

## ***“The Impact of Piped-Water Reliability on Household Time Allocation in 12 Towns in Kenya”.***

### **Abstract:**

Access to improved water sources is critical in developing countries, where women and girls spend millions of hours each year collecting water. This study examines how piped water reliability affects the time spent collecting water and the role of storage among urban households in 12 Kenyan towns. Although most households in our sample are connected to a piped water supply, they face intermittent supply. We link a unique 2023 time-diary survey of household time use with detailed measures of piped-water reliability. Our empirical results provide limited evidence that more reliable piped connections reduce water-collection time: self-reported reliability measures are not consistently associated with collection time after controlling for town fixed effects. Descriptive evidence shows that households commonly store water and, when needed, purchase from tanker trucks. These coping strategies appear to weaken the direct link between reliability and time burdens, and the pattern varies across piped sources. Taken together, the results indicate a weak, nuanced relationship between piped reliability and time spent collecting water.