

DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT – KENYA, JULY 2021



For more information, please contact:

Ahmed Ibrahim
Convener - ASAL Humanitarian Network.
Email: ahmed.ibrahim@aldef.org

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT: OVERVIEW

Following yet another below-average long rain season between March and May 2021, food security in the Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties in Kenya is deteriorating quickly. This is an alarming situation at the onset of the dry season, with over 2 million¹ people already experiencing food insecurity (IPC 3 and 4)² and numbers are expected to continue rising. Tensions and conflict over limited access to resources are increasing as pastoralist communities are moving in search of water and pasture, both within the traditionally negotiated areas or outside of these locations. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation by restricting access to health and nutrition services, a slowdown in trade and losses of income and livelihoods due to measures put in place to control the spread of the virus

INTRODUCTION

The ASAL Humanitarian Network is a platform led by local and national NGOs promoting a humanitarian system that enables more locally-led responses. Its current 30 members are all operational within the Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties in Northern Kenya. They have a wide array of expertise, including food security and livelihoods, cash transfer programming, WASH, media and advocacy and community engagement. As a network, member organizations complement and add value to each other's programmes and have invested in structures that cover the breadth of the ASAL counties that can be used for rapid and timely delivery of interventions, whilst coming together with a collective voice against injustice.



METHODOLOGY & APPROACH

Following the below average rainfall during the March to May long rains, most counties in Northern and Eastern Kenya are on alert with the worsening drought trend. In this context, ASAL Humanitarian Network, with the technical support from ACTED, conducted a Drought Needs Assessment between 13th – 15th July 2021 covering 9 ASAL counties namely, **Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir counties**. Overall, the assessment covered 21 sub-counties, yielding a total of 113 Key Informants Interviews (KIIs). **This Needs Assessment is meant to be read alongside the NDMA Long Rains Assessment, to complement its findings and provide a snapshot on the current situation.**

To gather a holistic image of the current situation, KIIs were captured at three different levels. county-level, sub-county level and community level. One (1) county-level National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) officer representative was collected per county. At sub-county level, 5 key informants were gathered per sub-county: 1 water department representative, 1 public health department representative, 1 administrator's office representative and 2 community-level representatives (1 female and 1 male).

Furthermore, to gather expert perspectives, the public health department representatives answered a questionnaire focusing on the impact of COVID-19 while the water department representatives answered a questionnaire specifically on WASH.

Table 1: Breakdown of KII Site Assessments by County

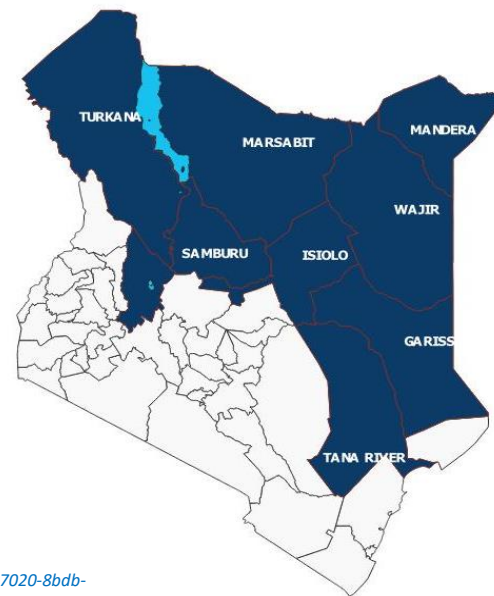
County	# of KIIs	Percent of Total KII
Baringo	10 ³	9%
Garissa	16	14%
Isiolo	11	10%
Mandera	16	14%
Marsabit	11	10%
Samburu	6	5%
Tana River	16	14%
Turkana	11	10%
Wajir	16	14%
Total	113	100%

Overall, 80% (n=90) of KIIs were men and 20% (n=23) were women. The KIIs were conducted using structured questionnaires delivered through face-to-face interviews or phone calls. The questionnaires were built on the Open Data Kit (ODK) mobile-based application that enable mobile data collection.

In total, 79% (n=89) interviews were carried out via telephone calls and 21% (n=24) interviews were carried out face to face.



ASSESSED COUNTIES



List of assessed sub-counties

Baringo: Baringo South, Tiati
Garissa: Balambala, Lagdera, Fafi
Isiolo: Isiolo North, Isiolo South
Mandera: Lafey, Madera East, Mandera North
Marsabit: Laisamis, Northor
Samburu: Samburu East
Tana River: Tana Delta, Tana River, Tana North
Turkana: Turkana North, Turkana East
Wajir: Eldas, Wajir South, Wajir West



LIMITATION

As data was collected using KIIs, it should be stressed that the figures provided here should not be considered as statistically representative of the assessed populations, either at the community level or sub-county and county levels. Nonetheless, the findings of this assessment are meant to provide an accurate portrayal of the realities on the ground and thus, should be considered as generalizations more broadly of the overall and immediate circumstances and issues facing the communities where respondents were interviewed.

Additionally, in the interests of a timely deployment and limited resources for conducting this assessment, field teams did not engage in deeper investigation through the semi-structured qualitative interviews. However, AHN and partners relied on some of the general observations from field level staff teams to provide additional contextual references with regard to the overall findings herein.

In certain sub-counties, 2 male KIIs were interviewed instead of 1 male and 1 female due to lack of availability of women community representatives.

¹ Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, Food Security and Nutrition May 2021 Update: https://mcusercontent.com/9206ea93bb8c6f35f98cc8ccf/files/b5229e0d-1a4f-7020-8bdb-a67dfc693ad4/FSNWWG_Statement_May_2021.05.pdf

² The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification differentiates between levels of severity of acute food insecurity, IPC 3 indicating crisis phase and IPC 4 indicating emergency phase.

³ One (1) administrator Office representative for Baringo South is missing, as this person was initially marked as Public Health Officer. Hence, the questionnaire of PHO was administered to this person, and cannot be counted.

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

DEMOGRAPHICS, PROTECTION & SAFETY

79%

of Respondents reported the shortage of rains had led to violence in the past months.

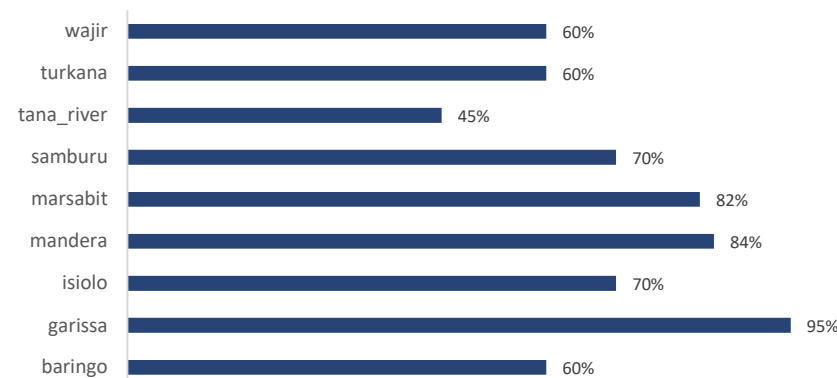
Share of activities (average of 9 counties)



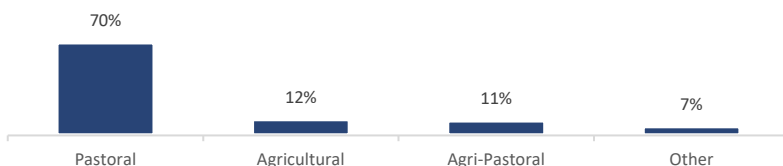
DEMOGRAPHICS

The 9 NDMA's interviewed answered a section on the general demographics of their respective counties. On average, respondents reported that majority **(70%) of the population in their counties depend on pastoral activities**. Other forms livelihoods reported include: agriculture (12%), agro-pastoral (11%) and other activities (7%).

GRAPH 1: Pastoral dependent activities, per county



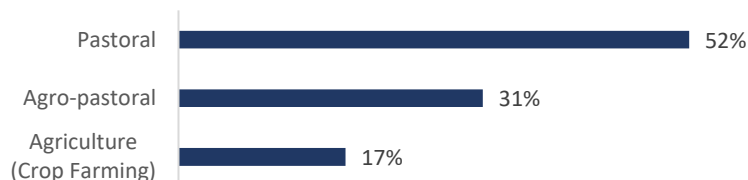
GRAPH 2: Sources of Livelihood



PROTECTION & SAFETY

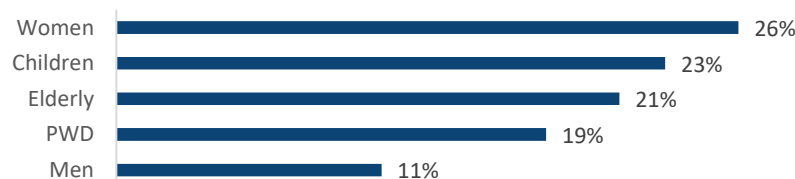
Out of the KIs interviewed, 71 answered to the section on protection and safety - 20 representatives of administrator's office (1 per subcounty) ⁴, 42 community representatives (2 per sub-county) and 9 NDMA representatives (1 per county). **Overall pastoralists were reported by KIs in each county as being the most affected group by the drought** as reported by 52% (n=62) of respondents. All reported that the drought had diminished greatly productivity.

