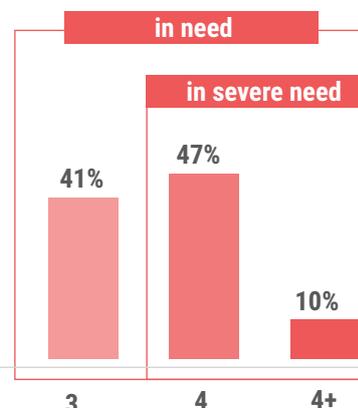
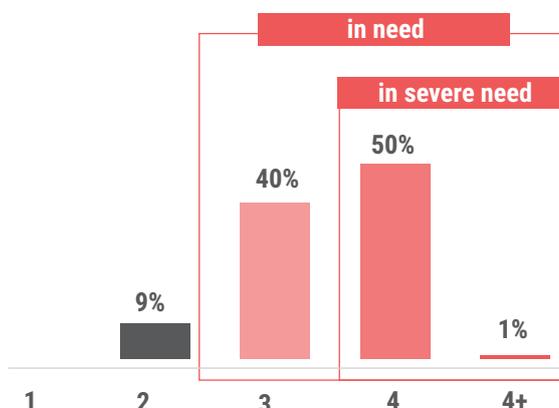


## HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS ARE IN NEED?

Percentage of households in need, per severity phase<sup>1</sup>

Host communities and affected populations

Refugees



**51%** of host community and affected population<sup>6</sup> households were in **severe need**, meaning they faced multiple, overlapping deprivations across essential sectors.<sup>1</sup>

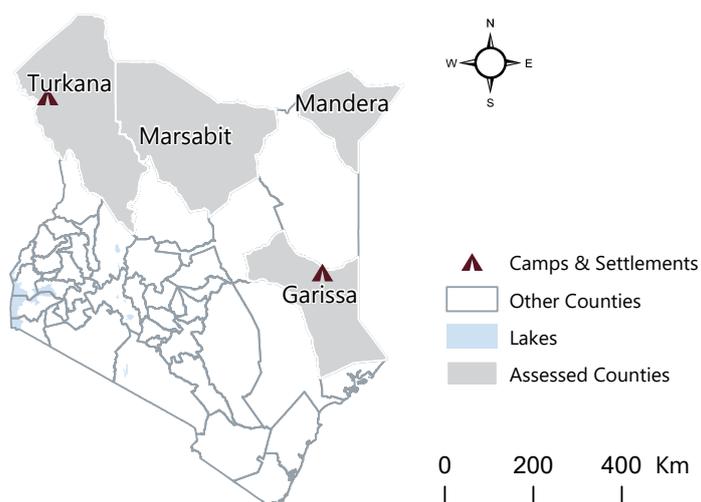
**57%** of refugee households were in **severe need**, meaning they faced multiple, overlapping deprivations across four or more essential sectors.<sup>1</sup>

## KEY MESSAGES

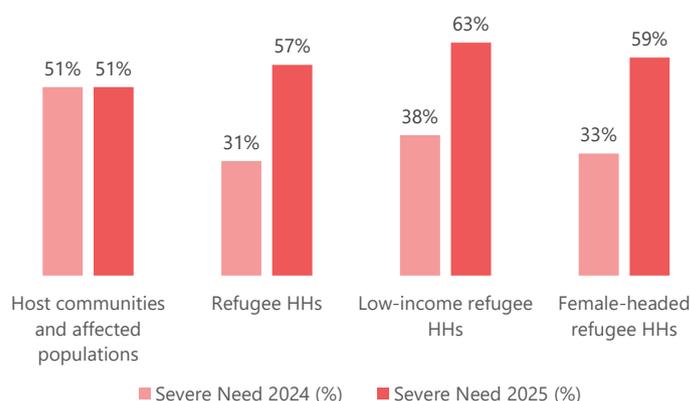
- The majority of households were in need in 2025, with 99% of refugee households and 91% of host and affected households reporting at least one unmet need. Severe need was particularly high among refugees (57%) and remained substantial among host and affected populations (51%), reflecting persistent pressures across both refugee camps and arid counties, where reduced support, recurrent shocks, and longstanding service gaps continue to shape humanitarian vulnerability.
- Low-income and female-headed households consistently recorded the highest levels of severe need. Gender gaps were significantly larger in host and affected populations, where vulnerability is driven by household-level economic constraints, compared to camps, where structured and evenly delivered humanitarian services reduce disparities.
- WASH, shelter, protection and food security remain the strongest drivers of need across both refugee and host and affected households, with widespread gaps in safe water, adequate sanitation, and basic living conditions contributing to layered and persistent vulnerability.

