



CHAT SITUATION/BASELINE SURVEY REPORT FOR CHASE

April 2023

Preliminary (*NOTES on preparatory information for the survey*)

- Based on 2019 KNBS data, the **total population** (Tharaka South at 75,250 and Mwingi North at 147,082) is **222,332**.
- Assuming that **50%** of the total population lies between the ages of 15 and 45, the **target population** is **111,166**.
- Using a **confidence level** of **95%** and a **confidence interval** of **6**, the **sample size** arrived at was **266**.
- 7 CORPs partnering with CHAT were sensitized on how to undertake the survey as the “interviewers and how to report using the KoboCollect.
- Each of the **7 CORPs** sensitized had a target to reach an average of **8 respondents** per day.
- The age and gender were distributed **representatively** between the required age bracket of 15 to 49 years.

Background information

Introduction

CHAT has been undertaking an FP intervention within the fragile Tana River Ecosystem for the last six years. Hence, the survey undertaken was more of a “mini-Situation Analysis rather than a “Baseline” in reality. During the exercise, CHAT was assisted by four community own resource persons (CORP) partners in the Tharaka South sub-county of Tharaka Nithi County and three CORP partners based in the Mwingi North sub-county of Kitui County.

It is also worth noting, that most of the respondents interviewed are from the communities that the CORPs have been reaching hitherto with most of outcomes being positive, the situation may be very different within neighbouring and distant communities that have not been reached with intensive sensitisation. Thus, the baseline only gives a real picture of the communities that the CORPs have reached in the past, and not the entire target population.

CHAT has 3 goals:

1. **Increase access** and use of family planning.
2. **Enable positive behavior change** for increased family planning uptake and environmental sustainability.
3. **Increase empowerment and resilience** of communities through self-sustaining governance structures- CHAT noted later that the survey questions had not captured to detail, an evaluation on this third goal, which translates to contributing to the sustainability of the project.

Methodology

The survey was conducted using a face-to-face approach to interviews - undertaken by CHAT’s CORP partners. Prior to the exercise, the CORPs were sensitized on how to undertake the exercise with CHAT’s M & E team accompanying them to the field to test and sharpen their interviewing skills. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data, while KoboCollect was used for reporting purposes.

Sample distribution

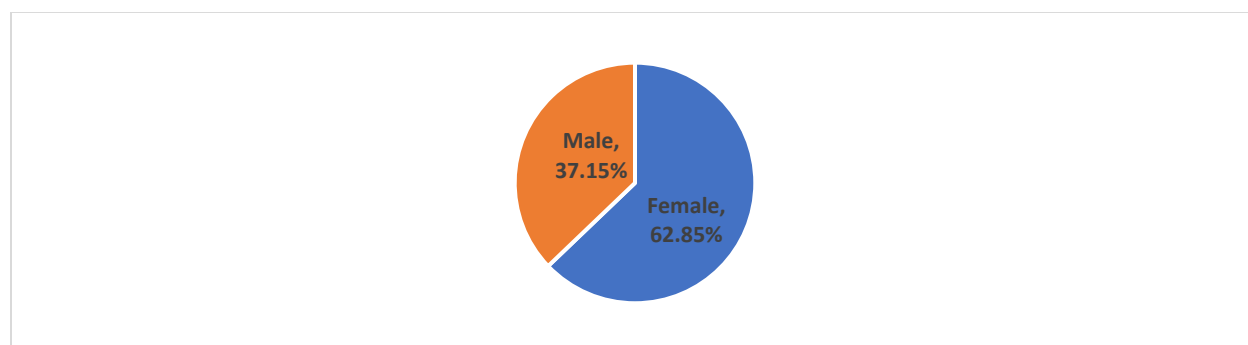
CHAT's CORP partners managed to interview 288 respondents distributed per county, gender and age as tabulated. The distribution aimed to reach both men and women classified into ages above 20 and below 19 years so as to get the 'real picture' of the community sampled population as detailed below. Though it is often the females being the direct beneficiaries of the FP intervention, men are key decision-makers on matters of FP, as CHAT also reaches them using their innovative door-to-door approach, thus important to include them in the interview.

(31.75% of the respondents were men, thus meeting the one-third gender rule).

