

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OF INFORMAL
WORKERS IN NAKAWA DIVISION, UGANDA**

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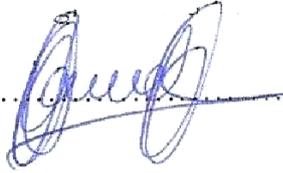
**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL
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DECLARATION

It is certified by me, Sumuni Sifa Dorcas, that this research paper is original to me and has not been submitted to any university for scholarly credit. I worked hard to produce this study report, and I have given credit where credit is due to others whose work has been mentioned.

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APPROVAL

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as a university supervisor.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to all informal sector workers of the Nakawa Division who have struggled during the dark time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
SARS-CoV-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
WHO	World Health Organization
GOU:	Government of Uganda

ABSTRACT

This study examined the socioeconomic Effects of the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of informal workers in the Nakawa division, Uganda. The specific objectives were: to evaluate the impact of lockdown and curfew restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers; to assess the effects of workplace closure on the livelihood of informal workers and to determine the effects of responsiveness on the livelihood of the informal sector in Nakawa Division, Uganda. The vulnerability theory and sustainable livelihood theory were adopted in this study. The study used a cross-sectional survey approach to look at how the COVID-19 Pandemic affected the livelihood of informal workers in the Nakawa Division. The population for this study was all 6 informal settlements, local counselors, KCCA, SACCO Members and informal workers in Nakawa Division. The study's sample was 370. The researcher then purposively selected 3 local counselors, Simple random sampling was used to select the number of informal workers in the 6 informal settlements in the Nakawa Division 362 informal workers were selected. This study used questionnaires to collect data. The questionnaires were checked for completeness and consistency. Data capturing was done using Microsoft Excel. The data from the completed questionnaires was entered into a Microsoft Excel sheet for analysis. Data was analyzed using correlation and regression analyses. The study also used a statistical software package (SPSS) for social sciences version 26 to analyze the data. The study used descriptive and inferential statistics to correlate each independent variable to the dependent variables. In the regression analysis, R Square = 0.126 showed that lockdown and curfew restrictions, workplace closure, and responsiveness collectively explained 12.6% variations in the livelihood of the informal sector in the Nakawa Division. ANOVA findings of $F=175.71$; $p=0.000$ indicated the effects was significant. The results on the standardized coefficients showed that lockdown and curfew restrictions, workplace closure, and responsiveness positively affected the livelihood of the informal sector in the Nakawa Division, shown by beta values of $\beta = 0.157, 0.255$ and 0.213 respectively. The research concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities of people in informal sectors in their lifestyles. Therefore, this research recommends that policymakers and stakeholders should prioritize building resilience to future pandemics and economic shocks. Strengthening social protection programs, promoting digitalization, investing in healthcare systems, diversifying livelihoods, and enhancing regional cooperation can all play a significant role in building resilience in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The study's context, problem statement, purpose, objectives, research questions, and scope and significance were all covered in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

This background served as a foundation for the research. It was given in four aspects to achieve these effects: historical, theoretical, conceptual, and contextual. The historical viewpoints provide context for the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic issue. The theoretical viewpoint explains the theory that underpins the investigation. Key research factors were discussed conceptually. The contextual viewpoint is concerned with the study of situations.

1.1.1 Historical perspective

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the current state of the world is under threat from a pandemic, which is causing several changes in the social, political, labor, and economic spheres. Strict social segregation rules were implemented during each shutdown. The implementation of a nighttime curfew, the suspension of public and private transportation, the prohibition of public gatherings, and the closure of commercial establishments, including markets and arcades, left only essential services operating. According to Zhu et al. (2020), the first incidence of pneumonia was discovered on December 8, 2019, at a wet market in china in the city of Wuhan. Then, in late December 2019, many groups of people with this kind of pneumonia were noted.

The disease brought on by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) on March 11 of that year. In more than 212 countries, there were more than 4.3 million cases of the sickness as of May 12, 2020, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), with more than 292,000 fatalities and more than 1.6 million recovered cases. With 1,675,742 infected and 155,762 fatalities, Europe had the highest results by continent, followed by North America with 1,544,436 infected and 93,190 fatalities, Asia with 701,532 infected and 22,851 fatalities, and South America with 335,624 infected and 18,108 fatalities (Espino-Diaz, *et al.*,2020).

In the early stages of the pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa, mathematical models were used to study the expected patterns of transmission in the lack of nationwide testing data. As the COVID-19 virus spread, African nations constructed medical facilities and created criteria for COVID-19 patient rehabilitation. To stop the spread and lessen the response, the HIV epidemic's lessons were shared (Balmford, *et al.*, 2020).

Health professionals in Zimbabwe stated that implementing the measures would be challenging without access to water, long-term food supplies, and sanitation facilities. Religious and cultural beliefs and practices in Sudan and South Africa, poor health-seeking behavior in Ethiopia, and general mistrust of the government in the Democratic Republic of Congo were identified as barriers to public compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures (Shigute *et al.*, 2020). As stated Mackworth-Young (*et al.*, 2021) Zimbabwe served as a stark example of the overwhelming and crippling economic Effects that public health measures like curfews, transit restrictions, and lock-downs have on people that primarily rely on the informal sector (Dzobo, *et al.*, 2020).

The closure of non-essential work was one of the first decisions made by succeeding administrations, according to the International Labor Organization (2020). Globally, 93 percent of employees live in nations that have implemented some form of company closure policy since the year 2020, with many jobs moving domestically. Jobs that did not shifted into the home environment during the pandemic are, for the most part, jobs designated as “essential”. Workers in these vital professions contributed to society's ability to function somewhat normally. Healthcare professionals stand out among those in this category, while others include those who work in grocery shops, delivery services, factories, farms, restaurants, and other sectors of the economy. Individually, each of these individuals must make the same decision that society as a whole must: on the one hand, essential workers run a higher risk of exposing themselves and their families to COVID-19, but on the other hand, they continue to be financially viable. Contrarily, non-essential employees and their families may be less likely to contract COVID-19, but they may also be more susceptible to underemployment or unemployment (International Labour Organization, 2020).

As stated by Hedstrom (2021) in Uganda, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in March 2020, and the administration started planning a reaction to stop the spread right away. Out of more than 260,000 people who had been tested, the government had by July recorded over 1,100 COVID-19 cases and two fatalities. Initial measures included hand washing frequently,

social withdrawal, closures of schools, religious institutions, offices, and retail establishments (aside from essential services), a ban on all private and public transportation, and a night curfew from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The first round of measures was put into place from late March to early June 2020. Beginning in June 2020, both private and public transportation was available, and the vast majority of workplaces and face masks observed social seclusion and had access to restrooms with hand washing facilities. At nine o'clock at night, the curfew was imposed. All academic institutions, athletic complexes, amusement parks, and arcades were shut down (Hedstrom, 2021).

The situation of Kampala's market merchants got worse when the second complete lockdown was imposed on June 18, 2021. Even while food-related informal sellers were permitted to continue their businesses during the epidemic, they were subject to extremely strict regulations. Some unofficial laborers were supposed to remain in the marketplaces and sleep there! The marketplaces in Kampala were never designed to take into account a person's status as a resident. This suggests that certain market sellers were automatically excluded from their known sources of revenue because they could not afford to sleep in the market. Additionally, because of the restrictions on movement, the customers who had planned to purchase goods from the market merchants were "locked down" in their residential neighborhoods. This presents an intriguing picture of potential supply and demand shocks in the industry that merits further investigation. The COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdown orders in China had a detrimental impact on the country's economy (McKibbin and Fernando, 2020).

Many individuals in Uganda began engaging in informal businesses to augment their low income as a result of the growing uncertainty in official work and an increase in living expenses that were out of proportion to earnings and compensation. In contrast to the older dualism approach, which saw the two as unconnected, the combination of activity in both sectors lends itself to the idea that the two realms are related. In Uganda, the informal sector has consistently shown itself to be a strong alternative in times of crisis. In Uganda, microfirms below the threshold for small business income tax make up the majority of the unorganized sector (Nabunya, *et al.*, 2020). Low levels of technology and technical proficiency, a lack of registration and licensing requirements for self- or unpaid labor-operated firms, and the majority of business owners who are uneducated and in poverty are the main characteristics of the informal sector (Charmes, 2012).

Nakawa division was the focus of the investigation, which was conducted in the Kampala district. The economy of Uganda has included an informal sector for a very long period. The city has been split since colonial times, with some residents working in centrally located official sectors and others in outlying informal ones. Since bad governance, instability, and violence were the defining characteristics of the era, together with an economic crisis and an almost bankrupt formal economy, the Informality increased in the 1970s under Amin's rule. Essential products were generally in short supply and traded on the economy's dominant "black market" (Magendo). There were economic recovery plans when the National Resistance Movement (NRM) came to power in 1986, including those supported by the World Bank and IMF. One of the suggestions was to shrink the civil service and sell off state businesses, which would have sent many people into the unorganized sector (Hansen, *et al.*, 1988).

1.1.2 Theoretical perspective

This research study was grounded on both vulnerability Theories stated by Fineman (2008) and Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) by Robert Chambers (1992). Vulnerability Theory recognizes that the human experience of constant vulnerability varies as a result of stages in the life course, social institutions, and law, which often trace intersecting forms of oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, disability, and class. The theory also suggests that persons might suffer damage. The degree to which someone's life and livelihood are endangered by a specific, recognizable occurrence in nature or society is determined by several criteria. All people are susceptible and prone to reliance (both chronic and episodic), according to Fineman's theory, and the state is consequently required to lessen, alleviate, and make up for this vulnerability (Kohn, 2014). The claim that expecting simple equal treatment to satisfy people's needs in a world where nobody is guaranteed to be free from harm, disease, or other unfortunate life circumstances is implied in Fineman's thesis. Fineman stated that, for the state to fulfill its duty to address human vulnerability, it must grant equitable access to "societal institutions" that distribute social goods like security, employment, and healthcare.

According to Fineman, vulnerability theory can advance substantive equality (i.e., equality that arises when individuals are equally benefitted or disadvantaged by law or policy) in a manner that traditional approaches to equality cannot (Rosenfeld, 1986). According to her, vulnerability theory highlights the need to change institutional structures that foster privilege and sustain disadvantage by concentrating on the shared human condition. By contrast, Fineman contends that the formal equality paradigm's emphasis on attaining the same treatment upholds socially uneven patterns of money and power and accomplishes little to enhance

substantive equality. She cautions that as a result, formal equality initiatives may have the unintended consequence of increasing inequality by validating and enabling already-existing inequities within a community. In contrast to identity-based methods, vulnerability theory promotes substantive equality, according to Fineman. The theory of vulnerability is a reaction against claims that "formal equality methods" fall short because they fail to take into account group distinctions as well as claims that this failure is due to an oversimplification of identification (Fineman, 2013). In three key ways, vulnerability theory has the potential to complement and deepen our knowledge of social policy. The idea highlights the significance of the state as well as the significance of the state accepting responsibility for developing and maintaining systems that promote resilience across the lifespan and populations by stating that vulnerability is a universal condition of the human race. This contributes to the rationale of laws that establish and maintain significant social welfare programs. As an illustration, it supports the necessity of old-age entitlement systems like Medicare and Social Security (Fineman, 2012). which offers older persons a safety net that is necessary when threats to their health, safety, or financial security manifest. Second, by highlighting that everyone is vulnerable and capable of experiencing reliance and distancing vulnerability from the idea of particularly vulnerable groups. The stigma attached to vulnerability may be diminished by helping society rethink what it means to be "vulnerable."

The purpose of this study was to conduct an empirical evaluation of the potential detrimental socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19-related lockdown. The Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to ill health, are becoming increasingly prominent in other dimensions such as social, psychological, and economic. These ideas were used in the study of how social separation and the closing of workplaces might result in the appearance of unemployment, stress, fear, food insecurity, and an increased risk of famine. Thus, the desire for social resilience is a fundamental human attribute that, given livelihood strategies and activities, is better prepared to cope with and manage the impacts of shocks, navigate uncertainty, and adapt to change.

Additionally, Chambers and Conway (1992) first put forward the Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) idea in the middle of the 1980s. The concept of "Sustainable Livelihoods" was created by Chambers to improve the Effectssiveness of development cooperation (Kollmair and Gamper, 2002). A livelihood is defined as a set of capabilities, assets, and activities required for a way of living (Chambers and Conway, 2018). The framework demonstrates that livelihood analysis

is composed of five pillars: the context of vulnerability, assets for livelihood, altering structures and processes, strategies for livelihood, and livelihood strategies (Hussein, 2002).

The Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) program's main focus is on ways to comprehend the aspirations and day-to-day experiences of underprivileged men and women, including their actual occupations, the resources they have access to, and the challenges they encounter. The rationale behind this is that greater knowledge will enable those creating policies and programs to fight poverty to more precisely identify problem regions and suitable intervention measures. To improve poor people's livelihoods and make them less vulnerable to shocks and stresses (like serious illness, natural disasters, or job loss) that could otherwise lead to a downward cycle of debt and impoverishment, successful SL strategies should ideally work to increase and consolidate poor people's access to and control over assets (Hussein, 2002).

Because lockdowns have disproportionately negative Effects on urban populations that work in the informal economy, it is unclear how they were able to meet their necessities during the COVID-19 lockdown. Given the existing inadequate social safety schemes in low-resource nations, this subject is particularly important for the informal sector communities there (Teachout *et al.*, 2020).

The survival strategies used by urban informal workers in the Nakawa division during the lockdown imposed to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda are discussed in this article. In Nakawa division, urban districts, it takes into account how the COVID-19 lockdown limitations affected people's livelihoods in the informal sector and how they dealt with the hazards to keep supplying their daily necessities for life.

This theory helped the researcher in the current study compare the various ways that the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has impacted people's ability to conduct their livelihoods, especially in the informal sector. Focusing on the coping strategies of affected people and households may therefore draw attention to the resources and opportunities that can be used to improve the livelihood resilience and adaptability of urban informal sector populations in the event of similar future situations. The study emphasizes the value of the informal sector in protecting people and households from shocks to their means of subsistence in times of crisis and makes the case for the necessity of strengthening it.

Baring vulnerability Theories stated by Fineman (2008), This study assessed the vulnerability Effects of COVID-19, which ultimately aided in the formulation of remedial policies and resource allocation to promote societal life satisfaction while considering public perception. In

the current study, this theory assisted the researcher in comparing the various ways in which the COVID-19 outbreak has impacted sustainable livelihoods, particularly in the informal sector. This was accomplished by examining the socioeconomic status of informal workers who rely on daily sales to make ends meet, as well as the social factors expressed in the theory and their impact on livelihood.

1.1.3 Conceptual Perspective

According to the World Health Organization (2020), COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease brought on by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks are thought to be how SARS-CoV-2 spreads. A less frequent mode of transmission is through touching one's mouth, nose, or eyes after coming into contact with a surface that has been contaminated by the virus. The most common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, coughing, and breathing problems. Additionally, there might be weakness, soreness in the muscles, chills, headache, sore throat, runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and a loss of taste or smell. The signs and symptoms, which can be mild or severe, normally appear two to fourteen days after being exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Even while some people may not show any symptoms, they might still spread the infection (World Health Organization, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global outbreak of coronavirus, an infectious disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus. (World Health Organization, 2020). The first cases of novel coronavirus (nCoV) were first detected in China in December 2019, with the virus spreading rapidly to other countries across the world. This led WHO to declare a public Health Emergency of International concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020, and to characterize the outbreak as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

According to chambers and Conway (1992), a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from the stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining the natural resource base. The term "livelihood" is used in the social sciences to refer to both social and cultural means, i.e "the control a person, family, or other social group has over money and/or collections of resources that may be accessed, utilized, or traded to meet their requirements. This may include tools, land, and other physical resources in addition to information, cultural knowledge, social networks, and legal rights." (Blaikie, 2004).

A person's "livelihood" is defined as their "means of securing the essential necessities (food, water, shelter, and clothes) of life." One's livelihood is a group of everyday activities performed over the course of a lifetime. These duties may include getting things like food, fuel, medicine, water, clothing, and shelter. The capacity to satisfy their basic requirements and the needs of their household depends on their ability to buy the aforementioned necessities. The work is frequently done in a respectable and long-lasting manner repeatedly. For instance, a fisherman's ability to access and collect seafood is crucial to his or her way of life (Wedgwood,1855).

1.1.4 Contextual perspective

The informal sector has long been a part of Uganda's economy. The city has been split since colonial times, with some residents working in formal, mainstream industries and others in informal, outlying sectors. The 1970s during Amin's rule saw an increase in informality due to the period's defining characteristics of poor governance, volatility, and conflict as well as an economic crisis that nearly destroyed the formal sector. Essential items were generally scarce and were mostly sold on the "black market" (Magendo), which controlled the economy (Hansen *et al.*, 1988).

Many Ugandans began engaging in informal businesses to augment their inadequate income due to the growing uncertainty in official work and rising living expenses that did not keep pace with earnings and pay. The majority of microbusinesses in Uganda that fall below the small business income tax threshold are considered to be part of the informal sector (Nabunya, *et al.*, 2020). Low levels of technology and technical expertise, restrictions on the registration and licensing of enterprises run by unpaid or self-employed labor, and low educational background and poverty rate are its defining characteristics.

Additionally, a broad category of livelihood activities that make up Uganda's informal sector include farming; light manufacturing and agro-processing, which includes food, textile, clothing, perfumes and oils, fabrication, electronics, mills, chemicals, machinery and equipment; services, which include retail stores, street vending and hawking, produce, fish selling, eating kiosks; trade, which includes retail shops, mechanics and repairs, radio repair, bicycle repair, transportation, and cobbler and shoe shiners; and art and crafts, flowers, and mobile money business (Mugoda, 2020).

