

DREF Operation

Kenya Drought



Crop Failure in Northern Kenya that will result to famine: Photo Source: KRCS

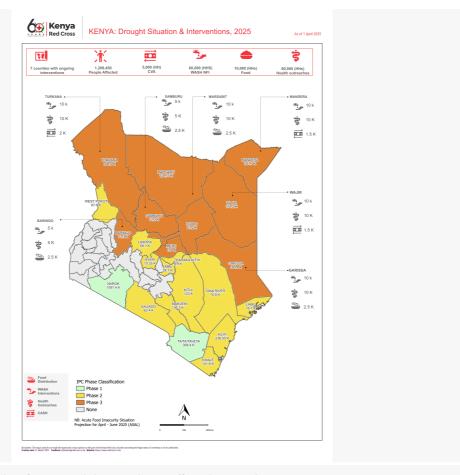
Appeal: MDRKE065	Country: Kenya	Hazard: Drought	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Orange	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 970,592	
Glide Number:	People Affected: 2,150,000 people	People Targeted: 60,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 07-04-2025	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-10-2025	DREF Published: 10-04-2025
Targeted Areas: Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, Samburu, Baringo			

Description of the Event

Crisis Category Supporting Document

Date when the trigger was met

21-03-2025



A map showing different IC Phase Classification and the population affected across thee county. Source: KRCS ICHA

What happened, where and when?

Kenya is facing a drought situation that has significantly deteriorated following the consequence of the rain failure observed since the last quarter of 2024. The National Drought Disaster Manager Agency issued the Kenya IPC Short Rains Assessment (SRA) on 28 February 2025, which was conducted by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, where the Kenya Red Cross provided technical expertise. The report assessment emphasized the effect of the rain's failure in the past OND season while indicating a continuous below-normal March–May rainfall.

The assessment, covering the post-harvest period from February to March 2025, revealed that approximately 2.2 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher – Crisis or worse). Among them, 266,000 people are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), primarily in Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, and Marsabit counties. By June, it will be approximately 292,000 people in Phase 4 and 2.5 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

On March 21, the latest Acute Food Insecurity Situation for February - March 2025 and Projection for April - June 2025 Arid and Semi-Arid(ASAL) was published, with a significant increase in the food-insecure population compared to a similar period last year. The are a total of 23 ASAL counties in total, where 9 are arid and 14 are semi-arid.

The below-normal October-November-December (OND) 2024 short rains stressed the production and reversed gains from the past three seasons, worsening household food insecurity in ASAL regions. Widespread crop failure and low agricultural productivity have been driven by poor rainfall, compounded by crop pests, diseases, and high fuel and fertilizer costs, which have severely constrained farming



activities, especially for vulnerable households. Facing this situation over the recent months has further stressed the overall food insecurity in the ASAL regions, where factors such as elevated food prices and conflicts related to resource management and human-wildlife interactions have been entertaining this food insecurity crisis.



Communities in Turkana County trekking back to get water for household and livestock use; Photo by KRCS



A dried water pan in Garissa: Photo Sources KRCS



Community Health Promoter conducting early detection and referral of malnutrition case; Photo by KRCS

Scope and Scale

Kenya's drought crisis has worsened following the failure of rains since late 2024. The Kenya IPC Short Rains Assessment, released in February 2025, highlights significant negative impacts from the poor October–December rains and forecasts continued below-average rainfall for March–May 2025. Indeed, the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), regional climate centers, and other global sources, forecasts that the March–May 2025 long rains season will be below average across much of Kenya. The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in northern and eastern Kenya, along with the central and coastal regions, are expected to receive below-normal rainfall, exacerbating existing drought conditions.

The food security situation which is already touching 2.2M people in IPC3 and 266,000 in IPC4 is expected to deteriorate during the March–May 2025, with an estimated 2.8 million people across 23 ASAL counties facing acute food insecurity between April and June 2025. The number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance will rise from 2.15 million (February 2025) to 2.8 million (April- June 2025), including 2.5 million in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 291,650 in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Compared to the same period last year, the population classified in IPC Phase 3 or higher has increased by 10%, highlighting the escalating food security crisis.

The number of children aged 6 to 59 months requiring acute malnutrition treatment has risen from 760,488 to 800,202, highlighting a deteriorating nutrition crisis, particularly in ASAL and urban areas. Similarly, the number of pregnant and breastfeeding women in need of treatment has increased from 112,401 to 120,732, indicating heightened vulnerability within this group. The key contributing factors are a high burden of morbidity, suboptimal childcare and feeding practices, reduced access to health services due to limited funding, and low access to adequate and safe drinking water. The nutrition situation is expected to worsen across all areas, with some regions deteriorating within their current phase and others shifting to a higher severity phase. The decline is likely to be driven by the expected worsening of household acute food insecurity conditions, an increased disease burden linked to reduced coverage of nutrition and health services and humanitarian assistance, and the growing maternal workload and longer distances to water sources. During the projection period, the following impact and deterioration are forecasted:

- Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa—currently classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)—are expected to remain in this phase. However, the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance is projected to increase, reflecting a worsening food security situation.
- In 8 of the 23 ASAL counties, analysis indicates IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) conditions, with Marsabit recording the highest proportion of households—over 50%—resorting to crisis-level coping strategies, such as reducing meal portions and prioritizing food for children over adults. Mandera follows closely, with similarly high levels of negative coping mechanisms, reflecting the severe impact of food insecurity in these areas
- In 15 of the 23 counties, analysis results indicate Phase 2 conditions. Among them, five counties reported that over 70 percent of households were adopting stress coping mechanisms such as reducing meal frequency and relying on less preferred foods.
- Across the ASAL counties, households are employing various livelihood-based coping strategies (LCS) to manage food insecurity. While no county officially falls under Phase 4 based on LCS indicators, 17% of households in Wajir and 15% in Mandera have resorted to emergency coping strategies, such as selling their last female animals, household assets, or land, signaling extreme distress.
- Additionally, findings in Marsabit, Meru, Tana River, and Turkana indicate Phase 3 or worse conditions will be faced, with many households adopting negative coping mechanisms, including withdrawing children from school and selling productive assets. These trends highlight growing vulnerability and worsening food security across the ASAL region, underscoring the urgent need for intervention
- During the projection period, the same counties (Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa) which are currently in IPC phase 3

will remain in the phase, but with an increase in the population in need of humanitarian assistance.

The worsening conditions are primarily driven by poor rainfall distribution, high temperatures, and limited pasture regeneration, compounded by rising food prices and conflicts over resources, including human- wildlife interactions. The current and projected situation marks the second consecutive failed season in an area still recovering from the 2021–2022 drought, which saw five consecutive failed seasons. As a result, ecosystems remain highly vulnerable, and livelihoods remain fragile. Another failed season would further exacerbate food insecurity, further straining already weakened resources and pushing affected communities deeper into crisis. KRCS using this DREF will be supporting the hard-to-reach areas within the counties as well as those counties not receiving any additional

Source Information

support from other partners.

Source Name	Source Link
1. IGAD Resources- East Africa Drought Watch	https://droughtwatch.icpac.net/
2. IPC information Q1/2025 & projections for Q2/2025	https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country- analysis/details-map/en/c/1159540/
3. National Drought Management Authority	https://ndma.go.ke/2024-short-rains-food-and-nutrition-security-assessment-report/
4. Kenya Meteolorogical Department	https://meteo.go.ke/forecast/seasonal-forecast

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

Lessons learned:

These were some of the lessons learned from the last Hunger Crisis response, which ran from 2021 to March 2023.

- There was a need to maximize the normal and below normal rains in the Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties to ensure that even with the little rains communities could take advantage and increase food production through the distribution of drought resistant and a sensitization to the farming areas to adopt to the new changes by diversifying their agricultural production by having early maturing crops that could also increase pasture.
- Since most of the ASAL counties are also pastoralist with large herds of cattle, KRCS was able to include the ground off-take for livestock where the animal products were distributed to the communities, however it would be important to enhance their economic activities through an early action to pastoralist by conducting the commercial off-take.
- Effective coordination among the agencies and donor in addressing drought impact where they are able to plan and response in unison complementing the works of each agency and ensuring that there is no double dipping.
- The enhanced water harvesting and drilling of shallow wells and boreholes also ensure proper management and supplemented the inadequate water sources both for household use and for livestock.
- The community engagement in the interventions also ensured that the agencies were able to get the right modality to support the communities.
- The most preferred modality of support to communities was CASH and voucher assistance since markets were functioning either



locally or through transportation from neighboring areas.

- When working with other partner national society KRCS was also able to realize that some early action in the Drought Early action Protocol, triggers and areas of target needs to be reviewed and revised to suit the current climatic changes.
- There is a need to act early and ensure that communities are well prepared to anticipate, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

28-02-2024

Livelihoods And Basic Needs	In-kind Food distribution in Garissa, Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit, Taita Taveta and Wajir, reaching 9,839 families with 206MTs of emergency food packages.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	KRCS has been providing water trucking to a population of 29,700 people in 59 sites within Mandera and Wajir County.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	In all interventions, KRCS has ensured that the vulnerable groups have been prioritised within the communities.
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery	KRCS has the Drought Early Action Protocol that was based on a five year return period and is to be activated during the OND seasons when triggers are met. Based on the protocol will be triggered for the 23 Arid and Semi-Arid only when the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) forecast for OND from Kenya Meteorological indicates an SPI value of below -0.98 with at least 33% chances of occurrence in at least 3 counties. The counties in which the trigger thresholds are met will be ranked by order of the risk index, and if any of them is classified as alarm or in an emergency state of drought, then they are dropped, and focus is given to those in alert and/or normal. The lead time will be up to 12 weeks, and early actions implementation starting in July. In 2024, when the rains scarcity and dry spell started, the long lead forecast that was initialized in July 2024 indicated high probabilities of a drought. At some point, some counties met the threshold for activating the EAP, albeit very briefly. Currently, that forecast was updated in August, it presented uncertainties with the probabilities going down below the threshold needed to activate the EAP. As a result, the EAP was not
	Despite the EAP not reaching the trigger level pre-agreed in the EAP, KRCS has been engaged on ensuring preparatory and coordination work was undertaken to strengthen readiness in anticipation of the trigger and peak of Drought. In the year 2024, KRCS undertook lean readiness activities in seeking to ensure National Society Strengthening on the EAP for swift actions in the event that it is activated. Key achievements for the readiness activities include: - Dissemination of the EAP to respective branches, briefing and engagement with local stakeholders. This also covers strengthening the understanding on the early actions and how they feed into the DRM continuum, leveraging the window of opportunity. - Advocacy is ongoing to continuously incorporate the already established Anticipatory Action roadmap that stipulates some of the activities to be done to ensure disaster risk reduction. - Community Engagement, coordination and Partnerships was mainly focused on engaging stakeholders on roles in the EAP were engaged and briefed. Focus on ensuring readiness and clarity of roles in anticipation of possible activation. The targeting proposed by KRCS under this response DREF for drought align with the general risk and vulnerability analysis of the EAP and focused on the 07 counties that
	cover for more than 1/3 of people affected by food insecurity and almost ½ of people in need at national level. The National Society continued to engage the stakeholders who had been mapped out

