



**Mobility Tracking and Multi Sectoral  
Location Assessment:  
Turkana County, 2023**



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This publication was made possible through support provided by the Government of Japan, under the terms of the Japanese Supplementary Budget. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Government of Japan.

**Publisher: International Organization for Migration**

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This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

This publication was issued without IOM Publications Unit (PUB) approval for adherence to IOM's brand and style standards.

This publication was issued without IOM Research Unit (RES) endorsement.

This publication was issued without official translation by TRS Unit.

Unofficial translation of the original version in Swahili and Turkana.

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## Background

Since the Government of Kenya declared a drought emergency in September 2021, the environmental and human security conditions across the affected counties have been deteriorating due to the extreme effects of prolonged drought. According to the appeal of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published in November 2022, 4.5 million people were in dire need of food assistance in Kenya.

The National Drought Management Authority's early warning bulletin showed that Turkana County<sup>2</sup> sustained an "Alarm" level Early Warning Phase Classification (EWPC) throughout the latter half of 2022. In January 2023, the county recorded its lowest rainfall, at 15 per cent of normal value in terms of volume for the period<sup>3</sup>. In February 2023, the EWPC rating intensified to an "Emergency" rating for the drought level, marked by increased rates of malnutrition, poor vegetation levels, abnormal livestock migration patterns and unusually high levels of livestock deaths.<sup>4</sup>

Contrary to the predictions of a sixth failed rainy season and suppressed long rains, the March to May 2023 rainy season produced a better outlook, with above-average rainfall, which helped improve water and vegetative conditions.<sup>5</sup> The April and May 2023 reports classified the EWPC for Turkana County as "Recovery" and "Normal" phases, respectively. Nonetheless, many of the pastoralist communities in the county remained distressed as livestock health conditions and livestock productivity remained poor for survival.<sup>6</sup>

While the long rains offered temporary relief, the impacts of the previous five failed rainy seasons had profound influence on pastoralists' increased mobility and long trekking in search of pasture and food assistance. Furthermore, the 'solution' of increased rains is spurring additional displacement and humanitarian needs as rains raise floods at the time of writing. The precarity and severity of the situation in much of Kenya illustrates the need for intensified humanitarian assistance, clear information on the needs of affected populations, and improved planning for durable solutions the ongoing and interconnected threats of drought, floods and food insecurity.

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## Methodology

To assess drought-induced mobility and identify the most urgent sectoral needs experienced by the community, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Mobility Tracking and Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) baseline assessment was deployed in 2022 in Turkana County. A second round of data collection for mobility tracking took place between May and June 2023.

The first round of DTM Mobility Tracking and MSLA was conducted from October 2022 to November 2022, and findings from those assessment cycles can be found [here](#). The second round of DTM Mobility Tracking and MSLA was conducted from 29 April to 20 May 2023 and findings are presented through this report. Data was collected with the generous funding of the Government of Japan and implemented by IOM in partnership with the Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization (LOKADO). The project was conducted in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Turkana County Commissioner's Office (CCO), and the wider Turkana County government.

Mobility Tracking is a DTM methodology which aims to quantify the presence of population categories as well as the populations' reasons for displacement, length of displacement and needs. Mobility tracking relies on key informant interviews (KIIs) to estimate the size, priorities and mobility dynamics of a given population. For more information on the DTM methodology, see the [DTM Methodological Framework](#).<sup>7</sup>

The second round of data collection was deployed to understand changes in the mobility dynamics induced by prolonged drought and the recovery phase, as well as updates on mobility trends and the most urgent sectoral needs of the target

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1. United Nations Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). November, 2022.
  2. Administrative boundaries for Kenya are as follows: 0 (Federal), (1) County, (2) Sub-County. Source: OCHA (2023).
  3. Turkana typically receives about 50.35 millimeters (1.98 inches) of precipitation and has 74.28 rainy days (20.35% of the time) annually. According to the NDMA's 2023 January early warning bulletin the normal coverage of the rainfall is supposed to be 90-110 per cent.
  4. Government of Kenya. (2023).
  5. Famine Early Warning System Network (FewsNet). 2023.
  6. Kenya National Disaster Management Authority. (2023).
  7. The dataset with information disaggregated at the sub-location level can be found here: [Kenya | Displacement \(iom.int\)](#).

mobile population groups and host communities, to assess changes since the 2022 data collection. Dynamics assessed included livelihoods needs, needs for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health services, shelters, non-food items and education services on behalf of the mobile population groups and host communities.

## Population Groups

As the impact of natural hazards on mobility in Kenya is not fully understood, IOM collected data on the mobility trends of five population groups in Turkana County: absentees, arrivals, returnees, foreign-nationals, and pastoralist drop-outs. Operational definitions of these population groups used in this report are as follows:

**Absentees** are residents of the sub-location who left their settlement because of effects of the drought (for example, death of animals, lack of food, lack of water or search for services), resource-based conflict, ethnic tensions or conflict, and flash floods or seasonal floods. This population category provides insight into the areas that were most devastated by drought and had few resources for the local population, some of whom were subsequently forced to migrate.

**Arrivals** are Kenyan nationals who left their places of origin and arrived at the assessed sub-locations because of effects of the drought (for example, death of animals, lack of food, lack of water, or search for services), resource-based conflict, ethnic tensions or conflicts, and flash floods or seasonal floods.

**Returnees** are Kenyan nationals that left the sub-location because of the impacts of the drought and settled at a temporary site (in Kenya or in another country) but returned to the sub-location. They may have returned because they did not find assistance, sought to rejoin their family, and/or returned with assistance.

**Foreign nationals** are non-Kenyan nationals who arrived in the assessed sub-locations because of the effects of the drought. This group includes people who migrated via irregular routes and cannot return or continue their migration journey, in some cases because they are destitute in the location of assessment.

**Pastoralist drop-outs** Households who previously practiced pastoralism but “dropped out” and chose another livelihood within the past three years preceding data collection.

## Sampling

For the assessments, 345 key informants were interviewed, representing all 160 sub-locations within Turkana County and a total of 1,856 settlements<sup>8</sup> in Turkana County. Data was collected between 29 April and 20 May 2023. The field assessment activities for DTM Mobility Tracking and MSLA were focused on locations and sub-locations as agreed between IOM, LOKADO, NDMA, CCO and the Turkana County government technical representatives. It was agreed that the data collection would take place at the sub-location level listed in the 2019 Population Census conducted by the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics. Assistant Chiefs and Village Administrators were identified as the main key informants for sub-locations to enable equal representation of the county and national government administrative structures during the data collection process. Traditional leaders and community representatives were also involved as key informants to promote a collective sharing of information on population dynamics relevant to the assessment.

Data were collected across all seven sub-counties of Turkana County by enumerators in 29 wards, 160 sub-locations, and 1,856 settlements. Forty enumerators and five team leaders were deployed and carried out coordination activities with local and administrative authorities for each sub-location. The IOM technical team trained the local enumerators and team leaders on DTM data collection methodology, processes, and operations prior to field assignment.

## Limitations

Out of 160 sub-locations, eleven sub-locations were not accessible due to insecurity issues and data were collected by interviewing key informants over mobile phones. Information obtained via phone is less preferred as the enumerator is not able to visually observe and validate the information provided.

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8. The total of 1,856 settlements was mapped by DTM Kenya and may include village and sub village units identified by national and county governments. As such, the total estimate of settlements may not compare to total figures represented in national and county-level administrative datasets.

As with all DTM Mobility Tracking, information obtained relied on KIs. As such, information is indicative. While efforts were made to ensure that informants were aware that their responses would not gain them humanitarian support, all responses were subject to social desirability bias.

To establish a baseline understanding of the mobility dynamics and the needs of the mobile and host population groups affected by natural calamities, IOM along with extended government stakeholders, identified assistant chiefs as the best-suited primary key informants. However, in some instances, assistant chiefs deemed it necessary to request that community leaders, village administrators and others participate in the interview. In total, 347 key informants (including “groups” of key informants) were interviewed.

The assessment excluded refugee camps as the data on refugees are collected and maintained by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as the mandated refugee agency by the United Nations.

