



KRCS conducting water trucking for vulnerable households in Mandera County

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<p>Operation update #2 Date of issue: 17/02/2026</p>	<p>Timeframe covered by this update: From 31/10/2025 to 30/11/2025</p>
<p>Operation timeframe: 12 months From 31/11/2025 to 31/10/2026</p>	<p>Number of people being assisted: 300,000 people</p>
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 10 million IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement CHF 15 million Federation-wide funding requirement</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated: 995,000 CHF</p>

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Kenya is facing a rapidly escalating drought emergency following the near total failure of the October–December 2025 short rains, which delivered only 30–60% of average rainfall in most areas and produced the driest season on record since 1981 in parts of the east. The situation continues to intensify into the month of January 2026 with conditions in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands deteriorating following the poor performance of short rains and high temperatures. This compounded earlier poor seasons, severely straining crops, rangelands, and water sources, while temperatures 1–2°C above normal have intensified drying.

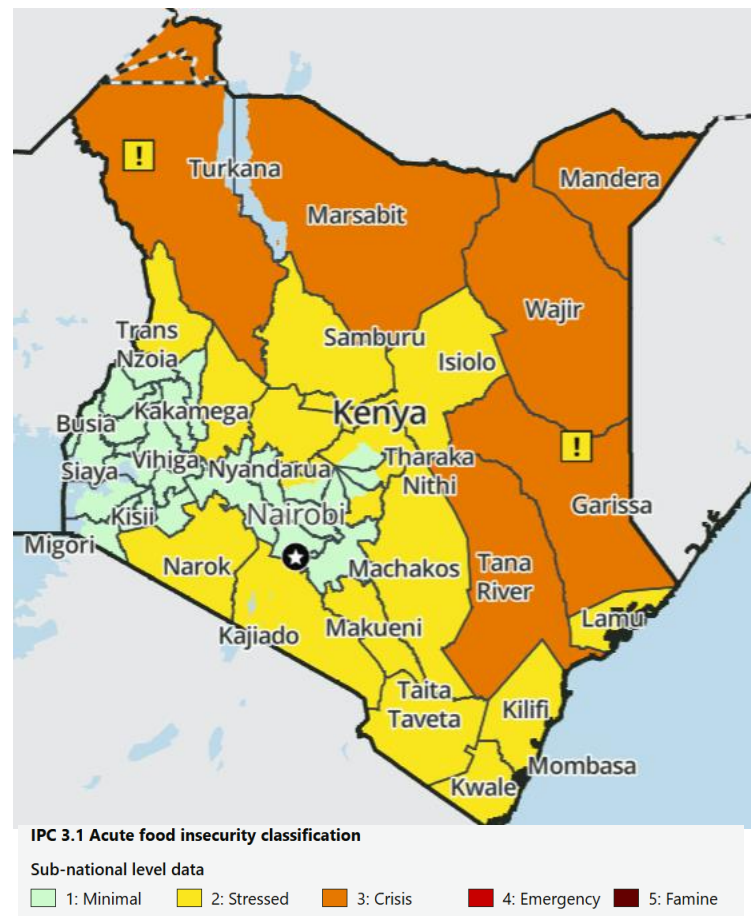
According to NDMA, 23 counties are experiencing drought stress. Nine counties including Wajir, Garissa, Kilifi, Marsabit, Kitui, Kwale, Kajiado, Isiolo, and Tana River are in the “Alert” phase, and Mandera remains in the critical “Alarm” phase. Even counties classified as “Normal,” such as Samburu, Turkana, Nyeri, Laikipia, and Meru, show worsening conditions.

Food insecurity has sharply increased, with 2.1–2.5 million people already facing hunger. Government assessments indicate that affected communities will require sustained food, nutrition, water, health, and livestock support through at least March–May 2026. Pastoral areas are particularly hard hit, with poor pasture regeneration, limited water recharge, and declining livestock productivity driving many households into Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Water scarcity is deepening across northern and eastern Kenya, where many water points are now “near-dry” or in “alert” status. Families are traveling longer distances for water, and livestock migrations in search of pasture are increasing, raising the risk of conflict in hotspot counties such as Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Baringo, Narok and Tana River.

There is a nutritional risk anticipated in elevate the acute malnutrition especially for under-fives, lactating and pregnant women’s living in these conditions. There is still need to scale up screening, continuous referrals and integrated health outreaches to the population in the high-risk counties

Government and humanitarian partners have stepped up emergency responses through food distribution, water trucking, nutrition screening, and livestock offtake, alongside longer-term resilience measures such as irrigation expansion. High-level national meetings have outlined a mitigation roadmap, with calls from legislators to declare the drought a national disaster.



November 2025 - January 2026 projected outcomes
<https://fews.net/east-africa/kenya>

Climate forecasts indicate continued below normal rainfall into early 2026, driven by La Niña and a negative Indian Ocean Dipole. As a result, Kenya's drought is expected to worsen into mid2026. FEWS NET projects up to 3.5 million people could need food assistance by May 2026, while NDMA estimates 2.8 million may face acute food insecurity between April and June. Early IPC projections show at least 2.1 million people entering 2026 already in Crisis (IPC Phase 3 or worse).

