

**terre des hommes**  
**stops child exploitation**



# **IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON CHILDREN IN MOYALE SUB COUNTY, MARSABIT COUNTY.**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT  
JULY, 2022.**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

**CBO's** Community Based Organization  
**CE** Child Exploitation  
**CoK** Constitution of Kenya  
**CRC** Convention on the Rights of the Child  
**CSOs** Civil Society Organization  
**ECD's** Early Childhood Development  
**FGD's** Focused Group Discussion  
**FGM/C** Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting  
**IPC** Integrated Food Security Phase Classification  
**KII's** Key Informant Interviews  
**NDMA** National Drought Management Authority  
**NGO's** Non-Governmental Organization  
**SDG's** Sustainable Development Goal's  
**SND** Strategies for Northern Development  
**SPSS** Statistical Package for Social Science  
**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme  
**WVI** World Vision International

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## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Caregiver:** A person or guardian who is charged with the responsibility for a child's welfare. (Guidelines for the Alternative Family Care of Children in Kenya, 2014).

**Child:** This is any person under the age of 18 years, according to the Kenyan Constitution.

**Child Abuse:** Involves acts of commission and/ or omission, which result in harm to the child. The four types of abuse are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect (National Plan of Action for Children in Kenya (2015–2022) (Government of Kenya, 2015).

**Child Protection:** Describes the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or stop children being abused or neglected.

**Child marriage:** refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.

**Child labour:** is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

**Child Recruitment:** The act of enrolling children under the age of 18 into an armed force or armed group.

**Child participation:** Child participation is a process of child development that provides an opportunity for children to be involved in decision-making on matters that affect their lives and to express their views in accordance with their evolving capacities.

**Child pregnancy:** Is pregnancy in a female under the age of 18.

**Child work:** Refers to light activities done by children within their homes under the observation and supervision of their families in an environment free of exploitation. Child work allows children to learn the roles they are expected to take on during adulthood.

**Child trafficking:** Is the illegal movement of children for labour or sexual exploitation. Children are trafficked for many reasons, including forced labour, prostitution and recruitment as child soldiers and beggars.

**Child defilement:** occurs when adults use children for sexual gratification or expose them to sexual activities.

**Coping strategies:** are the behaviors, thoughts, and emotions that you use to adjust to the changes that occur in your life.

**Coping Strategy Index:** The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) is an indicator of a household's food security, assessing the extent to which households use harmful coping strategies when they do not have enough food or enough money to buy food.

**Disability:** defined as any condition of the body or impairment that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities.



**Drought:** Defined as an event of prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric, surface water or groundwater.

**Famine:** defined as widespread scarcity of food caused by crop failure and natural disasters.

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent.

**Food Consumption Score:** The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a more complex indicator of a household's food security status, as it considers not only dietary diversity and food frequency but also the relative nutritional importance of different food groups (on the other hand, its use of relatively long, 7 days recall period, might make the data less precise).

**Household:** Described as all the people who occupy a single housing unit, regardless of their relationship to one another.

**Internally Displaced Persons:** "Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border."

**Kiosk:** Described as small shops where merchandise is sold in the communities.

**Sexual exploitation:** is the mistreating, abusing, and/or taking advantage of someone for personal gain and profit, by involving them in prostitution or commercial sexual activity.

**Unconditional cash Transfer:** Unconditional cash transfers are cash payments provided to financially disadvantaged people without requiring anything in return.

**Worst forms of child labour:** These include slavery and similar issues such as the trafficking of children, debt bondage, and children in armed conflict.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The impact of drought on children in the Moyale sub-county assessment report is a product of an intensive and interactive process that comprised invaluable efforts of a wide range of players. It is in this regard that Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL), Kenya Country Office recognizes the various players for their selfless inputs in ensuring that this report came into being.

The assessment and development of this report were made possible through the professional and technical expertise of NAJJ Consultants. I wish to recognize the input of the TdH NL colleagues who participated throughout the process: Dennis Ratemo, Programme Manager, for providing leadership to the team and the evaluation, Job Osewe, Programme Coordinator, for coordinating the exercise, Lillian Mutuku, Programme Monitoring Evaluation Research & Learning Officer, Angela Nyamu, Technical Advisor, Child Protection, and all other colleagues from the Kenya Country office, Regional office and Head office for their invaluable contributions in this process, from tool development to report validation.

Special thanks go to TdH Germany for providing financial and technical support towards this project that aims to contribute to mitigating the adverse effects of the ongoing drought on children and their families in Moyale Sub County of Marsabit County through cash transfer intervention and capacity strengthening of child protection systems.

It is also worthwhile to commend Strategies for Northern Development (SND), the local partner charged with the implementation of this project for 9 months starting from 1st January 2022 to 30th September 2022.

The immense contribution made by children and youth, caregivers, government agencies, and local CSOs is greatly appreciated. They made this exercise possible by providing information during data collection. This report would not be possible if they hesitated to participate as respondents in the assessment.

Finally, I wish to appreciate the role played by other stakeholders who I may not have mentioned here for their contribution.



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction of the Project

The project titled: Child Protection in Drought Emergencies in Marsabit, Kenya runs for nine months (1st January, 2022 - 30th September, 2022). It is an emergency response project for nine months. The project aims to contribute to mitigating the adverse effects of the ongoing drought on children and their families in Moyale Sub County of Marsabit County through cash transfer intervention. Children affected by drought shall also be protected from threats of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. The project will also establish critical child protection structures in areas where there are none while strengthening the existing ones. This will enhance coordination and ensure the provision of services to children in need.

### ***Assessment, focus, purpose, study area, and specific objectives:***

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) in partnership with Strategies for Northern Development (SND) with financial support from Terre des Hommes Germany, is implementing an emergency intervention to prevent and respond to child exploitation during the ongoing drought emergency in Moyale Sub County. To inform targeted delivery, the project sought to conduct a situation analysis of children in drought-affected areas of Moyale Sub County, with a focus on child exploitation. The assessment of the impact of drought on children was conducted in a participatory manner using both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

The purpose of the assessment of the impact of drought on children is to determine the extent to which drought has affected children, establish the coping mechanisms, identify gaps in response, possible hidden child exploitation, and recommendations. The assessment was conducted by NAJJ Consultants in June 2022.

The assessment was conducted in Marsabit County, Moyale Sub-County in the northern part of Kenya. The sub-county covers a geographical area of 9,390 km square with an estimated population of 103 799 which translates to an average of 17 299, households distributed in 4 wards i.e., Hellu Manyatta, Golbo, Township, and Butiye.

### ***The specific objectives for the assessment are as follows:***

- 1 To ascertain the extent to which drought affects children, their families, and communities, as well as the related or resulting child exploitation.
- 2 To establish the coping mechanisms by communities and the implications for boys' and girls' well-being, i.e., people's knowledge, attitude, skills, and social capital, among others, to cope and adapt to drought and other stresses as a result of the extra prevalent emergencies in the country.
- 3 To explore possible hidden child exploitation, including new trends as a result of the drought situation.
- 4 To identify gaps in the response to child exploitation before and during the drought emergency.
- 5 To provide recommendations to key stakeholders on sustainable actions to protect children from CE and their integration into drought mitigation mechanisms.

### ***Assessment Methodology:***

The assessment adopted a descriptive analytical study design, a participatory assessment approach, and mixed methods comprising both quantitative and qualitative data collection.



The survey also involved the review of secondary data relating to the drought situation in the country. The primary household participants for the assessment were caregivers in Moyale Sub-County, while the secondary participants were the children and all stakeholders in the children's rights space and those involved in drought issues within the region.

The assessment achieved a sample size of 422 participants proportionately distributed across the four wards: Hellsu Manyatta (104), Golbo (160), Township (78), and Butiye (134). The assessment employed cluster random sampling, using villages as a primary unit of sampling to select caregivers to participate in household interviews. Purposive sampling techniques were used to select the key informants and FGD participants. Quantitative data management and descriptive statistics analysis were done using SPSS software, while qualitative data was analyzed by thematic content analysis.

The assessment was conducted in conformity with the ethical principles, standards, and child safeguarding policy of TdH NL, and practices of any study or evaluation. Specific attention and considerations were given to ethical issues around Informed Consent and Confidentiality; Privacy and Safety; Data Protection; and Sensitivity and Non-Disclosure.

## Key Findings



### Extent of droughts effect

96.8 percent of the respondents indicated that the current drought has had a profound effect on their households and general livelihoods, more so in Golbo Ward, where the impact is severe. From the KII and FGDs, the effects included loss of livestock, school dropout by children, complete crop failure among the farmers, leading to famine, and inter-ethnic conflicts due to loss of pasture and water, among others. Incidents of conflict have compounded the situation by forcing some communities to migrate to safer places. From the key informant interviews, most populations have migrated to areas in search of pasture and water for family use.

**Impact on child emotion and mental health** Drought has forced children to perform tasks that are beyond their age-appropriate capabilities. This leaves children vulnerable to injury, stress, and emotional challenges. Children were reported to be involved in child labour outside the home by 17.2% of respondents.

**Impact on Child protection** The assessment notes that parents engage in more activities away from home, like far-off grazing fields, and long distances searching for water and food; children suffer the consequences as they are left to care for themselves and the household duties. Drought has manifold increased the risk and numbers related to child labour, child marriage, etc. The details are furnished further under the section named "hidden forms of child exploitation." Lack of parental care was as a result of a number of compounded issues as was reported in the household survey; inability to provide for the children, 35.8% (44), children's movement to stay with other family members, 26.0% (32), children out of employment, 12.2% (15), school dropouts, 9.8% (12), delinquency, 14.6% (18).

### Impact on Education

- ▶ From the assessment, drought's overall impact on education was listed as low school enrolment and retention, intermittent attendance, dropout, and poor performance.
- ▶ Education of children was given low priority as families migrated out of their villages in search of subsistence, sometimes in the neighboring counties or across the border. Poor school enrolment due to lack of food, family migration and internal displacement due to drought-related conflict was reported by 9.6%, 4.3%, and 2.1%

of respondents respectively.

- ▶ Reasons for not being enrolled in school were mentioned to be family migration (4.3%), internally displaced (2.1%), sickness (14.9%), lack of school fees (33.0%), the child dropping out (26.6%), lack of food (9.6%) and other reasons (9.6%) among the participants. 60.4 percent of participants said that the school feeding program made the pupils attend school regularly.
- ▶ Drought and famine were established to be the major contributors to pupils' absenteeism from school, as indicated by 28.8% and 27.1% respectively by respondents. Another 14.8% identified insecurity as a factor which led to the closure of the school, stated by 8.0% of the respondents.

## **b. Health, Food, Water, and Nutritional insecurity**

- ▶ **Water Insecurity:** The reduced availability of water for domestic use has directly affected hygiene and sanitation. Personal hygiene practices were largely compromised due to unavailability.
- ▶ **Health:**  
There are cases where children suffer ill health and malnutrition due to lack of food, water, and nutrients caused by drought, cases of typhoid, cholera, and other diseases.
- ▶ **Nutritional Insecurity:**  
Cases of malnutrition were reported in all the wards in the Moyale sub-county, with the cases being severe in Golbo Ward.
- ▶ Parents are not able to feed milk to their under five-year-old children as they do not get milk from the livestock and the packaged milk is also expensive. As a result, children are not getting adequate nutrition.
- ▶ At the time of the assessment, only 10.8 percent (4) of children within the households were enrolled in the government supplementary feeding program, while 89.2 percent (33) were not enrolled.
- ▶ **Food Insecurity:** Drought effects have resulted in a low crop yield, subsequently leading to inadequate food availability and high food prices.
- ▶ **Household Coping Strategy Index:** Established to be quite high at 19.5 above the agreeable limit of (CSI  $\leq$  10). In terms of response, the community has devised various coping strategies to drought effects such as reducing food ratios, skipping some meals, sale of assets, migrating, and engaging in small business ventures.
- ▶ **Food Consumption Score:** The level of food consumption score was categorized as 0–21 as poor, 21.5–35 as borderline, and  $> 35$  as acceptable. Only 23.4% (111) of the households reported having an acceptable food consumption score, while 43.2% and 33.3% were within poor and borderline food consumption, respectively.
- ▶ **Support provided to Households:** Only 130 (27.5%) of the respondents are currently receiving assistance in the form of food, cash transfers, and school feeding.
- ▶ **Response to Drought:** There are a number of stakeholders responding to the drought situation with various initiatives and projects, including cash transfer, food distribution, school feeding programmes, drilling of boreholes, and water tracking, among others. Both the national and county governments and non-state actors such as World Vision, PACIDA, SND, Islamic Relief, Dorcas Aid, and National Drought Management Authority are the key actors.

## c. Coping mechanisms

- ▶ The community has adopted several mechanisms for coping with the drought situation, such as: selling assets and livestock to buy food items for the households, marrying off young girls in exchange for dowry, boys leaving school to tend **livestock**; quarrying sand, burning charcoal for sale, collecting firewood for sale and engaging in small enterprises. Community members seek financial help from their relatives, i.e., remittances.