and had clear roles in the EAP. This was aimed at ensuring they understood what is expected of them so that they could effectively and timely act on their roles &

	responsibilities in the event the EAP is activated. The various analysis on the engagement and the readiness by NS under the protocols served as strong basis for efficient and coordinated response.
Environment Sustainability	There is also an initiative to conserve and adapt to the changing climate conditions. This is being done through the current environmental conservation that aims at planting more trees within the country. KRCS has participated in all the wetlands Conservation celebrations in all the counties. This has been done by ensuring that there is sustainable water sources. As an auxiliary to the government, KRCS aligns with Kenya Vision 2030 for SDGS, which aims to enhance environmental sustainability. KRCS is celebrating 60 years since its
	inauguration in the country and aims to also do 60 million trees across the country and have initiatives to ensure they are cared for until they mature.
Coordination	KRCS interventions have been coordinated through the National government's relevant ministries and through the County government Steering Group meeting.
National Society Readiness	KRCS has trained staff and volunteer on matters of disaster management. There are refresher courses done to Community Based Disaster Response Teams (CBDRTs) Red Cross Action Team (RCATs) who are present in all the counties. The staff also offer technical and strategic support during emergencies.
Assessment	Assessments are part of KRCS's humanitarian efforts which are done to determine the humanitarian needs of affected communities and support with the designing of appropriate response needs. The teams are trained on how to conduct assessments and as they also do the data collection using the already determined assessment tools. In cases of emergency KRCS conducts rapid assessments to determine the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected community where there are tools to conduct assessments within 24hrs, 48hrs and 72hrs.
Resource Mobilization	Resource mobilization is being done through the Partnership and resource mobilization department where the Disaster Management team will be providing the technical support. KRCs will resource mobilize through the IFRC appeal, working with partner National Societies in the country, relationship with the government, embassies and local donors within the country.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	KRCS has already activated its multi-hazard actions plans that were reviewed as part of the readiness of the National society early this year. The contingency plans have identified Drought as one of the risks that the communities face, and preparedness activities have also kicked off as outlined. KRCS has identified the planning scenario to be the worst case as already indicated in the just-concluded short rains assessment for the year 2024.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC has a Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Kenya and Somalia, and a regional office for Africa, based in Nairobi. Through the Delegation and Regional Office, the IFRC provides resource mobilization and technical support to the KRCS in emergency response as well as long-term programming. The IFRC CCD has supported KRCS in the development of this DREF. IFRC will monitor the operation with KRCS and provide finance and reporting support.
Participating National Societies	Discussion are ongoing with Partner National Societies of supporting those counties that are in already in alarm with response and those in alert with readiness and early actions.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Discussions are ongoing to support those counties that are experiencing conflict with limited access.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The NDMA took the lead in enhancing a comprehensive report that was done on the drought situation by the actors at the county level and segregated the data to the subcounty level. This has been disseminated to different stakeholders to address different thematic needs.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The National Society EOC is used as a hub for disaster management and response coordination. The EOC monitors the situation within the countries where they provide data and an analysis of the situation. EOC also facilitate seamless communication between various agencies and stakeholders. The EOC will be activated for this intervention, ensuring coordination and proper delivery.

At National level, strategic coordination is led by the NDMA. The NDMA also has the lead in enhancing a comprehensive report on the drought situation by the actors at the county level and segregated the data to the sub-county level.

All partners actively participate in strategic and sectoral coordination platforms. KRCS has strengthened collaboration with key actors involved in climate-related multi-hazard and food insecurity responses through the existing Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for drought. Additionally, KRCS has established stronger partnerships with local representatives in high-risk counties. These coordination mechanisms and linkages will be leveraged to support the intervention.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The drought has reduced food production, causing shortages and price spikes that make food unaffordable. With ongoing food insecurity, household food consumption remains compromised due to reduced milk availability, rising food prices, and dwindling food stocks. Food distribution provides immediate relief, especially for malnourished children, pregnant/lactating mothers, and the elderly. Immediate food assistance is critical to prevent worsening malnutrition and economic distress.

The number of people needing humanitarian assistance is expected to rise from 2.15 million (Feb 2025) to 2.8 million (March–June 2025), with 2.5 million in IPC Phase 3 and 291,650 in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Additionally, 800,202 children aged 6–59 months require treatment for acute malnutrition.

