



When land is provided to the landless - the Solio Ranch Resettlement Scheme, Kenya

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Figure 1. Landscape view of the Solio Ranch. (Picture: K. Soma, visit 11.11.2022).

Background

Land ownership is seen a critical factor for ensuring food and nutrition security in informal settlements in Kenya (Soma *et al.*, 2022; Soma *et al.*, 2021). Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been forced to leave their homes, within the State border, to avoid conflict, violence, disasters and lack of human rights. Solio Ranch Resettlement Scheme is one of 14 IDP schemes in Laikipia county, Kenya, and country wide, providing about 15,000 acres, having room for 3000 families in ownership of 4.5 hectares each.

Main aim and objectives

The main aim of this research in the Solio Ranch Resettlement Scheme, is to explore the opportunities and bottlenecks with land provision to informal settlers as a means to fight hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa

Research approach

This research is based on a household survey carried out by Laikipia University, FOSPA and WUR 11-16.04.2022, interviewing a total of 367 households spread equally across 7 villages of Solio. Also, Egerton University carried out a series of in-depth interviews with governmental officers, Solio community leads and settlers who did not make it in Solio and moved back to the slums.



Figure 2. Water borehole in Solio. (Picture: K. Soma, visit 11.11.2022).

Agricultural & food context

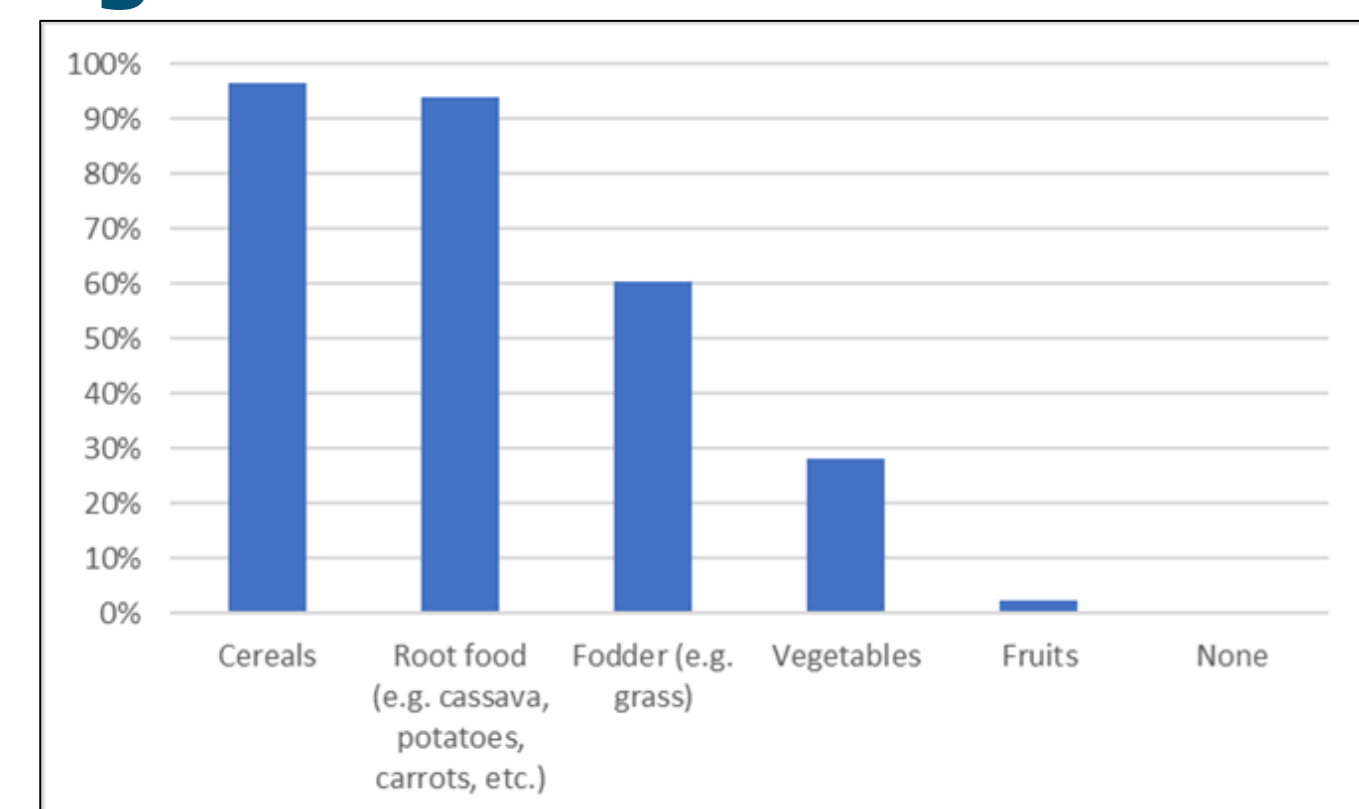


Figure 3. Most interviewees grow cereal and root fruits, followed by fodder and vegetables (Based on 367 interviewees; 11-16.04.2022)

