



# Drought RESILIENCE

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## Government, Partners ramp up drought response

The Government has forged partnerships with development partners and the private sector in concerted efforts to cushion communities affected by drought, especially in the worst-hit arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties.

The drought situation is expected to improve slightly in the next few weeks, especially in terms of the availability of water and vegetation cover, due to the rains registered in parts of the ASALs.

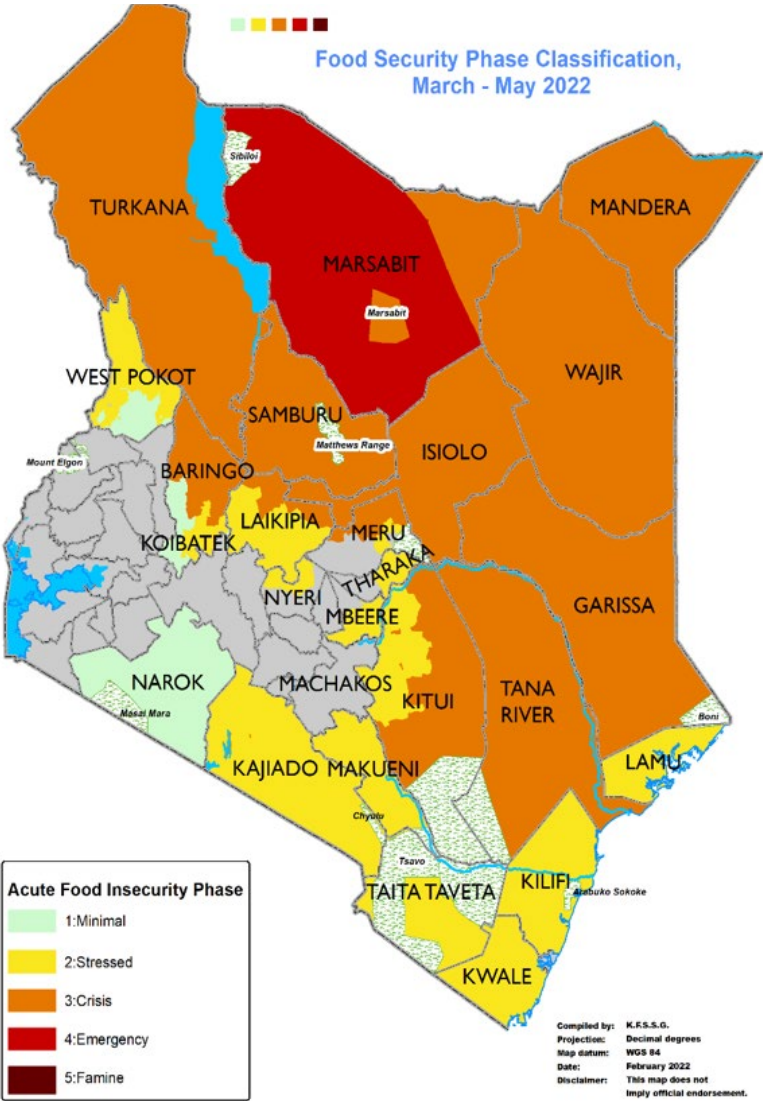
Seven of the 23 ASAL counties (Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, Isiolo, Baringo and Turkana) remain in Alarm drought phase while nine including Garissa, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Meru (North), Nyeri (Kieni) and West Pokot are in Alert drought phase. The remaining seven counties (Kajiado, Narok, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi and Embu (Mbeere) and Tana River) are in Normal drought phase. These trends are likely to reverse in the next few weeks.

Despite the onset of the March-April-May long rains in most of the ASAL counties, the impacts may not be registered immediately. This implies that the situation remains critical in food security, livestock, water, education health and nutrition sectors. The number of people in need of food assistance is estimated at 3.5 million, a situation likely to prevail beyond June 2022.

Pasture regeneration is expected as a result of the rains. However, below-average milk production persists in most ASAL counties; poor livestock body condition, with Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Mandera, Baringo and Wajir continuing to report livestock mortalities (with additional mortalities reported due to the rains); decline in livestock prices, which coupled with an increase in cereal prices is undermining the purchasing power of households; and high malnutrition rates, especially in Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana, Tana River, Isiolo, Baringo, and Wajir counties.

