Kenya: Drought Response
Situation Report No. 1
13 April 2017

This report is issued by the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team (KHPT). It covers the period from 1 – 31 March 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 15 May 2017.

Highlights

- Since the declaration of the drought emergency by the Government of Kenya in February, humanitarian partners are working together with national authorities to scale up response activities targeting vulnerable people and families in the counties most affected by the drought.
- Over 1.2 million people were reached in March through WFP, and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) food and cash programmes.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved an allocation of $10.3 million enabling UN Agencies and partners to initiate life-saving interventions in the sectors of Nutrition, Health, Child Protection, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Livelihoods.
- Since the launch of the Flash Appeal in March, almost USD 30 million has been mobilised against the total requirement of USD 166 million.
- The IFRC launched its revised Emergency Appeal seeking approximately USD 25 million to respond to increased needs.
- Humanitarian actors developed a Humanitarian Pillar Contingency Plan for the upcoming national elections to be held in August 2017.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</th>
<th>People reached through food and cash programming</th>
<th>USD165m Required to respond to the drought</th>
<th>USD 30 m Mobilised through the Flash Appeal</th>
<th>USD10.3 Mobilised through CERF funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.6 million</td>
<td>1.2 m</td>
<td>USD165m</td>
<td>USD 30 m</td>
<td>USD10.3</td>
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Situation Overview

On 10 February, the Government of Kenya declared a national drought emergency, with 23 of the 47 counties affected and in need of humanitarian assistance. This declaration is a result of the severe drought that has affected the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) of Kenya caused by the below average performance of the 2016 short and long rains. This is the second consecutive rainfall season with widespread below-average rainfall in Kenya and diminished food production has exhausted people’s capacity to cope with another shock. As a result, an estimated 2.6 million people are acutely food insecure, which is more than triple since February 2016 (640,000). The Government has warned that this figure may surge to 4 million by mid-April.

While the poor performance of the long rains in 2016 led to moderate to severe drought conditions developing in parts of Kenya, the Short Rains Assessment (SRA) indicated a deteriorating situation, classifying 10 counties to be

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report
in the alert phase and an additional 13 counties to be at alarm phase of drought.\(^1\) Widespread crop failure has affected farming and agro-pastoral communities especially in the north-west, northeast and the coastal strip of Kenya, where poor moisture conditions prevented planting and stifled early crop growth. Crop production is up to 70 per cent below the five-year average and the food insecurity is worsening in most ASAL counties. Food prices are high because of poor regional and national harvests as well as inflation, which is constraining food access especially in drought-affected areas. Terms of trade are declining sharply for pastoralists, contributing to rising food insecurity and malnutrition. Livestock prices are falling as body condition declines and this is expected to continue as the condition of livestock deteriorates. Additionally, drought-related livestock deaths have been reported in ten counties in February.

The rate of malnutrition is above emergency levels in some areas while other parts have serious acute malnutrition levels. Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) rate is above 15\% in ten counties, and above 25\% in four of these. Further analysis indicates low dietary intake and household level food insecurity, coupled with high disease burden and localized outbreaks of cholera (Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir and Tana River) as some of the reasons attributing to higher rates of malnutrition. A mass screening by UNICEF in a hot spot area of Kibish in North Turkana, revealed that 55 per cent of the screened children were identified as acutely malnourished. Cases of cholera have been reported in Tana North with a total of 252 cases and 5 deaths (CFR = 1.9\%) of which 41 cases (16\%) are laboratory confirmed. There are also unconfirmed measles cases in six counties with 49 cases being reported. Kala azar is also reported from Marsabit and Isiolo counties with 118 cases so far.

The drought has also had a major impact on water resources, where 30 per cent of rural water points are non-functional resulting in a five-fold increase in water prices leaving some 2.6 million people in urgent need of safe water. Households are largely – and unseasonably – dependent on boreholes in drought-affected areas, with most other water sources having run dry. Pastoralists report having to travel longer distances to reach water sources, further weakening their remaining livestock.

The Kenya Meteorological Department reported that rainfall across most parts of the country was highly depressed. The March to May ‘long rains’ are already marked by very late onset in several areas. However, the peak of the rain season, in April, is likely to see near-average rainfall across most of Kenya, though eastern Kenya is likely to experience poorly distributed, depressed rainfall.

