



**ACTED**  
**Kenya**  
**Newsletter**

## ACTED Kenya 1st Quarter 2017

### DROUGHT WATCH: EMERGENCIES AT A GLANCE

Countries in the Horn of Africa are severely affected by the current drought with food insecurity and water shortages driving millions of people to starvation. Approximately 2.6 million people in Kenya are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance, an increase from 1.3 million in August 2016 with estimates showing this number could increase to 4 million if the next rains fail.

Following this, on 10th February 2017, the Government of Kenya declared a national disaster and is appealing to local and international partners to support its efforts to mitigate the effects by scaling up drought responses.

The number of people affected by the drought is increasing significantly. The most affected populations are pastoral communities residing in Arid and Semi-Arid counties of Northern Kenya and marginal farming communities whose livelihood income is based solely on agriculture.

The Short Rains Assessment (SRA) of the period October to December 2016 highlighted Mandera County as one of the hardest hit counties while the long rains forecast (March-May 2017) showed depressed rains in most parts of the country. Most areas in Mandera and Samburu are projected to be in crisis (IPC 3) until May 2017. Acute malnutrition, especially among children, is critical and worsening in both counties.

The poor short rains in 2016 resulted in some recharge of a few open water sources providing some temporary reprieve. However, with the intensifying heat as a result of the ongoing drought, most surface water sources have dried up, increasing the trekking distance (Samburu-7-10km; Mandera 20-30km) and waiting time (Samburu 30mins; Mandera 30-90mins) at waterpoints.

#### Devastating drought effects



**The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates** have gone up in Mandera (32.2%), Turkana North (30.7%) and Marsabit North Horr (31.9%). 30-32% of children in Mandera, Turkana and Marsabit are acutely malnourished.

**Livelihood and crop production** has been severely affected causing a decrease in food availability and an increase in market prices. Households that largely depend on livestock and rain-fed agriculture as their source of livelihoods have been forced to consume from less diverse food groups with cereals and legumes being the dominant foods.

**Acute water shortages** have intensified pressure on the few functioning strategic water sources. In Samburu and Mandera, breakdown of water pumps and subsiding of strategic water boreholes due to overuse has been reported.

**Livestock morbidity** has gone up due to lack of adequate water and pasture leading to an increase in livestock mortality. There is a lot of migration of humans and animals to find pasture and water causing an increase in competition for the scarce resources, conflicts and insecurity in the pastoral areas.

## EMERGENCY DROUGHT RESPONSE



### ACTED's added value in emergency response

ACTED remains committed to responsible implementation with a 'Do No Harm' approach maintaining strict security and financial risk management procedures.

ACTED is cognizant that the national and county governments are first responders to the drought and any complementary response efforts will be done through a systems strengthening approach.



### Resource based Conflict Prevention and mitigation

The prevailing drought & scarcity of pasture and water has resulted in pastoral communities in Mandera and Samburu trekking long distances in search of water and pasture for their animals. This has resulted in inter and intra-communal conflicts due to animals grazing in neighboring community lands.

ACTED, in collaboration with the Samburu and Mandera county governments, has been facilitating peace dialogue meetings and inclusive conflict transformation processes between conflicting communities to promote peaceful co-existence and resource sharing. This has been achieved through the development and implementation of the Resource Sharing Agreements (RSA) through the Resource Sharing Committees established in 2012.

These agreements set out procedures for mutual resource sharing, natural resource use management, grazing management, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms leading to better inter-communal relations.

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Immediate actions are required to save lives and protect critical livelihood assets to stem the severe impact of the drought crisis.

To mitigate this, ACTED, with support from [DG ECHO](#) is currently working in both Mandera and Samburu to provide emergency lifesaving food and water assistance to vulnerable and drought-affected households.

ACTED is also providing emergency water trucking to six centers targeting schools and health facilities in Mandera County affected by acute water shortage to ensure easy access to clean and safe water for use.

### Nutrition sensitive cash transfers in Samburu County

The subsequent failure of rains in 2016 led to the current unprecedented high malnutrition rates among vulnerable pregnant and lactating women, and children under-five years.

