

Impact of drought: Turkana and Marsabit counties

OVERVIEW

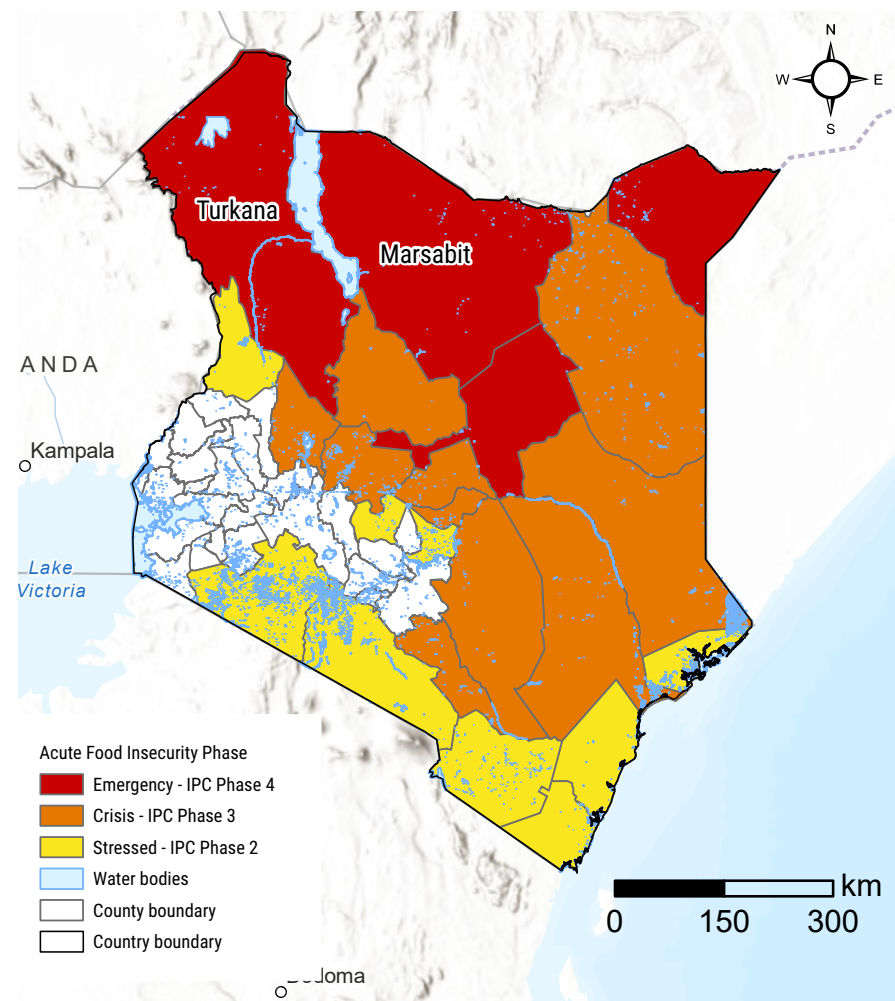
In September 2021, the Kenyan President declared drought as a national disaster. As at July, the drought had affected 23 arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) counties (nearly 89% of Kenya's landmass) out of the total 47 counties in the country (Business Daily 08/09/2022; KFSSG 01/09/2022; State Department for ASALs accessed 02/12/2022). These ASALs are prone to dry conditions and have recorded, prior to the current one, two severe droughts in the past 12 years: from 2010–2011 and from 2016–2017. Compared to the previous droughts, the current one (2020–2022) has been the most severe and has lasted the longest, spanning four consecutive below-average rainy seasons (OCHA 21/09/2022). 4.4 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity at Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity levels in these 23 counties between October–December 2022 (IPC 28/09/2022).

The National Drought Management Agency (NDMA) classified Turkana and Marsabit counties in the Alarm phase of drought in October (NDMA 14/11/2022). They were projected to face Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) malnutrition levels between August–October and area-level Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity levels between October–December (IPC 28/09/2022).

The majority of the people living in the two counties practise pastoralism (livestock herding of cattle, sheep, goats, and camels) as their main source of livelihood. Drought has particularly affected pastoral communities as it has caused pasture and water sources to dry up, resulting in livestock deaths and a lower output from remaining livestock. By mid-2022, the lack of water and pasture had killed 439,400 livestock in Turkana and 273,000 in Marsabit. Women, girls, and children from pastoral communities are likely to face compounding vulnerabilities from the drought. Some coping strategies used during the drought, such as livestock-selling and school dropouts, are likely to affect households in the medium to long term (ACTED 02/11/2022; KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022; KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022).

Rainfall during the start of the current October–December rainy season had been below average, providing no break from the drought by mid-November. There is a high possibility for the rest of the rainy season to be poor, making it the fifth consecutive below-average rainy season in the country. Humanitarian needs are rising with the growing impact of drought. Because of insufficient resources, the government and humanitarian response remains inadequate to meet the needs of the affected population (OCHA 21/11/2022).

