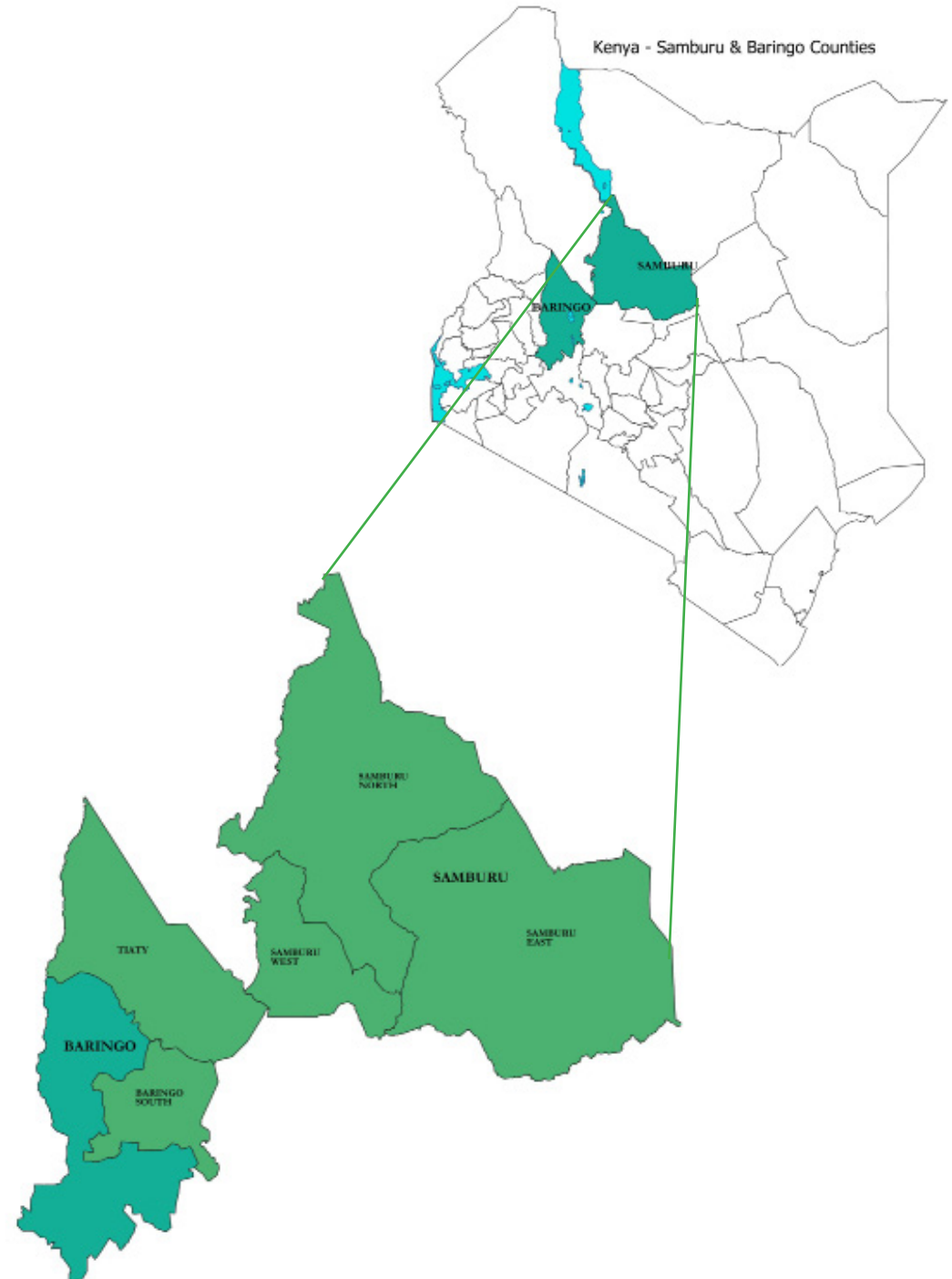


Assessment Key Highlights

- Samburu and Baringo Counties in Kenya are recovering from the prolonged drought following four consecutive failed rain seasons. There was an improvement in forage and water sources after erratic rainfalls in April and May. However, the recovery is gradual as livestock and agriculture will take time to bounce back.
- Most of the populations in the assessed areas are dependent on pastoralist and agro-pastoralist activities, with a small percentage engaged in agriculture on a small scale through irrigation.
- Food insecurity and malnutrition are prevalent, particularly among children under 5 years and pregnant/lactating women remain high despite the ongoing recovery. Main food sources include market purchases, own livestock production, relief aid, and agricultural production, with limited access to a variety of nutritious foods.
- Livestock physical conditions are gradually improving, but there are challenges due to livestock diseases and limited access to forage following the cessation of rains coupled with high temperatures from these locations.
- Agriculture performance has been mixed, with some areas experiencing harvests from irrigated areas, but others facing failure due to low/lack of precipitation and challenges such as post-harvest.
- Water sources like boreholes and wells are functional but under strain. Hygiene and sanitation practices remain poor, with open defecation and lack of clean water storage containers being common issues.
- Vulnerable community groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, continue to face challenges and remaining the group at-risk. There have been movements of women and children to urban areas in search of casual labor to address food insecurity.
- Entrepreneurship opportunities exist in the agricultural value chain, climate change adaptation, and conservation sectors, with women and youth groups and cooperatives engaging in these activities. However, there is a need for more awareness and training to tap into these opportunities. Financial institutions are present, but more efforts are needed to create employment opportunities for the youth.
- Water, food security, and education are the areas of priority in the assessed regions.



Situation Overview

Samburu and Baringo Counties are among arid and semi-arid emerging from four consecutive failed rain seasons. Both counties suffer from recurrent natural shocks including drought and flash floods. In the recent past, erratic rainfall was received through April and May 2023, where the rainfall has been inconsistent across location in terms of quantity. This inferior performance was characterized by early cessation that affected the agro-pastoral communities in terms of crop and livestock production, slowing the drought recovery process in Samburu and Baringo counties. Early warning bulletins by NDMA regarding the Short Rains had estimated that 170,680 and 139,669 households were food insecure in Samburu and Baringo respectively especially in the pastoral zones.

