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Poverty and Social Exclusion in Kenya



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Poverty and Social Exclusion in Kenya

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to estimate the population at risk of social exclusion in Kenya. Specifically, the study aims to assess the extent of poverty as a dimension of social exclusion; provide poverty estimates for various sub-populations and vulnerable groups; develop a methodology for analyzing social exclusion at the national level; and estimate the number of socially excluded individuals at both national and regional (rural/urban) levels.

Methodology: This study will adopt the methodology developed by Cuesta et al. (2022) and apply a conceptual framework based on Sen's capability approach. This framework will consider the relative, multidimensional, and dynamic aspects of exclusion, identifying specific vulnerable groups based on their identity, circumstances, and socio-economic conditions. The analysis will utilize micro-counting measures from individual-level microdata to estimate the proportion of the population at risk of social exclusion.

Findings: Nationally, 36.1% of the population were absolute poor. A higher proportion (40.1%) of population living in rural areas are poor compared to 29.1 % of population living in urban areas. Based on identities, almost half (48.3%) of the population from religious minority are poor. Persons with disability are also likely to be poor compared to any other group. 45.7% of persons living with disability are poor. Nationally, 16.6 million people are at risk of social exclusion. This represent 36.6% of the total population (close to headcount overall poverty rate of 36.1%). Children account for the largest share of at risk of exclusion. More than half (9.2 million) children are at risk of exclusion. Children, women and poor men account for 97% of at risk of exclusion groups.

Unique contribution to theory, practice and policy: understanding the concept of social exclusion and poverty will assist policy makers and other stakeholders develop policies and strategies aimed at to creating a society where social inclusion is at the forefront, ensuring that no one is marginalized or left behind due to poverty or other forms of exclusion. This inclusive approach will contribute to equitable and sustainable economic growth, benefiting the entire population and fostering a more just and cohesive society.

Keywords: *Poverty, Social Exclusion, Leave No One Behind, At Risk*

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of poverty has been extensively studied worldwide. However, there has been limited research on social exclusion, particularly in developing nations. Social exclusion has been extensively researched in Europe (Madanipour, 2015). For instance, in the UK, the government made social exclusion a key policy issue in 1997 and established the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) to address the complex problems faced by specific societal groups (Levitas et al., 2007). Social exclusion is now gaining momentum worldwide due to its interconnectedness with poverty.

To effectively address poverty and social exclusion, many countries have adopted Agenda 2030 in their development plans. The United Nations member countries adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030 (UN, 2015). This initiative, known as Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, promotes the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). Countries are encouraged to increase investments, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Kenya is also committed to tackling poverty and social exclusion on a global level. The country has formulated a development blueprint called Kenya's Vision 2030, which aims to transform it into a newly industrializing, middle-income country and improve the quality of life for all citizens by 2030 (GOK, 2007). The social pillar of this blueprint envisions a just and cohesive society that enjoys equitable social development, demonstrating the government's dedication to addressing poverty and social exclusion.

Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 10 call on member countries and stakeholders to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere and Reduce inequality within and among countries" (UN, 2015). This is based on the understanding that development cannot be sustainable if people are excluded from opportunities, services, and the chance for a better life.

To design effective programs and policies to combat poverty and social exclusion in Kenya, the government faces challenges in obtaining appropriate data to inform these initiatives. While poverty data is relatively available in Kenya, social exclusion data is less accessible. Poverty remains a significant concern in Kenya, even though the overall poverty headcount rate dropped from 46.6% in 2005 to 36.1% in 2016 (KNBS, 2018). However, the number of poor people only marginally declined from 16.6 million to 16.4 million during that period. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 exacerbated poverty, pushing more people into vulnerable situations. Analyzing poverty profiles can help develop targeted policies for vulnerable groups. In 2016, the overall poverty headcount rate for children (41.5%) and the elderly (39.1%) was higher than the national average

of 36.1%.

