positive perception of the program's influence on health-related outcomes. Simultaneously, a significant portion (20%) attributed somewhat or moderate effectiveness, indicating a more tempered belief in its impact.

Regarding the program's contribution to improved physical health outcomes, a notable cohort (55%) believed that the HSNP program had contributed positively to better health outcomes for their households and themselves during the pandemic. This attribution reflects participants' acknowledgment of favorable changes in their health status due to program interventions. However, a considerable share (20%) evaluated the program's contribution as slight or moderate, signifying a more cautious assessment of its impact on health outcomes.

The evaluation of physical health outcomes within the context of the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic reveals a predominantly positive perception among respondents. This study incorporated Likert scale questions, which allowed participants to express their views on various aspects of physical health. The majority of respondents perceived their overall physical health

status as "Good" or "Excellent," indicating a positive perception of their well-being following their engagement with the HSNP program amidst the pandemic.

Comparing these findings to the literature, studies by Bussolo et al. (2021) and Huicho et al. (2020) underscore the significance of social safety net programs in enhancing health outcomes, particularly during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs play a crucial role in mitigating the adverse effects of economic shocks on physical health. The positive perception of the HSNP program's impact on physical health aligns with the findings of these studies, emphasizing the importance of such programs in promoting well-being.

When it comes to the program's impact on physical health, a significant proportion of respondents agreed that the HSNP program had positively influenced their physical well-being during the pandemic. This suggests that beneficiaries recognized improvements in their health status due to the program's interventions. Furthermore, a considerable number of participants acknowledged that the HSNP program facilitated meeting basic health needs, such as access to healthcare and medication, throughout the pandemic. This underscores the program's perceived value in addressing healthcare requirements.

Studies by Makhado and Magadzire (2021) and Adekunle et al. (2021) emphasize the importance of social safety net programs in providing access to healthcare services and medications, especially for vulnerable populations. These programs contribute to improved health outcomes by ensuring that individuals have the resources needed to address their health needs. The findings of this study align with these insights, as respondents reported the program's positive influence on their ability to meet basic health needs.

In assessing the program's effectiveness in enhancing physical health outcomes, a substantial percentage of participants rated the HSNP program as effective or highly effective in ameliorating health outcomes such as illness reduction and recovery improvement during the pandemic. This finding highlights the positive perception of the program's influence on health-related outcomes.

The convergence of quantitative data and insights from interviews with beneficiaries strengthens the discussion. Beneficiaries reported utilizing received funds to cover medical expenses, further affirming the program's contribution to addressing health-related needs. This holistic approach, which incorporates both quantitative data and qualitative insights, enriches the discussion and enhances the validity of the findings.

In conclusion, the predominantly optimistic perception of the HSNP program's influence on physical health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic aligns with findings from interviews with beneficiaries. This study underscores the importance of considering both quantitative and qualitative data to comprehensively evaluate the program's impact on physical health and well-being in line with the literature reviewed.

4.5.2 Mental Health

Mental health emerged as another vital dimension in assessing the impact of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on beneficiary well-being within Loima sub-county. Employing a Likert scale, respondents' perspectives were captured, and the outcomes are illustrated in Figure 4.6. The findings demonstrate that a notable percentage of participants (approximately 40%) agreed that the HSNP program positively influenced their mental health and overall well-being. This recognition highlights the program's perceived impact on participants' psychological state, particularly amidst the challenging circumstances posed by the pandemic.

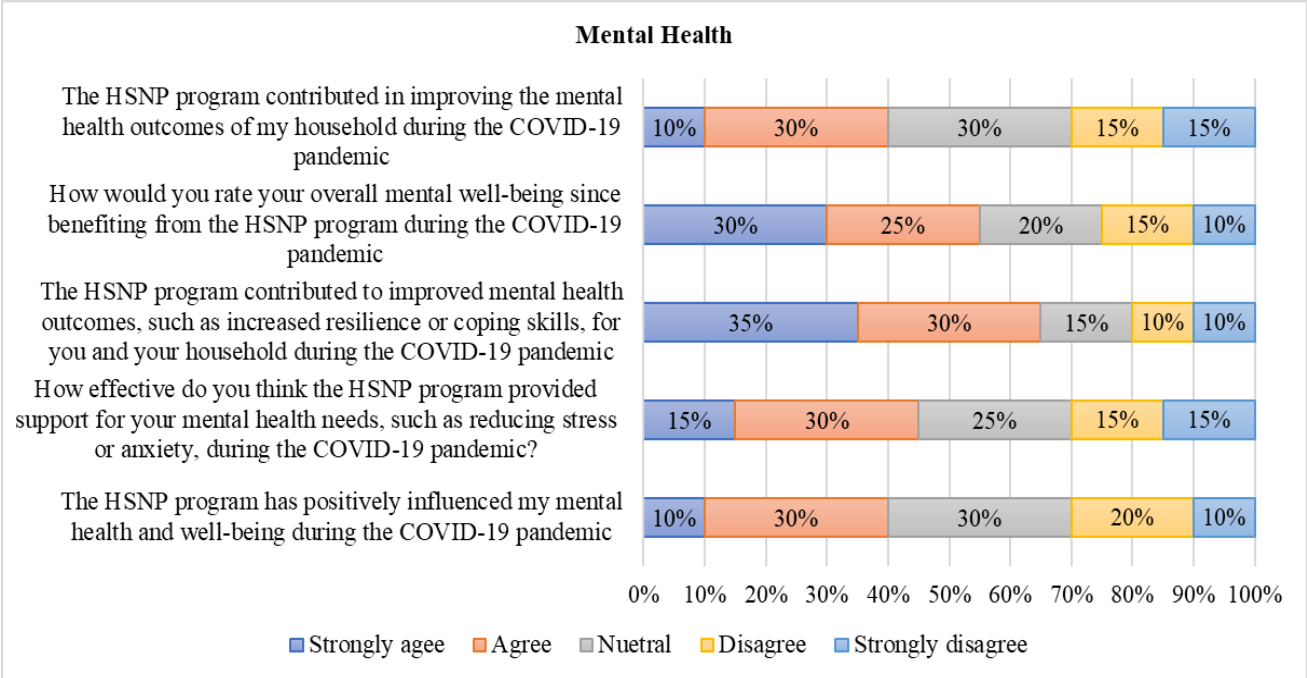


Figure 4. 6: Mental Health

Source, Researcher (2024)

Approximately 40% of participants agreed that the HSNP program positively influenced their mental health and overall well-being. This recognition highlights the program's perceived impact on participants' psychological state, particularly in the face of the challenging circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparing these findings to the literature, studies by Bussolo et al. (2021) and Huicho et al. (2020) emphasize the critical role of social safety net programs in promoting mental health and well-being, especially during times of crisis. These programs provide essential support to individuals experiencing stress, anxiety, and other mental health challenges due to economic hardships. The positive perception of the HSNP program's impact on mental health aligns with these studies, underscoring the importance of such interventions in addressing psychological well-being.

