

### SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The El Niño season began in June 2023 and is expected to continue until at least February 2024. Kenya is in one of the regions where flooding has historically been higher during this climatic phenomenon<sup>1</sup>, the effects of El Niño are anticipated to be amplified due to the forecast of a positive Indian Ocean dipole, leading to above-average rainfall in most parts of the country and a severe risk of flooding.

The whole country is likely to be impacted, particularly in the plains of the Lake Victoria basin, the counties bordering the Tana river, as well as in urban areas with poor drainage systems.<sup>2</sup> Over the coming months, the El Niño conditions are expected to strengthen, particularly in the north-eastern counties and along the coast leading Mandera and Wajir counties, as well as parts of Marsabit, Isiolo and Garissa counties to have a 85% probability of receiving above-normal rainfall.

During the previous El Niño episode (2019), severe flooding and massive landslides led to the destruction of property and essential infrastructure, crop and livestock losses, and increased epidemics, particularly of cholera, affecting more than 330,000 people in the country and resulting in the displacement of 160,000 people.<sup>3</sup> As Kenya is emerging from a drought emergency, described as the worst in 40 years, and experienced severe flooding during the last long rains season (March-May), the El Niño's destructive effects represent a major threat to access to food, drinkable water and other basic needs. The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties are at particular risk, with 2.8 million people suffering from acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) following back-to-back climatic shocks<sup>4</sup>. Wetter than usual conditions are also likely to result in epidemics, while 12,000 cases of cholera have already been reported.<sup>5</sup>

Although the risk to communities living in flood-prone areas of the ASALs is particularly severe, the increase in rainfall corresponds to the usual short rains season and could support recovery to the prolonged drought season. Preparedness and appropriate interventions are essential and could build on this phenomenon to improve food and nutrition security.

**EL NINO 2019 –  
300,000 PEOPLE  
AFFECTED IN THE  
COUNTRY.**

**2.8 MILLION  
PEOPLE SUFFERING  
FROM ACUTE FOOD  
INSECURITY IN THE  
ASAL COUNTIES.**

**12,000 REPORTED  
CASES OF CHOLERA.**



#### COUNTIES EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED BY SEVERE FLOODS

Kisumu - Migori - Bungoma - Busia - Nairobi - Mombasa - Lamu - Kilifi - Taita Taveta - Kwale, Tana River - Garissa - Wajir - Mandera - Turkana - Murang'a - Nyeri - Marsabit - Samburu - Isiolo (OCHA – October 2023).

<sup>1</sup> Strong influence of El Niño Southern Oscillation on flood risk around the world, Ward et al., 2014

<sup>2</sup> Kenya Disaster Risk Profile, World Bank Group, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Extreme Weather Events In Kenya Between 2011 And 2020, Kenya Meteorological Department, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Kenya: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for July - September 2023 and Projection for October 2023 - January 2024 (ASAL), IPC.

<sup>5</sup> El Niño, Positive Indian Ocean Dipole Forecast and Humanitarian Impact, OCHA, 2023.

## KEY MESSAGES

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### **PREPAREDNESS AND EARLY WARNING TO REDUCE DAMAGING EFFECTS**

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In areas identified at risk with impacts on critical infrastructure, accessibility and communications, it is essential to ensure that communities can take the necessary preparatory measures, including identifying higher ground and moving livestock, food and equipment to these areas. In association with its local partners, Acted will raise awareness in priority sites in the ASALs and will provide early weather warnings through community visits and messages delivered to vulnerable households supported under its food assistance and WASH programmes.

2

### **DELIVERING EARLY RESPONSE THROUGH PLANNING AND PREPOSITIONING**

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Responding rapidly to anticipated flooding and its impact on vital needs requires assessing and positioning sensitive resources – water supplies, seeds, medicines – in key areas most at risk of flooding. Acted is capitalizing on its position as the lead of the Kenya Cash Consortium in partnership with the ASAL Humanitarian Network (AHN) consisting of 30 local NGOs to assess vulnerabilities and preposition priority supplies. Planning around vulnerable assets and preparation for localized support needs identified in county contingency plans will be essential for an effective and rapid response.

3

### **A MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE TO VULNERABLE GROUPS**

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Existing vulnerabilities will be exacerbated by El Niño: flooding threatens food and nutrition security through the loss of crops and livestock, access to water and sanitation due to the destruction of infrastructures, and human and animal health as a result of the risk of epidemics induced by wetter conditions. A comprehensive multi-sectoral response is critical, with priority given to vulnerable groups, particularly female-headed households, whose income is mainly dependent on agriculture while having less access to weather forecasting and warning systems, as well as to communication devices.

4

### **COMBINING IN-KIND AND CASH ASSISTANCE**

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Interventions should combine in-kind and cash assistance to address the urgency and spectrum of needs. This combination of transfer modalities and delivery mechanisms, including the provision of WASH Non-Food Items, Unconditional Cash Transfers, and Cash-for-Work programming, is required to overcome logistical constraints and access challenges while maximizing community impact. This combination must be guided by quality assessments along with market monitoring initiatives to identify market disruptions and ensure that responses comprehensively address community needs.

