



Funded by the European Union

CONFLICT SCAN

Kenya

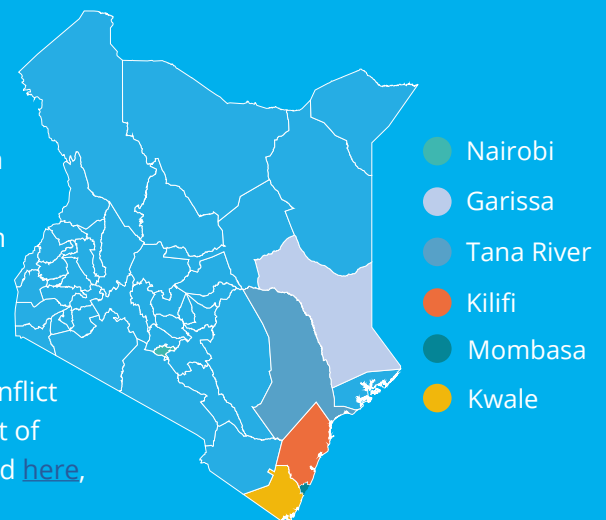
May 2022

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya persists amidst devastating socio-economic shocks and disruptions, not only from the increased illnesses and deaths but also the negative effects of the containment measures. Kenya's economy recorded its first contraction in two decades (-0.3%), with accommodation and food services the worst hit sectors.¹ This, compounded by an ongoing drought situation in parts of the country and below average rainfall during the rainy season (Oct-Dec), has resulted in nationwide inflation of basic commodities driving an increase in food insecurity, most dire in fragile counties like Garissa, Tana River, Kwale and Kilifi.² This compounded crisis is further widening gender inequalities, especially in Tana River county where an increasing number of young girls are dropping out of schools, with fears of being married off for cash and food.³ In addition, the long-standing maritime dispute between Kenya and Somalia could escalate tensions in border counties as Kenya rejects the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) verdict over the row.⁴

Data collection and analysis

Data for the fourth conflict scan was gathered from 8 to 11 September 2021 in the following target counties: Garissa, Tana River, Kilifi, Mombasa, Kwale, and Nairobi.⁵ This report was prepared by the Search for Common Ground Kenya team, with support from Search's COVID-19 Response Programme Team and Institutional Learning Team. For more information on the data collection methodology and tools used by Search for this research, click [here](#). This report is part of a series of regular conflict scans aimed at providing quick and actionable answers to a set of specific questions. The previous reports for Kenya can be found [here](#) & [here](#).



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* This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Search for Common Ground and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



1. Kenya National Bureau of statistics, "Economic Survey 2021", September 2021.
2. National Drought Management Authority, "National Drought Early Warning Bulletin", September 2021.
3. The Nation, [Fear of girls being married off for cash, food as drought bites](#), November 2021.
4. BBC, "[ICJ rejects Kenya Case in Somalia Maritime Border row](#)", October 2021.
5. The survey was conducted only in 2 localities in Nairobi (Kibera and Mathare), same as per the previous surveys.



Update: COVID-19 Measures and Impact on Conflict

Kenya faced a fourth wave of COVID-19⁶ in July-August 2021, recording a positivity rate of 18% and surging case numbers of the Delta variant, leading to a lockdown in the western part of the country. By end Nov 2021, there were 254,951 cumulative cases and 5,333 casualties.⁷ Nairobi still bears the burden of the pandemic, accounting for 40% of cumulative cases⁸ and overstressing medical facilities in the county, especially ICU beds. The vaccination process started slowly in March 2021, and **vaccine hesitancy remains a challenge as the vaccines become increasingly available.**⁹ By November 2021, only 9.8% of the total adult population have been fully vaccinated.¹⁰

Based on our data, many citizens prefer to “wait and see” whether they should get the vaccine, with reactions from those who have already taken it influencing wider vaccine uptake decisions.¹¹ Moreover, while vaccines have become more accessible within communities through targeted outreach programmes, vaccine selectivity and preference is on the rise.¹² During the recent peak, COVID-19 prevention measures included:¹³ an extension of night curfew, a face covering mandate within public spaces, and restricted hours of operation for restaurants, eateries, and bars. Additionally, capacity restrictions are in place for religious services, funeral ceremonies, and public transportation, while public gatherings and in-person meetings are suspended. In addition, all employers, including the public and private sector, should adopt remote work, except for essential services. International travel control measures remain in place.

	Schools open
	Teleworking not mandatory
	Borders/airports open
	All services/sectors open
	Mask wearing mandatory

The government response to COVID-19 has exacerbated dividing lines within communities. The relief programmes such as cash transfers and food relief have been marred with reports of discrimination and favoritism towards close friends and relatives of local authorities, creating a scenario where many at risk populations are not adequately receiving services.¹⁴ In addition, access to information, services, and facilities by vulnerable groups such as persons living with special abilities, women, and the elderly, is unequal. For instance, disability friendly masks for persons with speech impairment are inaccessible. The enforcement approach to COVID-19 protocols has elicited defiance from communities as security agents are accused of heavy handedness and misconduct when enforcing pandemic protocols. These complaints are particularly notable in Nairobi, Kilifi, and Tana River. In Garissa and Tana River counties that border the Boni forest, an enclave prone to violent extremist attacks, the **communities are concerned about the shift in focus by security agents to enforcing COVID-19 protocols, leaving gaps in security against threats such as human trafficking and violent extremist attacks.**

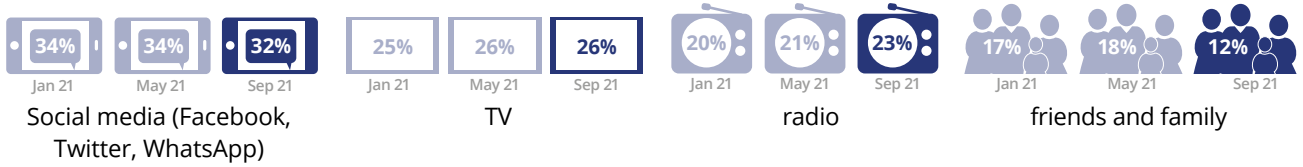
The negative gendered impact of the pandemic persists as gender relations deteriorate and inequalities deepen, so much so that the head of state decried the situation as reaching global emergency levels.¹⁵ Domestic violence/conflicts, particularly those related to socio-economic stressors and mental health disorders, have increased significantly in all project sites, primarily affecting women and girls. Cases of violence against children have significantly increased, including defilement, child labour, early pregnancies, and physical abuse. These compounded with school dropouts¹⁶ have left children more vulnerable amid increasing petty crimes, substance abuse, and drug trafficking resulting in rising insecurity.¹⁷

6. Citizen, Kenya, “[KMPDU raises alarm over increased COVID-19 infections](#)”, August 2021.
7. WHO, [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#), accessed on 29 November 2021.
8. Statista, Kenya, “[Coronavirus cases by county](#)”, 22nd November 2021.
9. The fourth conflict scan for Kenya added questions on people’s trust levels in the COVID-19 vaccines: only 35% of respondents trust the vaccine. Many respondents are concerned about side effects, particularly infertility among men and altered menses in women (44%) and the safety of the vaccine (30%). Only 9% do not have any concerns about the vaccine, 1% think it does not meet the current eligibility criteria set by the Ministry of Health, and 4% feel the location of COVID-19 vaccination centres is difficult to travel to.
10. Ministry of Health, “[COVID-19 situation reports](#)”, November 2021.
11. Search for Common Ground Kenya, Quarterly Monitoring Report, August 2021 (Internal Report): The experiences of the majority of those who have taken the vaccine have not positively influenced uptake. First, there are limited platforms for them to share their experiences, second, hearing about the immediate side effects after taking the jab has made many apprehensive, particularly in rural areas.
12. The Standard, [The best vaccine is which is readily available](#), September 2021. Based on the different types of vaccines available in the country, some have preferred one type of vaccine over the other, even when the same is not readily available in all localities hence affecting uptake.
13. Nation Africa, “[COVID-19 situation Speech](#)”, 30th July 2021.
14. Human Rights Watch, “[Kenya’s Pandemic Cash Transfer Riddled with Irregularities](#)”, July 2021.
15. The Presidents press, “[President decries surge in Gender Based Violence in Africa](#)”, June 2021.
16. UNESCO, “[Kenya national study report on out of school children](#)”, Oct 2021.
17. Based on monitoring visits conducted by the Kenya Search team in July 2021.

