



KENYA SUMMARY REPORT

RAPID GENDER AND NEEDS ANALYSIS IN KWALE

NOVEMBER 2022

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
Methodology	5
Key Findings	6
Conclusions	8
Recommendations	8
INTRODUCTION	10
Background and Context of the Drought Crisis	11
Impact of the Drought Crisis on Communities	11
Rapid Gender Analysis	14
Purpose and Objective of the Analysis	14
Main Objective	14
Scope of the Analysis	14
Study Site	14
METHODOLOGY	16
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	18
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	31

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Plan International Kenya acknowledges the contributions and invaluable insights shared by women, men, girls and boys that responded to our survey questions and represented the populations affected by drought and current hunger crisis in Kwale county. We appreciate the efforts made by Research Assistants who collected the data. We would like to appreciate key government officials, community leaders, women groups and children with whom we walked together in gathering information that informed this report. Plan International Kenya acknowledges posthumously the contribution of Plan International Kenya Interim Country Director Atieno Onyonyi who approved the conduct of this analysis. We also acknowledge the contribution of Director of Program Strategy, Development and Innovation George Kamau, Gender and Inclusion Advisor Annah Katuki, Emergency Response and Resilience Advisor Clement Chesire, Child Rights and Safeguarding Advisor Fredrick Mwangangi, Ag. Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Phaniel Owiti. Our gratitude goes to Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator Nancy Mokogi and Anne Njuguna Regional Disaster Risk Management Specialist who gave technical support behind completion of this report. We acknowledge the role played by different Plan International Kenya Operations departments of Finance, Procurement, IT Security and Logistics for supporting the process.

Photos: ©Plan International Kenya

ACRONYMS

ASAL	Arid and semi-Arid Lands
CoC	Code of Conduct
CSG	County Steering Group
ECD	Early Childhood education
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIC	Fully Immunized Children
HHs	Households
IT	Information Technology
KCPE	Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
Km	Kilometre
Kshs	Kenya Shillings
LTA	Long Term Average
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OND	October November December
PIK	Plan International Kenya
PWDs	Persons with Disability
RCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
RGA	Rapid Gender Analysis
SGBV	Sexual Gender-based Violence
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UTI	Urinary Tract Infections
VCI	Vegetation Condition Index
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression And Sex Characteristics

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Kwale household population structure	20
Figure 2	settlement pattern	21
Figure 3	Level of access to sexual reproductive health services	23
Figure 4	Coping strategies against protection concerns	27
Figure 5	Coping strategies against food insecurity in households	28



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) in Kwale County was conducted to inform how hunger and food insecurity caused by severe drought impacts on protection and wellbeing of girls, boys, women and men and persons living with disability. The process aimed at assessing how hunger and food insecurity has impacted on protection and wellbeing of girls, boys, women and men and other People with diverse SOGIESC (An acronym for sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics) during drought crisis. The information would inform Plan International's humanitarian response interventions and strengthen areas of integration with more emphasis on disaster response models in different contexts where Plan international Kenya operates.

METHODOLOGY

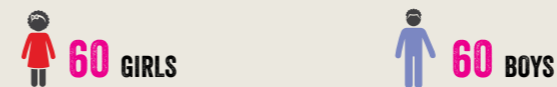
STUDY DESIGN

The analysis employed cross sectional study design utilizing mixed methods approach of data collection. A combination of literature review, household surveys, focus group discussions with girls, boys, women and men and key informant interviews were used to gather information.

398 RESPONDENTS INTERVIEWED



14 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 6-9, 10-13 AND 14-17 YEARS OLD



13 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH ADULT MEN AND WOMEN AGED 25 YEARS AND ABOVE FROM 8 FGDS AND 48 MEN FROM 5 FGDS



SAMPLING APPROACH

Purposive sampling approach was used to select participants for focus group discussions and key informant interviews while stratified and simple random sampling technique was used to select quantitative survey respondents.

SAFEGUARDING AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The study ensured child safe guarding and protection as stipulated in Plan International Child Safeguarding (CSG) policy and Code of Conduct (CoC). Steps were taken to ensure informed consent was obtained from participants and parents/caregivers consented for children to participate and child participants assented to participate prior to data collection. Voluntary withdrawal, confidentiality and security of respondents and data privacy standards were ensured and adequate information was shared with participants to inform their prior decision to take part in the survey.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

The study process was riddled with challenges of targeting drought hit locations within Kwale county. The RGA was never as fast as was intended. By the time of data collection, some places like Lunga Lunga had started receiving little rain. This posed challenge of design bias as questions related to drought would be misinterpreted, implying that data collected from such locations would not be good enough to draw conclusion on drought in those villages.



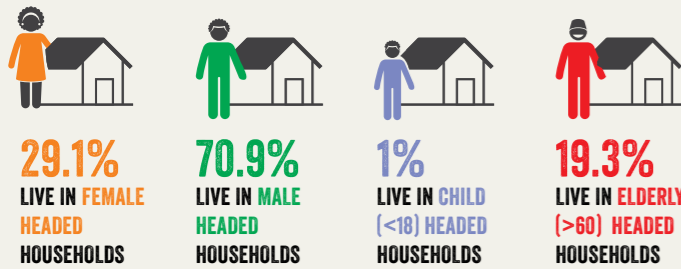
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STUDY FINDINGS

HOUSEHOLD POPULATION STRUCTURE

398 HOUSEHOLDS RESPONDENTS

80.2% IN ADULT (18-60) HEADED HOUSEHOLDS



HOUSEHOLDS COMPRISE MORE OF PRODUCTIVE POPULATION, AGES 18-59 YEARS OLD. OF THESE, **43% ARE MALE AND 40% ARE FEMALE**, WHILE CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD ARE 17% AND 12% BOYS AND GIRLS RESPECTIVELY.

GENDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Whereas gender roles and responsibilities remain skewed, general shifts are being noticed in the households from the previous times. Gender roles have shifted from known traditional ways of gender division of labour. Though the domestic chores like collecting water, collecting firewood, housework cleaning, cooking, looking after livestock, food purchase and healthcare of relatives are still highly shouldered by girls and women, slight shifts were reported on some of the roles like collecting firewood, looking after livestock, food purchase and health care for relatives.

ACCESS AND CONTROL OF RESOURCES AND DECISION MAKING

The community gate keepers, chiefs and religious leaders have a significant role in decision making especially on issues affecting the community and what needs to be done on behalf of the community.

CONTROL OF FAMILY RESOURCES

Roles have changed since the crisis as women have been highly dependent on men in making ends meet especially in case of lactating and pregnant mothers who depend on their partners up to 50%.

ASSET OWNERSHIP



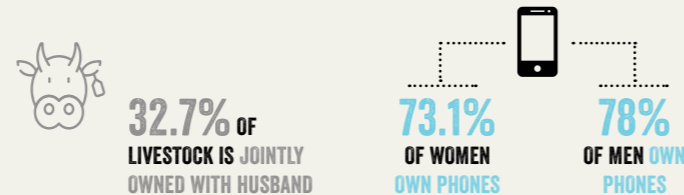
23.9% OF FEMALE RESPONDENTS OWN LAND ALONE

24.9% OF WOMEN OWN DWELLING ALONE

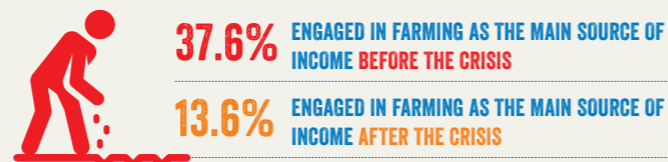
41.5% OF HUSBANDS OWN LAND ALONE

9.5% OF WOMEN OWN JEWELLERY ALONE

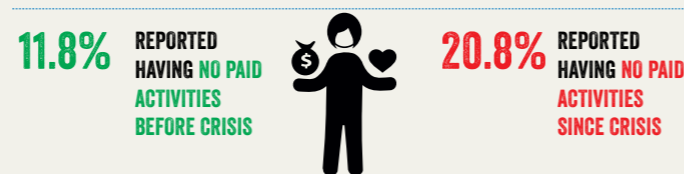
FOR A LONG TIME, LAND OWNERSHIP HAS BEEN COMMUNAL UNTIL RECENTLY WHEN LAND ADJUDICATION STARTED IN THE COUNTY. CURRENTLY, MOST OF THE ASSETS ARE OWNED JOINTLY WITH HUSBANDS



MAIN HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOOD AND INCOME

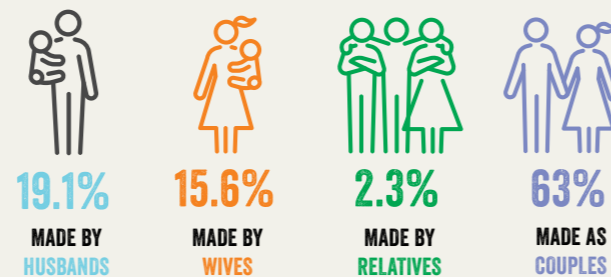


Since crisis, daily labour has become the main source of livelihood as reported by 27.6% of the respondents.

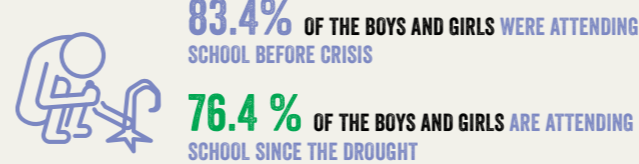


ON EXPENDITURE, DURING THE CRISIS 33.6% OF THE RESPONDENTS SPEND <\$5 A MONTH AND 28% RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM RELATIVES

DECISIONS OF HOW TO SPEND INCOME



IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON EDUCATION



DURING THIS TIME, MOST CHILDREN PREFER GOING TO SCHOOL THAN STAYING AT HOME. THROUGH SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM, MOST CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL TO GET THE ONE IMPORTANT MEAL AT SCHOOL.