As of March 2025, the population in IPC 3+ is 2,150,600 in 23 counties, representing 13% of the population in these counties. There are 07 counties that are currently totalizing 56% of the population in IPC3 & 4. Being the focus priority for immediate lifesaving access to food, and basic means of life.

	IPC 3+	Food	CVA	Health	WASH
Marsabit	128,750	2,500	0	10,000	10,000
Turkana 30	6,900 2,000	200	0 10,0	000 10,0	000
Mandera	287,700	0	1,500	10,000	10,000
Wajir	174,200	0	1,500	10,000	10,000
Garissa	185,400 2	2,500	0	10,000	10,000
Baringo	73,300	2,500	0	5,000	5,000
Samburu	52,200	2,500	0	5,000	5,000
As per IPC	1,208,450	10,000	5,000	60,000	60,000

05 counties are already in Emergency situation of acute food insecurity, where households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs, even after employing all coping strategies. These communities are facing the severe malnutrition resulting from starvation and other associated worsening conditions. Counties with population already in IPC4 are Garissa (46,350 people ~5% of the county population); Madera (47,950 people ~5% of the population); Marsabit (25,750 people ~5% of the population); Turkana (102,300 people,



~10% of the county population); Wajir (43,550 people ~5% of the population).

The drought has affected school attendance, as children drop out to help families find food or water. Supplementary food rations are needed to keep children in school by ensuring they receive at least one nutritious meal daily. While the government runs school feeding programs, delays and shortages in some areas require urgent supplementation, either by increasing food portions or expanding coverage to ensure adequate nutrition for school children.



Multi purpose cash grants

The drought is compounding the effects touching multiple sectors and raising various humanitarian needs across different groups of population. Especially for the population under IPC3+ that are in crisis or emergency stage, struggling to meet their basic needs.

With multi-sectoral needs and gaps to be addressed, it needs an approach that helps families to prioritize their needs. This goes beyond the access to food and include access to basic needs and services that are critical to their wellbeing, dignity and protection.

Unconditional cash grants would provide immediate financial relief, allowing families and farmers to purchase food, essential goods, and meet basic needs. This support will help mitigate the impact of crop failures and livestock losses, enhances food self-sufficiency, and enables households to invest in productive assets, fostering long-term stability. In areas with functioning markets, KRCS will implement multipurpose cash transfers, empowering communities to prioritize their needs effectively.

The cash is expected to give the flexibility to complement based on the various priorities. For instance, the WASH does not give access to water storage, kits and sustainable access to facilities for hygiene at households and community level. It also does not include the protection and access to basic services such as health, specific nutritional needs for the largest families under IPC 3+ that are highly vulnerable to these threats.



Health

In accordance with the short rains assessment report, there is a need to scale up essential nutrition and health services in ASAL counties, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations to reduce critical malnutrition levels.

Currently, the health data in the ASAL counties shows increased cases of acute malnutrition for children between 6 to 59 months and women, among them pregnant and lactating mothers.

There is a need for enhanced community-based nutrition integrated programs for early detection, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition. It will be important to sensitize communities on maternal-infant and young child nutrition (MYNC) in emergencies.

There are ongoing efforts from Government and partners on the nutrition and health, but gaps remain due to the large scale of the needs.

Drought leads to water shortages, forcing people to use unsafe water sources, increasing risks of cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea. Lack of water also affects hygiene and sanitation, contributing to infections and disease spread. There is a need to support the Ministry of Health in mapping out high-risk areas in terms of disease outbreak, monitoring the diseases as well as active surveillance.

The stress of food and water scarcity, displacement, and economic loss can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Strengthening mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is essential to address the psychological impact of drought on affected communities and responders also providing psychosocial support to responders.

Girls face an increased risk of early marriages and gender-based violence, necessitating protection and reproductive health services. Sensitization is needed in schools and through community leaders to keep girls in school and avoid harmful practices such as early marriages while also creating safe spaces to help women and girls have a space to meet and discuss their fears and experiences.

The ongoing drought in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties has intensified in 2025, leading to a range of critical health challenges:

1. Malnutrition and Food Insecurity:

As of early 2025, over 800,200 children aged 6–59 months and approximately 120,732 pregnant and breastfeeding women were suffering from acute malnutrition. Projections indicate that between April and June 2025, around 2.8 million people will face acute food insecurity due to below-normal rainfall.

- -National Disaster Management Authority
- -ReliefWeb
- 2. Waterborne Diseases:

Limited access to clean water has heightened the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery, as communities are compelled to use contaminated sources.

Maji na Ufanisi (Water and Development).

3. Communicable Disease Outbreaks:

The persistent disease burden in ASAL regions continues to drive recurrent acute malnutrition. For instance, in Baringo, acute respiratory infection prevalence reached 30.9% in Baringo North/South, while Tiaty reported a high disease burden at 27.5%. Source: IPC Info



4. Mental Health Challenges:

The stress and trauma associated with displacement, loss of livelihoods, and resource scarcity have contributed to increased cases of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among affected populations. Source: Africa Uncensored

5. Increased Vulnerability to Gender-Based Violence (GBV):

Resource scarcity and displacement have heightened tensions within communities, leading to an increased risk of GBV, particularly for women and girls who must travel longer distances to access essential resources.

