Mobility Tracking and Multi Sectoral Location Assessment - Wajir County 2023

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

From the People of Japan

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DISPLACEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Drought was the main reported driver of displacement

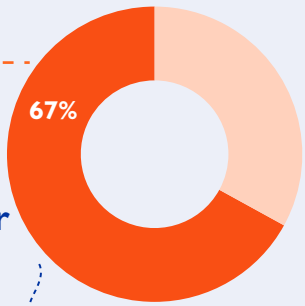
90%

of arrivals arrived at sub-locations which **already struggled** with the **severe effects of drought, resource-based conflict, and ethnic clashes,**

indicating that 'arrivals' had insufficient resources to travel to more distant, resource-rich environments and indicating a possible cycle of displacement as needs are not met in locations of displacement

89% of key informants reported the presence of pastoralist households.

Yet two thirds of pastoralist households dropped pastoralism between six months to one year before data collection- at the peak of the drought period



This indicates significant economic and cultural shifts for pastoralists

HEALTH

In **89%**

of sub-locations, key informants reported that their health facilities needed **medicine/commodities**

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

67%

of key informants (177 sub-locations) **reported use of open defecation**

The drivers for people to practice open defecation were:

Key informants in **30** sub-locations reported they they had **no functional water sources**

Key informants in **21%** of sub locations reported that they **had to travel more than 45 minutes by foot to access drinking water**

CHILDREN

Of the 20,500 assessed households in the county, **1,871** households were **headed by children**

309 (17%) children were **without relative/community support**

1,124 (60%) were **without any support**

Background

In September 2021, the Government of Kenya declared a drought emergency, as conditions across the affected counties deteriorated due to the extreme effects of prolonged drought between 2020, and 2022. In January 2023, Wajir County was one of the nine arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties considered to be in alarm drought phase[1]. Analysis of the December 2022 rainfall suggests that Wajir received between 50 and 75 per cent of its December long term mean precipitations, with Wajir being one of the three counties in an extreme vegetation deficit.

Starting from April 2023, reports classified Wajir County as in an alarm drought phase but improving.[2]

In May 2024, at the time of writing, floods are ravaging approximately 33 counties in the southern and western regions of Kenya, and an estimated 278,380 people have been displaced.[3] The cyclical return of droughts and floods is expected in Kenya, but the breadth and impact of the recent environmental hazards are unprecedented. In response, data are required to develop foresight and predict future climate shocks. Data are also required to procure insight and identify past trends to forecast future likelihoods. 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 to the ongoing and interconnected threats of drought, floods and food insecurity.

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 2023 in Wajir County.

The first round of DTM Mobility Tracking and MSLA was conducted from 1 to 18 November 2023 and findings are presented through this report. Data were collected with the generous funding of the Government of Japan and implemented by IOM in partnership with Organization for Sustainable Development Africa (OSDA). The project was conducted in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Garissa County Commissioner's Office (CCO), and the wider Garissa 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.[4]

The first 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 mobile population groups and host communities. The dataset with information disaggregated at the sub-location level can be found here: Kenya | Displacement (iom.int).

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 Wajir County: absentees, arrivals, returnees, foreign nationals, and pastoralist dropouts. 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 livestock, 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 where droughts or floods provoked some to migrate.

1 OCHA. Kenya National Drought Response Plan. (January 2023).
2 OCHA. Kenya National Drought Response Plan. (April 2023).
3 OCHA. Kenya Situation Report. (May 2024).
4 For further information on DTM methodologies please see: https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework

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 livestock, 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 who 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 dropouts: Households who previously practiced pastoralism but "dropped out" and chose another livelihood within the past three years preceding data collection.

Sampling

For the assessments, 385 key informants (KI) were interviewed, representing all 266 sub-locations within Wajir County and a total of 1,164 settlements[5] in Wajir County. Data were collected between 1 and 18 November 2023. The field assessment activities for DTM Mobility Tracking and MSLA were focused on locations and sub-locations as agreed between IOM, OSDA, NDMA, CCO and the Wajir 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 KI 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 KI to promote a collective sharing of information on population dynamics relevant to the assessment.

Data were collected across all 13 sub-counties of Wajir County by enumerators in 29 wards, 266 sub-locations, and 1,164 settlements. Forty-five enumerators and six 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 the DTM data collection methodology, processes, and operations prior to field assignment.

Limitations

Out of 266 sub-locations, 27 were not accessible due to poor road network and data were collected by interviewing KI over mobile phones. Information obtained via phone is less preferred as the enumerator is not able to visually observe and validate the information provided.

As with all DTM Mobility Tracking, information obtained relied on KIIs. 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 KI. However, in some instances, assistant chiefs deemed it necessary that community leaders, village administrators and others participate in the interview. In total, 380 KI (Including "groups" of KI) 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.

5 The total of 1164 settlements were 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.

Introduction

Wajir County covers 55,840 km2 in northeastern Kenya. It shares international borders with Somalia to the east and Ethiopia to the north. Domestically, it borders Mandera County to the northeast, Garissa County to the south, Isiolo County to the west and Marsabit County to the northwest. Wajir is one of the 29 counties identified as part of the ASALs of Kenya.[6] The county has 13 sub-counties with headquarters in Wajir Town. The population of Wajir County was 781,263 people as of the 2019 census, conducted by the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics. The main economic activities in Wajir include agriculture, livestock farming, and trade. Many residents in rural areas engage in pastoralism, while those in towns are also involved in trade and commerce.[7]

Table 1. Summary of Mobile Population Groups by Sub-County

Sub-County	Sub-County Details	Absentees (Households)	Arrivals (Households)	Returnees (Households)	Foreign Nationals (Households)	Pastoralist Dropouts (Households)
Bunna	15 sub-locations 76 settlements[8]	139	95	391	4	2,276
Diff	6 sub-locations 17 settlements	120	495	88	110	170
Eldas	33 sub-locations 83 settlements	468	360	349	0	1,303
Habaswein	26 sub-locations 70 settlements	722	987	881	5	1,345
Hadada	11 sub-locations 27 settlements	5,840	331	6,589	0	6,836
Khorof Harar	12 sub-locations 62 settlements	47	3	189	0	925
Korondile	12 sub-locations 8 settlements	166	151	160	45	1,504
Kotulo	16 sub-locations 77 settlements	159	438	2,287	0	1,992
Tarbaj	21 sub-locations 114 settlements	168	243	450	0	1,770
Wajir East	16 sub-locations 269 settlements	368	3,950	1,107	0	2,365
Wajir North	29 sub-locations 19 settlements	1,010	861	757	14	11,079
Wajir South	39 sub-locations 174 settlements	1,049	1,674	1,186	16	5,002
Wajir West	30 sub-locations 100 settlements	1,634	557	1,068	0	2,131
Total	**13 sub-counties 266 sub-locations[9] 1,096 settlements**	**11,890**	**10,1450**	**15,502**	**194**	**38,698**