Furthermore, the informal sector has remained vital to many Ugandans' means of subsistence. With an estimated 70% of the labor force employed, it is both the fastest-expanding industry in

Uganda and possibly the main employer of the bulk of its citizens. It appears that the majority of Uganda's urban population depends on the unorganized sector for both daily and economic existence. It appears to be the main source of income for Uganda's urban poor. For example, in Kampala, 57% of the workforce works for unofficial businesses. Populations in Uganda's urban informal sector are therefore intrinsically exposed to economic shocks. The economic informality in which they operate, which restricts access to finance and official backing and recognition, exacerbates these economic inequalities even more. Because of their poor profit margins, they typically rely on daily sales to make ends meet (World Bank, 2017).

Furthermore, urban people primarily depend on cash to acquire nearly all essentials of life, such as food, water, shelter, and sanitary services including waste disposal, lights, and fuel, in contrast to their rural counterparts who are mostly subsistence-based. Furthermore, the industry benefits from simple movement because job opportunities and businesses are typically dispersed among several locations. The livelihoods and everyday existence of the people living in the informal sector in Nakawa Division were therefore put in greater jeopardy by the closure of workplaces and limitations on movement during the COVID-19 shutdown.

There are now 1,738,600 people living in Kampala City, and in Nakawa Division, there are around 365,000 people, of whom 177,300 are men and 188,500 are women. By 2023, the population is expected to grow to approximately 371,300. (UBOS, 2022). One division in Kampala City with a population in the unorganized sector is the Nakawa division. From the start of lockdowns in early 2020, the pandemic and its associated containment measures such as curfews, the suspension of non-essential services, the closure of commercial activity, facemask mandates, and sanitizations had a significant negative impact on Kampala's informal sector. Increased pricing for essential goods, lower economic activity, and lockdown measures resulted in employment losses or income reductions for a large number of informal laborers.

Additionally, with over 82% of city residents employed in the informal economy through casual labor, informal trade, street and market vending, and informal transport among others unemployment levels for those in the informal sector rose to over 60%, with 72% of the population facing reduced incomes. Moreover, many self-organizing saving systems collapsed, making it difficult for residents and workers to mobilize funds for livelihood sustenance (Viola, *et al.*, 2023).

Particularly impacted by this epidemic and the accompanying government actions was the non-essential sector. A distinction was drawn between critical and non-essential industries

throughout the epidemic. The vital sectors were allowed to function under strict adherence to standard operating procedures as they were judged to be extremely important to the economy and well-being of the populace. Health, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, grocery, and designated markets were among the key industries. The hotel, restaurants, lodging, education, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and market sellers that do not deal directly with food were among the non-essential sectors. The purpose of this study is to look at how Kampala City's Nakawa Division's informal laborers are affected by COVID-19 containment efforts.

The region was selected based on the presumption that Kampala's informal laborers were more impacted by the epidemic than workers in other cities. This is because the COVID-19 pandemic's epicenter was Nakawa Division in Kampala City, which is why the containment efforts were so stringent. The pandemic mostly harmed Kampala's informal workers through negative supply shock, decreased demand, rising prices, declining earnings, and joblessness. Informal laborers are classified as (SMEs) (KCCA, 2019). Although several studies (Belitski, 2022) were carried out to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs in Uganda, we were unable to locate any that examined the predicament of informal workers. Specifically, this study advances knowledge of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the workforce of informal workers.

1.2 Statement of the problem

A sustainable livelihood, according to Chambers and Conway (1992), is a way of life that can withstand shocks, bounce back, and retain or improve its assets and capacities both now and in the future without compromising the base of natural resources. It consists of individuals, their capacities, and their means of subsistence, such as food, money, and possessions.

However, in March 2020, the worldwide pandemic was announced (WHO, 2020). the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic affected almost every area of the global economy. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce was at risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal sector workers were particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many were unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best less food and less nutritious food (World Health Organization. 2020). In Kampala city, because lockdown, many informal workers lost their

income, creating financial instability as they have minimal or nonexistent savings to resort to. Based on estimates, about 23% were at risk of losing 100% of their daily income. That's a major economic and labor market shock, presenting significant Effects regarding unemployment and underemployment for informal workers (Deepening-Uganda & MoFPED, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the livelihoods of urban unorganized sector workers, particularly in low-resource nations. This study aims to explore the socio-economic Effects of the pandemic on informal workers in Nakawa Division, Kampala City, focusing on sustainable livelihoods and the impact of lockdowns on their daily necessities. The research aims to fill a research gap and improve understanding of the unorganized sector's situation. most of the attention was on the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic Effects were ignored (Teachout, 2020). Therefore, this study intends to bridge this research gap by generating more knowledge about the Effects of this pandemic on SMEs, specifically informal workers, from the socio-economic perspective. The cardinal objective of the study was to examine the socio-economic Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sustainable livelihood of the informal workers in Nakawa Division, Kampala City.

Previous studies did not deal majorly with the COVID-19 pandemic and the sustainable livelihood of urban informal workers (Pitoyo, *et al.*, 2020). Others have been on the livelihood impacts of COVID-19 (Asegie *et al.*, 2021). Yet, other studies had the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on MSMEs (Shafi *et al.*, 2020). There was little research on the COVID-19 pandemic and informal workers, hence a knowledge gap. Additionally, there existed little research on the COVID-19 pandemic and the sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Uganda, thus a contextual gap. This research aimed to address these gaps by examining the COVID-19 pandemic on the sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study aimed at examining the socioeconomic Effects of the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of informal workers in the Nakawa division, Uganda.

1.4 Specific objectives

- i. To evaluate the Effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa division, Uganda.
- ii. To assess the Effects of the workplace closure on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda.
- iii. To determine the Effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

1.5 Research questions

- iv. What are the Effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa division, Uganda?
- i. What are the Effects of the workplace closure of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda?
- ii. What are the Effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal sector in Nakawa Division, Uganda?

1.7 Scope of the study

1.7.1 Geographical scope

The study was conducted in Kampala, the capital and largest city, especially in Nakawa division. Nakawa Division is one of the five Urban councils that make up Kampala city. Administratively, the division is comprised of 22 parishes. The study was conducted in the Slum area of Nakawa Division, in which there are 6 informal settlements (slum): Banda, Bukoto 1, Butabika, Kinawataka, Kisenyi Luzira and Naguru this area was chosen because the significant population is mostly young and informally employed (Center for health and social improvement, 2021).

1.7.2 Theoretical scope

Vulnerability Theory developed by Fineman (2008) posits that human vulnerability is influenced by life-course stages, social institutions, and law, often tracing oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, disability, and class. According to Fineman's theory, everyone is vulnerable to dependence, and the government needs to take steps to mitigate this vulnerability by granting everyone fair access to the institutions of society that distribute social goods like

jobs, security, and healthcare. Because vulnerability theory emphasizes the shared human experience rather than aiming for equal treatment, it can promote substantive equality. It also emphasizes how crucial it is for the government to create and preserve programs, like Social Security and Medicare for the elderly, that support resiliency across demographics and life spans. Vulnerability theory has the potential to transform societal perceptions of vulnerability and lessen the stigma attached to it.

Robert Chambers introduced the Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) theory in the 1980s to assess different contexts of vulnerability and to enhance the efficiency of development cooperation (Kollmair & Gamper, 2002). A livelihood is a set of capabilities, assets, and activities required for a way of living. The SL program focuses on understanding the aspirations and experiences of underprivileged individuals, including their occupations, resources, and challenges. Successful SL strategies aim to improve livelihoods, reduce vulnerability to shocks, and consolidate assets, ultimately reducing debt and impoverishment.

1.6.2 Content scope

This research evaluated the effects of the Lockdown and curfew restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers, the effects of the Workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers, and the Effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

1.6.3 Time scope

The study focused on a period of 3 years from 2019 to 2021, involving a review of the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda. The period of 3 years was realistic in examining how COVID-19 affected informal workers' livelihoods, and this study chose the period 2019 to date because it was from 2019 when the pandemic broke out. The actual study lasted for a period of 8 months, preferably from October 2022 to June 2023.

1.7 Significance of the study

The study was of great significance to a number of stakeholders such as policy makers, literature and researchers in the following ways;

- i. **Policy makers:** The study's findings will give policy makers advice on how to manage COVID-19 (a natural illness) and vulnerability implications in places vulnerable to the Effects of the informal economy. Additionally, the research

supported the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction's (NSRGP) objectives by focusing on the non-agricultural sector and sustainable living in the nation.

- ii. **Literature:** The results will guarantee that there is a trustworthy body of literature available for subsequent researchers to use as a source of reference material.
- iii. **Researcher:** When the study is accomplished, it will enable the researcher obtain a Master's Degree in Project p and Management in Kampala International University.
- iv. **Other researchers:** After the study is finished, it will be accessible to the public through Kampala International University and serve as a source of secondary data for other researchers.

1.8 key Operational definitions of key terms

COVID-19 Pandemic: The SARS-CoV-2 virus is the infectious agent behind the COVID-19 Pandemic. Most people who have the virus experience mild to severe respiratory illness, but most recover without the need for special care. Others, however, might experience life-threatening illnesses and require medical attention. The current study will look at how the COVID-19 epidemic has affected people's standard of living (WHO, 2020).

Sustainable livelihood: Livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from the stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining the natural resource base (Chambers & Conway, 1992).

Pandemic: An epidemic that spreads across several countries or continents is known as a pandemic. It affects more people and results in more fatalities than an epidemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic when it was clear that the illness was severe and rapidly spreading across a wide area.

Informal sector: The portion of any economy that is not taxed nor overseen by any kind of government is known as the informal economy (also known as the informal sector or grey economy). Although the informal sector contributes significantly to the economy of emerging nations, it is occasionally labeled as problematic and out of control. The current study will look at how the COVID-19 epidemic has affected the informal sector's means of subsistence.

Livelihood: The definition of a livelihood is "means of ensuring the fundamental essentials of life (food, water, shelter, and clothes)". A collection of daily tasks carried out over one's lifetime is referred to as one's livelihood. Securing water, food, fodder, medication, shelter, and clothes are some examples of such tasks (Ellis, 2000). The current study will look at how the unorganized sector survived the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presented four sections namely: theoretical framework, conceptual framework, empirical review, summary of literature gaps and a recap of literature review.

2.1 Theoretical review

This study was guided by vulnerability theory and sustainable livelihood theory.

2.1.1 Vulnerability theory

Vulnerability Theory stated by Fineman (2008) recognizes that the human experience of constant vulnerability varies as a result of stages in the life course, social institutions, and law, which often trace intersecting forms of oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, disability, and class. The theory also suggests that persons might suffer damage. The degree to which someone's life and livelihood are endangered by a specific, recognizable occurrence in nature or society is determined by several criteria. All people are susceptible and prone to reliance, according to Fineman's theory, and the state is consequently required to lessen, alleviate, and make up for this vulnerability (Kohn, 2014). The claim that expecting simple equal treatment to satisfy people's needs in a world where nobody is guaranteed to be free from harm, disease, or other unfortunate life circumstances is implied in this thesis. Fineman stated that, for the state to fulfill its duty to address human vulnerability, it must grant equitable access to "societal institutions" that distribute social goods like security, employment, and healthcare.

While adopting Fineman's vulnerability theory, which holds that the human situation is one of perpetual and universal vulnerability, which is opposed by the resilience that we can develop and draw upon, we examine the Effects and long-term ramifications of the pandemic. Since humans are embodied organisms who are subject to ongoing change throughout their lives, our ability to develop and use resilience varies depending on how immersed we are in social institutions and arrangements as well as the form and functioning of those institutions.

The vulnerability theory is relevant to this study when considering the COVID-19 pandemic's consequences and reactions in various states and legal situations. The papers to this special issue examine a variety of governmental responses to the epidemic to determine whether those measures and associated social structures have lessened or increased the consequences of the

pandemic. The Researcher analyses begin from the perspective of our shared universal vulnerability as embodied beings and seek to explore how the corporeal manifestations of the pandemic are reflected, deflected, and reproduced in and by the state in its various guises and within different contexts by way of pre-existing structures and practices.

Lisa Rodgers examines how the UK's employment rules function and are successful in the wake of the epidemic. She claims that COVID-19 has shown the latter's temporality and bias. For instance, Rodgers draws attention to how labor law's "solutions" to the epidemic are constrained by the reality that they operate inside a framework that is "individually focused" and "reactive" Rogers (2002). Rodgers considers the potential of UK Health and Safety Laws to provide a more human-centric and vulnerability theory-aligned method of workplace regulation, not least because of their more appealing reasoning and ethos. He calls for a "fundamental re-imagining of the whole labor law project, rather than piecemeal tinkering." Ellen Gordon-Bouvier, focusing on reproduction, discusses how the UK state's response to The epidemic illustrates how much we rely on this unpaid labor and highlights how COVID-19's Effects have been disproportionate in this setting. Gordon-Bouvier mentions the gendered Effects of COVID-19 reactions and calls for immediate reparation from a more responsive state, focusing on Fineman's resilience-building approach as a vital remedy. The UK's reaction, which the author claims "retains a commitment to the independent liberal ideal," notwithstanding, the author is optimistic that the epidemic has given rise to "a glimmer of optimism" that an alternate strategy is feasible (Gordon-Bouvier, 2020).

Daniel Newman, Jess Mant, and Faith Gordon examine the demand for legal assistance and the provision of legal counsel in England and Wales throughout the epidemic in their essay. They take into account pre-existing obstacles for people seeking justice in the context of social welfare and assess how the epidemic has made this problem worse. The authors examine how persons working in the advising sector have creatively modified their working techniques using remote arrangements and technology by using case studies taken from law centers in England and Wales. The authors propose that the crisis brought on by the pandemic may catalyze the state's investment in technology, which could in turn democratize access to justice and have beneficial Effects. They do this by rethinking the epidemic in the framework of a truly responsive state.

A global reaction to the epidemic and health care generally is demanded in the study by Danielle Mendes Thame Denny, Luiz Ismael Pereira, Douglas de Castro, and Clarice Duarte

(2021). The authors underline the catastrophic Effects of poverty and the associated unequal access to healthcare on encounters with, or even the capacity to survive, the epidemic while highlighting how COVID-19 has yet to be experienced evenly around the globe with a focus on Brazil. The authors argue that if there is anything to be learned from the current crisis, it is the need for improved intergovernmental communication based on an understanding of our ongoing, interconnected, and all-encompassing fragility.

Additionally, Mary Kiwanuka (2021) examines the activities and behaviors of governmental institutions during the COVID-19 crisis and wondered if the epidemic offers chances to concentrate on institutional resilience-building as a strategy for addressing both present and future issues. With an emphasis on Uganda as the site of a qualitative case study of a criminal justice system to investigate how it sought to sustain societal relationships throughout the epidemic, Kiwanuka presents a Pan-African perspective on reactions across Africa. This research shows how the pandemic highlighted the pre-existing fragility of such institutions, which frequently had devastating Effects on the people and communities they were meant to serve (Kiwanuka, 2021). The author concludes by calling for the use of Fineman's vulnerability framework by all actors including policymakers as a means of creating resilient and inclusive institutions capable of achieving socially just outcomes.

The state's participation in the COVID-19 epidemic is shown by these many distinctive studies, which reveal that social processes, including legislation, are the outcome of several decisions. The ultimate duty for such allocation and, in certain situations, the postponement of obligation, remains entirely with the state. However, such decisions and the decision-making that impacts them may be delegated to specific social institutions. The state has the ability as well as a moral duty to choose an acceptable reaction based on the empirical reality of the human situation when creating a proper response, whether it be to the pandemic itself or to the pre-existing circumstances that left so many susceptible to risk and suffering. This will require a reorientation of our understanding of vulnerability based on a reevaluation of dependency and independence resulting in a rejection of the liberal subject and its replacement with the vulnerable subject as the appropriate target of legal intervention for the majority of jurisdictions, as well as supranational and international systems of law.

The researcher examines the closure of "non-essential" labor, namely in the informal sector, in favor of staying at home when the workers in that sector could not sustain themselves to prevent contamination (Chirumbolo, 2021). For instance, as demonstrated in the current study,

the loss of "non-essential" positions put vulnerable employees, primarily informal workers, out of work and without a means of support. This is due to the inherent economic vulnerability of Uganda's urban everyday sector residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has called into question the value and function of geographic boundaries as well as the usefulness of atomized, distinct units, whether they are formed by individuals or groups like "the family" or "the workplace," as separate sites of production and reproduction, putting the focus instead on our shared humanity and the ties that unite us the possibility for a reset was made possible by the two years of shared global experience (Faludi, 2021)

Weakness of vulnerability theory

Specificity

Nina Kohn argues that vulnerability theory has little relevance in real-life policy, as it lacks specificity and direction in prioritizing vulnerable subjects. She points out that governments may not have the resources required to achieve full-fledged substantive equality, and the unavoidable difficulty of finite resources. However, proponents of vulnerability theory argue that the theory can assign alternative priorities, such as prioritizing institutions that bestow assets in the most unfair way rather than populations. However, this broad approach is limited, as some organizations are beyond the government's purview (Kohn, 2014).

Vulnerability theory does not provide criteria to choose between expensive but effective programs and less effective programs that maintain autonomy. It also does not provide standards to help decide between these crucial elements (Fineman, 1993).

Kohn's criticism of specificity is unjust, as all theories have their limits. Vulnerability theory is one of those ideas that eventually leaves policymakers to fend for themselves. Despite its shortcomings, vulnerability theory still offers a practical framework for crafting and promoting more equitable public policies. However, not all viewpoints support the "more just" public policy (Schweickart, 1978).

