



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND ASALS**

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**DROUGHT AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN ASAL COUNTIES**

*Assessment of the performance of 2019 long rains season*

**1.0 Introduction**

- Assessment of the performance of March to May 2019 rainfall and its impact on food security in the country was conducted between 1<sup>st</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019. It was carried out by a multi-agency team composed of representatives from government departments, UN agencies and NGOs.
- The overall goal of the assessment was to provide drought and food security situation to stakeholders, including the National and County governments, development and humanitarian partners, and communities for quick and no-regrets decision making.
- The assessment was conducted in 23 arid and semi-arid counties namely; Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Lamu, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana

River, Taita Taveta, Kitui, Makueni, Embu (Mbeere), Nyeri (Kieni), Meru North, West Pokot, Baringo, Kajiado, Narok, Marsabit, Laikipia, Tharaka Nithi, Samburu and Isiolo.

- In each county, the findings were consolidated in a report presented to the County Steering Group for review and approval. The county reports were then synthesised to produce a national report.
- Assessments are usually conducted after each of the two rains seasons, to provide evidence-based and transparent food and nutrition security situation analysis. They take into account the cumulative effect of previous seasons to inform the Government and relevant stakeholders on the status of food security across county livelihood zones and administrative units.

## **2.0 Summary of Findings**

### **2.1 Rainfall Performance**

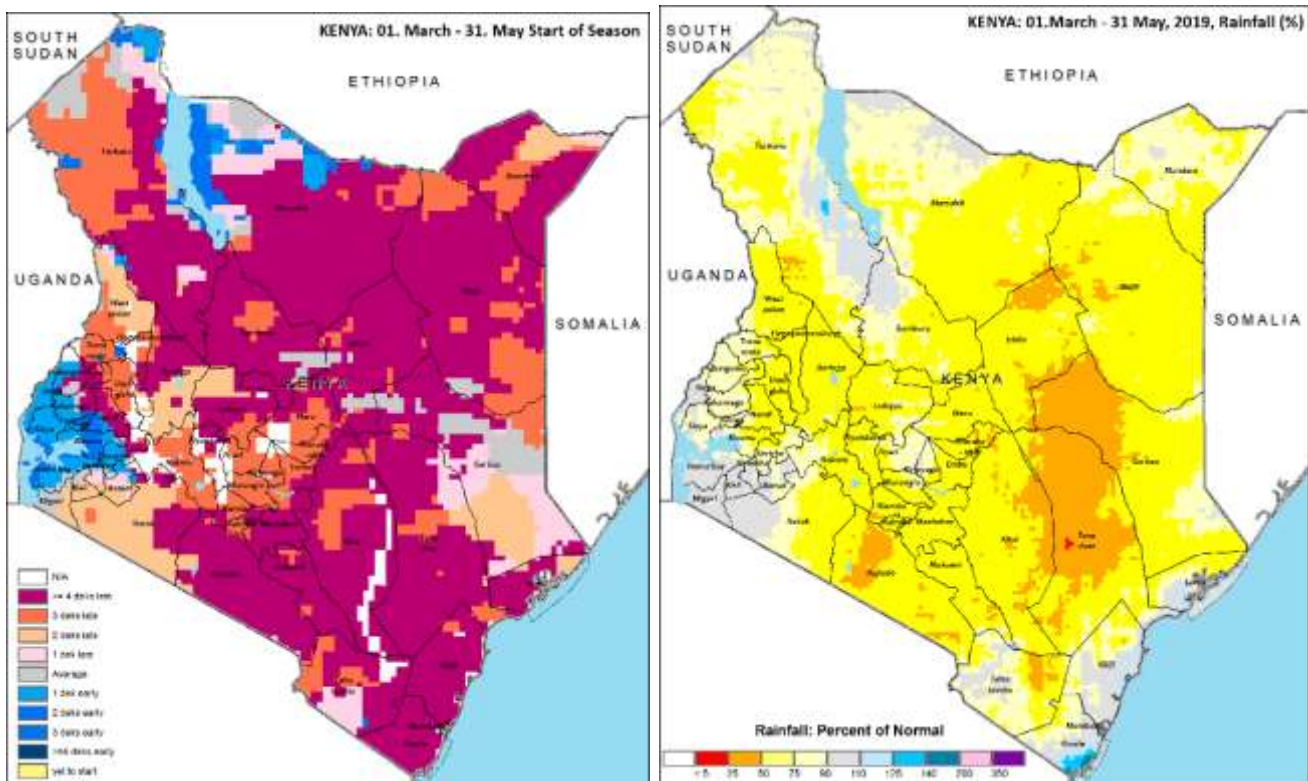
The long rains season was characterised by below-average, delayed start and poor performance, especially in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas.