GRAPH 3: Most drought-affected livelihood groups



Overall, half (49%, n= 128) of respondents reported that women (26%, n=68) and children (23%, n=60) were the most affected population segments. One community leader in Baringo explained that **"When migrating to look for pasture, the women, children and the elderly are left behind with no food. The places the pastoralists go to look for food and pasture is very dangerous."**

GRAPH 4: Most affected population groups.



A majority (79%, n=56) of KIIs reported an increase of inter-community conflicts as a result of the prolonged dry spell as communities compete over the already strained resources. One respondent in Samburu reported: **"It has been a long dry season and most of the communities depend on livestock as a main source of livelihood. They have all migrated to Samburu North for pasture which has also escalated inter-community conflicts in around the reserve areas in Samburu north."**

In terms of protection services available, only community-based protection committees were reported by 70% (n=50) of the respondents. Psychological support/mental healthcare was only reported in Mandera. Five-percent (5%) of the respondents reported "other" protection services existed which mainly include the police (Baringo), village committee (Marsabit), conflict resolution CBOs (Tana River) and aid from the church (Turkana).

GRAPH 5: Availability of protection services, by type.



⁴ One (1) administrator Office representative for Baringo South is missing, as this person was initially marked as Public Health Officer. Hence, the questionnaire of PHO was administered to this person, and cannot be counted.

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

POPULATION MOVEMENT

56%

of Respondents Identify the cause of population movement as either being related to conflict (35%) or to search for water and pasture (21%)

Top 3 Causes for population movement

Access Services

39%

Drought

22%

Conflict

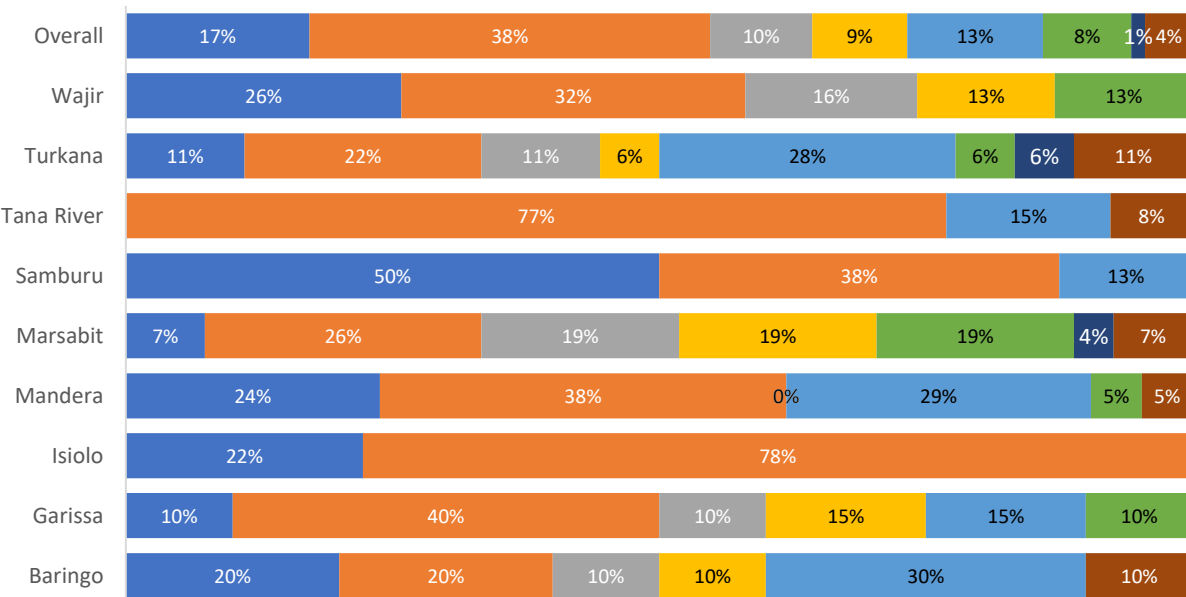
6%



POPULATION MOVEMENT

Out of the KIIs interviewed, 71 responded to the section on population movement. Majority (**93%**) of the respondents reported population movement in their respective areas. **Pastoralists (38%), entire households (17%) and men (13%) were reported as population groups that have moved across all counties** as shown in Graph 6.

GRAPH 6: Population Movements, by population group

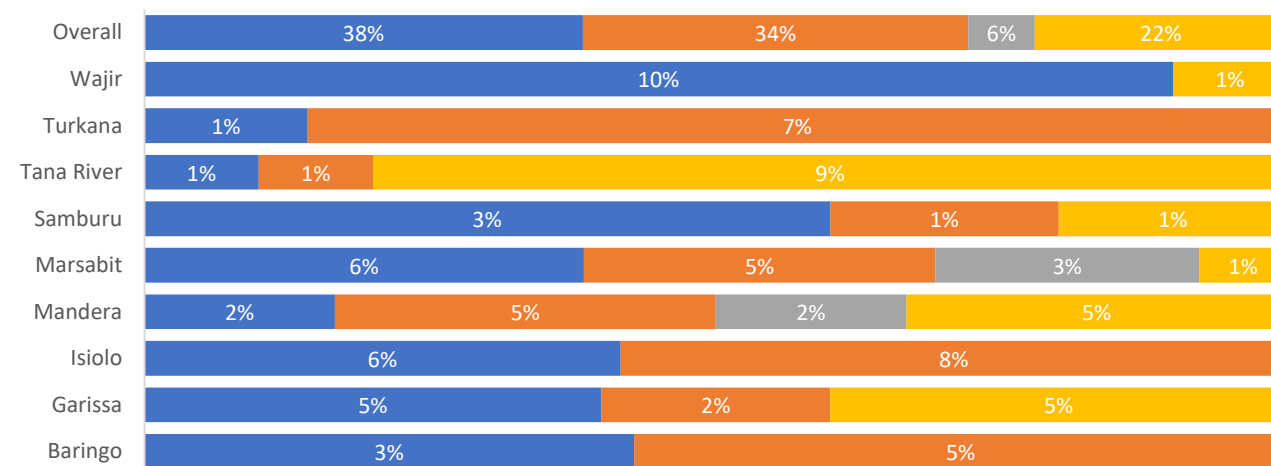


■ Entire HH ■ Pastoralists ■ Women ■ Children ■ Men ■ Elderly ■ Agriculturalists ■ Agro-Pastoralists

Accessing basic service (38%) was cited as the most common cause movement, followed by conflict (34%). Other reasons reported were drought (search for water and pasture) (22%) and eviction (6%). In all counties except for Isiolo and Tana River, a majority of respondents confirmed that **the population displacement had led to new settlements in their area**. These new settlements were described as self-settled settlements.

Two (2) respondents from Baringo described the new settlements as IDP shelters in urban locations, and 1 respondent in Wajir described the settlement as a planned camp. **Seventy-nine (79%) percent (n=30) reported there was no water available in these new settlements, while all (100%, n=38) confirmed there were no latrines available in the new settlements.**

GRAPH 7: Cause of population movement



■ Access services ■ Conflict ■ Eviction ■ Drought

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Top 3 Most important food sources (average of 9 counties)



