**Participating Agencies:** Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock Development, Ministry of Public Health, NDMA, UNICEF, IMC, IOM, MSF-Spain, Kenya Red Cross Society, UNDP, UN WOMEN and UN OCHA.

**Mission Objectives:**

Provide stakeholders with information on the humanitarian situation following flooding in part of Tana River County through a multi-agency, multi-sectoral rapid assessment using the Kenya Initial Rapid Assessment (KIRA) tool.

**Specific objectives:**

- Reach a common understanding of the humanitarian situation and impact of current floods in visited district of Tana River County
- Agree on prioritized needs based on visited locations
- Identify response gaps, advocate for resources and recommend further actions

**CONTEXT**

**Event**

The forecast from Kenya Meteorological Department, February 2013 long rains seasonal forecast indicated near normal to enhanced rainfall for the central highlands area. Tana River County was predicted to receive near normal with a tendency to below normal rainfall. The intensity of the rains in the central highlands traditionally impacts on Tana River County, especially along the riverine agricultural areas.

By the end March/ beginning of April there was substantial flooding in the riverine areas of Tana River County. Reports from first line responder, the Kenya Red Cross Society and from government authorities on the ground began to highlight an increasingly difficult humanitarian situation for many communities in the three districts of Tana River County.

With indications of information and response gaps, it was agreed that a KIRA mission be initiated to assess humanitarian impacts and guide further decisions on response.
Summary Recommendations:

This KIRA mission’s findings for Wadesa, Morokani, Villages 5 and 8 in Tana North District, are as follows below. Draft results and recommendations were presented on the 27th of April at the Inter Sector Working Group meeting in Nairobi.

Immediate Needs in Order of Priority:

- Food, Shelter & NFI, WASH and Health support
- Food situation is deemed critical. Response so far by GoK and a few aid agencies in the area does not cover all needs. Limited number of tarpaulins provided by KRCS and MSF-Spain. WASH facilities are damaged/collapsed. Communities are using untreated water from nearby pans and canals. No access to health facilities, including reproductive health and no outreach health activities
- Flooded areas without access, is a major concern
- Lack of updated secondary data continues to be an issue
- Response activities need to be coordinated/ harmonized

Intermediate Needs:

- Livelihoods restoration: Seeds, fertilizers and tools for farming once flood waters recede
- Follow up on education sector: school children have missed exams as schools closed due to floods situation
- Improved communication and coordination between communities, GoK and humanitarian/development partners
- Cross-cutting thematic group to provide technical assistance during further sector specific needs assessments

For Longer Term Recommendations (Page 9)

See also Annex A) Characteristics of visited communities, Annex B) Cross-cutting issues and Annex C) Emerging needs

- The findings give an indication of needs expected in similar areas of the district, especially areas not yet accessible, as well as for other flooded areas in the county
Background

Tana River County is situated in a semi-arid area. Based on the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the county has a population of 240,075 with the number of households estimated at 47,414.\(^1\) The County is generally dry and prone to drought. Rainfall is erratic, with rainy seasons in March–May and October–December. It receives annual relief rainfall varying between 400mm and 750mm with mean annual temperature ranging between 30°C and 33°C.

The major ethnic groups are the Pokomo, many of whom are farmers, and the Orma and Wardei, who are predominantly pastoralists. The pastoral livelihoods zone comprises 14% of the population. Poverty levels stand at 76.9\(^2\) which make it the 5\(^{th}\) poorest county in Kenya.\(^3\) Access to safe water is estimated for 30.39% of the population, while for Kenya it is 42.03%.

In the March-April-May long rains forecast, the Meteorological Department had indicated that most parts of Kenya were likely to experience near normal rainfall (i.e. depressed rainfall). Tana River County was expected to receive near normal rainfall. However, due to heavy rains in the central highlands, Tana River county has experienced serious flooding. As a result, thousands of people have been displaced and property either damaged or destroyed. Of particular importance is the impact the floods have had on the agricultural sector due to flooding of farmland, including the destruction of crops due for harvesting as well as crops newly harvested and stored. About 880 acres of land were said to have been affected at the time in Tana North, one of Tana River county three districts.