Kenya: areas projected to face acute food insecurity (October-December)



Source: Map by ACAPS using IPC 28/09/2022



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About this report

Aim: this report provides an overview of the humanitarian needs resulting from the current drought in particularly affected regions of Kenya (Turkana and Marsabit). It highlights key needs, key population groups affected, coping mechanisms, compounding factors, access constraints, and response capacities for each area of focus.

Methodology: this report is mainly based on the secondary data review of public sources and consulted additional non-public sources and key stakeholders. The two counties of focus in Kenya (Turkana and Marsabit) were selected using:

- NDMA drought classification
- area-level classifications of acute food insecurity
- area-level malnutrition levels.

SITUATION PER COUNTY

Key characteristics/information

	TURKANA COUNTY	MARSABIT COUNTY
Total population (2019 census)	926,976 (KNBS 04/11/2019)	459,785 (KNBS 04/11/2019)
Drought-affected people (July 2022)	728,000 (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022)	Information gap
Proportion of population facing acute food insecurity (October–December 2022)	60% (IPC 28/09/2022)	55% (IPC 28/09/2022)
Absolute poverty rate (2015–2016)	79.4% (KNBS 11/2020)	34.8% (KNBS 11/2020)
Refugees hosted (as at 30 June 2022)	244,286 (UNHCR accessed 02/12/2022)	Information gap
Livelihood source for majority of population	Pastoralism (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022)	Pastoralism (Resilience Project accessed 05/12/2022)

Turkana county

By July 2022, drought had affected an estimated 728,000¹ people in Turkana county. The main livelihoods for people in this county are pastoralism, agropastoralism, and fishing. 60% of people in the county practice pastoralism as their main livelihood source and depend on livestock production for income (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022). As a result of low literacy levels and the arid nature of their land, they have limited alternative livelihood options when faced with climatic shocks (ACARE accessed 06/11/2022; County Government of Turkana 2018). Turkana county also hosts around 244,000 refugees in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement. Both refugee and host communities need humanitarian assistance as they face socioeconomic challenges, such as unemployment and poverty (UNHCR 19/04/2021; UNHCR accessed 02/12/2022; UN Habitat 2022). Poverty rates are higher among the host community because of decades of marginalisation by the Government. The host community has a lower level of consistent humanitarian support compared with refugees (FMR 06/09/2022; UNHCR 19/04/2021).

¹ This number equates to 130,000 households converted to people using Turkana county's average household size of 5.6 (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022; KNBS 04/11/2019).



Marsabit county

More than half of the population in Marsabit county was projected to face acute food insecurity between October–December as a result of drought conditions. The main sources of livelihood in this county are pastoralism and agropastoralism. More than 80% of the population practices pastoralism and depends on livestock and livestock products as their main source of income (KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022; IPC 28/09/2022). Agropastoral communities practice rain-fed farming, increasing the likelihood of major losses during drought (County Government of Marsabit 2021).

Pastoral communities in both counties are vulnerable to climatic shocks that pose a major threat to livestock (Climate Change News 31/01/2022). As a result of the drought, pastoral and agropastoral communities face water shortages, crop loss, livestock deaths, and a subsequent reduction in income (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022; KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022).

Drought classification in the two counties

The NDMA classified Turkana and Marsabit to be in the Alarm phase of drought in October, meaning environmental and production indicators were fluctuating outside long-term averages. For the drought to reach the Emergency phase, access and utilisation indicators would also need to fluctuate outside long-term averages (NDMA 14/11/2022). Both counties received below-average rainfall during the start of the current rainy season in October, resulting in a continuation of severe vegetation deficits. Both counties were forecast to receive below-average rainfall in November, with Marsabit having a higher probability of receiving poor rainfall. As at 23 November, the country had received sporadic, but insufficient rainfall (AA 23/11/2022).. Pasture and browse conditions have remained poor in both counties, contributing to the poor condition of livestock, below-average milk production, and below-average prices for livestock sold. Many households and livestock in both counties also face a longer-than-average trekking distance to water sources (NDMA 14/11/2022; NDMA 12/11/2022).

INFORMATION GAPS

- There is limited information on the impact of drought on refugees hosted in Turkana county (Kakuma refugee camp).
- There is no information on possible drought-related displacement in Kenya.
- There is no information on the impact of drought on the mental health of people affected.