75%

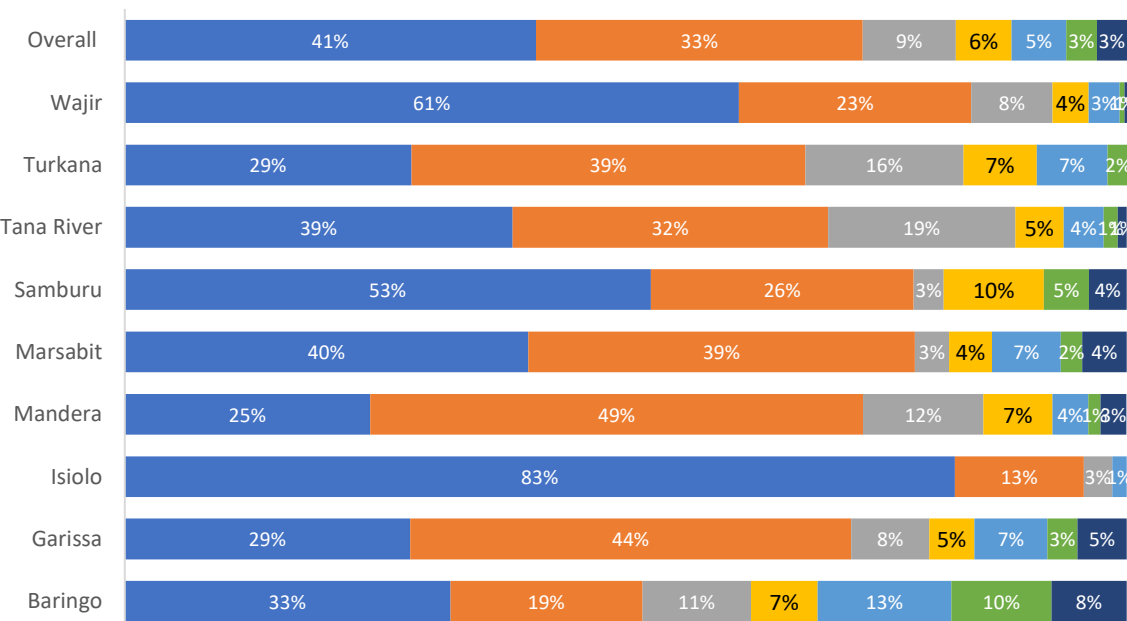
Of food sources come from Market purchases (43%) and own livestock (32%), on average across the counties.



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Seventy-one KIIs also answered to the section of Food security, livelihoods, and nutrition. **Market purchases** (43%) was reported as the main source of food across the 9 counties, followed by livestock as shown in Graph 7 below.

GRAPH 8: Main Sources of Food



A majority (62%, n=44) of respondents reported that the **food sources had changed in the past 3 months** across all counties as a result of decreasing availability of foodstuff in the markets as the drought progressed. Consequently, **decreasing availability, coupled with movement restrictions caused by COVID-19 and conflict have led to an increase in prices.**

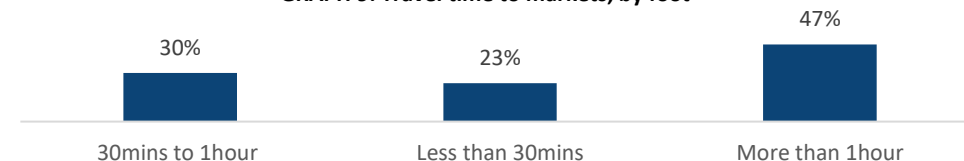
One respondent in Baringo reported that *“For the last six months there has been insecurity. There is no movement of food in the county. There are road blocks put by the government which limits the transportation of food in the county.”*, whilst a KI from Garissa said *“Food prices went up, there are shortages of livestock and farm products due to less rain, and COVID-19 affected many businesses.”*

While almost all (90%, n=64) respondents reported area residents had access to markets; 10% of respondents from parts of Garissa, Marsabit and Turkana reported that there was no access to markets. In Fafi (Garissa), one community leader reported that there was a close market which only provided camels and goats, and that otherwise it could take up to 3 days to reach the closest foods market. An Administrator's office representative from North Horr reported that the distance from his sub-county to the closest market was greater than 200km. Additionally, **several markets were reported to have stalled due to conflict.**

Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents **reported certain items were unavailable in the markets**; mainly **foodstuffs such as cereals, vegetables, milk and meat**. One community leader in Turkana East reported that **utensils and shelter items were unavailable**. **Low supply as a result of poor harvesting (55%), movement restrictions across-counties (4%) and insecurity (2%)** have contributed unavailability of items in the markets. In Marsabit, one KI reported *“vegetables, milk and meat are unavailable because of poor road network, insecurity, and livestock have moved far away from the settlement”*.

For those reporting access to markets, **47% (n=30) reported that the closest market was more than 1 hour away by foot**. Thirty percent (30%, n=19) reported that the time needed to access markets was between 30 minutes and 1 hour. Finally, 23% (n=15) reported it took on average less than 30 minutes. Of these, 75% reported the markets were accessible at all times. **Insecurity, reduced availability of goods and long distances** were reported as the main factors affecting market access.

GRAPH 9: Travel time to markets, by foot



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS



60%

Average estimated share of pasture depletion per county

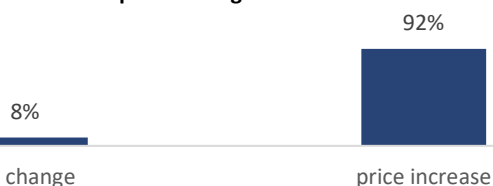
86%

of the respondents reported livestock had to travel for over 1 hour to reach a water source

96%

Respondents described the current agricultural performance in their county as very poor.

GRAPH 10: Market prices changes over last 1 month



Ninety-two (92%) percent of respondents reported price increases over the last month with essential foodstuffs as the most affected. Shortages of supplies due to drought and locusts infestations; high government taxes; and the inaccessibility of markets due to movement restrictions and insecurity were report to high easy flow of goods hence the high prices. In Samburu, a respondent explained *“Prices have increased with the increase in fuel since they (cereals) are brought to the sub-county from very far.”*



LIVELIHOODS: AGRICULTURE

Majority of the respondents (96%) described the agricultural performance as **very poor and below average, largely due to lack of rains**. the rest (4%) in Mandera East, reported the performances as “fair” since no floods have been experienced. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the respondents reported changes in the agricultural productivity in the last 3 months.

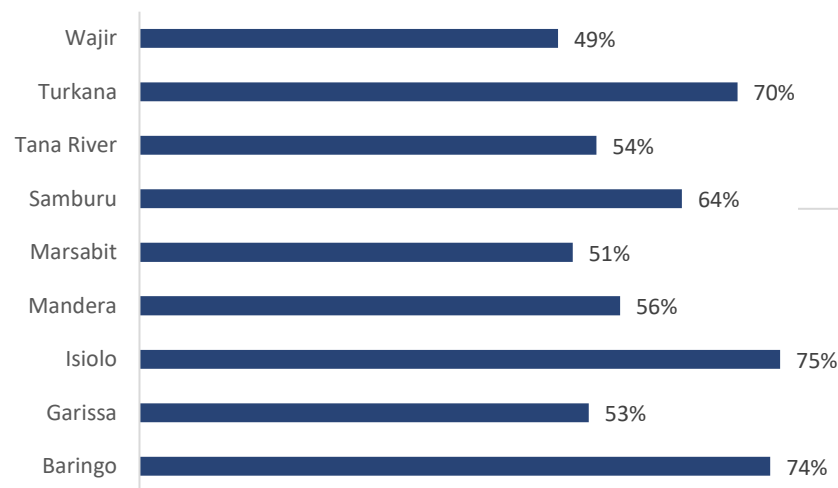
A respondent in Garissa explained that the productivity changes were due to *“erratic climatic conditions, lack of farming resources and skills to deal with these conditions, water shortages, poor water infrastructure for both piped and drilled water, high prices of basic commodities has pushed up the cost of living.”*



LIVELIHOODS: PASTORALISM

Depletion of water resources was reported by 96% of respondents. Only 3 KIs (1 NDMA in Mandera, 1 community leader in Mandera North and 1 community leader in Turkana East) did not report depletion of water sources used for watering livestock in the last 3 months. Respondents **estimate that pasture in the assessed counties has been depleted by up to 59%.** The average county-level estimations by the NDMA KIs was 72%, compared to the overall of 54%.

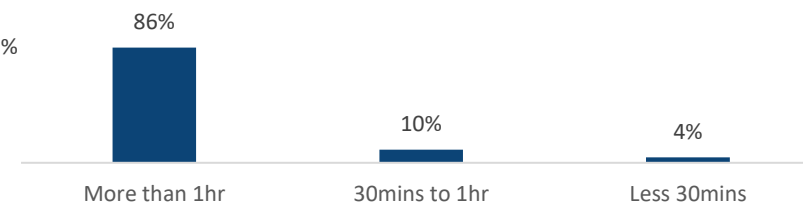
GRAPH 11: Pasture depletion, by County.



Drought as a result of inadequate rains was reported as the main cause of depletion of water resources which also hindered the proper regeneration of pasture land. On the other hand, **“Overstocking and overgrazing, carrying away of pasture seeds by flooding, persistent drought and desert locust invasion”** as reported by one KI in Marsabit are the main causes for pasture depletion.