\(^1\) NDMA: SRA Report February 2016
Elections preparedness

A dimension to also monitor is the Kenya general elections, which the country will conduct in August 2017. While the country has experienced violence with varying impact in previous elections, there is need to continue monitoring the situation as the upcoming elections have shown signs of intense competition that could result in violent conflicts. The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, through NDOC, initiated a contingency planning process for the four pillars. These include Early Warning and Prevention Pillar led by the Coordinator of National Steering Committee (NSC) for Peace and Conflict Management; Security and Safety Pillar led by National Police Service; Humanitarian Pillar led by the Kenya Humanitarian Partners Team supported by UN-OCHA; Mass Casualty pillar lead by Ministry of Health and representation from MoH and Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). The purpose of this planning process is to ensure peaceful elections by implementing various prevention, preparedness and response measures to any potential humanitarian needs arising from election-related violence. A total of USD 33 million is required for this plan (USD 4.9 million for preparedness activities, USD 27 million for potential response to meet the needs of some 400,000 people for three months. Key in the contingency planning process are eight decentralised humanitarian coordination hubs to ensure better coordination, collaboration and complementarity of preparedness and response interventions by humanitarian actors in support to Kenyan authorities in those regions likely to require humanitarian response. Additionally, these coordination hubs will be aligned geographically to the identified electoral risk map particularly the medium and high-risk counties and to the operational presence and capacity of hub lead/focal points and co-leads as well as the Kenya Red Cross regional coordination.

Funding

The Government of Kenya has allocated nearly USD 128 million against a total requirement of USD 208 million to support the current drought response. The total required is organised in three phases of which the allocated funds cover the first phase and Government is now implementing the second. In response to the Government's declaration, UN and humanitarian partners launched a Flash Appeal for USD 165.71 million to reach 2.6 million people with life-saving assistance for the next 10 months (1 March to 31 December 2017). The Appeal complements the Government response and covers gaps already identified for phase II and phase III. Approximately USD 30 million has been mobilised against the Appeal. This funding includes USD 10.3 million mobilised through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to kick-start lifesaving interventions. The allocated CERF funds are targeting five priority sectors in Nutrition, Health, Child Protection, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Livelihoods and will reach close to 800,000 vulnerable people.

On 27 March 2017, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a revised Emergency Appeal to reflect a substantial increase in the target population, number of activities, an enlarged geographic scope and time-frame for implementation. The Appeal now seeks 25,062,572 Swiss francs (approximately USD 25 million) an increase from 9,107,628 Swiss francs (approximately USD 9 million). This

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2Phase I (November 2016 – January 2017) was allocated approximately Kshs 5.4 billion (USD 54 million). Phase II (February - April) was allocated Kshs 7.4 billion (USD 74 million) against a requirement of Kshs 11.6 billion (USD116 million) and Phase III (May – July) requires Kshs 7 billion (USD 71 million) of which no allocation has been approved.
increase will enable the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) to assist 1,033,300 people (an increase from 340,786 people) for 12 months up to November 2017, focusing on provision of Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Livelihoods, Nutrition and Food Security. Funding coverage to date is 37%.

Humanitarian Response

Livelihoods

Needs:
The livelihoods and food security of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists have been significantly impacted by drought-induced pasture and water deficits, which have led to alarming rates of livestock losses and deteriorating body conditions and health among remaining animals. Milk production at historically low levels, at 2 to 8 per cent of the long-term mean in Mandera, Turkana, Isiolo, Tana River and Lamu Counties. This is having significant impact on household food security and nutrition. Significant loss of livestock assets is increasing the adoption of extreme negative coping mechanisms, contributing to displacement and migration and exacerbating poverty levels and destitution. The Livelihoods Sector is targeting 2.6 million people with livestock offtake, survival feeding and livestock disease control. In crop-producing areas, the outbreak of a new and devastating pest, the fall armyworm, poses a threat to the livelihoods of farmers. Its presence was confirmed in 11 counties, and continues to rapidly spread to key maize- and wheat-producing areas throughout the country. Failure to control the pest would result in serious food, economic and social insecurity in Kenya, and in the region.