Distribution per county

County	Frequency	Percentage %
Tharaka Nithi	163	56.6%
Kitui	125	43.4%
TOTAL	288	100%

Distribution per gender



Distribution per age

Age bracket	Frequency	Percentage %
Age above 20 years	223	77.43%
19 years and below	65	22.57%
TOTAL	288	100%



Photo 1. Justus, a CHAT staff, taking the CORPs through the reporting process using the KoboCollect tool at Kyuso in Mwingi North

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

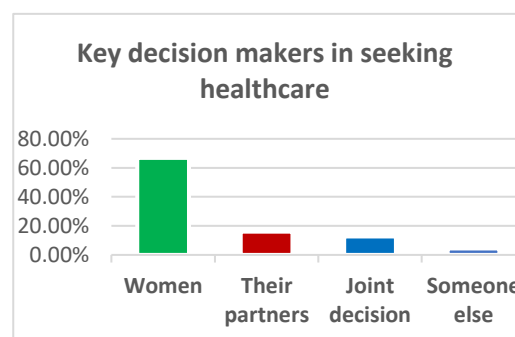
The baseline survey involved questions that would be categorised into three sections, including integrated FP information and service access, behaviour change communication (integrated with environment conservation awareness) This report will entail a summary of the findings based on the questions that were administered to both men and women.

a) Integrated FP information and access status

While doing the analysis and interpretation of the data collected, CHAT understands that assessing the level of knowledge of FP intervention was the basis for enhancing access. It is CHAT's belief that the access to FP services greatly depends on the information disseminated or availed by community members. This analysis entailed classifying the data collected in terms of:

i. Who usually makes decisions on whether women seek health care services:

Decision maker	Frequency	Percentage %
Women	121	66.85%
Their partners	29	16.02%
Joint decision	23	12.70%
Someone else	8	4.43%
TOTAL	181	100%

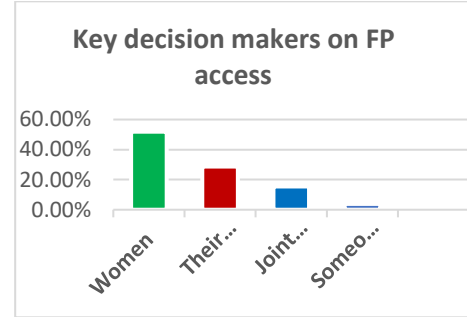


This particular question aimed at establishing the health-seeking/wellbeing behaviours among women and the decision makers directly influencing them, as this directly attributes to the uptake of FP. The analysis of the collected data showed that 66.85% of women were able to seek FP services on their own, while 16.09% sought permission from their partners and 12.70% made a joint decision with their partners. The remaining 4.43% of the women interviewed were influenced by others such as parents, guardians and friends. It also came out in Mwingi North that there was a religious group known as *Kavonokya* whose followers did not believe in the use of any drugs, thus they did not visit the facilities. The fact that most of the women were at liberty to make decisions regarding their health independently, showed that the communities are getting to understand their rights, including their right to access quality FP services alongside others.

ii. Who usually influences decisions on use of contraception among women:

Decision maker	Frequency	Percentage %
Women	94	51.93%
Their partners	52	28.73%
Joint decision	28	15.47%
Someone else	7	3.87%

