

Drought RESILIENCE



SPECIAL DROUGHT RESPONSE EDITION - October 2016

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A pupil filters water from Jila dam in Ganze, Kilifi County. NDMA is distributing water treatment tablets as part of ongoing drought response interventions.



Livestock water at Rongama water pan in Rorogi Village, Puma Ward in Kinango Subcounty of Kwale on October 19, 2016.

NDMA disburses contingency funds to mitigate drought impacts

The drought and food security situation in the most affected counties ranges from moderate to severe

Parts of arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties are experiencing some level of drought stress due to poor performance of the March-May 2016 long rains seasons. Though most ASAL areas normally experience dry conditions between June and September, those that received depressed long rains are facing significant water and pasture shortage as a result.

The prolonged dry spell has resulted in reduced forage and water for livestock, deterioration in livestock body condition and poor crop harvest, especially in coast and lower Eastern regions. Affected areas are also grappling with water shortage for household use and increased risk of malnutrition.

The early warning system started signalling drought stress in pockets of coast region as early as June. The system assesses severity of drought and its impact through use of a combination of remote-sensed data, household interviews and direct observation to determine the drought phase. Through the system, NDMA provides monthly drought early warning information from 23 ASAL counties to guide county decision-making.

The early warning information covering the month of September indicated most affected counties as Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River and Taita Taveta. Others are Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Makeni, Kitui and Samburu. The drought and food security situation in these counties ranges from moderate to severe.

Kilifi County is at the alarm drought phase, while all others are in alert or normal phases, with a generally worsening trend. Significant shortages of pasture and water, and in some cases livestock mortality, were reported in parts of Kilifi, Garissa, Lamu, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Makeni, Kajiado, Narok and Marsabit.

This situation activated release of funds from the Drought Contingency Fund (DCF) – a 10 million Euro

European Union grant provided through the NDMA to ensure availability of financial resources for quick action before drought deteriorates. The DCF has been available since June 2014 and is providing critical lessons in the use of contingency financing before operationalisation of the National Drought Emergency Fund (NDEF) established under the NDMA Act, 2016 which came into place in April.

Funds released to drought-hit counties

Contingency funds have already been released to the most affected counties to support interventions in livestock, water, health and nutrition, education and peace and security sectors. Between July and October 2016 the NDMA disbursed Ksh81.7 million of drought contingency finance to 10 counties, complementing what the counties and their partners are already doing to cushion communities against drought impacts. The county governments have been the first line of action considering their devolved functions. They have been supporting activities such as provision of relief food to vulnerable populations, water trucking and operation and maintenance of water sources. Some county governments have been able to sustain livestock disease surveillance and control through routine vaccinations.

The short rains season forecast shows that rainfall is likely to be depressed and poorly distributed in both time and space as a result of the evolving La Niña condition. If the season is poor, and if its onset is late, then the current drought situation will become significantly worse. There will be a farther decline in livestock body condition, and consequently in milk availability, child nutrition and household purchasing power, and a potential rise in resource-based conflict.

This will require close monitoring and sector assessments to facilitate geographical and beneficiary targeting. NDMA is encouraging sectors and stakeholders to activate contingency plans.



European Union

ASAL Drought Contingency Fund Project (ASAL-DCFP) is funded by the European Union and managed under the National Drought Management Authority. The project has two main components:

- (i) Drought preparedness
- (ii) Flexible financial resources for early response to impending drought.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter do not in any way reflect the opinion of the European Union.

Mrs Kadzo Karisa is all smiles as she counts her money after her cow was bought for slaughter during the ongoing livestock offtake in parts of Kilifi County. **BELOW:** Kadzo with her cow at the Tsangatsini village sale yard in Kaloleni during the livestock offtake exercise in the area.



Widow: Livestock offtake threw my family a lifeline

The only available market for her livestock was more than 30km away and she would have to contend with brokers. That was before the NDMA came calling in her village.

She watched helplessly as three of her cows succumbed to the ravages of drought. As days turned to weeks, hopelessness gave way to desperation and courtesy of the scorching sun, the days seemed longer. Destitution was the only foreseeable logical end.

Mama Kadzo Karisa Rua did not believe her ears when officers from the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) visited drought-ravaged Tsangatsini village in Kaloleni Subcounty of Kilifi and announced a livestock offtake programme that would see her among the list of beneficiaries.

"I had nine heads of cattle but I have already lost three to the drought. I have been watching as the condition of the others deteriorated. I was staring at starvation. Now our prayers have been answered," says Kadzo, a widow, in short crisp sentences as if she had completed a long marathon against daunting elements of nature.