Violation of Autonomy

Kohn argues Fineman's application of vulnerability theory to old-age policy shows the

theory's tendency to be too paternalistic. This paternalism objection, however, deserves little attention because of vulnerability theory's explicit rejection of the liberal subject. If the liberal subject is rejected, free choice becomes substantially less important because choice no longer carries so much weight in dictating people's lives. Another reason the paternalistic objection does not hold is because vulnerable subjects need paternalistic policies to build resilience and capacity (Kohn, 2014). From the vulnerability theory perspective, paternalistic policies do not reduce autonomy by restricting choice, but rather enhance autonomy by building capacity. The disagreement between Kohn and Fineman is deep, resting on different conception of human nature and liberty. Further discussion of these different perspectives can be found in the first part of the paper. While Kohn's critiques of specificity and autonomy do not gain much traction, her critique of inconsistency, with some help of a critique by Frank Rudy Cooper, bring to light the most important challenges to the applicability of vulnerability theory.

Inconsistency

Kohn critiques Fineman's application of vulnerability theory to public policy for the elderly, arguing that it goes against the central claim of vulnerability theory. Fineman identifies the elderly as vulnerable subjects and suggests that policies can use age as a threshold for reducing their vulnerability (Kohn, 2014). However, Kohn argues that Fineman's age-based policy is not representative of vulnerability theory and should be applied more broadly.

Kohn's critique of vulnerability theory's inconsistency is misleading, as Fineman's support for age-based policy seems to be a compromise, directed narrowly to the Canadian Commission. Fineman acknowledges this departure from vulnerability theory and proposes an alternative approach, advocating for a law that allows the cancellation of exploitative financial transactions for all people (Fineman, 2012).

The post-identity approach, which advocates for the elimination of "vulnerable populations" from the policy conversation, may not be a practical solution to the problem of over and under-inclusivity that always accompanies identity-based approaches to policy. The post-identity approach could be problematic due to the government's lack of time to evaluate every individual and the potential for unique experiences that call for their identity to be incorporated into policies. Policymakers must consider these points when trying to use the post-identity approach, but the post-identity approach can incorporate criticisms and still be used in a practical manner (Cooper, 2012).

Strength of vulnerability theory

The following three takeaways represent the most powerful, important, and useful aspects of vulnerability theory. These insights are important for their own unique reason, but they all stand up to criticism and contain some kind of practical benefit, as illuminated in the prior paper. While the benefits of vulnerability theory certainly cannot be confined to the following three takeaways, these three points represent the most essential insights found in the prior discussion:

First of all, the post-identity approach serves as a valuable goal for public policy, but this approach should not be pursued in every context. Sometimes, targeting specific populations is the better route to equality, but ultimately, the post-identity approach should be the goal in achieving more substantive equality. Secondly, the overall narrative vulnerability theory creates that people are all vulnerable, and we create institutions to help build our resilience to combat our vulnerability is a unique, rhetorically effective way to advocate for the government increasing its involvement to help society achieve a more substantive equality. Finally, the idea that institutions are the source of inequality is rhetorically and substantively effective. While it is well beyond the scope of this paper to consider whether the institutional focus more effectively achieves substantive equality, the new approach seems quite promising and should be explored (Fineman, 2012).

2.1.3 Sustainable Livelihood Theory

Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) itemized by Robert Chambers (1992). He explained that in its most basic form, a livelihood is a way to make a living and capabilities, equality, and sustainability are components of sustainable livelihoods. Capabilities relate to a person's ability to carry out specific essential functions, to what they are capable of achieving, and to what a livelihood offers support for. A livelihood allows for the enhancement and exercise of capabilities, while capabilities allow for the acquisition of a livelihood (Sen, 1982). In traditional terms, equity may be defined in terms of relative income distribution of assets, capacities, and opportunities, particularly augmentation of those of the most impoverished. Equity is both an objective and a method. It can entail putting an end to prejudice against minorities and the weak, as well as ending poverty and hardship in both urban and rural areas. Equitable living conditions must be included. Sustainable resource management is a value in and of itself, and it also creates the framework for maintaining livelihoods for future generations. Sustainability is both an aim and a means (Lele, 1991).

According to Chambers and Conway (2018), There are various issues about how to sustain livelihoods. These may be divided into two categories: whether a way of life is ecologically sustainable, as measured by how it affects local, global, and other assets; and if it is socially sustainable, as measured by its capacity to withstand stress and shocks and persist and improve. Therefore, sustainability is a function of how resources and capacities are used, maintained, and improved to maintain livelihoods. To achieve fairness, all livelihoods must be supported by social sustainability in addition to environmental sustainability. Social sustainability is the ability of a human unit (person, household, or family) to not only obtain but also sustain a sufficient and respectable standard of living. There are two aspects to this: a negative and a positive one. The positive component is proactive, increasing and exercising capacities in adjusting to, utilizing, and producing change, as well as ensuring continuity. The negative dimension is reactive, dealing with stress and shocks (Chambers & Conway, 2018).

The theory is relevant in the context of the current study, this was achieved by looking at the social elements described in the theory and their impact on informal workers during the pandemic limitations, as well as the environmental characteristics of informal labor that assist them to preserve their livelihood. The theory served as the foundation for the study since it helped the researcher compare the numerous ways that the COVID-19 epidemic affected people's ability to pursue their livelihoods, particularly those in the informal sector. the condition of economic informality in which they operate, which restricts access to finance and help from the government, exacerbates these economic vulnerabilities. As a result of their poor profit margins, businesses frequently depend on daily sales to cover their expenses. Therefore, the livelihoods and everyday survival of Uganda's urban informal sector residents were more likely to be threatened by the closure of workplaces and mobility restrictions during the COVID-19 lockdown (Mugoda et al. 2020).

The study also looked at the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) of Bronfenbrenner (1977), which depicts the Effects of proximity to the central individual (informal worker) on their way of life, livelihood (physical workplace, tasks and conditions, hours per day, remuneration, outputs, career pathway), and lifestyle (household, friends, neighborhood, interests, leisure, use of leave). The most significant aspect of ecological systems theory is its theoretical level. The external environment that affects a person without directly involving them, such as top-down decision-making, rules, and procedures, exists as a mesosystem of intersecting domains that is

encircled by an ecosystem. Finally, these are a part of a larger "macrosystem" that encompasses a variety of cultures, organizations, and belief systems (Kilanowski, 2017).

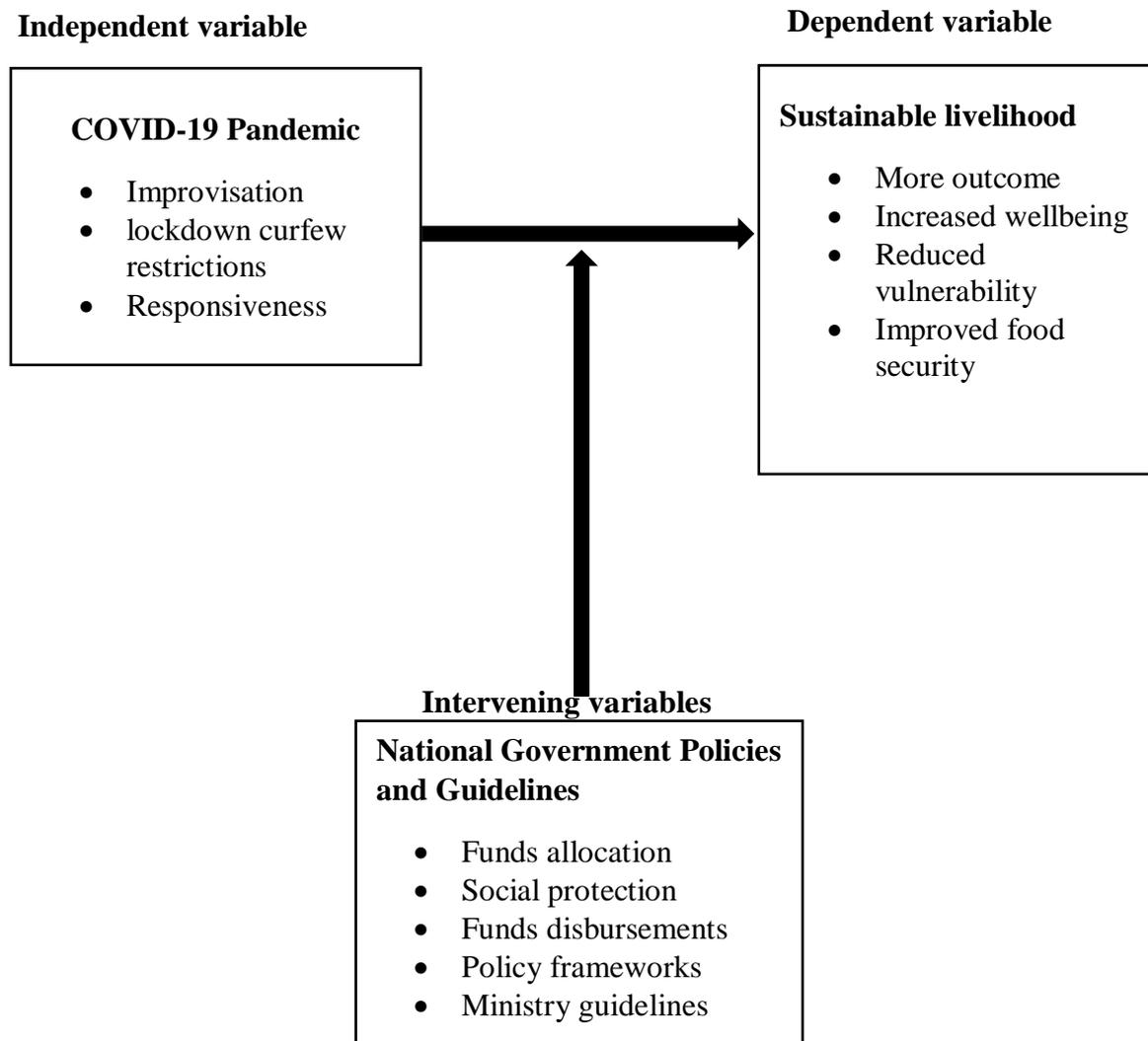
Strengths and weaknesses of sustainable livelihood

The capacity to offer a thorough framework for comprehending the complexity of rural lives and the potential to empower smallholder farmers through market-driven rural development projects are two of the sustainable livelihoods theory's strong points. It also emphasizes how crucial it is to take into account a variety of factors during the development process, including institutions, strategies, assets, and results. The theory also highlights the importance of communication and knowledge in fostering sustainable livelihoods and the necessity of using participatory methods when implementing policies (Kumar, 2023).

However, the lack of precision and disparate interpretations of the idea, especially in developing nations, are the sustainable livelihoods theory's flaws. In order to close knowledge gaps and get a deeper understanding of the dynamics and trade-offs associated with livelihood interventions, more study is also required. Moreover, the theory could not adequately address the difficulties that rural communities confront due to their low physical capital, susceptibility to outside shocks, and the detrimental effects of some livelihood options on sustainability and recovery (Morse, 2013).

.2 Conceptual framework

Figure 2. 1shows the conceptual framework illustrating the relationship between the dependent and independent variables



Source: Adopted from DFID (2000). But modified by the researcher (2022).

In Figure 2.1, the independent variable is the COVID-19 pandemic while the dependent variable is sustainable livelihood. The intervening variable influences the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. In this study, national government policies and guidelines affect the sustainable livelihood. The national government is the one that establishes policies and allocates funds to the country.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all of these variables would significantly affect livelihood outcomes, i.e., income, food security status, vulnerability, and general well-being. The study conducted in Uganda indicates that the indicates that the indicates that the well-being of rural households has dropped because of the shutdown. due to the COVID-19

pandemic (Mahmud and Riley, 2021). The COVID-19-induced lockdowns prompted the biggest disruption of livelihoods (Varshney *et al.*, 2021). To mitigate and recover from this pandemic, interventions in Government and institutions were required. This framework is very important in devising strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with existing resources and local conditions. The independent variable (COVID-19 pandemic) was measured by lockdown and curfew restrictions, workplace closure, and responsiveness, whereas the dependent variable was a sustainable livelihood. Because of the closure of their places of employment due to presidential orders, COVID-19 had an impact on the lives of informal workers that prohibited them from satisfying their basic needs. As a result, the intervening variable (government) impacts the two variables.

2.3 Empirical review

This section presented existing literature and identifies gaps that the proposed study sought to fill.

2.3.1 Sustainable livelihood

The concept of sustainable livelihoods refers to a holistic approach that aims to improve the quality of life of individuals, households, and communities while ensuring the long-term viability of natural resources and the surroundings. It emphasizes the interdependence between economic development, social well-being, and environmental sustainability. Chambers offered this idea for the first time in 1992. Sustainable livelihood is a concept that aims to deal with the complex relationship between economic development, social well-being, and environmental sustainability (Chambers, 1992). This literature review gives a summary of the main ideas, theories, approaches, and empirical studies related to a sustainable livelihood. It explores the multiple dimensions and interconnections of livelihoods and offers insights into the difficulties and opportunities for promoting sustainable livelihood strategies.

Numerous theoretical structures have been put forth in an attempt to comprehend and evaluate sustainable lifestyles. The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) developed by the Department for International Development is frequently used as a guiding framework. It emphasizes five capital assets human, financial, physical, natural, and social capital. This framework provides a holistic lens through which to examine the interplay between different assets and how they contribute to sustainable livelihood outcomes (Helmore and Singh, 2001).

According to Ellis (2000), Livelihood diversification is a common strategy employed by individuals and communities to enhance their resilience and sustainability. This explores the diverse strategies that people in the countryside adopt to support their livelihoods. It emphasizes the significance of understanding local contexts and the necessity of policies and interventions that promote livelihood diversity and enhance sustainability. Studies have highlighted the positive impacts of diversification on income generation, food security, and overall well-being. However, it is essential to strike a balance between diversification and dependence on natural resources to avoid environmental degradation. Gender plays a crucial role in shaping sustainable livelihood outcomes. In many societies, women are engaged in various livelihood activities, including agriculture, small-scale entrepreneurship, and informal sector jobs. Understanding gender dynamics and addressing gender inequalities in access to resources, markets, and decision-making processes is essential for promoting sustainable livelihoods (Ravera, *et al.*, 2016)

Moreover, climate change presents serious obstacles to sustainable means of subsistence, particularly for those whose communities depend on natural resources. The Effects of climate change on livelihood assets, adaptation plans, and vulnerability assessments have been the subject of several research. Shah and others (2013) These studies highlight how livelihood planning and implementation procedures must take climate change into account. It should be mentioned that establishing long-term sustainability requires tying livelihoods into larger sustainable development goals (Biggs *et al.*, 2015). The relationships between livelihoods and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been the subject of several research. They emphasize the significance of encouraging equitable growth, guaranteeing access to infrastructure and basic services, and including livelihoods into development plans.

Achieving both environmental sustainability and human well-being requires sustainable livelihoods. This review of the research highlights the necessity for integrated methods that address the economic, social, and environmental aspects of livelihoods while shedding light on their multidimensionality. It serves as a basis for further studies and legislative initiatives meant to advance sustainable living standards around the world.

So the SLA case study suggests that, while context/actors/evidence framework captures most of what happened, it is perhaps too mechanical, too determinate to provide a full explanation. It would fit the SLA case better if the framework incorporated the distinction between necessary and sufficient conditions in historical interpretations of events. That is, the framework

identifies the necessary conditions for the successful impact of research on policy if they were not met then there would have been no chance of successful impact. However, they alone could not guarantee impact. Actual impact required other, sufficient conditions to be met. In the SLA case these were the elapse of time and chance encounters. In other cases, these sufficient conditions may be different.

2.3.4 Sustainable livelihood of informal workers around the world

According to Chen (2012) Informal workers face numerous obstacles that prevent their sustainable livelihoods, such as limited access to social protection, lack of legal recognition, and limited bargaining power. The world market is experiencing a shift towards informal employment, which is the primary source of employment and income for the most part, the workforce and population in the developing world. Informal workers face higher risks, lower earnings, and less economic opportunities.

Workers in the informal economy are subject to significant occupational dangers, which have a significant social and financial impact, especially in developing nations. The International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that in 10 cities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, work-related accidents and illnesses claim the lives of 2.78 million people annually. OSH issues, such as illness, accidents, and exposure to health risks at the workplace, are mentioned in 48% of all IEMS focus group discussions. Workers who work from home are the most worried (58 percent), citing the job procedure and potentially dangerous raw materials as health hazards that might result in burns, respiratory infections, and other ailments. Informal laborers are more likely to operate hazardous equipment and be exposed to noise, vibrations, fumes, and dust in Bangladesh and Uganda. However, informal laborers are less likely to report using chemicals or being exposed to other hazardous items. It can be difficult to monitor OSH in poor nations, but public health systems are crucial for gathering information on the well-being of both formal and informal workers (Santana, 2016).

According to ILO (2017), the absence of adequate risk mitigation for financial health in informal families can result in high health care costs, which can put a strain on finances and make it harder to meet basic necessities. A significant load is placed on informal families by data from 10 developing and rising nations, and this burden is expected to rise as the number of uninsured member's rises. Informal families have greater financial burdens than formal households in eight out of 10 nations. For many informal workers, inadequate pension coverage results in income instability and vulnerability as they age. Globally, according to ILO

figures, 68% of people past retirement age get an elderly pension. However, benefits are frequently insufficient, and one-third of all people above pensionable age do not get a pension. Informal workers are disproportionately at risk due to factors such as prioritizing healthcare, lack of familiarity with pension schemes, and inadequate adaptation of existing pension schemes. Every country has a very different distribution of pension coverage, with formal and informal households differing significantly from one another.

