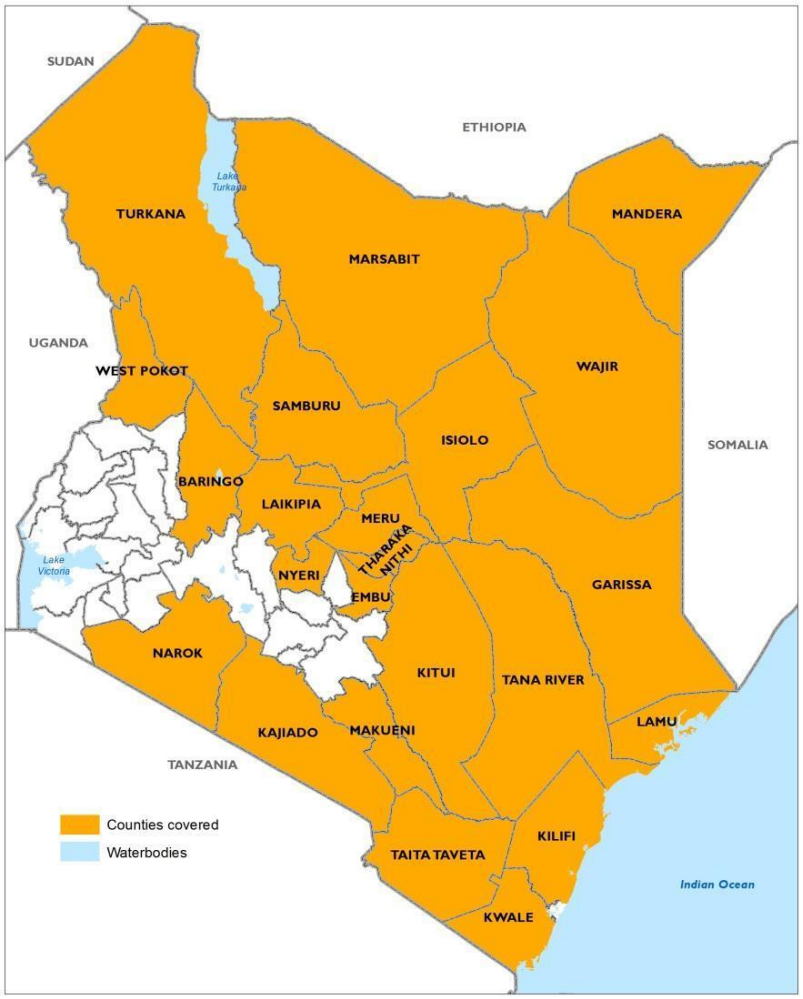
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## Government of Kenya

# THE 2024 SHORT RAINS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)




Collaborative report of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG): Ministries of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development; Agriculture and Livestock Development; Water and Sanitation; Health; Education and Labour and Social Protection; the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), KMD, KNBS, WFP, FAO, and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) County Steering Groups (CSGs): with financial support from the Government of Kenya (NDMA) and partners.

**February 2025**

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# 1.0 | Introduction

## 1.1 Scope of the 2024 Short Rains Assessment

The Kenya Food and Nutrition Security Assessment (FNSA) is a multi-agency, multi-sectoral exercise led by the government of Kenya, and is conducted in 23 arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties. The assessment is carried out by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in collaboration with the respective County Steering Groups (CSGs). The KFSSG is a multi-agency body of government departments, United Nations (UN) agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) concerned with food and nutrition security. The multi-agency body is chaired by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and co-chaired by the World Food Programme (UN WFP). Food security/insecurity in the country is highly dependent on rainfall. Given that the rainfall is bimodal in the ASAL counties, the assessments are conducted bi-annually, after the short rains of October to December and the long rains of March to May. The 2024 Short Rains Assessment was conducted between 20$^{th}$ January and 18$^{th}$ February 2025.

## 1.2 Objective

The overall objective of the assessment was to determine the impacts of the 2024 short rains on food and nutrition security in 23 ASAL counties taking into consideration the cumulative effects of previous seasons and impacts of other shocks and hazards on food security. The assessment also intended to determine the impact of the season on food availability, access, utilization, and stability by evaluating the contributing factors and outcomes, and their impacts on water, livestock, agriculture, health and nutrition, education, peace and security, and markets and trade sectors. The results of the assessment and recommended interventions are presented in the report.

## 1.3 Methodology

The food security/insecurity analysis focused on acute food insecurity, but also considered other chronic issues that had direct impacts on food security. The assessment was centered on the four pillars of food security: food availability, food access, utilization, and stability. The impacts of other contributing factors on the key sectors of agriculture, livestock, water, health and nutrition, education, peace and security, and markets and trade were also considered. The assessment also identified possible interventions, both short term and long term, to address the issues arising in each sector.

