



ACTED Kenya



Newsletter

DROUGHT WATCH:

5.61 million People are in need of humanitarian assistance in Kenya, including 3.4 million people who are food insecure.

Drought and humanitarian situation

Kenya has been facing a severe food crisis for most of 2017 due to the recurrence of drought. Effects of climate change continue to affect rain patterns; as rainfall in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) becomes increasingly erratic and unreliable, leading to increased food insecurity. The entrenched poverty of these communities further increases their vulnerability to natural shocks as local coping mechanisms are eroded.

As of January 2018, 5.6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Kenya, including 3.4 million people who are food insecure, and 500,000 who are officially classed as being in a food security "emergency".

High levels of malnutrition continue to be reported across the ASAL counties, with some counties reporting high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates of more than twice the emergency threshold of concern that is 15%.

Drought has impinged on people's ability to maintain their livelihoods, thus reducing their ability to cope, adapt and recover. This has resulted to adoption of poor coping strategies such as sale of remaining livelihood assets and skipping of meals.

Revised Kenya Flash appeal

The Kenya flash appeal was updated in September 2017 to complement the Government's thirteen month extended response plan (from November 2016 until December 2017).

Through the Flash Appeal, humanitarian partners responded to immediate needs of 1.9 million people, prioritizing response in the 11 counties (among them ACTED counties of intervention - Mandera, Samburu, and Baringo counties) facing the highest levels of malnutrition and food insecurity in 2017.

The revised Flash Appeal sought to fill the gap by focusing on lifesaving intervention in the most affected counties.

Rains Update

The short rains (October–December 2017) were characterized by poor spatial and temporal distribution. This shortened the growing season for the majority of south eastern marginal cropping areas and led to below-average forage restoration in affected pastoral zones.

The majority of poor households are expected to remain food insecure until the onset of the next long rains. In many of the pastoral areas, livestock productivity has increased, improving income and food availability due to the short rains.

Water shortages and disease outbreaks have exacerbated the impact on those already facing hunger and malnutrition, and livelihoods (especially for farmers) have been further compromised by an infestation of the Fall Army Worm that has destroyed thousands of cropland.

ACTED Areas of operation

Some of ACTED counties of operation, notably Samburu and Mandera and Baringo, are in the 'alert' drought phase, at the start of 2018, while a critical nutrition situation has been reported in all of ACTED's current areas of operation; East Pokot (Baringo), Samburu and Mandera Counties.

In Mandera County, pasture and water scarcity still persists. As of November 2017, milk production was below the 5- year average and livestock prices well below normal with maize prices maintaining their above normal prices. Terms of trade for pastoralists still remain unfavourable.

Samburu and Baringo Counties are still experiencing moderate drought conditions. In Samburu County, open surface water sources remained partially recharged in agro pastoral zones and dry in pastoral livelihood zones as a result of low precipitation.



ACTED beneficiaries receiving hygiene kits in Mandera County

Drought Resource Links

- [Revised Kenya Flash Appeal](#)
- [2017 Long Rains Assessment report](#)
- [Famine Early Warning Systems Network update.](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [National Drought Early Warning Bulletin - December 2017](#)
- [Kenya Food Security Outlook Update, December 2017](#)
- [UNICEF Kenya Humanitarian Situation Report, 6 December 2017](#)
- [Samburu County snapshot](#)
- [Mandera County snapshot](#)

ACTED: Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

Improving access to safe water for vulnerable communities

Water is vital for survival but millions of people still lack access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene. ACTED is improving access to safe water and sanitation through provision of emergency water during emergencies and rehabilitating water assets to create reliable supply. This ensures a sustainable supply of clean, safe water and consistently improves sanitation and hygiene.

In Lenge'i village- Samburu County, access to clean and safe water has for years been a big challenge due to poor infrastructural development. The area receives very little rainfall subsequently affecting the water recharge rates. Recurrent droughts have increased the distance and time spent as communities' search for clean and safe water for both domestic and livestock use.

ACTED worked with the Water Department of Samburu County Government with financial support from [UNICEF](#) to clean and flush out sediments from the only functional borehole in the area to ensure access to clean drinking water for the community. ACTED sensitized community members on the importance of cleaning and maintaining the water infrastructure to ensure longevity of the facility. After rehabilitation of the borehole, hygiene promotion sessions were conducted to improve the communities' hygiene and sanitation practices with a focus on hand washing during critical times.

Proper Sanitation and hygiene remains a big challenge in Baringo and Samburu Counties. With support from [USAID-OFDA](#), ACTED's current program aims to improve water infrastructure and increase awareness on better sanitation and hygiene practices. The impact of this project is significant as 30,000 individuals are targeted to benefit from improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Read more [here](#)



Mobile money transfer in the remote areas of Kenya



Samburu County has three main livelihood zones: pastoral, agro-pastoral and formal employment/casual waged labour. The pastoral livelihood zones are largely reliant on the long and short rain seasons for pasture regeneration. The ongoing drought, occasioned by late onset of the October-December short rains and the below average rainfall received in the region has further eroded the livelihoods of the community. This resulted in a need for emergency assistance from humanitarian actors as well from the County and national governments.

ACTED is present in the region offering emergency interventions through financial assistance to the most vulnerable households to improve the communities' ability to cope with the negative impact of drought. Through EU humanitarian funding, 810 beneficiaries received cash through the mobile money transfer platform to supplement the household food basket. In close collaboration with the County Steering group and the County Department of Health and Medical Services, the nutrition sensitive project targeted vulnerable households with malnourished individuals. Beneficiaries were primarily those in the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme sourced through 5 health facilities in the targeted areas. Among those targeted were pregnant and lactating mothers, children under 5 and the chronically ill malnourished to enhance their nutritional diversity.

ACTED continues to focus on addressing the emergency needs through *nutrition-sensitive* programming. This will contribute to reducing malnutrition rates through increased access to food and safe, clean water.

Making peace, not war: Peace messaging promotes better co-existence

Peace is paramount for the social-economic development and growth of any economy. Ahead of the Kenya elections in 2017, mass displacement and electoral violence was anticipated as a result of the disputed election results. This informed the need for humanitarian agencies to advocate for increased humanitarian interventions as access to basic social services such as education, health services, communication and transport were expected to be affected.

From previous post-poll violence, women and children were disproportionately affected and were predicted to be the most at risk group from any election related violence. This would therefore lead to households losing income and other livelihoods such as livestock and food crops. Traditionally election periods are also characterized with poor economic performance, leading already at-risk communities' further into vulnerability.

ACTED through funding from StartFund supported election preparedness activities in Baringo County in partnership with world vision and action aid Kenya. A Kenya Initial Rapid Assessment (KIRA) training was successfully conducted in collaboration with Kenya Red Cross Society to identify the initial humanitarian needs in the County. A peace caravan was held prior to the election advocating for peace and reached over 18,000 people across the County. This was organized in collaboration with County Commissioner's office, the County peace committees and the county government. Local religious leaders were also involved and were crucial in promoting and spreading messages of peace and cohesion across different ethnic groups. A local radio broadcast focusing on peace messaging was done on KASS FM to reach a wide audience across the county.



Programme Achievements-January to December 2017



Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

10 boreholes rehabilitated
5,500 hygiene kits distributed
12 hygiene promoters trained
3 hygiene promotion session conducted
9 hand wash stands installed in 2 schools



Cash transfers

2,760 households received cash transfers
for 5 months

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