Solio suffers from food and nutrition security. During the last 4 weeks, 85% of the interviewees had eaten fewer meals due to lack of access, almost 45% had gone to bed hungry and a total of 30% had gone a whole day and night without food.

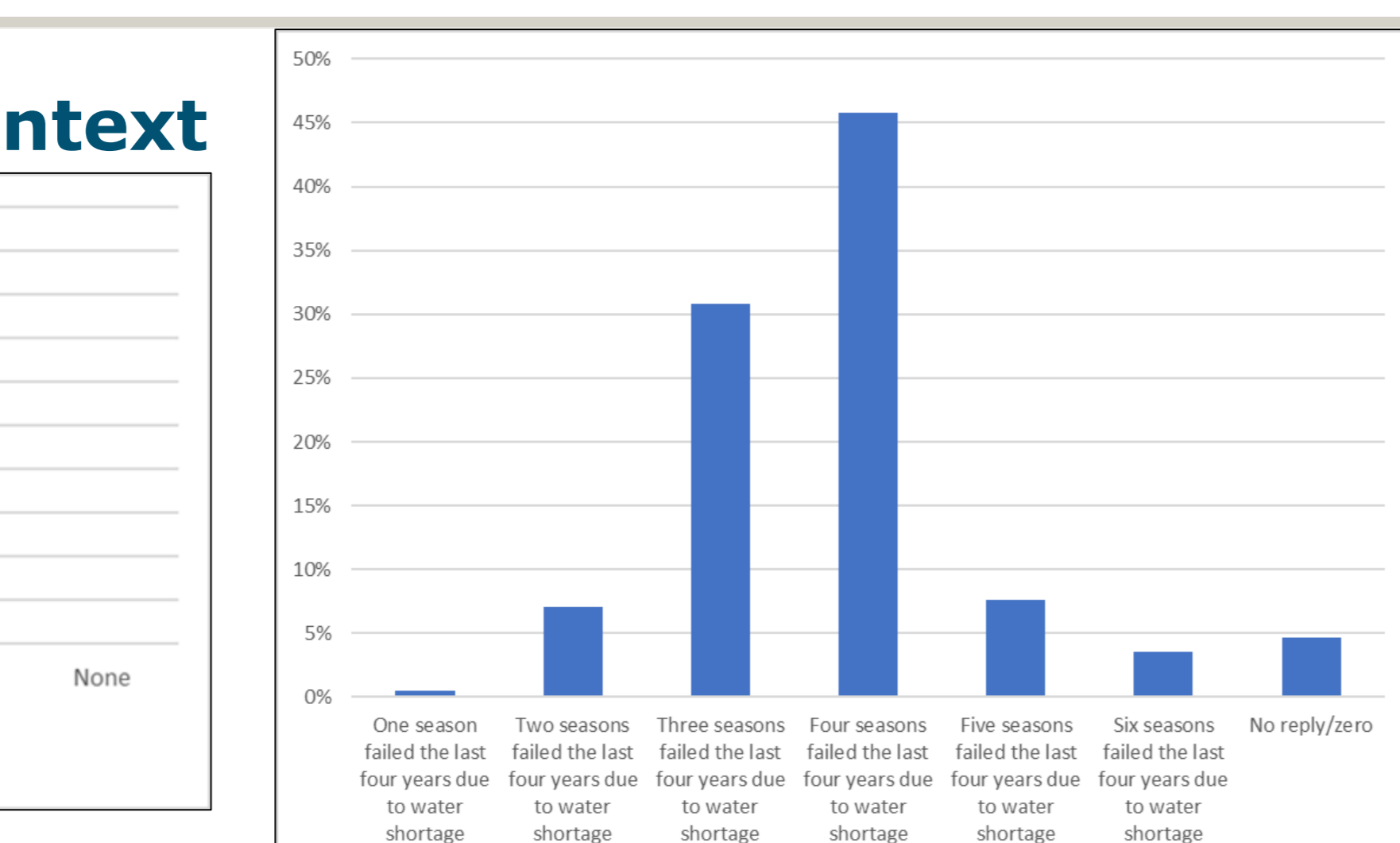


Figure 4. Draught is a main challenge to this area, for which a large share had failed crops the four last years (Based on 367 interviewees; 11-16.04.2022)