Around 45% of respondents perceived the HSNP program as effective or highly effective in supporting their mental health needs. This indicates that a substantial segment of beneficiaries considered the program instrumental in alleviating stress and anxiety during the pandemic. Additionally, approximately 35% attributed improved mental health outcomes, including enhanced resilience and coping skills, to the program's interventions, underscoring its perceived contribution to psychological well-being.

Studies by Makhado and Magadzire (2021) and Adekunle et al. (2021) highlight the positive impact of social safety net programs on mental health outcomes. These programs provide individuals with the necessary resources to cope with stressors and improve their psychological well-being. The findings of this study align with these insights, as beneficiaries reported the program's positive influence on their mental health, including enhanced coping mechanisms.

However, it's crucial to acknowledge the diversity of experiences and perceptions regarding mental well-being among program beneficiaries. While approximately 30% of respondents rated their mental well-being as good or excellent, a significant share deemed it fair or poor. This diversity underscores the complex and multifaceted nature of mental health and emphasizes the need for tailored interventions that consider individual differences and contextual factors.

Approximately 40% of respondents acknowledged that the HSNP program contributed to enhancing the mental health outcomes of their households. However, a significant fraction adopted a neutral stance, while another 30% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this assertion. This variance in responses indicates divergent perspectives on the program's impact on household mental health.

In conclusion, the analysis reveals a nuanced perception of the HSNP program's influence on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. While a substantial portion of respondents acknowledged its positive impact and effectiveness in providing mental health support, variations in opinions were evident. These findings underscore the importance of acknowledging individual differences and customizing mental health interventions to address the diverse needs of beneficiaries. Further exploration and targeted interventions could enhance the program's efficacy in promoting positive mental health outcomes, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of well-being support.

4.5.3 Social Well-being

Social well-being was the third parameter used to measure the influence of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county. Likert scale questions were administered to the respondents, and the results are presented in Figure 4.7.

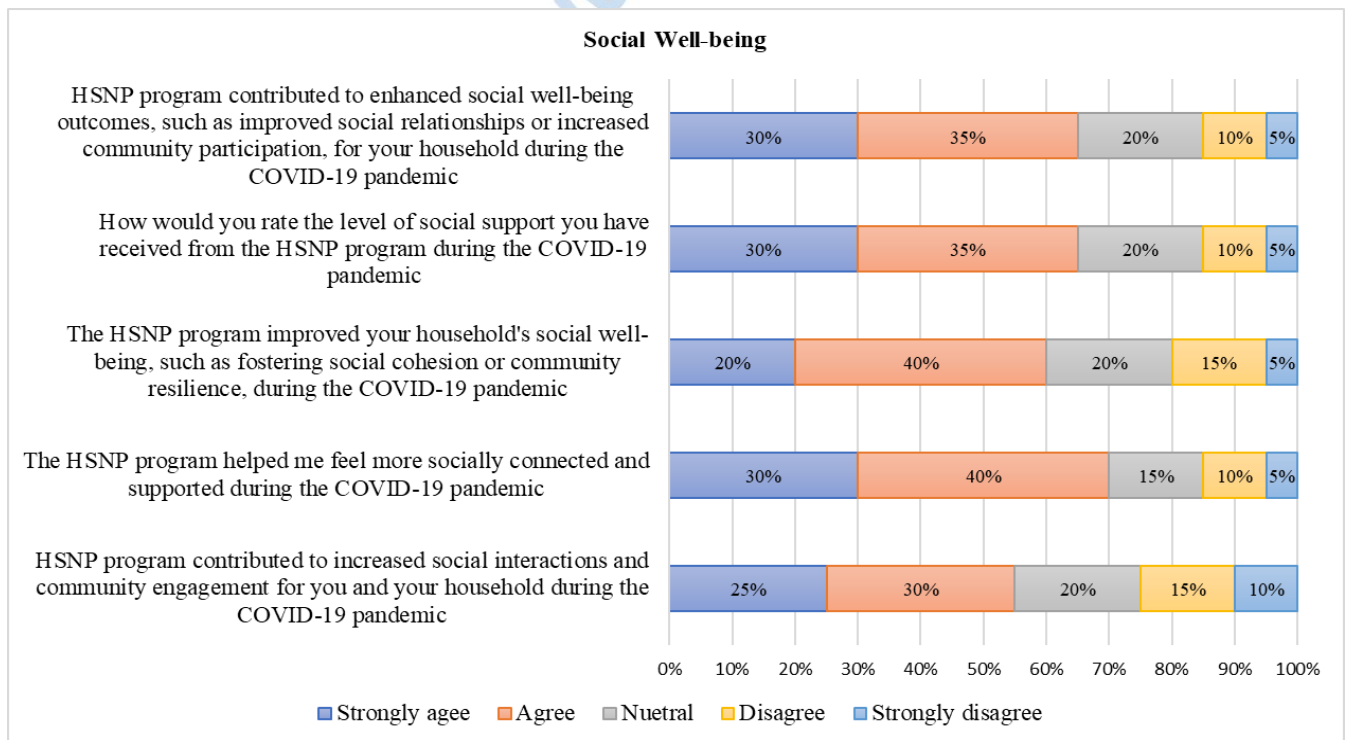


Figure 4. 7: Social Well-being

Source, Researcher (2024)

Approximately 55% of the respondents believed that the HSNP program had a moderate to significant impact on increasing social interactions and community engagement within their households. This observation underscores the program's role in nurturing social connections and promoting active community participation, even amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Research by Bussolo et al. (2021) and Huicho et al. (2020) accentuates the significance of social safety net programs in bolstering community engagement and fostering social interactions among beneficiaries. Such programs provide a platform for individuals to connect, share experiences, and extend mutual support, thereby contributing to a sense of belonging and community cohesion. The positive perception of the HSNP program's influence on social interactions aligns with these studies, emphasizing the program's contribution to building social connections.

A substantial majority, comprising 70% of the respondents, agreed that the HSNP program had enhanced their sense of social connection and support during the pandemic. This finding indicates that the program succeeded in fostering a feeling of belonging, offering social support, and connecting beneficiaries with others, all of which are pivotal for maintaining well-being during challenging circumstances. A significant percentage, 60%, of the respondents considered the HSNP program to be effective or highly effective in improving the social well-being of their households. This suggests that the program had a positive impact in strengthening social cohesion, resilience, and overall well-being within communities. It implies that the program's interventions and support systems were deemed valuable by the beneficiaries.