The Government of Kenya has taken various measures to address social exclusion and ensure that no one is left behind. Notably, they have established a Ministry of Social Protection that caters to vulnerable groups, including Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), elderly individuals receiving cash transfers, and initiatives like the Women Enterprise Fund, Youth Enterprise Fund, Hustler Fund, Equitable Share, Equalization Fund, and Affirmative Action. Additionally, the education sector offers free primary and day secondary education, while the healthcare system provides universal health coverage.

To fully comprehend the essence of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) theme of leaving no one behind, a thorough understanding of social exclusion and poverty is crucial. If certain groups are socially excluded, the achievement of the SDG's mission is at risk. Hence, it is vital to identify the extent of social exclusion and poverty and understand the reasons and groups that are affected.

In Kenya, specific population estimates for those at risk of exclusion are limited and sometimes inconsistent. For example, in 2019, the estimated refugee population was 438,901 according to the Government of Kenya (GoK), while the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC) enumerated only 87,805 refugees (KNBS, 2022). Similarly, the number of people with disabilities captured during the 2009 census was 1,330,312, but the 2019 census reported 916,692 individuals with disabilities (KNBS, 2022). Such discrepancies may arise from changes in data collection methodologies. Data on GBV (Gender-Based Violence) cases is only available through surveys like KDHS (Kenya Demographic and Health Survey), and there are no estimates for religious minorities.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

This study aims to fill the knowledge gap by estimating the population at risk of social exclusion in Kenya. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) Assess the extent of poverty as a dimension of social exclusion.
- 2) Provide poverty estimates for various sub-populations and vulnerable groups.
- 3) Develop a methodology for analyzing social exclusion at the national level.
- 4) Estimate the number of socially excluded individuals at both national and regional (rural/urban) levels.

To achieve these objectives, the paper will adopt the methodology developed by Cuesta et al. (2022) and apply a conceptual framework based on Sen's capability approach. This framework will

consider the relative, multidimensional, and dynamic aspects of exclusion, identifying specific vulnerable groups based on their identity, circumstances, and socio-economic conditions (Cuesta et al, 2022). The analysis will utilize micro-counting measures from individual-level microdata to estimate the proportion of the population at risk of social exclusion.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty is commonly understood as a lack of basic necessities to sustain life. However, recent studies have highlighted that poverty is a multidimensional issue. It goes beyond material deprivation and can be experienced as hunger, physical hardships, economic instability, social turmoil, political upheavals, and even war throughout one's life, from infancy to old age (Narayan and Petesch, 2002). To effectively address poverty and develop strategies for poverty reduction, policymakers must delve into the underlying causes of poverty. Social exclusion plays a crucial role in understanding the specific groups that are most affected by poverty.

Poverty can be seen as a deprivation of basic capabilities, which limits an individual's freedom to live a life they value (Sen, 1999). While low income is one of the factors that contribute to capability deprivation, it is essential to comprehend the relationship between income and an individual's capabilities. Other factors like age, gender, social roles, and geographical location (such as living in areas prone to flooding, insecurity, or drought) can significantly impact an individual's capabilities beyond just their income.

Social exclusion is a widely used term in approaches addressing poverty and inequality. It refers to the lack of participation in or active exclusion from social norms, such as access to employment, housing, social and economic networks, and the political process. Social exclusion also takes into account non-material dimensions of deprivation, considering factors like identity and social relations that can lead to deprivation (Saman et al., 2021). The deprivations arising from social exclusion can vary greatly among different individuals and groups.

Social exclusion arises from three overarching dimensions, as described by Cuesta et al. (2022). First, individuals can be excluded because their identities differ from established societal norms and customs. These identities may include characteristics related to gender, age, race, disability, ethnicity, religion, or political affiliations (Kabeer, 2000; Lightman and Gingrich, 2013). Second, people may experience exclusion based on their circumstances, particularly when they are unable to access basic services and freedoms enjoyed by other groups in society (Hynes, 2011; Damonti, 2014). For example, individuals forcibly displaced due to conflict or poverty or those who become victims of gender-based violence might face exclusion. Third, social exclusion can be driven by

socioeconomic factors. Limited educational attainment, unemployment, and poverty can restrict opportunities to access labor, credit, or exercise political rights (Bhalla and Lapeyre, 2016; Pohlan, 2019).