Both the biophysical and consumption indicator show slight recovery; however, the early end of rain has impacted recovery, whilst households stand a risk of developing negative and detrimental coping strategies as we enter the next lean season spanning the months of July, August, and September 2023. Both the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihoods zones stand at a risk of increased food and nutrition security now, while marginal agriculture areas stare into failed crops especially in Samburu North, Tiaty (East and West) and Samburu East. In these zones, the harvest of the crop also will take six months for the harvest to be realized. To understand this situation better, acted conducted a rapid needs assessment into the two counties to ascertain early recovery needs, coupled with anticipatory action that could be undertaken to protect life and livelihoods from potential damage by the upcoming lean season. This report quickly highlights needs and proposes early recovery action for consideration.

Assessment Methodology

The assessment was conducted by Acted teams, between the 10th and 14th of July 2023 through key information interview, coupled with direct field observation. The assessment respondents selected using purposive sampling to get respondents who had rich knowledge of the assessment context. The key informants were representatives at the County level and Sub County level for the two counties of Baringo and Samburu. The Key informants were drawn from the national government administration and National Drought Management Authority NDMA (1 male, 1 female KIs), while at Sub county level Acted engaged the Sub County Administration Office (3 males KIs), Water Department (1 male KI), Nutrition Department (3 Female and 1 male KIs), Public Health Department (1 male KI), and the Office of Trade and Cooperative (3 male KIs). Using Microsoft Excel's data saturation grids, emergent topics and key thematic areas from the key informant interviews were consolidated and beefed up with other information collected through observations, and relevant secondary sources to inform this report.

Limitation: The assessment collected quantitative primary data through a limited number

of expert opinion of sector leads at sub-county and county level through key informant interviews. However, the team was able to triangulate information through secondary data, including a cross check on recent assessments such as the early warning bulletins and smart surveys.