The livestock offtake programme in Kilifi County targeted 450-500 heads of cattle for slaughter. Community-based targeting was carried out in 16 sub locations of Mwanamwinga, Kayafungo, Mariakani and Bamba Wards. Similarly, the communities identified the beneficiaries for the meat distribution from the most vulnerable households including people living with disabilities, terminally ill, widows and orphans.

"The livestock off-take targets those willing to offer their animals for sale. The livestock must be in good body condition for slaughter and approved by livestock officers. Breeding stock is not to be sold off during this exercise," Kilifi County Drought Coordinator Mr Dhadho Morowa explained.

Kadzo says that the price she got for her cow was more than she had bargained for.

"I initially contemplated taking my cow to the Mariakani livestock market. This route was fraught with obstacles. As a widow, it was going to be a challenge handling the merciless middlemen. I would also have been forced to hire young men to take the animal to Mariakani, which is over 30km away. These two obstacles would have eaten into my sale by almost one half," says Kadzo.



This is more than I bargained for

Kadzo really needed to make that quick sale in order to provide food for her four school-going children and two grandchildren. She received Ksh7,000 for her cow during the NDMA sponsored livestock offtake. At the Mariakani market, the cow would have fetched a maximum of Ksh6,000, which would have been further depleted by costs going to middlemen.

"With the Ksh6,000, I would have parted with Ksh1,000 for the young man taking the animal to Mariakani. Middlemen and brokers would have sliced another Ksh1,000. Now, I have all the money I got for the cow. I cannot believe it," she says as a weak but gratifying smile escapes her tired face.

With the money firmly tied in a knot on a corner of her lesso, Kadzo says her priority is food and water for her family. In fact, she says that she had been forced to borrow Ksh100 from the local Assistant Chief that morning to buy maize meal to make porridge for her children.

"We live on porridge when we don't have enough flour to make posho. Life is hard because I also have to buy water," Kadzo says.

Water for domestic use is not only scarce in the area but also very expensive. A 20-litre container of saline water costs Ksh5. Residents use this for livestock, washing clothes and dishes. However, portable water costs a whopping Ksh30 for a 20-litre container and this is what is used for cooking. "For the next few days, my family will get sufficient water and we can now afford at least two meals in a day," she adds as she walks steadily back to the slaughter yard to witness the exercise probably memorising all the details for an exciting narrative for her grandchildren by the fireplace as she cooks the all-important meal of the day-supper.

Even the drought-resilient cactus in the scorched Kaloleni sub-county has withered after two failed rains seasons. Many families have resorted to charcoal burning, leaving the desolate land bare.

"I used to cut the small shrubs for charcoal burning, which I supplied to the school to offset fees for my children and grandchildren. The work is not easy. I even suffer severe back pains as a result of this laborious work. But I have to push on since the children depend on me. Even the elder one in college depends on my labour," adds Kadzo as she slowly adjusts her huge but flowery headgear.

The livestock off-take targets those willing to offer their animals for sale. The livestock must be in good body condition for slaughter and approved by livestock officers. Breeding stock is not to be sold off during this exercise."

**— Kilifi County Drought Coordinator
Mr Dhadho Morowa**



Mrs Bendera Yaa (left) receives her meat ration from Kilifi Senior Livestock Health Officer Mr Mbwana Chilumo during the slaughter destocking exercise while NDMA Kilifi County Coordinator Morowa Dhadho looks on.
Below: Kadzo Baya carries her meat ration home.

Beneficiaries laud meat rations for dietary diversification



It has not rained in Kaloleni Subcounty in Kilifi since October 2015. The skies have remained blue and the occasional cloud is quickly fluffed up north by the wind gusts from the Indian Ocean. The sweltering heat is barely bearable and the once fertile shrub land on the fringes of the mighty Tsavo National Park remains bare and desolate.

At the advanced age of 68, Kadzo Baya would be a befitting poster child for vulnerability. A widow and grandmother of 15, Mrs Baya says she has not witnessed a drought like this in over decade.

“We can ill afford a meal. As you can see, I am old and weak. With the poverty in this area, we are vulnerable to drought. That is why we need assistance every time,” she says.

Many elderly persons and widows in Ganze and Kaloleni subcounties are destitute. Unable to fend for themselves, they have been forced to depend on casual labour and charcoal burning. With the meagre earnings, they have to purchase all their

food to feed both children and grandchildren in a vicious cycle of poverty.

“We did not harvest during the short rains last October. The long rains never came either. The fields are dry hence we have to buy all food items from the shops. But with little or no income, many like me are staring at destitution,” says Mrs Baya.