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# KEY FINDINGS IN TURKANA COUNTY

MOBILITY TRACKING ROUND 2, APRIL AND MAY 2023

## DISPLACEMENT

Between 2022 and 2023, there was an upward trend in the arrival of foreign nationals into Kenya



96%

or 15,024 households, arrived at sub-locations in May 2023 that **already** struggled with the root causes of displacement. Namely:

**drought, resource-based conflict, and ethnic clashes**



Data indicates that populations are displaced into resource poor areas, possibly creating a cycle of displacement and need

Of the 270,356 assessed households in the county, **19,515 (7%)** of the households were **headed by children**



**6,216 (8% of child-headed households)** children were without permanent sources of support

**1,622** had no relatives or community members living near them

78%

of returnees temporarily resided in Turkana in a location outside their immediate area of origin, suggesting

**prevalent internal migration within the county**



## CHILDREN

Respondents in

**48%**

of the assessed sub-locations reported **loss of livestock reported child labour** as a coping strategy

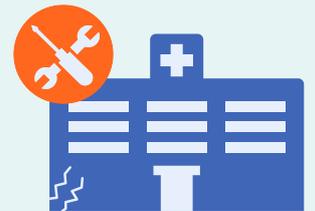


## HEALTH AND WASH

Respondents in

**24%**

reported that their health facilities needed **major repairs**



Respondents in

**24%**

of the assessed sub-locations reported **early marriage of boys and girls** as a coping strategy



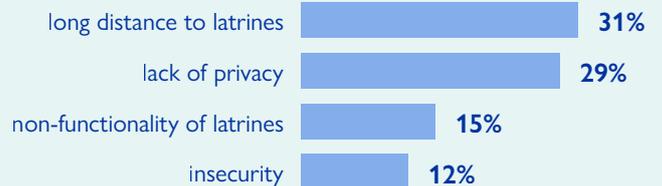
Respondents in

**134**

sub-locations (84%) reported **open defecation**



The drivers for people to practice open defecation were:



**13**

sub-locations had **no educational facilities**



9 never had schools, 3 schools were closed due to conflict or drought and 1 was being occupied as a temporary shelter at the time of data collection

**At least three**

educational facilities in Turkana East (Ekipor, Kakulit, and Katir) were closed at the time of data collection



**drought and conflict**

were the main reasons for significant dropouts of children from schools

Respondents in

**11**

sub-locations reported that they had **no functional water sources**



Respondents in

**63**

sub-locations (39%) reportedly **did not have any WASH committees**



## Introduction

Turkana County is the largest county in Kenya, covering **71,597.8** km<sup>2</sup>, located in northwestern Kenya<sup>9</sup>. It has international borders with Ethiopia to the northeast, South Sudan to the northwest, and Uganda to the west. Domestically, Turkana also borders West Pokot and Baringo Counties to the southwest, and Samburu and Marsabit Counties to the east. It is one of the 29 counties identified as part of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya<sup>10</sup>. The county has seven sub-counties with headquarters in Lodwar. The population of Turkana County was 955,399 people as of the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics' 2019 census, and its main economic activities are pastoralism, which relies primarily on livestock (cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats), and fishing, agriculture, and oil exploration<sup>11</sup>.

**Table 1. Summary of the Mobile Population Groups by the Sub-Counties**

Sub-County	Sub-County Details	Absentees (Households)	Arrivals (Households)	Returnees (Households)	Foreign Nationals (Households)	Pastoralist Dropouts (Households)
Kibish	18 sub-locations 189 settlements	632	598	1,265	373	6,473
Loima	23 sub-locations 228 settlements	2,194	1,567	3,212	5	5,640
Turkana Central	21 sub-locations 290 settlements	2,798	1,438	1,389	121	2,652
Turkana East	22 sub-locations 268 settlements	2,698	1,189	1,366	0	6,172
Turkana North	24 sub-locations 285 settlements	2,409	1,452	3,187	135	6,854
Turkana South	17 sub-locations 235 settlements	2,292	2,931	3,048	50	4,518
Turkana West	35 sub-locations 361 settlements	3,705	6,430	7,380	309	12,416
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 sub-counties 160 sub-locations<sup>12</sup> 1,856 settlements</b>	<b>16,728</b>	<b>15,605</b>	<b>20,847</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>44,725</b>

9. Kenya State Department of Devolution. N.d.

10. Johannes, Eliza & Zulu, Leo & Kalipeni, Ezekiel. (2014).

11. Kenya State Department of Devolution. N.d.

12. IOM in reference to the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019 conducted by KNBS and in coordination with the County Commissioner's Office and the County Government's Office mapped all the sub-locations prior to the data collection exercise and conducted a preliminary assessment in all the existing sub-locations between May and June, 2023.

**Table 2. Summary of the Mobile Populations Groups, by Reason for Movement**

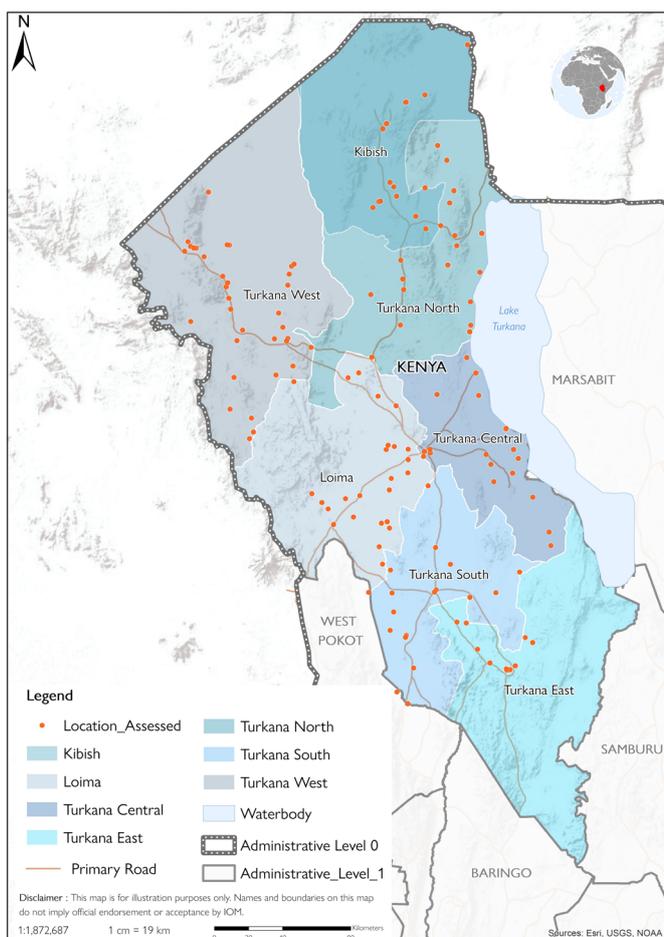
Type of Population Group	Percentage of informants in the sub-locations that reported to have movement, by population	Reason(s) for movement, by population
<b>Absentees</b>	<b>91%</b> of informants in the sub-locations reported absentees.	<b>95%</b> of informants in the sub-locations cited <b>drought</b> as the main reason for the movement of absentees.
<b>Arrivals</b>	<b>83%</b> of informants in the sub-locations reported arrivals at assessed sites.	<b>80%</b> of informants in the sub-locations cited <b>drought</b> as the main reason for the arrival movement.
<b>Returnees</b>	<b>90%</b> of informants in the sub-locations reported returnees at assessed sites.	<b>76%</b> of informants in the sub-locations cited the <b>need to reunite families</b> as the main cause for return, while <b>75%</b> said that the returnees came back to their place of origin because they <b>did not find assistance</b> in their temporary place of residence.
<b>Foreign Nationals</b>	<b>18%</b> of informants in the sub-locations reported foreign nationals at assessed sites.	<b>28%</b> of informants in the sub-locations cited <b>resource-based conflict</b> or <b>ethnic clashes</b> as the main reason for the movement of the foreign nationals.
<b>Pastoralist Drop-Outs</b>	<b>99%</b> of informants in the sub-locations reported pastoralist drop-outs at assessed sites.	<b>99%</b> of informants in sub-locations cited <b>drought</b> to be the main cause for pastoralist drop-outs.

Households which included older persons and children, and those headed by women were mentioned by key informants as the most at-risk groups in this assessment due to their high risk of exposure to protection issues, such as gender-based violence and lack of access to basic social services in rural settings. Among those assessed, 82,595 households were headed by women, 34,586 households were headed by elderly persons and 19,515 were headed by children. During the drought, these groups were left behind with fewer or no employment opportunities, placing them in distressful situations. Of the 19,515 child-headed households, 1,622 (8%) had no relatives or community members living near them and therefore, they were separated from their legal or customary guardians, while 6,216 children were reported to be without permanent sources of support. Furthermore, no recorded livelihood assistance was provided by any agencies, and the child-headed households survived on their own.

**Number of Vulnerable Households by Type**

<b>82,595</b> households were headed by <b>women</b>	<b>34,586</b> households were headed by the <b>elderly</b>	<b>19,515</b> households were headed by <b>children</b>
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**Map 1. Mobility Tracking Assessment, locations of data collection**



## Mobility Tracking Assessment

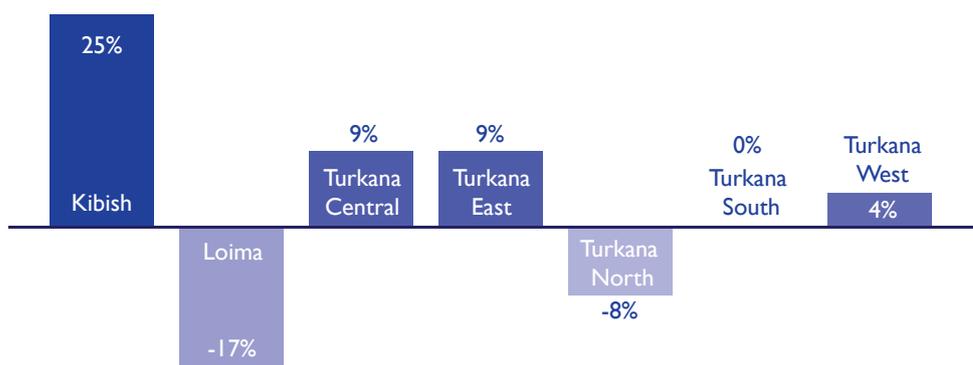
### Absentees

are residents of the sub-location who have left their settlement because of effects of the drought (for example, death of animals, lack of food, lack of water or search for services), resource-based conflict, ethnic tensions or conflict, and flash floods or seasonal floods. This population category provides insight into the areas that have been hit by the drought and have few resources for the local population, some of whom are subsequently forced to migrate.