The first UNGA Resolution 70/1 of 2015 (UNGA, 2015) outlines specific population groups that are more vulnerable to social exclusion based on their identities. The resolution identifies the following groups as requiring special attention in social protection policy formulation: all children, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants.

Indeed, just like poverty, social exclusion is also a multidimensional concept. It can be seen as a result of various socio-economic characteristics that shape an individual's perception of their inclusion or exclusion in society (Bangwayo and Zikhali, 2011). By recognizing its multidimensional nature, we can better understand the different types and groups of people who experience social exclusion. It involves deprivation across a wide range of indicators or aspects of living standards, which can be either quantitative or qualitative in nature (Atkinson et al., 2002).

When formulating the SDG indicators on poverty, experts acknowledged that poverty encompasses many dimensions. It is not solely about lacking material well-being in terms of monetary resources. Extreme poverty often involves deprivations in access to safe drinking water, sanitation, modern energy, sustainable transportation, economic resources, information technology, healthcare, education, and more (World Bank, 2015). Poverty also manifests as hunger, malnutrition, limited access to education and basic services, social discrimination, exclusion, and a lack of participation in decision-making. In essence, poverty is a multifaceted issue that affects various aspects of life, ranging from opportunities and livelihoods to means of survival (UN, 2021). Studying poverty through the lens of various identity-based groups helps formulate policies that can effectively address the vulnerabilities present in society.

The terms poverty and social exclusion have sometimes been used interchangeably (Atkinson, 1998). Both refer to different forms of deprivation and can limit people's opportunities to achieve their full potential. Those who experience poverty and social exclusion often face barriers that prevent them from fully participating in political, social, and economic aspects of life, leading to inequality and a lack of inclusive growth and sustainability.

To eradicate poverty and foster shared prosperity, it is crucial to establish an inclusive society that not only addresses economic welfare but also ensures equal representation and empowerment for all groups. Such inclusivity necessitates the presence of institutions, structures, and processes that

empower local communities to hold their governments accountable. Additionally, it requires the active participation of all segments of society, including traditionally marginalized groups like ethnic minorities and indigenous populations, in decision-making processes (World Bank, 2013).

According to Atkinson (1998), social exclusion can be defined by three key features: relativity, agency, and dynamics. Firstly, relativity means that people are excluded within a specific society at a given place and time, and the criteria for exclusion are influenced by the activities of others in that society. Secondly, agency implies that exclusion is an active process with one or more agents responsible for driving it, whether through individual actions or systemic factors. Lastly, dynamics acknowledge the complex and interconnected circumstances and experiences that contribute to exclusion across various aspects of life over time, requiring a comprehensive assessment that goes beyond current circumstances.

Poverty and social exclusion, whether stemming from one's identity, circumstances, or socio-economic status, severely restrict opportunities, capabilities, and freedom to participate fully in social, economic, and political matters. This perpetuates poverty and creates an unequal society, leading to long-term economic productivity loss, hindering inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and impeding shared prosperity (Eurostat).

Analysis of poverty and social exclusion provides policymakers with valuable insights into the challenges faced by various groups within society and their limitations in participating in everyday life. Social exclusion refers to the condition wherein an individual is unable to engage in the fundamental economic and social activities that are considered essential within the society in which they reside (Chakravarty and D'Ambrosio, 2003).

3. DATA AND METHODS

3.1 Data

This study utilized the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). The survey captured data on consumption which was used to construct poverty measures. It also captured basic demographic characteristics of the household and household members. Among the basic individual demographic characteristics include gender, age, religion and disability. Experience of gender based violence (GBV) is captured from those respondents who had an injury/sickness as a result of GBV in the last for weeks prior to interview date. Persons with disability were identified from an individual reporting he/she had any form of disability and due to this disability, he/she had some difficulty in engaging in an economic activity.

After reviewing the questionnaire, the following sub populations based on factors of exclusion

were identified and presented in table one.