IMPACT OF THE DROUGHT CRISIS ON HEALTH



MOST SOUGHT SERVICES FROM HEALTH FACILITIES



HARMFUL CULTURAL NORMS CONTRIBUTE TO TEENAGE PREGNANCY



Some mothers reported to find it normal when adolescent girls engage in sex as long as they can come back with some money to buy food

PRIORITY NEEDS OF RESPONDENTS



WOMEN MENSTRUAL HEALTH NEEDS



IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION

SECURITY CONCERNS FOR WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN



TYPES OF VIOLENCE AT HOME: **NEGLECT, SEXUAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE**

4% CITED ATTACKS WHEN TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HOME

6% REPORTED CONCERNS OVER ATTACK WHEN MOVING OUTSIDE COMMUNITY

11.7% REPORTED FEELING MORE INSECURE AT HOME THAN OUTSIDE HOME

COPING MECHANISMS WITH FOOD INSECURITY

60% MENTIONED EATING LESS THAN TWICE A DAY

36% LIMIT THE INTAKE IN ORDER FOR SMALL CHILDREN TO EAT

49% HAVE REDUCED PORTION SIZES AT MEALTIME

21% ARE BORROWING FOOD AT LEAST TWICE IN A WEEK FROM FRIENDS OR RELATIVES

34% EAT LESS PREFERRED/ EXPENSIVE FOOD IN THE HOUSEHOLDS

TO COPE WITH SECURITY THREATS, WOMEN WALK IN GROUPS TO WATER POINTS AND SOMETIMES ESCORTED BY MEN.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL ...

40.7% OF THE RESPONDENTS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

40.7% FROM KINANGO

35.6% FROM LUNGA LUNGA

88.4% OF THE RESPONDENTS REPORTED THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THEIR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

57.2% PREFER CASH TRANSFERS

20% PREFER OTHER MODES OF ASSISTANCE

IMPACT OF CRISIS ON WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH



24% OF THE RESPONDENTS REPORTED TO SPEND MORE THAN 60 MINUTES TO FETCH WATER

30% OF THE RESPONDENTS SPEND 30-60 MINUTES TO FETCH WATER

ON THE WAY, THEY FACE CHALLENGES OF BEING ATTACKED AS THEY SHARE THE WATER POINTS WITH DOMESTIC AND WILD ANIMALS. **50.7%** OF FEMALES GO IN GROUPS WHILE **17.2%** GO IN GROUPS OF MALE AND FEMALE.



CONCLUSION

Glaring humanitarian needs with significant negative impact of drought on children, women and elderly persons has been exhaustively reported. Changing gender roles where women take up productive roles to sustain their families increase with intensity of drought, service provisions sectors are affected. Food insecurity is a threat to general well-being of all members of the family. Programs should be designed to focus on household life-saving interventions in the short term with children, girls and women in mind to enhance their ability to feed their families and meet other critical basic survival needs. Humanitarian assistance should be integrated with addressing protection concerns of women and girls. All the interventions should be based on a robust gender-based violence risk assessment to avoid doing HARM to girls and women. For the design of humanitarian assistance, referral mechanisms should be put in place for adults and case management for child survivors of SGBV should be considered.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Food Security

- In addressing the needs of the community, prior consideration should be given to meeting needs of food, followed by water and source of income which will ensure sustainable cash-flow with the households to meet their independent needs.
- There is need for multi-sectoral approach to addressing needs of the community. The focus should be on improving water access especially for women who currently take bigger risk of looking for water; access to food; life-saving nutrition; protection and menstrual health needs of girls and young women.
- Increase provision of multi-purpose cash transfer where appropriate as it presents better/positive multi-sectoral outcomes. This should also be accompanied by empowering women who now take the bigger burden of looking for food for families. They should be empowered to make decisions and own resources that matter, including decisions of how to spend, decisions on ownership of asset and property.
- More investment is urgently needed to build communities' capacities for resilience to climate-related shocks through expanding asset creation and safety nets; providing climate resilient seed varieties, other farming inputs and production support such as control of pests and diseases, post-harvest techniques, and value-addition through low cost food processing and preservation to reduce vulnerability among child and women-headed households.

WASH

- More efforts should be put on provision of water trucking services while supporting connection of water supply systems in all communities, including in schools where the school-meal programme have been disrupted due to lack of water. Priority should be given to harvesting rain water from iron roofs and also digging water pans to support livestock and other needs.
- Advocate improved access to sanitation services. More specific attention to toilets and bathing facilities to improve security and safety of women and girls whose lives are threatened by sanitation related illnesses. This will result

to reduction of conditions like UTIs which were reported to be higher among women within the community.

Protection

- Strengthen community protection structures and services, working collaboratively with actors in the county. Strengthen prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse. Humanitarian actors including Plan International Kenya should invest in the needed capacities to address child safety concerns, dignity and wellbeing during implementation of programme to avoid causing harm and ensure that accountability mechanisms, including child-friendly feedback mechanisms are established to provide gender and age-responsive, safe and confidential ways for children and young people to receive information, provide feedback and meaningfully participate in influencing humanitarian programming.
- Work with FS actors to ensure households with vulnerable children are part of targeting/selection criteria, or to develop specific livelihoods opportunities which are appropriate for older adolescents and layered with life skills programs or other learning opportunities.
- Strengthening provision of family strengthening interventions, such as positive parenting programs (e.g. Plan's PUP or PALs program), inter-generational dialogues, and parenting support groups, specifically targeting food insecure households and those affected by drought
- Provision of CP and GBV case management - or support to government authorities to provide CP and GBV case management, particularly for child survivors of SGBV
- Provision of cash for child protection, alongside case management services, in order to prevent sexual exploitation as a negative coping mechanism.

Education

- Provide school meal programme: Advocate expansion of the school meal programme ensuring that all schools have adequate infrastructure and good health conditions to prepare meals every school day.
- Advocate investment in school and home-based food production solutions such as school nutrition gardens and community food banks.

Sexual reproductive Health and Rights

- Comprehensive menstrual health awareness creation and provision of non-food items including health kits -reusable, disposable pads, women panties and soap to adolescent girls and young women
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education at school, community and health facilities to the youth, and adolescents. Work with key stakeholders to address gender norms and cultural practices that propel early marriage and teen pregnancies within the community.
- Increase uptake of maternal health services, psychosocial support services and family planning services. Strengthen health systems and improve access through employing age appropriate service providers. Sensitize women on safe long-term family planning methods to slow the rapid population growth, conduct sex education both at school and health facility levels.

Humanitarian Assistance

- **Food Distribution:** Fair distribution should be advocated for across all the drought crisis affected locations. Considerations should be made to meeting needs of girls and women by identifying accessible distribution points for all within the community.
- **Cash transfer.** Preference should be given to cash transfer to allow families make a choice for themselves what is best for them. This will also help in increasing their purchasing power and empowering local traders who sell food items and non-food items.
- **Targeting.** There is need for fair and collaborative consultation with households and other actors including government departments for fair and transparent targeting process for humanitarian assistance to avoid complaints.

Complaints/feedback mechanism. Coupled with strong monitoring systems, humanitarian system, especially distribution should be done under clear strong monitoring system with clear complaints reporting and feedback mechanism to ensure fairness, inclusivity and prompt and responsive feedback to the complaints that come from the community over the assistance. Therefore, consult adolescents in design and ensuring they're included in feedback and monitoring activities




INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE DROUGHT CRISIS

The drought situation in Kenya continued to worsen in twenty (20) of the 23 ASAL counties. This is attributed to the failure of four rain consecutive seasons with the forecast for October, November and December 2022 predicting the likelihood of fifth season under performing. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance was projected to increase to 4.35 Million by October 2022. Ten (10) counties namely; Isiolo, Mandera, Samburu, Kajiado, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Wajir, Laikipia, Tana River and Marsabit are under Alarm Drought Phase while Ten (10) counties including Embu, Garissa, Kitui, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, Kwale and Kilifi are in Alert Drought Phase. The remaining three (3) counties including Baringo, West Pokot and Lamu are in Normal Drought Phase. Worsening household food security situation has resulted in acute malnutrition rates noted across the counties with 942,000 cases of children aged 6-59 months acutely malnourished and 134,000 cases of pregnant or lactating women acutely malnourished in need of treatment. The rainfall outlook for October, November and December (OND) 2022 in Pastoral North East, Southern Eastern marginal agricultural, and Coastal marginal agricultural livelihood zones which includes; Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Meru, Kitui, Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi, Embu and Kajiado are likely to receive below

average (highly depressed) rainfall. The chances of rainfall being below is forecasted at 65% with some chances of Near Normal at 20% and Above normal at 15%¹.

ABOUT KWALE

Kwale County comprises six sub-counties namely: Matuga, Kinango, Msambweni, Samburu, Lunga Lunga and Shimba Hills. It has a population of 866,620 persons (2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census) and an area of 8,960 km². The county borders Kilifi County to the North, Mombasa County to the North-east, the Republic of Tanzania to the South, the Indian Ocean to the East and Taita Taveta County to the West. It has four livelihood zones with mixed farming and livestock farming livelihood zones harshly affected by the drought. The main sources of income in the livestock farming zone include casual waged labour, firewood collection/ charcoal burning and livestock production. In the mixed farming livelihood zone, the income sources include food crop production, cash crop production and livestock production.

