

# Socio-Economic Status of Wajir County with COVID-19

Eldah Onsomu, Rose Ngugi, Evelyne Kihui, Mutuku Muleli, James Gachanja, Rogers Musamali, Paul Lutta, Daniel Omany, Hellen Chemnyongoi, Shadrack Mwatu, Nahashon Mwongera, Paul Odhiambo, Beverly Musili, Violet Nyabaro, Japheth Kathenge, Haron Ngeno and Elton Khaemba



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**Kenya Institute for Public Policy  
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## List of Acronyms

ADPs	-	Annual Development Plans
AFA	-	Agriculture and Food Authority
AI	-	Artificial Insemination
CIDC	-	Constituency Industrial Development Centres
CIDPs	-	County Integrated Development Plans
DSA	-	Drug and Substance Abuse
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GCP	-	Gross County Product
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
HA	-	Hectares
ICTs	-	Information Communication Technologies
ICU	-	Intensive Care Unit
KCB	-	Kenya Commercial Bank
KDHS	-	Kenya Demographic Household Survey
KNBS	-	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNOCS	-	Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard
LREB	-	Lake Region Economic Bloc
LVSR	-	Low Volume Sealed Roads
M.I.C.E	-	Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions
MSMEs	-	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
MT	-	Metric Tonnes
MTPs	-	Medium Term Plans
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
OSR	-	Own Source Revenue
PFM	-	Public Finance Management
PPEs	-	Personal Protective Equipment
RAI	-	Rural Access Index
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
TVET	-	Technical and Vocational Educational and Training
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
UN	-	United Nations
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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## Executive Summary

### **Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting**

Wajir total County revenue has significantly grown by 144 percent from Ksh 5.71 billion in FY 2013/14 to Ksh 13.93 billion in FY 2018/19. During FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21 the county's total revenue declined to Ksh. 10.01 billion and Ksh 10.10 billion respectively, following the adverse effect of COVID-19 pandemic that affected various revenue streams. Conditional grants are also a major source of revenue for financing county operations and has been growing over the years. The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and Sweden. OSR contribution to total revenue has been less than 1.5 percent over the period under review. Generally, pending bills related to development have been greater than those related to recurrent expenditure on average accounting for 87.1 per cent of the pending bills portfolio. Going forward, it would be important for the county to strengthen its OSR collection framework as well as policies to improve on its contribution to the total revenues. To ensure continued recovery, the county must now move quickly to tackle the problem of pending bills, mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations, seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county and ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers. In addition to this, the Nairobi County will mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations and seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.

### **Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries**

Livestock production is the predominant economic activity in Wajir County. Key agricultural value chains commodities in the County include cattle, goats, sheep, donkeys, camels, poultry production, bee keeping (apiculture), pawpawa, lemons, maize, beans, watermelons and sorghum. Among the socioeconomic effects on the COVID-19 pandemic on the agri-food sector in the County included negative effects on hours worked by in agriculture related occupations. An additional effect was a slow down on trade and marketing activities due to the restrictions on movements leading to price shocks and shortages of food items. Agricultural productivity in the County is also affected by:- variable and extreme weather events Poor and inadequate infrastructure; water scarcity; low agro-processing and value addition opportunities; dependence on rain-fed agriculture; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low commercialization levels and marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; invasive species; pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and post-harvest

waste. To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at the County; expansion of water harvesting projects and sustainable irrigation; scale up conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, plant and keep drought-tolerant crops and livestock breeds; link farmers to diverse product markets; strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural inputs and services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; provision of storage and cooling facilities; natural resource management; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance marketing.

### **Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

Clean water, proper sanitation and good hygiene remains an essential component in protecting human health in times of outbreak of infectious diseases. Frequent and correct hand hygiene has been emphasized by World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the frontline measures to curb transmission of COVID-19. This has placed a higher demand for water use in households, schools, health care facilities, marketplaces, workplaces, and public places. This therefore has necessitated the need for provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene by national and county governments to all. The county has a perennial water shortage problem and despite this, the county is dedicated in providing water to households, though also facing challenges in revenue collections since COVID-19 has resulted into reduced incomes among households and businesses, thus deferring collection of revenue from the water services it provides as well as financial support to water services providers. This in the long run could affect the development of the water and sanitation sector. Additionally, COVID-19 poses health challenges to water and sanitation officers if they get infected, they have to be self-isolated, and this may lead to disruption of services. Other constraints to the sector include, drought, water leakages and destruction of water catchment areas. To ensure continuous availability of water, the national and county government should increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes in all the sub-counties. Partner with private sector, donor agencies, local communities, and NGOs to help develop water infrastructure

### **Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs**

Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs is an important sector in Wajir County. However, this sector's momentum was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the containment measures associated with COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the sector. The measures that were taken, such as closure of markets, observance of health protocols in form of social distancing and hand washing served to increase the cost of production and affected access to markets for the produce. In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County will: Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short term. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, will be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges; COVID-19 has increased

demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitizers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth; Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing; Partner with the relevant stakeholders in rolling out Livestock Insurance Programme for ASAL areas as outlined in MTP III; Establish technical and vocational training institutions to enhance capacity and skills required for working in industries; Support establishment of cottage and light industries for value addition; Explore the huge potential for production of limestone, juice and hides & skins tannery; Support and fast-track completion and operationalization of the gum and resin factory being built in Wajir East Constituency by Ewaso Nyiro North Development Authority (ENNDA); Explore the huge potential in limestone production; Fast track establishment of disease-free zones in the county; and Promote light industries through value addition, marketing and market linkages.

## **Infrastructure, housing and urban development**

The main means of transport used in the County is Tuk Tuk followed by motorbike. The paved County Road network covers 1.24 KMs, while the paved National roads covers 21.06KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 22.3KMs, 100 per cent is in good condition, No Data in fair condition and No Data in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception that individuals do not need to use the Internet, lack of knowledge and skills on Internet and lack of Internet connectivity in the area are the leading reasons that the people of in the County do not have Internet connection. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 94.9 per cent, with 5.1 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Majority of households (40.4per cent) have Grass/Twigs for roofing, Grass/Reeds walls (41.4per cent) and earth/Sand floors (78.2per cent). In addressing the prevailing challenges, the county will Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 16.0 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70.0 per cent; support programmes in partnership with the private sector that will enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile phone ownership from 27.9 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony; and avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every sub-county, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

## **Tourism**

The county has rich culture, wildlife and landscape features that include Lake Yahud among others. There are no game reserves or game parks in the county. Other potential tourist attractions that can be developed include Wajir museum, Wagalla massacre site, Orahey wells, British and Italian war bunkers, old courthouse and animal sanctuaries. The county has 10 unclassified hotels and 20 bars and restaurants. The Wajir International Airport, which is currently underutilized, can be utilized for growth of the tourism sector. The county lacks the correct data for the exact number of tourists visiting the county. However,

the number of visitors coming to the county for conferencing tourism has increased. This presents an opportunity to a hub for M.I.C.E in the County to cater for the northern region, especially for inter-county events. The strategies to support tourism sector recovery include Mapping all the sites with tourism potential in the county; coming up with a tourism sector development master plan; protecting cultural heritage sites; Tourism product diversification and marketing; niche products such as annual cultural festivals, and animal sanctuaries / wildlife reserves; Setting up a cultural documentation centre; tourism information centre and Ensuring high sanitation standard in the hotel facilities to deter spread of COVID-19 in line with the national guidelines for reopening of the hospitality sector.

## **Health**

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 155 which comprised of 141 primary health facilities and 14 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 110 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 9 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10,000 population. In June 2020, Kenya National Bureaus of Statistics conducted a survey of COVID-19. The results showed share of the population that had doctor or healthcare provider testing or confirming to them the status in regards COVID-19 was estimated at 2.5 per cent in 2020. In line with the health status in the county, some of the recommendations that need attention include the following: The county should create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county to address risk of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting any health facility; To reduce high burden of both communicable and non-communicable disease, the county should revamp its Community Health Strategy. This is a community based promotive and preventive health services. To make this more effective, the County should engage Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and equip them with the relevant resources and skills.

## **Education training**

About 67 per cent of public primary schools in Wajir County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP). The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 37.1 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 75.8 and 42.8 per cent respectively in 2015/16. The county has also low Internet access (3.5 percent) which constrains online learning across the County. Furthermore, only 1.4 percent of the households had access to ICT equipment such as laptops and computers. The County with support from stakeholders will need to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers, provision of sanitation facilities and enhanced school feeding programme. To achieve these objectives, the county will require to partner with the national government and private sector to enhance ECDE and vocation training through infrastructural development as well as equipment of all ECDE, primary, secondary, and vocational training, and University branches in the County with adequate WASH and adequate learning spaces upon reopening. High cases of school dropout especially transition from primary to secondary

level of education. There is also the issue of drug and substance abuse among the students which need to address has it has great impact on education.

## **Social Protection**

The overall poverty rates in the county stand at 95per cent which is more than double the national average of 36.1per cent. The county's food poverty levels are at 63per cent and 44per cent of the total population is multidimensionally poor. Severe shocks have had negative impact to the household's economic and social welfare of county residents. The social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic increased households' susceptibility to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the county. Households in the county received various forms of social assistance or transfers or gift either in form of a good, service, financial asset, or other asset by an individual, household or institution. Transfers constitute income that the household receives without working for it and augments household income by improving its welfare. Cash transfers include assistance in form of currency or transferable deposits such as cheque and money orders. COVID-19 exposed lack of preparedness among counties in terms of responding to the emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. It provided an opportunity to measure how county governments are prepared to handle the devolved functions. COVID-19 pandemic created effects with immediate and long-term economic consequences for children, PWDs, elderly and their families. To strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the Nairobi County government will conduct mass civic education among the people on COVID-19 prevention measures, how to handle an infected person and avoidance of stigmatization of the affected person, enroll more county residents in welfare programmes such as NHIF which will ensure that they access medical treatment in case of falling sick and give tax exemption for the SMES who have suffered losses in their business as result of diseases outbreak.

## **Human resources**

Livestock keeping is the predominant economic activity in the county. It is the leading sub sector in terms of employment, food security, income earnings and overall contribution to the socio-economic wellbeing of the people. During COVID-19 with the loss of jobs in the Small and Medium Enterprises the livelihood of people working in these sectors were directly or indirectly affected, particularly youths as the sector employs most of the young population. During the pandemic, about 12.3 per cent of workers in the county were casual workers 9.3 per cent were regular workers (full time), 9.6 per cent employees were working as part time. The Wajir County government will promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development; and invest in livestock sector in the County, promote investment and entrepreneurship through provision of loans, the county Government will improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through lending institutions and formulate measures aimed at encouraging employment creation through corporate social responsibility (CSR), including expanding the national internship programs and promoting Information Technology (IT) enabled jobs.



# 1 Introduction and Structure of County Economy

## 1.1 Introduction

Wajir County is one of the counties in Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC). The county occupies a land area of 59,685.9 Km<sup>2</sup>. The county has an estimated population of 781,263 people of whom 53.1 per cent were male and 16.8 per cent female (KNBS, 2019) as indicated in table 1. Of the total population 3,793 or 0.6 per cent were persons with disabilities. The youth constituted 34.0 per cent of the population of whom 47.0 per cent were female. The County had a population density of 14 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. About 77.3 per cent of the population live in rural areas of whom 46.9 per cent are female. The elderly population (over 65-year-old) made up 3.1 per cent of the total population of whom 51.9 per cent were female. The population in school going age group (4-22 years) was 51.2 per cent in 2019.

In 2015/2016, the overall poverty rate in Wajir County was 57.6 per cent against the national poverty rate of 36.1 per cent. In addition, 63.0 per cent of the population were living in food poverty and 43.8 per cent were living in multidimensional poverty, that means being deprived in several dimensions including health care, nutrition and adequate food, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education, knowledge of health and nutrition, housing and standard of living, and access to information. According to KDHS 2014, 26.4 per cent of the children were stunted as compared to the average national level at 26.0 per cent.

**Table 1.1: Development indicators in Wajir County**

Estimated County Population (KNBS, 2019)	County	National
Males	781,263	1.4per cent of the total population
Females	415,374	53.1per cent
Intersex	157,391	46.8per cent
	2	0.006per cent
Estimated Population Density (km <sup>2</sup> )	14	82
Persons with disability	0.6per cent	2.2per cent
Population living in rural areas (per cent)	76.0per cent	68.8per cent
Children (0-14 years) (per cent)	54.9per cent	41.1per cent
School going age (4-22 years) (per cent)	57.6per cent	68.7per cent
Youth 15-34 years (per cent)	34.0per cent	36.1per cent
Labour force (15-64 years) (per cent)	41.7per cent	55.0per cent
Elderly population (over 65-year-old)	1.5per cent	3.9per cent

Number of COVID-19 cases (as at 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2020) (MOH); National cases were 35,232 people	31	0.9per cent of the national cases
Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	63.0per cent	36.1per cent
Food Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	43.8per cent	31.9per cent
Multidimensional Poverty (2015/2016) (per cent)	61.0per cent	56.1per cent
Stunted children (KDHS 2014)	94.5per cent	26per cent
Gross County Product (Ksh Million)	37,159	0.5 per cent Share to total GDP (2017)
Average growth of Nominal GCP/GDP (2013-2017) (per cent)	11.7per cent	15.3 per cent

*Data Source: KNBS (2019)*

The age distribution of the county residents as per the 2019 Housing and Population Census is shown in table 1.2. The bulk of the County's population is in the age group of between 15-34 years comprising of 268,239 individuals. They are followed by persons aged between 6-13 years who are the primary school children comprising of 220,323 of the county population. The under 0-3 age comprise of 88,420 of the county population. This shows that the county has a general youthful population.

**Table 1.2: Population distribution for selected age groups in the County (2019)**

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 0-3	44,192	44,228	88,420
Preprimary school age (Under 4-5)	29,887	29,467	59,354
Primary School Age (6 -13)	116,742	103,581	220,323
Secondary school age (14-17)	53,869	37,897	91,766
Youth Population (15-34)	141,570	126,669	268,239
Female Reproductive age (15-49)		162,714	162,714
Labour force (15-64)	203164	173769	173,769
Aged Population 65+	7,082	4,558	11,640

*Data Source: KNBS (2019)*

## 1.2 Level of Socio-economic Deprivations

In 2015/2016, 0.2 per cent of the population had health insurance cover, 23.5 percent lived in premises with water, 94.6 per cent lived in their own homes and 37.8 per cent had access to mobile telephone (Table 1.3) and majority of the households (94.1per cent) had access to toilet facility.

**Table 1.3: Level of Deprivations for the various indicators for multidimensional poverty in the county**

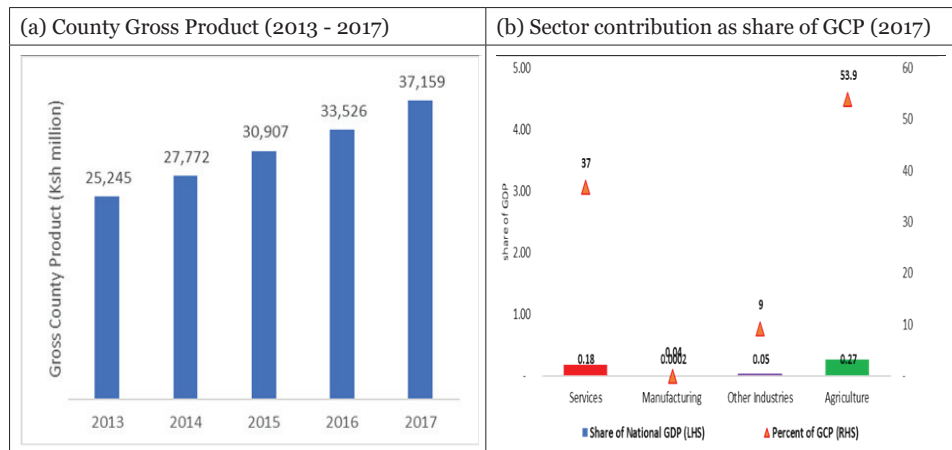
Indicator	Details	Percentage Distribution (per cent)
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Health care	Population with Health Insurance Cover	0.2
Drinking water (Time taken to fetch)	Zero (In premises)	23.5
	less than 30 minutes	43.9
	30 minutes or longer	31.6
Sanitation and Hygiene	Proportion of households with toilet facility	48.2
	Shared Toilet	65.4
	Not Shared	34.6
	Place to wash hands outside toilet facility	3.1
	No place to wash hands outside toilet facility	96.5
Education (Population 3 years and Above by School Attendance Status)	Ever Attended	48.6
	Never Attended	50.6
Knowledge of health and nutrition (children aged 0-59 months that participated in Community Nutrition Programmes)	Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	5.6
	Did not Participated in Community Nutrition Programmes	91
Housing and standard of living (house ownership)	Owner Occupier	94.6
	Pays Rent/ Lease	3.4
Access to information (Population Aged 3 years and above by ICT Equipment and Services Used)	Television	8
	Radio	37.4
	Mobile phone	37.8
	Computer	0.7
	Internet	2

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

### 1.3 Structure of Wajir County Economy

Wajir County Gross County Product (GCP) accounted for 0.5 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as of 2017 as reported in figure 1. The GCP increased from Ksh.25,245 million in 2013 to Ksh.37,159 million in 2017 representing an annual average growth rate of 11.3 per cent per year. The agriculture sector contributed 54.7 per cent of GCP while services and other industries sector shared constituted 38.0 per cent and 7.0 per cent, respectively. The services sector includes such activities as wholesale and retail trade. Agriculture is mainly dominated by livestock keeping and bee keeping while industries and manufacturing include production of consumer goods and food processing.

**Figure 1.1: Structure of the County economy, 2013-2017**

Data Source: KNBS (2019)

#### 1.4 COVID-19 caseload and implications of mobility restrictions

As of March 2020, Wajir County had zero cases. However, by August 2020, the County had reported 17 COVID-19 cases with mobility stringency of 70.4. The caseload would rise to 125 by August 2021 with mobility stringency of 56.0. The mobility stringency index is a composite measure rescaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100=strictest) based on nine response mobility indicators. The nine metrics used to calculate the mobility stringency index include school closures, workplace closures, cancellation of public events, restrictions on public gatherings, closure of public transport, stay-at-home requirements, public information campaigns, restrictions on internal movements and international travel controls. An index measure closer to 100 means high incidence or severity of mobility restrictions. The County mobility stringency index implies the severity of the restrictions was moderate.

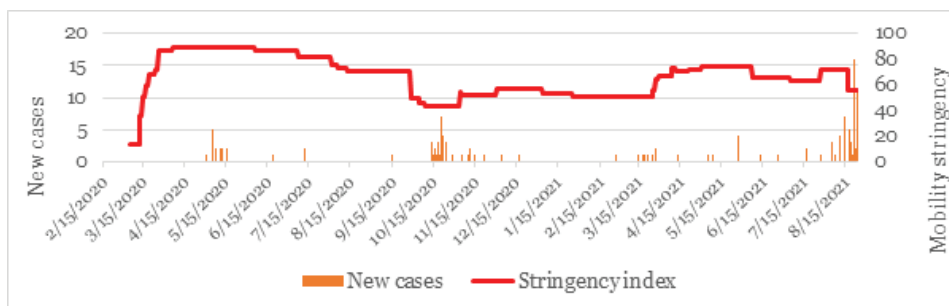
**Table 1.4: Total COVID-19 cases and mobility stringency— Wajir County**

Date	Total cases	Mobility stringency (0-100)
13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	0	36.1
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2020	17	70.4
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021	125	56.0

Data Source: Oxford University

New COVID-19 cases in Wajir County were highest between April 2020-May 2020, October 2020-December 2020 and July 2021-August 2021. During the three time-periods, spikes in new cases in the County were preceded by relaxation of COVID-19 mobility restrictions. Reduction in the County's new cases was similarly preceded by tightening of mobility restrictions.

**Figure 1.2: New COVID-19 cases**



Data Source: Oxford University

The broad objective of the report is to analyze the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 across sectors and propose interventions for mitigating the effects. The report is organized as follows. Chapter 2 focuses on fiscal policy, planning and budgeting; Chapter 3 focuses on agriculture, livestock and fisheries; chapter 4 focuses on water sanitation and hygiene; chapter 5 focuses on manufacturing, trade and MSEs; chapter 6 focuses on transport and information and communication technology; chapter 7 focuses on urban development; chapter 8 focuses on tourism, chapter 9 focuses on health; chapter 10 focuses on education and training; chapter 11 focuses on social protection; chapter 12 focuses on human resources and chapter 13 concludes the report.

## 2. Socio-Economic Effect of COVID-19

### 2.1 Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting

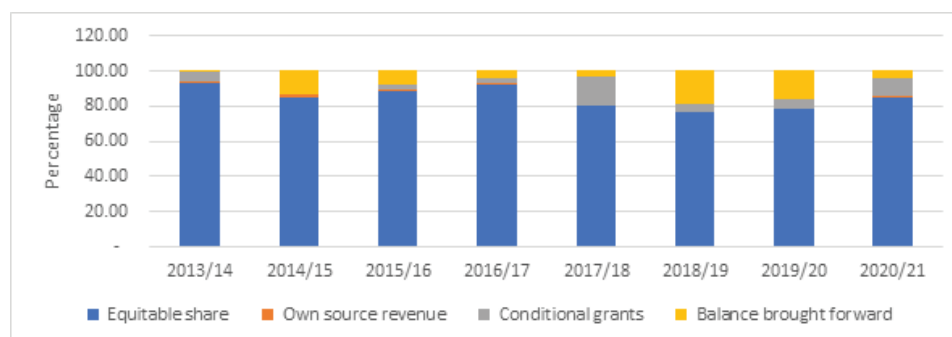
Availability of financial resources is critical in implementing county operations. Timely and adequate funding aid in successful implementation of the county's projects. The County's main revenue sources comprise of the transfers from the National Government, Conditional Grants and its own source revenue (OSR).

#### *Transfers from National Government*

Wajir total County revenue has significantly grown by 144 percent from Ksh 5.71 billion in 2013/14 to Ksh 13.93 billion in 2018/19. During 2019/20 and 2020/21 the county's total revenue declined to Ksh 10.01 billion and Ksh 10.10 billion respectively, following the adverse effect of COVID-19 pandemic that affected various revenue streams. The amount realized in 2020/21 was 92.2 per cent of the annual budget allocation of Ksh 10.94 billion. The performance was an improvement from the 87.3 per cent target attained in FY 2019/20. This was supported by the 100 per cent remittances of equitable shares from the National government and increase conditional grants.

Analysis of the sources of revenue indicate that equitable share has been the main source of county funding accounting for more than 76 per cent of the total revenues (figure 2.1). The share of equitable share from the National Government to the total revenue averaged of 84.63 percent between 2013/14 and 2020/21. However, annual contribution of equitable share to the total revenue has been declining from a high of 92.65 percent in 2013/14 to 78.05 percent in 2019/20 underscoring the increase in the contribution of conditional grants to the total revenue.

**Figure 2.1: Share of county revenues by source**



*Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)*

Monthly cash transfers from the National government have always had an increasing trend from January to June over the years as shown in Table 2.1. A similar trend was observed in 2020 with the transfers growing by 110.04 per cent from Ksh. 3.93 billion received in January to Ksh 8.25 billion received in June. In comparison to 2019, the total amount transferred to Wajir County in March, April, May, and June of 2020 decreased by 7.57 per cent from Ksh 26.83 million to Ksh 24.80 million. This shows that the county received less from the national government for the 4 months in relation to the same duration in the previous year. In light of the county's need to finance its budgetary operations as well as implement the measures needed to curb the spread of COVID-19, it is expected that more funds were transferred to the county during the subsequent months.

**Table 2.1: Monthly cash transfers from National Government (Ksh Million)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	4,579.35	5,315.02	-	-	-	-	2,368.68	-	-
2020	3,926.94	3,926.94	3,926.94	6,312.93	6,312.93	8,248.03	2,144.92	3,098.31	3,834.77
2019	3,732.39	4,410.63	5,229.68	5,992.70	6,670.94	8,937.88	6,670.94	2,229.28	3,090.14
2018	1,942.83	2,750.65	4,215.66	4,215.66	4,911.25	8,295.97	1,042.13	1,871.14	2,884.59
2017	-	-	4,565.47	5,267.85	6,555.54	7,814.26	569.72	-	-
2016	-	-	4,231.15	5,460.72	6,075.50	6,075.50	-	-	-

Data source: Gazette Notice (Various issues)

### **Conditional grants**

Conditional grants are also a major source of revenue for financing county operations and has been growing over the years. The County receives conditional grants from the National Government and development partners mainly from World Bank and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and Sweden. During 2020/21, the County received Ksh 272.43 million and Ksh 758.22 million from National Government and Development partners respectively. Conditional grants as a source of county revenue have also fluctuated significantly over the period under review. In the 2014/15, conditional grants accounted for only 0.24 per cent of the total revenue, increasing to 15.81 per cent in 2017/18, before declining again to 5.10 per cent in 2019/20 (Figure 2.1) The fluctuating trend of conditional grants is also reflected in nominal terms. The grants stood at only Ksh 17.71 million in 2014/15 and rose steadily to Ksh 1.61 billion in 2017/18, before declining again to Ksh 510.37 million in 2019/20, representing a 68 percent decline. Notably, the County raised Ksh 1.03 billion as conditional grants in 2020/21, a significant improvement from FY 2019/20 performance. Based on the performance of 2017/18 and 2020/21, the county holds great potential in raising more revenue from conditional grants, an outcome that can be achieved if it continues in fostering good relations with development partners and adhering to the conditionalities of the grants.

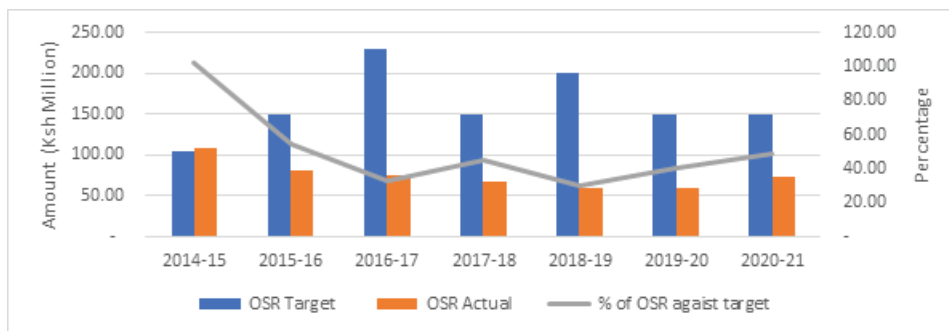
### **Own Source Revenue**

The share of OSR to total revenue remained low over the years. On average, it contributed 0.88 percent between 2013/14 and 2020/21, contributing the least amount of County

revenues. OSR contribution to total revenue has been less than 1.5 percent over the period under review. Going forward, it would be important for the county to strengthen its OSR collection framework as well as policies to improve on its contribution to the total revenues.

Analysis of annual County OSR performance shows a declining trend from a high of Ksh. 107.74 million collected in 2014/15 to Ksh. 60.42 million realized in 2019/20 (Figure 2.2). The performance of actual OSR versus target indicate that the county has attained an average of 50.9 percent of its targets between 2014/15 and 2019/20. This is from surpassing its target by 2.48 percent in 2014/15 to attaining a low of 30.06 percent of its target in 2018/19. During 2019/20, the county generated Ksh 60.42 million as OSR, representing a 0.5 percent increase compared to Ksh 60.12 million realized during 2018/19. This show that the county remained resilient amid economic shocks triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the county collected significant amount of OSR during the third quarter of 2019/20 that cushioned the revenue loss experienced during the subsequent fourth quarter. In 2020/21, the County generated Ksh 73.96 million as OSR, a slight decline from the amount realized in 2019/20. The decline was caused by the low OSR collection during the third quarter. With the improved economic activities across the Country, the OSR collection is expected to maintain the upward trajectory.

**Figure 2.2: Annual Own Source Revenue targets and actual collections**



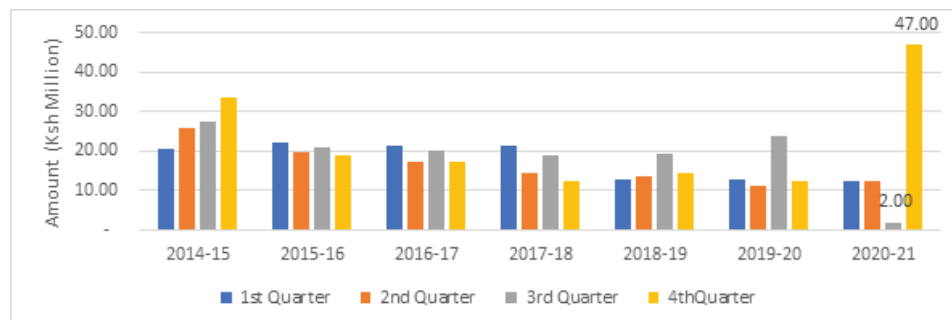
*Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)*

Analysis of the quarterly OSR show that collections have been relatively even in all the quarters during the period under review save for 2020/21 when the third quarter collection declined significantly (figure 2.3). During 2019/20, OSR collections declined marginally in the second quarter to Ksh 11.24 million from Ksh 12.70 realized during the first quarter. However, the OSR collections rose to Ksh 23.96 million in the third quarter, representing a 113.07 per cent increase. This may be attributed to the collection of single business permit that is due every 31<sup>st</sup> March of the year. As expected, the fourth quarter collections amounting to Ksh 12.51 million declined by 48 percent and 13 percent compared to the third quarter collections for FY 2019/20 and fourth quarter collections for 2018/19 respectively. The decline may be attributed to the containment measures undertaken to manage the spread of Corona virus that led to low economic activity in the county and hampered revenue collection. During FY 2020/21, the County collected only Ksh 2 million, the lowest amount ever realized. However, with the easing of containment measures and improved economic activities, the County raised Ksh 47 million, an unprecedented high.



It is expected that the improved performance will be maintained as the Country move towards economic recovery.

**Figure 2.3: Quarterly Own Source Revenue collection**



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget (Various reports)

## 2.2 County expenditure analysis

Economic and political crises, natural disasters (such as droughts and flooding), security challenges and health crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) highlight the consequential risks and underlying vulnerabilities in national and county level budgetary and planning system. These can substantially affect public resources and in cases of weaker planning systems they may impact the nature and level of service delivery to the citizen.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the productive role of targeted and strategic county level expenditure. The 2014 UN Secretary General’s Synthesis Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) states that “many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities”<sup>1</sup>. It is at the counties that economic activity takes place and when spending priorities and execution are done just right then the county and country will be set to the desired development trajectory.

Despite their constrained fiscal autonomy (such as inability to borrow funds) and relatively small budgets, the county government has a key role to play in promoting growth as espoused in the Kenya Constitution. This is particularly the case with development expenditure, which is within the assigned remit of county as per the PFM Act of 2012 and is key to the county’s future growth prospects given several decades of underinvestment which have constrained productive capacity in the local economy.

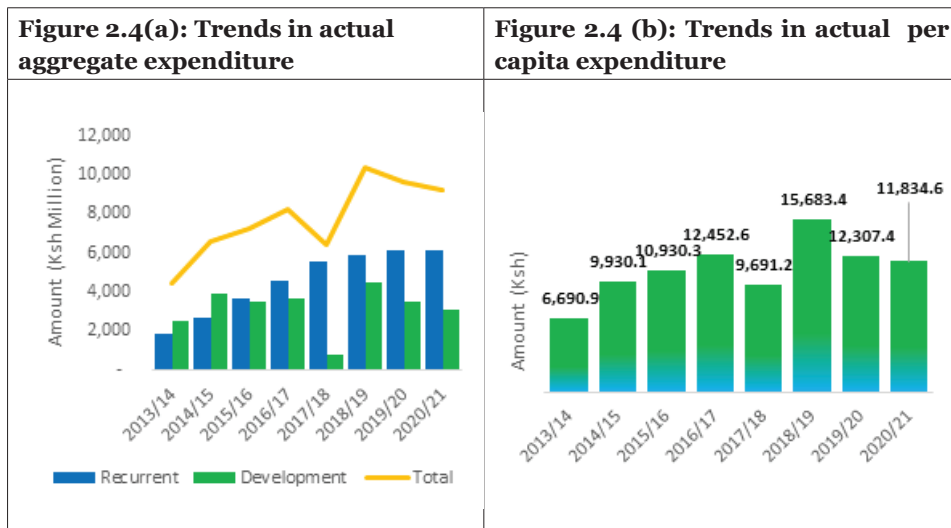
### Trends and profile of county government expenditures

County expenditure has over the years been rising as the county escalates its efforts in provision of services to its residents. Total county expenditure has grown significantly since 2013/14. With the implementation of the first full year county budget in 2013/14, actual expenditure in the county increased from Ksh 4,429.0 million to Ksh 9,246.0 million in 2020/21 (Figure 2.4). Cumulatively the county has spent a total of Ksh 62.6 billion between

<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly (2014), p. 22, par. 94.

2013/14 and 2020/21. This comprises of a cumulative Ksh 36.7 billion and Ksh 25.9 billion on recurrent and development expenditures representing 58.6 per cent and 41.4 per cent of the cumulative recurrent and development expenditure respectively. This signals that development expenditure has performed relatively well and there is even a greater opportunity to push development expenditure higher and support deepening of capital spending in the county.

**Figure 2.4: County expenditure analysis**



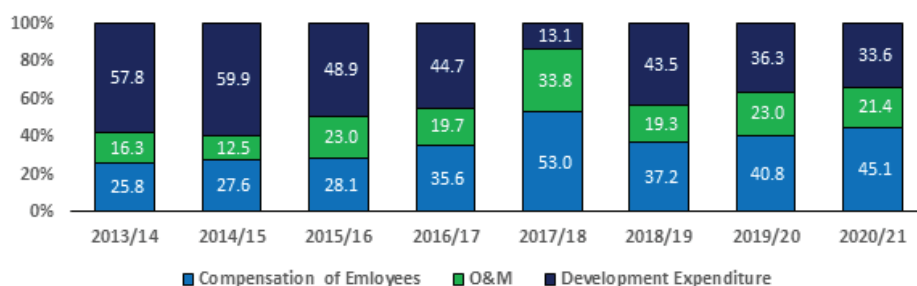
Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

Consistent with the nominal growth in actual county expenditures, spending on a per capita basis has shown upward growth over the period. In 2013/14, per capita spending in the county was about Ksh. 6,690.9 compared Ksh. 15,683.4 in 2018/19 and Ksh 11,834.6 in 2020/21. The average per capita spending between 2013/14 and 2020/21 stood at Ksh. 11,190.9.

**Utilization of public resources in the county**

Analysis of expenditures by economic classification and by departments (spending priorities) reveal interesting insights. It is evident that since inception of devolution, the county government prioritized narrowing the economic and social infrastructure gaps. Much of government development expenditures has been dominant in provision of health services, public works, education, agriculture, as well as trade and industry.

**Figure 2.5: County government expenditure by economic classification (per cent of total county government expenditure)**



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

County development expenditure accounted for an average of 42.2 per cent of total county spending between 2013/14 and 2020/21 as represented in Figure 2.5. In 2017/18 the share of development expenditure performed poorly and accounted for just 13.1 per cent of the county expenditure. On the other hand, compensation of employees has been burgeoning between 2013/14 and 2020/21. The average share of compensation of employees in total county budget over the review period was 36.6 per cent. Surprisingly in 2017/18, compensation of employees accounted for over half of the county total spending.

Reflecting on expenditures by functional classification (priority spending), the county spent a combined average of 79.8 per cent of the total expenditure during the period 2014/15 to 2020/21 on non-administrative services such public health, medical services and sanitation (21.7per cent); Roads & Transport (13.0per cent); Water resources (11.8per cent); Public Services & special programmes (9.0%); Education, Youth, Gender and Social Services (7.3%), among others.

**Table 2.2: County departmental/priority spending**

	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	Average spend- ing	Average share of spend- ing (per cent)
Public Health, Medical Services and Sanitation	1,168.1	1,287.3	1354.71	1,598.2	2,206.6	2,503.4	2,430.9	1,792.7	21.7
Roads & Transport	1,572.3	1,160.2	1,225.2	302.1	1,613.1	1,025.0	634.8	1,076.1	13.0
Water re-sources	1,092.3	1,133.1	941.9	472.2	1,150.2	1,162.7	844.6	971.0	11.8
Public Services & special progs	304.1	549.0	850.3	832.9	1,178.3	663.2	825.4	743.3	9.0
County As-sembly	453.7	560.3	645.1	644.0	719.8	689.9	932.1	663.5	8.0
Education, Youth, Gender and Social Services	286.8	377.9	611.3	658.1	949.9	693.1	611.4	598.3	7.3
Finance and Economic Planning	341.8	482.6	455.4	634.4	584.3	714.4	540.2	536.2	6.5
Agriculture and Livestock Development	326.8	289.3	708.5	287.8	533.4	546.9	629.3	474.6	5.8
County Exec-utive	295.6	409.2	450.3	456.2	452.8	462.7	366.0	413.2	5.0
ICT, Trade, In-dustrialization, Co-operative Development	471.2	345.5	389.2	151.6	266.5	251.0	203.0	296.9	3.6
Public works, Lands, Hous-ing and Physi-cal Planning	204.0	251.8	254.2	228.8	192.0	144.2	80.6	193.7	2.3
WAJWASCO (Wajir Water and Sewerage Company)	-	108.2	142.85	52.1	279.0	202.4	534.9	188.5	2.3
Energy, Environment and Natural Resources	56.4	247.1	142.6	67.3	187.2	190.4	187.0	154.0	1.9
Municipality	-	-	-	-	-	295.9	365.6	94.5	1.1
County Public Service Board	-	33.7	71.3	72.7	68.3	70.3	60.0	53.8	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,572.8</b>	<b>7,235.2</b>	<b>8,242.9</b>	<b>6,458.4</b>	<b>10,381.5</b>	<b>9,615.3</b>	<b>9,245.9</b>	<b>8,250.3</b>	100.0

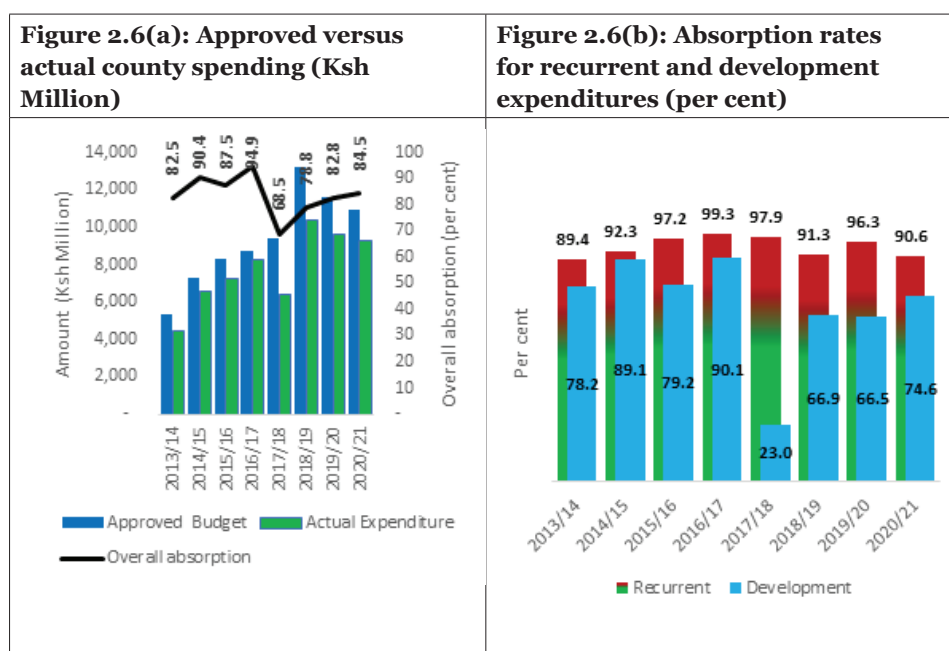
Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

In addition, during the review period co-ordination and administrative functions accounted for a combined 20.2 per cent with County Assembly leading at 8.0 per cent followed by Finance and Economic Planning at 6.5 per cent, County Executive 5.0 per cent, while county public service board accounting for 0.7 per cent.

### Effectiveness of County spending

Total budget execution averaged 83.7 per cent in the period 2013/14 to 2020/21. In 2013/14 overall total budget execution stood at 82.5 per cent. This execution improved to 94.9 per cent in 2016/17 before taking a dip in 2017/18 due to election related shocks to funding from National government. At the end of 2020/21 budget absorption stood at 84.5 per cent meaning that in 2020/21 only Ksh. 9,246.0 million was utilized out of the approved budget of Ksh 10,944.1 million

**Figure 2.6: county approved expenditure and absorption rates**



Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget

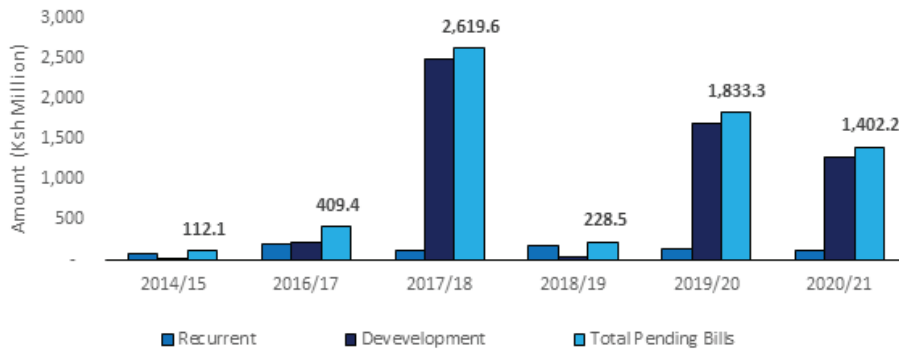
With regards to development budget execution in the county, the average absorption rate between 2013/14 and 2020/21 was 70.9 per cent (implying that on average over 29.1 per cent of the development budget is not absorbed). This exemplifies a strong development budget implementation, and the county should continue tightening budget implementation to ensure achievement of greater absorption rates to help achieve the targets in annual development plans (ADPs) and the county integrated development plans (CIDPs). On recurrent expenditure, the execution has been robust over the years, the average absorption rate has been 94.3 per cent leaving about 5.7 per cent of unspent recurrent budget.

### Pending Bills

In 2014/15 the county reported Ksh. 112.1 million in pending bills. This increased to Ksh 2,619.6 million in 2017/18 with development spending related pending bills accounting for

95.2 per cent of this. In 2019/20 pending bills slowed to Ksh 1,833.3 million band further down to Ksh 1,402.2 million at the end of 2020/21. Generally, pending bills related to development have been greater than those related to recurrent expenditure on average accounting for 87.1 per cent of the pending bills portfolio. If pending bills for development were paid in their respective fiscal year, the execution of development budget in subsequent years would improve.

**Figure 2.7: Profile of county pending bills**



*Data Source: Office of the Controller of Budget*

To achieve its overall goal of improving lives and livelihoods of its residents, the county government must now move quickly to tackle the problem of pending bills. Increasing and persistent pending bills is a threat to the survival of the private sector particularly primary firms that trade with the county government. These firms are critical for employment creation as well as driving economic activity within the county. These bills have not only affected their profitability and overall performance but have also become a threat to private sector in general and the families that depend on these firms through ripple effect. If not well monitored these could grow and eat up on the county's already thin revenue sources.

### 2.3 Conclusions

- i. Mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations.
- ii. Seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.
- iii. Ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers.
- iv. Ensure the ongoing infrastructure project are completed and suppliers paid within the specified timelines for optimal returns to investment and to spur private sector activity.
- v. Improve budget execution and absorption of development budget by harmonizing

project implementation cycles to budgeting and fast-track exchequer releases.

- vi. Reduction of expenditure on compensation of employees within the PFM requirement since ballooning compensation of employees potentially affects execution of key development programs especially if not brought to sustainable levels.
- vii. Monitoring and prompt payment of pending bills as they limit execution of planned activities in subsequent budget.

### 3. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

#### 3.1 Characteristics of the Sector

Agriculture accounts for the largest share of economic activity in Wajir County. More than a half of County economic activity is driven by the agriculture sector. In 2017, agriculture accounted for Ksh 20, 032 million out of the total Ksh 37,159 million Gross County Product (GCP) amounting to 53.9 percent of the County's GCP.

Over 40 per cent of the households in Wajir County practice farming. About 1.9 per cent of the households produce crops, 49 per cent produce livestock, 1 per cent practice aquaculture and about 0.7 per cent are involved in fishing. About 0.5 per cent of the households practice irrigation farming.

**Table 3.1: Distribution of Households Practicing Agriculture, Fishing and Irrigation by County and Sub County**

County/Sub County	Total Households	Farming Households	Crop Production	Livestock Production	Aquaculture	Fishing	Irrigation
Kenya	12,143,913	6,354, 211	5,555, 974	4,729, 288	29,325	109,640	369,679
Wajir	127,932	63,433	2,484	62,695	1,272	912	638
Buna	6,480	3,425	77	3,407	37	38	7
Eldas	13,961	6,975	513	6,776	200	198	114
Habaswein	31,292	19,731	456	19,603	381	213	160
Tarbaj	9,309	4,598	114	4,543	103	71	36
Wajir East	18,674	3,113	193	3,039	58	52	51
Wajir North	10,490	5,288	495	5,214	51	50	163
Wajir South	21,364	11,735	252	11,663	225	173	67
Wajir West	16,362	8,568	384	8,450	217	117	40

*Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census*

The estimated acreage under food crops in 2020 is 5,700 acres of which 2,200 acres are under small scale farming. A significant share of the land under food crops is under subsistence farming compared to the area under commercial farming.

**Table 3.2: Area of land Under Farming**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Area of land Under Farming	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,300	5,700	5,700
Area of land Under Small Scale Farming (Acres)	1,400	1,600	1,800	2,100	2,200	2,200
Area Under Irrigation Farming	300	400	600	700	900	900
Area of Land under Subsistence Farming	2,400	2,700	3,000	3,180	3,420	3,420
Area of Land Under Commercial Farming	1,600	1,800	2,000	2,120	2,280	2,280

*Source: Wajir County*



The County is classified as a North ASALS agroecological zone as per the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029. An overall analysis of the County agricultural production indicates among the top food crops produced by households in Wajir include maize, beans, watermelons, and sorghum.

**Table 3.3: Distribution of Households Growing Crops by Type, County and Sub County**

County/Sub County	Wajir	Buna	Eldas	Habaswein	Tarbaj	Wajir East	Wajir North	Wajir South	Wajir West
Maize	1,663	42	395	345	41	88	419	174	159
Beans	799	17	151	192	17	42	246	76	58
Watermelons	717	12	93	173	11	84	34	71	239
Sorghum	660	46	185	122	8	39	168	48	44

Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

Resource productivity is another key important factor in determining the agro-processing potential (scale) of the County and would have a great impact on farmers' incomes and the County's GCP. An assessment of horticultural productivity indicates Wajir's value of fruits production in 2019 amounted to Ksh 54.2 million. The area under fruit was 150 Ha with a production of 1,030 MT. The major fruits grown in order of value importance are; pawpawa and lemons.

**Table 3.4: Fruits Grown in Wajir**

Type of Fruit	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Pawpaw	50	500	40,000,000
Lemons	80	230	13,800,000
Mango	20	300	360,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>54,160,000</b>

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority (2019)

In 2019, the value of vegetables production in the County amounted to Ksh 42.2 million. The area under vegetables was 135 Ha with a production of 685 MT. The major vegetables grown in order of value importance are potato, tomato, kales, pumpkin fruit and garden peas.

**Table 3.5: Vegetables Grown in Wajir**

Type of Vegetables	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Tomato	60	300	21,000,000
Kales	50	200	12,000,000
Spinach	25	185	9,200,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>42,200,050</b>

Source: Agriculture and Food Authority (2019)

Apart from onions and chilies, Medicinal and Aromatic plants (MAPs) remain unexploited despite the great potential to exploit this category of crops especially in agroecologies

characterizing ASALs. In 2019, the value of MAPs production in the County amounted to KES 3.5 million. The area under MAPSs was 5 Ha with a production of 50 MT. The major MAPs grown are Corriander.

**Table 3.6: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) Grown in Wajir**

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)	Area in Ha	Production in Tons	Value in Shillings
Corriander	5	50	3,500,000

*Source: Agriculture and Food Authority (2019)*

Being an ASAL County, animal production is a key economic activity in Wajir County. Other than rearing the traditional livestock (i.e. cattle, goats, sheep, donkeys and camels), the County has promoted poultry production and bee keeping (apiculture) among farming households in the County. A lower percentage of farming households practice aquaculture.

**Table 3.7: Distribution of Households Rearing Livestock and Fish by County and Sub County**

County/Sub County	Wajir	Buna	Eldas	Haba Swein	Tarbaj	Wajir East	Wajir North	Wajir South	Wajir West
Goats	57,038	2,929	6,318	18,318	4,201	2,688	4,468	10,333	7,783
Sheep	53,245	2,661	5,844	17,753	3,754	2,177	3,693	9,825	7,538
Donkeys	39,275	2,249	5,037	12,318	2,693	1,231	3,453	7,316	4,978
Camels	39,237	2,396	5,516	12,356	2,872	1,250	3,944	6,144	4,759
Indigenous cattle	28,872	2,078	1,704	10,769	644	413	2,946	6,728	3,590
Indigenous Chicken	5,712	586	383	1,615	186	303	876	774	989
Exotic cattle -Dairy	1,633	169	133	559	75	98	106	356	137
Exotic Chicken Layers	891	84	163	174	95	57	107	146	65
Exotic cattle -Beef	518	75	85	122	20	21	43	118	34
Exotic Chicken Broilers	447	63	69	78	38	41	33	84	41
Beehives	174	7	45	12	4	14	65	17	10
Rabbits	69	3	19	10	8	16	-	12	1

*Source: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census*

The above characterization of farming households highlights the priority value chain opportunities in cattle, goats, sheep, donkeys, camels, poultry production, bee keeping (apiculture) pawpaw, lemons, maize, beans, watermelons and sorghum. With majority of the households farming the identified products, the current Wajir transformation strategy

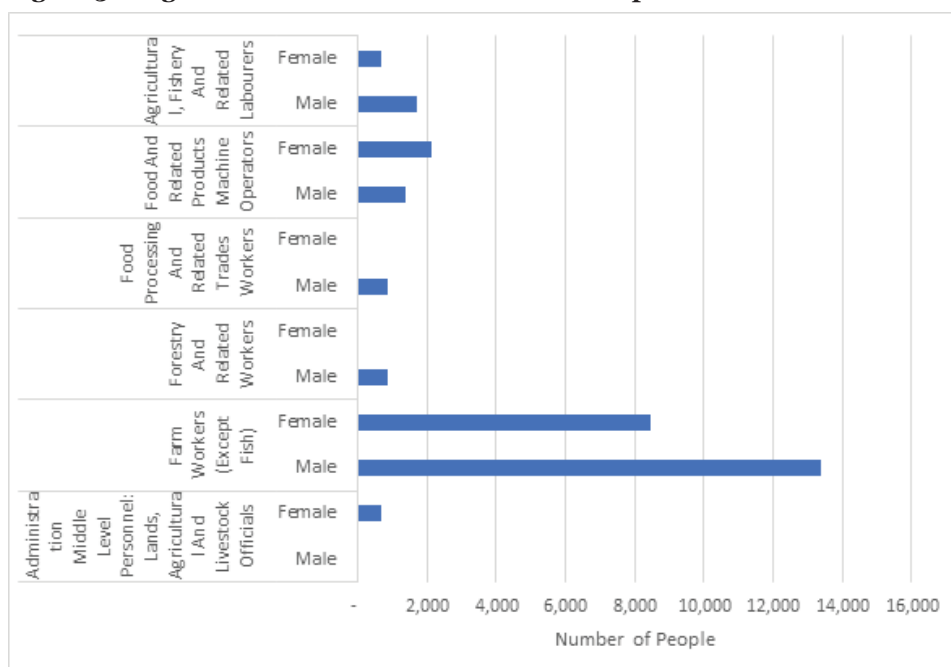
in agriculture should prioritize value chains in the identified areas to positively impact of household’s livelihoods.

### Agri-Food Challenges in COVID-19

#### i) Human capital/employment levels – by gender

Agricultural labor participation in Wajir indicates relative dominance by either gender in specific agriculture related occupations. Majority of the population in Wajir are farm workers where the group covers occupations related to: Field Crop, Vegetable and Horticultural Farm Workers; Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Producers; and Crop and Animal Producers. The classifications are based on the Kenya National Occupational Classification Standard (KNOCS).

**Figure 3.1: Agriculture Related Labor Force Participation**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

An assessment of the Covid\_19 effects on hours worked by in agriculture related occupations indicates workers in most of the identified sub-sectors worked fewer hours in the reference period as compared with the usual hours worked per week. The most affected workers are the agricultural, fishery and related labourers who recorded the highest difference of 21 hours between the usual and actual hours worked in a week. The workers in this sub-major group include Farmhands and Related Labourers; Forestry Labourers; and Fishery, Hunting and Trapping Labourers. The other equally affected subgroup are the food processing and related trades workers with a difference of 21 hours between the usual

and actual hours worked in a week. The workers in this sub-major group include :- Drilling and Mining Plant and Mineral Products Machine Operators; Metal Processing Plant and Metal-Working Machine Operators; Wood Processing Plant and Wood, Rubber and Plastic Products Machine Operators; Chemical Processing Plant and Chemical Products Machine Operators; Power Production Plant Operators; Food and Related Products Machine Operators; Assemblers; Drivers and Mobile Machinery Operators; and Other Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers.

**Figure 3.2: Changes in Hours Worked by in Agriculture Related Occupations**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

The identified COVID-19 effects on labour force participation are likely to have negative effects on output thereby increasing yield gaps. The effects are also likely to have negative effects on household’s income.

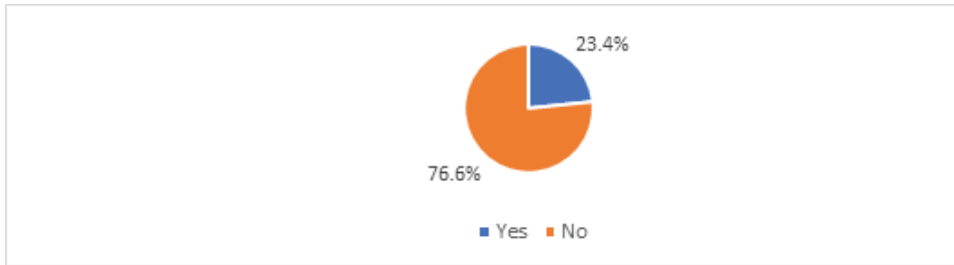
**ii) Market channels and operations**

Successful transformation of smallholder agricultural production in Wajir County from subsistence to an innovative, commercially oriented and modern agricultural sector, as aspired in the national ASTGS, is dependent on the ability of the County market its commodities both in domestic, regional and international markets.

Among the marketing issues faced by the County is road access, a key indication of access to markets. Wajir’s rural access index (RAI)- which measures “the number of rural people who live within two kilometers (typically equivalent to a walk of 20-25 minutes) of an all-season road as a proportion of the total rural population- fairs poorly at 16 per cent. This is low compared to the national average of 69.38per cent.

As a result of COVID-19, there has been a further slow down on trade activities due to the restrictions on movements. From the KNBS conducted between 30th May and 6th June 2020, 23.4 per cent of the households in Wajir County indicated over the past 1 week there had been instances where the household or a member of the household could not access the markets/grocery stores to purchase food items.

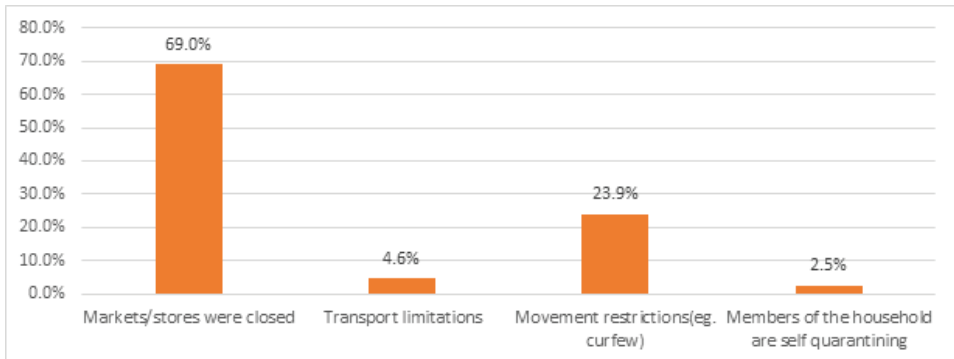
**Figure 3.3: Limited access to markets to purchase food items**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Majority of the households indicated the key reasons for not accessing the markets/grocery stores to purchase food items were closure of the markets/grocery stores (69 per cent) and movement restrictions (23.9 per cent).

**Figure 3.4: Reason for Limited access to markets/ grocery stores**

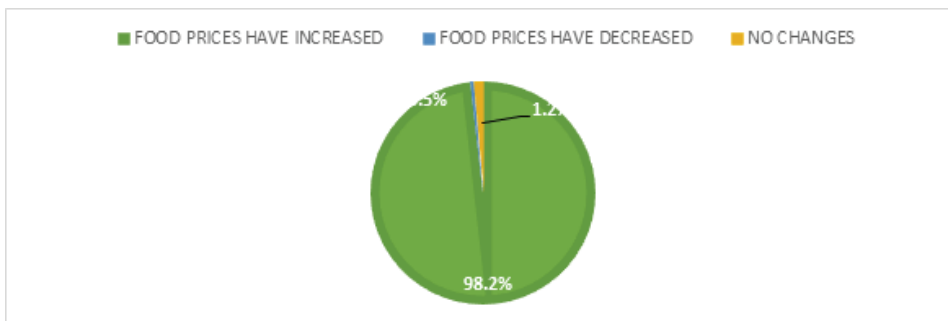


Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Livestock trade has especially been majorly affected as traders are unable to take the livestock to the market.

Restrictions affecting seamless movement of food commodities are likely to cause a hike in prices in non-production areas and fall in prices in production areas. 98.2 per cent of households in Wajir County indicated that over the past 2 weeks from the reference period, while 1.2 per cent indicated that they had not experienced a change in the prices

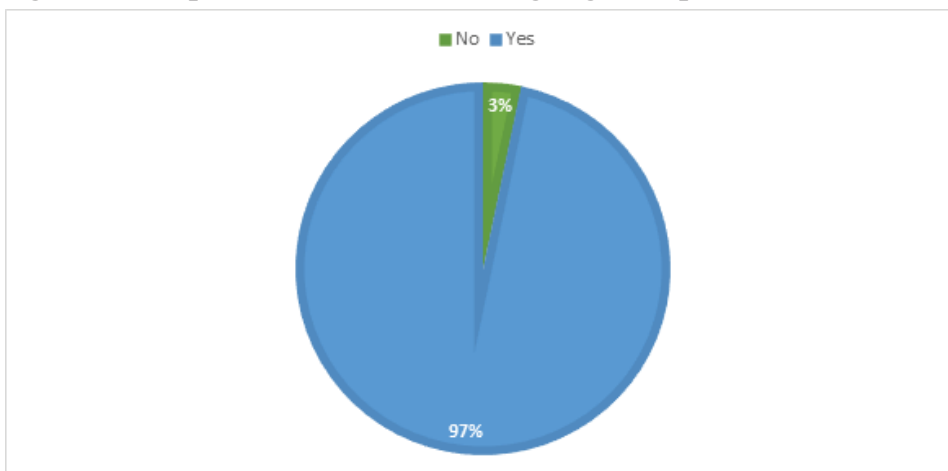
**Figure 3.5: Percentage of households experiencing change in food commodity prices**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

On the magnitude of the price shocks, 97 per cent of the households indicated they faced a large rise in food prices in the past two weeks from the reference period.

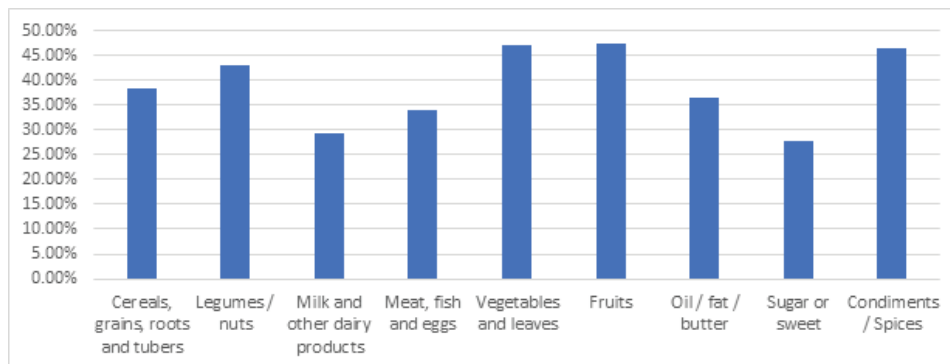
**Figure 3.6: Proportion of households facing large food price shocks**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Poor access to markets also hinders the ability to supply food to the population as shown in the below figure.

**Figure 3.7: Per cent households reporting that the following food items were not readily available in their locality**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

While access to all food groups were affected as shown in the figure above, a key concern is that the food groups affected most are the nutritious food categories- fruits and vegetables -which are necessary for boosting the immune system of the population.

Among the key strategies adopted by households to mitigate COVID-19 effects on food consumption include relying on less preferred and less expensive foods (54.9%), decreased buying some non-food products (32.1%), limit portion size at mealtimes (31.6%) and purchase food on credit or incurred debt (29.9%).

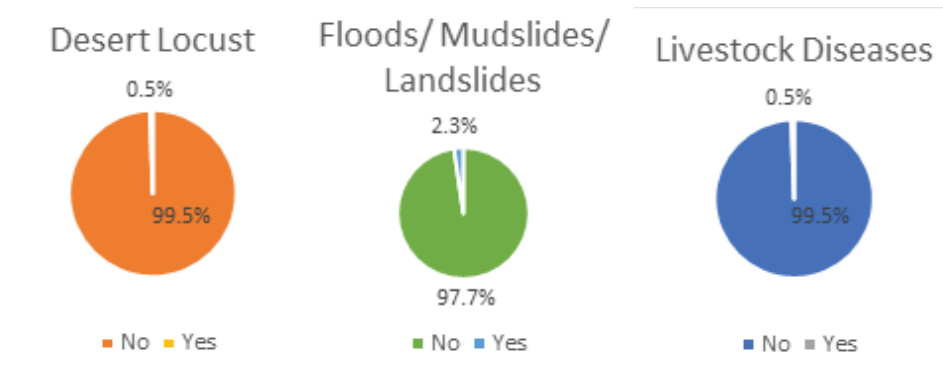
**Figure 3.8: Percent of households where the following strategies were adopted for at least one day**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Additional challenges, albeit at low levels, faced by the County during the COVID-19 pandemic period, albeit at low levels, include Desert locusts (0.5%); Floods/ Mudslides/ Landslides (2.3%); and Livestock Diseases (0.5%).

**Figure 3.9: Percentage of households who experienced the below shocks in the past two weeks the KNBS Wave 2 survey**



Source: KNBS Survey on Socio Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households-Wave 2

Further, the County faced the following COVID-19 effects:

- Agricultural sector in Wajir County mainly comprises of livestock keeping. The pandemic has greatly affected disease surveillance efforts within the County.
- Restriction of movement and the increased cost of transport has restricted movement of farm products to markets within and outside Wajir.
- Limited access to inputs: Receiving seedlings from other areas like Nairobi has been a challenge especially with the limited movement.

### ***Agri-Food Constraints Faced in the County***

Among the key constraints the County faces include:

- Variable and extreme weather events which have increased in frequency and intensity over the years adversely affecting livestock and crop production
- Dependence of rain fed agriculture despite frequency in extreme climate conditions, such as drought episodes, delayed and erratic rains, floods, and high temperatures among other climate shocks
- Poor and inadequate infrastructure affecting marketing activities. For instance, the County had comparatively low road networks in comparison to other counties, critical for access to input and output markets
- Low productivity due to poor natural resource management
- Water scarcity which is a constraining factor that limits productivity for both livestock and food crops production



- vi) Low commercialization of farming where majority of farmers practice farming for subsistence purposes and cultural purposes rather than a business.
- vii) Farmers low access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seeds, water, animal feeds, artificial insemination (AI) services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and mechanized ploughing services by County tractor hire services.
- viii) Invasive species on crop and pasturelands
- ix) Unreliable marketing channels characterized by high presence of middlemen in produce marketing
- x) Inadequate extension and veterinary services
- xi) Limited access to agricultural and livestock inputs, credit and insurance services, climate and market information services
- xii) Slow uptake of digital platforms to market agricultural produce.
- xiii) Lack of storage and agro-processing capacities leading to farm losses and post-harvest waste.
- xiv) Farmers low access and capacity to act on early warning bulletins among other climate and weather advisories, as well as limited capacities in pastures rehabilitation and investment in sustainable land management practices.
- xv) Pests and Diseases affecting farm productivity
- xvi) Low adoption of early-maturing plant varieties, water harvesting, and post-harvest storage that would increase farmers returns
- xvii) Farm losses and post-harvest waste.

The above challenges combined will lead to the overall impact of reducing farm output, farmer incomes and increasing the vulnerability of households to food insecurity and climate variability particularly flood and drought episodes.

### **3.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in agriculture sector**

An assessment of the sector linkages to other sectors highlights that the sector is enabled by:

- i. Businesses/ MSMEs: Businesses and MSMEs are crucial in providing inputs and requirements to the agricultural sector. The sector would facilitate the efficient access to
- ii. Transport, Storage and ICT sectors
- iii. Financial and insurance activities
- iv. Accommodation Food services

- v. Manufacturing: The manufacturing sector plays a crucial role in agro-processing. Agricultural inputs also contribute to the processing of other manufacturing commodities

The County has opportunities in:

- a) Developing County-private partnership in enhancing agro-processing and value addition and Linking farmers to product markets
- b) Access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seedlings, water and hay for animals, AI services, fertilizers, livestock vaccination and ploughing services by County tractor hire services.
- c) In addition to agro-processing, provision of storage and cooling facilities particularly at collection points to minimize spoilage and post-harvest losses particularly for milk.
- d) Uptake of digital platforms to build capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies; access advisory and information services; and market agricultural produce.
- e) Expansion of water harvesting projects and sustainable irrigation in the County through partnership with development partners with the aim of increasing food productivity at the County.
- f) Scaling up conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, planting drought-tolerant, early-maturing varieties and modern crop varieties, and agro-forestry.
- g) Increased livestock production through: - routine vaccination, deworming and vector control to maintain animal health; destocking and change of livestock species; decentralized veterinary services; disease surveillance; storing and conserving pastures and fodder; capacity building on animal management and training on preservation and value addition techniques; controlled movement of animals ; capacity building on stock route and market inspection ; and improved milking hygiene and animal housing.
- h) Adoption of drought resistant livestock pastures/fodder and crops and also fodder and feed conservation
- i) Rearing livestock breeds adapted to drought
- j) Livestock Production for Niche Markets
- k) Adoption of natural resource management to include soil and water conservation, tree planting, changing of crop type and water harvesting.
- l) Enhance supportive services to include early-warning systems, financial services such as insurance schemes for livestock / crop and credit facilities, advisory and information services through extension and training.
- m) Enhancing farmers technical capacities to act on advisory information received
- n) Improved crop and livestock emergencies surveillance systems in the County.
- o) Strengthening farmers' associations and cooperatives as an additional solution to marketing challenges

### **3.3 Emerging Issues**

- i) Environmental degradation has reduced productive capacity of farms leading to increased risks to food insecurity and reduced farmers income.
- ii) Climate change, manifested in increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions such as floods, droughts and pest invasion

#### ***Recommendations***

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will:

- i) Intensive agro-processing and value addition capacities of the County particularly in meat, leather, horticulture (e.g. pawpaw, lemons) and bee keeping (apiculture) production in partnership with the National Government, NGOs, Research Institutions and the Private sector. Currently The County is partnering with KIRDI to train officials and locals on value addition.
- ii) Invest in access roads to enhance linkage between farms and markets. Extensive rural road infrastructure plays a central role in provision of affordable access to both markets for agricultural outputs and modern inputs. Wajir's rural access index (RAI) fairs poorly at 16 per cent compared to the national average of 69.4 per cent. There is thus need for the County to invest in access roads to enhance linkage between farms and markets. Other crucial market infrastructure includes lighting and water services to facilitate trade activities.
- iii) Digitize the agri-food sector to enhance: - training and building capacities of farming households in modern agricultural technologies, provision of advisory and information services, marketing agricultural produce at a wider scope beyond the County level and improving access to innovative support services including credit and insurance services.
- iv) Promote participation in high-value product markets, such as, niche markets for livestock products (e.g. organic milk and meat). This will create value for the County in several ways including: - farmers accessing premium process for the produce; rearrangement of the food chain to marketing structures that bypass exploitative middlemen; steady revenues for farmers; and increased economic incentives in adopting SLM practices.
- v) Diversify production and livelihoods in the County through growth and development of Poultry production, bee keeping (apiculture) and fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors to fit in the diverse niche and climatic cycles of the County. Towards this, the County has set up a processing plant in Loiyangalani to boost economic development.
- vi) Invest in abattoirs and cold storage facilities (on-site cold storage and refrigerated vehicles to transport the meat to markets in Kenya and abroad)
- vii) Establish programmes for surveillance of disasters, such as extreme weather

conditions and livestock disease, at the County level equipped with relevant technical specialists and finances to effectively prepare, respond and prevent risks. There is also need for the County to mitigate disasters, such as those related to floods, through institutional capacity development, vulnerability analyses and updates, monitoring and early warning systems, and public education;

- viii) Sustainable expansion of irrigation and water harvesting projects: - To support livestock production, food crops and horticultural farming, there is need for sustainable expansion of irrigation and water harvesting projects in the County through partnership with development partners. Current projects under development in the County include: - Burmayo water pan and Irrigation Project, Boji Garas Water Pan and Irrigation Project and Abdi Waqo Irrigation Project. To support expansion of sustainable irrigation, there is need to promote development of Irrigation Infrastructure and technologies in the County. Further, there are plans to build a dam along Isiolo river to support irrigation.
- ix) Strengthen agricultural cooperatives through effective stakeholder engagement and implementation of interventions for more sustainable models of financing and customized training of cooperative members.

## 4 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### 4.1 Characteristics of the Sector

The county has several water resources namely: underground, surface and sub-surface sources. There is a high potential for rainwater harvesting especially from flash floods during the long rains. The county has 272 boreholes, 15 mega pans, and 260 water pans. The proportion of households with access to piped water is approximately two per cent of the county population. Wajir town, Griftu, Eldas, Habaswein, Tarbaj, Arbajahan and Masalale are some of the centers with water supply systems serving consumers mainly through water kiosks.

About 2,000 households in the county have roof catchment representing 2 per cent of the total households. The average distance to the nearest water point is around 20 Km. Wajir water and sewerage Company (WAJWASCO), which manages 30 boreholes. Majority of the boreholes are managed and serviced by the Department of Water. At the community level, water users' associations manage the day-to-day operations of the boreholes. The county has no sewerage system and mainly relies on septic tanks, bucket latrines, pit latrines and VIP Latrines in some towns and institutions. Latrine coverage is low at approximately 30 Per cent.

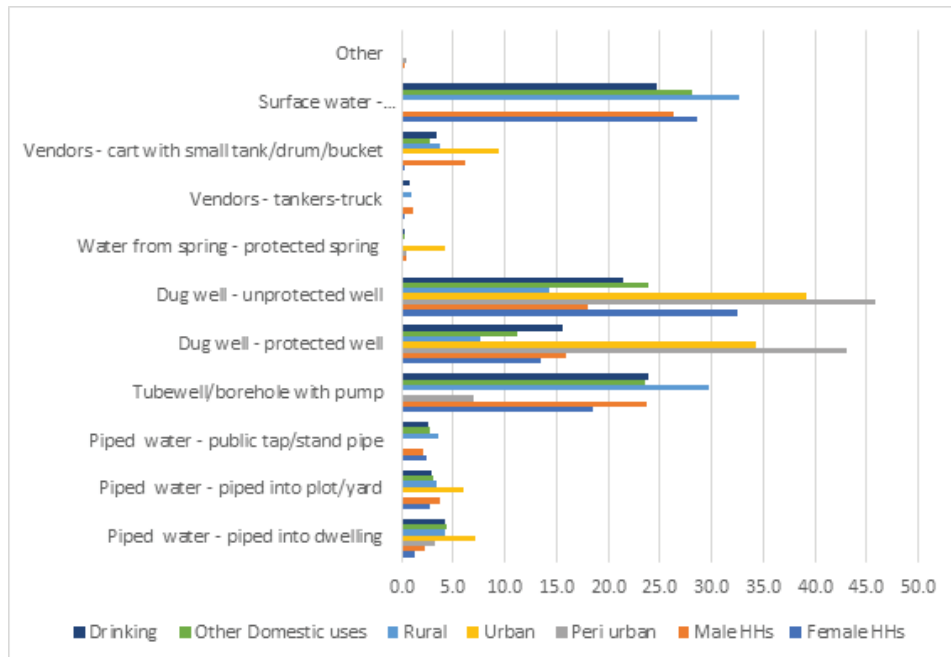
#### ***Measure to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 under water and sanitation***

The water sector received the 2nd highest amount of allocation from the budget after health. Last allocation was around Kshs. 600M as development funds. The challenge is that the county is vast. The County has close to 300 operational boreholes, over 500 medium sized water pumps but the ground water potential is very low, sometimes water pads dry up. Latrine coverage is at 30 per cent, thus the county is undertaking a community led total sanitation project and through the initiative around 25 centers have been declared open defecation free. Most estates in town have septic tanks, the only problem was the ecolid contamination within the town.

#### ***Access to source of water by households***

The major source of water for drinking utilized by households in is surface water (24.7 per cent), tubewell/borehole with pump (23.9 per cent), dug well (unprotected) at (21.5 per cent) and dug well protected (15.7 per cent). Similarly, most rural area relies on surface water (32.6 per cent), while urban (39.1 per cent) and peri-urban households depend on dug well (unprotected) (45.8 per cent). Access to piped water into dwelling remains low among the rural (4.2 per cent) urban (7.1 per cent) and peri-urban households (3.2 per cent). Further most majority of female headed households uses dug well (unprotected) at 32.4 per cent while most of male headed households uses surface water at 26.3 per cent

**Figure 4.1: Access to water by households**



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Combating COVID-19 pandemic has already placed high demand for water for both domestic usage in households, health care institutions, learning institutions, marketplaces and other public places. Water also remains important to other sectors of the economy such as agriculture and industrial usage, among others. With the planned re-opening of schools and upcoming low rain seasons means that the pressure on water resources will be high, this therefore means that the demand for water will be high and if the supply will be low, households are likely to fail to observe COVID-19 prevention measures of hand washing which may in turn lead to high transmission of COVID-19.

To ensure continuity of quality water supply, there is need for the county to invest in water harvesting and storage facilities both at household and institutional level, this may include supporting schools in building rain harvesting and storage structures in schools from the school structure rooftops, supporting households in rainwater harvesting during rainfall times. Other interventions may include digging boreholes, supply of water to households that experiences water scarcity.

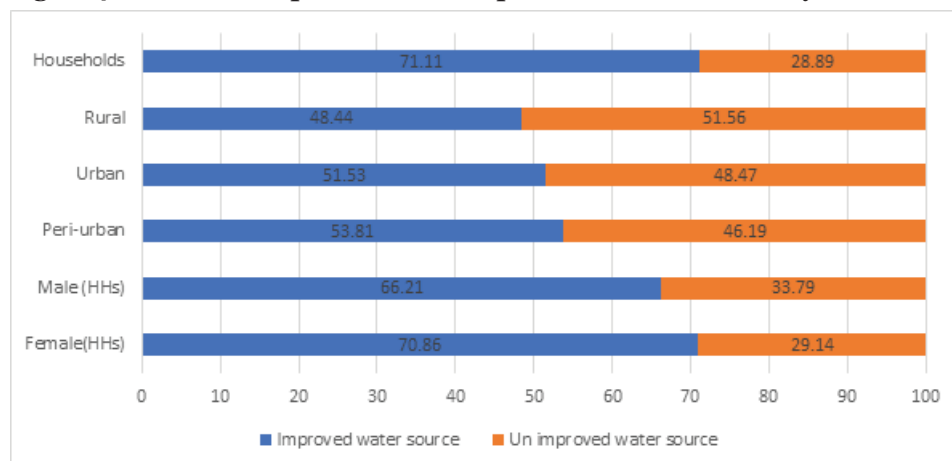
Therefore, for equality in access to water the county government can waive or reduce the water bills for urban households who uses piped water as well as support water vendors in access to clean safe water at a reduced cost. This will mean financial support to water service companies. Other long-term measures include inclusion of both rural, urban and peri-urban dwellers into decision making in regard to water management and governance.

**Access to sources of water by households (improved and unimproved sources)**

Clean and safe water is essential for good health and goes a long way in ensuring reduced

infections. Access to improved drinking water<sup>2</sup>, among households (71.1 per cent) remains high both Urban (51.5 per cent) and peri-urban (53.8 per cent) in comparison to rural households (48.4 per cent). Similarly, both male and female headed households have higher of access to improved drinking water source of water at 66.2 per cent and 70.9 per cent respectively.

**Figure 4.2: Access to improved and unimproved sources of water by households**



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Inequalities in access to safe and clean drinking water may put households at risk of contracting infectious diseases as well as make the households less observance of COVID-19 measures of hand hygiene. One mitigation measure that may be undertaken by the county to increase access to improved water source, include connecting the households with piped water, increase the development of improved sources of water especially in rural areas. Long term measure to support access to water all households is to have both male and female headed households to be part of water management/governance team and in decision making in water management.

Other important consideration is to have separate water drinking point for livestock, different from the household water drinking water sources to minimize water contamination as well as conflict over water resource. Other long-term measures are to avoid agricultural activities along the upstream to minimize water pollution.

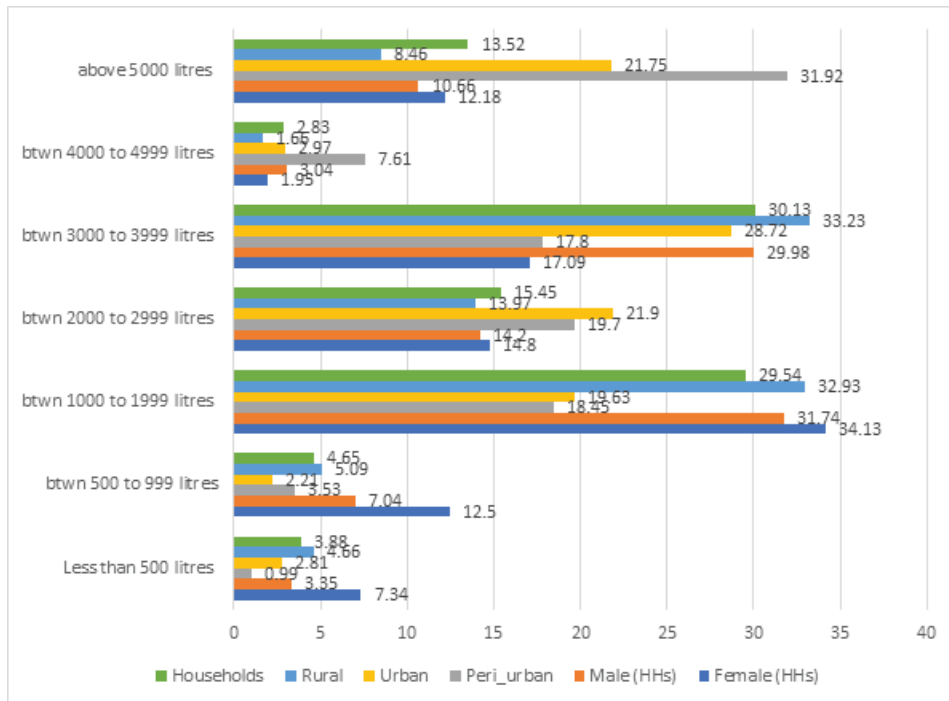
### **Volumes for water used by households in a month**

Most households (29.5%), rural households (34.1%) urban (23.4%) and peri-urban households (31%) and peri-urban (18.5%) use between 1000 to 1999 litres of water in a month. On the other hand, most urban households have used between 3000 to 3999 litres of water in the past month at 28.7 per cent. Additionally, majority of male and female

<sup>2</sup> Improved sources of water include; water from the following sources Piped water - piped into dwelling, Piped water - piped into plot/yard, Piped water - public tap/stand pipe, Tubewell/borehole with pump, Dug well - protected well, Dug well - unprotected well, Water from spring - protected spring). Unimproved sources of water which include; Water from spring - unprotected spring, Rain water collection, Vendors - tankers-truck, Vendors - cart with small tank/drum/bucket, Vendors-bicycles with bucket, Surface water river/streams/pond/dam/lake/cannal/irrigation channel Bottled water. This is according to WHO and UN classification of sources of water

headed households use between 1000-1999 litres of water per month at 31.7 per cent and 34.1 per cent, respectively.

**Figure 4.3: Volumes of water used by households a month**



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

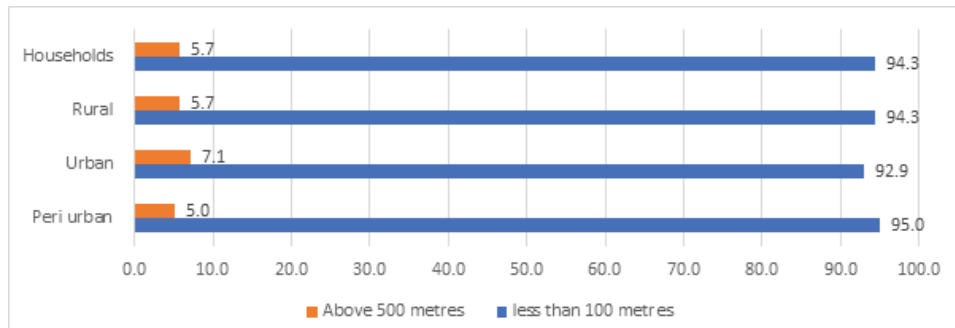
The above chart shows that most households utilize large volumes of water monthly, with the planned re-opening of schools it means more water will be needed by the institutions. Water remains a scarce commodity and in places or months where water is scarce, this may influence families and hinder them from observing COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Correct utilizations of water resources should be emphasized at households’ level, similarly, there is need for conservation of water catchment areas.

**Distance covered to water source and average time spend to and from the water source**

Majority of the households (94.4 per cent) both rural (94.3 per cent) urban (92.9 per cent) and peri-urban (95 per cent) covers less than 100 metres to water sources at, rural, urban and peri-urban meaning they have water within their premises or close to their compounds.



**Figure 4.4: Distance covered by households to and from water sources**



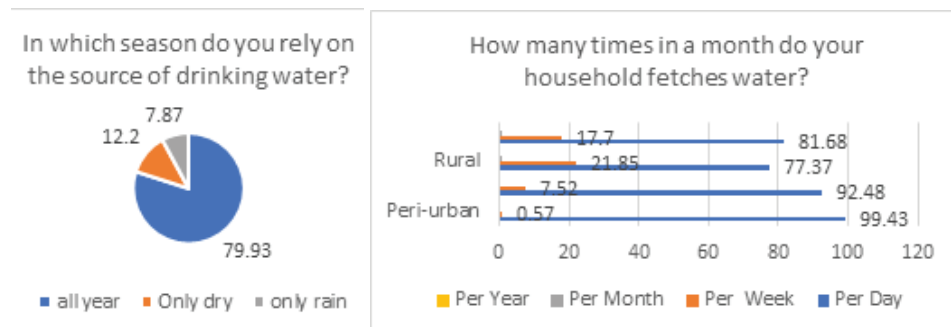
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

If water is available to households, schools, health institutions within the shortest distances possible, it easily encourages observing hand hygiene thus minimizing infections. In learning institutions, it minimizes rates of school dropouts among girls. Women headed households are disadvantaged in access to drinking water within shortest distances and this may make them vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 as well as other infectious diseases. To support hand hygiene among households there is need to have water supply closer to households headed by women.

**Access and reliability of water sources**

Majority of households in Wajir county rely on the main source of drink water all year round at 79.9 per cent, therefore in case of the source drying up, households will lack water resulting into non observance of COVID-19 measures of hand washing. On the other hand, most households must go to fetch drinking water from the sources per day at 81.7 per cent, rural households at 77.4 per cent and urban households at 92.5 per cent and peri-urban at 99.9 per cent This means there may be more of interactions with other household members in areas where water sources are shared, this may lead to increase on infections of COVID-19 where COVID-19 guidelines of social distance and avoidance of crowded place may not be observed. It also implies that households may not be having water storage facilities that can minimize number of trips to water points in a day, therefore they may be at risk of water shortages during dry months.

**Figure 4.5: Access and reliability to water sources by households**



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

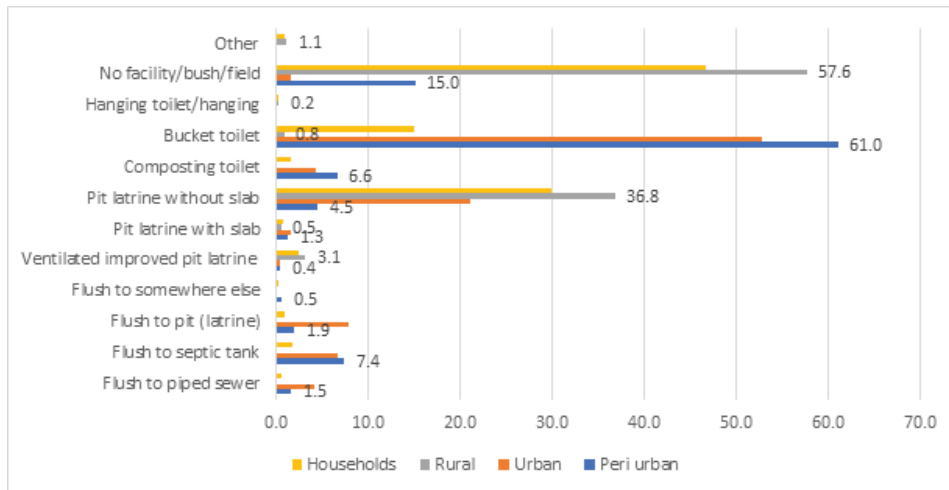
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Top interventions are protection of the existing major water sources for households and development of new water sources, this may include rainwater harvesting at individual and institutional level. Protection of water catchment areas.

**Access to sanitation**

Majority of the households (46.9%), rural (57.6%) and peri-urban at 70.4 per cent have no toilet facility or relieves themselves in the bush/field. On the other hand, most of the urban households uses bucket toilet (52.8%) and pit latrine with slab (29.9%). Use of pit latrine with slab is also common among households (29.9%), rural (36.8%), urban (21%) peri-urban and (4.5%)

**Figure 4.6: Access to sanitation in Wajir County**



Source: KNBS 2015/2016

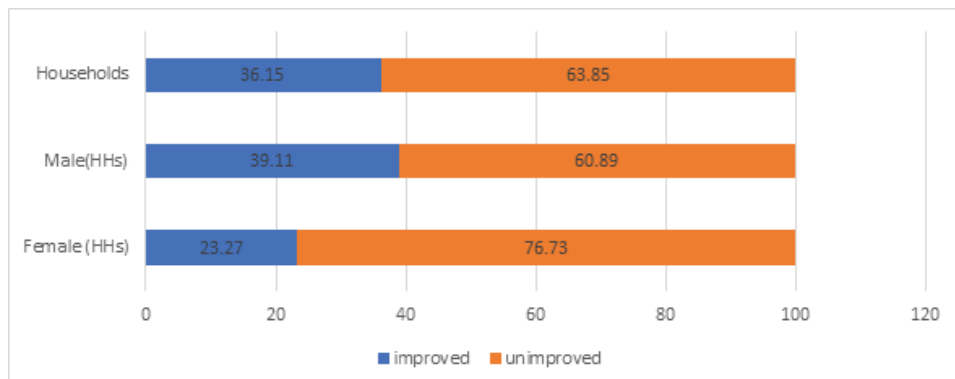
Access to sanitation is very important since it can help to detect the genetic residues of diseases in wastewater as those who are infected are thought to shed traces of the virus in faeces thus prompting for immediate action from the health officials. There is no sewerage plant in all the major towns and trading centres in the county.

**Access to improved and unimproved sanitation**

Access to unimproved sanitation facilities<sup>3</sup> stands high among households (63.9 per cento, this is also high among male (60.9 per cent) and female (76.7 per cent) headed households

3 Improved sanitation includes; flush to piped sewer, flush to septic tank, flush to pit (latrine), flush to somewhere else, flush to unknown place, ventilated improved pit latrine, pit latrine with slab, pit latrine without slab). Unimproved sanitation includes; composting toilet, bucket toilet, hanging toilet/hanging, no facility/bush/field, others

**Figure 4.7: Access to improved and unimproved sanitation by households**



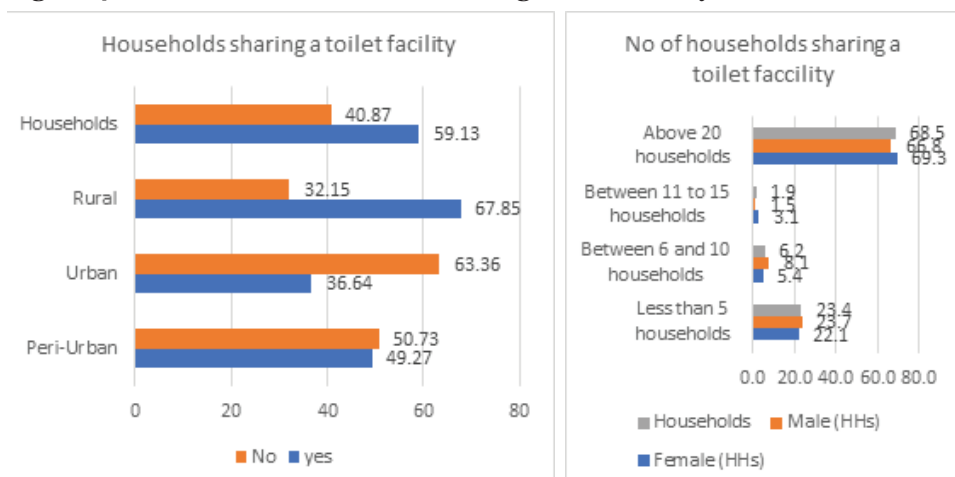
Source: KNBS 2015/2016

Access to improved sanitation is very important in maintaining hygiene and keeping infectious diseases away, good sanitation can help to detect the genetic residues of diseases in wastewater as those who are infected are thought to shed traces of the virus in faeces thus prompting for immediate action from the health officials.

**Sharing of a toilet facility**

Additionally, most of the households (59.1 per cent) do share a toilet facility with other households, this is also common in rural (67.9 per cent), urban (36.6 per cent) areas and peri-urban (49.3 per cent). There are large proportions of households (68.5 per cent) who share a toilet facility with 20 other households, male headed households at (67.8 per cent), and female headed households (69.3 per cent).

**Figure 4.8: Number of households sharing a toilet facility**

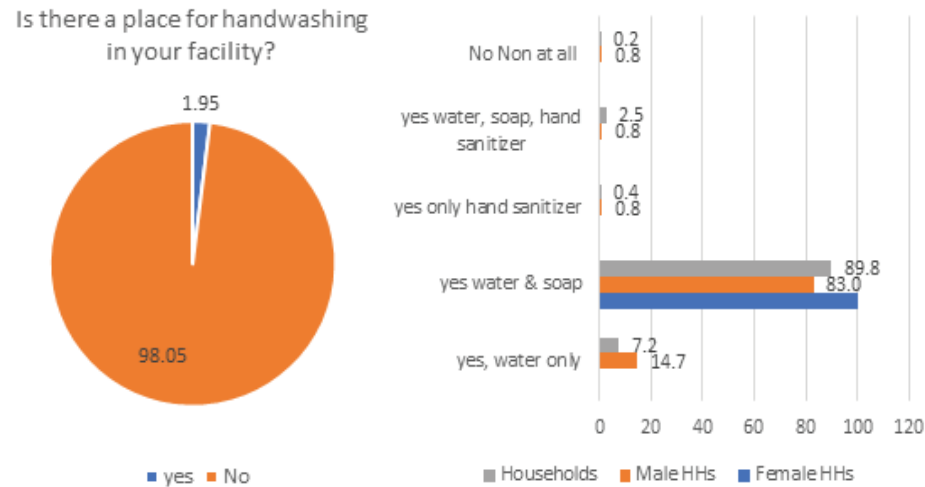


Source: KNBS 2015/2016

**Access to WASH during the COVID-19 period**

WASH has been identified very important in helping to curb transmission of infectious diseases, 98.1 per cent of the households in the county do not have a handwashing facility in their households. On the other hand, 89.8 per cent of the households have access to WASH (*Water and soap*) during this period of COVID-19, male and female headed households at 83 per cent and 100 per cent respectively. 7.2per cent of the households and 14.68 per cent of have access to water only.

**Figure 4.9: Access to wash during the COVID-19 period**



Source: KNBS KIHBS 2015/2016

Source: KNBS COVID-19 wave 2, 2020

More of hand washing should be emphasized especially to those who are not observing hand hygiene to help decrease the spread of the virus, this should be facilitated by provision of water, soap/hand sanitizer to households

**4.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in WASH**

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to maintain a clean safe water, proper sanitation and hand hygiene which places more demand on water and therefore the county needs to leverage on lessons learned from COVID-19 by improving its water and sanitation coverage.

**4.3 Emerging Issues**

The County has provided wash taps within shops in the town center as well as handwashing facilities in County and sub-County offices. The county has undertaken a distribution of water tanks, water and soaps at points of entry as well as developed hand washing booths in the informal settlements. The booths are made by students from the TVET institutions

#### **4.4 Recommendations**

The recovery strategy recommends the following strategies for implementation:

- i) Expand and rehabilitate the existing piped water connection infrastructure to help increase access to water. There is low access to piped water which stands at 4.3 per cent in urban 3.7 per cent in rural and 1.1 per cent in peri urban areas. This means low revenue from piped water for the county government. Similarly, it also implies low access to clean and safe water which is guaranteed through piped water system. To increase piped water connectivity to households. The county government can collaborate with the private sector, Non-Governmental organization and the local community to expand the water infrastructure.
- ii) The county to increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes, construction of dams and construction of water pans in grazing lands
- iii) The county to map out water sources and their capacity for efficient water resource management and conservation
- iv) The county to upscale abstraction of water from rivers, spring protections, harvesting of rainwater from roof and other catchments to help achieve increased to water access and to reduce distance taken to water sources.
- v) The county to invest in climate resistant water storage facilities to store harvested water during rainy seasons
- vi) The county government to undertake water trucking during times of prolonged drought and water shortages and emergencies to households and to pastoralists
- vii) The county to establish water testing infrastructures as well as increase staffing levels in water and sanitation sector for efficiency in water and sanitation provision.
- viii) The county to offer capacity building water users associations, water service provides for effective utilization and management of water resources
- ix) Expand sewer infrastructure to accommodate more households, currently there is low access to piped sewer among households which is 6.1 per cent urban 3.6 per cent peri urban and less than 0.5 per cent coverage in rural households. Low connectivity to piped sewer denies the county the much-needed revenue from sanitation services as well as access to safe sanitation.
- x) Improve access to safe and improved toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces and public places by building toilet facilities.
- xi) Support households and communities by building community toilet facilities Since majority of rural (57.6 per cent), peri-urban (15.03 per cent) and urban households (1.6 per cent) do not have no access to toilet facility. Similarly, sharing of a toilet facility with other households is common which stands at 67.9 per cent rural, 36.6 per cent urban and 49.3 per cent peri-urban. Toilet sharing puts households at risk of contracting COVID-19, and other infectious diseases in cases where proper toilet hygiene is not maintained. Increased access to sanitation can be achieved through collaboration between county government, national government, development

partners and PPP to expand sewer infrastructure and to accommodate more households.

- xii) Promote the importance of handwashing and construct WASH facilities to increase access at the household level. Currently access to WASH is high among households with majority having access to water and soap at 89.8 per cent, water soap. On the other hand, 98.1 per cent of the households do not have a designated handwashing facility in their households. This may compromise hand washing hygiene of households thus making households vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. Increased access to WASH can be achieved by supporting households with access to water, soap and WASH facilities, sensitization on the importance of handwashing. Collaboration between County Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, local community and the media is important to realize increased access to WASH among households.
- xiii) Enforce the WASH regulation of having toilets in all public facilities such as supermarkets, hotels, and banks etc.
- xiv) Gender representation at the top-level decision making of water and sanitation programs should be considered
- xv) Re allocation of funds to promote the development of water and sanitation infrastructure
- xvi) Promote irrigation farming by developing irrigation infrastructure, currently 100 per cent of households uses irrigation for farming in the past 12 months where the main source of water for irrigation is from shallow wells. The county can support irrigation farming by increasing access to water for irrigation. This can be achieved by exploring the potential of irrigation farming in the county by collaboration with the national government as well as other stakeholders in agriculture.

## 5 Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs

### 5.1 Characteristic of the Sector

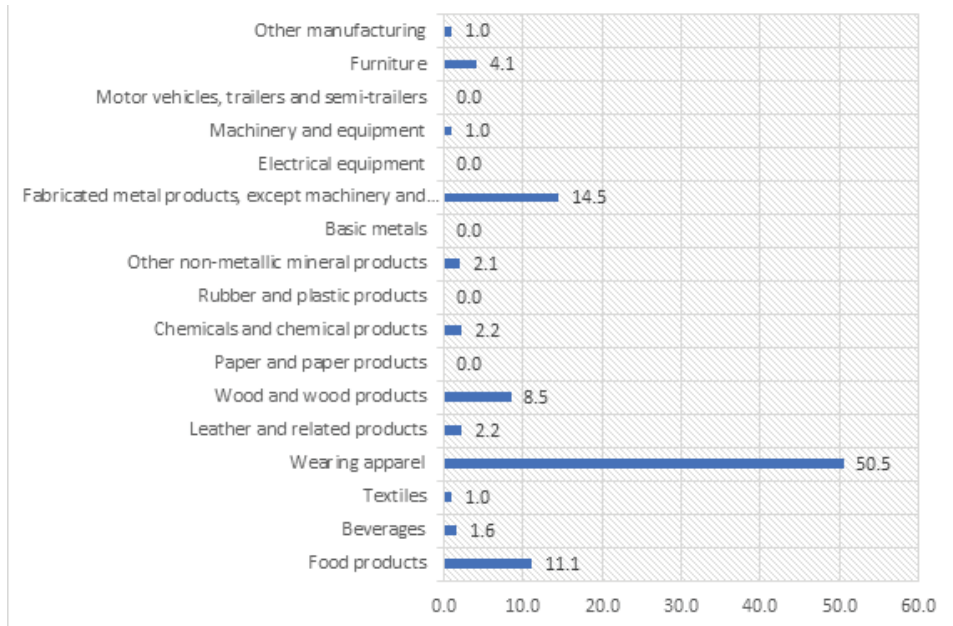
#### *a) Manufacturing sector*

Wajir County has 44 establishments involved in manufacturing activities which comprise of 1.5 per cent of a total of 2,830 firms and all are micro in size (KNBS, 2016). The main drivers of the economy of the county include agriculture (54 per cent), services (33 per cent), and manufacturing (0.04 per cent) (GCP, 2019).

#### *Sector of operation*

The KNBS, 2016 survey establishes the key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing as: wearing apparel (50.5 per cent), fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (14.5 per cent), food products (11.1 per cent), wood and wood products (8.4 per cent), and furniture (4.1 per cent) (figure 5.1). These are sub-sectors that are considered essential in dealing with COVID-19 are likely to experience increased activity with focus on food production, production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and hospital beds. The key products useful in value addition and driving manufacturing include meat, dairy, livestock and honey production, and skins and hides processing.

**Figure 5.1: sector of operation in manufacturing**



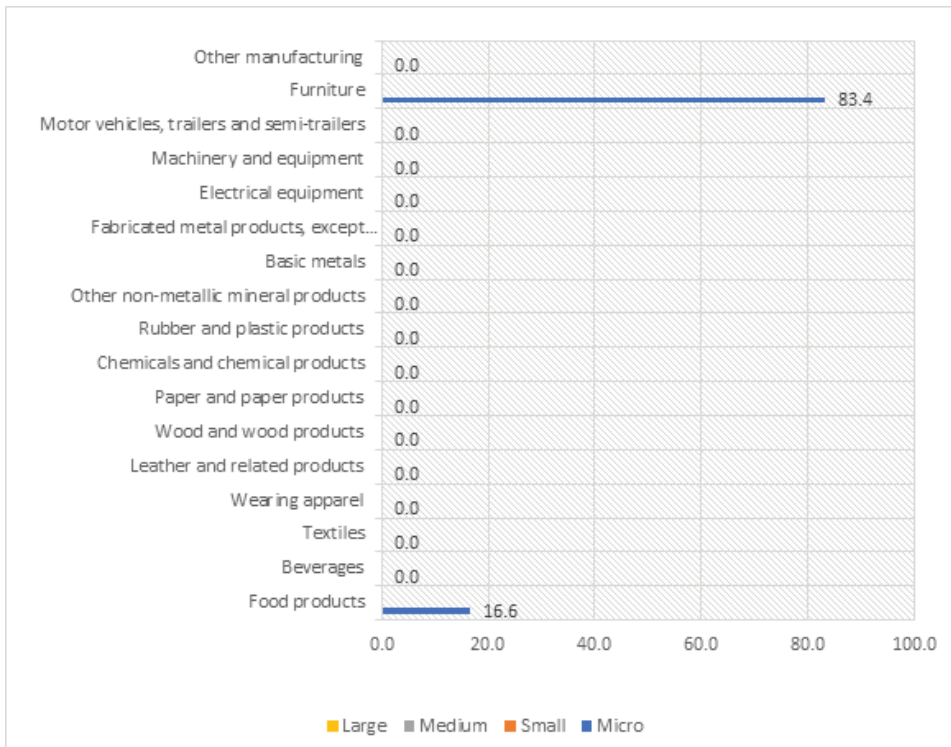
Source: KNBS (2016)

**Sector of operation by size**

All the establishments in Wajir County are micro in nature and operate in either furniture (83.4 per cent) or food products (16.6 per cent) (figure 5.2).



**Figure 5.2: Manufacturing firms by sector and size**

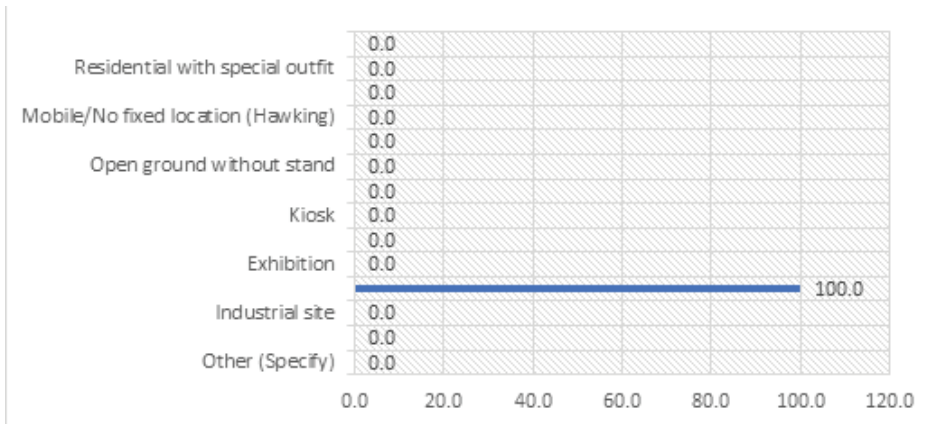


Source: KNBS, 2016

**Location of manufacturing firms by type of premises**

Figure 5.3 shows location of manufacturing firms’ premises in Wajir County. The most common premises used by manufacturing firms are market stalls (100 per cent).

**Figure 5.3: Location of manufacturing firms by premises**



Source: KNBS (2016)

**Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size**

Manufacturing establishments in Wajir County are all micro-sized and owned by males (100 per cent) (table 5.1).

**Table 5.1: distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and size - N (per cent)**

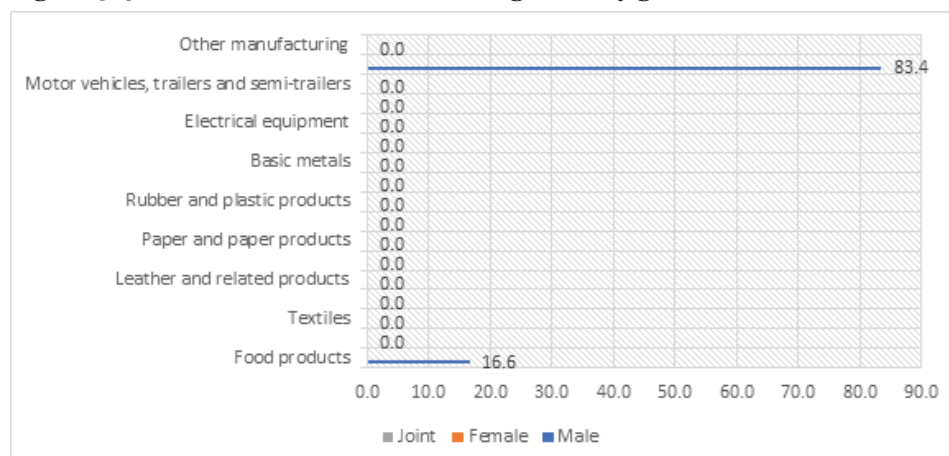
Gender	A11	Micro
Male	44 (100)	44 (100)
Female	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joint	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	44 (100)	44 (100)

Source: KNBS, 2016.

**Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector**

All the establishments in Wajir County are male dominated and operate in either furniture (83.4 per cent) or food products (16.6 per cent) (figure 5.4). It is interesting women do not operate any manufacturing firms or participate in any given sector.

**Figure 5.4: Distribution of Manufacturing firms by gender and sector**



Source: KNBS (2016)

In terms of employment, the manufacturing sector employs only men (100 per cent), and all of them are found in micro-sized establishments. (Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2: Employment by gender and size for manufacturing firms**

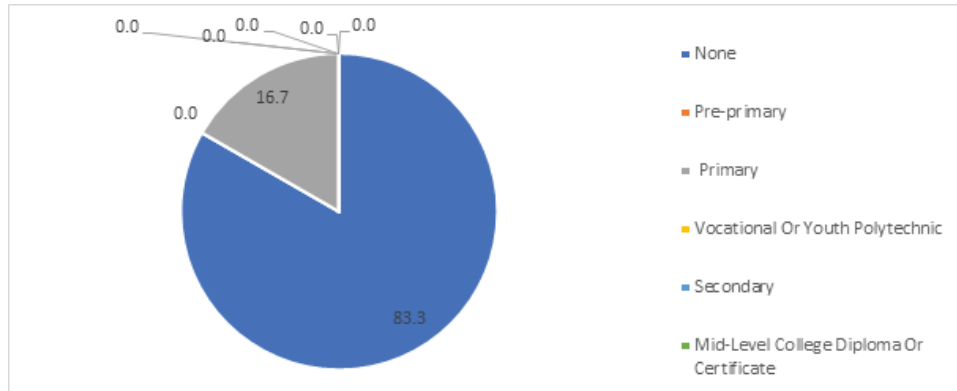
Number of employees	Micro	Total
Male	102 (100)	102 (100)
Female	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	102 (100)	102 (100)

Source: KNBS (2016)

### Education levels of Manufacturing firm owners

Education levels of manufacturing firms’ owners are highlighted in figure 5.5: All owners of manufacturing firms have primary education (16.7 per cent) while the rest have none (83.3 per cent).

**Figure 5.5: Education levels of manufacturing firm owners**

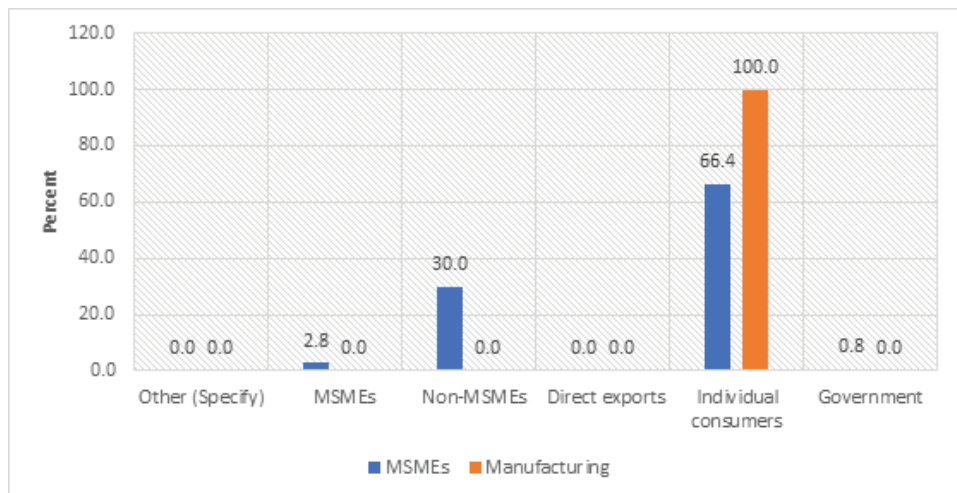


Source: KNBS (2016)

### Source of markets

Majority of manufacturing enterprises and MSMEs in general rely on individual consumers for markets at 100 per cent and 66.4 per cent respectively (figure 5.6). MSMEs also trade with Non-MSMEs (30 per cent) and MSMEs (2.8 per cent) respectively.

**Figure 5.6: Source of markets**

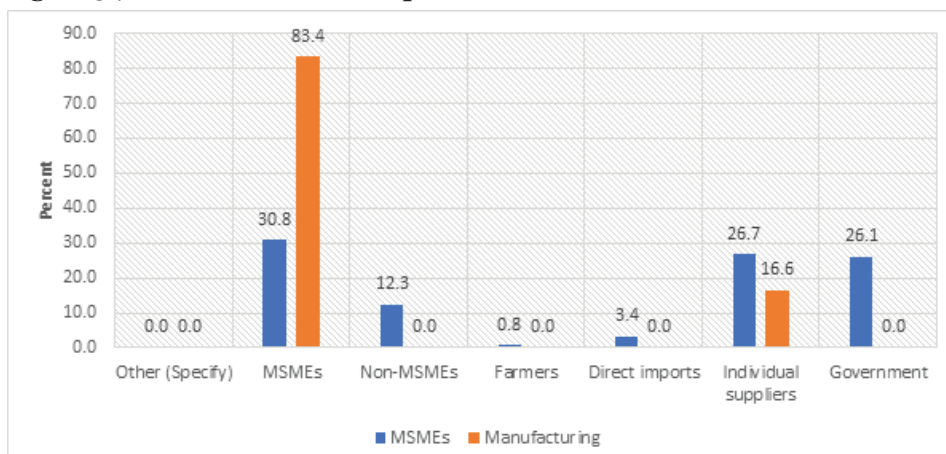


Source: KNBS (2016)

**Source of material inputs**

Overall, manufacturing establishments and MSMEs source for material inputs from amongst MSMEs at 83.4 per cent and 30.8 per cent respectively (Figure 5.7). Individual suppliers are also important to the supply of inputs. MSMEs also source for inputs from government (26.1%), non-MSMEs (12.3 per cent), and direct imports (3.4%). Therefore, external shocks in the source markets have adverse implications to MSME operations in Wajir County.

**Figure 5.7: Source of material inputs**



Source: KNBS (2016)

**Level of innovation by firms in Manufacturing**

Manufacturing establishments (micro-sized) in Wajir County were hardly involved in either product, process or market innovations as shown in Table 5.3.

**Table 5.3: Level of innovation by firms in manufacturing**

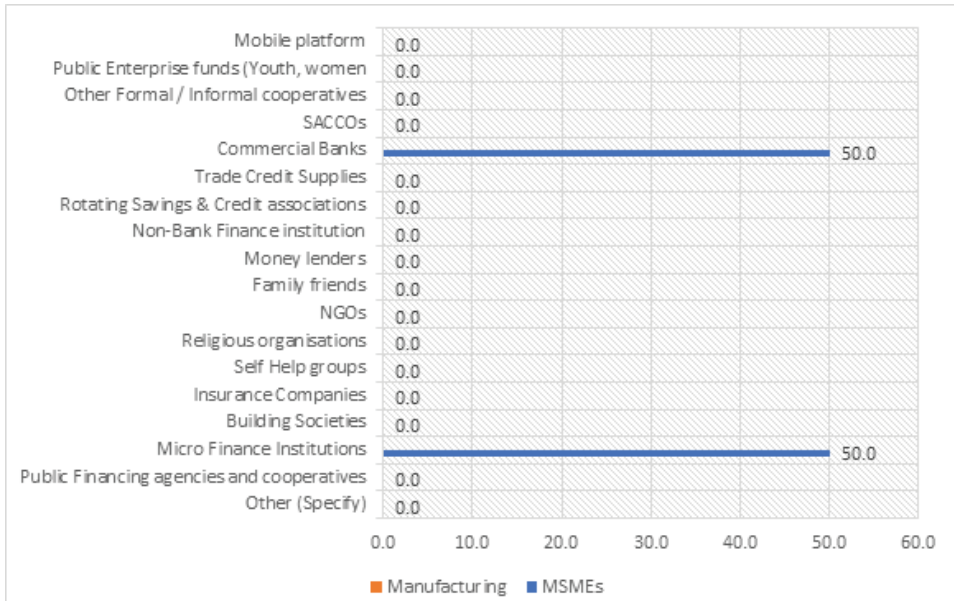
Type of innovation	Micro			Total
	Don't know	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	44 (100)	0 (0)	44 (100)
Process	0 (0)	44 (100)	0 (0)	44 (100)
Market	0 (0)	44 (100)	0 (0)	44 (100)

Source: KNBS (2016)

**Access to credit for Manufacturing and MSMEs firms**

According to the MSME 2016 survey, 99.5 per cent of MSMEs and all of those in manufacturing applied for credit. MSMEs mainly source their credit from commercial banks (50%) and micro finance institutions (50%) (Figure 5.8).

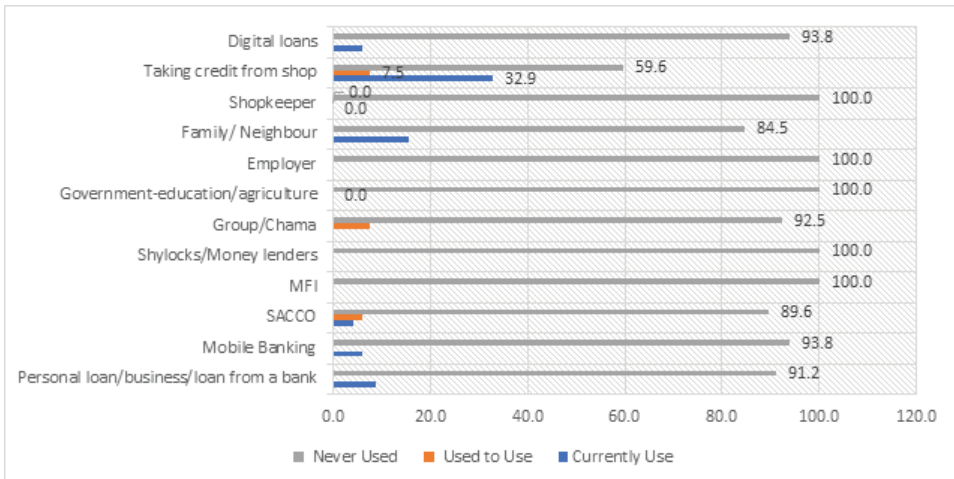
**Figure 5.8: Sources of finance**



Source: KNBS (2016)

Recent evidence from FinAccess 2019 provides further insights on sources of credit for businesses in Wajir County. Businesses commonly obtain credit from the conventional sources such as shops (72.5 per cent) and obtaining goods in kind from shopkeepers (3.7%) (Figure 5.9).

**Figure 5.9: Recent sources of credit**

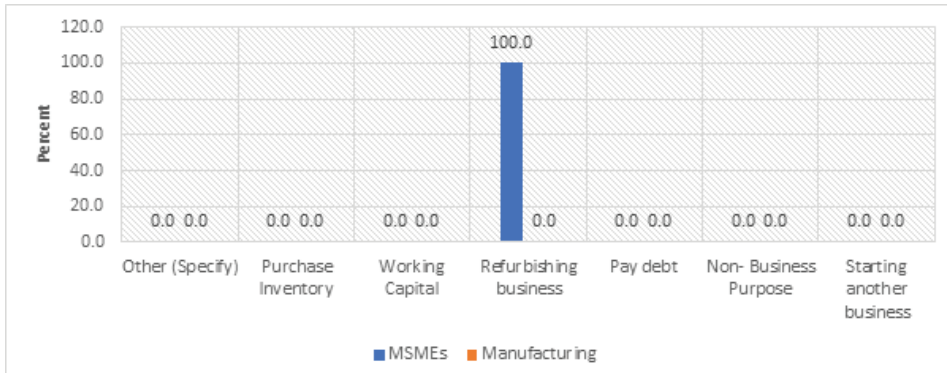


Source: FinAccess (2019)

**Purpose of credit**

As depicted in figure 5.10, MSMEs require credit mainly for refurbishing business (100 per cent).

**Figure 5.10: Main purpose of credit**

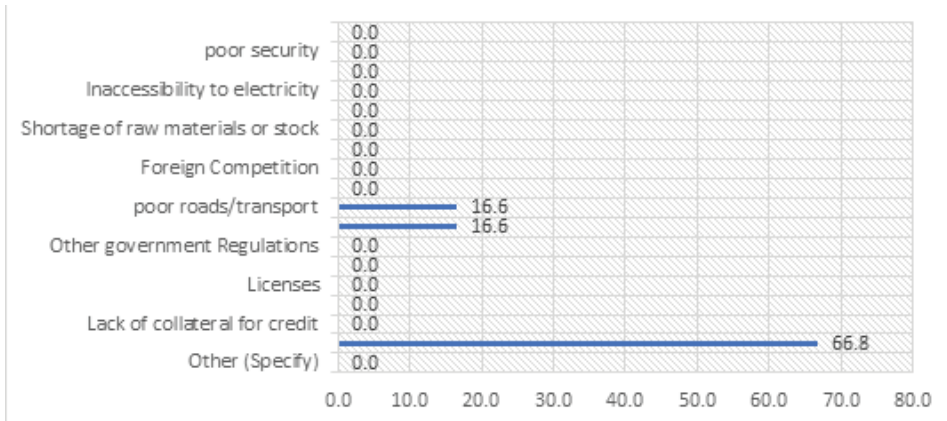


Source: KNBS (2016)

**Constraints faced by manufacturing firms**

The key constraints faced by manufacturing firms include poor roads/transport (16.6 per cent) and lack of markets (16.6 per cent) (figure 5.11). Interesting, about 66.8 per cent of respondents noted they did not face any constraints.

**Figure 5.11: Constraints faced by manufacturing firms**

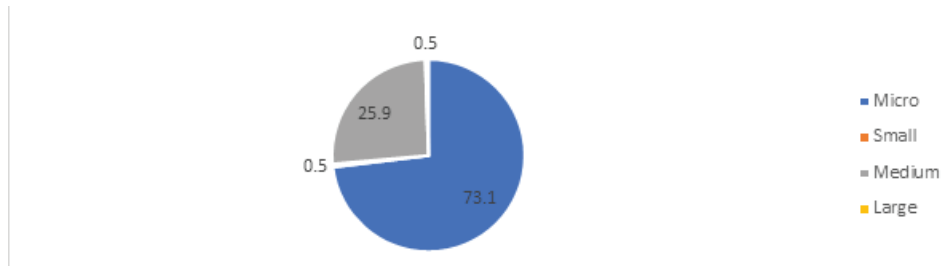


Source: KNBS (2016)

**b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**

Wajir County has 2,830 establishments<sup>4</sup> with 2,067 (73.1%) being micro, 15 (0.5 per cent) are small, 733 (25.9%) are medium and 15 (0.5%) are large enterprises (KNBS, 2016) (Figure 5.12).

**Figure 5.12: Distribution of MSMEs by size**

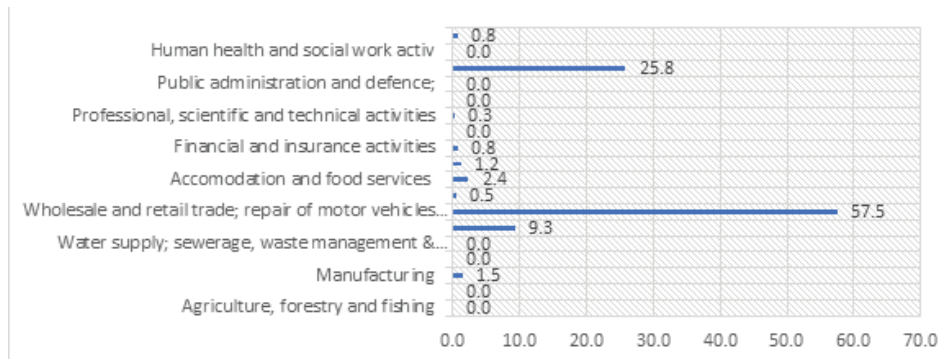


Source: KNBS (2016)

**Sector of operation by MSMEs**

Majority of MSMEs in Wajir County operate in the wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (57.5%); education (25.8%); construction (9.3%); and accommodation and food services (2.4%) (Figure 5.13). Ideally, these are the sectors that have been affected most by the pandemic and need to be prioritized during re-engineering and recovery.

**Figure 5.13: Sector of operation by MSMEs**



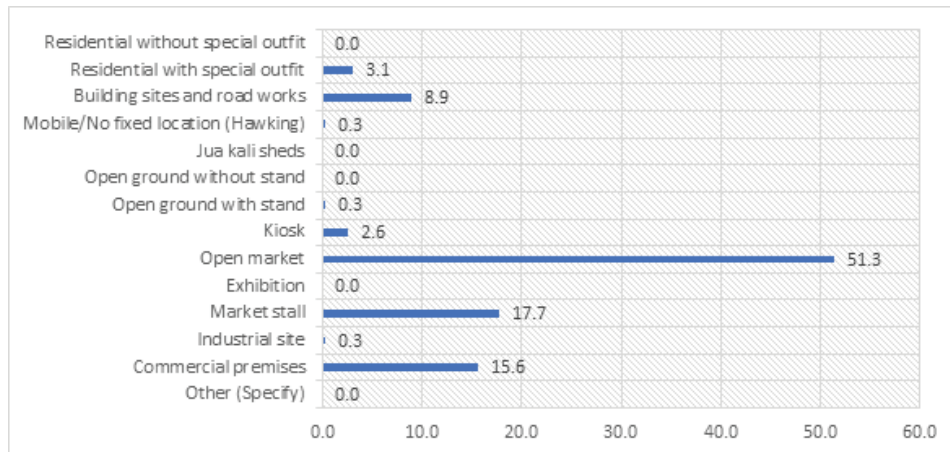
Source: KNBS, 2016

**Location of the businesses by type of premises**

The common premises used by MSMEs in the County are open market (51.3%), market stall (17.7%), commercial premises (15.6%), and building sites and road works (8.9%) (Figure 5.14).

4 After applying weights

**Figure 5.14: Location of businesses by premises**



Source: KNBS (2016)

**Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size**

Table 5.4 shows the distribution of MSMEs in Wajir County by gender: 75.6 per cent are male owned, 23.1 per cent are female owned, while 1.3 per cent are jointly owned (male/female). For Micro establishments, 66.6 per cent are male owned, 36.1 per cent are female owned, while 1.8 per cent are jointly owned. Male owners also dominate ownership among small sized establishments at 100 per cent. Considering medium and large sized establishments ownership is fully controlled by males (100%).

**Table 5.4: Distribution of MSMEs by gender and size -N (%)**

Gender	A11	Micro	Small	Medium	Large
Male	2,139 (75.6)	1,377 (66.6)	15 (100)	733 (100)	15 (100)
Female	653 (23.1)	653 (31.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joint	38 (1.3)	38 (1.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	2,830 (100)	2,067 (100)	15 (100)	733 (100)	15 (100)

Source: KNBS (2016)

In terms of employment, the medium sized establishments employ more people (91.2%) compared to micro (5.6%), large (2.6%), and small (0.7%) (Table 5.5). Micro firms employ 4.4 per cent male and 1.2 per cent female and small sized employ male only (0.7 per cent). Medium firms employ 64.4 per cent of females and 26.8 per cent of males while large enterprises employ 1.3 per cent males and 1.3 per cent females, respectively. Overall, more women (66.8%) are employed by MSMEs in Wajir County than men (33.2%).

**Table 5.5: Employment by gender and Size - N (%)**

Gender	Micro	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Male	2,480 (4.4)	383 (0.7)	15,106 (26.8)	725 (1.3)	18,694 (33.2)



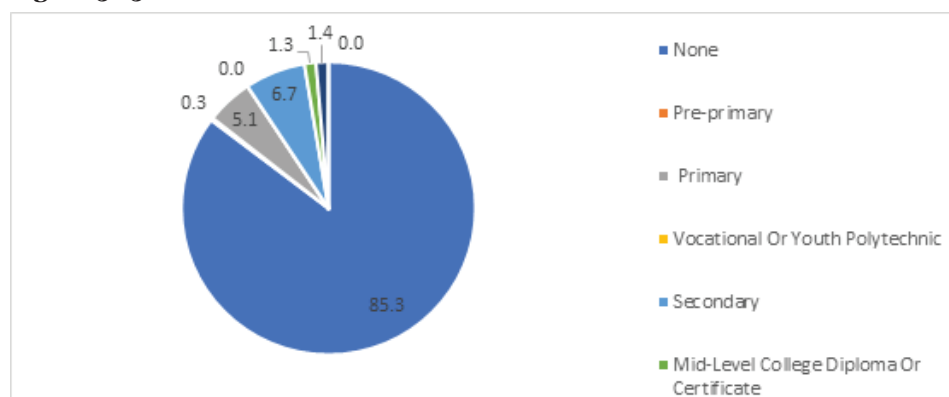
Female	648 (1.2)	0 (0)	36,267 (64.4)	725 (1.3)	37,641 (66.8)
Total	3,128 (5.6)	383 (0.7)	51,373 (91.2)	1,451 (2.6)	56,334 (100)

Source: KNBS (2016)

### Education levels of MSME owners

The education levels of MSME owners in Wajir County are highlighted in Figure 5.16: secondary (6.7%), primary (5.1%), degree (1.4%), mid-level college diploma or certificate (1.3%) education. About 85.3 per cent of MSME owners in the county do not have formal education.

Figure 5.15: Education levels of MSME owners



Source: KNBS (2016)

### Level of innovation by MSMEs

Table 5.6 presents the levels of innovation in Wajir County by MSMEs according to size. Generally, there were low levels of innovation across MSMEs with 0.4 per cent involved in product and 0.4 per cent for process innovation for micro-sized enterprises. Regarding small-sized enterprises, 0.7 per cent engaged in product, 0.7 per cent process and 0.7 per cent market innovation. With regards to medium and large sized enterprises, none were involved in any form of innovation.

Table 5.6: Level of innovation by MSMEs

Type of Innovation	Micro				Small				Medium		Large		Total
	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	Refused to answer	Don't know	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Product	0 (0)	15 (0.7)	2,023 (97.9)	7 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (0.7)	0 (0)	7 (0.4)	0 (0)	15 (0.7)	0 (0)	2,067 (100)
Process	0 (0)	7 (0.4)	2,030 (98.2)	7 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (0.7)	0 (0)	7 (0.4)	0 (0)			2,067 (100)
Market	0 (0)	7 (0.4)	2,037 (98.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (0.7)	0 (0)	7 (0.4)	0 (0)	15 (0.7)	0 (0)	2,067 (100)

Source: KNBS (2016)

### ***E-commerce***

Participation in e-commerce by households in Wajir County is below the national average. About 1.1 per cent of the households participate in online e-commerce which is below a national average of 4.3 per cent (KPHC 2019). In comparison, men participate more in online e-commerce (1.3 per cent) than women (0.9 per cent). With introduction of stay-at-home protocols due to COVID-19 online trade has been expected to thrive, little may be impacted in Wajir County since fewer households participate in the same.

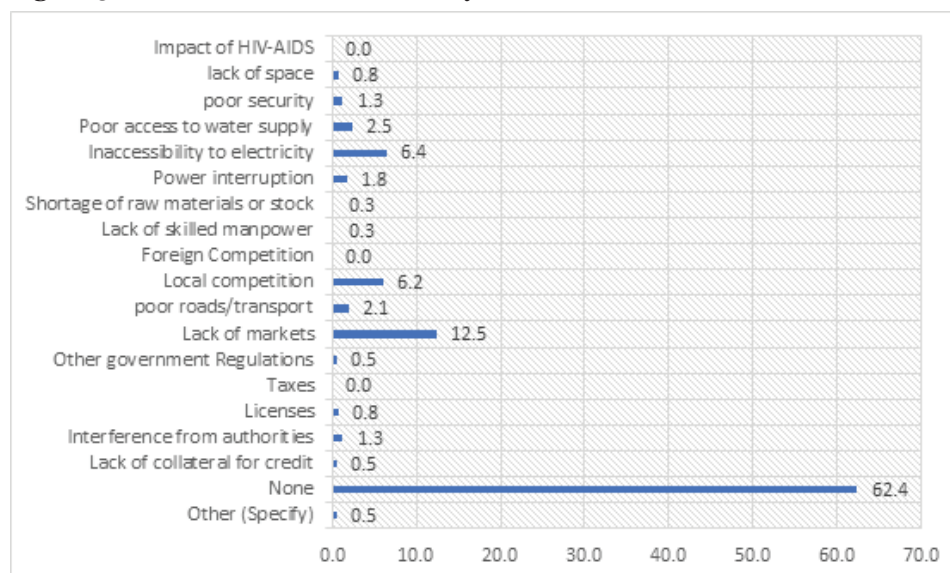
### ***Turnover tax***

Only 5.4 per cent per cent of MSMEs in Wajir County (153) had a previous monthly turnover of above Ksh. 83,333 which translates to Ksh 1 million a year. Ideally, this would be the establishments that are eligible for turnover tax with the new thresholds recently introduced vide the tax laws (Amendment) Act, 2020. The actual impact of this move may be difficult to estimate due to data challenges on actual revenue streams and the number of establishments that comply with the same.

### ***Constraints faced by MSMEs***

The major constraints faced by MSMEs in Wajir County are lack of markets (12.5%), inaccessibility to electricity (6.4%), local competition (6.2%), poor access to water supply (2.5%), poor roads/transport (2.1%), and power interruption (1.8%) (Figure 5.16).

**Figure 5.16: Main constraints faced by MSMEs**



Source: KNBS (2016)

A study on County Business Environment for MSEs (CBEM) identified other constraints faced by MSMEs in Wajir County as: financial and technical capacity, market environment, and worksite and related infrastructure (KIPPRA 2019). On worksites, MSEs face inadequate and unequipped worksites, lack of public toilet facilities, lack designated areas for waste disposal, poor road infrastructure, frequent power interruptions. On technical capacity MSEs are characterized by low levels of innovation, lack of training and apprenticeship programme for artisans, fragmentation due to multiplicity of players who offer training and capacity building, and lack of monitoring and evaluation of training programmes. With the market environment, MSEs face inadequate market for their local products; stiff competition among themselves; and unfair trade practises which manifest through; contract enforcement, counterfeiting, dumping (substandard goods) and misrepresentation (through weight, price, ingredient). MSEs also face bottlenecks related to; insecurity; multiple licences and permits; numerous procedures for obtaining licenses; and shortage of raw materials.

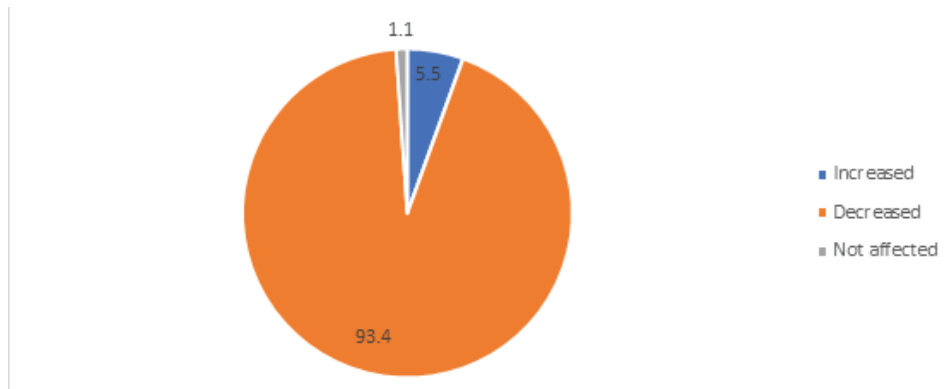
These findings are supported by a study on Assessment of the Investment Climate in Kenya by World Bank (2009) which attempted to identify the impediments of productivity growth among Kenyan firms. The analysis showed that the business environment in Kenya is characterized by poor infrastructure, poor governance, insecurity, and complex bureaucratic administrative and regulatory systems.

### ***Effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses***

Figure 5.18 presents the effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses in Wajir County. 93.4 per cent of the respondents report a decrease in their business activities due to the pandemic while 1.1 per cent were not affected. On the other hand, 5.5 per cent of the respondents reported an increase in their business activities during COVID-19. This is

an indicator that COVID-19 is having both a negative and positive effect on the non-farm and farm businesses even though the situation is still evolving.

**Figure 5.17: Effects of COVID-19 on household non-farm and farm businesses**

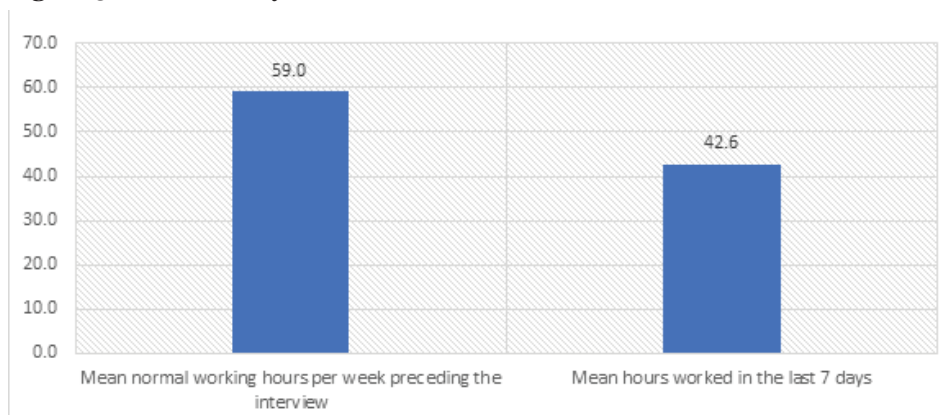


Source: KNBS, COVID\_19 Survey 2020

**Labour dynamics**

During the period considered in KNBS, COVID\_19 Survey 2020 data collection, respondents reported a decrease of 6.3 hours in the mean working hours for household non-farm and farm businesses in Wajir County which implies a deterioration in economic activities between the interview periods (figure 5.18).

**Figure 5.18: Labour dynamics on household non-farm and farm businesses**



Source: KNBS, COVID-19 Survey 2020

**Key Messages**

- a) The key sectors that drive the Wajir County economy include: Agriculture and Services. Hence, support should be prioritised to these sectors to ensure re-engineering of the County economy.
- b) The key sub-sectors that drive manufacturing in the County are: wearing apparel; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment; food products; wood and wood products; and furniture.

- c) About 85.3 per cent of MSME owners in the County do not have formal education. This could potentially have negative implication in effective MSME operations in the County.
- d) Access to credit perennially remains a constraint to MSMEs which hinders growth and expansion of businesses, even more so during the ongoing pandemic. There is need to provide financial support to MSMEs that have demand, employ large number of people, and those that provide essential goods and services.
- e) COVID-19 presents opportunities that could be harnessed like development and support of innovations to address the pandemic. These include production of essential goods such as; masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and sanitizers, disinfectants, canned foods, immunity boosting products, hospital beds and ventilators.
- f) Manufacturing establishments must also adopt to cope with the new guidelines which could include rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- g) Training and capacity building are important in assisting MSMEs to surmount the shocks faced during the pandemic but also allow for re-emergence.
- h) In terms of re-engineering, there is need to consider establishing support measures to re-vitalize and re-open businesses that collapsed during the crisis within the county.

## **5.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Industrial Recovery and Growth**

The following are some of the opportunities created by COVID-19 in trade, manufacturing and the MSMEs sector:

- (i) The County has made budget allocation for the MSMEs
- (ii) The County has provided for safe water and the detergents in the open markets such as Othani, ADC, Marawako
- (iii) The County is working with the health department to offer free masks to empower the traders
- (iv) Agro - processing for value addition with important areas of focus include livestock production, skins and hides production, and honey processing.
- (v) The textile and wearing apparel sectors can be enhanced to provide PPEs for use within the County and potentially for the export market.
- (vi) Exploration and processing of minerals such as limestone, gypsum, alluvial sand as well as potentials in oil and gas.

### ***Effects of COVID-19 on this sector***

There have been both positive and negative effects of COVID-19 on this sector. These are outlined below:

- (i) Welding, barber shops and salons have been affected due to lack of electricity.
- (ii) There has been an increased wave of innovations during the pandemic.

- (iii) have been faced with declining sales and revenues due to depressed demand and low circulation of money in the County, which is caused by loss of incomes by the residents.
- (iv) There is a decrease in trade activities in the County due to restrictions on movements due to fear of attending physical markets, where there is fear of contracting the disease.
- (v) Businesses are faced with challenges of increased costs resulting from the need to comply with new protocols in form of; provision of hand washing and sanitization points, wearing of masks even for workers, rearrangement of floor plans for social distancing especially for manufacturers and awareness creation.

### **5.3 Emerging Issues**

- (i) There has been reduced income from traders, manufacturers and MSMEs and a corresponding decrease in taxes collected from them. This will affect implementation of Wajir County's planned activities due to reduced projected revenues.
- (ii) The need to identify and promote specific and emerging value chains as a result of COVID-19, and which Wajir County has comparative advantage.
- (iii) Review all the ongoing interventions by the County and the national government to assess their effectiveness and especially regarding trade, manufacturing and MSMEs.
- (iv) There is need for legislative amendments to ensure the Buy Kenya Build Kenya initiative is implemented at the County.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

To support trade, manufacturing and the MSMEs sector, the County will:

- (i) Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short term. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, will be used to identify, and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit, waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges.
- (ii) COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth.
- (iii) Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing.
- (iv) Partner with the relevant stakeholders in rolling out Livestock Insurance Programme for ASAL areas as outlined in MTP III.
- (v) Establish technical and vocational training institutions to enhance capacity and skills

required for working in industries.

- (vi) Support establishment of cottage and light industries for value addition.
- (vii) Explore the huge potential for production of limestone, juice and hides & skins tannery.
- (viii) Support and fast-track completion and operationalisation of the gum and resin factory being built in Wajir East Constituency by Ewaso Nyiro North Development Authority (ENNDA)
- (ix) Explore the huge potential in limestone production
- (x) Fastrack establishment of disease-free zones in the county
- (xi) Promote light industries through value addition, marketing and market linkages.

## 6. Infrastructure

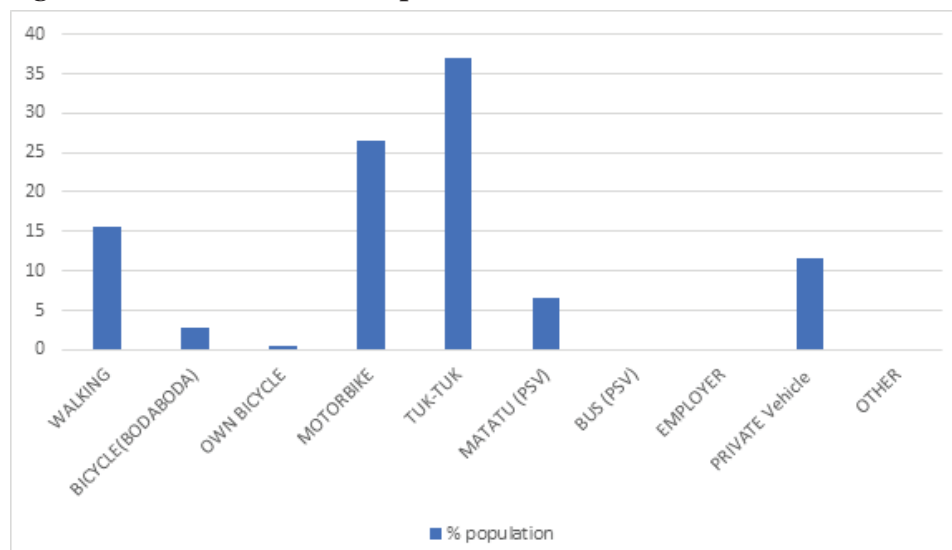
### 6.1 Transport Sector

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County responded by delaying the implementation of some of the projects that are likely to exhaust the budget to next financial year. Some of these projects include construction of roads and TVETs. As a result, this budget was reallocated to public health.

#### *Characteristics of the sector*

Majority of households own a motorcycle (3.1 per cent) and a bicycle (2.2 per cent). Car ownership is at 2.5 per cent (KNBS, 2019). The main means of transport used in the County is Tuk Tuk 36.9 per cent followed by motorbike 26.53 per cent, walking at 15.64 per cent, private car at 11.55 per cent, PSV matatus at 6.45 per cent, and bicycle (boda boda) 2.37 per cent, figure 7.1, while 62.2 per cent of the population had not changed the main means of transport (KNBS, 2020b). On average, residents travel 5.59 kilometers to their workplace at an average cost of Ksh 230. For the commute to school, residents spend on average Ksh 245.95 (KIHBS, 2015/16).

**Figure 6.1: Main means of transport**



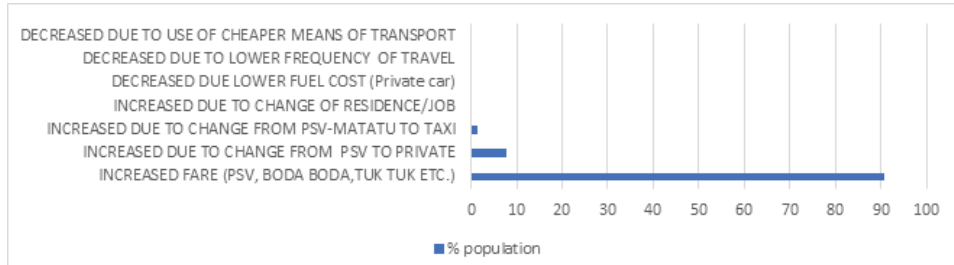
Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

The KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020 revealed that 74.3 per cent of the population reported a change in the cost of travel/commute, figure 7.2. The expenditure on transport



increased by 39.9 per cent from Ksh 198 before February 2020 to Ksh 277 in May 2020 for a one way trip. The main change (90.8 per cent) in transport cost was attributed to increased fares for PSV, BodaBoda and TukTuk.

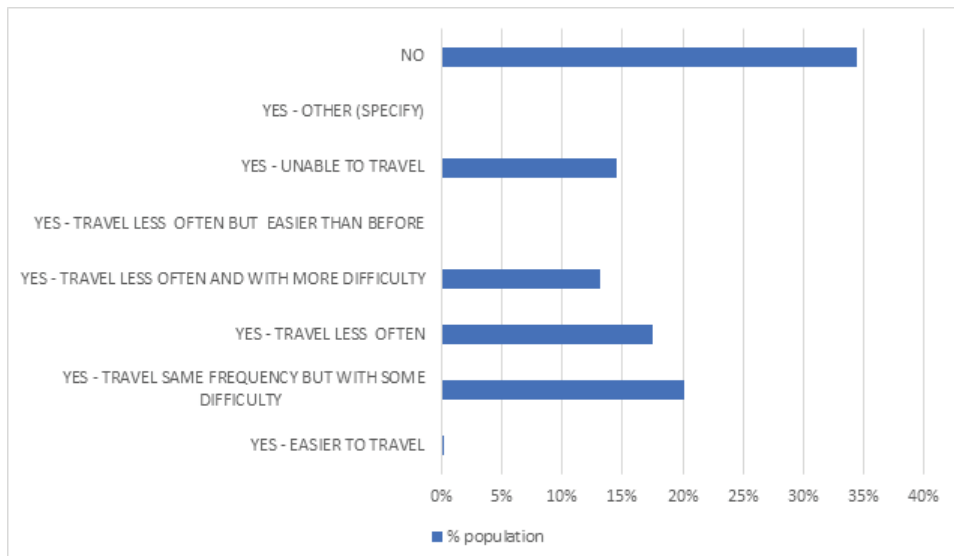
**Figure 6.2: Change in cost of main means of transport**



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

Residents had changed their travel patterns with 17.5 per cent of the population traveling less often, while 20.1 per cent traveled with the same frequency but with some difficulty, and 14.5 per cent were unable to travel. However, 34.4 per cent of the population did not change their travel pattern, figure 7.3.

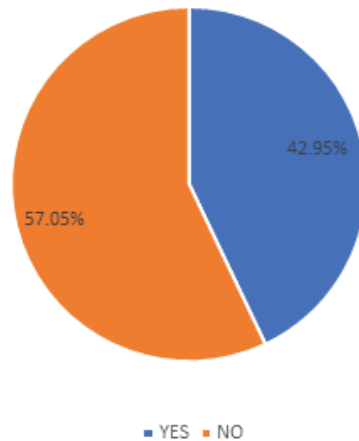
**Figure 6.3: Change in travel patterns**



Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

The pandemic has affected delivery of goods and services for 42.95 per cent of households.

**Figure 6.4: Proportion of residents whose service delivery has been affected**



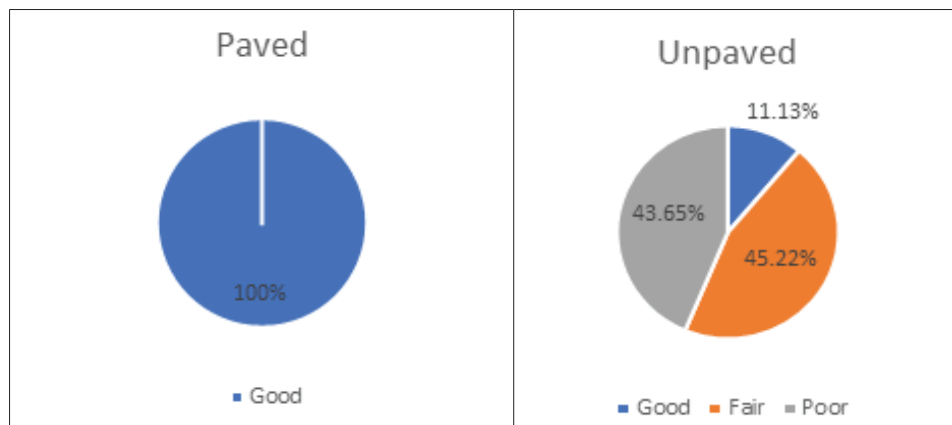
Source: KNBS COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020-wave 2

The County was allocated a total of KSH. 308,164,819 from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund towards road maintenance in the Financial 2017/18 (OCOB, 2019).

**Road Network in Wajir County**

The county has a total of 7,226.30 kilometres of classified road network. The paved County Road network covers 1.24km, while the paved National roads covers 21.06KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 22.3KMs, 100 per cent is in good condition, No Data in fair condition and No Data in poor condition. The unpaved road network in the county covers 3293.57km (county roads) and 1790.09km (National roads), of this, 11.13 per cent is in good condition, 45.22 per cent fair and 43.65 per cent in poor condition as depicted in figure 7.5 (KRB, 2019).

**Figure 6.5: Road condition mix-classified road network**



Source: KRB (2019)

The unclassified road network in the County covers 2120.33km, with 361.19km of narrow roads, that is, road with a reserve of between 4 -9 meters, while there is a total of 1759.14km of new roads.

### ***Constraints faced***

The Rural Access Index (RAI) measures the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road<sup>5</sup>. The county has a RAI of 16 per cent which is below the National Average of 70 per cent, indicating that access to transport in rural areas is below average (KRB,2019). This has negative implications with regard to sectors that rely on accessibility such as agriculture, trade and overall development. The road condition mix of the unpaved network at 43.65 per cent is a constraint to development.

### ***Opportunities with COVID-19 in Transport sector***

With reference to the 8 point stimulus programme by the National Government<sup>6</sup> and resources allocated to road development and maintenance, the County has the opportunity to strategically improve the road network for economic development, while creating jobs for youth, women and vulnerable groups as espoused in the Roads 2000 programme<sup>7</sup> on labour based road development approaches.

The Roads 10,000 programme being implemented nationally by the Roads Subsector actors, and specifically, the Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSR)approach<sup>8</sup> offers a strategic and cost- effective approach to improve rural accessibility in the County.

Residents predominantly rely on matatu PSV transport and walking; this is an opportunity during the pandemic period as this mode reduces the risk of infections that would arise from use of motorized public transport<sup>9</sup>.

### ***Emerging Issues***

- Poor road conditions for unpaved network
- Reliance on PSV transport requires enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures

### ***Recommendations***

- i) Sensitize PSV and boda boda operators on COVID-19 prevention measures and assist vehicle owners in retrofitting vehicle designs for social distance, hygiene and ventilation.
- ii) Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 16.0 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70.0 per cent.

<sup>5</sup> RAI defined : <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/rural-access-index-rai>

<sup>6</sup> GoK eight point stimulus programme <https://www.president.go.ke/2020/05/23/the-seventh-presidential-address-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic-the-8-point-economic-stimulus-programme-saturday-23rd-may-2020/>

<sup>7</sup> Roads 2000 programme [http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roadsper\\_cent20200oper\\_cent20strategicper\\_cent20plan.pdf](http://krb.go.ke/our-downloads/roadsper_cent20200oper_cent20strategicper_cent20plan.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> LVSR /Roads 10,000 programme <https://www.kerra.go.ke/index.php/lvsr>

<sup>9</sup> Non-Motorized Transport strategy <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/cities-support-people-walking-and-cycling-work/>

- iii) Expand the county capability for telecommuting and teleworking and develop relevant policies in support of the same.
- iv) Identify county significant infrastructure projects for implementation under a stimulus programme to support economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic. For these, apply labor based and local resource-based approaches for road development and maintenance, where technically and economically feasible, in line with the Roads 2000 national policy .
- v) Improve and expand infrastructure for Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) in urban areas and along roads with heavy -high speed traffic to promote sustainable mobility options and enhance road safety for all road users. This is in line with the Integrated National Transport Policy 2009 and the Sustainable Development Goals .
- vi) Re-develop bus parks and termini to address crowding and social distancing concerns stipulated in the public health guidelines.
- vii) Focus on increasing the share of unpaved roads in good and fair condition to above 62 per cent which is the national average. For the unpaved road network, focus on adopting the Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSR) technology for greater network coverage cost effectively.
- viii) Adopt climate smart road engineering designs to safeguard road and bridge infrastructure from floods and to harvest storm water for irrigation and productive use. Use the Kenya Urban Support Programme funding to build storm water management systems in urban areas.

**Table 6.1: Transport sector indicators**

Summary of key indicators	value
No.of registered /licensed public transport providers (saccos and companies)	12
No. of licensed boda boda and tuk -tuk operators	450
Number of registered /licensed courier/freight service providers	6
Number of taxi hailing service providers	370
Ownership of PSV vehicles by gender per cent -Male	100
Ownership of PSV vehicles by gender per cent -Female	0
Number of employees by gender (per SACCO) (permanent and temporary) -Male	200
Number of employees by gender (per SACCO) (permanent and temporary) -Female	0
Number employees in road construction (by gender) -Male	100
Number employees in road construction (by gender) -Female	2
Number of trips per day per vehicle (departures)	1
Average number of hours of daily operation- Hours	8
Average fare charged (one-way)-KSH.	2,000
Average fare collections per day-KSH.	60,000
Average number of passengers per month -PSV	3600
Average number of passengers per month -Boda Boda	60,000
Average number of passengers per month -Taxi	45,000
Volume of goods(cargo) transported Tonnes	85

Source: County Government of Wajir

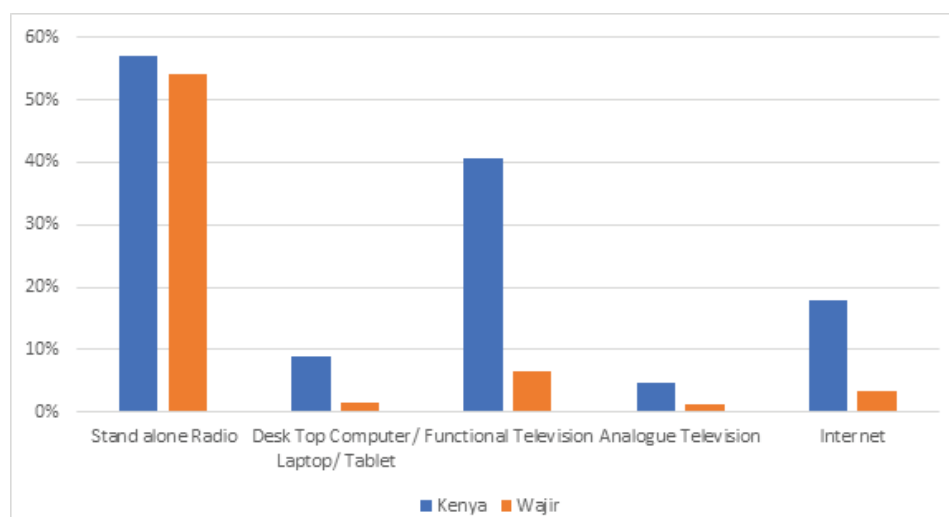
## 6.2 Information and Communication Technology

The county has utilized ICT especially in holding virtual meetings. Going forward, they want to have an e- learning in schools. Also, they want to train staff as a way of reducing costs. The county is looking on youth innovation hubs.

### *Characteristics of the sector*

The analysis of the 2019 KPHC reveals that only 3.5 per cent of the conventional households in the county ‘own’ internet with 1.4 per cent owning a desktop, computer laptop or tablet. Internet access, ICT device ownership and TV ownership is particularly critical not only for access of COVID-19 information, but as well as supporting remote learning by the pupils as well as remote working (Figure 7.6).

**Figure 6.6: Percentage distribution of conventional households by ownership of ICT assets**

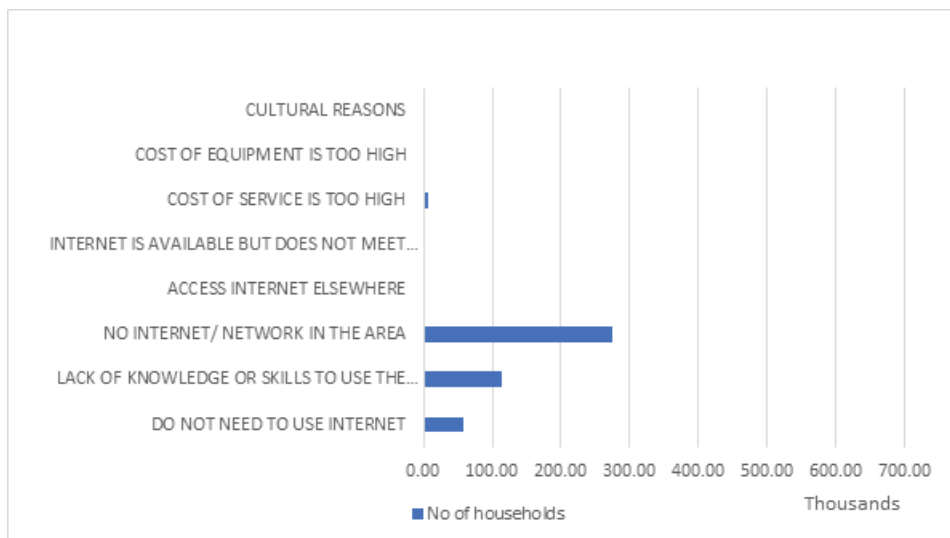


Source: KNBS, 2019- Kenya Population and Housing Census

Online shopping is not prevalent in the County. 1.1 per cent of the conventional households searched and bought goods/services online. There exists gender disparity in online shopping with more men (1.3 per cent) than women (0.9%) undertaking online shopping.

The perception of that the individual does not need to use the Internet, lack of knowledge and skills on Internet are the leading reasons that the people of in the County don't have Internet connection (KHIBS). Other key factors include the lack of Internet/network in the area, and the high cost of service and equipment (Figure 7.7).

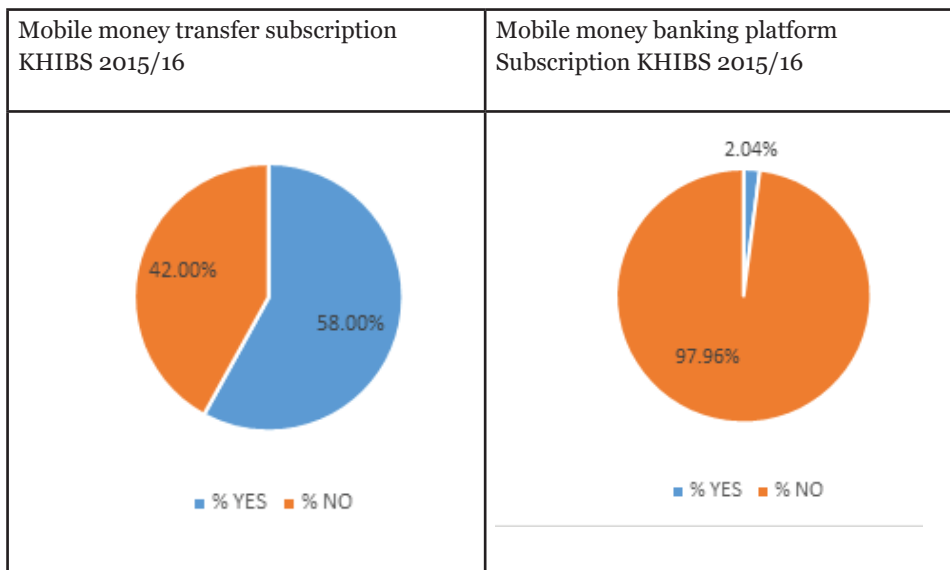
**Figure 6.7: Reasons for lack of Internet connection**



Source: KNBS, 2016-KHIBS 2015/2016

Approximately 27.9 per cent of the population aged 3 years and above own a mobile phone which is lower than the national average of 47.3 per cent. Approximately 58.0 per cent of the people in the county have a mobile money subscription compared with only 2.04 per cent that have a mobile money banking platform subscription (KHIBS 2015/16)

**Figure 6.8: Mobile money transfers subscription and mobile money banking platform**



Source: KNBS, 2016- KHIBS 2015/16

**Table 6.2: ICT indicator**

Indicator	Value
Number of internet service providers	2
Number of radio service providers	5
Number of TV service providers	2
Number of IT hardware and software service providers	10
Number of web-based service providers	2
Number of County services provided online	2

Source: County Government of Wajir

The county experience gender divide in use of Internet and ICT devices as well as mobile money subscriptions. Both Internet and ICT device use is higher among the male with 9.2 per cent of the men and 7.2 per cent of the women using Internet, while 3.3 per cent of the men and 2.4 per cent of the women using Desktop/Laptop/Tablet devices (KPHC 2019). While the usage is below the national averages, the county recorded a similar gender disparity with the national averages in Internet and ICT usage.

### ***Opportunities with COVID-19 in ICT***

Working with the national government to connect the county to the fiber network under the NFOBI programme.

### ***Emerging Issues***

The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households

### ***Recommendations***

- i) Support programmes in partnership with the private sector that will enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile phone ownership from 27.9 per cent to 100 per cent in line with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony
- ii) Harness the power of technology and use innovative solutions to bridge the gender digital divide and promote technology adoption in daily socio-economic activities.
- iii) Collaborate with the Communications Authority and telecom service providers to utilize the Universal Service Fund as a “last resort” in providing ICT access in remote areas where market forces fail to expand access.
- iv) The IT personnel in public primary schools can be deployed to support the development of ICT competence and skills among the public.
- v) Enhance internet connectivity to public buildings and key trade centres to boost e-commerce especially for MSMEs in trade and business. The NOFBI programme can be expanded to the sub-county administrative units to further enable deployment of e-governance solutions. Develop an ICT based document management system for

appropriate records and documentation management as outlined in the CIDP.

- vi) Make ICT a standalone sector for planning and budget allocation. This is aimed at giving strategic prominence to planning, budgeting and investment in ICT.
- vii) Develop and implement ICT policies and procedures to manage ICT as provided in the CIDP and mitigate the cyber threats. Collaborate with the national Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) and the Communications Authority (CA) towards managing cyber threats. This is because enhanced use of ICT is known to raise threats and risks related to cyber-crime and misinformation.



## 7. Housing and Urban Development

There are five urban centers in the County with a total population of 53.5 per cent males and 46.5 per cent females. The urban land area covers 376 square kilometers with a population density of 472 persons per sq.km

**Table 7.1: Distribution of Population by Urban Centers by Gender**

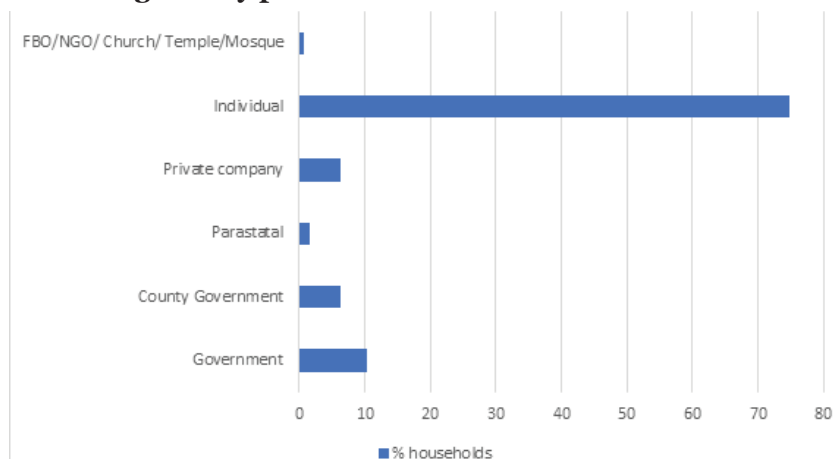
WAJIR	WAJIR	90,116	47,940	42,173
WAJIR	HABASWEIN	49,599	27,042	22,541
WAJIR	BUTE	14,108	7,275	6,832
WAJIR	ELDAS	12,270	6,636	5,633
WAJIR	GIRIFTU	7,935	4,322	3,612

Source: KNBS 2019- Kenya Population and Housing Census

### 7.1 Characteristics of the Sector

The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 94.9 per cent, with 5.1 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Individuals are the primary providers of rental housing at 74.8 per cent, followed by National Government (10.3per cent); and Private Companies (6.4per cent); For those who own homes,87.2 per cent constructed the houses while 9.1 per cent purchased the house and 3.7 per cent inherited their homes (KNBS, 2019). Majority of households are headed by men (66.14%) compared to women (33.6%) in the County (KIHBS, 2015/16).

**Figure 7.1: Distribution of households renting/ provided with the main dwelling unit by provider**



Source: KNBS, 2019 -Kenya Population and Housing Census

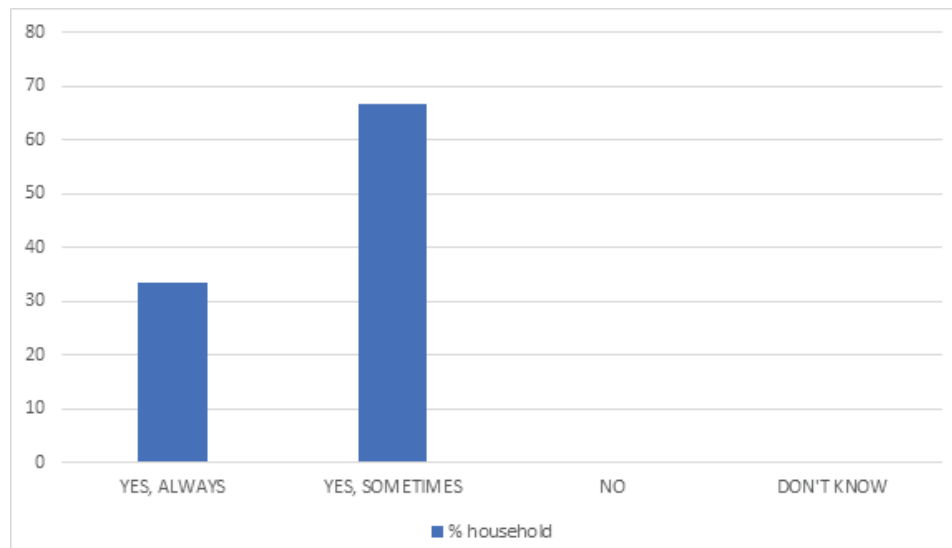
### Housing Quality

On average, the main dwellings of houses in the County have 1.52 habitable rooms against an average household size of 4.23 persons in a household, translating to approximately 2.78 people per room. According to the UN-Habitat, overcrowding occurs when there are more than three people per room<sup>10</sup>. In terms of housing quality (building material), 20.43 per cent of houses are constructed using finished materials for walls, floor and roofing compared to 79.57 per cent constructed using rudimentary materials (KIHBS, 2015/16). Majority of households (40.4per cent) have Grass/Twigs for roofing, Grass/Reeds walls (41.4per cent) and earth/Sand floors (78.2per cent) (KNBS, 2019).

### Rent Payment

On average, rental households spend approximately Ksh 7196 on rent with a minimum of KSH.2000 and the maximum of Ksh 25000 (KNBS, 2020b).

**Figure 7.2: Has your household paid the rent for April 2020 on the agreed date**

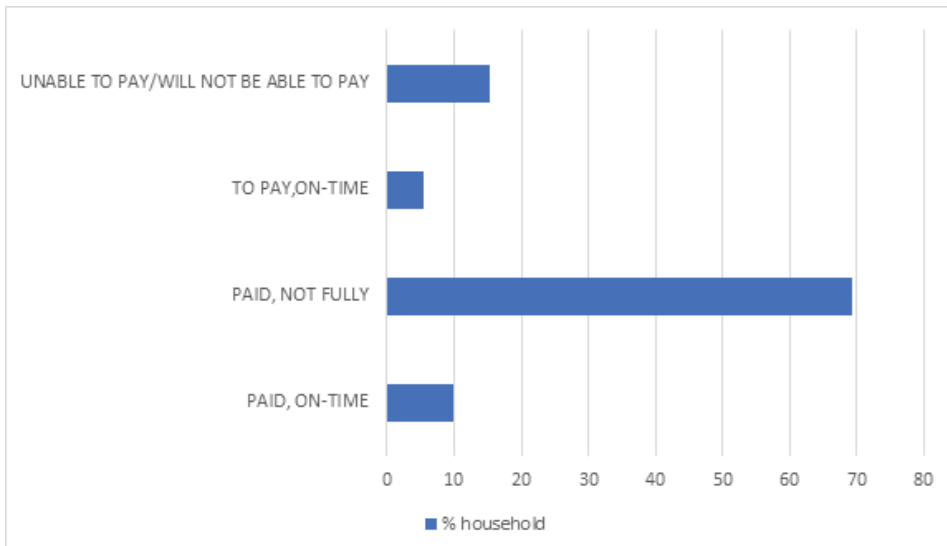


Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey

With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, households’ ability to pay rent has been affected, with 15.4 per cent of the population indicating inability to pay rent on the agreed date for April 2020, compared to 9.8 per cent of the population that were able to pay rent on the agreed date and 33.3 per cent who paid rent on agreed date before COVID-19 pandemic.

10 Household crowding measure: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowdingper cent20occursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20are,per cent20habitableper cent20roomper cent20\(88\).&text=Crowdingper cent20oc cursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20is,per cent20Drooms\)per cent20\(89\).](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535289/table/ch3.tab2/#:~:text=Overcrowdingper cent20occursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20are,per cent20habitableper cent20roomper cent20(88).&text=Crowdingper cent20oc cursper cent20ifper cent20thereper cent20is,per cent20Drooms)per cent20(89).)

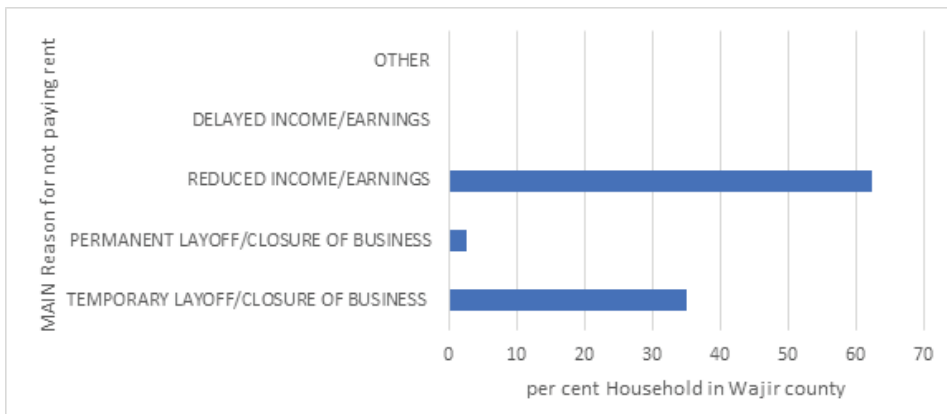
**Figure 7.3: Proportion of residents paying rent per terms of contract**



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey

The main reason that has made households unable to pay rent was attributed to reduced incomes /earnings, reported by 62.3 per cent of the population. The inability to pay rent was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by 100 per cent of the population.

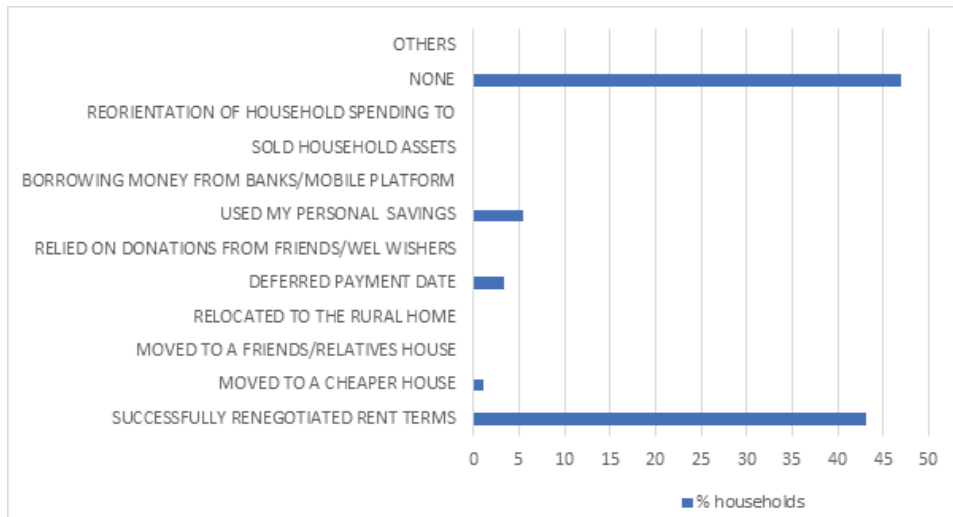
**Figure 7.4: Reasons for not being able to pay rent**



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey

Majority of the households (84.9 per cent) did not receive a waiver or relief on payment of rent from the landlord, with 2.2 per cent reporting a partial waiver and no reporting on full waiver. To overcome the effects of Corona virus on payment on rent, majority 43.1 per cent of households renegotiated rent terms, while 47.1 per cent of households did not take any measures, figure 7.5. Approximately 5.5 per cent used personal savings to pay rent.

**Figure 7.5: Measures taken by household to mitigate COVID-19 effects on rent**



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 survey

**Table 7.2: Lands, housing and urban development indicators**

Indicator	Value
No of Government provided housing units-	<b>300</b>
No. of Institutional provided housing units- there are more than 70 houses	<b>70</b>
No. of housing unit in private sector- None	<b>0</b>
No. of informal settlements- 90per cent of wajir are informal settlement	<b>90per cent</b>
No. of units under the affordable housing programme (planned, commenced, completed)- None	0
No. of people trained in housing related skills- artisans	100

Source: County Government of Wajir

With regard to primary energy source for cooking, 95.1 per cent of households rely on unclean sources of energy for cooking such as firewood, paraffin and charcoal, which could adversely affect respiratory health of women and children.

### 7.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in housing and urban development

Existing stock of owner-occupied homes that can be improved using finished building materials for roofing, walls and floors.

### 7.3 Emerging Issues

There are households that occupy dwellings constructed using rudimentary materials.

## **7.4 Recommendations**

- (i) Develop and implement an addressing system with complete, correct and unique address data in line with the National Addressing System. To be used pandemic and disaster surveillance and emergency response.
- (ii) Fastrack implementation of the affordable housing programme in partnership with the private sector targeting urban centers.
- (iii) Develop a policy to promote home ownership to address the problem of rent distress during times of emergency.
- (iv) Avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.
- (v) Identify and designate urban centers for upgrade pursuant to provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (amendment) Act, 2019
- (vi) Develop and implement urban planning and design instruments that support sustainable management and use of natural resources and land in line with the New Urban Agenda and as mitigative measure to future pandemics and disasters.
- (vii) Adopt programmes aimed at an increasing household access to clean energy sources and technologies for cooking to mitigate against exposure to respiratory diseases.

## 8. Tourism

### 8.1 Characteristic of the Sector

The county has rich culture, wildlife and landscape features that include Lake Yahud among others. There are no game reserves or game parks in the county. Other potential tourist attractions that can be developed include Wajir museum, Wagalla massacre site, Orahey wells, British and Italian war bunkers, old courthouse and animal sanctuaries. The county has 10 unclassified hotels and 20 bars and restaurants. The Wajir International Airport, which is currently underutilized, can be utilized for growth of the tourism sector. The county lacks the correct data for the exact number of tourists visiting the county. However, the number of visitors coming to the county for conferencing tourism has increased. This presents an opportunity to a hub for M.I.C.E in the County to cater for the northern region, especially for inter-county events.

### 8.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Tourism Sector

- Improving sanitation aspects in tourism attraction sites.
- Refurbishment of accommodation facilities
- Promoting domestic tourism

### 8.3 Emerging Issues

Sanitation as a key component in ensuring business continuity in the tourism sub-sector;

### 8.4 Recommendations

The strategies to support tourism sector recovery include:

- i) Mapping all the sites with tourism potential in the county; coming up with a tourism sector development master plan; protecting cultural heritage sites;
- ii) Tourism product diversification and marketing; niche products such as annual cultural festivals, and animal sanctuaries / wildlife reserves.
- iii) Setting up a cultural documentation centre; tourism information centre.
- iv) Ensuring high sanitation standard in the hotel facilities to deter spread of COVID-19 in line with the national guidelines for reopening of the hospitality sector.

## 9. Health

### 9.1 Characteristics of the Sector

#### *General health provision in the County*

The county has 115 public health facilities, 29 private facilities and 2 facilities run by NGO/missions. The county has 10 level IV hospitals, 26 level III health centers, 79 level II dispensaries, 3 private hospitals, one nursing home and 27 clinics. According to the 2015/2016 KIHBS, only 0.2 per cent of the population has medical insurance cover, which is very low.

**Table 9.1: Health provision**

Year	2017	2018	2019/20
<b>Health facility density</b>			
Primary health facilities		99	141
Hospitals		11	14
<i>Number of health facilities</i>		<i>110</i>	<i>155</i>
Health facility density		1.9	2.2
<b>Bed density</b>			
Hospital beds		595	613
No. of Beds per 10,000 population		9	9
<b>Human resource density</b>			
Total workforce		880	870
Human Resources for Health (Technical)		723	856
Number per 10,000 population		10.5	10.6

*Source: MOH (2021)*

In 2019/2020, the number of health facilities in the county were 155 which comprised of 141 primary health facilities and 14 hospitals. This was an improvement from a total of 110 health facilities in the previous year, 2018. The number of beds per 10,000 population is 9 against the WHO recommendation of 30 beds per 10,000 population. The health facilities and personnel serve a growing population of 781,263 people according 2019 census. In 2019, total health workforce was approximately 856 representing 10.6 health workers per 10,000 population which is below the WHO target of 23 health workers per 10,000.

**Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of the Population that reported Sickness/ Injury by Type of Health Provider in the County (per cent)**

Type of Health Provider	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Government hospital	41.5
Government health centre	11.8
Government dispensary	13.0
Faith Based (church, Mission) Hospital / Clinic	0.0
Community Health	0.0
Private hospital / clinic	37.5
Nursing/ Maternity Home	0.0
Pharmacy/ chemist	0.0
Community health worker	0.0
Shop/ Kiosk	0.0
Traditional healer	0.0
Faith healer	0.3
Herbalist	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	24

Source: KIHBS 2015/2016

### **Population with health insurance cover**

The percentage distribution of the population with health insurance cover by type of insurance provider is presented in Table 9.3. In general, 0.2 per cent of the county population had some form of health insurance cover. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) was the leading health insurance provider reported by 90.8 per cent of the population. Private contributions to insurance cover were reported by 21.4 per cent of the population.

**Table 9.3: Percentage distribution of the county's population with health insurance cover by type of health insurance provider (%)**

Source of Health Insurance	Percentage Distribution of the Population (per cent)
Population ('000)	459
Share of population with health insurance (per cent)	0.2
NHIF	90.8
Private-Contributory	21.4
Private-Non-Contributory	0.0
Employer-Contributory	0.0
Employer-Non-Contributory	0.0
Other	0.0
Number of Individuals ('000)	1

Source: KIHBS 2015/16



### **Place of delivery**

In the 2015/16 KIHBS, women in Wajir County were asked the place where children aged 5 years and below were delivered. Table 9.4 shows the distribution of children by place of delivery. About 77.6 per cent of children were delivered at home which is higher than the national percentage of 31.3 per cent. The proportion of children born in hospitals, health centres, dispensary/clinics was 14 per cent, 1.5 per cent, and 2.7 per cent respectively.

**Table 9.4: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by Place of Delivery (per cent)**

Place of Delivery	Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months by place of delivery (per cent)
Hospital	14.0
Health Centre	1.5
Clinic/ Dispensary	2.7
Maternity Home	1.6
At Home	77.6
Other	0.0
Not stated	2.5
<b>Number of Individuals ('000)</b>	92

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

### **Immunization for children**

The 2015/16 KIHBS covered data on measles immunization for children below 5 years at; 9 months (Measles I) and at 18 months (Measles II). The information was collected from vaccination cards where they were available while mother's recall was used where the card was not available. Table 9.5 presents information on the proportion of children immunized against measles. The analysis focused on children aged 12-23 months (or one year). The county had 12.4 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized against measles at 9 months while 1.0 per cent were fully immunized against measles at 18 months.

**Table 9.5: Proportion of children aged 0-59 months immunized against measles**

		Proportion of Children
Vaccination Card	Yes Seen	15.9
	Yes, Not Seen	54.7
	No	24.5
	Not stated	5.0
Measles Vaccination	Measles I (At 9 months Card)	12.4
	Measles II (At 18 months Card)	1.0
	Measles II (Mother/ Guardian memory)	61.8
	Either (card or memory)	74.2
<b>Number of Individuals ('000)</b>		92

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

### **Health outputs**

The county is served by one Medical Consultant, One Dentist, 28 Doctors, eight Pharmacists, 93 Registered Clinical Officers, 327 Nurses, 60 Lab Technologists, 57 Public Health Officers, 10 Pharm Techs, 62 Community Health Assistants and 55 Nutritionists. The doctor patient ratio is 1:29,413 compared to internationally recommended standards of 1: 5,000. The Nurse-to-Patient ratio is 1:2,608 compared to internationally recommended standards of 1: 333.

The morbidity rate is 16.3 per cent with men and women accounting for 14.4 per cent and 18.3 per cent respectively. The most five prevalent diseases are upper respiratory diseases 46 per cent; Diarrhea 17 per cent; other diseases of respiratory system 9 per cent; Pneumonia 7 percent, ear infections 5 per cent.

The county has many cases of malnutrition and stunting mainly for under five children, which is because of high poverty levels leading to food insecurity and dependence on relief food. According to the KDHS (2014), 26 per cent of children under age five in the county are stunted, about 14 per cent are wasted and 21 per cent are under weight. Malnutrition is highly pronounced in the rural settlements where access to nutritional food products is a challenge.

There is need for sensitization among the communities on nutrition issues such as proper breast feeding and balanced diets. In addition, the government needs to provide nutrition supplements to school going children and other vulnerable populations as well as surge capacities for the health sector and partners. Moreover, there is need to promote family farming through organic practices thereby enhancing food security at household level.

According to 2014 KDHS, 49.5 per cent of the children aged 12-23 months received all basic recommended vaccinations. This can be attributed to the long distance to the health facilities, lack of cold chains in rural health facilities due to energy constraints and the high illiteracy levels among the residents. Therefore, there is need for initiatives towards providing immunization services closer to the people through installation of solar powered cold chains in rural health facilities, mobile clinics and mass immunization campaigns.

There is minimal improvement in number of mothers delivering at health facilities, which stands at 22 per cent of the total deliveries. This has led to high maternal deaths and infant mortality. The ratio of mothers seeking minimal four (4) antenatal care visits stands at 38 per cent. There is need for the county to improve on the community referral services to help expectant mothers to easily access health services.

The county's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate stands at 0.9 per cent, which is lower than the national rate, which stands at 6.7 per cent. The women 15-49 years who know that HIV can be prevented by use of condoms and limiting sex to one uninfected partner stands at 15per cent. Testing services in the county are limited to major health facilities and hence low number of infected people have been put on ARVs. There need to sensitive the communities on voluntary testing as well as living positively.

**Table 9.6: Health indicators in Wajir county**

<b>Key Health Indicators</b>	<b>County Estimates</b>
<b>Maternal and Child Services</b>	
<i>Skilled delivery (per cent)</i>	21.7
<i>Children born at home</i>	78.5
<i>Fully immunized child</i>	49.5
<b>Child Mortality</b>	
<i>Infant mortality (*1000)</i>	57
<i>Under-5 mortality (*1000)</i>	80
<i>Neo-natal mortality (*1000)</i>	0
<b>Nutrition Status</b>	
<i>Stunted children (per cent)</i>	26.4
<i>Wasted children (per cent)</i>	14.2
<i>Underweight children (per cent)</i>	21.1
<b>HIV (per cent)</b>	
<i>HIV adult prevalence (per cent)</i>	0.9
<i>Children with HIV(No.)</i>	0
<i>ART adult coverage (per cent)</i>	74
<i>ART children coverage (per cent)</i>	15

Source: KDHS, 2014; DHIS 2018

Approximately 23per cent of the county budget was allocated to health and Kshs. 194M supplementary budget (FY 2020/21) has been allocated to health amid COVID-19 pandemic for response measures in the county. The County has established quarantine facilities and isolation centers in all the sub-counties. The county has also facilitated on job training of health workers with respect to COVID-19 infections in collaboration with the national government.

The challenge faced by county is that it is vast - approximately 58,000 kilometers squared, and therefore posing a challenge for contact tracing and surveillance. Most of the suspected cases are from the border with Somalia. The county has formed a multisectoral emergency response committee led by the Governor and the County Commissioner. The county has waived all medical fee charges in all hospitals within the county.

The available bed capacity for COVID-19 ICU treatment was 14 but while the plans are underway to have more through an identified possible COVID-19 treatment hospital which is awaiting approval from the national government. Partners have assisted in supply of some medical materials and equipment.

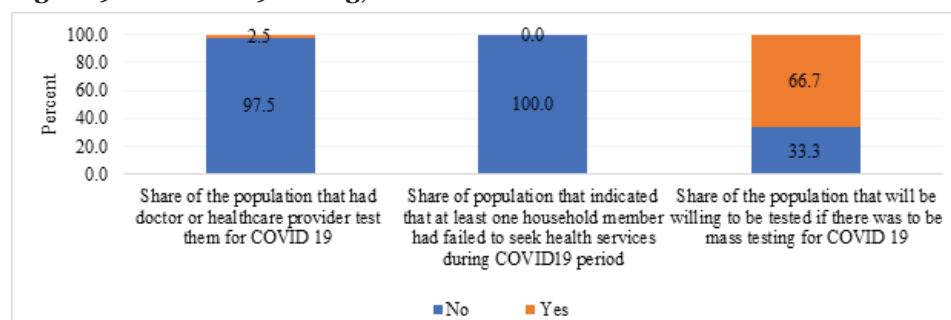
### ***Effects of COVID-19***

Wajir referral hospital has been designated as the regional testing center with the help of World Bank. The hospital is able to test for Somalia, Lower Juba, Garissa and other

neighboring counties. Main challenge has been unavailability of testing reagents. The county has over 800 health staff members. Approximately 160 health workers were trained through the national and county government's efforts. Gaps exist because the county is vast and the health budget is limited. The county has been able to finalize on the ICU that has been under construction. The County also used Wajir girls as an isolation center after a few renovations were done by the county.

In June 2020, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey of COVID-19. The results showed share of the population that had doctor or healthcare provider testing or confirming to them the status in regards COVID-19 was estimated at 2.5 per cent in 2020 (COVID-19, Wave 2 survey). This small number shows that there is a large population of people in the county who have not yet been tested for COVID-19. Further, no member of the population indicated that at least one household member had failed to seek health services and 66.7 per cent of the population indicated they will be willing to be tested if there was mass testing for COVID-19. Therefore, a lot of awareness need to be created among the county population.

**Figure 9.1: COVID-19 testing, 2020**



Source: COVID-19 Wave 2 (June 2020)

About one in five 17 per cent girls, aged 15-19 years in Wajir County have begun childbearing; this is marginally lower than the national rate of 18 per cent. Specifically, 1.7 per cent are pregnant with their first child and 12 per cent have ever given birth compared to 3.4 per cent and 14.7 per cent, respectively, at the national level. Wajir County's age specific fertility rate for girls, aged 15-19 (adolescent birth rate) is 129 births per 1000 girls: considerably higher than the national rate (96). Teenage pregnancies can partly result from low contraceptive use and high-unmet need for contraceptives. In Wajir County, only 4 per cent of currently married girls aged 15-19 use modern contraceptives, which is notably lower than the national level of 37 per cent.

In terms of Female genital mutilation, all the girls aged 15-19 years self-reported to having been circumcised, a factor closely related with early marriages. Boys are also engaged in criminal activities such as drug abuse. HIV/AIDS transmission, mental illness, suicide, school dropout, low economic and social productivity, low self-esteem and stigma, premature deaths and poverty are other challenges facing the youths.

Some of contributing factors include idleness, lack of health education, negative cultures as highlighted above, parental negligence and lack of guidance, peer pressure, illiteracy and high poverty levels. The results of these problems are mental illness, suicide, school dropout, low economic and social productivity, low self-esteem, stigma, and premature deaths. Therefore, action need to be taken to prevent such from occurring. This can be

achieved through parental guidance, economic empowerment, sex education, employment creation among the youths, early school enrolment and guidance and counselling.

The county Partnered with KMTC to redouble human resource for health needs by training more locals, to cushion the county from terror shocks that has affected the county in the past. Over the first two years of devolution, the county suffered loss of medical personnel to other counties who were largely non-locals. Currently, the county has successfully managed to get close to 80 per cent of its health workforce as locals, which has successfully cushioned it against terror shocks and disruption of service delivery.

Moreover, localizing the workforce is nothing to be proud of since the envisaged position is to have inclusive and integrated workforce, but the prevailing circumstances made it inevitable. It faced the challenge of inability to attract specialized cadre despite many attempt to recruit them. Further, increasing the number of healthcare staff has significantly improved service delivery and reduced the doctor and nurse to population ratio.

The county government has hired more health workers during this period; this goes along in meeting the counties commitment to the Universal Health Coverage. With support of the national government and counties own initiatives trainings and awareness have been undertaken in order to build capacity of the health workers to enable enhance the mitigation measures required during this period. Tools of trade such as protective gears, masks have also been provided.

Lack of adequate health infrastructural facilities across the county, negatively impact on access and equity in the availability of essential health care aimed at promoting a healthy population that will effectively participate in the development of the nation. Those unable to access the health services are sometimes rendered economically unproductive. In cases where the sick person is the breadwinner, the family may become impoverished. This has led to high cases of dependency. Inaccessibility to health facility has also led to high mortality rates. About 95.9 per cent of the population has to cover more than 5 Km to access a health facility and only 4.1 per cent access a health facility within less than 1Km.

There are incidences of health facilities that are not being utilized especially those constructed under the various funding programmes. This is because they lack necessary equipment and are understaffed. Further, there are inadequate public education programmes to encourage Kenyans to change their lifestyles in ways that will improve the health status of individuals, families and communities.

The county is undertaking awareness to dissuade the fears among the public most of whom had stopped going to the hospital thus cutting the revenue stream. The local productions of masks have provided opportunity for revenue creation. The county was also experiencing challenges in meeting her local revenue collection. The county has been experiencing downward trend in revenue collection due to weak systems in place for collecting revenue. However, with more sensitization about COVID-19, people will resume looking for health services from the hospitals and other health centers. This will increase revenue collection in the county. Main raw materials in the health sector are the services offered by health professionals and other employees. Medicine and drugs are also key materials. County is also producing masks, which are in high demand during this COVID-19 period. Access and provision of these materials were affected by the outbreak and spread of the virus, resulting to higher demand relative to the supply.

Although the county has been putting a lot of effort in fighting the pandemic, there are other several challenges that have been slowing the fight. For instance, lack of finances. The county had not envisaged a health pandemic of this magnitude hence over-reliance on the national government for support. In addition, local revenue collection is bound to happen since many economic activities had been disrupted by the country lock down and curfew. Many commodities, which were being sold outside the county, had been affected as well.

The county is also likely to face protracted labor disputes especially with medical officers who might demand more risk allowances during this pandemic period. The county is also struggling with the health sector after devolution. There were enough structures to handle the responsibilities given to the county government. There are not enough health workers to serve the large population in the county. In addition, there is a problem of procurement of medicine and other drugs as the counties are not allowed to procure for drugs themselves but are forced to buy from KEMSA. This sometimes results into delays in delivery of the needed drugs. The county also does not have adequate bed capacity to handle all her patients. It is in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak that the county has rushed against time to establish more ICU beds.

The sector has linkages with the Education, ICT, WASH and Agriculture sectors. There is a direct proportionality between education and health. The higher the education level of members of the county, the healthier they are. High level of education reduces instances of disease outbreaks due to ignorance. This particularly reduces health diseases such as sexually transmitted among the youths and adults.

Advancement in ICT also helps improve health sector. This is because with ICT, it is easy to scan for diseases and manage the treatment. With advancement in ICT, it is possible to do diagnosis to patients and treat them promptly. A good example is the scan for pregnant mothers and cancer patients. Some countries such as Rwanda, drones are being used to deliver bloods. This is helping in mortality rate reduction. Good water and sewerage facilities also contribute greatly in reduction of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and other waterborne. This is because of maintaining good hygiene such as washing hands after visiting toilets, washing fruits before eating and boiling/treating drinking water.

Good disposal of waste by avoiding open defecation and using toilets also helps reduce spread of diseases spread through human waste. Agriculture sector also plays a key role in ensuring that people get balanced diet and good nutrition. This reduces cases of malnutrition and stunted growth among children due to lack of certain nutrients and vitamins. Agriculture also serves as a source of revenue and employment mostly for the females. This reduces cases of family conflicts and stresses, hence reducing mental diseases.

## **9.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Health Sector**

There is an enhanced collaboration within Frontier FCDC counties, which has resulted into training of the health officers and all the frontline staffs. This collaboration has also seen enhanced inter-county screening and testing centralized at the Coast general hospital.

Additionally, due to reduced social contacts many meetings have been taking place virtually. This has provided an opportunity for the development of ICT. This has saved the county money, which could have been used in the movement from place to another, conference

hall fee as well as accommodation for her staff. This has also promoted of ICT and other communication channels within the county hence speedy transfer of information.

The pandemic has also led to utilization of local capacity in production of masks and PPEs. This has promoted growth of local industries, hence creating employment. It has also challenged the county government hence exposing the health sector since it lacked enough ICU beds. More attention is now being given to the sector leading to improved health services. The county has also received several donations in terms of bed and PPEs which have contribute to general improvement of the health sector in general.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for isolation centres, admission beds, ICU and HDU beds. It has also overstretched the existing health facilities. Additionally, with spread of pandemic across counties it has created fear among the residents and some of them have opted not to visit the hospital in fear of contracting the virus.

The outbreak of the virus has caused the county to reprioritize its health sector priorities and some preventative and promotive health services such: malaria control; expanded programmes on immunization; integrated management of childhood illness; and control and prevention of environmentally communicable diseases have been affected to some extent.

### **9.3 Recommendations**

- (i) The county should create awareness on availability and importance of free maternity services and address other constraints to access of maternal health services in the county to address risk of contracting COVID-19 in event of visiting any health facility.
- (ii) There is need for public health awareness programmes on existing cultural practices and religious elements that are retrogressive and impede on child health care. The challenge of cross-border relations that require control measures across the border due to the mobile nature of the community and the porous Somalia border need mitigation measures.
- (iii) To reduce high burden of both communicable and non-communicable disease, the county should revamp its Community Health Strategy. This is a community based promotive and preventive health services. To make this more effective, the County should engage Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and equip them with the relevant resources and skills.
- (iv) More sensitization about negative effects of FGM and Early marriages need to be carried-out by the county government in collaboration with national government and other change agents.
- (v) The county should revamp, expand, modernize and equip health facilities, including, its level IV hospitals.
- (i) Recruit additional public health officers and community health workers to strengthen preventive and primary health systems.
- (ii) The county should also promote improvement of health infrastructure in the county particularly hospitals and roads to make health care accessible. This would go a

long way in increasing the number of hospital deliveries and survival of children as envisioned in CIDP 2018-2022.

- (iii) The county should as well implement targeted emergency nutrition programs and invest in community and public health by recruiting and training of community health workers to sensitize the community members on importance of vaccination and immunization as well as addressing the cases of malnutrition and Under 5 stunting in the county.
- (iv) Invest in research and development to spur innovation in health sector including in the area of medicine.
- (v) Implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers are equitably deployed.
- (vi) Promote and support public and community health including the installation of hand washing facilities in homes and institutions such as schools, workplaces and health care facilities within Wajir county.
- (vii) Proactively address the mental health needs including those of the health workforce, mental illnesses from depression, especially in response to shutdowns and economic downturns.



## 10. Education and Training

### 10.1 Characteristics of the Sector

#### *General Education Provision in the County*

Wajir County has a total of 264 pre-primary centres, 218 primary and 41 secondary schools. Infrastructures are in place to support water and sanitation efforts in learning institutions by the county. The county has rolled out plans to provide hand washing facilities in schools in preparation for re-opening.

There are 41 secondary schools has total enrollment of 12,188 of which 7,780 are boys and 4,408 are girls. The enrollment in secondary schools in the county is expected to increase significantly due to increased transition from primary schools and opening up of Day secondary schools in line with the national government policy of increasing access to secondary education.

There are nine youth polytechnics out of which only five are operational (Wajir, Habaswein, Khorof Harar, Tarbaj and Griftu polytechnics). The total enrollment stands at 197 with 69 being male and 128 females. There is need to operationalize all the polytechnics to ensure easy access by the youth.

There is one Medical Training College, one Livestock Training Centre (GPTC Griftu), Two Teacher training colleges and two other tertiary institutions. There is need to improve on the institutions as well as coming with a constituent university.

The county has Islamic education classes across the villages popularly known as *Duksi* whereby children are taught Islamic religion

About 67 per cent of public primary schools in Wajir County have been installed with ICT infrastructure and devices under the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) (ICT Authority, 2019). The infrastructures include learner digital devices (LDD), teacher digital devices (TDD) and the Digital Content Server and Wireless Router (DCSWR).

#### ***Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) and Net Attendance Ratio (NAR)***

The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) for pre-primary school was 37.1 per cent while that of primary school and secondary school was 75.8 and 42.8 per cent respectively in 2015/16 (Table 10.1).

Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) represents the total number of persons attending school regardless of their age, expressed as a percentage of the official school age population for a specific level of education. The GAR for pre-primary school was higher for males, 45.5per cent, compared to that for females, 27.6 per cent. The GAR for primary school was higher for male, 82 per cent, compared to that for female, 68.8 per cent. The GAR for secondary school was higher for males, 43 per cent, compared to that for females, 42.4 per cent. Net

Attendance Ratio (NAR) is the total number of persons in the official school age group attending a specific education level to the total population in that age group. Table 10.1 shows that total NAR for pre-primary, primary and secondary school was 8.5 per cent, 53.1 per cent and 38.1 per cent, respectively

**Table 10.1: Gross Attendance Ratio and Net Attendance Ratio by Educational Level in Wajir County**

Education Level	Gender	Gross Attendance Ratio	Net Attendance Ratio
Pre-Primary School	Male	45.5	10.5
	Female	27.6	4.9
	Total	37.1	8.5
Primary School	Male	82	53.0
	Female	68.8	53.2
	Total	75.8	53.1
Secondary School	Male	43	16.9
	Female	42.4	25.3
	Total	42.8	20.3

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

### **Basic education gross and net enrolment rate**

The pre-primary gross enrollment rate in the county was 37.1 per cent in 2018 and while the net enrollment rate was 8.5 per cent. The Gross Primary and Secondary enrollment rates stood at 75.8 per cent and 42.8 per cent respectively in 2018 while the Net enrollment rates (NER) were 53.1 per cent and 20.3 per cent for primary school and secondary school respectively during the same period.

**Table 10.2: Gross and net enrollment rate (%), 2018**

<b>Pre-primary</b>	Total
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	37.1
Net Enrollment rate (NER)(per cent)	8.5
Gender parity index	0.8
<b>Primary</b>	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	75.8
Net Enrollment rate (NER)(per cent)	53.1
Gender parity index	0.7
<b>Secondary</b>	
Gross Enrollment rate (GER)(per cent)	42.8
Net Enrollment rate (NER)(per cent)	20.3
Gender parity index	0.4

Source: Education statistical booklets 2014-2018

The county has about 264 ECD centres with a total enrollment of 15,075. The teacher/pupil ratio is 1:25 and transition rate of 90 percent. The number of Primary schools is 218 with a total enrollment of 63,912 pupils of which 38,584 are boys and 25,328 are girls. The primary school retention and transition rates are 51 per cent and 94 per cent respectively.

### **Literacy**

The analysis of literacy is based on respondents' self-assessment as no reading and writing tests were administered during the data collection. Further it was assumed that anybody with secondary level of schooling and above could read and write. The percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by ability to read and write is presented in Table 10.3. The proportion of literate population in the county was 35.8 per cent with the male population being more literate (45.2per cent) compared to their female counterparts (25.9per cent).

**Table 10.3: Percentage Distribution of Population aged 15 Years and above by Ability to Read and Write (per cent)**

	<b>Ability to Read and Write</b>	<b>Percentage Distribution (per cent)</b>
Overall county	Literate	35.8
	Illiterate	57.5
	Not Stated	6.7
	<b>Number of Individuals ('000)</b>	207
Male	Literate	45.2
	Illiterate	47.9
	Not Stated	6.9
	<b>Number of Individuals ('000)</b>	106
Female	Literate	25.9
	Illiterate	67.6
	Not Stated	6.5
	<b>Number of Individuals ('000)</b>	101

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

### **Educational Attainment**

The distribution of population aged 3 years and above by educational qualification attained is presented in Table 10.4. Approximately 74.2 per cent of the population do not have any educational qualification. This is high than the national percentage of 49.7. Only 0.4 per cent of the population has attained university degree. The proportion of the population with CPE/KCPE qualification is 13.7 per cent and that of KCE/ KCSE qualification is 3.5 per cent.

**Table 10.4: Percentage distribution of population by highest educational qualification**

Highest Educational Qualification	Percentage Distribution of Population
None	74.2
CPE/ KCPE	13.7
KAPE	0
KJSE	0
KCE/ KCSE	3.5
KACE/ EAACE	0
Certificate	0.2
Diploma	1.1
Degree	0.4
Basic/post literacy certificate	0.4
Other	0.3
Not Stated	6.1
Number of individuals ('000)	197

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Percentage distribution of Wajir County residents aged 3 years and above who had ever attended school by the highest level reached, and sex is presented in 10.5. The proportion of males who had reached primary school level was 52 per cent while that of females was 52.5 per cent. Except for primary school level and college (middle level), the proportion of males who had reached other levels of education were comparatively higher than females. For instance, for all persons who reported to have attended school, 16.3 per cent of males and 15.5 per cent females had reached pre-primary school level in the County. There was a high disparity between the proportion of persons who had reached university education level, with male recording a higher percentage than female at 1 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively.

**Table 10.5: Percentage Distribution of Residents 3 Years and above who had ever Attended School by Highest Level Reached, and Sex for Wajir County (per cent)**

Educational Level	Gender	Percentage Distribution of Population 3 Years and above
Pre-primary	Male	16.3
	Female	15.5
Primary	Male	52
	Female	52.5
Post primary vocational	Male	0
	Female	0.2

Secondary	Male	11.4
	Female	11.8
College (Middle-level)	Male	1.7
	Female	1.9
University	Male	1
	Female	0.2
Madrassa / Duksi	Male	11.2
	Female	9.6
Other	Male	0.5
	Female	1.6
Not Stated	Male	6
	Female	6.7
Number of Individuals ('000)	Male	118
	Female	79

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

Adult literacy level is low standing at 23 per cent. There is need to invest more on the area through establishment of adult classes in all sub-counties to increase adult literacy. The county has no technical training centres although the national government is in the process of building six constituency technical institutions.

Closure of school has led to some students engaging in dangerous activities like drug abuse, smoking bhang and eating miraa and students becoming generally unruly.

The county has plans to establish e-learning in schools especially at polytechnics by equipping them with the necessary machinery, equipment and installation of Internet connections before the re-opening of schools.

The county has a provision for bursaries (60M) in the FY2020/21, provide equipment for e-learning to support secondary and ECDEs, supporting orphans and children with disabilities and vulnerable families.

According to Basic Education Statistical Booklet (2014), 242 males and 100 females were employed as ECD teachers in the public schools. This makes a total of 342 ECD teachers in public sector compared to a total of 117 in private sector in which males were 62 and 55 females. In total, county had 459 ECD teachers in both public and private schools. At this level of education more males are engaged compared to females which is interesting. In other majority counties, more females than males are engaged at ECD level. The number teachers employed in primary schools were 1123 in public sector and 237 in private sector. This makes a total of 1320 teachers at primary level of education. At secondary level, the county had 476 secondary school teachers in public schools and 45 more in private schools making it a total of 521. From the above statistics it is evident that the number of teachers to student's ratio is large meaning that the teaching labor force is stretched.

There are three main players as far as education is concerned. We have parents, teachers and students. Other stakeholders include county and national governments as well as the

donors. They play a critical role in ensuring that the education is supported, and learners are learning smoothly. Their interaction brings about success in the education sector.

Even after reopening of schools, private schools have been struggling to come back to the feet as many of them had suffered huge losses. There is a likelihood that some of the schools will close permanently unless the government comes for their rescue. National government has recently release funds to support teachers in the public schools who had been employed by BOM. This has come as a relief for the many teachers who have been suffering since the schools were locked down due to COVID-19. The county has a provision for bursaries (60M) in the FY2020/21, provide equipment for e-learning to support secondary and ECDEs, supporting orphans and children with disabilities and vulnerable families.

The main raw materials in education are the services offered by the teachers and other employees such as cooks, drivers, cleaners and security persons. Learners also consume goods such as food, clothing, reading and writing materials and other learning equipment.

The share of ECDE spending in the county increased from KSh 304 million in 2014/15 to KSh 819 million in 2017/18. The share of ECDE spending as a proportion of total education spending was on average 30 per cent during the period. Spending on primary and secondary education increased from 600 million in 2014/15 to KSh 8 million in 2017/18 and KSh 500 million in 2014/15 to KSh 600 million in 2017/18 respectively.

The share of ECDE budget in the total county budget allocation averaged 7 per cent over the review period, comprising of on average 40 per cent development and 60 per cent recurrent expenditure. The absorption rate increased from 94 per cent in 2015/16 to 100 per cent in 2016/17 before declining to 80 per cent in 2017/18.

Teaching services are the key services. Performance of the students in national exams is used as a measure of the output from the services offered by teachers.

Water is a shared commodity between community and the schools. The county government should ensure that all learning institutions have water for proper hygiene during this COVID-19 period. School uniforms and learning materials such as books are provided by parents. Schools should make sure that there is sufficient number of classrooms to accommodate all learners when schools re-open. There is need to cover days lost through make up programs both at home and in schools. There is also Need for employment of more teachers in case of double tracks.

There are several constraints in the education sector. The main one right now is COVID-19 which led to closing of schools. This has disrupted education calendar posing a great challenge to both county and national government. The national government announced that the education calendar 2020 a waste. Closure of all schools led to loss to learning time and teaching time. The school infrastructure in the County is not only limited but also is of poor quality. High Illiteracy level is another issue of concern as not all county persons can read and write. Lack of parental guidance and early marriages are other challenges being experienced. There is also lack of enough ICT infrastructure in the county making it

difficult for the online learning to take place.

### **ICT in education**

The county has also low Internet access (3.5percent) which constrains online learning across the County. Furthermore, only 1.4 percent of the households had access to ICT equipment such as laptops and computers. This makes it difficult for the pupils and other students to benefit from national learning programme which had been started by the government. Even if the programme was to be done through radio, it would be difficult since only 67.0 per cent of the county population has a radio.

Agriculture provides food for the school going children. Therefore, it plays a key role in ensuring that the school going children get food of the required quality and quantity. It is always children who are in the right health status who can concentrate and learn in classes. Therefore, good health ensures continuity of learning among the pupils and students. It is in schools where children are taught about good health hygiene which contributes in reduced diseases spread. ICT plays a key role especially now that schools have been closed down and people are advocating for online classes. Good Internet connectivity, possession of laptop/desktop computer, iPad, TV, and radio would greatly facilitate the online learning.

## **10.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in education and training**

The demand for PPEs such as masks in the County has led to local production by VTCs hence creating employment and income for youth. It will however be important to address issues of standards and quality of the local produced PPEs. COVID-19 pandemic has also provided opportunity for the county government to forge partnerships to ensure enough network coverage across all the sub-counties and counties in the Central region. There is also the opportunity of exploring online classes. This if effective, can save time spent on travelling from home to schools to teach. Teachers will be able to reach at the comfort of their seats. This can reduce the cases of lateness and absenteeism. Learning from homes will also reduce accidents and injuries among pupils at school. It will also reduce indiscipline and drug abuse as parents will be able to closely monitor their children at home. The disease has also created an opportunity for creativity among students who are involved in making of ventilators and researching on vaccines.

## **10.3 Emerging Issues**

The County with support from stakeholders will need to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers, provision of sanitation facilities and enhanced school feeding programme. To achieve these objectives, the county will require to partner with the national government and private sector to enhance ECDE and vocation training through infrastructural development as well as equipment of all ECDE, primary, secondary and vocational training, and University branches in the County with adequate WASH and adequate learning spaces upon reopening. High cases of school dropout especially transition from primary to secondary level of education. There is also

the issue of drug and substance abuse among the students which need to address has it has great impact on education. There is the issue of low ICT development in the county.

#### **10.4 Recommendations**

- (i) The County with support from stakeholders should continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities.
- (ii) The county should involve communities to mobilize learners when schools will be reopening process and while deepening implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures. The county will combine community participation and large-scale direct communication campaigns to parents, and where possible, increase attendance options to accommodate all children, including those with high-risk of dropping out, also promote back to school campaign and community outreach to ensure that no child is being dropped out of school due to COVID-19 emergency.
- (iii) The County should prioritize projects that improve school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and management to reduce future effect of similar or related outbreak while promoting public health in learning institutions.
- (iv) The county should promote remedial/catch up lessons for learners who might have lagged also schools to utilize ICT platforms and have a depository of teaching and learning materials that learners could use at their own time and while at home.
- (v) The county should provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school, also provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners.
- (vi) Concerted efforts will also be required to fight drug and substance abuse among the youths in the county. This can be done through counseling and ensuring that they are not idle especially this period when learning institutions are locked.
- (vii) Government needs to come in and support private institutions which are facing threat of closure due to losses as a result of closing school indefinitely. This can involve giving grants and loans to the private schools.



## 11. Social Protection

### 11.1 Characteristics of the Sector

#### *Sources of vulnerabilities in the County*

According to the KNBS census 2019, Wajir county has a population of 781,263 of which 1.5 per cent are the elderly and 0.6 per cent are people living with disabilities. The overall poverty rates in the county stand at 95 per cent which is more than double the national average of 36.1 per cent. The county's food poverty levels are at 63 per cent and 44 per cent of the total population is multidimensionally poor. Further, about 26 per cent of the children population is stunted. The impact of the COVID-19 to the county's economy cannot be gainsaid.

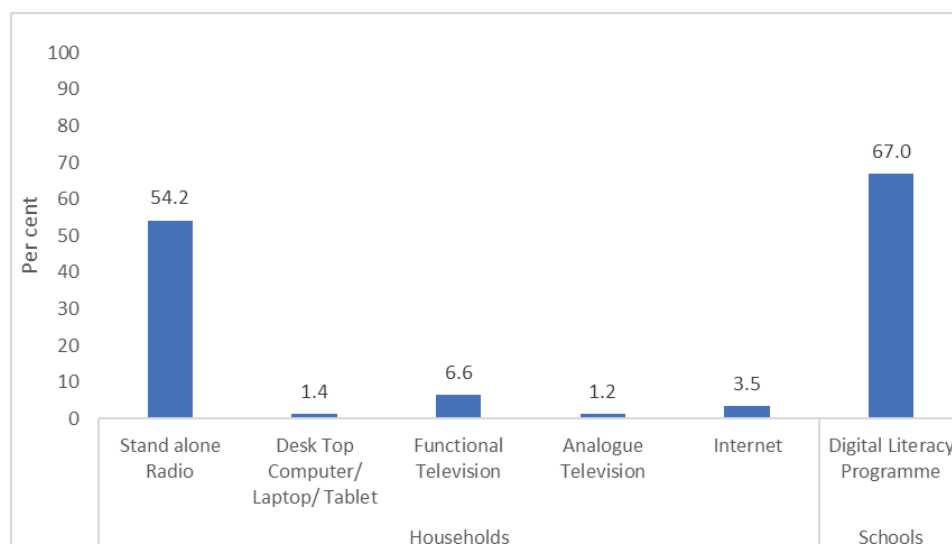
The main Development Partners with projects in the county include; World Bank, European Union, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), USAID, UKaid/DFID, World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, UNHCR, ILRI, UNDP and DANIDA. The development partners have operation in the following sectors: Water and Sanitation; Health and Nutrition; Education; Social protection and child welfare; local economic development, food security and resilience; climate change mitigation and adaptation.

#### *Severe Shocks to The Households*

Severe shocks have had negative impact to the household's economic and social welfare of county residents. Table 11.1 presents the proportion of households by the first severe shock in the county. The major shock in the county was dearth of livestock and Death of family Member which affected 17 percent and 21.8 per cent of the households in the county. Droughts and floods, fire outbreaks and robbery were also other major shocks in the county affecting 17.3 percent, 6 percent and 1 per cent respectively. About 1.5 percent reported having their livestock stolen as other 3 per cent of the households reported to have experienced Break-up of the households.

**Table 11.1: The proportion of households by the first severe shock in the county**

First Severe Shock	The proportion of households (per cent)
Droughts or Floods	17.3
Crop disease or crop pests	0
Livestock died	21.8
Livestock were stolen	1.5
Household business failure, nonagricultural	0.8

**Figure 10.1: Access to ICT in Households and Schools**

Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHS, 2019)

Loss of salaried employment or non-payment of salary	0.3
End of regular assistance, aid, or remittances from outside the household	0
Large fall in sale prices for crops	0
Large rise in price of food	0.8
Large rise in agricultural input prices	-
Severe water shortage	-
Birth in the household	-
Death of household head	9
Death of working member of household	7
Death of other family Member	17
Break-up of the household	3
Bread winner jailed	-
Fire	6
Robbery / Burglary / Assault	1
Carjacking	-
Dwelling damaged, destroyed	0
Eviction	-
Ethnic/ Clan Clashes	4
Conflict	3

HIV/ AIDS	-
Other	2
<b>Number of households with Shock</b>	<b>21,000</b>

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

### **Distribution of Social Assistance Beneficiaries**

Households in the county received various forms of social assistance or transfers or gift either in form of a good, service, financial asset or other asset by an individual, household or institution. Transfers constitute income that the household receives without working for it and augments household income by improving its welfare. Cash transfers include assistance in form of currency or transferable deposits such as cheque and money orders. The proportion of households that received cash transfers by source, household headship, residence and county is presented in Table 11.2. Overall, 36 percent of the households received cash transfers. A higher proportion of households received transfers from within the country (69per cent), mainly from individuals (81per cent) while external transfers constituted 12 per cent.

**Table 11.2: The proportion of households that received cash transfers by source, and household headship**

	Beneficiaries	
Total Number of Households	69,000	
<i>Households receiving transfers (per cent)</i>	<i>36</i>	
From Inside Kenya	Individual	897
	Non-Profit Institution	106
	National Government	5,977
	County Government	1,610
	Corporate Sector	-
Inside Kenya	8,590	
Outside Kenya	889	
Total	5,137	
<b>Number of households that received transfers</b>	<b>25,000</b>	

Source: KIHBS 2015/16

The number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) is not well documented. The case is the same for street children. There are six children offices in the county and three children's homes privately owned. There is need to invest in modern facilities to accommodate orphans and vulnerable children. There are no correction/rehabilitation facilities in the county and hence there is need to establish in one facility for this purpose. There are several safety nets programmes which include: OVC transfers; older persons' cash transfer; Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), persons with Disability Cash Transfer. The HSNP is managed by National Drought Management Authority through local banks.

The county has a total of 70 Self Help groups, 50 Community Based Organizations (CBOs), 700 women groups, 900 youth groups and 146 Farmers groups. Most of these groups are engaged in income generating activities. Youth groups are involved in small businesses in towns and are mostly funded by Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Women are engaged in selling groceries and food kiosks. There has been funding for the poor and needy groups through Poverty Eradication Commission revolving loan scheme, Kenya Industrial Estate and Ministry of Trade for organized groups engaging in business and other income generating activities.

The social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic increased households' susceptibility to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the county. Response measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, such as movement restrictions, lockdown, and curfew hours, have led to loss of income, isolation, high levels of stress and anxiety exposing household members to psychological, economic, sexual violence and physical harm as couples spend more time in close contact. Other challenges affecting the youth include unemployment and drug use, especially alcohol and substance abuse. COVID-19 affected many youths and women especially in terms of income and their livelihoods.

Livestock Markets were closed which mostly serve as places of trade. Most people in this market are females. This has therefore affected their welfare in terms of finances and access to food and other goods. This has an impact of lowering their living standards. Livestock markets had also been closed making it hard for people to sell their livestock which serves as a main source of income. This has therefore reduced their income with some operating at losses. Shops and Kiosks, social centers such as club and bars, hotels have been affected by the curfew and social distance requirements thus reducing the amount of income that they get. Unemployment rate in the county has increased due to close of many businesses and learning institutions. This has led to the decline in living standards and family conflicts due to limited sources of income.

Most of the social protection operations were undertaken through non-contributory transfers in cash for the elderly, OVCs and PWDS. In some instances, in kind transfers which include school feeding programmes were also used to reach a wider audience and age group.

A supplementary budget of 194 million was passed to deal with COVID related issues. The county is still deliberating on the issue of cash transfers and support of alternative livelihoods to the most vulnerable. Sources of revenue collection within the county have been affected by COVID-19. The county has lost revenue from livestock selling and tourism which greatly contribute to the economy. However, the situation has started improving owing the reopening of the county in July 2020. The county revenue collection has declined because of outbreak of COVID-19. The border points were closed hence no people were allowed to leave the county through them to other counties. This has affected most businesses which serve as a source of income for many families. Resumption of services and free movement across borders and opening of markets will enable the county to collect bore revenue, hence boosting her targets.

The main source of revenue to implement social protection activities in the county were mostly government budgetary allocations and donor contribution to OVCs, PWDS, and

the elderly. The county government has been complementing the work of the national government on taking care of the OVCs. The county government aims at protecting children from abuse, neglect, and discrimination in accordance with the Children's Act, 2001, and the Education Act, 2012.

Loss of jobs and business opportunities led to an increase in poverty and declining of people welfare. With loss of jobs and businesses, most youths were involved in the activities such as crimes, prostitution, and other social evils. Job losses also increased suffering among county residents. In addition, decreased county revenue made it hard for the county to cater for the needy cases and mostly those affected by COVID-19. In addition, unemployment and recruitment to the terror groups posed a great danger to the youths in the county.

Social protection is directly linked to the health sector. When people's social welfare is good, that is people have good health insurance, they can be able to access health services in case of sickness. When people welfare is affected by loss of employment and closing of businesses, they are more likely to suffer from diseases such as stress and depression. ICT also plays a key role in terms of information dissemination through media such as radio, television, mobile phones, etc. Communication is key especially for the people in business as one need to place order for goods or services. ICT is also involved in record keeping of those people in schemes such as NHIF and NSSF as well as other insurances.

Additionally, social protection is directly related to education. The more one is educated the more is informed of existing welfare schemes. Educated people also are aware of the need for and importance of engaging in social protection programmes such as insurance and investment for future to benefit after retirements. With good education, one can understand government role in ensuring good life for its citizens.

Agriculture is the main source of revenue in the country and most of the counties. Wajir county is not an exception. Majority of people are involved in livestock keeping and farming. This provides people with source of food as well as revenue which is used to improve their welfare. Agricultural sector also creates employment among many county residents who would otherwise have been jobless. Trade and industry play an important role bettering life of the residents. This is where majority of people derive their livelihood from especially those engaging SMEs. The profits and savings obtained from business is used in feeding the family members as well as insuring them in future.

## **11.2 Opportunities with COVID-19 in Social Protection**

COVID-19 exposed lack of preparedness among counties in terms of responding to the emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. It provided an opportunity to measure how county governments are prepared to handle the devolved functions. Health being a devolved function, it has really exposed the counties as many of them lack required health facilities such as ICU beds and enough medical personnel. The virus has also given an opportunity to develop social protection programs to cushion the vulnerable groups in the community in case of outbreak of other diseases.

## **11.3 Emerging Issues**

Due to social distancing and curfew hours, GBV victims had limited contact with family and friends who would act as the first contact persons during violence. Survivors also experienced challenges accessing healthcare services, counselling services and access

shelters. These challenges underscore the need for deliberate measures at the county level to prevent and support GBV survivors in times of emergencies as experienced with the pandemic. Further, the pandemic has exposed the level of lack of comprehensive social protection at the county level.

In Wajir County, the May 2020 KNBS COVID\_19 survey revealed that approximately 0.4 per cent of respondents had witnessed or heard of domestic violence in their communities since the National Government instituted measures to contain COVID-19. Between March-May 2020, there were a total of 776 cases of adolescents (age 10 - 19) presenting with pregnancy at health facilities based on data from the Kenya Health Information System (KHIS, 2020).

#### **11.4 Recommendations**

COVID-19 pandemic created effects with immediate and long-term economic consequences for children, PWDs, elderly and their families. In an effort to strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the Wajir county government should:

- i. Form economic block partnership to ensure borders are manned and enhance cross border screening especially among long distance drivers. This will drastically slow the spread of the virus.
- ii. Conduct mass civic education among the people on COVID-19 prevention measures, how to handle an infected person and avoidance of stigmatization of the affected person.
- iii. Enroll more county residents in welfare programmes such as NHIF which will ensure that they access medical treatment in case of falling sick.
- iv. Give tax exemption for the SMES who have suffered losses in their business as result of diseases outbreak.
- v. Create a kit where they can collaborate with local banks in offering loans to the SMEs to restart and boost their businesses.
- vi. Provide food and other basic wants for the elderly since their movement have been reduced as they are at great risk of contracting the virus. Therefore, their life has been affected and cannot afford to feed themselves anymore.
- vii. Have programmes to incorporate youths in development are needed. This will ensure they do not get involved in drug and substance abuse and other crimes. More employment opportunities to be created for the youths. This will ensure they do not remain idle hence joining terror groups.

To address the gender related challenges the County will:

- (i) Bring onboard key stakeholders to actively engage and sensitize the youth on reproductive health; HIV/Aids and COVID-19 prevention measures.
- (ii) Establish a multi-sectoral committee that oversees the implementation of gender policies across various cross-cutting sectors.
- (iii) Pursue inclusion and participation of women, girls, men and boys in budget making process and public consultation to make the process and outcomes gender responsive.
- (iv) Designate gender safe spaces to provide accommodation for Gender Based Violence

(GBV) survivors and create space in County Referral Hospitals to serve as GBV recovery centres.

- (v) Support gender champions and sign language interpreters to activate and communicate an 'alert chain' to reach GBV survivors or those in imminent danger of injury and harm.
- (vi) Strengthen inclusive community outreach strategies to ensure GBV messaging is localized and clear, and addresses stigma, discrimination and other power dynamics that serve as barriers to accessing GBV services & COVID-19 information among differently able persons.

## 12. Human Resources

### 12.1 Characteristics of the Sector

#### *Sources of employment in the County*

Livestock keeping is the predominant economic activity in the county. It is the leading sub sector in terms of employment, food security, income earnings and overall contribution to the socio-economic wellbeing of the people. Majority of the people in the county depend on the sub sector for their livelihood. The predominant self-employment activity is pastoralism which accounts for over 70 per cent of the population. The Livestock value chain that includes livestock and livestock products marketing is a major earner. Also, estimates indicate that approximately 10,000 people are employed in livestock value addition related activities; between 2,000 and 3,000 people are employed in quarry activities; 6,000 people in carpentry; 890 people in tailoring and about 5,000 people make mats, thatches and beads as part time activities. There is great potential in employment creation in the craft industry. There is a low skill mix in the county with high illiteracy. There is a need to support skills development, entrepreneurship, and access to capital.

**Table 12.1: Distribution of population age 5 years and above by activity status, and sex in the county**

	Male	Female	Total
Population	1,305,088	699,757	605,243
Working	349,898	302,633	652,575
Seeking Work/ No Work Available	154,609	136,053	290,686
Persons outside the Labour Force	68,413	47,651	116,074
Not Stated	126837	118906	245753
<i>per cent Working</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>46.4</i>	<i>133.4</i>
<i>per cent Seeking Work/ No Work Available</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>59.4</i>

*Source: KNBS, 2019*

Distribution of Population Age 5 Years and above by Activity Status, and Sex in the County is shown in Table 12.1 above. An assessment on the county labour force indicates The County population aged 15-64 years (labour force) was estimated at 406,760 people of whom 290,686 people were working and 116,074 were seeking work but work was not available representing an unemployment rate of 28.5 per cent (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019). The main causes of unemployment include cyclic droughts, insecurity, high illiteracy, and inefficient marketing systems for county products. To reduce unemployment, the county government will attract investments into the county, commercialization of livestock farming and escalation of mining activities.



With the loss of jobs in the Small and Medium Enterprises the livelihood of people working in these sectors were directly or indirectly affected, particularly youths as the sector employs most of the young population. In addition, the reduction in operation hours and restriction on movement in and outside Nairobi negatively impacted on the transport sector with many relying on it rendered jobless. The loss of jobs in the matatu and boda-boda industry had directly impacted on the lives of the youth as some residents avoided public means of transport in fear of contracting the virus. The impacts of the pandemic were also felt on the service sectors as it affected workers in both private and public sector with several people working in restaurants and bars being left jobless due closure as ordered by the government.

In education sector the workers employed by school Board of management (BOM) loosed their jobs as well as those employed by Private schools as the schools could not sustain their salaries due to closure of schools. Public schools have also faced challenges in making payment for the other expenses such as electricity and security bills.

However, the employment and income opportunities are affected by several challenges in the county. The major challenges pointed out in the county include lack of knowledge and skills, lack of capital among the youth, high taxation and insecurity. The informal sector covers small scale activities that are semi-organized, unregulated and uses low and simple technologies while employing few people per establishment.

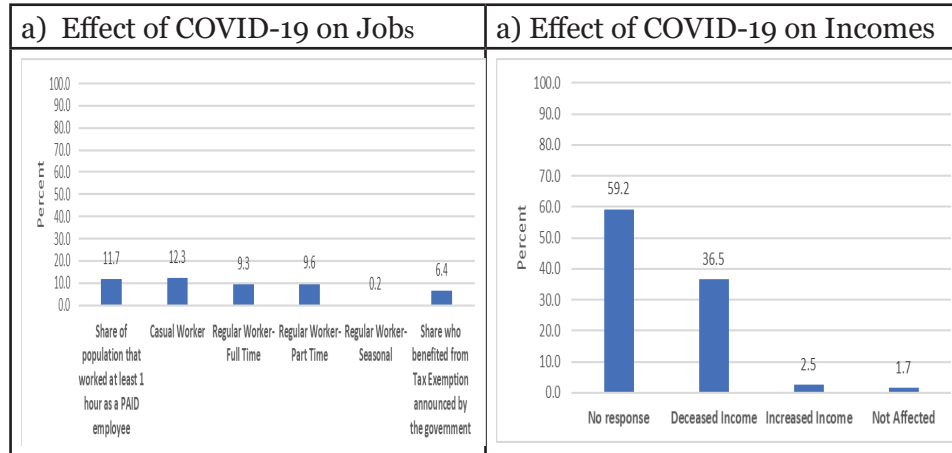
### ***Effects of COVID-19***

The unemployment rate has increased during the period of COVID-19, according to May 2020 KNBS COVID-19 Survey, 11.7 per cent of the county labour force worked at least for 1 hour for pay; 52.2 per cent had never worked; 4.5 per cent of employees did not attend to work due to COVID-19 and 88.3 per cent of employees working without pay. On average, workers in the County lost 12.1 hours per week due to COVID-19 and 37.0 per cent of county residents recorded decrease in income while 3.0 per cent recorded increase of income.

During the pandemic, about 12.3 per cent of workers in the county were casual workers 9.3 per cent were regular workers (full time), 9.6 per cent employees were working as part time. However, about 36.5 per cent of workers reported decrease in income while 2.5 per cent of people reported to have experienced increased income. These could be the people working in the health sector who are supplying medical equipment such as masks and PPEs. About 6.4 per cent of workers indicated to have benefited from government tax exemptions which indicates about 93 percent did not benefit from National government tax relief for low-

income-earning persons, a reduction in the top Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) rate, and other changes such as cash transfers, credit relief, lower VAT, and a corporate tax cut.

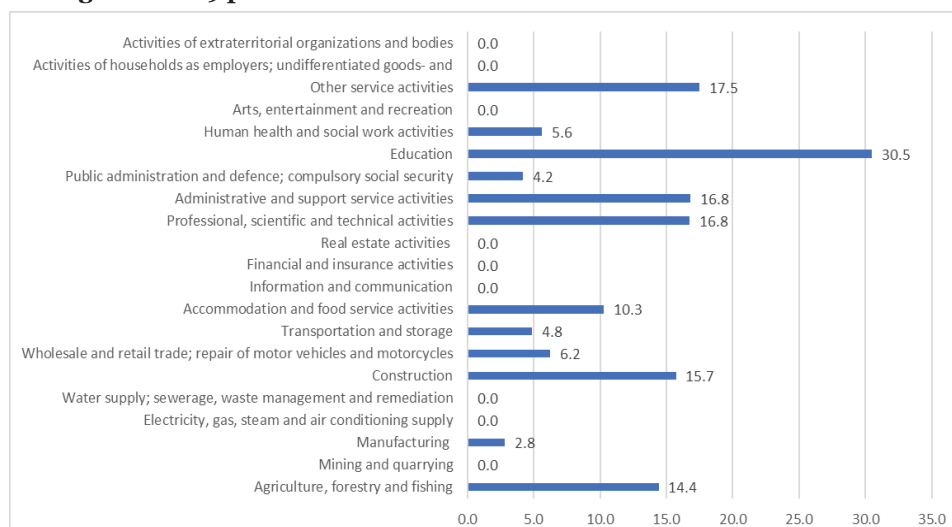
**Figure 12.1: Effects of COVID-19, 2020**



Source: May 2020 KNBS COVID\_19 Survey

According to the May 2020 KNBS COVID\_19 Survey, education sector reported the highest level of loss of hours worked (30.5 hours) followed by workers in Other service activities which lost 17.5 hours (Figure 3). Workers in Administrative and support service activities and Professional, scientific and technical activities lost a total of 16.6 hours respectively. Workers in Construction and Agriculture, forestry and fishing recorded on average loss of 15.7 and 14.4 hours per week respectively.

**Figure 12.2: Difference between usual hours worked and actual hours worked during COVID-19 period**



Source: KNBS (2020)

Further, 37.0 per cent of workers in Wajir County recorded decreased income; 1.0 per cent

reported increase in income; while 74.9 per cent recorded working as unpaid workers. The county recorded 69.9 per cent of workers in informal sector and 5.3 per cent never attended to work due to COVID-19 related activities. In private sector schools, teachers and other workers lost their incomes. Some other businesses such as bars, hotels, market centres had totally closed, leading to reduced business activities. Some workers in the transport sector had also been rendered jobless due to restrictions of moving in and out of Nairobi and Mombasa counties. On average, county lost 12.1 hours worked in a week and the hours lost in economic base of the county like service sector and agriculture sector (14.4 hours) will negatively affect the county economy.

### **Opportunities with COVID-19 in human resource sector**

The county government have been provided with the opportunity to use digital platforms to enable remote access to jobs for their employees where the Human Resource Management will have an essential role to play in navigation of the situation caused by the pandemic. There have been notable efforts by the county government to invest more money in training health workers. The county government now has an opportunity to recalibrate its employees and develop strategies (mid- and post-pandemic strategies) to adapt to the evolving reality.

The county government has created opportunities for the youths so that they can get some income especially during this period of COVID-19. For example, county launched the Kazi Mtaani to improve the livelihood of youths in the county. Through the Kazi Mtaani initiative, Over 4,400 Youths in the County secured jobs for six months in the Kazi Mtaani National Hygiene Program (NHP).

The pandemic strengthened the regional unity as the counties looked forward in the fight against corona pandemic and exploitation of the economic potential. The disease has also exposed lack of preparedness among counties in terms of responding to the emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. It has also provided an opportunity to measure how county governments are prepared to handle the devolved functions. Health being a devolved function, it has really exposed the counties as many of them lack required health facilities such as ICU beds and enough medical personnel. Lack of comprehensive social protection at the county level exposing the county residents to sufferings such as lack of food and treatment.

ICT was very significant and had enabled the county programs to run smoothly since the pandemic and provided an opportunity for exploitation for adequate internet coverage especially to the education sector.

The pandemic has provided opportunity for county government to invest more money in training health workers. The economic block can serve as a market for the locally produced goods, hence creating more employments.

## **12.2 Emerging issues**

The COVID-19 pandemic has expedited the speed at which different firms and businesses within the county are changing their pay programmes through pay reductions and incentive resets. The county governor and his deputy experienced a 30 per cent pay cut. In addition, the County executives took a 20 per cent pay cut while county chief officers took 15 per cent

pay cut.

County is not well prepared in terms of response to health-related risks such as the current COVID-19. Opportunities within the regional economic block needs to be exploited to enhance economic competitive advantage. There are emerging talents among the youths which can tapped to benefit the county especially this time of COVID -19 such as making of ICU bed, masks and PPEs.

### **12.3 Recommendations**

- (i) Expand partnership in the livestock sector in the county which is the main source of employment. The county will partner with Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) to enhance purchase of livestock from farmers; and avert livestock losses during drought spells.
- (ii) Collaborate with Wajir South Technical Training Institute to offer trainings on emerging technologies and skills and match with the market demand; while increasing chances for the youth to secure productive economic engagement.
- (iii) Establish a livestock development program in the county which will help to resource farmers and improve their livelihoods and nutrition. Under the program, farmers will receive training in animal management.
- (iv) Collaborate with National government and establish more Institutes that train pastoralists and agro-pastoralists on different courses, ranging from livestock husbandry, agri-business skills and diseases identification. Trainings will also be used as avenues for sharing new information on animal management.
- (v) Irrigated agriculture need to be enhanced to reduce perennial hunger and create employment for county residents. The county should provide financial support for establishment of tomato processing plant and a rice husk factory since the projects will create employment to county residents.
- (vi) Promoting implementation of a stronger labour market interventions and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training and skills development.
- (vii) To improve the quality of MSMEs products, Wajir County can partner with research institutions like Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) and the Productivity Centre at the Ministry of Industry.
- (viii) To promote investment and entrepreneurship through provision of loans, Wajir county need to improve access to finance for small and medium enterprises through lending institutions.
- (ix) Building workplace resilience to public health emergencies and outbreaks of infectious diseases in all Wajir County economic sectors

## 13. Conclusion and Key Recommendations

### 13.1 Conclusion

#### *Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting*

Economic and political crises, natural disasters (such as droughts and flooding), security challenges and health crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) highlight the consequential risks and underlying vulnerabilities in national and county level budgetary and planning system. These can substantially affect public resources and in cases of weaker planning systems they may impact the nature and level of service delivery to the citizen. As expected, the fourth quarter collections amounting to Ksh. 12.51 million declined by 48 percent and 13 percent compared to the third quarter collections for FY 2019/20 and fourth quarter collections for FY 2018/19 respectively. The decline may be attributed to the containment measures undertaken to manage the spread of Corona virus that led to low economic activity in the county and hampered revenue collection. During FY 2020/21, the County collected only Ksh 2 million, the lowest amount ever realized. However, with the easing of containment measures and improved economic activities, the County raised Ksh 47 million, an unprecedented high. It is expected that the improved performance will be maintained as the Country move towards economic recovery.

#### *Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries*

The Agri-food analysis highlights the sector was negatively affected by COVID-19 in terms of labour supply, trade and marketing operations, food supply and the resulting effects on food prices. At the peak of the COVI-19 pandemic period, the County also suffered from floods. The County's agricultural productivity is also affected by: - variable and extreme weather events Poor and inadequate infrastructure; water scarcity; low agro-processing and value addition opportunities; dependence on rainfed agriculture; low access to quality and affordable inputs; low commercialization levels and marketing opportunities; low access to major off-farm services including extension, climate and market information, and credit services; invasive species; pests and livestock diseases; and farm losses and post-harvest waste. This adversely affects the productivity of the sector and impairs marketing and consequently places livelihoods and food security at risk especially in times of emergencies. The analysis calls for strategies to enhance productivity, profitability, and resilience of the sector for improved livelihoods.

#### *Water sanitation and hygiene*

The county relies more on surface water as well as water from dug wells, with low access to piped water. Sanitation, coverage remain low in the county, with majority of households having no toilet facilities, with little access to piped sewer. This presents an opportunity for

the county to increase sanitation coverage to increase its additional revenue collection from sanitation services.

### ***Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs***

Wajir County's Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs momentum was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the containment measures associated with COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the sector. In sustaining growth and building resilience in this sector, it is important to strengthen trade and also production capacity of MSMEs and especially those involved in manufacturing in the County by exploiting opportunities afforded by the pandemic such as production of masks, PPEs, hospital beds, ventilators, reagents, gloves, and sanitizers.

### ***Infrastructure, housing and urban development***

The main means of transport used in the County is Tuk Tuk followed by motorbike. The paved County Road network covers 1.24 KMs, while the paved National roads covers 21.06KMs. Out of the total paved road network of 22.3KMs, 100 per cent is in good condition, No Data in fair condition and No Data in poor condition. The status of ICT access and use in the county is low, especially among households. The perception that individuals do not need to use the Internet, lack of knowledge and skills on Internet and lack of Internet connectivity in the area are the leading reasons that the people of in the County do not have Internet connection. The housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied at 94.9 per cent, with 5.1 per cent of the households under rental tenure. Majority of households (40.4per cent) have Grass/Twigs for roofing, Grass/Reeds walls (41.4per cent) and earth/Sand floors (78.2per cent).

### ***Tourism***

The county has rich culture, wildlife and landscape features that include Lake Yahud among others. There are no game reserves or game parks in the county. Other potential tourist attractions that can be developed include Wajir museum, Wagalla massacre site, Orahey wells, British and Italian war bunkers, old courthouse and animal sanctuaries. The county has 10 unclassified hotels and 20 bars and restaurants. The Wajir International Airport, which is currently underutilized, can be utilized for growth of the tourism sector. The county lacks the correct data for the exact number of tourists visiting the county. However, the number of visitors coming to the county for conferencing tourism has increased. This presents an opportunity to a hub for M.I.C.E in the County to cater for the northern region, especially for inter-county events.

### ***Health***

For a resilient health sector, there is need for more awareness on immunization so that mothers can ensure their children get immunized. Implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments and information system to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers, equitable deployed across all sub-counties. This is in addition to paying the salaries in time to avoid cases of strikes and low staff morale. Recruit additional of public health officers and community health workers to strengthen preventive and public health systems.

### ***Education and training***

The County with support from stakeholders will need to continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing when schools reopen; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. The county would put up measures that encourage learners to complete all levels of education.

### ***Social Protection***

COVID-19 pandemic created immediate and long-term economic consequences for vulnerable groups including children, PWDs, elderly and their families. In an effort to strengthen social protection response in face of a similar pandemic, the county government will need to provide basic income security, especially for persons whose jobs or livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic. Build linkages with other Ministries, and with NGOs that work with people with disabilities to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training.

### ***Human resources***

The COVID-19 pandemic has expedited the speed at which different firms and businesses within the county are changing their pay programmes through pay reductions and incentive resets. It will be important for the County to promote implementation of a stronger labour market interventions especially those working tea sector which is a major employer in Wajir County and policy reforms that drive employment creation. The County shall deepen technical education, training, and skills development.

## **13.2 Key Recommendations**

### ***Fiscal policy, planning and budgeting***

Going forward, it would be important for the county to strengthen its OSR collection framework as well as policies to improve on its contribution to the total revenues. To ensure continued recovery, the county must now move quickly to tackle the problem of pending bills, mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations, seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county and ensure that the ongoing projects are completed before launching new project and clear any pending bills and arrears owed to suppliers. In addition to this, the Nairobi County will mobilize more finances from OSR to increase the available revenues for budgetary operations and seek for more funding in form of grants from development partners to cater for the critical development projects in the county.

### ***Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries***

To successfully build resilience and enhance growth of the agriculture sector, the County will: explore partnerships to develop agro-processing and value addition capacities at

the County; expansion of water harvesting projects and sustainable irrigation; scale up conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, plant and keep drought-tolerant crops and livestock breeds; link farmers to diverse product markets; strengthen the County's institutional capacity in disaster surveillance and management; enhance farmers access to critical agricultural inputs and services and build their technical capacity to act on information obtained; provision of storage and cooling facilities; natural resource management; and strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance marketing.

### ***Water sanitation and hygiene***

To build resilience and mitigate the effect of COVID-19, the county will; increase water supply in households, institutions, and public places through drilling of boreholes, dams, and access to piped water in all the sub-counties. Promote the use of safe and improved toilets in schools, health care facilities, workplaces, and public places by connecting households to piped sewer. Promote handwashing as a measure to contain the spread of COVID-19.

### ***Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs***

In sustaining growth in the Manufacturing, Trade and MSMEs sector, the County will: Establish an emergency rescue package for businesses and traders hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19 in the short term. The emergency Fund, supported by development partners and other stakeholders, will be used to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19. Related, the County will inject some stimulus to cushion the businesses and traders through affordable credit; waiver of some County taxes, cess, and other charges; COVID-19 has increased demand for locally produced goods in the County, and especially Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitisers, hospital beds and ventilators. It is an opportunity to spur innovation and promote manufacturing and industry development and generation of jobs for the youth; Establishments in the county will adopt to the new pandemic guidelines including rearranging floor plans to allow for social distancing; Partner with the relevant stakeholders in rolling out Livestock Insurance Programme for ASAL areas as outlined in MTP III; Establish technical and vocational training institutions to enhance capacity and skills required for working in industries; Support establishment of cottage and light industries for value addition; Explore the huge potential for production of limestone, juice and hides & skins tannery; Support and fast-track completion and operationalization of the gum and resin factory being built in Wajir East Constituency by Ewaso Nyiro North Development Authority (ENNDA); Explore the huge potential in limestone production; Fast track establishment of disease-free zones in the county; and Promote light industries through value addition, marketing and market linkages.

### ***Infrastructure, housing and urban development***

In addressing the prevailing challenges, the county will Identify a core rural road network for prioritization to improve the rural access index (RAI) from the current 16.0 per cent with a target to match the national average of 70.0 per cent; support programmes in partnership with the private sector that will enable households acquire ICT assets such as smart phones and laptops and increase mobile phone ownership from 27.9 per cent to 100 per cent in line



with the global agenda for Universal Access to Mobile Telephony; and avail appropriate building technology for use by the public in house construction and improvement in every subcounty, that responds to local cultural and environmental circumstances.

### ***Tourism***

The strategies to support tourism sector recovery include Mapping all the sites with tourism potential in the county; coming up with a tourism sector development master plan; protecting cultural heritage sites; Tourism product diversification and marketing; niche products such as annual cultural festivals, and animal sanctuaries / wildlife reserves; Setting up a cultural documentation centre; tourism information centre and Ensuring high sanitation standard in the hotel facilities to deter spread of COVID-19 in line with the national guidelines for reopening of the hospitality sector.

### ***Health***

Under the health sector, there is need for more awareness on immunization so that mothers can ensure their children get immunized. Implement a comprehensive human resource health management system including undertaking training needs assessments and information system to ensure skilled and motivated health care workers, equitable deployed across all sub-counties. This is in addition to paying the salaries in time to avoid cases of strikes and low staff morale. Recruit additional of public health officers and community health workers to strengthen preventive and public health systems.

COVID-19 has worsened the situation as far as youths and women are concerned. These are the groups of people that have been facing several challenges even before the outbreak of the COVID-19. FGM and Gender based violence cases have increased with the lock down. Youths who are entrepreneurs have also been affected losing jobs and businesses due to the lockdown. Other problems facing youths includes teenage pregnancies, malnutrition, STI/ HIV and Aids, poor environment, drug and substance abuse and malnutrition

### ***Education and training***

The County with support from stakeholders would continue to invest in early childhood development through infrastructural development to allow for adequate social distancing; deployment of ECDE teachers and provision of sanitation facilities. The county to provide financial or in-kind support, such as school feeding, to help families overcome the increased costs of attending school and provide psychosocial support to teachers and learners during and after the pandemic.

### ***Social protection***

It will be important for the County to build linkages with other Ministries, and with NGOs that work with vulnerable groups to strengthen families, deliver assistive devices, reduce barriers to access and provide vocational training. Undertake research to get a better understanding of the actual situation of disability and chronic illness in the County, and to map existing initiatives on social protection.

### ***Human resource***

The county will enhance investments and mechanisms for up skilling and reskilling, deepening technical skills as well as ICT skills; and retraining employees on how to work from home, where applicable. The county government will also protect workers in the informal economy by pursuing innovative policies to reach them quickly through a combination of non-contributory and contributory social security schemes and facilitating their transition to the formal economy in the longer term.

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