Currently relief efforts by GoK and KRCS are ongoing in areas hit by floods. Emergency food supplies, NFI and shelter items have been distributed. Damaged and destroyed infrastructure has however compounded the situation in some areas, making access impossible. The exact areas and locations of marooned villages were not fully known at the time of the mission. A situation aggravated by the unpredictability of the floods. Convoys of trucks carrying food supplies and other relief items were reportedly stuck in Bura (main town in Tana North District) for weeks.

The Government of Kenya has according to media pledged 1.6Billion KES to deal with the outcomes of the floods nationwide.

At the start of the KIRA mission, response gaps began to emerge. The supply of food and other immediately needed relief items remains insufficient and local authorities have since appealed to the central government for additional consignments of food to meet the additional demand.

\(^1\) 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census
\(^2\) Proportion of the rural population below the absolute poverty line
\(^3\) Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2005/6
Two District Steering Group meetings, one in Garsen, Tana Delta District (16 April) and Hola, Tana River District (14 April) confirmed their request for and support to a KIRA mission. KRCS further supported the need and relevance of undertaking a KIRA. Estimated numbers of flood affected HHs in Tana River and Tana Delta districts were later given as 2,000 and 1,624 House Holds (HHs) respectively.  

METHODOLOGY

Primary data collection and initial analysis was carried out in the field from 17th – 21st April, 2013. The request for conducting a KIRA came from District Commissioner and District Steering Group meetings in Hola (Tana River District) and Bura (Tana North District). KRCS Nairobi, having field presence in the district, supported the mission need.

The field assessment team comprised staff from the different agencies both at national and county level as well as government officers from key line ministries. A total of 16 people took part in the assessment. Six of the members were women. Four persons in the entire team did not speak the local language. Out of the team 4 members had done the KIRA training. The team split into two groups, visiting 2 sites each.

Secondary data sources included reports and other documents, briefings and discussions with stakeholders from county administration, line ministry offices (Ministry of Public Health, Agriculture, Livestock Development, NDMA, NDOC, INGOs, UN partners with programmes in the areas concerned and, the KRCS. As the available data before the field visit had gaps, considerable follow up work was required after the mission which added to the time required for preparing the report.

Locations to visit were advised by district officials during initial briefing meeting in Hola (Tana River District). The choice was based on accessibility and diversity of population groups by main characteristics of the area. This purposive sampling resulted in selection of Wadesa, being predominantly pastoralists and Morokani area with an agro-pastoral community. Village 5, already indicated to be severely affected, and Village 8 are farming communities which form part of the 10 villages in the National Irrigation Board’s Bura Irrigation Scheme. Key informants were interviewed in all sites and transect walk observations took place.

The multi-agency, multi-sectoral joint consolidation and analysis of primary data collected, was carried out daily with an emphasis on discussions during day four and five of the mission. Eight members of the mission team from Nairobi and Garissa participated during the latter part of the mission.

Picture 3: Assessment Team conducting a male focus group discussion

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4 Average HH size, 6 persons
Limitations/ Information gaps

It proved challenging to assemble the required secondary data sets before the mission departed for the field. This particularly concerned updated population figures and estimated number of affected households per area and community. As for non-accessible areas, data are not yet forthcoming. Furthermore the information needed to validate the precise extent of support and relief items already distributed to which populations and locations, is still not available to the extent necessary.

The situation warrants a continued, multi-agency and multi-sectoral joint effort in updating information required for targeting the most appropriate assistance to those most in need. Sector follow-up assessments are recommended, including with the support of x-cutting thematic group.