IMPACT OF THE DROUGHT CRISIS ON COMMUNITIES

Agriculture and Food Security: According to the 2022 long rains analysis report, crop failure was reported in the livestock farming livelihood zone. The season in this zone was characterized by a late onset, poor temporal and uneven spatial rainfall distribution, below normal rainfall amounts and early cessation of the rains. The combination of these factors disrupted the cropping calendar in the zone and literally nil food stocks were expected. The hotspots for crop failure included McKinnon Road, Samburu/Chengoni and Mwavumbo Wards in Samburu sub-county, Ndavaya, and Puma Wards in Kinango sub-county and Mwereni Ward in Lunga Lunga sub-



134,000
CASES OF PREGNANT OR LACTATING WOMEN ACUTELY MALNOURISHED IN NEED OF TREATMENT IN KWALE.

¹ National Drought Management Authority Early Warning Bulletin, September 2022.

county. Above average food commodity prices were also reported across the county due to an increase in fuel prices which led to a resultant increase in transportation costs. High cost of farm inputs such as fertilizers also reduced farmers' capacity to engage in agricultural production. With the 2022 MAM long rains, the area planted under maize reduced by approximately 10% in comparison with the five-year long-term average (LTA) estimated at 39,188 hectares. The area under green grams and cowpeas also reduced by 30 % each in comparison with their respective five-year long-term averages of 2,700 and 3,510 hectares. The reduced acreage was attributed to a delayed onset in addition to below normal rainfall particularly in the livestock farming livelihood zone. The mixed farming livelihood zone fared considerably better with regards to rainfall amounts and temporal rainfall distribution in comparison to the livestock farming livelihood zone and therefore achieved higher acreage. The reduction in acreage, disruption in the cropping calendar occasioned by a delayed onset as well as premature cessation, consequently led to a reduction in the projected production in all three main crops. Maize production was projected to reduce by 60% margin while green grams and cowpeas each reduced by 55% in comparison with their LTAs. However, it was projected to be significantly higher in the mixed farming livelihood zone and almost negligible in the livestock farming one. Hotspots projected to have virtually nil stocks of the three main crops from the current season in this zone include McKinnon Road, Samburu/Chengoni, Mwavumbo Wards in Samburu Sub-county, Puma and Ndavaya in Kinango Sub-county and Mwereni Ward in Lunga Lunga Sub-county.

Livestock: According to the 2022 long rains analysis report, the pasture condition was good in the mixed farming livelihood zone which was normal. However, it was poor in the livestock farming livelihood zone when normally it would be good. In addition, previous seasons had also performed dismally particularly in the livestock farming livelihood zone which could also have contributed to sub-optimal pasture regeneration. Wards with particularly poor pasture condition included Kasemeni, Samburu/Chengoni and McKinnon Road Wards in Samburu Sub-county,

parts of Puma and Ndavaya Wards in Kinango sub-county as well as Mwereni Ward in Lunga Lunga Sub-county. Pasture was expected to last three months through to October in the mixed farming livelihood zone which was normal. However, according to NDMA November Early Warning bulletin there was some deterioration in the county's vegetation greenness as the 3-monthly VCI reduced from 30.07 in October to 17.33 in November. The county is therefore classified in the severe vegetation deficit band. The deterioration was noted across all sub-counties and consequently in both the livestock farming and mixed farming livelihood zones. Kinango sub-county was the worst hit having been classified in the extreme vegetation deficit band, while Lunga Lunga and Matuga sub-counties were classified in the moderate vegetation deficit band.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT WAS A LIMITING FACTOR HINDERING ACCESS TO FORAGE AND WATER IN THE LIVESTOCK FARMING LIVELIHOOD ZONE.

Elephants in Busho, Vinyunduni, Makamini and Egu in McKinnon Road Ward and Busa in Puma Ward hindered movement of herders with their livestock.

Water: The average distance from grazing areas to water sources averaged 5.0 km in November having reduced by 48% margin from 7.4 km recorded in October. The reduced distance could have been occasioned by the short rains received in the last couple of weeks. The current distance was within seasonal ranges in comparison with 4.2 km recorded in the 2017- 2021 LTA. There were minimal variations at livelihood zone level as the mixed farming and livestock farming livelihood zones recorded 2.4 and 2.6 km respectively in November. The distance had remained relatively stable in the mixed farming livelihood zone in

comparison with 2.8 km in October. However, it had reduced in the livestock farming livelihood zone by a 47% margin in comparison with 4.9 km that had been recorded in October. For household water access, the average distance to water sources for domestic use averaged 3.2 km in November having reduced by a 20% margin in comparison with 4.0 km recorded in October. The current distance was within seasonal norms in comparison with 3.0 km recorded in the 2017-2021 LTA. There were no significant variations at livelihood zone level as the mixed farming and livestock farming livelihood zones recorded 2.0 and 2.1 km respectively in November in comparison with 2.6 and 2.5 km in the respective zones in October².

Markets: The main staples in the markets were mainly maize, rice and beans. Currently over 90% of the commodities available in the markets were from external sources mainly Mombasa County. Most markets were well provisioned with food staples and with normal operations with regard to physical access and commodity flow. However, prices were higher than normal due to increased transportation costs. Most livestock markets were located in the livestock farming livelihood zone and traded in cattle, sheep and goats. Volumes of livestock traded were normal except in some parts of Samburu sub-county where higher volumes were sold in distress sales to buy food. The maize price in July averaged Kshs 88.4. The current price was 88% higher than Kshs 47 recorded in the 2017-2021 LTA as well as double the price recorded at a similar time last year. The prices have been high as previous seasons did not sufficiently replenish food stocks at household level due to poor rainfall performance which made the commodity scarce thereby increasing its demand. Prices are likely to register a slight drop in the next three months in the mixed farming livelihood zone when harvesting is completed as household stocks are replenished. However, they were unlikely to reduce in the livestock farming livelihood zone because of the high demand of the commodity as stocks will be literally non-existent³.

Education: There was an 8.1% increase in

enrolment at Early Childhood Development (ECD) level in the current term compared with the previous term. Boys' and girls' enrolment increased by 8.39 and 7.82% respectively which could be attributed to the school meal program sponsored by the county government of Kwale as well as new admissions. Enrolment at primary school level remained relatively stable at county level having recorded a 1.75% increment in comparison with the previous term. Girls and boys recorded an increment of 2.37 and 1.17% respectively although the total enrolment for boys remained higher than that of girls for the same period. The increase could be attributed to the school meal program by the national government, learner transfers and new admissions. However, a slight decline was recorded in Matuga sub-county which was attributed to high cost of living that discouraged parents from enrolling pupils to avoid paying levies as well as new admissions. The enrolment in secondary schools increased by a 5.58% margin. The increase could be attributed to a government policy to ensure 100% transition of pupils from primary schools to secondary schools regardless of the score attained in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). Boys' and girls' enrolment at this level therefore increased by 6.13 and 5.05% respectively. However, although boys' enrolment was slightly higher than that of girls, the number of girls in secondary schools remained higher in comparison with that of boys.

Nutrition: The proportion of children at risk aged below five years as determined by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method was approximated at 5.6% in November 2022 having increased from 3.2% recorded in October. The increase in the proportion at risk implied some deterioration in the nutritional status of children in the 0-5 years age cohort.⁴



Boys' and girls' enrolment increased by 8.39 and 7.82% respectively which could be attributed to the school meal program sponsored by the county government of Kwale as well as new admissions.

² Kwale Early Warning Bulletin, November 2022.
³ Kwale County Long Rains Analysis Report 2022

Coping Strategy Index: According to NDMA Early Warning bulletin, the reduced coping strategy index (RCSI) stood at 14.8 in November having maintained a stable trend compared with 14.5 in October. The stability in the index implied that households had neither significantly decreased nor increased their consumption-based coping strategies in a bid to mitigate food consumption deficits. The least index was recorded in the mixed farming livelihood zone at 13.8 in November having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 13.9 recorded in October. The highest index was recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone at 15.8 having also maintained a stable trend in comparison with 15.1 in October.

RAPID GENDER ANALYSIS

Plan International Kenya (PIK) conducted Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) in Kwale county between 24th October 2022 and 3rd November 2022 to inform how hunger and food insecurity impacts on the lives of girls, boys, women and men. The process aimed at assessing how hunger and food insecurity impacts on protection and wellbeing of girls, boys, women and men and other people of diversity during disaster. This information would inform gender transformative programming and influencing work of Plan International Kenya in the affected regions.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ANALYSIS

The purpose of Rapid Gender Analysis was to understand impacts of hunger and food insecurity caused by severe drought on protection and wellbeing of girls, boys, women and men and persons living with disability within Kwale county. The information would inform Plan International's humanitarian response interventions and strengthen areas of integration with more emphasis on disaster response models in different contexts where Plan international Kenya is operating.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

The analysis aimed at establishing the impacts of severe drought crisis and understanding the level of gender variability among male and female populations of the affected sub-counties.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Identify and understand the effects of the ongoing drought crisis on girls, women, boys and men in all their diversity;
- Identify different needs, capacities, and available community driven coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable populations within the county in respect of disaster; and
- Come up with recommendations to inform design of gender-sensitive and gender-responsive humanitarian responses and interventions by Plan International Kenya and other actors in the county.

SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

Rapid Gender Analysis was conducted in Lunga Lunga and Kinango sub counties in Kwale. The targeted two sub-counties are the most drought hit sites in the county riddled with hunger, shortage of water, livestock deaths and malnutrition. This has impacted negatively on the lives of girls, boys, women and men. Targeting children aged 6-17, young women and men aged 18-24 and adult male and female aged 25 and above, the survey was keen to establish the situation of women, girls and persons with disability in disaster. Some of the key areas of focus include: gendered access to food, coping strategies, gender-based violence, impacts on education, gender roles and responsibilities, impacts on health, especially sexual reproductive health and rights and humanitarian assistance.