6. Strain on Health Infrastructure:

The compounded health challenges have placed immense pressure on existing health facilities, many of which suffer from limited resources and staffing shortages, hindering the effective delivery of essential health services.

A comprehensive response is required to address these complex health needs, encompassing immediate food and water assistance, the strengthening of health systems, provision of mental health support services, and implementation of protection measures to safeguard vulnerable populations.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Drought conditions have led to the depletion of water sources, forcing communities to rely on unsafe alternatives such as rivers, ponds, and unprotected wells. The limited availability of water has significantly reduced hygiene practices, increasing the risk of infections and the spread of diseases.

Prolonged dry spells have caused a sharp decline in the water table, resulting in the widespread failure of boreholes and hand pumps. In many communities, water points have broken down due to overuse and inadequate maintenance, leading to severe water stress. This has compromised access to water for domestic use, livestock, and small-scale agriculture—further threatening already fragile livelihoods.

Access to sustainable water remains a critical challenge in Kenya, especially in arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) counties, where 37% of the population lacks basic water services. Nearly one-third of water supply systems in these regions are consistently non-functional, and twothirds experience frequent disruptions. Climate change has intensified water scarcity, with erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts increasing the average distance to water points by 30%, reaching up to 9.7 kilometers in some households.

Additionally, 48% of ASAL counties report increasing distances between water points and grazing areas, placing further strain on livestock and livelihoods. Only 25% of ASAL residents have access to improved sanitation, while open defecation rates exceed 40%, significantly elevating the risk of waterborne diseases. The early cessation of rains has led to the depletion of open water sources and further breakdown of water systems due to excessive use.

In light of these challenges, there is an urgent need to prioritize investments in sustainable groundwater exploration, rehabilitation of non-functional water systems, and development of climate-resilient water infrastructure. Ensuring reliable access to water is essential not only for addressing drought impacts on households and community livelihoods but also for preventing public health emergencies and promoting better hygiene and sanitation practices.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Affected families have been forced to migrate in search of food, water, and pasture, disrupting traditional community structures and impacting different genders in distinct ways. As communities move, additional responsibilities often fall on individuals, including vulnerable women and children—many of whom are compelled to take on the role of household heads.

Persons with disabilities and the elderly are particularly at risk of marginalization and being left behind. It is essential to raise awareness within these communities about the diverse needs of individuals across gender, age, and ability to ensure inclusive and equitable support for all.

The scarcity of resources and prolonged displacement have heightened the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), particularly for women and girls who must travel long distances to access water, food, and basic services. This situation has also led to an increased risk of early marriages and other harmful traditional practices. Limited resources continue to expose communities to gender-based and sexual exploitation.

There is a critical need to educate communities on the underlying causes of GBV, strategies for its prevention, and appropriate channels for reporting and addressing such incidents. Promoting awareness and protection mechanisms is vital to safeguarding vulnerable groups and fostering a safer, more inclusive environment.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Strengthening risk reduction in these counties calls for minimizing vulnerabilities and exposure through community-based approaches integrated into daily practices. This involves the implementation of early warning systems, disaster preparedness measures, and the development of resilient infrastructure.

In addition, enhancing climate adaptation is essential through the adoption of effective policies and practices that promote community



resilience. In regions forecasted to receive normal rainfall, there is an opportunity for communities to diversify their livelihoods by engaging in both agricultural and pastoral activities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Consideration of Community Engagement and Accountability is vital in this situation. The current drought situation requires community engagement in ensuring people have enough knowledge and opportunity to input to all the key activities, that is, food security, WASH, health and PGI.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Resource constraints remain a challenge in supporting affected communities, necessitating continuous fundraising to meet basic needs in ASAL counties.

While coordination has improved at both county and national levels, stronger collaboration among partners and stakeholders is essential to prevent duplication and double-dipping.

Additionally, the government has yet to issue a statement addressing the increasing humanitarian needs based on current climatic projections.

Assessment Report

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation aims to provide lifesaving support to 12,000 families (60,000 people) in IPC 3+ over six months across Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Baringo, and Samburu counties. Assistance will focus on food, cash assistance, health, and WASH services while ensuring protection, dignity, and resilience for affected communities.

Operation strategy rationale

To meet the urgent needs of the affected population, this DREF operation will prioritize support to the most vulnerable households in the identified sub-counties. Food distribution and multipurpose cash assistance will be implemented in the first three months—April, May, and June—while health and WASH interventions will continue throughout the six-month period. The National Society (NS) will focus on populations already classified in IPC Phase 3 and above. The following strategy outlines the planned response:

Livelihoods and Basic Needs:

In-kind food support: 2,000 vulnerable families (10,000 people), including 2,500 school-going children, will receive food rations for one school term (three months). Distributions will be conducted in areas where markets are non-functional or hard to reach across seven counties. Food baskets will contain cereals, pulses, super cereals, cooking oil, and salt. Beneficiaries will include households with no sources of income or livelihoods.