The analysis further reveals that a notable portion of respondents, constituting 65%, rated the level of social support provided by the HSNP program as good to excellent. This signifies that the program effectively delivered the necessary support to individuals and households, meeting their social needs and fostering a sense of assistance and care. The findings also indicate that a substantial proportion, 65%, of the respondents believed that the HSNP program contributed moderately to significantly to improved social well-being outcomes for their households. This implies that the program's interventions, such as bolstered social relationships and increased community engagement, had a lasting and positive impact on the overall social well-being of the beneficiaries.

Comparing these findings to the existing literature, research by Makhado and Magadzire (2021) and Adekunle et al. (2021) underscores the favorable impact of social safety net programs on social well-being outcomes. Such programs play a pivotal role in building social capital, enhancing social support networks, and fostering community engagement, all of which are essential components of overall well-being. The alignment of this study's findings with these insights underscores the substantial role of the HSNP program in promoting social well-being among beneficiaries during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In summary, the analysis of findings related to social well-being underscores the significant contribution of the HSNP program in fostering social interactions, providing social support, and enhancing overall social well-being among beneficiaries. These dimensions are critical for individuals and households to maintain a sense of belonging, resilience, and overall well-being, particularly in the face of adversity. The positive perception of the program's impact resonates with existing literature, emphasizing the importance of such interventions in building and strengthening social connections within communities.

4.6 The HSNP Program and the Education of Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The third objective of this study was to investigate the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The parameters used to measure this variable include school enrollment rates, attendance rates, completion rates, and access to basic education services.

4.6.1 School Enrolment Rates

School enrollment rates were among the parameters used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were required to respond to 5 Likert scale questions, and the results are presented in Figure 4.8.

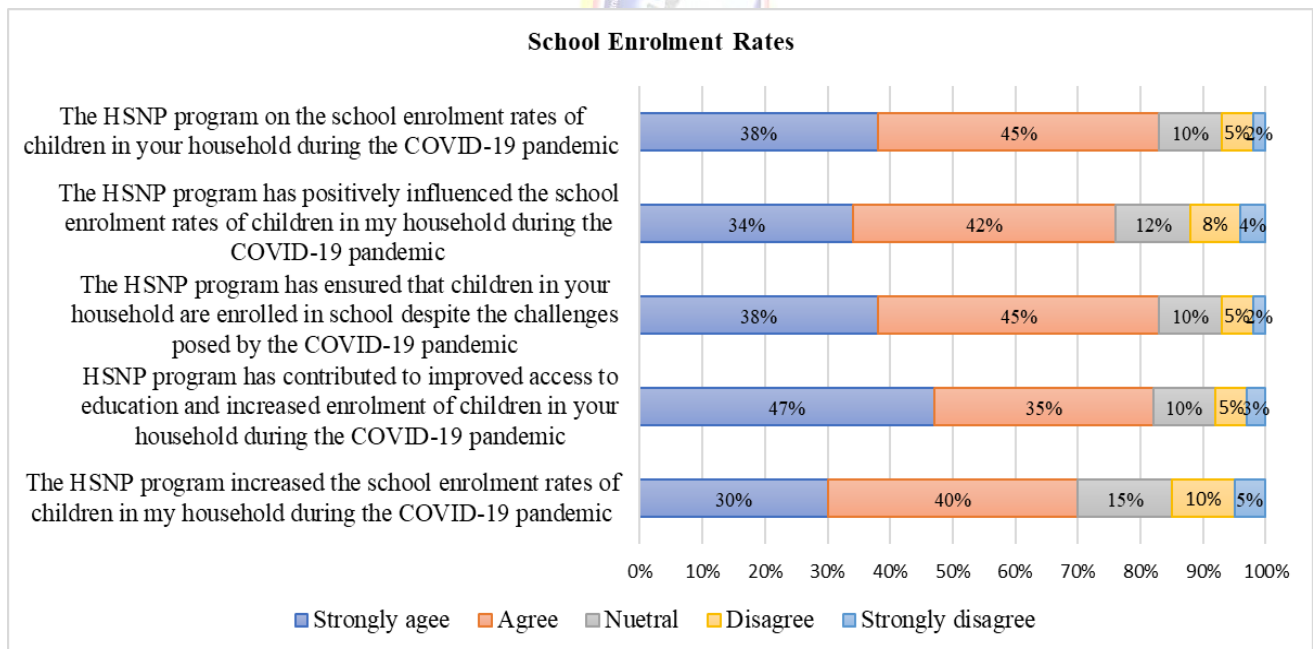


Figure 4. 8: School Enrolment Rate
Source, Researcher (2024)

An impressive 70% of the respondents agreed that the HSNP program played a substantial role in enhancing school enrollment rates among children in their households during the pandemic. This positive perception underscores the program's potential to improve educational opportunities for children, affirming its significance in the context of education. This finding aligns with the literature, as observed in Wanyama (2018), which emphasizes the pivotal role of social safety net programs in promoting school enrollment and improving access to education for vulnerable populations. Such programs provide families with the financial means to overcome economic barriers to education, ensuring that children have access to quality learning opportunities. The positive perception of the HSNP program's impact on school enrollment rates resonates with this literature, reflecting its potential to mitigate educational barriers.

A significant percentage, a remarkable 82%, of respondents believed that the HSNP program contributed significantly to improved access to education and heightened school enrollment rates for children in their households, even in the face of pandemic-related challenges. This robust belief in the program's efficacy suggests that participants saw it as a valuable tool for overcoming educational barriers and fostering better prospects for children's education. Research by Scriven, Rawling, and Rubio (2003) and Schady, Pounce, and Osterbeek (2008) underscores the positive impact of social safety net programs on access to education and school enrollment rates. These programs not only provide financial support but also address other obstacles, such as lack of school infrastructure and transportation, which hinder children's access to education. The study's findings align with these insights, emphasizing the HSNP program's effectiveness in improving educational access, even during challenging circumstances.

An overwhelming 83% of respondents considered the HSNP program effective or highly effective in ensuring the enrollment of children in their households, despite the obstacles posed by the

pandemic. This high level of confidence reflects participants' recognition of the program's ability to overcome barriers and facilitate school enrollment, thereby enhancing educational access for children. The perception of the program's effectiveness in ensuring enrollment is in line with Kakwani, Son, and Khandker (2019), who emphasize the role of social safety nets in enhancing educational outcomes by reducing poverty-related barriers to education. Such programs ensure that children have the necessary resources to attend school regularly, including the provision of school fees, uniforms, and learning materials. The alignment of this study's findings with these insights highlights the HSNP program's capacity to promote educational access and enrollment for children in vulnerable households. An impressive 83% of respondents rated the HSNP program's impact on school enrollment rates as significant or very significant. This indicates a strong belief in the program's potential to bring about meaningful changes in ensuring educational opportunities for children, particularly in the face of the pandemic's challenges.