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

7 Kenya State Department of Devolution. N.d.

8 Settlements are not a recognized administrative boundary. In Kenya, two administrative bodies, namely the National government and the County Government, use different administrative levels. For this reason, DTM Kenya uses the word "settlements" in reporting as a nomenclature for the smallest living clusters. The government-recognized administrative boundaries are as follows: National Government: Admin 0 (Kenya), Admin 1 (County), Admin 2 (Sub County), Admin 3 (Location), Admin 4 (Sub-Location), Admin 5 (Village); County Government: Admin 0 (Kenya), Admin 1 (County), Admin 2 (Sub County), Admin 3 (Ward), Admin 4 (Village), Admin 5 (Sub-Village)

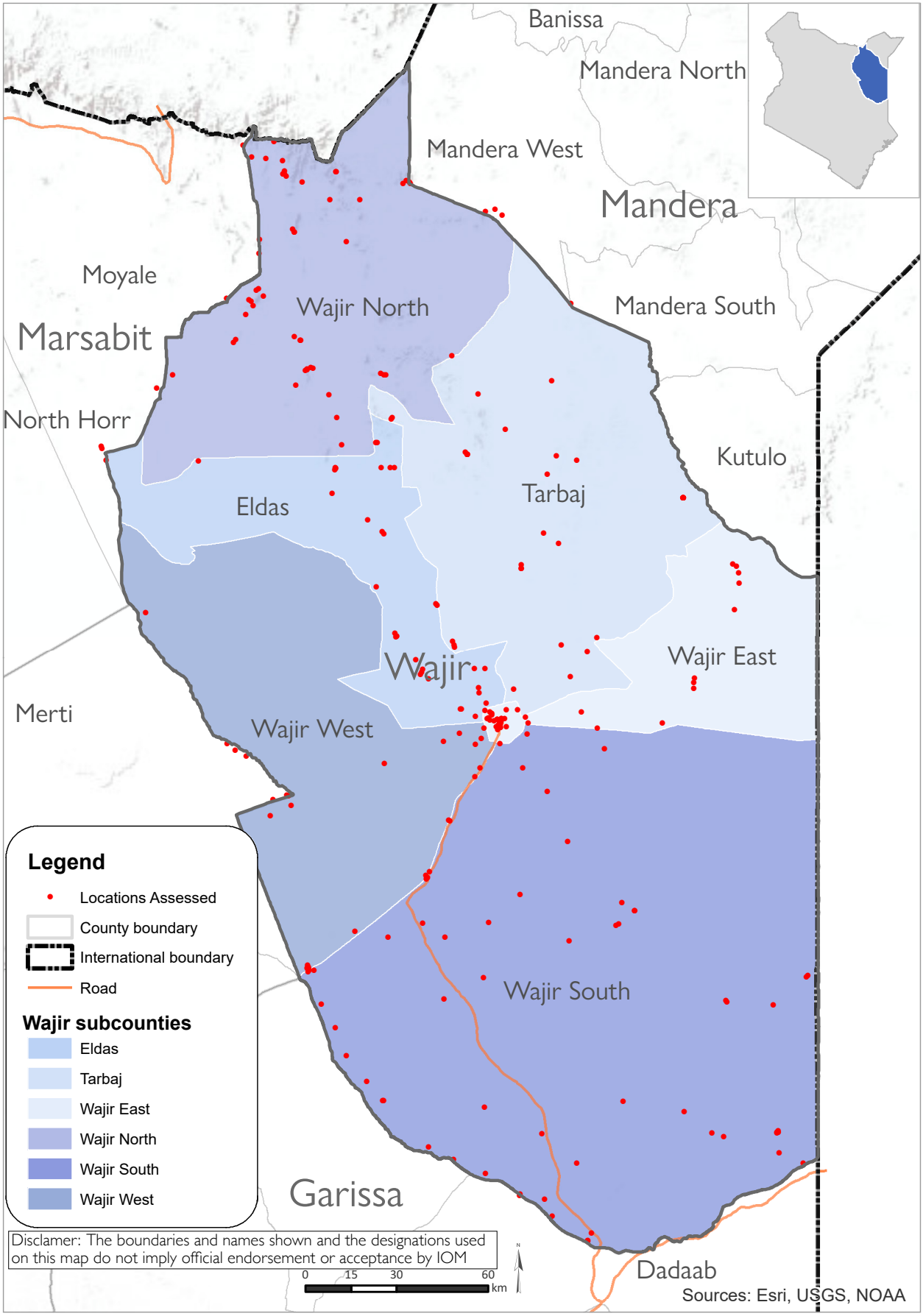
9 IOM in reference to the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019 conducted by KNBS and in coordination with the Couty Commissioner's Office and the County Government's Office mapped all the sub-locations prior to the data collection exercise and conducted a preliminary assessment in all the existing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

Table 2. Mobile Population Groups and Main Reasons for Movement

Type of Population Group	Movement of Population Groups Across the County by Sub-location	Reason(s) for Movement, by Population
Absentees	Informants **reported absentees** in **61%** of sub-locations	Informants in **95%** of sub-locations **cited drought** as the main reason for the movement of absentees.
Arrivals	Informants **reported arrivals** in **58%** of sub-locations.	Informants in **88%** of sub-locations **cited drought** as the main reason for the arrivals' movement.
Returnees	Informants **reported returnees** in **64%** of sub-locations.	Informants in **70%** of sub-locations mentioned that returnees came back because **wanted/needed to rejoin their families**, while informants in **37%** of the sub-locations said that the returnees came back to their place of origin because they **have not found assistance**.
Foreign Nationals	Informants **reported foreign nationals** in **5%** of sub-locations.	Informants in **57%** of the sub-locations cited **drought** as the main reason for the movement of foreign nationals.
Pastoralist Dropouts	Informants **reported pastoralist drop-outs** in **89%** of sub-locations.	Informants in **99%** of the sub-locations cited **drought** as the main cause for pastoralist drop-outs

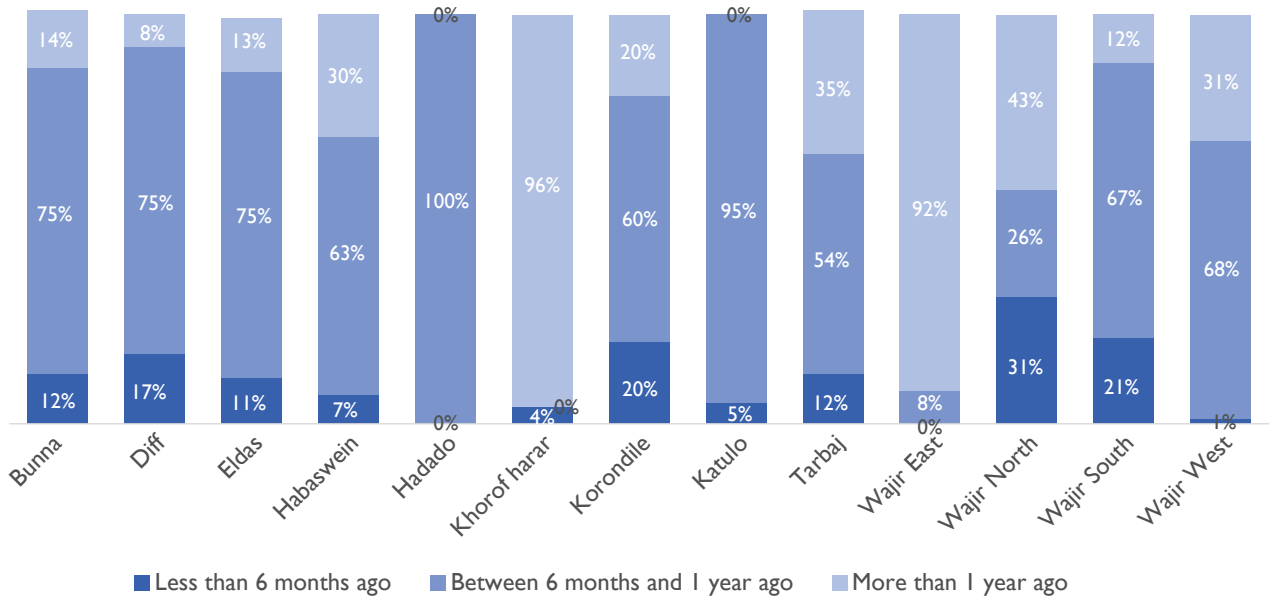
Households that included older persons and children and those headed by women were mentioned by KI as the most at-risk groups in this assessment due to their high risk of exposure to protection issues, such as gender-based violence and lack of access to basic social services in rural settings.Among those assessed, 41,382 households were headed by women, 29,247 households were headed by elderly persons, 8,749 headed by persons with disabilities and 1,871 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 1,871 child-headed households, 309 (17%) had no relatives or community members living near them, and therefore, they were separated from their legal or customary guardians, while 1,124 (60%) child-headed households were reported to have not received any kind of support and survived on their own. Furthermore, in Wajir the relative population of infants was high- informants reported 152,333 children between the age of 0 and 5 years old.

