



UDGOON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (USDI)

Needs and Vulnerability Assessments Report.

Garissa County, Kenya

September 2023

**Report Prepared by
Pioneer Consulting Limited**

Executive Summary

This report highlights the widespread effects of the protracted drought on household levels, particularly in rural areas, and gives the main findings from the assessment of community needs and vulnerability. Designing an integrated emergency and resilience intervention in these regions was the motivation behind the assessment's creation. The timing of the assessment's execution and the creation of new action packages—, which aligns with high-level talks regarding funding and response planning by both state and non-state actors in the drought-affected areas—make the assessment's conclusions pertinent.

The results of the assessment, which was cross-sectoral in character, show how the drought has exacerbated the effects on several aspects of the communities residing in the areas that were evaluated. Considering the vulnerability of households and communities, as seen by the data below, the impact is severe and will only become worse. When the factors contributing to the current state of affairs are taken into account, low rainfall over several years, made worse by the ongoing dry spell phenomena, is significant. However, as the debate that follows highlights, there are additional contributing elements that point to the current crisis being more complicated in nature.

Food Security and Livelihoods

- The negative consequences of droughts have resulted in a considerable reduction or loss of revenue for 79% of the respondents' primary source. Only a tiny percentage of households got food or monetary aid in the past year to help lessen the effects of the drought, indicating a lack of support for the impacted families.
- Many respondents reported losing cattle, indicating that asset depletion linked to the drought is common and threatens current food and income sources as well as post-crisis recovery prospects. There is data to imply that places without a vaccination program have a higher likelihood of experiencing livestock losses. The respondents in the assessment areas reported losing more than 20 shorts (sheep and goats) in the previous month.
- The vast majority of survey participants (97%) confirmed that they have run out of food for the last six months. The capital of small enterprises is being utilized to purchase feed and water for the surviving animals, which has caused disruptions in the market supplies.
- The ability of drought-affected families to bounce back is severely compromised. This is evident from the likely loss of a great deal more livestock due to the bad state of the animals that are still alive and the lack of sufficient pasture, water, and fodder.
- In addition, families impacted by the drought are turning to a variety of unfavorable coping mechanisms, such as cutting back on the number of meals consumed in a given day, a rise in the number of households using credit—where available—to buy food, and indications of people and livestock migration to other regions in search of pasture. The majority of respondents (54%), who were interviewed, stated that they or other household members had not been able to eat the foods they preferred to eat over the previous four weeks because of a lack of resources.
- The most prevalent recommendation made by the communities regarding the assistance required to resume their lives is the availability of cash to help them replace the resources they have lost

and utilize their knowledge and experience to bring back their source of household income.

WASH

- The majority of the communities that were evaluated showed signs of severe water insecurity. Poor replenishment/drying out of surface water sources, inadequate rainfall during the preceding five unsuccessful rainy seasons, decreased yield in shallow wells and boreholes, fractures in important boreholes, and an excessive number of cattle at watering spots are some of the obstacles to getting access to water. Households that do not have access to enough water are less likely to drink enough or practice good hygiene, which increases the risk of water-borne illnesses like cholera and diarrhea.
- A significant issue that households are currently dealing with is the availability of water, according to 43% of respondents in Lagdhera and 46% in Balambala. The majority of families only one source of water. Since most respondents with limited access identified financial ability as the primary barrier, access to water is directly related with financial resources.
- Other facets of the availability and quality of water have been impacted by the drought. The majority of participants state that the occurrence of these dry seasons has resulted in a longer distance to a water source. Additionally, respondents in Lagdhera reported that since the drought, there has been a rise in the prevalence of illnesses among children in places where the water source is regarded as both safe and unsafe to drink. The assessment's findings indicate that there may not be enough water for cooking, cleaning, and washing.
- Many households are not following proper hygiene practices when it comes to gathering and storing water. This is because 62% of respondents only use a separate container for gathering and storing water, the storage containers don't always have lids, and the containers are not cleaned regularly.

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List of Acronyms

AWD	Acute water Diarrhea
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FHH	Female Headed Household
FSL	Food security and Livelihood
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoK	Government of Kenya
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
IPC	Integrated Phase classification
MPC	Multipurpose Cash
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
ODK	Open data kit
USDI	Udgoon Sustainable Development Initiative
PLW	People living with disabilities.
HHs.	Households
HQ	Household Questionnaire
SM	Separated Minors
UNHCR	UN Children's Fund
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

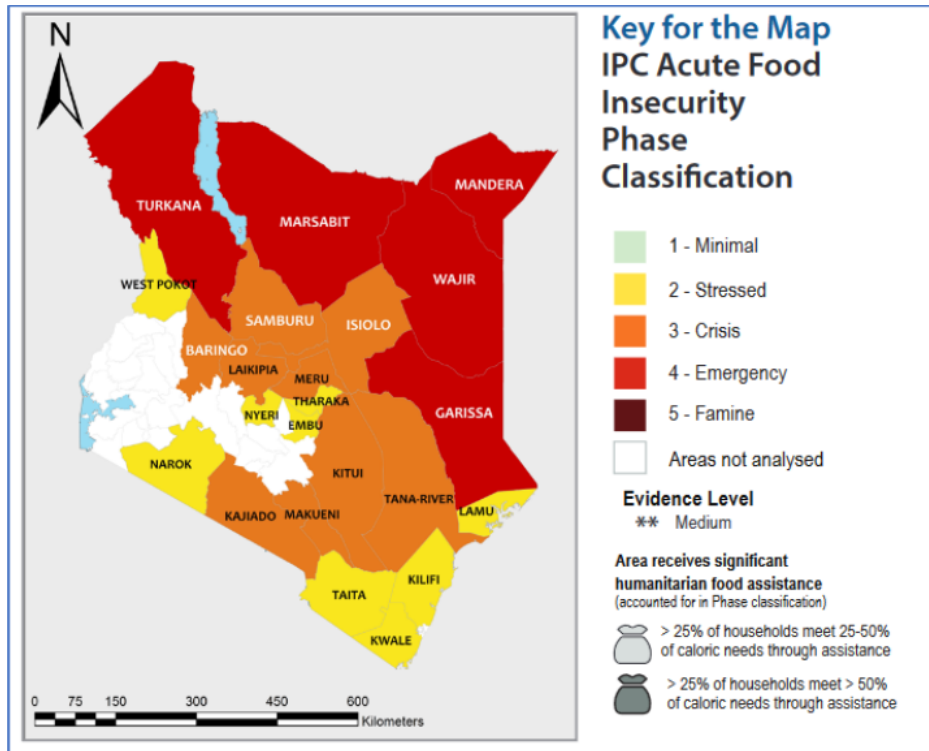
1. Introduction

Kenya is still vulnerable to a wide range of risks, both natural and man-made. While hydro meteorological disasters (droughts and floods) are the most common, other types of disasters can also happen, including technological, geomorphic and geo-tectonic, and epidemic ones. Their frequency and severity have increased recently due to factors related to climate change and human activity, severely affecting lives and livelihoods. Inadequate access to food and water affects 4.4 million people in Kenya, according to recent assessments of food security and livelihood. From the 3.5 million people estimated in July 2022 after the long rains season was assessed, there has been an increase of nearly one million, and between March and June 2023, it is predicted to rise to 5.4 million people.

Between 2020 and 2022, Kenya experienced five seasons of below-average rainfall, which resulted in a severe drought. The catastrophic drought was having an adverse effect on the people of the ASAL region at a time when they were still trying to recover from a number of recent shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2019–2021 desert locust outbreak, and they were also having to deal with rising food and fuel prices as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. Due to these occurrences, food prices have skyrocketed in many drought-affected areas, resulting in a severe crisis of food insecurity and elevated rates of malnutrition.

