REPORT ON HUMAN MOBILITY IN GARISSA COUNTY

September 2022

CONTENTS

Pastoralists in ASAL counties in Kenya have been forced to move for long distances in search of pasture and water for their livestock due to the drying up of wells as a result of climate change. Photo: ©Alexander Bee/IOM 2022

BACKGROUND

Over the past two years, the drought situation in northeastern Kenya has been deteriorating, resulting in approximately 4.4 million people living in the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above).[1] This is the worst drought in over 40 years[2]; these severe conditions are a direct result of four consecutive failed rainy seasons in the Horn of Africa region, while the fifth upcoming season is also forecasted to be below average.[3] While there is solid and regular monitoring of several indicators linked to the impact of drought through the Long Rains Food Security Assessments and the Short Rains Assessments carried out by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and partners, there is no comprehensive quantitative information on the human mobility dynamics because of drought in Kenya. To this end, and in order to inform the humanitarian response, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), deployed its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Garissa County, which is indicated as operational priority 1 for multisectoral needs severity, to provide estimates of population mobility dynamics due to drought.

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[1] Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action (Revised 21 September 2022) - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is an innovative multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis and decision-making. There are three IPC classifications that distinguish Acute Food Insecurity, Chronic Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition. For more information: https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/en/.

[2] https://allafrica.com/stories/202209290058.html

[3] https://www.wfp.org/stories/horn-africa-drought-means-hunger-and-malnutrition-people-clinic-kenya

Due to the impending drought, a number of wells and dams have dried up in ASAL counties in Kenya, which has forced people to move to find pastures and water sources elsewhere. Photo: © Angela Njuguna/IOM 2022

METHODOLOGY

DTM's mobility tracking baseline area assessment was conducted in coordination with Garissa County Government, County Commissioner's office, and NDMA from 5 to 19 September 2022 in Garissa. The assessment was conducted at two levels – ward level and settlement[4] level, using key informant interviews. DTM assessed all 30 wards and 356 settlements in Garissa. Out of the 356 settlements, IOM enumerators could physically access 350 locations and carried out face-to-face interviews with key informants. For the six settlements that were not accessible data collection was conducted by interviewing key informants over the phone. The assessment excluded refugee camps such as Dadaab to avoid double counting of affected mobile population. Information was collected on the following population categories:

- **Absentees:** Residents of the settlement who have left the settlement because of drought (death of animals, lack of food, lack of water, search for services), resource-based conflict, flash floods or seasonal floods, or fires.

- **Arrivals:** Persons who have left their settlement of habitual residence and arrived to the location assessed because of drought (death of animals, lack of food, lack of water, search for services), resource-based conflict, flash floods or seasonal floods, or fires.

- **Pastoralist drop-outs:** Agro-pastoralist who have lost their livestock or whose land has become unproductive and have therefore become destitute.

- **Returnees:** People that had left the settlement due to drought, but came back within the last two years.

- **Foreign nationals:** Non-Kenyan nationals that have arrived in the settlement of assessment because of drought (death of animals, lack of food, lack of water, search for services), resource-based conflict, flash floods or seasonal floods, or fires This includes migrants who cannot return, continue their journey or who are destitute in the location of assessment.

Findings are presented aggregated at sub-county level. For more information on DTM's methodology, see DTM's Methodological Framework.[5]

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[4]   For the purpose of this mobility tracking settlement includes all the sub locations, villages and settlements with a name.
[5]   https://dtm.iom.int/methodological-framework

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

82% of settlements in Garissa County were reported to have absentees totaling over **42,500 households** due to the drought.

30

All 30 wards in Garissa County reported facing environmental challenges resulting in desperate coping mechanisms.

92% of settlements in Garissa County reported loss of livestock or land becoming unproductive due to the drought with over **72,600 pastoralist dropout** households losing their capital and livelihood opportunity.

95%

Pastoralism was reported as the primary source of livelihood in **95% of all the wards.** This primary source of income has been largely decimated by the drought.
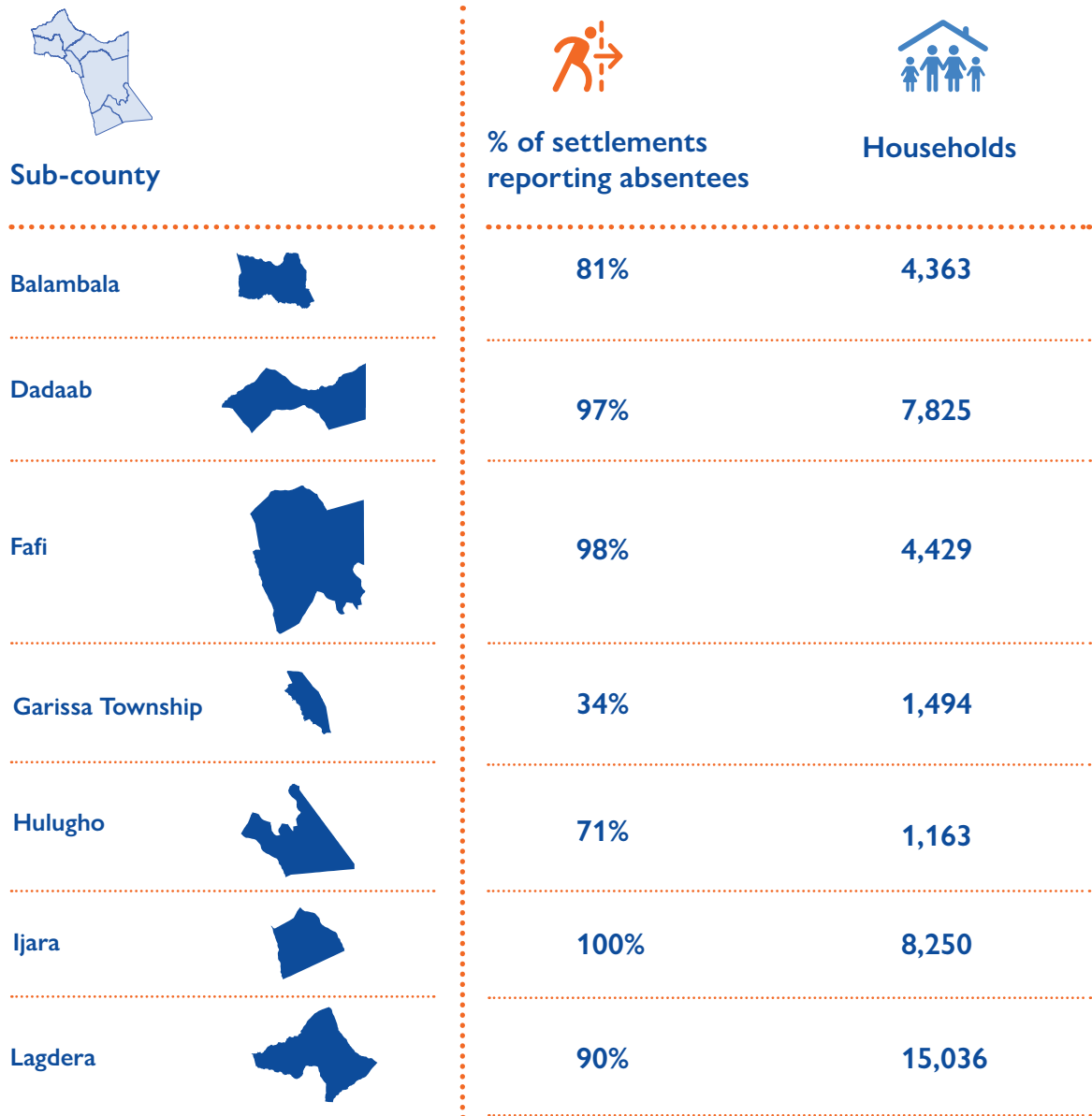
The **two most common** coping mechanisms reported to mitigate the impact of the environmental challenges were the sale of livestock and finding alternative sources of livelihood.