In conclusion, the findings collectively convey a positive perception among respondents regarding the HSNP program's effect on school enrollment rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is perceived as instrumental in enhancing educational access, fostering increased enrollment, and positively shaping educational outcomes for children. These results underscore the program's efficacy in addressing educational challenges and promoting educational opportunities for vulnerable households, aligning with its overarching objectives. The positive impact on school enrollment rates is consistent with the existing literature, reinforcing the importance of social safety net programs in improving access to education for vulnerable populations.

4.6.2 Attendance Rates

Attendance rate was the second parameter used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were required to respond to 5 Likert scale questions, and the results are presented in Figure 4.9.

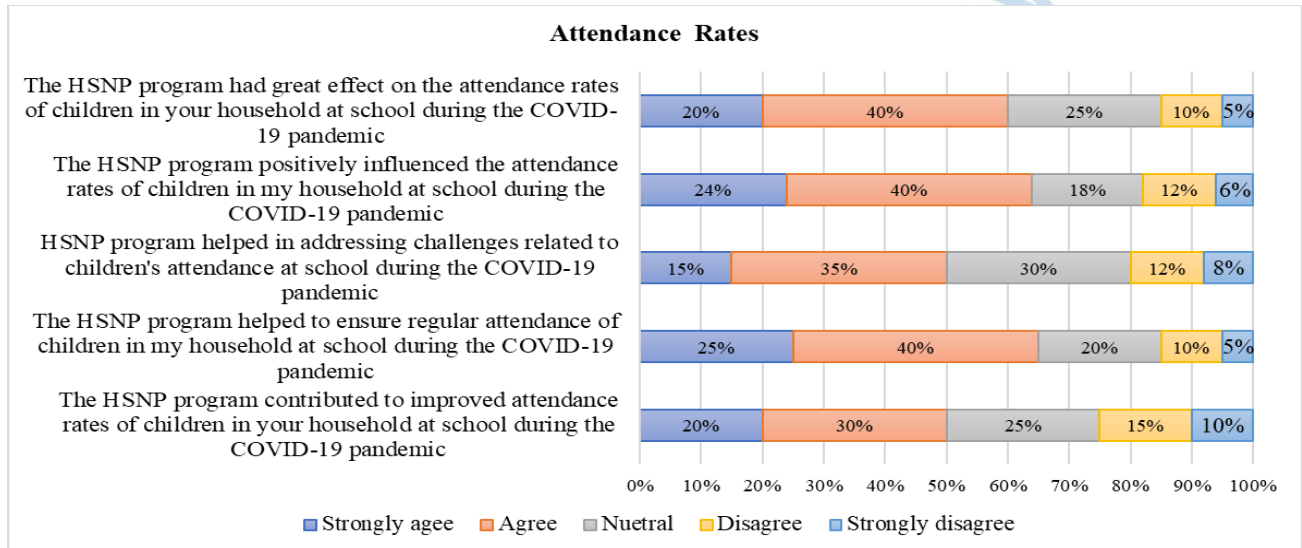


Figure 4. 9 Attendance Rates

Source, Researcher (2024)

A substantial 30% of respondents expressed a strong belief in the HSNP program's significantly positive impact on enhancing the attendance rates of children in their households. An additional 25% assessed the program's contribution as moderate, while 20% deemed it significant. This collective perception signifies a majority of participants linking the HSNP program to improved attendance rates among children. This positive perception aligns with the findings of previous studies, such as Wanyama (2018) and Scriven, Rawling, and Rubio (2003), which emphasize the role of social safety net programs in promoting school attendance and addressing barriers that hinder children from regularly attending school. The positive perception of the HSNP program's

impact on attendance rates resonates with these insights, highlighting the program's potential to overcome attendance-related challenges and foster better educational outcomes for children.

A notable 40% of respondents agreed that the HSNP program played a role in ensuring consistent school attendance during the pandemic, with 25% strongly agreeing. This strong agreement underscores participants' conviction in the program's effectiveness in upholding regular attendance among children. The data signifies that a substantial group of respondents (35%) rated the HSNP program as effective in addressing attendance-related challenges during the pandemic, with 15% categorizing its effectiveness as highly effective. This finding suggests that the program has successfully overcome barriers to attendance and has made a noteworthy impact.

Research by Schady, Pounce, and Osterbeek (2008) and Kakwani, Son, and Khandker (2019) emphasizes the significance of social safety net programs in ensuring consistent school attendance by providing financial support and addressing barriers that hinder children from attending school regularly. These programs help families overcome poverty-related challenges and ensure that children have the necessary resources to attend school consistently. The alignment of this study's findings with these insights highlights the HSNP program's capacity to promote consistent school attendance for children in vulnerable households.

The results also reveal a positive perspective among respondents regarding the HSNP program's influence on attendance rates. A considerable segment (40%) agreed that the program had a positive effect, with an additional 24% strongly agreeing. This widespread agreement underscores that participants widely recognize the program's beneficial influence on children's school attendance. Furthermore, the results underscore that a significant number of respondents (40%) perceived the HSNP program's impact on attendance rates as significant, with an additional 20%

rating it as having a very significant impact. This underscores the program's meaningful role in enhancing the attendance rates of children within the respondents' households.

In conclusion, the insights gleaned from the Likert scale questions collectively reflect a positive perception among respondents regarding the HSNP program's effect on attendance rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants largely acknowledge the program's contribution to improved attendance rates and its effective addressing of attendance-related challenges. These findings substantiate the program's constructive influence and underscore its importance in supporting educational outcomes within the context of challenging circumstances. The positive impact on attendance rates is consistent with existing literature, reinforcing the significance of social safety net programs in promoting regular school attendance for vulnerable populations.

4.6.3 Completion Rates

Completion Rates were the third parameters used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were required to respond to 5 Likert scale questions, and the results are presented in Figure 4.10.