PRIORITY NEEDS BY LOCATION

Immediate and Emerging needs

Wadesa: Pastoralist community, 333 HHs, 47 HHs at displacement site visited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Male youth group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Food, cooking utensils</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shelter, bedding</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Shelter, NFI’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Medical supplies</td>
<td>Utensils, especially for water storage</td>
<td>Health, medical supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Water treatment</td>
<td>Wash facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

Food:
- Food stored was washed away.
- Food aid received from GoK insufficient

Shelter & NFIs:
- 27 HH not included in shelter distribution by KRCS

Health:
- No health facility nearby
- No outreach activities

WASH:
- Men note more cases of diarrhoea, pneumo, malaria

Morokani: Agro-pastoralists, 4 villages, 177 HHs, 429 people at displacement site visited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Food</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Wash</td>
<td>Wash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shelter</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments:

**Food:**
- Delayed and insufficient food aid from GoK
- Reduced food intake for all

**WASH:**
- Lack of potable water and water storage equipment
- Open defecation system, no soap, lack of water for cleaning
- Inadequate health facilities coupled with long distances as well as lack of drugs
- No sanitary hygiene materials for women
- Cooking done with unclean water from river

**Shelter:**
- Insufficient shelter materials

**Protection:**
- Area is inhabited by wild animals eg hyena and foxes, which pose a threat, especially to children and women at night

MSF have recently started to work with the community.

**Village 5: Farming community, 300 HHs, part of NIB scheme, HHs displaced within village**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Male youth group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Equity bank loans write off</td>
<td>Wash</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Medicines</td>
<td>Wash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

**Shelter:**
- Insufficient shelter materials received from KRCS

**WASH:**
- Collapsed latrines, contaminated water.

**Food:**
- Food stocks washed away.
- Crops not yet harvested destroyed.
- Insufficient food aid by GoK

**Health:**
- No village dispensary.
- No outreach health activities
Village 8: Farming community, 264 HHs, part of NIB scheme, HHs displaced within village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority needs</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shelter</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Food security</td>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments:**

**Shelter:**
- Families in overcrowded spaces/hosting
- Lack of shelter materials for repairs

**Food Security:**
- Food aid not sufficient
- NIB system inadequate
- Seeds for planting high priority

**Health:**
- Lack of health facilities
- Long distances to the health facilities
- Lack of drugs
- Increasing cases of ARTIs

**WASH:**
- Collapsing latrines
- Water born diseases

**Protection:**
- Many injuries have occurred due to pricks by prosopis trees which has invaded every place. The flooded canals are a danger to children crossing.

The immediate needs of this village are for the moment seen as slightly less immediate in comparison to other visited sites.

**Most vulnerable groups** are in all four sites identified by the community members as; children under 5, pregnant and lactating women and elderly.

**RESPONSE CAPACITY, CONSTRAINTS and PRIORITIES**

With only KRCS and MSF-Spain carrying out immediate relief plus limited food support by the Government, the prioritised needs of the communities visited were higher than response that had been given. It is likely that needs of the communities yet not accessed, will further demonstrate gaps.

Information flow between levels of government, different ministries and with the humanitarian and development agencies should be improved in order to rapidly estimate coverage and specify gaps in supplies.

Damage to infrastructure hampered access for assessing situations and distributing immediate relief items such as shelter and NFI and WASH related support. Timely in-depth sectoral assessments for medium and longer term assistance could be negatively affected by this lack of access.
Prioritized immediate sectors are food, shelter and WASH, followed by health, and agriculture and livelihoods for longer term programming. The education sector needs to take action due to the impact the floods had at the end of term and the possibly late start of the school term in May due to damaged schools or schools being used at shelter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediate and intermediate Recommendations are summarized on page 1.

Longer Term Recommendations Include:

• Shelter/ house rehabilitation and reconstruction. Community involved in building/repairing shelters that are flood resistant and using best practices from other similar contexts.
• Health facilities rehabilitation and service coverage needs addressed
• Wash sector assessments and programming
• Permanent resettlement to higher grounds discussed with relevant community
• Improved EW system, including timely dissemination to communities at risk
• Community involvement in addressing longer term needs
• Empowerment of local government capacities in new devolution set-up
• Stabilization of livelihoods (see also annex C), including special attention to NIB villages
• DRR/ resilience actions taken & Restoration and/or infrastructure projects implemented
• Mapping of floods prone areas
• Strengthening of coordination structures established within the GoK and also with other stakeholders
Annex A.