TOTAL	181	100%
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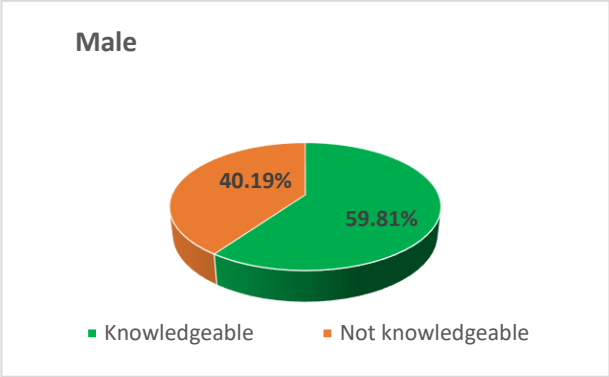
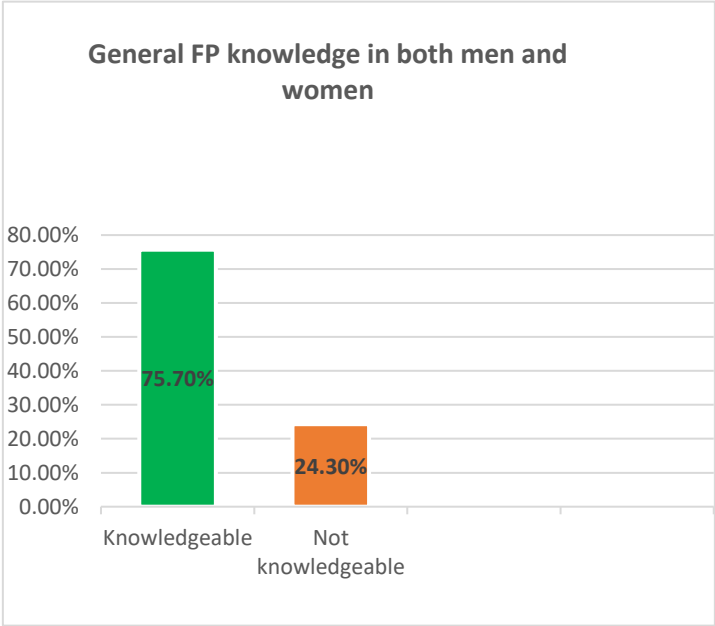
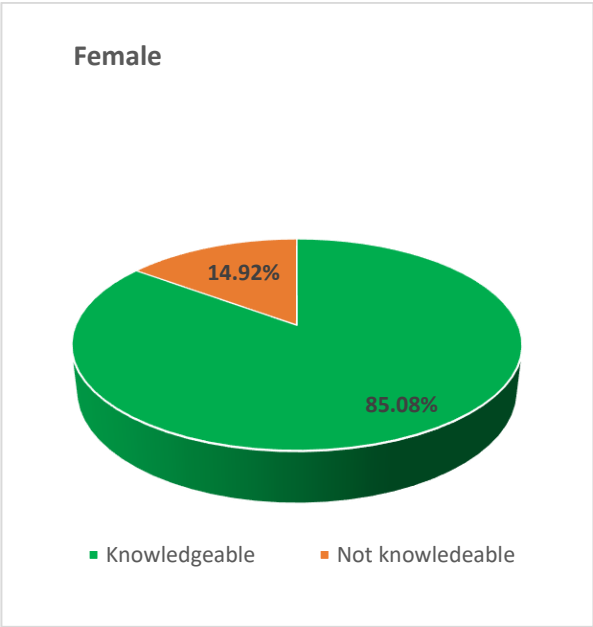


The survey also aimed at establishing the factors or contributors that influenced their uptake of different FP contraceptive methods available. It was established that 51.93% of the women were at liberty to make FP decisions on their own, while 28.73% of the had such decisions made by their partners. 15.47% of the women mentioned that they made FP decisions jointly by agreeing with their partners, while 3.87% decisions were influenced by others such as parents or guardians, friends, relatives and some adhered to the provisions of their religion.



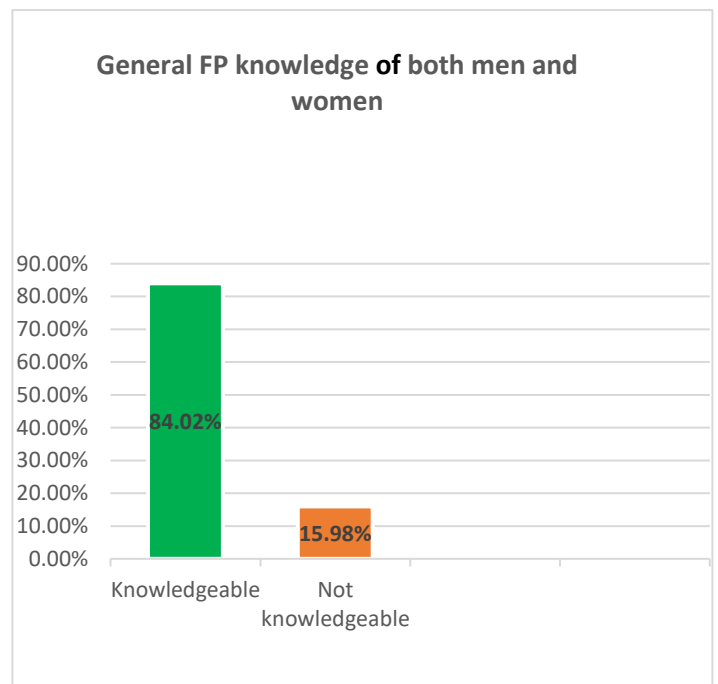
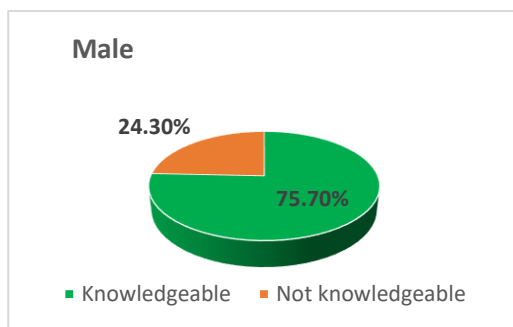
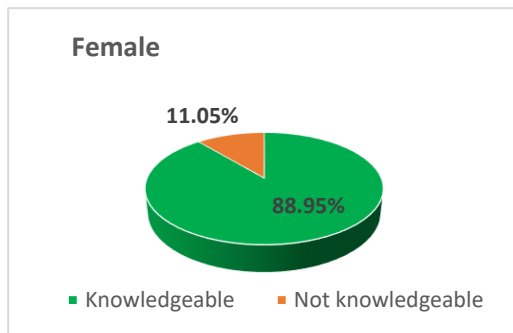
Photo 2. CORP Juliet, in Kitui County administering the questionnaire to a youth after being sensitised

