

# Kenya: Drought Response

Situation Report No. 2 | 23 May 2017



## HIGHLIGHTS

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- The nutrition situation remains of concern across Kenya's northern pastoralist and southeastern marginal agricultural areas. Surveys conducted in January and February report a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of up to 30 per cent in three sub-counties. Outreach and screening activities continue across all affected areas and are identifying and admitting high numbers of acutely malnourished children.
- US\$30,726,395 is urgently required to fund blanket supplementary feeding (BSFP) for 452,324 children under five years and 100,934 pregnant and lactating women in counties where emergency rates of acute malnutrition persist. The next round of nutrition surveys will be conducted in June and July.
- Depressed rainfall is reported over most parts of the country, especially eastern areas during the March to May long rains season. Some parts of western Kenya will receive near normal rainfall. However the concern is that rainfall is unevenly distributed across the country and gives way to prolonged dry spells. The long rains assessment is scheduled for the end of June and may lead to a revision of the Kenya Flash Appeal.
- The lack of adequate funding is preventing partners from scaling up multi-sectorial interventions to assist communities severely affected by drought. Since its launch in March, the Flash Appeal has raised US\$44.5 million (27 per cent) against a total requirement of US\$165.7 million. The protection, education and early recovery sectors have received very limited to no funding.
- Food Security partners, in coordination with the Government, are delivering a combination of cash and in-kind interventions and emergency livelihoods support to rural areas.
- An estimated 175,655 people – including 139,000 children – are at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation, 122,655 of whom at risk of gender-based violence. Lifesaving child protection and GBV prevention, outreach and support services are urgently required.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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The onset of the March-May long rains was delayed and characterized by uneven geographical distribution and prolonged dry spells. Seasonal rainfall was depressed over most areas from March to April. This resulted in poor crop performance and even crop failure in some regions. In the pastoral areas of the Rift Valley and parts of northeastern Kenya, pasture for animals and water availability have deteriorated.

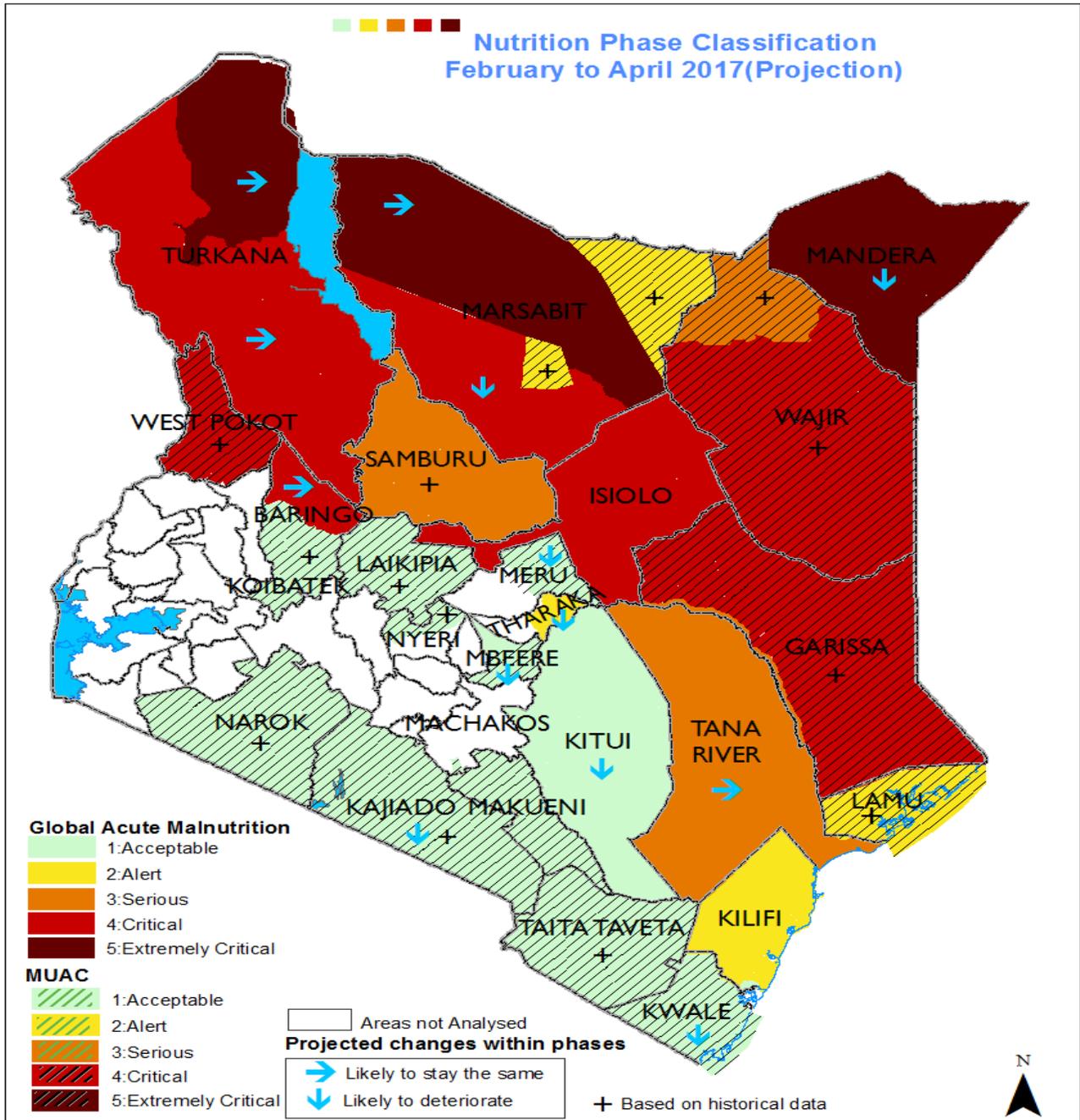
The outlook for May indicates that the western and central highlands, the Rift Valley, and the coastal strip will receive near normal rainfall. Most parts of Kenya are expecting depressed rainfall with a few days of intense rains.