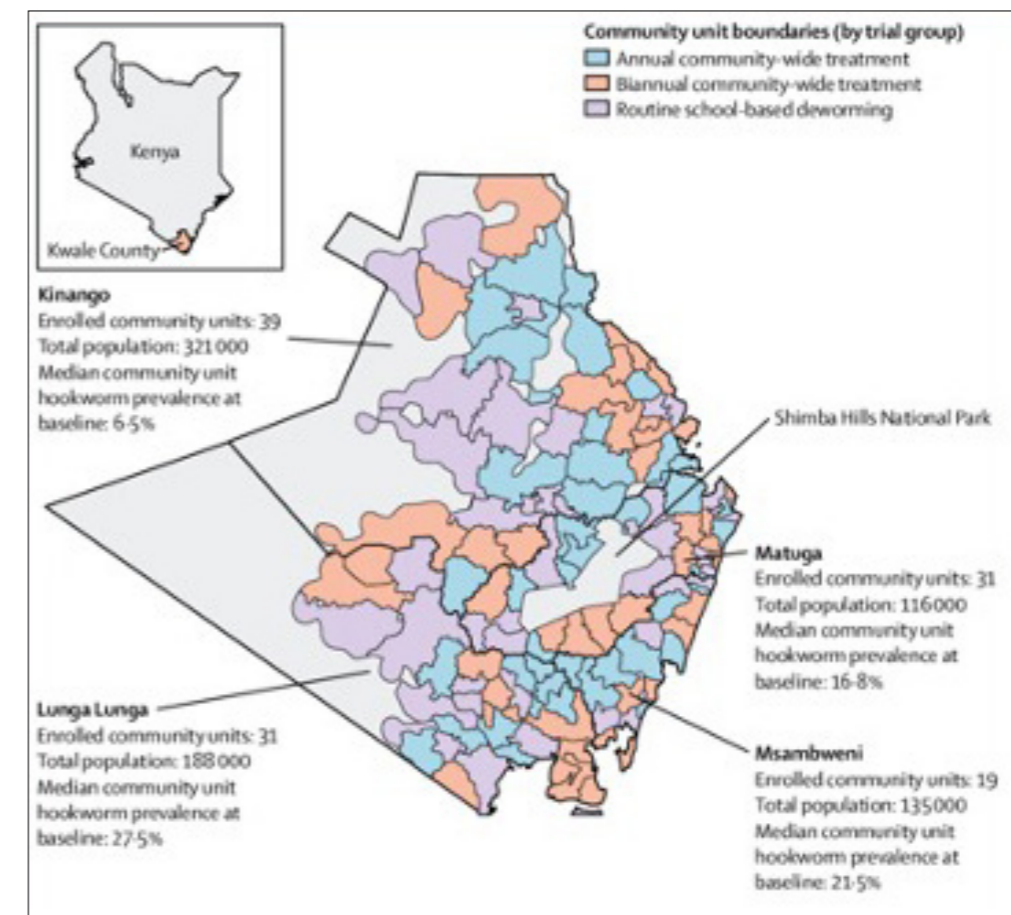
STUDY SITE

Kwale County is one of the six counties in the coastal region. The county covers an area of 8270.2 Km², of which 62 Km² is under water. Kwale is divided into six administrative sub-counties of Matuga, Kinango, Lunga Lunga, Samburu, Shimba Hills and Msambweni which

are further divided into 20 wards. According to the 2019 Population census, it is estimated that Kwale County had an approximate population of 866,820 people and an average household size of 5. The coastline in Kwale County stretches for roughly 250 kilometres, which consists of corals, sands and alluvial deposits. The Coastal Plain, the Foot Plateau, the Coastal Uplands, and the Nyika Plateau are the four principal topographical features of Kwale County. The county is endowed with natural resources as wildlife, livestock, water, pasture and forests. Other economic activities are fishing, mining and commercial businesses. The county has rich titanium deposits with the extraction in the initial stages. According to the 2019 Census, there were 255,143 cattle, 349,755 goats, 83,133 sheep, and 433,827 indigenous chickens in the livestock population. Cattle for rearing for beef and dairy has been practiced in the area. The zebu and Borana cattle are most common types of cattle reared for beef production while cross of Ayrshire and Sahiwal are done for

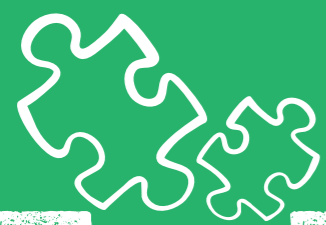
milk production. However, the production of milk and beef is low in the region because of poor breed quality, inadequate husbandry, and high incidence of pest and diseases in the area. According to the livestock department of Kwale county, among the major challenges in addressing livestock diseases are in inadequate budgetary allocation, inadequate pasture occasioned by drought, poor market access and cultural beliefs and practices that negatively impact livestock production. The County indicated that approximately 84% of various livestock had been vaccinated and the incidence of vector borne disease stood at 40% morbidity⁵.

Lunga Lunga and Kinango were mapped areas for the rapid gender analysis. Two wards under Kinango (Puma and Kikoneni) and Pongwe Kidimu and Dzombe wards in Lunga Lunga.



4 Kwale County Drought Early Warning bulletin November 2022- NDMA.

5 Kwale County CIDP 2018 - 2022.



METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

STUDY DESIGN

The analysis employed cross sectional study design utilizing mixed methods approach which was a combination of literature review or secondary data, household surveys, focus group discussions with girls, boys, women and men, key informant interviews with leaders, service providers and government representatives. Data was generated from different sources to enable triangulation and comparison of views and facts. Quantitative data was collected electronically using Kobo Collect tool-kit, which is a cloud-based data collection tool kit. We adopted CARE's Rapid Gender Analysis toolkit⁶ with minimal contextual adjustments.

SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

Quantitative survey sample was based on combined target population of two sub-counties of Kwale. The choice of the target sub counties was informed by the prevalence of drought and reported vulnerability levels of the resident populations from the specific county long/short rains situation reports.

The analysis used Yamane's (1967:886) formula to determine sample size proportions at 95% confidence level, $P=0.05$, and using the projected population of Lunga Lunga sub-county (198419) and Kinango sub-county (94,219), the sample size for household was computed as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n is the sample size, N is the population size, and e is the level of precision.

$$n = \frac{292,638}{1 + 292,638(0.05)^2} = 400$$

389 out of the targeted 400 participated in the study for the household interview. Qualitative survey sample was purposive and size determined by perceived level of saturation. A total of 11 KIIs and 31 FGDs were conducted with different groups.

SAMPLING APPROACH

Purposive sampling approach was used to select participants for focus group discussions and key informant interviews while stratified sampling technique was used to select quantitative survey respondents. The survey used villages as strata from where simple random sampling techniques followed to select households for study.

SAFEGUARDING AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Plan International is committed to ensuring child safe guarding and protection as stipulated in Plan International Child Safeguarding (CSG) policy and Code of Conduct (CoC). This was cascaded to the research assistants through a training to understand the different clauses which were included in the enumerator's contracts to which they appended their signatures as an acknowledgment and commitment to adhere to safeguarding requirements. The research assistants were trained on the research ethics before data collection. Steps were taken to ensure informed consent was obtained from participants and parents/caregivers consented for children to participate and child participants assented to participate prior to data collection. Voluntary withdrawal, confidentiality and security of respondents and data privacy standards were ensured and adequate information was shared with participants to inform their prior decision to take part in the survey.

⁶ Care. Rapid Gender Analysis Toolkit. n.d. [care_rapid_gender_analysis_toolkit \[gender.careinternationalwikis.org\]](https://gender.careinternationalwikis.org/)

STUDY LIMITATIONS

The study process was riddled with challenges of targeting drought hit locations within Kwale county. The RGA was never as fast as was intended. By the time of data collection, some places like Lunga Lunga had started receiving little rain. This posed challenge of design bias as questions related to drought would be misinterpreted, implying that data collected from such locations would not be good enough to draw conclusion on drought in those villages. Some other challenges include: inclusion of people with disability was difficult because of challenges with mobilizing them from the community because of stigma. This limited the inclusion of the experience of people with disability from both sub counties. However, one focus group discussion of male adults with disability was conducted in Kinango.

DRIVERS OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN KWALE

The 2022 long rains analysis report, highlighted massive crop failure in the livestock farming livelihood zone of Kwale, characterized by a late onset, poor temporal and uneven spatial rainfall distribution, below normal rainfall amounts and early cessation of the rains. The hotspots for crop failure included McKinnon Road, Samburu/Chengoni and Mwavumbo Wards in Samburu sub-county, Ndavaya, and Puma Wards in Kinango sub-county and Mwereni Ward in Lunga Lunga sub-county. Inflation and above average food commodity prices were also reported across the county. This was implicated by rising fuel prices impacting on transportation costs, high cost of farm inputs such as fertilizers which reduced farmers' capacity to engage in agricultural production. The livestock zones were affected by reduced grazing pasture and low water volumes in water pans and dams. This resulted to long distance, livestock lose and movement of pastoralist to search for water and pasture.




FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

INTRODUCTION

This section presents and discusses the analysis findings based on the scope and objectives of the analysis. The presentation pursuant to the stated objectives is made around seven (7) thematic areas, namely: gendered access to food, coping strategies, gender-based violence, impacts on education, gender roles and responsibilities, impacts on health, and humanitarian assistance.

The survey took place within the wards of Puma and Kinango in Kinango sub-county and within Pongwe Kidimu, Dzombo and Kiconeni wards in Lunga Lunga. At household level, a total of 398 respondents were interviewed (52.3% being female, 47.7% male responses), 62.8% from Kinango and and 37.2% from Lunga Lunga. 14 focus group discussions with girls and boys aged 6-9, 10-13 and 14-17 years old was conducted, with an average of 8 participants per FGD. A total of 60 girls and 60 boys participated in the focus group discussions. Similarly, 13 focus group discussions with adult men and women aged 25 years and above was conducted reaching 72 women from 8 FGDs and 48 men from 5 FGDs. Additionally, four FGDs with young persons, two

for males and two for females aged 19-24 were also conducted. 11 key informant interviews were conducted with County Gender Officer, elders, community leaders, ward administrator and chiefs to generate information to complement the household data.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Household Population Structure

From the households interviewed, 29.1% were female headed households and 70.9% male headed households. of these, 80.2% were adult (18-60) headed compared to 19.3% elderly (>60) headed households, with less than 1% child headed households. More than one third of the families live in own homes in rural settlements. The homes are relatively peaceful, with less than 1% reporting frequent violence in households. Looking at the household's population structure, households comprise more of productive population, ages 18-59 are 43% male and 40% female. Children under 5 years old are 17% and 12% boys and girls respectively.