The assessment covered the 23 counties that comprise the ASAL region of Kenya, and whose population is generally the most food insecure given their high levels of poverty, high vulnerability to shock and hazards, and aridity and high rainfall variability. The area covers approximately 80 percent of Kenya's landmass, and for the purposes of the assessment, is classified into various livelihood zones grouped into five clusters; Pastoral North-East, comprising Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River, and Mandera;

Pastoral North-West, comprising Turkana, Samburu, and Marsabit; Coastal Marginal Agriculture, comprising Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Lamu; South-East Marginal Agriculture, comprising of Kitui, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, and Meru; and the Agro-pastoral cluster constituting of Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, West Pokot, Laikipia and the northern part of Nyeri county (Kieni sub-county). The main livelihood activities in these clusters are Pastoralism, Agro-pastoralism, Mixed Farming, Marginal Mixed Farming, and some Irrigated Cropping, and these form the unit of analysis.

The assessment involved the collection of both primary and secondary data. The principal sources were: (i) the NDMA's drought early warning and monitoring system; (ii) data collected from the relevant sectors at county and sub-county level; (iii) community interviews and market interviews using focus group discussions and trader interviews; (iv) secondary data from Kenya Health Information System (KHIS); (v) field observations during transect drives; and (vi) Agro-climatic data.

The Acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC Version 3) protocols were used for the analysis. The IPC is a standard global tool for classifying the severity of food insecurity and ensures that best practices are being applied. IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis was also carried out to understand both the food and non-food causes of malnutrition.

## 1.4 Assessment Coverage

The 2024 short rains assessment was undertaken between 20th January and 18th February 2025 in the 23 ASAL counties by the government of Kenya through the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG), in collaboration with the 23 county governments through their respective County Steering Groups (CSGs). The KFSSG is a multi-agency body comprising key government departments, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations, all with a stake in food and nutrition security in the country. The KFSSG is chaired by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and co-chaired by the World Food Programme while the CSGs are county-level multi-sectoral and multi-agency groups that coordinate food security-related activities.

## 1.5 Assessment Approach

The seasonal assessments cover the arid and semi-arid region of the country comprising 23 counties, which are generally the most food insecure and exhibit high levels of vulnerability and cover approximately 80 percent of Kenya's landmass. The area covered by these counties is further classified into generalized livelihood zones which comprises; Pastoral Northwest Livelihood cluster (Turkana, Samburu, and Marsabit counties), Pastoral Northeast (Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River, and Mandera Counties), Southeast Marginal Agriculture Cluster (Kitui, Makueni, lower parts of Tharaka Nithi, and Embu counties and the Northern parts of Meru County). Other clusters include Coastal Marginal Agriculture (Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Lamu counties) and Agro Pastoral cluster (Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, West Pokot, Laikipia, and

northern part of Nyeri county- Kieni). The main livelihood activities across these include Pastoralism, Agro-pastoralism, Mixed Farming, Marginal Mixed Farming, and some Irrigated Cropping, which formed the unit of analysis for this assessment.

This assessment included the collection of secondary and primary data with varied data sources including data from NDMA sentinel sites, which are collected monthly using questionnaires, data from the various government sectors (livestock, water, agriculture, education, and health and nutrition) at the county and sub-counties using checklists. Also included were data collected through community interviews and market interviews through focus group discussions and interviewing of traders respectively, drought early warning bulletins among others and field observations through transect drives. During the analysis, Acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC Version 3) protocols were used. The IPC is a standard global tool for classifying the severity of food insecurity, and was used to analyze the severity, and causes as well as reach a technical consensus on the food security situation.

## 2.0 | Drivers of Food and Nutrition Security

### 2.1 Rainfall performance

#### Onset of the Season

The 2024 October to December (OND) short rains had a generally late onset, with rainfall beginning in the first dekad of November over several parts of the country. Some areas in the Rift Valley and Western regions experienced a false onset, where early rains were followed by an extended dry spell. October was characterized by poor rainfall distribution, with some stations experiencing a false start due to prolonged dry spells after the initial onset.