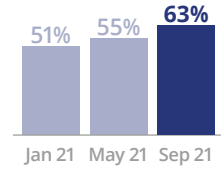
COVID-19's Impact on Social Cohesion & Trust

Trust in information on COVID-19 improved significantly over the last year

The most trusted channels to access information related to COVID-19 remained the same since early 2021: social media, TV and radio. But this round we saw a decline in "friends and family" as a trusted source. In line with strategies of rumour management, there has been increased sensitisation of communities to rely on approved COVID-19 communication from the national government and WHO, which may be a contributing factor to the decreased trust in peer to peer sharing of information.

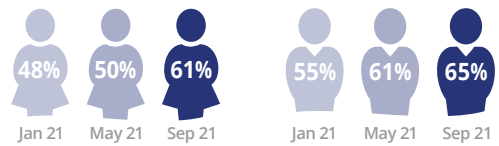


Search produced radio programmes¹⁸ to provide a platform for listeners to learn about COVID-19. This round recorded increases in the listenership rates among all demographic groups; however, trends across regions varied.

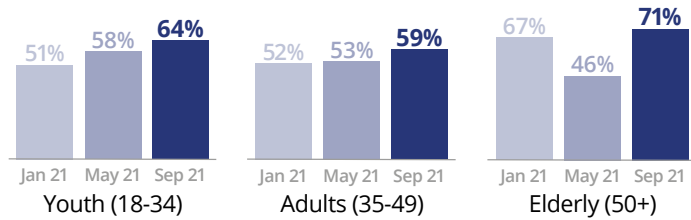


Listened to our radio programmes

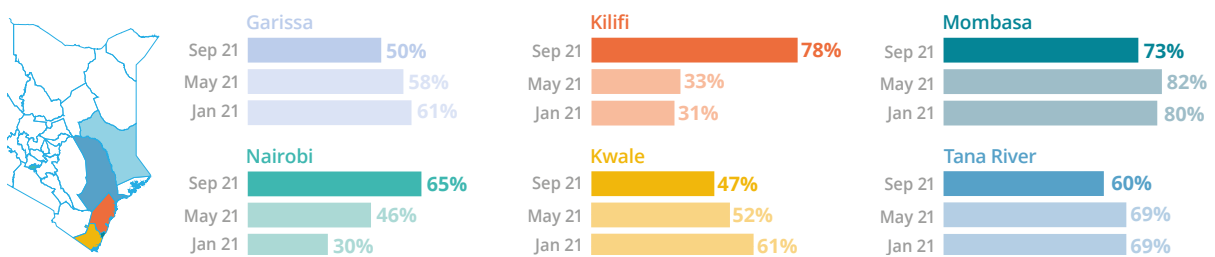
Men continue to have a higher listenership rate than women and saw a notable increase over time. However, **women recorded a significant increase in listenership**, which is likely due to an increase in programming that addresses the gendered impacts of the pandemic.



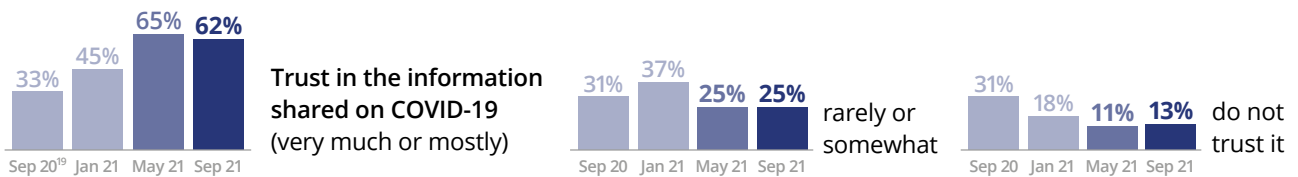
Elderly respondents (50+ years) recorded a significant increase in listenership, possibly due to increased efforts to create awareness and support older persons during the pandemic.



Kilifi county recorded a significant increase in listenership attributable to community level awareness efforts, **while Kwale county recorded the lowest rate**, less than the previous level. In an effort to reach the most marginalised communities in Kwale county, there was a shift in media partners to reach these specific areas, hence this may have resulted in loss of general audience.



Out of those who listen to the programmes:

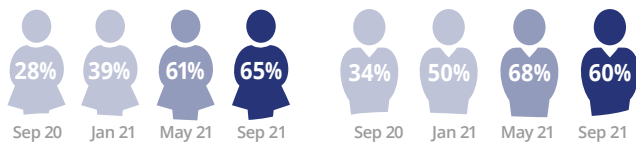


18. Between December 2020 and June 2021, Search produced the INUKA radio magazine programme (composed of different formats: radio drama, round table discussions, features, interview with experts, and vox pox) in Swahili and Somali languages, aired on our partner radio stations Amani FM in Tana River county, Lulu FM in Kilifi county, Kulmiye FM in Garissa county, Pwani FM in Mombasa county, Radio Kaya in Kwale county, Ghetto Radio in Nairobi county and Radio Maisha (nation-wide).

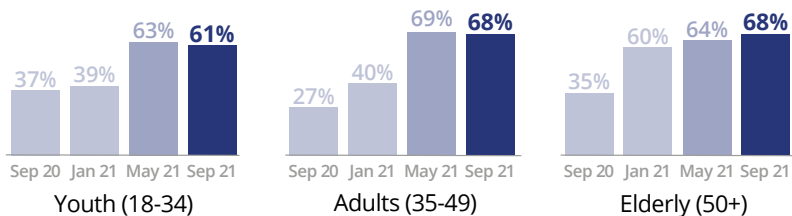
19. In September 2020, this question was not asked in Garissa and Nairobi, as we had not yet started broadcasting there.

Trust levels have significantly improved over time among women with increases each round.

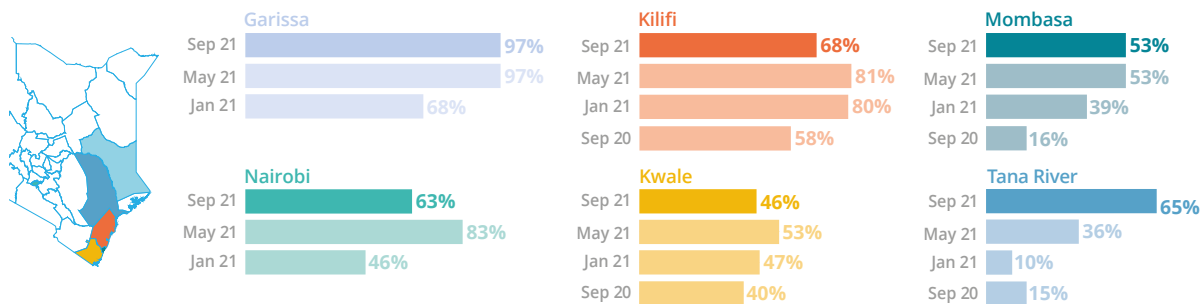
Findings from our listenership survey led to the adoption of more gender sensitive messages in our media programming. For example, respondents noted that the programme needed to address concerns around the socio-economic effects of the pandemic such as job loss, child marriages, early pregnancies, gendercide and GBV, and their coping tactics. The programme was adjusted by inclusion of experts on family matters and psychosocial support on the interview and round table segments and linking listeners to referral services. **Men's trust has also increased over time, however, there was a notable decline between this round and the previous one.**



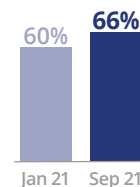
Levels of trust among the age groups had no significant difference, and all groups have seen increases in trust over time. Adults had the greatest increase in trust over time, followed by the elderly, and then youth.