KEY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Food security and livelihoods

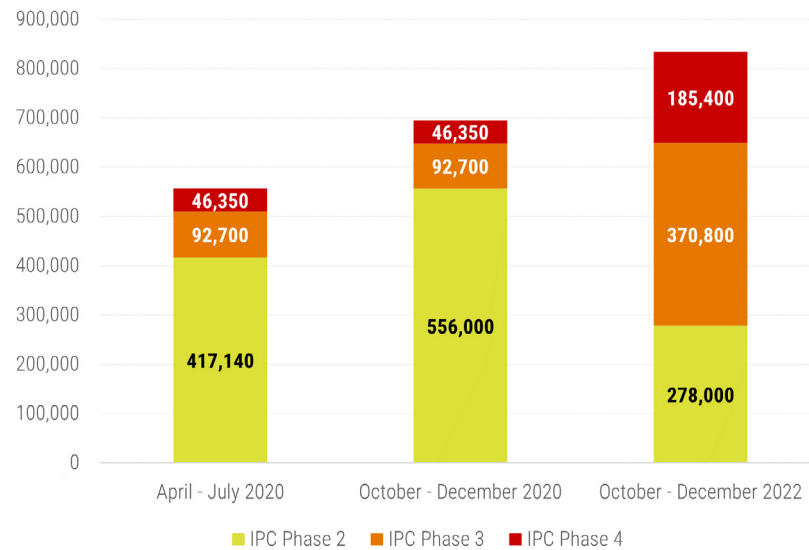
Throughout all drought-affected counties, food insecurity has worsened as a result of poor rainfall, lower crop and livestock production, and food inflation resulting from the combined impact of conflict in Ukraine and below-average crop production (IPC 28/09/2022). Food-insecure people in both counties need food and cash assistance. Pastoral households need livelihood support through the commercial purchase and slaughter of livestock, veterinary services for livestock, the provision of livestock feeds, conservation, and the rehabilitation of pasture and rangelands. Agropastoral households also need seeds for drought-resistant crops and fertilisers. In Turkana county, support is needed in expanding irrigation schemes (IPC 28/09/2022; KFSSG 01/09/2022).

Turkana: 556,000 people in the county are projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity levels between October–December 2022. This is a quadruple increase compared to the 139,000 people projected to face the same food insecurity levels during the same period in 2020, which is when the current drought began (IPC 28/09/2022 and 11/2020). Maize is a staple food throughout Kenya, including Turkana. From January–July 2022, the prices of 1kg of maize in Lodwar (Turkana county) were higher than both the 2021 monthly prices and the five-year average monthly prices (FEWS NET 31/08/2022). The drought has affected the livelihoods of pastoral communities, with many livestock dying from the dry conditions, and the condition of remaining livestock has deteriorated (DRC 10/2022). While maize prices have increased, livestock prices have declined, resulting in overall reduced purchasing power for many households. In June 2022, pastoral households could purchase only 22kg of maize from the proceeds of one goat, down from 42kg in June 2021 (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022).

Marsabit: 253,000 people were projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity levels between October–December 2022. This number is nearly a quadruple increase compared to the 69,000 people facing the same food insecurity levels during the same period in 2020 (IPC 28/09/2022 and 11/2020). The continued deterioration of livestock productivity will likely affect people's livelihoods and limit food access, with the absence of water and pasture affecting milk production and livestock prices (IPC 28/09/2022).

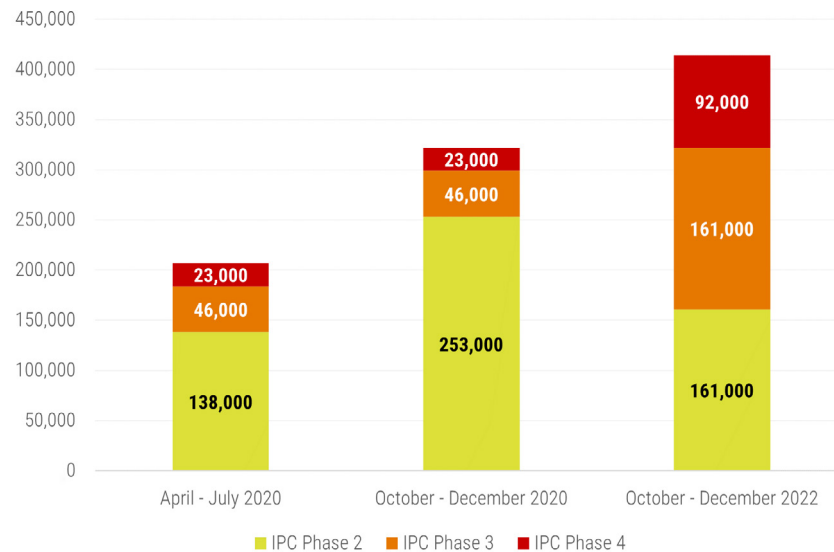


Food insecure population projections (Turkana county)



Source: IPC (accessed 21/11/2022)

Food insecure population projections (Marsabit county)



Source: IPC (accessed 21/11/2022)

Nutrition

In both counties, low household milk production and consumption, poor dietary diversity, and a high incidence of respiratory tract infections and waterborne diseases are driving increased malnutrition rates (FSIN et al. 16/08/2022; NDMA 14/10/2022). Under normal circumstances, milk from cows or goats is a key part of children's diet, but this milk is no longer readily available because of the death of some livestock and the sale of others. Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, who need to maintain a balanced diet for healthy births and breastfeeding, are forced to rely on less nutritious meal options (Standard 29/04/2022). In both counties, there is a need to expand malnutrition screening outreaches, the implementation of blanket supplementary feeding programmes and supplies to treat severe and moderate acute malnutrition cases. A multisectoral humanitarian response is also essential to address the underlying causes of malnutrition (IPC 28/09/2022; KFSSG 01/09/2022).