Table 1: Population Sub Groups

Dimension of exclusion	Factors of Exclusion	Sub populations	Overlap Groups
Identities	Age	Children (0-17 years)	-
		Elderly (70+ years)	-
	Gender	Men (Residual) (18+ years)	-
		Women (all ages)	Female Children Female Elderly
Disability	Persons with disability	Children with disability Elderly with disability Female adult with disability	
	Religion	Religious minority	Religious minority children Religious minority elderly Religious minority adult women Religious minority male adults without disability
Socioeconomic position	Poverty	Poor sub population groups based on identities	-
Circumstances	Gender based violence	Gender violence	Children who face gender based violence Women who face gender based violence Elderly who face gender based violence

The dimensions of exclusions included: Identities, Socio economic status and Circumstances. These dimensions were considered based on the availability of data and variables for identification.

3.2 Methods

The first step in estimating the population at risk of social exclusion is to identify population groups based on their identity. The identities that are captured in our dataset include: Gender (men and women), age (Children and elderly), Religion and disability. Our approach is to use the individual level microdata to identify the individual groups. Mathematically, this can be represented as an indicator function

$$I_A(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in A \\ 0, & \text{if } x \notin A \end{cases}$$

Where x is the observed characteristic or the individual identity

The next step then involved generating the proportion or the weighted share of each vulnerable group. This achieve this we define \bar{P} as the weighted proportion of vulnerable group A . The specific group shares are generated using the population weights.

$$\bar{P}_A = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I_A w_i$$

Since we need to estimate the entire vulnerable group population at national level, we generate the group specific weights from the household weights. The group specific weights will be at household level. To achieve this, we first find the total number of persons with the specified identities. given that, this will translate to summing the indicator variable at household level.

The group specific weight will be generated as

$$w_j = weight_{hh} * n_{ij}$$

$$n_{ij} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^m I_A$$

Where $weight_{hh}$ is the i th household weight calculated from the survey design and

n_{ij} is the number of persons in household i in the j th group or with j th desired characteristic.

Figure 1 describes the sequential approach used to minimize overlaps when estimating the number at risk of social exclusion.

sequentially deducted from the corresponding sub group population to avoid double counting.

3.3 Generating poverty measures

The headcount rates which belong to the FGT class of poverty measures (Foster et al, 1984) will be reported. The absolute poverty line which was already generated will be used. The poverty headcount index measures the incidence of poverty. In other words, it measures the proportion of the population that cannot afford the basic basket of goods as measured by absolute poverty line.

The poverty headcount index is computed by setting $\alpha = 0$ in the FGT measure so that for the general FGT class of measures represented as

$$P(\alpha) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N \left(\frac{z - y_i}{z} \right)^\alpha I(y_i \leq z)$$

The headcount index then becomes

$$\begin{aligned} P(0) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N I(y_i \leq z) \\ &= \frac{N_p}{N} \end{aligned}$$

Where N is the population size for which the measure is computed, y_i is the level of individual welfare (real per capita consumption) of the i th individual, z is the absolute poverty line (basic needs poverty line). $I(\cdot)$ is the indicator function that maps a value of 1 when the constraint ($y_i \leq z$) is satisfied and 0 otherwise, α is the poverty sensitivity indicator and N_p is the total number of the poor.

To generate the group specific poverty headcount rates, the same principle is extended where

$$P_j(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n I(y_i \leq z) * w_{ij}$$

Where w_{ij} is the weight of j th group/ sub population or the population group of interest for the i th individual.

To get the number of poor population for each group, we multiply the group specific headcount rate by the group total population which is also equivalent to the weighted indicator function. Mathematically,

$$n_p = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n I(y_i \leq z) * w_{ij}$$
$$= P_j(0) * n$$

Having been able to get the number of poor people by the vulnerable group, the next step in estimating the number of people at risk of social exclusion is to narrow the group by socioeconomic status. For this study, we focus only on the poverty status of an individual. A poor child for example is at a very high risk of being socially excluded.

4. EMPIRICAL RESULTS

4.1 Distribution of Sub Populations

The table below represent the number/share of the sub groups in the entire population.