Her sentiments are echoed by another widow, Mrs Bendera Yaa. With seven people in her household, providing food for the family is a daunting task. Both women are among people drawn from 162 vulnerable households in the two subcounties receiving meat rations during the ongoing slaughter destocking exercise being carried out by NDMA through financial support of the European Union’s ASAL Drought Contingency Fund Project.

“These 10kg of beef are a blessing. My grandchildren will have some protein after several weeks of occasional ugali and porridge. My family has really suffered and this will help relieve our hunger,” Mrs Yaa says as she picks her ration and heads to her hut.

According to Mrs Baya, the clouds have not opened since the elusive El Nino rains. Crops that had been planted in anticipation of the El Nino rains dried in the fields. In fact, nobody harvested while the parched maize stocks ended up as livestock feed as distraught villagers stared helplessly.

“What could we have done?” She asks no one in particular. “Nothing!” she answers herself.

Initially, their burden had been eased by the school-feeding programme run by Government and WFP and which assured their grandchildren a meal in school.

“This term has been particularly bad for us. The food has not been forthcoming for our children. Many have to rely on the little that we provide at home. This is basically porridge. I really fear for our children and the coming generation if such droughts become the norm,” she adds staring wistfully into the distant plains.

LIVESTOCK OFFTAKE AT A GLANCE

- Ganze, Malindi, Magarini and Kaloleni subcounties of Kilifi County are facing drought following failure of the 2015 short rains and 2016 long rains.
- In September, the county recorded the lowest Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) of the year on average, remaining in severe deficit. VCI communicates the vigour of vegetation cover, comparing it with the range of values for the same period in previous years.
- Livestock grazing-water point distances in areas such as Bamba and Mwanamwinga Wards were recorded at over 15km as a result of drought.
- Livestock migration into Giriama and ADC ranches in Ganze and Tsavo East National Park was reported.
- Kilifi County Ending Drought Emergencies Steering Committee approved livestock offtake to reduce mortality since deaths had been recorded in most areas in the marginal mixed farming zone.
- Community-based targeting was carried out in 16 sublocations. Residents offered 457 heads of cattle for slaughter offtake based on live weight and health condition determined by livestock officers. Breeding stock was excluded from the offtake.
- Most of the cattle fetched between Ksh5,000 and Ksh12,000 compared to Ksh6,000 average market price depending on the body condition. The main objective of the livestock offtake was to encourage voluntary commercial offtake and protein supplements to vulnerable households.
- Communities identified beneficiaries for the meat distribution prioritising orphans, disabled, sickly and the elderly totalling to 3,243 direct beneficiaries.



A section of livestock traders follow proceedings during a sensitisation meeting on market off take in Bura, Fafi Subcounty

Garissa promotes market-based livestock sales to reduce losses

Despite having money, traders cannot buy livestock as herders migrate farther

The natural resource base in Garissa County, namely water and pasture, is insufficient to support the large numbers of livestock owned by the nomadic pastoralists during drought stress periods. Management of this huge resource often poses a challenge. Pastoralists relocate livestock to the coastal ranches in Lamu and Tana delta. But this coping mechanism is risky and also increases the cost of production.

According to Garissa County Director for livestock marketing and value chains development Mr Joel Okal, most livestock in the county migrate in search of pasture and water as the dry periods set in.

“As they move, they also get farther away from the main Garissa market, often resulting in low animal numbers presented for sale. Due to trekking stress, the livestock often cannot be brought on hoof to the livestock market at Garissa,” Mr Okal adds.

This simply means that pastoralists have livestock in the grazing fields that they cannot sell, while traders have money but cannot buy livestock for lack of proper marketing arrangements to enable access. The end result of this disconnect is loss of markets and livestock. Previous droughts have been devastating. Livestock mortalities were reported in most parts of the county, with communities incurring huge losses and, in some cases, entire livelihoods.

“This coupled with lack of any appreciable crop harvests in this arid county leads to food shortages, malnutrition and poor health. Hence the need for a strategic long-term, proactive approach for drought management to increase the resilience of communities in the target areas and to promote early response to drought in order to minimise the losses of household assets,” says Mr Abdinoor Dubow,

the County Drought Coordinator.

As the current dry spell set in, the County Steering Group (CSG) noted that livestock body condition was deteriorating, distances to grazing fields were increasing and earlier than normal migration was reported within and outside the county. Market prices were also falling compared to the long term average due to low demand by traders.

“To address the disconnect, the CSG organised sensitisation forums to improve livestock sales by providing access to markets during the alert, alarm and emergency phases of drought, thereby reducing losses to producers,” says Abdinoor.