The ASAL counties continue to be vital for livelihood and food security. A significant portion of the population in Garissa County (15%) is currently in IPC AFI Phase 4 (Emergency), and over half of the population (55%) is experiencing serious food consumption gaps and is classified as being in IPC AFI Phase 3 or higher. Many families report losing their livelihoods or having unproductive land because of the drought, and some are resorting to ever-more desperate coping mechanisms to survive. Many have been forced to flee their homes in search of pasture, food, water, and other means of subsistence, both within their own borders and in neighboring countries. This has put more strain on already scarce basic services and raised the possibility of inter communal conflict. Conditions for long-term food and nutrition security are likely to remain critical because multiple seasons of favorable rains are necessary for a robust recovery of livelihoods, even though the quantity and distribution of the March–May long rains were favorable in most of the ASAL region, replenishing some vegetation and water sources after the previous five consecutive failed rainy seasons. This is according to FEWS NET.

Projected Acute food security, March - June 2023.



In a similar vein, over 2.6 million people in Kenya lack access to enough water for cleaning, cooking, and drinking. A serious shortage and a dire situation exist in ASALs, which make up 80% of Kenya's landmass. Poor replenishment/drying out of surface water sources, inadequate rainfall during the preceding five unsuccessful rainy seasons, decreased yield in shallow wells and boreholes, fractures in important boreholes, and an excessive number of cattle at watering spots are some of the obstacles to getting access to water. Families that do not have access to enough water are less likely to drink enough or practice good hygiene, which increases the risk of water-borne illnesses like cholera and diarrhea.

Vulnerable individuals have been forced from their homes due to the need for improved means of subsistence. There are 9,650 internally displaced people (53 percent female and 47 percent male) in Balambala and Lagdera Sub-Counties in Garissa, who are believed to have come from Mandera, Wajir, and within Garissa Counties. The prolonged drought has disrupted the pastoralists' livelihoods, forcing them to flee their usual places of residency in search of life-saving aid, such as food, water supply, and shelter.

1.1 Purpose of the vulnerability study.

- To determine the most pressing sectoral needs of the population groups, including absentees, recent arrivals, returnees, and foreign nationals, by conducting a vulnerability assessment.

[Acute food insecurity classification, February 2023](#)

[Drought in the horn of Africa, Response to water scarcity, 2023](#)

Advocacy brief, Kenya Drought alert, REACH, April 2023

- Create a more comprehensive image of how the current drought is affecting the way of life for the people living in the Lagdhera and Balambala Sub counties.
- Identify beneficiaries by taking into account their current socioeconomic standing and circumstances surrounding their displacement.

2. Methodology

2.1 General approach.

•A mixed method approach was used for the assessment in order to appropriately address the research objective. The methodology includes qualitative interviews (both key informant and in-depth), quantitative household surveys with family representatives in the target communities, and a comprehensive desk review of secondary literature and project documents, including project pro. Nine (9) communities are included in the analysis. Five (5) in the Lagdera Subcounty and Four (4) in the Balambala Subcountry.

Table 2. 1 Distribution of Sampled households by sub county/District and communities

Sub county	District	Communities	Sample Size
		Omar Mohumed	31
		Ohio	31
		Hagar Jarer	32
		Libaxlow	31
		Afweine	23
		Darsalaam	24
		Eydure	26
		Maalimin	32
		Wayam Jibril	25

2.2 Sampling and Tool design

Prior to the data collection, a sampling plan was prepared using random cluster sampling with villages serving as the basic clusters. This allowed for a 95% confidence level and a +/-5% margin of error for the sample in the target areas. After that, each sub-county's sample proposal was created using a cluster-sampling tool. In all, 14 villages were covered. A quantitative data collection was carried out from September 5th to September 15th, 2023. Nine (9) villages totaling 255 households were interviewed. By using random sampling, it was possible to choose sample sizes that were both appropriate and proportionate while also guaranteeing that every household had an equal chance of being included in the sample. They were questioned about their livelihood profile, food security, and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in their communities.

Pioneer Consulting Limited developed data collection tools in collaboration with USDI, taking into account the objectives of the vulnerability assessment and verifiable sectoral indicators that informed the development of pertinent questions. These were further developed into variables through the use of an extensive matrix of research questions, enabling a thorough examination of the vulnerabilities and needs of the community.

2.3 Process and Methods of data collection.

The Pioneer Consulting Limited team assembled the data collection team and developed a training program after developing the tools. Workshops on enumerator training were conducted in Balambala and Lagdera, with an emphasis on data entry and cleaning procedures in addition to data collection instruments and methodology. Prior to the final copies being programmed in the digital platform for use in the field, the tools were pre-tested and any necessary adjustments were made.

The Open Data Kit (ODK) data collection tool was utilized to conduct face-to-face interviews using the Household questionnaire. The data was then aggregated using Kobo, an Android-based mobile application that aims to facilitate digital data collection and reduce mistakes in data entry that are more likely to happen when administering pen-and-paper questionnaires. The economic trends and vulnerabilities of households were gathered through the household questionnaires. The Pioneer Consulting Limited team cleaned the data every day, paying particular attention to location accuracy and possible data entry errors. Feedback was then sent to the enumerator teams as needed. Every alteration made to the values of the dataset was recorded in the data cleaning log and added to the published dataset.

2.4 Data Analysis

The ODK platform was utilized to gather quantitative data through electronic forms. After each day of data collection, the forms were moved to a central system managed by the assessment team. Before the files were encoded and moved to SPSS data analysis software, they were constantly checked for errors and verified as they were received. The types of data collected to support the vulnerability assessment's conclusions determined the data analysis techniques used. The assessment's pre-analysis plan served as a guide for both the quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Thematic content analysis was used to evaluate community discussions, and data from various primary sources were quantified when necessary. Descriptive statistics have also been used to highlight or characterize important aspects of quantitative data. This report's analysis was triangulated using secondary data review sources, such as reports on humanitarian situations, analyses of the food and nutrition situation, and alerts about droughts.

2.5 Ethical Considerations

In compliance with the ethical guidelines that govern research involving human subjects, including safeguarding children's rights, upholding participants' human rights, and maintaining their dignity, consent from legal guardians was obtained for children below the age of eighteen to partake in the study. All survey respondents, including heads of households, young people, and parents of children participating in focus group discussions, verbally attested to their consent. Prior to the interviews, the respondents were given a clear explanation of the study's objectives, methods, and benefits as well as the privacy and confidentiality policies, contact information for individuals who can address questions about research and subjects' rights, and the distribution of study results.

As much privacy as possible was maintained throughout the data's analysis, storage, and collection. Procedures were established in accordance with the beneficence principle to guarantee that participant risks are kept to a minimum while benefits are maximized.

3. Assessment Findings.

3.1 Demographic characteristics

3.1.1. Household Composition.

Seven (7) people made up the average household size. Nonetheless, there are notable differences in household size within and between each type of residential property. Household sizes in urban areas are typically larger than those in rural areas. A comparison between the income levels and household sizes of the household respondents revealed that higher income households have larger households than significantly lower income households. With household sizes ranging from 4 to 5 members, the smallest households were the most impoverished. Large families find it extremely difficult to make ends meet, so low-income families frequently send some of their kids to stay with close relatives who can provide care for more extended family members. Owing to their higher incomes, middle-class and upper-class households are able to support larger households, which includes having live-in relatives to help with household chores.

There isn't a clear correlation between higher household income and more children, but since wealthier households can afford to support a larger number of individuals, they frequently took in more extended family members to help with childcare or education.

3.1.2 Dependency ratio.

The number of dependents in a population divided by the total number of people of working age is known as the dependency ratio. The terms "zero to fourteen" and "65 and older" refer to individuals who are considered dependents. The range of working age is 15 to 64. The ratio illustrates the degree of strain an economy experiences in providing for its unproductive populace. The burden borne by those of working age increases with the ratio. The estimated median age dependency ratio from the sampled households is 1871, meaning that there are 187 dependents for every 100 productive/working community members. The dependency ratio (166) of households headed by men is higher than that of households headed by women (150). Comparing Lagdhera to Balambala which has an estimated dependency ratio of 233, Lagdhera has a lower estimated dependency ratio (150).

3.1.3 Status of the household head

Every respondent involved in the evaluation was a rural resident. There are reported to be a notably greater number of households headed by women. This could be the result of the male head of the household splitting up and moving to different places with their animals in search of water and animal feed after the assessment locations experienced a protracted dry spell.