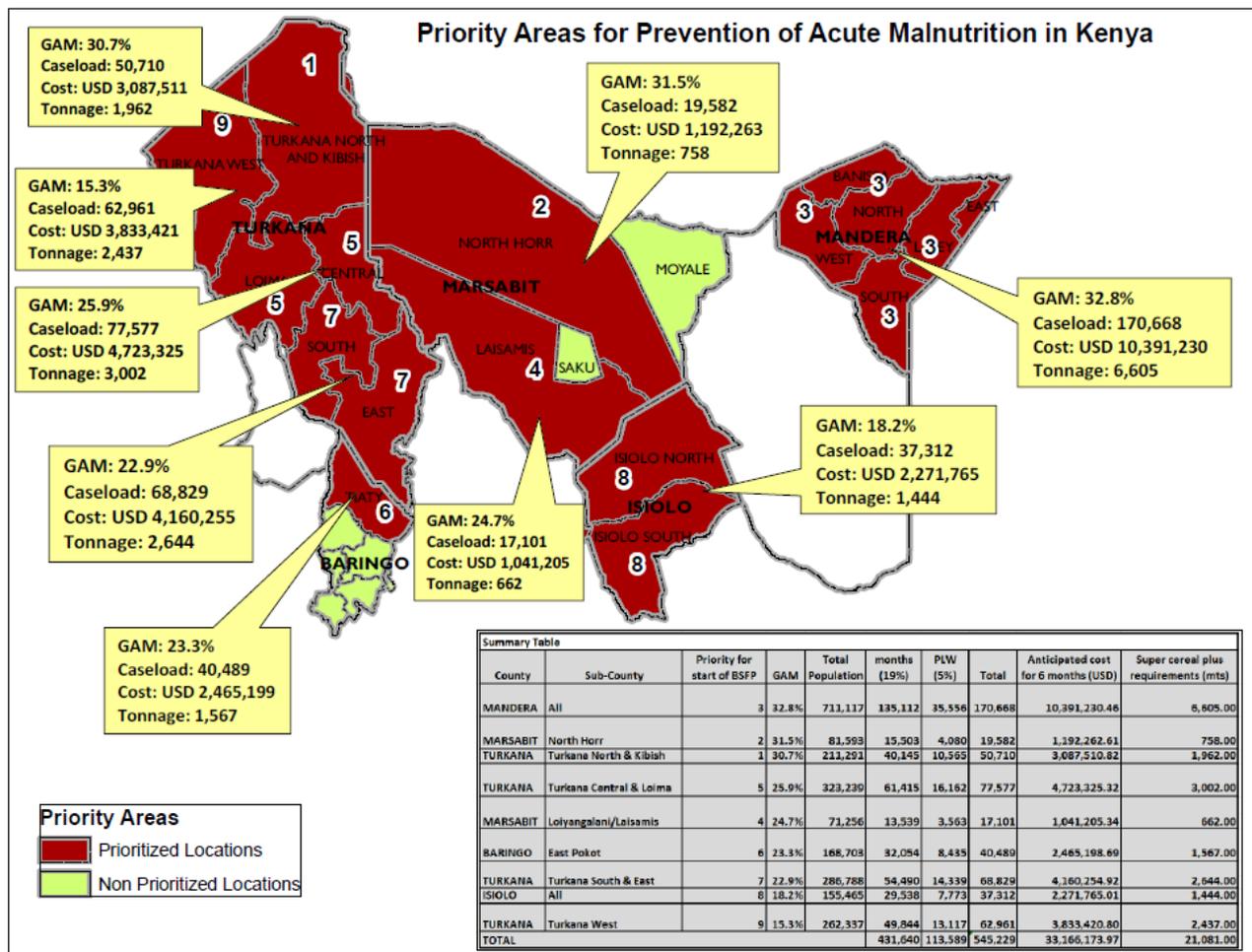
Atypically low agricultural activity will result in a below average harvest in July. Staple food prices will remain elevated due to below average crop production, further compounded by outbreaks of the Fall Armyworm in western Kenya, which will further reduce food supplies.