The forums were part of interventions funded under the Drought Contingency Fund to cushion pastoralists from the worst impacts of droughts. The accelerated market-based livestock offtake programme was launched in Garissa town, after which sensitisation and mobilisation forums were held in Masalani (Ijara Subcounty), Bura (Fafi Subcounty), Balambala (Balambala Subcounty), Modogashe (Lagdera Subcounty) and Dadaab (Dadaab Subcounty). The main objective of the forums was to obtain baseline data of the local markets (operations, actors, challenges) and galvanise support for, and participation in, the market-based offtake programme by local actors,

traders and community.

The campaign sought to increase market-based livestock offtake targeting about 12,000 small stock (sheep and goats), 2,600 cattle and 700 camels from seven feeder markets between August and October.

“The traders invited for the Garissa workshop were in two categories. First are those who source livestock from the feeder markets to Garissa and the second were those who buy from Garissa and sell to external markets of Nairobi, Mombasa, Thika and Malindi,” says Okal.

Among challenges cited by producers at community level was that they had livestock but no buyers. Traders on the other hand cited low supply of livestock, with buyers taking up to a week to accumulate sufficient numbers for transport to external markets such as Nairobi and Mombasa. Others were lack of designated market days, insufficient market information, livestock diseases, lack of proper holding facilities and livestock theft at terminal markets.

To ensure smooth commercial offtake, traders in the first category requested for infrastructure improvement in form of roads to enable them to transport their livestock in a day. They also called for the establishment of strategic water points along stock routes and reviving of feeder markets such as Mudey, Balambala, Modogashe, Dagahaley, Liboi and Bura. They also demanded provision of market information and requested for transport subsidy to enable movement of trucks from feeder markets, especially during drought periods.

NDMA has been working with the livestock sector to disseminate market information through radio messages, public announcements and community meetings to promote market-based sale of livestock to avoid huge losses during droughts.

GARISSA COUNTY MARKET DATA		
Name of market	Market days	Type of livestock sold
Mudey	Wednesday	All
Balambala	Thursday	All
Dagahaley	Friday& Saturday	Camels and cattle
Modogashe	Monday	Goats and camels
Liboi	Daily	Goats
Bura	Daily	All
Masalani	Daily	Not specific
Garissa	Wednesday	All



LEFT: Kinango Subcounty Veterinary Officer Dr Raphael Nyawa (Right) and Puma Ward Livestock Officer William Tsuma (centre) examine a cow at Rongama water pan in Puma Ward during a disease surveillance exercise.



RIGHT: Mrs Aisha Chaka loads water on her donkey at Mwangoni Primary School. A strategic borehole located at the school serves the local community and a large pupil population.

Kwale ups screening for malnutrition, livestock disease surveillance

Nutrition status of children was threatened due to declining milk production and consumption

Kwale County, which has been listed as one of the counties worst affected by drought, has intensified screening of children under five years and livestock disease surveillance.

In September, data based on remote sensing indicated that both Kinango and Lunga Lunga subcounties were experiencing severe and moderate vegetation conditions respectively, a trend that had been deteriorating since June. The two sub-counties experienced 70-80% crop failure during the last season while flash floods in Vanga (Lunga Lunga) destroyed 60-70% of rice planted.

It is on this basis that the County Steering Group (CSG) prioritised interventions in livestock, health & nutrition, water and security sectors for funding under the DCF. Interventions in the livestock sector were mainly disease surveillance and

vaccination to complement County Government efforts to curtail disease spread in areas where outbreaks had been reported and confirmed.

The disease outbreaks were partly due to in-migration of animals into parts of the livestock livelihood zones that still had pasture. For instance, surveillance for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was intensified in Wards bordering Mackinon such as Puma to inform the focus of a ring vaccination exercise scheduled for the last week of October. The surveillance targets water points, which are the main livestock convergence areas.

“A few isolated cases of FMD have been reported in Puma Ward. We, therefore, have to be on the lookout because of the increased livestock movement,” Kinango Subcounty Veterinary Officer Dr Raphael Nyawa explained at Rongama water pan in Rorogi Village in Puma Ward during one such disease surveillance exercise.

Support to strategic boreholes

Drying up of surface water facilities, which are main sources of water in the livelihoods affected by drought and insufficient access to clean water

necessitated support to strategic boreholes through provision of fuel subsidy and fast moving spare parts to ensure they kept running through the drought spell.

For example, a beneficiary borehole at Mwangoni Primary School serves both the neighbouring community and the school population of 874 pupils. The population had, however, dwindled to about 600 pupils by the third week of October as pupils migrated with their parents or got engaged in activities such as herding. A member of the community, Mrs Rachel Chaka, was grateful that the borehole was running without frequent breakdowns.