Due to the impending drought, a number of wells and dams have dried up in ASAL counties in Kenya, which has forced people to move to find pastures and water sources elsewhere. Photo: © Moses Otunga/IOM 2022

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Absentees

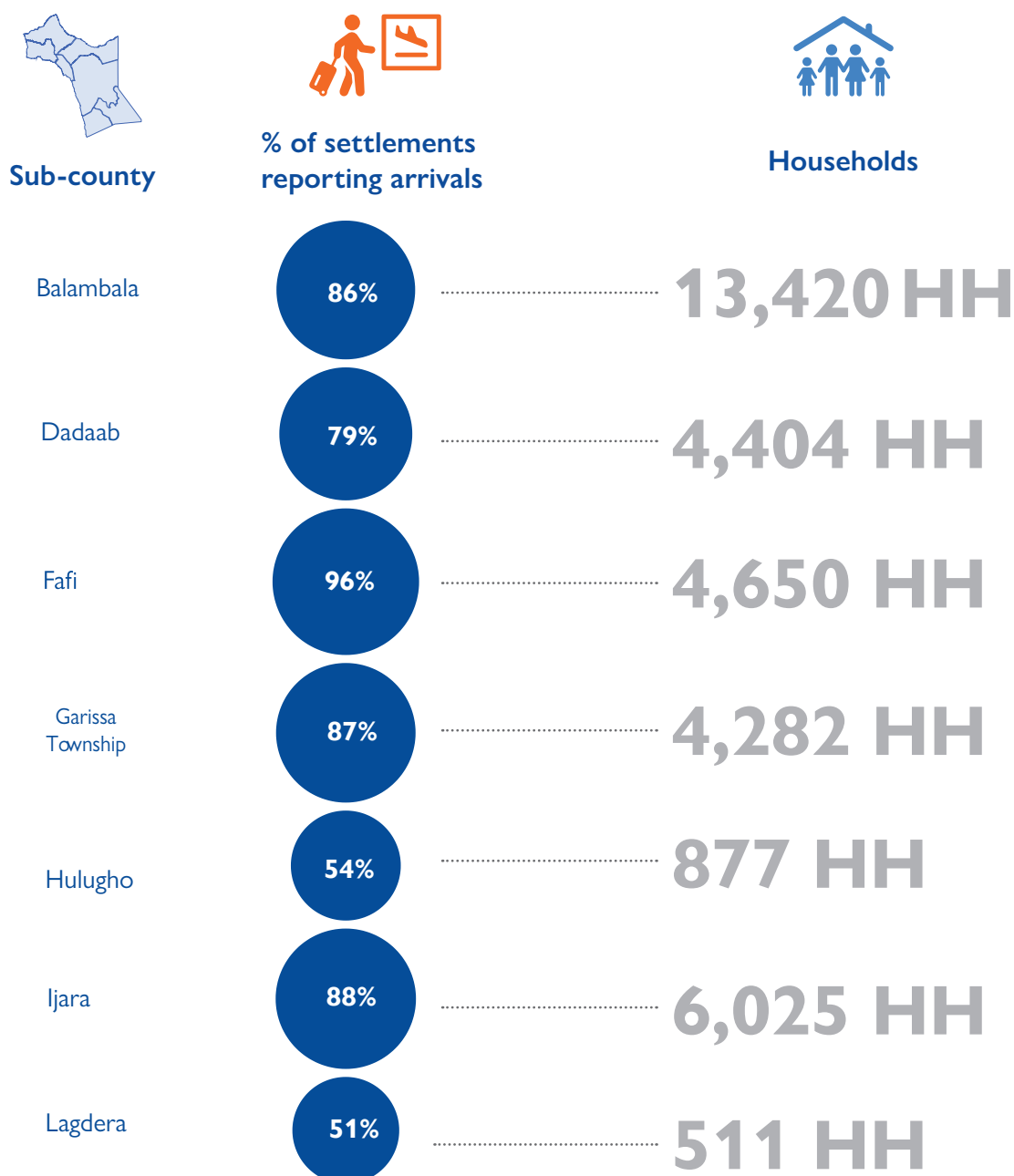| Sub-county	% of settlements reporting absentees	Households
Balambala	81%	4,363
Dadaab	97%	7,825
Fafi	98%	4,429
Garissa Township	34%	1,494
Hulugho	71%	1,163
Ijara	100%	8,250
Lagdera	90%	15,036

Due to the harsh drought conditions, over **42,500 households** had reportedly left behind their settlements due to drought. Absentees were reported in **all settlements** in **Ijara sub-county** while the sub-county with the overall **highest** number of absentee households was **Lagdera.**

42,560 HH

Number of households reportedly left their settlements due to drought.

Arrivals

Sub-county	% of settlements reporting arrivals	Households
Balambala	86%	13,420 HH
Dadaab	79%	4,404 HH
Fafi	96%	4,650 HH
Garissa Township	87%	4,282 HH
Hulugho	54%	877 HH
Ijara	88%	6,025 HH
Lagdera	51%	511 HH

Arrivals of people from other settlements in search of goods and services to cope with the drought were reported in **77%** of all settlements in **Garissa County** totaling 34,169 households. The majority of arrivals **(64%)** came from within the same county. However, **four in five** arrivals came settlements from a different sub-county. **Lagdera** is the sub-county of origin ofthe largest proportion of arrivals **(20%)** moving in search of goods and services and **Balambala** was the sub-county receiving most arrivals **(39%)**.