Livestock grazing in Samburu East grazing fields July 12th 2023

Livelihoods & Food Security Characteristics

In terms of livelihoods, Samburu is divided into three sub counties namely, Samburu North, Samburu East and Samburu Central and three main livelihood activities: pastoral all species (57%), Agro-pastoral (37%) and formal employment/casual waged labour (6%)⁴. For Baringo county, the livelihood zones are Pastoral (31%), Agro-pastoral (22%), Marginal mixed farming (43%), and Irrigated Cropping (4%). However, this changes when looking at Tiaty East and West sub-counties. In both counties, and in the sub counties of interest: Samburu North, Samburu East and Tiaty East and West, Baringo South households are mainly dependent on Pastoralist activities followed closely by agro-pastoral activities. This is due to the biological and physical characteristics of the region; indeed, households that are dependent on agro-pastoralism are from specific high-altitude belts that are geographically on the leeward side of the key altitude change features.

This characteristically facilitates drylands farming, with the right inputs and extension service provided. Reportedly, early recovery among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities was envisaged following different interventions; however, this was affected by the early cessation of long rains spanning the April-May-June season.

The current key factors predisposing households to food and nutrition insecurity include resource-based conflicts characterized by banditry (as shared by Tiaty East Sub County administrator), inflation that has affected the cost of key commodities, increase in fuel price and the gradual entry into a lean period over the months of July-August-September. The decline in food production will potentially lead to the increase of under nutrition among pastoral and agro-pastoral households, mainly driven by low dietary diversity among households.

Considering the livelihoods activities in both counties, there exist some social-economic inclusion efforts by the county governments through infrastructural development and rehabilitation of key assets (such as the irrigation scheme, roads, water pans and forests) reportedly by the key informants. This is though on a limited scale, as reported by the key informants. This is because government is cash strapped and has reduced development projects, with delays in disbursement of funds to county governments by the national government reported within the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

This notwithstanding several activities are earmarked for both emergency response and recovery in the annual development plans. These activities include the repair of boreholes, restocking, supplementary feed for livestock, nutrition support, and direct relief food in Samburu East Sub County and Tiaty through the support of the national government.

Food Sources

In examining food sources across the assessed sub counties of Samburu East, Baringo South, and Tiaty East and West, food items purchased from the local markets were reported to be at (55%) followed by own livestock production (22%). Other reported sources of food for these communities are aid (food aid (mainly from the national government and channeled through the national administration), and food for work) (9%), crop production (8%), labor paid with food in-kind (5%), and remittances (1%). Fishing was reported a source of food for communities living around Lake Baringo in Baringo South Sub County. In terms of potential risk to food security, failed harvest in areas of Tangulbei/Amaya, Loiyamorok, Chemolongot belt and increased food commodity prices associated to high inflation in Baringo and Samburu were reported to have resulted in the change of food sources among the communities in these locations.

According to the NDMA Samburu June 2023 bulletin, the gradual improvement in livestock body condition has supported favorable recovery of livestock market prices. Milk production and consumption are slowly increasing, but household access to food and income remains well below average². From the assessment, key factors driving such conditions include: a high dependency on livestock rearing with sales declining with any slight precipitation). On the other hand, small-scale (kitchen gardening) agricultural practices were impacted by the drought, cost of agricultural inputs and post-harvesting losses, increased agriculture production cost, and poor temporal and spatial rains. These challenges were reported in Baringo South, Tiaty East and West, and Samburu East in meeting their food needs. Additionally, conflict was reported as well as the stand alone cause of food challenges from Samburu East.

In Samburu East Sub County, the communities are coping with food insecurity challenges by relying on less preferred and less expensive foods and reducing the number of meals eaten in a day. From Baringo South Sub Counties, communities are majorly relying on less preferred and less expensive foods, borrowing food or relying on help from a friend or relatives, and purchasing food on credit as a coping mechanism.