In response to the serious Global Acute Malnutrition rate in Samburu County (10-15.9%), ACTED provided unconditional cash transfers to the most drought-affected households to counter the effects of the drought. The short-term income boost enabled these vulnerable households purchase food for household consumption thereby reducing the malnutrition rates.

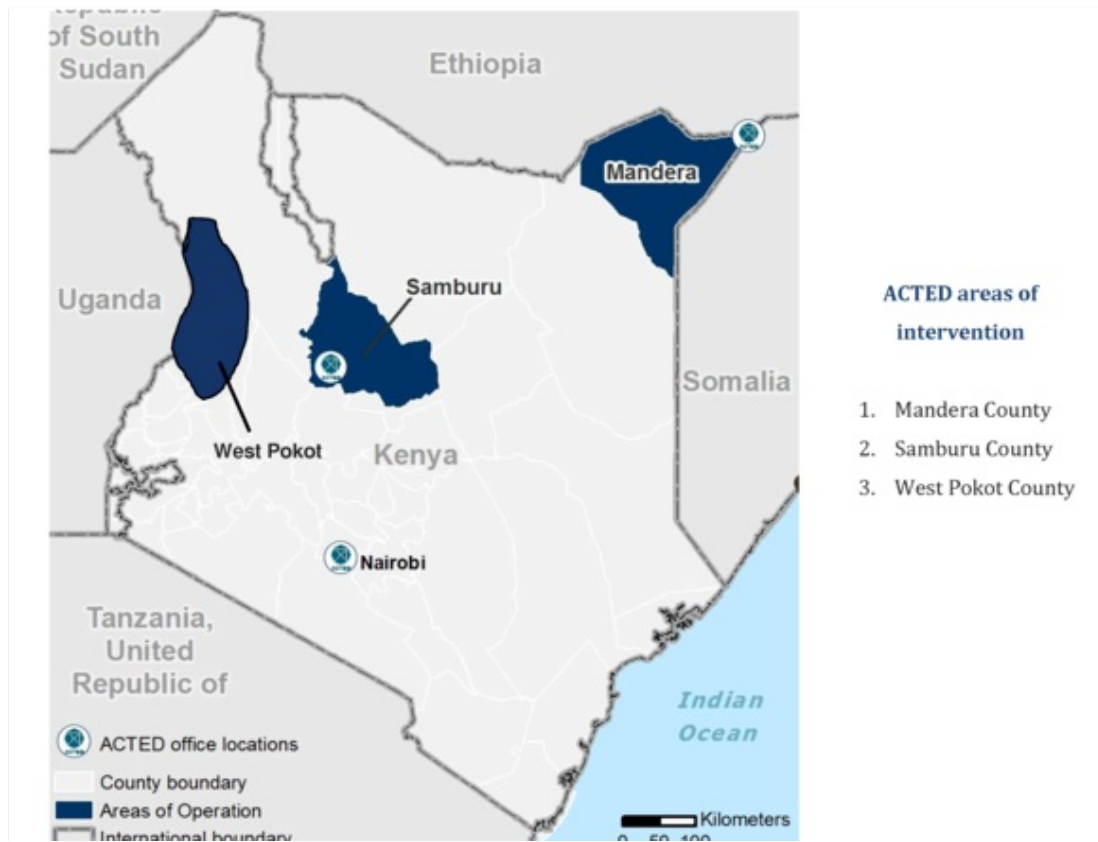
In order to address the rising and worsening malnutrition trend, ACTED has been able to complement the food basket needs of 475 households of malnourished pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 5 years through distribution of unconditional cash transfers.

In addition, chronically sick persons suffering from TB and HIV were enrolled into the program based on listing at the health facility.

*"I am expectant and I cater for 2 other school-going children. My husband is a casual unskilled worker and has failed to secure employment due to the prevailing drought. The farm is now desolate as the maize I planted in November wilted and died." Ms. Basilan Leakanoi, explains. "I want to thank [ACTED](#), and their donor [ECHO](#), for supporting the unconditional cash transfer to Samburu County residents."*

112,000 people are still in need of urgent assistance as the drought worsens in Samburu County. The Samburu County Steering Group identified food assistance, cash transfers, peace building, asset protection, critical water point rehabilitation and livestock offtake as the most potent and priority interventions to address the ongoing emergency in the county.





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