- Onset delayed by more than 40 days in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas, except for the south-eastern marginal agricultural areas of Meru (Meru North), Embu (Mbeere), Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka), Kitui and Makueni counties, where onset was late by 30 to 40 days. The cessation of the rainfall was within normal timelines,

thus it was shorter by 40 days, significantly impacting crop growth and development.

- Spatial and temporal distribution was poor, with the cumulative seasonal totals being at 25 to 75 percent of normal, except in parts of West Pokot, Lamu, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Kwale and Turkana where the performance was 90 to 110 percent. Significant parts of Tana River, Northern Parts of Garissa, pockets of Isiolo, Marsabit, Kajiado, Makueni and Taita Taveta received 20 to 50 percent of normal rainfall.

**Figure 1:** 2019 March to May rainfall performance



## **2.2 Human and Livestock Diseases**

- A kalaazar outbreak was reported in Marsabit County, which recorded 1,464 cases and 16 fatalities. Nearly all the fatalities were from Laisamis Subcounty. An outbreak of the disease was also reported in Wajir County (Wajir West, Wajir South and Eldas subcounties) and Garissa, where 380 and 9 cases were recorded respectively.
- Cholera outbreak was reported in Wajir and Garissa counties, where 211 and 623 cases were recorded respectively. Active cases of cholera were also reported in Kutulo Subcounty of Mandera County. Measles outbreak was experienced in Dadaab Subcounty in Garissa, where 10 cases were reported. Other endemic human diseases reported were diarrhoea, typhoid and malaria, with Garissa County reporting a high of 20,284 cases.
- Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak was confirmed in Samburu North, leading to quarantine in the subcounty by the county department of veterinary services.
- Hemorrhagic septicaemia in camels was confirmed in Samburu and Turkana counties, with over 700 mortalities reported while lumpy skin disease and Heartwater in sheep and goats were reported in Kajiado and Narok counties.

## **2.3 Livestock Production**

- The condition of pasture and browse was categorised as fair-to-poor in most ASAL counties. The availability of both pasture and browse in most of the counties was lower compared to the average situation. The poor state of pasture and browse was attributed to the cumulative effects of the poor performance of the October to December 2018 short rains and the just-ended long rains season.
- Most ASAL counties reported fair-to-poor livestock body condition for cattle and sheep, and good-to-fair for goats and camels. Overall, the condition of most livestock is poorer than the average state normally observed during the month of July. The general health and body condition for all livestock types is expected to worsen as the dry season progresses and as animals trek longer distances in search of pasture and water.
- Milk production in most arid and semi-arid areas has declined below the five-year average by 50 percent, mainly due to inadequate pasture and long trekking distances. Milk consumption has significantly reduced and prices have increased due to low supply against high demand.

## **2.4 Water**

Insufficient rains received in most ASAL counties during the season led to low recharge of surface water sources such as water pans, shallow wells and dams. Open water sources were poorly recharged during the 2019 March to May season, with most sources holding less than 50 percent of their capacities. This may last only up to the end of August in pastoral areas and September in the marginal and agro-pastoral areas compared to October normally.

High return trekking distances to sources for domestic water use was witnessed in Samburu (Nachola, Nyiro and Ndoto) and Marsabit (Moyale and Laisamis), where return distance of 10 - 15 kilometres was recorded. Exceptionally longer trekking distances of up to 30 kilometres were observed in Lekushu, Lependera in Laisamis Sub-County, Hurri Hills, Kubi Adhi, Konon Gos Malabot and Kalesa in North Horr Sub-County and Elledimtu in Moyale Sub-County.