Agricultural and pastoral systems will continue to weaken, with below average early 2026 harvests and declining livestock health further reducing household food access. Malnutrition is expected to rise, with more than 742,000 children under five and 109,000 pregnant or lactating women at risk. Increased displacement across the Horn of Africa, particularly from Somalia and Ethiopia, may add further pressure on already vulnerable communities.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response.

Summary of situation and impacts

Drought

- Rehabilitation of boreholes has been done with works done on electromechanical pipelines and construction of water kiosks and animal troughs. The total number of boreholes under the drought response include Baringo 1, Samburu 2, Isiolo 2, Kajiado 1 and Taita Taveta 1.
- Water trucking has also been done in areas with limited water sources where the -trucking distance is more than 30KM return which includes counties of Isiolo, Marsabit, Mandera and Tana River.
- These counties have a higher number of malnutrition cases and supplementary feeding has already been distributed. Additionally, seven counties have been targeted, and distribution is ongoing in the counties of Wajir, Garissa, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Kajiado and Isiolo.
- In Kind food distribution targeting Mandera, Wajir, Baringo, Kitui, Marsabit and Tana River counties with rations for a month and nutritional supplement feeds.

Other Complex Emergencies

- The cases of Cholera are still being reported in parts of Migori and Narok where continuous community sensitization is being done on prevention control. The team is currently conducting an Intra Action Review to inform alignment of the ongoing response checking on documentation, enablers and challenges.
- **Elgeyo Marakwet:** A major landslide struck Moror and Chesongoch villages in Marakwet East Sub-County following heavy rainfall. The disaster displaced 151 households, resulting to 41 fatality (22 male, 19 female), left 26 people injured, and 9 missing. KRCS worked with the Kenya Defense forces and other stakeholders in search and rescues, evacuation of the injured, tracing and provision of psychosocial support to the affected.
- **Trans Nzoia:** Flooding along River Sabwani intensified after upstream dam bursts (Amani, Chepkoilel, Marinda, Chief Mutende). The floods affected 5,516 households, displaced 540, destroyed 2,354 acres of farmland, and damaged 284 houses and four schools. KRCS supported with relief support with shelter and WASH NFIs.
- **Laikipia:** A dam overspill caused localized flooding, displacing 83 households. Assessments have been completed, and KRCS is working with the County Government to provide food and non-food items.
- **Baringo:** Heavy rains triggered flash floods and backflow of Lakes Baringo and Bogoria affecting 71 households and destroying 33 acres of farmland in Mukutani, Baringo North, South, and Tiaty East.
- **Nairobi:** Urban flooding was reported in the CBD and informal settlements. Over 200 households in Mukuru Kayaba and Kayole were affected. KRCS supported the displaced with Cash for rent to which culminating to two months.

Needs analysis

Needs remain consistent with those outlined in the Operations Strategy. KRCS continues to conduct community-level assessments to validate emerging information and ensure response activities are evidence-based. These ongoing assessments help refine priorities and guide future actions to more effectively address evolving needs.

Livelihoods: ASAL livelihoods continue to deteriorate due to successive failed seasons, with the October–December 2025 short rains performing at only 30–60% of the seasonal average. This has intensified pasture depletion, water scarcity, and livestock losses, driving widespread livelihood collapse across pastoral communities. Pastoral counties such as Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa are projected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions into early 2026. Livestock productivity continues to decline due to poor body conditions, reduced forage regeneration, and limited water access, with many water points assessed as “near dry” or “alert.” Livestock migration has increased across northern and eastern Kenya, including movement from Garissa into Tana River, Wajir, and Isiolo, raising the risk of conflict.

WASH: Water scarcity has worsened sharply across ASAL counties due to the failed short rains. ASAL regions face acute water scarcity, fragile water infrastructure, low sanitation coverage, and high exposure to waterborne diseases. Nearly a third of water systems are non-functional, and many communities travel long distances for water. Immediate needs include emergency water trucking have increased, borehole rehabilitation, and improved sanitation and hygiene services. Long-term efforts will focus on climate resilient water systems, green energy powered water points, and sustained hygiene promotion to reduce disease risks and strengthen community resilience.

Health: Health vulnerabilities have intensified in drought-affected counties due to prolonged water scarcity, malnutrition, and deteriorating livestock health. Health services are strained by cholera outbreaks, rising zoonotic diseases like brucellosis and Rift Valley Fever, and reduced humanitarian funding. Outreach, immunization, maternal health, and disease surveillance remain inadequate, especially in remote ASAL areas. KRCS will continue supporting critical health services and expand outreach to underserved communities.

The prolonged crisis is placing heavy stress on KRCS staff and volunteers. Sustained investment in wellbeing, psychological support, and workload management is needed to maintain a strong and capable humanitarian workforce. Frontline responders are facing burnout and emotional strain due to prolonged exposure to high pressure humanitarian conditions. Continued psychosocial support, adequate rest, and wellbeing initiatives are critical to sustaining effective response operations.