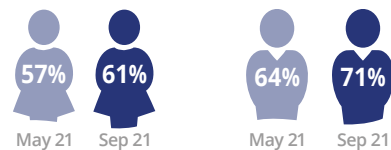
In general, while trust levels have fluctuated somewhat in certain locations, **overall, trust has gone up for every county when comparing first and fourth round data.** Levels of trust have significantly improved in Tana River county. This is likely due to rising case numbers and the greater impact COVID-19 is having on areas outside of traditional "hot zones" such as Nairobi. **Other counties (Nairobi, Kilifi and Kwale) recorded significant decreases in trust levels since the last round.**



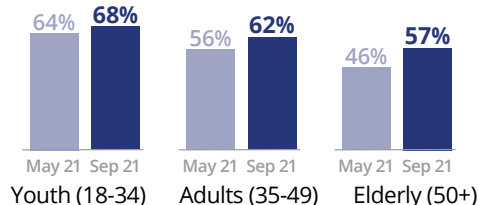
In addition to the radio programmes, Search ran a social media campaign called the "Pamoja dhidi ya Corona" campaign. **Overall, the viewership rate for the campaign increased,** this increase could be due to animating our messaging to target younger audiences and incorporate messaging for persons living with special abilities (i.e sign language).



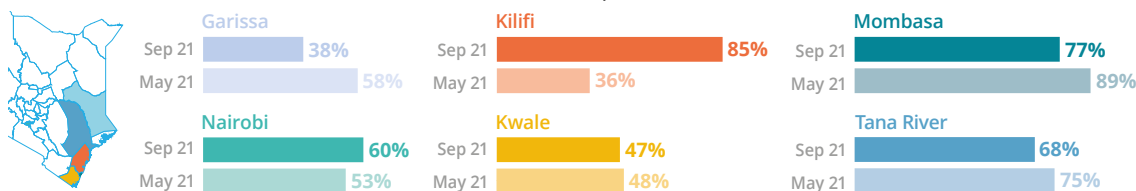
Men continue to have higher viewership of the social media campaign than women, but viewership increased for both groups.



In general, the highest viewership rates remained among youth, followed by adults, then elderly,²⁰ who recorded a significant increase in viewership rates. In part, this can be attributed to increased outreach efforts at community level targeting the elderly, informing them on how and where to get factual COVID-19 updates, including through social media.

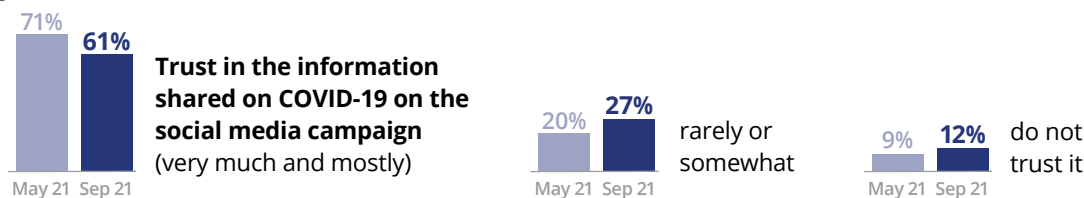


Viewership in Kilifi county significantly increased, while Garissa recorded the lowest rate. Garissa experienced a disaster during this period, namely severe drought, leading to loss of herds and human life. This received much more attention on social media and local print/TV than COVID-19.

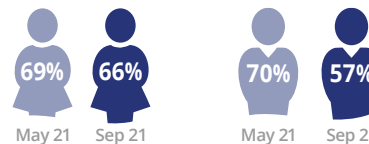


20. According to the Kenya digital insights report (Feb 2021), 71% of social media audiences are youth (18-34 years).

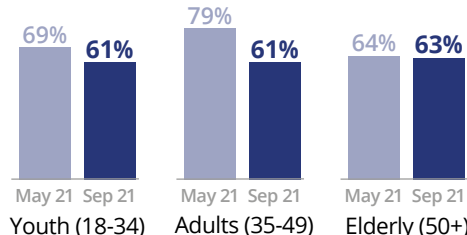
Among those following the campaign, trust in the information shared on COVID-19 (very much and mostly) in the campaign **has decreased**.



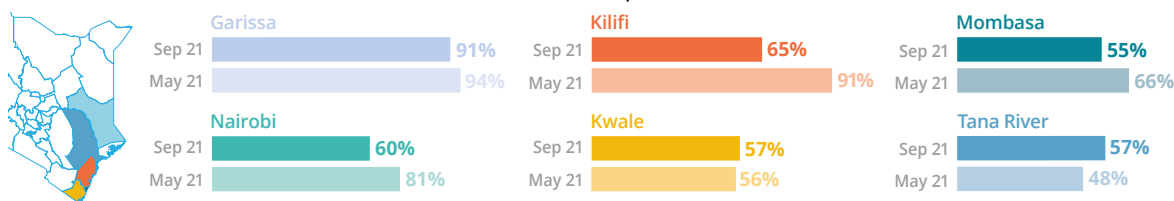
Men's and adults' levels of trust in information shared on our social media campaign dramatically decreased despite their viewership rates increasing. Further inquiry is necessary to determine the basis for this change in trend.



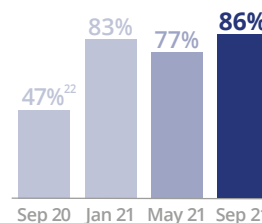
The elderly maintained the previously reported level, while trust among adults and youth decreased. Given that COVID-19 disproportionately affects the elderly, they are likely more receptive to COVID-19 information as opposed to the other age groups. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic, combined with the less severe health consequences for youth and adults, may also be contributing to their lower levels of trust in information about COVID-19.



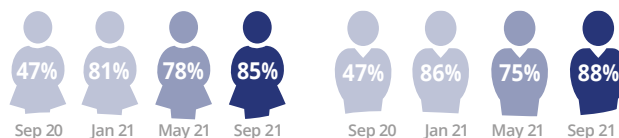
Many counties have recorded significant decreases this round; except for Tana River county. This could be attributed to the aforementioned increase in disease burden in Tana River, leading to an increased acceptability of the COVID-19 information. Garissa county has a similar context to Tana River in terms of increasing case number, while the other counties recorded decreases in reported cases.



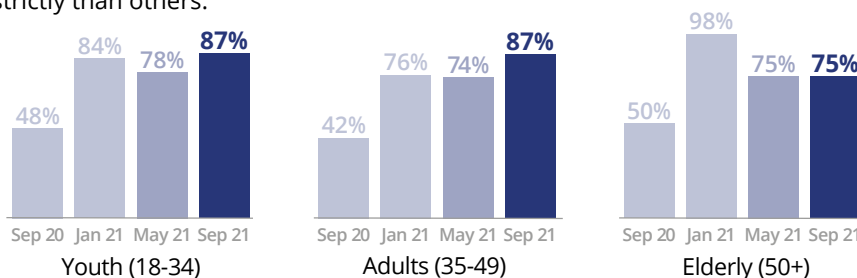
Information sharing on COVID-19 recorded a significant increase: This could be attributed to adaptations in ongoing response efforts, including Search's interventions focusing on vaccination misconceptions.²¹



Overall, information sharing fluctuated at different rates among youth, adults and the elderly, but between the first and last rounds, **increased dramatically for all groups**, with the greatest increase among adults.