Table 2: Distribution of Population Sub Groups by Residence

Population sub Group	National	% of		% of		% of
		National	Rural	Rural population	Urban	
National (Overall)	45,371,092	100.0	29,126,568	100.0	16,244,524	100.0
Children	21,867,550	48.2	15,229,856	52.3	6,637,693	40.9
Elderly	1,122,321	2.5	902,752	3.1	219,569	1.4
Women	22,978,494	50.6	14,914,705	51.2	8,063,789	49.6
Men	10,844,437	23.9	6,099,148	20.9	4,745,289	29.2
Persons with disability	693,699	1.5	525,074	1.8	168,625	1.0
Religious minority	1,179,582	2.6	850,757	2.9	328,824	2.0
Gender based violence	168,148	0.4	90,728	0.3	77,420	0.5
Female children	10,839,874	23.9	7,531,497	25.9	3,308,378	20.4
Female_elderly	623,595	1.4	497,637	1.7	125,957	0.8
Children_with disability	160,210	0.4	125,628	0.4	34,581	0.2
Elderly_with disability	156,992	0.3	126,387	0.4	30,605	0.2
Female_with disability	283,523	0.6	219,425	0.8	64,098	0.4
Religious minority_children	387,679	0.9	315,152	1.1	72,527	0.4
Religious minority_elderly	56,733	0.1	45,926	0.2	10,807	0.1
Religious minority_female	267,559	0.6	184,499	0.6	83,060	0.5
Religious minority_adult male_without disability	468,785	1.0	305,102	1.0	163,683	1.0
Gender based violence_child	69,707	0.2	44,795	0.2	24,911	0.2
Gender based violence_elderly	9,593	0.0	8,358	0.0	1,235	0.0
Gender based violence_female	65,192	0.1	28,523	0.1	36,669	0.2

The total estimated population as of 2016 stood at 45,371,092. Rural population is almost twice (29,126,568) the urban population (16,244,524). These results are consistent with previously published report (KNBS, 2018). Nationally, half of the population are female (50.6%). Children has a share of 48% of the total population. Men account for the same share as female children each with a share of 23.9%. Religious minority in Kenya account for 2.6% of the population. Persons with disability account for 1.5 of the total population while only 0.4% of the population faced gender based violence. In rural areas, children have the highest share of 52.3% followed by females (51.2). most of the population sub groups have a higher share in rural areas compared to urban

areas except men sub group which has a higher share in urban areas (29.2%) as compared to rural areas (20.9%). These results are consistent with the Census reports published by KNBS in 2022.

The distribution of population which face gender based violence is very small with only 0.4% of population reporting having faced gender based violence. The estimates based on this group may be biased since the sample is very small. This also reflects in the GBV sub groups i.e children who face GBV, women who face GBV and elderly who face GBV.

4.2 Group Specific Poverty Headcount Rates

Table 3 presents group specific poverty headcount rates by residence.

Table 3: Poverty Headcount Rates by Population Sub Groups and Residence

Population	National		Rural		Urban	
	Poverty Headcount	Standard Error	Poverty Headcount	Standard Error	Poverty Headcount	Standard Error
Overall	36.1	0.33	40.1	0.43	29.1	0.49
Sub Groups						
Children	41.6	0.39	43.9	0.49	36.2	0.65
Elderly	38.9	1.02	38.9	1.19	38.8	2.03
Women	36.1	0.35	39.8	0.45	29.2	0.54
Men	30.0	0.36	35.6	0.49	22.9	0.52
Persons with disability	45.7	1.30	45.5	1.56	46.4	2.36
Religious minority	48.3	1.53	55.7	1.77	29.2	2.72
Gender based violence	31.4	3.00	33.1	3.96	29.3	4.60
Female children	41.0	0.44	43.6	0.55	35.1	0.75
Female_elderly	38.2	1.30	38.0	1.53	38.9	2.51
Children_with disability	44.3	2.63	42.9	3.12	49.4	4.90
Elderly_with disability	45.8	2.61	45.2	3.00	48.3	5.30
Female_with disability	47.4	1.99	47.3	2.35	47.7	3.74
Religious minority_children	54.7	2.80	60.1	2.98	31.1	6.83
Religious minority_elderly	55.7	4.32	61.2	4.71	32.5	9.56
Religious minority_female	47.7	2.29	58.0	2.54	24.8	4.43
Religious minority_adult male_without disability	42.0	1.75	48.4	2.10	30.0	3.06
Gender based violence_child	37.1	4.45	41.0	5.80	29.9	6.82
Gender based violence_elderly	11.0	6.66	12.6	8.05	0.0	0.00
Gender based violence_female	32.6	4.76	24.7	5.98	38.8	7.35