Water availability has improved despite the poor quality, with distances to water sources for both domestic and livestock use reducing by more than 50% in some counties. The current drought is attributed to the poor performance of the 2021 short rains, coupled with two previous consecutive failed seasons.

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Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes Prof. Margaret Kobia examines relief food components during the launch of government drought response interventions in Wajir County.

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Since H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta declared drought a national disaster on 8th September 2021, the National Government, county governments, development partners and other non-State actors have been implementing drought response interventions across various sectors.

NDMA, which coordinates drought response activities, has since October last year disbursed Ksh 415.5 million with support from the European Union for response interventions in livestock, water, education, health and nutrition, and peace and security sectors in 19 ASAL counties.

In April 2022, Safaricom and M-Pesa Foundation launched a campaign dubbed Pamoja Tuungane during which an initial consignment of emergency relief supplies worth Ksh 100 million was flagged-off, targeting 20,000 households (120,000 people) in Marsabit County. Other campaign partners are Naivas, Kenya Commercial Bank, Ernst & Young, Royal Media Services, Nation Media Group, Media Max, The Standard Group and Radio Africa.

Speaking during launch of the campaign, the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes, Prof. Margaret Kobia, noted that such private sector-led initiatives complement ongoing Government interventions, including the initial allocation of Ksh2 billion that went towards assisting the affected households through relief food distribution, water trucking, and a livestock offtake programme.

"I appreciate the support from the private sector, development partners and other humanitarian organisations that are supporting various drought response initiatives to address food security, health and nutrition, education, peace and security in the ASALs counties," Prof Kobia said.

The Cabinet Secretary called on more private sector players to consider contributing to drought response and resilience-building in the affected counties. Stakeholders are also encouraged to work within existing coordination structures, such as County Steering Groups, sub-county and sector technical working groups, under the umbrella of NDMA to ensure effective coordination and targeting of interventions to avoid duplication of effort.

In Marsabit, each of the 20,000 target households has received emergency relief supplies from Safaricom and Naivas.

The food hampers contain;

- >> 10 kg of fortified ujimix for children
- >> 12 kg rice
- >> 3.5 kg beans
- >> 2 litres of cooking oil
- >> 1 kg salt
- >> 2 kg sugar

## Relief Food Distribution

**Phase One** of Government relief food distribution started on 21st February 2022;

- >> The relief food was distributed to 161 sub-counties in ASAL counties. Each sub-county received rice and beans and canned beef to some areas, totalling 61,600 bags of rice, 62,840 bags of beans and 800 cartons of corned beef.
- >> The Ministry through the State Department for Social Protection and Special Programmes worked closely with the National Government Administrative Office in the distribution of the relief food.
- >> The relief food was delivered to the respective Deputy County Commissioners, who together with their County Steering Groups coordinated the identification and distribution to the affected populations in the last mile points. *(See detailed distribution information on Pg 4-5)*

**Phase Two** of relief food distribution has commenced, with priority being given to the 7 counties of Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Baringo, Mandera and Turkana, which are classified under the Alarm drought phase; The Ministry will next target Kwale, Kilifi, Garissa, West Pokot, Meru, Nyeri, Lamu, Kitui, and Laikipia counties, which are in the Alert stage. Additionally, the Ministry will distribute food to the 6 counties that are in the Normal drought phase - Tana River, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Narok, Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Kajiado - if the drought situation does not improve.



The Cabinet Secretary receives a cheque from Safaricom Chairman Mr Michael Joseph during launch of the Pamoja Tuungane campaign and flags off food to Marsabit County.

## Distribution of Livestock Feeds



NDMA Marsabit County Drought Coordinator Mr Parkolwa Mustafa and Chiefs drawn from Karare Ward feed a cow with drought pellets during livestock feeds distribution exercise in the county.

The NDMA is among agencies distributing livestock feeds in ASAL counties to cushion the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the face of the ongoing drought. Towards this, the Authority has been collaborating with the Kenya Defence Forces for transportation of the feeds to some of the counties. The feeds target weak livestock left behind as the larger herds migrate in search of pasture and water.

NDMA has since October 2021 distributed more than 500 tonnes of livestock feed supplements (101,260 bags -50kgs each) to ASAL counties with support from the European Union. A 50kg bag of the specially formulated drought pellets feeds a cow for 25 days and a sheep/ goat for 100 days.

