

BRIEF ON CURRENT DROUGHT AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN ASAL COUNTIES, MARCH 2019

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Food and Nutrition Security Assessment is a multi-agency, multi-sectoral exercise led by the government of Kenya in 23 arid and semi-arid counties. Given the bimodal rainfall pattern in Kenya, and the importance of rainfall to food security, the assessments are conducted bi-annually after every season.

The 2019 Short Rains Assessment was conducted between 11th and 22nd February 2019 by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group in collaboration with the County Steering Groups.

2.0. DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

2.1. Rainfall performance

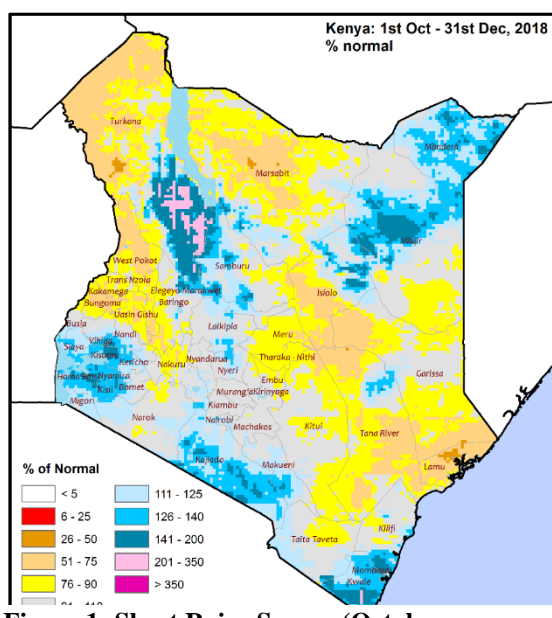


Figure 1: Short Rains Season (October – December 2018)

The 2018 short rains were generally late and erratic. Rainfall onset was 20-30 days late in the south-eastern marginal agricultural areas and more than 40 days late in the northern pastoral and coastal marginal agricultural areas. However, the onset was ten days earlier than normal in a few localised areas of Kajiado, Narok, and Baringo.

Cumulatively, southern parts of the coastal marginal agricultural areas, southern parts of the pastoral north-western areas and northern parts of the north-eastern pastoral areas received rains that were above 110 percent of normal. The rest of the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas received less than 90 percent

of normal (**Figure 1**). Spatial distribution was poor across the country. Temporal distribution was also poor throughout the season and dominated by long dry spells between rainfall episodes. Rainfall cessation occurred earlier than normal during the second and third weeks of December.

2.2. Conflict

Inter-communal resource-based conflicts in the agro-pastoral, north-western and north-eastern pastoral livelihood zones were triggered by dwindling pasture, browse and water in the wet-season grazing areas and subsequent migration into traditional dry-season grazing areas.

The conflicts, associated tensions and fears of retaliatory attacks limited access to water and range resources in the grazing fall-back areas, disrupted markets, and led to loss of human lives. Border disputes along the Meru-Isiolo border and the Isiolo-Garissa border also caused the displacement of households.

2.3. Livestock diseases

The prevalence of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Pestes des Petits Ruminant (PPR), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) was above seasonal levels in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas. Outbreaks of FMD and LSD occurred in Baringo and West Pokot while Haemorrhagic Septicaemia in camels occurred in Turkana. However, livestock mortality rates were low following mass vaccination and treatment by the county governments and partners. Other diseases were Sheep and Goat Pox, Mange, Heartwater disease, Fowl Pox and Newcastle disease in poultry.

2.4. Other shocks and hazards

A tree locust invasion in Turkana West, Turkana North and Kibish defoliated 20 percent of browse, mainly the acacia tree species, as well as the green and tender grasses in the irrigated areas and watercourses. The invasion also affected sorghum and contributed to a five percent loss of the crop. The tree locust survey, mapping and aerial spraying was done by the Pest Control Unit of the State Department of Agriculture with support from World Vision Kenya in Turkana South and GIZ in Turkana West and North. The area sprayed was 3,750 hectares out of the 616,000 hectares surveyed and mapped due to the limitation of the chemical (Sumithion 1500 Litres) and the AV gas.

3.0. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The overall food security situation in the country is still stable, with most households remaining in the Stressed phase of the Integrated Food Security Phase (IPC) classification. Although the food security situation has deteriorated in the pastoral and marginal agriculture livelihood zones following the poor performance of the 2018 short rains, the effect of this was not as large as it might have been because the 2018 long rains led to substantial regeneration of pasture and higher crop production, and consequently improved food and nutrition security. These positive impacts have mitigated the otherwise negative effects of the below-average 2018 short rains.