Meat and dairy prices are on the rise and expected to remain high. Most pastoralists will maintain their livestock in dry season grazing areas far from homesteads, limiting the availability of meat and milk for consumption and sale. Between July and September, a seasonally dry period, increased livestock mortalities are expected.

Fall Armyworm is spreading fast and has so far affected over 143,000 hectares of land in major maize and wheat producing counties. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture have adopted a planning response figure of 800,000 Ha which requires US\$33.5 million for pesticides and awareness campaigns in the medium term. US\$6.6 million is required for an immediate response. The Government of Kenya has launched awareness campaigns among farmers.

Across Kenya, greater numbers of poor households are expected to be unable to meet their minimum dietary needs. As food and milk consumption decreases, malnutrition is on the rise. Families are increasingly reliant on humanitarian interventions to stabilize malnutrition levels.

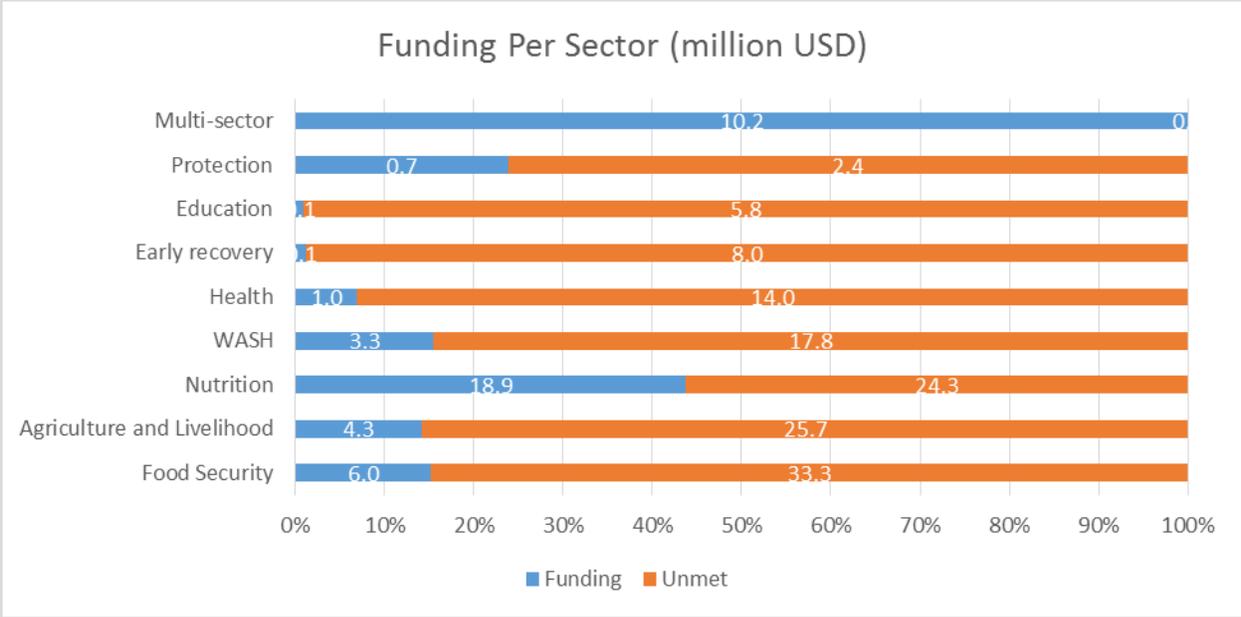




## FUNDING

Kenya’s national drought response plan is designed in three phases with a funding requirement of US\$242 million. The Government of Kenya has funded Phase I and partially funded Phase II with a total allocation of US\$128 million from November 2016 to April 2017. It is conducting an assessment to determine the allocation for Phase III.

In March, the UN and humanitarian partners launched a Flash Appeal requiring US\$165.71 million to reach 2.6 million people with life-saving assistance over ten months (March to December 2017). The Kenya Flash Appeal complements the Government response and covers gaps identified for Phase II and III. It has received US\$44.5 million in funding, representing only 27 per cent of the total requirement. A continued dearth in funding will hinder the ability to deliver critical assistance to people in need.



On 27 March, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a revised Emergency Appeal (approximately US\$25 million) to reflect a substantial increase in the target population, number of activities, geographic scope and time frame for implementation. The Kenya Red Cross (KRC) focuses its interventions in five key areas: nutrition, WASH, food security and livelihoods. As of May, KRC funding coverage stands at 59 per cent.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

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### FOOD SECURITY

#### Key Figures

- 2.6 million people are acutely food insecure.
- 204,000 people were reached in April through asset creation for livelihood activities.



#### Needs

2.6 million people are experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity. These trends are likely to persist and increase in the months ahead. In parts of Marsabit and Turkana that lack access to sustained humanitarian assistance, families will likely experience Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, especially during the lean season between July and September.