According to Chief Executive Officer Hared Hassan Lt. Col (Rtd), the Authority has leveraged KDF's logistical strength to accelerate transportation and distribution of the much-needed livestock feeds, especially in hard-to-reach areas.



A Kenya Defence Forces soldier closes up a military truck loaded with drought pellets destined for Marsabit County. **Below:** Specially formulated Drought Pellets distributed by NDMA.



## Water Trucking

Water trucking is being supported by various stakeholders including the Ministry of Water, Kenya Defence Forces, NDMA, county governments and other players at county level. In addition, KDF is excavating water pans and drilling boreholes.



Kenya Defence Forces personnel fill women's containers during a water trucking exercise in Wajir County.

## Cash Transfers

The Government has been disbursing cash transfers under the various existing programmes within the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes;

- i) Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programme provides cash transfers to vulnerable Older Persons, Persons with Severe Disabilities and Orphans and Vulnerable Children. In January 2022, 415,998 beneficiary households in the 23 ASAL Counties received cash transfers amounting to Ksh 3.336 billion.
- ii) In March 2022, the Government, through the NDMA, disbursed Ksh 537 million under the Hunger Safety Net Programme to 99,494 poor and vulnerable households in Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana counties. Under

the programme, each household receives a cash transfer valued at Ksh 5,400 every two months. In addition, under its shock-responsive scale-up component, HSNP has released Ksh 72 million targeting 13,555 households in Wajir County.

The cash disbursements under HSNP are part of the larger Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project implemented by the Government. NDMA is currently registering poor and vulnerable households in Isiolo, Garissa, Samburu and Tana River counties to bring on board an additional 32,000 households under the HSNP. Other partners such as USAID, WFP, ECHO, World Vision Kenya and Kenya Red Cross, among others, are also giving cash transfers to affected households in ASAL counties to enable them to put food on the table.

## Livestock Off-take

Kenya Meat Commission has since October 2021, bought a total of 11,250 cattle and 3,200 sheep and goats from the counties most affected by drought. This has enabled the Commission to release 480,000 cans (20,000 cases) of corned beef for distribution. This follows a directive from His Excellency the President to KMC to release the corned beef to the Ministry for drought response.

## Priority recovery and preparedness interventions

### Food security

- Provision of food assistance and shock-responsive cash transfers targeting food insecure households.
- Resource mobilisation and timely disbursement to support humanitarian efforts and recovery (restocking programmes) to cushion pastoral livelihood dropouts.
- Consideration of cash transfers for households impoverished by drought due to livestock losses.

### Livestock

- Active monitoring of trans-boundary livestock diseases in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Lamu, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Narok and West Pokot counties.
- Supportive veterinary treatment and vaccination against emerging livestock diseases across all pastoral and agro-pastoral zones.
- Promotion of fodder production.

### Water

- Development of water harvesting infrastructure to reduce impact of flooding and for use in the coming season.
- Improving water storage in learning and health institutions.
- Rehabilitation and maintenance of strategic water facilities in counties under drought Alert, and Alarm phases.

### Education

- Provision of food to subsidise school fees in boarding secondary schools and incentives for school enrolment and retention.

### Health and nutrition

- Provisions for severe acute malnutrition (Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food) and moderate acute malnutrition (Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food).
- Hygiene and sanitation promotion across all ASAL counties.
- Support for point-of-use water treatment across all ASAL counties.
- Support for integrated health outreaches, nutrition mass screening and referrals in all counties at Alert and Alarm drought phases.

### Peace and Security

- Coordination of peace and security activities in conflict-prone counties.
- Intra/inter community peace dialogues and resource use agreements.

### Coordination

- Support to mid-season assessment to facilitate review of contingency/ response plans.
- Update of drought response plans considering the projected drought scenario.
- Effective coordination both at the national and county levels - County Steering Groups, sub-counties and sector technical working groups to effectively coordinate drought response and recovery activities and minimise duplication of effort.

