



KENYA INTERAGENCY RAPID ASSESSMENT (KIRA)

WAJIR COUNTY FLOODS ASSESSMENT REPORT

28th March – 2nd April 2023

CONTEXT

Description of the event and location

The 2023 Long Rains started earlier than expected with some several parts of the county receiving good amounts of rain contrary to weather forecast released by the Meteorological Department which indicated depressed rainfall. According to the Kenya Meteorological Department's review for March 2023, the second half of the month was characterized by heavy rainfall over most parts of the county. The earlier-than-expected onset was due to the influence of tropical cyclone Freddy while the heavy rain experienced during the fourth week was occasioned by the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) over the Indian Ocean. Most of the places across the County recorded rainfall that was near to above the March Long-term mean (LTM).

The surface run-off water occasioned by the heavy rains further compounded by the seasonal streams/*lagas* that originate from the Ethiopian highlands and the neighboring Marsabit County resulted in flooding that was experienced in Wajir North, Wajir West and Eldas. Other affected sub-counties include Tarbaj and Wajir South.

The floods resulted in loss of lives, livelihoods, damage to roads infrastructure, disruption of health services, closure of schools, destruction of sanitation facilities, damage of water sources among other impacts. One death due to flooding was reported at Arbajahan in Wajir West while three people at Korondille, Ogomdi and Bute in Wajir North have been reported to have lost their lives as a result of drowning in stagnant water.

Following the reported cases of flash flood across the County, a County Steering group (CSG) meeting was convened on Tuesday 28th March 2023 purposely to discuss the flood situation in the County and its impact on the various elements at risks-people, livestock, livelihoods and infrastructure. A multi-sectoral team was thus constituted to assess the situation and make appropriate recommendations for response and interventions. The team was drawn from key departments and partners in the County such as the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management, Departments of Livestock & Agriculture, Health, Education, Roads and Water as well as the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and Kenya Red Cross.

Background

Wajir County is one of the 47 counties created under the Kenya Constitution 2010. The County is located in the North Eastern region of Kenya between latitudes 3° N 60'N and 0° 20'N and Longitudes 39° E and 41° E and covers an area of 56,685.9 Km². It borders Somalia to the East, Ethiopia to the North, Mandera County to the Northeast, Isiolo County to the South West, Marsabit County to the West and Garissa County to the South. The county experiences annual average relative humidity of 61.8 percent which ranges from 56 percent in February to 68 percent in June. It receives an average of 240 mm precipitation annually or 20 mm each month and the average temperature is 27.9 °C. However, the County's climate profile has been disrupted to some extent by the unprecedented extreme event of failure of rains for five consecutive seasons as the last time the county received normal rainfall was during the October to December 2019 short rains season.

The county comprises of six sub-counties namely Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir West, Eldas, Wajir North and Wajir South and has 30 electoral wards. Wajir North and Wajir South constituencies have the largest number of wards at 7, and the rest have 4 each. According to the 2019 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) census, the County has a population of 781,263 which is projected to grow to 871,000 by 2023.

Broad Objectives

To obtain rapid flooding information detailing the humanitarian situation to enable effective management of the situation.

Specific objectives of the assessments

- To support evidence-based decision making in the early stages of humanitarian response
- Provide approximate number of affected people
- Identify priority needs of the affected population
- Identify severely affected geographic areas
- Provide specific recommendations to inform strategic decisions on resource mobilization and response planning
- To Identify the effects of floods on various sectors
- To provide an understanding of how humanitarian needs vary across different affected groups
- To identify where gaps may exist between needs and community/county/national capacity to respond
- To identify further detailed information needs

METHODOLOGY

The methodology was guided by the Kenya Inter-agency Rapid Assessment (KIRA). A multi-sector, multi-agency mechanism was used with the purpose of providing a fast overview of the post-floods humanitarian situation in the six sub-counties. This is in order to support evidence-based decision making for humanitarian response for the affected populations and identify where gaps may exist. Purposive sampling was used since the teams visited only the sites affected by floods.

The team used the following methods to collect data:

1. Secondary data

The team utilized available information from relevant County and National Administrative Officers and Departmental heads at the sub-county level as well as community members in order to get a glimpse of the situation on the ground before embarking on a rapid assessment.