iii. Knowledge of different modern FP methods by both men and women:



CHAT includes focussing on enhancing/building the sustainability of its interventions, which includes intensive sensitisation and awareness creation about FP so as to enable community members to make informed decisions. This survey purposed to establish the level of knowledge about FP amongst men and women in the communities. It was evident that women were more knowledgeable about FP at 85.08% compared to men at 59.18%. Generally, 75.7% of the respondents (representing the entire population) were able to mention or describe at least three FP methods, while 24.3% were not able. This showed that there remained a significant knowledge gap that needs to be addressed by the CORPs with CHAT’s support.

iv. Knowledge of ways of reducing sexual transmission of HIV among men and women:



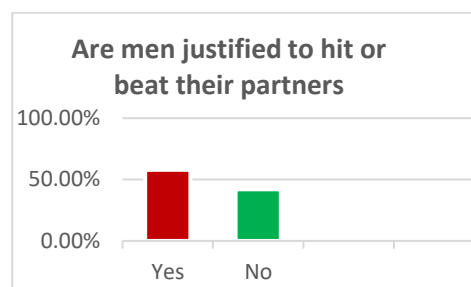
The survey also was keen to establish the broader knowledge of the general sexual and reproductive health at the community level, by identifying whether the community members were aware of ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV. This question also would be used to assess the quality and content of information delivered to the communities on various concerns during the sensitisation by the CORPs. Similar to the comparison of knowledge about FP methods, it was evident that women appeared to be more knowledgeable at 88.95% compared to men at 75.70%, though the gap was narrower. The general finding is that 84.02% of the respondents were more knowledgeable about HIV prevention methods, unlike minority 15.98% who had little or no knowledge. This implies that despite being sensitised about FP, CORPs are relatively successful at sensitising community members to be sexually responsible despite having access to FP services.

b) Behaviour-change communication status

Findings from men

Justification on whether men feel justified to hit or beat their wives (Gender Based Violence GBV) or partners if they refuse to have sex with them.

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	62	57.94%
No	45	42.06%
TOTAL	107	100%



While CHAT focuses on enhancing access to FP information and services, it is important to establishing whether the intervention positively influences the behaviour of the community members. As to whether men felt justified to hit or punish their wives or partners, should they refuse to engage in sex with them, the analysis shows that 57.94% felt justified, unlike the 42.06% of the respondents who were of a different opinion.

Findings from women

Establishing whether women feel they are able to safely decline to have sex with their husbands/partners

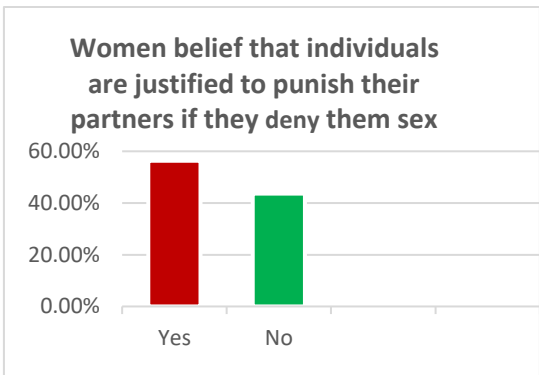
Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	112	61.88%
No	60	33.15%
Other	9	4.97%
TOTAL	288	100%



“On the other hand,” it was necessary to establish how women would respond to the question. 61.88% of the women interviewed mentioned that they would confidently say no to their partners if they didn’t want to have sex, while 33.15% could not and 4.97% mentioned that they would respond differently. This meant that the majority of women were getting more empowered to make decisions on what suits them or not, which would also including FP access.

i. The stand of women on whether men are justified to punish them (women) if they refuse to have sex with them.

