



Section G: Household and Family Dynamics

Introduction

Households are key basic units which are central in the socio-economic development of a country. Major decisions such as consumption, savings, living arrangements and child bearing are often made at household level. These decisions have collective implications on social and economic growth, living standards as well as inequality in the society. Further, identification of vulnerable populations can be aided through understanding of family composition and structure. Family dynamics have an impact on individuals' overall health, well-being and what choices they make in life.

21

Households per one sq. km in Kenya. Nairobi City and Mombasa counties have the highest household densities followed by Kiambu, Vihiga and Kisii counties.

Definition of Key Terms and Concepts:

Household: A person or group of persons who reside in the same homestead/compound but not necessarily in the same dwelling unit, have same cooking arrangements, and are answerable to the same household head

Household Density: The number of households per one sq. km

Household Size: The number of persons in a household

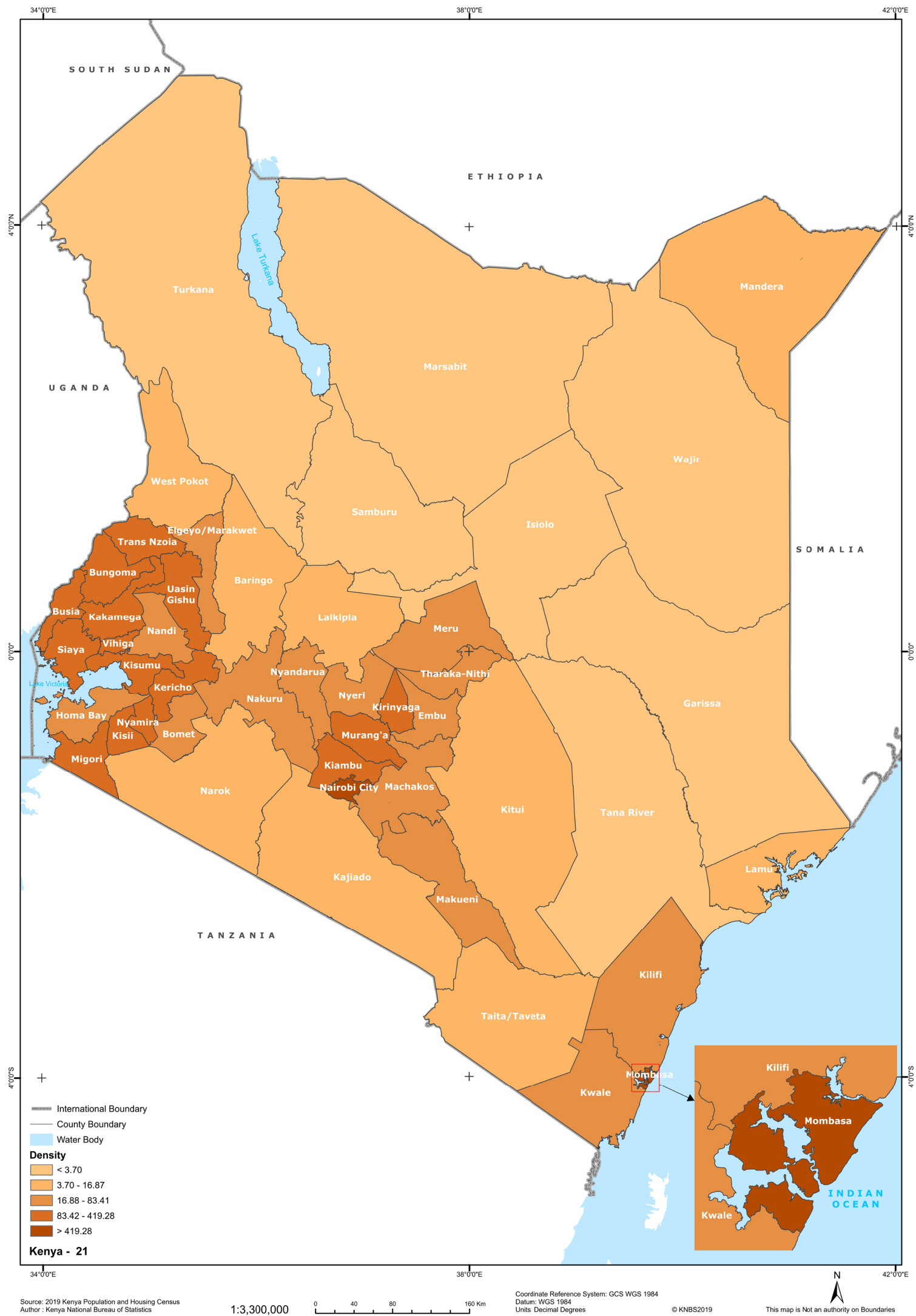
G.1: Household density by County

Distribution of households or rather how households are spread within a particular area is usually not even due to a range of both human and natural factors. Household density (number of households per one sq. km) is a vital indicator in showing how concentrated households are within a particular area. It is also important in determining the level of socio-economic planning required in a

given locality. Nationally, there are 21 households per one sq. km. Household density by county is shown in Map G1. Nairobi City and Mombasa counties have the highest household densities followed by Kiambu, Vihiga and Kisii counties. Counties with low household densities are Kitui, Taita/Taveta, Lamu, Mandera, Garissa, Samburu, Turkana, Wajir, Isiolo, Tana River and Marsabit.