Multipurpose cash grants:

1,000 families (5,000 people) in IPC Phase 4 sub-counties with functioning markets will receive unconditional multipurpose cash grants in three tranches over three months. These grants will enable beneficiaries to purchase food and essential goods, meeting urgent needs and strengthening household resilience.

KRCS, as a co-chair of the Kenya Cash Working Group, coordinates market assessments and joint monitoring mechanisms (JMMI), analyzed by REACH, to determine the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). Beneficiaries will receive Kes 5,000 (CHF 34.31) per household, representing 50% of the MEB in IPC Phase 3 areas. Where JMMI data is unavailable, rapid market assessments will be conducted to evaluate the feasibility of cash-based interventions. CVA modalities will also extend to other sectors, such as health and WASH, based on identified needs and effectiveness.

KRCS has built capacity among regional CVA champions in all five target counties to support community engagement, targeting, registration, validation, and post-distribution monitoring. This approach ensures accountability, effective cash utilization, and improved intervention outcomes.



Health and Nutrition (Target: 12,000 families / 60,000 people):

Integrated outreach services will be scaled up to provide malnutrition screening, diagnosis, and treatment to vulnerable populations. Outreach activities will be guided by the Ministry of Health's standard procedures for nutrition emergencies and implemented in collaboration with county health teams. KRCS will support outreach delivery, mapping of malnutrition hotspots, data management, and logistics.

The supply of nutrition and pharmaceutical commodities will be coordinated through the KEMSA system, with complementary support from UNICEF and WFP. KRCS will monitor commodity stock through the LMIS and strengthen county-level coordination platforms to enhance government ownership and response effectiveness.

Nutrition and cash assistance will be delivered as complementary interventions. While food support addresses immediate nutritional deficits—especially in malnourished populations and school settings—cash transfers allow households to meet other urgent needs that impact well-being and resilience. This dual approach empowers families to improve living conditions, hygiene, and food storage, while reducing chronic illness risks and supporting long-term recovery.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):

KRCS will map and promote access to health facilities providing MHPSS services. Community and school sensitization sessions will focus on keeping girls in school, preventing early marriage, and promoting safe spaces for women and girls. Psychological support will be extended to farmers and pastoralists who have lost their livelihoods, with implementation rooted in KRCS's community-based risk reduction framework

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (Target: 12,000 families / 60,000 people):

Immediate access: Critical needs will be addressed through water trucking, hygiene promotion, and distribution of water treatment chemicals (chlorine, PUR, aqua tabs) in target areas. These efforts will complement food and cash assistance.

Sustainable solutions: Fourteen water points across seven counties will be rehabilitated and upgraded to solar-powered systems, each targeting 2,000 people. A rapid assessment will determine functionality and needs of existing water infrastructure. Spare parts will be prepositioned for maintenance continuity.

Community-based Water Management Committees (WMCs) will oversee the management and upkeep of water systems. These committees will undergo training in operations, maintenance, and financial management, fostering local ownership and sustainability.

This WASH intervention directly supports health, nutrition, protection, and livelihood objectives. It contributes to both immediate relief and long-term climate resilience through adaptive water infrastructure.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI):

All activities will incorporate gender, disability, and diversity considerations in line with IFRC PGI standards and KRCS policies. Actions include:

Collecting and analyzing sex, age, and disability-disaggregated data to guide inclusive response.

Training staff and volunteers on protection standards (PSEA, PGI, CMR, PFA), establishing safe SGBV referral pathways, and ensuring survivor-centered care.

Promoting non-violence and inclusion through community-based education materials.

KRCS has identified community safe spaces and disseminated toll-free numbers for psychosocial support. Additional resources will be allocated to maintain these services. All staff and volunteers have completed child safeguarding training and endorsed the PSEA policy. Further PGI capacity building will be mainstreamed throughout this operation.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

CEA will ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the response. Feedback will be gathered via help desks, toll-free lines, FGDs, and household visits to inform decision-making and enhance transparency.

Local authorities will help identify vulnerable individuals, and KRCS will maintain open communication channels to ensure accountability and trust. A final evaluation and lessons learned workshops will incorporate community feedback to assess the intervention's impact and effectiveness.

Coordination:

Response activities will align with national sectoral action plans and be informed by updates from KMD, KFSSG, NDMA, and SMART survey reports. KRCS will continue to adapt its strategy based on new data and forecasts.

Exit Strategy

To ensure sustainability, KRCS will actively involve communities in intervention planning and implementation, promoting ownership of key infrastructure and systems. Long-term impact will be secured through collaboration with government agencies and ongoing resource mobilization efforts targeting development partners, National Societies, and other donors. If needs increase during the peak drought season (July to December), KRCS may transition this operation into an Emergency Appeal to secure broader funding support.



Targeting Strategy

Targeting Strategy Supporting Document

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Throught this operation, KRCS aims to support seven counties of Turkana, Garissa, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Samburu and Baringo which will target at least 12,000 households already in IPC 3 and 4.

Assistance will be targeted at the worst affected sub-counties in the above-affected counties which are currently not supported by any partner. These sub-counties are among the worst affected areas in the targeted counties already or moving to IPC 4 levels. Specific sub-counties to be supported will be reached through discussion with the County Steering Group (CSG).