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	102	56.35%
No	79	43.65%
TOTAL	181	100%



The survey also focused to further establish the opinion of women on whether it was right for their partners or husbands to punish them in the event they (women) refuse to have sex with them. 56.35% admitted that the men were justified to punish the women, while 43.65% were of the contrary opinion.

Generally, the implication arrived at regarding the three concerns analysed above, is that it is most likely that the issue of sexual and gender-based violence is evident within the communities. The fact that men feel justified to punish their partners, while majority of the women approve it, is undisputed evidence that the communities need to be well informed on how to address such concerns whenever they occur.

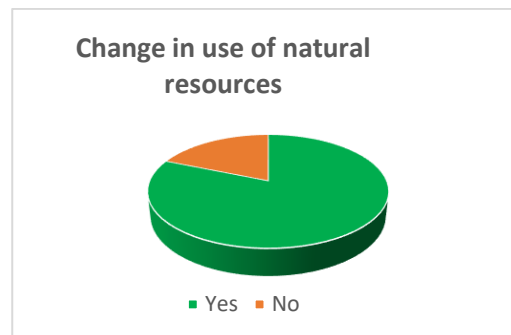
c) Environmental awareness status

CHAT integrates this component into their FP sensitisation approach (i.e., behaviour change). However, for the aspect of ease of identifying strengths and gaps CHAT has tried to pull out environmental points of interest.

Thus, CHAT designed a set of three questions for this survey that was administered to both men and women, whose intent was to assess ecological impact based on their increased knowledge about the importance of planning for their future as a result of accessing family planning services.

i. Change in the use of natural resources (i.e. use of water, trees, forests, grasslands, etc.) in the last three years

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	234	81.25%
No	54	18.75%
TOTAL	288	100%

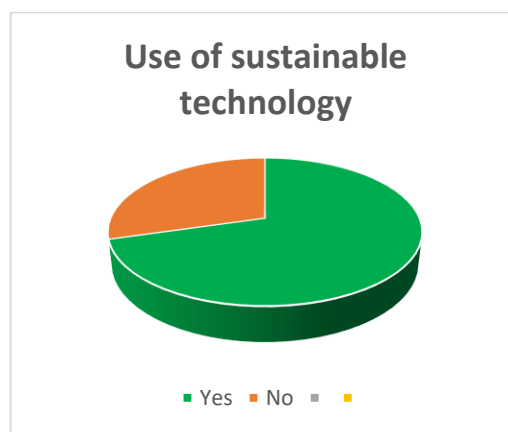


The data collected showed that 81.25% of the respondents had positively changed their use of natural resources. Though it is not possible to establish, this change is assumed to be attributed, either directly or indirectly, to the CORPs’ intensive sensitisation using CHAT’s innovative & integrated FP PHE approach. However, the other 18.75% remains a significant percentage that the CORPs should work towards sensitising and following up for positive change.

ii. Use of sustainable technology (i.e. fuel-efficient cookstoves, solar lamps, rainwater harvesting, etc.) in the last three years

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	203	70.48%
No	85	29.52%

TOTAL	288	100%
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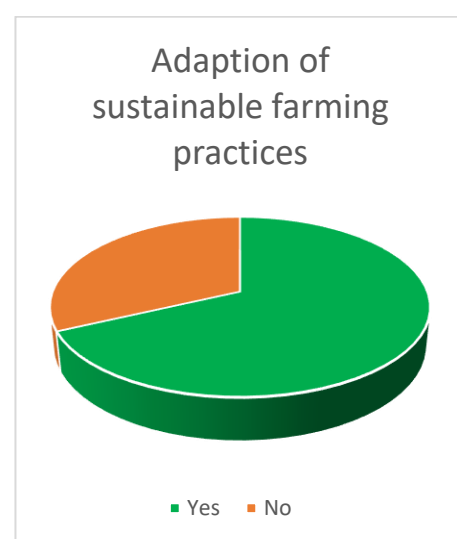