“The borehole broke down for several weeks in September and we were forced to walk seven kilometers to Vigurungani to fetch water,” she explained as she loaded six 20-litre jerrycans of water on her donkey.

The same feeling was expressed by another community member, Mrs Aisha Mwamlongo, who said that though the water was saline, it was better than nothing since the nearest water pan had dried up, putting residents at risk of diseases related to water scarcity.

“It takes us up to five hours to get here and back. But the most important thing for us is that we return with water for our families,” Mwamlongo said.

The deteriorating livestock body condition due to inadequate pasture resulted in a fall in milk production in the affected subcounties. The CSG noted that nutrition status of children was threatened due to declining milk production and consumption at household level. This called for integrated health and nutrition outreaches to facilitate screening of children under-five at risk of malnutrition as determined by a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement.

“There were also reports that food consumption in the livestock livelihood zones had declined to one to two meals per day,” County Drought Coordinator Mr Roman Sherah explained.

The exercise integrates screening, provision of supplements and immunisation. Cases that require farther attention are referred to health facilities.



Health workers screen children under the age of five years at Mbuluni Primary School in Ndavaya Ward



There were also reports that food consumption in the livestock livelihood zones had declined to one to two meals per day,”

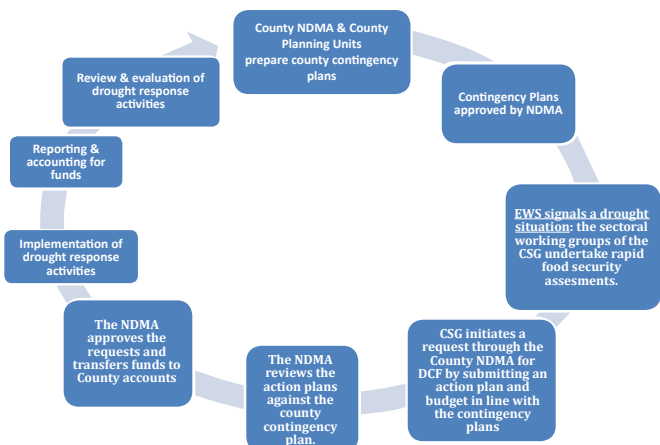
—County Drought Coordinator Mr Roman Sherah

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY FUND (DCF) DISBURSEMENTS BY COUNTY & SECTOR

Disbursements between July and October 25th 2016

County	Coordination	Education	Health and Nutrition	Livestock	Security	Water	Total
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response oversight Planning for La Nina 	Food for fees to promote retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical outreach Disease surveillance Nutrition supplements for children under-five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination & treatment Livestock feed supplements Commercial & slaughter de-stocking 	Peace building & conflict management activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel subsidies Borehole spares & repairs Rainwater harvesting Water trucking 	
Garissa	1,585,800		1,172,000	5,373,700		2,893,300	11,024,800
Kajiado	1,000,300		1,094,300	5,148,000		2,599,200	9,841,800
Kilifi	627,900		545,500	4,323,800	115,450	961,000	6,573,650
Kitui	931,200		1,076,100	4,699,600		1,060,300	7,767,200
Kwale	689,575		594,650	4,035,250	93,000	1,126,568	6,539,043
Lamu	333,200		567,800	3,063,900	253,200	1,767,800	5,985,900
Lamu						418,000	418,000
Makueni	784,700		1,362,600	2,046,800		862,300	5,056,400
Narok				3,331,440		3,056,640	6,388,080
Taita Taveta	700,100		188,000	2,618,900	653,100	3,572,880	7,732,980
Tana River	714,600	315,000	795,000	904,800	519,000	50,000	3,298,400
Tana River	235,200	3,200,000		1,480,000		1,210,400	6,125,600
Grand Total	7,602,575	3,515,000	7,395,950	42,046,590	1,633,750	19,578,388	81,772,253

DCF BUSINESS PROCESS



DCF QUICK FACTS

- DCF complements resources available to county level sectors.
- Allocation of contingency finance is guided by drought contingency plans and the early warning system.
- Contingency plans are approved in advance of a drought and describe, sector by sector, what should be done during each phase: 'normal', 'alert', 'alarm', 'emergency' or 'recovery'.
- Once 'alert' or 'alarm' phase is reached, the contingency plan is quickly reviewed and an operational response plan developed to address the particular features of that drought. It is these response plans that are financed with contingency funds.
- All 23 ASAL counties are eligible for funding under DCF based on drought severity as signalled by the drought early warning system.
- DCF also supports preparedness (long term development) projects in ASAL counties to build community resilience to drought.

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