KRCS will undertake a gap analysis taking into consideration actions by other actors and will target populations not covered by other assistance.

Most of the population in these sub-counties are pastoralists who depend on good milk and meat production. The pastoralists have a heavy reliance on livestock for survival, which is severely impacted by drought-induced pasture and water shortages. Loss of livestock leads to economic collapse, food insecurity, and displacement.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Beneficiary identification and selection processes will be community-center and led. The process will ensure use of selection criteria that are inclusive and only the most vulnerable and deserving communities are reached.

Additionally, KRCS will enhance community consultation through local leaders and project relief committees, who will be instrumental in the process.

To ensure protection, gender and inclusion, the voices of all people groups considered to be at risk or vulnerable will be heard through ensuring their presentation in relief committees in community-based targeting and registration activities.

Community committees will be actively engaged throughout the process of developing beneficiary selection criteria and identifying recipients, ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable individuals and households. This will be done using a community-based targeting approach.

KRCS will prioritize the most at-risk groups for cash transfer support. These include:

- Widowed or divorced women heading households with children under five,
- Pregnant or lactating mothers with children under five,
- Women-headed households without a stable source of income,
- Households with severely malnourished children under five,
- Households headed by persons with disabilities and no income source,
- And child-headed households.

Total Targeted Population

Women	15,600	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	17,400	Urban	30%
Men	12,600	People with disabilities (estimated)	2%
Boys (under 18)	14,400		
Total targeted population	60,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Corruption and fraud continue to pose a risk in humanitarian activities	KRCS will develop a communication plan to inform the communities on all aspects of the project and sensitize them on



	the need to prevent corruption. Communities will be informed of their entitlement and notified that assistance is provided free of charge, where they will not be required to pay anything in order to access assistance. Communities will also be notified of existing mechanisms to report in case they experience corruption of any kind – suspected or real.
Risk of misalignment with local governments and community leaders due to insufficient stakeholder engagement during the planning phase	To address this, KRCS will: - Conduct robust stakeholder analysis Hold community and government engagement sessions prelaunchAppoint liaison officers for each county.
Relief food delivery may face delays due to logistical challenges caused by poor infrastructure or extreme weather conditions.	Preposition supplies in accessible warehouses.Develop alternative supply routes.Contract experienced logistics partners.
Negative perceptions of relief efforts may arise due to unmet expectations or perceived inequities.	Maintain open communication channels.Conduct satisfaction surveys.Implement community grievance redress mechanisms.
Risk of increased violence within families due to shift gender roles resulting from the introduction of new resources of commodity especially with cash	The institution has a safeguarding policy that supports communities in identifying these cases and ensuring that the beneficiaries are well sensitized and supported with the safe spaces.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The KRCS security units conduct ongoing monitoring of local security dynamics and provide timely guidance to response teams on appropriate mitigation measures in the event of heightened security risks. Given that some of the target counties experience resource-based conflicts and share borders with neighboring regions, the risk of insecurity remains significant and may pose threats to staff and volunteers operating in these areas.

To manage this, KRCS will engage personnel with in-depth knowledge of the specific security context in these counties to support with security surveillance and risk monitoring. Regular security briefings will be held to ensure continued vigilance and preparedness among response teams.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 244,006 **Targeted Persons:** 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households/people reached with timely and relevant CVA or in-kind support to sustain consumption.	10,000
# of schools supported through the school feeding programme	25



Priority Actions

- Continuous assessment of the drought situation
- Procurement and distribution of food packs to 2,000 households and schools in the most critical sub-counties where markets are not fully functioning and access is limited in the 4 counties of Marsabit, Garissa, Samburu and Baringo.
- Post distribution monitoring across the five counties



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 128,213 **Targeted Persons:** 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers used to do the targeting, registration and validation	30
#of target beneficiaries targeted with Cash assistance	5,000
% of people surveyed whose households received cash grants and are satisfied with the amount received.	100

Priority Actions

- Targeting and registration
- List validation in the 1-2-1 platform
- Unconditional cash grants to vulnerable households in the most critical sub-counties where markets are still functioning in the 3 counties of Turkana, Mandera and Wajir Counties
- · Post-distribution monitoring after every disbursement to determine cash utilization in sampled households



Health

Budget: CHF 76,517 **Targeted Persons:** 60,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached - Psychosocial and Mental services.	1,500
# of people reached through the integrated health and nutrition outreaches conducted in the seven counties	60,000

Priority Actions

- Continuous assessment of the health situation
- Integrated medical outreach in hard-to-reach areas
- Monitoring and supervision of medical outreaches
- Mental health and psychological counselling for communities, staff and volunteers



Budget: CHF 370,344 **Targeted Persons:** 60,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached for improved water sources in emergencies.	60,000
# of safe and accessible water points for cooking and drinking water which are culturally appropriate, constructed or rehabilitated.	60,000
# of WASH assessments conducted in the seven counties	7
# of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services including water treatment chemicals	45,000

Priority Actions

- · Assessment of water and water need analysis, including assessment of strategic water facilities.
- · Procurement of water treatment Chemicals.
- Provision of safe and clean water through trucking.
- Rehabilitation and equipping of key strategic water supply schemes.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 9,013 **Targeted Persons:** 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of branches assessed and findings	7
# of people trained on PGI within the NS	35
# of people reached through the PGI where SGBV cases have been resolved	500
# of people reached with awareness and messages on protection, GBV prevention and safeguarding	5,000