Map G 1: Household Density by County



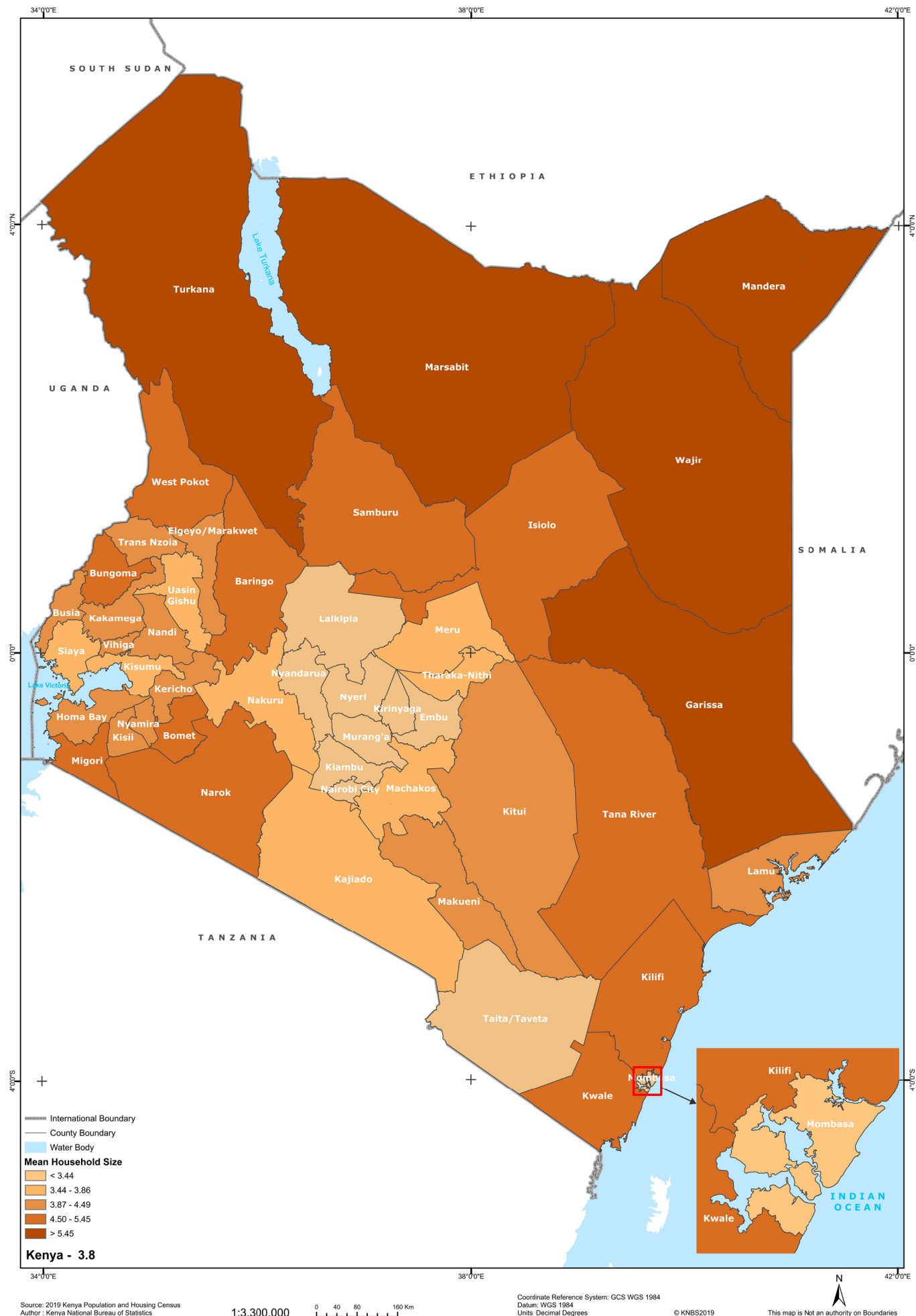
G.2: Household Size

Mean Household Size by County

Household size is the number of persons in a particular household. Nationally, there are approximately 4 members in every household. At the county level, the mean household size varies from a high of about seven members in Mandera county to a low of approximately

three members in Nairobi City County. Map G.2 shows distribution of average household size by county. Counties with high average household sizes (about six members and more) are Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, and Turkana. Counties with low average household sizes are Nairobi City, followed by Nyeri, Kirinyaga and Kiambu.

