

**Coping with Implications of Government Policy on COVID-19 Pandemic on Livelihoods among Kahawa Wendani's Low-Income Residents in Kiambu County**  
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**Abstract**

Low-income households are most vulnerable especially whenever the main source of income of the household head is affected. It could suggest a total change of activities and prioritization of things or a collapse of the basic structural framework within the household itself, since everything else depends on the income of the household head. However, the head of household often attempts a number of strategies to cushion the family from total collapse in such circumstances. This paper is based on a rapid assessment of the implications of the government's measures against COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihood activities of ten purposively selected self-employed low-income persons in Kahawa Wendani ward of Kiambu County. The paper mainly focuses on the curfew and partial lockdown measures as the residents of Kahawa Wendani ward were largely affected by the two. The paper is also linked to the social capital framework which is used to understand how the residents are able to cope using their trusted networks of friends and relatives. How this happens shows that the trusted social networks have provided support to the vulnerable members in times of catastrophic events but this can be strained and abused if the government measures persist and lead to further deterioration of overall household welfare.

**Key words:** Low-income, Household head, Vulnerability, Social capital, Coping, COVID-19, Self- employed, Curfew.