After the harvest, there will be minor increases in food availability in a few areas but food security in marginal agricultural areas is expected to deteriorate.<sup>1</sup> Both the coastal and southeastern zones will largely remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Localized areas are likely to fall into Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while coastal areas currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are projected to remain so.

The long rains assessment towards the end of June will determine the food security status of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties and may lead to a review of the Flash Appeal.

#### Response & Gaps

- 204,000 have been reached with food assistance.
- 1,800 metric tonnes of food was distributed in April.
- The Government of Kenya has increased its target from 1.3 million to 2.6 million people in need of food aid.
- Complementing Government efforts, the sector's focus has been to meet immediate food needs and increase people's resilience to future droughts by enhancing their ability to create and preserve assets.
- The World Food Programme's food distribution efforts experienced some delays as shipments from abroad only arrived in late April. WFP did not extend relief assistance for families participating in asset-creation projects in the semi-arid counties during the post-

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fews.net/east-africa/kenya>

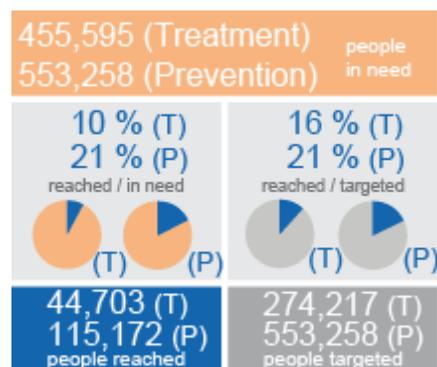
harvest month of March (a month WFP would not normally cover) because of a lack of resources. Cash transfers for project work completed in April will be transferred in May. WFP has increased the amount transferred to each family from US\$20 to US\$25 per month to cushion against further food insecurity or price increases.

- UNICEF plans to increase cash transfers to vulnerable households with children as part of the government safety net programme in six selected counties.<sup>2</sup> However, no progress has been made due to lack of funding. UNICEF and WFP are advocating with the Ministry of East African Affairs, Labour and Social Protection for adaptive and flexible cash transfer programmes.
- The Kenya Red Cross is reaching 35,843 out of 60,000 targeted households with monthly cash transfers and distributing food to 33,091 households in nine counties.<sup>3</sup>

## NUTRITION

### Key figures

- 343,559 acutely malnourished children
- 268,549 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)
- 75,010 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
- 43,000 pregnant and lactating women acutely malnourished



### Needs

- 343,559 children under five are acutely malnourished in the ASALs and require urgent treatment: 268,549 MAM and 75,010 SAM. This represents a 32 per cent increase since early March due to the extremely high levels of Global Acute Malnutrition in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera and Baringo counties.
- 43,000 pregnant and lactating women need urgent treatment for acute malnutrition.
- US\$30,726,395 is urgently required to fund blanket supplementary feeding (BSFP) to prevent malnutrition among 452,324 children under five years and 100,934 pregnant and lactating women in priority counties over the next six months.<sup>4</sup>

### Response

- 44,703 acutely malnourished children (14,520 SAM and 30,183 MAM) have been admitted for treatment during the first quarter of 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Taita Taveta, Tana River, Garisa, Isiolo, Kilifi and Samburu.