The pressure at water points means that waiting times have increased, while watering frequency has reduced.

## **2.5 Crop Production**

A long dry spell experienced in April after planting in late March exposed crops to extreme moisture stress, leading to delayed planting and replanting in some parts of marginal agricultural areas.

Attack of Fall Armyworms on maize was reported in an estimated 5 percent of cropped area in Narok, Laikipia, Taita Taveta, Lamu and West Pokot counties. The armyworm infestation, coupled with poor rainfall performance and limited ability of poor households to procure control chemicals, is likely to lead to significantly below-average harvests in these areas.

Fall armyworm infestation was also reported in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones of Turkana South, Central and Loima, which affected maize and sorghum.

## **2.6 High Food Prices**

Prices of staple foods have been on the rise across ASAL counties since March 2019. Prices rose by 10-40 percent between April and July. This is attributed to a decrease in supplies as stocks held by various actors locally decline following below average 2018 short rains harvests and reduced imports from Tanzania and Uganda.

## **2.7 Flash floods**

Flash floods destroyed access roads in Turkana West, leading to a rise in food commodity prices within the interior markets. Additionally, losses attributed to flash floods were also recorded mainly in Turkana West Subcounty, leading to loss of approximately 4,115 sheep and goats and displacement of more than 40 households in Letea, Lokangae and Nanaam. Late-season rainfall received in the coastal marginal agricultural areas of Kilifi and Kwale counties in May destroyed crops.

## **2.8 Education**

The enforcement of 100% transition for both ECD to primary and primary to secondary school has greatly contributed to good transition rates in all the counties. In schools under the school feeding programme, the enrolment, retention and increased transition rates were reported to be good.

However, attendance and concentration were affected in drought-stricken counties without ongoing school feeding programme. The situation could worsen in the Third Term between September and November unless appropriate interventions are instituted.

## **2.9 Peace and Security**

Early and unusual livestock migration patterns witnessed in most ASAL areas resulted in conflicts over access to pasture and water resources.

- In Turkana County, conflicts were reported in Turkana East, Turkana South and parts of Turkana North, while conflicts in Samburu County were reported in parts of Samburu North and Samburu East subcounties.
- In Marsabit County, cattle rustling occurred in Saku Subcounty and along the Ethiopian border in Moyale Subcounty. In all cases, there were losses of livestock and human lives. Cases of displacement were reported in Marsabit County. Similarly, conflicts occurred in the southeastern marginal agricultural areas of Meru County (Meru



North) and northern areas of Kitui County over access to grazing areas and water for livestock. These were driven by in-migration of livestock from Isiolo and Tana River counties respectively.

- In Garissa County, inter-subcounty border disputes were reported especially in Dertu, Bahuri and Abdisamad, Auliya and Lago. Al-Shabaab terror attacks were experienced in Wajir County along the border of Kenya and Somalia (Konton and Khorof harar), where several lives were lost, severely curtailing movement of pastoralists close to the border area.
- Incidences of insecurity were reported at Cheseгон along the West Pokot/Elgeyo Marakwet border, which led to the closure of Cheseгон market and along West Pokot/Turkana borders, resulting in loss of livestock in Orwa–Sarmach.
- Cattle rustling was reported in Kasiela area of Baringo South Sub-county where cattle were stolen, leading to high tension in areas of Chemoe, Kagir, Tuluk, Chemanangoi, Nawe, Natan and Ng'aratuko in Baringo North resulting into limited access to the market in Loruk area.
- In Nyeri County, resource-based conflict was reported in Gatuanyanga in Gakawa Ward between farmers and pastoralists that had migrated from the neighbouring counties.

- Human-wildlife conflicts were experienced in several ASAL counties such as Kajiado, Taita Taveta, Narok, Garissa and Laikipia counties, where wildlife destroyed crops and caused deaths and injuries to both human and livestock.