Map G.2: Mean Household Size by County



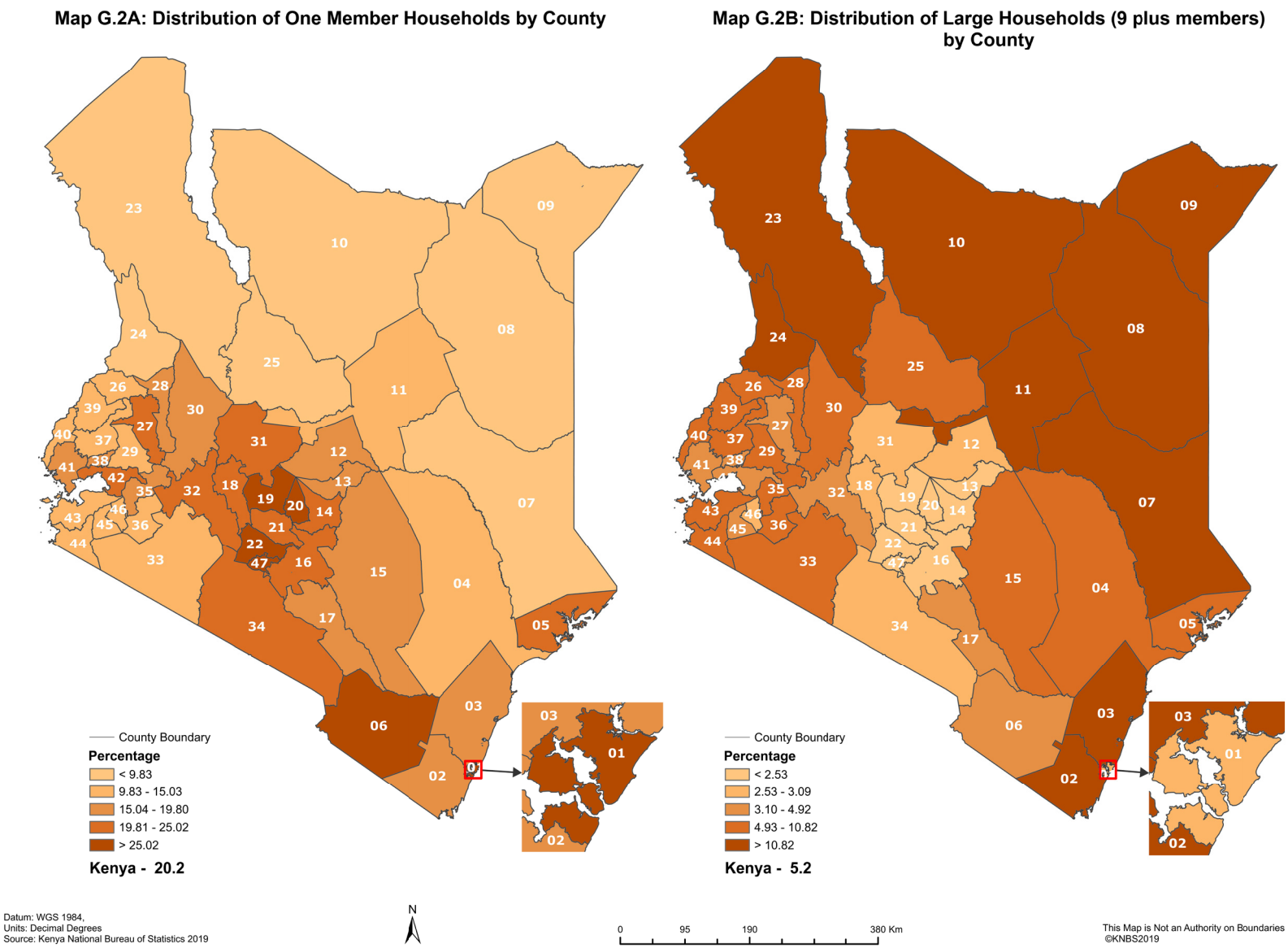
One-person households

Distribution of one-member households by county is shown in Map G.2A. On Average, about a fifth of the households in the country are one - member households. There are differentials at the county level, where the proportion of one member households is highest in Nairobi City county (30.7 per cent) followed by Kiambu, Mombasa, Nyeri, Kirinyaga and Taita/Taveta counties. Mandera County has the lowest proportion of one person households at about 4.1 per cent followed by Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, Turkana, West Pokot and Samburu.

Large households (9 plus members)

Nationally, about one out of ten households have nine or more members (large households). Map G.2B shows distribution of large households by county. At the county level, Kirinyaga (less than 2.53 per cent) has the lowest proportion of large households followed by Kiambu, Nairobi City, Nyeri, Embu and Murang'a. On the other hand, Mandera followed by Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, and Turkana counties have the highest proportion of large households at over 10.8 percent each.

Map G.2A: Distribution of One Member Households by County; Map G.2B: Distribution of Large Households (9 plus members) by County