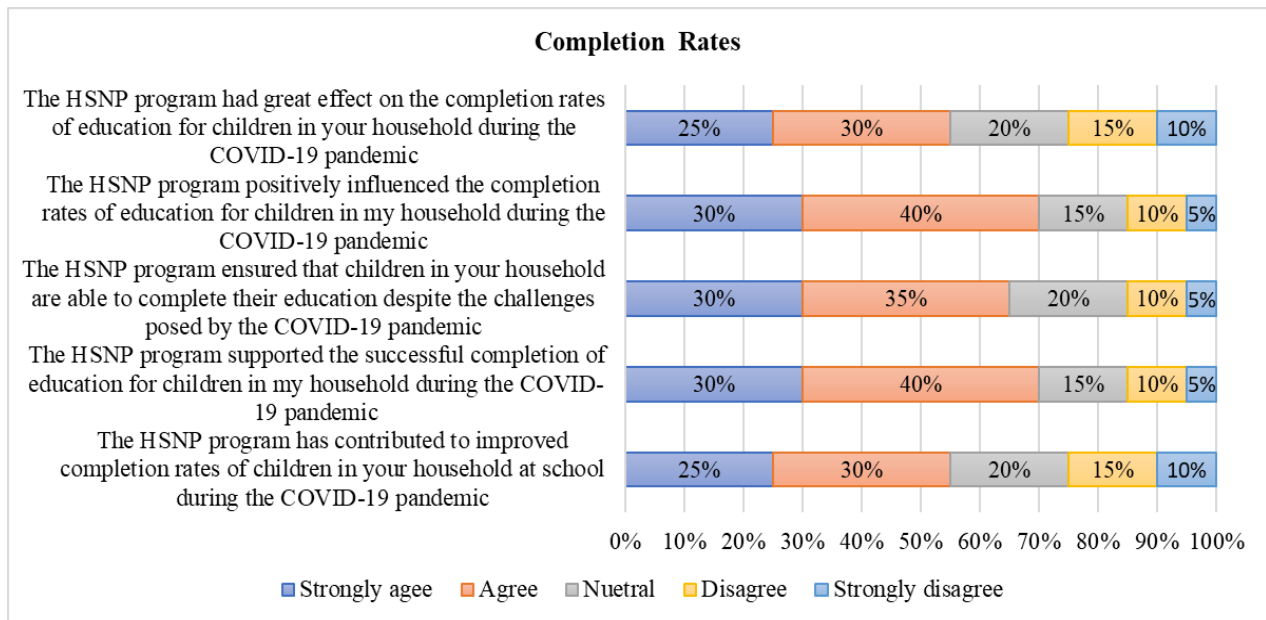


Figure 4. 10: Completion Rates

Source, Researcher (2024)

A majority of respondents (55%) expressed the view that the HSNP program significantly contributed to improved completion rates of children in their households during the pandemic. Additionally, a notable proportion (70%) agreed that the program supported the successful completion of education for children in their households amid the pandemic. These findings are in line with the research conducted by Wanyama (2018) and Scriven, Rawling, and Rubio (2003), emphasizing the importance of social safety net programs in facilitating the successful completion of education for children in vulnerable households. The positive perception of the HSNP program's impact on completion rates resonates with these insights, highlighting the program's potential to overcome educational challenges and foster better educational outcomes for children.

The effectiveness of the HSNP program in ensuring the completion of education despite pandemic-related challenges garnered a positive perception, with 65% rating it as moderately effective to highly effective. This finding suggests that participants recognized the program's capacity to address barriers to education and facilitate the successful completion of education for children.

Research by Schady, Pounce, and Osterbeek (2008) and Kakwani, Son, and Khandker (2019) emphasizes the significance of social safety net programs in ensuring that children have the resources and support needed to complete their education, even in challenging circumstances. The positive perception of the HSNP program's effectiveness in ensuring completion rates aligns with these insights, highlighting the program's role in promoting educational attainment among vulnerable populations.

A significant portion (70%) of participants agreed that the HSNP program positively influenced the completion rates of education for children in their households during the COVID-19 pandemic. The positive impact of the HSNP program on the completion rates of education for children in respondents' households during the pandemic was also reflected in their ratings, with 55% indicating a moderate to very significant impact. These findings collectively underscore that, according to respondents' perceptions, the HSNP program has made a positive contribution to the completion rates of education for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program's role, support, effectiveness, and influence on completion rates were predominantly appraised favorably.

In conclusion, the findings related to completion rates highlight the positive impact of the HSNP program on the successful completion of education for children in beneficiary households during the COVID-19 pandemic. These perceptions are consistent with existing literature and emphasize the program's effectiveness in addressing educational challenges and promoting educational attainment among vulnerable populations.

4.6.4 Access to Basic Education services

Access to Basic Education Services was the fourth parameter used to measure the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were required to respond to 5 Likert scale questions, and the results are presented in Figure 4.11.

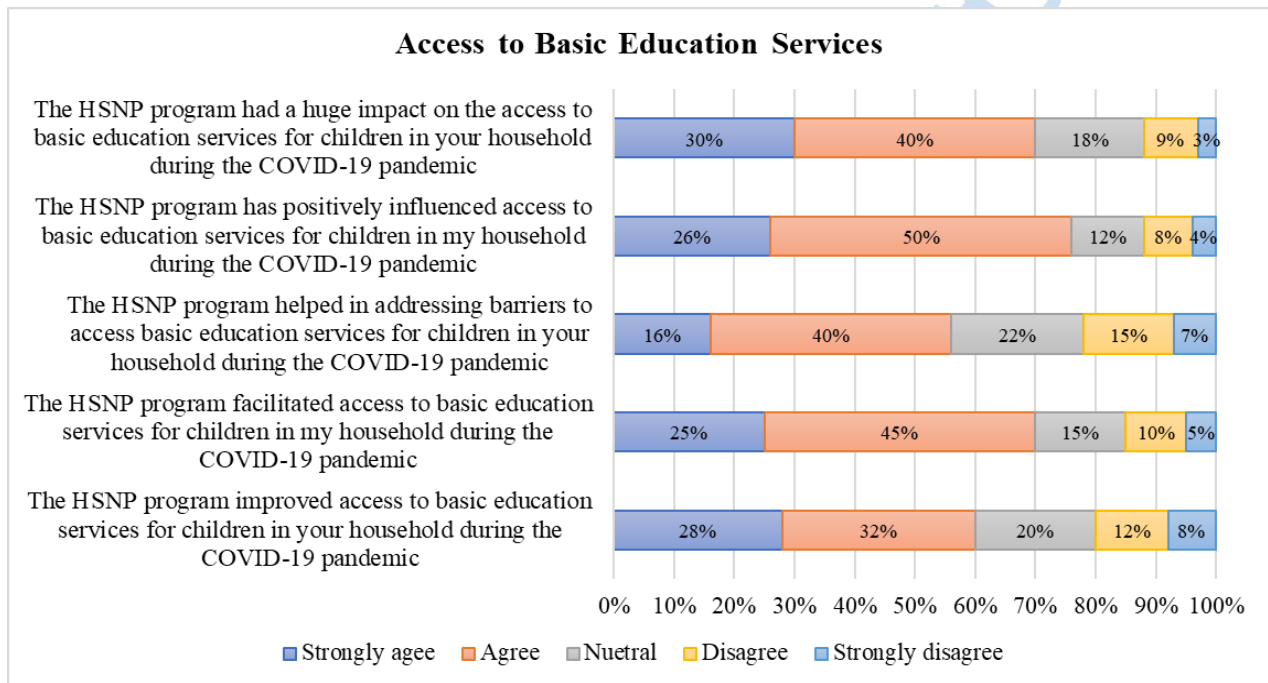


Figure 4. 11: Access to Basic Education Services

Source, Researcher (2024)