*Note - The Multi-Sectoral Needs Index (MSNI) summarises the results of the MSNA assessment into a digestible index, aggregating information from the six underlying sectors corresponding to the humanitarian coordination. For more details on the MSNI, check out the methodology note [here](#). For more detailed findings, check out our other outputs [here](#).*

## Assessment Coverage

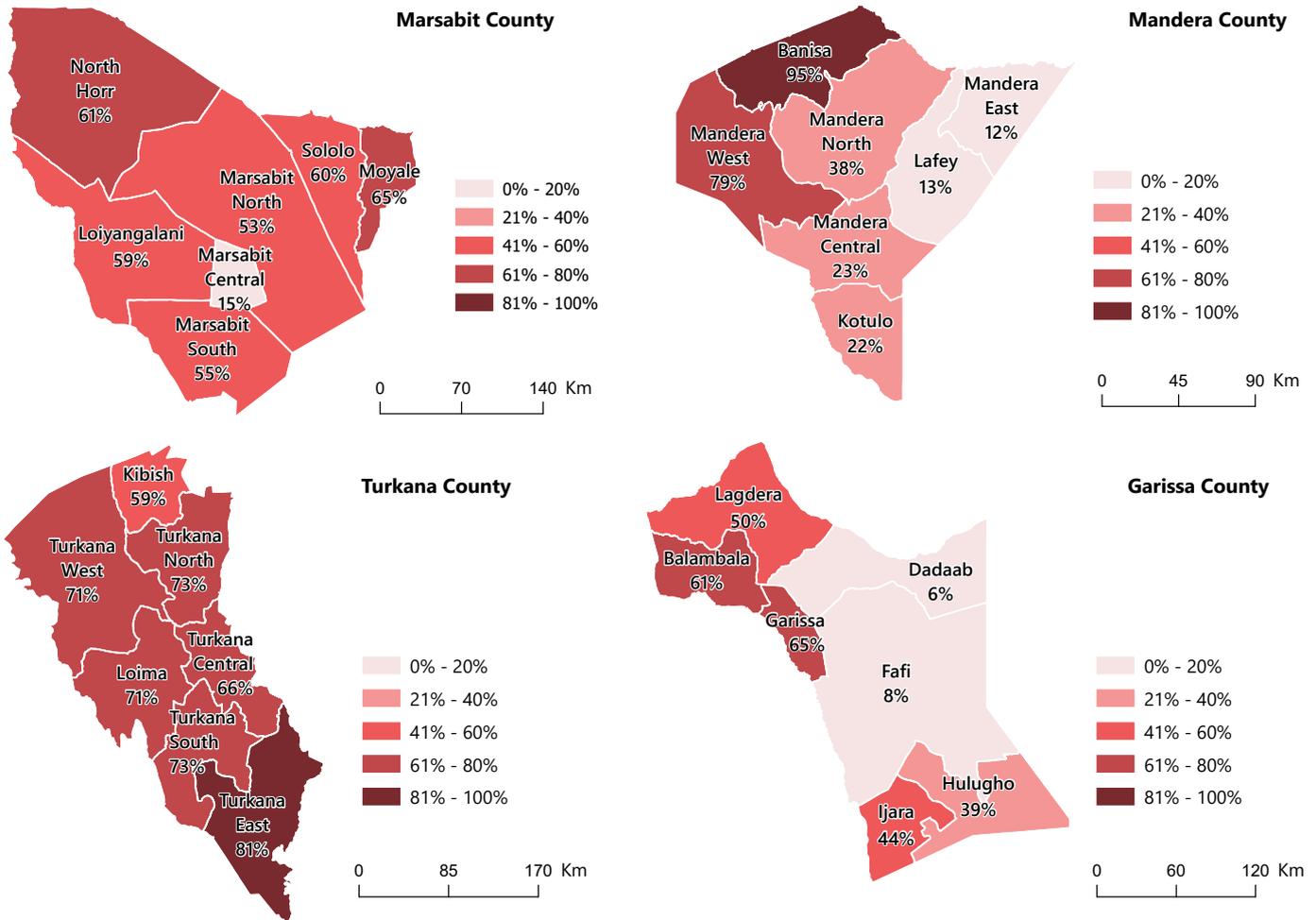


## Households in severe need: Notable changes between 2024<sup>5</sup> and 2025

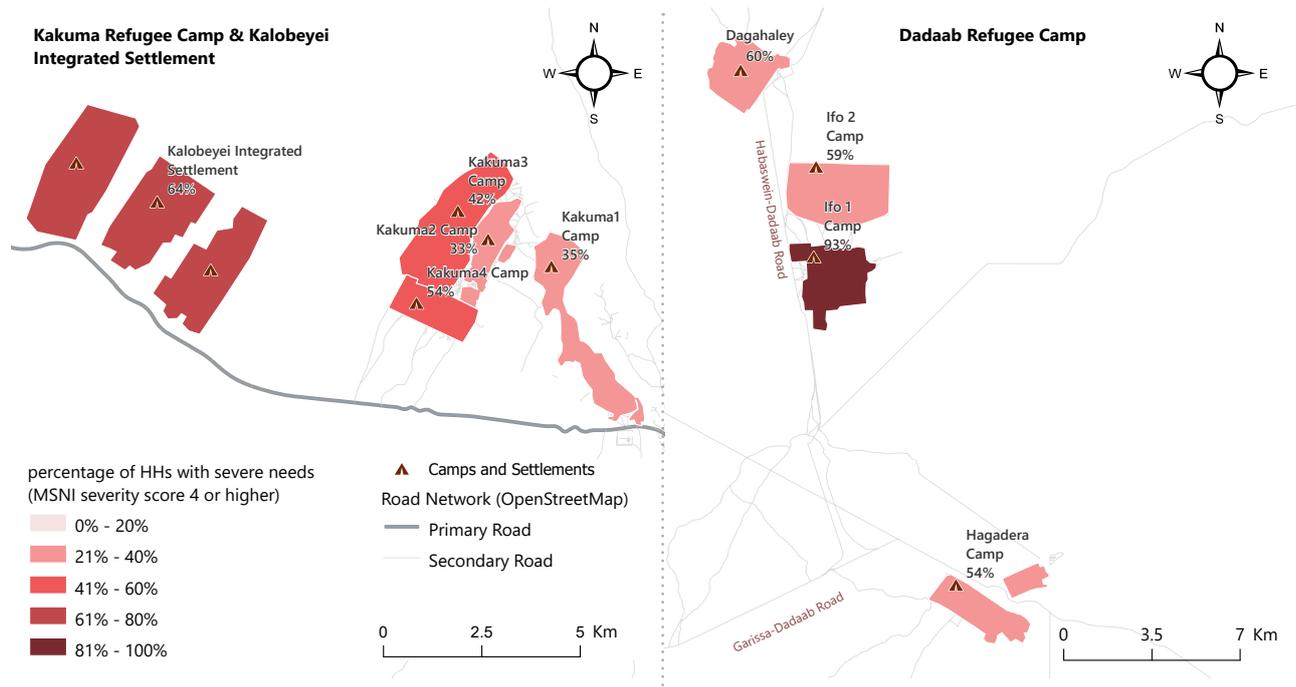


### HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS ARE IN NEED?

Percentage of host community and affected populations in severe need, per geographical area<sup>1</sup>