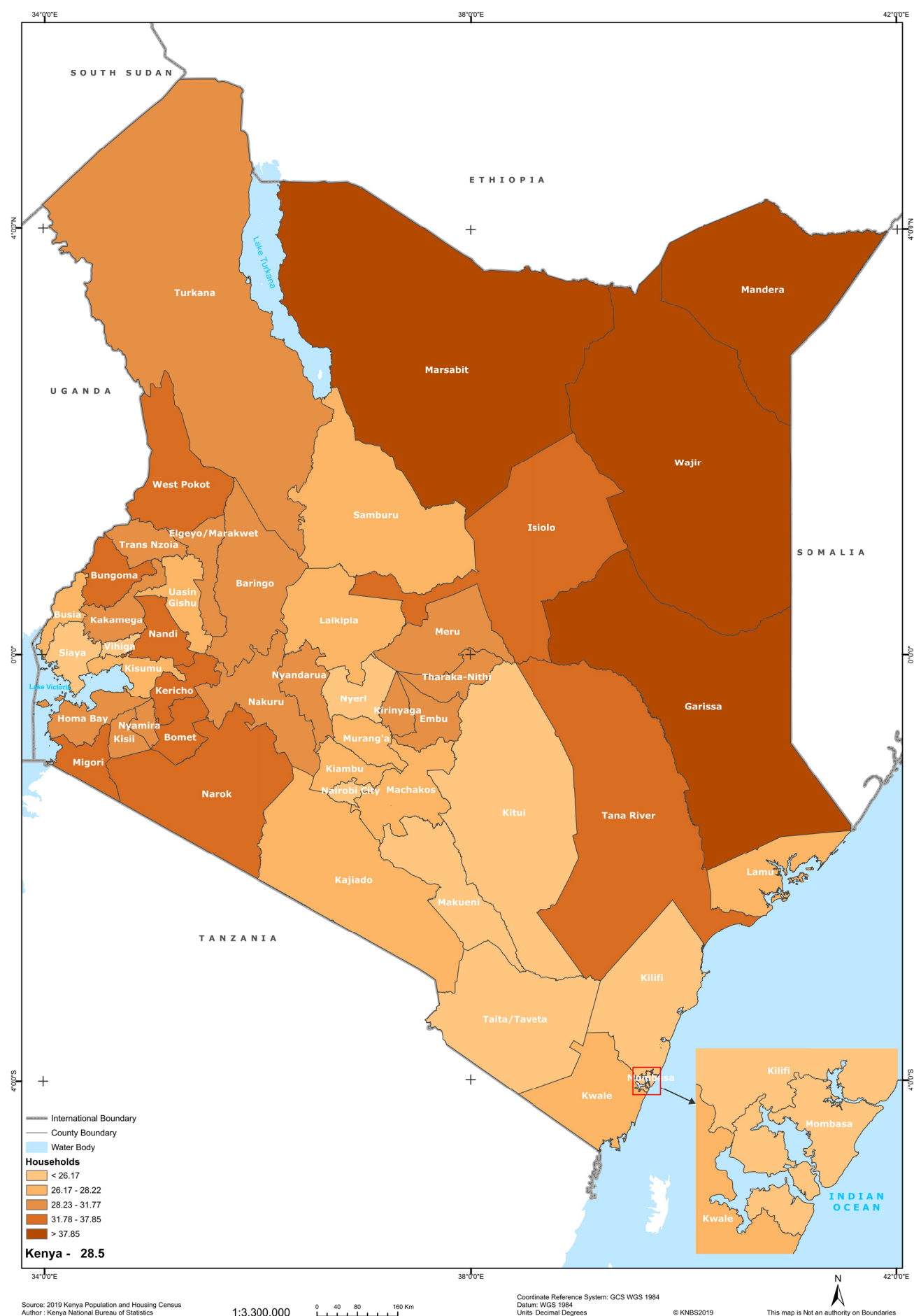


G.3: Household Structure and composition

Nuclear households

The most common type of family in the country is nuclear households. About 3 out of 10 households in the country are nuclear. Map G.3 shows distribution of nuclear households by county. Wajir county has the highest proportion of nuclear households, followed by Mandera, Garissa and Marsabit at over 37 per cent each. Low proportions of nuclear households are found in Vihiga (less than 27 per cent) followed by Taita/Taveta, Kitui, Makueni, Nairobi City, Siaya, and Nyeri counties.

Map G.3: Distribution of Nuclear Households by County



Households with at least one child under 5 years

Distribution of households with at least one child under 5 years is shown in Map G.3.2. There are about 4 out of 10 households in the country with at least one child who is under five years. At the county level, Mandera has the highest share of households with at least a child under 5 years (about 7 out of 10 households) whereas Nyeri county has the lowest proportion (about 2 out of 10 households) having at least a child under 5 years.

Households with at least one orphan

On average, there are about seven out of ten households that have at least one orphan. Map G.3.3 shows the distribution of households with at least one orphan by county. Siaya county about 9 in 10 households (89.3%) has the highest proportion of households with at least an orphan followed by Homa Bay (88.1%) and Vihiga (85.2%). On the other hand, Mandera county (about 5 in 10 households) has the lowest proportion of the same.

Households with at least one elderly person (60 years and above)

Map G.3.4 shows distribution of households with at least one elderly person aged 60 years and above by county.