Table 3. 1 Distribution of Sampled household head.

Nature of Household head	Frequency	Percentage
Child headed	1	0.4
Female headed	107	42
Male headed	147	57.6
Total	255	100

3.1.4 Household residential Status

According to the assessment, there were more displaced households in Lagdera communities than in Balambala communities. In total, 9% of the participants classified their household as being displaced. Although 54% of displaced households cited drought as their primary cause of displacement (Figure 2), the varying timelines and lengths of displacement indicate that long-term economic and conflict dynamics have also had a significant impact on population movement. For instance, a disproportionately high percentage of households (83%) in Libaxlow—where 64% of displaced households reported having been displaced for more than five years—cited conflict as a driving force behind their relocation, compared to an average of 36% of households in Lagdera Sub-County citing any conflict-related factor.

3.2 Food Security and Livelihoods.

3.2.1 Household income

The great majority of respondents (92%) stated that raising livestock is their primary source of income. Five percent depend on small-scale trading, and two percent perform manual labor for pay. Following the loosing of their animals to the protracted drought in the previous 12 months, the majority of households engaged in petty trade and unskilled labor were forced to transition from livestock rearing. The sources of income for households headed by men and women are the same; both groups depend on livestock, small-scale trade, and unskilled labor. The variety of income streams is restricted.

Table 3. 2 Main types of household livelihood

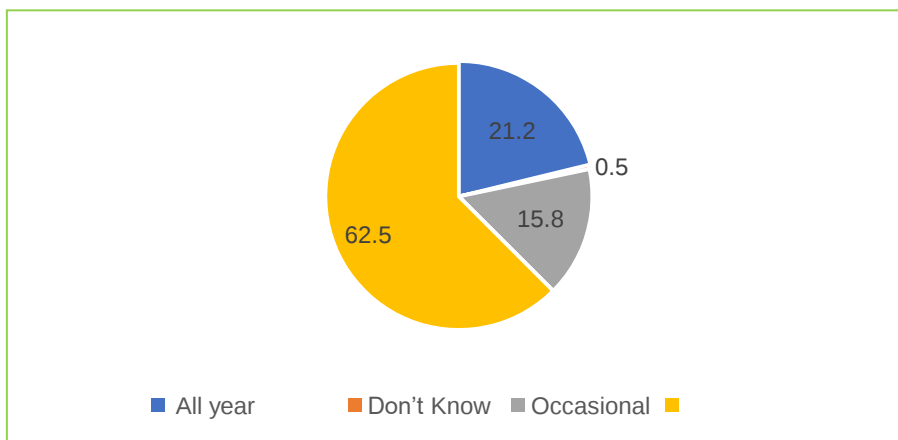
Source of HHs income	Frequency	Percentage
Livestock rearing	235	92
Petty trade	13	5
Manual unskilled labour	7	2
Total	255	100

More than 60% of households only have one source of income. Additionally, there is little difference in income sources based on the respondents' locations, with each household having a median of one income source on average. A restricted range of income sources limits households' capacity to react to

shocks to the economy especially if the household depends on the irregular and frequently transient nature of day labor. Community leaders reported that, due to erratic rainfall patterns and steadily diminishing grazing lands, raising cattle is now more challenging than it was five (5) years ago. Among the communities surveyed, there was a high rate of reporting of livestock losses. The majority of losses were related to the drought and included goats and sheep. The recent drought has caused more than twenty sheep to be lost, according to 56% of respondents. It is interesting to note that a sizable portion of respondents stated that their primary source of income was humanitarian aid. This demonstrates a greater dependence on humanitarian aid, probably brought about by a general deterioration of household resilience and a reduction in opportunities for earning a living. Growing reliance on aid creates a worrying risk to these households' ability to consume enough food because aid could be interrupted or reduced at any time, making aid an unpredictable source of income.

When asked about their involvement in livelihood activities, the majority of respondents said they had a seasonal job. Below, Figure 3.1 illustrates the analysis.

Figure 3.1 Continuity of household livelihood



When asked which sources of income have been impacted by the drought, 66% of survey participants said livestock, and 29% said the labor force, which served as a suitable substitute after some community members lost their livestock last year. This demonstrates unequivocally that during the drought and recovery period, the conditions of individuals engaged in informal wage labor may be critical to the development of livelihoods.

With a maximum of two household members contributing to the monthly household income in both sub counties, the median monthly household income in Lagdhera communities is Ksh8527.5, slightly higher than in Balambala communities (Ksh8238.2). The three primary sources of income—livestock, small-scale trade, and skilled labor—all produce differing amounts of money.

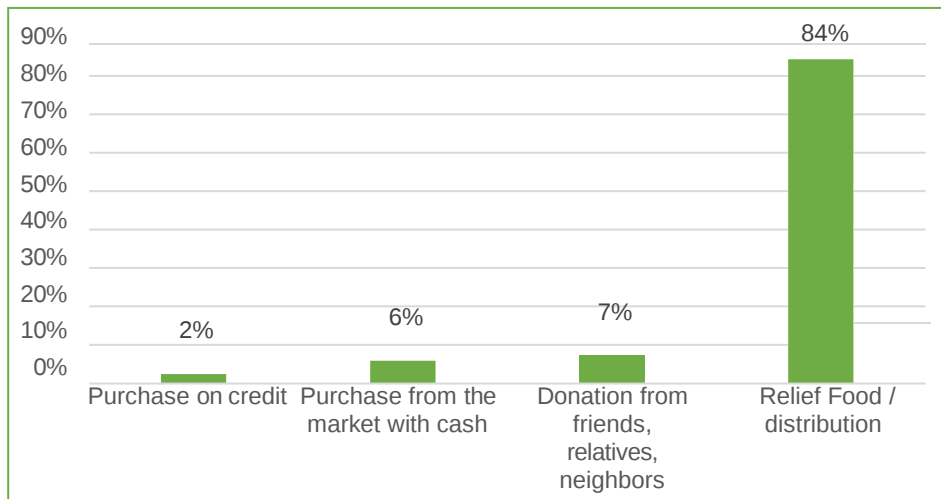
The vast majority of respondents (96%) said they were living on a plot of land they owned, with the remaining 4% saying they were paying monthly rent. Individuals who pay rent reported making less than Ksh4,999 monthly.

3.2.2 Household food security.

During the vulnerability assessment, it became clear that some respondents had concerns regarding their ability to obtain food. At the time of the assessment, 92% of the respondents said their households lacked access to enough food. More precisely, the respondents said that eating one meal a day has drastically decreased from three meals a day prior to the drought situation to just one meal a day now. The primary reasons given for restricted access to food are excessive market prices (72%), loss of food stock/livestock (42%), and destroyed harvests (12%). There are no notable variations in the pattern of food access and associated barriers between the Lagdhera and Balambala communities.

According to 88% of respondents in Lagdhera and 85% of respondents in Balambala, relief food distributions have been the households' primary source of food for the past 12 months. This demonstrated unequivocally how dependent the community was on humanitarian aid due to the depletion of household resources.

Figure 3. 2 Sources of staple food for the Household



The results of the study also showed that the communities in Lagdhera and Balambala that were evaluated depend on a single market for their food supply, with other subsidiary markets closing down as a result of disrupted supply chains for basic goods. Furthermore, the average number of market visits per week has dropped dramatically from four (4) to two (2). The impact of drought on local economies is far-reaching, as evidenced by the widespread experience of reduced food access, regardless of the primary sources of income in households. Even households with livelihoods that seem less directly linked to rainfall, like salaried employment and allowances/family, frequently reported experiencing a decline in their food access.

The assessment also found that the communities' purchasing power has been impacted by the disruption of sustenance caused by the loss of livestock. According to 72% of the respondents surveyed, the ongoing effects of the drought have caused them to lose support networks. Relying on family members' contributions, skipping meals, and borrowing were the primary coping strategies found to be associated with restricted access to food commodities.

The communities that were assessed in Lagdhera and Balambala reported not having any food supplies. The majority of them ran out of food more than six months ago. The level of malnutrition reported by the respondents indicated that children in the assessed community were negatively impacted by the drought.