Sites visited – Summary Characteristics & Findings/ Priority Needs

Wadesa: Pastoralist community (Wardei clan of Somali/muslim community) displaced by floods three weeks ago (beginning of April 2013). The entire community consists of 333 households, but due to the floods they have left their original village and self-displaced themselves into five different settlements within the same area (Wadesa). The assessment team visited one of the settlements with 47 households. They expect to return to their original homes as soon as the floods subside.

The assessment team found this community had received shelter/NFI aid from KRCS and food aid from the GoK. However, all supplies were stated as being insufficient. The community food stocks were damaged by flood waters, the major incident taking the community by surprise at 2 am one night. Many of their kitchen utensils were swept away, forcing them to share utensils between families. They also said they were not able to bring any bedding with them.

As the community relocated themselves, they had to leave some of their elderly and people with disabilities remaining at the public school, hoping to be able to support them by other family members going back and forth, with water supplies etc.

Men stated food and cooking utensils as their first priority, while women gave shelter the highest priority and food coming second. 27 HH did not receive any shelter materials. The limited spaces covered by tarpaulins are hence overcrowded during rain as families share the protection provided.

Shelter and bedding were the second priority for the men. Third and fourth priority areas for the men were medical supplies and water treatment. Women stated that a third priority for them was water jerricans for household storage. A male youth group discussion at the site revealed their order of priorities were food, shelter/NFI’s and health/medical supplies and fourthly WASH facilities.

As a pastoralist community with experience of flood situations, the majority of animals were quickly moved to higher grounds. Keeping only limited livestock, mostly goats, at the relocation site, there was limited supply of milk for household consumption. This in turn negatively impacts the nutritional status of young children who depend on the milk.

The Wadesa community is part of WFP regular programming, receiving Food For Assets (FFA) for 128 HH and in schools 225 children are covered by the Special Meal Programme (SMP).

Impassable roads and lack of markets, has stopped charcoal business activities.

As they are now using untreated water from nearby pans and canals, they fear outbreak of diseases.

The community stated there is no access to health facilities. Since the floods started, they have reported increased cases of diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria.

Morokani: The community consists of 4 predominantly farming villages (Nigoni, Ganapere, Chewele and Morokani) with a stated population of 429 persons, all from same ethnic group. According to information during the site visit, the floods came before the expected time and from a different source – the Kitui seasonal rivers. The waters destroyed the crops in the field as well as food items in stores. Market(s) are too far away and transport is unaffordable. No casual labour available. Fishing is not possible due to excessive water flows. Currently some immediate food needs are covered by men walking to Bura town to borrow food.
The number one priority need is therefore food. They also prioritize the need to receive seeds to resume farming as soon as waters recede.

The second priority, as rated by both women and men, was WASH. They lacked potable water, as well as water storage equipment. Site observations revealed good hygiene standards in the new settlement, i.e., no stagnant water or visible faecal matters. The practice of open defecation is however a concern for the women, especially at night due to fear of wild animals. Cooking activities using unclean water was noted. They lack soap and sufficient water for sanitary purposes. Women also highlighted the lack of sanitary hygiene materials for young girls and women.

Shelter needs are their third priority area. Tarpaulin sheets are too few, creating overcrowded spaces with no privacy and no protection from wild animals, nor the cold. Men often have to sleep outside in order to provide the necessary shelter for women and children.

A nursery school made of mud stands at the site.

The community expressed a wish to permanently settle on these higher grounds, provided the water situation during dry season was solved. Water sources when floods recede will be at an approximate distance of 8 km from the site. Providing a more convenient water source would enable the community to stay – ‘commuting’ back and forth to their farms - thus avoiding the seasonal displacements taking place every year.

MSF-Spain, working predominantly in riverine villages, had just started to support the community at the time of the field mission. NFIs had been distributed and basic health services initiated at site visited.

In Morokani area WFP had regularly supplied 187 HHs with FFA items and 588 children received SMP rations. A Supplementary Feeding Programme was stopped after Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation closed down facilities, allegedly due to staff shortage.