Priority Actions

- Basic training of staff and Volunteers on Protection principles, Child Violence (SGBV), including PSEA and Safe Identification and referral pathways.
- Mapping, establishing, and supporting of GBV referral pathway.
- Conduct debriefing sessions for the response teams.
- Protection (CP), Sexual and Gender-Based.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 14,579 **Targeted Persons:** 15,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of complaints and feedback received and acted upon	1,000
#of participants trained on CEA and risk management	40

Priority Actions

- · CEA Refresher Training for Volunteers.
- · Conduct community review meetings.
- Strengthening Feedback mechanism. KRCS will ensure community feedback is adequately set-up) to inform and adjust assistance and protection services based on changing dynamics and local priorities.



Budget: CHF 25,596 **Targeted Persons:** 4

Indicators

Title	Target
# of IFRC monitoring and support missions	3
# of Movement coordination meetings organized, and updates are provided to the Movement partners	3
# of lesson learnt workshops conducted	1

Priority Actions

- · Provide remote and field monitoring.
- Support resource mobilization and exit strategy etc.
- Provide technical and coordination support through Cluster Delegation as required.
- Where relevant, ensure minimum security regulations are followed.
- Provide PMER, finance and logistic services and support as required ensuring compliance with DREF guidelines and IFRC relevant policies.
- Provide Communications support to profile the work of the IFRC and NS

To support the above, IFRC salary contribution for the support services and operations (Finance, logistic, PMER, Operation focal person) to ensure quality implementation and monitoring of the operation.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 102,325 **Targeted Persons:** 150



Indicators

Title	Target
# of documentations done	2
# of After-action review and lessons learnt done	2
# of volunteers mobilized and insured during the operation	150

Priority Actions

- · Staff Airtime.
- E.O.C. Support Volunteers.
- · Support supervision for response teams.
- Public Relations- Communications and Documentation.
- · Volunteer Insurance.
- · After Action Review workshop.
- · Admin cost and bank charges.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

1) Volunteers

Volunteers mobilized are in total 150 volunteers across the 7 counties. In each county volunteers who have been trained on relief distribution and the Red Cross Action Team will be involved.

All the interventions will involve volunteers who are based in this community. To ensure their welfare is taken care of, they will be insured against any bad eventuality. The KRCS will also ensure duty of care, by providing relevant skills and safety briefing that contribute to facilitate their engagement.

2) Operational Structure for quality and accountability insurance include the following:

The volunteers will be guided by 10 technical staff in the region and counties to support with different thematic needs. Among the most important profiles that are mobilized and accounted for, on this operation, we have:

- -Head of Operations -will be providing leadership and strategic roles within the organization. He will also be leading in humanitarian diplomacy meetings between the National Society, Partner NS, government agencies and non-government organizations, including the UN agencies
- -Relief Manager- The manager will be involved in the strategic planning of the Drought Operations in the country. He will also be providing oversight of the activities against the budget. He will also be supporting with reviews and additional resource mobilization for the Drought response.
- -WASH officer- The personnel will be providing technical oversight by conducting assessment, designing and implementing the WASH activities. The officer will also be monitoring the works being done to ensure that the community have safe and clean water, hygiene and sanitation
- -Relief Officer- he will be supporting the internal coordination within different thematic areas. The officer will also be planning and executing relief operations that include distribution of food, non-food items and other supplies. He will also be working with the manager to ensure that the capacities are built and maintained during response.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

KRCS will be doing all the procurement where all the food items and WaSH materials will be procured locally by the procurement team. This will be guided by the procurement manual that gives guidance on emergency procurement, especially for food and other highly perishable materials.



How will this operation be monitored?

Oversight and evaluation will be made available as scheduled in the Emergency plan of action where operational updates and reports will be provided in line with the implementation of activities. The KRCS Monitoring, Evaluation, learning and accountability team will be supported by the IFRC PMER team to conduct planning of the events, enhanced monitoring of activities, data collection and analysis during assessments and information management.

After action review/Lessons learnt workshop will also be done to establish the lessons learnt, challenges experienced and how to improve on future implementation of emergency operations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

To enhance visibility the KRCS communications team will support with documentation of the activities and public relations to the different stakeholders through the media, EOC, social media and direct community engagement.

The messaging will involve the communication on the interventions to be carried out, the timelines, who are to be targeted, and the areas mapped out.

The communication will also be supported by IFRC who will be providing technical assistance, guidance on messaging, and leveraging global networks for wider visibility and advocacy. Moving forward, the lessons learned, and the support needed will be effectively communicated to stakeholders for long-term recovery and resilience-building reports.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRKE065 - Kenya Red Cross Drought

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	842,671
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	244,006
Multi-purpose Cash	128,213
Health	76,517
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	370,344
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	9,013
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	14,579
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	127,921
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	25,596
National Society Strengthening	102,325
TOTAL BUDGET	970,592
" (015)	

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal 09/04/2025 #V2022.01



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Click here for the reference