Figure 1: Kwale household population structure

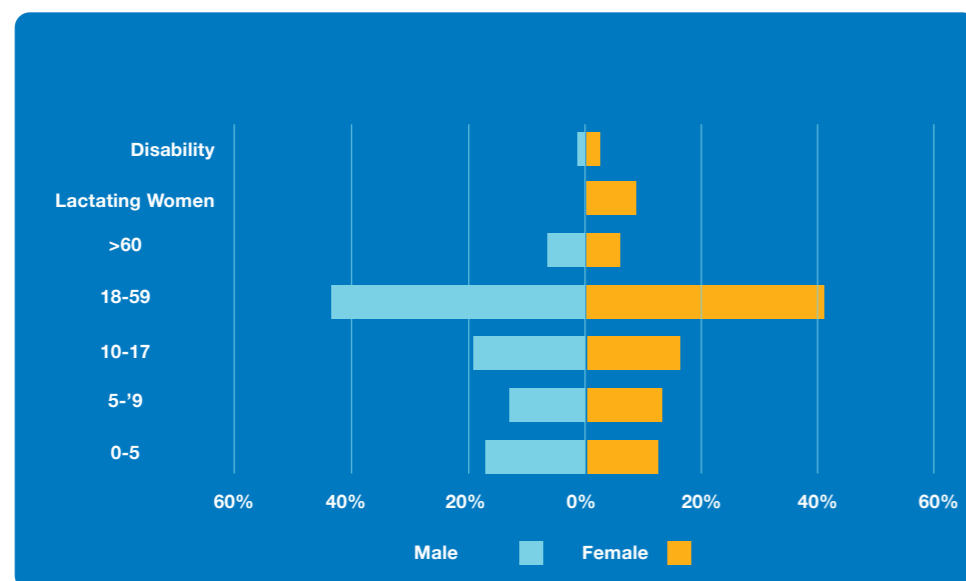
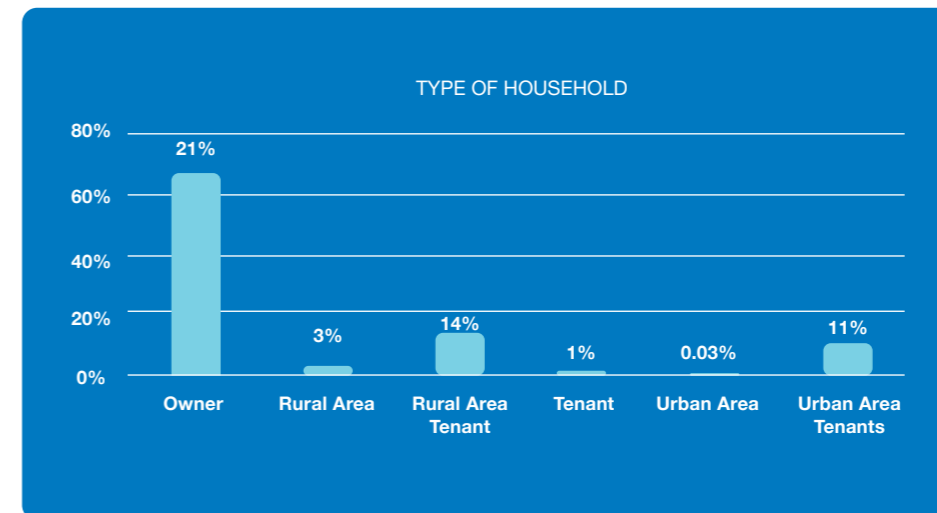


Figure 2: settlement pattern



From the households, lactating mothers represent 8.6% of the respondent household population while adolescent children, 10-17 years old comprise of 19% boys and 16% girls. Few people were reported with disability, 1.4% males compared to 2.6% females (figure1).

difficulties with employment, 3% difficulties with employment harassment, 2% have difficulties in acquiring documents for employment, 19% lack of information pertaining to assistance and 6% separated families.

Living Arrangements

The study reached 398 households. Average age of the respondents was 35 years, female headed HHs 29.1%, adult (18-60) head HHs 80.2%, male HHs 70.9%: Child (<18) headed HHs 1% and elderly HHs 19.3% displaced in collective centre 1.3%; displaced in host family settlement 1.3%; resident in own settlement 99%; returnee 1.3%, completely destroyed home - 1.5%; lightly damaged home - 26.6%; Lightly damaged home, 26.6%, Partially damaged home- 14.6%.

GENDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Gender roles and responsibilities were assessed based on decision making, resources control, types of work and asset ownership. Whereas gender roles and responsibilities remain skewed, general shifts are being noticed in the households from the previous times. With the emerging effects of climate change, gender roles have shifted from known traditional ways of patriarchal families. Though the domestic chores like collecting water, collecting firewood, housework cleaning, cooking, looking after livestock, food purchase and healthcare of relatives are still highly shouldered by women, shifts were reported on some of the roles like collecting firewood, looking after livestock, food purchase and health care for relatives. These are currently jointly done, albeit with more roles being done by women in these areas.

The settlement challenges are caused by lack and search of the essential commodities for the households and the livestock. In this set of communities, the men are allowed to go look for pasture for the flocks and women left behind to head their families and feed on the little that is left by the house heads (husbands). Most the houses (58%) are traditional homestead, others living in apartments block 30%, single story 9%, makeshift shelter 2% and open air at 3% (figure2). Some of the challenges faced by the displaced population were mentioned: 18%

A focus group discussion with girls in Kinango Puma ward reported that during the crisis, girls and women have been burdened with household

chores. As early as 6 years, a girl is responsible and takes up roles of fetching firewood, fetching water, washing the utensils and taking care of the siblings while the mother is out for casual labour. The same age cohort for the boys are perceived to be a sensitive cohort as per the cultural norms and beliefs and do not fully involve themselves in the household chores, like cooking, washing the dishes or taking care of their siblings. When the girls are working on their duties, the boy child is out playing with age mates.

“A boy child has goals of studying to get jobs in order to cater for his future needs. Boys are given more priority than girls.”

-Female FDG, Kinango



A key informant middle aged woman from Kinango reported that before the crisis, the daily schedule for a typical woman involved carrying out the household chores from 7am to 9 pm at night. The tasks were broken down as follows: from 7.00-10.00am, cleaning, fetching water, farming washing clothes, grazing; 10.00-12.00pm preparing lunch, 12.00-4.00pm helping in Homework and 4.00-9.00pm taking the cows out to pasture, preparing food in the evening, helping in homework and goes to sleep from 9.00-6.00am. After crisis, now the schedule has slightly changed and a day starts earlier at 5.00am. Between 5 am-10.00am, the woman is fetching water, grazing, cooking tea; from 10.00-12.00pm she goes out to search for water, takes the cows out for pasture, and looking for groceries. The tasks run up to 4 pm. Between 4.00-9.0pm she is preparing food, helping in homework, listening to news and goes to bed from 9.00-5.00am. Typically a lot of time is spent looking for water which force women to wake up earlier than usual. From the schedule after crisis, lunch is not given priority. This was noted as one of the coping strategies against food insecurity in many households in the study area.

The drought crisis made these responsibilities even more challenging as the women have to travel long distances to collect water, and even buy food.

ACCESS AND CONTROL OF RESOURCES AND DECISION MAKING

The community gate keepers, chiefs and religious leaders have a significant role in decision making especially on issues affecting the community and what needs to be done on behalf of the community. Key informant interview with an administration ward officer in Lunga Lunga confirmed that more power has been granted to the chiefs and community gate keepers, thus not putting into consideration the ideas that come from the communities especially in time of aid or emergencies.

Before the crisis, the community gate keepers were more readily available especially in presiding over any community engagements, conflict resolutions and ceremonies but on the onset of crisis, their attention has been diverted to personal needs and less time on communities as cases of emergency are reported at a higher rate and there is no aid coming through.

At the household level, men generally are considered to be the primary bread winners and wield a lot of power in decision-making. They set priorities and determine the distribution of resources. In general, women are not able to make independent decisions on spending and even sometimes have to get permission from their husbands to take their children or themselves to health clinic for treatment. Despite women working to earn household income, they are perceived to be financially dependent on men who control the household spending decision making authority. This prevents women from acting independently.

Adolescent girls have the least power and rights within the household and society. They are despised because of youthful age and subjected to gender bias and unfair treatment as a result. In a further discussion with the KII in Kinango, a

ward administrator approved that when men and women meet, they do not allow boys to attend meetings since they believe they will listen to issues they should not hear. Boys and girls are not trusted in decision making even if the issues are affecting them at a larger extent. Community decisions are made by the elders at 36.4%, local government 59.8%, religious leaders 1.8%.

Asset ownership

Most of the respondents said they own land, housing, jewellery alone or jointly. The study found that only 23.9% of female respondents own land alone compared to 41.5% of husbands who own land alone. For a long time, landownership has been communal until recently when land adjudication started in the county. On dwelling, 29.4% of women own dwelling alone and 9.5% own jewellery alone. However, the trend is changing where most of the assets are owned jointly with husbands. For example, livestock is 32.7% jointly owned with husband. Mobile phones are mostly owned alone with 73.1% owned by women compared to 78% by men. Children also own mobile phones, by boys reporting higher phone ownership at 15.3% compared to 13.6% for girls.