1. UNICEF Kenya Humanitarian Situation Report July 2023
2. National Drought Management Authority Samburu County Drought Early Warning Bulletin for June 2023
3. National Drought Management Authority Baringo County Drought Early Warning Bulletin for June 2023
4. SRA Report February 2023

In Tiaty East and West to address the food insecurity challenges, communities are mainly purchasing food on credit as well. Main staples (maize, millet, rice, sorghum, red sorghum) are the most consumed food groups with fruits and vegetables being the least consumed food groups as shown in table 1 below. Overall, staple food prices remain historically high in most markets due to low local food availability following successive below-average harvests, increased demand, and high fuel prices. This necessitates the need to address underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition over this gradual recovery period.

Table 1. Food Sources Across Samburu and Baringo

ROW LABELS	MAIN STAPLES	PULSES	MEAT, FISH & EGGS	MILK	VEGETABLES & LEAVES	FRUITS
SAMBURU EAST	✓	✓				
SAMBURU WEST	✓		✓	✓		
TIATY EAST	✓	✓			✓	✓

The communities in assessed sub-counties can access functional markets which are within walking distance time of 30 minutes to 1 hour. The types of markets accessed range from open-air, vendors, and formal shops. These markets are always available. Currently, no food items or household items are unavailable in Samburu and Baringo Counties. Despite this, the pricing of food (for example given sugar, maize flour, cereals, and cooking oil) and household items from these markets are increasing compared to the previous month. The recently prolonged drought coupled with inflation in the country is the main reason the items are affected by the changes in prices. Generally, across many locations, more specifically in the ASALs, the price for food commodities is extremely unfavorable resulting in erosion in household purchasing power².

Additionally, to address food insecurity, efforts by different actors through unconditional cash transfers (UCT) and food vouchers (FV) in Baringo South, Tiaty East, and Samburu East Sub-counties have been reported. In Baringo South, the UCT was reported to be provided by a faith-based organization, World Food Programme, and UNICEF, though the coverage in humanitarian action in Tiaty East and West was very low. In Samburu East, KRCS, UNICEF, World Vision, and the County Government provided support under the UCT, while the NDMA supported in the provision of food vouchers.

Agriculture Practices and Performance (Crops)

With regards to agriculture performance there is some harvest received from the irrigated areas in Baringo South accompanied by some failure as well in some regions within the lower catchment of irrigation schemes due to water scarcity. Areas reporting crop failure in Tiaty include Tangelbei, Chepkalacha, and Komolion Locations; indeed total maize and bean failure was reported by the agriculture department.



1. Pictures 1 & 2: Failed Farms in Tiaty East and West.

Maize, beans, and vegetables are the primary food items produced at households' level. Tomatoes, melon, onion, and leafy vegetables were reported as one the key agriculture products in Baringo South along the irrigated area. Additionally, from Tiaty East & West, other agricultural products whose demand has not yet been met are watermelon, sorghum, and millet. The market for this product was reported to be across all the local markets and those outside these areas of the assessment.

In Samburu East, around Ngilai Location in Wamba North ward, it was reported as an area where small groups of farmers can realize some vegetable crop harvest. As informed by the Samburu East Sub County Administrator, there are potential agricultural opportunities in this location that are yet to be tapped: "...with proper input support and extension service, a lot in terms of crop production of is possible in Ngilai location...". The Department of Agriculture in Samburu County is currently supporting crop monitoring and crop disease surveillance as one of the agriculture interventions². The market for this produce was reported to be across the different markets in the Sub County.

Across all the locations where the assessments was conducted the KIs reported there were crop losses mostly through post-harvest and handling practices, inadequacy of market linkages of, prolonged drought and early cessation of rain, and wild animal destruction as they can invade farms. According to the NDMA Baringo July 2023 early warning bulletin, from the agriculture sector, there is a need to enhance post-harvest management measures to minimize post-harvest crop losses.

The key informants reported a need to support crop production associated costs in crop production on agricultural inputs, such as seeds and tools. Extension services was reported to be on a lower scale, due to the low staff capacity in the county governments coupled, with exist of specialized leads who have retired. The county governments are yet to replace the staff to address some other challenges associated to crop loss.