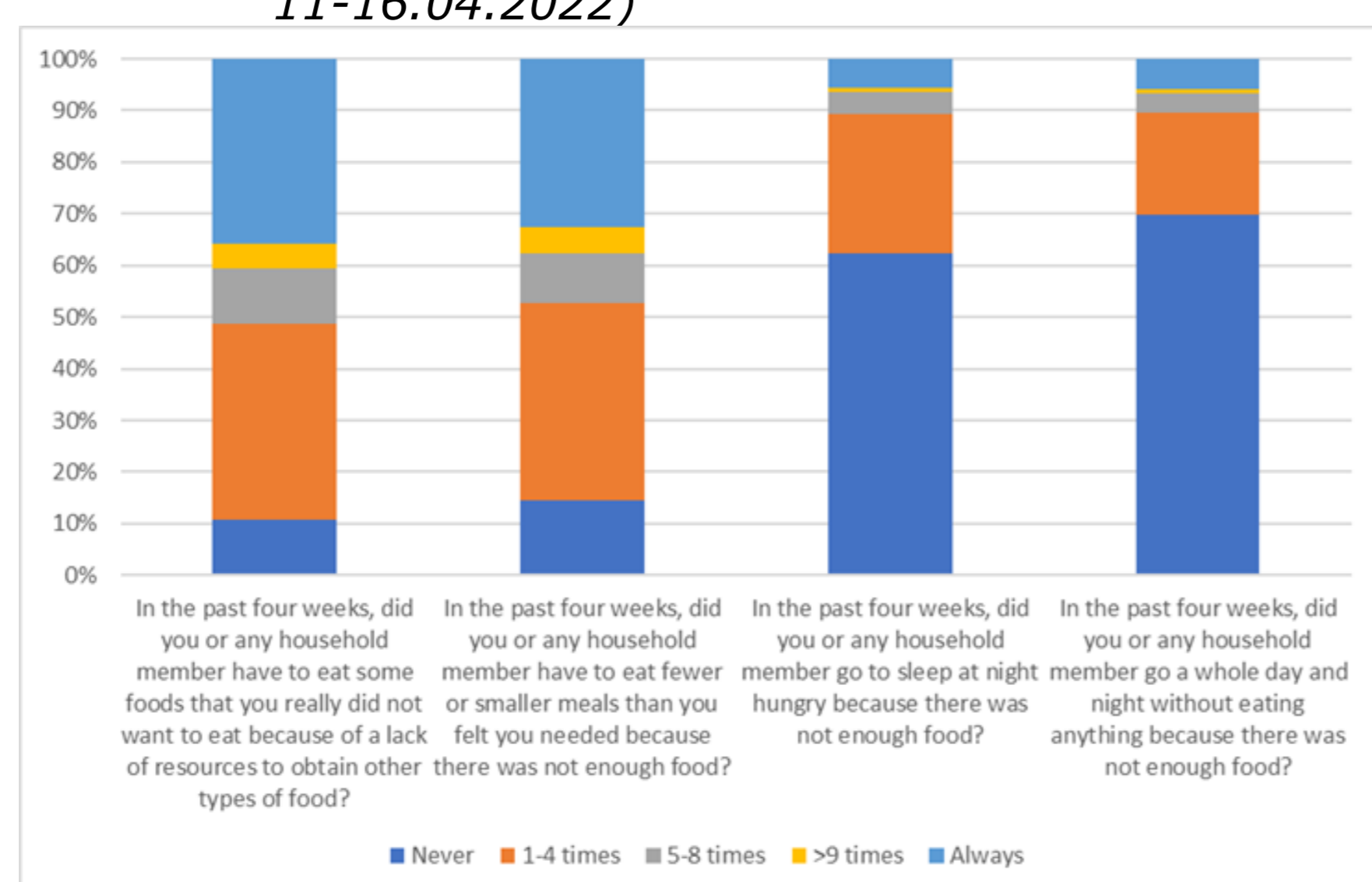


Figure 5. Levels of food insecurity across interviewees (Based on 367 interviewees; 11-16.04.2022)

Opportunities

- The government of Kenya (GoK) has in serious manners provided land to informal settlers, which should be a show-case to all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The land gives homes, hopes and a future to the settlers who can make a living.