## Phase One relief food distribution in ASAL counties

S/ NO	County	County/Sub County	Rice Dispatched (50 kg bags)	Beans Dispatched (50 kg bags)	KMC Corned Beef Dispatched (cartons-24 tins per carton)		
1	Kilifi	Kaloleni	500	400	-		
		Malindi	500	400	-		
		Magarini	500	400	-		
		Ganze	500	400	-		
		Rabai	500	400	-		
		Kilifi North	500	400	-		
		Kilifi South	500	400	-		
		Kauma	500	400	-		
		Chonyi	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>-</b>		
2	Kwale	Kinango	500	400	-		
		Samburu	500	400	-		
		Msambweni	500	400	-		
		Matuga	500	400	-		
		LungaLunga	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>		
3	Tana River	Tana Delta	500	400	-		
		Tana River	500	400	-		
		Bura	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-</b>		
4	Lamu	Lamu East	500	400	-		
		Lamu Central	500	400	-		
		Lamu West	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-</b>		
5	Turkana	Turkana Central	500	400	10		
		Turkana North	500	400	10		
		Turkana East	500	400	10		
		Turkana South	500	400	10		
		Loima	500	600	10		
		Turkana West	500	400	10		
		Kibish	500	400	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>70</b>		
6	Samburu	Samburu East	500	400	10		
		Samburu Central	500	400	10		
		Samburu North	500	400	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>30</b>		
7	West Pokot	West Pokot	500	400	10		
		Pokot North	500	400	10		
		Pokot Central	500	400	10		
		Kachiliba	500	400	10		
		Pokot South	500	400	10		
		Kipkomo	500	400	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>60</b>		
		8	Baringo	Pokot East	500	400	10
Baringo North	500			400	10		
Baringo Central	500			400	10		
Marigat	500			400	10		
Mogotio	500			400	10		
9	Garissa	Tiaty East (Tangulbei)	500	400	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>60</b>		
		Garissa	500	400	-		
		Lagdera	500	400	-		
		Fafi	500	400	-		
		Bura East	500	400	-		
		liboi	500	400	-		
		Hulugho	500	720	-		
10	Wajir	Balambala	500	400	-		
		Dadaab	500	400	-		
		Ijara	500	860	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,380</b>	<b>-</b>		
		Wajir East	500	400	-		
		Wajir North	500	400	-		
		Wajir South	500	600	-		
		Wajir West	500	620	-		
Eldas	500	620	-				
11	Mandera	Tarbaj	500	400	-		
		Habaswein	500	600	-		
		Buna	500	600	-		
		Sabule	500	400	-		
		Korondile	500	400	-		
		Hadado	500	400	-		
		Khorof Harar	500	400	-		
		Diff	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,240</b>	<b>-</b>		
		12	Marsabit	Moyale	500	400	-
				North Horr	500	600	-
				Sololo	500	400	-
				Marsabit	500	600	-
Laisamis	500			660	-		
Loiyangalani	500			400	-		
Chalbi	500			400	-		
Dukana	500			620	-		
Turbi-bubisa	500			400	-		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,500</b>			<b>4,480</b>	<b>-</b>		
13	Isiolo	Isiolo	500	400	-		
		Garbatulla	500	400	-		
		Merti	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-</b>		
11	Mandera	Mandera West	500	400	-		
		Mandera Central	500	600	-		
		Mandera North	500	400	-		
		Banisa	500	400	-		
		Kiliwahiri	500	400	-		
		Arabia	500	400	-		
		Mandera East	500	400	-		
		Lafey	500	400	-		
		Kotulo	500	400	-		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>-</b>		

S/ NO	County	County/Sub County	Rice Dispatched (50 kg bags)	Beans Dispatched (50 kg bags)	KMC Corned Beef Dispatched (cartons-24 tins per carton)
14	Kitui	Kitui Central	500	400	
		Tsekuru	500	400	
		Matinyani	500	400	
		Katulani	500	400	-
		Kitui West	500	400	-
		Lower Yatta	500	400	-
		Nzambani	500	400	-
		Mwingi Central	500	400	-
		Thagisu	500	400	
		Mutitu North	500	400	
		Mumoni	500	400	-
		Mutomo	500	400	-
		Mutitu	500	400	-
		Mwingi East	500	400	-
		Migwani	500	400	-
		Ikutha	500	400	-
Kyuso	500	400	-		
Kisasi	500	400	-		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>-</b>		
15	Taita Taveta	Taveta	200	300	10
		Mwatate	200	300	10
		Voi	200	360	10
		Wundanyi	200	360	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>40</b>		
16	Laikipia	Laikipia North	200	300	10
		Laikipia East	200	300	10
		Kirima	200	360	10
		Laikipia West	200	360	10
		Laikipia Central	200	360	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>50</b>		
17	Embu	Mbeere South	200	300	10
		Mbeere North	200	300	10
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>20</b>