77%

of all settlements in Garissa County reported arrivals of people in search of services and assistance to cope with **ongoing drought.**

Returnees

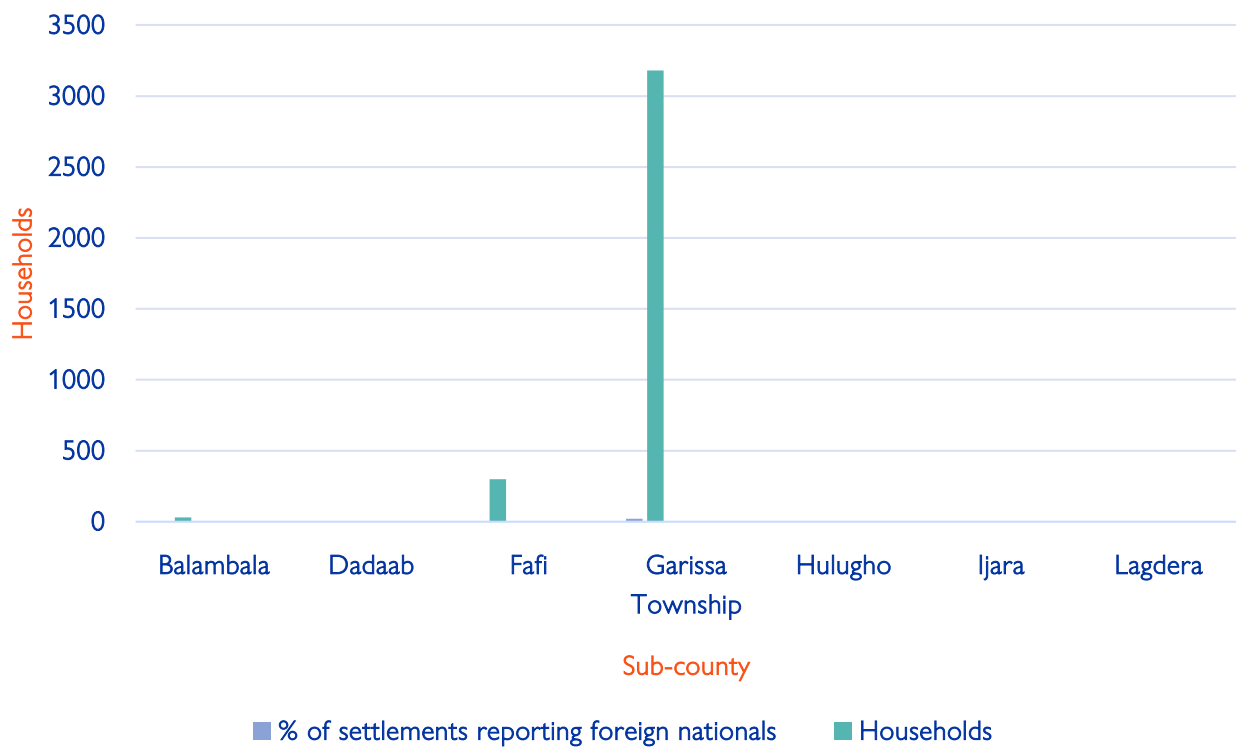| Sub-county	% of settlements reporting returnees	Households
Balambala	74%	3,834
Dadaab	63%	3,312
Fafi	89%	2,391
Garissa Township	35%	1,094
Hulugho	38%	544
Ijara	100%	10,720
Lagdera	83%	4,277

Of the **26,172** returnee households, the largest concentration of returnees was reported in **Ijara sub-county** where **41 per cent (10,720)** of the overall returnees came back. Returns were reported in all settlements in **Ijara**.

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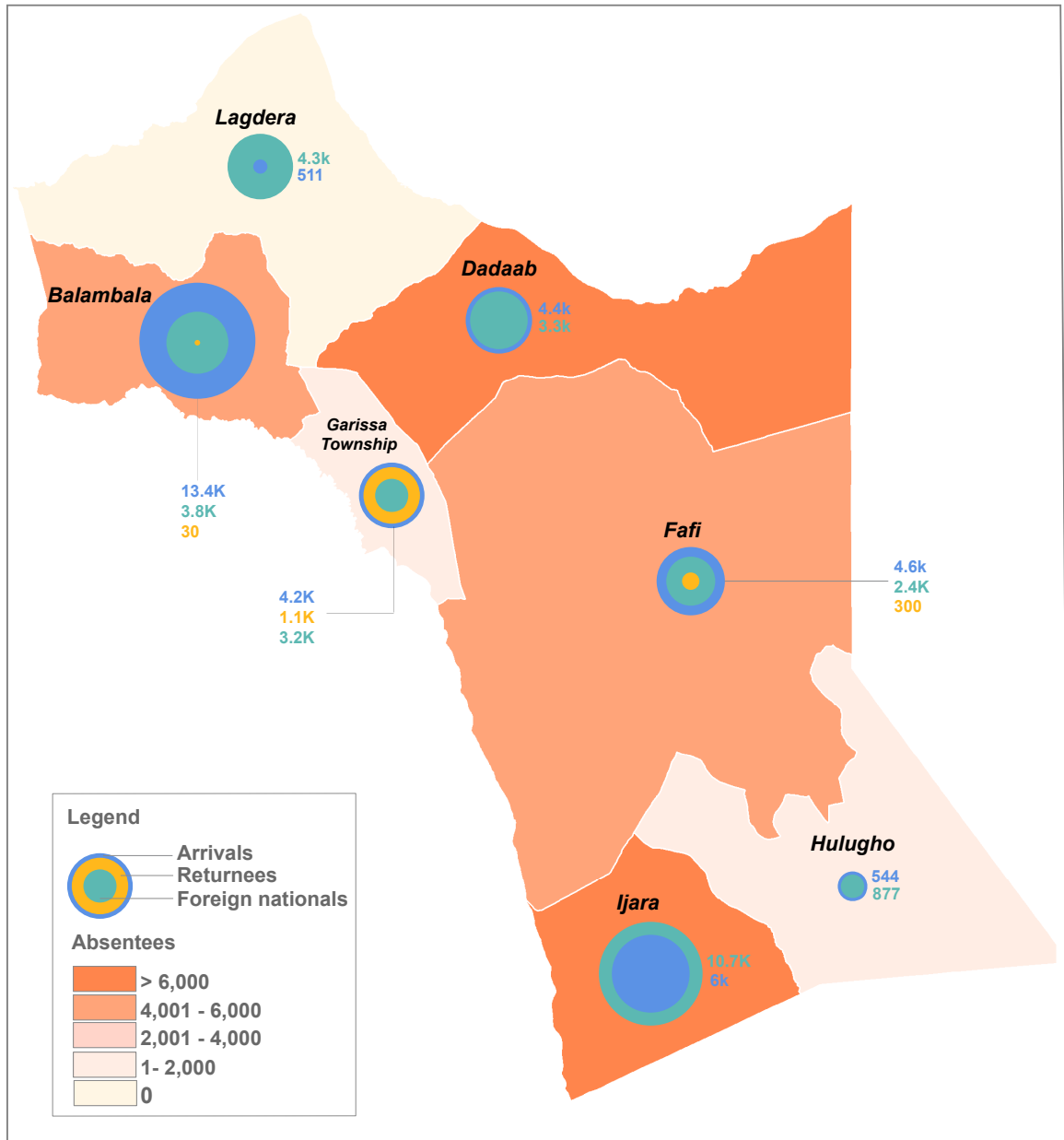
Foreign Nationals

Foreign nationals affected by drought were the smallest population group of households observed. Reportedly, they **totaled 3,510 with 3,180 (91%)** found in **Garissa/Township** which is the most developed sub-county.