Map 1. Mobility Tracking Assessment, locations of data collection



Absentees

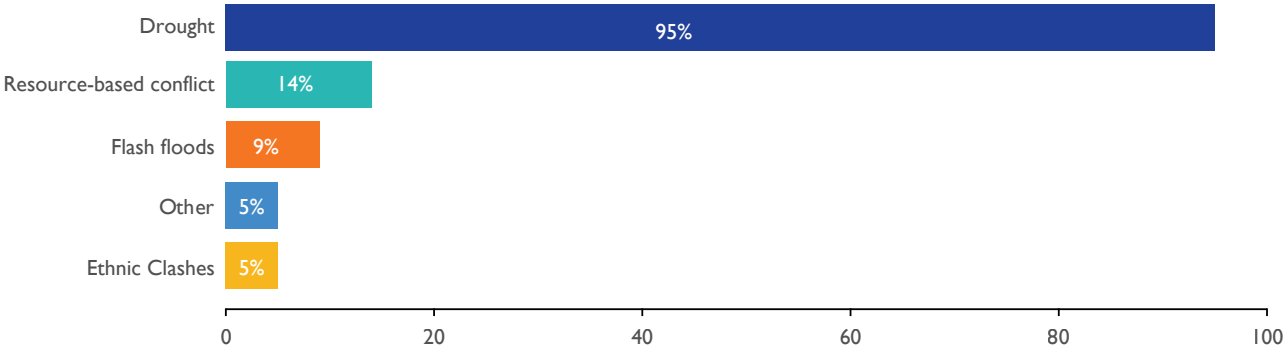
Figure 1. Absentee households by time of since departure[10]



Informants from 162 out of 266 (61%) sub-locations reported absentees, which overall accounted for 11,890 households. Seventy-eight per cent of all absentee households reportedly left their places of residence between six months and one year prior to data collection during a period when drought severely affected the county.

According to KI, drought was the main reason for the forced movement of people in 95 per cent of the sub-locations. The second most reported reason for the movement of people was resource-based conflict (14%), followed by flash floods (9%) and ethnic clashes (5%).

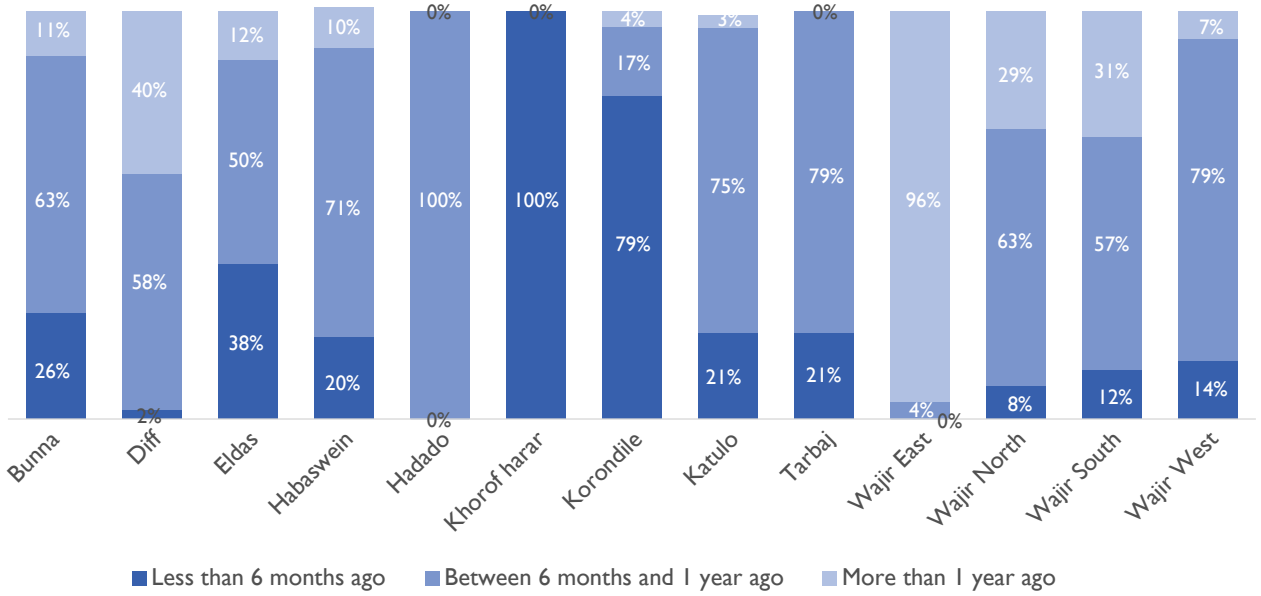
Figure 2. Reason(s) for Absentee movement, as reported across sub-locations[11]



10 Totals might not equal to 100 per cent due to rounding.
11 Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Question allowed for multiple selections with a maximum of 3 selections.