Consequently, livestock trekking distances have increase as a result of depletion of both water and pasture resources. **Eighty six percent (86%) reported that livestock trekked for more than 1 hour to access a source of water.** Only 1 KI from Baringo and 2 from Lagdera (Garissa) reported trekking time of less than 30 minutes to reach a source of water

GRAPH 12: Livestock trekking time to water sources



According to the respondents, **the depletion has led to increased disease and malnutrition and increased deaths of livestock.** In fact, **70% of respondents reported current diseases outbreaks among livestock in their location.** Most diseases reported are caused by livestock malnutrition, lack of water and long distances travelled by livestock as well as encounter with other species which encourages the spread of diseases. Along with the livestock, the depletion of water and pasture has also pushed further movement of pastoralists in search of water, which has led to increased tensions and conflict between communities.

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Average estimated share of land affected by desert locusts infestations

Farming land

38%

Grazing land

51%

76%

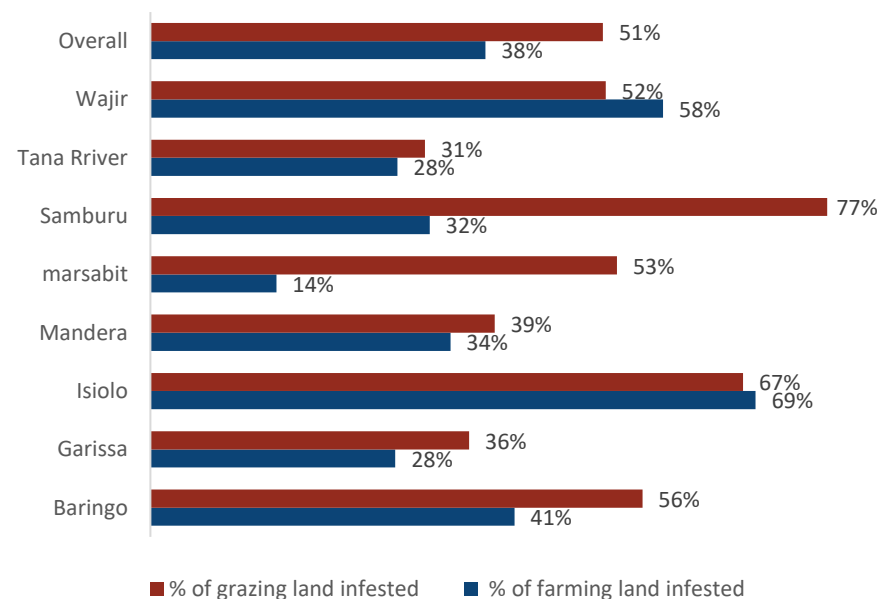
of respondents reported the food situation had significant deterioration (45%) or some deterioration (31%).

Apart from drought, **73% of respondents also reported locusts infestations**. All counties were reportedly affected except for Turkana, where all the 7 (100%) respondents reported no infestations. **On average 39% farmland is estimated to be infested with Isiolo reporting the largest share (69%). The average estimated share of infested grazing land is 51%, with Isiolo being the most affected (67%).**

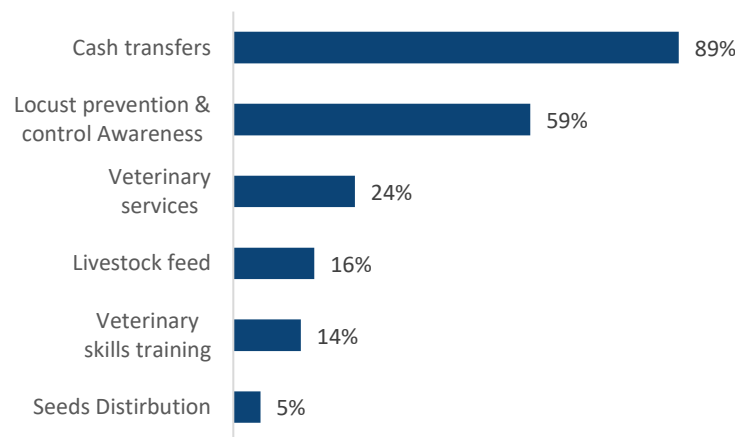
Most (71%, n=37) of respondents reported receiving support to fight the locust infestation. The main NGO agencies providing support included: FAO, WFP, the Red Cross and Oxfam as well as local NGOs. Support from county governments was reported in Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera and Samburu. **Cash transfers was (89%) and awareness raising on locusts prevention and control (59%)** were reported as the main support provided as shown in graph 13 below.

Business and entrepreneur skills, followed by **agricultural skills** were the most reported necessary skills lacking for the active population to access gainful employment as well as build capacity to start and successfully run Income Generating Activities (IGAs). In Marsabit, one KI reported **“Limited *business and financial management, vocational skills; lack of capital and value addition skills* as the main challenges.”**

GRAPH 13: Desert Locust Infestation, by County



GRAPH 14: Assistance provided against locust Infestation



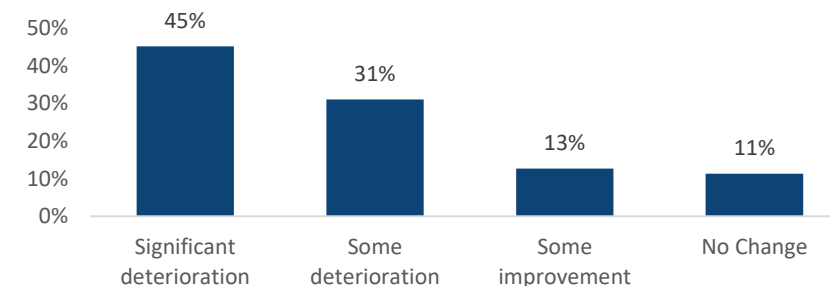
However, 73% of these respondents reporting support indicated that the support was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic with restriction of movement and reallocation of agricultural budgets and resources towards COVID-19 mitigation measures. One KI in Tiaty, Baringo stated that **“restrictions due to COVID-19 had made access to some areas impossible”**. In Mandera, one KI reported that **“The Government has diverted most of resources to the fight against COVID-19.”**



NUTRITION

The 71 KIs who reported on food security also reported on nutrition. **Overall, 76% of respondents (n=54) reported that the food security situation in their location had either significantly deteriorated (45%) or had some deterioration (31%).** The main reasons reported for the deterioration include: **loss of productivity (86%) because of the drought and locusts infestations; high food prices (75%)** as shown in graph 15. Only a handful (13%) reported some improvement in the food security situation. The fact no floods were experienced in Mandera, and burning of charcoal for income to buy food in Baringo were the reasons for the reported improvement.

GRAPH 15: Evolution of the Food security situation

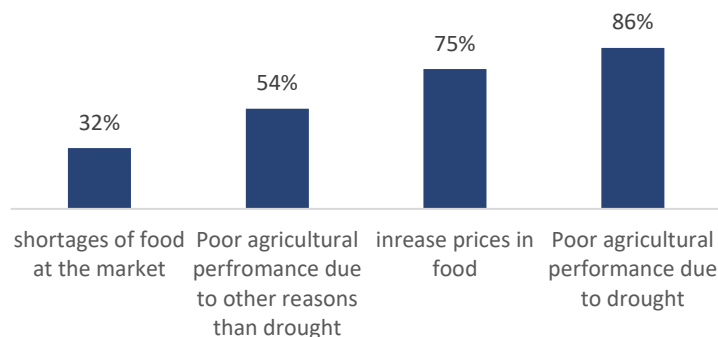


JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS



GRAPH 16: Main challenges to meeting household food needs



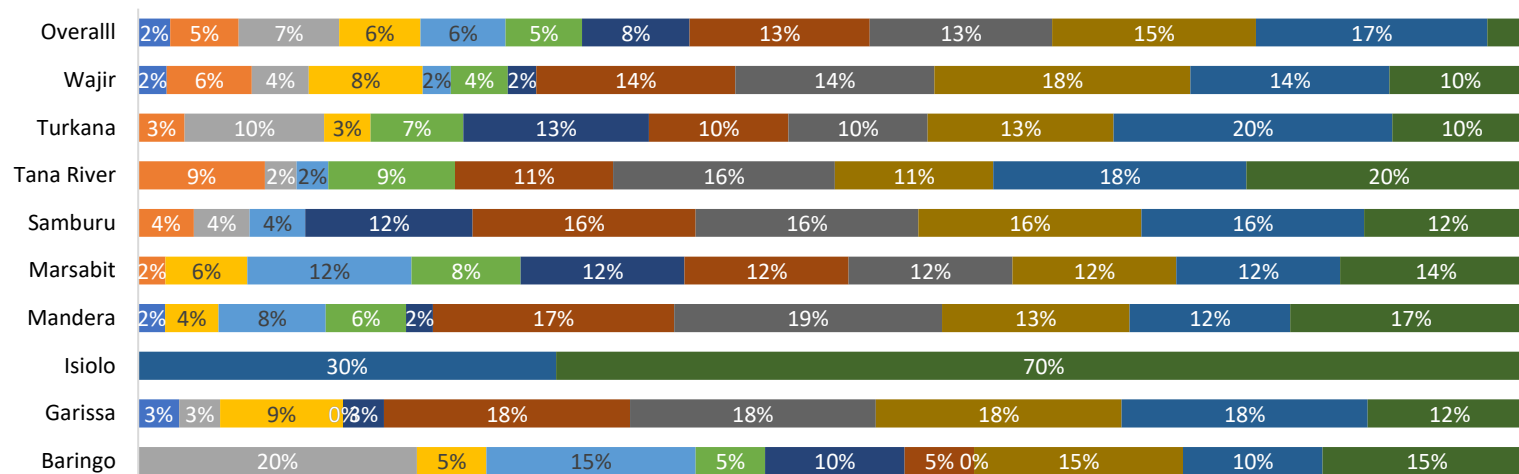
Across all counties assessed, the elderly (86%), children (86%), women (79%) and persons with disability (76%) were reported as population groups unable to meet their food needs. Most respondents reported that these groups have weak purchasing power, and further, the drought had affected the availability and affordability of foodstuffs.