Turkana: the county has Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) malnutrition levels. An estimated 87,880 children and 29,000 pregnant and lactating women were projected to need treatment for acute malnutrition between July–October (IPC 28/09/2022). There are no updates on whether this projection has materialised, though considering that the drought is projected to continue into 2023, it is like the needs remain or have increased.

Turkana South subcounty has recorded the highest levels of acute malnutrition in the county, with 41% of children aged under five projected to be acutely malnourished in 2022, an increase from 23% in 2021 (UNICEF 31/08/2022).

Marsabit: the county has Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) malnutrition levels. 44,000 children aged under five were projected to need treatment for acute malnutrition between July–October. 8,500 pregnant and lactating women in the county were projected to need treatment in the same period (IPC 28/09/2022). There are no updates on whether the projection has materialised, but the needs are likely to remain high as the drought persists. In North Horr subcounty, the prevalence of acute malnutrition in 2022 is 29.5%, close to the famine threshold of 30% and up from 22.6% in 2021 (UNICEF 31/08/2022). In the Dasanech community in Illeret village, malnutrition levels among children and pregnant women were already high before the drought. The rising water levels of Lake Turkana has disrupted pastoral livelihoods and significantly reduced the availability of livestock products like milk, increasing people's reliance on foods with lower nutritional value, such as fish (Burns and Catley 06/2022).



Health

Disease outbreaks are likely to spread further because of factors associated with the drought, such as high malnutrition rates and inadequate access to clean water and sanitation/hygiene facilities. Malnourished children and pregnant women are more likely to contract diseases given their compromised immunity (WHO 30/07/2022). Of the six counties currently affected by a measles outbreak, **Marsabit** has had the highest number of cases. There were 42 cases (five confirmed and 37 probable cases) in North Horr subcounty as at 28 October. The majority of cases were among children aged under ten. There has also been a measles outbreak in Turkana West subcounty since August 2022, with 27 cases (seven confirmed and 20 probable cases) as at 28 October (Kenya MOH 31/10/2022).

Turkana: by 2017, the average distance to the nearest health facility for people living in Turkana was –35km – well above WHO’s recommended 5km standard for proximity to health centres (County Government of Turkana 2018). While the Government and humanitarian affiliates carry out some mobile health outreach programmes, the majority of health services are provided in health centres. The provision of healthcare in static health centres is not ideal for nomadic pastoral communities (Griffith et al. 20/04/2020). As the drought has intensified, less people are seeking healthcare in health centres because of insecurity and migration in search of pasture and water. The situation has increased the need for mobile health outreach programmes to address malnutrition and other disease outbreaks (OCHA 27/06/2022; UNICEF 11/11/2022; NDMA 12/11/2022).

WASH

Boreholes, dams, water pans, shallow wells, and springs are the primary sources of water for households and livestock. Around 95% of water sources used by pastoral communities have dried up because of drought (IPC 28/09/2022; OCHA 27/06/2022; ACTED 02/11/2022). In both counties, there is a need for water-trucking, the drilling of boreholes, water storage tank construction, and more long-term initiatives, such as the promotion of rainwater-harvesting (KFSSG 01/09/2022).

Turkana: 556,000 people in Turkana needed water assistance by early September (OCHA 08/09/2022). Some water sources, such as boreholes, are no longer functional due to the drought (UNICEF 31/08/2022). For agropastoral communities in Turkana, water consumption is 10L per person per day, half the average consumption under normal conditions (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022). When dry conditions persist, some water sources for domestic use and livestock are abandoned because of salinity and heightened insecurity (SDC et al. 22/04/2022). Before the drought, the rising water levels of Lake Turkana had destroyed or contaminated some water sources in Lodwar town, exposing nearby communities to waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and typhoid (BBC 18/10/2022; GOK/UNDP 07/2021).

Marsabit: around 253,000 people in Marsabit needed water assistance by early September (OCHA 08/09/2022). Water availability is mostly on a downward trend across most monitored water points in the region (USGS accessed 07/11/2022). By September 2022, the distance from households to water sources for domestic use and the distance trekked by livestock had increased. Of all drought-affected counties, Marsabit has the highest livestock trekking distance at 38.9km (NDMA 14/10/2022).

KEY POPULATION GROUPS AFFECTED

Pastoral communities

Turkana: by June 2022, 439,400 livestock, including 65,000 cattle, 209,000 goats, 158,000 sheep, 5,700 camels, and 1,700 donkeys, had died from starvation, dehydration, or disease (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022). The scarce water and pasture for remaining livestock had also led to reduced milk production (UNICEF 31/08/2022). The prices of cattle and goats between January–July 2022 were consistently lower than five-year averages, reducing the income available to pastoral households from livestock sales (FEWS NET 31/08/2022).

