



KENYA

Drought in Kilifi, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River, Turkana, and West Pokot counties

	Not required	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major
Need for international assistance		X			
Expected impact	Very low	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major

Crisis overview

As of July, 1.2 million people in Kenya acutely need food assistance, an increase of 500,000 from February. Most food insecure people are in Garissa, Tana River, and Isiolo counties, in the centre-east. Such levels of food insecurity are typical for Kenya and do not represent any major deterioration.

This briefing note focuses on four counties in the pastoral northwest and northeast (Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, West Pokot), and on two counties in southeast and coastal areas (Kilifi, Tana River). Tana River, Marsabit, and Kilifi are worst affected. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates are reported to be above the emergency threshold in West Pokot and Turkana, where malnutrition rates are often very high.

Key findings

Anticipated scope and scale

The long rains maize harvest between July and September is likely to be below average. Households in the southeast and coastal areas are likely to move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity outcomes in September, and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by January 2017.

Pastoral households in the northwest and northeast are likely to move into Crisis by January 2017, if La Niña causes significantly below-average rains in October and November.

Priorities for humanitarian intervention

- **Nutrition:** GAM is over 20% in West Pokot and Turkana.
- **Food and livelihoods assistance:** Tana River, Marsabit, and Kilifi are worst affected by food insecurity.
- **Health:** Cholera outbreak in Mandera and Tana River

Humanitarian constraints

Access constraints are reported in Mandera due to al Shabaab attacks. The rest of the country is accessible.

Limitations

GAM and SAM rates are not available for most counties. The number of food insecure people per county is not available.

Crisis impact

The number of people in need of food assistance grew by half a million between February and July, to 1.2 million (FEWSNET 31/08/2016). Such an increase occurs every year and the number of food insecure has remained at the same level for the past three years (FEWSNET 30/08/2015).

A lengthy dry spell in May and June negatively affected crop development. The long rains maize harvest, which takes place between July and September and represents about 70% of annual production for Kenya, is likely to be below average. Reduced production is already affecting some populations (FEWSNET 30/07/2016). Some households in the southeast and coastal areas have already depleted food stock and face reduced income opportunities.

Households will become more dependent on markets for food access from September and food prices will increase. The households are likely to move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes during September. By January 2017, these households are likely to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET 31/08/2016; UNICEF 31/07/2016).

If La Niña causes significantly below-average rains in October and November, pastoral households in the northwest and northeast, which are currently in Minimum and Stressed food security are also likely to move into Crisis by January 2017. If La Niña does not come, their situation is likely to remain stable (FEWSNET 31/08/2016). As of mid-August, the probability of La Niña developing between September 2016 and early months of 2017 was 55–60% (FAO 16/08/2016).

Food and livelihoods:

South-east and coastal areas: In Tana River county, food security has been deteriorating since July, and pastoral households in the county are likely to move into Crisis food security in September (FEWSNET 30/07/2016; FEWSNET 31/08/2016). The quality of pasture and browse is deteriorating and more than the usual numbers of livestock have migrated: over 80% of cattle, sheep and goats, and 90% of camels have moved far from their homesteads to dry-season grazing areas. This mass outmigration has decreased milk availability from 2–3L per household to 0.5–1L (FEWSNET 30/08/2016; Government Tana River County 31/07/2016). Conflict over rangeland resources in Tana River is further restricting access to pasture and water (FEWSNET 30/08/2016).

Kilifi county has reported crop failure, fewer agricultural-earning opportunities, and lower crop sales (FEWSNET 30/07/2016). Poor households in Kilifi are expected to move into Crisis food security in September (FEWSNET 30/08/2016). Livestock conditions are also deteriorating and food prices are expected to keep increasing until the end of lean season in October in line with seasonal trends (Government Kilifi County 31/07/2016).

Pastoral north-west and north-east: In Turkana and Marsabit, livestock productivity as well as the quality of pasture is normal, but typically deteriorating as the lean season continues. Both counties are currently in Stressed food security, but as forage conditions diminish, livestock body conditions and food insecurity in Marsabit are expected to deteriorate in September (FEWSNET 30/08/2016; Government Turkana County 31/07/2016).

Mandera is reporting good livestock conditions and harvest, but below-average rains due to La Niña between October and December would likely diminish pasture and browse as well as water and milk availability (Government Mandera 31/07/2016).

In West Pokot, harvest and livestock conditions and water availability are assessed as good and are expected to remain this way until January 2017 (Government West Pokot County 31/07/2016; FEWSNET 31/08/2016).