One KII in Garissa explained that *“Livestock migration in search of water and pastures results in leaving behind women and children in the village.”* Another KII in Isiolo reported that *“increased food costs leads to lack of income, for instances, animals are not fetching good prices given the poor health condition.”*

Across all counties assessed, **relying on less preferred and less expensive food** was the most cited strategy (70%) to cope with lack of food; followed by **reducing the number of meals eaten in a day (68%)** then borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relative (62%).

Coping strategies⁵ to handle lack of food were reportedly used in all counties. In Isiolo, respondents reported the least coping strategies – only 2 – and in Wajir, 12 coping strategies were reported see graph below. The most common mentioned coping strategies were **relying on less preferred and less expensive food – mentioned in all counties and by 70% of KIIs (n=50)– followed closely by reducing the number of meals eaten in a day, which was also mentioned in all counties and by 68% of KIIs (n=48).** The third most common coping strategy was **borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relative** mentioned by 62% of KIIs (n=44) and in all counties but Isiolo.

GRAPH 17: Coping strategies



- Fed working household members at the expense of non-working members
- Gathered food, hunt, or harvest immature crops
- Passed entire days without eating
- Restricted adults' consumption so that children can eat
- Purchased food on credit
- Reduced the number of meals eaten in a day
- Consumed seed stock held for next season
- Sent household members to eat elsewhere
- Sent household members to beg
- Limited portion sizes at meal time
- Borrowed food or rely on help from friend or relative
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food

5. As an indication of the severity of these coping strategies, when calculating the reduced coping strategies index (rCSI), Borrowing food as a severity weight is 2 (out of 4) each, while relying on less preferred and less expensive foods is considered as a severity weight of 1. The most severe coping strategies, according to the rCSI calculation, are gathering food, hunt or harvest immature crops, which is mentioned here in 6 out of the 9 counties studied, as well as sending HH members to beg, also mentioned in 6 counties, and finally passing entire days without eating, also mentioned in 6 out of 9 counties.

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

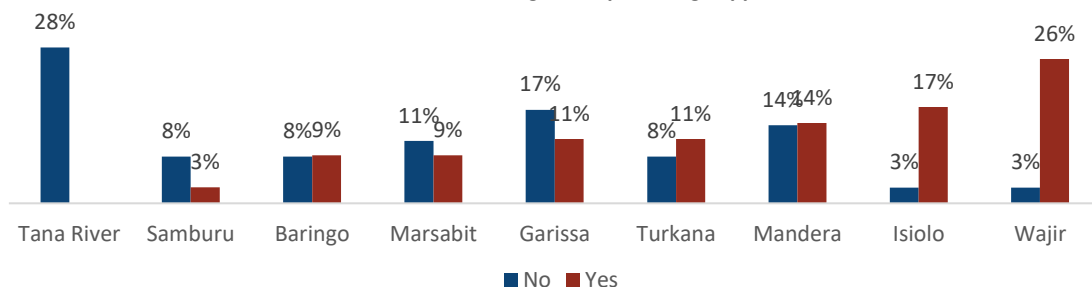
HUMANITARIAN ACTORS



ACTOR MAPPING

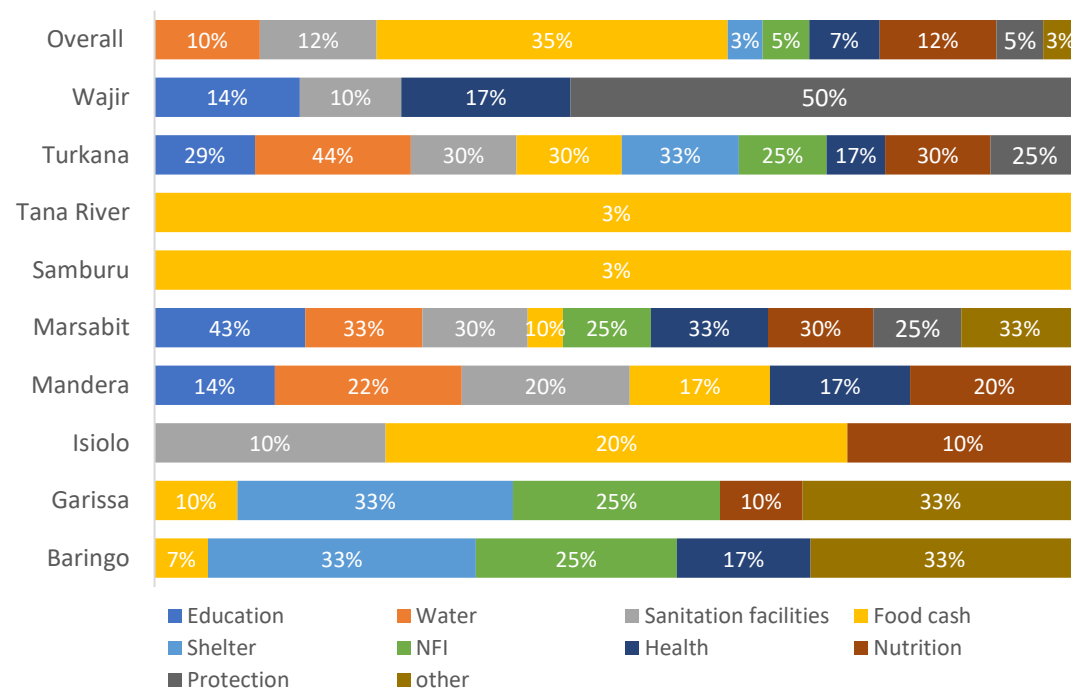
The 71 KIs provided information on the current support received and on the actors delivering the support. **Fifty one percent (51%, n=36) reported no agencies had provided support** in the last 3 months with Wajir reporting the highest support (26%) as seen in Graph 16 below. All the representatives of Lafey (n=3), of Samburu East (n=3), of Tana River (n=3), Tana Delta (n=3) and Tana North (n=3) reported there had been no support in the past 3 months.

GRAPH 18: Presence of Agencies providing support



Overall, cash or food (35%) was the most cited type of support provided, followed by sanitation (12%) and nutrition (12%) then water (10%). Other types of support provided include shelter (3%), NFIs (5%), Health (7%), and protection (5%). While Turkana reported the most types of support (9), Samburu and Tana River had the least (1) types of support as illustrated in graph 17. Most respondents reported UN agencies such as WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF alongside INGOs (Red Cross, Save the Children, Concern Worldwide and ACTED), local NGOs and county governments as the main source of support. Whereas county government support was only reported in Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit and Turkana; local NGO support was only received in Wajir and Mandera.