Arrivals

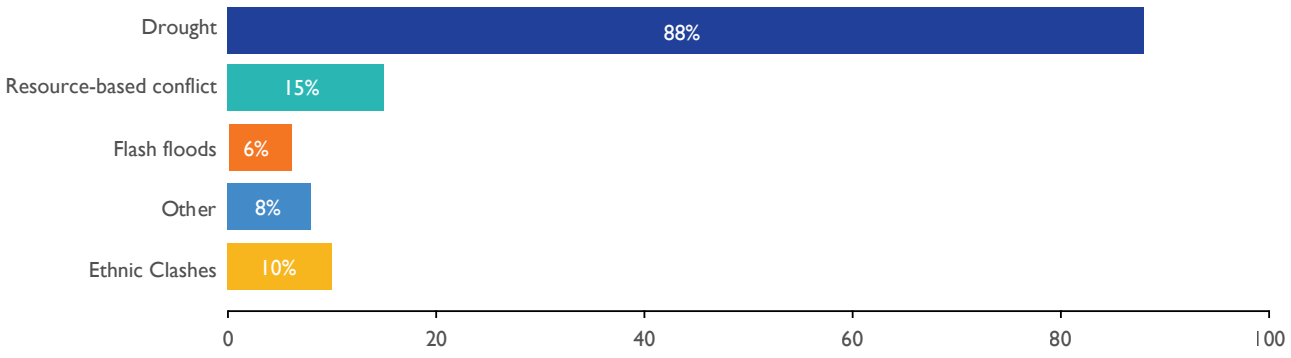
Figure 3. Arrival households by sub-location and time between data collection and arrival



Informants from 155 of 266 (58%) sub-locations recorded arrival populations, representing 10,145 households. Forty-nine per cent of all arrival households arrived and temporarily settled at the assessment site more than a year before the assessment, while 41 per cent arrived less than a year before the assessment. Together these figures indicate a trend of protracted displacement in Wajir County due to the drought that affected the county from 2020 to 2022, with improved conditions in 2023.

According to the KI, nearly all the newly arrived households in all assessed sub-locations moved within Kenya (98%), and 2 per cent arrived from Somalia. Of those moving within Kenya, 60 per cent arrived at the assessment site from another sub-location in Wajir County, 22 per cent arrived from Meru and 5 per cent arrived from Garissa County.

Figure 4. Reported reason(s) for arrival across sub-locations as % of KIs reporting[12]

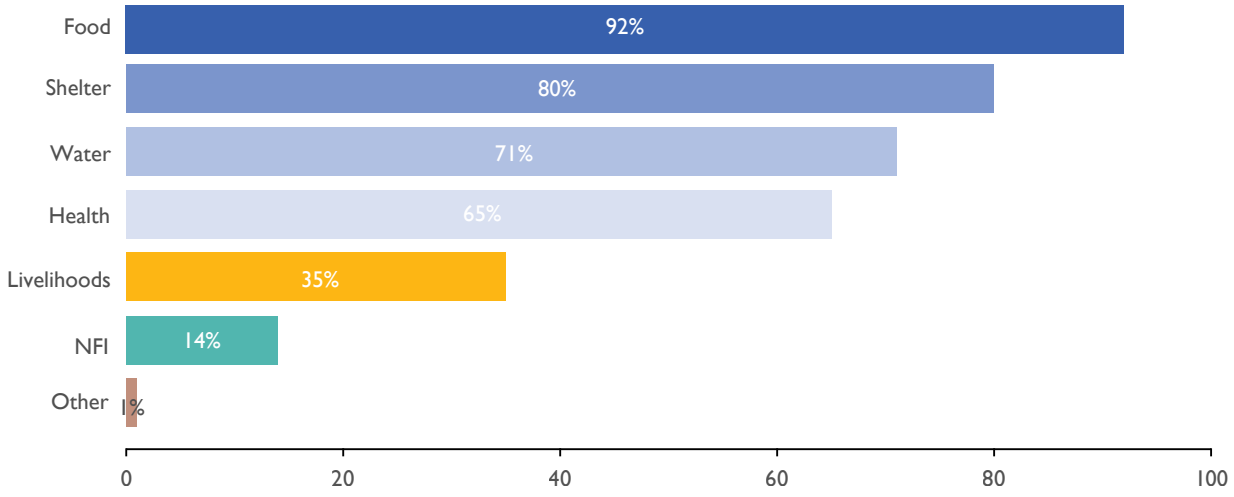


Informants reported that almost half of the arrival households (45%) were occupying temporary spontaneous sites[13], while 35 per cent of the arrivals were accommodated by the host community and 18 per cent were living in planned sites.

12 Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. Question allowed for multiple selections with a maximum of 3.

13 Displaced households who live collectively outside of the government designated/planned sites. These households normally stay in open spaces dwelling in makeshift shelters or tents.

Figure 5. Most urgent needs of arrival households, % reported by KI at the sub-location[14]



Food	Shelter	Water	Health	Livelihood	NFI
143 Sub-Locations	124 Sub-Locations	110 Sub-Locations	101 Sub-Locations	55 Sub-Locations	21 Sub-Locations
9,372 Households	7,996 Households	8,553 Households	7,527 Households	6,227 Households	3,704 Households

Returnees

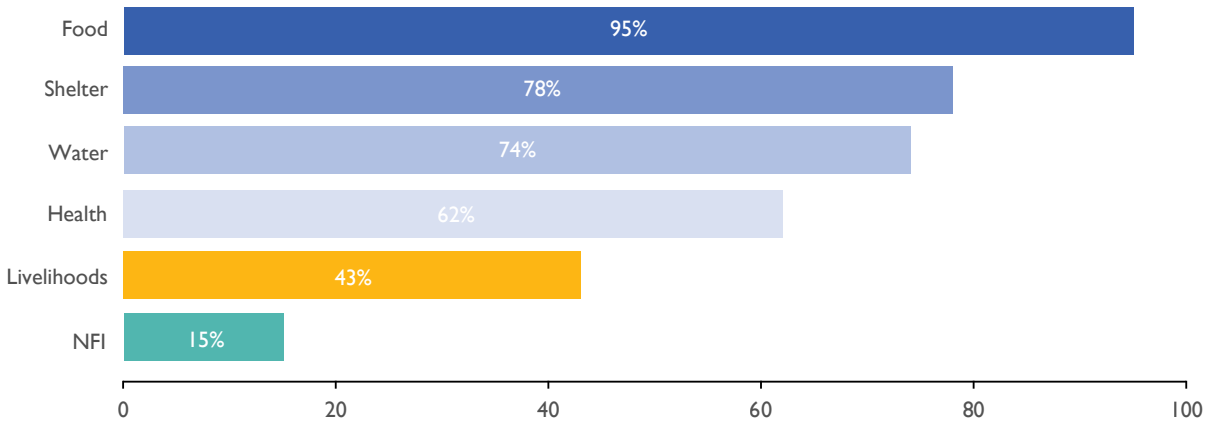
Of the 266 assessed sub-locations, KI reported the presence of returnees in 169 sub-locations (64% of the total), amounting to 15,502 households. Overall, 77 per cent of returnees returned to their places of origin between six months and one year ago, while 12 per cent returned less than six months ago and 11 per cent returned more than a year ago.

According to the KI, the majority (91%) of the newly arrived households in all assessed sub-locations temporarily resided in Kenya, while 9 per were in Somalia and less than 1 per cent were in Ethiopia. Of those who moved within Kenya, 50 per cent temporarily resided outside of their places of origin in Garissa County, while 29 per cent resided in Wajir, demonstrating intra-county mobility. Informants also cited Tana River as the temporary place of residence for 9 per cent of the returnee households. Most of the returnee households (77%) lived in their former location of residence, while 10 per cent lived in spontaneous sites and 7 per cent lived with the host community.

In a multiple selection question, informants in 70 per cent of sub-locations reported that the returnees came back to their place of origin to rejoin their families. Informants in 37 per cent of the sub-locations also reported that the returnees came back because they were not provided with assistance in their new location.

14 Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. Question allowed for multiple selections with a maximum of 3.