Drought-affected pastoralists have migrated in search of water and pasture for their livestock in ASAL counties in Kenya. Communities are facing the threat of starvation due to the continued drought conditions. Photo: © Moses Otunga/IOM 2022
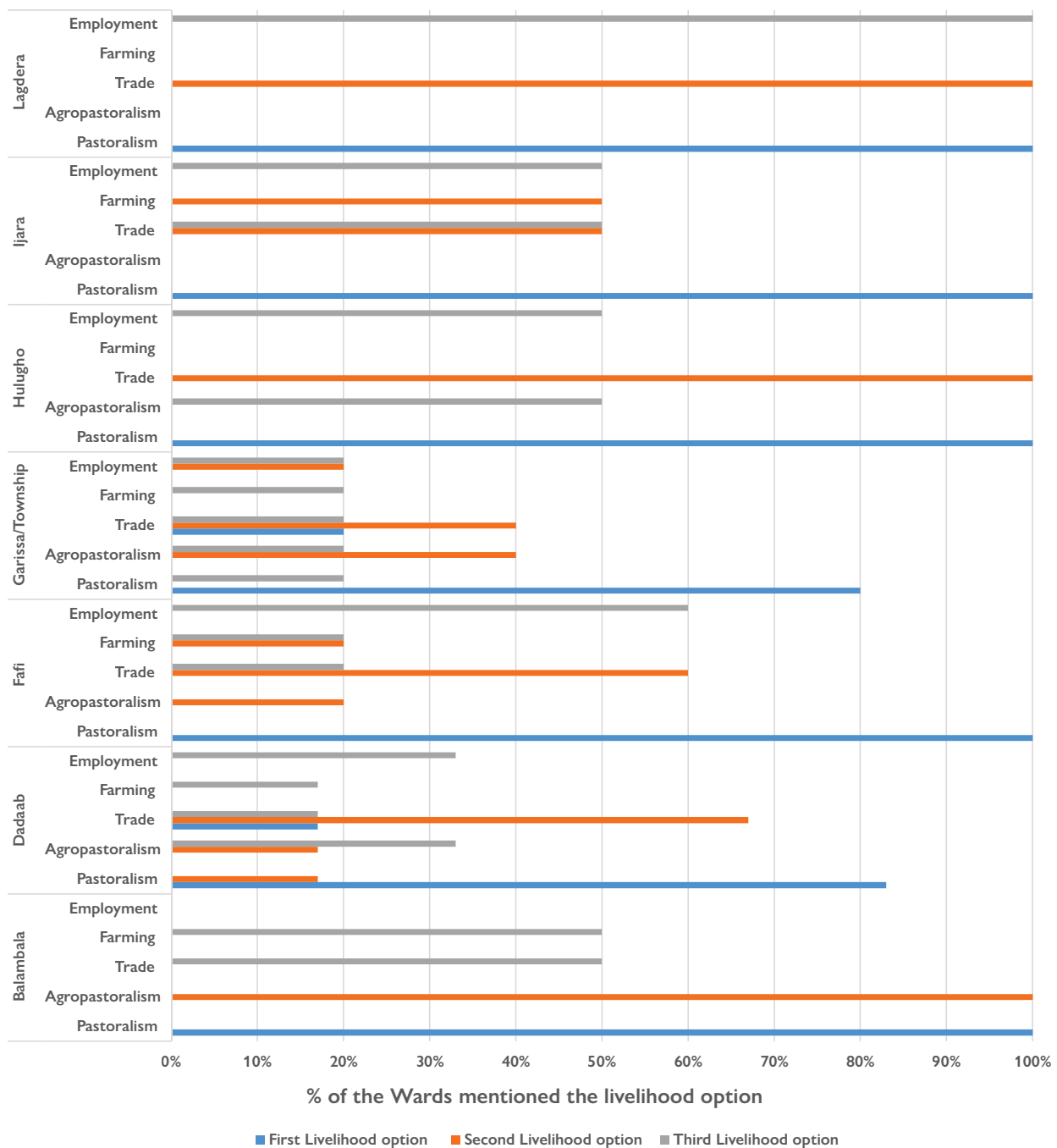
Mobile Population Groups by Sub-Counties

Map of Garissa County showing mobile population groups by sub-county.

