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Mitigating Climate-induced Disaster through Community Resilience Building in Wajir County

County	**Wajir**		
Sector/s	**Environment**	**Sub-sector/Theme:**	**Climate change adaptation**
Keywords	**Climate change mitigation, floods, drought, Wajir County, climate induced crises, solar-powered boreholes, community resilience building**		
Target Audience	**Climate change stakeholders, County Governments, County departments of water, environment, social services, and agriculture, and their stakeholders**		
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Resource Persons	**Yahya Dahir Osman, Senior Environmentalist and Climate Change Expert**		

Introduction (*Context and Challenge*)

Wajir County is located in North Eastern Kenya. The semi-arid County has a mean annual temperature of 28°C with rainfall amounts ranging between 250mm and 700mm per annum in different parts of the county. With a population of 781,263, the County encompasses 6 constituencies, and 30 wards (County Government of Wajir, 2024).

The main economic activity is pastoralism with some small-scale rain-fed agriculture. In recent years, climate change has increased precipitation during the rainy season and raised temperatures during the dry season, resulting in climate-induced disasters in the County such as floods, locust invasion (2020–2021) and prolonged drought (2015, 2017, 2018–2021) were causing resource-based conflict for the pastoral communities over the scarce water and pasture and accelerating the loss of livelihoods, livestock and human lives. The disasters significantly affected 82,756 residents of Eldas, Bute, Buna Arbajahani, Habaswein, Laqboqol, and Khorof/Harar areas, and led to long-term population displacement, destruction of property and the natural environment, domestic supply chain disruptions, and food insecurity across the County.

Implementation of the practice (*Solution Path*)

Implementation of the project included:

- Installation of hybrid solar system at boreholes
- Installation of hybrid Solar systems at health centres
- Installation of hybrid Solar system and drip irrigation for community farms

- Water infrastructure (construction of livestock watering troughs and water kiosks, installation of water storage infrastructure and piping)
- Establishment of 1 County nursery centre and implementation of afforestation programs in 17 wards of the total 30 wards.

- *When and where were the activities carried out?*
  - In 2016–2017 in 12 of the 30 wards valued at KSh 96M, which 16M from the Adaptation Consortium (ADA) and KSh 80M as County's contribution.
  - In 2018-2019 in 27 wards of the possible 30 wards valued at KSh 75M county contribution.
  - In 2022–2023 in all 30 wards valued at KSh 75M county contribution.

- *Who were the key implementers and collaborators and what were their roles?*

Key implementers	**Roles**
Ward Climate Change Planning Committee (WPCCC)	● Link between the grassroots community and the climate change actors ● Carry community needs assessment ● Community needs prioritization ● Develop community proposal ● conduct community climate change awareness creation
County Climate Change Planning Committee (CCCPC)	● Development of county climate change budgetary line, receiving ● Receiving, validating and approving ward proposals ● Advising county departments on mainstreaming climate change in their project's implementation.
County Climate Change Steering Board (CCCSB)	The apex body for advisory role
County Climate Change Unit (CCCU)	Mother unit hosting the climate change program in the County.
Collaborators	**Roles**

World Bank	Financing locally-led climate action program
WFB	Partnering in PCRA & C-CAP development
Mercy Corps	Partnering in community capacity building

What were the resource implications?
The Climate Change Act, 2016 and Amendment Act, 2019, guide resource distribution. They state that the available amount in each FY shall be equally distributed; thus, available funds per ward are minimal for funding meaningful community projects. In short, the resources are inadequate.

How does the County plan to sustain the best practice in future?

- Existing county legal framework which stipulates that 2% of the county development budget should be committed to the climate change kitty to ensure sustainability of the practice.
- Existing county climate change structure at ward level to ensure robust public participation and community stewardship.

- **Results of the practice (*outputs and outcomes*)**

The table below shows the results of the project.

Activity	***Outputs***	***Outcomes***
• Installation of hybrid solar system at boreholes	• *15 community-managed boreholes solarized* • *Reduced cost of water* • *Reduced dependency on diesel-based generators*	• *Improved community livelihood* • *Reduced emission of GHG* • *Increase access to clean and safe water*
• Installation of hybrid solar system and drip irrigation for community farms	• *12 community-owned farms solarized* • *Reduced cost of watering* • *Reduced cost of inputs* • *Increased farm yield per unit area*	• *Improved community livelihood* • *Reduced emission of greenhouse gases (GHG)* • *Increase food security* • *Increased livelihood diversification, shifting from*