2. Primary data

The team used *KoboCollect* app to collect primary data through:

- Community Group Discussions (CGDs)
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
- Direct observation (DO) through community walks

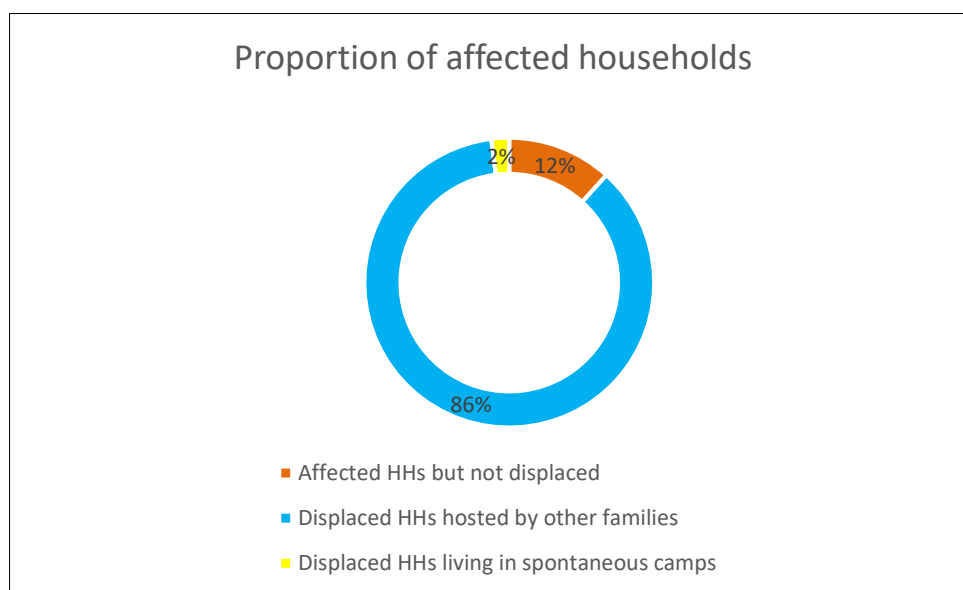
The raw data retrieved from Kenya Red Cross Servers was analyzed using Excel and SPSS Version 23. The processed data was presented in the form of tables, pie-charts and bar graphs.

Scope/Scale of the situation

The table below shows the affected populations (households) by sub county and site:

Sub County	Site	No of HHs affected	No of HHs affected but not displaced	No of HHs displaced	Displaced HHs hosted by other families	Displaced HHs in Spontaneous camps
Eldas	Eldas	100	0	100	100	0
Sub total		100	0	100	100	0
Wajir North	Buna	1,744	0	1,744	1,744	0
	Boji	56	0	56	0	56
	Beramo	90	60	30	30	0
	Surayu	60	57	3	3	0
	Jarte	45	0	45	0	45
	Bute	2,375	0	2,375	2,375	0
	Bute Godha	55	0	55	55	0
	Watiti	128	0	128	118	10
	Gurar	110	21	89	89	0
Sub total		4,663	138	4,525	4,414	111

Wajir West	Griftu	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0
	Arbajahan	600	200	400	400	0
Sub-total		1,600	200	1,400	1,400	0
Tarbaj	Dambas	600	300	300	270	30
	Haragal	50	50	0	0	0
Sub-total		650	350	300	270	30
Wajir East	Sitawario	50	50	0	0	0
Sub-Total		50	50	0	0	0
Wajir South	Meri	50	50	0	0	0
	Dadajabula	50	50	0	0	0
Sub-total		100	100	0	0	0
Total		7,163	838	6,325	6,184	141