Lagdera
4.3k
511

Balambala
13.4K
3.8K
30

Dadaab
4.4k
3.3k

Garissa Township
4.2K
1.1K
3.2K

Fafi
4.6k
2.4K
300

Hulugho
544
877

Ijara
10.7K
6k

Legend
Arrivals
Returnees
Foreign nationals

Absentees
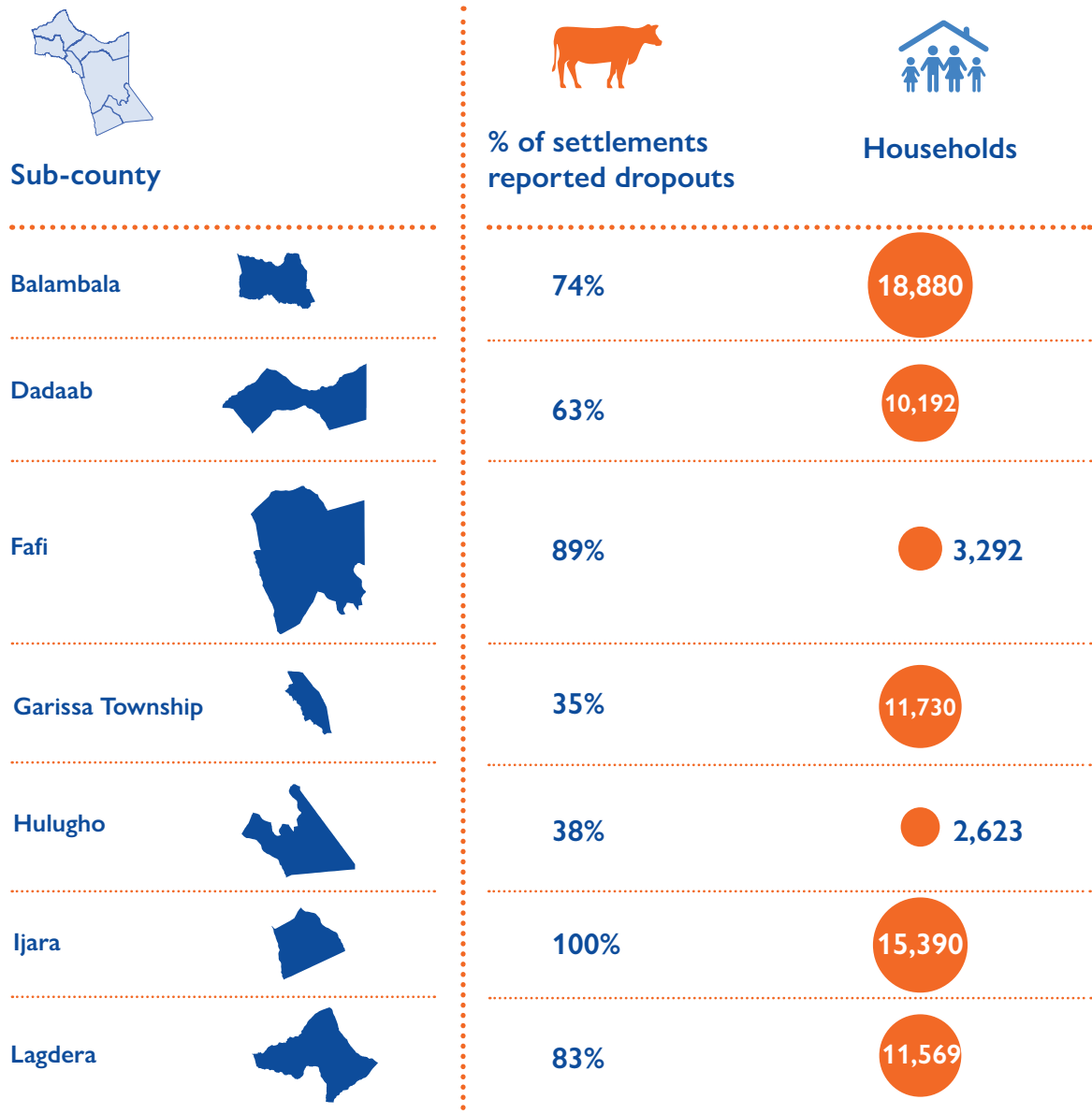- > 6,000
- 4,001 - 6,000
- 2,001 - 4,000
- 1- 2,000
- 0

*DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

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Source of Livelihood

% of the Wards mentioned the livelihood option

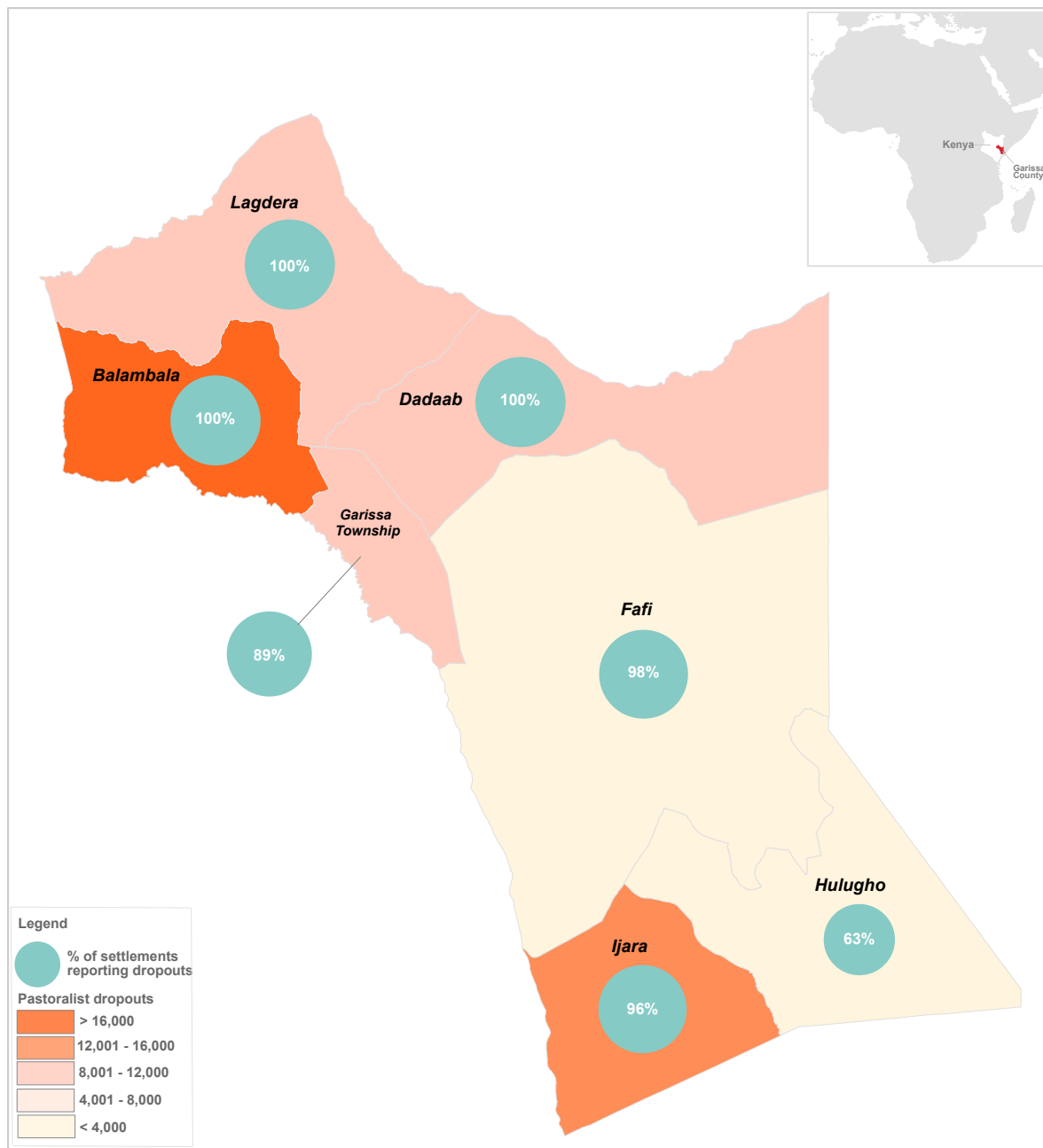■ First Livelihood option ■ Second Livelihood option ■ Third Livelihood option

Pastoralism is the **main source of livelihood** in all sub-counties and wards. Agro-pastoralism is not considered as the first choice for livelihood in any wards, however, as a second option it is seen as viable in Balambala, Dadaab, and Fafi. Trade is only considered a first choice of livelihood in **17 per cent** of wards in Dadaab and **20 per cent** of wards in Garissa. As a second choice, it was reported in nearly all 7 sub-counties excluding Balambala. As farming and other kinds of employment are less common in the county, they are only considered as a third choice for livelihood in Garissa County.