**Table 3. Number of households cited by the key informants as absentees in two rounds**

Sub-County	Round 1 Nov 2022	Round 2 June 2023	Newly reported absentees by 2023	Proportional change in the reported households between the rounds of data collection
Loima	5034	2194	1%	-56%
Kibish	1383	632	75%	-54%
Turkana East	4451	2698	1%	-39%
Turkana South	2725	2292	0%	-16%
Turkana West	3694	3705	9%	0%
Turkana Central	2264	2798	36%	24%
Turkana North	1493	2409	1%	61%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,044</b>	<b>16,728</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>-21%</b>

**Figure 1: The different in the reported absentees between November 2022 and June 2023, all locations**

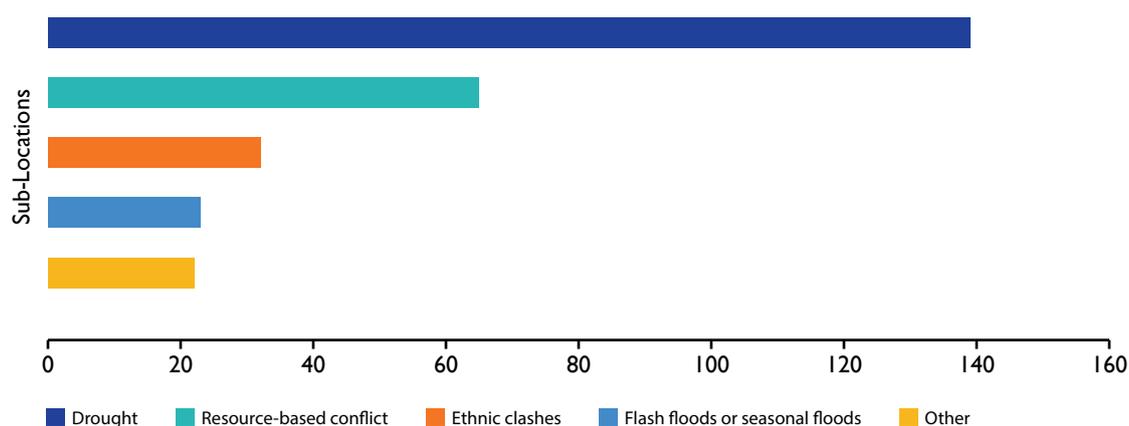


## Absentees

provide insight into the areas that have been hit by the drought and have few resources for the local population, some of whom are subsequently forced to migrate. As illustrated above, the number of absentees reportedly reduced by 21 per cent since the first data collection round (November 2022); however, the number of key informants across all the sub-locations reporting absentees increased by 2 per cent. This indicates that over time the number of absentees overall decreased, but the incidence of absenteeism is more widespread, which could imply that the drivers of displacement and absenteeism is diminishing in their effects but the influence of the underlying drivers are more geographically widespread. Key informants cited that absentee households that reportedly left their places of origin in 2023 accounted for 11 per cent of the total number of the reported absentee households, representing an estimated 11,352 individuals.

Drought was reported by the key informants as the main reason for forced displacement across 95 per cent of the sub-locations, followed by resource-based conflict, reported in 45 per cent of sub-locations<sup>13</sup>. The drought strained community access to pasture and water supply, which caused resource-based tensions and conflicts among the pastoral communities. Another reason for movement was job searching due to the loss of livelihoods.

**Figure 2. Reason(s) for absentee movement, reported by sub-locations**



13. Reasons for movement questions were multiple choice so that households could report more than one reason for forced displacement. Therefore, the total doesn't add to 100 per cent.

## Arrivals

Arrivals are Kenyan nationals who left their places of origin and arrived at the assessed sub-locations because of effects of the drought (for example, death of animals, lack of food, lack of water, or search for services), resource-based conflict, ethnic tensions or conflicts, and flash floods or seasonal floods.

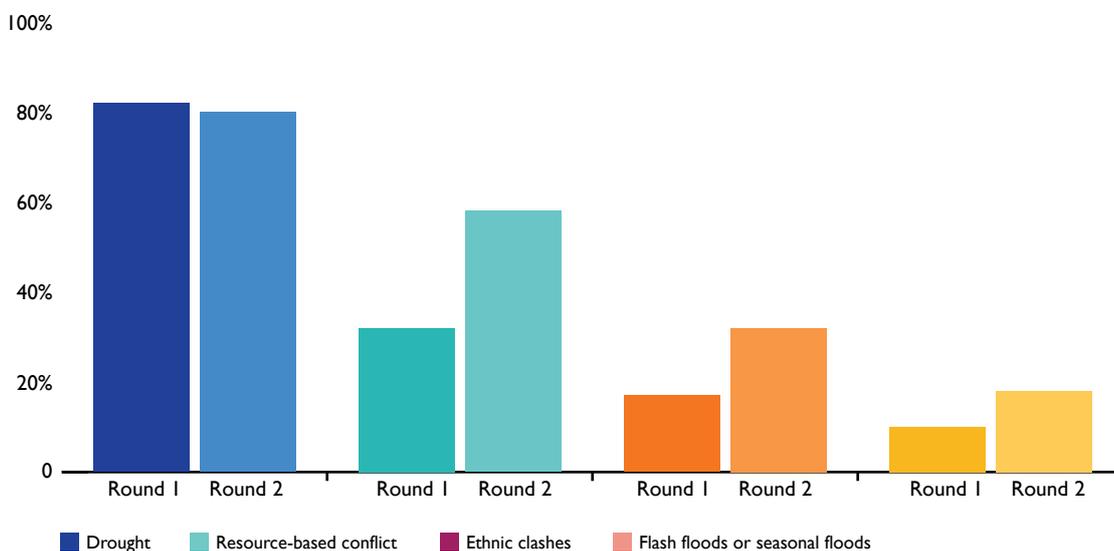
**Table 4. Number of reported arrival households by assessed sub county**

Sub-County	Round 1 Nov 2022	Round 2 June 2023	Newly reported arrivals by June 2023	Proportional change in the reported households between the rounds of data collection
Kibish	2817	598	52%	-79%
Turkana East	5275	1189	19%	-77%
Loima	3659	1567	40%	-57%
Turkana Central	1395	1438	28%	3%
Turkana West	6137	6430	18%	5%
Turkana South	2459	2931	52%	19%
Turkana North	885	1452	28%	64%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22,627</b>	<b>15,605</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>-31%</b>

Key informants reported that there was a decrease in new arrivals since November 2022 in the sub-locations, mainly due to the short rains received across the county in the first quarter of 2023. The short rains were expected to replenish dried grazing fields which would provide enough pasture for livestock. Some of the arrivals returned to their places of origin, while others remained behind. The assessment also recorded an estimated 27,882 newly arrived individuals. The period with the highest recorded number of new arrivals from 2020 to 2023 was consistent with the period when the drought occurred until the recovery phase.

While most displaced persons originated from Turkana (73%), 81 per cent of arrivals in Turkana South came from Trans Nzoia County, suggesting this is a popular migratory route. The high number of movements also indicated that people affected by the drought moved to different locations in Turkana to access humanitarian assistance and services close to their places of origin.

**Figure 3. Reported reason(s) for arrival, by sub-locations and rounds of data collection**



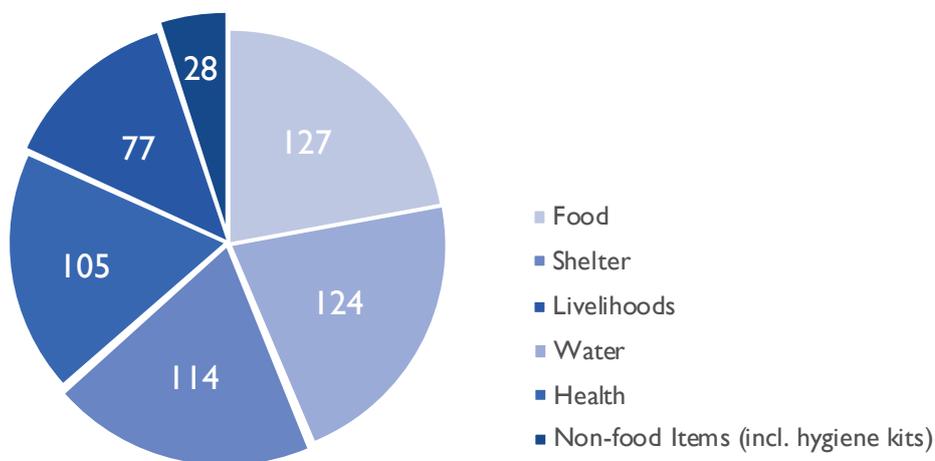
Drought was the main reason for arrivals' movement as reported by 80 per cent of informants in sub-locations where arrivals were found. Other drivers of displacement included resource-based conflict, which was reported by informants in 58 per cent of the assessed sub-locations. Between data collection rounds, the reported primary driver of displacement shifted from drought to forced displacement due to resource-based conflict and ethnic clashes. For instance, forced movements due to drought were referenced less often than cases of movement due to resource-based conflict and ethnic clashes. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure also spurred displacement as community members moved to access social services, humanitarian aid, and basic amenities.