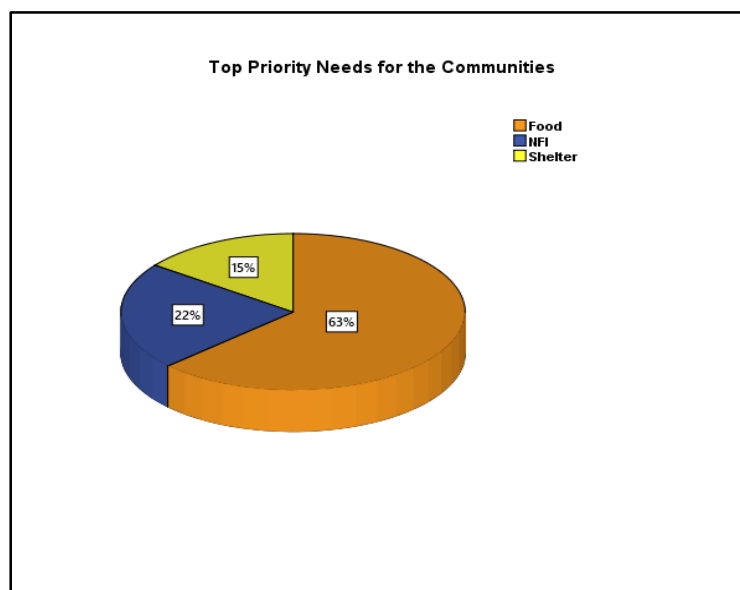
Key findings

- Approximately 7,163 HHs were affected by the flood in the County, out of which 6,325 are displaced. Of the households displaced by flood, 6,184 are hosted by families while the remaining 141 households are in spontaneous camps.
- The roads linking various towns and settlements have been rendered impassable. This is mainly due to damage to culverts and drifts, washed away marrams and flooded seasonal waterways with no bridges.
- The markets have been affected by the floods with increased prices and below-normal availability of food and other essential commodities attributed to inaccessibility of supply lines and loss of essential commodities to the floods by small scale traders.
- Affected communities have lost their livelihoods through loss of livestock, destruction of farms and loss of essential commodities by small scale traders among others.
- Community coping/response/mitigation mechanisms are low
- There are increasing risks of water borne/hygiene related disease outbreaks in Wajir North and Eldas sub-counties considering the contamination of water sources and the reported outbreak of cholera in Moyale.

Priority needs

The effects of the floods on the communities across the county are cross-cutting. Consequently, the top priority needs of the affected populations are as follows:

1. Food
2. Non-Food Items (NFIs)
3. Shelter



Other priority needs include:

1. Opening up of access roads
2. Water treatment
3. Food stuffs and learning materials for affected schools

Sectoral findings

1. Shelter Situation

- Across the county, there were 7,163 HHs affected through displacement, loss of household utensils, food stuff, beddings and NFIs.

2. Livelihood situation

The floods caused negative impact on livelihoods of communities. Notable effects of the floods include but not limited to the following:

- A total of 2,792 livestock (mainly shoats and cattle) were lost due to the floods
- A total of 282 small scale businesses were either swept away by the floods or stock damaged
- A total of 303 farms were swept away by the floods
- Prices of basic foodstuffs increased as a result of shortage due to inaccessible roads

3. Food and Nutrition

- The accessibility and availability of food has been affected as most of the food stores and shops of the affected areas were damaged and transport disrupted, hence little food to purchase available in the market. Livestock was negatively impacted by the drought and the little remaining either migrated, are unproductive or have been killed by the floods leading to acute shortage of milk in the affected areas. This has led to food insecurity.

4. Health

- Most of the affected sites are served by dispensaries and health centres while sub-county headquarters have sub county hospitals.
- Some rural communities rely on outreach mobile clinics which have been disrupted, especially in Wajir North where all outreach services have been halted.
- No outbreaks of water borne diseases were reported so far but there is a high risk due to contamination of water sources and stagnation of water within the affected sites
- Several latrines collapsed or were severely damaged in the sites visited across the county. These include institutional and community latrines.

5. Water and sanitation

- Water pans and boreholes are the two main sources of water for the sites visited.
- Latrines were either filled with water or destroyed
- Boreholes had either submerged engine pumps or exposed, damaged and leaking piping system
- There were no water treatment chemicals in most of the centers visited

The table below shows disaggregated data of affected water sources:

S/N	Damaged water source	Sub-total
1.	Shallow wells	112
2.	Boreholes	10
3.	Water pans	11
	Total.	133