Figure 6. Most urgent needs of returnee households as cited by KI (% of sub-locations)[15]



Food	Shelter	Water	Health	Livelihood	NFI
161 Sub-Locations	131 Sub-Locations	125 Sub-Locations	104 Sub-Locations	72 Sub-Locations	25 Sub-Locations
15,132 Households	7,307 Households	12,161 Households	6,320 Households	7,341 Households	2,269 Households

Foreign Nationals

According to KI, foreign nationals were reported in 14 out of 266 locations (5% of the total sub-locations). KI in more than half of the assessed sub-locations (67%) reported that foreign national households arrived in the six months prior to data collection, while informants in 27 per cent of locations reported that foreign nationals arrived a year or more before data collection. Sixty-three per cent of the foreign national households were originally from Somalia, while 35 per cent were from Ethiopia and 3 per cent were from Uganda. The KI across sub-locations reported drought as the main reason for forced movement among foreign nationals (57%), followed by ethnic clashes (50%), resource-based conflict (36%) and flash floods (21%). The households of foreign nationals predominantly resided in Diff (57%) and Korondile (23%) sub-counties.

Pastoralist Dropouts

Pastoralism was recorded as the main source of livelihood, as confirmed by KI in 84 per cent of the sub-locations. However, pastoralist dropouts were reported as among the most vulnerable groups in the county as this population depends solely on financial gains from pastoralism without alternative means of living. Unpredictable weather patterns further exacerbated pastoralists' economic condition and vulnerability to cope with the severe impacts of climate change, including the continued deterioration of pastures, lack of food and flash floods. As a result, community members lost their livestock, or their livestock were stolen by other pastoralists to replenish the deceased animals.

Of the 266 assessed sub-locations, KI reported the presence of pastoralist dropouts in 238 locations (89%), amounting to 38,698 households. Across all the sub-locations, 67 per cent of respondents reported that pastoralists dropped their livelihoods six months to one year prior to data collection and 28 per cent of dropouts dropped pastoralist more than a year prior to data collection. Only 6 per cent dropped pastoralism in the last six months, suggesting that the end of drought in 2023 improved the livelihood conditions for those who continued pastoralism. The data did not assess whether those who had previously dropped pastoralism returned to it as the drought improved.

15 Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. Question allowed for multiple selections with a maximum of 3.

Figure 7. Pastoralist Dropout households, by time since dropout (%)

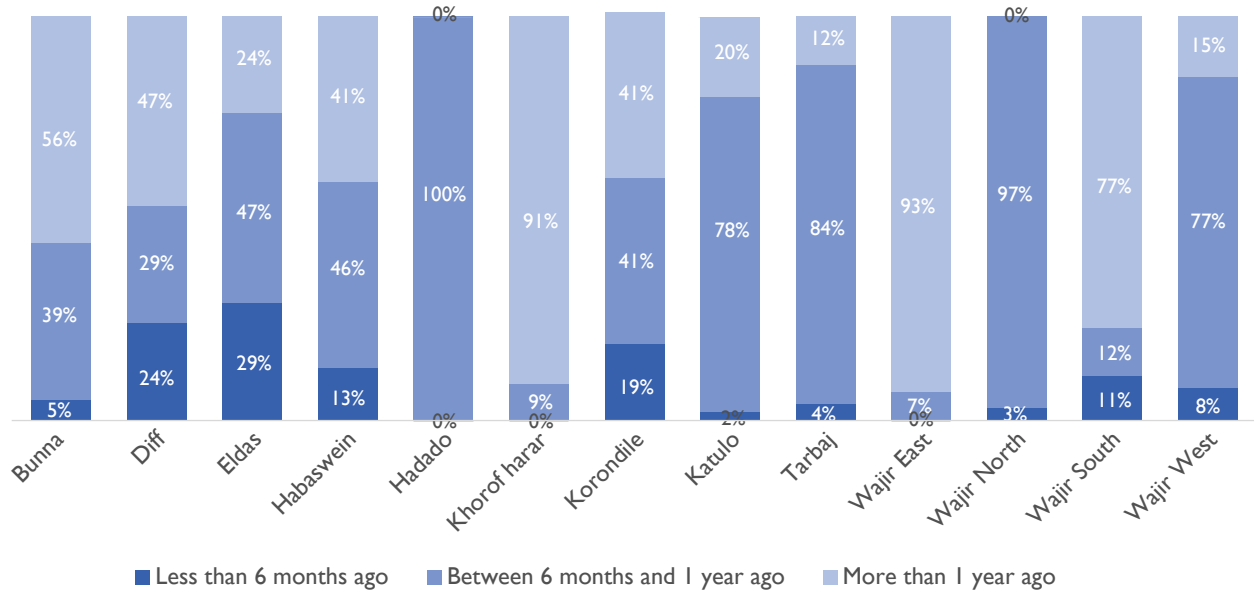
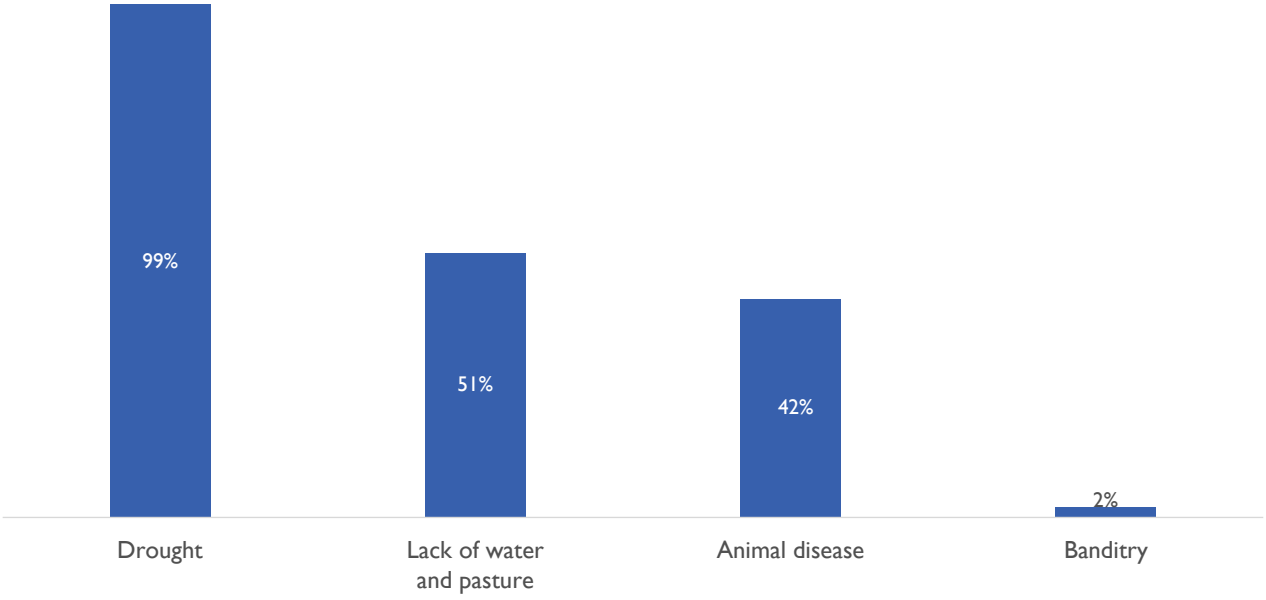