## d. Hidden Possible Child Exploitation

### Child labour and child marriage:

All the participants reported children being involved in work. They were reported to be participating in work-related activities at various levels, family 89.1%, community (40%), and both family and community (10.5%) .17.2% of participants reported that children were involved in income-generating activities to support their families. Charcoal burning (8.9%), working out of home for income (3.6%), and selling products for family income (4.7%). In addition, 50% of participants reported increased engagement of children in these activities. Child marriage was reported by 24.3%(115) of the respondents.

### Gaps in response to Child Exploitation

1. The data available lacks child specific issues on the impact of drought. There is an opportunity to work with NDMA to integrate children's issues into work plans and provide child disaggregated analysis.
2. There were non-targeted interventions on the drought response by different actors - for instance, child labour rose during drought, and yet most of the interventions by the government and various non-governmental actors did not target children in these situations.
3. Lack of reporting child exploitation incidences to the child protection structures at the local level- Children were sexually abused as a result of the drought, but these were not explicitly reported by the caregivers because, culturally, it is not permitted to discuss these issues with strangers.
4. Weak child protection referral systems. The children themselves, when interrogated during the FGD, were categorical that they were not aware of the referral systems.

## Conclusion

Drought is a reality in Moyale Sub County, children, and women were found to be the most vulnerable and therefore are more prone to being exposed to abuse. Drought in this sub-county has led to a decrease in people's access to improved water sources, which has led to an increased risk of diseases, which has an effect on their health and hygiene practices. Drought has long-term effects on children since it deprives them of the realization of their rights and future development. The loss of livelihoods and incomes pushed children out of school and led to school dropouts, child marriages, child labor, and forced marriages. From the assessment, the communities practice negative coping mechanisms during drought sessions and this affects their general livelihoods. For example, children who are put to work to supplement family income are exposed to child labour; the marriage of the children in exchange of materials for family use; this draws the children from school, exposing them to exploitation and related health complications.

Socio-economic factors such as migration have limited opportunities, while food aid has increased dependency. There is a need to strengthen the role of institutions in supporting knowledge transfer and the development of sustainable community-owned initiatives.

### Key Conclusions and Recommendations

- a. Drought has an impact on children, and this requires a child-centric intervention through the caregivers, the schools, and the community.
- b. Food insecurity brought about by drought affects the entire sub-county but is severe in the Golbo ward. There is a need to support the children through cash transfer programs, food distribution, and school feeding programs.
- c. The community depends on livestock as their source of income and livelihood, but this has been adversely affected by drought. There is a need to support alternative livelihoods, microenterprises, and agro-pastoralist ventures.
- d. The sub-county has no early warning signs or drought risk mitigation strategies. There is a need to strengthen and actively promote participatory risk mitigation mechanisms to help communities diversify their livelihood sources and develop adaptive environmental conditions in drought response.
- e. The data available lacks child-specific issues on the impact of drought. There is an opportunity to work with NDMA to integrate children's issues into work plans and provide child disaggregated analysis.
- f. Address children's issues through policy, budgets, and programs such as school feeding programs in all primary schools, supplementary nutrition programs for ECDs, and the concept of kitchen gardening.
- g. Access and retention of children in schools require a multifaceted approach. There is a need to consistently advocate against this issue by creating awareness, supporting scholarship programs, and providing cash transfers to needy households.
- h. Water insecurity is a real problem during drought in the sub-county. There is a need to harness traditional community-based water management practices. Regular maintenance and participatory development would help in rejuvenating the culture of community-led natural resource management.
- i. There are a number of actors working to mitigate the effects of drought in the community, but the level of coordination is weak. There is a need to facilitate partnership building and reinforcement with different stakeholders that deal with drought, both between the government and NGOs and CBOs and within the different line-ministries of the government.
- j. Promote food security programs that are inclusive and accessible to marginalized populations, and consider the different nutritional requirements of children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and individuals with medical conditions.

## CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

This report is the culmination of an assessment of the impact of drought on children in Moyale Sub County. The report draws from a highly participatory and mixed approach process of the assessment.

### 1.1.1 Terre Des Hommes Netherlands (Tdh NL)

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) is an international child rights organisation committed to stopping child exploitation. TdH NL goal is hinged on the need to identify, expose and respond to hidden and emerging forms of child exploitation taking place all over the world, so children can be children.

Our vision is 'a world in which children are no longer exploited' and our mission is 'to prevent child exploitation, remove children from exploitative situations and ensure these children can develop in a safe environment.'

Our vision and mission are inspired and guided by international human rights instruments and standards, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe's Lanzarote Convention, the International Labour Organisation Conventions and aligned with achievement of the SDGs, in particular Goals 5, 8 and 16.

In Africa, Terre des Hommes Netherlands works in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Madagascar. In Kenya, TdH NL programmes are implemented in Central, Rift Valley, Coastal, Western and Northern regions of Kenya where we collaborate with other CSOs and networks in the execution of projects aimed at preventing child exploitation and providing assistance to exploited children.

### 1.1.2 Project Description

The Child Protection in Drought Emergencies in Marsabit, Kenya runs for nine months (1st January 2022 - 30th September 2022). It is an emergency response project for nine months only and the project aims at mitigating the adverse effects of the ongoing drought on children and their families in Moyale Sub County, Marsabit County through cash transfer interventions. Children affected by drought shall also be protected from threats of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. The project will also establish critical child protection structures in areas where there are none while strengthening the existing ones. This will enhance coordination and ensure the provision of services to children in need.

### 1.1.3 Project Partner and Geographic Coverage

Strategies for Northern Development (SND), is a local non-governmental organization working with nomadic pastoralist communities in Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia. SND was registered in Kenya with the NGO Coordination Board as a fully-fledged NGO on the 6th of December 2007 and in Ethiopia with the Agency for Civil Society Organization on the



## 1.2 CHILD PROTECTION IN DROUGHT EMERGENCIES IN MARSABIT COUNTY

### 1.2.1 National Context

Compared to the rest of the world, Kenya sits fairly high in the ranks of countries most likely to feel the significant impacts of climate change. In 2018, the University of Notre Dame's Global Adaptation Initiative Index [ranked](#) Kenya 36th among all countries in terms of vulnerability to climate change effects—and 152nd in terms of preparedness to deal with these effects. An estimated 30% of Kenyan livestock owners were forced to find new sources of income between 1997 and 2017, according to a [2017 report](#) from Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. And the [World Bank estimates](#) that droughts caused some \$1.08 billion in losses due to their impact on Kenya's livestock populations between 2007 and 2017.

Kenya is very vulnerable to climate change occasioned by high temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, increased incidence of droughts and floods, and rising sea levels, which are impacting people across the country. The slightest increase in the frequency of drought causes huge challenges for food security and water availability, especially in the North and East of the country. The Kenyan Climate Change Act (KCCA) mandates local authorities to use 2% of their budgets for adaptation, which is inadequate in addressing adaptation issues. The Kenya County Climate Change Fund (CCCCF) is a pioneering mechanism to facilitate the flow of climate finance to county governments. It also aims to empower local communities by promoting their participation in the management and use of funds (e.g. for building resilience). The CCCC is a practical example of how climate finance can support climate-resilient development and effective adaptation as set out in the Paris Agreement. It has been piloted successfully in five counties in Kenya, and its expansion is one of the priorities in the National Climate Change Action Plan, 2018–2022.

### 1.2.3 Situational Analysis of Children In Marsabit County

Marsabit County has experienced a lot of challenges in tackling children's issues. For instance, among children, one in every seven was affected by monetary poverty or lack of financial means. On child protection, the county recorded a high number of reported cases of child neglect and abandonment in 2018, reporting 550 cases. Additionally, 13 cases of child emotional abuse and 50 cases of physical abuse were reported. There were no reported cases of female genital mutilation (FGM). The low/non-reporting of FGM to government institutions can be attributed to either intensive campaigns or initiatives to protect the child, or the population's fear of reporting such cases, as well as the culture that tolerated such practices. The proportion of stunted children was estimated at 27 percent, higher than the national average of 26 percent. Furthermore, 84.3 percent of children were living in multidimensional poverty, which means they were deprived in multiple areas such as nutrition, healthcare, education, housing, and drinking water. There is inequality in access to education between male and female school-going children in favor of girls at primary level and in favor of boys at secondary level.

The county has prioritized investment for children. The county's share of fully immunized children increased from 71.7 percent in 2014 to 83.2 percent in 2018. The county also sought to increase the proportion of children who are fully immunized from 71.7 percent to 85.0 percent. The budget for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) increased from Ksh 0.3 billion in 2014/15 to Ksh 0.6 billion in 2017/18. However, the ECDE net enrolment rate (NER) decreased from 50.5 per cent in 2014 to 30.4 per cent in 2018. The challenge for the country is the incorporation of pastoralism, lifestyle, and education. The county needs to ensure equitable distribution and effective utilization of available resources. Additionally, the county needs to increase ECDE budget allocation to address the shortage of staff and inadequacy of ECDE facilities. For children, the county intends to train children and caretakers on their duties and responsibilities. It also aimed to reduce cases of child abuse and neglect by conducting public awareness campaigns on children's rights and rescuing children from abuse and neglect.

## 1.3 Impact of Drought Assessment on Children

### 1.3.1 Purpose and Objectives of the Assessment

1. Determine to what extent drought has affected children, their families, and communities and the related and consequent child exploitation.
2. Establish coping mechanisms by communities and the implications for boys' and girls' well-being, i.e., people's knowledge, attitude, skills, social capital, etc., to cope and adapt to the drought and other stresses as a result of other prevalent emergencies in the country.
3. Explore possible hidden child exploitation, including new trends as a result of the drought situation.
4. Identify gaps in the response to child exploitation before and during the drought emergency.
5. Provide recommendations to key stakeholders on sustainable actions to protect children from CE and their integration into drought mitigation mechanisms.

Children, Youth and Women Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Kenya: Marsabit County Brief, 2014/15-2017/18. Marsabit County- Policy Brief.pdf Ibid

### 1.2.2 Marsabit County Context

Marsabit County is located in the upper eastern region of Kenya. It borders Ethiopia to the North, Wajir to the north east, Isiolo to the south East, Samburu to the south; and Turkana to the west. It covers an area of 70,961.2km<sup>2</sup> and lies between latitude 10 58'N and 20 1' S and longitude 380 34'E and 410 32'E. The county has four (4) sub-counties, namely North Horr, Moyale, Saku, and Laisamis. The county has four major livelihood zones: pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, fisheries, and urban, which are divided into the following proportions: pastoralists 81%, agro-pastoralists 16%, and others (formal employment, casual wage labor, petty trade & fisheries) 3%. Pastoralists dominate almost all parts of the four sub-counties, with agro-pastoralists mostly notable in Saku and some parts of Moyale sub-counties, while others are mainly notable in urban areas, mainly the county and sub-county capitals. According to the 2019 census, the county had a population of 459,785 (243,548 male, 216,219 female, and 18 intersex). The county is among the poorest in Kenya, with poverty levels standing at 87.8%. With 80% of the county classified as rangelands and 80% of the population eking out a living from pastoralism, which is the main economic mainstay, the biting drought has visited untold suffering on the inhabitants of this county. The Cushitic Rendille, Gabra, Borana, the Nilotic Samburu, and Turkana have been living in this vast country whose resources have been eaten into by the perennial drought.

According to the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA, 2021), in the October 2021 Early Warning phase classification report, Marsabit County's drought status was proclaimed with a worsening trend. The county has been experiencing multiple shocks for the last 2 years, such as COVID-19, desert locusts, ethnic conflicts, and two successive rainfall failures. Since September 2021, much of Kenya's north has received less than 30% of normal rainfall – the worst short-rain season recorded in decades, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network. The lack of rainfall has wiped out pastures and exacerbated food and water shortages, which has led to poor nutritional levels among children, thereby compromising their health. Cases of malnutrition, stunting, and wasting are common in the county.

### 1.3.2 The Assessment Scope

The assessment is an empirical source of data for TdH to interrogate the correlation between drought and child abuse and neglect in Marsabit County and establish, through qualitative data, coping mechanisms by communities to further support advocacy work in Moyale Sub County. The assessment further sought to appreciate people's knowledge, attitudes, skills, and social capital essential in adapting to drought and other stresses as a result of other prevalent emergencies in Marsabit County aimed at strengthening community capacity in child care and protection.

## CHAPTER 2: ASSESSMENT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the approach and process that was employed in conducting the assessment, including the assessment design, scope, sampling procedures, data collection, data analysis, limitations, and ethical considerations.

### 2.1 Assessment Design and Process

The assessment adopted a descriptive analytical study design, a participatory assessment approach, and mixed methods comprising both quantitative and qualitative data collection. The design helped to measure and analyze multiple variables like age, demographic indicators, gender, etc. concurrently and also allowed for triangulation of data as per the objective of the assessment by comparing the qualitative and quantitative results. The survey also involves the review of secondary data related to the drought situation in the country.