Informants from most sub-locations (88%) reported that arrival households across Turkana County lived with host communities, while 10 per cent occupied temporary sites and 2 per cent occupied planned sites.

Of the 10 per cent of arrival households that occupied the spontaneous sites, 42 per cent were found at Turkana Central, 27 per cent in Turkana South, 22 per cent in Turkana West and 10 per cent were reported in Turkana East. Four sub-locations (in Turkana West and Loima sub-counties) reported Kenyan nationals who arrived at the assessment site from Uganda, accounting for 218 households (173 in Turkana West and 45 in Loima sub-counties).

A total of 120 informants in the 160 assessed sub-locations reported that their sub-county hosted both absentees and arrivals. This indicates that almost all the arrival households (96%, 15,024 households) arrived at sub-locations that already struggle with the severe effects of drought, resource-based conflict, and ethnic clashes.

**Figure 4. Most Urgent Needs of Arrival Households as Cited by Key Informants**



Food	Water	Shelter	Health	Livelihoods	Non-food Items (incl. hygiene kits)
127 Sub-Locations	124 Sub-Locations	114 Sub-Locations	105 Sub-Locations	77 Sub-Locations	28 Sub-Locations
15,110 Households	15,020 Households	10,533 Households	11,538 Households	10,751 Households	3,937 Households

## Returnees

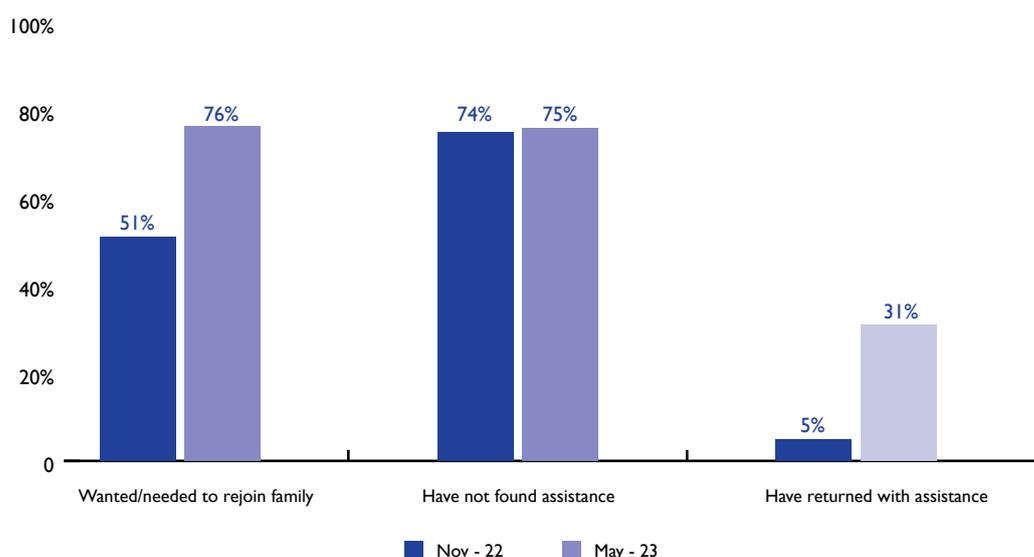
Returnees are Kenyan nationals who reportedly left the sub-location because of the impacts of the drought (for example, death of animals, lack of food, lack of water or search for services), resource-based conflict, ethnic tensions or conflict, flash floods, or seasonal floods, and settled at a temporary site (in Kenya or in another country) but came back to the sub-location. They may have returned because they did not find assistance, sought to rejoin their family, and/or returned with assistance.

**Table 5. Number of returnee households reported by key informants, by round.**

Sub-County	Round 1 Nov 2022	Round 2 June 2023	Newly reported returnees by June 2023	Proportional change in the reported households between the rounds of data collection
Kibish	3582	1265	34%	-65%
Turkana East	3303	1366	26%	-59%
Turkana South	4093	3048	50%	-26%
Turkana Central	1637	1389	28%	-15%
Loima	2127	3212	85%	51%
Turkana North	1632	3187	37%	95%
Turkana West	2442	7380	41%	202%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18,816</b>	<b>20,847</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>11%</b>

Of the 160 sub-locations, key informants in 144 reported the presence of returnees, amounting to 20,847 households. Overall, 44 per cent of returnees returned to their places of origin between 2020-2022, while 46 per cent returned in 2023. Most returnees (78%) were temporarily resided outside of their places of origin in Turkana, suggesting prevalent internal migration within the county. The next most common place of temporary residence for returnees was Trans Nzoia County, where 17 per cent of households reportedly resided.

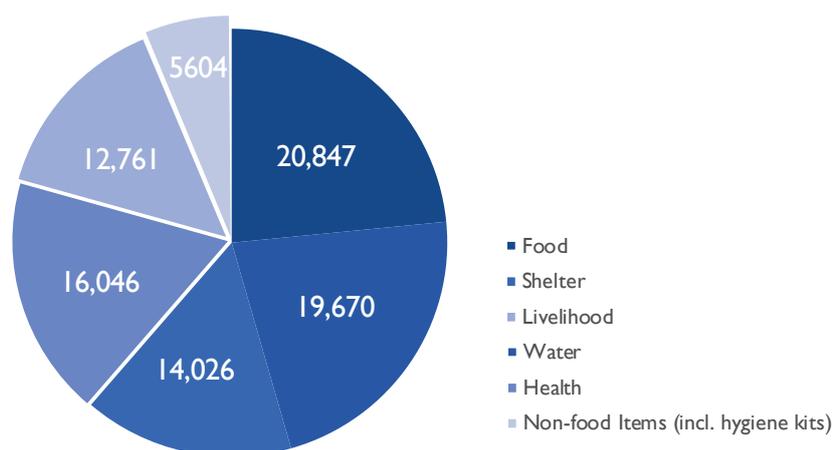
**Figure 5. Reported reasons for returnees' movement, by round across the sub-locations in two rounds**



The need to reunite with family was the most frequently stated reason for return, which was reported in 76 per cent of the sub-locations by key informants, similar to the previous findings.

Most returnee households (89%) as reported by key informants returned to their communities and are now living with their communities of origin, while 7 per cent were found in spontaneous sites and 3 per cent of the returnees are reported to be living with nomadic communities. The findings on returnees living in spontaneous sites were addressed during the validation workshop and justified by the stakeholders as the nomadic lifestyle common to Turkana region.

**Figure 6. Most Urgent Needs of Returnee Households as Cited by Key Informants**



## Foreign Nationals

Of the foreign nationals reported, 35 per cent arrived before 2020, while 27 per cent were present since 2020, with 38 per cent arriving in 2023 alone, indicating an upward trend in the arrival of foreign nationals into Kenya. The consolidated data indicated that there was a slight decrease in the absolute number of foreign nationals reported in the sub-locations in June 2023 (993) compared to the previous assessment (1,005) in November 2022. During the round 2 (June 2023), informants in 18 per cent of the sub-locations reported the presence of foreign nationals.

Ugandans formed the largest share of arrivals by foreign nationals in Turkana, at 45 per cent, followed by Ethiopians at 36 per cent. The key informants across sub-locations reported resource-based conflict (28%) as the main reason for forced movement among foreign nationals, followed by ethnic conflict (28%) and drought (21%). The households of foreign nationals predominantly resided in Kibish sub-county (38%), followed by Turkana West sub-county (31%).

**Table 6. Number of households that reportedly included foreign nationals**

Sub-County	Round 1 Nov 2022	Round 2 June 2023	Newly reported returnees by June 2023	Proportional change in the reported households between the rounds of data collection
Loima	405	5	100%	-99%
Turkana South	72	50	0%	-31%
Turkana West	412	309	0%	-25%
Turkana Central	79	121	8%	53%
Turkana North	27	135	1%	400%
Kibish	10	373	97%	3630%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

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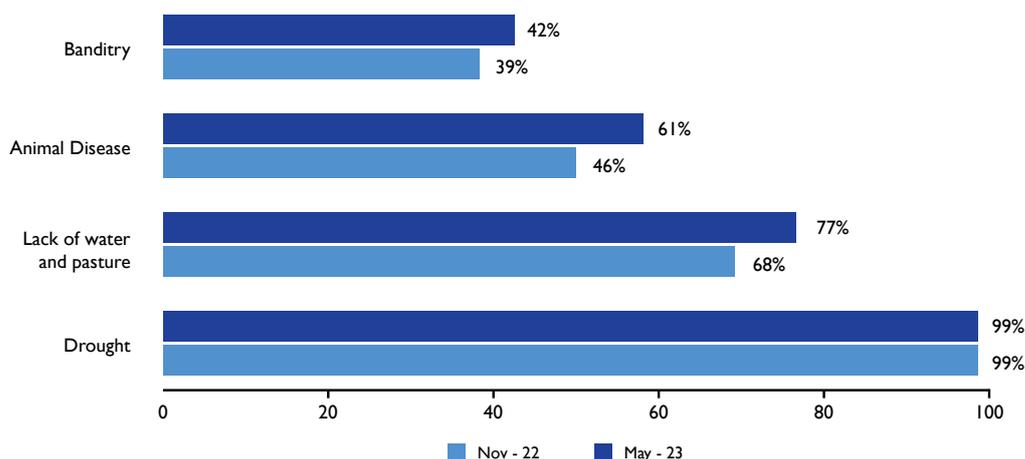
## Pastoralist Dropouts

In nearly all the sub-locations (99%) informants reported the presence of pastoralist dropouts in their respective places of residence. Across all the sub-locations, 96 per cent of respondents reported dropouts before 2023, and dropout rates increased most drastically during the 2020-2022 drought period. Consolidated data showed that there was a decrease of 32 per cent in the proportion of pastoral dropouts in DTM Mobility Tracking Round 2 (June 2023), as compared to Round 1, conducted in November 2022. The decrease in pastoralist dropouts may be because some people previously reported as pastoral dropouts later received livelihood support or adapted to their new livelihood options. Therefore, they were no longer considered pastoral dropouts by key informants. Alternatively, they may have been displaced and no longer lived in the assessed sub-locations. Although there was an overall decrease in the number of pastoral dropouts between November 2022 and June 2023, an additional 1,961 households reportedly dropped pastoralism between the first and second round of data collection..