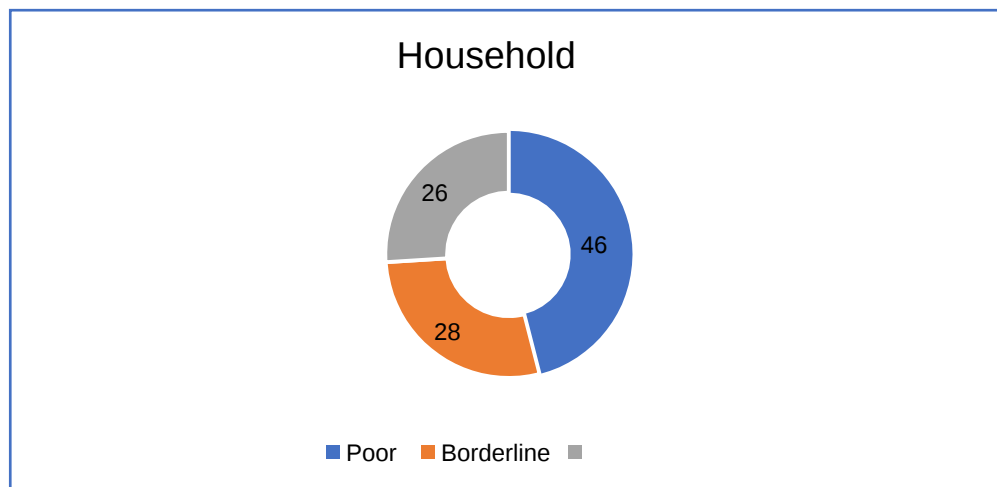
According to the community health workers who participated in the assessment as Key Informants, one in three children exhibits signs of malnutrition. This is made worse by the absence of key players in the region who can deal with the immediate effects of child malnutrition right away.

3.2.3 Nutritional status analysis

i) Food Consumption Score.

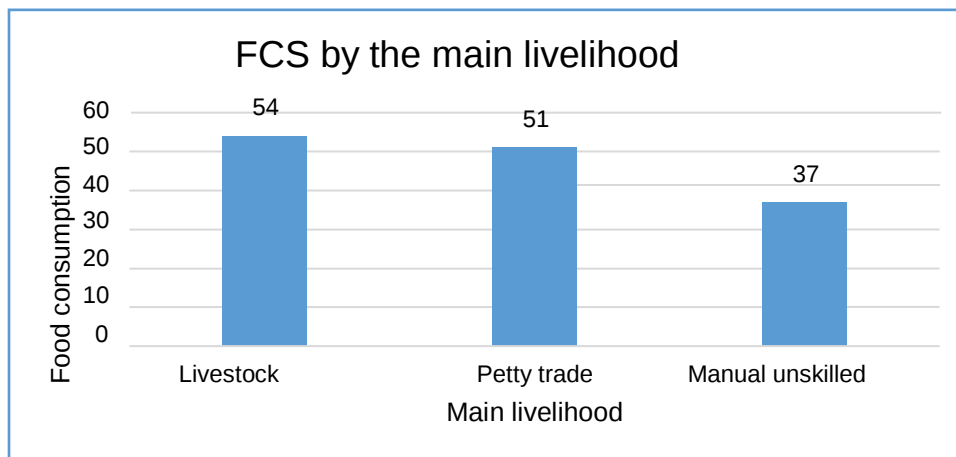
The Food Consumption Score (FCS) calculates how much, what kind, and how much food a household consumes over the course of seven days. In the surveyed area, the average FCS is 47. The percentage of households in each of the various FCS categories is displayed in Figure 3.3. A little over 46% of the households have FCS that is acceptable. The FCS for male-headed households is 46.4, while the FCS for female-headed households is 47.7. There is no statistically significant disparity in FCS based on the gender of the household head. The FCS of displaced households (FCS=43.1) and host community households (FCS=48.6) varies statistically significantly.

Figure 3. 3 Household Food consumption Score.



The variation in FCS by primary source of livelihood is shown in Figure 3.4. The households with the highest FCS are those involved in livestock rearing and petty trade, while the households with the lowest FCS are those that perform unskilled labor. Households that perform unskilled labor have low FCS but low rCSI. The households with unskilled labor may possess the necessary resources to buy food, but their utilization may be out of balance. This may point to the necessity of mass sensitization to various nutritional aspects and the significance of making sure that sufficient foods from all groups are consumed in the homes. Documenting the food items that are available locally for every food group is also necessary.

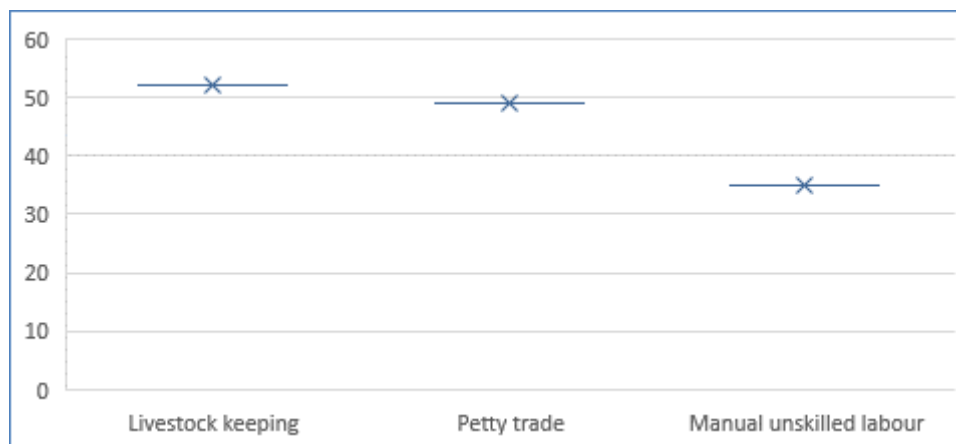
Figure 3. 4 FCS by the main livelihood source.



ii) Reduced copying strategy.

Measured on a scale from 0 to 56, the average Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) for the study area is 45.71. This suggests that households are using extremely harsh coping mechanisms. Below, Figure 3.5 shows the rCSI broken down by primary source of income. The lowest rCSI is found in households where unskilled labor is the primary source of income, while the highest rCSI is found in households involved in small-scale trading. There is not a statistically significant disparity in rCSI between households headed by men and women.

Figure 3. 5 Household rCSI by the main livelihood type.

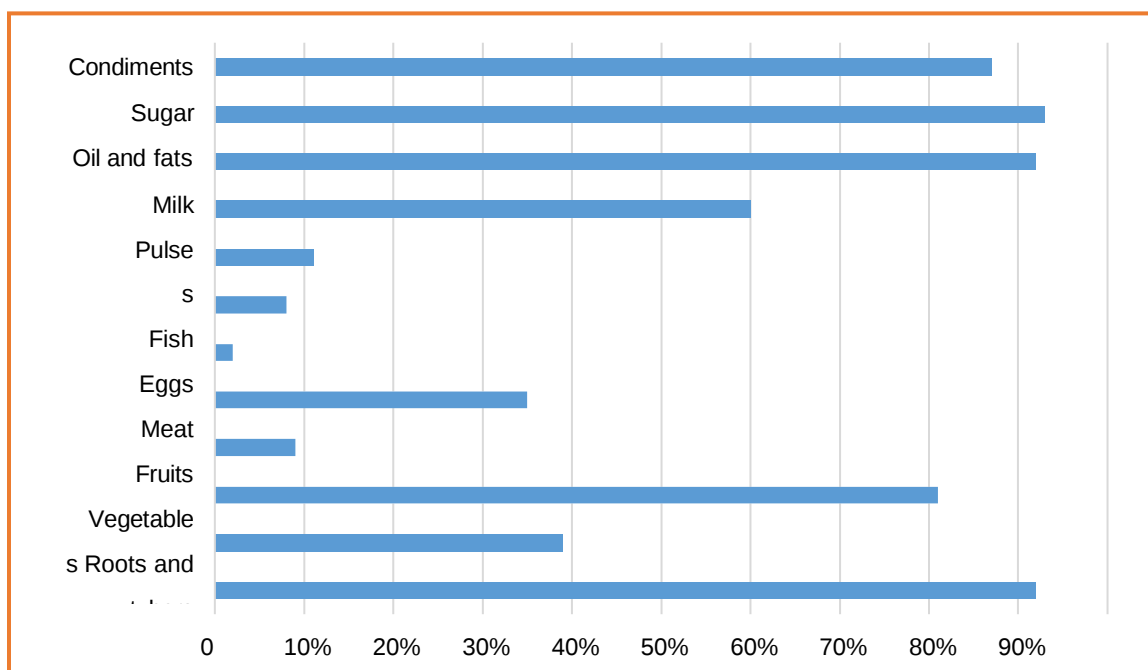


iii) Household dietary diversity score.