S/ NO	County	County/Sub County	Rice Dispatched (50 kg bags)	Beans Dispatched (50 kg bags)	KMC Corned Beef Dispatched (cartons-24 tins per carton)		
18	Makueni	Mbooni East	200	360	10		
		Mbooni West	200	300	10		
		Kibwezi	200	300	10		
		Makueni	200	300	10		
		Nzaui	200	360	10		
		Kathonzweni	200	360	10		
		Kilungu	200	360	10		
		Makindu	200	360	10		
		Mukaa	200	360	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>90</b>		
		19	Nyeri	Kieni East	200	300	10
				Kieni West	200	300	10
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>20</b>		
20	Meru	Igembe Central	200	300	10		
		Igembe North	200	300	10		
		Igembe South	200	360	10		
		Tigania East	200	360	10		
		Tigania West	200	360	10		
		Buri East	200	360	10		
		Buri	200	360	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>70</b>		
		21	Tharaka	Tharaka South	200	300	10
				Tharaka North	200	300	10
Meru South	200			360	10		
Igambang'ombe	200			360	10		
Maraa	200			360	10		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>50</b>				
22	Kajiado	Kajiado North (Ngong)	200	300	10		
		Kajiado West (Magadi)	200	360	10		
		Mashuru	200	360	10		
		Kajiado Central	200	360	10		
		Elang'ata Wuas	200	300	10		
		Oloililai	200	360	10		
		Isinya	200	360	10		
		Loitokitok	200	360	10		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>80</b>		

S/ NO	County	County/Sub County	Rice Dispatched (50 kg bags)	Beans Dispatched (50 kg bags)	KMC Corned Beef Dispatched (cartons-24 tins per carton)
23	Narok	Trans Mara West (Kilgoris)	200	300	10
		Trans Mara East-EmuruaDikkir	200	300	10
		Narok West	200	360	10
		Trans mara South	200	360	10
		Narok East (EnairangieEnkare)	200	360	10
		Narok Central	200	360	10
		Narok North	200	360	10
		Narok South	200	360	10
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>80</b>
		24	Machakos	Masinga	200
Yatta	200			360	10
Kangundo	200			360	10
Matungulu	200			360	10
Kathiani	200			360	10
Mavoko	200			360	10
Machakos Town	200			360	10
Mwala	200			360	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,600</b>			<b>2,880</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>61,600</b>			<b>62,840</b>	<b>800</b>

# Isiolo: Water project changes fortunes for women

Mrs. Halima Wako draws water from a kiosk at Mata Arba village in Cherab Ward, Isiolo County.

It is only mid-morning in Mata-Arba village in Cherab Ward, Isiolo North Sub-county but the fierce sun belies the time of day. Mrs Halima Wako walks to a watering point with a 20-litre jerrican to draw water for domestic use. She joins other women waiting their turn at different water kiosks in the vicinity. This may appear like an easy task considering that their homes are just a few metres from the watering points. It was not always so.

“We used to begin the trek in search of water at 6 am and would only return home at about 3pm. And to get the water, we had to dig shallow wells in the river bed,” recalls Halima.

There were frequent conflicts between the women and herders as each group sought to be the first to access water.

“Sometimes, they (herders) would pour our water back into the well, leading to altercations and further delays,” recalls Halima.

Having walked long distances and spent the better part of the day searching for water, the women would have to undertake their household chores such as washing and cooking up until late into the night. This sometimes led to domestic quarrels.

“Some women miscarried from the strain of the long distances fetching water for their families,” says Halima.

## Water supply project

These challenges have now become history, thanks to the Merti-Korbesa Water Supply Project, a joint initiative by the NDMA (with funding from the European Union), Northern Water Works Development Agency and the County Government of Isiolo.

The Ksh96 million project involved drilling a solar-powered borehole

at Merti township; piping the water along a 25-kilometre stretch; installation of elevated 50,000 litres steel tanks in three villages; a 231,000-litre booster tank at Mata-Arba; and provision of two pipeline patrol motorbikes.

The project also benefits three dispensaries, an estimated 5,000 cattle and a similar number of goats and sheep. Keeping livestock, especially the breeding herds close home during drought periods ensures a stable supply of milk, thus impacting positively on household nutrition.