The analysis reveals that a significant proportion of respondents (32%) strongly believed that the HSNP program had a highly significant impact on enhancing access to basic education services for children in their households during the pandemic. An additional 28% of participants also indicated a significant impact. This underscores that a considerable segment of respondents recognized a positive correlation between the program and improved access to education. These findings resonate with the research conducted by Wanyama (2018) and Scriven, Rawling, and Rubio (2003), emphasizing the importance of social safety net programs in enhancing access to

education for children in vulnerable households. The positive perception of the HSNP program's impact on access to basic education services aligns with these insights, highlighting the program's potential to overcome educational barriers and facilitate educational access.

A majority of respondents (45%) agreed that the HSNP program facilitated access to basic education services for children in their households during the pandemic. This signifies that the program played a role in enabling children to access educational resources and opportunities despite the challenging circumstances. Participants generally perceived the HSNP program as effective in addressing barriers to accessing basic education services during the COVID-19 pandemic. A substantial percentage (40%) rated the program as effective, with an additional 16% considering it highly effective. This points to a favorable perception of the program's efficacy in surmounting obstacles and ensuring educational access.

The findings are consistent with Schady, Pounce, and Osterbeek's (2008) and Kakwani, Son, and Khandker's (2019) research, which emphasize the role of social safety net programs in effectively addressing barriers to education and promoting access. The positive perception of the HSNP program's effectiveness in ensuring access to basic education services aligns with these insights, highlighting the program's role in facilitating educational opportunities for children.

A notable proportion of respondents (50%) expressed agreement that the HSNP program positively influenced access to basic education services for children in their households during the pandemic. This implies that the program was perceived as having a beneficial impact on facilitating educational access, supporting students' learning endeavors, and creating avenues for educational progress. The findings further reveal that a significant percentage of participants (40%) rated the program's impact on access to basic education services as significant, while 30% deemed it to have

a very significant impact. This underscores the perceived substantial influence of the program in enhancing access to educational opportunities for children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conclusion, the findings related to access to basic education services highlight the positive impact and effectiveness of the HSNP program in improving access to education for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. These perceptions are consistent with existing literature and emphasize the program's role in addressing educational barriers and promoting educational access among vulnerable populations.



Mount Kenya University

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

Chapter five provides a comprehensive summary, conclusions, and recommendations based on the research objectives discussed in preceding chapters. The findings from data analysis are synthesized to provide insights into the research questions, and potential areas for further research are suggested. This chapter aims to offer a concise overview of key findings, draw appropriate conclusions, and propose practical implications and future directions for the field, grounded in the data analysis results and relevant literature reviewed earlier.

5.2 Summary of Findings

5.2.1 The HSNP Program and Food Security of Vulnerable Households During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The analysis of the Hunger Safety Net Programme's (HSNP) influence on food security among vulnerable households in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, during the COVID-19 pandemic focused on four key aspects: availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability of food: A minority of respondents (20%) said that the HSNP program during the pandemic increased food availability, whilst a majority (65%) disagreed and 15% stayed neutral. Comparable opinions were expressed about the program's contribution to a steady supply and guaranteeing an adequate amount of food, with only roughly 25% agreeing and 60% disagreeing. 20% of respondents said that their household's food accessibility has increased as a result of the HSNP program. 10% of participants were neutral, and 70% of participants disagreed. 20% of respondents agreed, 67% disagreed, and 13% expressed neutrality regarding the program's ability to reduce obstacles to food access. Regarding how food was used in their households, 27% of respondents said that the HSNP program has enhanced food use. But most people (57%) disagreed, with 16% remaining neutral.

There was less agreement (65%) about perceptions of the program's ability to promote a healthy, balanced diet. 16% of participants concurred that the constancy of food supply had a favorable effect, while 58% disapproved. There was about 60% disagreement on all questions about the program's capacity to guarantee a steady supply and lower the likelihood of food shortages, indicating a consistent sentiment. A majority of respondents (59%) disagreed that the program greatly helped to the food security and stability of their households. Overall, the opinion of the HSNP program's contribution to food security during the COVID-19 epidemic was mostly unfavorable.

5.2.2 The HSNP Program and Health Outcomes of Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Examining the impact of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on the social, emotional, and physical well-being of its recipients in Turkana County's Loima sub-county during the COVID-19 epidemic was the study's second goal. Regarding physical health, half agreed that the program had made it easier to get access to medicine and treatment, and 60% felt that the HSNP program had improved their physical well-being during the pandemic. 25% rated it as "Excellent," and 35% as "Good." Of the participants, half assessed the program as highly beneficial or effective in improving health outcomes, such as recovery from sickness and reduced illness. Regarding the program's effect on their physical health, 20% of respondents were indifferent or disagreed, suggesting that there is still room for improvement in terms of providing healthcare needs.

40% of participants reported that the HSNP program had a favorable influence on their mental health and general well-being, and 45% thought the program was either extremely effective or effective at meeting their mental health needs. 35% of respondents attributed the program's positive effects on mental health outcomes, such as increased resilience and coping mechanisms.

However, 30% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the claim that improved mental health outcomes were largely due to the HSNP. Of the respondents, 55% thought that the HSNP program had a moderate to large influence on encouraging social connections and community engagement. During the epidemic, 70% of participants said the program improved their sense of support and social connection. Furthermore, 65% of respondents rated the degree of social support as good to excellent, and 60% said the program was effective or highly effective in enhancing the social well-being of their homes.