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### **HARNESSING THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF EL NIÑO**

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Heavy rainfall could also bring relief to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities affected by drought. In the ASAL areas, rainwater collection containers and their good condition will be key to reduce the pressure of absorption by the soil, lowering the risk of flash floods and preparing communities to cope with future droughts. The distribution of drought-tolerant seeds to rainfed farmers will help restore harvests and mitigate the impact on food and nutrition security, particularly in the counties that are still in recovery phase following the prolonged drought.

## ACTED'S RESPONSE & CALL FOR CRITICAL SUPPORT

Acted will target the most at-risk counties that are likely to receive above-average rainfall and are severely affected by food and nutrition insecurity being classified as IPC 3 or above. Acted will deploy its humanitarian response through the **Eastern Cluster comprising Mandera – Wajir – Garissa counties**, and the **Northern Cluster comprising Marsabit – Samburu – Turkana counties** with its commitment to a localized approach for increased reach, effectiveness, and accountability to affected populations. **To strengthen its response to El Niño, Acted is calling for urgent support to support life-saving response in the ASAL Counties of Kenya.**

### FUNDS REQUESTED

# \$1.5M

### PEOPLE TARGETED

# 60K



#### Agriculture and Livestock

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**Provision of livestock feed** – Loss of livestock is expected to be a major consequence of flooding, with 828,667 animals at risk of dying due to floods in Samburu and the destruction of more than 50% of pasture in Mandera. Acted will provide essential supplementary feeds such as hay, range cubes, salt lick, and nutrient-rich pellets to the affected livestock.

**Mass treatment and vaccination** – In response to anticipated epidemics of vector-borne and water-borne diseases, such as trypanosomiasis and diarrhea, that will affect a significant proportion of livestock in Samburu, Mandera and Wajir, Acted will provide logistical support to the affected counties for mass screening, deworming, vaccination and treatment of affected animals.

**Provision of Certified Seeds** – Despite significant damage in flood-prone areas - 10,000 farmers are expected to see their crops destroyed in Mandera - improved rains will generally result in increased agricultural production, particularly of leguminous crops and vegetables. Acted will thus provide certified seeds and other agricultural inputs to vulnerable agro-pastoral populations to support agricultural productivity.



#### Food Security

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**Provision of Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs)** – Flooding will exacerbate food insecurity as many crops will be lost and food prices are likely to rise. Acted's strategy to mitigate the impact on vulnerable households will be based on the provision of cash assistance to increase the purchasing power of affected households until the end of January 2023. The cash transfers will be conducted through the Kenya Cash Consortium, led by Acted and the ASAL Humanitarian Network, which is currently operating in the 6 targeted counties.

**Implementation of Cash-for-Work programme** – Flooding affecting roads and causing land erosion will be a major challenge to access impacted populations. In Wajir County, more than 10 road facilities are expected to be washed away. Acted is proposing to implement a Cash-for-Work programme focusing on the rehabilitation of essential logistical infrastructure and the restoration of degraded land. These activities will directly increase the purchasing power of households to address food insecurity and will benefit the wider community by improving accessibility.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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**Provision of WASH Non-Food Items (NFIs)** – The floods will affect structures providing access to water for domestic use and livelihoods, sanitation and hygiene. More than 150,000 people are expected to be affected by vector-borne diseases in Samburu County. Acted will procure essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as aquatabs, buckets, jerricans, mosquito nets and dignity kits, to be distributed at designated hot spot sites.

**Rehabilitation of damaged water infrastructures** – Main water sources in the ASALs are boreholes, shallow wells, and water pans, mostly located along the seasonal water streams. These vital infrastructures are expected to be impacted by El Niño, with 20 water supply systems expected to be destroyed by flash floods, affecting 120,000 people in Samburu County alone. Acted's response will include the provision of logistical support and fast-moving spare parts to Borehole Rapid Response Teams for the rehabilitation of boreholes and the construction of protective fencing.



## Strengthening Community Resilience

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**Supporting existing Coordination Structures** – Different coordination forums are established within the ASAL counties for the monitoring of recurrent shocks, including County Steering Committees. Increased support to the existing structures for the revision of emergency plans and the development of scenarios involving the setting up of local committees by Acted could help improve preparedness and response for future El Niño cycles.

**Strengthening Early Warning Systems** – Early warning systems provided by the Kenya Meteorological Department and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) need to be further developed at the local level to reach vulnerable households, particularly female-headed households, who on average have lower access to information and communication devices. Strengthening early warning systems at county level and improving the diffusion of information could help counties develop and effectively implement early action protocols.



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ZERO EXCLUSION CARBON POVERTY

**MORE INFORMATION | Anna Martyres, Kenya Deputy Country Director**  
[anna.martyres@acted.org](mailto:anna.martyres@acted.org)