A household's food variety is gauged by the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS). Data on consumption are gathered for a 24-hour recall period. The survey area's average HDDS for households is 6. Out of the 12 food groups, a household in the survey area typically consumed six different types of food. The percentage of households that consumed food groups in the 24 hours prior to the survey is shown in Figure 3.6. Cereals, sugar, oils and vegetables are consumed in large quantities, in the survey region. Protein can be found mostly in meat and milk. Less than 20% of households eat foods high in

protein, such as eggs, fish, and pulses. In the day preceding the survey, less than 10% of the households reported consuming fruit.

Figure 3. 6 Food groups consumed in the household in the last 24 hours.

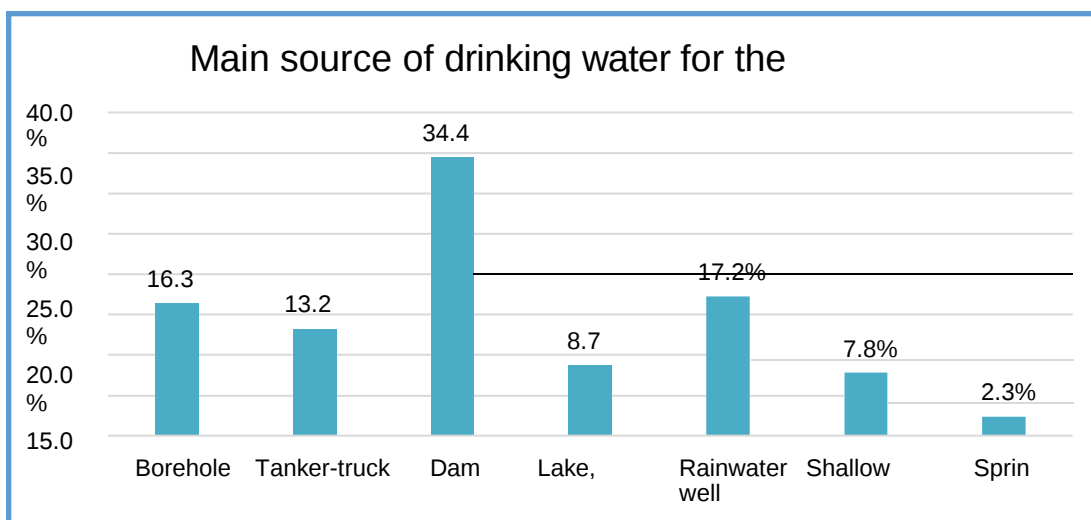


3.3 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

3.3.1 Main source of drinking water for members of households

In Lagdhera and Balambala subcounties, respectively, only 57% and 54% of survey participants said they had access to enough water for domestic use. The common sources of water in the communities that were evaluated were found to be unprotected sources. In both sub counties, boreholes and dams were mentioned as the primary water sources. It's important to remember that a sizable portion of communities (13.2%) say that their primary source of water comes from water trucks. This suggests that while various humanitarian organizations assisted the communities in getting immediate access to water during the drought, more sustainable water access was not given priority as a recovery strategy. The average household in the assessed communities of Balambala reports drawing water four times a day, which is significantly more than the majority of households in the Lagdhera sub-county, which draw water at least twice a day. In a similar vein, the evaluated communities in Balambala collect more water each day—50 liters on average. It has been observed that a greater proportion of households in Lagdhera communities reported using the water for domestic use in addition to animal drinking.

Figure 3. 7 Main source of drinking water for the household.



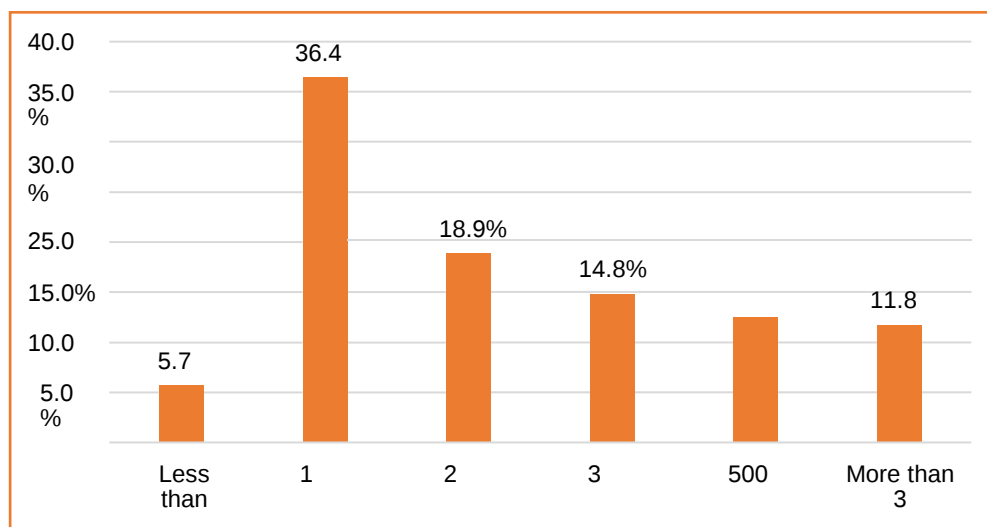
3.3.2 Household income expenditure on water.

Given that 69% of respondents in Balambala and 56% of respondents in Ladghera said they pay for water in their communities, access to water is also correlated with household income. Most of the people who said they purchase water in Lagdhera reported that they purchase it from community-managed boreholes. This suggests that community leadership committees levy a nominal fee at the borehole to guarantee its continuous upkeep, particularly when water is scarce. The majority of respondents indicated that they spend between Ksh. 100 and Ksh. 999 per day to obtain water for household use. The average cost per day for drawing water is Ksh. 85. The majority of respondents (82%) who said they don't currently have access to water said they can't afford the cost of the water. Communities in Lagdera reported paying for water at a rate of 54%, slightly higher than that of Balambala communities (49%). The high cost of water was caused by the lack of access to water after the extended drought season, which dried up water supplies, particularly boreholes.

Distance and time taken to draw water.

Additionally, distance to water sources was identified as insignificant when assessing reasons for limited access to water in these communities. 59.6% of the respondents in Lagdera and 55.3% in Balambala sub-county indicated they travel distance of more than one kilometer from their homes to fetch water. It was identified during the assessment that most of villages share a common water point as a result of reduced water sources with sufficient supply of water. Most of the respondents further confirmed that they now trek to neighboring villages to draw water.

Figure 3. 8 Distance of water source.