Nutrition: Food insecurity has worsened significantly. Up to 2.1 to 2.5 million people are already facing hunger due to the failed 2025 short rains, with numbers expected to rise into 2026. Malnutrition is severe, with over 741,000 children under five and 109,000 pregnant or lactating women needing treatment. Immediate priorities include therapeutic feeding and supporting households through cash assistance to improve food access. Funding gaps have weakened nutrition outreach, increasing the urgency for targeted support. FEWS NET projects that food needs will escalate into mid-2026, potentially reaching 3.5 million people by May due to crop failures, loss of livestock productivity, and high food prices.

Shelter: Displaced families often live in overcrowded or makeshift shelters lacking weather protection, privacy, and safety. Current shelter support is insufficient, with limited consideration for gender, disability, and protection needs. Improved, dignified, and inclusive temporary housing is urgently required.

Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI): Migration in search of water and pasture has disrupted family structures and heightened protection risks. Women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities face increased vulnerability especially to gender-based violence, early marriages, and exploitation. Strengthening community awareness, reporting mechanisms, and inclusive programming is essential.

Community Engagement & Accountability: There are significant gaps in communication, feedback systems, and inclusive participation. Remote and marginalized groups lack consistent information and meaningful involvement in decisions, reducing trust and effectiveness. Strengthening two-way communication and feedback mechanisms is essential.

Operational Risk Assessment

Funding Constraints: The scale of needs continues to far exceed available resources, creating significant operational gaps. Heavy reliance on short-term emergency funding, rather than predictable, long-term investment, undermines program continuity and limits the ability to build sustainable community resilience. Current fundraising coverage is at 9%, with CHF 1,334,453 raised against Federation-wide funding requirements of CHF 15m. This includes the DREF grant allocation of CHF 999,251.

Cholera Evolution: Ongoing cholera outbreaks in several affected counties present a high risk of escalation. Any surge in cases would require substantial diversion of staff, supplies, and funding away from core drought and flood response efforts, potentially weakening overall emergency operations.

Displacement and Mobility: Floods and drought-driven movements continue to displace households, increasing pressure on host communities, overstressing health and social services, and complicating coordinated assistance. Nomadic pastoralism adds an additional layer of complexity in reaching communities consistently, planning infrastructure, and monitoring evolving needs.

Logistics and Access Constraints: Heavy December rainfall has triggered flooding and landslides in multiple counties, damaging roads, limiting physical access, and delaying the delivery of essential supplies and services. Poor road networks and the remoteness of many affected areas elevate operational costs, reduce service frequency, and hinder timely monitoring and response.

Safety and security: Resource scarcity may result to conflicts as communities move from one area to another. In the recent past, communities have reported heightened tension which pose a risk to women, children and vulnerable groups. This may also disrupt normal humanitarian access and delivery of services; however, KRCS is greatly accepted in all those counties

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy


There are currently no changes to the overall strategy published here [Operational Strategy \(OS\)](#) at the time of compiling this report.

Prioritization

The current implementation plan prioritizes emergency lifesaving needs through the existing [DREF grant allocation](#) of CHF 995,000. This DREF grant has been allocated in support of the Appeal to support the immediate gaps in the emergency response. Through this DREF, KRCS aim at providing immediate and life-saving assistance to approximately 150,000 people across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) and floods in the Western Regions. Addressing urgent humanitarian needs for food security, WASH, health and PGI.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female > 18: 3,082	Female < 18: 0	
	Male > 18: 2,963	Male < 18: 0	
Objective:	Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of targeted displaced households provided with emergency shelter solutions that meet minimum safety, dignity, and adequacy standards.	On going	85%
	# of displaced people receiving emergency shelter materials and or essential household items.	1,209HHs (6,045 people)	15,000
	# of the KRCS Train KRCS staff and volunteers on shelter construction to support vulnerable people in setting up shelters.	On going	35

KRCS has continuously supported the counties affected by drought, conflict and floods during this operation. In the month of December through the crises modifier from EU and IOM KRCS supported 500HHs affected by conflict in Narok county, Trans Mara Sub-County during the month of December. KRCS also supported the counties of Trans Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet with emergency shelter in response of the OND short rains that was predicted to be above average in the highlands west and in Western Kenya. The total number of NFIS distributed to displaced families are 1,209 HHs which included 500HHs in Narok, 550HHs in Trans Nzoia and 159 HHs in Elgeyo Marakwet; who were supported by Kitchen Sets, Tarpaulins, Sleeping Mats, blankets and Mosquito Nets. The households were also supported with emergency WASH items which included bar soaps, jerricans and water treatment chemicals including PUR and Aqua tabs for one month and chlorine to sanitize the pit latrines.



