



ACTED Kenya



Newsletter

DROUGHT WATCH:

2.6 million People currently at the risk of starvation in Kenya.

Highlights

The food security situation is worsening in the Horn of Africa, as the region continues to receive below-normal rainfall, according to the recent [Famine Early Warning Systems Network update](#).

The National [2017 Long Rains Assessment report](#) indicates that approximately 3.4 million people are acutely food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance.

The nutrition situation remains of concern across Kenya's northern pastoralist and south-eastern marginal agricultural areas. A Critical nutrition situation (Phase 4; GAM WHZ 15.0 - 29.9 percent) was reported in East Pokot (Baringo), Samburu, West Pokot, Turkana West, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera. The main contributing factor to these malnutrition rates is household food insecurity, caused by low milk availability and food stocks and high food prices.

A total of 369,277 children in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties require treatment for acute malnutrition (MAM 296,645 and SAM 72,632), as well as 36,988 pregnant and lactating women.

Kenya Flash appeal

Since its launch in March, [the Kenya Flash Appeal](#) has raised US\$47.4m (28.6 per cent) against a total requirement of US\$165.8 million. US\$118.4m is still needed to fund this response plan/appeal. (Updated August 2017)

The Flash Appeal complements the Government of Kenya's ongoing \$208 million response against which the Government has allocated \$100 million.

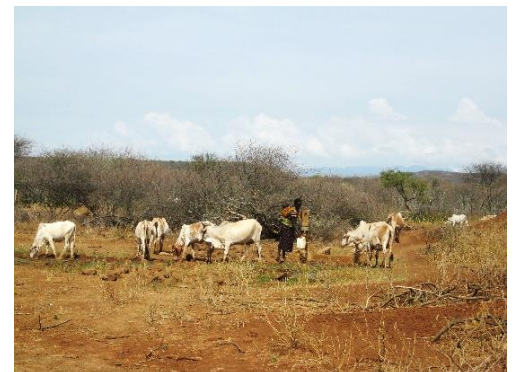
Rains Update

During the March to May long rains season, the Country recorded very depressed and poorly distributed rainfall. The pastoral areas are experiencing prolonged dry spells, with poor vegetation cover as pasture and water availability reduces. Poor crop performance and the increased spread of the fall armyworm have been recorded in most agricultural areas leading to an increase in basic food prices. This is also worsened by the high inflation rates within the country.

Reduced access to safe drinking water has caused women and children to trek long distances to access water in most ASAL counties. Notably most pastoralists will be on the move as distances to pasture increase, thus affecting both livestock body conditions and terms of trade associated with livestock body condition.

According to the **May mid-season assessment** by the **Kenya Food Security Steering Group**, food insecurity is set to increase from late June, with more poor households likely to experience crisis (IPC Phase 4) outcomes. However, pastoral areas have experienced modest improvements in water availability and vegetation cover, but these changes are expected to be short-lived.

In pastoral areas like Samburu and Mandera, terms of trade remain below-average as livestock prices remain low amidst higher staple food prices, constraining purchasing power, and leading to growing household food consumption gaps.



A pastoralist moving around with his cattle in search of pasture and water

Drought Resource Links

- [National Drought Management Authority](#)
- [2017 Long Rains Assessment report](#)
- [The Kenya Flash Appeal](#)
- [Famine Early Warning Systems Network update](#).
- [Kenya: Drought Response Situation Report No. 3, 29 June 2017](#)

ACTED: Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

Impact of cash transfers to drought affected communities

Due to the growing need to support drought-affected households to access immediate food and non-food needs, ACTED, in coordination with respective County Governments is providing unconditional multi-purpose cash transfers to 2,760 households in Mandera and Samburu Counties aimed at improving household purchasing power.

The project funded by [ECHO](#) is supporting the Ministry of Health to address the increasing malnutrition rates of affected households by giving out unconditional cash transfer to enable access to more nutritious food and other basic needs. ACTED has prioritized malnourished children under five, pregnant and lactating women, people living with disabilities, the elderly and chronically ill patients (TB & HIV).

Unconditional cash transfer to malnourished households has proven to be an effective tool in supporting affected populations to not only meet their basic needs but also to restore critical livelihood assets and resume economic activity. Cash received has had a positive impact on gender relations at household level, increased household expenditures (especially food), and improved dietary diversity.

ACTED also conducted emergency water trucking in Mandera County to provide critical institutions (schools and health facilities) with access to safe drinking water during the ongoing drought.



Fighting starvation through Slaughter destocking



Consecutive failure of the short rains of 2016 and long rains of 2017 led to extreme water and pasture deficits resulting to increased livestock morbidity and mortality in the arid and semi-arid counties in northern Kenya.

In response, ACTED, funded by [FAO Kenya](#), is carrying out emergency response activities for vulnerable pastoral communities through slaughter destocking and animal treatment in Mandera in collaboration with the department of livestock and veterinary services. The project addresses food and asset protection needs of over 5000 households identified as food insecure by the National Government of Kenya in the country due to the ongoing drought.

1,000 small stock affected by drought will be voluntarily slaughtered, an exercise that is targeting 500 households in Mandera County. The slaughter destocking exercise will benefit vulnerable households by providing them with access to meat that is safe for consumption and access to cash to enable them meet the most basic needs and help improve the nutritional status of households. For animal treatment, ACTED will provide antibiotics, dewormers, pesticides and multivitamins for drought affected livestock.

Water asset rehabilitation and hygiene promotion in emergencies

ACTED has been implementing projects in Mandera and Samburu Counties since 2009 and benefits from good access and global acceptance from the communities through strong ongoing partnerships.

The [UNICEF Kenya](#) funded project implemented by ACTED is providing timely lifesaving assistance to people affected by the drought through hygiene-promotion activities and rehabilitation of boreholes to create access to safe water and encourage better hygiene practices.

ACTED, in collaboration with the Mandera and Samburu County Water departments identified strategic boreholes, that were not functioning or had broken down, for repair and rehabilitation. Water User Committees were trained on operations and maintenance of the water assets to ensure proper management after completion of the project.

30,000 drought affected populations will be able to access safe water from the rehabilitated water sources and will receive hygiene kits to ensure personal hygiene, health, dignity and well-being.



Programme Achievements-January to August 2017



Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

10 boreholes, to be rehabilitated
600,000 litres of water trucked and chlorinated
1,000 hygiene kits distributed
60 WASH committee members trained



Cash transfers

2760 households received cash transfers
Ksh. 3,000 received per beneficiary for 5 months

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