6. Infrastructure, Communication and Transport.

- Most of the roads serving the affected sites were damaged with culverts and drifts either washed away or damaged.
- The most affected roads include Wajir – Moyale highway both via Buna-Korondille-Dabel-Moyale and Buna-Ajawa-Bute Moyale roads. Other cut off roads include Buna-Beramo-Ogorji-Bute, Korondille-Hote-Watiti, Eldas-Basir and Giriftu-Arbajahan
- There were no reports of telecommunication infrastructure damage

7. Education

- All schools are open and operational except Jarte Primary which has been closed as a result of local communities being displaced and moving to nearby higher grounds
- Buna Primary managed to reopen after it was temporarily closed. The school lost learning materials and foodstuffs
- Affected schools had either collapsed toilets, damaged/washed away foodstuffs and learning materials, cracked walls or deep galleys that formed in the compounds and playgrounds.

The table below quantifies the above effects:

S/N	Type of damages	Sub total
1.	Closed schools	1
2.	Schools with learning materials damaged	2
3.	Schools with buildings cracked	2
4.	Schools with latrines affected	4
5.	Schools with roofing issues	0
6.	Schools whose food stuff have been affected	2

Response capacity

The affected communities' capacity to respond to the effects of the floods is minimal. These capacities include relocating to higher grounds, hosting displaced families, rehabilitation of galleys formed by run-off water within their homesteads and information sharing on the flow of water from upstream as they pass through different settlements.

Constraints

- Poor road infrastructure and rough terrains
- Inadequate resources

Information gap

There were reports of heavy rains across several parts of the county after this assessment was concluded. In view of the aforementioned, the possibility of more people being affected by floods is high. This report is therefore limited to the situation as at 2nd April 2023.

Recommendations

- Provision of food
- Provision of non-food items
- Cash transfer for the affected households
- Restocking
- Provision of seeds and other farm inputs to affected farmers
- County government in collaboration with the National government and other partners to initiate opening up of cut off access roads, reconstruction of damaged or washed away culverts and drifts
- Rehabilitation and construction of pit latrines for communities and public institutions
- Repair and rehabilitation of damaged water sources
- Provision of water treatment chemicals
- Provision of teaching and learning materials to schools whose materials were extensively damaged by the floods
- Carry out health education and hygiene promotion activities in the affected communities through community barazas and radio spots to avoid possible disease outbreaks
- There is need to conduct vector control activities such as slashing of mosquito breeding sites, indoor residual spraying (IRS), provision of vector spraying equipment and chemicals, spraying tanks and personal protective equipment (PPEs)
- Rehabilitation of damaged structures e.g. classrooms, health facilities and pump houses among others
- Support livestock disease surveillance and vaccination activities in the affected areas to facilitate trade, food security and prevent zoonosis
- Provision of school meals to schools whose supplies were washed away such as Buna Primary and Jarte Primary

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Sectoral impacts in summary

Schools

Sub-County	Site	School	Description of damages
Wajir North	Buna	Buna primary and Junior Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 latrines damaged - Learning materials damaged - Food stuff washed away - Cracked walls
	Watiti	Watiti primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 latrines damaged
	Beramo	Beramo primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One latrine totally collapsed - 2 latrines damaged
	Jarte	Jarte primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School closed -learning materials and food stuff washed away - class rooms cracked -Toilet collapsed

Health facilities

Sub-County	Site	Health facility	Description of damages
Wajir North	Bute	Bute Sub County Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Destruction of pharmaceuticals and other supplies -Destruction of health records -Damage to facility toilet septic tank

Roads

Sub-County	Site	Roads	Description of damages
Wajir West	Griftu	Griftu-Arbajahan culverts	Insufficient drainage structure - Damaged road surface materials
	Laghar	Griftu- Arbajahan drifts	- Concrete cover eroded leading to the exposure of reinforcement - Section of the drift settled
Eldas	Eldas	Eldas vented drifts	-inlets developed huge cracks - accumulation of debris during the flooding events
Wajir North	Buna	Buna bridge	- Road surface material washed away
	Buna- beramo	Buna- beramo road	- Cut off at the stream
	Beramo -jarte	Beramo jarte road	-completely inaccessible
	Gurar	Gurar-Bamba-Bute	-Culverts and drifts damaged
Tarbaj	Gunana	Gunana	- Cut off stream