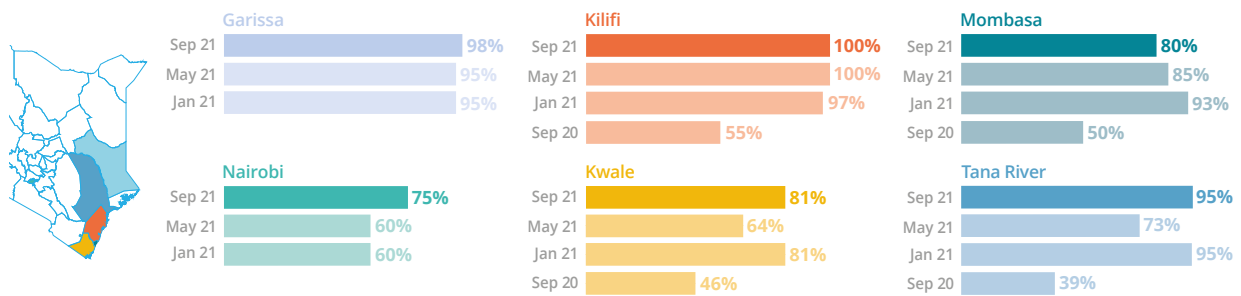
Between the previous round and this, the **elderly did not record an increase in information sharing, while other age groups reported significant increases.** The elderly may face greater barriers to communicating with others, particularly with additional containment measures put in place, as elderly follow the precautionary measures more strictly than others.



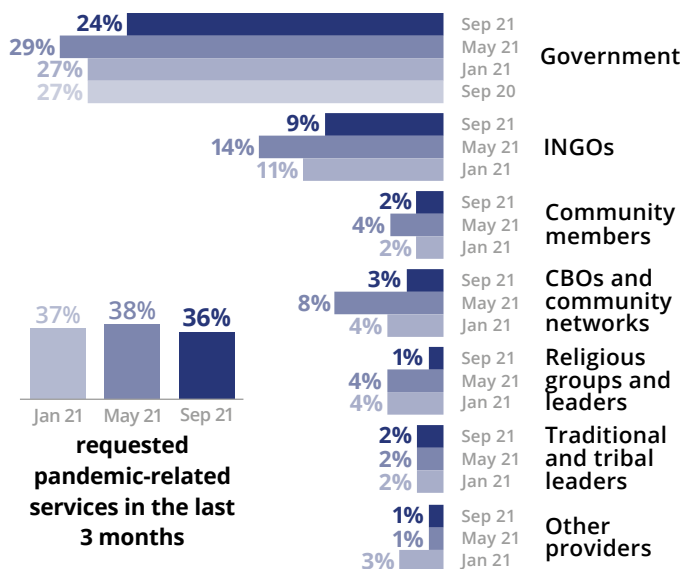
21. In the third round, 48% of respondents trust (somewhat, much and very much) the vaccine, and we see improvement to 57% in the fourth round.

22. Sharing information levels on September 20 were not estimated in Garissa and Nairobi. As the question was about sharing information heard on our media programming and at that time it was not aired yet in both regions.

Information sharing has significantly increased in all counties since the last round except Mombasa, which recorded a decline. Lockdowns implemented during the Ramadan period have elicited grievances among the muslim population in Mombasa, who are the majority, resulting in rejection of any COVID-19 related issue among the residents. In addition, **the disconnect between the county government and the other stakeholders have limited platforms for information sharing.**

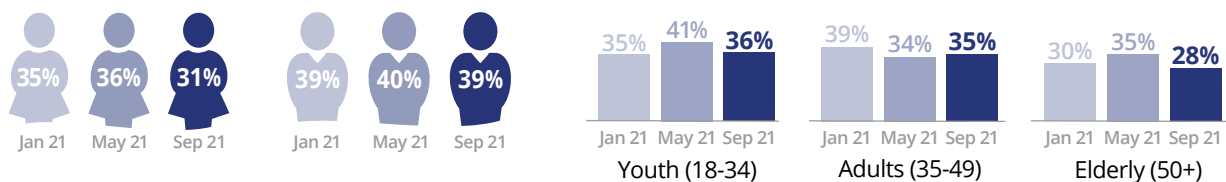


Over the past year, trust in the government’s COVID-19 response and satisfaction with related services has improved, but amid growing concerns about equity and inclusion

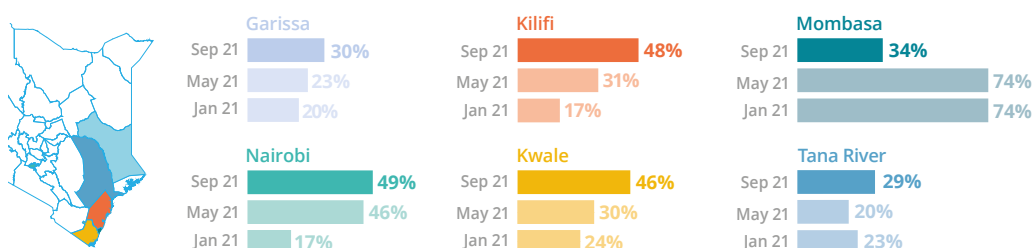


Citizens continue to heavily rely on the government for COVID-19 service delivery; however, service requests from the government have declined over time. Service requests from INGOs have declined dramatically during this round of data collection. Most of the COVID-19 interventions by INGOs were rapid response projects that were short term with limited resources and as the pandemic prolonged, most of the initiatives ended. **This means citizens continue to heavily rely on the government for COVID-19 service delivery.**

Since the beginning of this year, the rate of requests (from all providers combined) overall remained relatively consistent, **with a decline among the women and elderly.** Socio-cultural gender roles, which often confine women to domestic and family care responsibilities, could be a contributing factor to lower rates of service requests among women. Youth traditionally face many socio-economic barriers, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic and might be a contributing factor for greater request rates among youth, compared to other age groups.²³



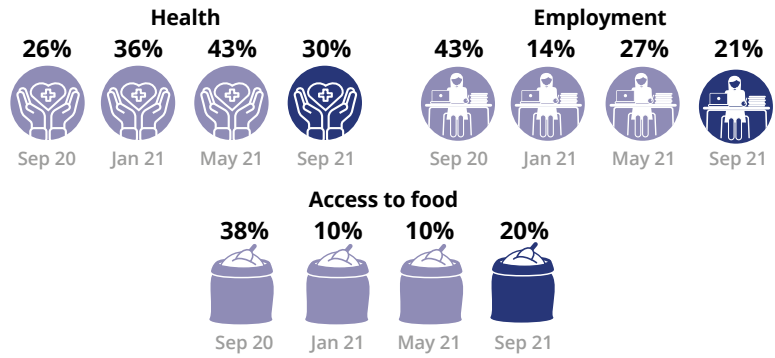
Nairobi county had the highest percentage of people seeking COVID-19 related services this round, which is a shift from Mombasa county. Declining case numbers in Mombasa might be the reason for the notable decline in service requests this round.



23. ILO, "Youth & COVID-19: Impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being", August 2020.

Top requested services from the government

Overall, **health and employment continue to be the top requested services**. Health service requests notably declined during this round, while employment requests also slightly declined. The decline in health-related requests is likely due to the fewer number of severe cases amid the spread of the Delta variant, which, while much more transmissible than its predecessors, such as the Alpha variant, has proven less deadly.