### **3.0 Food Security Situation**

The Acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) was used to analyse the drought and food security situation. The IPC is a global standard for classifying the severity of food insecurity and ensures that best practice is being applied. A standard methodology also allows comparisons to be made across areas and over time. IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis was also carried out to understand both the food and non-food causes of malnutrition.

The analysis indicates that drought and food security situation has worsened across most parts of the country, especially in view of the poor performance of the previous season (October to December 2018). The number of acutely food insecure households has been increasing steadily since August last year.

According to the acute IPC analysis and classification, the food security situation worsened in July 2019 compared to February 2019 when the assessment of the October to December 2018 short rains was conducted (Figure 2). Consequently, more households now face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity levels.

- **Currently, 12 counties are classified in Crisis - IPC Phase 3.**

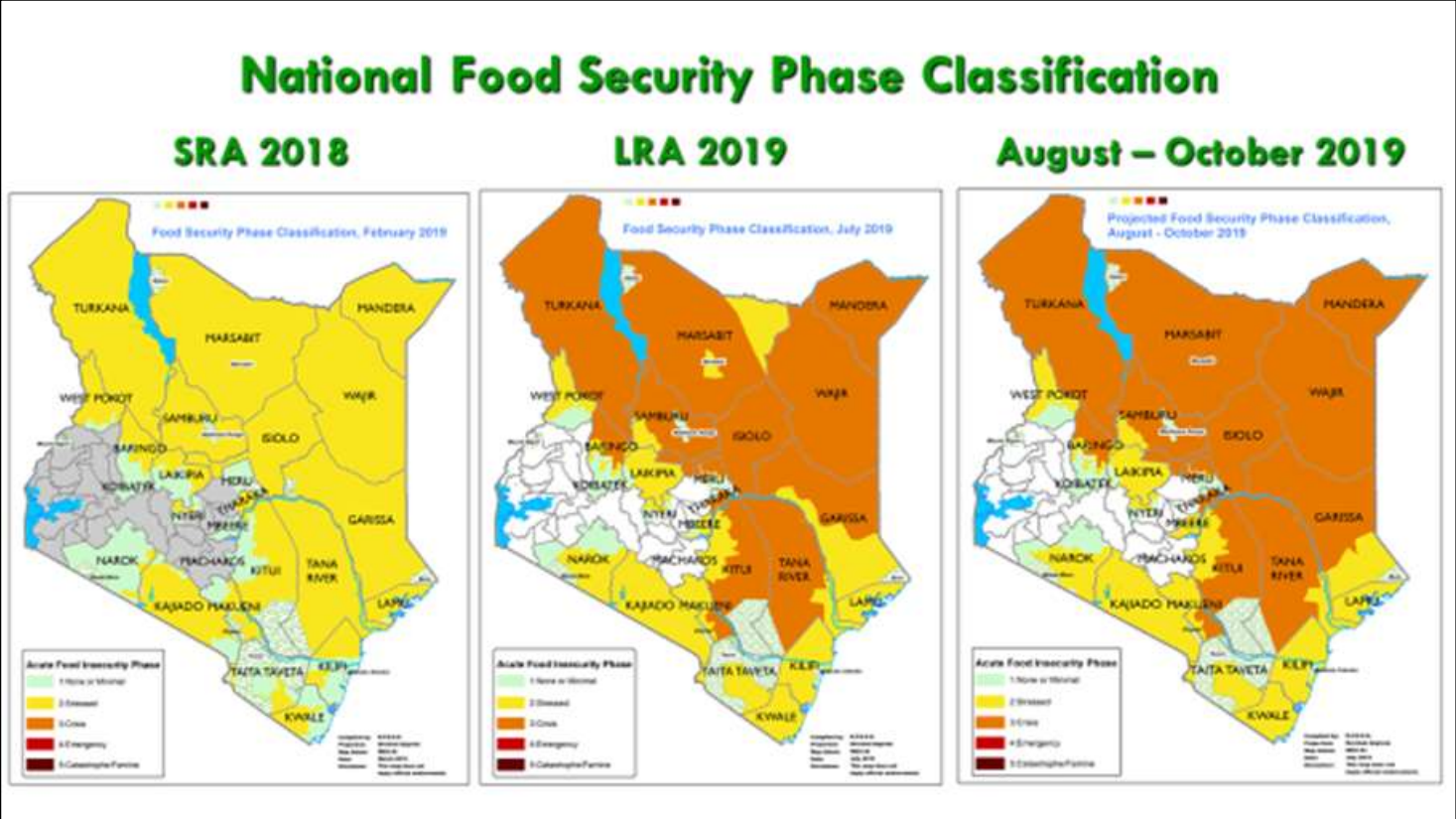
These include Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Tana River, Mandera, Isiolo, Garissa (pastoral area), Baringo (pastoral region in Tiaty), Samburu (pastoral zone), Kitui (marginal mixed farming (MMF) livelihood zone), Makueni (MMF areas), and Tharaka Nithi (MMF livelihood zone of Tharaka).