Pastoralist Dropouts

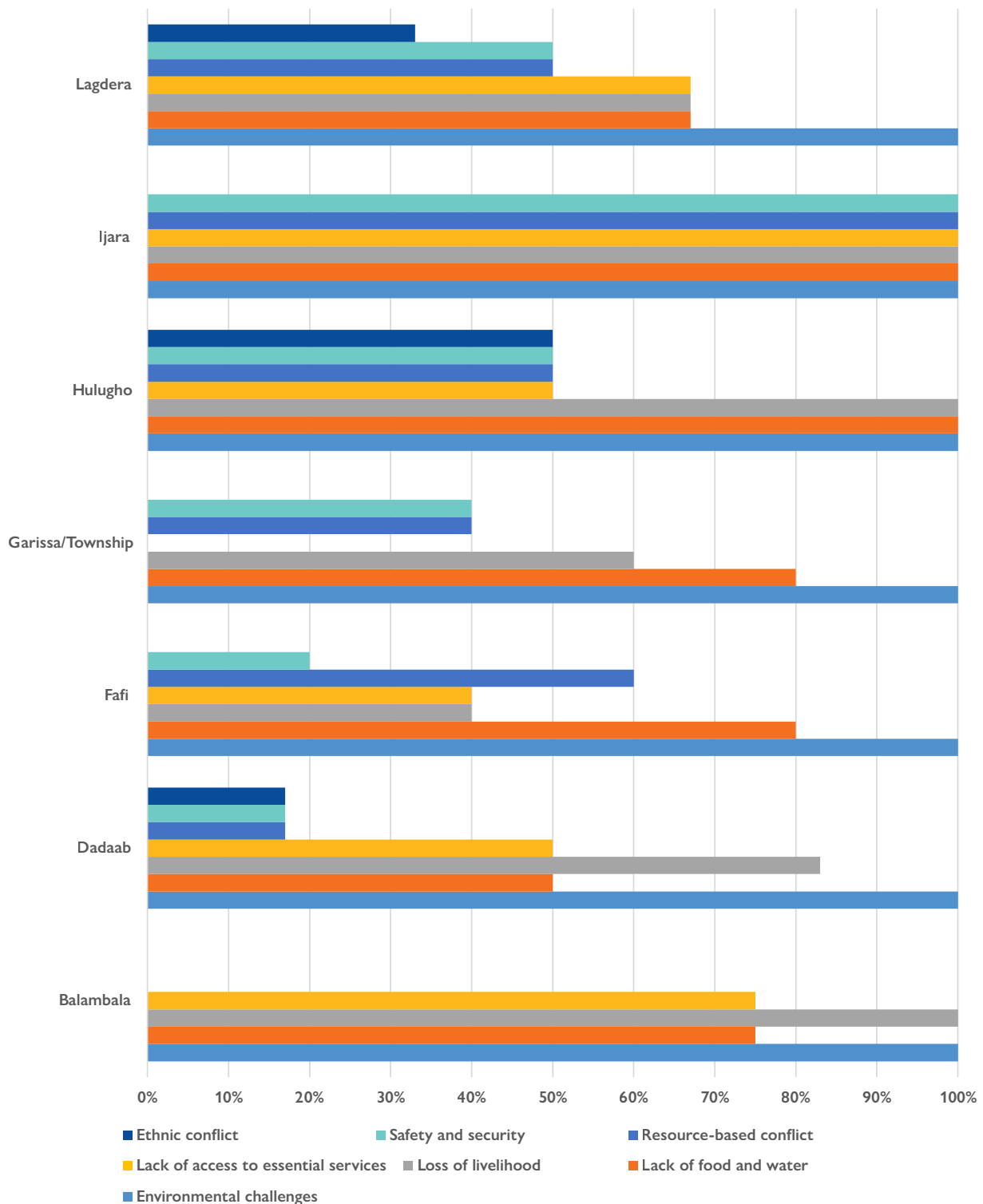| Sub-county	% of settlements reported dropouts	Households
Balambala	74%	18,880
Dadaab	63%	10,192
Fafi	89%	3,292
Garissa Township	35%	11,730
Hulugho	38%	2,623
Ijara	100%	15,390
Lagdera	83%	11,569

73,676 pastoralist dropout households are the **most affected group** in the county. **18,880 (26%)** are in Balambala and **15,390 (21%)** are in Ijara which are the most hard-hit sub-counties. The remaining sub-counties each have pastoralist-dropouts with the fewest being in Hulugho with **2,623 (4%)** and Fafi with **3,292 (5%).**

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Pastoralist Dropouts by Sub-Counties

Kenya

Garissa County

Lagdera
100%

Balambala
100%

Dadaab
100%

Garissa Township
89%

Fafi
98%

Hulugho
63%

Ijara
96%

Legend

⬤ % of settlements reporting dropouts

Pastoralist dropouts
- ▮ > 16,000
- ▮ 12,001 - 16,000
- ▮ 8,001 - 12,000
- ▮ 4,001 - 8,000
- ▮ < 4,000

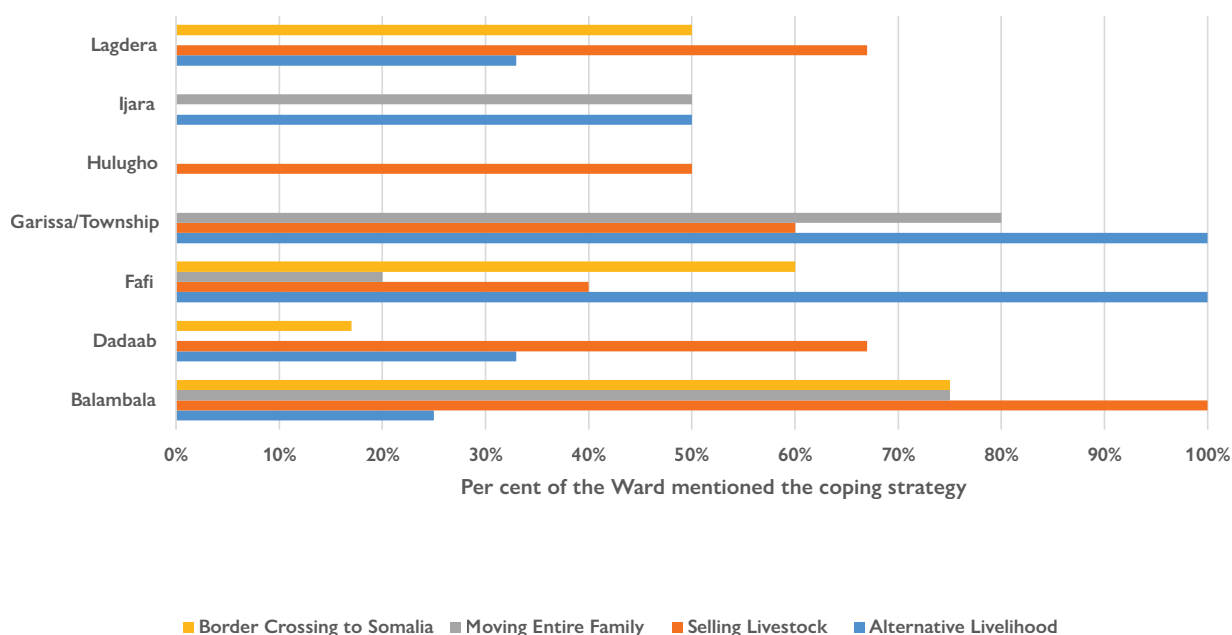*DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Main Challenges

