

Kenya: El Niño Preparedness & Response



World Food Programme

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Highlights

- Heavy rains received in most of Kenya with the exception of northcentral Kenya where pockets of strong moisture deficits were reported most of November.
- Torrentially heavy rainfall is forecasted over the next weeks, thus increasing the risk of flooding and river inundation.
- WFP is responding to food needs in Garissa and Tana River counties, and providing direct logistics capacity support in five counties.

Situation Update

The 2015 short rains season (usually October to December) fully established in November in Kenya. The rains started earlier than normal in many parts of the country. However, a delayed start was reported in Kitui, Makueni, Marsabit and Samburu counties; with northcentral Kenya having pockets of strong moisture deficits most of November.

Heavy rainfall received in western, parts of the Rift Valley, central highlands, southeastern lowlands and the coastal region. While the El Niño effects have not reached the scale predicted, some households have been displaced by floodwaters, lives and livelihoods lost, and roads rendered impassable temporarily. In the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL), Garissa and Tana River are more affected. Other areas with reported localised displacements or impassable roads (as of 02 December) include: parts of Isiolo, Kitui, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Taita Taveta and Wajir.

The weather forecast suggests that torrential rainfall will persist over most of Kenya. This elevates the risk for localized flooding and river inundation through the week ending 06 December. The risk of hydro-electric power generation dams being opened and causing flooding downstream is also high.

In numbers

Up to **2 million people** may get affected countrywide (not all will require assistance)

411,000 flood-people expected to be assisted by WFP

160,000 provisional estimates of people already affected and in need of food assistance in two counties

Funding Update

USD 2.3 million received to preposition food in the refugee camps

USD 5.7 million received from internal advance mechanisms for preparedness actions in the ASAL

Government & Other Actors' Response

The Government at national and county levels is the first line of response for the potential El Niño emergency, and it has made efforts to prepare for the expected impacts. Humanitarian partners are supporting the preparedness efforts through the respective sectors. The Government has informed partners and donors that the anticipated magnitude of the expected emergency is beyond its capacity to respond alone.

The **State Department of Special Programmes**, has requested for KES1.5 billion from The National Treasury, for relief food and non-food items. Whereas most **county governments** have put preparedness measures in place, many of them lack funds to respond.

In late October, the Government's **Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP)** transferred KES 478 million (USD4.7 million) to 187,000 vulnerable households in parts of Marsabit, Mandera, Turkana and Wajir. This was a one-off payment to HSNP households with active bank accounts but not receiving regular payments.

The **Kenya Red Cross Society** has taken a lead in monitoring the humanitarian situation countrywide. They are assisting the government in moving people to higher grounds, carrying out rapid assessments where needed, and distributing non-food items.

WFP Preparedness & Response

Food Assistance

Following discussions with the Government, WFP is prepared to support up to 411,000 flood-affected people in the counties in which WFP is currently operating (ASAL). Provisionally, WFP anticipates that affected households would require two months of food assistance (December 2015 – January 2016). WFP is preparing a budget revision under the relief/resilience PRRO 200736: "*Bridging Relief & Resilience in Arid and Semi-arid Areas*"; it includes estimated El Niño preparedness and response needs.


WFP in Kenya has received an **advance (without collateral) of USD5.7 million** from the corporate financing mechanisms. The funds are used as follows:

- USD1.1 million has purchased 785 mt of nutrition products for the existing programme targeting women and children with moderate acute malnutrition.
- USD 3.7 million purchased 3,000 mt of food to be prepositioned in arid counties with highest risk of displacements. The food is adequate to cover needs of 200,000 people at full rations for a month.
- USD870,000 set aside for cash transfers in coastal counties (Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta).

WFP has started responding to county requests and assessed food needs in Garissa and Tana River. In **Tana River**, a rapid assessment found that **6,840 households** (41,000 people) require food assistance. In **Garissa**, provisional estimates indicate that up to **20,000 households** (120,000 people) are displaced or cut off, and may need relief

assistance. The government has requested the army to provide a helicopter for an aerial assessment.

Logistics

WFP has  deployed five logistics staff to flooding hot-spot counties i.e. Baringo, Garissa, Samburu, Marsabit, Tana River and Wajir. They will support the county disaster management teams to coordinate response in case of flooding, as well as practically assess technical and operational capacity gaps.

WFP contracted commercial transporters to avail all-wheel drive trucks when needed; notified Uganda on the possible need to use the regional strategic all-wheel fleet; and fully serviced the 6 WFP boats located in Mombasa.

WFP increased the storage capacity in Kakuma, and prepositioned food in both Dadaab and Kakuma (about 3 months). Additional pallets are being used to keep stored food above the potential water line. More food is being replenished as it becomes available.

Resourcing Update

WFP received USD2.3 million additional donor funding to reposition food in the refugee camps.

However, for the ASAL, so far, no donor has committed additional funds to WFP for the impact of El Niño. The advance financing of USD5.7 million is meeting the initial anticipated requirements. This loan will need to be repaid from future contributions.

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