Photo: WFP/Martin Karimi

WFP World Food Programme wfp.org

WFP Kenya

Drought Situation Report: April 2017

15 May 2017

In Numbers

2.6 people are food insecure

1.6 million people to be reached by government/WFP partnership

679,000 children and women to be reached through nutrition interventions

704,000 people targeted by WFP through relief and asset creation activities

Highlights

- Below-average rainfall was received in March and April, but heavy rainfall was recorded in early May.
- An outbreak of Fall Army Worm may greatly affect maize harvests.
- A mid-season food security assessment is in progress.
- The Government and WFP are working to respond to drought, with the Government providing the funding for cash transfers and WFP providing technical assistance.
- National social protection systems are responding to some of the needs of drought-affected people.
- WFP and Government are treating and preventing acute malnutrition among children and women but more resources are urgently required.

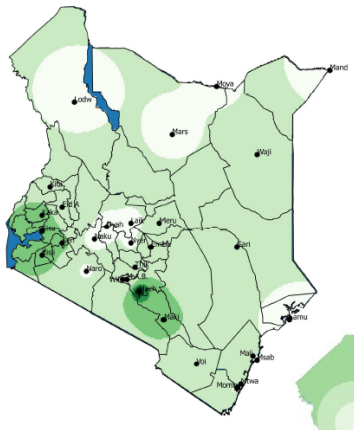
WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements

(May 2017 – October 2017)

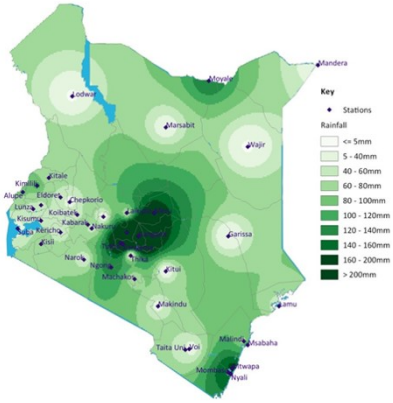
Relief & Asset Creation (PRRO 200736)	**USD 12.8 million**
Nutrition: Prevention (PRRO 200736)	**USD 17.5 million**

Figures may differ from those given in WFP May resource updates due to differing timeframes.

MAM RAINFALL BY 27TH APRIL VS MAM LTM



RAINFALL RECEIVED: 1-7 May



Situation Update

The Kenya Meteorological Department reports that rainfall was generally depressed in March and April, as forecast. The start of the 2017 March-April-May (MAM) rainfall season was delayed in several parts of the country, with prolonged dry spells and poor distribution. This resulted in poor crop performance, reduced pasture and browse, as well as increased water scarcity. This exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition in the arid and semi-arid lands and contributed to resource-based conflict, particularly in Baringo and Laikipia counties.

However, during the first week of May, rainfall was heavy, causing localized flooding and livestock sickness. The increased rain is likely to improve pasture and water availability in arid and semi-arid areas in the coming weeks. The weather forecast indicates that several parts of Kenya - particularly central, western and the coast - will continue to receive heavy rain throughout May.

Concurrently, the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO are reporting that an outbreak of Fall Army Worm is affecting over 140,000 hectares of maize in western and southern Kenya. If uncontrolled, Fall Army Worm has the potential to greatly reduce harvests, placing further pressure on food availability and prices.

The Nutrition Sector's detailed situation analysis in early 2017 followed the poor short rains season and was based on nutrition surveys between October 2016 and February 2017. Five counties (Baringo, Isiolo, Marsabit, Mandera and Turkana) had sub-counties with "very critical" (global acute malnutrition [GAM] ≥ 30 percent) or "critical" nutrition (GAM 15.0-29.9 percent). Further surveillance information - based on mass screenings and routine data collection - showed that malnutrition continued to deteriorate as drought conditions persisted.