Marsabit: pastoral communities in Marsabit have incurred substantial losses, as around 273,000 of their livestock have died from the drought. This number includes nearly 39,000 cattle, 113,000 sheep, 86,000 goats, and 35,000 camels. Livestock deaths have been particularly high in North Horr and Laisamis subcounties. The conditions of remaining livestock have deteriorated, with water and pasture having increasingly become scarce. The situation has lowered the prices of livestock sold in markets and reduced milk production for each animal (ASAL Humanitarian Network 05/10/2022; KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022; Standard 29/04/2022).

Children

Turkana: malnutrition levels are high in Turkana South and Turkana North (UNICEF 31/08/2022). Malnourished children are more likely to contract diseases because of reduced immunity (ASAL Humanitarian Network 05/10/2022). During the March–May rainy season, around 1,200 children at early childhood development level, 2,000 at primary level, and 600 at secondary level dropped out of school in Turkana county (KFSSG/Turkana CSG 07/2022). The dropouts occur because of various factors: some families have migrated in search of water and pasture, some schools do not offer meals, some parents could no longer afford school fees, and some children have stopped attending school to dedicate more time to caring for livestock (UNICEF 31/08/2022).



Marsabit: in Saku and North Horr sub-counties, school non-attendance has increased, and school enrolment has decreased as a result of various factors associated with the drought. These factors include a lack of money to pay for school fees, children taking part in livelihood activities, the inconsistent provision of school meals, limited safe water available for preparation of school meals, and inadequate access to water and hygiene products for girls during menstruation. The drought has also heightened concerns for children, as it has led some to engage in child labour, to add to the family income, and boys in pastoral communities are initiated into cattle-rustling. Girls face the risk of sexual exploitation and early marriage, resulting in underage pregnancies (KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022).

Women and girls

In both Turkana and Marsabit, the responsibility to fetch water is typically assigned to women and girls. Because of the drought, they often have to walk longer distances in search of water, exposing them to the risk of sexual violence, particularly in the event of intercommunal resource-based conflicts (UNFPA 17/10/2022). As families resort to migration to search for better pasture and water, many women and girls face limited access to healthcare facilities in the areas they relocate to. Pregnant and breastfeeding women often miss essential health appointments as they walk for long distances searching for food and water. The situation raises the likelihood of them becoming malnourished without seeking treatment as the critical indicators remain undetected (UNFPA 17/10/2022; The Standard 29/04/2022).

COPING MECHANISMS

Because of the nomadic nature of pastoralism in Turkana and Marsabit, many pastoralists migrate with their livestock in search of water and pasture. By September, some pastoralists in Turkana had migrated to areas with better pasture, including areas near the border with Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda (UNICEF 31/08/2022; NDMA 30/09/2022). Pastoralists from Marsabit have also migrated to areas outside their typical migration routes, such as Samburu and Isiolo counties, as well as into Ethiopia (KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022). Migration has some negative impacts. It worsens resource-based conflicts as tensions rise in drought-affected communities as a result of increased competition over scarce resources (KFSSG 01/09/2022; ASAL Humanitarian Network 05/10/2022). These nomadic movements also contribute to the disruption of access to healthcare (WHO 30/07/2022; UNICEF 31/08/2022). In some cases, some family members migrate with the livestock while the rest of the family remains behind. As a result, the remaining family members have to deal with the loss of animal-based food products. While the livestock are grazing elsewhere, they are also unavailable for sale to generate income and alleviate the household's food shortages (ACTED 02/11/2022). An extended period of migration affects livestock as well, since it puts stress on the livestock and increases their risk of contracting diseases (ICRC 18/08/2022).

The yield from livestock, such as milk for sale, has decreased, lowering the income of pastoral households and forcing affected people in Turkana county to seek alternative means of livelihoods, such as selling charcoal or firewood (OCHA 21/09/2022). Cutting trees for firewood or charcoal results in a vicious cycle as it contributes to environmental degradation and worsens dry climatic conditions (Concern Worldwide 14/08/2019).

As the drought depletes available resources and income, many households are forced to make a choice between spending on food or on essential services such as healthcare and education for children. Many households choose to reduce their spending on health services, likely affecting people suffering from conditions that need long-term treatment, such as tuberculosis and HIV. Conditions that would have been monitored and prevented during routine health checks are also likely to go unnoticed or untreated, such as those related to maternal and reproductive care (ACTED 02/11/2022; WHO 30/07/2022). Some parents withdraw their children from school because of difficulties in paying school fees, resulting in increased school dropouts. To boost the household income, some children also stop attending school and engage in livelihood activities instead, such as herding livestock, mining gold, and operating bodaboda (bicycle/motorcycle used as a means of public transportation) (KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022; UNICEF 31/08/2022).