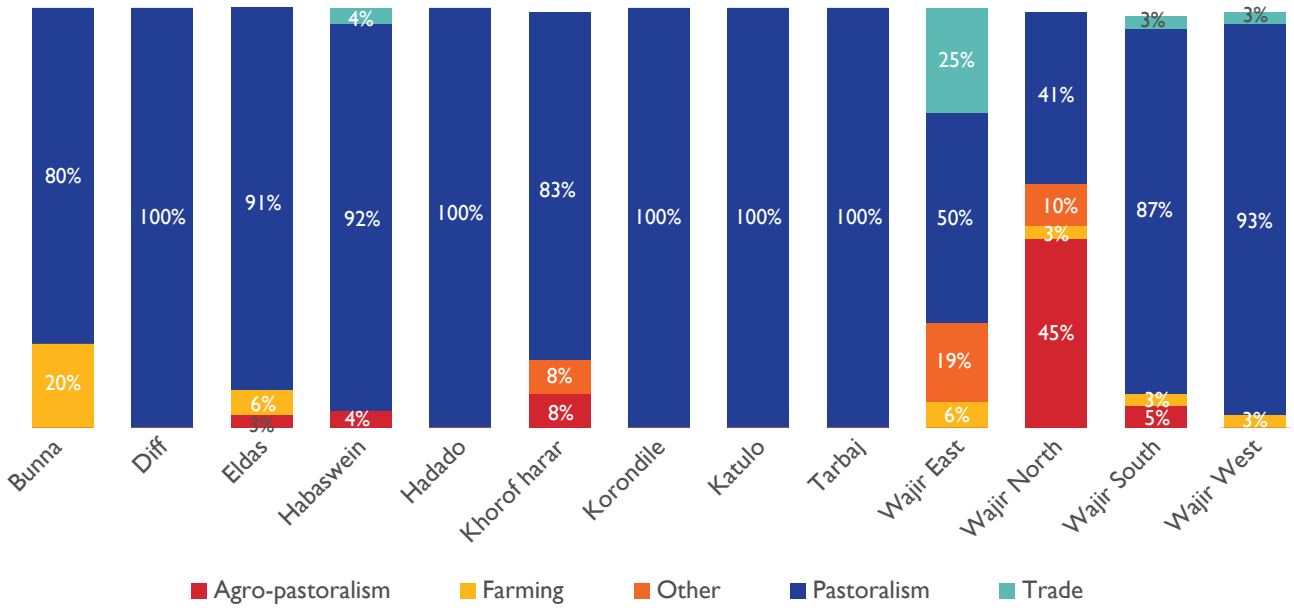
Figure 8. Reported reason(s) for dropping pastoralism across sub-locations[16]



16 Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. Question allowed for multiple selections with a maximum of 3. Enumerators were trained to differentiate "drought" as a long-standing issue and an acute lack of water and pasture and "lack of water and pasture"

Livelihoods

Figure 9. Main sources of livelihood by sub-location



During the assessment, KI reported that nomadic pastoralism was the primary source of livelihood among residents in 84 per cent of the sub-locations (83,555 households). KI in 7 per cent (13,061 households) of the assessed sub-locations reported small-scale agro-pastoralism as households' main source of livelihood. Beyond these sources, respondents reported residents' reliance on trade and farming.

All respondents were asked about the most common method of money exchange and business transactions among residents in their respective sub-counties. The question included pre-defined options of cash, M-PESA (mobile money transfer), and bank transactions. Of these, cash transactions were reported as the most prevalent way of facilitating business in Wajir County, as 90 per cent of KI reported that residents use this method. In addition to cash, 53 per cent of KI reported that residents used transactions via M-PESA.[17]

Challenges and Coping Mechanisms

KI were asked a multiple-selection question about challenges faced by the community in the recent past.[18] Once the challenges were reported, enumerators probed the informants for details on the communities' common coping mechanisms in response to the corresponding challenges. Lack of access to food and environmental challenges were reported by informants in 70 and 55 per cent of the sub-locations, respectively, as the main challenges in the 1-2 years prior to the data collection. Following these challenges, lack of access to services and loss of livelihoods were the challenges most often mentioned by KI, both reported in 41 per cent of the sub-locations. Informants listed selling livestock, alternating sources of livelihood, and selling assets as the top three coping mechanisms for the reported challenges.

17 Vodafone. N.d.

18 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).

Table 3. Reported Challenges and Related Coping Mechanisms

Reported Challenge between 2022-2023	Reported Coping Mechanism
Lack of Food and Water Cited by KI from 185 sub-locations (70%)	When responding to insufficient food and water: a. KI from 68 per cent of the sub-locations (n=185) reported that residents **sold livestock** as the first coping mechanism, **alternated their sources of livelihood** at 43 per cent of the sub-locations, and **sold assets** at 39 per cent. b. **Loans/debt** were a key coping strategy reported in 31 per cent of sub-locations in response to insufficient food and water, followed by **begging** as reported in 17 per cent of the sub-locations. c. **Moving with family (within Kenya)** was a reported adaptation strategy in 10 per cent of the sub-locations, while **individual migration** was the key coping mechanism mentioned in 6 per cent of the sub-locations.
Environmental Challenges Cited by KI from 147 sub-locations (55%)	In response to environmental concerns: a. KI from 71 per cent of the sub-locations (n=147) reported **selling livestock** as the first coping mechanism, **alternating livelihoods** at 56 per cent of the sub-locations, and selling assets at 38 per cent of the sub-locations. b. In 24 per cent of the sub-locations where environmental challenges were reported, community members took on **loans/debt** as a coping mechanisms. **Begging** was also reported in 20 per cent of the sub-locations that faced environmental challenges. c. **Individual migration** and **moving with family** were used as adaptation strategies in, respectively, 9 and 7 per cent of the locations where environmental challenges were a key concern for the community.
Lack of access to essential services Cited by KI from 109 sub-locations (41%)	In response to a lack of access to essential services: a. KI from 69 per cent of the sub-locations (n=109) reported **selling livestock** as the first coping mechanism, **selling assets** was reported in 42 per cent of the sub-locations, and looking for **alternate livelihoods** was reported at 39 per cent of the sub-locations. b. Respondents in 22 per cent of sub-locations reported that community members took on **loans/debts**, while respondents in 17 per cent of the sub-locations reported **begging** as a coping mechanism. c. Respondents in 15 per cent of sub-locations reported that community members pursued **household migration**, and in 8 per cent of the cases, residents pursued **individual migration to cope**.