**Table 7. Number of households reported as pastoralist drop-outs in two rounds**

Sub-County	Round 1 Nov 2022	Round 2 June 2023	Newly reported returnees by June 2023	Proportional change in the reported households between the rounds of data collection
Turkana Central	10927	2652	1%	-76%
Turkana South	10258	4518	1%	-56%
Loima	12694	5640	20%	-56%
Kibish	9770	6473	1%	-34%
Turkana East	6440	6172	1%	-4%
Turkana West	10298	12416	1%	21%
Turkana North	5481	6854	6%	25%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65,868</b>	<b>44,725</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-32%</b>

**Figure 7. Reason for pastoral dropouts, as a proportion of sub-locations reporting**

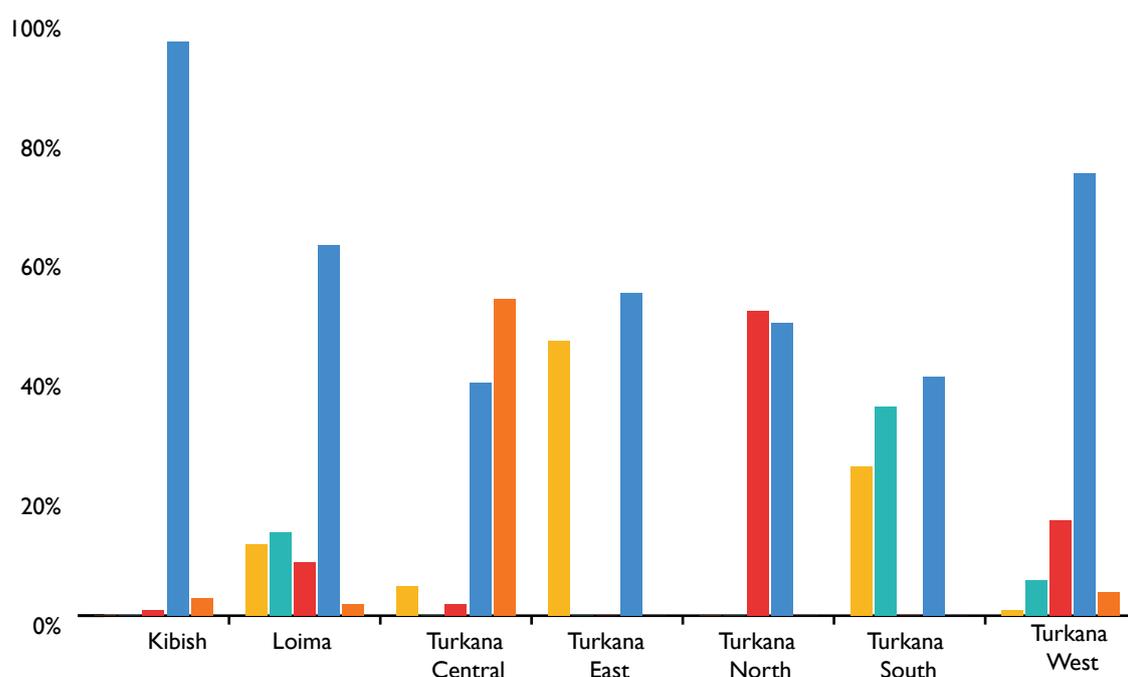


Nearly all key informants (99%) attributed the increase in pastoral dropouts to the drought. The next most reported reason for pastoralist dropouts was a lack of water and pasture (77%). Moreover, despite the improved vegetation and rainfall in most parts of Turkana, animal health still suffered, and many pastoral communities were forced to drop their livelihoods on account of cattle death, again attributed to drought. The analysis between the two datasets (from November 2022 and June 2023) further revealed that there was an increase in other reasons for dropping out of pastoralism. This could be the results of the complex effects of drought, resource-based conflict, or other environmental calamities that affected the pastoral communities.

## Livelihoods

During the assessment, key informants reported that pastoralism was the primary livelihood among residents in 69 per cent of the sub-locations. Key informants in ten per cent of the assessed sub-locations reported agropastoralism as households' main source of livelihood. Other respondents reported that residents depended on local small-scale trading and farming. Of the 13 per cent that depended on "other" livelihoods, charcoal burning, and gold mining were the most frequently reported livelihoods in Turkana West and Turkana North, respectively. However, the key informants in Kibish sub-county reported that the community members significantly dependent on "well-wishers" and other humanitarian aid.

**Figure 8. Main livelihoods, as a proportion of sub-locations reporting**



	Kibish	Lioma	Turukana Central	Turukana East	Turukana North	Turukana South	Turukana West
Agro-Pastrolism	0%	12%	5%	46%	0%	25%	1%
Farming	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	35%	6%
Other	1%	9%	2%	0%	51%	0%	16%
Patrolism	96%	62%	39%	54%	49%	40%	74%
Trade	3%	2%	53%	0%	0%	0%	4%

In reference to business and monetary transactions, respondents were asked about the most common method of transaction among residents in their respective sub-county. The question included pre-defined options of cash, M-PESA, and bank transactions. Of these, cash transactions were reported as the most common way of facilitating business in Turkana County, as 69 per cent of key informants reported that residents use this method, as opposed to 53 percent of key informants who reported that residents primarily used cash transactions through M-PESA<sup>14</sup>.

## Challenges and Coping Mechanisms

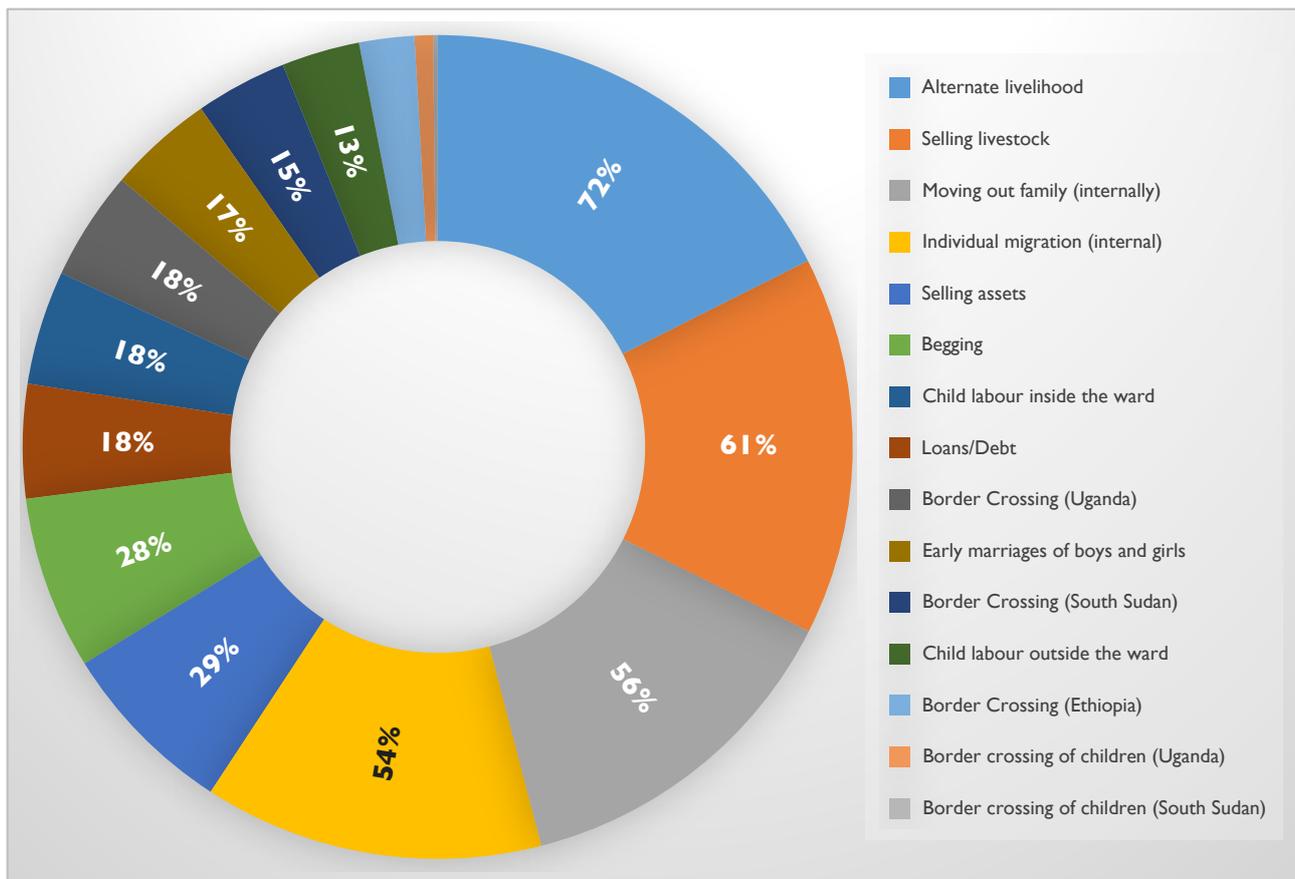
To understand the main challenges faced by the community, key informants were asked a multiple-choice question about challenges faced between 2022 and 2023.<sup>15</sup> Once the challenges were reported, enumerators probed the informants for details on the communities' common coping mechanisms in response to the corresponding challenges. Environmental degradation which caused severe drought and irregular weather patterns, and a lack of access to food and water were equally reported by 85 per cent of respondents as the main challenges of the last 1-2 years.