#### Amount of Rainfall

Rainfall amounts varied significantly across the country. North Eastern Kenya and parts of Turkana received as little as 26-75 percent of normal rainfall, while the Coastal and Southeastern regions recorded 76-125 percent of normal rainfall. Meanwhile, most parts of Rift Valley and Western Kenya experienced above-normal rainfall, ranging from 111-140 percent of normal levels. According to KMD, the highest seasonal rainfall totals were recorded at Miyare Rainfall Station in Migori

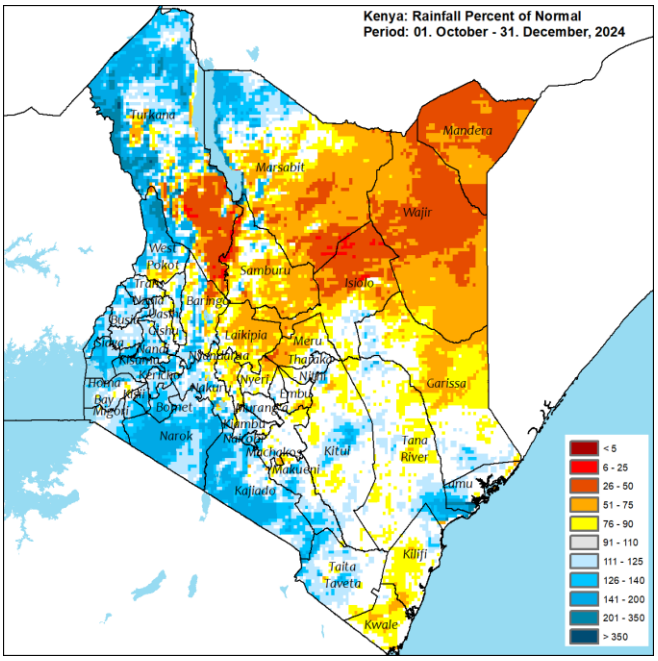


*Figure 1: Rainfall Percent of Normal*

County (805.3mm), followed by Ulanda Girls School, also in Migori (707.1mm). Eldoret reported above-normal rainfall against the long-term mean (LTM) for October, while only a few stations received more than 50mm of rainfall within 24 hours. November was the peak of the season, characterized by severe storms in most regions, though some stations in the Coastal and Northeastern areas recorded less than 50mm. December was mostly dry, but heavy rainfall exceeding 50mm in 24 hours was observed in a few stations in the Western, Coastal, Southeastern, and Lake regions.

### Spatial and Temporal Distribution

The season was characterized by poor rainfall distribution in both space and time. While some parts of the country received near to above-average rainfall, most stations in the Northeast, as well as a few in the Southeastern lowlands, Coast, and Highlands East of the Rift Valley, recorded below-average rainfall. Most ASAL counties, including Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Tana River, Garissa, Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Baringo, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, West Pokot, and Kajiado, received near to below-average rainfall. Some counties, such as Taita Taveta, Kitui, and Turkana, experienced enhanced rainfall during two weeks in November, but the temporal distribution remained poor and uneven.

The wettest events occurred in the third to fourth week of November, but October and December were dominated by prolonged dry spells, with only short periods of intense rainfall. The majority of ASAL counties recorded less than 200 mm of rainfall, amounting to less than 90 percent of the normal seasonal average, as illustrated in Figure 1.

### Cessation of the Season

The rainfall cessation was mostly normal, occurring in mid-December for most areas. However, December was largely dry, with only a few isolated rainfall events. Temperatures were warmer than average across the entire country throughout the season. Although off-season rains continued into January 2025 in several regions, they were inconsistent and insufficient to offset the earlier rainfall deficits.

## 2.2 Flooding

Flooding and flash floods had significant impacts across multiple livelihood clusters during the OND 2024 season. In the Coastal Marginal Agriculture Cluster, Kilifi experienced severe flooding due to the overflowing Sabaki River, which damaged arable land, destroyed irrigation equipment, and displaced farmers. The floods also disrupted education, affecting schools such as Mmangani, Kavunyalalo, Kakuyuni Special, Mashamba Primary, Madunguni and Kakokeni Girls Secondary Schools. In Lamu, flash floods reduced crop acreage, damaged essential health and nutrition services, and restricted healthcare access in Chalaluma, Pandanguo, and Kona Mbaya

in Witu Ward. Additionally, submerged pasturelands forced pastoralists to increase livestock grazing distances, causing stress within the pastoral communities.

In the Pastoral North East Livelihood Cluster, flooding was minimal except in Tana River, where seasonal floods occurred in marginal mixed and mixed farming livelihood zones. These floods did not damage critical infrastructure but facilitated flood-receding planting of fast-maturing crops such as melons and cowpeas, improving food availability. Water access also improved for domestic and livestock use. Isiolo experienced no flash floods due to inadequate rainfall in both local and upstream areas of Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares. The drying of River Ewaso Nyiro downstream led to irrigation water shortages, negatively affecting food production in Agro-pastoral zones.