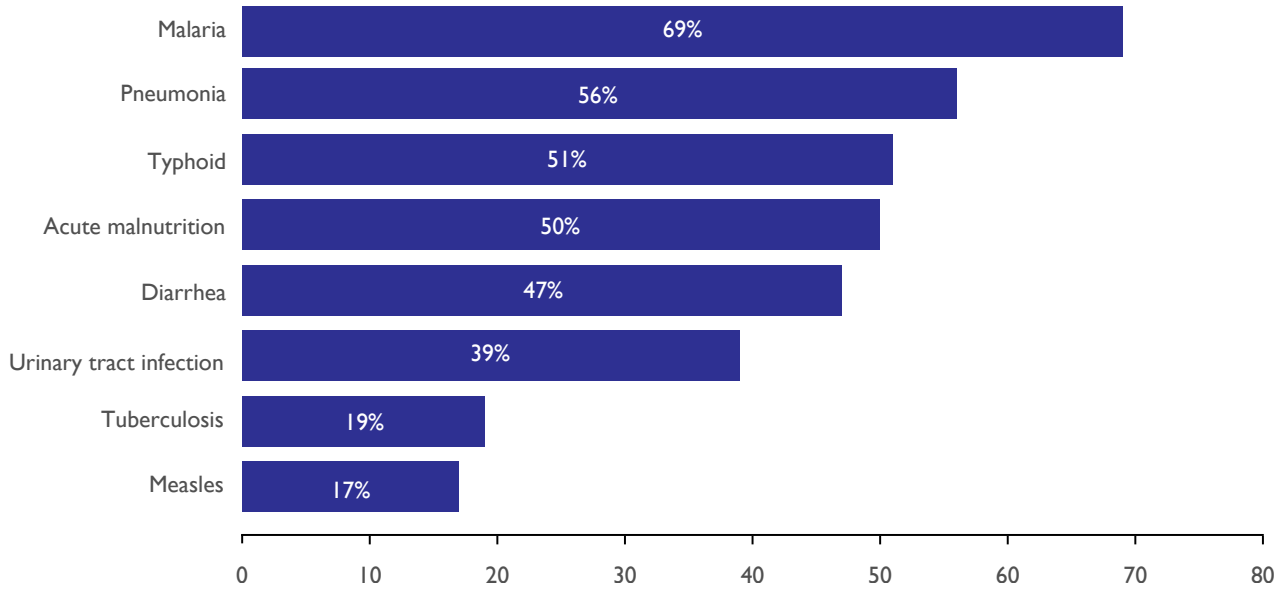
Multi-Sectoral Assessment

In addition to assessing population groups' and host communities' mobility, IOM was able to assess the populations' most urgent sectoral needs in relation to health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, shelters, and non-food items (NFIs).

Health

The most prevalent health issue reported was malaria, reported by informants in 184 out of 266 (69%) sub-locations. The second and third most reported ailments were pneumonia (56%) and typhoid (51%). Other waterborne diseases like diarrhea were also prevalent (reported by informants in 47% of sub-locations), resulting from unprotected and contaminated water sources. An insufficient number of water sources was identified as another contributor to waterborne diseases.

Figure 10. Primary Health Concerns, as reported by KI Across Sub-locations (multiple choice)



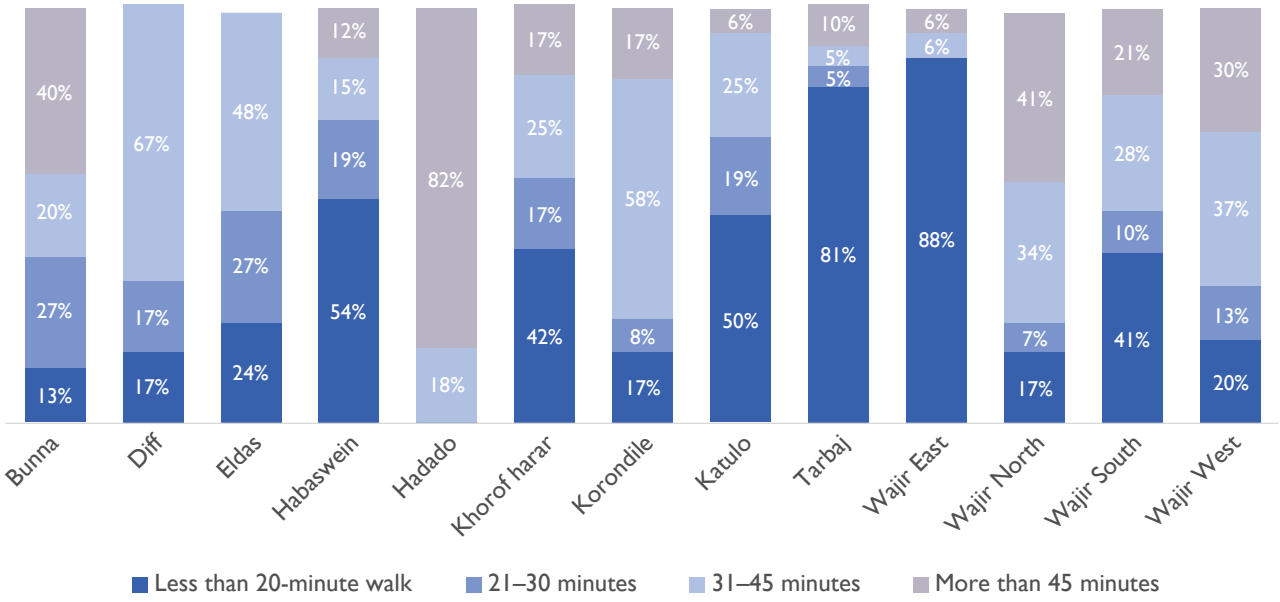
KI from 51 per cent of the sub-locations reported the presence of health facilities in their respective sub-location. However, the facilities reportedly suffered from the absence of medicines and commodities (89%), inadequate number of qualified personnel (30%), lack of water (28%), and no ability to refer patients to additional care (24%). In 18 sub-locations, health facilities (13% of those assessed) were reportedly not open every day. Furthermore, most respondents reported that the healthcare infrastructure was damaged and in need of significant repairs (47%) or minor repairs (37%). Respondents in only 16 per cent of sub-locations reported that they had a health facility in good condition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Respondents reported 5,319 functional, potable water sources across the 266 sub-locations. Additionally, KI from 30 sub-locations reported that they had no functional water sources. There were 47 functional water sources, in 17 sub-locations, that were not accessible at the time of assessment due to recent floods, distance or difficult to access.

To further probe the distance between the community members and their water sources, a follow up question was directed to KI on the most common distance between local households and their water sources. Thirty-seven per cent of KI reported that less than 20 minutes on foot (one way) was required to access water. In 14 per cent of the sub-locations, KI reported that most residents required 21-30 minutes to access water on foot and in some locations (29 per cent of those assessed) respondents reported that 31-45 minutes were required for community members to fetch water. In the remaining 21 per cent of the sub-locations, residents trekked more than 45 minutes to access clean, potable water.

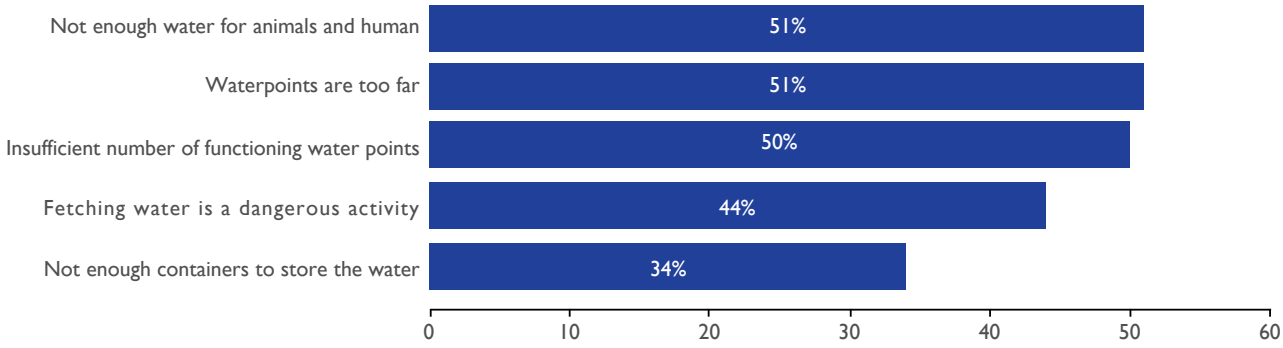
Figure 11. Time Required to Access Water Sources on Foot by Sub-locations



Respondents reported that 138 sub-locations (52%) had existing WASH committees, while 126 sub-locations reportedly did not have any WASH committees (47%). 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 maintained water sources in 55 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 45 sub-locations (19%), respondents reported that no structures for water management exist.