GRAPH 19: Type of support provide, by county



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

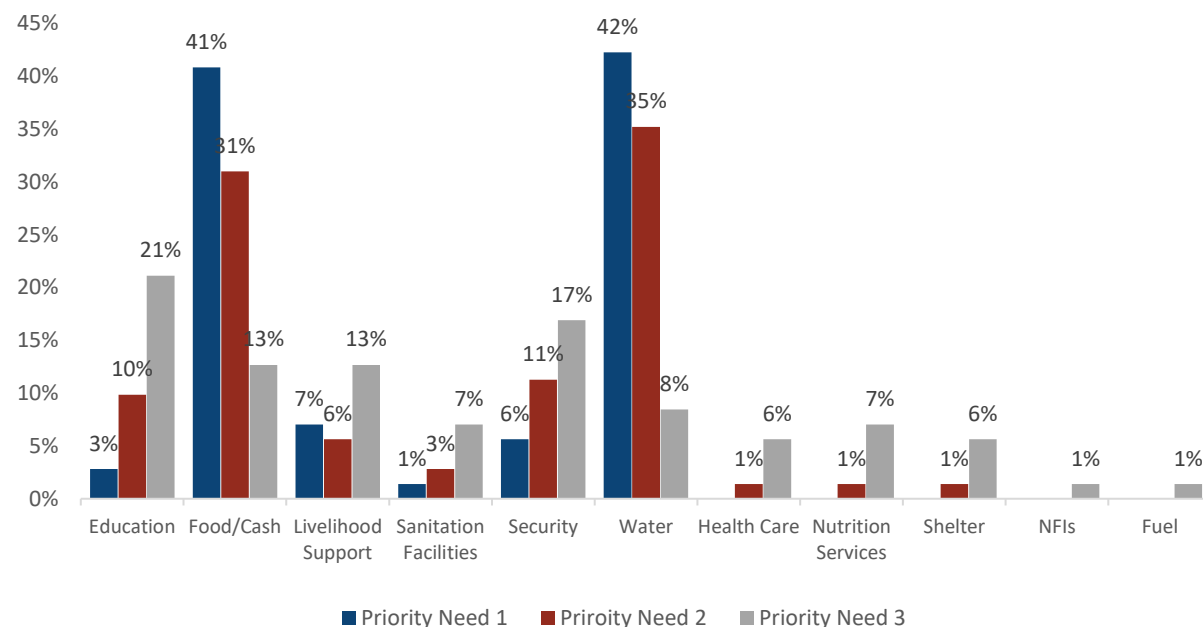
IMMEDIATE NEEDS



PRIORITY NEEDS

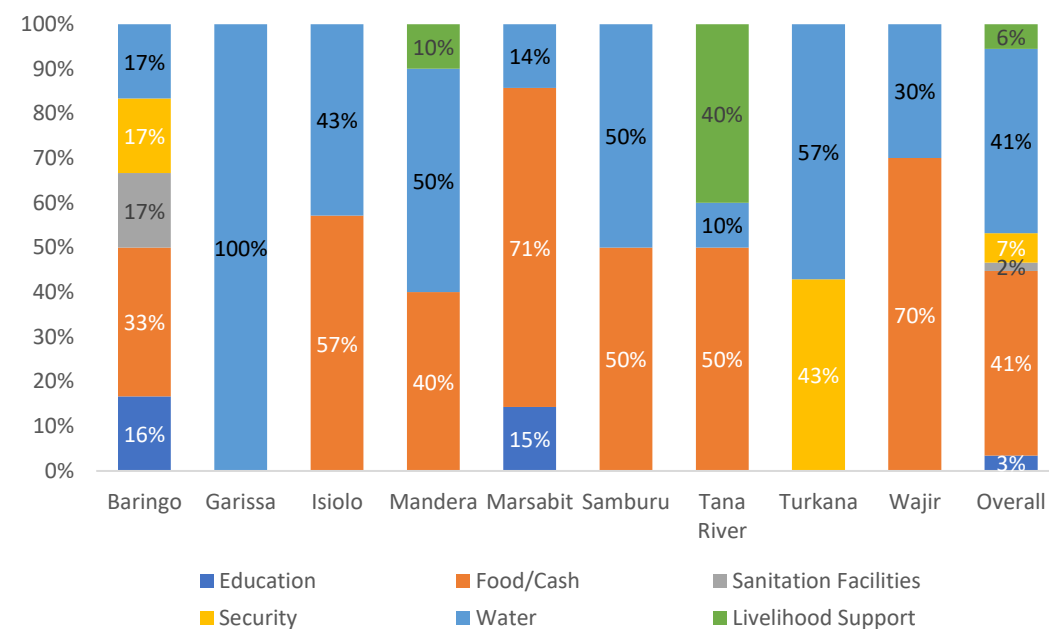
For the top priority need, 42% of respondents (n=30) mentioned water and 41% (n=29) mentioned cash for food. Overall, cash or food (31%) and water (35%) were also the most common second priority needs mentioned; while education (21%) and security (17%) were the third priority need most common mentions as seen in graph 18 below.

GRAPH 20: Top priorities, by type of support



Graph 19 shows a breakdown of priority one by county. Water (41%) reported as a top priority across all 9 counties while food or cash (41%) was reported in 7 counties. Education was reported as top priority by some respondents in Baringo and Marsabit; while security was mentioned only in Turkana and Baringo

GRAPH 21: Summary of priority #1 need, by County



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT: NDMA

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION



Main source of drinking water:
Boreholes

66%

Sources thought to be safe for
drinking and domestic use

76%

Average % of the population who have access to
sufficient water storage containers

31%

Share of water sources reported to
breakdown frequently

73%

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION (WASH): Water Access

Twenty-one (21) KIIs mainly water department officers responded to the questionnaire on WASH-related questions. Boreholes (66%) were reported as the main source of drinking water in all counties except Tana River. Other notably sources reported include protected shallow (9%) as shown in Graph 20 below.

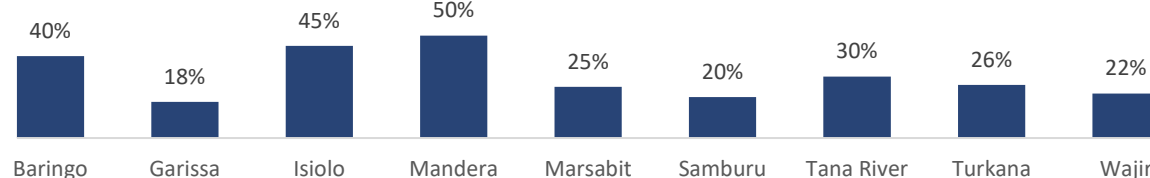
GRAPH 22: Main sources of drinking water



Overall, 76% of the respondents reported the water from the sources to be safe for drinking and use. Mandera, Wajir and Turkana KIIs reported that the water sources were safe. The same was as well reported from Tiatiy (Baringo), Isiolo North, Leisamis (Marsabit), Tana River Delta and Tana River Sub county. In Samburu, the main water source was reported to be unsafe for drinking and use. **Contamination by animals (Baringo); high fluoride content (Tiatiy East - Baringo); high salinity (Isiolo North - Isiolo, North Horr - Marsabit) and high turbidity (Tana North - Tana River)** were main reasons why some water sources were considered unsafe for drinking and domestic use.

Mandera county was reported to have the highest proportion (50%) of the population with access to sufficient water storage containers; while Garissa reported the least (18%) as shown in graph 21 below.

GRAPH 23: Access to sufficient water storage containers



Overall 71% (n=15) of respondents reported that water sources were not available all time with 73% (n=11) of these respondents reporting frequent breakdown of the water sources. Other reasons for unreliable water supply reported include: poor infrastructure i.e. pipe bursts (Mandera); drying up due to high evaporation (Baringo, Wajir, Samburu), and high salinity (Baringo). Ten percent (10%) of the respondents (Isiolo North and Lafey - Mandera) reported water sources were available throughout without any breaking down.

More than half of the respondents (57%) reported an average time of more than 1 hour to and from the main water sources with almost a quarter (24%) spending between 30 minutes and 1 hour while 19% took less than 30 minutes. The table below summarizes average time taken across the counties assessed.

Table 2: Time taken to each water sources

County	Sub County	Time Taken
Baringo	Baringo south	> 1hr
	Tiatiy	> 1hr
Garissa	Balambala	> 1hr
	Fafi	> 1hr
Isiolo	Lagdera	> 1hr
	Isiolo North	< 30min
Mandera	Isiolo South	30min to 1hr
	Lafey	30min to 1hr
Marsabit	Mandera East	30min to 1hr
	Mandera North	> 1hr
Samburu	Leisamis	30min to 1hr
	North Horr	30min to 1hr
Tana River	Samburu East	> 1hr
	Delta	< 30min
Turkana	Tana North	< 30min
	Tana River	> 1hr
Wajir	Turkana East	< 30min
	Turkana North	> 1hr
Wajir	Eldas	> 1hr
	Wajir South	> 1hr
Wajir	Wajir West	> 1hr

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

86%

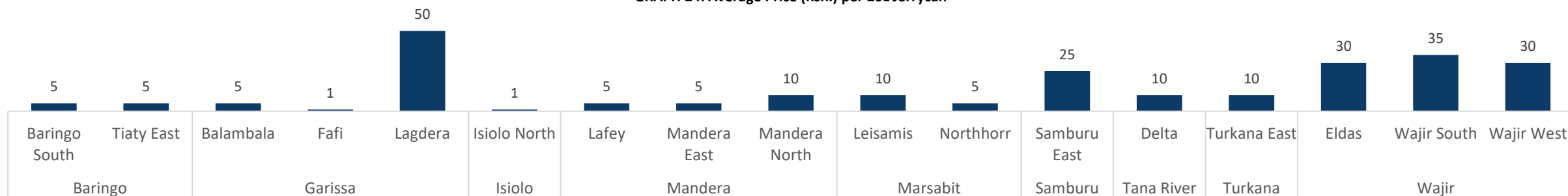
of respondents reported that access to water came with a fee. The average price reported was 14 Ksh per 20 liter jerrycan.