The findings of the survey show that 70.48% of the sampled population admitted to having embraced the use of sustainable and environment-friendly technology, such as fuel-saving cooking methods, solar lighting and harvesting of rainwater for domestic use. This indicates that the communities are getting to understand and appreciate the need for a safe and healthy environment. CHAT’s CORP partners, however have to ensure that the remaining 29.52% of the population should be sensitised and followed up to ensure environment-friendly lifestyles.

iii. Adapting farming practices (i.e., climate-smart agriculture, livestock management, etc.) to reduce land degradation

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	196	68.05%
No	92	31.95%

TOTAL	288	100%
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68% of the respondents’ feedback showed that they had started adapting sustainable farming practices that reduce the extent of land degradation.

The summary of the above indicators shows an average of 73.6% positivity in terms of communities' response to environmental conservation. Though not possible to establish the exact percentage attributed to CHAT, it is only fair to associate the outcome to CHAT's innovative PHE approach cascaded down to the communities through CHAT's CORP partners, besides other actors. However, CHAT establishes that there is still a great need for support required to realise an increase in the outcome and community response to environmental awareness since the gap at 26.4% is significant enough not to be ignored.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Generally, the analysis of the data collected shows positivity in CHAT's achievement of its integrated FP intervention in the Tana River Ecosystem, however, there is still room to improve on the attainment level of the indicators. CHAT strongly believes that continuous and gradual improvement is an attribute to the quality perspective of its interventions. Hence, to foster such improvement, this report recommends that:

1. It is the finding of this survey that there is a desirable level of knowledge about FP with in these underserved grassroot communities. However, the knowledge gap identified is significant enough to be attended to. To address the knowledge gap, this report recommends that CHAT with their CORP partners should intensify their sensitisation and awareness creation both at the household level and at the community & neighbouring community levels, while utilising available social platforms and community structures. This can be realized when CHAT is able to support CORP's activities within the ecosystem sustainably.
2. CHAT's FP intervention focuses on positively impacting the well-being of both men and women in the society, since enhancing FP access is a win-win for all. It is noted that CHAT and their CORP partners to continue to ensure that male involvement is vital. This will help enhance male involvement not only in just FP decision making, but also get to understand how they can safely live without violating the rights of their women or partners. CHAT believes that increasing FP uptake will ensure individuals and their families have more time to engage in economically productive activities, while ensuring to plan a sensible viable family size, since this

is a major factor resulting to many gender-based violence cases and increasing poverty.

3. Besides sensitising the communities, the CORPs would go an extra mile in following up by utilising their initiative of built-in referral systems between their community members and their nearest health facility. This will ensure that besides being knowledgeable, the community members get to actualize the lessons learnt and practically implement them. This will bear more results in terms of communities getting to embrace more holistic thus sustainable practices.
4. Such a situational assessment or survey is helpful as it goes beyond the regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and providing a deeper understanding of the level of outcome and eventual impact being realized in the communities where CHAT operates. This recommends that such surveys should be conducted more often, probably after every two years, so as to establish progress and outcomes. With adequate availability of funding for the undertaking, it is possible to reach more respondents and be able to get wider and more reliable information that would adequately represent the entire population as a result of reaching a 'larger sample size'.
5. During the survey, it was realised that CHAT's third goal on increasing empowerment and resilience of communities through self-sustaining government structure such as Community Health Committees (CHC), Village Development Committees (VDC) among other structures had not been captured. Though such structures already exist, it would be very useful to establish the effectiveness or status of these structures especially on their intensity of community advocacy for better quality of life, health elements such as supply of FP commodities and general development agenda. CHAT believes that the attainment of the first two goals may not be sustainable, unless the third goal is achieved desirably, since they greatly depend on it for sustainability purposes should CHAT not be there for 'back up'.

CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, it is undisputable to mention that indeed, the survey was very useful, especially in informing on how effective the project has been so far as a present small summary of more of what is really a Situation Analysis – rather than a Baseline Survey as CHAT has been implementing in this ecosystem for 6 years previous to this request for a Baseline. Despite the few gaps that were identified on the indicators measured, the notable observation that there has indeed been a considerable positive progress in realising the project’s outcomes. The above-mentioned recommendations are meant to propel the attainment of the project goals and objectives especially in the long run, in efforts to propel realisation of CHAT’s Vision of a future where communities and ecosystems across Africa are healthy and thriving.



Photo 3. CORP Lucy administering the questionnaire to a young girl at Matooni in Kyuso