Response:

- The Government continues to lead the drought response and is providing livestock support to the 23 most affected counties, including animal, water supply, and treatment, vaccination, and livestock offtake. To boost food security among farming communities, the Government is distributing emergency seed, including for sorghum, beans, cowpeas and maize.
- To complement Government efforts, FAO received a total of USD 1,500,000 in CERF funding which will ensure that a total of 158,000 women, men and children (26,263 households) receive support to access livestock feed inputs and animal health services in 6 counties - Marsabit, Mander, Garissa, Tana River, Samburu and Turkana counties. In addition, FAO plans to destock 13,224 animals across the six counties, benefiting a total of 6,769 households through cash injection, and an additional 7,507 households through the provision of meat. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, and in partnership with the relevant government extension service departments, NGOs and local leadership structures.
- The Government has formed a specialized, multi-institutional task force comprising technical experts from the public and private sectors, including FAO, to strategically control the threat of the fall armyworm.
- Working closely with and in support of the Government, FAO is providing livelihood assistance to over 10,000 pastoral and agro-pastoral households in some of the worst affected counties (Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, Kwale and Kilifi). To improve survival rates among livestock, FAO is distributing feed (including 2,000 bags of concentrates and 16,000 multi-nutrient blocks), supporting water availability (providing water tanks and spare parts) and enhancing animal health through support to emergency veterinary care.
- At the onset of the drought, FAO provided some 27 key Government officials at county level with training on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards to both inform and improve drought response actions.

Gaps & Constraints: Funding level for the sector in the Flash Appeal remains severely low, with only USD 1,500,000 mobilised against a total requirement of USD 30 million.

Early Recovery

Needs:
Early recovery programmes will aim to strengthen the sustainability of community-based activities and rebuild livelihood support mechanisms that have been adversely affected by drought. The sector is planning to target 520,000 people and will mobilise short-term emergency employment as well as advocating for social cohesion and conflict management.

Response:
The government continues to lead the process of advocating for social cohesions and management of conflicts arising from competition for natural resources. Alongside other government efforts, community dialogues to try to resolve conflicts have been facilitated in Baringo, Laikipia, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana, Garissa and Samburu counties.

**Gaps & Constraint:** Funding remains a challenge. The sector has mobilised USD 100,000 against a requirement of USD8, 1 million in the Flash Appeal.

### Education

**Needs:**

Water shortage and absence of school meals is reported to be affecting school attendance. The sector is targeting 587,500 children with school feeding in drought-affected counties. Education is also working closely with other sectors to ensure that schoolchildren have adequate safe drinking water and are able to access health and protection services.

**Response:**

- To date, no funds have been reported against the Flash Appeal through the Education in Emergencies Working Group in response to the drought. However, because of the WFP school meals pipeline break, the Ministry of Education mobilised $5.8 million to provide food in schools. Due to logistical constraints, this food reached the schools only as they closed for April recess.
- While WFP does not anticipate gaps in school meal provision for the second term of the school year, both the food-based and cash-based programmes are not yet fully funded for the third term (September – December 2017).

**Gaps & Constraints:** With the exception of the funding made available through Government, the sector has mobilised no funding against a requirement of USD 5.9 million in the Flash Appeal.

### Food Security

**Needs:**

The Government is leading the response at the both the national and county levels. Several mechanisms are in place to provide cash and/or food assistance in the country. i) the Hunger Safety Net Programme; ii) the Government's State Department of Special Programmes; iii) Government safety nets from the State Department of Social Protection; iv) county governments; v) WFP, vi) the Kenya Red Cross Society; and vii) non-governmental organizations. These mechanisms require further support to ensure that the needs are met in an effective, well-coordinated and timely manner. The scale of the needs is overwhelming national structures and capacity to respond and to complement government efforts, the food sector is targeting 850,000 people through the Flash Appeal.

**Response:**

In March food and cash, transfers reached about 1,248,000 people through Hunger Safety Net Programs (HSNP): 480,000 people through the regular programme, 325,000 people through the HSNP emergency - 343,000 people through WFP's asset Creation Program- and 100,000 people through KRCS cash and food assistance. The Government-led Special Programmes is reported to have reached 2,600,000 people through provision of 6kg pf cereals per person per month among other commodities.