Respondents in the sub-locations reported (74%) that loss of livelihoods was the worst challenge that the communities faced during the drought, while 58 per cent of the sub-locations expressed that people lacked access to essential services. Security issues were also cited as a main challenge by key informants in 49 per cent of the assessed sub locations, which further increased the risks to already affected populations.

Reported Challenge between 2022-2023	Reported Coping Mechanism
<p>Environmental Challenges Cited by key informants from 136 sub-locations (85%)</p>	<p>When responding to environmental concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding alternative sources of livelihoods was the most common adaptation strategy as reported by key informants in 72 per cent of the assessed sub locations.</li> <li>In 61 per cent of the assessed sub location, respondents cited the sale of livestock as the key coping mechanism.</li> <li>Migration of the whole household was a key coping strategy reported in 56 per cent of sub-locations and Individual migration of one family member was a key coping strategy in 54 per cent of the sub locations.</li> </ol>
<p>Lack of Food and Water Cited by key informants from 136 sub-location (85%)</p>	<p>In response to insufficient food and water:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respondents in 74 per cent of the sub-locations where food and water were insufficient (n=136), community members sold their livestock as their main coping mechanism.</li> <li>Respondents in 65 per cent of the locations found alternate livelihoods.</li> <li>Respondents in 51 per cent of the locations reported that community members pursued household migration in response to insufficient food and water.</li> </ol>
<p>Loss of Livelihood Cited by key informants from 119 sub-locations (74%)</p>	<p>In response to a loss of livelihoods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respondents in 78 per cent of sub-locations reported that community members switched to an alternative livelihood.</li> <li>Respondents in 60 per cent of sub locations reported that community members sold livestock.</li> <li>Respondents in 48 per cent of sub-locations reported that community members pursued household migration in response to loss of livelihoods.</li> </ol> <p>Notably, almost half (48%) of the assessed sub-locations that reported loss of livestock reported child labour (whether within or outside the ward) as a coping strategy, while around one quarter (24%) of sub-locations reported early marriage of boys and girls.</p>

Reported Challenge between 2022-2023	Reported Coping Mechanism
Lack of Access to Essential Services Cited by key informants from 92 sub-locations (58%)	In locations that lacked essential services: a. Respondents from 74 per cent of the sub-locations reported that <b>community members sold livestock</b> . <sup>16</sup> b. In 65 per cent of the sub locations, respondents reported that community members <b>pursued alternative livelihoods</b> . c. In 51 per cent of the sub-locations, respondents reported that <b>households migrated</b> in response to the lack of essential services
Safety and Security Cited by key informants from 79 sub-locations (49%)	To respond to safety and security concerns: a. <b>Individual migration</b> was cited by key informants in 68 per cent of the sub-locations as the key coping mechanism and individual migration was cited as the key coping mechanism in 66 per cent of the assessed sub locations. b. <b>Selling livestock</b> was the third most reported coping mechanism among community members managing a lack of safety and security (reported in 47 per cent of sub-locations).

Figure 9. Coping mechanisms in response to environmental shocks, as a proportion of sub-locations reporting

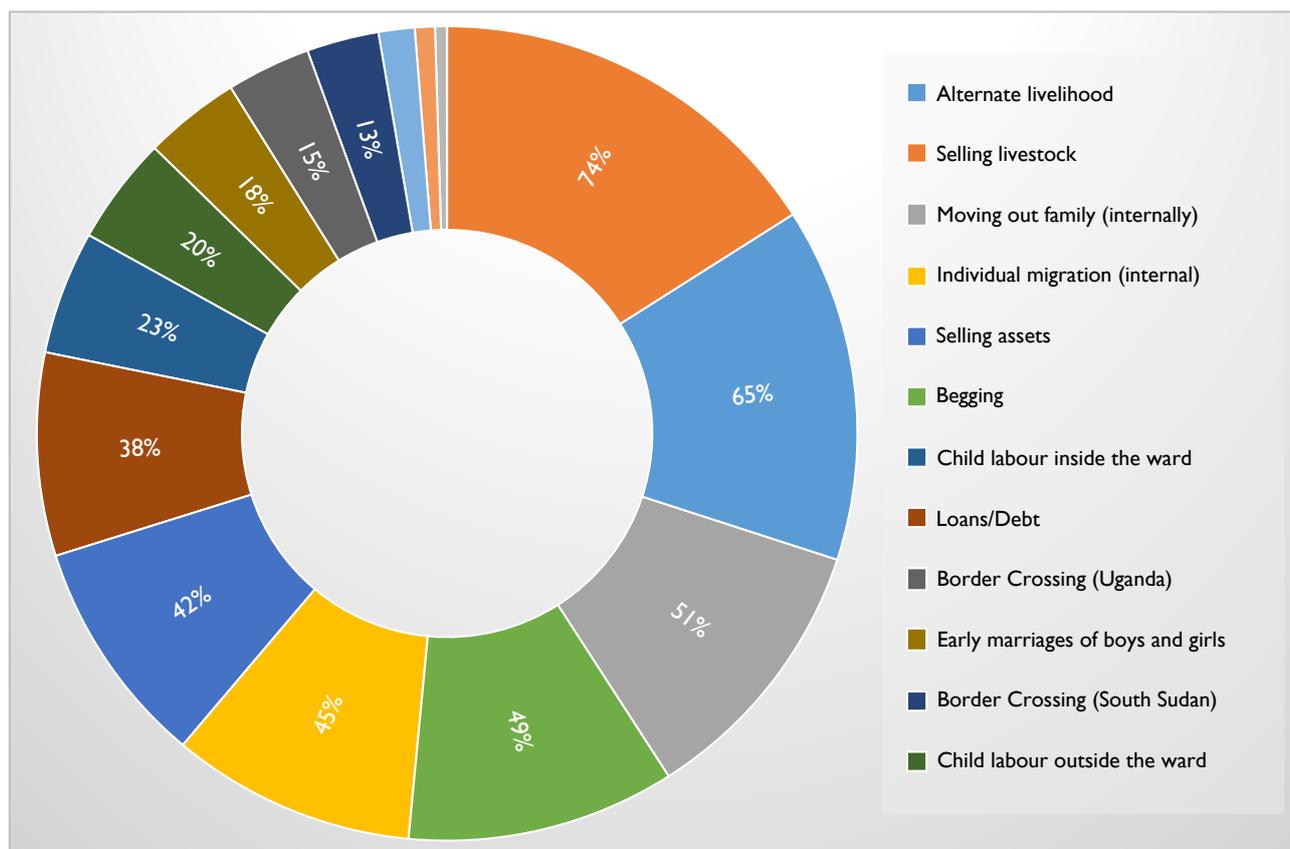


14. Vodafone. N.d.

15. The multiple choices offered to respondents included the following: 1. Environmental challenges (flood, drought, locust, and other challenges), 2. Safety and security, 3. Ethnic conflicts, 4. Resource-based conflict, 5. Lack of food and water; 6. Loss of livelihood, 7. Lack of access to essential services, 8. Others (please specify).

16. As responses were predefined it was not clear how selling of livestock and alternative livelihoods sufficed as coping mechanisms in response to a lack of essential services.