**Figure 1: Assessment Process**



## 2.2 Target participants

The primary household participants for the assessment were caregivers in Moyale Sub-County. Children's opinions and views were captured through FGDs and IDIs. Selected stakeholders included the Children's department, government agencies at the county level, Strategies for Northern Development, National Drought Management Authority, Dorcas Aid, PACIDA, Islamic Relief in Golbo Ward, World Vision-GLOBO Area Program, and those involved in drought issues within the region also participated as respondents in the study.

## 2.3 Sample size and sampling techniques

Forty villages equally distributed in the four wards were selected for the assessment. The minimum sample size for the participants (one per household) was determined by using the statistical formula of Fisher et.al (1991) for calculating sample size;  $N = Z^2pq/d^2$ . Where; N = Minimum sample size for a statistically significant survey, Z = Normal deviant at the portion of 95% confidence interval = 1.96, P =50 %, q = 1- p, d = Margin of error acceptable = 0.05.  $1.962 (0.5) (0.5)/0.052 = 384$  plus 10% non-response total to a minimum sample size of 422 participants which was proportionately distributed per ward as shown in table 1 below.

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**Table 1: Distribution of the Sample Size**

Ward	Population (Kenya Population Census 2019)	No. of HH	Sample size distribution	Achieved HH
Hellu Manyatta	26487	4414	103	104
Golbo	31425	5237	122	160
Township	24980	4163	97	78
Butiye	26047	4341	101	134
Total	108,939	18,155	422	476

The survey engaged 8 key informants and convened 8 FGDs (4 for children and 4 for adults) equally distributed per ward. Each FGD consisted of between 10 and 12 participants.

### **Sampling Techniques:**

The assessment employed cluster random sampling, using villages as a primary unit of sampling to select caregivers to participate in household interviews. A list of villages adopted from the census list was used to randomly sample 10 villages per ward. At the village level, a list of households was generated with the help of a village elder, from which caregivers' households were randomly sampled to participate in the study. Purposive sampling



techniques were used to select the key informants and FGD participants. The selection of KIIs was based on their experience with drought and child-related work, while FGDs were men, women, and children from the community from all the wards.

#### **Inclusion criteria:**

All caregivers present in the household at the time of the survey were eligible to participate in the survey. All caregivers and children between the ages of 10 and 18 were separately selected to participate in the FGDs while a selection of key informants guided their role in child protection and drought interventions.

## **2.4 Assessment Phases and Management**

### **2.4.1 Inception Phase**

A preliminary desk review was carried out in order to understand the context and background of the project, as well as the logistical arrangements for the exercise. The assessment was done by examining the project design documents, including Marsabit County Integrated Development Plan (2018–2022), Kenya National Climate Change Policy, Marsabit County Drought Early Warning Bulletin, April 2022, Project Proposals and strategies for implementation, and Marsabit short and long-term rain assessment reports for 2021 and 2022, among others. The team then developed the assessment design and methodology for data collection, data management, and data analysis, including data collection tools such as household questionnaires, KIIs, and FGD guides, along with the other documents for field data collection. This phase culminated in the Inception Report, detailing the sampling and data collection methodology, key informants, qualitative target groups, proposed data collection software, timeline, and execution plan.

### **2.4.2 Data Collection and Cleaning**

This phase comprised a secondary data review and field data collection based on the assessment tools developed in the inception phase. Firstly, the evaluation team advanced the secondary data review by fully making use of the county's strategy documents and project reports. Secondly, the evaluation team conducted primary data collection through HH questionnaires administered by 10 trained enumerators. Thirdly, the assessment team conducted 8 KIIs and 8 FGDs, 2 FGDs in each of the four wards.

### **2.4.3 Data collection Methods**

#### **a)Desk Review and Policy Analysis**

The desk review comprised a study of legal and institutional frameworks from across the globe, the continent, and Kenya. The frameworks were interrogated to inform the grounding of the assessment and then seek to decipher their strengths and weaknesses to advise on their applicability and efficacy in child care and protection in Marsabit County. The team critically looked at the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC, 1990), which formed the basis for understanding child rights as read together with Kenya's legal regimes Article 2 (5) and (6) of the Constitution of Kenya (CoK), 2010, and the Children Act, 2001.

The assessment team looked at other existing laws that relate to and protect children which include[1] [2]: Prevention of Torture Act, No. 12 of 2017; Health Act, No. 21 of 2017; The Sexual Offences Act, 2016; The Legal Aid Act, No. 6 of 2016; Anti-Doping Act, No. 5 of 2016; Protection against Domestic Violence Act, No. 2 of 2015; Victim Protection Act, No. 17 of

2014; and Marriage Act 2014 among others.

### **b) Household Survey**

The team collected quantitative data using Kobo Collect, an online data collection method and ten trained enumerators collected the data. The total number of people who responded were 164 male and 309 female, for a total of 473.

### **c) Key Informant Interview**

The following key informants were interviewed: Sub-County Children's Officer Moyale, Sub-County Administrator Moyale, Executive Director-Strategies for Northern, Sub-County Officer-National Drought Management Authority, Programme Manager-World Vision Golbo Area, Chief Moyale township location, Assistant Chief, Golbo, Chief- Hellu Location.

### **d) Focus Group Discussions**

The assessment convened eight FGDs, bringing together 96 participants from the 4 wards. The discussants represented parents, children, and religious and community leaders from Moyale Sub County-Marsabit. Using an FGD Guide, the assessment provided themes upon which the discussants anchored their views, understanding, and knowledge. The total number of children who participated in the FGD was 45, 20 girls and 25 boys, while for the adults FGDs, we had 51 participants comprising 29 men and 22 females.

## **2.5 Data Analysis and Management**

### **2.5.1 Quantitative data Analysis**

Quantitative data were processed and analyzed through the SPSS version 22 database to generate appropriate descriptive statistics for data population and disaggregation. The findings are illustrated in different forms, including tables as well as narratives. The entire process entailed data coding, cleaning, and generation of percentages, frequency tables, charts, and cross-tabulations that were used to develop the descriptive statistics on the evaluation themes.

### **2.5.2 Qualitative Data Analysis**

A content analysis approach was employed in processing and analyzing qualitative data. Data collected through KIIs and subsequent consultations were subjected to a content analysis process that included transcription, sorting and categorizing, identifying emerging themes, patterns, and trends, and thematic interpretation and triangulation to validate the findings. In this regard, the data was analyzed through thematic analysis in line with the objectives of the assessment. The qualitative data was also used to reinforce and interpret the quantitative findings, with select verbatim citations in their unadulterated form being used to give credence to the findings.

## **2.6 Ethical Considerations**

The assessment was conducted in conformity with the ethical principles, standards, and practices of any study or evaluation, and the propriety standards set out in the ToR and contract and the safeguarding policy. Specific attention and considerations were given to ethical issues around Informed Consent and Confidentiality; Privacy and Safety; Data Protection; and Sensitivity and Non-Disclosure. The participants were asked to sign an informed consent/assent form after being informed about the evaluation and their voluntary participation in the assessment.

The researchers were trained and oriented in research ethics and child safeguarding policy.

Informed consent was secured by explaining the purpose and objectives of the assessment, the nature and intended use of information sought, and participant selection criteria. Participants were given fair, clear and honest explanations of the extent to which confidentiality of information and records would be maintained. In regards to informed consent, voluntary participation was emphasized, with participants being offered the option to proceed with the engagement after an explanation of what the evaluation was all about.

The FGD with children took approximately one hour. The tool that was administered to them was made in simple language. The Chaperons, who are the coordinators for children in school, helped to mobilize the children.

The mixed-methods approach coupled with triangulation of data through various means ensured impartiality and lack of bias. The assessment team has extensive experience in data collection and subsequently observed the rules of integrity, honesty and respect for dignity and diversity, fair representation, and compliance with codes for vulnerable groups, irrespective of differences in culture, religion, gender, disability, age, and ethnicity.

## **CHAPTER 3: CONTEXT ANALYSIS**

This chapter presents an overview, contextual analysis of climate change and its impact on children, drawing from literature and document review. It covers a summary analysis of the national context, including drought and impact, child protection issues, and mechanisms in place to mitigate the impact of drought on children.

### **3.1.1 Climate change and adaptation in Marsabit County**

The majority of the population in Marsabit County is dependent on food aid. Due to the arid climate and lack of natural resources, the main source of livelihood for people in the county is nomadic animal husbandry. Climate change, however, is leading to increasingly frequent droughts and unpredictable precipitation patterns, resulting in a greater scarcity of natural resources. This increases competition within the expanding population for the remaining grazing areas and water resources and exacerbates existing conflicts. A growing number of people are no longer able to cope with the prevailing economic system. Livelihoods and food security are increasingly threatened because the natural resources linked to food security are not being sustainably managed in the counties.

In Marsabit, close to 282,000 people are annually exposed to harmful droughts, representing 61% of the population and including over 142,000 children. Malnutrition and starvation among children are more pronounced indicators of drought-related issues in Marsabit, which make children susceptible to diseases, leading to lasting effects on growth and development.

### **3.1.2 Child protection- Legal and Policy Framework**

Kenya prides itself on a robust and progressive child rights legal and policy regime drawing on international, regional, and national commitments. Kenya, as part of the international community, has signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. These instruments form part of Kenya's legal regime through Article 2 (5) and (6) of the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010, and enactment of the Children Act, 2001, and their implementation is also enshrined in Vision

Adaptation to Climate Change in Northern Kenya.

[Adaptation to climate change in North-Eastern Kenya \(giz.de\)](https://www.giz.de/pressroom/2021/01/adaptation-to-climate-change-in-north-eastern-kenya/)

Disaster Risk Profile-Marsabit County,2021: [MARSABIT\\_COUNTY\\_REPORT\\_final.pdf](#)

2030. Kenya has also made significant progress towards promoting children's rights, including legal and policy reform and setting up corresponding systems and structures to support child care, protection and participation.

The Children's Act (2022) addresses specific emerging issues that affect children including increased cases of abuse and violence against children, trafficking, radicalization, sexual violence within households, child marriage, Online Sexual Exploitation; inadequate allocation of resources to child welfare programmes; challenges in the coordination of stakeholders in the children's sector; and inadequate data and information to inform planning and implementation of policies and programmes.

Other existing laws that relate to and protect children include: Prevention of Torture Act, No. 12 of 2017; Health Act, No. 21 of 2017, The Sexual Offences Act, 2016; The Legal Aid Act, No. 6 of 2016; Anti-Doping Act, No. 5 of 2016; Protection against Domestic Violence Act, No. 2 of 2015; Victim Protection Act, No. 17 of 2014; Marriage Act 2014.

At the national level, there are a number of policies that protect children's rights, including: the National Care Reform Strategy for Children in Kenya 2022-2032, The National Plan of Action for Children in Kenya 2015-2022, the National Plan of Action to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse of children in Kenya 2022-2026, the National Plan of Action on trafficking in persons 2019-2024, the National response plan on violence against children 2019-2023, National Plan of Action for Addressing Adolescent Health Teenage Pregnancy in Kenya 2021, The National Standard Operating Procedures for the Management of Sexual Violence against Children (2018), The County Government Policy on Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2017.

The National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework towards the Prevention of and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Kenya, The National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (2015), The Basic Education Act, 2014; The Framework for the National Child Protection System in Kenya (2011); The National Child Policy Kenya (2010); The National Policy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence; and the National Policy on the Elimination of Child Labour.

Despite the progressive legal and policy framework, concerns abound with respect to interpretation, operationalization, compliance, and enforcement. Other drawbacks to the realization of children's rights include lack of legislation on age-appropriate child sexual abuse (CSA), adjudication of child rights violations through parallel traditional justice systems, persistent social acceptance of harmful traditional practices, and inadequate government resource allocation to child-focused departments, and lack of a comprehensive national monitoring system of child protection.

Kenya is also yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography and has ratified the Maputo Protocol with a reservation on Art. 14 (2) (c) addressing reproductive rights.

### 3.1.3 Climate Change - Legal and Policy Frameworks

Kenya has a robust framework of policies, plans and institutions being progressively established at the National and County levels to address climate change. The foundation of the institutional and legal framework for climate change action is the Constitution of Kenya (2010). Article 10 sets out national values and principles of governance, such as sustainable development, devolution of government, and public participation, that are mandatory when making or implementing any law or public policy decision, including climate change. Article 42 provides for the right to a clean and healthy environment for every Kenyan, which includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures.

Key among the frameworks on climate change include Kenya Vision 2030, Kenya's National Climate Change Response Strategy, and Kenya's National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030 The Climate Change Act (No. 11 of 2016). The Climate Risk Management Framework for Kenya, The Climate Change Act, 2016, National Climate Change Action Plan: 2018–2022, National Climate Change Framework Policy, National Climate Finance Policy, And The Government of Kenya's Big 4 Agenda The country has very robust frameworks and the challenge is the implementation.

### 3.1.4 Stakeholders in drought management in Marsabit County

Both national and country governments, together with humanitarian organizations, work in partnership to boost the county resilience in responding to the drought. Recently, the government listed Marsabit among nine counties that were at high risk of severe drought, requiring a high cost of response mechanism. Some of the stakeholders are listed in the table below with their roles.