		livestock rearing to large-scale crop production
• Water infrastructure (construction of livestock watering troughs and water kiosks, installation of water storage infrastructure and piping)	• *17 livestock water troughs constructed as different community water facilities* • *Reduced congestion and queuing at the watering point* • *Reduced water contamination*	• *Improved community livelihood* • *increased access to clean and safe water* • *reduced water resource-based community conflict and violence* • *reduced water-borne disease outbreak* • *reduce GBV cases at watering point*
• Installation of hybrid Solar systems at health centres	• *Increased access to health services 24/7* • *Reduced cost of electricity at health centres* • *Improved service delivery*	• *Reduced mortality rate*
• Establishment of 1 county nursery centre and implementation of afforestation programmes in 17 wards of the 30 wards	• *Well-equipped county nursery centre* • *Increased seedling planting and transplanting* • *Increased accessibility of indigenous tree seedlings at the grassroots level*	• *Increased tree cover in the county* • *Increased natural carbon sink* • *Increased natural buffer to protect the public against natural disasters like floods, and landslides in Wajir North and West*

Lessons learnt

What worked really well – what facilitated this?

- Effective implementation of climate change projects

- Public participation

What did not work – why did it not work?
- Project sustainability in some cases
- community ownership
- on-time resource mobilization

What would you do differently?
- Allocation of project management cost for post-project implementation
- Proper/frequent community consultative engagement
- Pre-planning and legal framework for climate finance resources mobilization

What would you do in the same way?
- Emphasizing harnessing renewable energy for different livelihood
- Community engagement in natural resource management
- Funding of community-led climate actions

Recommendations (*Conclusion*)

What would you recommend others to do when facing similar challenges?
- Public participation is a key pillar in responding to climate climate-induced disasters to build effective community capacity and resilience. Financing community-led climate action was seen as the best practice for livelihood diversification.

What would you avoid?
- Time-bound over-ambitious targets since climate change community adaptation and mitigation strategies are long-term plans.

Further reading:

Pictorial evidence

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ANNEX

FY 2022/2023	FY 2023/2024
Supported 5 community farms for installation of solar for irrigation to enhance food security	Supported 7 community farms for installation of solar for irrigation to enhance food security
Installation of solar system for 5 health facilities for effective health service delivery	Installation of solar system for 15 health facilities for effective health service delivery
Supported WARUA for equipping 15 water infrastructures	Supported WARUA for equipping 3 water infrastructures+ solarization of one borehole at buna ward for irrigation
Strengthening county nursery Centre, seedlings plantation and propagation	2 Afforestation program in Habaswein and Eldas ward

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Irrigation at mzee adan farm fy 2022/2023

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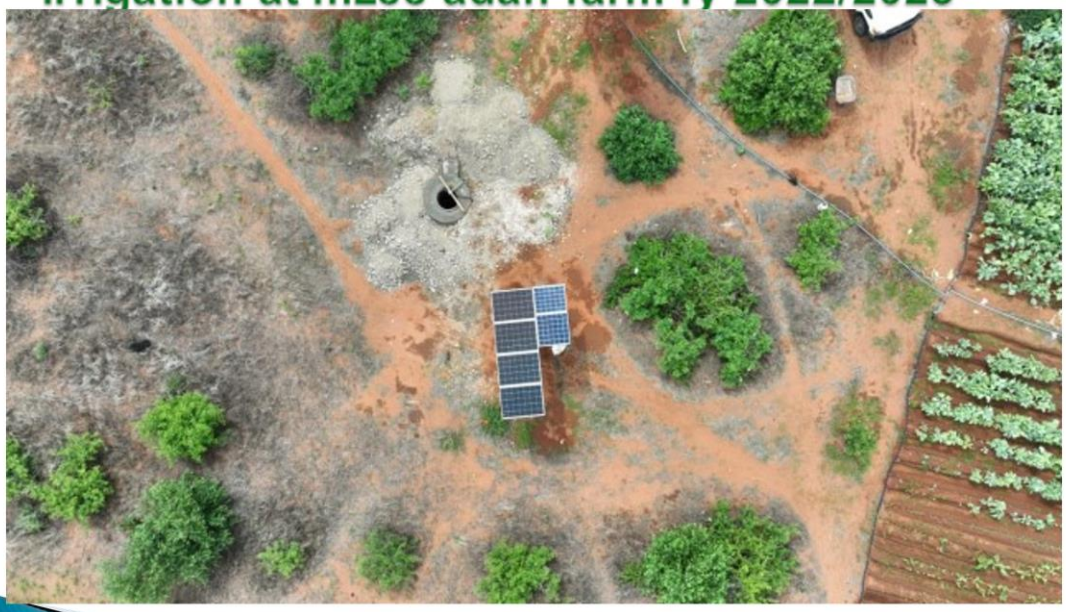
Irrigation at mzee adan farm fy 2022/2023



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Launching of County tree planting campaign H.E GOV Wajir

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Launching of Climate change cheque FY 2021/2022

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Irrigated onion producing farm in Bute FY 2022/2023

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Water infrastructure at Korondile FY 2022/2023