**Village 5:** A farming community (multi-ethnic/multi-religious Kenyan community) severely affected by floods since the beginning of April 2013. The entire community consists of 300 households, a number now displaced by floods within the community. The assessment team visited some of the houses that were flooded, as well as the Nursery school now inhabited by displaced families. Others were living in makeshift shelters within the community. Prior to the visit by the mission team, a good part of the village had been marooned by the flood waters.

Crops in the fields that had not yet been harvested were completely destroyed by the floods, as were the stocks of food items in stores.

The number one priority for men was shelter and for the women food, latter supported by group discussions with male youth.

With food stocks destroyed, access and availability of food supplies was an issue. Many houses are still clogged with mud and water, further damaging the structures. A second priority for the women was WASH and, shelter according to the youth. The latrines in the village had collapsed and hygiene was stated as a challenge due to contaminated water and the lack of facilities.

Men highlighted Equity Bank loans write off as their second priority. They claimed they would not be able to repay the loans due to the destruction of the crops, a situation experienced year after year. The community demands a longer term solution to the recurring destruction caused by floods. As farmers within the National irrigation Board (NIB) scheme for Bura, they expressed serious concern over the amount of debts they had accrued. Particularly the men discussed these issues. An improvement of the
NIB scheme of farming and marketing is required to address a situation, which they now claim keep them in a situation of constant debts.

The community has received shelter/NFI aid from KRCS and food aid from the GoK. However, these supplies are deemed insufficient by the community.

The third priority area for men was food, for women medicines and for the male youth group it was WASH. The village dispensary was not functional and no outreach attempts had taken place. Access to health is an issue, causing concern also due to lack of potable water and very limited number of functional latrines. Majority of latrines had collapsed with fear of spread of diseases due to water contamination. The community were using untreated water from nearby water pans and canals.

The villages within the NIB scheme fall outside of WFP programme support.

**Village 8:** This site is also part of NIB scheme, set up in 1982. The community is made up of diverse members from different ethnic groups. The total number of HHs is 264, living in semi-permanent houses. They practice farming and keep a few livestock as well small scale business activities. No displaced persons were seen in tents or makeshift structures. Most of the community infrastructure was already in bad condition and the floods had visibly worsened the situation. The community said around 60 homes were damaged and the families had to move out, but most had since moved back. Families not able to move back lacked sufficient shelter materials. The food aid that had been provided was not sufficient and there is no access to markets due to impassable roads.

The farming is totally regulated by National Irrigation Board. According to the community this has had a negative impact on their food security situation since most produce is taken by National Irrigation Board and Kenya Seed Company.

Men prioritized shelter as the primary and women food as the most urgent need. Second in order of priority was for women as well as for men, food security/ livelihood. Women saw the need for seeds for growing new crops as a high priority.

The third priority emphasized in discussions with both women and men concerned health. An increasing number of ARTI’s and water borne diseases, lack of medical facilities as well as the distance to them and lack of drugs were major concerns. These needs were not an immediate effect of floods but reoccurring floods worsened the general situation. There were many young girls observed on site, with nursing babies identifying a need for health facilities that respond to reproductive needs of girls /women and children.

The preliminary assessment results display the community’s rate of poverty, with their underlying vulnerabilities compounded by regular floods. Issues of longer term livelihoods opportunities – with new cash loans and waiver of debts – had a high priority during the discussions. Likewise priority had suggestions for improvements of houses and infrastructure, eg working health facilities and building of foot bridges - all preventing the serious impacts of also coming floods.

The immediate needs of this village were not at that point in time as immediately pressing as those of other sites visited.
Annex B)
Cross Cutting Issues

In the sites visited, gender and protection issues were visible, especially where the floods had displaced communities to entirely new areas such as in Wadesa and Morokani.

In Morokani, the shelters are tarpaulin sheets that are open and expose women, girls and children to security and safety concerns. Both the men and women spoken to shared their fear of animals in the night, due to the open shelters, the cold weather as well as issues of privacy. Currently, mostly children and women sleep inside the shelter and men outside. In Village 8, there were households hosting other families. Men in the community mentioned how this overcrowding meant them having to share space with their young daughters, which made them feel ‘awkward’.

The sex separate facilities in terms of safe toilets and bathing space was absent in all the sites, though there were designated areas for men and women.