**Table 2: Stakeholders in Drought Management in Marsabit County**

Organization	Programme Support
<b>Government Agencies at the County level</b>	(a) Provision of relief food by both the county government and the national government
	(b) The Inua Jamii program for orphans and vulnerable children is run by the national government.
	(c) Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children-
	(d) Hunger Safety Net Programme-
	(e) Cash Transfer for the Elderly
	(f) Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE).



<b>Strategies for Northern Development</b>	<p>(a) Supporting the communities through in-country and cross-border programs with cash transfers, WASH, peace building, and food security and livelihood interventions targeting the most vulnerable in the community as a result of drought.</p> <p>(b) Other cash transfers are carried out by SND, e.g Through child protection in drought emergencies—Marsabit Targeting 150 h/hs-golbo, Township, and Butiye wards. Also through the wash programme-solarisation of 3 boreholes in Uran ward.</p>
<b>National Drought Management Authority</b>	<p>(a) Production of monthly drought early warning bulletins.</p> <p>(b) Coordinate and conduct a food security assessment.</p> <p>(c) Cash transfer for the vulnerable households</p>
<b>Dorcas Aid</b>	<p>(a) Implements a program on cash transfer for the vulnerable.</p>
<b>PACIDA</b>	<p>(a) Implements cash transfer projects, WASH and health programs.</p>
<b>Islamic Relief</b>	<p>(a) Provides livestock insurance and supports farmers with irrigation.</p>
<b>World Vision -GOLBO Area Program</b>	<p>(a) Implement integrated programs including education, health, nutrition, WASH, and climate change adaptation programs.</p>

# CHAPTER 4: KEY FINDINGS

## 4.1 Demographic information

The assessment involved both males and females. The respondent group consisted of 309 (65.3%) females and 164 (34.7%) males. The youngest respondent was identified to be 16 years old, who was the care giver in the household and an indication of child marriage, while the eldest was 88 years old. The mean age of the respondents was 39.4 years old.

The majority of the respondents, 75.3% (356) were identified to be married, however, 7% (33) were divorced, 4.7% (22) were separated, and 1.7% (8) were single. In terms of religion, 91.1% (431) were Muslims as the region is dominated by Muslims. The Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, were found to be 6.3% (20) of the respondents. The African traditionalists formed 2.3% (11) of the respondents, and other non-religious people formed 1%.

The level of education among the respondents was notably low, as 67.4% (319) of the respondents had not attended school at all. Another 20.6% (107) attained only primary education, while only a smaller number, 6.6% (31) of the respondents, had attained secondary education. Post-secondary education seemed to be a challenge to many, as only 3.3% (16) of the respondents attained post-secondary education.

Table 3: Demographic Information

Variable	Category	Male-N=164	Female-N=309
Marital Status	Single	3.7	0.6
	Separated	2.4	5.8
	Divorced	6.1	7.4
	Widowed	6.1	14.2
	Married	81.7	71.8
Religion	Muslim	86.6	93.5
	Christian (Catholic)	6.7	3.2
	Christian (Protestant)	1.8	1.9
	African Traditional	4.3	1.3
	Other	0.6	0

<b>Level of education</b>	<i>None</i>	67.1	67.6
	<i>Primary</i>	18.9	24.6
	<i>Secondary</i>	4.9	7.4
	<i>Vocational/Village Polytechnic</i>	2.4	0
	<i>University/ College</i>	6.7	0.3
<b>Age of participants</b>	<i>20 yrs and below</i>	0.6	7.8
	<i>21-30</i>	17.1	35.3
	<i>31-40</i>	32.3	27.8
	<i>41-50</i>	23.2	14.2
	<i>51-60</i>	13.4	9.7
	<i>60 years and above</i>	13.4	5.2

The respondents found to be living with any form of disability were 29 (6.9%). The remaining 442 (93.31%) had no form of disability. The study, however, revealed that out of those living with disability, 8 (27.6%) were visually impaired, 13 (44.8%) had a physical disability in either the arm or leg or the back, 4 (13.8%) had hearing problems, and the other 4 (13.8%) had other forms of disability that were not clearly described.

The majority of the households, 78.4% (371), were male-headed, with a mean number of people per household at 6.8. The maximum number of people per household was found to be 17, with a minimum of 1 person. All the households were found to have children, with means distributed as shown in the table below.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive Statistics					
	n	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
0-5years	473	0	5	1.43	1.043
6-9years	473	0	5	1.47	.989
10-14Years	473	0	5	1.08	.984
15-18years	473	0	6	.68	.917
19-25years	473	0	8	.51	.864
Valid N (listwise)	473				

The vast majority of respondents, 71.7% (339), live in permanent settlements. However, 27.7% (131) are in temporary settlements. There were 0.6% (3) who reported being internally displaced.

Table 5: Residential Status

Valid	Settlement status	Frequency	Valid Percent
	Internally displaced	3	.6
	Temporary	131	27.7
	Permanent	339	71.7
	Total	473	100.0

## 4.2 Sources of income

The sources of income in this region include livestock farming; cows, goats, camels, and sheep, as was indicated by 20.5% of the respondents. Another 16.6% are involved in charcoal burning, which is unfriendly to the environment, especially with the prevailing drought. This is closely followed by selling firewood, which is again unfriendly to the environment, as was indicated by 13.4% of the respondents.

There are those who depend on selling small wares in the kiosk and those whose income is wages, as was indicated by 11.4% and 11.3%, respectively. As indicated by 8% and 7.5%, respectively, cash transfer programmes and remittances from relatives (without any interest) also form part of the income for the respondents.

Further analysis shows that 9.6% and 12.6% of women-headed households relied on cash transfers and remittances, respectively. Crop farming in this region is practiced by 1.4% as a source of income. Other sources of income, as indicated by 9% of the respondents, included motorcycle transport businesses, commonly known as Boda Boda, hawking wares, casual labor, and selling khat (miraa), among others, as shown in the figure below.

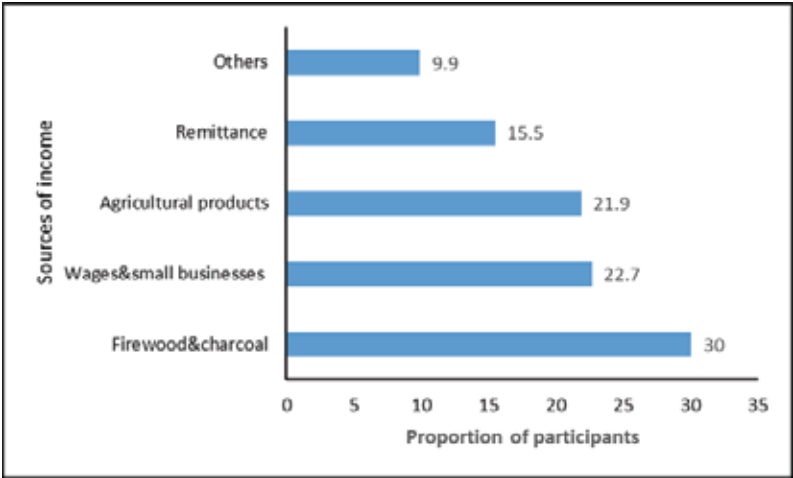


Figure 2: Sources of Income

Only 19.2% (91) of the respondents indicated that the income they get from various sources is enough to satisfy the needs of their family members. The remaining majority, 80.8% (382), were not satisfied with the income they raised.

As of the interview time, only 13.3% (63) of households had all children between the ages of 6-18 enrolled in school. The remaining majority, 86.7% (410), did not have all their children in school despite the free primary and secondary education put in place by the government. From the FGD in Hellu Ward, non-attendance at school was attributed to the long distance to school and lack of appreciation of education by the parents.

Table 6: Children aged 6-8 years

Children aged 6- 18 in this household are currently					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	63	13.3	13.3	13.3
	No	410	86.7	86.7	100.0
	Total	473	100.0	100.0	

### 4.3 Impact of drought on Children

This section presents the findings on the impact of drought on children, including the extent of the effects, children's living situations, and reasons for not living with children.

#### 4.3.1 The extent of drought effect

Different humanitarian organizations and development practitioners define drought differently. In the context of pastoral settings, "drought" implies two or more consecutive years when rainfall is less than 75 percent of the long-term average (Coppock, 1994). However, following Nikola (2006), drought is defined in this study as a lack of a rainy season that is repeated consecutively for three seasons in a row, leading to the loss of dry season pastures and the death of livestock.

The loss of dry season pasture is the major validation that the drought is biting the pastoralists. These conditions expose the households to loss of assets, prestige, and self-worth, which in turn take a toll on the children's well-being, leading to emotional violence.

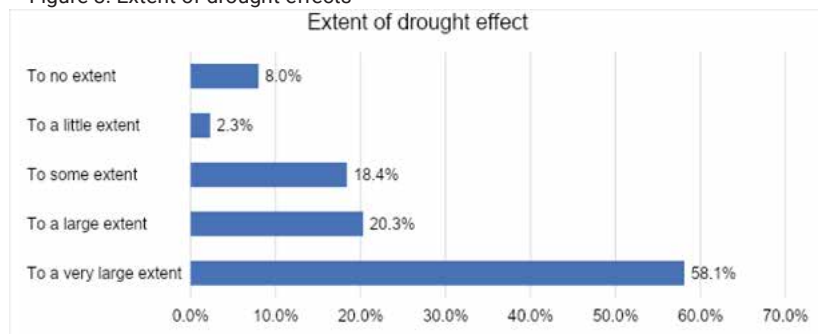
*"----- "There is such a notably harsh and difficult environment that its effect on social life is all pervasive and inexorable, both for the people and their livelihoods."*

The above confession is approved by a majority of 96.8%(458) of household respondents who went further to enumerate the effects in terms of total crop failure leading to hunger and starvation, conflicts among the pastoralists over pasture and water, increase in school dropout due to intra and cross county migration, coupled with emotional violence among children due to continued exposure to excruciating stressors.

*"..... Only Marsabit County is at IPC Level 4 which is emergency with Golbo Ward being highest on drought Severity. Most households don't have food, cows being sold as low as KES 5000 and more livestock have died....."*  
KII



Figure 3: Extent of drought effects



In addition, the assessment established that due to drought, children are affected in various ways, as was reported by the participants; increased distance to the water source (48.0%); child marriages (14.6%); and teenage pregnancy (7.8%). However, during this period, children were able to find time to play with their friends, as was reported by 89.2% of the respondents. At the same time, children were able to find time to help with work at home, as reported by 60.4% of the respondents, as shown in Figure 10 below. From the children's FGD, they confirmed that because of the drought, they have more time to play and interact with their friends.

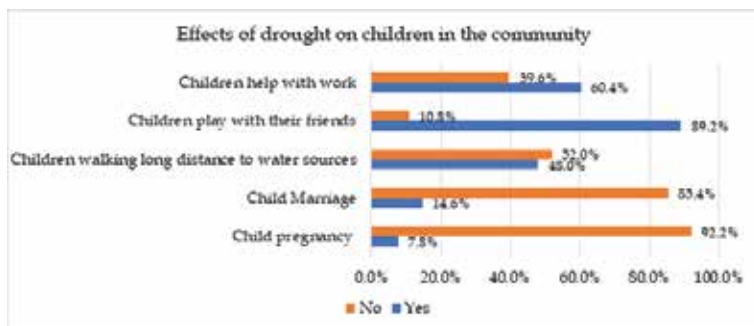


Figure 10: Effects of drought on children in the community

### 4.3.2 Living situation of children

Drought forces families to flee to other territories where living conditions might be appalling and pathetic. In some instances, children are made to put up with distant relatives in new abodes and sometimes strangers. This exposes the children to social detachment and exposure to child labour and other forms of child exploitation.

According to 23.5% (111) of respondents, some children used to live in their households but had moved out at the time of the survey. Out of the 111 respondents, 80.2% (89) stated that the children were living with their other relatives. There are 1.8% (2) of the respondents that said that the children are living with those who are non-relatives to them, some being forced into child labour in certain families. The remaining 18% (20) went to different destinations, while others moved to town and started street life, others are roaming in the village, while others have gone into herding animals. It was critical that some of the children, especially girls, were married off.

Table 7: Living situation of children

Where did they go?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Living with the relative	89	80.2	80.2	80.2
	Living with non-relative	2	1.8	1.8	82.0
	Others, specify	20	18.0	18.0	100.0
	Total	111	100.0	100.0	

### 4.3.3 Reasons for not living under parental care

Drought exhausts family supplies (both food and non-food items), which has led to some parents opting not to live with their children in the same household because they aren't able to provide for them.