Female Focus Group Discussion in Dzombo ward



Main Household Livelihood and income

This is closely followed by daily labour at 20.6% Small trade follows at closely by 19.6%. Since crisis, daily labour has become the main source of livelihood as reported by 27.6% of the respondents. Farming as a main source of livelihood before crisis has dropped from 37.6% to 13.5% since crisis. Those who reported having no paid activities rose from 11.8% before crisis to 20.8% since crisis. Only 12.3% of the respondents reported having additional income outside paid livelihood. On expenditure, during the crisis 33.6% of the respondents spend <\$5 a month and 28% receive support from relatives. However, the study did not explore priority items the households spend their income on.

The drought has brought pressure on the male counter parts to stretch beyond measure to provide for their families. In one of the FGD with the male adults in Lunga Lunga it was audible that pressure is put on men to provide for their families, and when they cannot live up to these expectations, they may adopt negative coping mechanisms such as substance use and violence. For example, an FGD with male young adults at Lunga Lunga revealed how they face pressure

to marry and get assimilated as elders in the community despite not being able to support themselves financially (within a larger context of poverty and limited livelihood opportunities). Because of this pressure they are compelled to look for alternative incomes, in some cases engaging in crime, giving up, or getting involved in substance abuse.

Control of Family Resources

Decisions of how to spend income are 19.1% made by husbands, 15.6% by wives, 2.3% relatives and 63% together as a couple. It has been recorded that roles have changed since the crisis as women have been highly dependent on men in making ends meet especially in case of lactating and pregnant mothers who depend on their partners up to 50%. Since the crisis, a number of issues have changed. One conspicuous thing is discrimination of boys and girls. The most vulnerable groups like the abled differently have been at discrimination edge with the elderly. The PWDs have been hidden before and even now and this is of great concern and remains a challenge in the community. Their access to income is extremely limited.

Impact of the drought crisis on Education

School Attendance Before and After Crisis

The school going children have been affected by the drought crisis. 83.4% of the boys and girls were attending school before crisis. The number has reduced to 76.4 % for boys and girls since the drought. There is no significant change on the number of girls and boys attending schools before and since the crisis. A number of reasons pegged to it were ranging from lack of finances to support all the children to pay school fees and levies. Education of girls is traditionally low compared to boys. Girls would remain at home doing household chores to do household chores as boys go to school.

During this time, most children prefer going to school than staying at home. Through school meal program, most children go to school to get the one important meal at school. Hunger at home has increased school enrolment and attendance, but this is only applicable in communities with school meal programs. Otherwise the reduction depicted from this study indicate that many children are lost from school, a situation that poses greater protection and violation threats to children, especially the girl child.

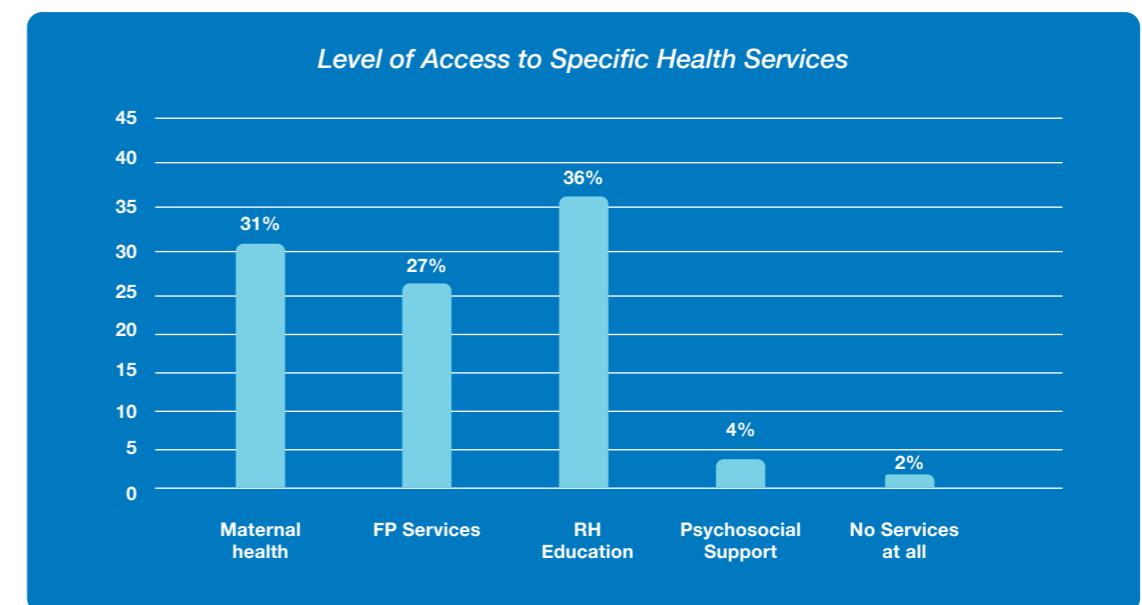
Impact of drought on Health

Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services

Kwale county is priding itself for having many health facilities. The study found that 87% of the respondents' access health facilities. Only 13% have no access to health facilities. Non-functioning health facility in the area was reported by 9% of the respondents as their major barrier to access to health services, 3% have no enough money to pay for the health services, 8.2% have no female health staff to attend to the female reproductive health issues and 2% said the health facilities are not safe to travel to especially during night emergencies.

Sexual reproductive health services were the most sought services from health facilities, with reproductive health education leading at 36%. This is followed by maternal health services at 31% followed by family planning services at 27% (figure 4). Psychosocial support was reported by 4% of the respondents. During an FGD with the Mgome women aged twenty-five years and above, women decried the distance to health facility as a major barrier to access to the facility. One respondent said, *“that the health facilities are available in the next village which is very far”*. It was reported that reproductive

Figure 3: Level of access to sexual reproductive health services



health education takes lead as urgent need for young girls who engage in sexual activity at a younger age. Women proposed introduction of safe family planning methods for young girls to have a way of preventing early pregnancies. It was noted that sex education is lacking in the schools and this is because it is considered a taboo to talk about sex in the community despite high teenage pregnancy rates in the county. In terms of service provision, health-provider bias impacts negatively on service delivery to key populations and adolescents.

Cultural and religious sexuality norms hinder delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in school. Sexually active girls are discriminated against, especially young mothers who go back to schools. This impacts on their ability to continue with education eventually leading to early marriages. Sexual Gender based violence (SGBV) at home is to blame for most of the girls' sexual exploitation and abuses. The plight is being magnified by increasingly unbearable drought situation and food insecurity. This is complicated by under reporting of such cases and stronger efforts by community or family members to settle such matters through illegal processes. Under-reporting coupled with ignorance of proper reporting mechanisms have resulted to survivors not seeking timely health and legal services.

Cultural norms contribute to teenage pregnancy as 21.5% of the girls are forced to be married off by the families or relatives. Mothers find it normal when adolescent girls engage in sex as long as they can come back with some money to buy food. Girls are most affected with cultural norms which threaten their peaceful coexistence in their own community. It was established that 48% of girls are asked to be married off while 56% face violence at home. Case management of violated cases is low at 29% with poor referral systems and legal mechanism to address the violation and cases reported at the different reporting structures take years to conclude. Majority turn to be mistrials for lack for evidence. In all these, the crisis has exacerbated the situation.

IMPACTS OF DROUGHT ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION FOR INDIVIDUALS

Perception of Security

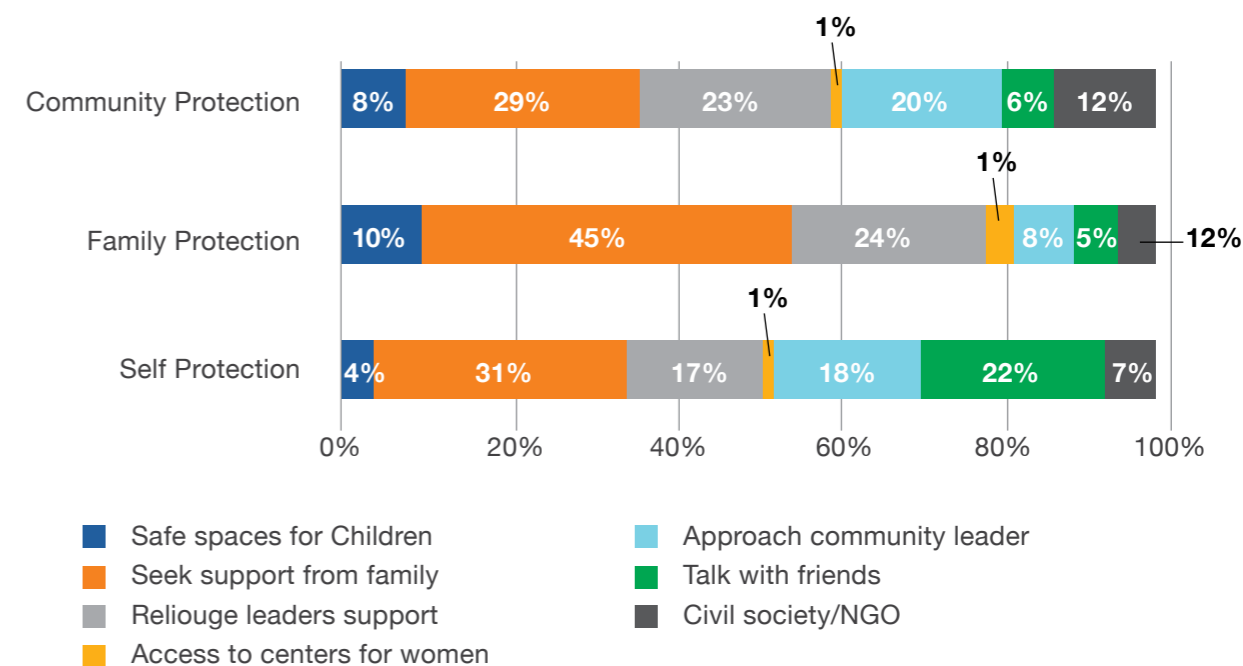
As much as the area has been adversely affected by drought, issues of insecurity are optimally low. The findings of the survey reported that frequent fighting among communities that lasted for more than a week was 8%, no fighting at 19.6% and sporadic fighting at 1.3% per week. The fightings are majorly over resources; and mostly domestic fights are over provision of basic needs.