This means that households in these counties have moderate to large food consumption gaps and above usual acute malnutrition as a result of the prevailing drought or are only marginally able to meet minimum food needs by depleting essential assets or employing crisis and emergency coping strategies.

- **11 counties are classified in IPC Phase 2** and require livelihood support. These are West Pokot, Kajiado, Laikipia, Kilifi, Kwale, Embu (Mbeere), Narok, Nyeri (Kieni), Meru (Meru North), Taita Taveta and Lamu.

The most affected counties are Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Tana River, Mandera, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni and Kitui counties which are classified at **Food crisis** phase based on the Integrated Food Security Phase classification. The rest of the counties are on the **Stressed** food security stage as shown by the figure below;

Figure 2: Food security phase classification



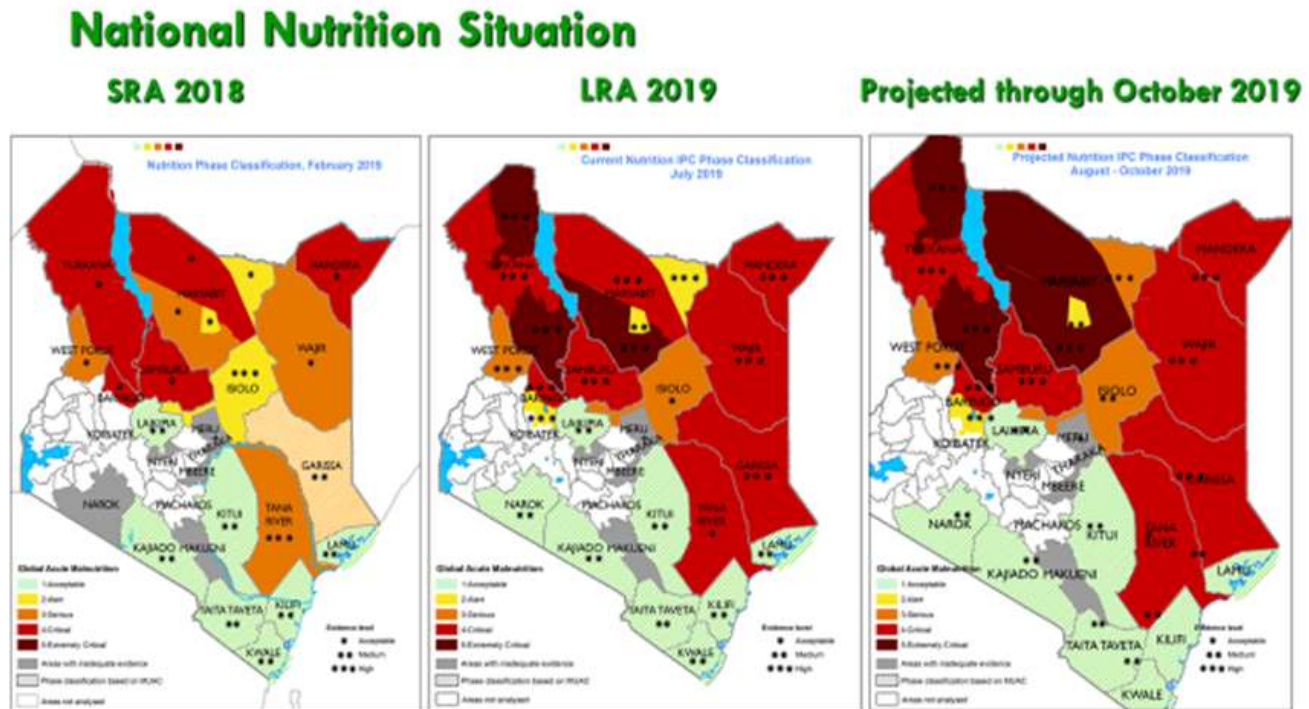
3.1 Nutrition Situation

The nutrition situation in ASAL counties has deteriorated compared to the same period last year. Prevalence of acute malnutrition in eight (8) counties remains **above the emergency threshold** (15 percent) for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), with Tukana North, Turkana South and Laisamis reaching the **extremely critical stage** as shown in Figure 3 and was distributed as follows:

- **Extremely Critical phase** (GAM WHZ 30 percent and above) - Turkana North, Turkana South and Laisamis.
- **Critical phase** (GAM WHZ 15.0 - 29.9 percent) - Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Baringo and Samburu.

- **Serious phase** (GAM WHZ 10.0 - 14.9 percent) - Isiolo and West Pokot.

**Figure 3: Nutrition situation (national)**



- The high malnutrition levels are mainly driven by food insecurity attributed to low milk production and consumption and increasing food prices resulting from the cumulative negative effect of the below-average 2018 short rains and late onset of 2019 long rains.
- The problem has been further aggravated by high morbidity, limited access to health and nutrition services, and poor childcare practices coupled with pre-existing factors such as poverty, high illiteracy and poor infrastructure.