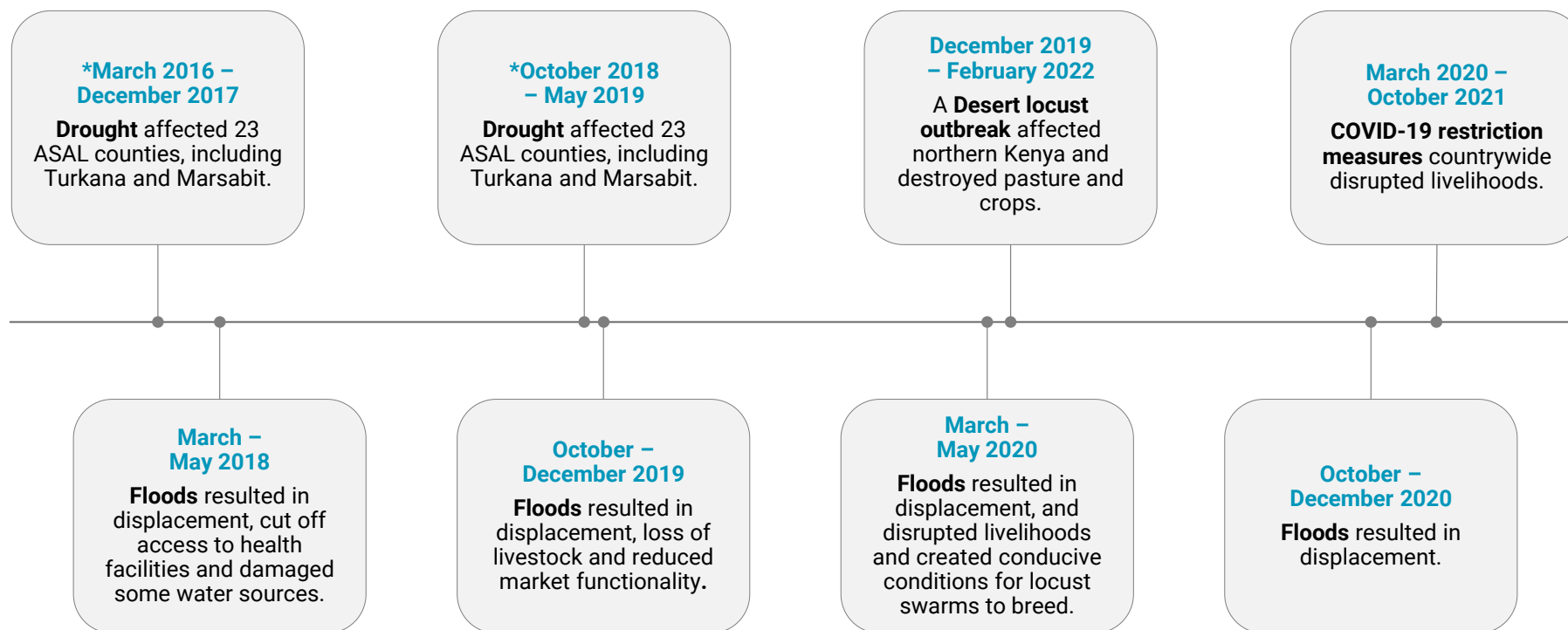
Some affected households have resorted to selling essential livelihood assets, such as land and livestock, to cope with the drought. In some cases, the livestock sold is the last female livestock, which has implications on the future growth of the remaining herd (ACTED 02/11/2022; KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022). The sale of these assets offers short-term relief but eventually lowers the resilience of affected people to future natural hazards (AFC/WB 09/05/2016).

Some coping strategies involve meal intake. Some affected people borrow food from relatives and friends. Others reduce the frequency of meals, minimise the size of portions, or eat less preferred foods, such as wild fruits (NDMA 30/09/2022; ACTED 02/11/2022).

Spending savings, borrowing money, and begging are also used as coping mechanisms (KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022).

AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Timeline: past shocks in Turkana and Marsabit counties: 2016–2021



Sources: WFP (29/12/2017); IFRC (27/12/2018); FEWS NET (31/10/2019); ACTED et al. (31/10/2019); UNICEF (31/12/2019); OCHA (07/05/2020); ECHO 23/10/2020; ACTED (30/10/2020); WB (01/2021); Al Jazeera (20/10/2021); FAO (02/03/2022).

*Note: It is difficult to definitively state the beginning and end of a drought. These periods of drought indicate the time span of below-average rainy seasons.

Other climate shocks

Drought-affected communities in Turkana and Marsabit counties have been experiencing several consecutive shocks since 2016. Periods of drought were often interspersed with periods of flooding and landslides from heavy rainfall. Consecutive natural hazards hitting affected communities decrease their capacity to recover and further deplete their coping mechanisms (WFP 20/01/2022; IDMC 22/05/2018). From December 2019 to February 2022, a desert locust outbreak affected northern Kenya, affecting up to one million hectares of crop and pastureland and disrupting the livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists (IPC 09/11/2020; AA

26/04/2021; FAO 13/10/2021 and 02/03/2022). Between the end of the outbreak in February 2022 to the declaration of drought in September, pastoral and agropastoral communities will likely not have had sufficient recovery time for their livelihoods.