### Percentage of refugee community households in severe need, per geographical area<sup>1</sup>



## WHAT ARE THE NEEDS?

### Percentage of households in need per sector

| Sector   | Host and affected populations | Refugees |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|
|  WASH          | 60%                           | 92%      |
|  Shelter       | 40%                           | 68%      |
|  Protection    | 29%                           | 54%      |
|  Food Security | 45%                           | 39%      |
|  Education     | 38%                           | 38%      |
|  Health        | 14%                           | 14%      |

On average, refugee households were in need across **3.1** sectors, compared to **2.5** sectors among host and affected population, indicating a higher multi-sector burden among refugee populations, WASH, and protection were the most common co-occurring needs among refugee households (12%), while WASH and food security were most common co-occurring needs among host and affected community households (7%).

## KEY SECTORAL DRIVERS OF NEED

Households in both the host and refugee communities reported the highest needs in WASH, affecting 92% of refugee and 60% of host and affected population HHs. Shelter needs were also high (67% and 40%, respectively), while protection needs were greater among refugees (54%) than host and affected populations (29%), reflecting higher vulnerability among displaced households.

**1 WASH** needs in host and affected population households were driven by lack of sanitation facilities or open defecation (26%), use of unimproved sanitation (21%), and reliance on unimproved water sources (18%). In refugee households, the main drivers were inadequate access to drinking water (38%), use of unimproved sanitation facilities (26%), and the absence of hand-washing facilities (69%).

**2 Shelter** needs were closely linked to housing conditions, with 49% of refugee households and 20% of host and affected population households living in inadequate shelters or reporting multiple shelter issues.

**3 Protection** needs among refugee households were driven by discrimination, kidnapping risks, and displacement-related concerns, while fewer protection issues were reported among host and affected populations.

## WHO IS IN NEED?

### Percentage of households per group/administrative area and severity phase<sup>1</sup>

|               |           | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4   | 4+  |
|---------------|-----------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Counties      | Turkana   | 0% | 2%  | 27% | 70% | 1%  |
|               | Mandera   | 0% | 3%  | 49% | 47% | 1%  |
|               | Garissa   | 0% | 16% | 52% | 32% | 1%  |
|               | Marsabit  | 1% | 18% | 33% | 48% | 0%  |
| Refugee camps | Dadaab    | 0% | 0%  | 34% | 53% | 12% |
|               | Kakuma    | 0% | 2%  | 56% | 35% | 6%  |
|               | Kalobeyei | 0% | 4%  | 33% | 49% | 14% |

Refugee households reported slightly higher severe needs (57%) than host and affected populations (51%). The highest levels were observed in Ifo Camp 1, Dadaab (93%), followed by Kalobeyei (63%), Ifo 2, Dadaab (59%), and Dagahaley, Dadaab (60%).

Among host and affected populations, severe needs were highest in Banisa, Mandera (95%), Mandera West (79%), Turkana East (81%), Turkana South (78%), and Moyale, Marsabit (65%), underscoring persistent severe needs across arid counties.