Apart from tackling these issues, it is vital to contemplate and execute an array of treatments that are customized to cater to the distinct limitations, requirements, and hazards faced by various categories of informal laborers. It is important to consider how social and economic policies affect the informal sector, and it can be difficult to keep track of the benefits and drawbacks for various informal labor groups. Additionally, informal workers require representation in rule-setting and policymaking processes as well as visibility in official data in order to guarantee that policy responses are appropriate. A new economic paradigm is needed, a model of a hybrid economy that combines traditional and modern, small and big scale, informal and formal, and allows smallest units and least powerful workers to operate alongside the largest units and most powerful economic players (Chen, 2012).

An article reviews extensive economic literature on informality, its causes, and its consequences for development. It highlights the diversity of approaches used, including experimental studies, equilibrium macro models, and structural models. In addition to being a macro phenomenon with significant Effects on the economy, informality is a micro phenomenon that arises from individual agents optimizing their payoffs in the market. Although it can boost the economy, extant research indicates that lowering the barriers to formal employment is not the best strategy for curbing informality. The most Effectssive policy to reduce informality seems to be intensifying enforcement, but it is crucial to differentiate between extensive and intensive margins (Ulysea, 2020). Another unknown issue is the transitory dynamics of such policies. With the growth of gig economies, which favor big and high-productivity enterprises, the significance of the intense margin of informality is expected to expand.

2.3.1 Lockdown & curfew restrictions and livelihood of Informal Workers

Dzawanda (2021), conducted research with the primary goal of examining the impact of the lockdown on Gweru's informal economy. His results demonstrate that the government increased restrictions in the unorganized sector, nearly eliminating it, even though many people

working in it lost their means of support during the COVID-19 shutdown. Many businesses have changed how they operate without support from the government, often by engaging in criminal activity. His research indicates that Zimbabwe's government, working with local councils, must prioritize encouraging informal sector participants to register their businesses so they can receive aid from the authorities in the case of similar national or international disasters because their operations will be seen as legal. Even while lockdowns are frequently successful at halting the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, Wilder-Smith & Freedman (2020) discovered that they have plenty of negative consequences on the national economy as well as people's and households' lives.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indonesia's informal economy were studied by Pitoyo et al., in 2020. The research showed that the majority of respondents believed the crisis had a detrimental effects on their jobs and salaries. Surprisingly, this study discovered that informal employees feel prepared to handle the outbreak immediately. However, the majority of them are unprepared if the lockdown occurs, which will cause the whole economy to collapse. This data demonstrates that the secondary consequences of a pandemic are just as feared as health catastrophes. These results imply that unpaid workers are vulnerable populations that need additional care because of their living situations. With their wages becoming more and more unpredictable, Numerous unpaid laborers are unsure about their ability to recover from the crisis. As stated by the investigator, further study utilizing more thorough survey techniques is still required to fully understand informal workers' crisis-coping tactics.

According to Alicea-Planas (2021), research was conducted to better understand why people choose to use various forms of social isolation during the early stages of COVID-19. Estimated marginal Effects from her study, which included 5,480 respondents, show that risk perceptions are positively correlated with avoiding friends and family and going out in public but not with staying at home. Additionally, the findings show a correlation between risk perceptions and family income, the number of COVID-19 cases recorded in the nation, and how well people think the healthcare system is prepared. The study's findings, the researcher said in his conclusion, "confirm the idea that people would adhere to social distance measures provided there is a clear knowledge of danger." Giving the public access to precise figures on The quantity of confirmed cases can influence how seriously an illness is perceived. Without financial aid, some people will be driven to breach the law to obtain food or resources for their survival since family income is a factor in the practice of social distance.

Asegie et al. (2021) point out that the pandemic affected different dimensions of lives and livelihoods ranging from farming activities to small business and remittance, yet its Effects varied depending geo-local settings and pre-pandemic livelihood activities of the target household. The study concentrated particular on investigating the effects of COVID-19 on the livelihood activities of smallholder farm households in South Wollo and Oromia administrative Zones, Ethiopia. A multistage random sampling procedure was employed to draw 275 respondents out of 32,214 household heads. The study found out the Effects not only temporarily paused income sources, but have also ceased livelihood activities on an enduring basis. The result shows that households with large landholding sizes are less affected by the COVID-19. Also it shows that the effects of COVID-19 on livelihood status will decrease by a factor of 2.062 as the landholding size increases by 1 ha. The marginal effects of 0.067 implies that a unit increase in landholding size will reduce the probability of livelihood status being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by 6.7% holding other factors constant. This may be resulted due to the reality that households with large landholding sizes may accumulate assets to be resilient from shocks and stresses.

Nguimkeu and Okou (2020), conducted a study, whose major purpose was to look at the balancing the lives and earnings of unofficial laborers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. The findings revealed that portion of unofficial labor ranges from 43% (Gabon) to 98% (DR Congo), with 88% in Ghana, 90% in Tanzania, 47% in Ethiopia, 95% in Mozambique, and as a mean of about 77% the entire workforce in the 46 SSA countries. most unofficial employees lack an alternative income or savings to rely upon when external shocks or crises hit such as COVID-19. Research reveals that informal insurance arrangements between Unpaid laborers are often weak (Coate & Ravallion, 1993; Ligon *et al.*, 2002). Social distancing measures create new vulnerabilities for these employees and their communities. Staying home and missing work is lost income that quickly, within days, leads to missed meals, or not paying rent. Unfortunately, informal the primary source of revenue for is employment. people in SSA, which has the most percentage of unpaid work compared to other regions of the world. According to the report, 86% of workers roughly 20% more than in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) are engaged in the unorganized sector. In addition, people of all ages typically deal with a greater degree of informality. Ninety-five percent of young and old people in Africa labor informally. This percentage is significantly greater than the global and EMDE average of 85%.

Schotte (2023) looked into the livelihood impacts of COVID-19 in urban South Africa. The aim of this research was to investigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related policy measures on livelihoods in urban South Africa. By using qualitative research methods. The study found that the intensified sense of powerlessness and heightened vulnerability resulted not only from the sheer magnitude of the economic shock and disruption of the labour market and business activity, but was also determined by the simultaneous undermining of common coping strategies and insurance mechanisms to confront these. The study also found that the lapse of survivalist livelihood strategies during this crisis, particularly due to the economic disruption of the informal sector, severely deprived the poor and the vulnerable in their ability to secure a living on their own. This was intensified by the co-variate nature of the shock, rendering social networks and informal insurance mechanisms in effective means of assistance. These combined factors have led to an increased reliance on government grants the expansions to which during the crisis have been an indispensable element in the livelihood portfolios of the poor.

According to Deshpande (2020), the COVID-19 lockdown's main repercussions on the lives of the informal sector and general people throughout the world have been identified as job losses and income reductions. Urban populations employed in the informal sector suffered the most from the lockdown and its accompanying restrictions, which included the closure of schools, "non-essential" businesses, and public transportation as well as the installation of curfews. The lockdown's primary drawbacks include the loss of jobs as a result of business closure, the inability to commute to work and being let go in to obtain clear out workspaces or deal with other pandemic-related Effects on businesses, along with demise or reductions in household income due to low demand, mobility issues, high operating costs, and shortened working hours' consequent to the curfew's enforcement. The principal repercussions of the COVID-19 shutdown on the existence of the unorganized sector and general people throughout the world have been identified as job losses and income losses.

Amoah-Nuamah (2020) Carried out research on COVID-19 pandemic partial lockdown and its implications on livelihoods of informal workers in affected communities. It was conducted in Ghana. The study aimed to investigate the livelihood of informal sector workers after partial closure of some urban centers. His findings shown that the livelihood situation of informal sector workers probably going to dwindle significantly owing to the closure of major urban centers in Ghana. The finding recommended that Policy makers need to institute measures to strengthen livelihood affected people in order for them to handle the adverse Effects on their

livelihoods. Government and Non-governmental organization should help initiate effective policies and strategies that will enable informal workers as well as urban people have access to food and medical items needed at this crucial moment of their life.

According to Tsai et al. (2015) In Liberia it was found that enforcement of mobility restrictions and closure of markets to curb the spread of the Ebola virus disease hampered the livelihoods of individuals, households, and communities by reducing their access to different livelihood resources. Similarly, lockdown restrictions, quarantine and self-isolation policies initiated to curb the spread of COVID-19 in China significantly reduced the production of goods from factories and decreased consumption, demand and utilization of products and services, causing a slump in the national economy. In Uganda, a business survey commissioned by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, one month into the first lockdown, estimated an overall slump in gross output of 20.7% (UBOS, 2020).

Omobowale et al. (2020) did a study on a contextual reflection on COVID-19 and informal workers in Nigeria. The investigation was directed by the epistemology of pandemic interpretations. Their study showed that economically vulnerable informal workers in Nigeria have contextually interpreted COVID-19 as an elite disease, imported into Nigeria by the wealthy. In addition, the mass population views COVID-19 containment measures such as lockdowns, movement restrictions and stay-at-home orders as elitist policies, which are aimed at protecting the wealthy and frustrating the poor and economically vulnerable who live on the fringes of poverty. Many informal workers have slipped below the poverty line while struggling to supply livelihood needs, as they were unable to earn daily income and cannot access palliatives. Consequently, they are in agreement that “Hunger Virus is deadlier than Corona Virus”.

Ojogiwa and Akinola (2020) conducted a qualitative investigation method whose objective was to examine how government response to COVID-19 can impact the survival of the urban poor in Lagos State. The findings indicated that a massive shock on the earnings and livelihoods of the urban poor. Due to the lockdown, most of the individuals constituting 90% of those that participated in the interview were unable to go to work, thereby losing their daily earnings. At the same time, those who are in the formal sector as casual workers got only half of their salaries from their employers. Sixty percent more reported that they had lost their employment at the start of the lockdown. Most responders who haven't worked since the lockdown started include bus drivers, taxi drivers, conductors, owners of retail stores, proprietors of small

businesses, street sellers, and wage workers in the construction industry. According to his results, the welfare of the disenfranchised urban poor need more attention. Their study fell short of investigating the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on coping strategies that the proposed study seeks to fill.

2.3.2 Workplace closure and livelihood of informal workers

Globally, the COVID-19 epidemic has had a significant effect on unpaid laborers. These laborers, which include day laborers, domestic helpers, and street vendors, have particular difficulties with regard to access to healthcare, job security, and income stability. The purpose of this review of the literature is to investigate the adaptive techniques that informal workers use to deal with the socioeconomic Effects of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Social effects of COVID-19 (Bushra 2022). In light of this, a research was carried out in lower Income Communities in Bangladesh. To examine the coping techniques used by lower income communities. The goals of the research were, the Effects of COVID-19 on lower income communities in Bangladesh, the livelihood strategies taken by the Lower Income Communities (LCI) to face the corona crisis, and the possible Effects of these livelihood strategies in shaping their daily life. The study concentrated on 40 informal sector workers who were the head of their family as the main earning member were selected purposively from three districts. For this study, both primary and secondary data sources were investigated. Comprehensive interviews were carried out to get first-hand information at the field level. A combination of qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques was used to examine the study's primary data. The study concluded that various obstacles faced by people during the pandemic has brought different shape in their livelihood strategy. Those living under poverty line have experienced the worst side of the pandemic. Skill gap of the labor force, unwillingness to work hard, unsustainable livelihood strategy, lack of motivation to learn new skills and to take challenging jobs exist simultaneously with the inadequate State's support to worsen the situation. Having accessed to capital alone can't decrease the vulnerability unless it is backed with proper livelihood and financial strategies. It suggests that Education, entrepreneurship, and increased participation of women can be helpful in this regard

Cheah et al. (2023) conducted a study on experiences, coping strategies and perspectives of people during the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia. Malaysia implemented various public health measures and later raced against time to administer COVID-19 vaccines when they became available. It is because of various actions taken by the public health sector to stop the

actions taken by the public health sector to stop the virus, people in Malaysia faced unprecedented circumstances and new challenges. With The online survey was completed by 827 participants between May 1 and June 30, 2020. Both an online survey and in-depth interviews were conducted using a sequential mixed method technique. The study found that individuals used two primary coping strategies practical and socio-cultural lifestyle changes to counteract the negative impacts of government-implemented public health policies. In order to avoid exposure, participants practically followed the physical and social distancing measures advised by health organizations. Along with actively managing their mental and emotional health, they also worked to lessen the financial impact of the public health policies. Examples included using the Internet to socialize with others, taking up new hobbies or talents, taking care of themselves, finding substitutes for activities they love, and watching TV shows or movies. Although the epidemic shocked the globe, it also sparked innovative and imaginative ideas that may improve both communal and individual resilience.

A survey on 503 households of small traders operating in 5 markets in Ouagadougou was performed by Ouoba and Sawadogo (2022) to analyze the effects of income loss due to Food security in COVID-19 and poverty among urban small traders' households by considering their resilience capacity. The study findings prove that a defeat of income related to COVID-19 has provided more than a quarter of the respondents' average annual income per capita. Overall, COVID-19 has resulted in 15.5% of households experiencing food insecurity. In addition, two main results emerge from the economic analysis. First, the findings indicate that COVID-19 has increased the probability of households becoming food insecure due to a lower food consumption score. However, households with income-generating assets or precautionary savings were able to adjust to the shock. Then, from dietary diversity scores and per capita food expenditures, the findings indicate that COVID-19 did not have a significant effect on the probability of becoming food insecure. Two factors justify these results. In the first place, despite the onset of the pandemic, dietary diversity has been maintained through the self-consumption of products and the purchase of various lower-cost products. In contrast, however, homes have been led to spend more of their income on food items than on nonfood items. Additionally, some households proceeded to liquidate their assets in favor of food expenditures. Finally, estimates show that COVID-19 has reduced household incomes by increasing their likelihood of ending up in poverty. These income losses have led such households to resort to other coping strategies and to harness their capacity for resilience to

adapt to the resulting shock. At all levels of our analysis, social security was not found to be a mitigating factor for the shock.

According to Nabunya, (2020), for many Ugandans, the informal sector remains essential to their means of subsistence. With an estimated 70% of the labor force employed, it is both the fastest expanding industry in Uganda and possibly the main employer of the bulk of its citizens. It appears that the majority of Uganda's urban population depends on the unorganized sector for both daily and economic existence. It seems to be Uganda's urban poor people's primary source of income. For example, in the Greater Kampala and Metropolitan region, around 57% of the workforce works for informal businesses (World Bank Group, 2018).

Schotte and Zizzamia (2021) investigated consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and related policy measures on livelihoods in urban South Africa. Using qualitative research methods, the findings demonstrates the shock of the pandemic exposed and deepened vulnerabilities in the labour market. Going beyond these findings, her qualitative interviews highlight three additional dimensions of amplified vulnerabilities and emerging risk factors. First, households with limited assets to withstand a sudden economic loss handled the situation by running down savings and defaulting on insurance payments, leaving them yet higher susceptibility to future economic shocks. Second, school closures posed a double burden to children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The absence of meals provided at schools posed risks exacerbating food insecurity; and many were lacking the basic infrastructure to continue remote learning, reducing their chances of educational attainment and future upward social mobility. Also the researcher found that in face of the COVID-19 labour market shock, government grants provided an essential, stable stream of income. At least 11/15 interviewees reported living in households with access to grant income. For these households, the top-up to government grants, issued from May 2020 onward, provided some buffer to the negative income shocks they experienced.

Kebirungi and Mwenyango (2022) conducted a study whose major purpose was to examined the Effects of the COVID-19 shutdown on the means of subsistence for commercial male Boda-Boda motorists in Uganda. Their findings revealed the existence of fairly distributed administrative and social services. However, due to lockdown movement restrictions, Boda-Boda motorists were not permitted to transport passengers, the primary users of such services. This caused Boda-Boda motorists to lose their employment, income, and provisioning role. Boda-Boda motorists suffered economic, psychological, and physical violence from their

female partners due to failure in order to support their family. The study suggests a Protective system, services, policy reform, and awareness to address male victims of domestic abuse are required.

According to Dahles (2013) has looked into the crisis-surviving adaptable tactics used by informal laborers. The majority of respondents blended different strategies, but they did not use the productive strategy more than the other types of strategies because of a number of constraints. For example, some workers in the informal sector are unable to find other jobs because of increased competition, limited skill sets, and unfavorable market conditions. Consequently, many who lose their jobs remain unemployed. They also found it challenging to put in more effort at work (e.g., longer hours) because of constraints imposed by societal norms and other government laws. They have a hurdle because they haven't seen this circumstance in prior financial crises. Since their primary source of income is income from outside the home, it is very hard to convince them to work from home.

The study undertaken by Shafi et al. (2020) aimed to evaluate the Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on MSMEs in Pakistan and offer policy recommendations to mitigate company losses and assist them weather the current crisis. They observed that many MSMEs have suffered greatly as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdowns. As a result, these companies are dealing with a range of problems, including financial (67.93%), supply chain disruption (47.83%), a decline in demand (44.02%), and a decline in sales and profit (38.04 percent, 41.85 percent respectively). In addition, a majority of the participating firms more than two-thirds expect a loss in earnings of over sixty percent in 2020, and a majority of the enterprises foresee a decline in sales of over sixty percent in the same year. Additionally, many businesses are implementing a range of strategies to deal with the current circumstances and address cash flow shortages, including applying for loans (18%), closing down their operations entirely or partially to cut costs (31 and 19%), terminating employees (43) and lowering staff salaries (12%), among other measures. Furthermore, the survey suggests that over two-thirds of the participating businesses stated they would not be able to endure a lockout that lasted longer than two months. The report made several recommendations, including planning, fostering strong social ties, increasing the economy, protecting workers and information accuracy, and providing MSMEs with job and income assistance.

