**SDG: Clean Water and Sanitation.**

**Problem Definition: Water Scarcity in Rural Kenya**

**The Problem:**

Rural communities in Kenya, particularly those in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), are facing a severe water crisis due to recurring droughts intensified by climate change. This scarcity has led to a humanitarian crisis, forcing families to migrate in search of essential resources like food, water, and pasture. The situation has also increased the risk of inter-communal conflict as communities compete for diminishing water supplies.

**Key Challenges:**

**Climate Change:** The region is experiencing more frequent and intense droughts, making it difficult for communities to rely solely on rainfall for their water needs.

**Depleting Resources:** Grazing fields are drying up, water pans are empty, and rivers are turning into footpaths, leading to a decline in both livestock and agricultural productivity.

**Displacement:** Thousands of families are being forced to leave their homes in search of water and pasture, putting further strain on limited resources.

**Conflict:** The competition for scarce resources has increased the risk of conflict between farming communities and pastoralists.

**Vulnerable Populations:** Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the water crisis, as they are often responsible for collecting water and are more likely to suffer from water-borne diseases.

**Impact:**

**Economic Loss:** The lack of water has severely impacted the livelihoods of rural communities, leading to decreased agricultural productivity, loss of livestock, and reduced income.

**Food Insecurity:** The scarcity of water has made it difficult for communities to grow crops and raise livestock, leading to food insecurity and malnutrition.

**Health Risks:** Water scarcity can lead to a variety of health problems, including water-borne diseases, malnutrition, and increased vulnerability to diseases.

**Social Disruption:** The displacement of families and the increased risk of conflict can disrupt social cohesion and stability.

**Conclusion:**

The water crisis in rural Kenya is a complex issue with far-reaching consequences. Addressing this problem requires a comprehensive approach that includes climate change mitigation, sustainable water management practices, and support for vulnerable communities.