In Morokani, people with disabilities, and the elderly could be seen and were taken care of by the communities. In Wadesa, communities indicated that due to the floods, they had to abandon the elderly and the people with disabilities, as they ran for safety to higher ground. HIV/AIDS was not highlighted as a concern and neither were issues of GBV by either women or men. Being invisible doesn’t necessarily mean absent. These being sensitive issues, the response might also be stemming from community’s prioritization of other basic needs of foods, shelter at this stage.

There were many adolescent girls with breast feeding children visible in the sites, revealing that the girls may be married off and having children at a very young age. In Morokani, on being asked about women headed households, the headmen mentioned that women who lose their husbands are ‘taken’ in and married into other families. These practices reflect negative coping strategies that might be traditionally prevalent in the communities, and not linked directly to the current floods. Another area for similar exploitation is in food access, in Morokani and Wadesa, the women in communities displaced, depended on their men to bring food. In households led by women without an elder male support, the dependency could lead to harmful practices/abuse. While no such indication was prevalent now, if this phase continues and the floods exacerbate, the possibilities of such exploitation is imminent.
Annex C

Emerging Needs

While it is true that the floods in the Tana North district is an emergency situation with communities being displaced, houses and assets damaged, livelihoods destroyed, and even lives lost, it is also true that this may not exactly be an acute emergency situation. Floods have been a recurring disaster (although the impacts of previous floods were not as intense as they are now) in this area, and there is now a stronger need for early recovery and long term development to reduce disaster impacts, strengthen resilience, improve the overall living conditions of the communities, and also to empower the capacity of the County government. To address the emerging needs of this area, coordination between humanitarian and development actors is essential, and the following interventions were identified as necessary:

1. Restoration and/or Construction of Infrastructure

Roads and bridges have been severely damaged due to the floods, and while this has prevented organisations from providing immediate relief aid, it will also affect the longer term development of this area. Schools have been repeatedly damaged, and this not only affects the education of the students (e.g. students unable to take exams, etc.), but also increases the risk of the school building to collapse. For the safety of children, schools need to be repaired or relocated. Latrines are also important- the floods easily destroy them and this leads to water contamination and water-borne diseases. Latrines should be built on safer grounds and there should be separate latrines for men and women. Most importantly, there is a great need for dams, canals, and storm water drains to be either repaired or built in order to better manage the sudden increase of water and to be better prepared for droughts.

2. Stabilisation of Livelihoods

Pastoralist communities required adequate vaccination for their livestock. Agriculturalist communities displayed a more complex situation that required an overall improvement in the current farming mechanism. It was found that communities under the National Irrigation Scheme have been suffering for several years from high debt and pending payments. In addition, the current floods have destroyed all their crops- both for consumption and sale. In addition, unlike the pastoralists, the agriculturalists did not have any ideas of alternative livelihoods. There is a need for providing alternative skills trainings, especially for the youth.

3. Improvements in Health Facilities and Services

The health centres and services in this area are very limited. The nearest health centres would be at least several kilometers away from the communities, and while accessibility may not be an issue, lack of drugs has been a constant problem. With the floods, water-borne diseases have increased, worsening the situation. It is critical to ensure stable access to health centres and to secure sufficient amount of drugs at all times. HIV/AIDS need to be better addressed.

4. WASH

WASH issues need to be emphasised and addressed properly to the communities. Traditionally, open defecation is practiced by pastoralists which raises questions on sanitation and hygiene. Agriculturalists seemed more concerned with WASH, yet necessary items and facilities (e.g. soap, latrines, etc.) are lacking.
5. Empowerment of Local Government Capacity

With the new County government, support is necessary to empower its capacity in handling disasters and promoting development in this area. Support in information collection and management, early warning systems, assessment, planning, coordination, resource mobilization, informal/community level conflict resolution (e.g. conflicts between pastoralist communities and agriculturalist communities) are needed. Regarding the floods, there may be a need for the government to permanently relocate certain communities to higher grounds and this will also need support from various organisations. Moreover, it is very important that the County government recognises the gap between the victims and the beneficiaries of the floods, and support in balancing the two is crucial.