



Kenya Flash Appeal 2017

Urgent funding
needs



FAO requires
USD 30 million



to assist
3 million people

2.7 million people severely food insecure

Northeastern, eastern and coastal areas of Kenya are facing alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition as a result of the severe drought affecting the Horn of Africa. In many ways, the current situation is worse than the 2011 drought that affected the region. Up to three consecutive years of poor rains have diminished food production and exhausted people's coping capacities, while chronic and intensifying conflicts in the region have driven up displacement. With the latest forecasts indicating below- to near-average rains in the upcoming March-May rains, the number of people severely food insecure is expected to rise further to 4 million people.

In southeastern and coastal areas, short rains maize production was estimated at between 50 and 80 percent below the previous five-year average. Reduced production as pushed up prices, with increases of up to 40 percent recorded in drought-hit coastal areas in January compared with year-earlier levels.

Scarce water resource have severely undermined livestock production – a mainstay of livelihoods in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, which have been hardest hit by the drought. **There is clear evidence of a link between decreasing forage availability for livestock and a rise in malnutrition among children, emphasizing the critical importance of keep breeding or milking animals alive and productive.** As livestock prices have fallen – by up to 30 percent in eastern and northern pastoral areas – and grain prices have increased, malnutrition levels among children have also been rising.

Emergency livelihood interventions are not only essential to prevent desitition, poverty and acute malnutrition, but also effectively improve long- and short-term nutrition and save lives. Rapid provision of animal feed and water, as well as animal health programmes, combined with timely purchase of animals for slaughter de-stocking will protect core breeding herds while providing a critical source of protein to communities' most vulnerable members and injecting financial resources into local markets.

In numbers...



2.7 million

people food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance



10 Feb 2017

Government declared a National Disaster



≈70% below average

estimates of short-rain harvests in 2017



>30% GAM rates

In Turkana, Marsabit and Mandera Counties



>6 million

Kenyans rely on livestock for their livelihoods



42 percent

Of households in Turkana report skipping days without food



Photo – FAO’s response is already underway in Kenya: trucks carrying emergency livestock feed are on their way to drought-hit areas. This initial batch of animal feed targets the worst-hit counties to mitigate further deaths of breeding stock.

Translating early warning into early action

In December 2016, FAO launched an early warning–early action intervention using the Organization’s own resources, with the aim of helping herders in some of Kenya’s drought-hit counties (Kilifi, Kwale, Marsabit and Wajir) to mitigate the anticipated adverse effects of the drought. FAO’s interventions support the Government’s response to the drought. Key decision-makers from the 23 arid and semi-arid lands counties have been trained on the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, helping them to identify the most appropriate response and best use of emergency funding at county level. Locally produced livestock concentrate feed and multinutrient blocks are being provided to the most vulnerable livestock owners to help maintain their breeding stock. Essential veterinary drugs and vaccines, as well as spare parts for boreholes and water points are being pre-positioned. FAO is also supporting improved livestock marketing by promoting a co-managed marketing approach and developing messages to encourage livestock owners to sell animals early before emergency de-stocking is needed. However, this is just a start. FAO is urgently calling on resource partners to support efforts to invest in livelihoods and prevent a further deterioration in food security and nutrition in Kenya.

FAO’s response plan for Kenya supports the Government’s existing efforts to save and protect livelihoods of the most vulnerable drought-affected households.

FAO seeks funding to:



Protect and safeguard livestock livelihoods

Emergency livestock feed; water tanks; emergency de-stocking and meat distribution to vulnerable families; animal health support; seeds for fodder production and rangeland reseeding; local manufacture and production of emergency animal feed



Support rapid livelihood recovery

Livelihood recovery kits; cash-based support; land use governance; conservation agriculture; training in improved production and marketing



Strengthen early warning, analysis and coordination

Early warning, coordination and response planning