Nationally, 36.1% of the population were absolute poor. As with prevalence of poverty, the results shows that poverty headcount rates are higher in rural areas (40.1%) than in urban areas (29.1%). These results are consistent with results published by KNBS (2018). Based on their identities, people from religious minority are more likely to be poor. The results shows that one in two people (48.3%) from the religious minority are poor. Persons with disability are considered as one of the

vulnerable groups and the results supports this narrative. 45.7% of persons with disability are poor. Adult men are less likely to be poor since most of them fall under the economic active group of the population. Most of them are likely to be in employment. Only 3 in 10 men are poor. These results present unique findings not previously reported in Kenya.

Prevalence of poverty incidence by population sub groups and residence reveals a similar pattern displayed at national level. Most of the population sub groups in rural areas are poor compared to those in urban areas. However, persons with disability are likely to be more poor if they reside in urban areas. Forty-six percent of persons with disability in urban areas are poor compared to 45.7% of those residing in rural areas. Even though persons from religious minority are likely to be poor, their distribution by residence brings a sharp contrast. Religious minority group in urban areas are less likely to be poor compared to other population sub groups in urban areas. 29.2% of urban religious minority are poor compared to 55.7% of religious minority who are poor and reside in rural areas (**Table 3**).

4.3 Distribution of Poor by Population Sub Groups.

Table 4 presents results of how the poor from different groups of populations were distributed by residence

Table 4: Distribution of Number of Poor by Sub Group and Residence

Groups	National	Rural	Urban
Overall	16,396,071	11,674,737	4,721,333
Sub group			
Children	9,088,880	6,686,391	2,402,490
Elderly	436,066	350,764	85,302
Women	8,288,036	5,934,883	2,353,153
Female_children	4,447,139	3,286,342	1,160,798
Female_elderly	238,382	189,336	49,046
Persons with disability	317,212	239,025	78,187
Females_with disability	134,274	103,688	30,586
Children_with disability	71,030	53,950	17,080
Elderly_with disability	71,953	57,165	14,788
Religious minority	570,047	474,057	95,990
Religious minority_children	211,995	189,429	22,565
Religious minority_elderly	31,604	28,091	3,512
Religious minority_female	127,573	106,986	20,587
Religious minority_adult	196,859	147,757	49,103
Men	3,258,741	2,174,267	1,084,473
Gender based violence	52,744	30,062	22,682
Gender based violence_children	25,834	18,386	7,448
Gender based violence_elderly	1,052	1,052	-
Gender based violence_female	21,285	7,056	14,229

Nationally, approximately 16.4 million people were poor. Rural areas account for a large share of the poor with approximately 11.7 million people being poor. In urban areas, 4.7 million people were poor. In Kenya, children are considered to be a vulnerable group. The share of poor children is the highest among the poor population nationally. Approximately 9.1 million children are poor accounting for more than half (55.5%) of the poor population (**Table 4**).

4.4 Number at Risk of Social Exclusion

Table 5 present finding for number of person at risk of social exclusion. Nationally, 16.6 million people are at risk of social exclusion. This represent 36.6% of the total population (close to headcount overall poverty rate of 36.1%). Children account for the largest share of at risk of

exclusion. More than half (9.2 million) children are at risk of exclusion. Children, women and poor men account for 97% of at risk of exclusion groups. These findings are consistent with Cuesta et al (2022). People living in rural areas have a higher risk of being socially excluded compared to people living in urban areas. 40.4 % (11.8 million) of people in rural areas are at risk of exclusion compared to 29.5%(4.8 million) of people living in urban areas. These results are also consistent with poverty headcount rates(KNBS,2018).