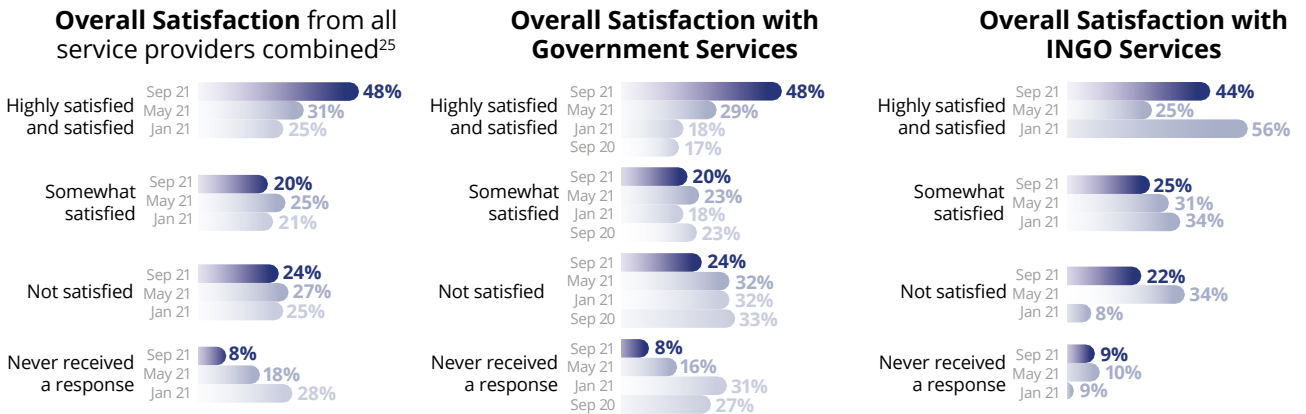
56% (Jan 21) and 66% (Sep 21)

of respondents (or any member of their households) **have lost their main income resource, fully or partially, during the pandemic.**

56% (Jan 21) and 62% (Sep 21) for women; 54% (Jan 21) and 70% (Sep 21) for men.

This shows the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation in Kenya, impacting both women and men.

As explained above, the government is the main service provider, and **satisfaction levels with these governmental services are driving the overall trends**. This increase in satisfaction levels could be attributed to increased government efforts to respond to the pandemic and its impacts, particularly on inclusion and accessibility of vital services.²⁴ Increased government responsiveness is reflected in the notable decrease in the percentage of respondents who report not getting response to their service requests. Moreover, **an increase in satisfaction levels was seen across all gender and age groups**.



Adults have the highest levels of satisfaction with services provided by the government, followed by youth while the elderly recorded the lowest satisfaction. While the elderly are prioritised in the national vaccination campaign, access to these services have been impeded by mobility challenges, with most of them now preferring mobile clinics and home visits.²⁶

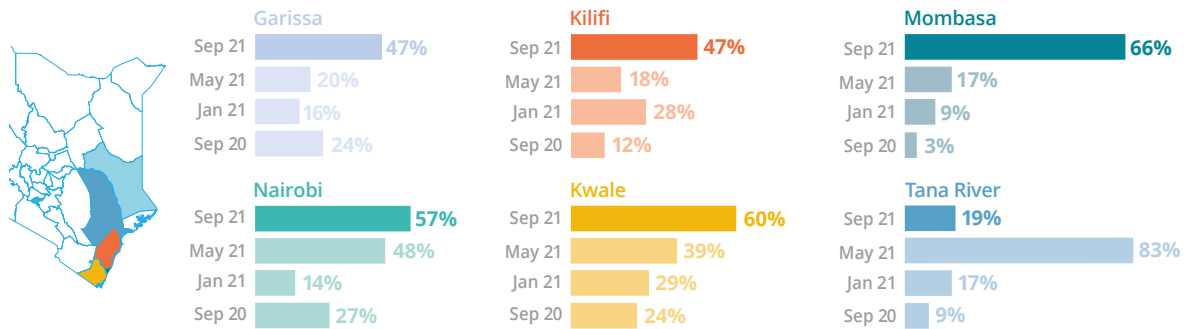
Age Group	Sep 20	Jan 21	May 21	Sep 21
Youth (18-34)	14%	15%	33%	51%
Adults (35-49)	17%	27%	20%	59%
Elderly (50+)	20%	49%	32%	38%

24. The Nation, [NMS to offer mental health services in 32 city hospitals](#), August 2021.

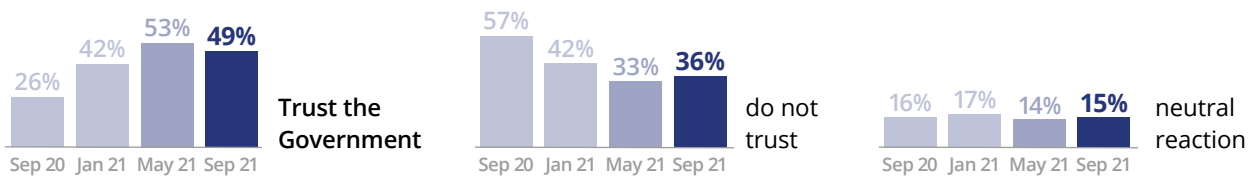
25. In round 1 in September 2020 we did not ask about satisfaction levels with all service providers combined, only with services provided by the government.

26. The Standard, [Elderly suffer in struggle to get COVID-19 vaccine](#), August 2021.

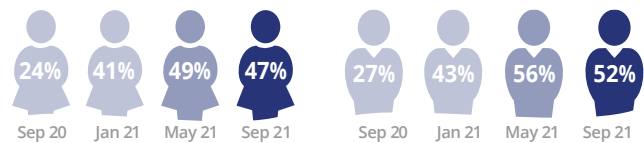
Mombasa reported the highest satisfaction levels, whereas Tana River county recorded the lowest satisfaction levels, in sharp contrast from the previous round. While the county government of Tana River has made advancements in strengthening COVID-19 services in the county, facilities still struggled with capacity challenges in comparison to the vastness of the county, requiring long travels with huge cost implications, necessitating mobile clinics and outreaches to reach the majority of the marginalised communities.



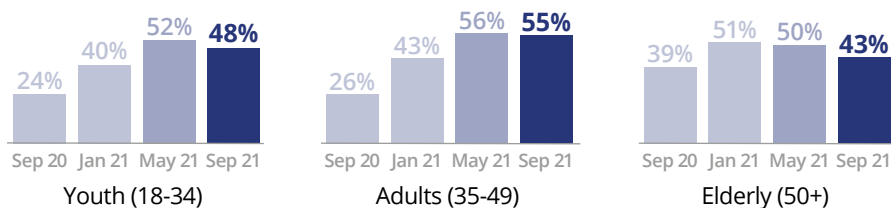
Respondents' **trust levels that the government is doing its best to consider the needs of everyone equally has slightly decreased**, resulting from perceptions of exclusion of vulnerable groups and people. Access to facilities, information, economic stimulus programmes and PPE for persons living with special abilities such as disability-friendly masks for persons relying on lip reading has been reported fraught, and lack of inclusion of people living with special abilities as priority groups in the vaccination efforts.²⁷



Men trust the government more than women: in spite of the government's progress in integrating women's needs and considerations into the COVID-19 response through inter-agency strategy and social safety nets cash transfers to the most vulnerable and GBV survivors, more measures are required to action the pledges. Presently, there is no GBV safe house or shelter financed by the government.²⁸



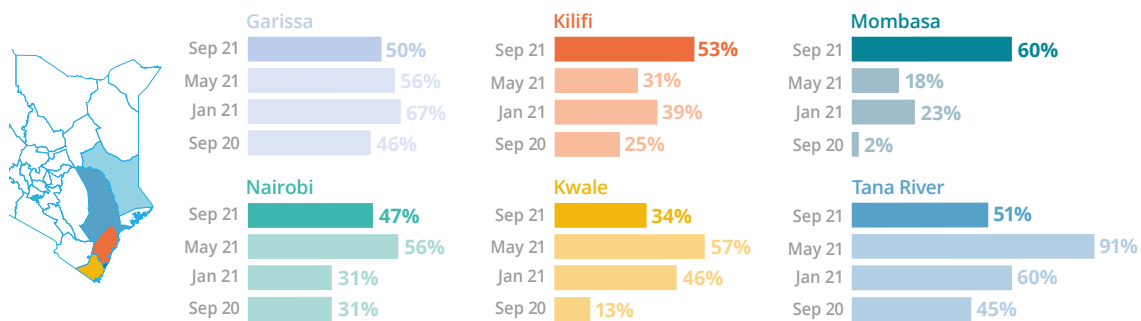
Trust in the government's response is the lowest amongst the elderly, and has increased the least among all age groups. As aforementioned, while inclusion of the elderly was extolled, considerations of the mobility challenges they face need to be better accounted for through mobile clinics and outreach programmes.