One woman, a key informant, captured the reason for not living with her children in a rather telling narrative. "Women, children, and the elderly have been the most affected by the drought because they wait at home for what has been brought by men. It's very stressful and painful to see your child crying for food and you have no ability to provide it. This makes one feel helpless and more destitute. Children have become vulnerable to various diseases because of malnutrition. Our people and animals have died, as we watch helplessly. This haunts and makes one feel guilty of neglect. "

The above is corroborated by 35.8%(44) of the respondents who said they are unable to provide for the children, while 26.0% (32) of the respondents said that the children have moved to help other family members in various capacities. The other 12.2% (15) of the respondents said that the children are looking for employment to help fend for the family. Another 9.8% (12) dropped out of school, while approximately 1.7% (2) of respondents stated that their children had decided to flee school and home due to delinquency. According to 14.6% (18) of the respondents, other reasons for not staying with the children at home included children getting married and visiting other family members, among others.

The children do not get their right to food, education and shelter. Some children are neglected because their parents cannot provide. There is the issue of forced marriage by the parents. Children are involved in car washing, well digging and carrying heavy loads. Due to the hard economic times, most parents are forced to not live with their children. ( FGD with Children at St. Mary's Primary School)

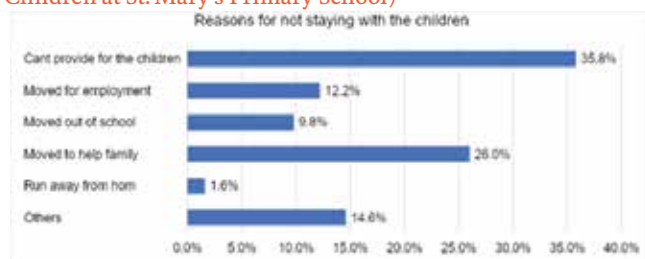


Figure 4: Reasons for not staying with children

## 4.4 Impact of drought on Child Protection

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya (Article 53) **recognises the right of all children to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhumane treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.**

Child protection is frequently and sometimes synonymous with child safety; it is defined as the deliberate reduction or elimination of risky conditions or threats that may result in accidents, bodily harm, injury, and emotional and psychological distress.(UNICEF, 2010).

Drought contributes to transhuman movements, apprehension, fear, and emotional and psychological fretfulness in the populations it affects. Children will, on most occasions, bear the brunt due to their proximity to the effects of drought and as the manifestation of drought impacts are more pronounced in their feelings, actions, and reactions.

Families will tend to send children to a far-off grazing park, sometimes in the rangelands, where they may encounter wild animals in search of pasture, prey, or water as well. This will expose children to wild animals. As part of the drought response, children are exposed to erratic eating habits, inadequate food quantities, and low nutrient values, which make them susceptible to anxiety and emotional insecurity.

Focus Group Discussants observed that since parents engaged in activities away from home, like far-off grazing and long distances in search of water and food, children suffered the consequences as they were left to fend for themselves and undertook some age-inappropriate household chores. This deprived them of the protection they needed and to some extent, compromised their safety.

***“To supplement the family income, children often take jobs outside of the home, such as being employed as house helps, or hawking in urban centres, and this puts them at risk of abuse and exploitation as they are without parental protection...”***

In some cases, children were found to care for the young, search for water, prepare meals for their families and step into more adult roles out of necessity. To supplement the family income, they often take jobs outside of the home, such as being employed as house helps, or hawking in the urban centres and this puts them at risk for abuse and exploitation as they are without parental protection. When children are expected to bear household responsibilities or provide income for their families, their education suffers significantly. Often, the drought forces children to leave school so they can tend to familial duties and contribute to the household income.

***“ .....There is a myriad of issues affecting child in this sub-county; there are cases of child neglect where parents abscond their duties, cases of child labour, child marriages common in Golbo ward, cases of FGM silently conducted along the border areas, and cases of school dropouts.....”*** Key Informant Interview.

### 4.4.1 Awareness of Child rights

68.1% (322) of respondents were aware of children's rights and protection, while 31.9% (151) were not aware of child rights and child protection. The main source of information on child rights, as identified by 39.4 (127) of the respondents, is the area chief and other government officials. NGOs also play a significant role in the education of people on child rights, as identified by 28.3% (91) of the respondents.

Another source identified by 20.5% (66) of the respondents is the community health volunteers since they are in touch with the community members. Children's officers, as the source of information on children's rights, were reported lowest by 38 (11.8%) of the respondents. From the FGD with the children, most of the children were aware of their rights and were able to mention the right to life, to education, and decent housing, among others.

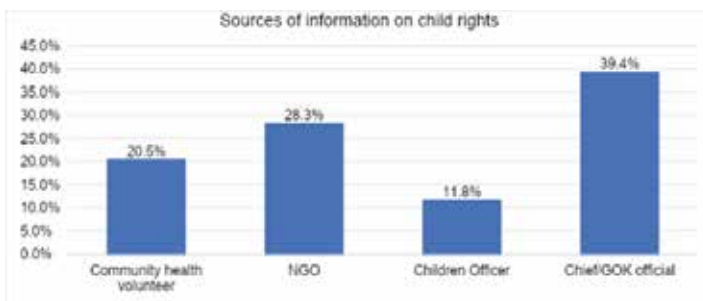


Figure 6: Knowledge of child rights

### 4.4.3 Situation putting children at risk of exploitation

Figure 7 below shows the distribution according to the situations putting children at risk of exploitation. As indicated by 21.9% of the respondents, drug and substance abuse were noted to be one of the harmful practices that put children's lives in danger. Subjecting children to engage in child labour (18.2%) and lack of basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing (18.1%) were also indicated by the respondents. Lack of education allows the children to roam about in the community, exposing them to the risk of exploitation as mentioned by 7.0% of the respondents. There were other situations like giving children to other people to live with them, exposing them to exploitation as there may be no close monitoring, or if the living conditions become unbearable, the children may move to the streets and their lives are even more exposed to risks, as was mentioned by 5.4% and 5.0% respectively.

Other situations like teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, FGM/C, and illicit adoption were also mentioned by about 3% of the respondents. Abuse and exploitation of children, as well as peer pressure, are also factors that have put children in a dangerous situation. Exposing children to activities like sexual exploitation and child labour upon migration equally exposes the children at risk of exploitation where they can contract diseases as well as unwanted pregnancy for girls. When children are abandoned by their parents, this now exposes them to almost all the above-mentioned conditions, as shown in the figure below.

There is an increase in the number of child marriage cases since the drought was reported. Underage children are married off. Some children are neglected because their parents are unable to provide for them. There is the issue of forced marriage by the parents. ( KII with Assistant Chief-Moyale Township).

### 4.4.4 Knowledge about Forms of child exploitation in the community

The assessment revealed that only 19% (90) of the respondents were aware of the various forms of child exploitation. Figure 8 shows the most common forms of child exploitation reported by participants: child labor 39.8% (188), child trafficking 31.1% (147), child marriage 24.3% (115), and child recruitment in armed militia 4.9%

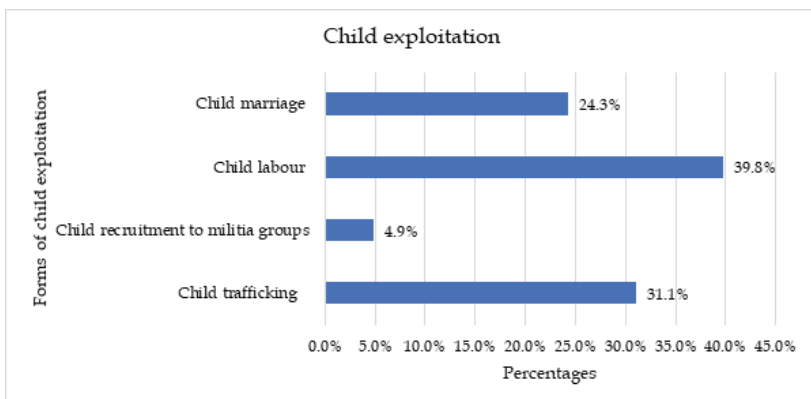


Figure 8: Forms of Children exploitation

Most of the respondents were able to identify various forms of child exploitation as reflected in figure 7 below;

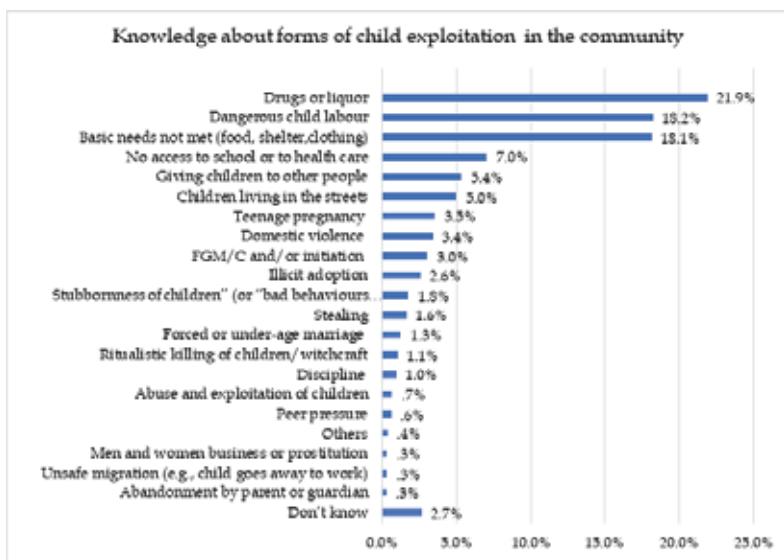


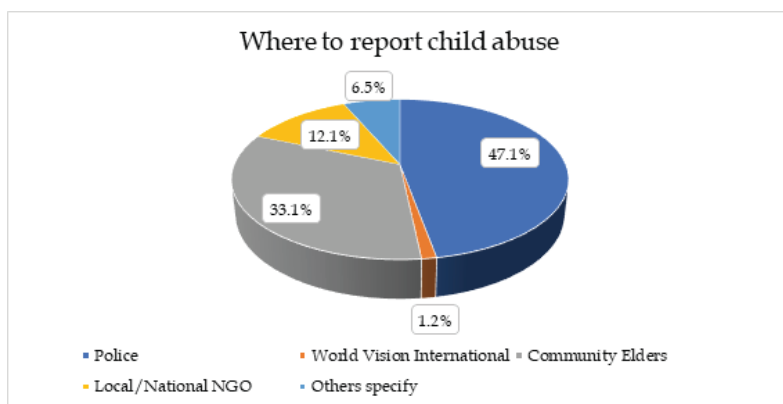
Figure 7: Knowledge on forms of child exploitation in the community

#### 4.4.5 Place to report child abuse

56.2%(266) of the respondents know of places to report cases of abuse. The police station was mentioned as the ideal place for reporting cases of child abuse, as reported by 47.1% of the respondents.

The other 33.1% mentioned that reporting is done to the community elder, who then passes the information to higher authorities upon investigation.

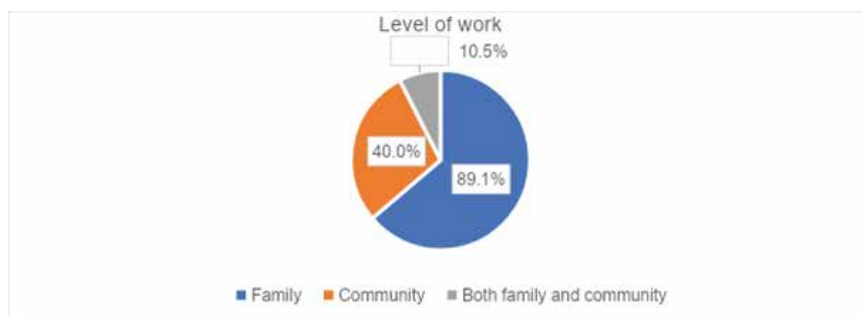
Both the local and international NGOs working in the regions have also been very ideal for reporting cases of child abuse, as reported by 12.1% and 1.2% of respondents, respectively. The remaining 6.5% opted to report the matter to the local chiefs.



*Where child abuse cases are reported.*

#### 4.4.6 Engagement in child work

Due to drought, many children are engaged in work within the family, as reported by 89.1% (254) of the respondents. The level of involvement is at the family, community, and both family and community level, as shown in the figure below.



*Figure 11: Level of children work*

#### 4.4.7 Kind of work the children are involved in the community

The assessment revealed that during drought, the children are majorly engaged in domestic work, including fetching water( 49.8%), taking care of animals(33.1%), while others engage in child labour at 13.6%; including making charcoal (8.9%), selling products for family income (4.7%), and going out of the home to work(3.6%), as shown in table 12.

In addition, 74(15.6%) of the participants reported the engagement of children in business to support the family, which was considered child labour. These activities include motorcycle riding (32.1%), farm work (18.8%), shop keeping/Mpesa (13.4%), and animal care (35.7%).