This study investigates street vendors' survival and livelihoods in Zimbabwe under COVID-19 management. Despite local authorities' efforts to decongest urban centers, vendors continue to go back to central business districts (Chigudu, 2021). The study uses a hermeneutic phenomenological approach and content analysis to analyze secondary data. Results show that local authorities have demolished vending stalls in compliance with the government's Statutory Instrument 77 of 2020, leaving street vendors without alternatives for livelihood. The study provides innovative ideas for coping and sustaining livelihoods without compromising pandemic conditions.

SEWA (2021) Bharat's study regarding COVID-19 lockdowns' Effects in Bangladesh and India, which found that borrowing money from family and friends as well as from financial institutions and moneylenders was among the main ways affected people and households dealt with their loss of income. This study further highlights the significance of informal support networks in giving in-kind support in the form of food and moral support provided in the form of guidance and encouragement, besides acknowledgment and direct cash help. We can observe that social capital defined as highly valued resources enmeshed within social networks, resources like food, cash, and knowledge helped ensure the survival of almost all research participants through not-for-profit networks of family and non-related relationships (Lin,1999).

According to Mahani (1999) According to this research, the tactics used by informal food vendors to deal with crises include raising selling prices, cutting production, getting rid of or replacing certain goods, shrinking the size of the product, firing employees, and providing better customer service. Dahles and Prabawa (2013) looked at the ways pedicab drivers made money during the crisis, including shifting their focus to other markets, selling assets, looking for other sources of income, and asking for family support. Since the economic situation brought on by COVID-19 is fresh, it could reveal other livelihood options. To find it, a current, thorough examination is required.

A study conducted by Kansiime et al., (2021), demonstrates that the COVID-19 outbreak has significantly impacted household income regarding the safety of food in Kenya and Uganda, with over two-thirds of respondents experiencing income shocks. Food security and dietary quality worsened, with the percentage of food insecure respondents increasing by 38% and 44% respectively. Income-poor households and those dependent on labor income were more

vulnerable to income shock and poorer food consumption. Farmers were less likely to experience worsened food security. Government responses should focus on structural changes in social security, building strong financial institutions, and ensuring food supply chain resilience.

2.3.3 Responsiveness and livelihood of Informal workers

Pitoyo et al. (2021) employed a descriptive statistical approach to evaluate the COVID-19 pandemic's Effects on the circumstances of informal workers, to pinpoint their crisis-avoidance tactics, and to examine the social safety net that is now in place to sustain their livelihood. 218 individuals who worked in the non-agricultural, informal sector were questioned for the study. The majority of respondents saw a decline in their working hours and income, as evidenced by their findings. They often have unique coping strategies in order to survive. The majority of respondents, according to the results, had high expectations for social support to sustain their means of subsistence. However, the government is unable to provide social assistance for informal workers due to a lack of funding or data. But assistance packages from grassroots movements have helped with this. Additionally vital to surviving the crises are parents, family, and friends. The second issue is that, although not all employees in the unorganized sector are categorized as poor, the government's social assistance programs are primarily determined by a person's or household's level of poverty (Octavia, 2020). Furthermore, because social aid is given based on pre-pandemic categories, this pandemic has created a new wave of impoverished people who frequently do not get it. The report reveals that one area that has been badly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak is the informal sector. Even though the informal sector fared better during the last economic downturn, the pandemic is preventing it from surviving this one. Supporting the livelihood strategies of workers in the informal sector is a critical function of the government's social assistance program. The amount and precision of the aid target must thus be increased in social safety nets.

Most informal businesses lack registration, and this situation may be influenced by the desire to pay taxes, according to Rothenberg (2016) and Osemeke (2020). In addition, middle-class employees on the unorganized field face the possibility of economic stagnation since they were more vulnerable compared to the underprivileged because they were not considered subsidized users prior to the crisis. Thirdly, aid packages that include monetary transfers or in-kind distributions may not always ensure that low-income populations would be taken care of during

the epidemic. As a first step in the establishment of new livelihoods, more measures are required, particularly those that spur innovation.

Gupta (2021) study from, which emphasizes the protective aspect of government safety nets like food assistance in protecting people and families from hazards to their way of life during lockdowns. This study found that the food aid provided by the government lessened the detrimental impact of the lockdown on the amount of food consumed by families. This study also shows how, in an urban setting where access to basic requirements frequently necessitates cash, in-kind aid could facilitate access to other necessities like fuel and water by lowering spending on the commodity or commodities donated. Based on the results of our analysis, the affected individuals and households were able to focus their limited funds on basic needs like food, water, and fuel because to government budgetary initiatives and concessions, such the suspension of rent payments. However, as evidenced by this and other studies, structural bottlenecks such as low funding, politicization, politicized funding, politicized targeting mechanisms, and low funding have all reduced the protective element of government safety nets in many low- and middle-income countries in Africa.

As stated by the World Bank (2021), the informal economy, the largest share of GDP in Africa, is defined as having minimal human capital, productivity, and limited access to basic services. Informal laborers are usually not protected by social protection systems, despite these risks. Governments in Africa and other regions are reviewing their social protection policies in order to include workers in the unorganized sector. In order to ensure a continuum of social protection across the income spectrum, the report highlights the "missed middle" of workers within the casual economy and suggests a number of social protection instruments, such as safety nets, economic inclusion programs, productivity-enhancing measures, and social insurance. This approach will allow for universal social protection access when fiscal and administrative capacity allows.

Nguyen (2023) conducted a study, whose major purpose was to explore the informal sector's tactics for mitigating the pandemic's Effects and better adapting to the updated standard in Vietnam. His findings indicate that financial management is the most prevalent technique for mitigating the results of COVID-19. Notably, how people view the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on income and health is crucial to the adoption of mitigation efforts. The finding implies that The Vietnamese government, State Bank, and institutions of finance should provide more help to the unorganized sector in particular those operating in remote locations so

that they can increase their resilience through mitigating measures. In parallel, the informal sector should participate in more deliberate forward mitigation planning in the anticipation of inevitable future shocks. The results of Hassan (2021) indicating that no significant government intervention is evident. The study recommends government training for long-term recovery from lockdown-induced livelihood issues.

Romanello (2022), claims that emerging nations with sizable informal sectors found it more challenging to fortify their defenses against the COVID-19 epidemic and bounce back swiftly from the economic repercussions. The dynamics inside the labor markets in five Latin American nations were researched by Leyva and Urrutia, who discovered that What makes informal employment what it is presents difficulties for pandemic management. The study also discovered a decline in unofficial employment in these nations around the start of the epidemic. Uganda's informal sector enterprises suffered consequent to the pandemic's forced mobility restrictions and lockdown. (Levy & Urrutia, 2021)

According to Beegle et al. (2014), employees among the unorganized sector's considered to exist a vulnerable category since they lack social safety nets and other advantages similar to those that the official employees have gotten (Benjamin *et al.* 2014). Rothenberg et al. (2016) claim that the informal sector, especially in Indonesia, does not seem prepared to register its business in order to evade taxes or expand its activities. Because of its ambiguous legal position, the informal sector usually ignores data collection on social security support (Mehrotra, 2009). Pitoyo et al. (2020) projected that the informal sector would not survive the COVID-19 pandemic because socioeconomic activity would slow down. Therefore, more research is required to clarify how the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the unorganized sector.

Okurut et al. (2004) found that just 4% of adult Ugandans get credit from official lenders, whereas 1% get credit from both legal and informal sources. The remaining borrowers obtain loans from other people, including relatives and family. The government's actions seem to be primarily focused at relieving pressure on the formal sector, hence it is unclear if they will directly assist people living in poverty who work mostly in the informal sector. The lending rates of commercial banks have remained high, averaging 21 percent since the early 1990s, despite previous restrictions intended to lower the rates. The government continues to rely on the same banks to help the impoverished, but the banks seldom extend the Central Bank's reduced rates to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and low-income farmers, whom they consider to be high-risk borrowers (Bank of Uganda).

Dang et al. (2020) conducted a study whose major purpose was to analyse Inequality and support for government responses to COVID-19. The study fills the gap by analyzing rich survey data commencing in April 2020, when the epidemic first started from six countries spanning different income levels and geographical locations: China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States. His findings revealed by using rich individual data from six countries (China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States) suggest that poorer individuals are likely less supportive of government responses, and poorest individuals are least supportive. Moreover, individuals in poorer quintiles residing in more economically unequal countries tend to offer even less government support. The study suggests Governments can gather more support from the poorer population groups through social protection measures that better preserve employment, that offer more employee benefits, or that simply improve the living environment.

Steenbergen, et al. (2020) conducted a study in Coastal communities in regions like the Pacific have been impacted by COVID-19 related public health measures that limit the movement of people, trade and access to resources. In disaster-prone countries, like Vanuatu, such measures add to existing pressures on coastal communities' adaptive capacity. To understand how coastal communities in Vanuatu were impacted in the immediate period after COVID-19 measures were placed, and how people responded to the changing circumstances, a rapid appraisal survey was carried out following a nationally declared state of emergency in March 2020. Results reveal changes in village population, loss of cash income, difficulties in accessing food and shifting pressures on particular resources and habitats. The findings provide insights into the ways local adaptive capacity to satisfy livelihood and food security needs differed among rural contexts. From this we argue that broad quantitative impact assessments are important in guiding strategic and longer term responses and adaptations, but that these are made more useful when complemented with qualitative insights on people and place in the short-term.

A study by Suubi et al. (2022) looked at Transforming Work for Women within the Unofficial Sector: Gaps and Opportunities for Social Protection in Uganda. It outlines the role of social protection mechanisms in safeguarding individuals' livelihoods while also providing safety nets necessary to help them cope with or respond to risks, emergencies, or crises. The study revealed that The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the informal workers which has affected women more disproportionately than men. Informal women workers and business owners were exposed to the hard impacts of the crisis, such as

low productivity and earnings, limited access to social services (infrastructure, capital, social insurance, and social protection), low bargaining power, violence, and harassment/exploitation, resulting in income instability and an overall adverse effects on their wellbeing. Social protection mechanisms play a key role as a reaction to crisis and shocks, ensuring that vulnerable populations can effectively access healthcare while cushioning them from income/job loss-related impacts. To safeguard the welfare of citizens, the Government of Uganda put in place several legal and policy frameworks. However, the effectiveness of these interventions in reaching informal workers remain unclear due to difficulties in targeting beneficiaries for social protection services due to limited information on who the beneficiaries are.

2.4 Summary of literature gaps

Dzawanda (2021) his study title “Poverty on the rise: the influence of the COVID-19 lockdown on the informal sector of Gweru, Zimbabwe.” Said that the government's additional restrictions on the informal sector, despite many losing their means of survival during the COVID-19 lockdown, nearly destroyed it. The study recommend that the government and local councils should encourage informal sector participants to register their operations for assistance during global or national catastrophes, as their activities are considered legal. His study, however did not examine the specific livelihood of informal sector workers. The question remains unanswered, highlighting the need for further research, there is a need to cover this content gap.

Alicea-Planas (2021), her research “COVID-19 risk perceptions and social distancing practice in Latin America.” Founded that Risk perceptions are linked to household income, COVID-19 cases, and healthcare preparedness, causing some to break regulations for survival without financial assistance. The study, however did not examine the impact on informal sector workers. This is a content gap that the proposed study seeks to fill.

Deshpande (2020), a research on COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown in india identified as job losses and income reductions. These results offer insightful information into potential impact on COVID-19 lockdown, however, further study is needed to address on contextual gap. This research will be conducted in Nakawa Division, Uganda

Bushra (2022), Impact of COVID-19 on society: Livelihood Strategies of the Lower Income Communities in Bangladesh. The study, focusing on 40 informal sector workers who are the heads of their families, revealed that they struggle to afford nutritious food for themselves and

their families. Food insecurity and lack of nutritious food contribute to poor health conditions, leading to high healthcare costs, making it difficult for them to escape this cycle. The study failed to critically examine how COVID-19 pandemic affected the lockdown restrictions, workplace closure of informal workers. his study investigated just only the informal workers who are the heads of their families, further study is needed to address several limitations and extend our understanding in this topic. thus a knowledge gap that the proposed study need to fill

Shafi et al. (2020) Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on micro, small, and medium-sized Enterprises operating in Pakistan. The study revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns have severely impacted MSMEs, leading to various financial issues. The study suggests enhancing employee protection, information accuracy, economic growth, income and employment support for MSMEs, planning, resilience development, and positive social relations. While this study provides preliminary evidence of coping strategies during COVID-19, several aspects related to informal sector workers remain inadequately clarified, highlighting the necessity of more study

Kansiime et al. (2021), COVID-19 implications on household income and food security in Kenya and Uganda: Findings from a rapid assessment. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted household income and food security in Kenya and Uganda, with over two-thirds of respondents experiencing income shocks. The government should prioritize structural changes in social security, the establishment of robust financial institutions, and ensuring the resilience of the food supply chain. The study did not consider the unit of analysis informal sector workers hence a knowledge gap that the proposed study seeks to fill.

Dang et al. (2020) Inequality and support for government responses to COVID-19. China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the study implies that governments can increase support from poorer populations through social protection measures that preserve employment, offer more employee benefits, or improve the living environment. The research was carried out in China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States. While the proposed study will be carried out in Nakawa Division, Uganda. Hence a contextual gap that would be filled. secondly, their study did not consider the element of informal sector workers, which will be examined in the proposed study.

Suubi et al. (2022) Transforming Work for Women in the Informal Economy: Gaps and Opportunities for Social Protection in Uganda The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities of informal workers, disproportionately affecting women. Uganda's legal and policy frameworks aim to protect citizens' welfare, but effectiveness remains unclear because of limited information, the study did not consider the whole gender in informal economy, which will be examined in the proposed study.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This section presented the research design, study population, sample size and sampling strategies, data collection methods and instruments, quality control, measurement of variables, data analysis, and study constraints.

3.1 Research design

The research used a Cross-Sectional Survey as a research design that the survey research allowing the researcher to deeply investigate the situation of the target population to look at how the COVID-19 Pandemic affects the livelihood of informal workers in the Nakawa Division. Cross-sectional survey wherein the researcher uses subjects of different age groups at the same time. It is done by giving special attention to completeness in observation, questionnaire reconstruction, and evaluation of the cases under study. Most of the time a survey will aim to obtain information from a representative selection of the population and from that sample will then be able to present the findings as being representative of the population as a whole (Bell, 2005). Most surveys aim at obtaining administrative facts on some aspects of public life or be designed to investigate a cause-effects relationship or to throw fresh light on some aspect of sociological theory. When it comes to the subject matter, all one can say is that surveys aim to address the demographic characteristics, the social environment, the activities, or the opinions and attitudes of some groups of people. The data study uses both quantitative and qualitative methods in nature.

3.2 Study population

3.2.1 Target population

The target population refers to the group of individuals that the intervention intends to conduct research in and draw conclusions from (Orodho, 2003). Generally, the target population is the entire population, or group, that a researcher is interested in researching and analyzing. Sampling frame is then drawn from this target population. Therefore, the study was conducted in Nakawa Division. According to UBOS (2022), the population of the division is estimated at 365,800.

The researcher focused on parishes with an informal settlement, of which four parishes were selected that is Banda, Bukoto 1, Butabika and Kisenyi luzira. The population of the four parishes 82,689. The population for this study were 20 officials from Kampala City Authority,

10 local council's officials, 3 officials from SACCO Association, 30 FGD and 82,594 informal workers. There was no Authoritative Source of statistics on Informal workers. the target population was knowledgeable about the research topic and reliable information can be gathered for them

3.3 Sample size and sampling techniques

The sample size for the current study was selected based on the formula set by Slovin (1960), which was used to calculate the sample size (n) given the population size (N) and a margin of error (e). It is computed as $n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

n=sample size

N= the population size

e=level of significance, fixed

$$n = \frac{82689}{1 + 82689 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{82689}{206.7} \quad n = 401$$

$$n = 401$$

Categories of the respondents

The respondents included the KCCA, Trade Cooperative Saving and Credit Society (SACCO) as well as the market communities.

Sample Category	Target Population	Sample Size	Sampling Strategy
Local Counsellors	10	3	Purposive Sampling
KCCA agents	20	3	Random Sampling
SACCO Members	15	3	Random Sampling
Informal workers (Vendors)	82594	362	Random sampling
FGD	50	30	Purposive Sampling
- Males			
- Females			
Total	82689	401	

Source: Primary data, 2022

The selection of 3 Local counsellors, 3 KCCA agents, 3 SACCO members and 362 informal out of 82594 workers were selected for the study. This is in line with Slovin (1960) that's to calculate the number of samples required when the population is too large to directly sample every member.

3.3.1 Sampling procedure

Informal workers from the Nakawa Division selected were chosen using a random selection process (stratified sampling). This ensured that each selected member had an equal opportunity to participate in the study This contributed in avoiding prejudice in picking them as Mugenda and Mugenda indicate (1999). This methodology was employed since it was the most cost- and time-effective sampling strategy accessible when the researcher wished to gain a thorough understanding of particular data (Amin, 2005).

Additionally, delegates from the KCCA and SACCO chosen by random selection. This methodology was employed since it was the most cost- and time-effective sampling strategy accessible when the researcher wished to gain a thorough understanding of particular data (Amin, 2005). However, a purposeful sampling strategy was utilized to select local counselors and FGD in Nakawa Division.

3.4 Data collection methods and instruments

The researcher gathered data using the following instruments. These included questionnaire surveys for the quantitative technique and in-person interviews for the qualitative approach.