Additionally, integrated pests and crop management can be adopted and put into practice reportedly by the KIs. In Samburu East, there exists some knowledge on crop rotation and companion planting among a few farmers in Ngilai location. The Agriculture Department in Samburu County recommended crop disease and pest surveillance through extensive agriculture extension services².

Animal Health and Livestock Production

The livestock physical conditions were reported to be mostly fair to good across all the locations of assessment in Samburu and Baringo county as they are recovering from the recently prolonged drought impacts following the MAM rainfalls. This is attributed to the near-normal performance of the March to May 2023 rainfall season that supported significant rangeland rejuvenation. In Baringo South and Tiaty East Sub counties, cattle in the Pastoral and parts of Agro-pastoral livelihood zones range from fair to good while in the irrigated livelihood zone, the body condition was reported to be mostly good.

The assessment indicated the presence of livestock diseases reported in both Baringo and Samburu Counties. Foo and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious caprine plural pneumonia (CCPP), Petit Pestis Ruminant (PPR), Lumpy skin diseases (LSD), Contagious Bovine Plural pneumonia (CBPP) were reported disease from Samburu County. Specifically in Samburu County, a community from the Lolmolok sub-location reported suspected clinical signs of foot and mouth disease (FMD) within the area. Endemic diseases such as contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Enterotoxaemia, and sheep and goat pox were reported across the livelihood zones³. There exist normal incidents of CCPP, LSD, Red Water, PPR, Goat and sheep pox, Heartwater, and ECF in both Tiaty East and Baringo South Sub Counties.

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition status among the communities is not in a good state having that majority of the

community is recovering from drought impact following the MAM rains received. The most affected areas are Waso Ward, Wamba East, and Wamba West Ward as shared by Sub County Nutritionist key informant from Samburu East. These locations were reported to have recorded a GAM rate greater than 10% in a recent past assessment by the facility and other stakeholders supporting nutrition in the Sub-county. This is a critical threshold signifying a high prevalence of acute malnutrition in the population. Similar trends were reported in Samburu North (Nachola, Elbarat, Ndoto, and Ngiro Wards) and Samburu West (Baawa, Lodokejek, and Loosuk Wards), by the Samburu West Sub County Nutritionist key informants. "...despite there being some different feeding habits the nutrition status among children under the age of 5 years and among pregnant and lactating women remains poor...".

	All n = 537	Boys n = 271	Girls n = 266
Prevalence of global malnutrition (<2 z-score and/or oedema)	(109) 20.3% (16.7 - 24.4 95% C.I.)	(60) 22.1% (17.7 - 27.3 95% C.I.)	(49) 18.4% (13.7 - 24.3 95% C.I.)
Prevalence of moderate malnutrition (<2 z-score and >=-3 z-score, no oedema)	(99) 18.4% (14.9 - 22.6 95% C.I.)	(55) 20.3% (15.9 - 25.6 95% C.I.)	(44) 16.5% (12.0 - 22.3 95% C.I.)
Prevalence of severe malnutrition (<-3 z-score and/or oedema)	(10) 1.9% (0.9 - 3.6 95% C.I.)	(5) 1.8% (0.8 - 4.3 95% C.I.)	(5) 1.9% (0.7 - 5.2 95% C.I.)

Table2. Prevalence of Global acute Malnutrition based on WHZ. Source: Samburu Smart Survey Preliminary findings

All the Nutrition KIs reported on the continued high rates of the admission of malnutrition cases. Additionally, an increased defaulting rate which affects the recovery was reported as well among children affected malnutrition from Samburu East Sub county. To mitigate this, an increased outreach supported by different actors including Save the Children and Mercy Corps was reported by the key informant.

The Sub County Nutritionist from Samburu East Sub County specify "...from a recent outreach we screened a total of 1946 women where a high number were malnourished and recording an average MUAC of 21cm". This also highlight that women are at risk of acute malnutrition and thus a need for an appropriate nutrition intervention.