Shelter NFI distribution and community engagement by KRCS in Elgeyo-Marakwet County

	Livelihoods	Female > 18:	Female < 18: 19,401
		Male > 18:	Male < 18: 19,000
Objective:	<i>Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of targeted households reporting improved livelihood security and reduced use of negative coping strategies (e.g., selling productive assets, reducing meals, child labor). <i>(NB: Indicator to be revised in the next OU)</i>	On going	85%

# of pupils receiving a daily meal in schools for two terms.	38,041	10,000
# of households with access to emergency feed and water supply for livestock.	Not started	2,000
# of households reached with essential on-farm and off-farm inputs/materials/tools for agricultural/food production.	Not started	2,000
# of people provided or supported with formal or informal technical, vocational or professional education or training opportunities - in climate-smart agriculture, pest control, post-harvest handling, ploughing hours, and sustainable land use practices.	Not started	400

In-kind food support

In response to the ongoing drought in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), KRCS distributed in-kind food rations sufficient for one month to a total of 11,379 households across the following counties: Tana River (2,500 HHs), Garissa (1,000 HHs), Mandera (1,500 HHs), Wajir (1,000 HHs), Kwale (600 HHs), Kilifi (1,584 HHs), Samburu (1,000 HHs), Isiolo (300 HHs), Marsabit (1,000 HHs), Kitui (500 HHs), and Kajiado (395 HHs). KRCS primarily supported last-mile locations after receiving local donations from Tawfiq Muslim Youth, which targeted the Coast Region, as well as from Khalsa Aid International, which supported parts of the Lower Eastern region. KRCS will continue to procure food and source for more resources targeting counties where markets are not feasible.

The current indicator measuring the percentage of targeted households reporting improved livelihood security and reduced negative coping strategies is overly complex and resource-intensive for this type of life-saving response. Proper measurement would require longitudinal assessment of households' ability to meet basic needs, absorb shocks, and sustain assets and income, using multiple sub-indicators aligned with the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework and food security tools. Given the scope and timeframe of the intervention, this approach is not proportionate. It is therefore recommended to revise the indicator to focus more narrowly on either reduction in negative coping strategies (e.g., % of households not engaging in crisis/emergency coping strategies using LCS-FS) or improvement in food security outcomes (e.g., % of households with acceptable FCS/HDDS or classified in IPC/CH Phase 1-2), which are more feasible and measurable in an emergency context. This indicator will be revised in the next Operations Update, together with the food security support indicators.

KRCS supported school feeding programmes where 159 schools (38,041 children) have already been supported with food which is expected to support every child with 50gms/day rice, 40gms of beans per/day, 5gms of

cooking/day, 2gms of salt/day and 40 gms of super cereals per day. This has been verified by the nutrition sector who are working with the ministry of education in the county and national government.

Counties Reached	No of Schools	Population	Maize Flour	Green Grams	Cooking Oil	Super Cereals
Baringo	22	4,736	8,370	2,404	303	18,200
Mandera	10	14,687	3,000	1,500	500	5,000
Marsabit	51	8,755	12,860	3,493	1,632	18,730
Samburu	15	4,841	12,260	1,116	480	2,000
Wajir	20	2,104	3,600	1,212	500	3,520
Garissa	19	1,609	-	-	-	8,635
Kitui	7	415	650	195	35	-
Taita Taveta	5	322	450	135	25	-
Machakos	5	326	500	150	25	-
Makueni	5	246	500	150	25	-
Totals	159	38,041	42,190	10,355	3,525	56,085

School feeding distribution table



KRCS undertaking food distribution in Marsabit County

Agricultural Support

Owing to failed rains, it was not possible to support the target population with on-farm and off-farm input to support food production and climate-smart agriculture, pest control, post-harvest handling, ploughing hours, and sustainable land use practices.



Multi-purpose Cash

Female > 18: 411	Female < 18: 0
Male > 18: 394	Male < 18: 0

Objective:	<i>Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of targeted crisis-affected households that meet their basic needs through Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) assistance and report improved coping capacity due to access to complementary services.	On going	85%

# of people provided with unconditional cash assistance.	805 people (161 HHs)	35,000
% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households, according to their priorities (minimum expenditure basket).	On going	85%

Multi-purpose cash

In areas with functional market the areas will be receiving multipurpose cash which is equivalent to the 50% of relief to support with community purchasing power for essential goods and meeting basic needs. The cash will provide dignity and flexibility to meet household needs based on household preferences.

KRCS has already commenced the issuance of the first tranche of Cash transfer in Marsabit County through this appeal where a total of 161HHs (805 people) were supported each receiving a total of Kes 6,500 which is equivalent to monthly minimum food basket for the county as per the last market assessment conducted in the area. Similarly, through a crises modifier in Tana River funded by the Danish Red Cross, KRCS has been able to support vulnerable houses in the project of SRH with Cash to enable them cope with the ongoing drought effects within the areas of Wayu and Dukanotu.