- The drought and food security situation is expected to deteriorate further and the crisis could peak by September 2019 unless adequate mitigation measures are put in place by relevant sectors at both levels of government and other actors. According to the assessment, the sectors most affected by the drought are; food, livestock, water, health and nutrition, education, peace and security.

### **3.2 Number of food insecure population**

Table 1 provides breakdown of the number of food insecure population per county. The table summarises the number of people in need of food assistance in July 2019 and also the population likely to be affected from August onwards.

The number of people in need of relief assistance has now doubled from 1.1 million in February 2019 to **2.6 million** in August 2019. The most affected counties on the basis of the number of food insecure population are; Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, Baringo, Tana River, Kitui, Makueni, Kilifi, and Meru (Meru North).

**Table 1: Food insecure population (August – October 2019)**

County	County population (2016 projected)	Number of food insecure populations	
		July 2019	August 2019
Turkana	1,083,653	325,100	379,300
Wajir	458,900	82,600	114,700
Mandera	711,117	128,000	248,900
Garissa	431,950	129,600	151,200
Marsabit	315,936	94,800	110,600
Samburu	283,780	51,100	70,900
Laikipia	505,712	50,600	50,600
West Pokot	649,418	97,400	64,900
Tana River	303,047	90,900	90,900
Isiolo	155,465	28,000	54,400
Kajiado	870,721	87,100	43,500
Baringo	703,697	126,700	105,600
Narok	1,077,719	0	0
<b>Sub-total, Pastoral</b>	<b>7,551,115</b>	<b>1,291,900</b>	<b>1,485,500</b>
Makueni	959,022	143,900	191,800
Kwale	820,199	82,000	123,000
Kilifi	1,399,975	140,000	210,000
Kitui	1,097,687	164,700	219,500
Taita Taveta	358,173	17,900	35,800
Embu (Mbeere)	219,220	22,000	32,900
Tharaka-Nithi (Tharaka)	141,061	39,600	79,200
Meru (Meru North)	775,982	116,400	155,200
Nyeri (Kieni)	175,812	0	8,800
Lamu	128,144	12,800	25,600
<b>Sub-total, Marginal Agricultural</b>	<b>6,075,275</b>	<b>739,300</b>	<b>1,081,800</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,626,390</b>	<b>2,031,200</b>	<b>2,567,300</b>

## **4.0 Drought Response by Government and Partners**

The national and county governments, with the support of development partners, have taken various drought response measures in the following sub-sectors; food and safety nets, agriculture, livestock, water, education, health and nutrition, and peace and security.