Chart legend:
- Ethnic conflict
- Safety and security
- Resource-based conflict
- Lack of access to essential services
- Loss of livelihood
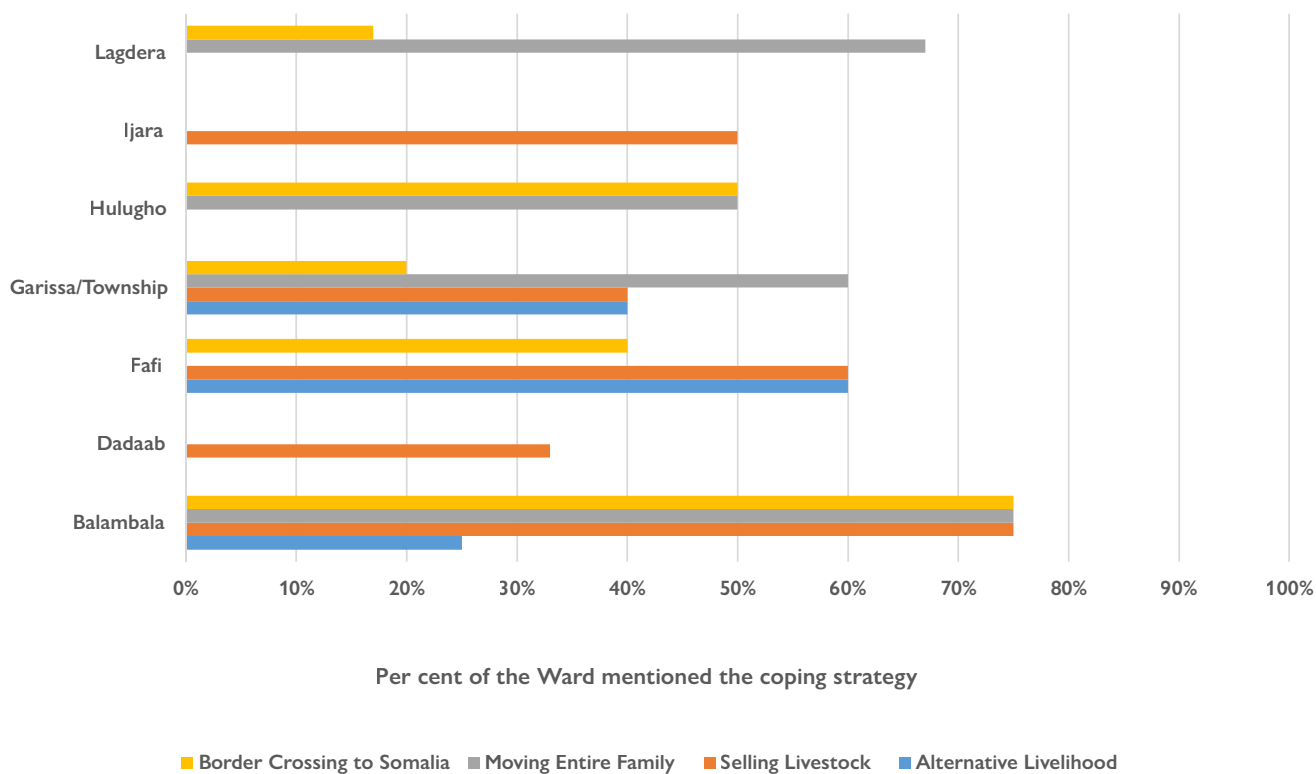- Lack of food and water
- Environmental challenges

As the drought has impacted the county over the last few failed seasons, **all 30 wards reported facing environmental challenges** and **79% faced a lack of food and water.** As the main livelihood option is pastoralism, 79% of all wards reported a **loss of livelihood** due to the drought.
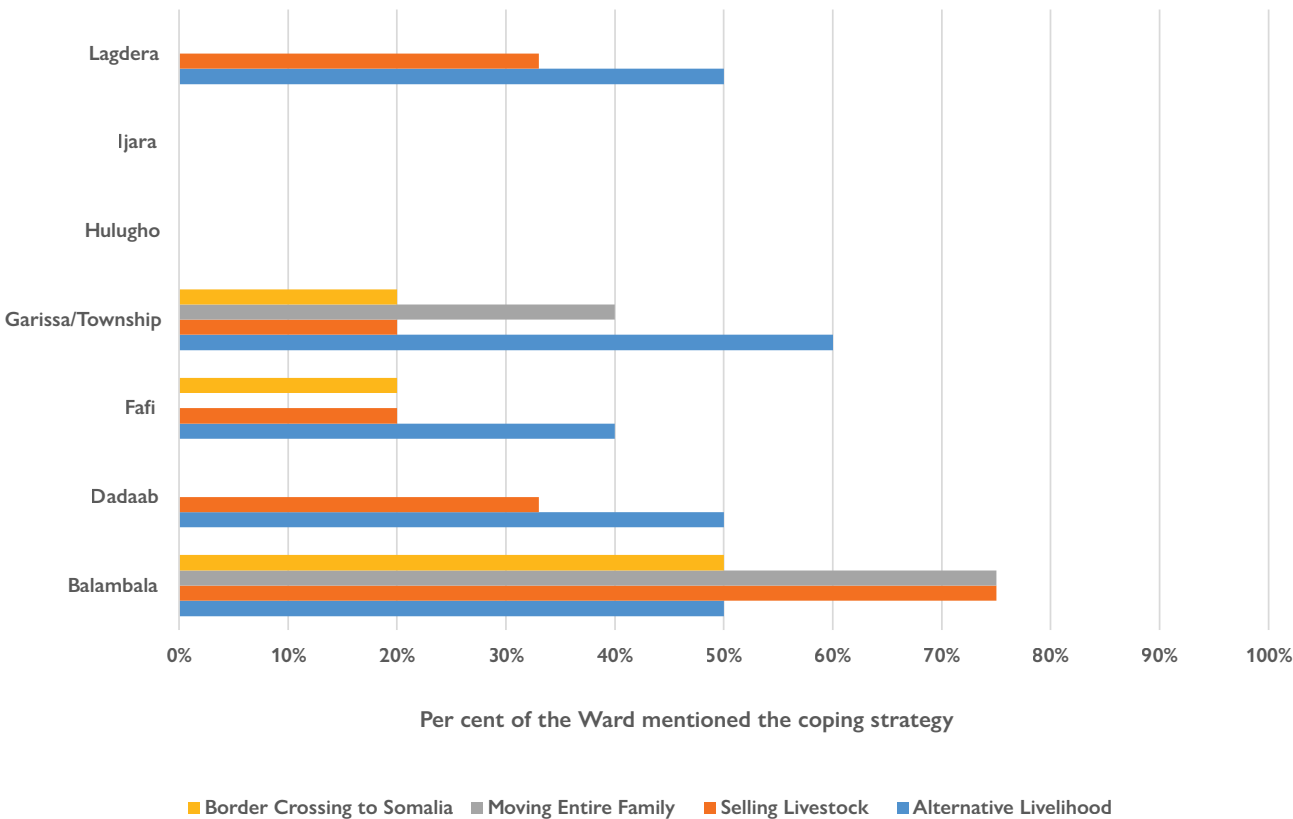
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Coping strategy for environmental challenges