In receipt of additional resources, KRCS will support households with malnourished children under five, and pregnant and lactating women through unconditional cash assistance to improve food access via local markets. Integrated medical outreaches will address nutritional needs, while WASH interventions will ensure access to safe water and promote hygiene to prevent waterborne diseases. Livestock support will help curb zoonotic disease spread and strengthen household resilience against flood-related shocks.

- 7,000 households will receive multipurpose cash grants over three months via financial service providers.
- The programme will coordinate with the Kenya Cash Working Group for market assessments and monitoring.
- Target areas are selected based on high malnutrition caseloads, with beneficiaries identified through clinic registers in collaboration with local health facilities.
- Targeting will focus on families with children under five with moderate or recovered severe acute malnutrition, and at-risk pregnant and lactating women.

Coordination with government and humanitarian actors will ensure efficiency, avoid duplication, and enhance impact.

 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 127,374	Female < 18: 132,273	
	Male > 18: 117,576	Male < 18: 112,677	
Objective:	<i>Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening</i>		
Indicator	Actual	Target	

Key indicators:	% of targeted population in underserved areas accessing essential health, maternal and child healthcare, and nutrition services on a regular basis.	KAP survey not done	85%
	# of people in the targeted population provided with psychosocial support services	900 ppl (180 HHs)	5,000
	# of RCRC volunteers and staff provided with psychosocial support services	41 (11 staff, 30 volunteers)	600
	# of people reached through intensified Risk Communication Community Engagement activities targeting high-risk populations with messages on disease prevention and control.	489,900	300,000
	# of children under 5 years and lactating/pregnant mothers who have been enrolled in supplementary feeding delivered by the National Society following assessment (revised)	14,400	10,000

Priority Actions

These interventions aimed to rapidly contain disease outbreaks, safeguard public health, and minimize the compounding impact of drought on already strained health systems. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) continuously implemented community-based disease prevention and health promotion activities, with a strong focus on anticipatory risk reduction and epidemic preparedness to prevent outbreaks before they occurred.

A knowledge, attitudes and practices survey to determine the proportion of the targeted population in underserved areas accessing essential health, maternal and child healthcare, and nutrition services on a regular basis has yet to be done.

In Narok and Migori counties, KRCS deployed a targeted approach in cholera response areas by ring fencing areas with confirmed cases. 180 HHs (900 people) underwent psychosocial support.

In Narok county, KRCS deployed a surge team comprising of 11 staff and 30 volunteers to support with cholera response. All surge team members were supported with psychosocial support.

In Narok County, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) supported Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities in Trans Mara West and Trans Mara South sub-counties. In Migori County, similar interventions were implemented in Nyatike, Kuria West, and Kuria East sub-counties reaching **489,900 people**.

The RCCE activities included door-to-door sensitization on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures and household water treatment practices as part of the cholera outbreak response.

Activities aimed at providing health and nutrition supplies in the regional hubs (including MUAC tapes, kits, dignity kits, and assorted pharmaceutical supplies) and nutrition-integrated health outreach had not yet started.

Supplementary feedings were also conducted in the 10 high-risk counties, including Mandera, which was already in the alarm phase, and in an additional nine counties classified under the alert phase. A total of 80 tonnes of therapeutic feed were distributed, with each household with children under five and a lactating or pregnant mother receiving 5 kg. In total, **14,400 households** (12,000 under five children and 2,400 mothers/pregnant women) were reached in one cycle. However, the intervention must be implemented at least every six months.


KRCS will scale up integrated, life-saving health and WASH interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality linked to cholera and other drought-exacerbated diseases.

- Integrated human and animal health and nutrition outreaches by leveraging on the routine MoH activities and KRCS support thus delivering emergency care, rehydration therapy, vaccination, and maternal-child health services in affected communities.
- Strengthen epidemic detection and response via rapid teams, active case finding, sample collection, and IPC support at health facilities.
- Deploy hygiene promotion teams to improve water access and sanitation in areas with diarrheal disease outbreaks.
- Intensify RCCE campaigns targeting high-risk populations with disease prevention messages.

As per the needs KRCS will conduct Nutrition and Health Interventions once additional resource or partnerships are realized. Among the activities to be jointly conducted with MOH will include:

- Conduct mass screening for children under five and pregnant/lactating women.
- Monthly household follow-ups using Family MUAC and mother-to-mother support groups.
- On-the-job training and mentorship for healthcare workers on IMAM, nutrition, health commodities, and data management.
- Capacity building on IMAM, CMAM, hygiene promotion, and safe water and food storage.
- Community sensitization on sanitation and hygiene, supported by WASH activities and distribution of water treatment chemicals.