### Health

**Needs:**

With the country reporting increased cases of cholera, measles and Kala azar, the health sector is targeting 291,000 people with life-saving medical interventions as well as community based primary health outreach.
Response:

- Through UNICEF and WHO advocacy, Ministry of Health (MoH) has performed a trends analysis on key diseases that could potentially become epidemics due to the drought, including diarrhoea, measles, respiratory infections and Kala azar. Data shows increased caseload of diarrhoea in counties that are not part of the 23 ASAL counties targeted for drought response, such as Nakuru, Homabay and Busia Counties, and Ministry of Health (MoH) will draw a plan and budget to support these counties.

- The health sector received a CERF allocation of USD 1,038,734 through UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA targeting 102,250 children, men and women in 5 counties of Samburu, Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit and Tana River. Allocated funds will be used to scale up the lifesaving health activities including management of medical complications of SAM, cholera, diarrhoea, kala azar and measles, as well as replenishing of essential drugs and critical health commodities. The sector will also scale access to basic package of emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), intensify community mobilization, and outreach in light of the health-related outbreaks being reported.

Gaps & Constraints: Funding remains a major issue as the sector has only mobilised CERF funding against a total requirement of USD15 million in the Flash Appeal.

Nutrition

Needs:

High levels of malnutrition are being reported across the ASAL regions and the nutrition situations is expected to deteriorate in the coming months given the forecast of a depressed rainfall season. The nutrition sector is targeting 805,750 people with blanket supplementary feeding as well as support to Severe and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (SAM and MAM) cases to prevent further deterioration.

Response:

- UNICEF received CERF allocation of USD 1,500,000 to provide life-saving interventions targeting 227,756 people (children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women) in Mandera, Turkana, West Pokot, Wajir, Garissa, Baringo, Kilifi, Marsabit, Tana River, Samburu and Isiolo. Key activities include procurement and delivery of 24,223 cartons of RUTF to support the treatment of 24,223 severely malnourished children and 202,289 caregivers of children 6 – 59 months. The project will also support coordination and nutrition information systems both national and sub-national level for improved emergency programming and early warning.

- WFP received USD 4,000,132 from the CERF for the MAM component to support 171,000 people including 134,000 children in 11 counties. Allocated funds will be used to procure 1,091 MTs RUSF for treatment of MAM 134,000 children (6-59 months) as well as 85 MT of vegetable oil that will be premixed with corn soy blend procured by government which will be used in the treatment of acute malnutrition among 37,000 pregnant and lactating women and HIV clients in drought affected counties,

- Outreach Screening and Treatment is ongoing in 14 counties. With the biweekly integration of nutrition, health screening and treatment ongoing, admissions increased in January and February.

- Target as of February 2017 include treatment of 75% of all SAM and 50% MAM cases (299,000 - 255,800 children under five and 43,400 pregnant and lactating women.

- Target for prevention through Blanket Supplementary feeding included 553,258 people (Children Under five - 452,324; Pregnant and Lactating women-100,934. Counties and national response plans have been updated based on flash appeal. Weekly updates are being received from counties and submitted to national level nutrition emergency focal point.

- Treatment supplies for SAM cases are secure up to August and negotiations for September onwards are still ongoing with partners.

Gaps & Constraints: There is a shortage of commodities for Blanket Supplementary Feeding for the most affect counties of Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, East Pokot and Isiolo. With the current climate outlook the numbers of acutely malnourished children and the risk of death can only be mitigated with a significant increase in the integrated response especially water and food access.
Needs:

Data gathered by mid-March is showing increasing risks especially in the ASAL counties, where families are moving with their children in search of water and pasture for their livestock. The sector plans to target 176,000 people to strengthen community feedback mechanisms on protection, identify safe spaces for affected children and prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking.

Response:

- UNFPA received a CERF allocation of USD 200,041 which will ensure that 10,500 men women and children in Kilifi, Baringo, Marsabit, Turkana Counties are supported through a coordinated life-saving multi-sector response which includes, establishment of Women’s Community Watch Groups in high risk areas and, setting up of 10 mobile “safe spaces” (tents) which will be erected near water and food distribution sites in areas that women and girls identify as high risk.
- UNICEF received an allocation of USD 290,184 targeting 22,000 children 1) Baringo, 2) Garissa, 3) Marsabit, 4) Turkana, 5) Wajir, 6) West Pokot for child protection activities which include documentation of separated and unaccompanied children, ensuring early identification of children separated from families, awareness raising to communities on protection issues, facilitation of children’s access to child friendly spaces, provision of psychosocial support and mobilisation of multi-sectoral referral systems.
- 90 children (26 girls and 64 boys) arrived at the reception centre in Kakuma Refugee Camp in March, out of whom 87 children (21 girls and 66 boys) had a Best Interest Assessment conducted and a case management plan developed. Out of these, 16 children (6 girls, 10 boys) had their Best Interest Determination assessments completed and plans to implement recommended durable solutions commenced.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