Area Senior Chief Mr Ibrahim Huka says lack of water used to be a huge challenge at the local dispensaries, especially when it came to maternity services. Mothers who had delivered went for days without showering for lack of water. He also had to resolve numerous water-related conflicts.

“My office was converted into a temporary court for arbitration of conflicts among herders from neighbouring locations over water disputes at wells. Sometimes the conflicts were between women who would travel for over 20 kilometres to fetch water and herders who would demand to have their livestock drink first,” recalls Chief Huka.

“Some women miscarried from the strain of the long distances fetching water for their families”  
- Halima.



NDMA Isiolo County Drought Coordinator Mr. Lordman Lekalkuli at the 231,000 litres booster tank near Mata Arba village. The steel tank is part of the Merti-Korbesa Water Supply Project.

### Saving cost of water trucking

The NDMA Isiolo County Drought Coordinator Lordman Lekalkuli lauded the partnership, saying coming together has enabled the execution of a mega project and a sustainable solution for communities in the area.

In the past, partners would spend about Ksh50 million annually on water trucking in the area. However, that did not resolve the perennial water scarcity which took a great toll on women and girls on whom the responsibility of fetching water falls.

“Water shortage in schools impacts on student enrolment, attendance and performance. This is a lasting solution that can be replicated in other areas to end high water stress and contribute to resilience building of communities to drought,” says Mr Lekalkuli.

In addition to the connection to the villages, a total of four schools have benefited from the water project. In the wake of the newly introduced Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), many schools in ASALs lack water, which is key in implementing some projects, especially in agriculture as a subject. For pupils at Mata-Arba Primary School, however, the availability of water has made it possible for them to grow vegetables as part of Grade Five learning projects.

“Many pupils at the school had never had an opportunity to witness any type of crop production. It has now become a real-life experience thanks to the provision of water,” says Mr Hussein Diba, a Senior teacher at the school.

PROJECT LOCATION	BENEFICIARIES	ENTITY CONTRIBUTION (Ksh)	
Cherab Ward, Isiolo North Sub-county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 1,600 households in Mata Arba, Riga, Saleti and Korbesa villages in Korbesa and Mata Arba locations.</li> <li>4 primary and 1 secondary schools with a total population of appx. 1,700 learners.</li> <li>3 dispensaries.</li> <li>Approximately 1,000 heads of breeding cattle and 10,000 sheep and goats.</li> </ul>	NDMA	30,005,950
		NWWDA	40,000,000
		Isiolo County Government	21,000,000
		Community	5,700,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96,705,950</b>

“ Partners previously spent about Ksh50 million every year on water trucking to the area.”

# Green energy enhances water access, saves cost for school



Solar panels installed at Cieria borehole.

Learning goes on uninterrupted at Cieria Primary School in Mbeere South Sub-county of Embu. The classes are full, children attentive and teachers settled. While this may seem normal, it was not always the case. Children would often report late to school or even miss classes altogether as they joined their parents in search of water at Kiambere Dam about 15 kilometers away.

“Both people and livestock risked attacks by crocodiles, with some losing their lives while accessing water at the dam. The water quality in the dam is also low and cases of water-borne diseases were rampant,” recalls Mr. Elias Njeru, the Deputy Headteacher.

At the school, access to water remained a major challenge. Although there was a borehole, the school needed Ksh1,000 daily for fuel to pump water, a cost that was too high. Sometimes it was impossible to cook for children under the School Feeding Programme, even when food was available, due to lack of water.

## Borehole rehabilitation

It was a sigh of relief when the NDMA, with support from the European Union, facilitated the rehabilitation and installation of solar power infrastructure at a borehole right next to the school.

“School enrollment has since increased from 165 pupils to the current 250,” says Njeru.

This number, he adds, is anticipated to rise as pupils from other schools are increasingly preferring Cieria owing to water availability. Teachers from other regions would also shy away from the school due to the struggle in accessing water.

“Some teachers would seek transfers as soon as they were posted here. But we now have five that are well settled and working with ease,” says Mr. Njeru. He adds that the teachers are now comfortable as water is no longer an issue of concern. Stakeholders are also exploring the possibility of introducing boarding facilities at the school, thanks to water availability.





Livestock water next to the borehole.

The borehole does not only benefit this institution. Nearby St Philip Cieria Mixed Secondary School has piped water from it, making access to the formally rare commodity easy and efficient.