3.4.1 Questionnaire survey

A questionnaire is a sort of research instrument comprised of a series of questions or other forms of prompts designed to elicit data from a responder. The questionnaire survey is a type of study in which data are gathered from a select sample of people using standardized questions (Amin, 2005). The questionnaire survey was used to obtain data from community members in Nakawa division; this was because they could read and write and had some time to respond to the questions. While questionnaire surveys are insufficient for understanding certain types of information, such as changes in emotions, behavior, and feelings, they were chosen for this category of respondents because they allowed for the collection of large amounts of data from a large number of people in a relatively short period of time and at a relatively low cost, and the results of the questionnaires can usually be quick and easily quantified, as recommended by

Mugenda and Mugenda (1999). The questionnaires were sent in hard copy in order to accommodate the ongoing prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.4.2 Face-to-face Interview

Face to face interview is a structured interview conducted by trained interviewers who use a standardized interview protocol and a standardized set of responses for recording participants' responses. A structured interview is a dialogue in which one party asks questions and the other responds. Face-to-face interviews with members of the ministry and academics at the two selected universities was employed to collect data; interviewing enabled the researcher to get detailed information through probing (Glegg, 2018). To collect data for this project, an interview guide was developed. The probing interviewing technique was widely employed in this study to elicit a more detailed explanation of the subject at hand from the respondents. This was partly due to the fact that responders required encouragement to extend or explain their own responses and thoughts, as well as probing, which provided a chance to observe non-verbal communication that would be missed using other approaches. It was also utilized for follow-up, allowing for a more complete grasp of the study's findings later on, as Amin (2005) recommends. Therefore, the reason for using face to face interview was that it enabled the researcher to capture additional emotional and behavioral clues such as discomfort or enthusiasm with the questions that the researcher wouldn't be able to pick up with the other methods thus serving as a strong foundation for the quantitative data obtained by the questions utilized in this study.

3.5 Data quality control

3.5.1 Validity of instruments and methods

According to Kvale and Brink (2009), validity is the method's ability to yield outcomes that are consistent with theoretical and conceptual values, or, in other words, correct results. It also refers to the method's capability to yield the expected results (Kvale and Brinkmann,2009). Thus, validity describes how well an interview assesses the characteristics for which it was especially created, i.e., how well it reflects the selected research questions. It sufficiently illustrates how the tools, samples, and respondents' knowledge, skill, and attitude domains are expected to be displayed. Validity might be attained by recording respondents' lengthy responses, taking notes throughout the interview, transcribing them, and interpreting the results. The tools were pre-tested, and talks about modifications were held with responders who were purposefully selected in order to ensure data quality control. This was done to make sure

that the interview guide and questionnaire used to gather relevant data were clear, accurate, correct, and relevant.

3.5.2 Reliability

Relevance in the research results is necessary for reliability, which is tied to the consistency and trustworthiness of the whole research process (Kvale, 2009). Thus, an instrument that consistently yields the same findings when used again and is characterized by objectivity and accuracy is said to be trustworthy. The utilization of secondary data from previous researchers was crucial for this study because reliability could be attained by consulting other research projects that yield identical results from the same subject. The ultimate goal of this study is to ensure that the tools and methods are consistent in producing the expected results. This is understood to be accomplished by accurately specifying the data needed. Therefore, it is necessary to examine and pre-test these tools on the relevant population using qualified experts, including the supervisor, in order to guarantee their dependability.

3.5.3 Pilot questionnaire testing

A pilot research was carried out with respondents from the Nakawa Division. The purpose of the pilot research was to determine if the participants understood the interview guide and questionnaire, as well as to identify any questions that would be confusing or time-consuming to complete. According to Mugenda (2003), pilot questionnaire testing is essential to determining the accuracy and dependability of the instrument. A few queries that were determined to be unclear were changed appropriately. In order to increase clarity, decrease ambiguity, and guarantee that the intended replies are obtained, questions about the financial management and performance of commercial banks were rephrased as necessary.

3.6 Data analysis techniques

Data capturing was done using Microsoft Excel. The data was entered into Microsoft Excel sheets for analysis. Data was analyzed quantitatively.

The study used SPSS in analyzing the data. The study used descriptive and inferential statistics to correlate each independent variable that is Lockdown and curfew, Workplace closure, responsiveness; against the dependent variable sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

The study adopted the model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon$$

Where:

Y is sustainable livelihood of informal workers

β_0 is a constant

$(\beta_i; i=1, 2, 3)$ are the Beta coefficients

X1 is Lockdown and curfew

X2 is Workplace closure

X3 is responsiveness

ε is the error term

3.7 Ethical considerations

The Directorate for Higher degrees and Research of Kampala International University granted me permission to conduct the study and was issued an introductory letter. I explained to all the respondents the purpose of the study ensuring that the information obtained from them would be for academic purposes only, and that their participation in the study was voluntary. The techniques used were familiar and whenever in doubt I would seek clarification from my Supervisor. It involved capturing and the interpretation of relevant data according to general methodological standards. To the respondents and study subjects, information given had to remain confidential and be of use only for purposes indicated in the justification of the study.

3.8 Limitations of the study

Occasionally, it was impossible to collect all data from all respondents because some were unwilling to provide information owing to the sensitivity of the issue under research. This was remedied by reassuring responders of the importance of the information and promising them that it would be treated with the utmost secrecy.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter focused on data presentation, analysis and interpretation of findings on COVID-19 Pandemic and Sustainable Livelihood of Informal Workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda. The researcher obtained data from 370 respondents out of the 401 targeted by the study which is a response rate of 92.3 percent which shows that the responses are reliable. The chapter analysed the data as per the research objectives that is, effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division; effects of work place closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division and effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

4.2 Response rate

Response rate refers to the percentage of subjects who respond to questionnaires (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The researcher calculated the response rates of all categories of respondents in order to gauge his efficiency at eliciting data from various groups. The table below shows findings on the response rate of the respondents who participated in the study.

Table 4. 1: Response rates of respondents

Tool	Planned	Actual	Percentage
Questionnaire	340	340	91.9%
Interviews	20	20	5.4%
Focus Group Discussions	10	10	2.7%
Total	370	370	100%

Source: Primary data, 2023.

The researcher ascertained the character of the various respondents and discovered that out of all the respondents of which reflected the whole count of the respondents 100% responded fully to the questionnaires without any bias and this represented the best representation of the survey population.

4.3. Background information

The basic socio-demographic characteristics of respondents were probed, key among them included the following; gender, age, marital status current, level of education, and years of work experience.

Table 4. 2: Demography of the respondents

Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Gender		
Male	180	48.6
Female	190	51.4
Total	370	100.0
Age		
21 – 30 years	169	45.7
31 – 40 years	74	20.0
41 – 50 years	71	19.2
51 and above	56	15.1
Total	370	100.0
Education Level		
Primary	123	33.2
Lower secondary	168	45.4
Upper secondary (A level)	20	5.4
Tertiary	59	10.5
Total	370	100.0
Marital Status		
Single	227	61.4
Married	123	33.2
Widowed	15	4.1
Divorced	5	1.3
Total	370	100.0
Respondent's household size		
1-4	188	50.8
5-9	132	35.7

10-14	30	8.1
15+	20	5.4
Total	370	100.0
Main source of informal sector livelihood		
Enterprises relating to food	163	44.1
possessed and/or cared for retail stores	53	14.3
Maintained market booths unrelated to food	47	12.7
Salon/hairdressing	38	10.3
Bodaboda (motorcycle taxi riding)	36	9.7
Tailoring	12	3.2
Local brewing	9	2.4
Charcoal selling	6	1.6
Mobil money	6	1.6
Total	370	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2023

Results presented in Table 4.2 indicate the demographic information of the respondents. From the table, it can be observed that biggest percentage of financials were female representing 190 (51.4%). While their female counterparts were 180 which in terms of percentage was 48.6%. It is observed that the females were more than the males, it can be concluded that there is no fair representation of gender equality among the sampled respondents.

The results of the study in terms of age bracket, showed that out of 370 respondents, 169 respondents were 21 – 30 years, a representation of (45.7%) of the respondents. The least of the respondents were aged between 51 and above and they represented 15.1% of the total percentage of the respondents. On average most of the respondents were below between 21 and 50 years of age.

In terms of education levels of the respondents, the findings indicated that the majority of the respondents held Lower secondary of which represented 168 (45.4%) followed by 123(33.2%) were holding primary certificates of leaving, followed by those who attended to tertiary education hence they either held Diploma, Degree or Masters certificates, a representation of 39 (19.9%).

Marital status of the respondents as revealed from the table showed that the majority of the respondents 227 (61.4%) were single, while 15 (4.1%) were widowed. Those who were married were 123 represented 33.2% while those who were divorced among the respondents were totaling to 5 representing a percentage of 1.3%. The table further suggests that on average the greatest number of the respondents were actually single as they had the highest number of frequency. This does not contradict the Uganda Bureau of Statistics Report (2022), from which, the youths represent a big number of the population in Uganda (61.1%).

In terms of respondent's household size, the findings showed that the biggest number of respondents 188 (50.8%) were living in a numbers from 1-4 individuals in their house holds while the number of those who worked 5-9 was the second largest with 132 (35.7%). Those who lived in 10-14 had a frequency of 30 (8.1%). The least was for the group who lived in 15 and above with a frequency of only 20 (5.4%).

Finally, findings from above table showed that During the survey, all individuals primarily made their living through informal sector trades. 12.7% were engaged in enterprises relating to food, 14.3% possessed and/or cared for retail stores, 17% maintained market booths unrelated to food, 13% were in the hairdressing business, 9.7% were bodaboda (motorcycle taxi) riders, 2.4% sold local brew, 1.6% sold charcoal, and 1.6% ran a mobile money company. 57% of the study participants had changed their primary sources of livelihood from Non-food related market stall to those foods related market in the informal sector during the lockdown.

4.4 Descriptive statistics

This sections presents findings on descriptive analysis. The section has findings presented in tables and associate explanations. Respondents were requested to indicate to extent to which they agreed with statements on the objectives of the study. These were measured a 4-point Likert scale, ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (4). To measure the distribution of the distribution of the responses to the statements, mean and standard deviation were used.

4.4.1 The Effects of the Lockdown and curfew restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa division, Uganda.

The study sought to establish the effects of Lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

Table 4. 3 The effects of the Lockdown restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa division, Uganda.

Items	Mean	Std.	Interpretation	Rank
The Corona Virus Pandemic affected negatively the income	3.51	1.03	Very high	1
The Coronavirus Pandemic did not led to business bankruptcy	3.49	1.05	Very high	2
Majority of informal workers (vendors) have no access to transport	3.41	1.05	Very high	3
The corona virus have led to unemployment	3.39	0.91	Very high	4
Many vendors had access to supportive technologies which makes it harder to maximize the daily income	2.89	0.99	High	5
The corona virus led to increase in staff	2.66	1.00	High	6
The corona virus led to lose all income from job or business	2.55	1.02	High	7
During corona virus earned about the same income as usual	2.49	0.97	Low	8
The corona virus pandemic have led workers to spend some nights inside the marketplace	2.44	0.80	Low	9
Average mean	2.98	.4640		

Source: Primary data, 2023

Key to interpretation of means

Mean range	Response range	Interpretation
3.26 -4.00	Strongly Agree	Very high
2.51-3.25	Agree	High
1.76-2.50	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.75	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

Results in table 4.3 indicated that the effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal worker in Nakawa division, is generally high and this was indicated by the overall mean of 2.92, implying that Lockdown and curfew restrictions greatly affected the livelihood asset of informal worker in Nakawa division.

Results further indicated that consequences of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood differed on different items and in different perspectives; for example, Corona Virus Pandemic affected negatively the income (mean=3.51), this is in line with one of the Informal workers in Nakawa Division who said that:

“My husband's place of employment's markets closed first, so we were unable to obtain funds to pay our rent as usual while still purchasing food for the kids. Prior to COVID-19, I didn't have a job; all of our needs were met by my husband, who sold garments in the market. However, owing to COVID-19 and the lockdown, he was unable to continue working, necessitating my involvement as a woman to begin seeking for food to feed my family at home. We were all uncomfortable and under pressure due to the scarcity of food in the home. I couldn't simply sit there and watch them, my family, go hungry, so I took on the role of household provider, which was completely foreign to me. I built this small brewery with a loan from a friend for 100,000 UGX (about USD 28).” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

The Pandemic of Coronaviruses did not lead to business bankruptcy (mean=3.49), this is in line with one of the Informal workers in Nakawa Division who said that:

“I've been treated horribly by it (COVID-19), and I'm not even sure how to convey it all. Life was nice while I worked in Nansana [Town] with my three pals before COVID. One of us worked in mobile money, the other in a video library, and two of us were barbers in a salon. We were employed by a single arcade where the video library belonged to one employer, while the salon and mobile money belonged to another. Our happiness and quality of life were excellent. When the 14-day lockdown began, we believed that it was all in good fun. The salons were initially open, so we carried on with our job, assuming everything would be alright. But as time went on, the bosses said that they could no longer afford the rent of Uganda Shillings (UGX) 400,000/= (USD 111) [1 USD = 3600 UGX]. We remained alone without anything to do. All places of work were closed.” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

Majority of informal workers (vendors) have no access to transport (mean=3.41), this is in line with one of the Informal workers in Nakawa Division who said that:

“When the schools closed, I lost my professional employment where I had a guaranteed monthly salary. It was little, but it was enough to support my family

and me. My younger sister was employed by me to sell fruit at Nakawa Market, but she was forced to resign from her employment since she was unable to go to and from the market every day as a result of COVID-19-related control measures including curfews and the closing of public transportation. Suddenly, our family had no money coming in. Even though we persisted for some time, using my savings” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

Corona virus have led to unemployment (mean=3.39), this is in line with one of the Informal workers in Nakawa Division who said that:

“Since my line of work necessitates interaction with people, COVID-19 and its accompanying control measures, particularly social withdrawal, had a profound impact on me and my source of income. Due to the security officers chasing me away from my work station at just after 7:00 p.m., the introduction of a [nighttime] curfew had a bigger impact on my business than COVID-19 itself. Customers couldn't roam about freely to find my services because of the curfew. I once spent several nights sleeping on an empty stomach because I couldn't get even one customer to give me money to buy food.” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

Many vendors had access to supportive technologies which makes it harder to maximize the daily income (mean=2.89), The corona virus led to increase in staff (mean=2.66), the corona virus led to lose all income from your job or business (mean=2.55), during corona virus earned about the same income as usual (mean=2.49), the corona virus pandemic have led the informal workers to spend some nights inside the marketplace (mean=2.44). hence implying that the effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood assets the impact was felt by the informal sectors workers in their earnings since they are unable to access the workplace throughout the lockdown and curfew restrictions.

From the foregoing responses, it appears that the participants' livelihoods were badly impacted mostly by the lockdown and curfew restrictions. Restrictions on facilitators like transportation and public gatherings had an indirect impact on some, while the closing of their trade and the termination of a portion of the staff to decongest workplaces in accordance with the COVID-19 social distancing standards directly affected others. Overall, the Nakawa division's informal sector populations had fewer resources for supporting themselves thanks to the COVID-19 lockdown and related restrictions. These effects included a variety of complex negative effects

on market forces, such as decreased demand, restricted access to means of subsistence, reduced productive time, and higher operating costs.

Table 4. 4: Linear regression for lockdown and curfew restrictions and livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.582 ^a	.461	.453	.50771

a. Predictors: (Constant), lockdown and curfew,

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	76.207	1	76.207	124.078	.000 ^b
	Residual	194.861	368	.258		
	Total	201.068	369			

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

b. Predictors: (Constant), lockdown and curfew

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.091	.181		11.529	.000
	Lockdown curfew	.499	.061	.248	4.907	.000

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

Source: Primary data, 2023

The results show R Square =0.461 hence lockdown and curfew restrictions can independently explain 46.1% of the variability in reason for livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa

Division can be explained by the lockdown and curfew with the remaining percentage of 53.9% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to the livelihood of informal workers Nakawa Division. In addition, $t=4.907$; $p=0.000$ shows that lockdown and curfew restrictions is a significant determinant the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. Further, the model ANOVA findings ($F= 124.07$, $p=0.000 \leq 0.05$) indicated that the model was significant. Also, the model's beta ($\beta =0.248$, $p\leq 0.05$) indicates the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division would change by 0.248 standard deviations when lockdown and curfew change by one unit.

The null hypothesis, which states that there is no meaningful connection between curfew and lockdown restrictions and the livelihood of unemployed people in Nakawa Division, is therefore rejected. These results concur with those of Dzawanda (2021), who discovered a strong and favorable correlation between lockdown and people's quality of life.

4.4.2 Effects of workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

The Effects of workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda. was the second objective in this study and was measured using eleven items in the questionnaire. Each of these questions was based on a four point Likert scale and respondents indicated the extent to which they agree or disagree with each question, their responses were analyzed using SPSS and summarized using means as indicated in tables

Table 4. 5: Effects of workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda

Items	Mean	Std.	Interpretation	Rank
The corona virus led to change the place of work	2.58	1.07	High	1.
Have keep working during the pandemic	2.55	0.81	High	2.
The corona virus pandemic led to arranged to work from home	2.53	1.10	High	3.
Due to COVID-19 I/my household have experienced famine	2.51	0.88	High	4.
The Corona virus have impacted negatively daily meals during the pandemic	2.50	0.83	High	5.
The Corona virus have led to Reprioritization of	2.61	1.26	High	6.

needs and expenditure				
The Corona virus have led to Relocated in the village	2.60	0.95	High	7.
The Corona virus have led to took a loan to survive	2.59	0.78	High	8.
Have borrowed money from family/relatives / friends	2.57	1.33	High	9.
The corona virus led to an unexpected reductions in household incomes.	2.48	0.88	Low	10.
The corona virus have led to Change in eating patterns	2.45	0.62	Low	11.
Overall means	2.54	.053	High	

Source: Primary data, 2023

Key to interpretation of means

Mean range	Response range	Interpretation
3.26 -4.00	Strongly Agree	Very high
2.51-3.25	Agree	High
1.76-2.50	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.75	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

Findings from the table 4.5 above show that when informal workers were asked whether the corona virus led to change the place of work, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.58 and had a stand deviation of 1.07 with a 1st rank. this is in line with one of the Informal workers in Nakawa Division who said that:

"While under lockdown, other individuals also had the notion to make this local charcoal, which hindered my capacity to get enough clients and support my family financially. Customers entirely decreased consequent to the intense rivalry in our area's local charcoal market, and I couldn't even scrape together the cash in a day to purchase a pound of posho. I would wander about our neighborhood, even outside of this zone, looking for a market for my charcoal, which permitted me to increase my revenue." (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

Considering the statement whether have keep working during the pandemic was rated with a mean of 2.55 with a standard deviation of 0.81 and ranked 2nd. As well, based on the statement that as stated: “The corona virus pandemic led to arranged to work from home”. This statement was rated with a mean of 2.53 and its standard deviation 1.10, ranked 3rd.