Nutrition: In pastoral areas in the northwest and northeast the prevalence of malnutrition will remain elevated but due to ongoing nutrition interventions, it is unlikely to worsen to emergency thresholds (FEWSNET 30/08/2016). As of July, global acute malnutrition (GAM) is over 20% in Turkana and West Pokot (UNICEF 31/07/2016). In Turkana South, GAM among children under five reached 30% in July. Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Turkana is 5.6%, which is over the emergency threshold of 5% (WFP 31/07/2016). GAM rates have been this high in Turkana and West Pokot because of poor diet, despite improved food insecurity in the past three years (WFP 20/07/2016; Kenya Daily Nation 22/01/2014). In Turkana more children under five were admitted for treatment of SAM between May and July than in the same period last year (UNICEF 31/07/2016).

In the southeast and coastal areas, the nutrition situation is better than in the northwest and northeast, but slightly worse than last year's assessment for May–July (UNICEF 31/07/2016).

Health: A cholera outbreak is ongoing in Kenya, with 16,800 cases reported since December 2014, including 256 deaths, giving a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.5%. Mandera and Tana River are the only two of 30 affected counties where the outbreak had not been contained by 25 July (UNICEF 31/07/2016). Mandera has reported 1,629 cases in 2016, including 18 deaths. CFR is 1.1% (IFCR 09/08/2016).

Mandera is also affected by a Chikungunya outbreak, which has spread from Mandera town to rural areas, including Dadaab refugee camp (UNICEF 31/07/2016). In 2016, 1,574 cases and no deaths have been reported (IFCR 09/08/2016). The Chikungunya outbreak has caused that 40% of medical staff and 90% of teachers are absent in many areas because they either contracted the disease or have moved to avoid the infection. Both factors affect access to health, education and nutritional services (UNICEF 31/07/2016).

WASH: Water availability in Tana River is below normal and further declining, and fair to poor in quality (FEWSNET 30/08/2016; Government Tana River County 31/07/2016). In Turkana, the

number of water sources is above average for the lean season due to rains received in July (Government Turkana County 31/07/2016). Other counties report normal availability of water.

Protection: Intercommunal clashes over cattle and resources, especially in Turkana and Marsabit raise protection concerns (Mediamax 04/07/2016; ICG 02/05/2016; ICG 01/04/2016; Government Turkana County 31/07/2016; Government Marsabit 31/07/2016).

Vulnerable groups

Children are particularly affected by food insecurity as a result of drought. According to figures compiled by DFID, more than half of the 100,000 deaths caused by the 2011 drought in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya were among children under the age of five (The Guardian 2014).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Response in Mandera is hampered by insecurity (UNICEF 31/07/2016). Security incidents have been reported on the Mandera–Lafey road where police and passenger vehicles have been attacked by suspected Al Shabaab militants (Government Mandera 31/07/2016). Access in the rest of the country is good.

Aggravating factors

Previous droughts

Droughts in 2004, 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2014, with floods in-between, have severely impacted capacity of populations to cope with recurring disasters (Acaps 2014). The last big drought in Kenya occurred in 2014, after two years of poor rainfall. 1.6 million people needed food assistance. This drought has contributed to underlying vulnerability, especially in Turkana, Mandera, West Pokot, and Marsabit (The Guardian 30/07/2014; IFRC 24/09/2014; FEWSNET 31/08/2014).

Upcoming lean season

The lean season takes place between August and November in northern and eastern Kenya, where West Pokot, Turkana, Marsabit, and Mandera are located. Therefore, a deterioration in food security is expected. If La Niña does not develop, the first short rains should fall in mid-November (FEWSNET 11/07/2016).

Refugee camps

Turkana county hosts over 158,000 refugees in Kakuma camp, mostly from South Sudan and Somalia (UNHCR 31/07/2016). In June, tensions were reported between the local population who are suffering from food insecurity, and refugees who receive food assistance from aid organisations (Africa News 17/06/2016).

Tana River hosts Dabaab refugee camp, where 215,000 refugees are registered (UNHCR 31/07/2016). The Kenyan government plans to close Dabaab refugee camp by the end of 2016, and to relocate an estimated 60,000 non-Somali refugees from Dabaab to Kakuma refugee camp or back to Somalia. The relocation is likely to put water and food resources in and around Kakuma under pressure (Daily Nation 27/06/2016).

Local conflicts

Tensions over resources are reported in Marsabit, especially in Mt Kulal and Maikona area, border area between Wajir and Marsabit, and in Buluk and Darade area (Government Marsabit 31/07/2016).