Livelihoods

Sub-County	Site	Type & No. of livestock lost	No. of farms affected	No. of shops affected
Tarbaj	Dambas	Shoats- 50	none	-5
	Hargaal	- Shoats-300 - Cattle-200	none	-15

Wajir South	Between Garaska and Dadajabula	- Shoats-100	None	none
	Meri	Shoats-100	none	none
Wajir North	Surayu	-Cattle-45 -Shoats-86	-20	-5
	Buna	-Cattle-125 -Shoats-345	-140	-50
	Beramo	None	-55	-4
	Bute	-Cattle-250 -Shoats-400	-27	-55
	Bute Godha	-Cattle-55 -Shoats-115	-5	-None
	Watiti	-Cattle-15 -Shoats-140	-3	-7
	Jarte	-Cattle-10 -Shoats-125	None	-3
	Gurar	-Cattle-34 -Shoats-77	-3	-8
Wajir West	Griftu	-Cattle-50 -Shoats-200	-50	-100
	Arbajahan	-Shoats-20	None	-30

Water sources

Sub-County	Site	Water sources	Description of damages
Wajir North	Gurar	-1 borehole -5 shallow wells	-Borehole fence collapsed -Shallow wells submerged
	Watiti	-1 water pan	- Water pan bunking washed away
	Beramo	-1 borehole -27 shallow wells -3 water pans	- Engine submerged - Shallow wells submerged - Water pans bunks destroyed
	Surayu	-10 Shallow wells -1 water pan	- Submerged
	Jarte	-1 water pan	- Water pan bunking damaged
	Bute	-2 boreholes -2 water pans	- Borehole engine submerged - Water pans bunking damaged
	Buna	- 4 boreholes - 20 shallow wells - 2 water pans	- Submerged
Wajir West	Griftu	-1 Borehole -50 shallow wells	- Borehole water supply disrupted - Shallow wells submerged
Tarbaj	Hargaal	-1 Borehole	- Well submerged
	Dambas	-1 water pan	- Water pan bunking damaged

Annex 2. Photos



Figure 1: Figure 1 A section of Buna culvert in Wajir North damaged by the floods



Figure 2: Beddings for Buna boarding primary school in Wajir North destroyed by the floods



Figure 3: A shop in Buna, Wajir North, affected by the floods



Figure 4: A borehole pump house in Buna, Wajir North, destroyed by the floods



Figure 5: A farm in Bute, Wajir North, destroyed by the floods



Figure 6: Haragaal borehole in Tarbaj marooned by the floods



Figure 7: A destroyed latrine in Watiti, Wajir North



Figure 8: A flooded street in Arbajahan, Wajir West



Figure 9: Crops destroyed by the floods in Griftu, Wajir West



Figure 10: Water piping system exposed and damaged by the floods in Eldas

Annex 3. Assessment team contacts

S/N	NAME	Organization/Dept	Email address	Telephone
1.	Abdirahman A. Bulle	NDMA	abdirahman.bulle@ndma.go.ke	0720889034
2.	Nuria Ibrahim	County Department of Health	nuriaabdi72@gmail.com	0729967898
3.	Abdikadir H. Alasow	County Department of Special Programs (Disaster Risk Management)	alasowabdikadir@gmail.com	0723628614
4.	Ragow Gabow	County Department of Special Programs (Disaster Risk Management)	ragowgabow@gmail.com	0722163140
5.	Abdullahi Adan Abdul	County Department of Education	Aaabdul903@gmail.com	0720756871
6.	Hassan Abdi Haji	County Department of Water	Hassanhajji008@gmail.com	0724826443
7.	Khalif Mohamed	County Department of Roads	Khalifmohamed240@gmail.com	0725163944
8.	Anthony Simotwo	NDMA	Anthony.simotwo@ndma.go.ke	0714453095
9.	Abukar Abdullahi	County DALF	Abukar4662@gmail.com	0711359624
10.	Adan Haret Musa	County DALF		0727446290
11.	Suleyman Saney	KRCS	Saney.suleiman@redcross.or.ke	0728253978
12.	Ahmed Ali Mumin	DRM	Abdiqafar2010@gmail.com	0722113040
13.	Abdinoor Mohamed	WASDA	Abdinoor.rage@wasda.or.ke	0722409018