Rising water levels of Lake Turkana

Between 2010–2020, the area covered by Lake Turkana increased by around 10%, with lake waters taking up nearly 800km² of what was previously dry land. Water levels became historically high in 2020 after heavy rainfall led to riverine flooding and Lake Turkana

overflowed past its banks. Overgrazing in pasturelands and deforestation in highlands have contributed to a greater risk of flooding during heavy rainfall, which eventually feeds into Lake Turkana and causes water levels to rise. Communities that used to live near the riverbank have been forced to relocate, sometimes facing repeated displacement as water levels consistently continue to rise. Many of the people affected have also lost key livelihood assets, such as livestock, as a result of rising water levels (BBC 18/10/2022; GOK/UNDP 07/2021).

In Turkana, rising lake waters have submerged and destroyed around 32 boreholes, including nine that supplied water to Lodwar town. The destruction of boreholes has forced people in villages like Namakat to use river water to meet their domestic needs. River water is unsafe for consumption and has associated health risks. Some water sources that were not destroyed got contaminated, also exposing nearby communities to waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and typhoid. Two irrigation schemes near the river were also submerged, disrupting the livelihoods of the more than 12,000 people relying on them (BBC 18/10/2022; GOK/UNDP 07/2021).

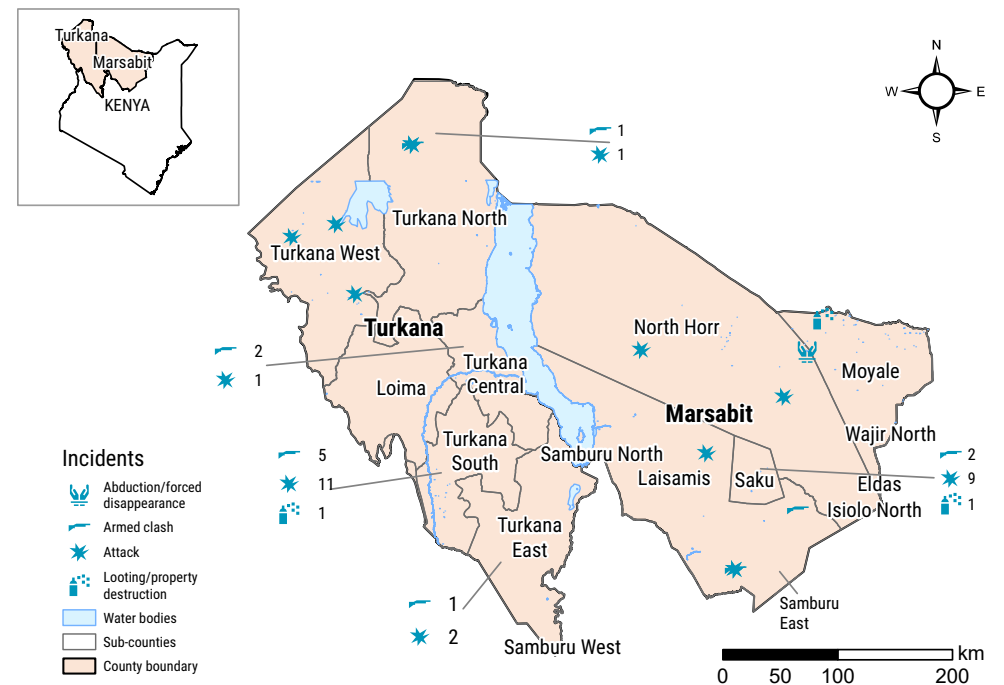
In Marsabit, some communities live near the eastern shore of Lake Turkana, such as the Dasanech community in Illeret village. This community relied heavily on the Omo delta during the dry season, both for grazing their livestock and farming, but by 2012, rising water levels of Lake Turkana had almost completely submerged the land in the delta. Over the course of the next ten years until 2022, the loss of this crucial parcel of land has resulted in the gradual death of livestock and increased reliance on rain-fed farming, which is unproductive during dry spells. By 2022, the community has lost nearly 90% of their livestock because of livestock diseases and a lack of alternative grazing during droughts. The situation has forced the community to seek alternative sources of food and livelihoods, and they have begun to rely more on fishing in Lake Turkana. Fish stocks are relatively low since other communities in Ethiopia and Turkana county fish in the same lake (Burns and Catley 06/2022).

Insecurity/resource-based conflicts

Cattle-rustling and intercommunal clashes have been taking place in northern Kenya for more than one hundred years (Shalom Center 28/05/2021; ENACT 07/10/2021). In Turkana and Marsabit counties, incidents of armed clashes, attacks, abductions, and looting increased between January–December 2022 compared with the same period in 2020 and 2021 (ACLED accessed 10/11/2022). With drought worsening in both counties, competition over scarce pasture and water has fuelled increased intercommunal tensions and resource-based clashes. Some attacks in Turkana and Marsabit come from communities in neighbouring countries (KNA 18/02/2022; VOA 05/05/2022). By September, conflict had occurred in some areas near the border with Uganda, such as Kalobeyei, Letea, and Lokiriama/Lorengipi wards in Turkana West subcounty. There has also been conflict in areas near the border with Ethiopia, such as