Average, number of 20L jerrycans of water needed in a household for all purposes in a day
Average No. of 20L jerry cans currently accessed
% of respondents reporting unmet water needs

7 **4** **81%**

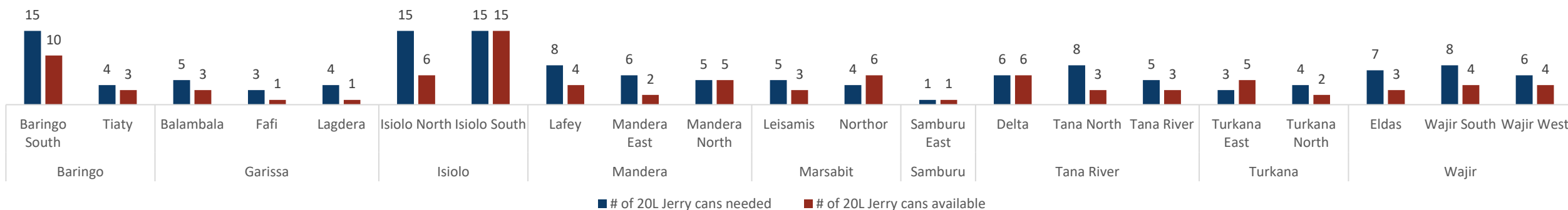
Eighty six percent (86%, n=18) reported that residents had to pay to access water. Access to water was free of charge in Tana North, Tana River and Turkana North. PHOs were asked about the average price of a 20L jerrycan in their location. The overall average of reported prices was Kshs. 14. The highest price of Kshs. 50 was reported in Lagdera (Garissa) while Fafi (Garissa) and Isiolo North (Isiolo) reported the least price of Kshs. 1 for a 20L Jerrycan. Graph 23 below summarizes reported prices across the assessed counties.

GRAPH 24: Average Price (Ksh.) per 20L Jerrycan



Water department officers were asked about the quantity of jerrycans needed per household per day, and how many jerrycans are currently accessing per day. The graph below shows **71% (n=15) of respondents mainly from Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo North, Lafey, Mandera East, Leisamis, Tana North, Tana River, Tana North, Eldas, Wajir South and Wajir West reported that household water deficits ntly not met.** Huge deficits of more the 50% were reported in Isiolo North, Mandera East, Tana North, Eldas and Wajir South.

GRAPH 25: Household level water deficit, by county



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT: NDMA

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION



86%

of KIs reported that water was not being treated by households before drinking it.

Overall, 67% (n=14) of the respondents reported that **access to water has changed, and become less available**. Consequently, almost half (47%, n=10) of the respondents reported water price increases in the last month. The table below summarizes the changes in water access and prices across the 9 counties assessed, with highlights of sub-counties reporting either reduced access, prices increases or both. In relation to water treatment, **majority of households don't treat water**. Water treatment was only reported in Balambala (Garissa), Turkana North (Turkana) and Wajir West (Wajir). Use of water treating chemical and sedimentation were the treatment methods used.

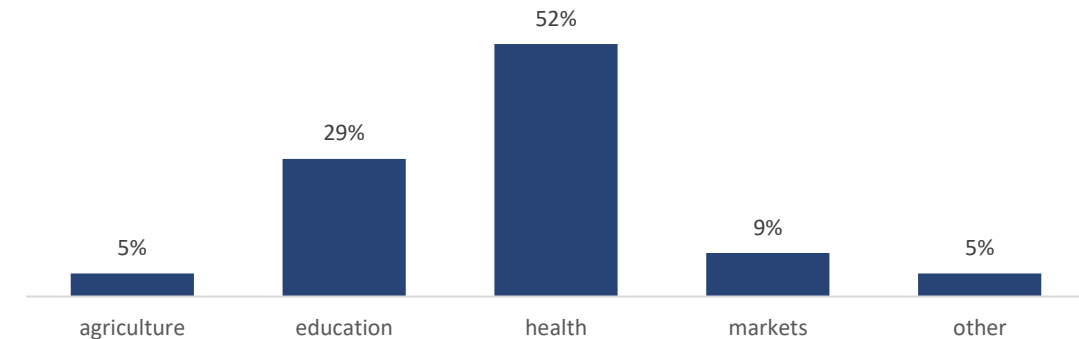
Table 3: Changes in water availability and prices

County	Sub County	Change in water access			Change in water price	
		No change	More available	Less available	No change	Price increased
Baringo	Baringo South			√	√	
	Tiaty		√		√	
Garissa	Balambala		√		√	
	Fafi		√			√
	Lagdera			√		√
Isiolo	Isiolo North			√		√
	Isiolo South			√	√	
Mandera	Lafey	√				
	Mandera East	√				
	Mandera North		√			
Marsabit	Leisamis			√		
	Northor			√		
Samburu	Samburu East			√	√	√
	Delta			√		√
Tana River	Tana North			√		√
	Tana River			√		√
Turkana	Turkana East	√			√	
	Turkana North			√	√	
Wajir	Eldas			√		√
	Wajir South			√		√
	Wajir West			√		√

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Twenty-one (21) Public Health Officers (PHOs) – one per sub county - were interviewed on the impact of COVID-19 in their respective sub-county. Across all the counties, **health and education were the most affected sectors by COVID-19 pandemic, with movement restriction reported a major cause in the disruption**. One (1) PHO from Samburu East reported “other”, mainly hospitality industry, livestock markets, transport sector, education and health.

GRAPH 26: Overall effect of COVID-19 on various sectors



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Most affected Sector	Major Effect	% of the population with regular access to soap and water for handwashing	% of the population with regular access to soap and water for handwashing and practicing handwashing
Health (52%)	Movement restrictions due to COVID-19 regulations (45%)	36%	42%

COVID-19 effects on the health sector were reported in Samburu, Garrisa, Isiolo (Isiolo North), Mandera (Mandera North), Marsabit (Leisamis), Tana River (Tana North and Tana River), Turkana (Turkana East) and Wajir (Eldas). The **education sector** was most affected in Baringo (Baringo south), Garissa (Balambala), Mandera (Lafey and Mandera East), Marsabit (North Horr), Tana River (Delta), and Wajir (Wajir South).

Additionally, **markets were also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic** as reported by respondents in Isiolo (Isiolo south) and Wajir (Wajir West); the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture sector were reported in Turkana. In Samburu **movement restrictions as a result of the pandemic hampered the pastoralist search for pasture and water; and thus increasing levels of distress for both animals and humans.**

Overall 81% (n= 17) of the ASAL areas assessed reported to have received hygiene promotion activities in the last 4 months. Hygiene promotion activities were not in Balambala and Fafi (Garissa), Isiolo North (Isiolo) and North Horr (Marsabit). The hygiene Promotion activities were reported to have been received from various stakeholders including: NGOs (Kenya Red Cross, ACTED, Mercy Corps, ALDEF, Caritas, Amurut, Concern, World Relief etc.), County Governments as well as National Governments (Ministry of Health)

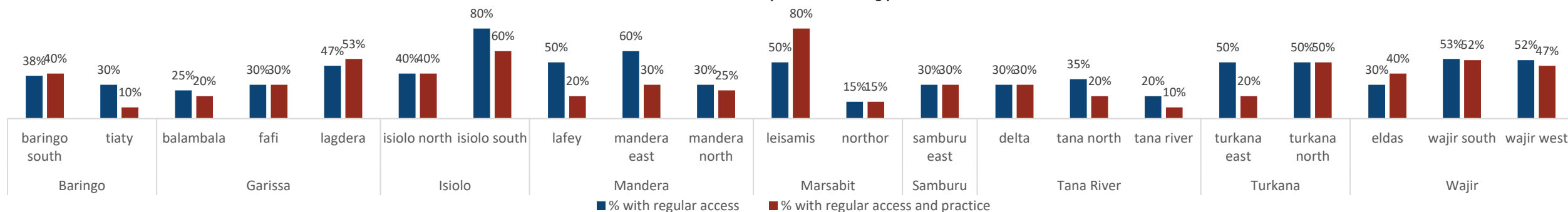
A majority (71%, n=15) also reported they had not received any hygiene kits in the past 3 months. Only the 6 PHOs of Titaty (Baringo), Isiolo South (Isiolo), Mandera East (Mandera), Leisamis (Marsabit), Tana North (Tana River) and Turkana North (Turkana) reported kits had been received recently.