<sup>3</sup> Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Kwale, Kilifi, Samburu, Lamu, East Pokot and Baringo.

<sup>4</sup> Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo and Baringo

- The sector has reached out to 115,172 children under five through mass screening and integrated outreach services between January and April 2017.
- The sector continues to scale up essential nutrition services through mass screening, integrated outreach services, technical capacity strengthening and delivery of nutrition commodities in all affected counties.
- The sector is advocating for a blanket supplementary feeding programme to prevent the deterioration of the nutritional status of children under five in the most affected counties. Supplies for BSFP are seriously underfunded with less than 10 per cent of needs met.
- The sector continues to intensify nutrition surveillance and advocacy for child-focused food security and WASH programmes to address both immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition.
- 15 nutrition surveys will be conducted ten counties in June and July.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

### Key Figures

- 2,663,400 people need 7.5 to 15 litres per day of safe drinking water
- 1,232,783 people reached with WASH assistance.



### Needs

Following the onset of the long rains, access to water for both people and livestock has improved and pressure on permanent water points has eased. However, many water points impacted by drought are still not operational. UNICEF has partnered with ten INGOs in eight counties to rehabilitate damaged water points.

### Response and Gaps

- 569,904 people were provided with permanent access to 7.5-15 litres per person per day (l/p/d) of safe drinking water through the repair/rehabilitation of water systems. These water systems also serve 261 schools with 34,133 school children and 33 health centres.
- 662,879 people were reached through water trucking operations.
- UNICEF has repaired 39 water points benefiting 71,500 people in Turkana and Garissa counties.
- The Kenya Red Cross assessed 43 communal water points, rehabilitated 30 and fitted ten boreholes with solar panels. Ten additional boreholes are undergoing rehabilitation.

## HEALTH

### Key figures

- 291,000 people need health assistance
- 38,000 reached (mainly children)
- 30 to 40 per cent vaccination coverage in drought-affected counties



### Needs

- The sharp rise in malnutrition, poor sanitation and shortage of potable water has led to the spread of communicable and waterborne diseases, especially among children under five.
- Vaccination coverage is low in drought-affected regions, which means a high risk of preventable disease outbreaks.
- 358 cases of cholera/Acute Watery Diarrhoea and five deaths (CFR=1.4%) have been reported since January.<sup>5</sup>
- A measles outbreak is ongoing in Garissa County with 22 cases affecting both refugees and the surrounding host community.
- Other notable outbreaks recorded include dengue fever (>200 cases), salmonella typhii in Lamu (112 cases, 2 deaths), anthrax in Embu (9 cases) and Taveta (47 cases, 2 deaths) and visceral leishmaniasis<sup>6</sup> among children.
- It is estimated that 10 per cent of children will end up with severe malnutrition and medical complications that require immediate lifesaving interventions.
- Limited access to reproductive health services for women and adolescent girls is putting their lives at risk.
- Community based primary health outreach must be established in the affected counties.

### Response and Gaps

- Response activities include the procurement and distribution of essential lifesaving medical and health-related commodities, including laboratory reagents, basic testing kits (measles, cholera, HIV and other communicable diseases) and the referral of specimens in hard-hit areas (drugs, vaccines and non-pharmaceuticals).
- Other response actions include scale up of Early Warning and Risk Navigation Systems (EWARNs), disease surveillance, alert, outbreak investigation and confirmation activities in counties and sub counties.
- Due to limited funding, the sector has reached less than a quarter of the targeted population. This has been compounded by the limited capacity of organizations to assist the Ministry of Health.

<sup>5</sup> Most from Tana River County (281 cases), Dadaab Camp (55 cases) and Nairobi County (2 cases).

<sup>6</sup> In Isiolo, Turkana, Marsabit and Baringo counties.