Surface water has dried up in most counties, while high temperatures mean that the remaining pans and dams may dry up soon, especially if the long rains are poor. The sector proposes to target two, 6 million people with rehabilitation of broken down water points, hygiene promotion as well as provision of WASH services in schools. In addition, the sector plans to repair water trucks, supply of fuel and/or spare parts to boreholes

Response:

- WASH Partners including Samaritan’s Purse, KRCS, Oxfam, Plan International, World Vision and Danish Refugee Council, are active the 13 most affected districts are supporting borehole rehabilitation and drilling, construction of water tanks, water trucking and distribution of hygiene kits, distribution of water treatment chemicals and kits through the Ministry of Health to households reaching approximately 740,000 people since the beginning of interventions.
- A total of 51 water facilities have been rehabilitated for 137,000 people and nine water facilities constructed for 37,000 people.
- All WASH partners reported activities serving 92,000 livestock, 84 schools, 17,000 schoolchildren, 9 health centres.
- UNICEF received a CERF allocation of USD 1,800,128 to improve access to safe water for 200,000 children, men and women in 10 of the most food insecure counties (Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana, Samburu, West Pokot, Mandera, Wajir, and Baringo). The focus of the project intervention is to repair / rehabilitate community drinking water supplies (water points). Approximately 20% of the target population will also receive water storage and treatment commodities to ensure the safety of drinking water, and a supply of soap to enable good hand-washing practices. The entire target population will benefit from a hygiene promotion campaign designed to prevent waterborne diseases.

Gaps & Constraints: Despite the mobilization of several WASH cluster partners, severe gaps persist in the response, primarily due to funding constraints. Of the USD21, 1 million required for the sector per the Flash Appeal, only USD 2, 4 million mobilised.
### General Coordination

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning is mandated to coordinate drought risk management and establish mechanisms to respond to drought emergencies. In February 2017, the government established inter-governmental and inter-agency drought response coordination technical committee at the national level to support coordination of drought response. The government also re-emphasized the need to strengthen the County Steering Groups (CSG) at the county level to coordinate drought response. The NDMA, being a member of the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team, supports in coordinating the drought response. Humanitarian actors are scaling up their presence to support the government and affected counties in responding to the humanitarian impacts of the drought, with humanitarian sectors planning to meet regularly and the ISWG revitalised.

At the sectoral level, line ministries are leading and coordinating the response process with agencies providing sectoral coordination and technical support to government, including technical support for information management through the secondment of information management specialists to key line ministries. Seven nationally adapted sectors are active in Kenya, including Agriculture and Livelihoods, Early Recovery, Education, Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Protection and WASH. Information management tools such as the 5W and cluster dashboards are being rolled out to improve overall monitoring and reporting of the response.

For election preparedness, the NDOC is taking the lead in coordination and humanitarian partners are supporting the process through the establishment of coordination hubs.

### 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 the affected counties by the Kenya Food Security and Steering Group (KFSSG). The SRA confirmed that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance 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) in February 2017 as the result of drought which significantly impacted the two main rainy seasons in 2016 (March-May and Oct-Dec) and brought severely 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 of food security and nutrition conditions and which 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 ASALs - 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 have a food security phase in “crisis”: 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 and 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 however taking place against a background in which the country is preparing the general elections to be held in August 2017. As with past election processes, conflict related violence remains a major concern within the country. A contingency plan is being developed whose aim is to not only ensure peaceful elections by implementing various prevention measures, but also to prepare and respond to any potential humanitarian needs arising from the elections.

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For further information, please contact:
Giovanni Quacquarella, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, quacquarella@un.org
Julius Lenanyokie, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, lenanyokie@o.un.org

For more information, please visit [www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/kenya](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/kenya)