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO SOAP AND WATER AND HANDWASHING PRACTICE

The PHOs estimated the share of the population with access to soap and water for handwashing in each sub-county. Out of this share, respondents were asked to estimate the portion of population that practices handwashing. As shown in graph 27 below, in 14 sub-counties (66%), PHOs estimate that less than 50% of the population has access to soap and water. Out of the share that does have access, less than half of the populations in each location have access to water and soap practices handwashing. On average, only 40% of the population in the sub-counties have access to water and soap for handwashing, but only 34% of this share practices handwashing.

In Tiatiy and Tana River, only 10% of the population has access to soap and water practice handwashing. In Leisamis, half of the population is estimated to have access to soap and water, and out of these individuals 80% are estimated to practice handwashing. The main reasons for low handwashing practices reported include: **Illiteracy** (Tiatiy (Baringo), and Balmbala (Garissa)), **low awareness** (Balambala (Garissa), Isiolo South, Mandera East and Mandera North, Turkana East and Wajir West) and **poor attitudes** (Lafey (Mandera), Tana North and Wajir South)

GRAPH 27: Access to soap vs Handwashing practice



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

% of the population with access to latrines

Approximate % of the population practicing open defecation even with access to latrines

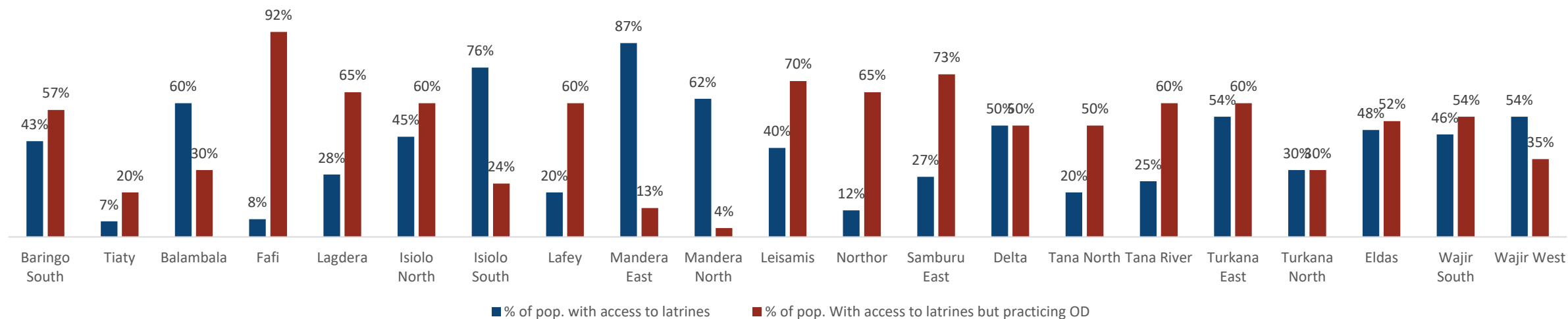
39%

47%

The respondents were asked to estimate the portion of the population with access to latrines and the proportion of its share that practices Open Defecation (OD). On average, 40% of the populations have access to latrines, and of who nearly half (49%) practiced OD. Tiaty East sub county (Baringo) reported the lowest percentage of the population accessing latrines (7%). In Fafi (Garissa), only 8% of the population have access to latrines, but almost all who have access to latrines also practice OD (92%).

Mandera (East, North) and Garissa (Balambala) reported that more than half of the populations had access to latrines, and only a few practice OD. When asked why OD was rampant despite access to latrines, lack of **enough latrines** (57%); **difficulty of access to persons with disability** and **lack of privacy** (43%) were reported as the main causes. Other notable reasons reported were **lack of water** (38%) and **difficulty of access to children** (38%), and **damaged structures** (33%).

GRAPH 28: Access to latrines vs Open Defecation (OD) practice



JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Accessibility of health facilities across the assessed counties:

Easily Accessible	Fairly Accessible	Hardly Accessible
29%	62%	9%

All respondents (100%, n=21) reported that health facilities were present for residents in all the areas of the assessment. Table xxx below informs on the types of the health reported and their accessibility by the residents. A majority described the health facilities as being either **easily accessible (29%, n=6)** or **fairly accessible (62%, n=13)**.

The reasons provided for this were most commonly that facilities were “within community settlements” as explained by the PHO in Lagdera, or that there are several healthcare providers in the area. **Only 9 % of KIIs (n=2) reported that the facilities were hardly accessible.** In Wajir South, this is reportedly due to long distances while in Tiati there are reportedly few and far away.

Table 4: Accessing of Health Facilities

County	Sub County	Type of health facility	Accessibility by residents
Baringo	Baringo South	Dispensary	easily accessible
	Tiati	Health center	hardly accessible
Garissa	Balambala	Health center and dispensary	fairly accessible
	Fafi	Hospital, dispensary, health care unit and primary health care unit	fairly accessible
	Lagdera	Primary health care unit	easily accessible
Isiolo	Isiolo North	Dispensary and a health center	easily accessible
	Isiolo South	Hospital, dispensary and a health center	easily accessible
Mandera	Lafey	Hospital, dispensary, health center and mobile clinic	easily accessible
	Mandera East	Hospital, dispensary, health care unit, primary health care unit and mobile clinic	fairly accessible
	Mandera North	Hospital, dispensary, health center and priary health care unit	fairly accessible
Marsabit	Leisamis	Hospital, dispensary and a health center	fairly accessible
	Northor	Primary health care unit	fairly accessible
Samburu	Samburu East	Hospital, dispensary, health center and primary health care unit	fairly accessible
Tana River	Delta	Hospital, dispensary, health center and medical clinic	fairly accessible
	Tana North	Dispensary, health center, primary health care unit and mobile clinic	fairly accessible
	Tana River	Dispensary, health center, primary health care unit and mobile clinic	fairly accessible
Turkana	Turkana East	Dispensary , health center and mobile clinic	easily accessible
	Turkana North	Dispensary, health center, primary health care unit and mobile clinic	fairly accessible
Wajir	Eldas	Dispensary and a health center	fairly accessible
	Wajir South	hospital, dispensary and mobile clinic	hardly accessible
	Wajir West	hospital and dispensary	fairly accessible

JULY 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

CONCLUSION

- Livelihoods, Pastoralism, Agriculture:** As reported about 70% of the population in the ASAL counties depended on primarily on pastoral activities. Coupled with the drought and locust infestations livelihoods have been significantly disrupted as both pasture and farm land become depleted by up to 39% and 59% respectively. Unless urgent mitigation measure are taken to prevent further destruction of livelihoods, restoration of livelihoods will prove difficult; and complete loss of livelihoods inevitable.
- Protection:** A majority (79%) of respondents reported an increase of tensions caused by inter-community conflicts over resources resulting from the recent lack of rains. While protection services reported as available, they differ from county to county. Only community-based protection committees (70%) were mentioned in all counties. Women, the elderly and children are considered as the most affected population group as a result of the drought: they are most likely to be left behind when pastoralists move to search for pasture and water, and are most likely to have weaker purchasing power.
- Population Movement:** 93% of respondents reported population movement within their areas. As usual, pastoralists, mainly men were most cited to move; while for non-pastoralist households it was reported entire households moved. Need to access basic services (38%), conflicts (34%), drought (22%) leading to search for water and pasture and eviction (6%) were cited as the main reasons for moving.
- Food Security and Nutrition:** 75% of food in the assessed ASAL counties comes from market purchases (43%) and own livestock (32%). Overall, the food security situation has either significantly deteriorated (45%) or experienced some deterioration (31%) as a result of the drought. Other issues affecting food security include the decreasing availability, coupled with movement restrictions caused by COVID-19 and insecurity which have led to an increase in prices. In response, households have resulted to relying on less preferred and less expensive food (70%), reducing the number of meals eaten in a day (68%) in order to cope with the lack of food or resources to buy food. Vulnerable population groups such as the elderly (86%), children (86%), women (79%) and persons with disability (76%) were reported to most affected as they are unable to meet their daily food needs.
- WASH & COVID-19:** The majority (71%) of respondents reported that huge water deficits exist as household water needs are currently not met. Water at the household level is untreated hence the risk of water borne diseases. Only 40% of the populations have access to latrines, of whom half (49%) practice OD due to limited number of latrines. While only 40% of the population have access to water and soap, only 34% practice handwashing. COVID 19 restrictions continue to affect various sectors include markets, health and education. Movement restrictions have hampered cross-county supply of foodstuffs and access to markets further worsening the already dire food security situation. .

ASAL HUMANITARIAN NETWORK MEMBERSHIP



Supported by:



For more information, please contact:

**Ahmed Ibrahim - CEO ALDEF &
Convener - ASAL Humanitarian Network.**
Email: ahmed.ibrahim@aldef.org