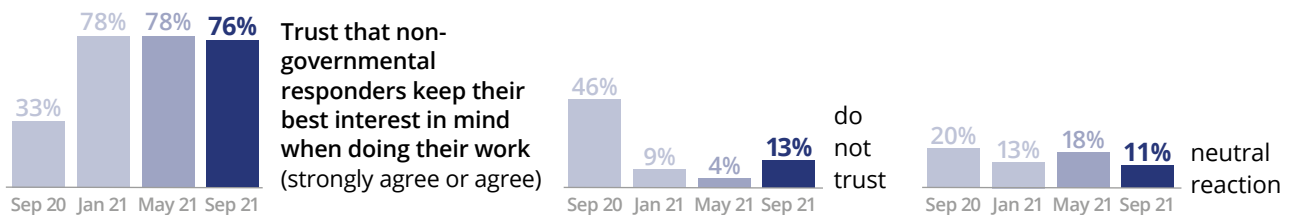
27. The Citizen, [People living with disabilities call for inclusion in vaccination drive](#), September 2021.

28. The Nation, [A story of gender based violence, but where are the safe homes?](#), May 2021.

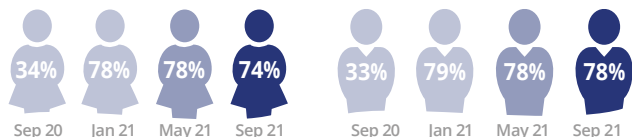
Trust in government increased significantly in Mombasa and Kilifi. This could be attributed to the adaptation of soft approaches (dialogue and sensitizations) to the COVID-19 response instead of hard handedness that had driven a wedge between communities and government. For example in Mombasa, the Assistant County Commissioner, based on feedback given in the dialogues from communities on police harassment for lack of masks, led a personal drive of sourcing for masks from local factories and organised a mass distribution in the community. He also commissioned the police officers to stop arrests over lack of masks but instead distribute them to anyone found lacking. **On the other hand, respondents' trust decreased in Garissa, Kwale, Nairobi and significantly in Tana River.** This significant decline in Tana River could be linked to the limitation of COVID-19 services to only 3 centres in the entire county, excluding large segments of the population, resulting in the long travels and cost implications. Also, the communities in Garissa and Tana River counties are concerned about the shift in focus by security agents to enforcing COVID-19 protocols, compromising security in other threats such as human trafficking and recent violent extremists attacks.



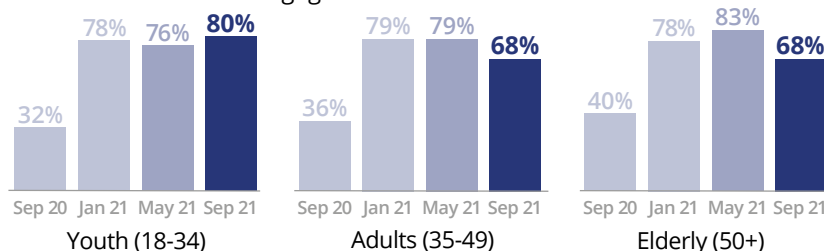
Trust levels in non-governmental COVID-19 responders remain higher than in the government. Non-governmental responders have been acknowledged in complementary efforts to mobilise resources, services and infrastructure to support the COVID-19 response, especially support to GBV survivors through safe houses and community sensitisation.



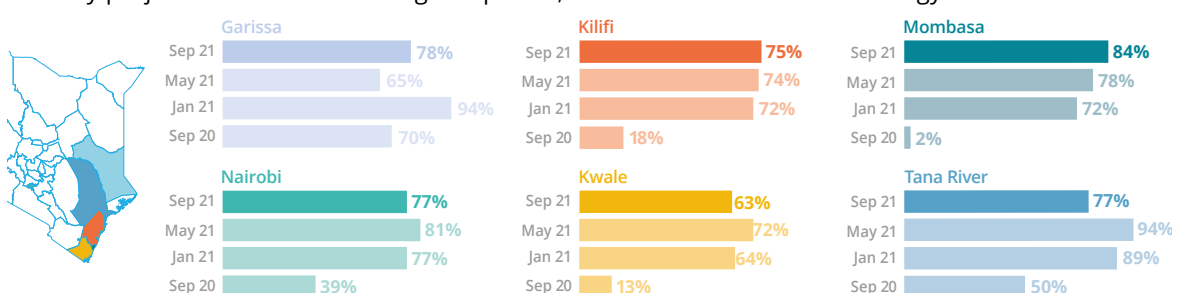
Women recorded a slight decrease in trusting non-governmental COVID-19 responders, whereas for men the trust level stayed the same.



Youth recorded an increase in trust levels in non-governmental actors, while adult and elderly reported decreases. Other stakeholders have made deliberate efforts and strategies to streamline youth and women inclusion in their processes hence more engagement.

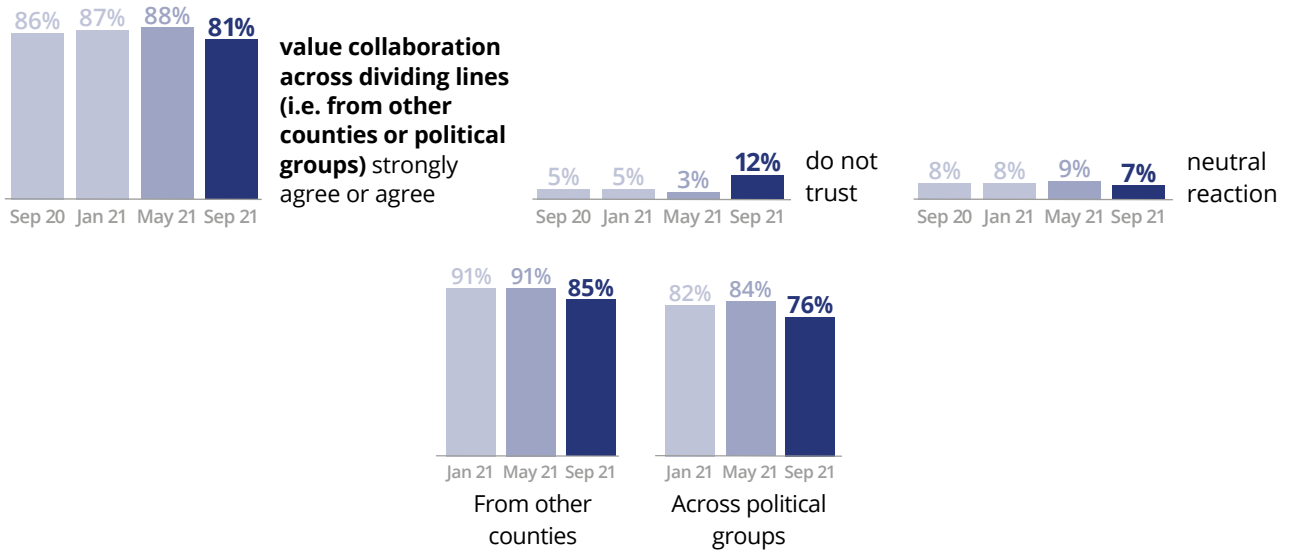


The highest level of trust in other COVID-19 responders was reported in Mombasa, and trust level significantly increased in Garissa. Inversely, it decreased in Tana River county. A majority of the community projects closed down during this period, without an effective exit strategy.