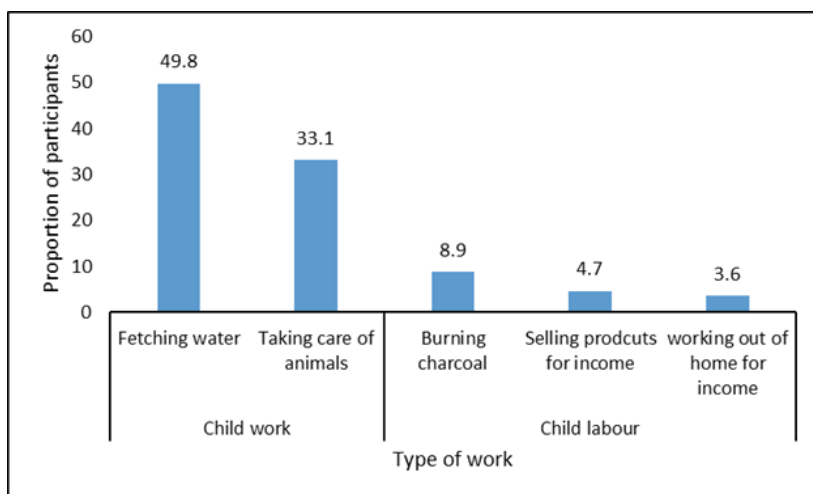


Figure 12: Kind of Child work and Child Labour

#### 4.4.8 Involvement of children in Labour for income or to support the family

According to the assessment, the involvement of children in working to support the family has increased as reported by 50.0% (37) of the respondents due to drought and food insecurity. However, some 43.2% (32) indicated that it has decreased, stating that there has been intervention that might have brought about the change. The remaining 6.8% (5) indicated it has remained the same.

Table 8: Involvement of children in work for income or to support the family

	Frequency	Numbers	Percentage
Valid	Decreased	32	43.2
	Increased	37	50.0
	Remained the same	5	6.8
	Total	74	100.0



#### 4.4.7 Kind of work the children are involved in the community

The assessment revealed the number of child defilement cases has reduced compared to the previous year, as was reported by 40% (189) of the respondents. However, 38.9%(184) indicated that they had not heard of any reported cases of child defilement. Another 13.1% (62) mentioned that the cases had increased, while 8.0% (38) of the respondents indicated that the cases had neither increased or decreased.

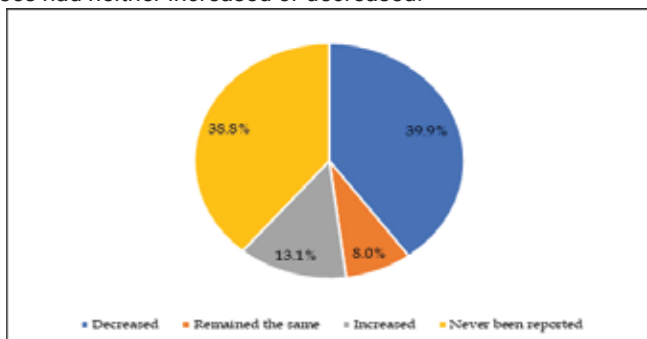


Figure 13: Children defilement cases

#### 4.4.10 Children's wellbeing, mental health and safety

78.4% (371) of all respondents said that children were more at risk of sexual violence, like defilement and molestation, since the drought began. The assessment found that children are more vulnerable because many have been separated from their parents, are being pressured into child labour to support their families, and are at risk of dropping out of school. More than 40 percent of those surveyed said children were attending school less often since the start of the drought. From the KIIs and FGD, it was reported that children were walking for long distances to grazing fields, schools, and water sources, which predisposed them to increased exposure to attack by wild animals and abuse.

*"Children in Golbo Ward are also facing enormous psychological challenges as they battle hunger, uncertainty, and overwhelming levels of stress," KII.*

In addition, the assessment found that children are vulnerable to the impacts of declining economic circumstances, and the increased financial constraints during drought may also lead to children taking on chores outside their age-appropriate capabilities. From the assessment, the KIIs confirmed that drought leaves children vulnerable to injury, stress, and emotional challenges. Children coming from households exposed to the drought feel less motivated, and self-esteem and dignity are reduced. Cases of children being isolated and discriminated against were mentioned.

Drought results in economic challenges and parents are unable to support their girls with dignity kits and this emotionally affects the girls during their periods.

*"..... It becomes difficult to access dignity kits since the parents are preoccupied with the search for water and food for the household..... "FGD's.*

*Drought was mentioned as being a major stressor affecting children's wellbeing. There were few mentions of mental health issues, and access to mental health services is limited in the sub county.*

## 4.5 Impact of drought on Children's Education (Enrollment, retention, and performance)

From the assessment, drought's overall impact on education was listed as low school enrollment and retention, intermittent attendance, dropout, and poor performance.

The assessment found out that drought led children to support their parents in fetching water for the household and the animals, while others took care of the livestock by walking extremely long distances in search of water and pasture.

In some areas where school feeding programs (especially in Golbo ward) exist, school attendance is relatively high, but academic performance is relatively low. From the Disaster Risk Profile-Marsabit County, 2021, factors such as hunger and psychological stress have an effect on children's educational development.

The findings from the assessment reveal that when a household's livestock is at risk as a result of the drought, the opportunity cost of attending school falls for children in that household as they have to walk long distances in search of water and pasture to save the livestock.

**".....When children must split their time between fetching water and protecting their families' greatest wealth, the livestock, their education suffers," KII.**

*From an FGD in Golbo, the community members say that after experiencing a drought, these households were found to have a stronger constraint when making their decision about whether or not to send their daughters to school. There is little likelihood that these girls successfully transition through school, stay enrolled, or do not repeat a grade, but are likely to be married off early so that the parents can receive cows as dowry.*

### 4.5.1 Children's enrollment in Schools

Due to the loss of income and source of livelihood, children's enrollment was found to be affected. 33.0% of participants said lack of school fees was one of the main reasons children are not enrolled in school. There is also a tendency for children to drop out of school by themselves and engage in business or any other income-generating activity, as was indicated by 26.6% of the respondents. The other 14.9% are out of school due to various illnesses, an indicator that health facilities in the region are not offering adequate services. Lack of food and family migration due to various reasons, including drought and inter-ethnic conflicts, have also made children not enroll in school, as stated by 9.6% and 4.3% of the respondents respectively. Internal displacement due to conflicts has also led to 2.1% of children not enrolling in school.

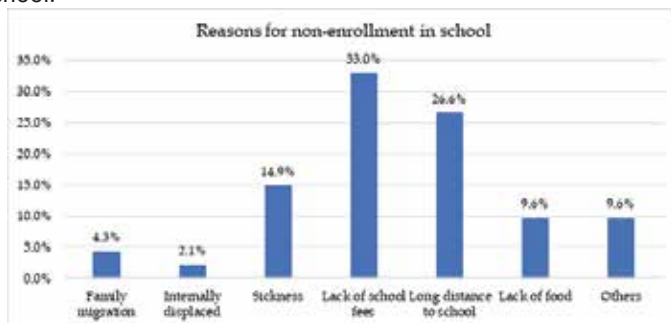


Figure 14: Reasons for non-enrolment in school

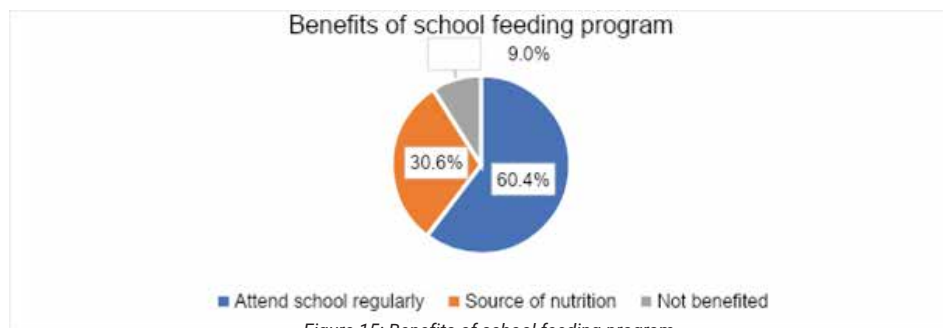
*".....There is a decline in school enrolment; some families moved to Garissa, Mandera, or crossed the border to Ethiopia in search of food, water, and pasture....." KII.*

The majority of the children are enrolled in day schools, as indicated by 81.4% (385%) of the respondents. The other group was in day/boarding schools, as was indicated by 17.3% (82) of the respondents, while pure boarding schools had the least number of enrollments, as was mentioned by only 1.3% (6) of the respondents. Slightly more than half of the respondents indicated that their children benefited from the school feeding program.

*Table 9: Children in school benefit from the school feeding program*

Children benefiting from the school feeding program					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	254	53.7	53.7	53.7
	No	219	46.3	46.3	46.3
	Total	473	100.0	100.0	100.0

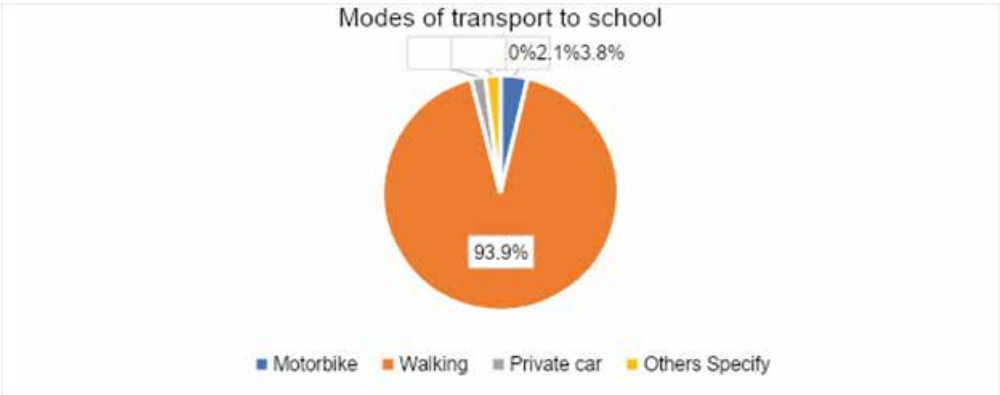
The assessment revealed that school feeding programs have several benefits for the pupils who are subjected to the program. The majority of the respondents, 60.4%, indicated that the feeding made the pupils attend school regularly. The food provided also improved the nutritional status of the pupils, according to 30.6% of the respondents. It is worth noting, however, that 9.0% of respondents claimed that school feeding programs provide no significant benefits to children. From the FGD with caregivers in Golbo ward, the feeding program was found to be monotonous with the same kind of food offered to the children daily, and therefore, they no longer appreciate the value.



*Figure 15: Benefits of school feeding program*

#### **4.5.2 Modes of transport to school**

The assessment revealed that most of the children walk to school, as was stated by 93.9% (444), which exposes them to the risk of exploitation. The other 3.8% (18) of respondents had their children carried on motorcycles to school. Use of private cars was minimal at 0.2% (1), while other means of transport, like the use of public transport and bicycles, among others, were mentioned at 2.1% (10). The mean time of walking to school is about 19.61 minutes, and the average distance to school is 3.18 km.



### 4.5.3 Reasons for absenteeism

Drought and famine were established to be the major contributors to pupils' absenteeism from school, as indicated by 28.8% and 27.1% respectively. In addition, 14.8% identified insecurity as also contributing to school absenteeism.

.. "inter-ethnic conflicts due to competition for resources such as water and grazing land during drought lead to absenteeism." Chief Moyale, Location KII. In this region, children also help with house duties like taking care of younger siblings, and this prevented 10.5% of the respondents from attending school. Eight percent of the respondents confirmed that some schools were closed, while 4.6% attributed the closure to a lack of teachers. Other families had moved out to where there were no schools, as indicated by 3.4% of the respondents.

As such, children could not go to school. There are also cases of child labour, indicated by 0.6% of the respondents, where children are involved in casual work to raise money to support their families and meet their needs. Other reasons for absenteeism mentioned by 2.3% of the respondents included lack of school fees, illness, lack of school uniform, lack of food, and children not having been enrolled in school.

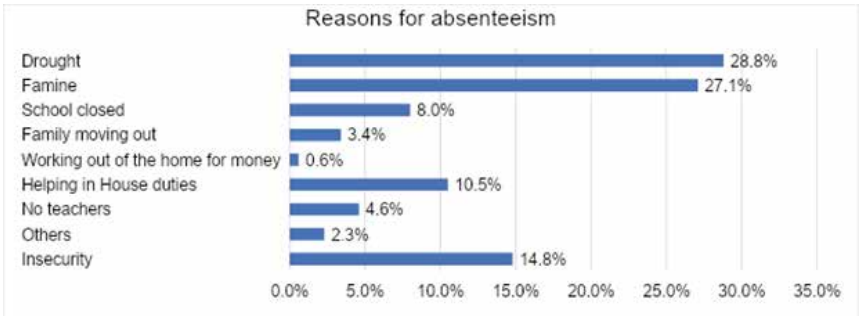


Figure 16: Reasons for absenteeism

## 4.5.4 School attendance during drought

The drought and famine situation in the region affected school attendance. Regular attendance at school was mentioned by 35.7% (169). The greater percentage of the respondents, 58.6% (277), said that children attend school sometimes. The remaining 5.7% (27) indicated that children do not attend school completely during drought because they help in looking after animals and at times, the parents have moved to look for pastures where there is no school.