Together with MOH KRCS has conducted an assessment of Health and nutritional needs in Marsabit awaiting the report for further guidance on priority areas of intervention.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		Female > 18: 1,521	Female < 18: 2,282
		Male > 18: 1,462	Male < 18: 2,192
Objective:	<i>Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of households in targeted communities with sustained access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation facilities, and practicing key hygiene behaviors (e.g., handwashing with soap at critical times)	On going	80%
	# of people provided with improved access to safe and sustainable water sources (disaggregated by sex, age, and location).	7,457 through water trucking	75,000
	# of safe and accessible water infrastructure, water points for cooking and drinking water which are culturally	7	14

appropriate, constructed or rehabilitated, including earth dams		
# of people covered with hygiene promotion activities.	On going	300,000
# of families supported with WASH NFIs	On going	4,000
# of family hygiene kits distributed	On going	4,000

KRCS rehabilitated seven boreholes to ensure the provision of clean and safe water to affected communities. The boreholes were distributed across five counties: Baringo (1), Samburu (2), Isiolo (2), Kajiado (1), and Taita Taveta (1). Each project was expected to support at least two villages, with each village estimated to have 250 households. The scope of works included:

- Electromechanical works for the boreholes.
- Pipeline extensions at both sites.
- Construction of two water kiosks.
- Construction of two animal troughs.

The rehabilitation works were completed, and the communities began utilizing the water points. The sites were scheduled for launch and handover to the respective community water committees to promote sustainability. The water committees also required refresher training on the management of the water points.

In areas where water trekking distances had increased, KRCS conducted water trucking once per week, reaching **7,457 people** in three villages across four counties: Marsabit, Mandera, Tana River, and Isiolo. Each county received different volumes of water depending on need, with Mandera receiving 700,000 litres, Tana River 576,000 litres, Marsabit 210,000 litres, and Isiolo 60,000 litres. The volumes were to be adjusted based on the evolving situation and the needs of villages experiencing limited water availability.



Ongoing water trucking in Mandera County



A hand pump borehole in Marsabit County.

Female > 18: 0

Female < 18: 0



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Male > 18: 0

Male < 18: 0

Objective: *Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs*

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	% of community-led initiatives or mechanisms that actively include and address the needs of vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized groups.	On going	80%
	# of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming.	On going	300,000
	# of women and girls that receive dignity kits	On going	3,000
	# persons with disabilities that received targeted support	On going	150
	# Protection cases referred to available services	On going	350
	# of staff and volunteers trained to apply the PGI Minimum Standards in emergency and development programming, disaggregated by sex, age, and disability	On going	250
	# of volunteers and staff trained on PSEA and basic SGBV awareness and survivor-centred response, including receiving and managing sensitive SGBV (including safeguarding)-related disclosures	On going	100%
	# of people that receive SGBV and Child protection awareness sessions	On going	5,000

KRCS personnel, including volunteers, staff and contractors have signed the PSEA policy which is usually accompanied by the contracts of engagement. Before they sign these documents, they are briefed on child protection policy/guidelines. Further activities, such as training of trainers and communication activities, are pending funding from EA.

Among the things that KRCS has continuously advocated for during this response are:

- Top up for people with disabilities in the MPCA to cover additional barriers and costs during humanitarian crises including accessibility challenges, accompaniment/proxy, health related expenses and heighten protection risks.
- Child protection: Support with referrals for unaccompanied and separated minors and other child protection cases, support food for schools in Livelihoods and follow-up on drop-out cases, awareness sessions on Child protection.
- Emergency fund for protection cases and access to services.
- Prevention and response on SGBV.
- Safeguarding: Briefings on CoC and Safeguarding Policies.
- Further updates to be provided in the next operational update.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Female > 18: 544	Female < 18: 0
Male > 18: 379	Male < 18: 0

Objective: <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of operational feedback received and responded to by the National Society.	0	80%
	# of staff, and volunteers trained on community engagement and accountability	132	250
	# of people reached through methods that enable communities to participate in the planning and management of services, programmes, and operations	791	10,000

- CEA will be being integrated throughout the response to ensure meaningful participation of affected communities. Engagement will use KRCS tools and approaches to capture feedback and address gaps promptly.
- Communities are participating through feedback desks in temporary camps, a toll-free complaint line, focus group discussions, and household visits. These mechanisms will inform needs assessments and promote awareness of feedback channels.
- The exit strategy will include community consultations, lessons-learned workshops, and a final evaluation incorporating community feedback on implementation and impact.

KRCS is committed to mainstreaming CEA throughout a program implementation by ensuring active participation from affected community members and ensure closure of feedback loop. Community members were made aware of the KRCS response, how support will be provided, exit strategy, funding sources and how to share community feedback. The efforts ensured women and elderly persons were incorporated as part of the awareness sessions. KRCS has continued to ensure establishment and utilization of community feedback desks during registrations, distributions, assessments and outreaches. The National Society continues to disseminate the KRCS feedback mechanisms including Toll-free hotline (0800720577) and complaints & feedback email.

With support from IFRC, a total of 42 volunteers (19 Males, 23 Females) including 2 staff (1M, 1F) were trained on CEA in Marsabit. The training covered key aspects including CEA in project cycle including during assessments, design and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, the teams were engaged in understanding the role of CEA in programs which focused on CEA in emergencies, cash and voucher assistance, PGI, and how to integrate feedback channels to address feedback and rumors at the community level. Furthermore, the teams were engaged in how to integrate various CEA approaches to the societal setup based on the various gaps that they may face and how to identify the most appropriate approach to use when addressing community feedback.