## PROTECTION

### Key figures

- 139,000 children at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation due to drought
- 175,655 people in need of protection, of whom 122,655 for GBV
- US\$2,300,000 required to respond to protection needs, including GBV, for drought and conflict affected vulnerable populations.
- US\$509,800 required to reach 31,000 children at risk.



### Needs (Child Protection)

- Children require access to protection services to enhance their physical and psychological safety and wellbeing.
- Children separated from their families require identification, family tracing and reunification. 38,660 drought-induced displacements were reported in Isiolo and Baringo counties in April.
- Violence, exploitation and abuse must be prevented and addressed, including Gender-Based Violence, and psychosocial support be provided to children and their caregivers.

### Needs (GBV)

- 122,655 people in need of Protection/GBV assistance.
- 100,225 people in need of GBV information to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, and psychosocial support for survivors.
- 10,000 survivors of GBV need urgent identification and referral for life-saving health services (clinical management of rape) and safe spaces for psychosocial support.

### Response and Gaps (Child Protection)

- 4,478 children have been reached with child protection activities (including identification, tracing and reunification of separated children with caregivers, and provision of psychosocial support and food assistance to children and families at risk) in Turkana, Marsabit, Garissa and West Pokot counties.
- Coordination and information management has been strengthened for child protection through training 34 government and non-government stakeholders from Wajir, Tana River and Garissa counties. Training was also held for Baringo, Turkana and West Pokot counties in May.

- Disaster preparedness capacity has been increased by training 20 government and non-government child protection organizations on the Kenya Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment (KIRA) tool and related child protection indicators.

### Response and Gaps (GBV)

- 9,396 people reached with GBV assistance.
- 7,583 reached with GBV awareness information and campaigns.
- 1,743 displaced persons provided with basic psychosocial support and 69 GBV survivors provided with psychosocial support.
- 40 members of staff from the National Drought Management Authority were trained on identification of gender concerns and gender mainstreaming in ongoing interventions.
- Procurement for supplies (Rh Kits and tents for safe spaces) has been completed.
- GBV partners have planned for joint GBV assessment in ten counties.

## EDUCATION

### Key Figures

- 588,000 children need emergency education assistance
- 1.2 million of the 2.6 million people affected by drought are school-aged children
- 1,000 schools lack access to safe drinking water



### Needs

- Water shortages and the lack of school meals have reduced attendance in ASAL schools.
- Some schools have closed as families and teachers migrated, while others have experienced an influx of displaced children. Other schools are hosting IDPs as resource-based conflicts drive people from their homes.
- As drought in Kenya is a cyclical emergency, preparedness measures and disaster risk reduction (DRR) must be mainstreamed within the school system.
- Coordination and information management must be enhanced to ensure that cross-sectoral lifesaving support can be most effectively delivered.
- Members of the Kenya Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) have received no funding for the drought response, including through the Flash Appeal.

### Response and gaps

- A World Food Programme (WFP) pipeline break caused a gap in planned school feeding (development programming not emergency response) during Term 1 of the 2017 school

year, compounding the food insecurity of many vulnerable households. School feeding will resume in Term 2 (May to August) through the Government-led Home Grown School Meals Programme and WFP-supported school meals in ASAL counties.

- Development actors are adapting existing projects to cater to emerging needs. As the drought emergency exacerbates existing structural issues, the EiE WG has identified three main priorities in sector coordination and response: preparedness, improved coordination (including collaboration) and capacity building.
- During the school holidays in April, the EiE WG worked to improve needs assessment questions and integrate them in upcoming multi-sector assessments. Forthcoming data should provide a strong evidence base to inform the education sector's emergency response strategy.
- Donors and other international actors are working with the Government of Kenya to recognize the impact of drought on education and to build synergies with the National Drought Management Authority "Ending Drought Emergencies Common Programme Framework," which is part of Kenya Vision 2030.

## AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

### Key figures

- 2.6 million people need agriculture and livelihood assistance.
- 143,000 hectares in major maize and wheat producing areas are affected by an infestation of Fall Armyworm.



### Needs

- 2.6 million people need agriculture and livelihood assistance. This number is likely to increase due to Fall Armyworm's impacts on this year's harvest.
- 30,000 households need livestock feed to maintain animals and milk production.
- 66,000 households need to sell 135,000 animals that would otherwise die, but are unable to do so without support.
- 77,000 families could benefit from meat rations provided by the offtake programme.
- Fall Armyworm has been reported in 23 counties and is likely to affect 800,000 ha of maize and pasture.
- US\$27 million is required for livestock offtake and feed, peace and security initiatives, and disease control.
- US\$6.6 million is required for an immediate response to the Fall Armyworm outbreak.