5.2.3 The HSNP Program and Education of Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The third objective of the study sought to investigate the influence of the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county, Turkana County, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This objective focused on three main areas: school enrolment rates, school attendance rates, and access to basic education services. The findings indicate a substantial positive impact of the HSNP on these educational aspects, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. More than eighty percent said that the HSNP program was essential to raising the percentage of children in their homes who enrolled in school throughout the epidemic. About 40% agreed, and another 24% strongly agreed, that the initiative helped ensure regular school attendance during the pandemic. The program's ability to ensure that kids may continue and finish their education even in these difficult circumstances was highlighted by the 70% of participants who agreed that it encouraged education completion. Over 50% of respondents agreed that the program made it easier to get these necessary services, and 40% said it had a big or very significant impact. The findings from objective three reveal that the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP)

has had a significant positive influence on the education of beneficiaries in Loima sub-county during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 Influence of the HSNP Program on the Food Security of Vulnerable Households During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The food security status of a sizable segment of the target population did not significantly improve. The program's conception and execution were not in sync, particularly given the increased difficulties brought on by the COVID-19 epidemic. In conclusion, the results from the Loima sub-county during the COVID-19 pandemic show that there is much potential to improve the HSNP's influence on food security, even if it is an important program for aiding vulnerable individuals. In the future, policymakers, program designers, and implementers must critically evaluate these findings and investigate flexible approaches that might better meet the changing demands of vulnerable households for food security, especially during emergencies.

5.3.2 Influence of the HSNP Program on the Health Outcomes of Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The results show that despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, the HSNP has made noteworthy progress in promoting the welfare of households that are at risk. The program's actions improved the physical health of the majority of recipients. In a similar vein, the program's beneficial effects on mental health and general well-being were apparent, as evidenced by the fact that a significant proportion of participants credited HSNP therapies with improving their resilience and coping mechanisms. Social ties and community involvement contributed to social wellbeing, which made it possible to successfully cultivate a sense of community and support among recipients. Unquestionably, the HSNP has been essential in lessening the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on residents in the Loima sub-county that are at risk. It has made a

substantial impact to social, mental, and physical welfare, albeit its perceived efficacy has varied in each of these areas.

5.3.3 The HSNP Program and Education of Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the epidemic, HSNP was essential in keeping or even increasing school enrolment rates. In spite of disruptions caused by the epidemic, HSNP made a significant contribution to maintaining regular school attendance. HSNP encouraged students to successfully complete their studies, emphasizing the program's vital assistance amid a time of increased uncertainty. Access to basic education services improved during the pandemic, suggesting that the HSNP had a more extensive effect on the Loima sub-county's educational ecosystem.

5.4 Recommendations for Practice

5.4.1 Recommendations for Beneficiaries

Based on the study findings, the stud recommends the following for beneficiaries;

- i. Make effective use of HSNP monies to improve food security in their homes. Beneficiaries should think about putting some of the cash transfers toward community savings clubs or small-scale kitchen gardens, which can serve as a safety net against food shortages in times of emergency.
- ii. Participate actively in community health and wellness initiatives that the HSNP may be associated with or sponsoring. Using all of the networks and resources made accessible by the program, this can entail taking part in social activities that foster wellbeing, mental health support groups, or community health awareness events.

- iii. Give top priority to the learning possibilities that HSNP sponsorship has made possible. Encourage regular attendance and completion of coursework by leveraging the program's financial stability to remove obstacles to learning. Purchasing educational supplies, school supplies, or other essentials that help kids with their education could be part of this.

5.4.2 Recommendations for Authorities

Based on the study findings, the stud recommends the following for authorities;

- i. Increase the HSNP's ability to respond to needs for food security by periodically evaluating and modifying the cash transfer amounts in accordance with current food prices and living expenses. In order to make sure that the program adequately meets the beneficiaries' demands for food security, it will be helpful to implement a flexible system that can modify benefits in response to changes in the cost of living.
- ii. Include social welfare and comprehensive health services, such as mental health assistance, access to healthcare, and community-building social activities, in the HSNP. By collaborating with neighborhood social service and health groups, the program can have a greater overall influence on beneficiary wellness in addition to providing cash support.
- iii. Strive to form alliances with academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to augment the HSNP with educational support services, like after-school tutoring, school lunch programs, and scholarship schemes. This all-encompassing strategy can assist in guaranteeing that recipients' children's success and educational attainment are successfully translated into financial support from the HSNP.

5.5 Recommendations for Further Studies

Based on the findings of the study;

- i. Longitudinal studies should be the focus of future research in order to monitor alterations in food security among HSNP beneficiaries over time. This method will aid in comprehending the long-term effects of monetary transfers on the stability, accessibility, availability, and use of food.
- ii. Future research ought to look into the possible advantages of combining social and health services with financial assistance initiatives like the HSNP. Research might look at how these linkages could improve recipients' social, emotional, and physical wellness and establish best practices for comprehensive social protection schemes.
- iii. Future studies should evaluate the standard of education and learning outcomes for children of HSNP beneficiaries, even though enrollment and completion rates are significant markers of educational access.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I,....., understand the purpose of this study on the "INFLUENCE OF THE HUNGER SAFETY NET PROGRAMME ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF VULNERABLE GROUPS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA."

I voluntarily participate, with the right to withdraw at any time. I may express my viewpoint, request anonymity, and seek additional information. My participation has no immediate benefits, but I believe it contributes to understanding the program's impact on vulnerable groups during the pandemic.

I acknowledge that the interview may be recorded, stored by the researcher, JEREMIAH LOKITOE NAMUYA, and accessed by him or his supervisors until University approval. I have read and understood this information, providing informed consent to participate.

Signature of research participant: Date:

I, JEREMIAH LOKITOE NAMUYA, as the researcher, confirm the participant's informed consent.

Signature of researcher: Date:

For more information, contact: Chairman, MKU IREC, P.O Box 342-01000, Thika.

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE

INFLUENCE OF THE HUNGER SAFETY NET PROGRAMME ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF VULNERABLE GROUPS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA

The purpose of this survey is to collect data essential for achieving the objectives of the ongoing study. Your participation is crucial, and I sincerely ask you to respond to the questions with accuracy and honesty. Be assured that all the information shared will remain strictly confidential and solely utilized for academic purposes.

For clarity and convenience in responding, the questionnaire is segmented into sections. Please express your answers by marking the box or providing written responses in the designated space when applicable for each question in the respective section.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE RESPONDENT

1. Gender

Female Male

2. What is your age bracket?

Below 20 20 - 30 30 - 40 40 - 50 Above 50

3. What is your highest level of education?

None Primary Secondary Diploma Undergraduate Postgraduate

4. How long have you been enrolled in HSNP program?

Less than 1 year 1- 5 years 6-10 years More than 10 years

5. What is the size of your household?

2 and below 3-4 5-6 7-8 9 and above

SECTION B: INFLUENCE OF THE HSNP PROGRAM ON THE FOOD SECURITY OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS IN LOIMA SUB COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Availability of Food:

To what extent do you agree with the statement

	SD	D	N	A	SA
The HSNP program increased the availability of food in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic"?					
The HSNP program helped to ensure my household had enough food to eat during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement "The HSNP program contributed to a consistent supply of food in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic"?					
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program helped in reducing food shortages your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