Due to COVID-19 I/my household have experienced famine, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.51 and a standard deviation of 0.88, ranked 4th. Moreover, “The Corona virus have impacted negatively daily meal during lockdown restrictions” and this was summarized with a mean of 2.50, a standard deviation of 0.83, 5th ranked. Moreover, the corona virus led to unexpected reductions in household incomes, this had a mean of 2.48, a standard deviation of 0.88 and ranked 10th. Based on whether there is corona virus have led to Change in eating patterns this was rated with a mean of 2.45 and with a standard deviation of 0.62.

this is in line with one of the Informal workers in Nakawa Division who said that:

“We could have breakfast, lunch, and dinner three times a day before the pandemic broke out, and life was excellent. However, the COVID-19 epidemic forced us to make spending cuts in order to survive longer on the little [money] we had. We would skip meals in order to preserve food for another day and stopped buying other luxuries like sugar and tea escorts.” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

Findings from the table above show that when informal workers were asked whether the Corona virus have led to Reprioritization of needs and expenditure, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.61 and had a stand deviation of 1.26 with a 6th rank.

Considering the statement whether where the Corona virus have led to Relocated in the village was rated with a mean of 2.60 with a standard deviation of 0.95 and ranked 7th. As well, based on the statement that as stated: “The Corona virus have led to take a loan to survive”. This statement was rated with a mean of 2.59 and its standard deviation 0.78, ranked 8th.

Have borrowed money from family/relatives/friends, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.59 and a standard deviation of 1.33, ranked 9th. Finally, the overall mean reveals that the Effects workplace closure on livelihood in Nakawa division had a mean rated to 2.54 and standard deviation of 0.53 estimated to 53%.

Since there was fierce competition from several new entrants into the charcoal sector during the lockdown, one informal worker claimed to have searched beyond her own neighborhood for consumers to sell her charcoal to. As a result, the market had shrunk.

“We made the decision to consume porridge throughout the day and one meal, primarily composed of posho, in the evening because feeding ourselves was challenging because we weren't making any money. That is how we got by. Naturally, we would have wanted to consume excellent, healthy meals like meat, but the cost was prohibitive for us. With what we had, we had to make do.” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

“During I really believed that things would get better over the first 14 days of the lockdown, but this turned out not to be the case. As things worsened, we sat there staring at one another. We decided that my wife should return to her house because I was unable to maintain the family on my own as both of us were unemployed, and that I should also return to my parents for a bit until things return to normal. I had no money, so I had to flee for my life. There, [in the hamlet], food was plentiful and fresh from the garden, so life was not too awful. My parents are really giving people; they provided me with everything...” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

“I personally believed COVID-19 was a passing phase. That kind of thinking prevented me from having the chance to mentally, physically, and financially prepare for the pandemic. I spent all of my funds during the first two weeks of the lockdown since I wasn't ready, assuming that we would soon resume working or continuing to receive our salaries. I didn't realize it would go on forever. The situation forced me to apply for a loan to cover my daily expenses, but the short repayment period prevented me from making the payments on time. As a man, I was eager for my people to perish from starvation. I then asked to join my acquaintance who was exporting waragi, a locally manufactured spirit, as the necessity for sanitizers during this time was critical. Although there was a later reduction in the number of employees, we initially worked together. I returned home after they initially severed the new ones. But I had set aside a small sum of money to buy meals for my family. I thus took out a loan from a close friend who employed me in the waragi industry, bought a motorcycle, and

began doing bodaboda. With merely 100,000 UGX [USD 27.8] in interest, he handed me 1,400,000 UGX [USD 389]. This loan is doable, in my opinion, because I am only required to pay 80,000 UGX [USD 22.22] every week for 18 weeks, unlike the previous one... Yes, the loan is reasonable since I can save money for the weekly loan payback and purchase food for my family with the 15,000–20,000 UGX [USD 4.2–5.6] profit I make each day.” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

If we consider workplace closure as doing something one has not planned for and using whatever one could find, many of our interlocutors had to improvise to survive given the abruptness of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Whether in the formal or informal sector at the time of lockdown, all our interlocutors reported unpreparedness when it was announced. Several were overwhelmed by its effects, which included loss of jobs and reduced incomes as described

Making do with whatever resources (such as food, money) were available (workplace closure) was usually the first step taken by our interlocutors to meet daily survival needs during the lockdown. Some of the participants who lost jobs or could not work during the lockdown started with using personal savings to continue making ends meet as they looked for alternative sources of livelihood. Savings that had been meant for future development were used to buy food and other necessities. There are also those who reported obtaining loans to buy food and other necessities. Even those who continued working had to contend with unexpected reductions in their income as a big part of the economy shutdown. They reported receiving reduced incomes, which necessitated re-adjusting their expenditures as well. Participants reprioritized needs and expenditures to ensure that they could meet their basic survival needs with the available resources. The priority was placed on spending on what was considered basic. On the whole, workplace closures such as changes in expenditure patterns and eating habits enabled our interlocutors to economize on available resources. Concomitantly, they were able to live off the little resources they had for an extended period of time.

All the above statements justify that workplace closure of informal workers due to corona virus greatly affected the sustainable livelihood of people in Nakawa Division.

Table 4. 6: Linear regression for workplace closure and livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.559 ^a	.267	.265	.50617

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.784	1	6.784	26.478	.000 ^b
	Residual	94.284	368	.256		
	Total	101.068	369			

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

b. Predictors: (Constant), workplace closure

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.965	.197		9.953	.000
	Workplace closure	.401	.058	.259	5.146	.000

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

Source: Primary data, 2023

The results show R Square =0.267 hence workplace closure can independently explain 26.7% of the variability in reason for livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division can be explained by the workplace closure with the remaining percentage of 73.3% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to the livelihood of informal workers Nakawa Division. of the variations on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. In addition, t=5.146;

$p=0.000$ shows that Workplace closure is a significant determinant on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. Further, the model ANOVA findings ($F= 26.478$, $p=0.000 \leq 0.05$) indicated that the model was significant. Also, the model's beta ($\beta =0.259$, $p \leq 0.05$) indicates the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division would change by 0.259 standard deviations when Workplace closure change by one unit.

Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between Workplace closure and livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division is rejected. These findings agree with those of Bushra (2022). who found a significant and positive association between Workplace closure and livelihood of people.

4.4 The effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal sector in Nakawa Division, Uganda.

The Effects responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda was the third objective in this study and was measured using ten questions in the questionnaire, these questions were based on a four point Likert scale and respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with each question, their responses were analyzed using SPSS and summarized using means and standard deviations as indicated in tables 4.7;

Table 4. 7: The effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

Items	Mean	Std.	Interpretation	Rank
The informal workers have not received income support allowance given by the government due to COVID-19	3.19	1.08	High	1
The informal workers have not received Social Assistance from NGO'S or International Organization	3.17	1.01	High	2
The government not provided sufficient support due to COVID-19	3.08	0.94	High	3
Some informal workers needed social Assistance during Corona Virus	3.05	0.94	High	4
The government have provided food support for informal workers.	2.43	0.96	High	5
It was easy for the informal workers to take loan from the bank during Corona Virus	1.53	0.66	Low	6
Overall means	2.74	.658	High	

Sources: Primary data, (2022)

Key to interpretation of means

Mean range	Response range	Interpretation
3.26 -4.00	Strongly Agree	Very high
2.51-3.25	Agree	High
1.76-2.50	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.75	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

Results in table 4.7 indicated that effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, is generally high and this was indicated by the overall mean of 2.74, implying that Corona Virus Pandemic greatly affected the Informal sector in Nakawa, Division due to lack of preparedness in case of emergency.

Results further indicated that the effects of responsiveness on livelihood for informal workers in Nakawa Division differed on different items and in different perspectives; for example, the informal workers have not received income support allowance given by the government due to COVID-19 (average mean=3.19). The informal workers have not received Social Assistance from NGO'S or International Organization (mean=3.17), The government not provided sufficient support due to COVID-19 (mean=3.08), In relation to the effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal Workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda, informants had the following to reveal;

“Towards the middle of the lockdown, the government gave us food- posho and beans- which sustained us for some weeks. This support from the government enabled my family to at least access food amidst all the constraints posed by the lockdown. However, they gave us food for five people, yet we were eight. The beans were not good; even after consuming a lot of charcoal to boil they were never tasty. Also, the president’s directive against collection of rent from tenants during the lockdown made it possible for us to survive. We could concentrate the little money we had on buying basic needs like food and water . . . I borrowed money from my friend and started brewing alcohol. It is this friend who advised me to start an income-generating activity to fend for my family and gave me an interest-free loan. Because we couldn’t afford to eat all the three meals, in most cases I would send the younger children to my friend’s home

because for her she had enough food. This helped us to save on charcoal and food for supper.” (Informant 27, Nakawa Division, 2022).

Some informal workers needed social Assistance during Corona Virus (mean=3.05), The government have not provided food support for informal workers. (mean=2.43), It was easy for the informal workers to take loan from the bank during Corona Virus (mean=1.53).

In relation to the effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal Workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda, informants had the following to reveal;

“I spent the lockdown in Nansana with my brothers. Where we were sleeping we had no rent and we had to leave the house; we had nowhere to get money to pay rent. I had to join my three brothers who were staying this side. They told me, ‘come this way, we live together and eat the little posho that was given by government’. The major issue we had was a shortage of food. We managed to get by on the meager posho that the government provided. They gave us beans and posho of extremely bad quality, which you had to simmer for three days while they were getting ready. To prepare it, you would spend around 2000–3000 UGX on charcoal (laughter). From daylight to night, we would cook the raw beans on the charcoal burner. Before they opened [lifted the lockdown], we consumed the entire pot of posho. We were all unemployed, therefore we did not have the money to buy meals. We requested food items from a store employee who was also our pal on credit. We have been paying slowly until now we have not yet cleared him. In addition, we used to call our mother in the village to send us food. She would look for a truck coming this side then she sends matooke to us. That is how we survived.” (Informant 12, Nakawa Division, 2022).

“having helpful and dependable friends, like the one who gave me the boda boda and the other who let me work as a turn boy on his truck to continue earning some money to get by even though I wasn't being paid. We only had one meal a day since finding food was difficult; it was often posho, especially in the evening. Receiving food from the government was really encouraging. However, at first they did not give us much thought since they thought we were well off based on the appearance of our home, a multi-story structure. We only got

government food by registering at another friend's rental house because the distributors assumed that we who were staying in a storied building were better off than the others. I had prior membership and savings in the village SACCO in my home district of Katakwi that made it easier for me to get a loan to start up the fish business. Then the landlord was patient and allowed us to stay in his house and pay him on a later date; which was after the lifting of the lockdown. This enabled us to concentrate the little earnings on food. Then our boss occasionally gave us some money which kept us going.” (Key informant, Nakawa Division, 2022).

The above statements imply that Corona Virus Pandemic greatly affected the responses from external, making the assistance to be insufficient to people, the finding show how unprepared the informal worker were and put light in their lack and leading us to understand that poor Safety net, socio protection, financial difficulties in household due to closure of businesses all negatively impacted the livelihood of informal sector.

People in informal settlements relied heavily on both statutory and informal safety nets to survive the COVID-19 lockdown, despite these sometimes being overextended. The study participants acknowledged their appreciation for our help in keeping basic essentials like food and shelter available. as well as in helping them to restructure their means of subsistence. Formal security nets were mainly made up of government policy interventions, in-kind assistance, and credit from financial institutions like money lenders and savings and loan cooperative organizations (SACCOs). On the other hand, Informal safety nets consisted of monetary, non-financial, and moral assistance from relatives and other contacts. A number of individuals shared their experiences of how government-sponsored food assistance for disadvantaged urban populations, policy directives postponing rent payments, financial, in-kind, and moral support from family and friends, and credit availability, or a combination of these, served as a lifeline during the lockdown. Because there was no emergency preparedness in place, the government's efforts to support informal laborers were insufficient.

Table 4. 8: Linear regression for responsiveness and livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.424 ^a	.170	.167	2.60526

a. Predictors: (Constant), Responsiveness

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	108.787	1	108.787	15.452	.000
	Residual	499,871	368	7.040		
	Total	608.658	369			

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

b. Predictors: (Constant), Responsiveness

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	17.708	3.378		5.242	.000
	Responsiveness	.805	.205	.423	3.931	.000

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

Source: Primary data, 2023

The results show R Square =0.170 hence responsiveness can independently explain 17% of the variability in reason for livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division can be explained by the responsiveness with the remaining percentage of 83% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to the livelihood of informal workers Nakawa Division. In addition, t=3.931;

$p=0.000$ shows that responsiveness is a significant determinant on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. Further, the model ANOVA findings ($F= 15.452, p=0.000 \leq 0.05$) indicated that the model was significant. Also, the model's beta ($\beta =0.423, p \leq 0.05$) indicates the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division would change by 0.423 standard deviations when responsiveness change by one unit.

Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between responsiveness and livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division is rejected. These findings agree with those of Dang et al. (2020) who found a significant and positive association between responsiveness and livelihood of people.

4.7 COVID-19 pandemic and sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

The combined effects of lockdown curfew, workplace closure and responsiveness on Sustainable livelihood in Nakawa Division was tested through multiple regression model. The findings are presented in Table 4.9.

Table 4. 9: Showing regression Model on COVID-19 pandemic and sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.355 ^a	.126	.119	.49130

a. Predictors: (Constant), responsiveness, workplace closure, lockdown curfew

ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	12.724	3	4.241	17.571	.000 ^b
Residual	88.344	366	.241		
Total	101.068	369			

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

b. Predictors: (Constant), Responsiveness, Workplace closure, lockdown curfew

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	1.296	.236		5.495	.000
	Lockdown curfew	.157	.066	.130	2.385	.018
	Workplace closure	.255	.083	.165	3.072	.002
	Responsiveness	.213	.057	.192	3.750	.000

a. Dependent Variable: livelihood

Source: Primary data, 2023

In the regression analysis, R Square =0.126 shows that lockdown curfew, Workplace closure and responsiveness collectively explain 12.6% of the variability in reason for livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division can be explained by lockdown curfew, Workplace closure and responsiveness with the remaining percentage of 87.4% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to the livelihood of informal workers Nakawa Division. variations on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. ANOVA findings of $F=17.571$; $p=0.000$ indicates the effects is significant. From the findings, lockdown curfew, Workplace closure, responsiveness shows a statistically significant relationship with livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. There is a significant joint effects of lockdown curfew, Workplace closure, responsiveness on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. These outcomes concur with those of Pitoyo et al. (2020) and Nguimkeu and Okou (2020), who found a positive association between COVID-19 and livelihood of informal sector. The outcomes of the standardized coefficients demonstrate that the effects lockdown curfew, Workplace closure, responsiveness are all positive, shown by beta values of $\beta = 0.130, 0.165$ and 0.192 respectively. From the findings, the study model can be presented as;

$$Y = 1.296 + 0.130X_1 + 0.165X_2 + 0.192X_3 + 0.491$$

Where:

Y is Sustainable Livelihood

β_0 is a constant

(β_i ; $i=1, 2, 3, 4$) are the Beta coefficients

X1 is Lockdown and curfew

X2 is Workplace closure

X3 is responsiveness

ϵ is the error term

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presented the discussion of findings, conclusion, recommendations and areas for further research. The chapter is organized in five sections; the first section deals with discussions related to the research objectives, the second focuses on conclusions, the third section provides the recommendations and the fourth section presents areas for further study.

5.1 Discussion of the findings

This study investigated the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Uganda focusing on Nakawa Division as units of analysis and the objectives were; (i) to evaluate the effects of Lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal workers at Nakawa Division, Uganda, (ii) to assess the effects workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda, and (iii) to determine the effects of responsiveness on livelihood informal workers in Nakawa Division.

5.1.1 Effects of Lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal workers at Nakawa Division, Uganda

The finding revealed that lockdown and curfew restrictions significantly impact the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, accounting for 46.1% of variations. The null hypothesis, indicating no significant connection, is rejected, confirming a strong correlation between lockdown and quality of life, as found by Dzawanda (2021).