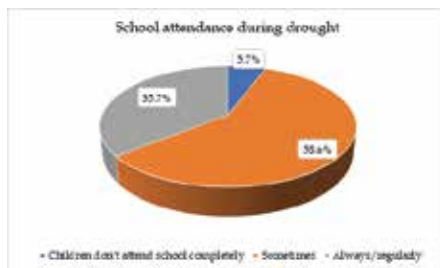


Figure 17: School attendance during drought

## 4.7 Food Insecurity

Drought effects result in low food crop production and thereby resulting in low food accessibility and availability (World Food Summit 2016). The assessment notes that in the rural areas, the cost of food items was relatively higher because of the transportation costs. With the loss of income and death of livestock, households are unable to purchase food items and this leads to malnutrition.

The number of food insecure households was very high (82.4 percent), out of which, around 32.4 percent were moderately food insecure and 30 percent were severely food insecure. In absence of adequate food, households resort to consuming one meal a day, as was brought out in the FGDs.

The assessment established that malnutrition rates are highest in most of the households in Moyale. The negative effects of drought appear to contribute to increased rates of child malnutrition through higher levels of household food insecurity. The children suffer from malnutrition since their parents cannot take care of them. Children under five are not able to get milk from the livestock and the packed milk is also expensive. Children are malnourished. (FGD group with community adults).

### 4.7.1 Effects of drought on food security

The majority of the respondents, 28.4% and 27.2%, said that there was no food and water, respectively, because of the drought. Drought also killed livestock, as was indicated by 20.9% of the respondents. All the above translated to the death of livestock, which in turn summed up to a very large loss. The majority of the families have resorted to having one meal a day, as stated by 78.4% (371) of the respondents.

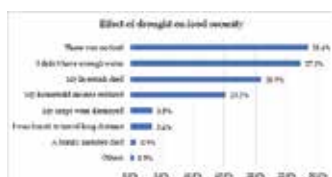


Figure 19: Effects of drought on food security



## 4.7.2 Coping Strategy Index

The household coping strategy index was established to be at 19.5, which is quite high and is above ( $CSI \geq 10$ ). The community responds to drought using various alternative coping strategies, including reducing food ratios, the number of meals, the sale of assets, migration, and engaging in small business ventures.

*".....The common coping mechanism in the sub-county includes reducing the number of meals by households to one, disposing of assets and animals, reducing food intake/ consumption, engaging in charcoal, firewood collection, and selling along the roadsides....." KII*

## 4.7.3 Food Consumption Score

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) was determined using the standard nine food groups. The level of food consumption score was categorized as 0–21 as poor, 21.5–35 as borderline, and  $> 35$  as acceptable. Only 23.4% (111) of the households reported having acceptable food consumption scores, as shown in figure 20.

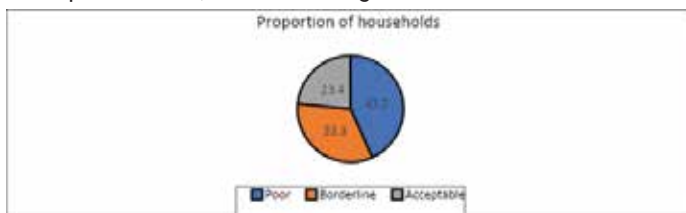


Figure 20: Proportion of households

## 4.8 Water Insecurity, Safety, and Sanitation

Reduced availability of water for domestic consumption, livestock, and subsistence agriculture was directly affecting the personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, livelihood, and nutrition support for distressed rural families and particularly women and children. Women in rural communities wake up first in the family to tend to daily domestic chores and sleep last. During the drought, they walk the farthest to fetch water but eat the least to ensure that the children and the males are fed well. In addition, since most of the water points have dried up and hand pumps broken down, water markets have flourished in the communities, with people selling the available borehole water to those in need at an extra premium. In some communities, they had to spend more than two hours fetching water that was also contaminated. The quality of water supplied by tankers was never found to be monitored at the source, transportation, or point of delivery.

From the caregiver, FGD in Moyale Location drought has a great impact on access to water and sanitation services. The lack of safe and affordable water has contributed to poor hygiene and sanitation practices, resulting in higher rates of diarrhea, infections caused by fecal-oral transmission, and diseases carried by vectors associated with solid waste and water.

Access to clean water and latrines is a rare luxury in the rural parts of the sub-county. When water sources dry up, children are forced to drop out of school or spend more time collecting water from sources that are further away. Not only does this disrupt their education, but carrying heavy loads of water places a great physical burden on children.

Lack of latrines both in homes and in shared spaces like schools and health centers perpetuates open defecation, which can result in cholera and other diseases and can contribute to malnutrition.

Children from most of the households reported discontinued personal hygiene practices (despite awareness), due to scarcity of water.

*"The level of hygiene in the rural communities is pathetic. The community does not have reliable water, most households lack water and soap for bathing; and children can go for two to three days without taking a bath".....KII*

## **4.9 Impact of Drought on Livelihoods**

The communities in Moyale Sub County largely depend on livestock as their main source of income and livelihood. Households in the drought-affected Moyale County are not only less able to earn an income, but are also less able to meet their households' basic nutrition needs, making children more vulnerable. The loss of animals, crop failure, and rising commodity prices resulted in a dangerous food shortage. Inefficient and unfair pricing mechanisms were mentioned, making available food items unaffordable to households. The assessment notes that subsistence farming has been severely affected due to successive years of drought.

From the KII and FGDs, the pastoral communities are suffering great financial losses as their cattle herds die from lack of water and pastures. Women and children are especially vulnerable to the effects of the drought since they are left behind while men search for water, food, or grazing land. The challenges they face include the loss of income, prolonged separation of their families, the increased prevalence of diseases related to the drought, and the loss of educational opportunities.

Households in Moyale have been significantly impacted by the drought that has been going on for the last three years. The drought has affected livestock, which is the mainstay of the communities living in Moyale.

Livestock is a source of livelihood, but when they are dead, the children cannot get school fees. There is reduced livestock value at the market; for example instead of selling a cow at a cost of between 30000-40000, they are selling at 12000 (FGD group with community Adults).

## **4.10 Impact of drought on Child health**

Health-related concerns are most alarming and widespread as drought-affected populations are more susceptible to illness and death. There are cases where children suffer ill health and malnutrition due to a lack of food, water, and nutrients caused by drought.

The assessment notes that personal hygiene practices were largely compromised due to the unavailability of water. Adolescent girls and women were mainly affected. Skin diseases and the incidence of Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) were common during this period as menstrual hygiene management suffered. ( KII with Community Health Worker).

The available health workers reported inadequate skills and facilities to address the psychosocial impact triggered by the drought crisis among children. In some areas, the community reported the availability of health facility infrastructure with no health workers.

The assessment notes from the FGDs indicate that exposure to drought before birth increases the child's probability of being underweight and severely underweight, while children that experience drought after birth are more likely to suffer from moderate and severe



undernutrition than children who did not. From the Moyale ward FGD, female children face more vulnerability than the other family members during drought due to 'cultural gender roles both at the family and community level ... Caregiver FGD. The onset of drought not only compromises a child's nutrition but also affects a child's health. The assessment notes that drought reduces the availability of improved water and drives households into the use of potentially polluted water contaminated with bacteria, viruses, and parasites. During community FGDs, cases of typhoid, cholera, and other diseases were mentioned.

#### 4.10.1 Supplementary Feeding Program

Supplementary feeding programs are ideal for children as they promote their nutritional status. The assessment revealed that only 10.8% (4) are enrolled in the supplementary feeding program, while 89.2% (33) of the respondents are not enrolled.

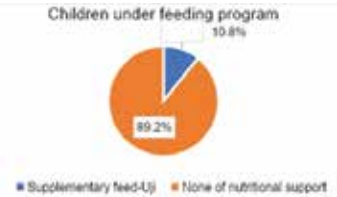


Figure 18: Children under feeding program

#### 4.10.2 Children on nutritional support

Many children are not on nutritional support. The ones who are there receive supplementary feed of Uji and plumpy nuts at 5.5% (26) and 13.3% (63) respectively. The remaining 73.2% (347) do not receive any kind of nutritional support.

Table 10: Children on nutritional support

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Supplementary feed-Uji	26	5.5
Plumpy nuts	63	13.3
None of the nutritional support	347	73.2
Total	436	92.0

#### 4.11 Impact of drought on Gender Roles

From the KII and FGDs, drought affects both men and women, but women were reported to be more vulnerable. ".....Often, parents favor boys over girls when the financial situation does not allow them to pay school fees for all children. They start with boys...." FGD with parents in Hellu Ward. Girls and women are more disadvantaged as they are expected to play the traditional role of being housewives and homemakers rather than pursue education. Moreover, cases of an increase in early or child marriages of girls have been found during droughts in Moyale Sub County, as child marriage is sometimes used as a drought coping strategy, and some teenage girls are even forced into prostitution to earn money and provide for their families.

The assessment notes that while men tend to the needs of their herds, women bear disproportionate responsibilities in caring for the family and household duties. Their responsibilities include caring for children and the elderly, cleaning the home, cooking, and collecting water. Women may walk up to 30 kilometers to reach water sources, and what they collect frequently is insufficient to meet their families' needs. As they travel further away from available water sources, they have less time to devote to their families.

## 4.12 Coping mechanisms by communities and the implications on Children's wellbeing

The drought has resulted in a loss of household income sources, leading to a change in household dynamics. The assessment established that the adoption of coping mechanisms was significant with the increase in the degree of drought proneness. The community has adopted several mechanisms for coping with the situation, such as: selling assets and livestock to buy food items for the households; marrying off young girls in exchange for dowry; boys leaving school to tend livestock, quarrying sand, burning charcoal for sale, collecting firewood for sale and engaging in small enterprises. Other coping mechanisms included cash transfers from various organizations and government agencies, support from relatives, and remittances. In Golbo ward, cases were cited where children attend school in order to benefit from the school feeding program, as confirmed by school head teachers.

### 4.12.1 Type of assistance needed

The communities in this region's preferred option were financial assistance, through cash transfer, as indicated by 39.6% of the respondents. The proposed amount of money for cash transfer averaged about Ksh.20,000 per month. The preferred disbursement mechanism, as suggested by 98.2% (389) of the respondents, was cash through mobile money for goods and services, which is to be done every month as proposed by 54.8% (259). They felt that this would enable them to manage their affairs, including buying food, among other things. Food was given a second priority by 31.4% of the respondents, while other respondents mentioned input supplies and medical supplies at 11.4% and 10.5%, respectively. There were also 5.2% of the respondents who talked about school fees. The remaining 1.9% talked about other issues like borehole construction for water supply, provision of animal feeds as well as restocking to replace the animals which were killed by drought and theft.

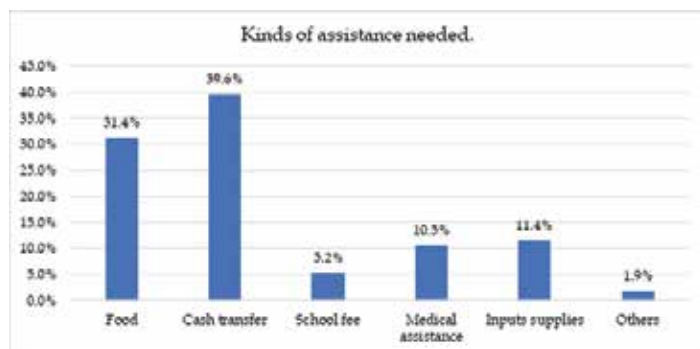


Figure 21: Assistance needed

### 4.12.2 Targets of cash transfer

According to 30.2% (143) of the respondents, the cash transfer program should target people classified as those in the extreme income poverty bracket. Another 18.2% (86) of the respondents proposed disabled-headed households, while elderly-headed households were proposed by 16.1% (79) of the respondents. Female-headed households were also considered by 15.0% (71) while those with extreme asset poverty were mentioned by 9.7% (46) of the respondents. Those displaced by disasters like droughts or conflicts were proposed by 6.6% (31) of the respondents. The last group was members of the marginalized group, proposed by 4.2% (20) of the respondents.



Figure 22: Target of cash transfers

### 4.12.3 Currently receiving assistance

The government and non-governmental organizations provide various kinds of support to the communities in order to mitigate the impact of drought. Only 27.5% (130) of the respondents are currently receiving assistance in the form of food, cash transfers, and school feeding. Out of the 130-receiving assistance, 65.4% ( 85) benefited from cash transfers, 19.2% (25) received food support, and 17.6% (19) of the respondents talked about school feeding programs. The other form of assistance, as indicated by 0.8% (1) of the respondents, was money for the elderly.

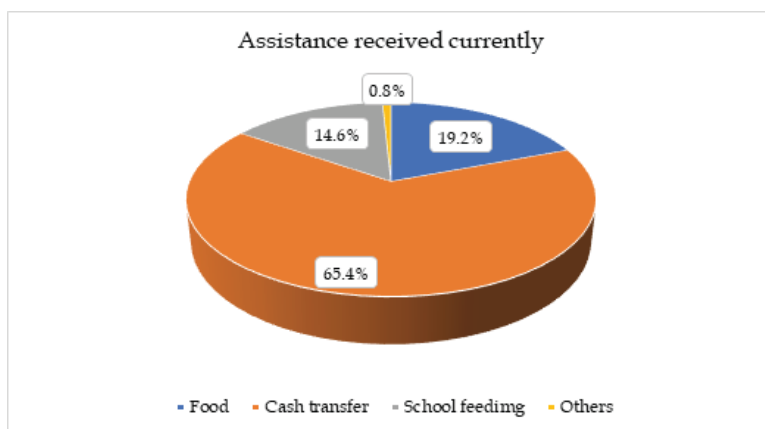


Figure 23: Assistance received currently

#### 4.12.4 Needs currently supported

The major need supported currently is the cash transfer reported by 65.4% of the respondents. This is done by organizations such as SND, PACIDA, Islamic Relief, and both the national and county government. The organizations further give food and school fees, as reported by 19.2% and 14.6% of the respondents respectively. The other needs mentioned by 0.8% of the respondents were not clearly reported.

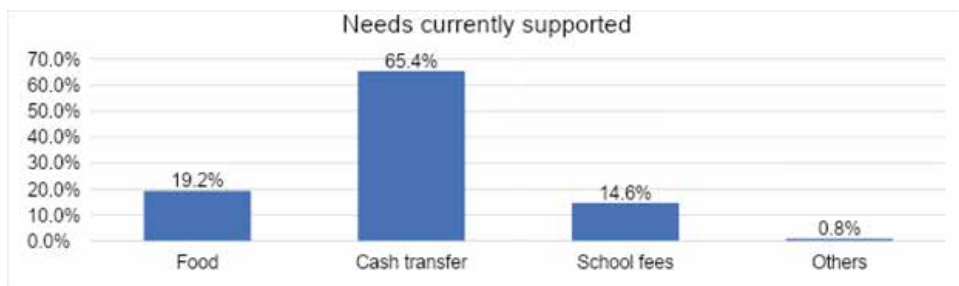


Figure 24: Needs currently supported

#### 4.12.5 Drought mitigation Programs in Moyale Sub County

In response to the drought situation in Marsabit County, which is rated IPC 4 and an emergency area, both the government and non-state actors have initiated a number of programmes geared towards mitigating the effects of drought. These include:

1. Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Cash Transfer – 1270 HH receiving KES 2000 per month paid after 2 months (CTOVC).
2. Hunger Safety Net Programme.
3. SND and GIZ/IGAD Cash for Community Cohesion KES 8000 Per month.
4. Cash transfers for the elderly.
5. NMDA cash transfer program (KES 5400 bimonthly) for vulnerable families
6. Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) for children aged below 15 months or pregnant women. (A child below 15 months is supported with KES 500 to improve the nutritional status of the children.
7. The Presidential Bursary Program for orphans and vulnerable children supports 55 children in Moyale Sub County.
8. Islamic Relief – Resilience building program in Golbo (livestock insurance, irrigation program, and construction of dams).
9. SND and TdH NL – Cash Transfer Program kes 5000/month.
10. Dorcas–Cash Transfer Program.

#### 4.13 Hidden child exploitation including new trends as a result of drought situation

From the assessment, there are cases of child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking in the community, but all of these are done secretly. There are also a few cases of children being involved in child labour in car washing, hawking, loading, and off-loading goods, boys herding cattle, and some girls working as house help were mentioned. Most of these children have been driven by poverty and lack of food caused by drought, which has persisted for a long time as explained by the community at Hellu Manyatta.

Most of the children have faced a lot of challenges during this drought. For example, some of our classmates have dropped out of school and are married off, children are beaten by their parents due to pressure, and other children have gotten into drugs, and there is child labor where children work on onion farms, girls are forced to go and sell vegetables, and boys drive motorbikes. *(FGD with Children aged 12yrs-15yrs).*

Due to the deteriorating health of the children, their families pull them out of school. And since the families are having problems buying food, the girls are affected as they cannot get dignity kits.

#### 4.14 Gaps in the response to child exploitation during the drought emergency

From the assessment, **child exploitation**, and gender-based violence are not being reported because of the weak referral structures coupled with strong cultural beliefs. Most of the cases happen in the community. The victims hide and are often not ready to report. Drought has brought to the fore the challenges facing children in navigating through life in a hard environment.

***The available data on drought situations by NDMA lacks child specific issues on the impact of:***

1. ***Drought*** - There is an opportunity to work with NDMA to integrate children's issues into work plans and provide child disaggregated analysis.
2. ***Non-targeted interventions on the drought response by different actors*** - Most of the interventions by the government and various non-governmental actors target households and the general community but do not target children affected by drought situations.
3. ***Lack of reporting child exploitation incidences to the child protection structures at the local level*** - The assessment found out that there are hidden cases of child exploitation and child abuse during drought, but these were not explicitly reported by the caregivers.
4. ***Cultural practices that are acceptable*** in the community but harm children are openly discussed in the community.
5. ***Weak child protection and referral systems*** - The children themselves, when consulted during the FGDs, said that they were not aware of the referral systems.

## CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

Drought is a reality in Moyale Sub County, children and women were found to be the most vulnerable and therefore exposed to abuse. Drought in this sub-county has led to a decrease in people's access to improved water sources, which has led to an increased risk of diseases, which has an effect on their health and hygiene practices. The loss of livelihoods and incomes pushes children out of school and leads to school dropouts, child marriages, and forced marriages.

Drought has a great impact on children in Moyale County. 96.8% of the household respondents affirmed the effects on the children's education, health, nutrition, and general food security resulting from the loss of livestock, reduced family incomes, and food crops. Due to the drought, children are dropping out of school to support their parents, walking long distances to access water, and missing meals. Golbo Ward is the most affected.

The community living in this sub-county depends on livestock as their source of income and livelihood, with very little crop farming. The current drought has led to the death of animals and the failure of food crops and has also led to food insecurity for both the children and the entire household. In response to the drought, the community has developed a number of coping mechanisms, including selling assets and livestock to buy food items for the households, marrying off young girls in exchange for dowry, reducing the number of meals a day, and boys leaving school to tend livestock, quarrying sand, burning charcoal for sale, collecting firewood for sale and engaging in small enterprises. but this has been adversely affected by the drought.

Drought has led to cases of child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking, which are practiced secretly in the communities. Children cross the border with their parents in search of income and also pasture for their livestock. There is very little information relating to child exploitation since it is done secretly to support family incomes.

The impact of drought is great, but there are a number of stakeholders who have initiatives to mitigate the effects. These include both national and county governments and non-state actors. The assessment highlights several gaps, including ineffective policies and programs, lack of child-specific data on droughts' effect, weak referral structures, strong cultural attachments to livestock rearing, and weak coordination mechanisms among players.



## 5.2 Recommendations

The evaluation presents recommendations by the four main objectives as presented in the evaluation specific objectives.

### **Impact of drought on children**

1. Develop child-focused interventions through caregivers, schools, and the community.
2. Support the children through cash transfer programs, food distribution, and school feeding programs to mitigate the effects of drought on children.

### **Impact of drought on caregivers**

1. Promote alternative livelihood quests, micro enterprises, and agro-pastoralism to households and communities affected by drought.
2. Create awareness of child rights and child protection.

### **Coping Mechanisms by communities**

1. Strengthen and actively promote the development of community early warning plans and risk mitigation mechanisms to help communities with diverse livelihood sources and develop adaptive environmental conditions in drought response.
2. Promote access to education through school feeding programs, scholarships, and providing cash transfers to households in need.
3. Harness traditional, community-based water management practices. Regular maintenance and participatory development would help in rejuvenating the culture of community-led natural resource management.
4. Promote food security programmes that are inclusive and accessible to marginalized populations, and consider the different nutritional requirements of children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and individuals with medical conditions.

### **Possible hidden child exploitation including new trends as a result of drought situation**

1. SND should identify and train child rights activists to monitor and advocate against cases of child exploitation in the communities.
2. TDH and SND to develop awareness programs to deal with the lack of information about exploitation and abuse, the risks, and the reporting.
3. Develop linkages with the police in responding to child exploitation cases.
4. Empower the children by establishing a child rights club in the schools. This will help them know when their rights are violated and take appropriate action.
5. Since the children and the community are afraid of speaking out, there is a need to educate the community on child exploitation and other cultural practices.



**Addressing the gaps in response to child exploitation before and during the drought emergency.**

- 1 Work with NDMA to integrate children's issues into work plans and provide child disaggregated analysis.
- 2 Promote child-focused advocacy through policy, budgets, and programs such as school feeding programs in all primary schools, a supplementary nutrition program for ECDs, and the concept of kitchen gardening.
- 3 Facilitate partnership building and reinforcement with different stakeholders that deal with drought, both between the government and NGOs and CBOs and within the different line ministries of the government.



## Summary of the key recommendations from the assessment

Assessment Objectives	Recommendation	Actors Responsible
To determine to what extent drought is affecting children, their families and communities, and the related/resultant child exploitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Drought has an impact on children, and this requires a child-centric intervention through the caregivers, schools, and community to reduce child vulnerability during drought.</li> <li>b. Food insecurity brought about by drought affects the entire sub-county but is severe in the Golbo ward. There is a need to support the children through cash transfer programs, food distribution, and school feeding programs.</li> <li>c. Identify "at-risk" families and children based on their vulnerabilities for cash transfer, linkages with social welfare schemes, and prevention of exploitation</li> <li>d. Water insecurity is a real problem during drought in the sub-county. There is a need to harness traditional community-based water management practices. Regular maintenance and participatory development would help in rejuvenating the culture of community-led natural resource management.</li> <li>e. There are a number of actors working to mitigate the effects of drought in the community, but the level of coordination is weak. There is a need to facilitate partnership building and reinforcement with different stakeholders that deal with drought, both between the government and NGOs and CBOs and within the different line ministries of the government.</li> <li>f. Strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms.</li> <li>g. During the drought, provide psychosocial support to children, parents, and caregivers.</li> <li>h. Integrate education program with other child protection interventions.</li> <li>i. Integration of child protection specific data into the NDMA information system.</li> <li>j. Strengthening collaboration /partnership with the Ministry of Education and all stakeholders to enhance advocacy and communication on child rights and protection issues.</li> </ul>	Primary/secondary schools/ Chiefs, Village & Child Rights Organization.

<p><b>To establish the coping mechanisms by communities and the implications on boys' and girls' well-being i.e. People's knowledge, attitude, skills, social capital, etc., to cope and adapt to the drought and other stresses as a result of other prevalent emergencies in the county.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community depends on livestock as their source of income and livelihood, but this has been adversely affected by drought. There is a need to support alternative livelihoods, microenterprises, and agro-pastoralist ventures.</li> <li>There is a need to strengthen and actively promote participatory risk mitigation mechanisms to help communities diversify their livelihood sources and develop adaptive environmental conditions in drought response.</li> <li>Promote food security programs that are inclusive and accessible to marginalized populations, and consider the different nutritional requirements of children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and individuals with medical conditions.</li> <li>Lastly, there are issues to be addressed, including policy, budgets, and programs such as school feeding programs in all primary schools, a supplementary nutrition program for ECDs, and the concept of kitchen gardening.</li> </ol>	<p>County government of Marsabit, Child Rights Organization, NDMA, and Meteorological Department.</p>
<p><b>To explore possible hidden child exploitation, including new trends as a result of the drought situation.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access and retention of children in schools require a multifaceted approach. There is a need to consistently advocate against this issue by creating awareness, supporting scholarship programs, and providing cash transfers to needy households.</li> <li>Create safe community spaces for children: Create Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) to make sure that children have a safe place to resort to in an emergency.</li> <li>Raise awareness of child labor among various stakeholders.</li> <li>Conduct community level sensitization on the child rights and legal issues related to age of marriage.</li> <li>Mobilize resources for child-centered resilience projects and programmes with dedicated support and resources (dealing particularly with underlying causes of vulnerability).</li> </ol>	<p>Primary/secondary schools/ Chiefs, Village &amp; Child Rights Organization.</p>
<p><b>To identify gaps in the response to child exploitation before and during the drought emergency.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The data available lacks child-specific issues on the impact of drought. There is an opportunity to work with NDMA to integrate children's issues into work plans and provide child disaggregated analysis.</li> <li>Strengthen community level reporting system on child exploitation issues to help compare the occurrence of different periods.</li> <li>Recruit and train community focal people for child rights issues.</li> </ol>	<p>NDMA, Marsabit County.</p>

# terre des hommes

## stops child exploitation



Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) is an international child rights organisation committed to stopping child exploitation. Terre des Hommes Netherlands' vision is to work towards a world in which children are no longer exploited, a world in which all children can live in dignity and develop their talents in a safe and loving environment.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands fights against the exploitation of children in four regions: Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. In Africa, 20 projects spread across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Madagascar are currently being implemented successfully. In March 2022, the organisation won the Diversity and Inclusion Award for Best NGO Promoting Human Rights in Kenya. For more information, please visit [www.terredeshommes.nl](http://www.terredeshommes.nl).

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