

“Managing Drought in Kenya through Inter-agency Cooperation”

Presented at the International Seminar on Drought and Agriculture. Predict, Plan, Prepare: Stop Drought becoming Famine”

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Date: 19th June 2017

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Background to the drought

- ***Rain failure of successive rainy seasons*** with cumulative impacts that have exhausted the coping strategies of vulnerable communities
- Pastoral communities not fully recovered from the 2011 drought
- Unpredictable rainfall and consistent drought in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL)
- ***Worst affected parts of Kenya;*** North, North-Western and North-Eastern - 23 out of 47 counties
- Gaps in current and planned Government and agencies response

Who is affected?



- All social groups but most severely **women, children and the elderly**.
- All livelihoods groups including pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, farmers, formal employment and informal business sector.
- Pastoralists, the 'poorest' and predominant livelihood group in 13 of 23 affected counties.

The Drought Impacts



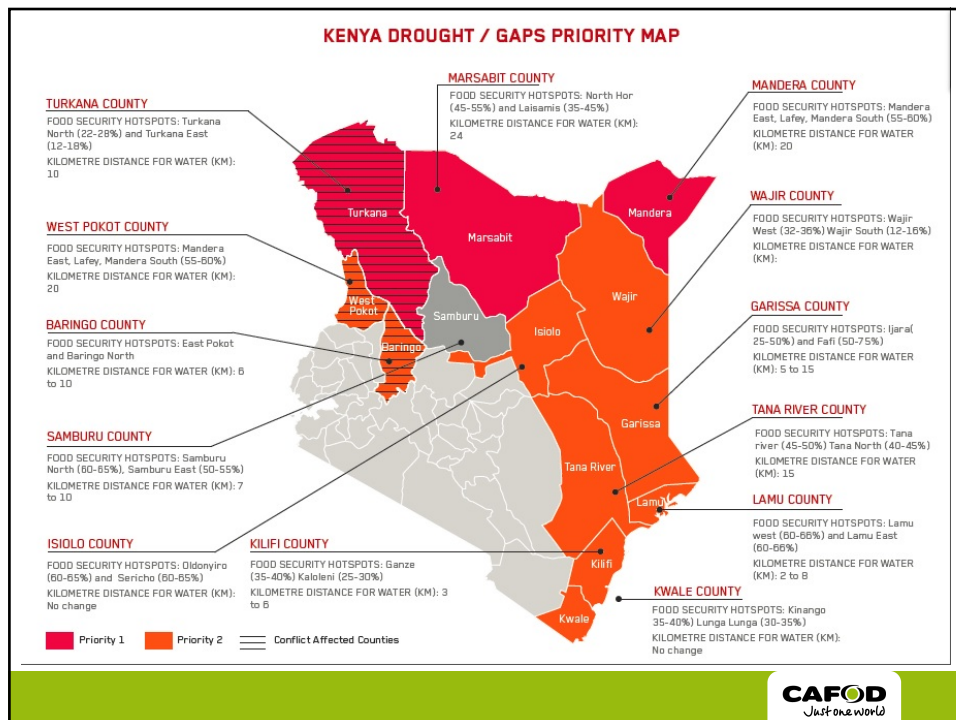
- La Niña-like impacts – *extreme hot temperatures*
- Vegetation deficit with huge negative impacts on livelihoods
- High levels of *food insecurity*
- Health and nutrition declined due to poor dietary intake – *high levels of malnutrition*
- Water access and availability adversely affected - longer walking distances
- Deteriorating animal body condition and loss of livestock
- Livestock migration across borders
- Insecurity and conflict resulting from diminishing pasture and water, and livestock migration
- Widespread crop failure in agricultural areas

Drought Analysis Inter-agency Collaboration



- START Network supported inter-agency (23 agencies) assessment led by CAFOD with overall purpose to define needs, and propose early actions
- Identify additional efforts required to save lives and alleviate the suffering of communities.
- A 12 member technical team worked together to collect and analyse drought information with a view to develop joint interventions, and a strong media advocacy and publicity strategy
- Involved rapid assessment, data collection and analysis, scenario building, prioritization of need, development of a joint response plan and collection and publication of media stories and photos.

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Benefits of Coordination

- Efficient ways of working for humanitarian response
 - ✓ One single contract hugely reduced transaction costs
 - ✓ More localised and faster decision making process – actions and responses designed and executed at field level based on context and technical expertise
- Improved coordination led to less duplication, less competition and wider geographical coverage
- Availability of information enabled fundraising, learning and complementary opportunities
- Evidence for policy and advocacy engagement with donors (e.g. ECHO, DFID, UNOCHA, USAID, DEC).
- Collaborative action for media in Kenya & public engagement in the North (profiled Kenya drought & INGOs).

What didn't work well?

- Time and resource constraints
- Lack of Disaster Management Policy
- Scanty information from government sources pertaining to response, expenditure and targeting
- Competing needs due to other humanitarian crisis in the region as in South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda & Yemen meant that Kenya attracted much less funding in comparison to needs on the ground
- Insecurity in most affected areas (Mandera, Garissa, Marsabit, Turkana)
- Kenyan 2017 general elections
- Fall Army worms

What needs to happen now?

- Strengthen coordination mechanism to include planning, designing, funding and implementing quality drought programmes
- Institutional capacity at national and community levels including awareness, preparedness, early warning, mitigation and early response / localisation
- Policy development and implementation which requires political commitment
- Prioritise long term responses through investing differently to address underlying causes of vulnerability to drought - drought to be at the centre of Sustainable development and risk reduction priorities in order to increase resilience

Priorities for future action

- *Inter-agency coordination and response is a milestone - further strengthening inter-agency cooperation to achieve better and quality humanitarian response*
- *Channel more funds for drought management in Kenya*
- *Localisation of drought response – local/national agencies through START Network Shifting the Power Initiatives*
- *Support the Kenya Governments initiative; Ending Drought Emergencies by 2022 – Kenya Vision 2030.*