Nevertheless, the below-average short rains have slightly increased the food insecure population from **655,800 in August 2018** to current number of **1,111,500**, with the top 12 counties having a total of **865,300** food insecure people.

3.1. Top 12 drought-affected counties

County	Most affected sectors	Population requiring immediate food assistance	Hot spots
1. Turkana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock • Health • Peace and security 	192,800	Kibish, Turkana North, Turkana East.
2. Mandera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Health • Livestock 	88,800	Mandera East, Banissa, Mandera West, Mandera North.
3. Garissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock • Health 	86,100	Hulugho, Daadab, Lagdera, Fafi.
4. Baringo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock • Peace and Security 	73,700	Tiaty, Baringo South, Baringo North.
5. Kilifi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock • Crops 	60,300	Ganze, Magarini, Kaloleni.
6. Tana River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock 	59,700	Tana North, Tana River, Tana Delta
7. West Pokot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock 	57,600	Pokot North, Pokot Central.
8. Marsabit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock 	56,600	North Horr, Laisamis.
9. Makueni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock • Crops 	54,800	Mbooni, Kibwezi
10. Kajiado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock 	47,100	Kajiado West, Kajiado Central
11. Kwale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock • crops 	45,800	Kinango, Lungalunga.
12. Isiolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Livestock 	42,000	Oldonyiro, Merti, Sericho, Garbatulla, Kinna.
Total		865,300	

4.0. ONGOING INTERVENTIONS FOR 12 COUNTIES

4.1 National Government

The National Government has provided total of **Kshs. 1,351,196,000** for response during the period of February, March and April 2019 as follows:

- Food and safety net **Kshs. 601,196,000.**
- Support to household irrigation water storage program (excavation of small water pans) **Kshs. 600,000,000.**
- Support to water trucking, maintenance and rehabilitation of boreholes **Kshs. 150,000,000.**
- Water trucking by NDMA in Mandera, Wajir, Turkana, Garissa, Marsabit and Tana River and maintenance of water points in selected areas.
- Hunger Safety Net Programme cash transfers by NDMA in Turkana, Wajir, Mandera and Marsabit.

4.2 County Governments

- General food distribution by county governments in Turkana, Garissa and Tana River

5.0 RECOMMENDED SHORT-TERM INTERVENTIONS (FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 2019) FOR THE 12 MOST AFFECTED COUNTIES

Sector	Intervention	Cost Kshs.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water trucking • Repair of broken boreholes • Desilting of water pans • Water harvesting in schools and health centres 	550,000,000
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock supplementary feed acquisition and distribution • Pasture reseeded • Livestock vaccination 	300,000,000
Food assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of food assistance to affected population 	600,000,000
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of food fortification at household level, baby-friendly community initiative, integrated health and nutrition outreach, upscaling of HINI 	230,000,000
Peace and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support peace and conflict resolution mechanisms 	40,000,000
TOTAL		1,720,000,000

Annex 1: Food-insecure population, March 2019 – August 2019

County	County population (2016 projected)	Food insecure population in need of assistance in August 2019	March 2019 – August 2019	
			% of population which is food insecure	Number of food insecure people
Turkana	1,083,653	182,700	18	192,800
Wajir	458,900	65,500	16	72,500
Mandera	711,117	88,800	12	88,800
Garissa	431,950	83,700	20	86,100
Marsabit	315,936	40,800	18	56,600
Samburu	283,780	0	13	36,700
Laikipia	505,712	0	6	30,300
West Pokot	649,418	57,600	9	57,600
Tana River	303,047	49,300	20	59,700
Isiolo	155,465	36,500	27	42,000
Kajiado	870,721	0	5	47,100
Baringo	703,697	50,900	10	73,700
Narok	1,077,719	0	0	0
Sub-total, Pastoral	7,551,115	655,800		843,900
Makueni	959,022	0	6	54,800
Kwale	820,199	0	6	45,800
Kilifi	1,399,975	0	4	60,300
Kitui	1,097,687	0	4	42,100
Taita Taveta	358,173	0	4	14,400
Embu (Mbeere)	219,220	0	0	0
Tharaka-Nithi (Tharaka)	141,061	0	4	14,100
Meru (North)	775,982	0	0	0
Nyeri (Kieni)	175,812	0	0	0
Lamu	128,144	0	28	36,100
Sub-total, Marginal Agricultural	6,075,275			267,600
Total	13,626,390			1,111,500