The study indicated that Nakawa Division's informal sector livelihoods were significantly impacted through the Lockdown restrictions. The pandemic outbreak and its accompanying limitations, like the closing of schools, "non-essential" businesses, public transportation, and the enforcement of and the enforcement of curfews, had a profound impact on the daily lives of Nakawa Division's casual laborers. Loss of employment is one of the lockdown's primary consequences brought on by business closures, the inability to commute to work and being fired to clear out workspaces or deal with other pandemic-related effects on businesses, as well as losses or reductions a household's earnings brought on due to low demand and mobility problems, high operating costs, and shortened working hours as a result of the curfew's implementation. The Ugandan government has implemented strict restrictions, affecting the

livelihoods of many people. Travel restrictions and company closures have severely impacted small businesses in Nakawa Division, leading to the loss of money and employment. The unofficial industry, including small restaurants, market vendors, and street vendors, has been particularly affected. The COVID-19 regulations have made it difficult for informal workers to operate their businesses, as they make less money, save less money, have fewer stable jobs, and rely heavily on daily cash flows (Sili, 2020). They also lack access to social protection and protections against termination, making their financial stability and way of life more vulnerable. Vendors have resorted to sleeping in markets, exposing themselves to malaria and violence, but business remains low due to the lack of travel to markets.

These findings are broadly in line with those of Deshpande (2021), who stated that the COVID-19 lockdown's principal consequences on the livelihoods of the informal sector and general people throughout the world have been identified as both job losses and income losses. Consequently, our research confirms that the COVID-19 epidemic and lockdown had mostly detrimental impacts on populations' livelihoods in the informal sector. The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, however, as this study demonstrates, had more than just negative Effects but also presented some opportunities, such as business openings associated with preventing COVID-19, such as making sanitizer, and compelled formerly dependent household members to begin income-generating activities.

5.1.2 Effects of workplace closure on livelihood of Informal workers in Nakawa division

The study found that workplace closure can explain 26.7% of the variations in the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. It is a significant determinant of their livelihood, with a t-value of 5.146 and p-value of 0.000. The model ANOVA findings indicate that the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division would change by 0.259 standard deviations when workplace closure changes by one unit.

The finding showed that the workplace closure brought about dynamic economic changes that were unprecedented and for which previously designed livelihood strategies and other plans could not be used. According to data, the informal workers in Nakawa Division faced challenges in surviving, they nonetheless took a number of steps to survive the lockdown. Many of them used their limited resources to improvise means of survival. These included altering spending patterns to emphasize basic requirements like food, soap, and water as well as changing eating habits to cut back on the number of meals consumed daily and to change the

diet to mostly consist of inexpensive items. They were able to reduce expenses and rely more on the existing resources. extant research also underscores the role of informal support networks and access to credit from financial and lending institutions in facilitating livelihood resilience in the context of COVID-19. Due to the quarantine, the restriction laws, and the escalation of food costs, informal laborers under COVID-19 have had difficulty providing nourishing meals for their families. Due to higher food prices and families' decreased income, most households must cut back on the amount and quality of their food, perhaps having long-term Effects on their dietary intake and health. However, other individuals who were in a better financial position bought commodities in great numbers and hoarded them consequently of the fear of a shortage of necessary goods and consumables. The most vulnerable families are concerned about exhausting their resources in these circumstances.

The outcomes are consistent with Rahman's findings from 2021, who claims that populations in South Asia's informal sector have also spoken about cutting expenses by prioritizing necessities, consuming less food, and choosing cheaper food as Adaptive strategies for managing the negative effectss of the COVID-19 lockdown on incomes. During the COVID-19 lockdown, greater than 50% of the residents of an informal urban settlement curtailed their consumption of pricey goods like meat in order to make ends meet. Additionally, several participants changed their line of work to one that was permitted to continue during the lockdown, moved their companies closer to their homes to avoid transportation challenges, and started offering mobile services. The propensity to adapt by switching trades and offering mobile services like selling door-to-door additionally been noted among persons in the informal sector worldwide (Shupler, 2021).

The finding disagrees with Ouoba and Sawadogo (2022) who noted that COVID-19 didn't possess a significant influence on the likelihood of becoming food insecure. Two factors justify these results. On the one hand, despite when the epidemic first started, dietary diversity has been maintained through the self-consumption of products and the purchase of various lower-cost products. Conversely, however, homes have been led to spend more of their income on food items than on nonfood items. Additionally, some households proceeded to liquidate their assets in favor of food expenditures. Finally, estimates show that COVID-19 has reduced household incomes by increasing their likelihood of ending up in poverty. These income losses have led such households to resort to other coping strategies and to harness their capacity for

resilience to adapt to the resulting shock. At all levels of our analysis, social security was not found to be a mitigating factor for the shock.

5.1.3 Effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division

The study found that responsiveness can explain 17% of variations in the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. It is a significant determinant of their livelihood, with a t-value of 3.931. The model ANOVA findings showed a significant relationship, and the livelihood of these workers would change by 0.423 standard deviations when responsiveness changes by one unit. This supports the findings of Dang et al. (2020), who found a positive association between responsiveness and livelihood.

The results showed that informal safety nets, which included monetary, in-kind, and spiritual assistance from participants' kin and non-family connections, greatly aided the participants' ability to survive. The official ones included providing food aid, restricting access to loans from banking institutions and deferring rent payments. Only a small percentage of unorganized employees have access to social services, and those who have received food aid in Nakawa Division have complained that the food was of poor quality. Even though social protection is simply meant to make people more robust in the face of shocks, it should be sufficient to give individuals the necessary buffers for them to rapidly recover from the crisis. None of the actions, though, were enough to make up for the losses that people endured due to the lockdown. The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) in Nakawa Division has been criticized for its insufficient coverage of workers, leading to many people losing employment due to legal inconsistencies in labor market interventions. Food assistance was also insufficient to support households during the lockdown period, and the government's efforts to distribute food exposed flaws in identifying those in need and providing assistance. The lack of a social registration system and insufficient information on underprivileged groups and unofficial workers further hindered the effectiveness of the NSSF. Additionally, mobile phone coverage is inadequate, particularly among the weak and disadvantaged, and there is minimal compatibility between mobile phones and other registration systems.

The result is consistent with Pitoyo et al. (2021) they discovered that the majority of responders had high hopes for social assistance to stabilize their livelihood, but the government has limitations in providing social assistance for informal workers because of absence either data or funds. This has been significantly aided by grassroots movements providing aid packages.

Parents, relatives, and friends also have a crucial role in helping to survive during the crisis. The second issue is that, despite the fact that not all workers in the informal sector are considered impoverished, the government's social assistance programs are primarily determined by a person's or household's level of poverty.

This result contradicts Steenbergen's (2021) observation that individuals who had access to government relief assistance during the COVID-19 limitations on livelihoods had higher food security than those who did not. Steenbergen also discovered that despite disruptions in food production and supply brought on by COVID-19 control measures, government fiscal measures including capping the pricing of key items and offering fuel subsidies managed to sustain access to food.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 Effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood in Nakawa Division

The study concluded that lockdown and curfew restrictions significantly impacted the livelihoods of informal workers in Nakawa Division, Uganda. The restrictions placed in by the government to reduce the infection's spread including school closures, non-essential businesses, public transportation, and curfews, have resulted in job losses, reduced household income, and mobility issues. Small businesses in Nakawa Division were severely affected, with small restaurants, market vendors, and street vendors being the most affected. Many informal workers make less money, save less money, have fewer stable jobs, and rely heavily on daily cash flows. The government's strict restrictions have harmed many people's capacity to maintain their livelihood, particularly on the unorganized field, they have found themselves in a vulnerable situation.

5.2.2 Effects of workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa division

My study offers suggestive evidence of workplace closure on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division, and how they have managed in order to endure the epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented economic changes, causing challenges for informal workers in Nakawa Division. They have taken various steps to survive, such as altering spending patterns, changing eating habits, and relying more on existing resources. Informal support networks and availability of credit from financial and lending institutions have played a crucial role in facilitating livelihood resilience during the outbreak. Within the face of this pandemic, workers on the unorganized field adopted a livelihood strategy dominated by the sacrifice type, especially by saving household spending. The bad pandemic's

effects on their livelihoods has caused most of them to expect social assistance, but many of them do not get it.

5.2.3 The effects responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

This study concludes that the unorganized sector is one sector that has existed severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was unable to endure the crisis because of the pandemic, even though the informal sector was relatively resilient. Informal safety nets, including monetary, in-kind, and spiritual assistance, significantly aided participants' survival during the COVID-19 lockdown. Official safety nets included providing food aid, restricting access to loans, and deferring rent payments. However, only a small percentage of informal employees had access to social services, and social assistance in Uganda was for those who qualify as poor. The government's capacity to determine who needs help and how to provide it was questioned, with a lack of a social registration system and inadequate data on disadvantaged groups and informal workers. Digital banking, especially mobile money services, was also insufficient. The part that the government's social assistance is crucial in supporting the livelihood strategies for workers on the unorganized field. Therefore, social safety nets need to be improved with regard of the quantity and accuracy of the assistance target.

5.3 Recommendations

The study recommends that government of Uganda would adopt specific policies in order to enhance Sustainable Livelihood in relation to the situation of future crisis like COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in light of research findings, the following recommendations were made:

5.3.1 Effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal workers at Nakawa Division, Uganda

The study confirmed a positive and significant effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. However, from the findings of the study, the COVID-19 has exposed the community of Nakawa Division in a vulnerable position. This study recommends that a clear government response strategy plan is needed, in diversifying livelihoods and is critical in building resilience to future pandemics and economic shocks. Governments should support the evolution of alternative livelihood options, including agriculture other income-generating activities and empowering sustainable livelihood. Supporting small and micro-enterprises can also play a crucial part in diversifying livelihoods.

5.3.2 Effects of workplace closure on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa division

The study confirmed significant Effects of workplace closure on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. However, from the results of the study, inadequate preparation in emergencies. This study recommends that since COVID-19 is an unprecedented global crisis and uncertainty about its scope and its comeback. Creating and bolstering microfinance institutions: While the benefits of microfinance are widely acknowledged, their role in helping people rebuild their livelihoods is starting to draw more attention internationally as a result of the successes of microfinance programs in Bangladesh and India over the past few decades. In addition to helping individuals fulfill their basic requirements, well-crafted programs tailored to specific populations give them a way to replace lost assets, restart enterprises, create new livelihood plans, and lower their risk of repeat disasters. Low-income individuals who often do not have access to traditional financial institutions are provided with a range of financial services together referred to as microfinance. Traditional banks consider those living below the poverty line to be too big of a risk because they lack collateral, have a poor credit history, or have inconsistent income patterns. Unlicensed collectors and money lenders sometimes demand excessive interest rates to those who have no other choices. In such cases, breaking out from the cycle of poverty could be almost impossible. Microfinance institutions (MFI) provide a variety of services, including as insurance, savings, loans, and capacity-building, to assist individuals create the assets necessary to escape the cycle of poverty in an attempt to narrow the gap.

5.3.3 Effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division.

The study confirmed a positive and significant effects of responsiveness on the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. However, from the findings of the study, inadequate registration of the informal sector and lack of social protection. This study recommends that the government develop social registries that are also linked to telephone and mobile banking services. These are crucial in identifying target groups for social protection, especially during emergencies such as the COVID-19 lockdown; and being able to provide them with social assistance (cash transfers) without needing to congregate them in one place or go to their homes.

Financing for social protection. One of the limitations to providing social protection is financial. With so many priorities to address, the government finds itself unable to pay for social protection interventions for all categories of the population that need it. As a way of

guiding how financing social protection should be approached, the National Social Protection Policy proposes such as a brief and medium term, some aspects of social protection would be financed by the government in partnership with Development Partners; moreover, over time, a proportion of domestic revenues would be determined through studies and appropriated to finance social protection services. The policy also emphasizes the key role of private-sector employers contributing to social insurance and the need for the government to subsidize social insurance for the informal sector. A study on issues in financing social protection expenditure in Uganda suggested potential sources of funding for social protection to include taxation, oil revenues, regular external partner support, increasing social insurance base, and increasing subscription to health insurance. The government needs to explore and grow these options if it is to have resources to finance social protection.

5.4 Recommendations for further research

The research was restricted to the Nakawa Division; descriptive study design could be carried out in all Division in Uganda. That would improve the findings of the study, thus giving it a wider scope to better examine COVID-19 pandemic and Sustainable livelihood. Secondly, further research could be carried out on other factors which might have an influence on Sustainable livelihood of informal sector. For example, availability of resources and management structures. This study adopted a mixed methods research design in which the research questions were sought and answered. This study recommends that other studies adopt a qualitative research design. This would incorporate qualitative methods thus giving a broader explanation of the problem under study.

5.5. Contribution to the knowledge

This study fills the knowledge gap that existed from previous studies. This study examined lockdown and curfew restrictions, workplace closure and responsiveness to the livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division. The study revealed the relationship between each of the independent variables with the dependent variable. Previous studies did not clearly and adequately the association between these variables. Most studies have focused on COVID-19 and livelihood income. This study's concentrate on the examination of COVID-19 pandemic on the sustainable livelihood of informal workers fills that gap and contributes to knowledge.

This study fills the contextual gap created by previous studies. Most of the studies had been conducted in other countries or jurisdictions. These countries' social, economic, political and legal frameworks are different from Uganda. This adds to the knowledge of the COVID-19

pandemic on the sustainable livelihood of informal workers in the Nakawa Division. Additionally, studies conducted locally had not focused on Nakawa Division gap is filled through this study. It will contribute also to the knowledge and application in the area of project management by creating an adequate emergency project appropriate for future lockdown and future shock. Sampling was done in each slum area of Nakawa Division, 6 informal settlements. This gave the study more credibility because of diverse geographical representation of the research population. In addition, ensuring adequate attention and protection for the poorest and most vulnerable sections of the population and promoting livelihood resilience among urban residents during lockdowns and similar shocks in the future necessitated harnessing Social protection.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

My name is Sumuni Sifa Dorcas, a student in Master of Arts in Project planning and management of KIU. I am conducting an academic research “COVID-19 pandemic and sustainable livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division Kampala, Uganda”. The purpose of this study and its findings is purely academic. I kindly request for your assistance by sparing some of your precious time to answer the following questions. This research interview will take about 30 minutes only. All information provided will be handled and treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you.

SUMUNI SIFA DORCAS

SECTION A. Biographical data of the respondents

	Tick
Gender	
Male	
Female	
Age	
21 – 30 years	
31 – 40 years	
41 – 50 years	
51 and above	
Education Level	
None	
Primary	
Lower secondary	
Upper secondary (A level)	
Tertiary	
Marital Status	

SECTION B: Effects of lockdown and curfew restrictions on livelihood of informal worker in Nakawa division, Uganda

No	Statements	1	2	3	4
1.	The Corona Virus Pandemic affected negatively the income				
2.	The Coronavirus Pandemic led to business bankruptcy				
3.	Majority of informal workers (vendors) have no access to transport				
4.	The corona virus have led to unemployment				
5.	Many vendors did not have the necessary access to supportive technologies which makes it harder to maximize the daily income by doing delivery during social distance restrictions				
6.	The corona virus led to increase in staff				
7.	The corona virus led to lose all income from your job or business				
8.	During corona virus earned about the same income as usual				
9.	The corona virus pandemic have led the informal workers to spend some nights in the Market				

Response Mode	Rating	description	Legend
Strongly Agree	4	Strongly Agree	SA
Agree	3	Agree	A
Disagree	2	Disagree	D
Strongly Disagree	1	Strongly Disagree	SD

SECTION C: Impact of Workplace closure on livelihood of informal worker in Nakawa division, Uganda

No	Statements	1	2	3	4
1.	The corona virus led to change the place of work				
2.	Where you working during the pandemic				
3.	The corona virus pandemic led to arranged to work from home				
4.	Due to COVID-19 I/my household have experienced famine				
5.	The Corona virus have impacted negatively daily meal during lockdown restrictions				
6.	The Corona virus have led to Reprioritization of needs and expenditure				
7.	The Corona virus have led to Relocated in the village				
8.	The Corona virus have led to took a loan to survive				
9.	Have borrowed money from family/relatives/friends				
10.	The corona virus led to an unexpected reductions in household incomes.				
11.	The corona virus have led to Change in eating patterns				

SECTION D: effects of responsiveness on livelihood of informal workers in Nakawa Division

Response Mode	Rating	description	Legend
Strongly Agree	4	Strongly Agree	SA
Agree	3	Agree	A
Disagree	2	Disagree	D
Strongly Disagree	1	Strongly Disagree	SD

No	Statements	1	2	3	4
1.	The informal workers have not received income support allowance given by the government due to COVID-19				
2.	The informal workers have not received Social Assistance from NGO'S or International Organization				
3.	The government not provided sufficient support due to COVID-19				
4.	Some informal workers needed social Assistance during Corona Virus				
5.	The government have provided food support for informal workers.				
6.	It was easy for the informal workers to take loan from the bank during Corona Virus				

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

1. What is your view about COVID-19 in Uganda and in particular Nakawa Division?
2. What do you think has brought about COVID-19 that has influence your livelihood?
3. How long has COVID-19 restrictions been experienced in Uganda in particular Nakawa Division?
4. How would you describe the livelihood security situation in the area?
5. When you look at the incomes of the informal sector and the food prices, would you say access is guaranteed for the sustainable livelihood in this regard? Please explain
6. How COVID-19 has impacted personally your livelihood income? Please explain?
7. What has been the situation in your area in terms of lockdown and curfew restrictions?
9. In your own view, do prolonged lockdown and curfew restrictions normally was it a good idea?
10. For how long do prolonged COVID-19 restrictions last in your area?
11. What challenges have you faced during the lockdown and curfew restrictions?
12. In your opinion, would you say people in this areas are aware of safty net? Why do you say so?
13. Are there any deliberate efforts to educate households in the Division on safty net? You can include names of institutions involved if any.
14. What pandemic/choc adaptation and coping measures is government promoting and have they been implemented?
15. In light of COVID-19 situation, what the Government did to improve the livelihood security situation?
16. have received any social assistance from NGO's or government in this area?
17. Do you have anything else you would want to mention besides what has been asked above?

Yes

No

If yes, what is it

Thank you so much for your valuable time