Security concerns for Women, Girls, Boys and Men

Though general security concerns are low, women and girls are the most vulnerable lots. The study found them more susceptible to violence, abuse and exploitation. The situation has been made worse by the drought which followed closely on the heels of COVID-19 problem. Women and girls from the county have greater concern about their safety at community, sexual abuse/violence at home, attacks when travelling outside home and lack of privacy and insecure houses.

From the study, security concerns continue threatening because of no safe space at community. A concern which was reported by 20.6% of the respondents. Of major concern is violence at home which was reported at 56%. Types of violence at home are various but mostly neglect, sexual abuse, emotional and physical abuse. Incest is one other commonly practiced sexual exploitation in homes. Some other concerns relate to attacks when travelling outside home 4%, or when moving outside community 6%. Kwale being a coastal town with high level beach hotels that attract tourists, some of the communities experience trafficking. From this study, trafficking was reported by 22% of the respondents. This is also exacerbated by it being

Figure 4: Coping strategies against protection concerns



a boarder county with entrance to Tanzania. Women and girls are more insecure at home than outside home, an issue which was reported by 11.7% of the respondents. At the household level, increased domestic violence from the husbands were reported. Mama Halima (not her real name) said *“When the man is asked for money for food, he picks a quarrel which results to violence”*. Domestic violence is on the rise because of men not wanting to take responsibilities and provide for their families. The situation is becoming bad as young men use their time chewing muguka/miraa not on productive work. Mostly men come home drunk. Drug abuse is solace to many men both adults and young men who are idle and doing no work for living. They are more of a threat to partners than to outsiders. It was suggested that the reporting structures need to be strengthened with the support of NGOs and other humanitarian actors to curb issues to do with abuse and violence that are associated with lack or no food at the community down to the household levels.

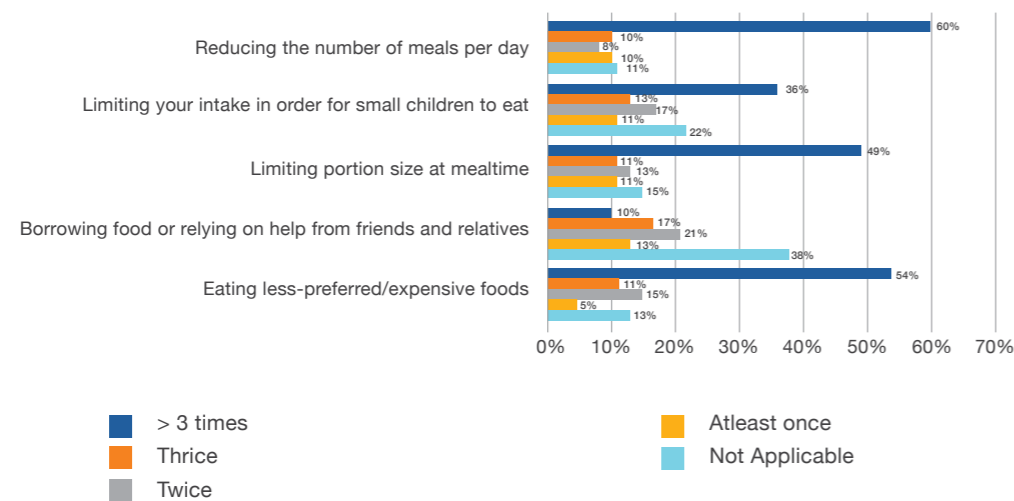
When asked about factors that limit free movement within the community, security was less mentioned as compared to lack of cash and transportation costs. 49.3% of the respondents

are unable to move because they lack cash. The extensive geographical space in Kwale with limited road network is a possible reason for this. Security concerns was only reported by 5.6% of the respondents.

Coping Strategies or Mechanisms with food insecurity

The drought menace has resulted to the community households adopting coping mechanism to survive. Changing eating patterns including rationing have become order of the day. 60% of the respondents mentioned eating less than twice a day, 36% limit the intake in order for small children to eat, 49% reduce the portion size of the meal with 21% borrowing at least twice in a week from the relatives and friends. 54% eat less preferred /expensive food in the households. An FGD with women above 25 years reported that, the pregnant and lactating mothers have been affected most as they don't get nutritious food that support the growth of the unborn baby. This has also accelerated child labour as each person in a household is tasked to bring food to the table: *“We eat one meal per day. Child labour is there to substitute income*

Figure 5: Coping strategies against food insecurity in households



for our parents, most boys work in quarries”. Charcoal burning is another alternative to many young men and women on the community. This has mostly affected Kinango.

FGD with children age 10-17 discovered that they have been forced to assist the parents in making charcoal and selling firewood to earn income, others are doing household chores, washing utensils and clothes for others. This applies across for boys and girls in the households but the workload mostly remains with the girls.

Humanitarian Assistance

Like most communities that have been affected by the drought, Kwale communities depend on humanitarian support as a coping strategy. The assistance is mostly collected by women 52.8%, men 30% and 6%, 2 % girls and boys respectively. At the community level only 40.7% are able to access the humanitarian assistance, 43.7% from Kinango and 35.6% from Lunga Lunga. The study however, found that those who have not received humanitarian assistance did not receive because distribution locations are not convenient for girls and women and preference is given to men.

88.4% of the respondents reported they have never been consulted about their humanitarian needs. Further, when the respondents were asked to mention how they would prefer to

receive humanitarian assistance, 57.2% of the respondents gave more preference to cash transfers, 20% to other service delivery, in kind 11.3% and voucher 2%. Their preference for cash transfer is based on their judgement to purchase from varieties of available commodities within their reach.

FGD held in Puma ward revealed that top issues for consideration under humanitarian assistance are: food security, clean and safe water, healthcare services, gender-based education, livestock and pasture, education and training for children and adults, security and protection from hostile communities. On healthcare services, lack of sufficient medicine in health facilities was mentioned by 38.4% of the respondents. The community has been receiving food, sanitary pads, towels, soap and water for health from NGAAF, though it has taken a while now since they received the support. Plan International has been supporting school meal programs in the communities.

At community level, some of the interventions made to cope with the humanitarian crisis include: peace meeting with neighbouring communities; environmental conservation; destocking to reduce overgrazing; digging of dams and wells in the locality to address water shortage; sensitization through radios and other Barraza like meetings on how to prepare for emergency, how to respond and recovery

mechanisms from emergency.

For the few times they have received aid, it hasn't been enough or reached the targeted beneficiaries as a higher percentage of the population has been adversely affected by drought. Some of the organisations distributing humanitarian assistance in the community include Government of Kenya, Plan International, World Vision, World food Program and Kwale County Government, Compassion and Religious Groups.

Priority Needs of Respondents

When asked the three priority needs despite the effects associated with drought and lack of the basic needs the respondents listed them as below: Food, water, cash, education, health care, shelter, livelihood and sanitary/ health needs. The results from the findings listed indicate that water (20.3%), food (26.2%) and cash (14.6%) were the most ranked needs in that order of priority. Asked at the household level the humanitarian support needed, 51.9% preferred cash, education 25.9% followed by shelter at 21% in that order. Construction and equipping of health facilities and equipping them was also mentioned as part of the need. Education as a tool for empowering the upcoming generation was repeatedly emphasised in all the focus group discussions.

Impact of the Drought Crisis on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In all the sampled areas, the drought has affected the productivity of the land, water sources and pastures such that agricultural output is limited, water points dried-up and forage did not regenerate. This affected the livelihood of every member of the community (men, women, boys and girls) in different ways with varying degrees of impact. To save the lives of livestock, men and boys are forced to migrate to the neighbouring villages / areas where there is good pasture and water. As a result, they may encounter conflict with the neighbouring community as they are competing for limited resources. In addition, men and boys migrate to other towns in search of jobs while vulnerable women and children stay in their neighbourhoods taking care of the household. Men also are psychologically burdened because of

unavailability of food to provide for their families.

This situation is highly challenging for women too, as they have to cope with their domestic workload, also taking on the chores usually managed by men, and try to provide for their dependents as well. In all areas of the study, there is the tendency for girls to migrate to other towns to find employment so as to economically contribute to their family. Despite the water issues being the biggest challenge, food also follows suits as most households take only a meal a day. This has greatly affected the girls as water is the main commodity during the menstrual days dubbed the 'red days' by pupils in Lunga Lunga and Kinango age 14-17 FGD.

Water has been the key item mentioned in all the focus group discussions from Kinango, a number reported to have access to the precious commodity through a couple of hurdles to smoothly enjoy it. From the study 86.3% reported to access safe water against 13.8% who do not. The distance to water sources continues to increase in Kinango, while most of the water pans dried up and livestock moved closer to the forest where water is available creating conflict with wild animals. The respondents especially the women and girls reported to spend more hours going to fetch water, 24% reported to spend more than 60 minutes, 30% of respondents spend 30-60 minutes. On the way, they face challenges of being attacked by wild animals and the water health compromised as they share the water points with domestic and wild animals to quench their thirst. The duration for each trip to fetch water is rapidly increasing proportionately with the increase in distance to water source.