In Tiaty East Sub County, 21.4% of children under the age of 5 years were reported to be malnourished. The Sub County Nutritionist key informant reported over 30% of the population in Tiaty East and Tiaty West have poor food consumption scores (FCS) indicating poor dietary diversity and limited access to a variety of nutritious foods. Visibly thin children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers were reported by the nutritionist key informant from both Samburu East and Tiaty East Sub Counties.

Despite there being a gap in nutrition across the location of assessment, various efforts have been made to address nutritional gaps as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3. Ongoing/Provided Nutrition Support

Location		Actor	Nutrition Support Being Provided
Samburu County	Samburu East Sub County	World Vision	Outreaches providing nutrition support and commodities
		World Concern	
		Nutrition Department	
	Samburu West Sub County	Mercy Corps	Health Education on Nutrition
		Save the Children	
		UNICEF	Supplementary Feeding Programme
		World Vision	
Baringo County	Tiaty East	UNICEF	ICCM (Integrated Community Case Management) and CMAM (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition).
		World Vision	
		Hellen Keller	
		Kenya Recross (KRCS)	

Drought Impact, Poor Family Planning (Samburu East) Poor Hygiene and Sanitation practices (Samburu West), and poor food security and diseases (Tiaty East) were reported as the factors triggering malnutrition from the locations of assessment. Health talks to the communities accompanied by cash transfers and food demonstra-

tions, establishing community units for nutritional support, and bridging the knowledge gaps among women in the communities were shared as the nutrition support required from Samburu East Sub County. From Samburu West Sub County, the key informant reported on knowledge sharing through the mother-to-mother support groups, food preparations, and cooking demonstrations as the required support to address malnutrition. In Tiaty East Sub County as shared by the nutritionist key informant, nutrition sensitive programming for all sectors is the required support to address malnutrition in the Sub County.

Following the recent rains, diarrhea and pneumonia among children were reported as the current most common diseases among Samburu East Communities. According to a recent Situation report from UNICEF July 2023, the MAM rainfall brought flash floods and heightened risk of further spread of Cholera². The Sub County health facility is addressing the case through the provision of water treatment, drugs, and medicine, whereas from Tiaty East Malaria, Pneumonia outbreaks were reported from Chemolingot and Kolowa. At the Sub-county level, this is addressed with the ongoing screening at the main health Facility in Chemolingot.

Population Movement and Protection

There has been a population movement reported from Samburu East, from rural set-ups to urban areas among women and children. This is due to individuals looking for other source of income, including casual labour to address the food insecurity challenges. Contrary in Tiaty East, movements were reported among men in search of Pasture and water over this recovery period.

The women, children, the elderly, and persons with a disability remains the most vulnerable population in the locations assessed over this recovery period from the recent past prolonged drought impacts following movements by different groups. Only in Samburu East where the Sub County administration key informant reported on the movements situation resulting in some insecurity, where a couple of incidences of small theft and roadside attacks were reported from different locations in the Sub County. The on-and-off banditry in Tiaty East was reported as a key factor in the current recovery situation from the area. However, with proper planning with local administration and security officers, access is guaranteed.

Different protection structures were reported by the key informant to exist in Samburu East, Baringo South, and Tiaty East, which focus on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and Child Protection in Samburu East. These protection structures are provided by international organizations and community-based organizations. The government was reported to provide GBV awareness in Baringo South and Samburu East Sub Counties.

Water Sanitation & Hygiene

Water Sources & Water Supply

Boreholes, protected shallow wells, unprotected shallow wells, and water reservoirs, were reported as the most common water sources from the locations of assessment. The water reservoirs were reported to be the current water sources for the communities in Tiaty East and Samburu West Sub Counties. These assets were reported to be under strain despite them being functional in addition to not meeting all the water needs of the communities in these locations. According to the NDMA Samburu County Drought Early Warning bulletin for June 2023, the community's household water consumption remained low and below the minimum quantity promoted by SPHERE standards.

KIIs also provided additional insights per districts. In Baringo South, trekking distances have increased by over 16% in pastoral areas compared to last month. The need for water treatment and filtration of surface water was reported by the key informants from Samburu East, Tiaty East, and Samburu West. Finally, communities were reported to pay to access water from boreholes at an average price of KES 5 from both Samburu East and Tiaty East Sub Counties.