In the Pastoral Northwest Livelihood Cluster, Turkana County experienced intense flooding and flash floods due to heavy, short-duration rainfall. Areas such as Naoros and Nadoto in Kerio Ward suffered from severe waterlogging, resulting in crop destruction, livestock deaths, and property damage. The floods also worsened the already fragile irrigation infrastructure, causing further destruction in Nawepoto and Lokapel in Turkana South, as well as Kolioro, Naanye, Kabulokor, Kalemnyang, Moruese, Napeikar, and Nabuin in Loima Sub-County. While specific details from Marsabit and Samburu were not highlighted, the widespread, unevenly distributed rainfall suggests that localized flash floods may have occurred in vulnerable low-lying areas.

### 2.3 Conflict and Insecurity

Conflicts, both human-wildlife and resource-based, were documented in various counties, predominantly impacting pastoral communities. These conflicts resulted in the loss of livestock and hindered farmers' access to their fields, consequently affecting agricultural production and overall productivity. In the Pastoral North West Cluster, Cattle rustling cases were reported in Lokwamosing, Lopii and Nakukulas in Turkana East and Ng'ilukia and Kang'itetei in Suguta subcounty. In Samburu East, incidents of cattle raids involving the neighboring counties of Meru, Isiolo and Marsabit counties were reported, with stolen animals finding their way into the county. Isolated resource-based conflicts were also reported in the areas of Civican, Arapal, Olturot and Arge in Laisamis-Sub County. Increased incidences of insecurity in Turkana and Samburu counties in Loya and Lorengippi in Loima subcounty, parts of Samburu Central and Samburu North sub counties hindered access to pasture. The national government deployed multi-agency teams of different units in the affected areas in a bid to restore peace in Samburu and disarmament interventions by KDF on small firearms and light weapons was ongoing in Marsabit County. In the Pastoral North East Cluster, issues of insecurity had increased in Mandera County following multiple attacks targeting both passenger and cargo vehicles which were witnessed with reliable sources indicating the presence of the outlawed militia within local communities, spreading fear and disruption, leading to casualties and disrupting transport and trade. Several vehicles were targeted by Improvised Explosive Devices

(IEDs), roads connecting sub-counties to the county headquarters remain impassable due to security threats. Areas most affected included Arabia, Lafey, Banissa, and Mandera South. In Wajir and Isiolo, conflicts were primarily resource-based, linked to migration pressures caused by deteriorating pasture and water sources. Wajir West and Wajir East witnessed tensions due to in-migration from neighboring Somalia, while disputes over land ownership surfaced along the Dadajabula (Wajir)–Liboi (Garissa) border. In Isiolo, fear of livestock raids by bandits led to mass migration of livestock from Chari and Cherab to Garbatulla sub-county. In Tana River, clashes erupted in Wayu Ward in early January 2025 between migrating camel herders and local communities over resource use, leading to one fatality and several injuries. Tensions were expected to rise in the coming months as dry conditions worsened. Apart from human conflict, human-wildlife interactions were a growing threat in Isiolo and Tana River, where elephants, buffaloes, and baboons were reported to have destroyed crops, and predators like hyenas and leopards had killed livestock. This resulted in economic losses and food insecurity, particularly in Agro-pastoral communities.

In the Agro-Pastoral cluster, incidences of bandit attacks leading to household displacement were reported in Kosile and Ng'aratuko villages, in Baringo North Sub County. In West-Pokot, insecurity was witnessed in Masol, Lomut and lower parts of Sekerr wards in Pokot Central Sub County, within the Pastoral Livelihood zone. Another insecurity incident was reported at Kamelei market in Tapach ward, Pokot south Sub County. In Laikipia diminishing pasture, browse, and water fueled tensions between local communities in Mukogodo East and West Wards and migrating pastoralists from Baringo, Isiolo, and Samburu counties. The illegal occupation of community land at Nkiloriti (Laikipia North) by herders further intensified these conflicts, and increased migration into the area was reported. In the South Eastern and Coastal Marginal Agriculture clusters, cases of human-wildlife conflicts were reported in Kibwezi West Sub County in Makueni County with about 30 incidences of crop destruction by stray elephants reported and general complaints were made and compensation process was being handled by the Kenya Wildlife Services. In Kitui, there were incidences of human-wildlife conflict at areas bordering Tsavo East National Park, in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones, there were also reported cases of wildlife invasion on livestock and destruction of crops, especially in Endau/Malalani Ward in Kitui East Sub-County. Cross border conflict incidents were also reported in Ngomeni and Tseikuru Wards between herders from Kitui and Tana River counties. In Kwale (Mbuguni, Mwabila, Makina) and Lamu, elephants destroyed crops and farms, exacerbating food insecurity. To mitigate these issues, the government enhanced security surveillance, while peace-building initiatives aimed at reducing tensions over resources were implemented.