Girls and women according to the study are most vulnerable especially while they are doing their house chores which include fetching water, firewood and taking care of the livestock. The journey to water points is not safe for 13.8% of the respondents, especially girls and women who are prone to insecurity risks along the way. Respondents go to water points in groups to cope with unsafe water point situation. They go in groups of females only (50.7%) and of male and female 17.2%.

On sanitation, it was reported that 74.4% of the

respondents have safe latrines compared to 26% who use other means. 14% of the respondents have no space to take a bath while 5% have no separate bathing points. Issues to do with poor latrines is the leading cause of water borne diseases with a leading cause in women suffering from diarrhoea 52%, urinary tract infection (UTI) at 24% and skin infections at 72%, women and girls are highly affected as they comprise 48% with diarrhoea and 14% with UTI conditions.

Women Menstrual Health Needs

Menstrual health need among women is 40% not met. The set of questions were administered to the women only depicting a glaring need for this cohort. When asked on their frequency of use to cushion themselves from the normal reproductive health issues affecting them like the monthly periods, 11% use disposal pads, 12, reusable clothes and 43% soap and underwear.

This is alarming as they are the highest affected with UTIs at 24% and this can be highly associated with the level of health and sanitation at personal level. In an FDG with the PWD, the

special needs group stated that despite food being the basic need, personal health has taken a toll on themselves.

“Food is a basic need. The girls cannot afford to buy sanitary towels. The government used to provide them during the month of September and October since it is the Examinable Group sitting for exams in schools. However, in addition to this they also needed panties as well’...”

- said Monica.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

Glaring humanitarian needs with significant negative impact of drought on children, women and elderly persons has been exhaustively reported. Changing gender roles where women take up productive roles to sustain their families increase with intensity of drought, service provisions sectors are affected. Food insecurity is a threat to general well-being of all members of the family. Programs should be designed to focus on household life-saving interventions in the short term with women and children in mind to enhance their ability to feed their families and meet other critical basic survival needs. Humanitarian assistance should be integrated with addressing protection concerns of women and girls.

Drought has continuously caused a lot of havoc in the communities affecting mostly women, girls and the special needs in the community. Livelihood has been reduced to minimum, forcing the families to sort for other adoptive ways to survive; from limited food eaten per day to totally missing meals and food rationing as coping strategies. The food insecurity is making most households become dependent on assistance from relatives and donor agencies for food. This increases their vulnerability. Chronic poverty is pervasive with more than one-third of the population living under the international poverty line. Female-headed households (single, divorced, and widowed women) are more likely to be poor compared to male-headed ones.

Women play a key role in agriculture— the major contributor to poverty reduction— both in terms of income generation and provision of food for their families. But persistent gender inequality and women's disempowerment sustains low productivity in agriculture and food insecurity which has indicated to have been greatly affected by drought. The drought situation has diminished pasture and browse availability resulting in livestock deaths, lower milk production and increasing malnutrition among communities. Women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly people have been left behind in villages as men travel out to access water and forage. Young women and the adolescent girls are the most-

vulnerable population and subjected to school dropout and multiple forms of GBV, transactional sex, teen pregnancy, and early marriage.

Analysis gap of this study was on the impact of the drought situation on mental health as communities employ varied coping mechanisms during the drought. It was noted that men are psychologically burdened when they have to travel long distances to look for food and leave their families behind.

Child-headed households experience a myriad of challenges across the sectors investigated. Most notably is the fact that completion of education for such households poses a key dilemma on whether to provide for food or school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations were centred around Gendered access to food, coping strategies, gender-based violence, impacts on education, gender roles and responsibilities, impacts on health, and humanitarian assistance.

FOOD SECURITY

- In addressing the needs of the community, prior consideration should be given to meeting needs of food, followed by water and source of income which will ensure sustainable cashflow with the households to meet their independent needs.
- There is need for multi-sectoral approach to addressing needs of the community. The focus should be on improving water access especially for women who currently take bigger risk of looking water; access to food; life-saving nutrition; protection and menstrual health needs of girls and young women.
- Increase provision of multi-purpose cash transfer where appropriate as it presents better/ positive multi-sectoral outcomes. This should also be accompanied by empowering women who now take the bigger burden of looking for food for families. They should be empowered to make decisions and own resources that

matter, including decisions of how to spend, decisions on ownership of asset and property.

- Advocate scaling-up of gender responsive, unconditional social protection and income support measures like cash transfers/food vouchers for the most affected and vulnerable families, including child and female-headed households, families with young children and other vulnerable groups.
- Increase funding for school meal programmes. This would be applicable during school active days. But where necessary, alternative food distribution measures should be identified with preference to cash transfers to households, take-home rations, or food vouchers where appropriate, to replace school meals. Focus should be towards meeting food needs for younger children and out of school youths and most vulnerable members of the families like elderly, lactating mothers, persons with disability.
- More investment is urgently needed to build communities' capacities for resilience to climate-related shocks through expanding asset creation and safety nets; providing climate resilient seed varieties, other farming inputs and production support such as control of pests and diseases, post-harvest techniques, and value-addition through low cost food processing and preservation to reduce vulnerability among child and women-headed households.
- Invest in analysis and monitoring of potential conflict locations and prioritize inclusive and women-led peace building initiatives such as sustained community dialogue meetings, and cross border engagement to resolve conflict over resources and other triggers.

WASH

- More efforts should be put on provision of water trucking services while supporting connection of water supply systems in all communities, including in schools where the school-meal programme have been disrupted due to lack of water. Priority should be given to harvesting rain water from iron roofs and also digging water pans to support livestock and other needs.

- Actors including Plan International Kenya is encouraged to collaborate with the local government in intensifying construction of water harvesting facilities such as community dams, and drilling and maintenance of boreholes, and promote the development of community-based livelihood assets around the water establishments and nutrition gardens.
- Advocate improved access to sanitation services. More specific attention to toilets and bathing facilities to improve security and safety of women and girls whose lives are threatened by sanitation related illnesses. This will result to reduction of conditions like UTIs which were reported to be higher among women within the community.

PROTECTION

- Strengthen community protection structures and services, working collaboratively with actors in the County. Strengthen prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse including the further investigation on contextual causes of child-headed households.
- Build capacity of caregivers, parents, adolescent girls, young women, women, PWD, community leaders and paralegals to be proactive and aware of protection mechanisms including reporting processes.
- Humanitarian actors including Plan International Kenya should invest in the needed capacities to address child safety concerns, dignity and wellbeing during implementation of programme to avoid causing harm and ensure that accountability mechanisms, including child-friendly feedback mechanisms are established to provide gender and age-responsiveness, safe and confidential ways for children and young people to receive information, provide feedback and meaningfully participate in influencing humanitarian programming.
- Work with FS actors to ensure households with vulnerable children are part of targeting/ selection criteria, or to develop specific livelihoods opportunities which are appropriate for older adolescents and layered with life skills programs or other learning opportunities.

- Strengthening provision of family strengthening interventions, such as positive parenting programs (e.g. Plan's PUP or PALs program), inter-generational dialogues, and parenting support groups, specifically targeting food insecure households and those affected by drought
- Provision of CP and GBV case management - or support to government authorities to provide CP and GBV case management, particularly for child survivors of SGBV
- Provision of cash for child protection, alongside case management services, in order to prevent sexual exploitation as a negative coping mechanism

EDUCATION

- Provide school meal programme. Advocate expansion of the school meal programme ensuring that all schools have adequate infrastructure and good health conditions to prepare meals every school day.
- Advocate investment in school and home-based food production solutions such as school nutrition gardens and community food banks.
- Consider the deliberate inclusion of children from child-headed households in education re-enrolment drives.

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- Comprehensive menstrual health awareness creation and provision of Non-food items including health kits -reusable, disposable pads, women panties and soap to adolescent girls and young women
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education at school, community and health facilities to the youth, and adolescents. Work with key stakeholders to address gender norms and cultural practices that propel early marriage and teen pregnancies within the community.

- Increase uptake of maternal health services, psychosocial support services and family planning services. Strengthen health systems and improve access through employing age appropriate service providers. Sensitize women on safe long-term family planning methods to slow the rapid population growth, conduct sex education both at school and health facility levels.
- Lack of medicine was reported to be rampant in health facilities. Advocate stocking of health facilities with enough drugs to address health concerns of members of the community.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Food Distribution. Fair distribution should be advocated for across all the drought affected locations. Considerations should be made to meeting needs of girls and women by identifying accessible distribution points for all within the community.
- Cash transfer. Preference should be given to cash transfer to allow families make a choice for themselves what is best for them. This will also help in increasing their purchasing power and empowering local traders who sell food items and non-food items.
- Targeting-There is need for fair and collaborative consultation with households and other actors including government departments for fair and transparent targeting process for humanitarian assistance to avoid complaints.
- Complaints/feedback mechanism. Coupled with strong monitoring systems, humanitarian system, especially distribution should be done under clear strong monitoring system with clear complaints reporting and feedback mechanism to ensure fairness, inclusivity and prompt and responsive feedback to the complaints that come from the community over the assistance.



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: TOOLS USED

ABOUT US

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners. By actively connecting committed people with powerful ideas, we work together to make positive, deep-rooted and lasting changes in children and young people's lives.

For over 80 years, we have supported girls and boys and their communities around the world to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to claim their rights, free themselves from poverty and live positive fulfilling lives.

Plan International has been operating in Kenya since 1982 and to-date continues to work in 10 counties: Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Tharaka Nithi, Siaya, Kilifi, Kwale, Homabay, Tana River and Kisumu.



Methodist Ministries Centre,
Block C, 2nd Floor,
Oloitoktok Road, Lavington
P.O. Box 25196-00603, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 722 201293 / 734 600774

Email: kenya.co@plan-international.org
Facebook: Plan International Kenya
Twitter: @Plankenya
Instagram: Plan International Kenya
YouTube: Plan International Kenya Country Office