WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT in Kenya

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• Development of the WEI represents a major milestone in the country's evidence-based policymaking and sets a baseline for monitoring of the government's progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) on achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

• The initiative was with collaboration State Department for Gender, UN Women and UNICEF
Domains of empowerment

• (a) Attitudes toward wife-beating,
• (b) Human and social resources, (indicators of educational attainment, exposure to media, exposure to family planning information, knowledge about modern contraception, knowledge about access to contraception, and knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission)
• (c) Household decision-making,
• (d) Control over sexual relations, and
• (e) Economic domain. (Paid employment and house or land ownership.)

*Weight of the domain was then distributed equally to each of its constituting indicators.*
Limitations

• The 2014 KDHS was mostly used in the production of WEI.
• Existing literature calls for a number of areas to be considered in the index however, the 2014 KDHS didn’t include this and neither was the data available in other survey vehicles.
• County disaggregated data was not possible and only at the national level (rural and urban)
• Lack of sex-disaggregated data on ICT enterprises survey on business ownership
• Lack of e-commerce (both buying and selling component) at county level.
Recommendations

• Expanding the consultations process to include a wide range of related stakeholders, particularly women in design of the measure of women's empowerment.

• Including data on women’s use to ICT at the individual level, including ownership, usage, and purpose of usage of mobile phone, computer and the internet.

• Including data e-commerce data on women on both aspect of those who buy products online and also those who sell products online

• Changing the sampling methodology to allow measurement of women's empowerment at the county level.
Recommendations Cont’

• Collecting information on women's knowledge of their legal rights and mechanisms, and institutions through which they can seek recourse and through which their rights are reinforced.

• Collecting data on women's access, ownership and usage of productive resources such as land, house, enterprises and other capital.

• Collecting data on women's participation and ability to engage in public speaking.

• Collecting data on women's psychological empowerment, including feelings of self-confidence, self-esteem and self-empowerment, as well as perceived psychological wellbeing.
Recommendations cont’

• Collecting data on women's perceptions of power and empowerment in the community.
• Collecting data on women's perceptions on empowerment of their spouses, parents, siblings and children.
• Collecting data on women's perceptions of power, and of their husbands', families', and communities' attitudes and expectations

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