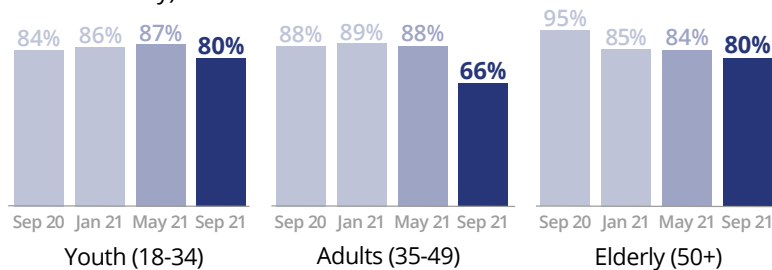


Collaboration across dividing lines is sharply dropping ahead of elections, and feelings of unsafety within the household are on the rise

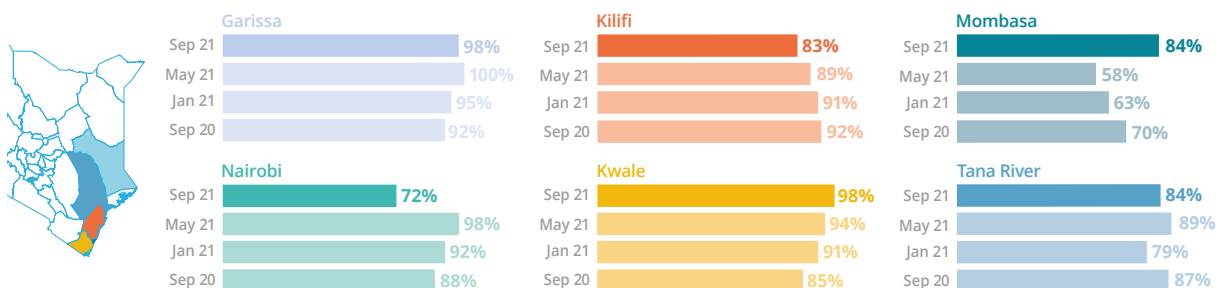
Valuing collaboration for responding to the COVID-19 crisis has slightly declined across dividing lines (across counties and political groups), driven mostly by the decline in valuing collaboration across political groups, understandably so as the country nears the next general elections, a period characterised by ethnopolitical alliances and tensions.



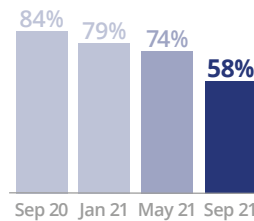
During this round, **adults recorded a dramatic decrease in the level of valuing collaboration across divides.** This is driven mainly by their low levels in valuing collaboration across the political groups, which stood at only 50% (75% for youth, 64% for elderly).



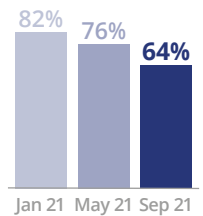
Though not the highest level, **Mombasa recorded a significant increase in this round.** This could be attributed to the changing political landscape, with the Mombasa governor actively campaigning to be part of the government next year. The county has been in the opposition since the inception of devolution, and it would bring a huge shift in the coastal counties, especially around the perception of the area's marginalisation, which for a long time has been a grievance and a selling point to violent extremism in the region. **Nairobi has now the lowest level and also recorded a dramatic decrease from the previous level.** Fault lines along political party affiliations have had a trickle-down effect in the communities resulting in localised tensions. **Garissa & Kwale recorded the highest levels of valuing collaboration across dividing lines.** Garissa's existing active structures to foster collaboration across dividing lines (Garissa being a conflict prone zone) - such as the county engagement forum co-chaired by the county commissioner and the governor - have been enhanced during the pandemic.



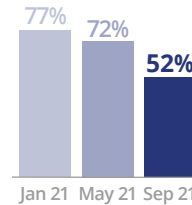
Actual interaction across dividing lines (i.e. from other counties or political groups) continues to decrease despite high levels of valuing collaboration.



Actual interaction with individuals from other counties declined, as did interaction across political divides. This significant decline could be attributed to stringent COVID-19 prevention measures limiting meetings and political gatherings.

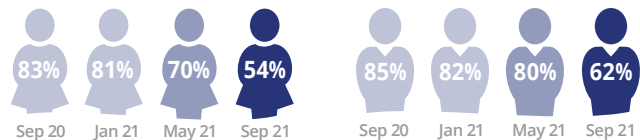


Between counties

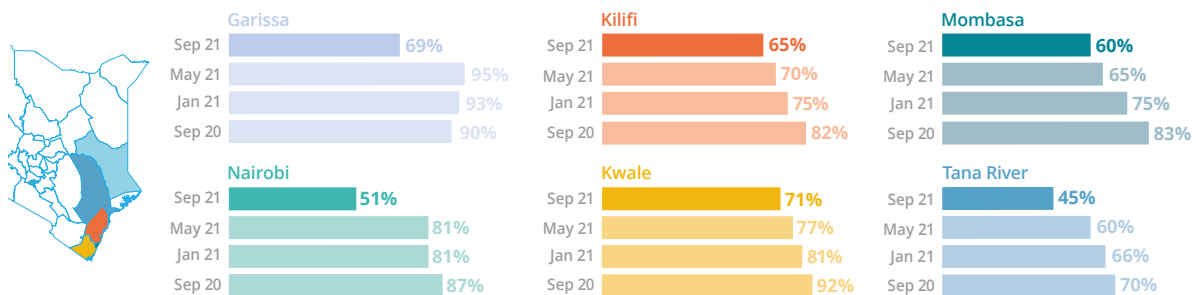


Across political divides

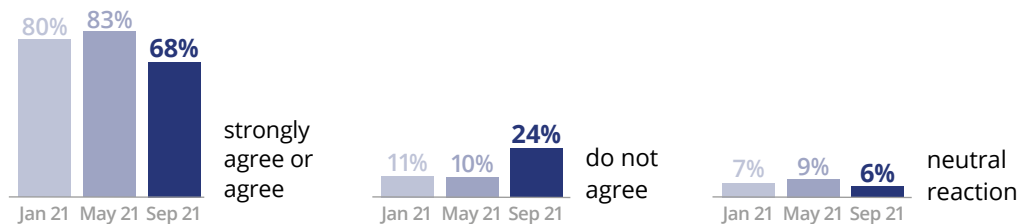
Men continue to interact more across dividing lines, either remotely or in person, than women. In most communities, socio-cultural norms provide greater opportunities for men to interact with others. E.g. more men are typically engaged in outdoor work that engages others and are more active on social media.



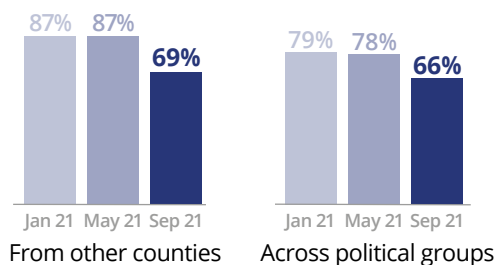
Interaction across dividing lines declined in all counties, contributed by the very low levels of interaction across political groups in many counties, particularly very low in Tana River county.