Approximately only 10% of the population from Samburu East were reported to have water storage containers. According to the nutritionist key informant across all the locations of assessment, water storage containers were described to be unclean with no cover or lid.

A few boreholes were reported not to be in good condition but under strain and some in need of repair. Specifically, Cherumbo, Kachilitwa, Nyalilpuch, Kasilangwa, and Kresia from Tiaty East Sub county were recommended for repair. From Samburu East Repair, rehabilitation and extension of water systems were reported for Lem-purnei, Lesesei. Gogoltim, Resim, Archerspost, Nairimirimo, Lorok Onyokie, Raraiti and Ngaroni Girls Secondary School. Some of these assets were reported to be under pressure in the recent past drought impacts. Salinity remains an issue for water accessed through boreholes. Additionally, to mitigate the condition from unprotected shallow wells and other unprotected sources for accessing water, the provision of PUR and aqua tabs were recommended by Samburu West Water Department key informant.

Hygiene and Sanitation

Hygiene and sanitation remain an issue in these locations reported by the Nutritionist and Public health key informants. Open defecation is evident in various locations despite the different efforts being undertaken by different actors. For example, in

Tiaty East, 88% of the population were reported not to have latrine facilities. Additionally, there are still poor practices on children's fecal disposal which are thrown into the bushes. Generally, from the public health key informant handwashing and latrines facilities were reported to be observed in some parts of Samburu West Sub County and the practice of hand washing as well. Table 4 below is a summary of hygiene and sanitation practices across Samburu County reported by the Public Health key informant from Samburu West Sub County.

Table 4. Existing Opportunities across different sectors

Sub County	Ward	% of the population practicing open defecation
Samburu West	Baawa	98%
	Angata Nayukie	98%
Samburu North	Nichola	73%
	Alberta	72%
	Ndoto	96%
	Nyiro	95%
Samburu East	Wamba North	98%
	Wamba West	98%
	Waso Ward	73%
	Wamba East	73%

A big Challenge on Hygiene Sanitation and Practice still exists largely in the Suguta Ward of Samburu West Sub County, specifically in Lolomolog where there is an IPD temporary structure with an estimated population of 1000 households.

Lack of information and access to hygiene items (soap, aqua tabs, feminine hygiene products, water containers) were the key issues affecting hygiene and sanitation improvement in these communities. Additionally, from Samburu County the Public Health key informant reported on cultural beliefs and taboos as factors affecting improvement of hygiene and sanitation improvement across the Sub Counties. In this case, the key informant recommended a health education or a behavioral change approach to handle this challenge.

Existing Gaps and Opportunities

Entrepreneurship opportunities were majorly reported through the agricultural value chain by the cooperative representative, administration unit representatives, and NDMA key informants. Table 5 below shows these opportunities across different sectors from the location of the assessment.

Table 5. Potential Value Chains.

	Samburu East	Samburu West	Tiaty East
Agriculture Value Chain	Kitchen Gardening & Climate Smart Practices	Fodder Production	Beekeeping and Honey Production
	Livestock Breeding and Fattening	Fisheries	Horticulture and Cereals production (Sorghum and green grams)
	Poultry farming and white meat trading	Horticulture and Cereals Production	None
Climate Change	Conservation	Conservation through tree planting and tree nurseries	None
	Degraded land restoration and rehabilitation	Restoration of degraded land	None

In a side discussion with the director Department of Agriculture Samburu West, different opportunities across the three Sub Counties in Samburu County were shared. Particularly from Samburu North and Samburu East Sub Counties, there is a high potential for green grams and pigeon pea production. This food crop demand has not yet been met in these locations. There are low production costs for these high-value crops which have markets across all the seasons. Vegetable production was reported to be viable across the Sub

counties of Samburu County but limited to water availability.

Start-ups and circular economies remain a grey area from the locations of assessments. On a small-scale, individuals were reported by the Cooperative key informant from Samburu West and Samburu East Sub Counties to engage in scrap metal trading and hard plastic waste collection.