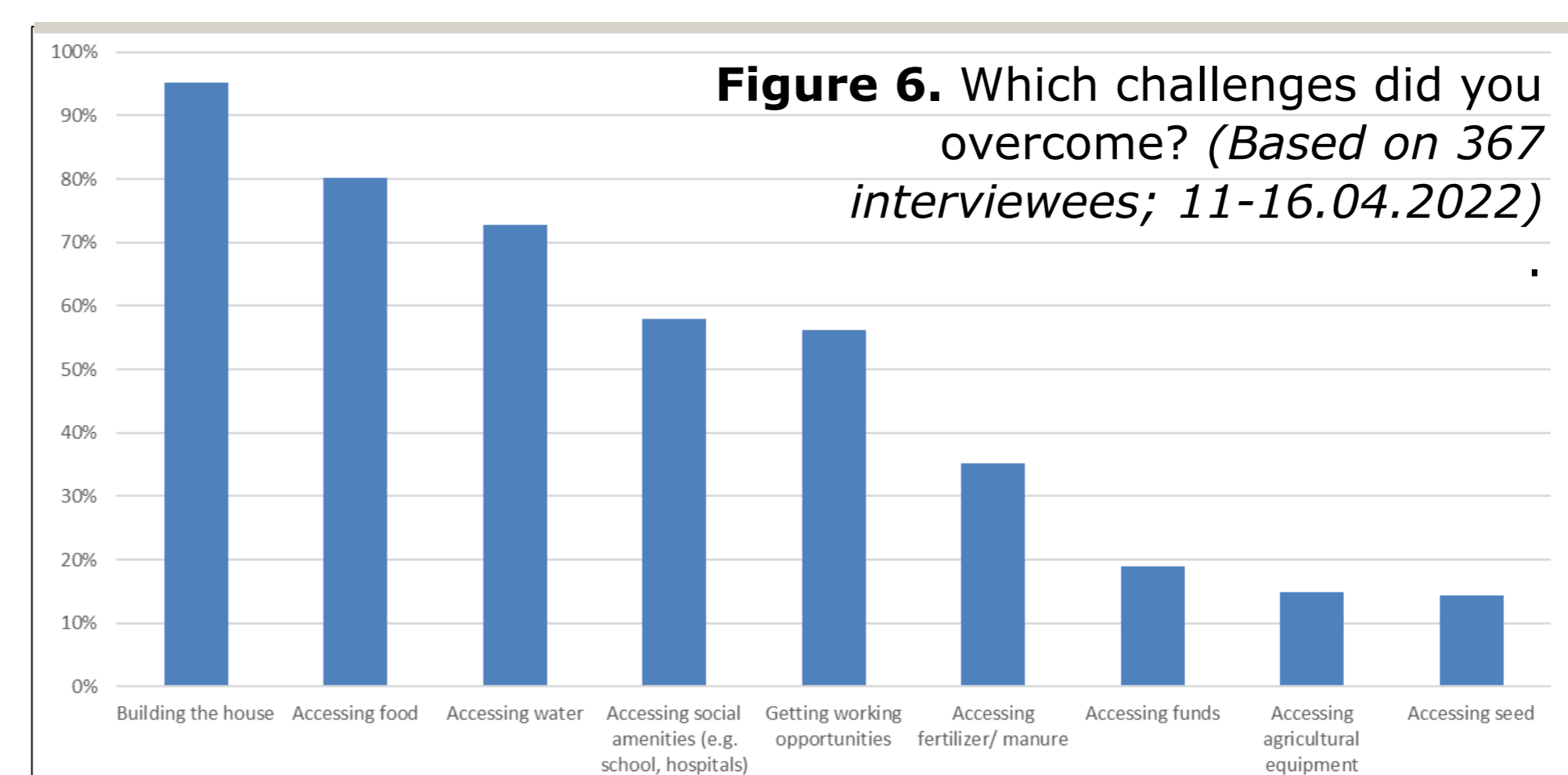


Figure 6. Which challenges did you overcome? (Based on 367 interviewees; 11-16.04.2022)

Main challenges

- To build a home
- To access food
- To access water
- To access social arrangements
- To get working opportunities

Main reasons why some had to move back to the slums, lack of access to:

- work
- food
- water
- a home respectively.