Intercommunal clashes over cattle and resources are common in periods of drought in this region. Fighting was reported between communities from West Pokot and bordering Marakwet between March and July, and as of July, over 300 households had fled to southern Baringo due to banditry and cattle rustling (Mediamax 04/07/2016, ICG 02/05/2016, ICG 01/04/2016, The Guardian 30/07/2014).

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

National and counties' local governments are distributing food aid and trucks water to schools and villages (UNICEF 31/07/2016; Government Kilifi County 31/07/2016; Government West Pokot 31/07/2016; Government Mandera 31/07/2016; Government Tana River County 31/07/2016; Government Marsabit 31/07/2016; Government Turkana County 31/07/2016).

International response capacity

UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations are providing food aid. International organisations are also responding to cholera and Chinkungunya in Mandera and Tana River (UNICEF 31/07/2016; Government Mandera 31/07/2016; Government Tana River County 31/07/2016; Government West Pokot 31/07/2016; Government Kilifi County 31/07/2016; Government Marsabit 31/07/2016; Government Turkana County 31/07/2016).

Population coping mechanisms

In the northwest and northeast, purchase on credit, reduced number of meals eaten per day and reduced portion size, remittances and casual labour, and borrowing from friends and relatives are most prevalent coping mechanisms (Government West Pokot County 31/07/2016; Government Mandera 31/07/2016; Government Marsabit 31/07/2016). In Turkana, over 50% of the population has reduced food consumption, and received aid from relatives and friends (Government Turkana County 31/07/2016).

In the south and coastal areas, the most common coping mechanisms are buying cheaper food, reducing meal rations and quality of food for adults in order to ensure enough quality food for children, and purchase on credit. Households in Kilifi are expected to implement more severe coping strategies in the coming weeks due to poor or total failure of the long rains between March and June (Government Kilifi County 31/07/2016).

- Communities have reported that corruption and mismanagement pose threats to effectiveness of interventions (ILRI News 2011).
- Women and children are often left behind to take care of smaller livestock like goats, when pastoralists move to better grazing areas with their herds, making them especially vulnerable (The Guardian 2014).

Information gaps and needs

- Global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates are not available for most counties.
- The number of food insecure people per county is not available.

Lessons learned

- Pastoralists' high dependency on water and pasture to sustain their livelihoods means they are particularly affected by drought-related food insecurity (IFRC 2012). Pastoralists have been prompted to drive their cattle into Uganda in the past. Therefore, prolonged food insecurity and drought may result in displacement (The Guardian 2014).
- There are not enough institutions with a specialist understanding of arid areas to ensure a more nuanced policy response to drought and drought-related food insecurity (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery 2014)
- The most drought-affected areas of Kenya are also those where poverty rates are higher. Therefore, an adequate response to droughts and food insecurity must also address underlying vulnerabilities, in addition to meeting more urgent humanitarian needs (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery 2014).
- Population growth and the emergence of unplanned settlements without access to permanent water put a huge burden on humanitarian sources during a drought-related crisis in Kenya (ILRI News 2011).

Key characteristics

Key indicators	Marsabit	Mandera	Tana River	Kilifi	West Pokot	Turkana
Total population	291,166	1,025,756	240,075	1,109,735 (2009)	512,690	855,399 (2009)
% population in rural areas	92%	84%	85%	72%	92%	85%
Gender and age distribution of population	140,054 Female 151,112 Male 47% is under 15 years old	465,813 Female 559,943 Male	120,222 Female 119,853 Male 50.9% is under 15 years old	574,209 Female 535,526 Male 34% is under 9 years old	257,883 Female 254,807 Male 52% is under 15 years old	410,592 Female 444,807 Male 46% is under 15 years old
State capital	Marsabit	Mandera	Hola	Kilifi	Kapenguria	Lodwar
Cooking and Lighting						
Firewood:	91.5%	93.4%	81.6%	67.2%	91.2%	87%
Charcoal:	6.2%	5.5%	16.4%	20.8%	7.4%	11.4%
WASH figures						
Access to improved water sources:	77.6%	52%	55.5%	76%	25%	43.7%
Access to improved improve sanitation:	35.4%	34% Open defecation: 66%	29.3%	65.5%	27% Open defecation: 67%	17.8%
Health figures						
Maternal mortality ratio:	1,127 deaths/100,000 live births 1%	3,795 deaths/100,000 live births 1.3%	- 2%	- 3.7%	434 deaths/100,000 live births 2.4%	1,594 deaths/100,000 live births 9.9%
HIV prevalence:						
Food security						
Nutrition levels	GAM: 12% (2014) SAM: 1.9% (2014)	GAM: 25.3% (2012) SAM: -	GAM: 13.8% (2013) SAM: 2.2% (2013)	GAM: - SAM: -	Chronic malnutrition: 46%	Chronic malnutrition: 30.2%
Literacy rates	26%	10%	50%	68%	47%	18.1%