Figure 10. Coping mechanisms in response to lack of food and water, as a proportion of sub-locations reporting



## Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment

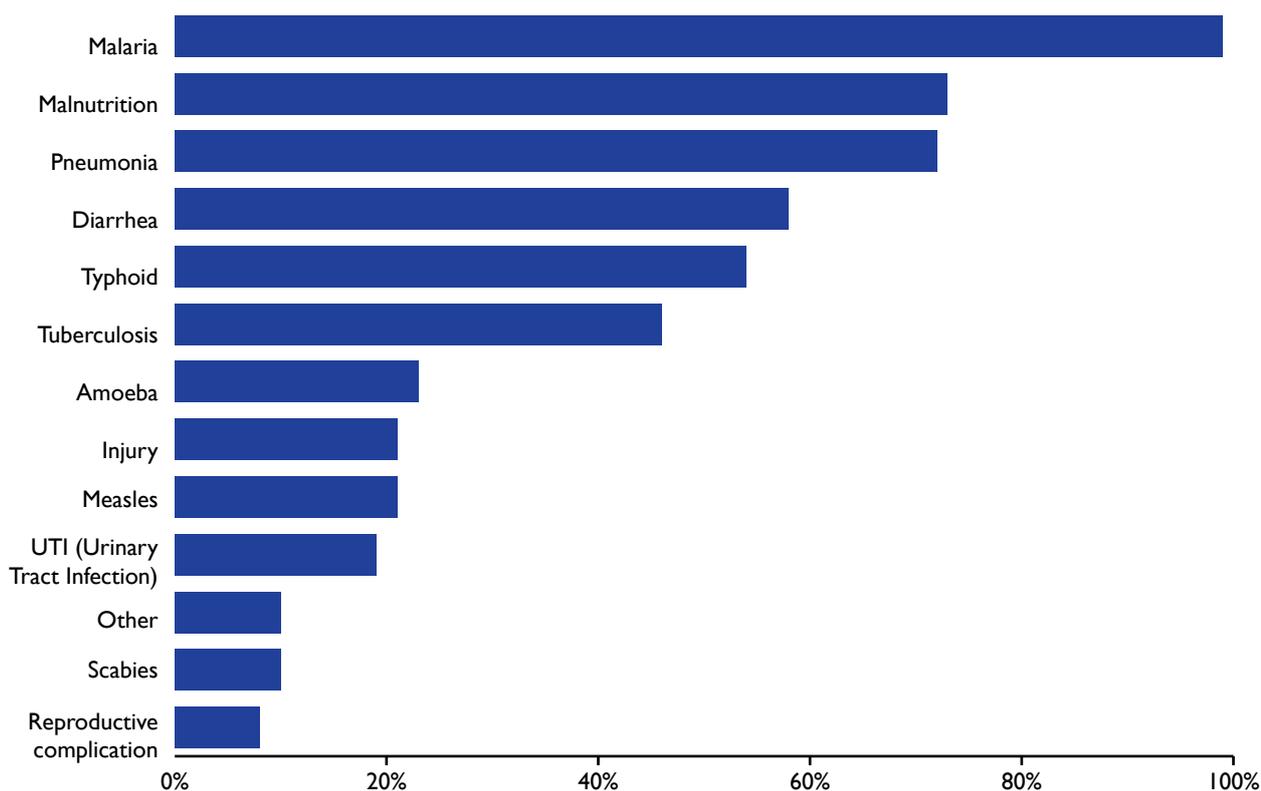
Together with the mobility tracking assessment IOM was able to assess the most urgent sectoral needs of the mobile population groups and host communities’ in regard to healthcare services, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs, education service needs, shelter, and non-food items needs.

### Health

The most prevalent health issue reported was malaria, reported by informants in 159 of 160 (99%) sub-locations. The second and third most reported ailments were malnutrition (73%) and pneumonia (72%), respectively. Waterborne diseases like diarrhea (58%) and typhoid (54%) also were reported as health issues due to unprotected and contaminated water supplies. Lack of adequate water sources was identified as another contributor to waterborne diseases.

17. The sub-locations with no functional water sources according to the key informants were as follows (in no particular order): 1. Atiir, 2. Kakimat, 3. Karachi 1/Lobulono village unit, 4. Katelemot, 5. Lomekwi, 6. Lorogon, 7. Nakwamekwi, 8. Nasiger, 9. Ngilukia, 10. Loito, 11. Lokipetot Arengan.

**Figure 11. Primary health concerns, as reported by key informants across all the sub-locations (multiple choice)**

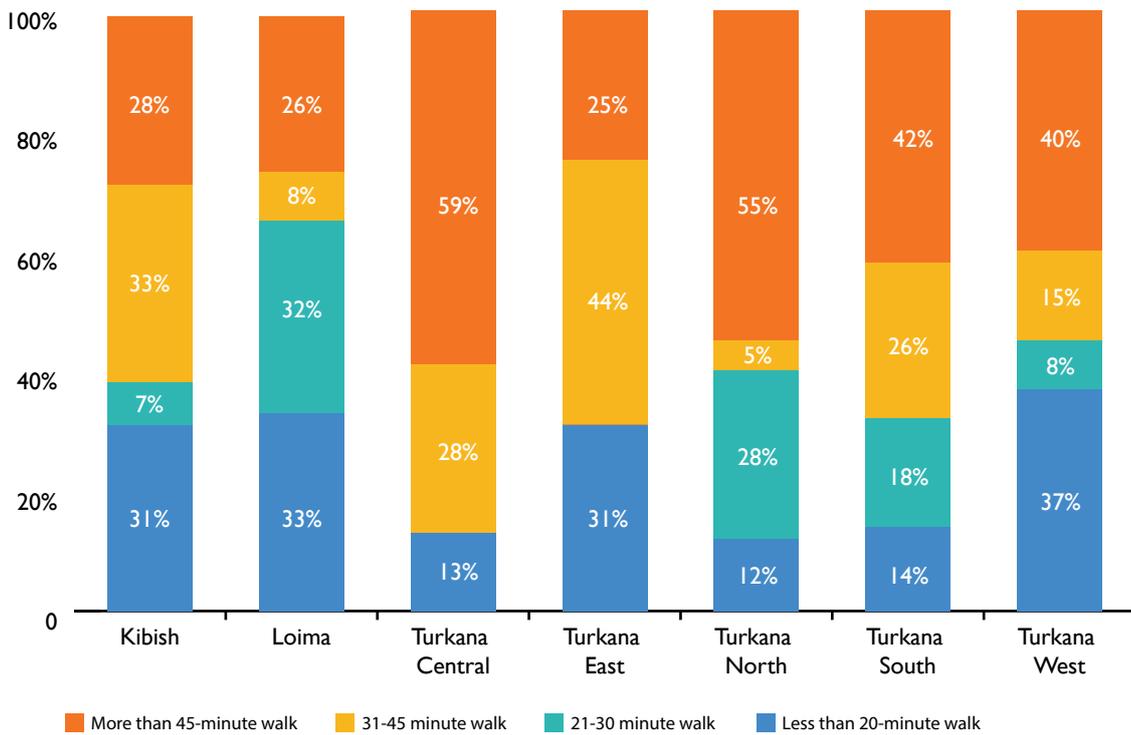


Key informants from 88 per cent of the sub-locations reported the presence of health facilities in their respective sub location. However, in these sub-locations, the absence of medicine and commodities, distance from the health facility, and a lack of water (72%), distance from patients (51%), and lack of water (31%) were identified as key issues that limited access to sufficient health facilities and services. In 21 sub-locations, (15%) of those assessed health facilities were reportedly not open every day. While most sub-locations with health facilities reported that the infrastructure was in good condition (41%) or only needed minor repairs (35%), but in nearly one-fourth of all locations (24 per cent of respondents) in sub-locations reported that their health facilities needed major repairs.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Respondents reported 462 functional, potable water sources across the 160 sub-locations. Additionally, key informants from 11 sub-locations reported that they have no functional water sources. Of the 462 functional water sources, 58 were reportedly inaccessible due to the distance, unreliable water yield and insecurity. To further probe the distance between the community members and their water sources, a follow up question was directed to key informants querying the most common distance between local households and their water sources. Only 25 per cent of key informants reported that less than 20 minutes on foot (round trip) was required to access water. In 15 per cent of the sub-locations, key informants reported that most residents require 21-30 minutes to access water on foot and in most locations (40 per cent of those assessed) respondents reported that 45 minutes or more was required for community members to fetch water.

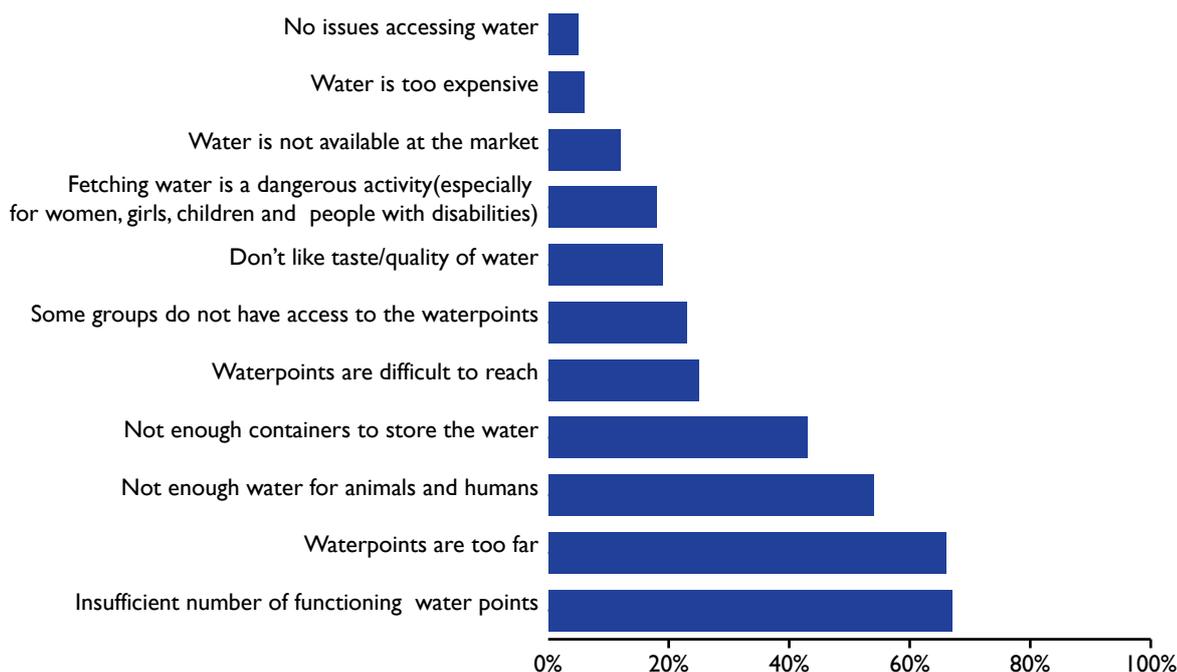
**Figure 12. Time required to access water sources on foot, as reported the proportion of sub locations**