Respondents from 51 per cent of the sub-locations where water was accessible reported that there was not enough water for livestock and people and that waterpoints are too far. In addition, respondents in half of the sub-locations (50%) reported that there was an insufficient number of functional water points, while 44 per cent mentioned security issues, especially for women, girls and persons with disabilities, in fetching water.

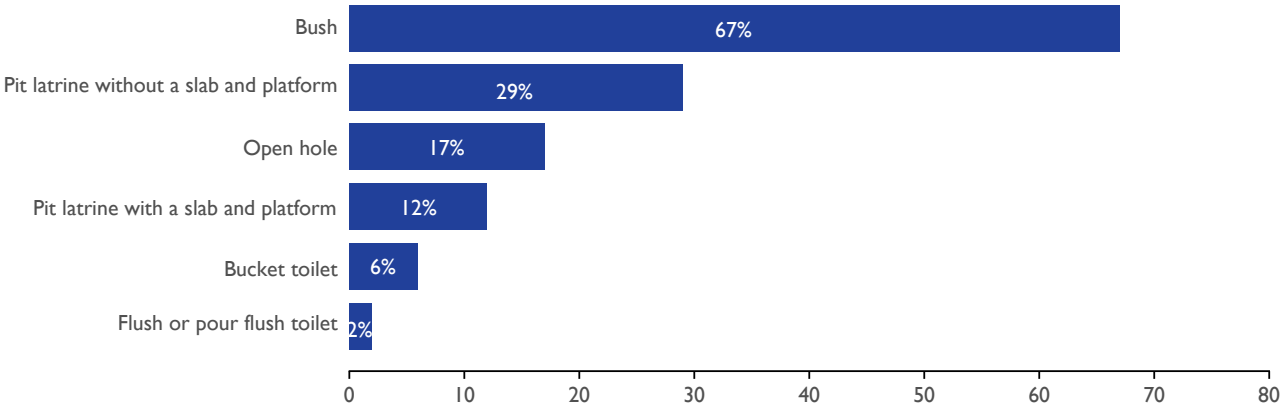
Figure 12. Issues in accessing water by sub-locations



According to respondents, the drinking water supply from 56 per cent of the sub-locations was not treated for harmful bacteria and waterborne diseases. In 24 per cent of the cases, water was treated by boiling it, while in 14 per cent of the sub-locations KI reported that water was treated using disinfection products. Most respondents in sub-locations reported that the top three sources of water for drinking water were: motorized borehole (38% of the sub-locations), shallow well (17%) and rainwater collection (12%).

Open defecation was reported in two-thirds of the sub-locations (67% or 177 sub-locations). The most reported drivers for people to practice open defecation was the lack of gender-segregated latrines (36%), difficulty in accessing the latrines (53%), and the lack of functioning toilets (29%). In many cases, latrines were also cost-prohibitive, and many KI noted that building expenses were a deterrent for latrine construction and use.

Figure 13. Types of latrines used, as a proportion of sub-locations[19]



Education

Respondents in Wajir County reported active educational institutions in 89 per cent of sub-locations, while 11 per cent of respondents reported that their sub-location did not have an educational facility. Respondents from 24 sub-locations reported that the locations had never hosted educational facilities.

There were eight sub-locations identified where the nearest school was reportedly over 10 kilometers away, while in four sub-locations, the nearest school is located less than a kilometer away. KI noted a considerable number of school dropouts across all the sub-locations, amounting to approximately 8,142 students (6% of the estimated number of students).

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Most respondents in the sub-locations (52%) reported that when the mobile and local communities constructed their shelters, they sourced the materials from the surrounding bush, while 33 per cent purchased materials from nearby markets. It was reported that, in 47 per cent of sub-locations, shelters were made of light materials and were not stable enough to withstand environmental hazards or security threats. In 36 per cent of sub-locations, the construction of a decent shelter was reportedly prohibitively expensive due to the high price of primary materials in the local market.

Respondents in almost half of the sub-locations (46%) reported that buul/tukul[20] shelters were made of wood frames, with cloth or plastic sheeting, while in 41 per cent of the sub-locations shelters made of mud walls and thatched roofing were present. Respondents also reported the following types of shelters: mud wall with iron sheet roofing in 24 per cent of the sub-locations, temporary shelter made of plastic sheets, old clothes or old woven materials (19%), temporary shelter made of wood and indigenous materials without roofing (18%), temporary shelter made of wood and indigenous materials with walls and roofing (16%) brick wall with thatched roofing (14%), and brick wall with iron sheet roofing (14%).

19 Question was offered as a multiple choice and therefore percentages do not equal to 100.
20 Tukul is a term used to refer to round homes in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan and other parts of eastern Africa

Conclusion

The data collected by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Kenya sheds light on the formidable challenges faced by communities in Wajir County, particularly due to the increasing frequency and intensity of environmental hazards driven by climate change, such as droughts and floods. These recurring environmental disturbances exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, leading to widespread displacement, resource scarcity, and heightened risks for affected populations.

The Mobility Tracking round 3 assessment in Wajir County revealed that displaced households are often concentrated in areas already grappling with issues like drought, resource-based conflicts, and ethnic tensions. This situation heightens the strain on resources and social cohesion, as already vulnerable communities must now support additional populations with urgent needs.

Children on the move, especially those who are unaccompanied or separated, face significant vulnerabilities. They are at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse and encounter obstacles in accessing education and essential healthcare services, even in areas where such services exist. During the long rains in May 2024, ongoing floods in Kenya led to the closure of state schools for weeks. The closure of educational facilities due to climate-related shocks further compounds the challenges faced by these children, limiting their opportunities for a brighter future. As Wajir County hosted a concerning number of school-dropouts, (approximately 6% of the estimated number of students), school closures not only pose the risk that students miss a portion of their education, but also post the risk that students discontinue education altogether.

The inadequacy of housing structures to withstand environmental hazards underscores the urgent need for improved infrastructure and disaster preparedness. Without secure shelter, communities remain highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Addressing these challenges requires evidence-based responses for effective humanitarian assistance and sustainable development planning. By utilizing current data on immediate needs and historical data to identify patterns, stakeholders can allocate resources and interventions more strategically, ensuring a timely and effective response.

It is also crucial to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and foster resilience against future climate shocks. This involves investing in sustainable development, climate adaptation strategies, community empowerment, and conflict resolution. By tackling the root causes of vulnerability, communities can become more resilient and adaptable, better equipped to withstand the impacts of climate change both now and in the future.

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