

## Kulaaley Village



Data collected for this village can be downloaded using this link in Excel format: <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0BxykXtTROSU2YjgtaGhUaC1VYTQ>

**Figure 1:** A mosaic of Google Map based satellite imagery of Kulaaley village with some landmarks, enclosures and roads digitised. The former were collected with a handheld GPS unit. The source data is scaled to 1:5000 which conforms to a cadastral scale and allows users to mark and identify features easily visible on the satellite image.

Founded in 1967, Kulaaley started similarly to Elado - by the discovery of water by two persons who dug a shallow well. The settlement was started with 16 households and was the only source of water in the region, other than the town of Wajir. This was a major attraction to the pastoralists operating nearby. Unlike Eladow, however, there are no pastoral drop-outs in Kulaaley. The village is largely comprised of the dominant clan of the region. Over the years, members of neighbouring clans have also joined the settlement.

Since its foundation, the residents of the region have faced a series of major disasters. These include droughts, floods, conflicts and disease. The major droughts were *Daun* in 1972 which claimed both human and livestock lives. *Maqarjit* in 1980 caused extensive loss of livestock. In 1984 *Afarmajir* drought resulted in drying up of all the shallow wells at Kulaaley and settlement had to be abandoned and moved to Leheley. This drought wiped out livestock and was followed by the El Niño floods in 1997-98 which caused widespread diseases in children and livestock. Many lives were lost. Among livestock, camels in particular were affected. However the floods also recharged the wells and the villagers returned to Kulaaley. Other disasters included a drought in 2005 and the most recent one from 2009 to 2011 named *Simana* which again caused water sources to dry out and widespread loss of livestock.. The 2011 rains broke the drought and recharged the aquifer. During this drought water was fetched from nearby villages.

One of the important coping strategies followed by pastoralists during these periods of stress was to migrated to other regions, as far as the coastal town of Kismayo in Somalia, about 360km away as the crow flies. These

**Table 1:** Approximate demographic composition of Kulaaley. The total number of houses in the village at the time of the survey was estimated at 430.

Breakup	Households
Men	16%
Women	24%
Children (5-15)	29%
Infants (<5)	18%
Elderly (>60)	12%

**Table 2:** Proportion of livestock at Kulaaley and months spent in grazing at local and non-local pastures.

Livestock	%	Grazing months	
		Local	Non-local
Sheep	20%	9	3
Goats	30%	9	3
Camels	5%	0	12
Cattle	15%	9	3
Donkeys	20%	12	0
Chicken	10%	12	0

long distance migrations allowed them to maintain a viable livestock number which would then grow back during periods of normalcy. The proportion of livestock and the number of months when the animals were grazed locally as opposed to pasture lands further from the village showed that other than camels, most livestock was kept close to the village for the bulk of the year. It remains to be found out whether this practice is an indication of seditarisation of the community and what has triggered this change in lifestyle.

The village is predominantly pastoralist and the community takes pride in their traditional occupation.

Most other occupations at the village are also directly dependent on natural resource extraction and exploitation. The quality and abundance of these resources varies with seasons. Pastoralism remains the mainstay of the economy and the major occupation across income groups. Other activities such as fuel-wood sales are largely coping strategies to help rebuild livestock numbers while quarrying and sand collection are usually not a commercial activity but to meet domestic requirements. Among the business not based on natural resources are sales of Quatt or Mira and small shops and restaurants which were established with help from various international funding agencies.

The wealth ranking exercise placed 80% of the village in the very poor and the remaining 20% in the reasonably well off category, respondents insisted that there were no rich persons in the village. The bulk of the infrastructure in the villages is community or government owned. This includes schools, health facilities, ponds and dams and markets. Wells, however, are entirely privately owned although access to them remains open to the community as a whole.

**Table 3:** *Percentage of incomes and persons engaged (employment) from major occupations at Kulaaley.*

Occupation	Income	Employment
Pastoralism	60%	70%
Quarrying	20%	10%
Mira Sales	30%	10%
Agriculture	20%	20%
Firewood Sales	40%	50%
Livestock Brokering	10%	10%
Shop keeping and hotels	20%	30%

**Table 4:** *Resources of Kulaaley village ranked by importance and number of users.*

Resource	Importance	Users
Pasturelands	15%	30%
Shallow wells	30%	35%
Quarry	0%	0%
Trees/forest	15%	5%
Farming	15%	10%
Dams	25%	15%
Wild animals	0%	0%
Sand	0%	5%

**Table 5:** *Ownership and maintenance of infrastructure.*

Infrastructure	Private	Community	Govt
School	0%	60%	40%
Open wells	100%	0%	0%
Ponds and Dams (Arahabis)	0%	100%	0%
Health facilities	0%	70%	30%
Mosque	0%	100%	0%
Market	0%	80%	20%
Road	0%	10%	90%

Seasonality plays an important role in the availability of resources and incidence of disease and stress in the households. However, in terms of occupations, the respondents felt that only pastoralism and agriculture were important from a seasonal perspective. The results are summarised in table .

Institutional analysis showed that government agencies were considered relatively more important than nongovernmental agencies, however the highest rank awarded was four out of five. Among the NGOs WASDA, a local agency supported by Save the Children ranked the highest with Save the Children itself sharing the same position as Mercy Corps (table 7).

**Table 6:** *Seasonality of resources and occupation.*

Item	Jiilaal (Jan- March)	Gu (April- June)	Xaaga (July- Sept)	Deyr (Oct- Dec)
Resource quality				
Pasturelands	10%	50%	20%	40%
Water resources	10%	40%	20%	30%
Forest resources	50%	20%	10%	20%
Livelihood				
Migratory grazing	10%	40%	10%	40%
Child diseases	10%	50%	10%	30%
Animal diseases	10%	20%	50%	20%
Malnutrition	20%	30%	40%	10%
Aid/Relief	40%	20%	10%	30%
Disaster				
Fire	60%	0%	40%	0%
Drought	70%	0%	30%	0%
Occupation				
Pastoralism	60%	10%	20%	10%
Agriculture	0%	50%	20%	30%

**Table 7:** *Institutional analysis ranking importance and accessibility of institutions with the highest grade being 5 and the lowest 1.*

Type	Institution	Importance	Access
Govt	Min of Education	3	4
	Provincial Admin	2	3
	Health	2	3
NGOs	WASDA	2	2
	Save the Children	1	1
	Mercy Corps	1	1