With support from Cholera/Floods DREF and the Resilience and Health Rights Project, a total of 88 participants, including 20 Community Health Promoters (12 men, 8 women) and 16 Community Inclusion Currency Champions (10 men, 6 women) and 52 (34 men, 18 women), Kalobeyei staff in Turkana County benefited from CEA sensitization sessions. These sessions enhanced their understanding of CEA as a collective responsibility, improved their ability


to document and act on feedback within 72 hours, and equipped them with practical skills in communication, rumor management and use of feedback mechanisms including Toll-free hotline 0800720577, comment cards, and feedback boxes.

Some community feedback suggested conducting targeted interventions in specific case areas, which led to the adoption of a ringfenced approach for the first six confirmed cholera cases, helping contain the disease. Additionally, recommendations to incorporate community elders/opinion leaders in the sensitization and enforcement of critical hygiene modalities led to behavior change.

Support supervision for further reinforced accountability by identifying gaps in feedback documentation and dissemination of toll-free numbers. Immediate corrective measures were taken, and CHPs in Villages 1, 2, and 3 were mentored and onboarded to collect feedback using KOBO. This has ensured that feedback is consistently documented, properly channeled, and addressed in a timely manner.

The review meetings with seven groups reached 138 participants (26 men, 112 women), providing a structured platform for dialogue, reflection, and validation of project progress. Members shared experiences, highlighted successes such as improved livelihoods through savings and IGAs, and raised challenges, which will inform the priority needs of the groups. These forums also strengthened accountability and reinforced awareness of toll-free feedback channels.

Community review meetings on cholera in Kalobeyei Refugee Operations, Turkana reached 653 people (277M, 376F), including 159 persons with disabilities (51 men and 108 women) for both host and refugees. The sessions served as an important monitoring tool to track gather feedback, verify that activities such as sensitizations, radio talk shows, and community dialogues had been implemented.

	Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery	Female > 18: 0	Female < 18: 0
		Male > 18: 0	Male < 18: 0
Objective: <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of targeted households reporting improved capacity to anticipate, absorb, and recover from climate-induced shocks.	TBC	60%
	# of people reached with disaster risk reduction.	TBC	10,000
	# of people reached through early warning messages.	TBC	10,000

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) activated the Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP), and the planned activities were undertaken and completed in Kitui, Kwale, and Kajiado counties. A lessons learned workshop and review were scheduled to assess the effectiveness of these actions in reducing drought risk and strengthening anticipatory response mechanisms in the targeted counties.

KRCS continued to disseminate early warning messages, advocate for evacuation where necessary, and convene community review meetings in areas classified as normal but exhibiting worsening indicators. These interventions were implemented through participatory approaches, actively engaging community members in high-risk areas. Additionally, KRCS strengthened community capacity on enhanced vulnerability assessment tools to enable communities to identify emerging threats, develop mitigation measures, and formulate early actions aimed at preventing or minimizing the impact of potential disasters within their localities.

Summary of county activities:

County	Sub County	Activities
Kilifi	Magarini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP for Crops and Livestock • Market assessment for hay, seeds and Wash items. • Installation of four 10,000- liters storage tanks • Targeting and registration of farmers and livestock keepers integrated with the agro advisory for farmers and livestock keepers. • Procurement of seeds and hay ongoing • Radio spots to disseminate EW Messages • trained and deployed volunteers to support implementation of the EAP • Community review meetings • Early warning messaging.
Kwale	Kinango	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP workshop to create advisories • Market assessment for hay, seeds and Wash items. • Installation of 4 10,000-liters storage tanks • Targeting, registration and verification of farmers to receiver. • Procurement and distribution of seeds and hay is ongoing • Community review meetings ongoing to review implementation of the EAP • Trained volunteers are proceeding with engaging communities and supporting dissemination of early warnings • Radio spot at Radio kaya to disseminate early warning messages
Kitui	Mwingi North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County consultations with relevant departments (Water, Agriculture, Livestock, NDMA, KMD) • Stakeholder engagement using PSP approach conducted (CSG at sub county level) • Market assessment to determine feasibility of use of Cash • Targeting and registration of cash and crop seed recipients completed • Procurement for seeds awarded (Tseikuru ward) • WASH infrastructure assessment completed. • Procurement of rehabilitation and installation services • Volunteers trained and deployed to support the implementation exercise • Early Maturing Crop seeds distribution in both Tharaka and Tseikuru • Radio spots to disseminate EW information • WASH installations

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective: <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	The National Society is part of government-led emergency coordination platforms	Yes	Yes
	The National Society is part of the country, interagency, and international community's official emergency response coordination platforms	Yes	Yes
	# of branches with enhanced disaster and crisis response capabilities	10	10
	% of volunteers provided with equipment for protection, safety and support appropriate to the emergency	85%	85%

