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Global Labour Programme - Inclusive Futures (GLP-IF) in Kenya: impact evaluation

Baseline survey results

GLP-IF is a five-year programme supporting Kenyan smallholder farmers in accessing high-quality agricultural inputs, extension advice and higher-value markets. It also links farmers to corporate supply chains, business finance and insurance products in a bid to improve farming household resilience.

This impact evaluation will examine whether the programme increases the number of people with disabilities participating in the labour market. The first stage of the process was to undertake a baseline survey to benchmark the current status of all participants. This was conducted between January and March 2022, the findings of which are documented in this leaflet.

Led by Sightsavers, the GLP-IF is being implemented by a consortium of local and international organisations with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Implemented by



Sightsavers



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Why are we carrying out an impact evaluation study?

The programme focuses on disability and gender, recognising and responding to the barriers that exclude farmers with disabilities from participating in labour markets. A key question is whether the programme will result in more people with disabilities confidently exercising their labour rights and participating in labour markets. This will be answered through an impact evaluation study, implemented jointly by Sightsavers and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), which will span the programme's five years.



Where is the study being conducted?

Sightsavers and IPA are conducting a non-randomised cluster trial to evaluate the programme's impact in five counties of Western Kenya: Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Siaya and Busia.



How is the study being conducted?

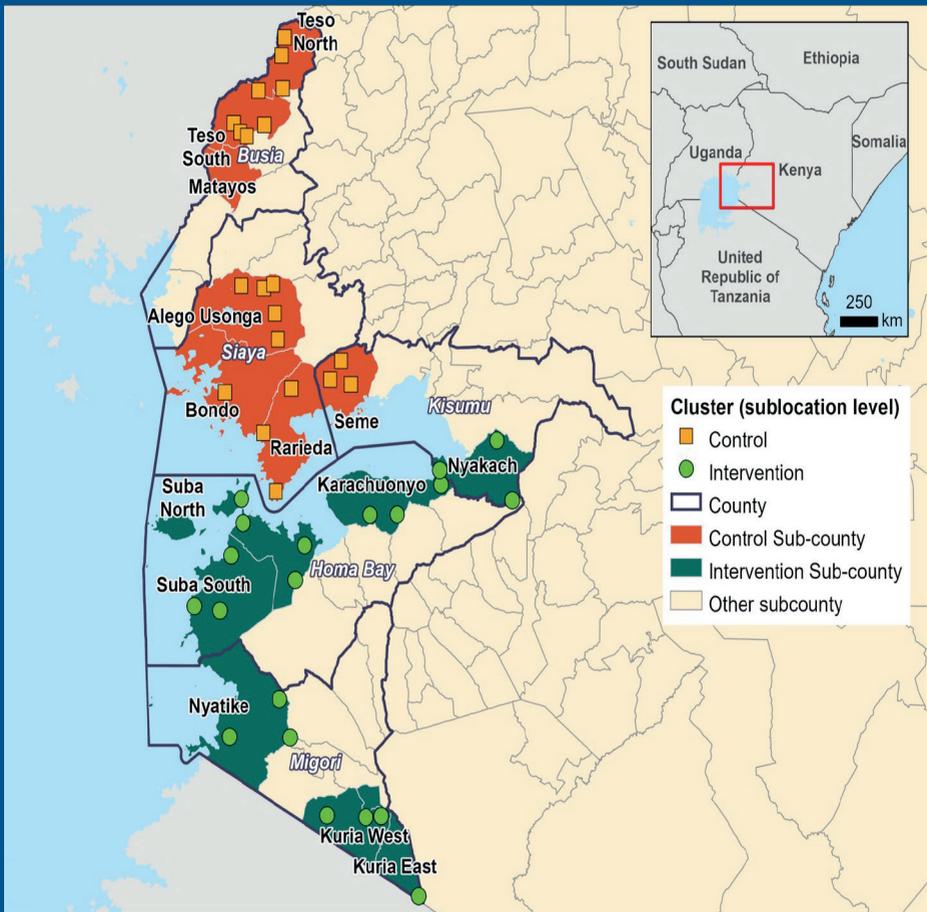
Within these counties, 14 selected sub-counties were purposely assigned. Seven (the intervention arm) are receiving the intervention, with the remaining seven not receiving it (the control arm). A representative probability sample of 4,459 sorghum farmers was selected: 2,236 in the intervention arm and 2,223 in the control.

The study addresses whether any of the people have a disability and, if they do, what type. It also looks at factors that either support or hinder them from employment.

Disability is measured using a tool designed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and the International Labour Organization. The tool was designed to be added to the Kenyan labour force surveys, and allows our results to be compared to other national datasets using the same questions.

Data is collected from randomly selected farmers in households within each arm who consent to study participation and who meet study eligibility criteria.

The same set of households visited during the baseline data collection period will be visited during the endline data collection period.





Key messages: baseline data collection

The primary purpose of baseline data collection was to measure the starting point for all participants, and to check whether intervention and control conditions were balanced before the intervention began.

Outcomes were generally balanced between control and intervention areas, the main difference being in terms of experienced and perceived support towards people with disabilities.

Women without formal education, living in the poorest households or with disabilities appear to be among people who are disadvantaged.

Given that the 14 sub-counties were not randomly assigned, it's unsurprising that some of the key socio-demographic characteristics of the sample (e.g. sex and membership of farmers' groups) at baseline were unbalanced between the intervention and control areas. These differences will need to be accounted for in the endline analysis.





Key findings: baseline data collection

Gender



61.9% of our cohort are female and **38.1%** are male, with a **median age of 44**.

Education



92.2% attended school but **41.8%** did not complete primary education.

Those who had attended school are less likely to have an informal main job, compared to those who hadn't gone to school.

Marital status



77.9% are married or co-habiting and **19.2%** are widowed.

There is no evidence of a statistically significant association between marital status and employment outcomes.

Employment

The current employment status is mixed.



78.7% are employed,
92.9% work in the informal sector and
23.3% in time-related underemployment.

18% are employers, **15.8%** are employees
and **63.2%** are independent workers.

Men are less likely to be unemployed, and less likely to be in time-related underemployment or have an informal main job.

63% report farming or fishing as their main source of income, with **19%** reporting trade.



20% are members of a farmers' group and are less likely to be unemployed than those who are not in the group. Reported membership benefits include reduced prices on seeds and fertilisers (**57.2%**), learning new farming practices (**43.6%**) and getting better prices for produce (**12.7%**).



There was no statistically significant difference between intervention and control areas in terms of employment outcomes. Participants reported a **median score of 41 out of 48** when it comes to confidence in exercising their labour market rights. Scores were higher among men, people who had attended school, wealthier people and members of farmers' groups.

Disability

People with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed than those without.



17.2% of our cohort have a disability with many reporting difficulties with anxiety (**7.1%**), depression (**5.2%**) and mobility (**5.7%**).



41% of the **3,692 participants** without disabilities reported perceiving disability-related discrimination or stigma within their communities.

This was higher than the **38%** of the 767 people with disabilities who reported having experienced disability-related stigma and discrimination.



39% of respondents with disabilities reported receiving support, and **64%** of people without disabilities reported witnessing supportive behaviour in their communities.

Among respondents with disabilities, widowed participants were more likely to have experienced stigma and discrimination compared to married or cohabiting participants.

For more information, please visit the study page:
research.sightsavers.org/project/kenyan-labour-markets



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