Per cent of the Ward mentioned the coping strategy

■ Border Crossing to Somalia ■ Moving Entire Family ■ Selling Livestock ■ Alternative Livelihood

Coping strategy for lack of food and water

Per cent of the Ward mentioned the coping strategy

■ Border Crossing to Somalia ■ Moving Entire Family ■ Selling Livestock ■ Alternative Livelihood

Coping strategy for loss of livestock

Per cent of the Ward mentioned the coping strategy

■ Border Crossing to Somalia ■ Moving Entire Family ■ Selling Livestock ■ Alternative Livelihood
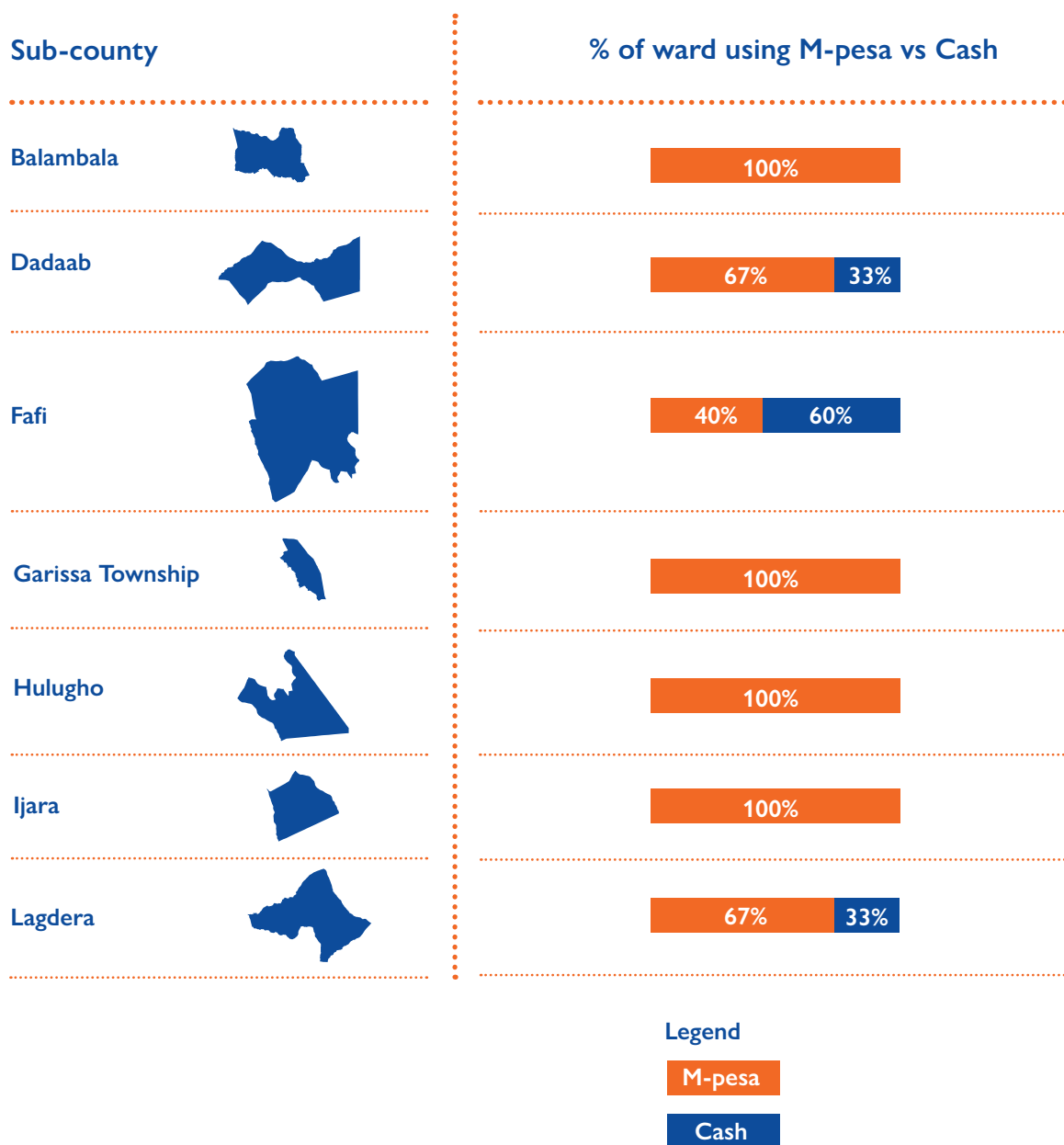
There are **four main coping mechanisms** used by community members facing environmental challenges such as lack of food and water, and the loss of livelihood. The two most common coping mechanisms reported were finding **alternative livelihood and selling livestock.** These two coping mechanisms are followed by displacement of the entire family as they look for more favorable places to live which resulted in increased border crossings between Kenya and Somalia.

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Most Common methods of cash transactions

Sub-county	% of ward using M-pesa vs Cash
Balambala	100%
Dadaab	67% / 33%
Fafi	40% / 60%
Garissa Township	100%
Hulugho	100%
Ijara	100%
Lagdera	67% / 33%

Legend

M-pesa
Cash

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