Accessibility of Food:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
The HSNP program improved accessibility of food for my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program was in ensuring that your household can easily access food during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
To what extent did HSNP program helped in reducing barriers to accessing food, such as affordability and availability, in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program made it easier for my household to obtain food during the COVID-19 pandemic					

Utilization of Food:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
To what extent do you believe HSNP program improved the utilization of food in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program contributed to a more balanced and nutritious diet for my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
The HSNP program helped my household in making better use of available food resources during the COVID-19 pandemic"?					
To what extent do you believe HSNP program improved the food utilization practices, such as food preservation and storage, in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

Stability of Food:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
The HSNP program contributed to the stability of food supply in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program ensured a consistent food supply in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
To what extent did HSNP program helped in reducing the risk of your household facing food shortages or disruptions in the supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

The HSNP program has contributed to the food security and stability of my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
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SECTION C: THE INFLUENCE OF THE HSNP PROGRAM ON THE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF BENEFICIARIES IN LOIMA SUB COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Physical Health: Please rate your response on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very Poor" and 5 being "Excellent"

	SD	D	N	A	SA
How would you rate your overall physical health status since benefiting from the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program positively impacted on my physical health during the COVID-19 pandemic"?					
The HSNP program helped me meet my basic health needs, such as access to healthcare and medication, during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program improved your physical health outcomes, such as reducing illness or improving recovery from illness, during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program contributed to better physical health outcomes for you and your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

Mental Health:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
The HSNP program has positively influenced my mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program provided support for your mental health needs, such as reducing stress or anxiety, during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program contributed to improved mental health outcomes, such as increased resilience or coping skills, for you and your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
How would you rate your overall mental well-being since benefiting from the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
Please rate your level of agreement with the statement "The HSNP program contributed in improving the mental health outcomes of my household during the COVID-19 pandemic"					

Social Well-being

	SD	D	N	A	SA
The HSNP program contributed to increased social interactions and community engagement for my household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program helped me feel more socially connected and supported during the COVID-19 pandemic					

How effective do you think the HSNP program improved your household's social well-being, such as fostering social cohesion or community resilience, during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
I received a high level of social support from the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
HSNP program contributed to enhanced social well-being outcomes, such as improved social relationships or increased community participation, for my household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

SECTION D: THE INFLUENCE OF THE HSNP PROGRAM ON THE EDUCATION OF BENEFICIARIES IN LOIMA SUB COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

School Enrolment Rates:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
The HSNP program increased the school enrolment rates of children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
HSNP program has contributed to improved access to education and increased enrolment of children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
How effective do you think the HSNP program has ensured that children in your household are enrolled in school despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program has positively influenced the school enrolment rates of children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					

How would you rate the impact of the HSNP program on the school enrolment rates of children in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
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Attendance Rates:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program contributed to improved attendance rates of children in your household at school during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program helped to ensure regular attendance of children in my household at school during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program helped in addressing challenges related to children's attendance at school during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program positively influenced the attendance rates of children in my household at school during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How would you rate the impact of the HSNP program on the attendance rates of children in your household at school during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

Completion Rates:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program has contributed to improved completion rates of children in your household at school during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program supported the successful completion of education for children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program ensured that children in your household are able to complete their education despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program positively influenced the completion rates of education for children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How would you rate the influence of the HSNP program on the completion rates of education for children in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

Access to Basic Education Services:

	SD	D	N	A	SA
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program has contributed to improved completion rates of children in your household at school during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program supported the successful completion of education for children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					

How effective do you think the HSNP program ensured that children in your household are able to complete their education despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program positively influenced the completion rates of education for children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How would you rate the influence of the HSNP program on the completion rates of education for children in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
To what extent do you believe that the HSNP program improved access to basic education services for children in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program facilitated access to basic education services for children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How effective do you think the HSNP program helped in addressing barriers to access basic education services for children in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					
The HSNP program has positively influenced access to basic education services for children in my household during the COVID-19 pandemic					
How would you rate the impact of the HSNP program on the access to basic education services for children in your household during the COVID-19 pandemic?					

APPENDIX III: INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

Objective i: To assess the influence of the HSNP program on the food security of vulnerable households in Loima Sub County, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- i. How has the HSNP program affected the availability of food for vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?
- ii. In what ways has the HSNP program influenced the accessibility of food for vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?
- iii. How has the HSNP program impacted the utilization of food by vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?

Objective ii: To evaluate the influence of the HSNP program on the health outcomes of beneficiaries in Loima Sub County, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- i. What changes have beneficiaries experienced in their physical health as a result of the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?
- ii. How has the HSNP program influenced the mental health and well-being of beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?
- iii. In what ways has the HSNP program impacted the social well-being and social interactions of beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?

Objective iii: To investigate the influence of the HSNP program on the education of beneficiaries in Loima Sub County, Turkana County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- i. How has the HSNP program influenced school enrolment rates among beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?
- ii. What changes have beneficiaries experienced in their attendance rates in schools as a result of the HSNP program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub County?
- iii. In what ways has the HSNP program impacted the completion rates and access to basic education services for beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic in Loima Sub

APPENDIX IV: ETHICAL CLEARANCE



REF: MKU/ISERC/2793

TO: JEREMIAH LOKITOE NAMUYA

Date: 31 May 2023

REG: MDS/2019/48886

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INFLUENCE OF THE HUNGER SAFETY NET PROGRAMME ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF VULNERABLE GROUPS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN LOIMA SUB COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA

This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **1837**. The approval period is **31/05/2023 - 30/05/2024**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**


Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Peter G. Kirira
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC

The Chairman
Mount Kenya University
Ethics Review Committee
P. O. Box 412 - 0100, Thika

APPENDIX V: INTRODUCTION LETTER


Mount Kenya University

DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MDS/2019/48886

31st May, 2023

*National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)
Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P.O Box 30623- 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA*

Dear Sir/Madam,


RE: JEREMIAH LOKITOE NAMUYA- REGISTRATION NO. MDS/2019/48886

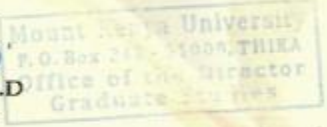
The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing Master of Arts in Development Studies in the department of Social and Development Studies in the school of Social Sciences

The title of the thesis is "Influence of the Hunger Safety Net Programme on Socio-Economic Well-being of Vulnerable Groups During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Loima Sub-County, Turkana County Kenya." It has been cleared by the University's Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between June, 2023 and August, 2023.

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, Ph.D
Director, Graduate Studies
Enc.


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Chartered and ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institution.
Unlocking Infinite Possibilities

APPENDIX VI: NACOSTI APPROVAL