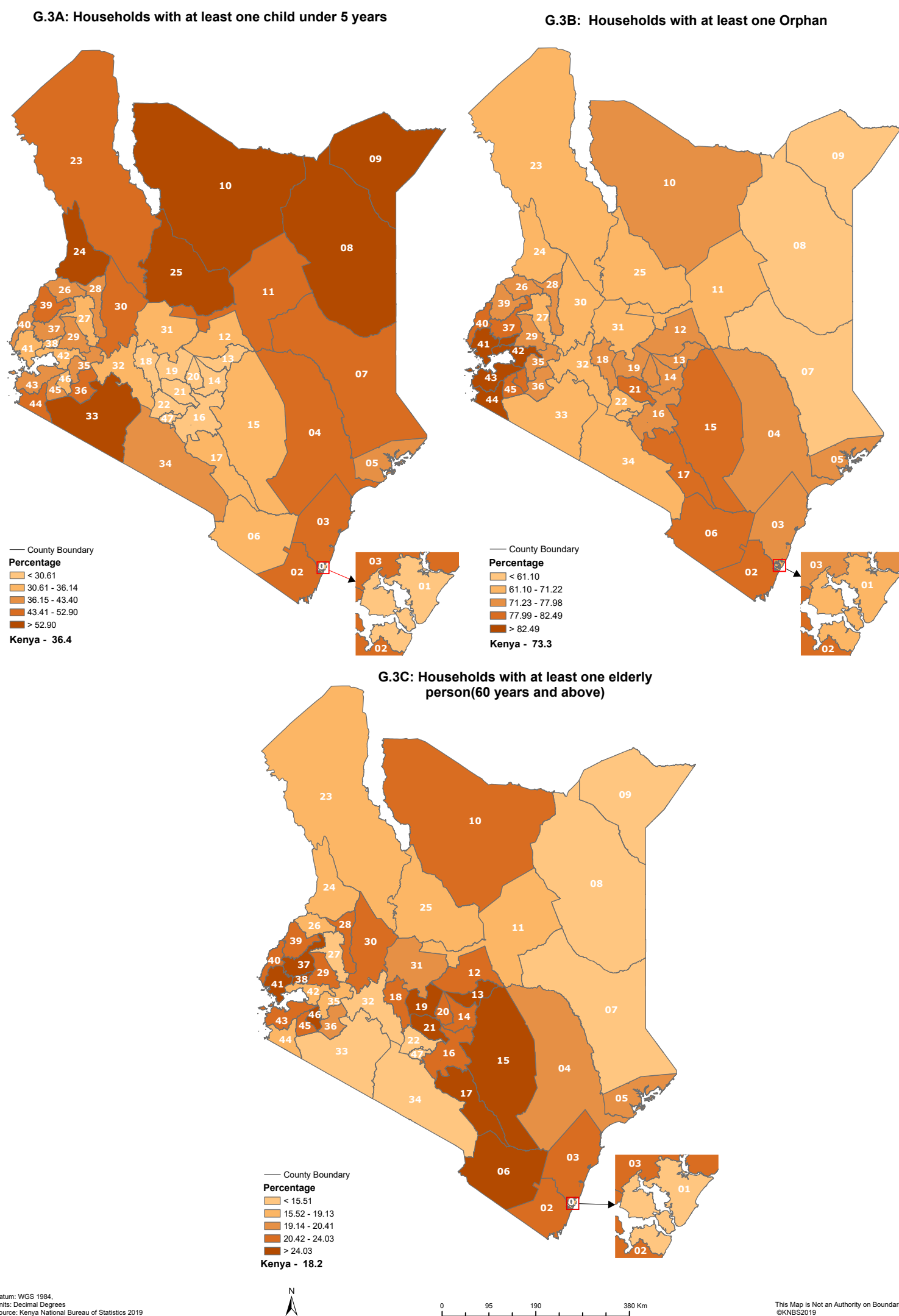
Approximately a fifth of households in the country (18.2 per cent) have at least one elderly person. Nairobi City has the least proportion with at least one elderly person followed by Mombasa and Kajiado counties, whereas Vihiga county has the highest proportion followed by Makueni, Murang'a, Kitui and Siaya.



On average, there are about seven out of ten households that have at least one orphan. Map G.3.3 shows the distribution of households with at least one orphan by county. Siaya county about 9 in 10 households (89.3%) has the highest proportion of households with at least an orphan followed by Homa Bay (88.1%) and Vihiga (85.2%). On the other hand, Mandera county (about 5 in 10 households) has the lowest proportion of the same



Map G.3A: Households with at least one child under 5 years; Map G.3B: Households with at least one orphan; Map G.3C: Households with at least one elderly person (60 years and above)



G.4: Household Headship

Male and Female Headed Households

Distribution of male and female headed households by county is shown in Maps G.4.1A and Map G.4.1B respectively. Nationally, about 4 households out of ten are headed by women and 6 are headed by men. At the county level, male-headed households are dominant in Nandi followed by Elgeyo/Marakwet and lowest in Samburu followed by Mandera and Turkana. The converse applies for female headed households.

Map G 4.1A and G.4.1B Distribution of Male and Female Headed Households by County