### Percentage of households per household characteristics and severity phase<sup>1</sup>

|               |                                | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4   | 4+  |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Counties      | Female head of household (HoH) | 0% | 7%  | 35% | 57% | 0%  |
|               | Low-income HH <sup>2</sup>     | 0% | 4%  | 38% | 58% | 0%  |
|               | Older HoH                      | 0% | 10% | 46% | 44% | 0%  |
|               | Male HoH                       | 0% | 10% | 43% | 46% | 1%  |
|               | High-income HH <sup>2</sup>    | 0% | 13% | 47% | 40% | 1%  |
| Refugee camps | Male HoH                       | 0% | 0%  | 44% | 42% | 14% |
|               | High-income HH <sup>2</sup>    | 0% | 1%  | 37% | 51% | 11% |
|               | Female HoH                     | 0% | 2%  | 39% | 51% | 8%  |
|               | Low-income HH <sup>2</sup>     | 0% | 2%  | 35% | 46% | 17% |
|               | Older HoH                      | 0% | 0%  | 28% | 49% | 23% |

Low-income households and those headed by women experienced relatively high levels of severe needs in both population groups.

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

### Host communities and affected populations

**88%** of households **did not** receive any type of humanitarian assistance in the 12 months preceding the assessment, including **50%** of households in **severe need**.

**Last time households received any aid, among the 22% of host and affected population households that received aid**



#### Top 3 - self-reported challenges (host and affected population)<sup>4</sup>



#### Top 3 - preferred humanitarian assistance (host and affected population)<sup>4</sup>



The MSNI identified WASH, shelter and protection as the top sectors of severe need among both refugee and host households (92%, 67%, and 54%, respectively). However, households most frequently self-reported food as their top priority (71% of refugees, 60% of host and affected population), followed by safe drinking water. This shows partial alignment, as WASH ranked highly in both MSNI and self-reports, while protection and shelter, despite high severity, were less often prioritized. The gap reflects how households may emphasize immediate needs such as food and water over less visible but critical issues like protection or shelter, underscoring the importance of integrated, multi-sectoral responses.

### Refugee communities

**26%** of households **did not** receive any type of humanitarian assistance in the 12 months preceding the assessment, including **56%** of households in **severe need**.

**Last time households received any aid, among the 74% of refugee households that received aid**



#### Top 3 - self-reported challenges (refugees)<sup>4</sup>



#### Top 3 - preferred humanitarian assistance (refugees)<sup>4</sup>



## METHODOLOGY

The 2025 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) used a quantitative, face-to-face household survey covering Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, and Turkana counties, including refugee populations in Dadaab, Kakuma, and the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. Stratified simple random sampling was applied at a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error, ensuring representativeness by county, sub-county, and population group.

A total of 3,765 households were surveyed (2,864 host and affected populations and 901 refugee), with sampling based on KNBS (2019) and UNHCR (April 2025) data. Data collection took place over two weeks in June 2025 using KOBO Collect, supported by trained enumerators and daily field supervision. For further details on the methodology, please find linked the [ToR](#).

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### THE MSNA WAS FUNDED BY:



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### WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The different levels of severity can be broadly defined as follows:

- Severity level 1: Living standards are acceptable, at a maximum showing some signs of deterioration and/or inadequate access to basic services. No or minimal (risk of) impact on physical or mental well-being.
- Severity level 2: Living standards are under stress. Minimal (risk of) impact on physical or mental well-being or stressed physical or mental well-being overall.
- Severity level 3: Degrading living standards, with reduced access to/availability of basic goods and services. (Risk of) degrading physical or mental well-being.
- Severity level 4: Collapse of living standards. (Risk of) significant harm to physical or mental well-being.
- Severity level 4+: Indications of total collapse of living standards, with potentially immediately life-threatening outcomes (increased risk of mortality and/or irreversible harm to physical or mental well-being)

Further details can be found in the methodological note.

<sup>2</sup> Low-income households are defined as those earning less than 20% of the median income, while high-income households are those earning more than 80% of the median income.

<sup>3</sup> Due to rounding up, percentages could exceed or be less than 100%.

<sup>4</sup> Respondents could select multiple answers.

<sup>5</sup> [2024 MSNI BULLETIN](#)

<sup>6</sup> The affected population category captures households in counties not hosting refugee households, such as Mandera and Marsabit.

**About REACH:** REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).