### **4.1 Institutional arrangement for effective drought Response**

The Government coordinated drought response planning through its elaborate institutional arrangement that includes the National Development and Implementation Coordination Cabinet Committee, the National Technical Development and Implementation Coordination Cabinet Committee and the Intergovernmental Committee on Drought and Food Security. These structures mobilised funding towards drought response interventions recommended by the sectors and county governments.

At the county level, the County Steering Groups provided direction on priority interventions and resource mobilisation towards drought preparedness and response activities.

#### **4.1.1 Drought Response Interventions**

The National and County governments, with the support of development partners, have taken various drought response measures in the following sub-sectors; food and safety nets, agriculture, livestock, water, education, health and nutrition, and peace and security.



## **a) National Government**

- In April 2019, the National Treasury, under Article 223 of the Kenya Constitution on supplementary appropriation, approved the allocation of **KSh 1.85** billion for response during the January to April 2019 period. The funds were apportioned as follows:
  - i. Food and safety nets - **KSh 602 million.**
  - ii. Household irrigation water storage programme - **KSh600 million.**
  - iii. Provision of strategic water facilities, maintenance and rehabilitation - **KSh 650 million.**
- The Government, through the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) implemented by NDMA, made bi-monthly transfers of KSh 5,400 to 97,770 most vulnerable beneficiary households in Wajir, Turkana, Mandera and Marsabit. A total of **KSh 2,167,597,800** was disbursed between January and June 2019.

A further **KSh 395.3 million** was paid as emergency cash transfers to 38,014 additional drought vulnerable households in Wajir, Mandera, Turkana and Marsabit Counties to enable them to meet their basic food needs and to cushion against depletion of their livelihood assets.

- The NDMA, with the support of European Union, disbursed **KSh 218 million** to Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Laikipia, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir and West Pokot counties to

enhance animal health, maintenance of water facilities, fuel subsidies, water trucking and peace activities.

- In addition, **KSh 221.5 million** has been allocated for 12 drought preparedness projects such as construction of dams and other livelihood investment projects. The preparedness projects are aimed at building the resilience of communities against adverse drought effects. Tables 1 to 4 show some of the interventions carried out by the Ministry of Devolution and ASALs through the NDMA.
- County Governments also supported interventions in some of the affected counties. However, the allocated **KSh 1,242,698,872** (0.8%) is lower than the 2% of actual allocation for disaster response during the 2018/2019 budget provided for in the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

#### **b) Other actors**

Other partners such as UN agencies, Kenya Red Cross Society, NGOs, CBOs and other non-State actors have continued working with the Government by supporting shock responsive cash transfer programmes aimed at cushioning households from negative effects of drought in the affected areas.

## 5.0 Way Forward

There is need to enhance drought response interventions by the National and County governments and other actors in the following priority areas;

### A. Key interventions

- **Urgent scale-up of relief transfers to those in need** - purchasing power in pastoral areas is falling rapidly, while in agricultural areas household food stocks are running out. These include;
  - Shock responsive cash transfers.
  - Supplementary feeding to vulnerable children, particularly in Laisamis, Turkana North and Turkana South who require very urgent response.
  - Enhance the school feeding programme and provide fees subsidy to ensure affected students are retained in schools after they re-open in September 2019.
- **Expand water trucking** to areas and institutions without water, to reduce long trekking distances.
- **Ensure rapid repairs and effective maintenance** of strategic water sources.
- **Provide livestock feeds**, livestock disease surveillance, and vaccination where appropriate.
- **Promote commercial livestock offtake programmes**, to enable herders to destock before the value of their animals falls further.