It also serves the local community, providing easy access to water for household use and livestock. In total, the borehole serves about 500 households (approximately 2,500 people) in the locality.

### **Agricultural activities**

Adjacent to the borehole is a farm dotted with various crops including assorted vegetables. The greenery is testament that although the sub-county is classified as semi-arid, it can support crop production if only water was available.

At Cieria primary school, pupils undertaking the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) can conveniently execute agriculture projects, as they access water for irrigation with ease.

And it is not just about the borehole, NDMA also provided three 10,000-litre storage tanks - one situated at the borehole, while two others are within the school and used for rainwater harvesting.

“We are able to harvest water during the rainy season. This way, we are even more water-secure and the school community can access water right within the compound,” notes Mr. Njeru.

Cieria is among four schools that received a total of 10 (10,000-litre capacity) storage tanks from NDMA as part of drought preparedness efforts.

“**School enrollment has since increased from 165 pupils to the current 250**”  
- Njeru



Water storage tanks at Cieria Primary School.

# Meet new NDMA Chief Executive Officer

The NDMA has a new Chief Executive Officer effective February 14, 2022. Lt Col. (Rtd) Hared Hassan was appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes, Prof. Margaret Kobia, on the recommendation of the NDMA Board of Directors. He took over from Mr. James Oduor, who served as CEO since the establishment of the Authority in 2012.

"Hared brings a wealth of experience earned over an expansive career in corporate leadership in the public sector," Board Chairman Mr. Raphael Nzomo said when introducing the CEO.

Since taking over, Hassan Lt. Col (Rtd) has met various stakeholders and visited a few ASAL counties, where he has interacted with both staff and project beneficiaries. While meeting staff in different fora, the CEO has stressed the need for integrity, accountability and responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable groups in line with NDMA core values.

"We have a God-given opportunity to serve communities and we should, therefore, strive to change the lives of those we serve," the CEO said.

He has assured stakeholders of his readiness to engage and collaborate to actualise the Government's commitment to end drought emergencies. Hassan Lt. Col (Rtd) has served in senior positions in the military, National Transport and Safety Authority and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Masters Degree in International Conflict Management from the University of Nairobi. He also holds a Masters Degree in Strategic Security Studies (Combating Terrorism) from the National Defence University (USA), and Masters Degree in Military Arts and Science from the Command and Staff College (USA). He has also undertaken various trainings and courses in security intelligence, investigation and management.



1. NDMA Chief Executive Officer Hared Hassan Lt. Col (Rtd), Board Chairman Mr. Raphael Nzomo (centre) and former CEO Mr. James Oduor (left) during an introduction meeting at the NDMA Headquarters in Lonrho House, Nairobi. He officially took over leadership of the Authority on February 14, 2022, and has had numerous engagements with staff and stakeholders.
2. NDMA CEO Hared Hassan Lt. Col. (Rtd) during a courtesy call on the European Union Delegation to Kenya on 4th March, where he held a meeting with Head of Cooperation Ms Irene Giribaldi and other officials.
3. The CEO briefs the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes, Prof. Margaret Kobia, and UN partners during a consultative meeting on the drought and food security situation in the country.
4. The CEO with Ag. Director Technical Services Mr Lembara Saiyana and a team from the Embassy of Netherlands led by the First Secretary for Water and Food Security, Mr Pim van der Male (second right), when they called on him on 31st March.
5. NDMA Board Vice-Chairperson Ms Emily Mworia and CEO Hared Hassan Lt Col (Rtd) (seated centre) with Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors during sensitization of the Authority's Management on Guidelines for the Public Finance Management (National Drought Emergency Fund) Regulations, 2021.



**NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
 8th Floor Lonrho House, Standard Street  
 P.O. Box 53547 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya  
 Tel: + 254 020 2227496 / 2227168 / 2221844  
 + 254 2224324 / 2216962 / 2227223  
 Mobile: + 254 0722 200656  
 Email: info@ndma.go.ke  
 Twitter: @NDMA\_Kenya  
 Website: www.ndma.go.ke

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
 Lt. Col (Rtd) Hared Hassan

**EDITORIAL TEAM**  
 Editor: Lucy Kirauni  
 Contributors: Abiya Ochola, Joyce Mugure, Rachel Kibui, Edith Mogi and Janice Mukami

**Design and Layout**  
 Victor Omolo