

About the Project

“Our County – Our Responsibility” aims at building the capacity of the staff in community radio stations to enable them to contribute towards ensuring that responsible citizens actively participate in the democratic process and demand transparency and a voice in the planning and implementation of development policy goals. The direct target group of the project is about 200 programme staff in 14 community radio stations and theatre groups located in eight counties: Nairobi, Samburu, Homa Bay, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Isiolo, Kajiado and Wajir. The indirect target group is the potential audience of around 2.2 million people.

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Wajir Community Radio



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Community Media Mobilising for Accountability in Kenya WAJIR COUNTY (034)



COUNTY PROFILE

Wajir County is located in the North Eastern region of Kenya and covers an area of 56,685.9 km². The county borders Somalia to the East, Ethiopia to the North, Mandera County to the Northeast, Isiolo County to the South West, Marsabit County to the West and Garissa County to the South. The county comprises of six sub-counties namely Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir West, Eldas, Wajir North, and Wajir South. The county has a total of 28km of tarmac roads, 440 km gravelled roads, out of 5,280 km road network. The rest of the roads are earthen and unclassified. Twenty-eight km of Wajir Town roads were tarmacked which has led to improved environment for business and transport within the town.

According to the Kenya 2019 Population and Housing census, indicate that the county has a total population of 781,263. Males 415,374(53.2%), Female 365,840(46.8%) and Intersex 49(0.01%). The entire county is categorized as trust land apart from a small percentage of the total area occupied by townships. The mean land holding size for the county is 7.8 ha. Majority of the people practice nomadic pastoralism where large portion of the land is used as grazing zones. However, few farmers are practicing small-scale rain fed and irrigated farming. The Agricultural

and Livestock Sector comprises crop production, livestock development, veterinary services, fisheries and alternative livelihoods, and irrigation development. In the agricultural sector, the area under irrigation increased from 100 acres in 2013 to 1500 acres in 2017. The main crops produced include sorghum, drought tolerant maize, beans, melons, cowpeas, green grams and horticultural crops like mangoes, citrus, kales, spinach, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers which are undertaken in small scale. While the main types of livestock are cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys, in addition poultry keeping is more pronounced in Wajir Town.

Wajir County has potential for oil and gas and several companies have been engaged on exploration of the mineral. The other minerals within the county include limestone and sand. Limestone rocks and quarrying are the major on-going activities and oil prospecting in the North East part along the Somalia border as well as oil exploitation on the eastern part of the county. The county has abundant limestone deposits for cement production. At present, traditional methods are used to break down limestone into whitewash which is used as a substitute for cement which has led to near extinction of the Lebi tree and substantially reducing the tree cover. (Source: Wajir County CIDP, 2018 - 2022)

Wajir County Budget Breakdown as Per the County CIDP 2018 – 2022



Development Priorities that are Important to the Citizens

1. Health

There is need for the county government to channel more funds in the health sector about staffing and equipping health facilities and purchase ambulances for emergency evacuations. The hospitals and roads infrastructure in the county should be improved to make health care accessible, which would go a long way in increasing the number of hospital deliveries and survival of children. The county has 10 level IV hospitals, 26 level III health centres, 46 level II health centres, 79 dispensaries, and 24 clinics. It is approximated that 95.9 percent of the population has to cover more than 5 km to access a health facility and only 4.1 percent access a health facility within less than 1km. The doctor/patient ratio is 1: 123,694.



operation in order to manage effectively the available water sources.



2. Education

Given the low enrolment rate in learning institutions and gender imbalance, there is need for improvement of the enrolment rate and gender balance in the county and retention of girl child in school. The county has nine youth polytechnics out of which only five are operational (Wajir, Habaswein, Khorof Harar, Tarbaj, and Griftu polytechnics). The total enrolment stands at 197 with 69 being male and 128 female. There are 264 ECDE centres and the teacher/pupil ratio is 1:25 and transition rate of 90 per cent.

3. Water

There are no permanent surface water sources as most of the water sources are subsurface including boreholes, shallow wells and pans. About 2,000 households in the county have roof catchment representing 2 per cent of the total households. The average distance to the nearest water point is around 20 Km. Wajir water and sewerage Company (WAJWASCO) manages 30 boreholes and are managed and serviced by the county's Department of Water. At the community level, water users' associations manage the day to day operations of boreholes. There is need for the company to upscale its

4. Sanitation

The county has no sewerage system and mainly relies on septic tanks, bucket latrines, pit latrines, and VIP Latrines in some towns and institutions. Latrine coverage is low at approximately 30 Per cent. There has been outbreaks of public health related emergencies in the county e.g. cholera because of high e-coli levels partly attributed to water contamination. There is need to improve on the sanitation facilities to alleviate the negative effects it poses on the environment given that most parts have poor drainage and experience floods during rainy seasons.

5. Agriculture: Crop, Livestock, Fish Production and Value addition

Agriculture is practiced in depressions and along drainage lines where there is more moisture due to seasonal flooding. The acreage under food crops is approximately 3,120 ha with the total arable land being 4,242.52km². Due to the aridity of the county, food production is limited and contributes little to food security and agricultural activities are undertaken in small scale.