Overall, feelings of safety in interaction across dividing lines (counties and political groups) considerably declined.

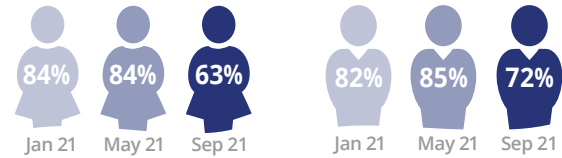


Consistent with previous levels, feelings of safety when interacting with people from other counties is higher than with other political groups, though it is only a slightly higher level for this round. In general, interaction between individuals from different political affiliations are fraught with tension, at times escalating to clashes between groups, and now that the 2022 general elections are near, the political landscape is cloaked in uncertainty, as violence risk factors continue to emerge.²⁹

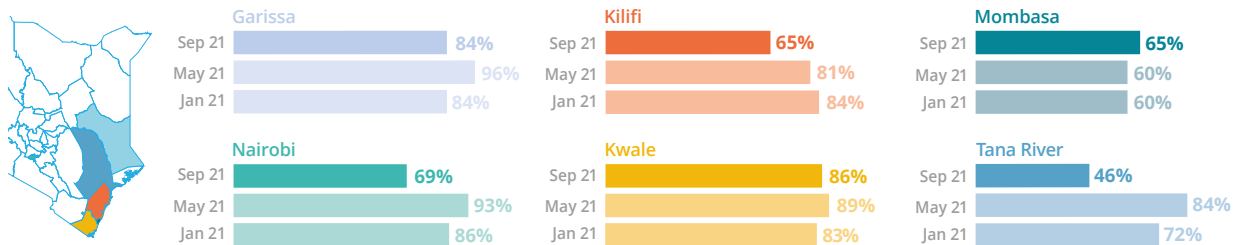


29. The Sentinel Project, *The 2022 Kenyan General Election: An Analysis of New and Enduring Violence Risk Factors*, March 2021.

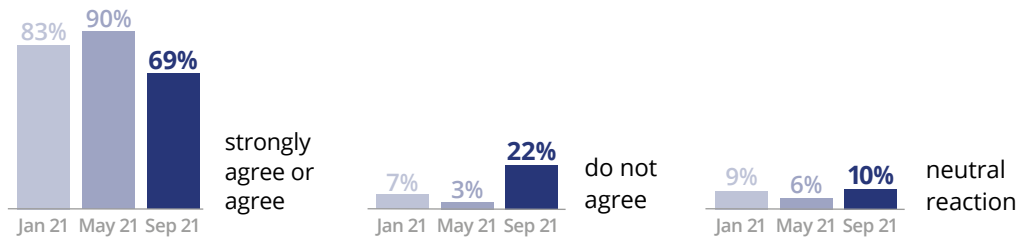
Feeling of safety in interaction across dividing lines is higher for men than women, attributable to limited safe spaces for women interaction.



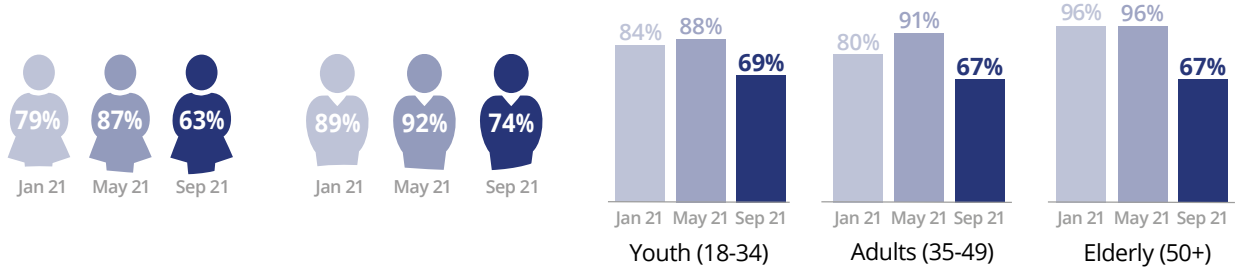
All counties except Mombasa recorded decline in the levels of feeling safe during this kind of interaction. Tana River, Nairobi and Kilifi have recorded the largest decreases, understandably so as ethno-political tensions soar as the elections near. Other counties recorded slight decreases. In **Mombasa**, this round recorded an increase in the levels of feeling safe, which is also aligned with the levels of valuing collaboration across political divides.



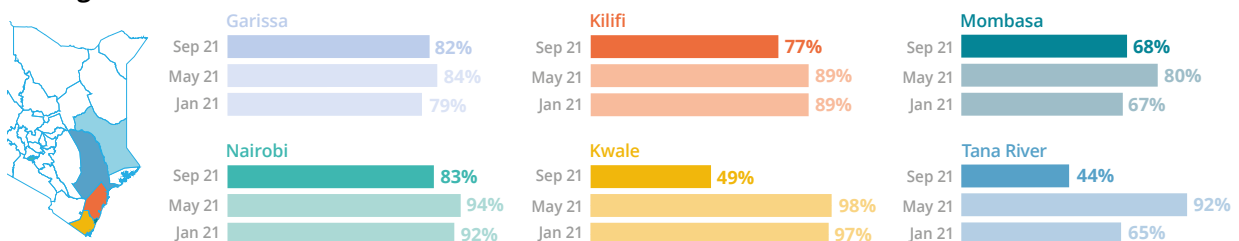
Feelings of safety when interacting with the opposite sex inside the household or private sphere has significantly decreased, across all age groups (with a significant decrease among the elderly).³⁰



As anticipated, men feel safer than women. Nearly twice as many women as men do not feel safe with this kind of interaction (Women 28%, men 15%). While COVID-19 has had devastating impacts across all spheres of life in the communities, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of ill effects emanating from the response. While the government adopted gender considerations into the response plans, structural measures are critical to root out the shadow pandemic of GBV, including engaging men in the fight against GBV.



Rural counties of Tana River and Kwale recorded significantly low levels of feeling safe when interacting across gender lines.



30. We did not ask this question on safety in interaction across gender lines in round 1 (Sept 2020), so data analysed here are from rounds 2, 3 and 4.

Next Steps For COVID-19 Response Efforts

Safeguard a conflict sensitive and inclusive response

Our data shows that respondents' trust levels that the government is doing its best to consider the needs of everyone equally has decreased since the past round.

- Access to facilities, information, economic stimulus programmes and PPE for persons living with special abilities and lack of inclusion of the people living with special abilities as priority groups in the vaccination efforts are a growing concern.
- Vital facilities to address challenges emanating from the pandemic and its response are still lacking, despite declarations for inclusion e.g government sponsored shelters for GBV survivors.
- Considerations for specific challenges faced by the elderly realities such as mobility challenges need to be accounted for.
- Women, youth and persons living with special abilities need to be better included in decision making processes related to COVID-19 in order to address their specific needs.

Ensuring these and other sensitivity and inclusivity concerns are integrated and addressed in the COVID-19 response efforts is key in increasing trust in the COVID response and compliance.

Implement targeted actions to address the gendered impacts of the pandemic

The gendered impacts of the pandemic have continued to soar, visibly present in the growing cases of destructive marital conflicts, GBV and violence against children. A majority of the small and informal business sectors, which women largely dominate, have been hardest hit, with increasingly declining access to financial markets, further worsening women's coping capacity. Our data shows a significant decline in trust in safety in interaction across gender lines, particularly among women. While acknowledging these gendered impacts is key, responders should address vulnerabilities from the root causes, to increase resilience for better recovery.