Poor nutrition was primarily the result of low or reduced dietary intake coupled with a high disease burden due to

chronic conditions, including high poverty, diminished livelihood capacities, limited access to quality health services and inappropriate child care and feeding practices.

The Kenya Food Security Steering Group's mid-season assessment findings will be released on 18 May with information on the impact of the rainy season thus far. Four assessment teams visited 14 out of the 23 arid and semi-arid counties between 8 and 12 May. The counties visited were selected based on high food insecurity and expected deterioration, time and resources available for the assessment, and access, given insecurity in some counties. Analysis of the remaining nine counties will be based on review of secondary data.

Government Response

The Government's State Department of Special Programmes has been responding to up to 2.6 million drought-affected people through food transfers. From June, the Government intends to support some of these beneficiaries through cash transfers under an initiative called *Chakula kwa Jamii* ("food for the community"). The Government will provide USD 12 million to 1.56 million people (260,000 families) in 13 counties. Each family in the targeted arid counties will receive USD 30, while those in the semi-arid counties will receive USD 23 per month, which is equivalent to 50 percent of basic food needs for a month.

The Government requested that WFP assist in developing a digital platform for disbursing cash and to assist in targeting and registration of benefitting families *(See more details under WFP's response).* The registered families will be entered into the Government's single registry for social protection, which will allow their data to be stored for future scale ups in response to drought and other shocks, and potential inclusion in other social protection programmes.

Kenya's national social protection system is responding to the ongoing drought crisis, supported by Government and development partners as follows:

- The Hunger Safety Net Programme has made emergency payments to up to 91,000 households in Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir, four of the most drought-affected counties. This is in addition to 98,000 households who regularly benefit from the programme. Additional emergency pay-outs are anticipated up until at least June 2017.
- Insurance pay-outs to 12,000 households in six arid counties under the Kenya Livestock Insurance Programme, for losses incurred due to drought.
- Additional cash transfers are planned to improve access to adequate food for 70,000 households caring for 147,000 vulnerable children in six counties under government safety nets (cash transfers to orphans and vulnerable children, older persons and people with disabilities). However, funding has not been received so far.

The National Treasury allocated USD 7.5 million to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to address the gaps identified in the drought response. In January, the MoH received the first tranche of USD 2.5 million for SuperCereal (fortified blended flour) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women. The second tranche of USD2.6 million was released in March for ready-to-use supplementary foods for the treatment of malnourished children. The balance of USD 2.4 million is expected to be released later in 2017. County governments are responsible for health and have been implementing the response actions.

MoH received USD80,000 from the National Drought Contingency Fund to strengthen the capacity of selected county governments to scale-up provision of integrated health and nutrition services (immunization, vitamin A supplementation, and specialized nutritious foods). The funds were allocated to Baringo, Isiolo, Laikipia, Turkana, Wajir, West Pokot, counties.

WFP Response

Relief and Asset Creation for Resilience

During the last two months, WFP reached 370,000 people in arid counties participating in asset creation livelihood activities for project work completed in February-March. There were delays in distributing food as shipments only arrived in late April. WFP has adequate resources to meet relief needs during the post-harvest months of May and June in arid counties, months in which WFP would not normally provide transfers. WFP could not extend assistance for families participating in asset creation in the semi-arid counties during the post-harvest month of March because of a lack of resources. However, in these counties, WFP is increasing the amount transferred to each family from USD20 to USD25 per month in order to cushion against further food insecurity or price increases.

WFP is initiating an integrated risk management approach to build long-term resilience of vulnerable and food-insecure communities in the face of increasing weather variability. Around 1,000 smallholder farmers in Kitui County have signed up for insurance for the April-May season for four drought-tolerant crops: millet, sorghum, cow peas and green grams. Yield information will be collected from randomly selected farmers during the harvest in July/August. The insured participants expect a small compensation if yields are below two bags per acre (450kg/hectare) for most farmers in a sub county, or larger compensations if yields are only one bag per acre.