Different groups are engaging in these opportunities available under the above sectors across all the locations of assessment. These groups are majorly women groups and youth groups and cooperatives.

The Department of Cooperative and Trade at the county level keeps the records and ensures the management of these groups in their engagement for different activities. Apart from the county government other actors who have been providing support to these groups and cooperatives are the Food for Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme in Baringo South Sub County, Save the Children and Mercy Corps through the Nawiri project and Northland Rangeland Trust (NRT) in Samburu East and West Sub counties. According to the agriculture department director, different groups engaging in agricultural activities were reported from the areas of Masikita, Simiti, Nachola, and Southhor in Samburu North, such groups exist in Ngilai, Mlimani area in Wamba, Ndonyo Uasin, and Kibarate. Registry for these groups exists through the home economics sector in the Department of Agriculture at the County level.

From a discussion with the NDMA key informant other priority value chains identified from Baringo County are:

- Honey - Targeting the lowland areas of Radat, Rachemo honey processing, and Kapkui-kui area. This involves promoting and supporting honey production in these regions.
- Fish - Focusing on Lake Baringo and individual farmers in Mogotio. This value chain aims to develop and enhance fish farming and related activities in these areas.
- Pyrethrum - This value chain involves the cultivation and processing of pyrethrum, a plant used for its insecticidal properties.
- Potatoes/Coffee - Targeting the highland areas for potato and coffee production. This involves supporting and improving the cultivation and processing of these crops.
- Digitization of cooperative processes - Emphasizing accountability and transparency through digital cooperatives. This aims to modernize and streamline cooperative processes using digital technologies.
- Horticultural support - Focusing on fruit production and vegetable cultivation along the irrigated areas. This aims to boost horticultural activities and improve productivity in

these regions.

- Feedlot support for meat production - This value chain involves providing support and resources to produce meat in feedlots.
- Livestock feed formulation - Focusing on the development and improvement of livestock feed formulations to enhance animal nutrition and productivity.

To create employment opportunities among youths, farming, and irrigation (Baringo South), entrepreneurship and financial skills, training on market engagements (Samburu East and Samburu West), and formation and capacity building of cooperatives existing at the community level (Tiaty East) were recommended by the NDMA and Cooperative Representatives key informants.

The uptake of agriculture among communities in Samburu County and the need for more sensitization remains a gap to be addressed. An approach through groups and mother-to-mother support groups was recommended by the agriculture department. The mapped areas affected by drought often neglected in Baringo South, particularly Emsos, Ologokwe, Kisanana, Maji Moto, Mgurin, Radat, Chemyorkir, Embosos, and Kapyemit. These areas seem to be overlooked or receive less attention in terms of drought relief and support despite facing significant challenges due to the recurrent shocks facing these areas.

Additionally, several other areas from Baringo facing different challenges were reported to remain unreachable by humanitarian interventions. These are Tiriko Ward, Loiyamorok Ward, Silale Ward, Saimosoi Ward, Bartabwa, Kabarnet Ward (Salawa/Sacho lower side), Mogotio, Emining (Maji Moto and Kamar). Some of these areas are also experiencing high malnutrition rates, particularly in Churo Amaya Ward, Korozi, and Maji Moto (near Gyser spring lake Bogoria).

According to Tiaty East Sub County Administration key informant, the County requires coordination support to effectively engage all stakeholders. Nutrition-sensitive programming and women's loaning schemes should be facilitated. Peace-building efforts are essential to restore normalcy in conflict-affected regions and engage herders. Food storage and processing capacity development need assistance, along with support for livestock marketing and honey value chains.

Illiteracy, Access to Agriculture Inputs, Cultural Issues, and Dependency Syndrome were additional agriculture challenges facing the communities from these locations of Samburu County, suggesting the need for interventions with an education focus.

Across all the Sub counties of assessment, Water, Food Security, and Education in that order remains an area of priority in Tiaty East, Baringo South, and Samburu East.

1.



2.



Image 1 & Image 2. Main Grazing Fields in Samburu East along Ewaso Nyiro river July 12th 2023