### Response and Gaps

- 500,000 people have been reached with agriculture and livelihood assistance.

- 250,000 households are benefitting from various livestock related interventions.
- 50,000 households are benefitting from offtake programmes and meat distribution.
- Kenya Red Cross has contributed to animal offtake activities with 798 cows and 8,052 small stock in five counties.<sup>7</sup>

## EARLY RECOVERY

### Key figures

- 520,000 people need support for early recovery
- US\$8.1 million funding requirement



### Needs

- 520,000 people are in need of support to strengthen the sustainability of community-based activities and to rebuild livelihood support mechanisms that have been adversely affected.

### Response & Gaps

- Humanitarian actors are planning to mobilize short-term emergency employment.
- The Government and humanitarian actors are advocating for social cohesion and conflict management arising from competition for natural resources. Community dialogue to resolve conflicts has been facilitated in Baringo, Laikipia, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana, Garissa and Samburu counties.
- UNDP has supported the Resident Coordinator's Office to strengthen communication on preparedness and critical response through regular op-eds, feature stories and analysis.
- Access to primary data and information at the county level is a challenge. This will be addressed through rapid assessments.

<sup>7</sup> Marsabit, Mandera, Tana River, Wajir and Garissa.

## COORDINATION

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Through the Inter-Ministerial Drought Coordination Committee and the Inter-Sector Working Group, the nutrition sector is advocating to link the targeting of food and cash assistance to the most nutritionally vulnerable households. The nutrition sector will conduct 14 SMART surveys in June and July that will contribute to the long rains assessment.<sup>8</sup>

The Kenyan Government, FAO and other partners are collaborating on an integrated Fall Armyworm response strategy.

A food security mid-point review is underway in 13 counties with results due for release in late May. Preparation for the long rains assessment will start towards the end of May.

Coordination between government agencies, individual sectors, the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) and the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team (KHPT) must be reinforced to improve needs analysis through more inter-sectoral assessments and the identification of critical gaps.

In response to the ongoing drought, the Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group, co-chaired by the Department of Children Services and UNICEF, has been re-activated. UNICEF is providing technical support on strengthening inter-agency coordination and mapping child protection service providers in the 23 most affected counties.

Coordination and information management has been strengthened on child protection by training government and non-government child protection participants from Wajir, Tana River and Garissa counties.

The Child Protection Sub-Sector is working with UNFPA and partners on reviewing GBV assessment tools.

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<sup>8</sup> Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, West Pokot, Baringo (East Pokot), Samburu, Laikipia and Nairobi counties.

**Background on the crisis**

The Government of Kenya's declaration of a national disaster on 10 February 2017 followed the release of the short rains assessment (SRA) conducted in drought-affected counties by the Kenya Food Security and Steering Group (KFSSG). The SRA confirmed that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance had dramatically doubled from 1.3 million people in August 2016 to 2.6 million people (20 per cent of the pastoral population and 18 per cent of those living in marginal agricultural areas) as a result of drought. The two main rainy seasons of 2016 (March to May and October to December) were severely impacted and brought very low levels of rainfall. This has resulted in widespread crop failure, acute water shortages, sharply declining terms of trade for pastoralists and declining animal productivity which have had a devastating impact on food security and nutrition conditions and have exhausted people's capacity to cope with another shock. There are also increasing reports of disease outbreaks and conflict as a result of displacement and water shortages.

The 2016 short rains season (October to December) brought severely reduced levels of rainfall. The rainfall deficit was particularly acute across northern, northeastern pastoral and marginal agricultural areas (also known as the arid and semi-arid lands) which already have the lowest development indicators and the highest incidence of poverty in the country. The worst hit counties are in "Crisis" food insecurity phase: Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir and West Pokot.

This is the second consecutive rainfall season with widespread below average rainfall in Kenya. Diminished food production has exhausted people's capacity to cope with another shock. The most vulnerable are the elderly, sick, pregnant and/or lactating women and children under five years. This drought is taking place against the backdrop of preparations for general elections to be held in August 2017. A contingency plan is being developed to support peaceful elections and to prepare and respond to any humanitarian needs that may arise.

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