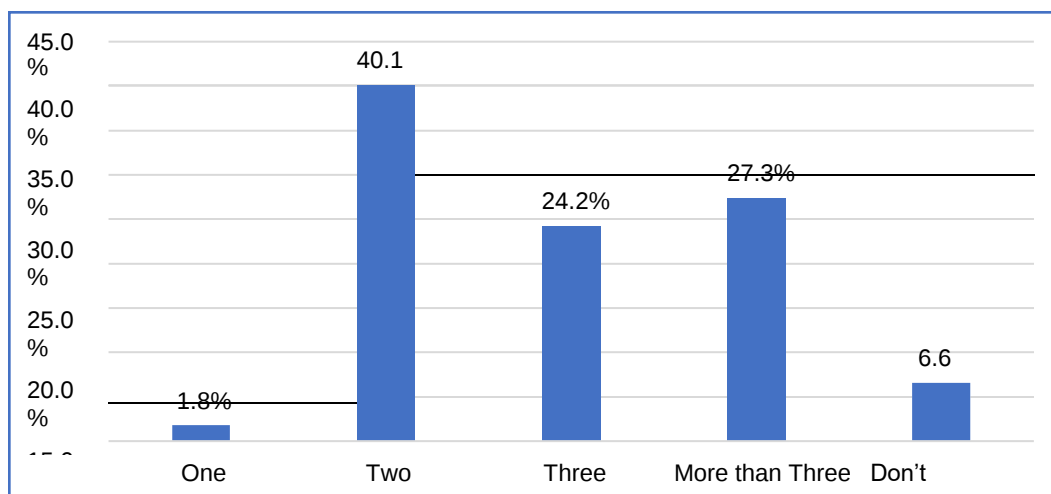


According to 73.3% of the respondents, women and girls are the majority group in charge of gathering water for the household. When compared to the assessed communities in the Balambala sub county, a comparatively greater number of men were reported to engage in water collection in the Lagdera communities. The water drawing point reported an average wait time of fifteen minutes. Because of the crowding at water points brought on by the scarcity of water during the drought, this has somewhat increased. Over the past few weeks, the average return distances between homes and water sources have decreased in some of the assessed communities. The majority of the water sources, which include shallow wells along seasonal rivers and streams, were replenished by the rains, which is why there was a decrease.

3.3.3 Household water storage.

Water is usually kept in jerricans at the household level; 82% of respondents in Lagdera and 76% in Balambala reported using this method. In Lagdera and Balambala, 3% and 4% of households, respectively, store their belongings in water tanks. The majority of respondents (40%) use containers with a capacity of 20 liters for storage. Fewer than 25% of homes store their drinking and household water in different containers. This illustrates how most households have a limited amount of space for storing jerry cans. It was found that the average household water container was two. It was discovered that doing so would lead to more trips being made throughout the day to obtain water from the sources. Sharing and borrowing water containers between households is one of the developed strategies, but it also frequently causes conflicts and has an impact on both families' water intake.

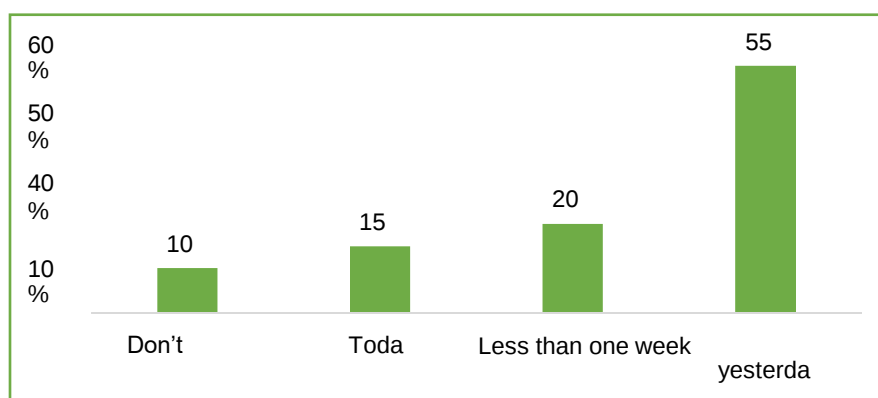
Figure 3. 9 Number of containers used to store water per day.



3.3.4 Household water treatment

Only 17% of respondents said they treated water at the household level in both counties, indicating that water treatment at the household level is a major concern in the assessed communities, according to the assessment. The majority of respondents (49%) who stated they treated their water at home said they let it settle, and a noteworthy 19% also said they used boiling as a household water treatment method. It is noteworthy that those in the community who reported treating their water by boiling it said they had learned about it from earlier hygiene campaigns conducted in the area prior to the drought. According to 82% of respondents, they don't use any money from their monthly household income for water treatment. The last time a household received medical attention, according to 55% of respondents, was just one day ago.

Figure 3. 10 Water treatment at household level.



Community leaders stated that the majority of the area's communities have not received water treatment supplies from humanitarian organizations in more than six months, and they lack the resources to purchase the supplies on their own. This is one reason why households do not treat their own water. The assessment team also found that the community's members are at higher risk of contracting water-borne illnesses because there is infrequent water treatment at the source.

3.3.5 Household access to sanitation facilities.

Rural communities frequently experience limited access to sanitary facilities, particularly in the subcounties of Lagdera and Balambala. A significant percentage of households in the communities that were evaluated stated that they do not have access to a latrine. In the Balambala subcounty, particularly in the settlements of Hagar Jarer and Libaxlow, the number is somewhat higher. The majority of those surveyed admitted to using open defecation. The coverage of household latrines is insufficient, as some households report using communal latrines. In essence, there have been reports of an increase in defecation practices as more people relocate due to the drought, freeing up more space. Due to their distance from the public restrooms, the households were found to engage in this common practice. Subsequent conversations with the women in the evaluated communities revealed that the lack of gender-segregated latrines has impeded their ability to use the facilities, leading them to resort to open defecation in situations where a large number of people are waiting to use the shared restroom.

When asked how fecal waste is disposed of, the majority of respondents (52%) said that it is dumped in an open manner. This demonstrates that the evaluated communities have little knowledge of appropriate waste management. This was found to be caused by a decrease in the availability of such data from campaigns promoting hygiene.

The most popular method for washing hands was to use only water. Only 15% of respondents said they wash their hands with ash or soap, and 6% said they wash their hands with soap. Subsequent conversations with various community members revealed that the drought has led to a significant change in hand washing practices because of restricted access to sufficient water and financial resources for handwashing supplies. Because the Lagdhera communities do not appear to have received hygiene kit distributions in the last six months, the percentage of communities that have little access to handwashing materials is slightly higher. It was also determined that women in the evaluated communities had restricted access to sanitary products. Notably, the majority of women use no menstrual hygiene products, according to KII respondents. The three main items that the households are currently in need of are soap, basins, and buckets.

4. Conclusion

Though some heavy downpours caused flooding and further displacement in Garissa, the March to June 2023 rainy season started off well in terms of mitigating the drought. However, it is still unclear how well the rainy season performed overall. Even in the best-case scenario, thousands of people have lost their livelihoods due to drought and displacement, making the road to recovery after at least five unsuccessful rainy seasons long. The humanitarian situation is still extremely dire despite the fact that the severe effects of the drought have so far been avoided thanks to persistent and increased assistance. This is because of interconnected clusters of crises like emergency levels of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and violent conflict that has destroyed infrastructure and assets. It is anticipated that the region's drought-affected population will continue to have multi-sectoral humanitarian needs well into 2023 as a result of these dire and complex circumstances, necessitating immediate funding and an even more robust response.

With 85% of Balambala households reporting poor food consumption, food security is a particular concern in areas severely affected by drought, particularly in Balambala Subcounty. There is a general decrease in the diversity of foods eaten, which makes people dependent on staples. Pastoralism is the main source of income in the assessed areas, but in Balambala and Lagdera, it only makes up about half of the primary sources of support. According to the assessment, a large number of households depend on seasonal incomes from day labor and livestock ownership; 35% of households in Balambala and 48% of households in Lagdera said that this was their main source of support in the previous year. This suggests that

interventions addressing both food security and livelihoods should take this sector's significance into account and not only concentrate on activities pertaining to livestock.

The decline of WASH necessities is another issue of great concern in the communities that have been evaluated. In the areas that have been evaluated, WASH needs are centered on both quantity and quality. The fact that only 57% of respondents in Balambala and 52% in Lagdera reported having access to enough water for domestic use suggests that more people need to have access to water. Additionally, because most of the assessed communities have failed rainfall seasons and live in hot, dry climates, their actual water needs are likely to be higher as long as the drought conditions persist. Over half of households in both states report paying for water, which is evidence that the cost of water is currently rising. In addition to initiatives aimed at improving water accessibility, a plan for guaranteeing potability ought to be put into place, whether it involves treating water at the source or in the home. There is a chance that disease will spread because of contaminated water because of the current reliance on untreated water sources and lack of treatment procedures. Restricted access to restrooms was observed, particularly in Balambala; however, traditional latrine use is low in areas that are primarily rural. Increased household adoption of hygiene practices would probably result from initiatives aimed at expanding access to hygiene supplies, as the majority of survey respondents in Balambala and Lagdera reported that they had altered their handwashing habits due to a lack of resources following the drought.