Kibish ward in Turkana North subcounty (NDMA 30/09/2022). Banditry, cattle-rustling, and the proliferation of illegal firearms in both counties have contributed to high levels of insecurity. The proximity to Ethiopia and porous international borders enable the smuggling of weapons from Ethiopia into Marsabit county (PD 05/10/2022; The Star 06/11/2022; VOA 05/05/2022). Some areas in Laisamis, North Horr, Saku, Turkana East, and Turkana South subcounties have experienced high levels of insecurity because of banditry and cattle-rustling. Cattle-rustling and overall insecurity result in the loss of lives and livestock. Insecurity also disrupts market functionalities and access to pasture and contributes to constraining the access of the population to essential health services (UNICEF 31/08/2022; NDMA 30/09/2022; KFSSG/Marsabit CSG 07/2022).

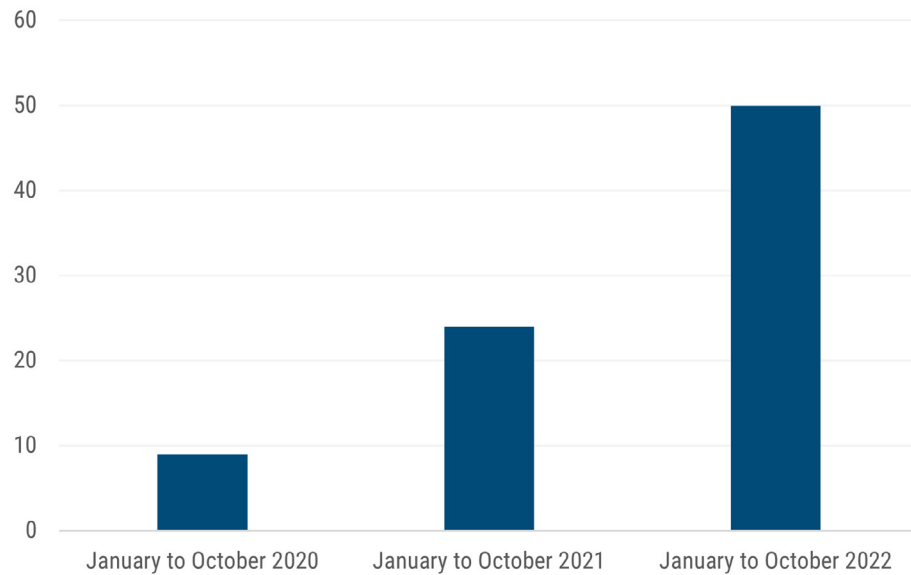
Map: conflict events in Marsabit and Turkana counties (January–October 2022)



Source: ACAPS using data from ACLED (accessed 10/11/2022)



Conflict incidents per year (2020–2022)



Source: ACAPS using data from ACLED (accessed 10/11/2022)

Note: Conflict incidents include armed clashes, attacks, abductions, and looting.

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

In both Marsabit and Turkana, resource-based conflicts resulting from competition over resources and long-standing rivalries between communities have affected the humanitarian response. In Turkana, many of these conflicts happen near the international borders with Uganda and South Sudan (KFSSG 01/09/2022). These conflicts have resulted in deaths and the disruption of livelihood activities for affected communities, as well as the destruction of essential infrastructure. Insecurity has also constrained humanitarian assistance in Turkana county, particularly affecting health and nutrition programmes (IPC 28/09/2022).

RESPONSE CAPACITY

The Government leads the coordination of drought response efforts through the NDMA. Both national and international humanitarian organisations, including UN agencies, are active in Turkana and Marsabit, with at least 15 groups in each county taking part in the drought response. Turkana and Marsabit are among the counties prioritised in the current drought response. The Kenya Red Cross Society also takes an active role in the response across various sectors, such as food security and livelihoods, nutrition, gender-based violence protection, and WASH (OCHA 27/06/2022; OCHA 02/11/2022).

Cash transfers are among the interventions applied in the food assistance response, but rising food prices have negative implications for cash programmes. The amount of food each household can purchase through the cash vouchers decreases as prices increase (WFP 01/07/2022; KII 15/11/2022).

There is a gap in WASH interventions, meaning there is a continued risk of the spread of diseases. The health response also faces challenges, such as inadequate medical personnel, a shortage of medicine and medical supplies in health facilities, and weak health systems (WHO 10/10/2022 and 15/09/2022). The scale of the current health outreach is also inadequate, and nomadic communities do not benefit fully from health interventions, such as immunisation, nutrition monitoring, and antenatal care (WHO 30/07/2022; UNICEF 31/08/2022).

Funding constraints continue to be a challenge, hindering an adequate humanitarian response (OCHA 21/11/2022; FEWS NET et al. 07/11/2022). As at 24 November, the UN-coordinated drought flash appeal for 2022 was underfunded, with only 55% of the overall required amount received (FTS accessed 24/11/2022).