Respondents reported that 97 sub-locations (61%) had existing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) committees, while 63 sub-locations reportedly did not have any WASH committees (39%). WASH committees are responsible for planning, organizing, decision-making, coordination, control and monitoring of the water facilities and schemes at the grassroots level. Technical maintenance of the water sources is also part of their mandate. The local community members maintain water sources in 56 per cent of the assessed sub-locations. Some water sources were also maintained by the government and humanitarian agencies, either in full, or in partnership, with the community. In 12 sub-locations (8%), respondents reported that no structures for water management exist.

Respondents from 67 per cent of the locations reported that, an insufficient number of functional water points (67%) and distance to water points, (66%) were the main barriers to accessing a safe water supply for drinking and domestic use. Respondents from over half of the assessed sub-locations reported that when fetching water, each household member treks for 31 minutes and queues for another 31 minutes before they obtain water from the water source. In many sub-locations, trekking and queuing to get water took longer than 45 minutes, which reduced the households' productivity and time to carry out other household chores and economic activities.

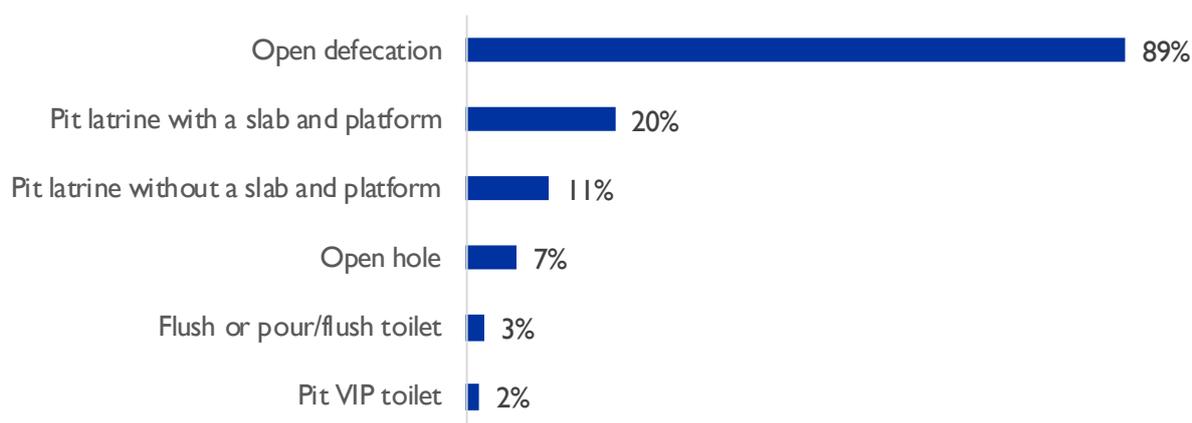
**Figure 13. Issues in accessing the water reported by key informants across the sub-locations**



According to respondents, the drinking water supply from 51 per cent of the functional water sources was not treated for harmful bacteria and waterborne diseases. When water supplies were treated, the most reported method was boiling, although this was only reported as a practice by KIs in 91 of the locations that had accessible, functional water sources (21%). Furthermore, respondents in 13 per cent of the sub locations reported that water was cleaned through letting the water stand, settle and exposing it to the sun. In 12 per cent of the assessed locations, key informants reported that water was treated with disinfectant. Open defecation was reported in 134 sub-locations (84%). The most commonly reported drivers for people to practice open defecation was the long distance to the latrines (31%), lack of privacy as there was no reported partition for male and female cubicles (29%), non-functionality of latrines (15%) and insecurity when accessing the latrines (12%). The insecurity-related latrine issues were reported by key informants in three sub-counties in decreasing order: Turkana East (11 sub-locations), Turkana South (6 sub-locations) and Turkana Central (2 sub-locations). In many cases, latrines were also cost-prohibitive, and many key informants noted that building expenses were a deterrent for latrine construction and use.

Most respondents in sub-locations reported that the top three source of water were: public taps (35%), river water (23%), and motorized boreholes (23%). Displaced and host communities using river water are more vulnerable to health risks, as feces from open defecation and animal waste often contaminate the water, especially during the rainy season. Contamination is likely to occur when the source of drinking water is not properly protected and treated. Consequently, communities in at least 92 sub-locations (58%) reportedly faced health issues from waterborne diseases (particularly diarrhea and typhoid), which were among the primary health issues, and were largely due to a lack of safe water.

**Figure 14. Per cent of KIIs reporting most common WASH habits in the sub county**



## Education

Respondents in Turkana County reported active educational institutions in 92 per cent of sub-locations, while 8 per cent of respondents reported that their sub location did not have an educational facility. Among the 13 sub-locations with no educational facilities, at least three in Turkana East – Ekipor, Kakulit, and Katir – were closed due to the devastating effects of the drought and resource-based conflicts which resulted in significant dropouts of children from schools. Respondents from seven sub-locations in Turkana East and one sub-location of Kibish reported that the locations never hosted such facilities, while one school in Turkana East was temporarily closed to host internally displaced people.

There were seven sub-locations identified where the nearest school was reportedly over 10 kilometers away. In one sub-location, the school was six to ten kilometers away, another sub-location hosted a school three to five kilometers away, and four sub-locations hosted schools less than 2 kilometers away. Key informants noted a considerable number of school dropouts across all the sub-locations, amounting to approximately 19,793 students (12% of the estimated number of students).

## Shelter and Non-Food Items

Most respondents in the sub-locations (93%) reported that when the mobile and local communities constructed their shelters, they sourced the materials from the surrounding bush, while only 4 per cent purchased materials from nearby markets. Fifty-seven per cent of sub-locations reported that most shelters were made of light materials and were not stable enough to withstand environmental hazards or security threats. It was also reported that in 25 per cent of sub-locations, the construction of a decent shelter is expensive due to the high price of primary materials in the local market.

Respondents in most communities (51%) reported that shelters were made of mud walls and thatched roofing. Respondents in forty-nine per cent of the communities reported that temporary shelters were made of wood and other indigenous materials for walls and roofing. Some communities reported that residents used plastic sheets to reinforce their house structures (26%), while only very few (7% of respondents, representing 11 sub-locations) reported that some houses were made of brick walls and iron sheet roofing.

## Conclusion

February 2023 saw an “Emergency” drought rating and by April 2024 floods are ravaging the country with at least 103,485 people affected, including 40,265 people displaced in 21 out of 47 counties in the country, according to the United Nations Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs assistance. As cyclical climate shocks continue across Kenya and the larger East and Horn of Africa, displacing populations into Kenya and within Kenya, knowledge on essential needs, climate-induced displacement, and social cohesion among populations newly cohabitating as a result of displacement is ever more vital. Findings from the Turkana 2022 and 2023 Mobility Tracking assessments demonstrated that almost all displaced households (96% or 15,024 households) arrived at sub-locations that already struggled with the severe effects of drought, resource-based conflict, and ethnic clashes, thereby pairing a population in need with a population already coping with insufficient resources. As resources become increasingly scarce, internal migration is on the rise. As internal migration rises, risk increase and vulnerabilities are exacerbated. The results of this assessment indicate vital needs across populations. Children on the move, including unaccompanied and separated children, are leading households and being subjected to labour to cope with the loss of assets. School may not provide a viable alternative labour as 13 sub-locations were identified with no educational facilities, three of which were closed as a direct result of climate shocks and subsequent resource-based conflicts. Households are lacking in essential health services and needs including access to clean, enough water and sanitary, safe and private latrines.

Finally, home structures are insufficient to protect their inhabitants—most respondents reported that shelters were made of light materials, insufficient to withstand the current environmental hazards, which demonstrate no indication of subsiding. As communities in Kenya grapple with climate change shocks, primarily droughts and floods, and manage scarce resources, loss of livelihoods and displacement, evidence-based responses become more vital than ever before. Responsive data that represents current needs, in conjunction with past data that reveals trends is paramount. Evidence based efforts must be continually prioritized in the humanitarian response and development planning to ensure that resources are quickly funneled to the affected communities, without delay and with preserving the resources’ maximum impact.

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