Priority Actions

The approach to National Society strengthening under this Emergency Appeal is twofold: a) To ensure that the necessary capacities are in place to implement response and preparedness activities through reinforced National Society branches; and b) To contribute to the longer-term National Society Development Plan

KRCS will support the target branches in strengthening their capacity to operate through preparedness, infrastructure as well as capacity building ready for future deployments. KRCS has robust data collection, analysis and reporting that will ensure during the operation there is concrete feedback and addressing of the issues. KRCS will also Conduct after-action reviews and lessons learned workshops at branch level for knowledge harvesting and management.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective: <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of regular coordination mechanisms with all Movement partners	Monthly	Monthly
	# of Partners meeting to brief on the Appeal	1	2
	# of Donors meeting to brief on the Appeal	0	1

Priority Actions

Effective coordination is key to the KRCS-led response. IFRC and in-country PNSs provide tailored support under the Ways of Working approach, while KRCS engages government, UN agencies, and humanitarian clusters to align efforts with national priorities and community needs. Movement cooperation is strengthened through regular coordination guided by the Seville Agreement 2.0, ensuring a unified and efficient response.

KRCS collaborates routinely with County One Health units (COHU) in all its program-targeted counties. For example, in Turkana during the cholera outbreak KRCS was part of the One Health coordination TWG and the Cholera Incident Management System (IMS).



Secretariat Services

Objective:	<i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of financial reports compliant with IFRC procedures	100%	100%
	The resource mobilization strategy has been developed	1	1
	The communications strategy has been developed	1	1
	% of PNS reporting within a Federation Wide PMER structure	TBC	100%
	The National Society has a risk management framework in place	1	1
	% of financial reports compliant with IFRC financial procedures and standards	100%	100%
	# of technical and monitoring visits conducted	1	12

Priority Actions

To deliver a coordinated and impactful response, IFRC and KRCS are implementing strategic support measures. These include strengthening partnerships and resource mobilization, enhancing risk management and logistics, and investing in human resource development. Communications are being scaled up to boost visibility and manage reputational risks, while upgraded data systems enable real-time analysis and informed decision-making. Robust PMER frameworks ensure accountability and track progress across all response levels.

Media Mentions on Drought Situation

- https://youtu.be/77ux_T1Dj3A?si=pk9N0SKcg41h-EMc Aljazeera on 12th January 2026 highlighting Drought effects in Kenya
- https://sootv.co.ke/news_details?view=689 Drought pushes hundreds of families in Kilifi to the brink of starvation
- <https://x.com/StandardKenya/status/2001194622333100310?s=20> Thousands of families face starvation as drought worsens and water sources dry up in parts of Kilifi
- https://youtu.be/ScM1p_3nkTA?si=fbxjTXZE3wDjuMKm

- [Three killed, several injured in clashes over water and pasture in Marsabit County](#)
- [Families in parts of Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu walk for kilometres in search of water](#)
- [Ukame washuhudiwa kaskazini mwa nchi](#)
- [Over 2M people at risk of hunger as drought worsens in Kenya's arid counties](#)
- [Maeneo kame kaskazini mwa nchi yameathiriwa zaidi na njaa](#)
- [Drought devastates livelihoods in Kenya's Marsabit County](#)
- [Marsabit women and children walk over 20km in search of water](#)
- [Drought | Families in Marsabit trade daughters for survival](#)
- [Livestock deaths, water scarcity trigger growing health concerns - YouTube](#)

D. FUNDING

The Federation-wide funding requirement covers all financial support allocated to the Kenya Red Cross in response to the emergency. It includes the KRSC domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 5 million), as well as the funding needs of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 10 million). This comprehensive approach ensures mobilisation of all available resources to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

Current fundraising coverage is at 9%, with CHF 1,387,155 raised against Federation-wide funding requirements of CHF 15m. This includes the DREF grant allocation of CHF 999,251.

	Income CHF	% coverage
Bilateral funding ask CHF10m		
Finnish Red Cross	9,320	
Total bilateral hard pledges + in kind + soft pledges	9,320	
IFRC Secretariat funding ask CHF15m		
DREF grant allocation	999,251	
Japan Red Cross – Yen 5m soft pledge.	26,151	
Netherlands Red Cross	347,813	
Monaco Red Cross	13,940	
Total multilateral hard pledges + in kind + soft pledges	1,387,155	9%
Grand total income including DREF grant against	1,396,475	9%

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

At Kenya Red Cross Society:

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At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Country Cluster Delegation:** Naemi Heita, Head of Cluster Delegation; email: naemi.heita@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operations Lead; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org, phone: +254 780 422276
- **IFRC Geneva:** Santiago Luengo, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org, phone: +41 (0) 79 124 4052

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledge support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Louise Daintrey, Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; louise.daintrey@ifrc.org, +254 110 843 978

For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Allan Kilaka Masavah, Manager, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management; email allan.masavah@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting)

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Beatrice Okeyo, Regional Head PMER & QA, email: beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org, phone: +254 721 486953

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Operational Strategy \(OS\)](#)
- [Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Operational Update 1](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.