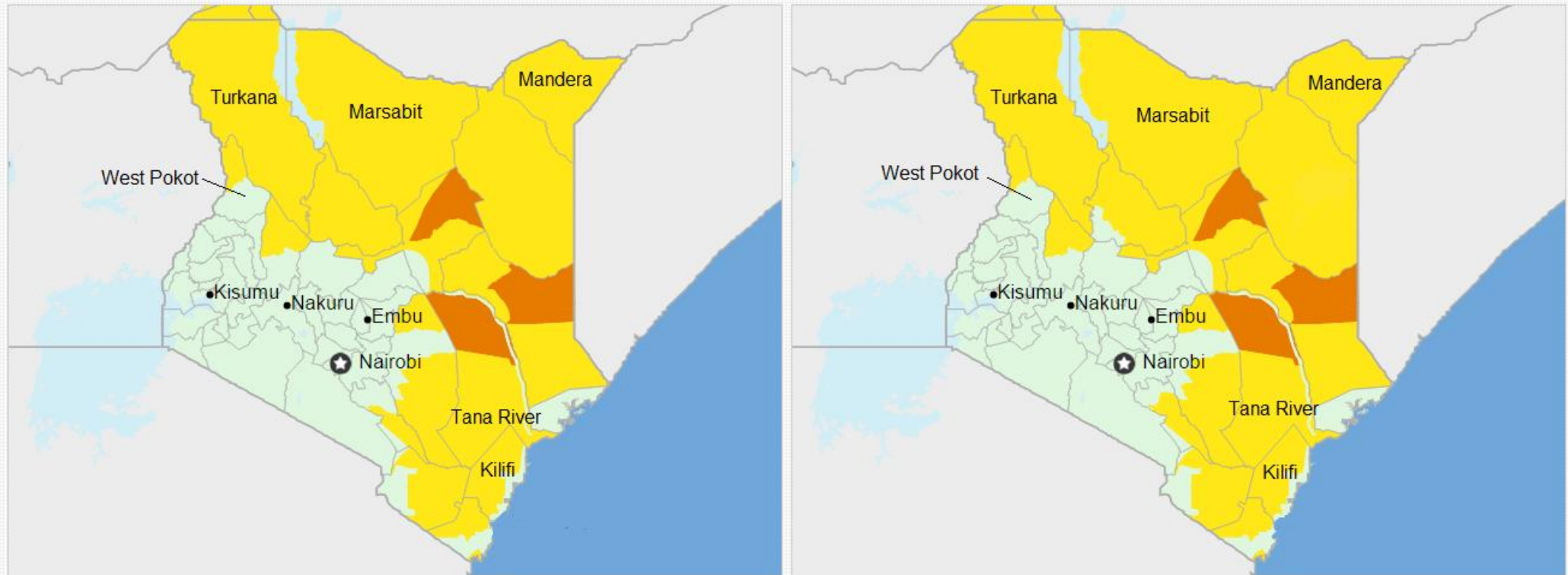
Sources: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics; (Kenya Interagency Rapid Assessment West Pokot 07/2015; Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme 11/07/2016; Kenya Interagency Rapid Assessment 03/2014; Kenya Open Data. Access on 02/09/2016; EEAS 27/10/2015; United Nations Population Fund 13/08/2014; UNAIDS 2014; UNHCR 31/07/2016; Society for International Development 2013; Kenya Interagency Rapid Assessment Kilifi 02/2014; Kenya Interagency Rapid Assessment Marsabit 04/2014; Kenya Interagency Rapid Assessment Mandera 06/2014; Kenya Interagency Rapid Assessment Tana River 02/2014

Current and projected food insecurity in Kenya

August 2016

Near Term: June - September 2016

Medium Term: October 2016 - January 2017



IPC 2.0 Acute Food Insecurity Phase

- 1: Minimal
- 2: Stressed
- 3: Crisis
- 4: Emergency
- 5: Famine

! *Would likely be at least one phase worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance*

Source: FEWSNET 31/08/2016