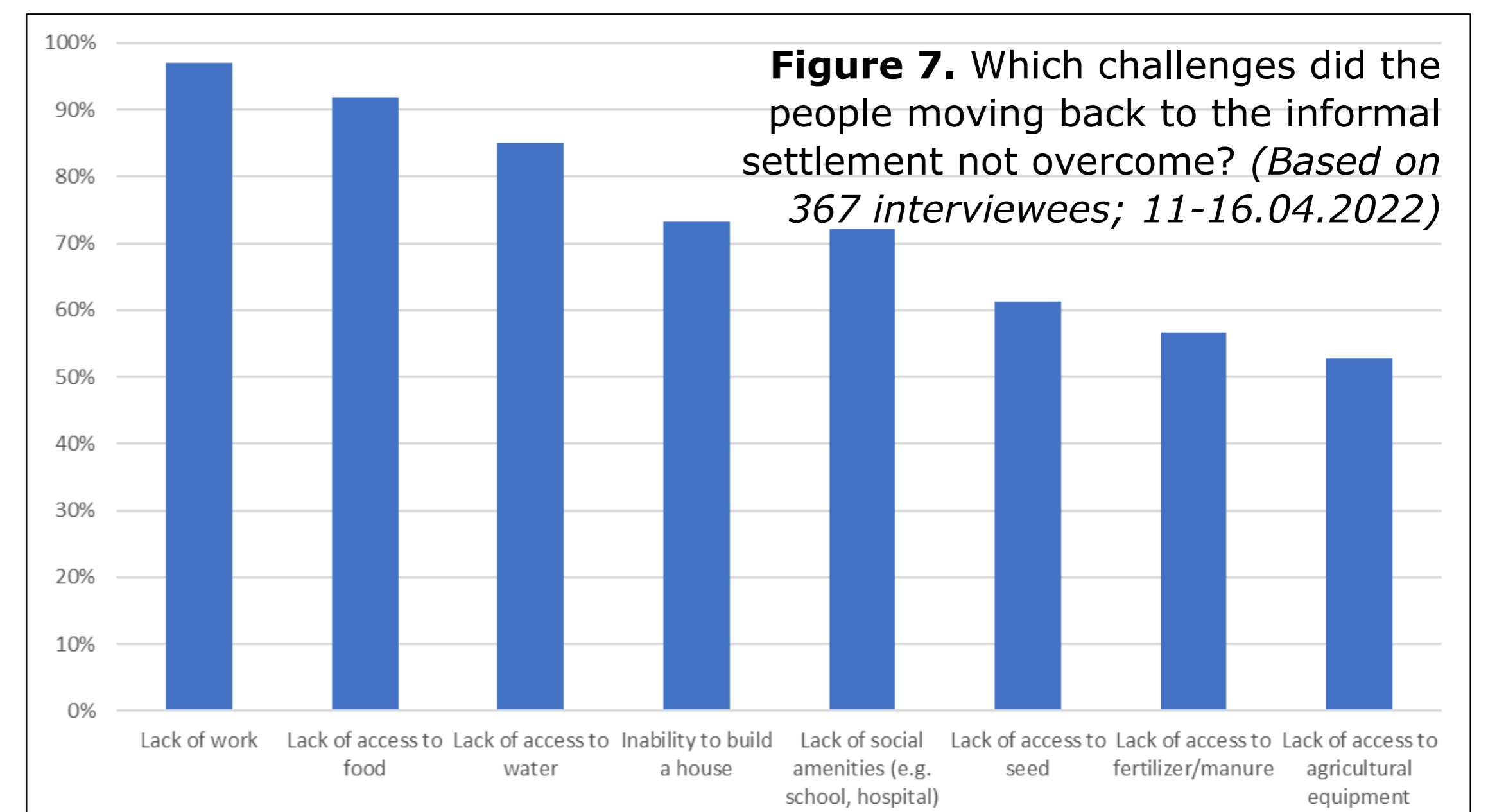


Figure 7. Which challenges did the people moving back to the informal settlement not overcome? (Based on 367 interviewees; 11-16.04.2022)



Figure 8. School visit to the Solio Ranch Resettlement, children queuing up for a school meal. (Picture: K. Soma, visit 11.11.2022)

Follow-ups – three studies

- Food and nutrition security differences and similarities across the seven villages of the Solio Ranch Resettlement
- Explanatory factors to food and nutrition security in Solio
- Exploring landownership as a means to food and nutrition security in Sub-Saharan Africa

Acknowledgements

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Selected links and publications: