

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA**

**(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY)**

**STUDY TOPIC:**

**THE IMPACT OF FAMINE ON HUMAN RELATIONS AND  
SURVIVAL MECHANISMS IN WAJIR DISTRICT**

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO:**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**BY:**

**REGINA APONDI OLOO**

**Reg. no: C/50/P/9257/2001**

**"WMdNABCB L\*ay**

**IIIIIIIIII**  
0479203 2

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF  
MASTERS OF ARTS DEGREE  
IN SOCIOLOGY DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

**2009**

## DECLARATION

*I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS THESIS IS MY ORIGINAL WORK AND HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED FOR A DEGREE AWARD TO ANY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY*

SIGNATURE: M\_\_\_\_\_JL DATE: oM- I oZ'I ^-QQ<sup>0</sup>!

NAME: REGINA APONDI OLOO

## DECLARATION BY SUPERVISOR

*THIS PROJECT PAPER HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION WITH MY APPROVAL AS THE UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR.*

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: ^ ^ f ^ j ^ - O f 1 ^

MR. BENEA MUTSOTSO

SUPERVISOR

## **DEDICATION**

To my beloved late husband Christopher M. Oloo and children: Samora, Biko, Okinyo, Opondo C.J for their love, support, encouragement and understanding during this study.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I sincerely acknowledge all those who positively contributed towards the success of this study. My heartfelt appreciation goes to my supervisor, Mr. B.M. Mutsotso whose wise counsel, encouragement, patience, constructive and innumerable suggestions made this study come to a successful completion.

Special thanks to the Department of Sociology and Social work, University of Nairobi for the invaluable support offered to me towards the completion of this work

My sincere appreciation goes to Mr. Henry Ngewa whose encouragement, constructive support and financial assistance brought this study to completion.

I would like to appreciate my siblings and especially Mrs. Josephine Waudu for their prayers, support and encouragement during my studies.

Last but not least I would like to appreciate most sincerely my late parents Mzee Oloo Tulesi and Mama Teresina Anyango for igniting in me an insatiable desire to read. I treasure their contribution to this study forever.

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ALDEF</b>	Arid Lands Development Focus
<b>ALRMP</b>	Arid Lands Resource Management Project
<b>ASAL</b>	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
<b>DFRD</b>	District Focus for Rural Development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>G.D.P</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>KNDM</b>	Kenya National Disaster Management
<b>LMD</b>	Livestock Marketing Division
<b>NCPB</b>	National Cereals and Produce Board
<b>NGO</b>	Non- Governmental organizations
<b>NPHPJIH</b>	Nomadic Primary Health Programme and Jogbaru Integrated Health
<b>U N</b>	United Nations
<b>WASDA</b>	Wajir South Development Association
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee for Red Cross
<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Content Nos.</b>	<b>Page</b>
Declaration .....	"
Dedication .....	i'i
Acknowledgement .....	iv
Acronyms and abbreviation .....	v
Table of contents .....	vi
List of tables .....	ix
List of figures .....	x
Abstract .....	xi
<b>1.0 CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Problem Statement .....	3
1.3 General Objective .....	5
1.4 Objectives of the Study .....	5
1.5 Rationale .....	6
1.6 Scope .....	6
1.7 Limitation .....	6
<b>2.0 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Physiological and Natural Conditions .....	7
<b>2.2 Population .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.3 Gender Inequality .....	H
2.4 Poverty .....	12
2.5 Education services .....	13
2.6 Pastoralism as a Livelihood .....	

2.7 Conflicts.....	16
2.8 Famine.....	18
2.9 Theoretical Framework.....	20
<b>3.0 CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Study Site.....	23
3.2 Research Design.....	23
3.3 Sampling.....	23
3.4 Sample Size.....	24
3.5 Methods of Data Collection.....	24
3.5.1 Tools of Data Collection.....	24
<b>4.0 CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
4.1 Gender.....	27
4.2 Age Profile.....	27
4.3 Household Heads.....	28
4.4 Household Size.....	29
4.5 Drought occurrence and its Impact on Socio-economic human relations.....	29
4.6 Sources of Livelihood.....	31
4.6.1 Forms of Employment.....	31
4.6.2 Number of Family Members Employed.....	32
4.6.3 Economic Activities found in the Study Area.....	33
4.7 Local People Survival Strategies.....	34
4.8 Organizations in Famine Mitigation.....	35
4.9 Nature of Mitigation given during Famine.....	36
4.10 Local People Perception of Famine Relief by donors.....	37
4.11 Measures Employed in Managing Famine.....	39
4.12 Watering Points.....	40
4.13 Management of Watering Points and the arising conflicts.....	40
4.14 Impact of Famine in the Community.....	42

## 5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

5.2 Conclusion

5.3 Recommendations

References

Appendices..

\



## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1.1 Shows Administrative and Political Units

Table 2.1 projected Population Density per KM<sup>2</sup> by Division 1999-2008

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1 Gender of the Respondents.....	27
Figure 4.2 Age of the Respondents.....	27
Figure 4.3 Household Heads.....	27
Figure 4.4 Household Size.....	28
Figure 4.5 Frequency of Drought increasing.....	29
Figure 4.6 Employment/ non employment.....	30
Figure 4.6.1 Form of Employment.....	31
Figure 4.6.2 Number of Family Members Employed.....	32
Figure 4.6.3 Economic Activities in the Study Area.....	33
Figure 4.7 Source and Types of Assistance Received by the Local People of Wajir Community.....	35
Figure 4.8 Rating of the Value of Assistance from the Government and NGOs....	36
Figure 4.9 Measure Employed in Managing Famine.....	37
Figure 4.10 Number of Watering Points.....	38
Figure 4.11 Management of Watering Points in the Location.....	39
Figure 4.12 Satisfaction with the Management of the Watering Points.....	40
Figure 4.13 Problems Faced by the Community in the Study Area.....	41

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of recurrent of famine in Wajir district between the years 2002 -2008 despite the Government and Non-Governmental Organization intervention. The objectives of the study were: a) to find out the impact of famine on the people of Wajir District, b) to establish the nature of assistance given to the people in the district during famine period by stake-holders, c) to find out perception of the Wajir people towards the assistance given to them during famine, d) to find out the measures the people in Wajir district employ in order to manage famine effectively, and e) to assess the relationship that exists between clans living in Wajir district during famine time and their neighbors. The study adopted a descriptive survey design and data was largely descriptive by nature. The studies main aim was to find out the impact of famine on people living in Wajir district, the following factors were gathered: It emerged that 40% of the families had 6 to 10 members while 28% had 1 to 5 members. About a quarter of the families (26%) had 4 to 5 members. The average family size was eight members. The study also showed that up to 48% of respondents were employed or self employed while the others 52% were not. Concerning the form of employment, the study indicated that up to 54% of the respondents were self employed while 46% were in formal employment. The number of family members engaged in economic activities was an important factor that determined the impact of famine on the people living in the area. The study showed that in up to 82% of the families whose respondents were employed, less that 5 of the family members were employed. Combination of income generating activities as practiced by 46% of the respondents was seen as important diversification strategy to shield the community from the impacts of famine. The people employ a variety of coping mechanisms to manage famine they included: frequent migration within the district and into the republic of Somalia more than ever before, reduction in the frequency of food intake, migration to towns including Wajir town, Nairobi and as far as Bungoma in western province. Concerning the assistance given to the local people of Wajir, it emerged that food aid was the major assistance given by both the Government and NGOs during famine. This was reported to be 92% and 71% for both the government and the NGOs respectively. Regarding rating of the value of assistance from the government and the NGOs to the local community, the study found out that the most

adequate assistance was medicine at only 8% followed by water at 6%. Communities that live in Wajir possessed a rich repertoire of responses against famine as reported by the respondents. These ranged from reducing food intake (65%) to gathering forest products (52%) such as fruits, firewood, medicine, and honey. The study sought to understand the community's satisfaction with the manner the watering points were managed. It found that up to 70% of the respondents were not satisfied with the management of the watering points while only 30% were satisfied. About the frequency of droughts, the majority of respondents (52%) indicated that droughts were occurring twice a year. Up to 38% of the respondents reported that they were occurring once per year. The study also sought to understand the problems encountered by the people of Wajir.

The recommendations were: famine vulnerability is best tackled through institution-building and strengthening the ability of government to design and implement sound pro-poor policies, the government to step up efforts to make its economy more climate proof through diversification, the government to take bold steps to reduce marginalization of the dry lands and incorporate them into mainstream social and economic systems, establishment of vibrant livestock market and slaughter houses in the district where pastoralists can easily sell their livestock to avoid losses, the government and its development partners to emphasize real development instead of relief.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Disasters are a common occurrence throughout the world but differ in magnitude and frequency. Some are attributed to natural phenomena while others are due to human activity. However, natural hazards are related to specific natural phenomena but there is no question that many are exacerbated by human activities. For example, clearing forests or urbanization will change the behavior of floods.

The common view of "natural disaster" is due for a radical change. Though triggered by natural events such as floods or earthquakes, most current disasters are increasingly man-made (Anders and Timberlake, 1985). For example disasters like floods, drought and famine are caused more by environmental and resource mismanagement than too much or too little rainfall. In addition, the impact of other disasters which are triggered by acts of nature (earthquakes, volcanoes and hurricanes) are magnified by unwise human actions. Disasters are occurrences which can be prevented or their impact reduced. Consequently, it can be argued that vulnerability of individuals, or societies is fundamentally a political and ecological concept which blends with socio-economic characteristics and relationships of the society in which they live (Greg, et al 2004).

Throughout history, famine has been linked to many of the most severe crisis of humanity and today it is one of the disasters frequently experienced. (Tannehil 1974) observed that "we may truthfully say that we scarcely know famine when we see one". We then can only recognize famine by its effect in the past. Famine can be viewed from different angles. For example according to (Webb et al 1992) famine is described as "an extreme geographical concentrated food-consumption shortfall that results in chronic loss of body weight and rise in mortality". It can also be described as a condition resulting from inadequate consumption of calories, protein and nutrients to meet the basic physical requirements for an active and healthy life which leads to famished children susceptible to disease infection and become victims of kwashiorkor, marasmus and exophthalmia

(acute vitamin A deficiency). The malnutrition accounts for high infant mortality in Africa (Awuondo, 1987).

Famine is a creeping phenomenon that attacks without notice (Whilite and Easterling, 1987). Its effects can be realized only after the damage has been done. Secondly the effects of famine are often woven into the economic and social fabric of a region. From the early years of human existence and throughout the world history, famine disasters are familiar to all nations of the earth. In the western world, the so called developed countries have had a share of it. In Europe the citizens of Ireland (a former colony of the British government) experienced some of the worlds worst period of famine. From 1740-1841 citizens of Ireland were impacted on by famine which was brought about by crop failure (potato failure). Although there were other factors that exacerbated the situation such as political, social, climatical and cultural factors

India - is one of the nations that have experienced disastrous famine from time to time. The major being the Bengal famine in 1942 and many others followed.

The Far East countries were not spared either, china had the worst famine in 1958-1961

Famine has been experienced by inhabitants of various civilizations dating as far back as 22 century B.C, when famine struck Upper Egypt as a result of climatic changes that reduced rainfall leading to severe drought, constant acute famine and civil strife. Therefore famine has a long history much longer than present civilization. Man continues to battle its persistence, recurrence and consequences in spite of the technological innovations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Food problem is not just about food. Instead some people would argue that it is rather an aspect of more general problem of poverty and unequal distribution of purchasing power among the people and nations (Edward and John, 1987).

In sub-Saharan African countries, famine strikes hardest due to various factors some already mentioned before in this study such as climatic changes, wars, conflicts and economic depressions. Some of the most hit countries in the sub - Saharan Africa are the countries found at the horn of Africa. They include Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya especially the Northern part where Wajir district is found. These

countries fall under the Sahelian climatic region characterized by long dry spells and short rainy seasons due to continental Ocean currents.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

In North Eastern province crop production practice is minimal due to long dry spell and short rainy seasons. Therefore this area which is completely situated in arid and semi arid zones has to cope with continuous stable food shortages (Edward et al 1987). According to (GoK, 2002-2008) there is evidence of recurrence of drought which has led to food and water shortages, hence famine in Wajir district. This problem has persisted for many years despite various interventions by the Government of Kenya and other organizations to alleviate it. For example during 1992-95 famine in Wajir district, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) and Livestock Market Division (LMD) facilitated the distribution of food and recovery of herds after the drought period. This response from the government did not yield a lasting solution to the people in Wajir district. Famine struck again in the years 2004 -08. Relief food was distributed again to the district but this time, the situation went beyond the government's capability, therefore a famine disaster was declared and assistance from International community was sought. Although this describes the situation as it was, there is little evidence about the support scenario.

The famine situation was dire in the country as five of Kenya's eight provinces experienced 60% of crop failure. The Government grain reserves were almost exhausted. It was reported that people ate roots to ease their hunger while children dropped out of school and some children and the elderly were showing signs of severe emaciation. The above information confirms the persistence of famine in Kenya which necessitated diversion of funds earmarked for development to be used for famine emergency relief responses repeatedly. Therefore this study sought to find out the factors that account for the persistent occurrence of famine in the country and particularly in Wajir district.

Although causes of famine in Wajir district are many, the main one is drought. The Government and other organizations have tried to provide mitigation measure, for example, Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) which is a government department has played an effective drought monitoring and provided early warning system in this area through enactment of relevant policy and legislation that initiates programmes aimed at harmonizing traditional and modern systems for managing resources and conflicts in addition to emphasizing District Focus for Rural Development strategy (DFRD). Many organizations are involved in the mitigation measures Oxfam is the lead agency in food distribution and water tracking and marking in the area. World Food Programme in conjunction with selected NGOs, like World Vision Kenya have also been providing food relief to this area. Nomadic Primary Health and Jogbaru Integrated Health (NPH/JNH) and Merlin are all involved in several mitigation measures. For example NPH/JNH focuses on improving human health by providing services that include chlorination of water, vaccination of infants and providence of Unimix foods to children below five years and the old people who are vulnerable. Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) deals with livestock health as Wajir Peace Development Association (WPDA) focuses on peace development and conflict resolution in the area.

The aim of the study was to find out the nature of assistance given to the people during famine, its reliability and the recipient's perception of it. In addition, the study sought to assess the effects of the frequent famine on socio economic development in Wajir central division in particular.

In the year 2004 - 08, 3.5 million people in Kenya were grossly affected by drought leading to serious famine. Most of these people were from Wajir district. Reports from the Kenya National Disaster Management Policy 2006 statistics indicate that 64 percent of residents of Northeastern Province, in which Wajir district is located, live below the poverty line due to persistence of drought (Oxfam, 2005). It also observes that pastoralist's wealth in Wajir district declined by more than 50 percent in the 21 century, and that at house hold level food supply from livestock had declined with herders increasingly relying on wild foods and foreign aid as a core source for sustenance. The



clans that had frequent conflicts included: Ogaden, Degodia Ajuran, Morule, Gare among others. This information confirms that there is persistence occurrence of famine which impacts on socio economic welfare of the local people in Wajir district therefore necessitating this study to find out the nature of relations that exist between Wajir communities and their neighbors and the measures they have put in place to manage famine related problems effectively.

### **13 General objective**

The general objective was to investigate the impact of famine on the communities living in Wajir district.

### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study were:

- i. To assess the relationship between clans in the district during famine time.
- ii. To assess the impact of the Sequent famine on socio-economic development in Wajir District.
- iii. To establish the nature of assistance given to the people of Wajir district during famine period by stake-holders.
- iv. To find out the perception of the Wajir people towards the assistance given to them during famine by NGOs
- v. To find out the measures the people in Wajir district employ in order to manage famine effectively.

### **1.5 Rationale**

The frequency of the persistence of famine in Kenya and Wajir district in particular is a critical national issue given its magnitude and impact it has on national development. Despite government efforts over the years, the solution is far from being found. Therefore given its magnitude and population, the study seeks to add knowledge on this tricky subject area. The information will help development agents in the area and those involved in famine mitigation measures to appreciate famine better and plan appropriate responses.

## **1.6 Scope**

The study covered the impact of famine among people living in Wajir district. It focused on the assistance given, its reliability as well as the recipient's perception of the assistance and the NGOs involved mitigation measures. The study sought coping mechanisms employed by the local people, stakeholders' involvement in mitigation, nature of mitigation, impact of famine on human relations and general socio economic development.

## **1.7 Limitation**

According to (Mugenda and Mugenda 1999) limitations are the anticipated difficulties that might hinder the effective data collection process of any study and which might also reduce the scope, the sample and the extent to which the generalizations of the findings could be made.

Language and the possibility of distortion was a limitation-since the researcher had to use an interpreter to understand the information from the respondents.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Physiological and Natural Conditions

##### a) Administrative

According to Wajir District Development Plan (2002-2008), Wajir District is the largest district in Northeastern Province of Kenya. Its maximum width (East - West) is 226 kilometers while the maximum length (South-North) is 350 kilometers. The district lies between latitudes 3 20'N and 0 60'N and longitude 39E and 41E. The District borders the Republic of Somalia to the East, Garissa district to the South Isiolo district to the South West, Marsabit to the West, Moyale district to the North East, Republic of Ethiopia to the North and Mandera District to the North East. The district is divided into thirteen administrative divisions, seventy four location and one hundred and two sub locations.

Table 1.1 Shows Administrative and Political Units

<b>Division</b>	<b>Area (sq km)</b>	<b>Number of locations</b>	<b>Number of sub locations</b>	<b>Number of wards</b>
Buna	7,500	7	8	7
Sabule	6,977	8	11	8
Diff	6,755	4	8	4
Griftu	5,740	9	14	9
Tarbaj	5,382	7	8	7
Habaswein	4,995	7	9	7
Hadado	4,272	7	7	7
Wajir-Bor	4,163	3	5	3
Central	2,673	6	10	7
Gurar	2,380	4	5	4
Eldas	2,373	4	4	4
Kutulo	2,253	4	8	4
Bute	1,078	4	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,501</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>75</b>

Source: (District commissioner's office 2001)

Politically, Wajir County Council which has seventy five wards is the only local authority in the district. There are four constituencies in the district namely: Wajir North, Wajir West, Wajir South, and Wajir East

## **b) Climate**

The district lies within Sahelian climatic region which is characterized by long dry spells and short rainy seasons due to continental influence. The area is classified under Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. It therefore receives some substantial rainfall ranging between 500mm - 700mm per annum. This enables agriculture to be practiced on small scale basis. Rainfall variations are a common feature in the district and recurrent droughts are cyclic. For example the district experienced droughts in the years listed: 1927,1933,1938,1949,1952,1969,1979,1984,1991,1993,1999,2004,2006. This recurrence of drought hinders implementation of proposed development activities because most resources are diverted to emergency and drought recovery programmes.

Wajir district is a featureless plain which is prone to flooding during rainy seasons often making the roads impassable. However in the north there are scattered hills along the Ethiopian border. The plain rises from an altitude of 150 meters above sea level in the south east to 200 meters above sea level at Buna in the North West and 460 meters above sea level in Bute. The areas covering Gurar, Buna and Bute divisions consist of greatly undulating pen plains. Road conditions are bad due to the numerous drainage lines that dissect these divisions. The east is a slightly elevated plateau area covering the areas of Tarbaj, Kutulo and Wajir Bor. The district is mostly covered with young sedimentary rocks with loam soil towards the north at the footsteps of Ethiopian highlands. The district has neither rivers nor lakes but seasonal swamps existing in the south. The major one being the Boji swamp in Lagh boghol area and the Lorian swamp in Habaswein division. These swamps and drainages serve as dry season grazing zones and also allow some cultivation during rainy seasons.

### **c) Infrastructure**

The general infrastructure in the district is poor and below average. A few of the roads are murramed but are still impassable during rainy seasons. The rest of the roads are unclassified. They get flooded with water and sand rendering them impossible for use. There is insufficient water supply, inadequate veterinary services, in sufficient power supply, inadequate health facilities, poor sewerage system, under developed human resources, inadequate and poorly developed raw materials, poor marketing systems, inaccessibility to credit facilities and inadequate extension services among others. However there are some improvements taking place, especially on the roads, for example the Mogadishu -Wajir road has under gone gravelling and spot improvement. This has also been undertaken in Wajir- Kutulo road but there is need for spot improvement to continue. Other gravelling works were also carried out at Eldas junction (2.2 kilometers) there is general routine grading and clearing of the bushes along other roads in the district. Classification of roads is on going.

## **2.2 Population**

Wajir district is one of the most sparsely populated and the least developed areas of Kenya (Table 2.1). The table provides information on population profile. Most of the settlements in the district are found in the divisional headquarters which also serve as market centers and watering points. The highest in density is Central division with 27 people per square kilometer followed by Bute (19) and the lowest in density is Diff division with a density of 4 people per square kilometer at the end of the plan period. According to Wajir District Development Plan (2002-2008), the reason behind the central division having the highest population density is the fact that it is the district headquarters and where by large business enterprises, employment opportunities and informal sector income generating activities are concentrated. The general population as from the year 1999 was 356,340 and was projected to grow to 444,915 by the year 2008.

**Table 2.1 Projected Population Density per KM<sup>2</sup> by Division 1999 -2008**

Division	Population 1999	Population Density per KM2				
		1999	2002	2004	2006	2008
Central	51,006	19	21	23	25	27
Habaswein	27,467	6	6	7	7	8
Buna	29,161	4	4	5	5	5
Tarbaj	22,758	4	5	5	5	6
Wajir Bor	17,046	4	5	5	5	6
Kutulo	23,016	10	11	12	13	14
Diff	19,052	3	3	3	4	4
Gurar	18,087	8	9	9	10	11
Griftu	42,333	7	8	9	10	10
Bute	14,684	14	15	16	18	19
Eldas	9,166	4	4	5	5	5
Hadado	19,787	5	5	6	6	6
Sabule	25,699	4	4	4	5	5
<b>Average Density</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

**Source, District Development Plan (2002-2008)**

The population growth in the district is rapid due to socio-cultural practices which are common to pastoralists' societies. For example there is a high rate of polygamy in the district, which possibly explains the prevailing 3.7 percent population growth rate. The ability for the district to house, feed, educate and provide health and security for its people is severely constrained since most of the social infrastructure facilities were planned for a smaller number of people. The majority of the population is below the age of 25 years. This has a significant impact on the districts resources because more services and employment opportunities are needed.

impact on the districts resources because more services and employment opportunities are needed.

There is a high unemployment rate in the district. The main source of employment is the public sector which only absorbs 2 percent of the population. This is complimented by livestock herding which takes most of the labor force of the local people. Those who complete middle level colleges and school leavers are mostly idle since the district is not endowed with industrial, manufacturing and informal sector (*Jua kali*) opportunities. This situation is made worse by the fact that HIV/AIDS has claimed a number of people mostly skilled labors in the formal employment. Dependency ratio is very high thereby retarding development activities.

### **23 Gender Inequality**

In Wajir district, the gender disparity and imbalance is significant in terms of access to resources, and benefits from socio- economic investments. This manifests itself in form of unequal division of labor and sharing of available economic opportunities. Women and girls are generally discriminated against due to the way the society perceives them as inferior and weak. The society being patriarchal, it has a preference for the boy child as opposed to the girl child. These imbalances exist in access to education, training and decision making on resource management. The woman /girl hence become susceptible to diseases such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, rape and other social injustices. Female headed households occur only under special circumstances like divorce and death. Otherwise most households in Wajir district are headed by the male which imply that decisions made on access to water and its management is inclined towards male needs. As a result, any efforts made at curbing violent water resource based conflicts will need to actively involve men. However these male dominated decisions and actions impact negatively on the ability of women as providers of food, socio-economic relationships and health care for their families.

There is need for urgent narrowing of the gender gap in order to realize poverty reduction and attain sustainable economic growth in which women play a greater role.

This could be done through enhancing girl child education programmes, increased enrolment in schools, retention and completion of primary and secondary education. In addition, men should be sensitized on women's rights through religious activities and the discouragement of early marriages of girls. The challenge faced by the district in closing the gender gap is that most resources which would have been used for girl child education activities and provision of credit facilities to female headed households are diverted to emergency and famine recovery programmes (GoK, 2002)

## **2.4 Poverty**

According to Republic of Kenya (2005), the poor are defined as those members of the community who are unable to afford minimum basic human needs comprising of food and basic non food items. According to Wajir District Development Plan (2002-2008) information on the welfare monitoring survey, carried out in 1994, shows that 57 percent of the Wajir population lived below the poverty line on less than a dollar a day. The same survey done in 1997 recorded an upward trend but still below the average given that Wajir district is relatively underdeveloped than most of districts and lags behind in social infrastructure. Of the total population 96% lack access to safe drinking water, 80% are illiterate and only skilled in livestock production while 89% lack access to health care services.

The district has a life expectancy of 50.6 years (GoK, 2002) Analysis of poverty index shows that poverty is on the increase in the district just like in many other places in the country but the trend in Wajir district seems to increase more than any other area due to the frequent drought leading to loss of livestock and crop failure. There is extreme poverty in the district and estimates reveal that 65 percent of the population currently lives below the poverty line. The types of poverty experienced in the district include people who totally lack basic needs and those who lack food. Causes of poverty in the district include inter-alia, cyclic droughts, lack of fully developed livestock market, disease (livestock and human), illiteracy, lack of proper planning and reduced



government spending on the projects that require subsidies, unemployment, land tenure problems, over reliance on pastoral economy, lack of innovativeness and insecurity.

Based on the above information it is evident that there is need to combat poverty through multifaceted approach with the involvement of stakeholders (the government, non governmental organizations, community and donors.) Poverty should be addressed through interventions in food production, increased security, livestock marketing, and construction of small scale processing plants, proper post harvest storage systems, improved physical infrastructure and provision of information communication technology (GoK, 2002).

## **2.5 Education Services**

### **(a) Primary level (6-13years)**

According to Wajir District Development Plan of (2003 -2008) by the year 1999 it was estimated that 89,960 were undergoing primary education and by the year 2008, it is estimated that 128,546 which is 27 percent of the total population would attend school. Based on the projected primary school population there is need to improve existing education facilities and also establish new primary schools to cope with the growing demand for primary education. In addition there is also a need to establish more youth polytechnics and other skill training centers to absorb the demands of primary school leavers.

### **(b) Secondary level (14-17 years)**

In 1999 it was estimated that 36,445 students were in secondary schools. This number is estimated to shoot to 50,846 in the year 2008 which is 11.4 percent of the total population. The current secondary schools facilities are inadequate to cope up with the demand for secondary education therefore there are a need for urgent expansion of existing secondary facilities and also establish more day secondary schools which are cost effective. If investments in secondary school facilities were improved, this would

lead to human resource development in the district hence poverty reduction through formal employment /self employment.

## **2.6 Pastoralism as a Livelihood**

Pastoralists are livestock herders found throughout African Arid regions. They constitute between 12-16 percent of total population. East Africa has the largest variety and numbers of pastoral communities. Pastoralists occupy 70 percent of the total population of the Kenyan land and 50 percent of Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In most countries pastoralist are minorities as they lead a different way of life in terms of culture, values and language. Their lifestyles are considered incompatible with those of the majority of the population from where those who govern originate (Bonfiglioli and Watson 1992). This partly explains why views and needs of pastoralist are rarely taken into consideration in national planning.

Pastoralism is a production strategy through which people raise herds of animals as a means of earning a living often in Arid and Semi Arid Land (ASAL). Pastoralists rely on availability of water and pasture to thrive. Water is the determining factor in this livelihood. The inadequate rainfall in ASAL areas limit crop farming activities so that people are left with Pastoralism and nomadism as the most feasible, consistent and viable livelihood.

Kenya's total area of land is about 592,000 square kilometers. Pastoralists make up approximately 25 percent of the country's human population and over 50 percent of the country's livestock. The livestock industry in Kenya contributes approximately 10 percent to the gross domestic product (G.D.P). The current livestock population in Wajir district is about 260,000 cattle, 280,000 camels, 265,000 sheep and 130,000 goats which depend on 35 operational boreholes (WASDA, 2002). This implies that there are more users of the limited water sources and as such chances of conflicts over access and use are very high

during rainy seasons and declines during drought. The pastoralists realize prosperity by increasing livestock numbers in good season through maximizing the available resources and hence they carry over enough healthy stock to provide for subsistence during the dry season.

The keeping of mixed livestock is a system to manage risk, for example having small frame stock like goats and sheep is much better as compared to large frame livestock which are cash buffers. This is because they have high reproduction rate and they lactate during the dry season although they are more vulnerable to diseases. Goats and camels can survive long periods without water as compared to sheep and cattle. The composition of livestock per family is determined by factors such as personal preferences, ecological conditions, family size and available labor.

Pastoral production is mainly subsistence based on providing regular supply of food in the form of milk, meat and blood for household members. Pastoralist also trade in livestock, hides and skins for other food products or cash to purchase grains, pay for education, healthcare and other services. Livestock possession is a central element of one's social, economic and religious life. Without livestock one is termed poor and has no social status, power and cannot support a family.

Production is an in-house activity organized within the house units involving male livestock owner, his wife /wives, children and other dependants. In Kenya 80 percent of land area is ASAL, with Pastoralism as the most suitable land use activity, which therefore calls for this study to find out how the limited water resource is shared, conflicts resolved and the impact of conflicts on the peoples' livelihood. There is also need to get from the people in the district about the most effective ways of using water resources and manage any conflicts that arise.

## 2.7 Conflicts

The turbulent relations between the Kenya Government and the Somali people have resulted in tremendous mutual suspicion that has contributed to conflicts from time to time over water and pasture resources and also boundary definitions, for example in 1984 at Wagalla, the Kenyan security forces killed 2,000 Somalis on the outskirts of Wajir district.

1998 there was a severe clan clash which came to be known as -Bagalla massacre between the Degodia clan attacked by Wajir minority clans backed by the Ethiopian Oromo Liberation Front. ICRC survey reported that 189 people were killed, 36 injured and 6, 500 individuals displaced most of them women and children.

During the first multiparty national elections in 1992, violence broke out between two principal clans- Ogaden and Degodia in Wajir district where several people were injured due to political rivalry.

Early this year-February, 2009 there were severe clan clashes among the communities living North eastern province and particularly in Wajir district over water and pasture resources. The conflict became so big that the Kenyan security forces had to be redeployed in the area to disarm the warring communities and bring sanity back to the area, but unfortunately the security personnel used excessive force that resulted to deaths injury, rape and displacement of the local people of Wajir.

In Wajir district main conflicts have been and still are over water and pasture (Omosa, 2005). The main clans: Orgaden, Degodia and Ajuran have over years been fighting for these resources. During the rainy season, movement is towards water sources like ponds and seasonal rivers which are accessed freely but, in dry seasons the people move closer to boreholes, however to use water from these boreholes they have to pay and follow established rules and regulations by the borehole managers /owners. Consequently, the fluctuating price for this vital commodity which is in the hands of private owners, ignite conflicts among the communities in Wajir district. For example in, 1992 there were several conflicts among the clans: Degodia versus Ajuran, Godia versus Orgaden and Ajuran versus Garre, all fighting over water and pasture, more conflicts are reported towards Wajir south because there is more fresh water coming from Wasonyiro river and towards Wajir west especially in Hadado and Griftu.

Ajuran versus Garre, all fighting over water and pasture, more conflicts are reported towards Wajir south because there is more fresh water coming from Wasonyiro river and towards Wajir west especially in Hadado and Griftu.

The conflicts over water are not new to pastoralist communities. Traditionally, pastoralist communities and clans conducted raids and counter raids as an organized survival mechanism especially during periods of severe droughts (Omosa, 2005). Once conflicts occurred, there were socially defined and acceptable ways of negotiating for peace. In the recent years use of modern weaponry and growing lack of respect for traditional rules have greatly increased the intensity, fatality and the extent of these conflicts. The causes of the conflicts have become more complex and multi-dimensional: ranging from socio-economic and cultural to environmental factors. The situation has resulted to high poverty levels, reduced livelihoods of the local population and continues to increase insecurity and instability at the local, national and regional levels. These conflicts adversely affect civilians, women and children.

Water is a critical resource that determines success of Pastoralism as a way of life in arid and semi arid lands (ASAL). Availability of water determines where people and livestock settle during different months of any given year. During the dry season all the temporary water sources dry up so that people rely solely on boreholes. The conflicts that occur have negative impact as valuable resources are diverted to their management at the expense of provision for basic needs. The impact of conflict at the household level is felt in form of reduced access to food, interruptions in education, reduced health care services and reduction in the number of livestock through raids, loss of life and property, degeneration of social relationships and forced migration of families and livestock. At times there is closure of bore holes and intensified insecurity which leads to reduced outdoor activities. The repercussions of the conflicts have serious implications on the sufferings of the people in Wajir district who are already experiencing life below poverty level. Due to the conflicts over water and pasture resources, the researcher sets out to find suggestions on how people in Wajir district can manage water and pasture resources peacefully.

## **2.8 Famine**

Although many famines coincide with national or regional shortage of food, famine has also occurred amid plenty or on account of acts of economic or political/ military policy that have deprived certain populations of sufficient food to ensure survival (Newman, 1995). Famine is caused mostly by drought. Drought can be described as a period of continuous dry weather leading to lack of enough water for people, animal and plants needs. Lack of water is not the sole cause of drought. Deforested and over used tropical soils which are easily eroded thus retaining insufficient water could also be a cause. Reduced rainfall may trigger drought but human pressure on the land is a primary cause. Famine disasters are familiar to all nations of the earth. In the western world, the so called developed countries have had a share of it. In Europe the citizens of Ireland (a former colony of the British government) experienced some of the worlds worst period of famine. From 1740-1841 citizens of Ireland were impacted on by famine which was brought about by crop failure (potato failure). Although there were other factors that exacerbated the situation such as political, social, climatical and cultural factors.

India - is one of the nations that have experienced disastrous famine from time to time. The major being the Bengal famine in 1942 and many others followed.

The Far East countries were not spared either, china had the worst famine in 1958-1961. In third world countries, economic policies, which discriminate against the rural poor, intensify this pressure. Famine can also be brought about by situations whereby people's response to drought disaster is inappropriate. For example third world governments have often discouraged migration, replaced diversified subsistence agriculture with single cash crop farming and foreign aid assistance which often fail to reach those hardest hit by drought (Anders and Timberlake 1985)

Newman J. L. (1995) observes that, in order to find roots of drought in Africa, one must look back not only in the last few years but over a century, in effect to the time modern medical science began to have an impact on preserving and lengthening the life of both man and livestock. This allowed an explosion in the population growth of man and

animal. Unfortunately this medical revolution and population explosion were limited to mineral resources and commercial production of some foods like peanuts and cotton. This has left the rest of the population in the African region to find food they needed for themselves and added pasture for their animals. This means that more and more of the Sahel people became more dependent on these ASAL areas which were particularly susceptible to rainfall deficiencies which have been occurring increasingly.

In the years 1968, 1972 and 1978 people survived drought by drawing on their reserves of energy and food hoping for increased rainfall. But these reserves were practically exhausted when rainfall failed completely in 1972 and drought began biting. The disaster was already underway not only because of the rainfall failure but also due to the economic incapacity of the region to meet the needs of the people. As a result of the 1972 rainfall failure, there was crop failure, water tables fell lower and wells dried up. The grain reserves were used up driving people from their lands and villages in search of food and water. Livestock herders were forced to congregate their animals around a few water points. Sooner than later their food, water and pasture got exhausted and both human and animals were dying of famine. This forced the people (Nomads) to seek government sources of food and eventually they were gathered into hastily erected refuge camps. In Kenya, the situation was reported to be 'a dire food emergency'.

During this time five of Kenya's provinces had experienced an average crop failure of 60 per cent. The government grain reserves were almost exhausted; people were reported to be eating roots in hopes of easing their hunger. At El Wak , North-East of Kenya's capital, the food programmes officials called the village - "an example of the effects of prolonged drought in the horn of Africa". Dozens of people had died of hunger in drought stricken parts of North Eastern in which Wajir district lies and the government declared the situation a national disaster.

In the year 2003, floods impacted negatively on human lives and their livestock in various provinces of the country. Reports from the government on disaster, said that nearly 300,000 people living in Tana River, Garissa, Wajir districts in the Northern and

Coast provinces were affected by floods. Agricultural land was submerged by floods along the Tana River, 10,000 herds of cattle were drowned

In 2006, Wajir district received heavy rains on the onset of short rains. The rains caused havoc on the southern part of the district. Many places were flooded for example Dilmanyale, Abakore, Mari, Biyamathew, Sarif, Sabule, Diff, and Badajabula. These places were inaccessible and shallow-wells were contaminated with human waste through sip page. Household shelters were swept away. Over 50 per cent of the population on relief food supply did not receive their food due to the floods. These included centers like Abakoro, Korondille Ingirir, Barir Arbajahan, Hadado, Mensa, and Buna Kajaja among others. The researcher will seek to find out the factors that contribute to the persistence of famine in Wajir district.

## **2.9 Theoretical Framework**

### **a) Social Stratification Theory**

This theory of Karl Marx and his followers asserts that, originally all people were the same, everybody had the same power, prestige, property and wealth, but the incoming of private property ownership / capitalism philosophy people became ranked higher than others (Ritzer G.1996) Stratification implies social inequalities that some people are higher in ranks than others in the society, control of the scarce resources and special treatment. Social stratification also ensures unequal distribution of power, authority, prestige and wealth. This theory accounts for the inequality in our Kenyan society whereby some groups are more powerful, wealthy and determine the distribution of wealth than others. It also accounts for oppression and exploitation by those in power on their subjects. This is why some regions remain poor powerless, oppressed and marginalized by the groups in power and authority like the people of North Eastern province in which Wajir is found. This theory accounts for why the province has been left behind in terms of the development, education and national sharing of the wealth. The group in power, the Central Government makes decisions on the marginalized groups without consulting them and implementation carried out by force. Since the powerless



group is poor and exploited, it is looked at by the group in power with suspicion ('shifita' bandits) and any time force/violence is exerted on them i.e. the 1984 massacre of 200 Somali men by the Kenyan origin military soldiers.

### **b) Chaos Theory**

The father of this theory is Henri Poincare. He tries to explain problems of phenomenon. He observes that Phenomenon is full of turmoil, turbulence, primordial abyss and undesired randomness .On the other hand, scientists look at this chaos as something extremely sensitive to the initial condition. (Ritzer G. 1996) The theory's main concept is the question of whether or not it's possible to make good long term preparations about a system. It asserts that chaotic system can develop in a way and bring about smoothness. This theory accounts for the chaotic world that is full of various disasters that are both natural and man-made like earthquakes, drought and famine. From the theory sociologists should learn that chaotic situations that keep on occurring from time to time can form a good basis on which one can come up with well prepared and planned scientific solutions to the problem i.e. early warning, relief and mitigation and rehabilitation measures for future, for example in Wajir district where floods, famine, drought, poverty, insecurity and conflicts over resources have been the order of their lifestyle, sociologists can use the theory to map up future solutions to this problem.

Lorenz, one of the theory's proponent, did experiments in 1960 working on the weather problems. After several experiments in 1961, he noted that when he started the experiment at different initial points, there were variations in results bringing about different patterns. He used these patterns to predict the weather variation. The variations came to be known as the 'butterfly effect'. The experiments of Lorenz could help sociologists to come up with different predictions of the chaos in the social world and climatic conditions governing human life and hence draw conclusions that can bring solutions to these problems.

### **c) Cultural Deprivation Theory**

This theory developed from the portrayal of working class sub-culture as sub-standard version of mainstream middle class culture by Peter Townsend (1970). It states that the

sub-culture of low income groups is deprived and deficient in certain important respects and these accounts for low education, poor healthcare facilities and undeveloped infrastructure and poverty as a whole. It is documented that in the Wajir district, 80 per cent of the children do not attend school and that 94 per cent of women in the age bracket of 15 years and above are illiterate. With lack of educational foundation, the people of Wajir grow up lacking the right skills, attitude and value in preparation for a better future and thus remain downtrodden. Schools educate people towards a new livelihood. There is also limited health care facility especially those that need to cater for ante and post natal maternal care. The expectant mothers in the area are still subjected to traditional backward ways of deliveries. The clinics are few and lack essential medicines, water is not chlorinated and sanitation is poor. This deprives the mother and child from getting good health care right from the cradle and hence bringing about deprivation aspects among the less fortunate people of Wajir.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Study Site**

This study was carried out in Wajir District and specifically at Wagbara sub-location of Wajir Central division. The Central division houses the district headquarters and several NGOs. It has more infrastructure! facilities and is most easily accessible in the district.

Wajir consists of four divisions namely; Central, Gurar, Tarbaj and Kutulo, with a population of 300,000. (Wajir District Development Plan 2002-2008). It lies within Sahelian climatical regions characterized by long dry spells and short rainy seasons due to continentality. The district is classified under Arid and Semi arid areas. The average rainfall is between 500 mm -700mm per annum. The mean annual temperature is 28 degrees centigrade. The people of Wajir practice mixed fanning of crop cultivation and animal keeping but they are mainly animal keepers because crop farming is poor due to unfavorable climatic conditions. Most of the population is found near the water-boreholes which also serve as grazing reserves. The population diversity of central division in 2008 was estimated to be 27 persons per square kilometer.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study was carried out using descriptive research design. Best and Khan (2000) and Singleton (1993) noted that descriptive research survey is an appropriate design for evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies for implementing development programmes as it uses qualitative and quantitative information to identify, analyze and interpret conditions that exist in relation to set organizational guidelines

#### **3.3 Sampling**

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for the study in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large group from which they were selected. The purpose of sampling is to secure representative groups which enable the researcher to gain information about a population. In the study the researcher used purposive sampling in the identification of the respondents. This is a sampling technique that allows a

researcher to use cases that have the required information with respect to the objectives of his/her study. Cases of the subjects were therefore handpicked because they were informative and/or possessed required characteristics (Mugenda and Mugenda 1999). The key informants were identified on the basis of their knowledge of the drought and famine in the district and that the activities they engaged in the area closely related with drought and famine mitigation.

A population study was undertaken for the survey component of the research. All household heads at Wagbara sub-location were purposively sampled and interviewed in their homesteads. The appropriateness of this sampling technique was that the sparseness of the population in the region would not make it possible to undertake detailed sampling procedures. Further, the long distance from one settlement to another led to the decision to interview all the house-holds heads in the sub-location.

### **3.4 Sample Size**

A sample of one hundred and thirty (130) household heads was interviewed to provide information on famine related issues. A population study was undertaken.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Collection**

The study adopted a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. Face to face interviews were undertaken.

#### **3.5.1 Tools of data collection**

##### **(a) Questionnaire**

Gay (2003), Borg (1996), Wiersma (1986) observes that questionnaires with clearly constructed question items are valuable research tools for descriptive research survey design. Based on Gay, Borg and Wiersma's observations, the data for the study was collected from households' heads in Wagbara sub-location using questionnaires containing both open and close-ended questions which were administered to gather primary data. The data was collected on the socio-economic and drought/ famine issues

affecting the local people of Wajir district. The researcher administered the questionnaires.

### **(b) Interview guide**

The researcher used an interview guide to collect data from key informants. An interview guide is a set of questions that the interviewer uses during interview situations and which are asked to the respondents. This ensured a standardized situation so that same questions were asked to all the respondents which made it possible to obtain data required to meet specific objectives of the study. The key informants included heads of government departments first, then NGO staff next working on famine management issues in the district, namely District Officer, District Education Officer, District Livestock Officer, Medical Officer in charge of health, Officer in charge of Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL), Officer in charge of District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD), District Works Officer, Chief of Wagbara Location and Assistant Chief Wagbara Sub-location, whereas non governmental officers included Oxfam-Office, World Food Programme (WFP), through selected NGOs like World Vision Kenya, and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS). Others were Merlin focusing mainly on nutrition and sanitation; Nomadic Primary Health Programme and Jogbaru Integrated Health (NPH/PJIH) also focusing on improving human nutritional health. Others included Wajir Peace and Development Agency (WPDA) a local organization focusing on peace and conflicts resolution among the pastoralist communities, Arid Lands Resource Management Programme (ALRMP) -dealing with livestock health and the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) focusing on education in conjunction with Wajir South Development Association (WASDA), Councilor Wagbara Ward and Mama Maendeleo representative,

### **b) Observation**

The researcher centered on socio-economic and environmental situations of the local people of Wajir district. This included the day-today socio-economic activities such as the foods they eat, and the businesses they engage in, the state of infrastructure, climate and vegetation, physical features and the land landscape, type of housing, soil sample, water resources, physical health and the general look of the local people.

**c) Document review**

**The** researcher also embarked on reviewing the secondary data that was availed by key informants. This included maps, photographs, and documents on drought/famine related **issues** of the past.

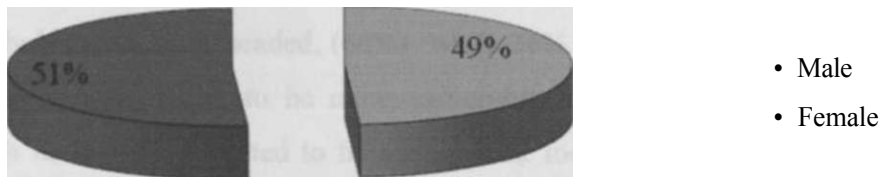
## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Gender

The sample selected for the study constituted 49% male and 51% female as indicated in figure 4.1. This was a fairly well balanced representation of gender and thus the study was able to capture information on famine related issues by both sexes.

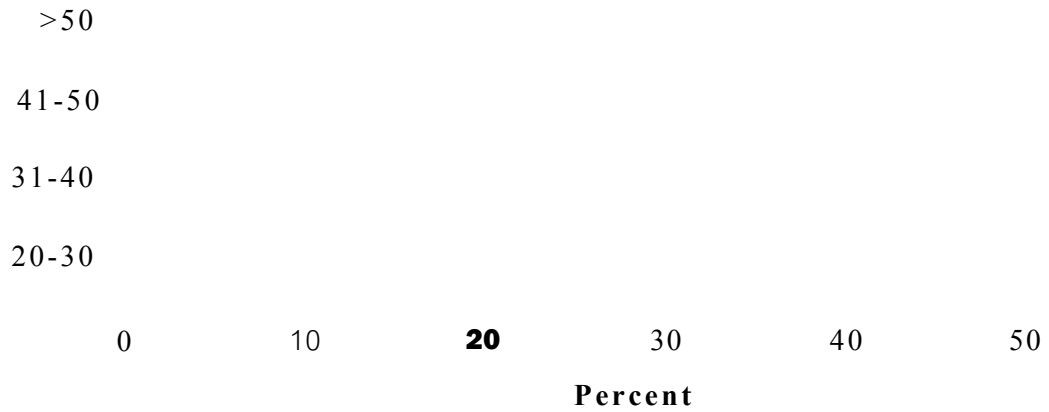
**Figure 4.1: Gender of the Respondents**



#### 4.2 Age profile

The majority of the respondents (47%) were in the age bracket 20-30 years, 31-40 years at (33%), 41-50 years at (10%) while 50 years and above were also at (10%). The majority are individuals in early adulthood and middle age who are more actively involved in raising families and livelihood activities. The 20-30 years age group are in their prime age of life and are more involved in livelihood activities and therefore experience most of the challenges relating to famine.

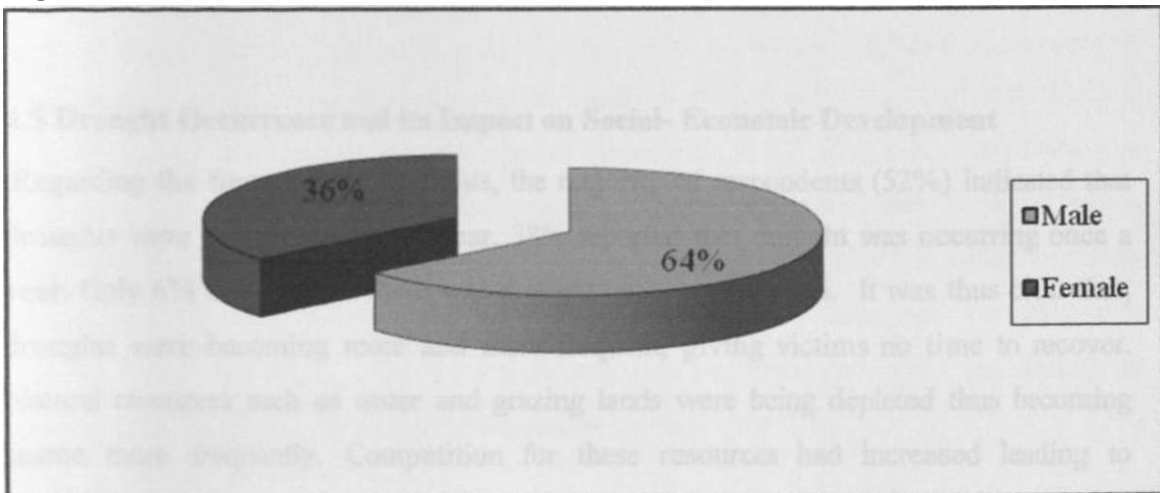
**Figure 4.2: Age of the Respondents**



**4.3: Household Heads**

Most of households were male headed, (64%) while 36% were female headed. Female headed households were found to be more vulnerable to famine because of limited resources. Such households reported to frequently lack food for days, children did not regularly attend school though education is offered freely by the government and had poor health and malnutrition in comparison to male headed households. Therefore the impact of famine is felt more by female headed households given their vulnerability in the community.

**Figure 4.3: Household Head**

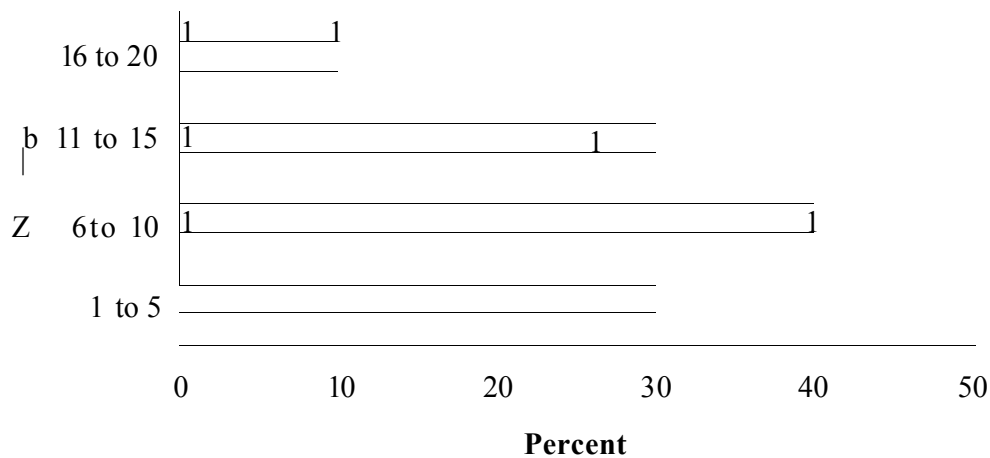




#### 4.4: Household Size

Concerning family size, 40% of the families had 6 to 10 members while 28% had 1 to 5 members and 26% had 1 to 5 members. The average family size was eight members. This is rather a large family size for communities living in areas known for scarcity of livelihood resources such as food, water and health services. Large families most of whom had children of school going age reported having more difficulties during famine because of more consumers. This was especially more critical and pronounced in families with one breadwinner or if the breadwinner did not have a stable or reliable source of income.

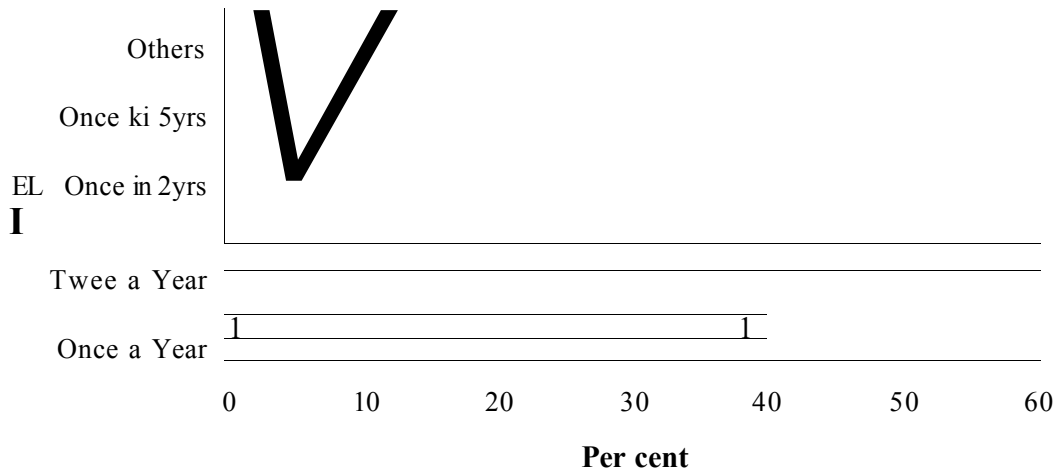
**Figure 4.4: Household Size**



#### 4.5 Drought Occurrence and its Impact on Social- Economic Development

Regarding the frequency of droughts, the majority of respondents (52%) indicated that droughts were occurring twice a year, 38% reported that drought was occurring once a year. Only 6% thought that there was drought once in two years. It was thus clear that, droughts were becoming more and more frequent, giving victims no time to recover. Natural resources such as water and grazing lands were being depleted thus becoming scarce more frequently. Competition for these resources had increased leading to conflicts over user rights.

**Figure 4.5: Frequency of Drought increasing.**



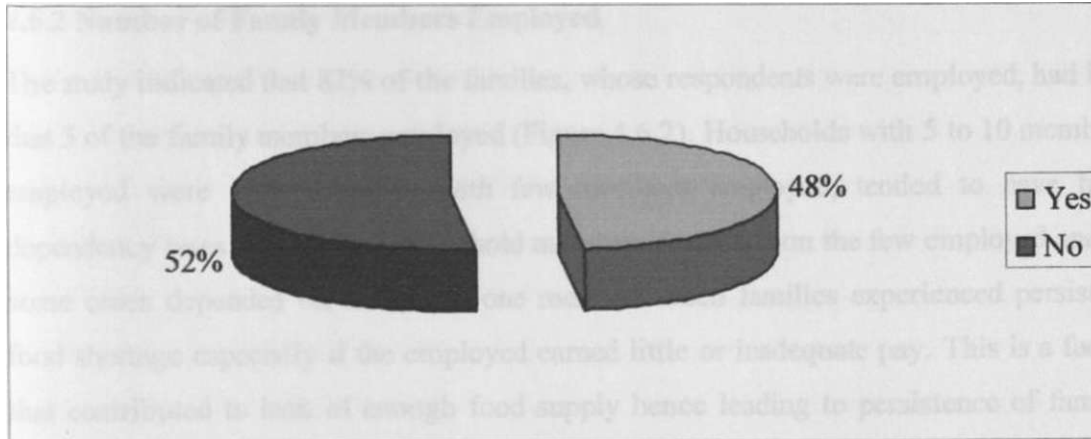
Due to the unpredictability and severity of droughts, the traditional coping mechanisms such as nomadic life style, no longer are effective in shielding the community from the negative impacts of drought. This increases the community's vulnerability. The population is increasing as a result of both natural growth and immigration from other areas leading to increased competition for scarce resources which exacerbates environmental degradation. In turn this increases the communities' vulnerability to famine impacts.

Famine in the study area was reported to lead to pupils and teachers deserting school as they migrate with families in search of water and pasture or engaged in supporting household livelihood generating activities such as employment, herding and fetching water leading to schools closure hence education being negatively impacted on. Migration of families led to abandonment of settlements and other facilities which generally undermined socio-economic development. Occasionally inter-clan conflicts arose also affecting learning in schools, investment and trade and affecting free movement to hospitals watering points and grazing land and other infrastructural facilities which makes the situation deteriorate further.

#### 4.6.: Sources of Livelihood

A total of 48% of the respondents had a regular income derived from either formal employment or self-employment. They included teachers, policemen, nurses, doctors among others. Self employment included those with a range of income generation activities such as tailoring, groceries, and retail outlets for household goods, burning and selling charcoal and harvesting of sand. Majority of the respondent (52%) did not have a regular source of income derived from employment or self-employment. Employment, either formal or self employment is an indication of empowerment in acquiring economic resources in the area which makes a household to shield itself from the impacts of famine by having a reliable alternative source of income. Households where the house heads were not employed reported to experience hunger and effects of famine more acutely compared with reliable sources. They were also frequently dependent more on famine relief and migrated much more frequently to take advantage of natural and social opportunities inside or outside the district/ division.

**Figure 4.6: Employment/Non -employed**

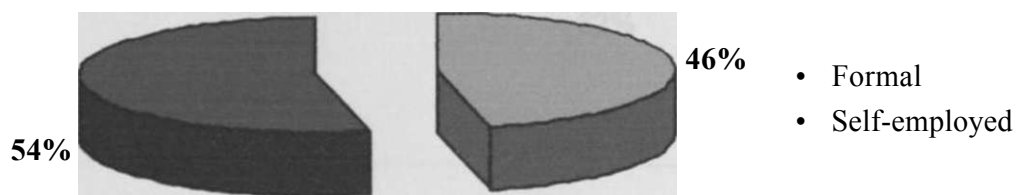


##### 4.6.1: Form of Employment

Concerning form of employment, the study found out that up to 54% of the respondents were self employment while 46% were in formal employment (Figure 4.6.1). While formal employment offered a reliable supply of economic resources to shield households from the impacts of famine, self employment depended much on the economic

empowerment of the clients. When disasters befell the community such as droughts making community members to lose their economic resources such as livestock and business, their purchasing power declined hence shattering their famine coping mechanisms.

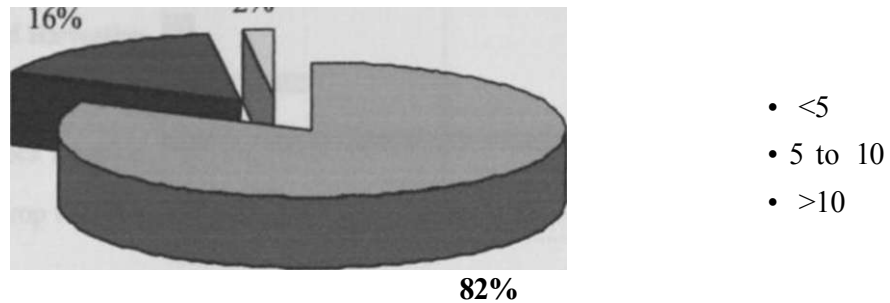
**Figure 4.6.1: Form of Employment**



#### **4.6.2 Number of Family Members Employed**

The study indicated that 82% of the families, whose respondents were employed, had less than 5 of the family members employed (Figure 4.6.2). Households with 5 to 10 members employed were 16%. Families with few members employed, tended to have high dependency rates where many household members depended on the few employed and in some cases depended on as few as one member. Such families experienced persistent food shortage especially if the employed earned little or inadequate pay. This is a factor that contributed to lack of enough food supply hence leading to persistence of famine among households. Therefore diversification of sources of livelihood is an important survival strategy. Combination of formal employment and traditional or local approaches is a common way of managing the famine.

**Figure 4.6.2: Number of Family Members Employed**

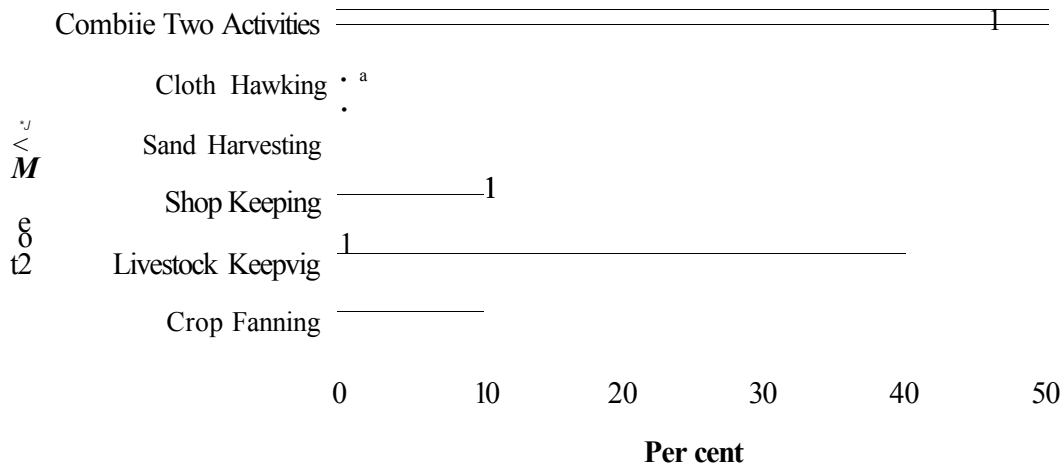


#### **4.6.3 Economic Activities in the Area as a Source of Livelihood**

The study found that shop keepers comprised of 10% of the respondents, 8% were crop farmers, 31% livestock keepers while 2% were cloth hawkers and sand harvesters. Farming and trading were generally undertaken by respondents with lower levels of education, or those with no specific career orientation. Farming in areas like Griftu and Eldas is frequently undermined by persistent rain failures. Livestock deaths were a common occurrence and carcasses of dead livestock a common sight. As drought intensified, able bodied people moved from rural areas to urban areas to escape the vagaries of famine and seek alternative sources of livelihood. As a survival strategy many households combined more than one economic activity for survival. For example, livestock keeping and shop keeping were concurrently pursued.

While households with diversified economic activities were more likely to have a fall back in case they lost one of the income sources, those with only one source succumbed to famine more easily when the income sources was negatively affected.

**Figure 4.6 J Economic Activities in the Study Area as a Source of livelihood**



#### 4.7 Local People Survival Strategies

A majority of the population in the study area are nomadic pastoralists of the Degodia and Ajuran clans. They maintain herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats and their livelihood activities revolve around sale of livestock and livestock products, purchase of grain and other commodities. Their diet consists mainly of meat, milk, rice spaghetti and grain. The population practice seasonal migration to access resources like food, pasture and water. Others temporarily and permanently migrate to towns within or outside the area like Wajir town, Nairobi city and even far towns like Bungoma and Busia. This is a drought/famine coping mechanism as distress migration is practiced in times of hardship. Because of the prolonged drought many pastoralists have been forced to relocate across the boarder to Somalia with herds in search of pasture and water. Those who cannot travel the long distances, mostly women, children and the elderly, are left behind to wait for relief assistance. Many of these pastoralists have been made destitute through loss of livestock during the long periods of drought or sell the few weak animals they are left with and also end up depending on relief food for their survival. This situation has also led to families settling down around established administrative units for ease of accessing

food aid. Consequently there have mushroomed many settlements especially along the roads-this means that nomadism is changing considerably as the weather keeps changing

#### **4.8 Organizations in Famine Mitigation**

The organizations involved in famine mitigation included Oxfam GB which is the lead agency in food distribution and water tracking and marking in Wajir district as a whole, together with World Food Programme (WFP) through selected NGOs like World Vision Kenya, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Others are Marlin focusing mainly on nutrition and sanitation; Nomadic Primary Health Programme and Jogbaru Integrated Health (NPHPJIH) also focus on improving human nutritional health. Wajir Peace and Development Agency (WPDA) a local organization focus on peace and conflicts resolution among the pastoralist communities while Arid Lands Resource Management Programme (ALRMP) deals with livestock health. Arid Lands Development Focus (ALDEF)-offer support to pastoralists communities by promoting food security, provision of basic social services, enhancement of equity and promotion of community participation in development (operates credit and saving schemes for pastoralist women) and reeducation vulnerability to disasters in conjunction with the Government of Kenya. The Kenya Library Services focuses on education in conjunction with Wajir South Development Association (WASDA).The activities of the organizations working in this area are coordinated through the District Development Committee chaired by the District Commissioner.

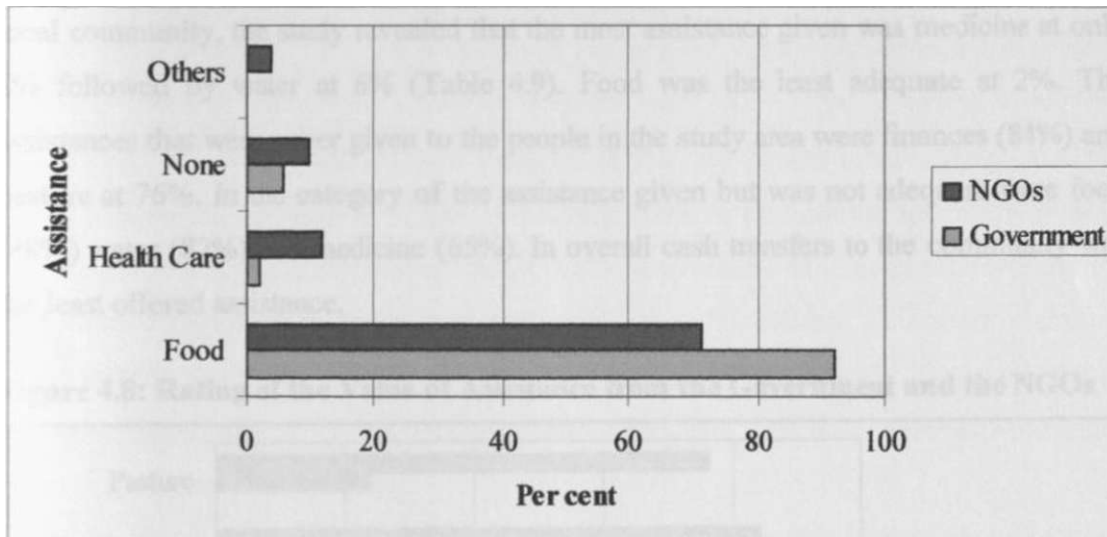
The assessment demonstrated that food aid distributed in the area sometimes was poorly targeted on impoverished drought-affected households. It was found that targeted nutrition programs were ineffective when compared to results obtained from other social protection measures such as health, and these had done little to address the underlying causes of famine. The harsh environmental conditions made it near impossible to recover

livelihoods lost because of conflict or drought impacts. Many were totally dependent on food aid for their survival and yet the general food ration did not meet food needs and lacked essential nutrients

#### 4.9 Nature of mitigation given during Famine

Food was the major assistance given by both the government and NGOs to the Wajir community during famine. This include foods like maize, rice, powder milk, beans, cooking oil cooking utensils tents and blankets (Table 4.8 below). Emergency food aid also included nutrition programs and school feeding schemes.

**Figure 4.7: Source and Type of Assistance Received by the Local People of Wajir Community**



Nongovernmental organizations were involved more in offering health care and conflict resolution and peace to Wajir people than the government. Results indicated that only two per cent of the respondents received health care from government institutions as compared to 12% in the case of NGOs. High levels of malnutrition and mortality in adults and children were reported attributed to a loss of livelihoods through drought /famine impacts and conflicts brought about by struggle for food relief. Therefore the private sector plays a leading role than the government in mitigating effects of famine.

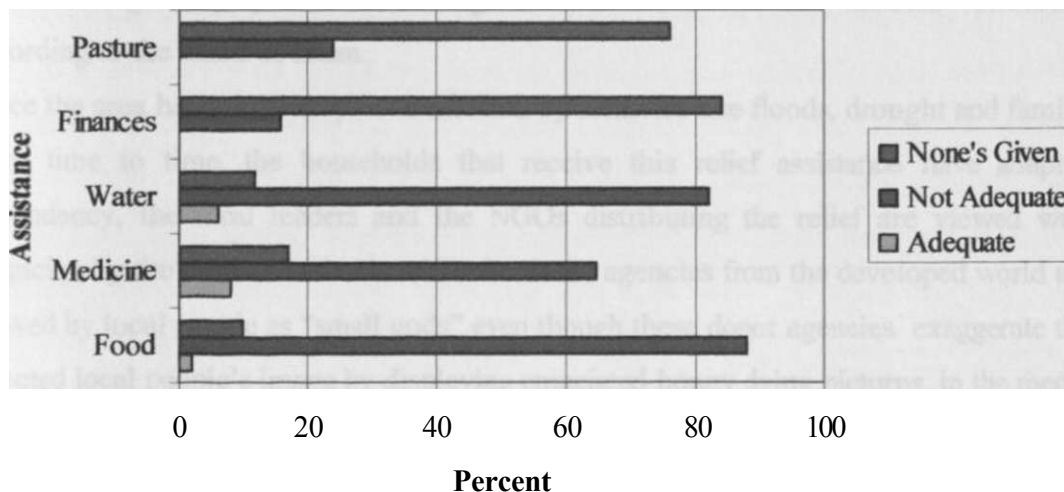


The government and NGOs responded to famine by distributing relief food to stricken communities. While nobody can dispute the benefits of doing this in emergency situations, widespread use of this response in drought management is highly counterproductive. Not only did relief food tend to keep the receiving communities in a state of absolute dependency, but also did not meet the food needs of the people as much as it came with a tremendous cost. Such costs could be used to put up sustainable interventions measures with long term impact on the community's socio-economic welfare such as sinking of boreholes which would provide sufficient water for crop, human and animal consumption.

#### 4.10 Local People's Perception of the Adequacy of Famine Relief

Regarding rating of the value of assistance from the government and the NGOs to the local community, the study revealed that the most assistance given was medicine at only 8% followed by water at 6% (Table 4.9). Food was the least adequate at 2%. The assistances that were never given to the people in the study area were finances (84%) and pasture at 76%. In the category of the assistance given but was not adequate were food (88%) water (82%) and medicine (65%). In overall cash transfers to the community was the least offered assistance.

**Figure 4.8: Rating of the Value of Assistance from the Government and the NGOs**



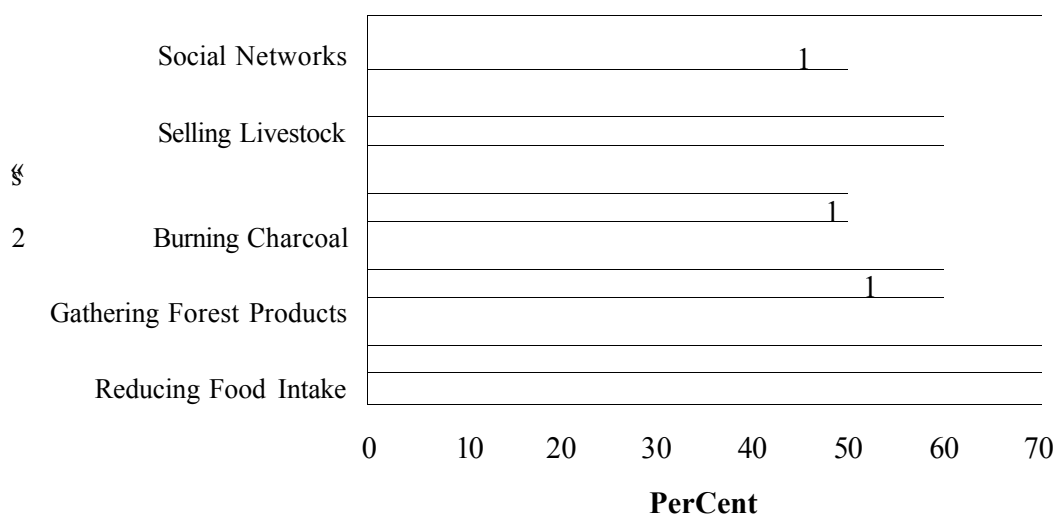
Indications at the ground revealed that the assistance given to the community by both the government and NGOs was in form of medicine, food and water for both human and animal use which was never enough and was unreliable because it was irregular and at times never reached the intended local people. Some of the food stuff donated was negatively viewed by the local people, they felt that some of it was unfit for human consumption and it was simply being dumped by donor agencies. Finance assistance was least provided and the few financial schemes started to provide funds to the local people were perceived as giving inadequate loans to the borrowers that do not meet their capital needs for building sustainable enterprises resulting to pushing them further into debt hence dependency. Therefore the study established that the Wajir local people were dissatisfied with the assistance given to them especially by the government because it comes late, is not enough and does not reach the affected local people. However, they preferred assistance by the NGOs because it reaches the vulnerable persons and goes far into the interior village for example organizations like Oxfam -dealing with food distribution and water tracking was rated to be the best by the local people. ALDEFs credit and saving schemes are perceived highly positive by both the individual woman borrower and the community/group borrowers as a scheme that has transformed the role that women play both in public and private life in Wajir district. This scheme charges 10% interest on borrowers to facilitate organizational overheads, this however is perceived negatively by the Muslim religious leaders who view it as "haramu"- forbidden according to the tenets of Islam.

Since the area has persistently been affected by disasters like floods, drought and famine from time to time, the households that receive this relief assistance have adapted dependency, the local leaders and the NGOs distributing the relief are viewed with suspicion by the local households while the donor agencies from the developed world are viewed by local people as "small gods" even though these donor agencies exaggerate the affected local people's image by displaying emaciated bonny dying pictures in the media in order to appeal for donations.

#### 4.11 Measures Employed in Managing Famine

Communities that live in Wajir possess a rich repertoire of responses against famine as reported by the respondents (Figure 4.10). These ranged from reducing food intake (65%) to gathering forest products (52%) such as fruits, firewood, medicine, and honey. Up to 48% of the respondents resulted to burning of charcoal which involved cutting down trees and thus contributing to increasing desertification. Selling assets such as livestock was reported by 52% of the respondents.

**Figure 4.9: Measures Employed in Managing Famine**



Social networks on the other hand were reported by 45% of the respondents as vital in managing famine. This long-term process entails socio-economic and institutional adjustments to sustain livelihoods in a changing environment that enabled the community to absorb significant amount of famine related shocks. These included donations and contributions from family members living out of Wajir area, cash donations by family members living abroad, backed by strong social networks of solidarity only with members of Somali origin and not with non -Somalis and friends. This was especially to purchase livestock for restocking to help households recover from famine and sometimes exchanging livestock reduce the risk of loss with relatives across boarder when drought struck. From the key informants it was reported that the famine crisis prevailing in Wajir district suggests that the community is now faced with a new set of challenges beyond

what they can cope with. Droughts famine periods are becoming more and more frequent, giving victims no time to recover.

Traditional knowledge passed down to generations indicated that the only way for these nomads to survive is to keep migrating, from borehole watering points to rivers, from one pasture to the next, living of the milk and meat of their livestock. Currently, there is little pasture, and many years without rain have erased the watering boreholes and turned rivers to dry sand, killing animals in thousands. Now, these communities are being forced to settle near the only permanent water sources available, where the precious resource is drawn from deep wells and boreholes and where more and more people struggle to share a dwindling supply.

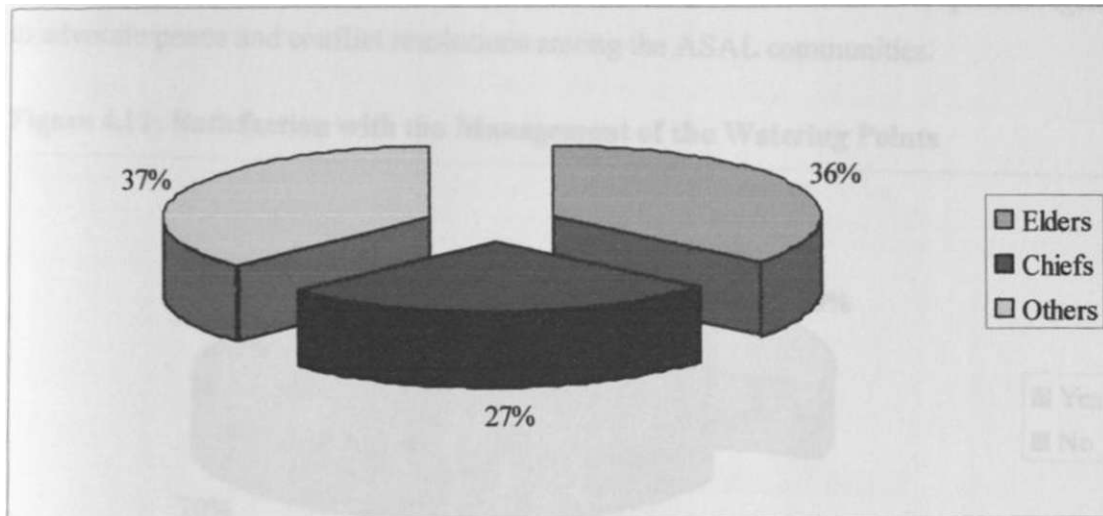
#### **4.12: Watering Points**

Several watering points exists in the study area and are valuable resources used by the community as water sources for domestic use or as watering points for livestock. According to the respondents the majority (58%) reported that the area has six watering points, 19% reported that the watering points were between six and ten. Whatever the case, it is clear that the area according to most respondents has a limited number of watering points. This means that in case of drought, the community has inadequate water resources to shield it from adverse effects.

#### **4.13: Management of Watering Points and conflicts that arise.**

The watering points are managed by a committee of elders elected by the local people. They have a chairman, secretary and a treasurer. The committees collect a fee from the users and from which they are paid a wage although some just work voluntarily. It must be noted that watering points are a major source of conflicts among the communities in Northern Kenya including Wajir district especially during dry seasons. These conflicts were reported to be sometimes serious leading to loss of life. It was thus interesting to observe that among the intervention measures by government and NGOs to curb famine, water and sinking of boreholes was minimal. However it has been argued that too many boreholes also lead to overgrazing which in itself intensifies famine in future.

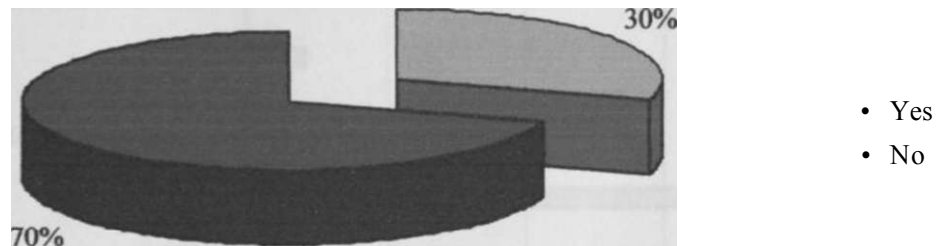
**Figure 4.10: Managers of Watering Points in the Location**



The study sought to understand the community's satisfaction with the manner the watering points were managed. It emerged that up to 70% of the respondents were not satisfied with the management of watering points while only 30% were satisfied. This was largely attributed to the control of access to the points by the management of the watering points which was sometimes perceived by the community as not fair. This sometimes resulted to fatal water resource based conflicts. In February this year (2009), the media aired clashes among the clans living in the northern part of Wajir district - Ajuran, Carre and Orgaden fighting over water and pasture. The clashes were worsened when the neighboring Somali-Oromo tribe from across the boarder took advantage of the situation and crossed over stole livestock and killed the natives. This necessitated the Government of Kenya to send its security personnel to quell the clashes, instead they rained havoc on the local people of Wajir killing and injuring many. Pasture conditions and access to water has deteriorated as a result of the drought. In the past six months conflicts have broken out as clans compete for grazing and watering rights. Many pastoralists have lost their livestock and property through raids and have been forced to migrate to town centres that are more secure. Those engaging in agriculture have been forced to abandon their farms. From the key informants, it was clear that resource based conflict resolution was a major undertaking by the elders in the study area. Such long

term conflicts have led to formation of NGOs like Wajir Peace and Development Agency to advocate peace and conflict resolutions among the ASAL communities.

**Figure 4.11: Satisfaction with the Management of the Watering Points**



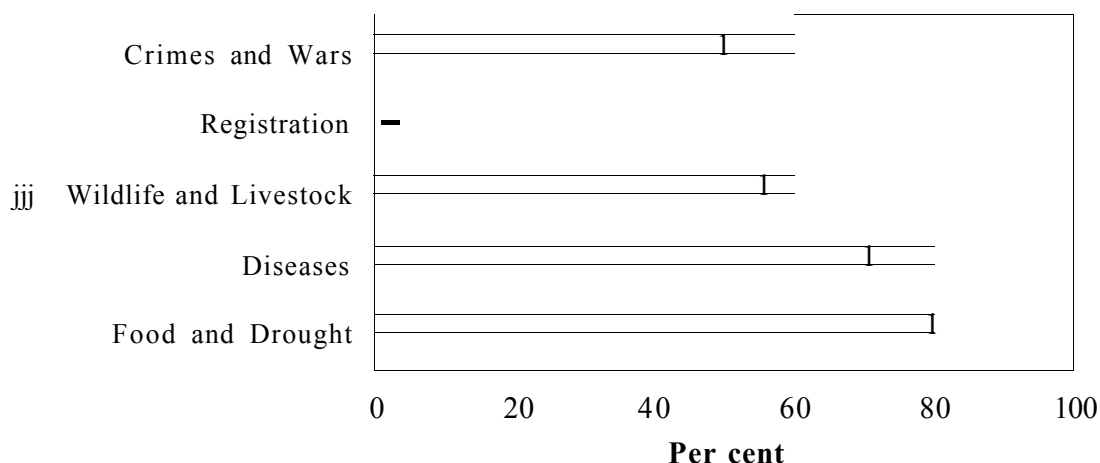
There was a desperate call by the respondents to the government and other development agencies like NGOs to sink more boreholes to increase access to water and to scoop dams to retain water during rainy seasons to be used during dry seasons. Others included increasing provision of relief food and establishment of peace committees to aid in conflicts resolutions.

#### **4.14: Impact of famine in the Community.**

The study also sought to understand the problems encountered by the people of Wajir. These are presented in figure 4.15. It emerged that with increase in population in the areas a higher number of people are being exposed to climatic risks especially with regards to food shortage and droughts (79%). Diseases especially those associated with poor nutrition and sanitation were reported by 70% of the respondents as a problem. Human wildlife conflicts and livestock problems were reported by 55% of the respondents as a problem. Increased competition for scarce resources exacerbated environmental degradation, which in turn increased the communities' vulnerability to drought. The intertribal conflicts as reported by 49% of the respondents were becoming more violent due to the proliferation of small arms in the region and to the Kenyan government's failure to provide security for its ASAL citizens. This implies that the

community is now faced with new challenges of mitigating conflict during famine period which may not have been there before the 1990's.

**Figure 4.12: Problems Faced by the Community in the Study Area**



All these problems faced by the communities in Wajir contributes to famine and underlines the importance of integrated approach in addressing the root causes of poverty, through rural economic growth, as the key to preventing famine. Such growth necessitates peace, popular participation in government, and a targeted set of policy and investment priorities. For the longer term, emphasis should be on promotion of diverse income generating activities, agricultural growth through technological change and commercialization, employment creation upgrading of rural infrastructure, halting natural-resource degradation, and improving health and human resources.

Though providing ASALs with basic Infrastructure such as roads, water, and health amenities is paramount as a humanitarian cause and a matter of equity and justice, more comprehensive steps are required to curb persistent famine in the areas. There is need for measures to be taken to eradicate famine and malnutrition in dry lands like Wajir district which is a possible achievable goal. The country needs to step up its efforts to make the economy of the ASAL people of Wajir district more 'climate-proof through diversification of investment and use of technology. Bold steps are necessary to reduce

the marginalization of the ASALS and incorporate them into mainstream social and economic systems. Empowering communities is important so as to enhance their adaptive capacity as the only sustainable way to help them face drought and famine. Policies should be informed by effective science which takes into account, traditional knowledge. Wajir people feel neglected and marginalized by the main stream government on policies concerning them.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the reasons behind the recurrence of famine in Wajir district between the years 2002-2006 despite the governments and nongovernmental interventions. The study adopted a descriptive survey design and data was largely descriptive by nature.

Results indicated that 40% of the families had 6 to 10 members while 28% had 1 to 5 members. About quarter of the families (26%) had 4 to 5 members. The average family size was eight members. The study also revealed that up to 48% of respondents were employed or self employed while the others 52% were not. With regards to the form of employment the study indicated that up to 54% of the respondents were self employment while 46% were in formal employment. The number of family members engaged in economic activities was an important factor that determined the persistent of famine in the area. The study indicated that up to 82% of the families whose respondents were employed, less that 5 of the family members were employed. Combination of income generating activities as practiced by 46% of the respondent's was seen as important diversification strategy to shield the community from the impacts of famine.

Food was the major assistance given by both the government and NGOs to the Wajir community during famine. This was reported by 92% and 71% for both the government and the NGOs respectively. With regards to rating of the value of assistance from the government and the NGOs to the local community, the study revealed that the assistance given was medicine at only 8% followed by water at 6% and Finances at 0%.The local people felt that the assistance given was inadequate. Communities that live in Wajir possessed a rich repertoire of responses against famine as reported by the respondents. These ranged from reducing food intake (65%) to gathering forest products (52%) such as fruits, firewood, medicine, and honey. The study sought to understand the community's satisfaction with the manner the watering points were managed. It emerged

that up to 70% of the respondents were not satisfied with the management of watering points while only 30% were satisfied.

Regarding the frequency of droughts, the majority of respondents (52%) indicated that droughts were occurring twice a year. Up to 38% of the respondents reported that they were occurring once per year. The study also sought to understand the problems encountered by the people of Wajir. It emerged that with increase in population in the areas a higher number of people were being exposed to climatic risks especially with regards to food shortage and droughts (79%). Diseases especially those associated with poor nutrition and sanitation were reported by 70% of the respondents as a problem.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

The study underlines the fact that famine has become a persistent problem in Wajir and that the assistance given by government and the NGOs to the local community is inadequate and does not combat the root causes of poverty. The study also indicated the need for rural economic growth, as the key to preventing famine. However, such growth necessitates peace, popular participation in government, and a set of policy and investment priorities. In the short-term these policies should include the institutionalization and legislation for an emergency code and stabilization of food entitlements in famine prone areas, through transfers and decentralized stocking. For the longer term, emphasis should be on promotion of agricultural growth through technological change and commercialization, employment creation, upgrading of rural infrastructure, halting of natural-resource degradation, and improving health and human resources.

Household vulnerability to famine increased during frequent droughts through progressive depletion of food stocks and capital assets. The worst recent droughts were reported to be a culmination of at least two years of poor rainfall. Household responses to famine can include risk minimization, income diversification, risk absorption, involving

the sale of livestock and nonproductive assets, a search for new sources of income reduced consumption, and use of social networks created through socialization.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Famine vulnerability can ultimately only be redressed through socio-economic development. This requires support for policies that directly or indirectly raises the incomes of poor households and diversifies or stabilizes their food sources in order to reduce food security risks. Employment creation programs are examples of direct measures to mitigate this form of vulnerability. Indirect measures include education to improve the prospects for the community to find non farm employment, thus reducing the dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

- i) Famine vulnerability is best tackled through institution-building and strengthening the ability of government to design and implement sound, pro-poor policies.
- ii) The government needs to step up its efforts to make its economy more 'climate-proof through diversification. This will empower communities to enhance their adaptive capacity as an only sustainable way to help them face drought and famine.
- iii) The Government of Kenya to take bold steps to reduce marginalization of the dry lands and incorporate them into mainstream social and economic systems. This will involve providing ASALs with basic infrastructure such as roads, water, education and health amenities. This is both a humanitarian cause and a matter of equity and justice
- iv) There is a need to establish vibrant livestock market and slaughter houses in the district where pastoralists can easily sell their livestock to avoid losses by the government.

- v) The Kenyan government and its development partners to emphasize real development instead of pursuing relief.

## REFERENCES

- Amartya Sen (1982). Wider: Research For Action. World Institute for Development Economic Research. United Nations University.
- Awuondo C.O (1987): Human Response to Drought and Famine. PhD. Thesis
- Asembo, (2003), Mwiria and Wamahu( 1995). Influence of the Novel. "The River and the Source on Secondary Schools Girls Learning Science in Kenya" Kenyatta University: unpublished M.Ed Thesis
- Bankoff, G. Frerks, D.Hilhost (2004:10). Vulnerability-Disaster, Development\_People, Pub.Earth Scan. U.K & USA
- Best J.W. and Khan J.V (2000). Research Methods in Education^ Edition New Delhi Prentice - Hall. India
- Bhatia B. M. (1985). Famine in India: A Study in Some Aspects of the Economic History with Special Reference to Food Problem.Konark Private Printers. Delhi.
- Borg W.G. and Goal M.D. (1996) Educational Research 6<sup>th</sup> Edition New York. Longman
- Chambers K. and J.Pacey (1998). Microeconomic To Macroeconomic Changes, P76 Newyork.F Ree Press.
- Cowries A.P. (1989). Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford University Press. U.K
- Dessalegh Rahmato (1991). Famine and Survival Strategies .AB, Uddevalla.
- Edward E. and John S. (1987) Poverty Development and Food. Essays in honor of H.W Singer on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Macmillan press. London
- George R. (1996). Sociology Theory. Macgraw Hill Companies 4th Edition
- GOK (1967) Social Welfare and Its Role on Development in Kenya. A Report on Social Welfare Held Under The Auspices of Kenya National Council of Social Services At The University College, From 4<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> September Government Printers. Nairobi
- GOK (2002) Wajir District Development Plan Report (2003-2008).Government Printer. Nairobi Kenya
- [Http://En.Wikipedia.Org./Wiki.20Q6](http://En.Wikipedia.Org./Wiki.20Q6)

- John F. Schultz (2001). Unforgettable Face of Famine. Hunger. President of The Christen Children's Fund.
- Julian Prior (1994). Pastoral Development Planning. Pub. Oxfam.U.K.
- Mugenda O.M and Mugenda A.G (1999) Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches. Acts press. Nairobi, Kenya
- Mwiria K. and Wamahu S.P. (1998) Issues in Education Research in Africa. Nairobi. E.A.E.P
- Neil Middleton and Phil O'keefe (1998). Disaster and Development: The Politics of Humanitarian Aid. Pluto Press. London
- Omosa K. Eileen (2005). The Impact of Water Conflicts On Pastoral Livelihoods. A Case Study of Wajir District in Kenya. A Research Paper.
- Oxfam, (2005) Kenya Crisis Household Economy Survey: Pastoralists Special Initiative Project: Oxfam Internal Report.
- P. Webb, J. Brown and Y. Yohaness (1992:11) Famine in Ethiopia: Implications of Coping, Failure at National and Household Levels. Washington D.C Research Report
- Plant Mathew (2006) Africa's Hunger Systematic Crisis .London: Pine Forge Press.
- Regional and Seasonal Food Problems in Kenya. A Report No. 10/1985. Food and Nutrition Planning Unit. Ministry of Finance and Planning. Nairobi. Kenya.
- Republic Of Kenya (2004) Kenya National Disaster Management Policy Report
- Robert Geipel (1988). Long Term Consequences Of Disasters: The Reconstruction Of Friuli, Italy In Its International Context (1976-1988) Newyork.U.S.A.
- Rockefeller Foundation (1967). Strategy for the Conquest of Hunger: Proceedings of a Symposium Convened By Rockefeller Foundation April 1967. Rockefeller University. Rockefeller Pub. Foundation. New Delhi.
- Singleton R.A (1993) Approaches to Social Research. New York: Oxford University press
- Shamalla M (1996) Food Security and Storage Strategies. PhD. Thesis.

Susan M. Hoffman and Anthony Oliver Smith (2001) Catastrophe and Culture. School of America Research Press. Oxford.

Tannehil Francis (1974:12). Famine and Drought London: Oxford University Press

Wajir District Development Plan Report (2002- 2008) Government Printer. Nairobi.

Wiersma W. (1996) Research Methods in Education: An introduction. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

UNICEF (2005). MUAC Surveys by Merlin and MSF

Wijkman and L.Timberlake (1985:6) Natural Disasters - Acts Of God Acts Of Man, London & Washington D.C

Wilhite and Easterling (1987). Natural Hazards. Toronto: Mcgraw Hill Inc.

## APPENDICES

### **Appendix I: Interview Schedule to the Key Informants**

1. What is the name of the organization you work for in Wajir district?
2. What position do you hold in the organization/ the Government department you work within the district?
3. How long have you held this position?
4. In which division/location is your organization working in Wajir District?
5. What age group/s of the local people of Wajir district do you work with?
6. What famine related challenges do the Local people of Wajir district face in the area you are working in?
7. How do the local people of Wajir district deal with these famine related challenges stated above?
8. How does your organization try to reduce famine in the area you are working in Wajir district?
9. How would you rate the effectiveness of your organizations input towards reducing famine in wajir district?
10. How do the local people in Wajir district perceive your organizations input towards famine reduction?



## Appendix 2: Questionnaire to the Respondents

Tick in the bracket or fill in the blank spaces where appropriate

- 1) Gender
- 2) Age  
20-30 ( ) 31-40( ) 41-50 ( ) above 50 ( ) years
- 3) Who is the head of your family? Father ( ) mother ( ) any other (specify)
- 4) What is the total number of the members in your family?
- 5) Are you employed?  
Yes ( ) No ( )
- 6) State the form of employment?  
Formal ( ) Self employment ( )
- 7) How many members in your family are employed?
- 8) What other economic activities does your family engage in?  
Crop farming ( )  
Livestock keeping ( )  
Shop keeping ( )  
Sand harvesting ( )  
Cloth hawking ( )  
Others specify
- 9) State two reasons why your family engages in income generating activities?
  
- 10) How frequent does famine occur in your district?  
Once a year ( )  
Twice a year ( )  
Once in two years ( )  
Once in five years ( )  
Others specify
- 11) State two ways of how your family copes with famine related challenges?

12) What limitations do the people of wajir district encounter when coping with famine related problems at family level?

13) State two ways on how famine related problems affect development in Wajir district

14(a) How many watering points are their in your location?

15) Who manages the watering points in your location?

(16 a)Are you satisfied with the management of the watering points of your location?

Yes ( ) No ( )

b) Briefly explain your answer

17) Apart from water, state four other problems encountered by the local communities in Wajir district during famine period

18) State two ways through which people of wajir district promote peace and good neighborliness with the neighboring community.

19) During famine time, what assistance do Wajir people receive from?

a). The Government

b). Non governmental organizations

20) Using the table given below, show by putting a tick in the appropriate box how the people of Wajir District value the assistance given to them by the Government and Non-governmental organization.

Type of assistance	Rate of appreciation		
	Adequate	Not adequate	None given at all
Food			
Medicine			
Water			
Financial assistance			
Pasture			