Regarding protection, special attention is drawn to the large number of documented household splits. There were a lot of reported child separations, despite the fact that adult member separations are frequent and frequently done to safeguard property. In Balambala, 16% of households reported that the girls had left the home, and 26% reported that the boys had. 8% of girls and 19% of boys in Lagdera reported being separated. Young people move with other family members to settle as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in major cities, and the separation rate was attributed to the drought conditions in the assessed communities. If the separation rate is to be reduced, as people continue to anticipate severe effects from the area's drought, the community will need to provide immediate support for basic household needs.

4. Annexes

4.1 Annex 1. Household Questionnaire_Livelihood

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/ Good afternoon.

My name is_____. I am working with Pioneer Consulting Limited as an enumerator on a vulnerability assessment survey for beneficiary identification, as well as assessing their current socio-economic status while they are temporarily displaced.

You have been identified as one of the respondents that can help us answer some questions. If you agree, I will ask you some questions and record your answers on this smart phone. The information you share will only be used for the purpose of the survey. I assure you that all the answers you give will be completely confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than members of our survey team.

Your participation in the survey is free. You don't have to be in the survey, but we hope you will agree to answer the questions since your views are important to help improve the social and economic well-being of the people in this area.

If I ask you any question you don't want to answer, just tell me and I will go on to the next question. You can stop the interview at any time if you change your mind about it. If there is any question that is not clear, or that you do not understand, please tell me, and I will explain.

The questions will take about 15 to 20 minutes.

Do you have any questions? (Respond to questions asked).

Do you agree to participate in this interview? (Circle his/her answer on ODK and continue).

- a)** a) Yes (proceed with interview)
- b)** b) No (end interview)

If declined, document the reasons, and discuss with your supervisor as part of your daily debrief.

SECTION I: QUESTIONNAIRE IDENTIFICATION (QI)		
QI1: Date of Interview	___/___/2023	
QI2: Name of Enumerator		QI3: Questionnaire No. ___/___/___
SECTION II: GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION (GL)		
GL1: Sub-County	a) Balambala ☐ b) Lagdera ☐	GL2: Ward a) Bambalala b) Danyere c) Jarajara d) Saka e) Sankuri f) Modogashe g) Bename h) Goreale i) Maalamin j) Sabena k) Baraki
GL3: Sub-Location:		GL4: Village name:
GL5: Type of residence?	a) Rural ☐ b) Urban ☐ c) Don't Know	GL6: GPS Location Latitude: Longitude:
SECTION III: BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION (BI)		
BI1: Name of the Household Head (Respondent):		
BI2: Gender of the respondent:	a) Male b) Female c) Don't Know	
BI3: Current age of the respondent in years:		
BI4: Phone Number of the Household Head:		
BI5: The number of your household members under each age bracket:	Male a) 0 – 5 years b) 6 – 11 years c) 12 – 17 years d) 18 – 24 years e) 25 – 59 years f) 60 and above	
	Female g) 0 – 5 years h) 6 – 11 years i) 12 – 17 years j) 18 – 24 years k) 25 – 59 years l) 60 and above	
BI6: Are there any of your family members that are not living with you currently but will join you in the next 6 months?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ (If No, skip to BI 8)	

BI7: If yes, how many?	a) 1 ☐ b) 2 ☐ c) 3 ☐ d) More than 3 ☐
BI8: How can you describe the status of your household?	a) Male Headed ☐ b) Female Headed ☐ c) Child Headed ☐ d) Other ☐
BI9: How many pregnant and/or lactating women are there in the household?	a) None ☐ b) 1 ☐ c) 2 ☐ d) 3 ☐ e) More than 3 ☐
BI20: How many people with disabilities are there in your household? (Physical or mental – visual, hearing, mental, etc.)	a) None ☐ b) 1 ☐ c) 2 ☐ d) 3 ☐ e) More than 3 ☐
BI21: Is your household part of the host community or displaced?	a) Host community (Skip to Section IV) b) Displaced c) Don't Know (Skip to Section IV)
BI22: If displaced, how long ago were you displaced?	a) A week ago b) Two weeks ago c) A month ago d) Three months ago e) A year ago f) More than a year ago
BI23: What are the reasons for the displacement?	a) Conflict b) Drought c) Other insecurity issues d) Other (Specify).

SECTION IV: LIVELIHOOD

A. HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (HIE)

HIE 1: What is your current (2023) source of livelihood?

a) Livestock trading b) Livestock Raising c) Fishing/Fish shop d) Crop Farming e) Beekeeping f) Hairdressing (Salon and Barber) / beautician g) Mechanic h) Welding/Fabrication i) Plumbing	m) Taxi services Boda boda/ tuk tuk n) Grocery and Cereals Shop o) Grocery and Cereals Shop p) Boutique/ cloth selling. q) Posho milling. r) Brick Making s) Briquette Making t) Cyber Café services u) Events management/Catering/Decoration v) Public Address/Deejaying	aa) Hotelier and Restaurant services bb) Chemist/Pharmacy services cc) Hardware and Spare parts merchandizing dd) Painting ee) Artwork and Beadwork services
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j) Electrical services k) Carpentry l) Building construction	w) Tailor/Garment making. x) Car Wash services y) Student z) Water Kiosk Vending	ff) NGO/Government/County Employment gg) Freelance manual unskilled labour (kibarua) hh) Other specify (.....) ii) Don't Know						
HIE2: From the options provided in LO1, specify the current occupational status?	a) Formal Employment (Go to LO3a) b) Informal / Self Employed/Others forms of livelihood. c) None d) Don't Know							
HIE3A: If in formal employment, who is your employer?	a) Employed by a family member. b) Employed by a non-family member. c) Employed by a private institution / agency. d) Employed by a public institution / agency - Parastatal and government. e) Other (specify). f) Don't Know.							
HIE3B: If in Formal or Informal Employment, what is the nature of its continuity?	a) All year round b) Seasonal c) Occasional d) Don't Know							
HIE4: What is your current gross monthly income?	Less than Kshs 4,999 Kshs 5,000 – Kshs 9,999 Kshs 10,000 – Kshs 14,999 Kshs 15,000 – Kshs 19,999 More than Kshs 20,000 Don't Know							
HIE5: How many members of your Household are working with income?	a) 1 ☐ b) 2 ☐ c) 3 ☐ d) More than 3 ☐ e) None ☐ f) Don't Know ☐							
HIE6A: Does your Household pay rent on the land you are currently living on?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ (If No, skip to HIE 7)							
HIE6B: If yes, what is the average amount you pay per month?	Less than Kshs 4,999 Kshs 5,000 – Kshs 9,999 Kshs 10,000 – Kshs 14,999 Kshs 15,000 – Kshs 19,999 More than Kshs 20,000 Don't Know							
		Food	Water	Health	Shelter	Education	Charcoal/Firewood/gas	NFI

	5,000 - 9,999								
	10,000 – 14,999								
	15,000 – 19,999								
	20,000 and above								
	Don't Know								

HIE8: Do you have access to a market within walking distance?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ (If No, skip to FSS 1)
HIE9: How often do you travel to the market per week?	a) Once ☐ b) Twice ☐ c) Thrice ☐ d) Daily ☐

B. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION (FSS)	
FSS1: How many meals does your household take per day?	a) 1 ☐ b) 2 ☐ a) 3 ☐ c) More than 3 ☐
FSS2: In the last one month, what were the sources of staple food in your household? (Check all that apply)	a) Purchase from the market with cash ☐ b) Production ☐ c) Donation from friends, relatives, neighbors ☐ d) Relief Food / distribution ☐ e) Other (specify) _____ ☐
FSS3A: Was there ever no food to eat of any kind in your house because of lack of resources to get or buy food? (Select one)	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐
FSS3B: How often did this happen in the past 30 days? (Select one)	a) Rarely (1 or 2 times) ☐ b) Sometimes (3-10 times) ☐ c) Often (more than 10 times) ☐
FSS4A: Were there months in the past 12 months in which you did not have enough food to meet your family's needs?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ (If No, skip to FCDD 1)

C. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND DIETARY DIVERSITY (FCDD)	
FCDD1: Please describe the foods (meals and snacks) that your household ate or drank yesterday during the day and night at home. (Fill in the food groups based on the information recorded above. For any food groups	i. Cereals (e.g. maize, ugali, spaghetti, rice, wheat). ii. Milk and meat iii. Eggs iv. Legumes, nuts and seeds (e.g. beans, lentils, green grams, cowpeas; peanut, dry peas) v. Fruits and vegetables (local and wild leafy vegetables)

not mentioned, ask the respondent if a food item from this group was consumed).	
D. EMERGENCY LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT (ELS)	
ELS1: Are you currently receiving any livelihood support from government or humanitarian agencies?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐
ELS2: What are the three priorities (in-kind support) that you need in your area? (Probe for things that are readily available in their market and right down the three they mentioned).	

4.2 Annex 2. Household Questionnaire _Sanitation.

INTRODUCTION

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My name is_____. I am working with Pioneer Consulting Limited as an enumerator on a vulnerability assessment survey for beneficiary identification, as well as assessing their current socio-economic status while they are temporarily displaced.

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Your participation in the survey is free. You don't have to be in the survey, but we hope you will agree to answer the questions since your views are important to help improve the social and economic well-being of the people in this area.

If I ask you any question you don't want to answer, just tell me and I will go on to the next question. You can stop the interview at any time if you change your mind about it. If there is any question that is not clear, or that you do not understand, please tell me, and I will explain.

The questions will take about 15 to 20 minutes.

Do you have any questions? (Respond to questions asked).

Do you agree to participate in this interview? (Circle his/her answer on ODK and continue).

- a) Yes (proceed with interview)
- b) No (end interview)

If declined, document the reasons, and discuss with your supervisor as part of your daily debrief.

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GL3: Sub-Location:		GL4: Village name:
GL5: Type of residence?	d) Rural ☐ e) Urban ☐ f) Don't Know	GL6: GPS Location: Latitude: Longitude:
SECTION III: BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION (BI)		
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BI2: Gender of the respondent:	d) Male e) Female f) Don't Know	
BI3: Current age of the respondent in years:		
BI4: Phone Number of the Household Head:		
BI5: The number of your household members under each age bracket:	Male m) 0 – 5 years n) 6 – 11 years o) 12 – 17 years p) 18 – 24 years q) 25 – 59 years r) 60 and above Female s) 0 – 5 years t) 6 – 11 years u) 12 – 17 years v) 18 – 24 years w) 25 – 59 years	

	x) 60 and above
BI6: Are there any of your family members that are not living with you currently but will join you in the next 6 months?	c) Yes ☐ d) No ☐ (If No, skip to BI 8)
BI7: If yes, how many?	e) 1 ☐ f) 2 ☐ g) 3 ☐ h) More than 3 ☐
BI8: How can you describe the status of your household?	e) Male Headed ☐ f) Female Headed ☐ g) Child Headed ☐ h) Other ☐
BI9: How many pregnant and/or lactating women are there in the household?	f) None ☐ g) 1 ☐ h) 2 ☐ i) 3 ☐ j) More than 3 ☐
BI10: How many people with disabilities are there in your household? (Physical or mental – visual, hearing, mental, etc.)	f) None ☐ g) 1 ☐ h) 2 ☐ i) 3 ☐ j) More than 3 ☐
BI11: Is your household part of the host community or displaced?	d) Host community (Skip to Section IV) e) Displaced f) Don't Know (Skip to Section IV)
BI12: If displaced, how long ago were you displaced?	g) A week ago h) Two weeks ago i) A month ago j) Three months ago k) A year ago l) More than a year ago
BI13: What are the reasons for the displacement?	e) Conflict f) Drought g) Other insecurity issues h) Other (Specify).
SECTION IV: WATER SUPPLY (WS)	
WS1: What is the main source of drinking water for members of your household?	a) Rainwater collection ☐ b) Piped water to the plot. ☐ c) Public tap/water kiosk ☐ d) Bottled water. ☐ e) Borehole ☐ f) Shallow well. ☐ g) Tanker-truck ☐ h) River ☐ i) Dam ☐

	j) Lake, pond ☐ k) Spring ☐ l) Other (Specify.....) ☐
	e) Less than 500M ☐ f) 500M ☐ g) 1 KM ☐ h) 2 KM ☐ i) 3 KM ☐ j) More than 3 KM ☐
WS3: Who usually goes to the source to fetch the water for the household?	g) Mother, wife, aunt, sister, sister-in-law ☐ h) Father, husband, uncle, brother ☐ i) Daughter, niece ☐ j) Son, nephew ☐ k) Other (Specify.....) ☐
WS4: Does your household use any means of transport for fetching water?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐
WS5: What is the size of the container(s) you are using to fetch the water?	a) 1 – 20 liters ☐ b) 21 – 40 liters ☐ c) 41 – 60 liters ☐ d) 61 – 100 liters ☐ e) 100 – 200 liters ☐ f) 201 – 500 liters ☐ g) 501 – 1000 liters ☐ h) More than 1000 liters ☐
WS6: How many water containers does your household usually use per day (for all purposes and sources)?	g) 1 ☐ h) 2 ☐ i) 3 ☐ j) More than 3 ☐ k) Don't Know ☐
WS7: How much does your household usually pay per day for the water (for all purposes and sources)?	a) None ☐ b) Less than KES 100 ☐ c) KES 101 – 999 ☐ d) KES 1000 and more ☐
WS8: How many liters does your household usually use per month (for all purposes)?	a) Less than 1,000 b) 1,000 – 3,000 c) 3,001 – 5,000 d) 5,001 – 7,000 e) 7,001 – 10,000 f) More than 10,000
WS9: How much does your household SPEND on water per month in Kenya Shillings?	a) None b) Less than 1,000 c) 1,001 – 5,000 d) 5,001 – 10,000 e) More than 10,000

WS10: What contributions, in kind and cash, did your household make to get the water supply facility?	c) Connection fee/Initial contribution d) Building materials, sand, cement, stone, etc. e) Pipes, taps, etc. f) Water meter g) Contribution with own labor h) Hire labor. i) Other (Specify) j) None (Skip to WS 12)
WS11: What were the total initial water related expenses for your household, this includes connection fee, initial contribution, and own expenditures for materials etc?	
WS12: How frequently was the drinking water from the main source available to your household during the last two weeks?	
WS13: Has your household ever treated the water to make it safer to drink?	a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐ (Skip to HS 1)
WS14: What did your household do to make the water safer to drink?	a) Boil the water ☐ b) Add chlorine ☐ c) Sieve it through cloth ☐ d) Water filter (ceramic, sand, composite, etc.). ☐ e) Let it stand and settle ☐ f) Other (Specify) ☐ g) Don't know ☐
WS15: When was the last time your household treated the water using this method?	a) Today b) Yesterday c) Less than one week ago d) Less than one month ago e) More than one month ago f) Don't Know
WS16: How much does your household approximately spend on the water treatment per month?	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
SECTION V: HYGIENE AND SANITATION (HS)	

HS1: What do you use for laundry in your household?	d) Soap ☐ e) Ash ☐ b) Sand ☐ f) Water only ☐ g) Other (Specify...) ☐ h) Nothing ☐
HS2: What kind of toilet does your household use?	a) Flush to piped sewers system ☐ b) Pit latrine without slab/open pit ☐ c) Flush to septic tank ☐ d) Bucket ☐ e) Flush/pour flush to pit ☐ f) Hanging toilet ☐ g) Open air/bush/field ☐ h) Composting toilet ☐ i) VIP/pit latrine with slab ☐