- **Expand integrated health outreach and nutrition** services and address kalaazar, cholera and measles outbreaks comprehensively.
  - **Intensify peacebuilding and conflict management**, particularly in areas experiencing unusual livestock concentration or migration.
- B.** Mobilise resources for drought response interventions.
- C.** Enhance coordination of drought response actions.
- D.** National and County Governments to continuously monitor the situation and do further scale-up of interventions when and where need arises.
- E.** Encourage County Governments to allocate 2% of their budgets towards emergencies/disasters as provided for by PFM Act, 2012.

The March to May 2019 long rains assessment was carried out by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) - is a multi-agency technical team that brings together experts drawn from Government departments, UN agencies and international NGOs. This report is a collaborative effort of: Ministries of Devolution and ASALs; Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation; Water and Sanitation; Health; and Education, Science and Technology; National Drought Management Authority, WFP, FEWS NET, FAO, UNICEF, World Vision, and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands County Steering Groups.

## Annexes:

### Table 2: Regular Cash Transfers (January to June 2019)

County	No. of HHs	Cash transferred (Ksh)
Turkana	37,425	822,676,200
Wajir	18,805	413,175,600
Mandera	21,687	492,453,900
Marsabit	19,853	439,292,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,770</b>	<b>2,167,597,800</b>

### Table 3: Scale-up cash transfers (January to June 2019)

County	No. HHs	Total
Turkana	6,851	55,439,100
Wajir	14,707	221,232,600
Mandera	13,651	107,862,300
Marsabit	2,805	10,810,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,014</b>	<b>395,344,800</b>

**Table 4: NDMA drought contingency funds disbursements  
(January– July 2019)**

County	Agric.	Coordination	Health & Nutrition	Livestock	Security	Water	Grand Total
Baringo		1,733,900	1,615,200	14,093,450	1,068,000	7,219,600	<b>25,730,150</b>
Garissa		4,990,800		27,605,600	843,500	7,034,000	<b>40,473,900</b>
Isiolo		686,650		2,876,650	807,800	5,219,200	<b>9,590,300</b>
Laikipia		678,800				1,286,100	<b>1,964,900</b>
Mandera	867,700	1,471,600	634,500	23,514,350		15,777,100	<b>42,265,250</b>
Marsabit		982,000		1,011,600	1,456,200	5,373,800	<b>8,823,600</b>
Samburu		659,250	1,050,900	963,600		1,671,800	<b>4,345,550</b>
Tana River		756,100	713,650		470,000	3,359,700	<b>5,299,450</b>
Turkana		3,576,200	1,380,000	23,504,000	4,103,500	9,144,250	<b>41,707,950</b>
Wajir		1,184,000	207,200	21,392,800	3,788,560	6,836,400	<b>33,408,960</b>
West Pokot		851,600			2,530,950	964,900	<b>4,347,450</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>867,700</b>	<b>17,570,900</b>	<b>5,601,450</b>	<b>114,962,050</b>	<b>15,068,510</b>	<b>63,886,850</b>	<b>217,957,460</b>

**Table 5: NDMA drought preparedness projects initiated in FY 2019/2020**

Project name/description	County	Project Cost
Procurement of diesel power generators	Meru & Marsabit	10,000,000
Construction of Plesian Primary School	Baringo	25,000,000
Construction of Nagelle water pan	Lamu	25,000,000
Construction of Oloochumari water pan	Kajiado	23,000,000
Construction of Qachacha water pan, Jaldesa	Marsabit	24,000,000
Construction of Shaletey water pan, Bute	Wajir	23,000, 000
Construction of Kariwo earth dam	Laikipia	23,000,000
Construction of Mokori water pipeline	Isiolo	25,000,000
Repair of Kwa Ndaki Earth Dam	Kitui	7,000,000
Construction of Lolmgol Livestock sale yard	Samburu	9,000,000
Procurement of Rotary drier and food drier for Meru Friends Sacco Sweet Potato processing plant	Meru	6,500,000
Construction of Loosuk hay store	Laikipia	5,000,000
Preliminary and general costs, advertisements, monitoring and supervision, visibility	All	16,000,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>221,500,000</b>