Table 5: Population at Risk of Social Exclusion

Population Sub group	National	Rural	Urban
Children			
Population	21,867,550	15,229,856	6,637,693
Poor	9,088,880	6,686,391	2,402,490
Victims of GBV	69,707	44,795	24,911
<i>Overlaps</i>	-	-	-
Socially excluded	9,158,587	6,731,186	2,427,401
Elderly			
Population	1,122,321	902,752	219,569
Poor	436,066	350,764	85,302
Victims of GBV	9,593	8,358	1,235
<i>Overlaps</i>	-	-	-
Socially excluded	445,659	359,122	86,537
Women			
Population	22,978,494	14,914,705	8,063,789
Poor	8,288,036	5,934,883	2,353,153
Victims of GBV	65,192	28,523	36,669
<i>Overlaps</i>			
poor female children	(4,447,139)	(3,286,342)	(1,160,798)
poor female elderly	(238,382)	(189,336)	(49,046)
Socially excluded	3,667,706	2,487,729	1,179,977
Persons with Disability			
Population	693,699	525,074	168,625
Poor	317,212	239,025	78,187
<i>Overlaps</i>			
poor females with disability	(134,274)	(103,688)	(30,586)
poor children with disability	(71,030)	(53,950)	(17,080)
poor elderly with disability	(71,953)	(57,165)	(14,788)
Socially excluded	39,955	24,223	15,733
Religious minority			
Population	1,179,582	850,757	328,824
Poor	570,047	474,057	95,990
<i>Overlaps</i>			
poor child from religious minority	(211,995)	(189,429)	(22,565)
poor elderly from religious minority	(31,604)	(28,091)	(3,512)
poor women from religious minority	(127,573)	(106,986)	(20,587)
poor men without disability from religious	(196,859)	(147,757)	(49,103)
Socially excluded	2,016	1,794	222
Men			
Population	10,844,437	6,099,148	4,745,289
Poor	3,258,741	2,174,267	1,084,473
<i>Overlaps</i>	-	-	-
Socially excluded	3,258,741	2,174,267	1,084,473
TOTAL	16,572,664	11,778,320	4,794,343

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Social exclusion and poverty are correlated concepts. The number of individuals at risk of exclusion is nearly equivalent to the number of people living in poverty. This observation underscores the importance of the rallying call to "leave no one behind," emphasizing the necessity of an inclusive society that ensures shared prosperity and inclusive growth for all population groups, irrespective of their identity, circumstances, or socioeconomic status. Consistent with poverty rates, the share of at risk population is higher in rural areas compared with urban areas. Clearly, among the population at risk of exclusion, populations living in rural areas account for the highest share of 71%. Addressing the rural-urban divide could greatly reduce the gap and ensure a more inclusive society.

This study has provided poverty estimates for various sub-populations and vulnerable groups which no previous study in Kenya has attempted. Understanding which sub populations are more vulnerable and poor is an important step for policy makers for targeting these groups. By implementing focused interventions for these vulnerable populations, the potential for shared prosperity will be maximized, and the number of individuals at risk of exclusion can be minimized.

5.2 Recommendations

Investment in children is of utmost importance as they represent the future of the nation. The government should focus on developing comprehensive child and youth care programs to ensure their well-being. This includes providing access to quality healthcare, nutritious food, and a safe environment for healthy growth and development, especially for families facing poverty. By addressing the basic needs of children, the government can lay the foundation for a healthier and more educated generation, which in turn contributes to the country's overall prosperity.

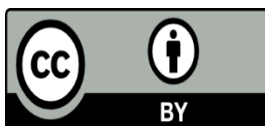
This study has set a precedent on a methodology of analyzing poverty and social exclusion using microdata or the counting approach. To have a clear understanding of interactions between poverty and social exclusion, regular studies need to be carried out.

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