Nutrition Interventions

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition:
WFP purchased 845 mt of ready-to-use supplementary food for the treatment of children aged 6-59 months as a stop-gap measure for three months, before government supplies become available from July. To reach more people, WFP and the Government have extended the treatment to mobile health clinics in arid counties, where health workers provide outreach services in addition to established health centres. In May, support be will

scaled up to cover semi-arid counties. WFP also purchased 148 mt of vegetable oil to complement the Government's supplies of SuperCereal for the treatment of malnourished women.

Prevention of moderate acute malnutrition:

WFP continued to mobilise resources to start prevention of acute malnutrition through "blanket supplementary feeding": all children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women in the counties with very high prevalence of GAM are targeted. Based on available funding and GAM prevalance, WFP prioritized Turkana North and Kibish in Turkana County, as well as North Horr and Laisamis in Marsabit County. Community mobilization, comprehensive communication campaigns and distribution of specialized nutritious foods start in May. WFP plans to roll out the rest of the counties, starting with Mandera, as more funding becomes available.

Table 1:The start and scale up of the prevention of acute malnutrition (in order of priority)

County	Sub-County	Preva-lence of GAM	Children 6-59 months	PLW	TOTAL
Turkana	Turkana North (incl Kibish)	30.7%	40,000	10,500	50,500
Marsabit	North Horr	31.5%	15,500	4,000	19,500
Mandera	All	32.8%	135,000	35,500	170,500
Marsabit	Laisamis	24.7%	13,500	3,500	17,000
Turkana	Turkana Central and Loima	25.9%	61,500	16,000	77,500
Baringo	East Pokot	23.3%	32,000	8,500	40,500
Turkana	Turkana South and East	22.9%	54,500	14,000	68,500
Isiolo	All	18.2%	30,000	8,000	38,000
Turkana	Turkana West	15.3%	50,000	13,000	63,000
TOTAL			432,000	113,000	545,000

WFP supported the Ministry of Health to prepare a training manual and implementation strategy for health workers. The manual outlines the eligibility criteria, nutrition education and messages to be passed on, and documentation and reporting requirements. The implementation strategy includes training requirements, and roles and responsibilities of each actor.

Because some mothers are unable to read or write, or they live far from health care service and may not have health cards or know their children's ages, any child <110 cm in height will be eligible to receive a ration. Children who are ≥110 cm will be required to produce health cards. Pregnant women will be identified by visible pregnancy or an antenatal card from medical personnel. Breastfeeding women must present a child below six months and a health card to be eligible.

WFP's funding requirement for the prevention of acute malnutrition has been revised downwards from USD30 million indicated in the United Nations flash appeal. This is because insufficient funding has been available to support full implementation from May to October. The revised requirements take into account a realistic pace of scale-up and implementation assuming funding becomes available in the coming weeks.

Capacity Strengthening

WFP is leveraging its expertise and existing partnership with a leading mobile telecommunications firm in Kenya to assist the Government with drought relief cash transfers. The targeting process is ongoing and the arrangements between WFP and the Government are in the final stages, after which registration of beneficiary households into an online platform will begin and funds will transferred to beneficiaries.

As part of strengthening social protection systems in Kenya, training was cascaded to 50 county-based officers from both national and county governments from Baringo, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir. In addition to providing foundational information on the importance of investing in social protection, the training aims to ensure that relevant national and county governments have adequate capacities, and promote strategic coordination, as well as programme complementarities.

School Meals

The Ministry of Education has provided additional funding for school meals in arid and semi-arid counties as part of the drought response. In arid counties, the ministry has supplied food for 30 days in the second school term (May–August), with WFP providing meals for the remaining 40 days of the term. In semi-arid counties, funds have expanded cash transfers to schools adjoining those already receiving government support through the Home Grown School Meals Programme. This "expanded programme" will cover the new areas for 50 days in term 2.

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Donors to WFP's Drought Response

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