## 2.4 Below Average Crop Production

During the October to December 2024 season, crop failure and low agricultural productivity were widespread across the ASAL areas, crop production was significantly below average primarily driven by the poor rainfall performance in addition to other

drivers such as Fall armyworm (FAW) infestations, the high fuel and fertilizer prices that constrained crop production activities especially for the poor households. The crops planted during the season were mainly maize, cowpeas, green grams, beans and Irish potatoes and the area planted for the various crops were near average to slightly above average across the clusters. However, production significantly declined to about 20-60 percent of the long-term average. Near total crop failure for rainfed farmers was recorded in several ASAL counties across the clusters. Farmers faced extremely low crop yields due to multiple challenges, including unreliable rainfall that started late and ceased early, inadequate seed input for planting, and damaged irrigation infrastructures. Additionally, crop pests and invasive weed species further reduced agricultural output. Fall armyworm, Tuta Absoluta and other crop diseases, including bacterial blight in beans, exacerbated food insecurity by increasing production costs and reducing yields.

### 2.5 High Staple Food Prices

Staple food prices across the country remain high with an upward trend in both urban and rural markets driven by low stocks, high demand, high production and marketing costs. Staple food prices were highly driven by the consecutive poor production seasons especially in the ASALs. The region heavily relied on food imports, driven by low local yields. Inflation, coupled with high transportation costs and global economic trends, pushed staple food prices well beyond the long-term average especially in the Pastoral clusters. In the Marginal Agricultural clusters, high farm input costs limited land use for agricultural production. Farmers faced challenges affording seeds and fertilizers, although government interventions provided subsidized fertilizer. The high cost of certified seeds forced many farmers to plant poor-quality seeds, leading to lower yields and reduced food availability.

### 2.6 Human and Livestock Diseases

There were reported cases of diseases in some of the ASAL counties, impacting the nutrition status of children under five. Measles and Kala-azar outbreaks were reported in Garissa and Wajir counties respectively. In Garissa, the outbreak of measles was attributed to low immunization coverage and population displacement. In Wajir, Kala-azar cases surged, with 218 confirmed cases and a case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.3 percent, primarily affecting Eldas, Wajir West, and Wajir North.

Common endemic livestock diseases including Contagious Caprine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CCPP), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Pestes des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Foot and Mouth disease (FMD), Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Rabies, Newcastle disease in poultry, and Fowl Pox were reported across the cluster. These diseases resulted in high treatment costs, reduced livestock productivity, and increased mortality and economic losses. The influx of livestock from neighboring frontier counties had worsened the disease burden, particularly in Tana River.

## 2.7 Crop Pests and Diseases

Crop pests and diseases continued to be a significant challenge across the clusters, affecting food production and household food security. Fall Armyworms in maize and Tuta Absoluta in tomatoes were the most destructive pest, affecting farms causing extensive damage to both rain-fed and irrigation schemes. Tick infestations were widespread in Isiolo's Sericho and Cherab wards, particularly in areas with tall grasses along the Ewaso Nyiro floodplain. Other crop diseases, including bacterial blight and anthracnose in beans, further exacerbated food insecurity by increasing production costs and reducing yields especially in Laikipia and Kajiado.

## 2.8 Child Protection

Child separation impacted 5,233 children who were separated from primary caregivers while others lived alone in child headed households. The major causes of family separation included displacement where children moved to camps and relatives' households. Children separated from primary and secondary caregivers are at a higher risk of exploitation, abuse, and violence. 2,889 children faced violence including sexual violence in the counties. Poverty, poor parenting skills and psychological distress especially in flooded areas were cited as some of the contributing factors. Respondents in all Counties reported transactional sex for food, school fees and sanitary pads as a coping mechanism. Most prevalent cases of violence against children were corporal punishment, sexual violence, and neglect.

Child marriage was noted with 842 children being affected. Child marriage has been used by caregivers as part of the coping strategies where girls were married off to gain dowry paid in form of livestock. Harmful cultural beliefs and practices, high levels of illiteracy and poor parenting have been the key drivers of child marriage for both the pastoral and agricultural zones. Teenage pregnancies in the 23 counties totaled to 2,985 where girls under the age of 18 years were impacted. Contributing factors include child marriage, poor parenting, high levels of poverty and displacement have been noted. Negative coping mechanisms such as transactional sex for food and essential commodities like sanitary towels have also led to teenage pregnancy.

The report also notes that 2,451 children were found to be involved in child labor. Causative factors included fending for self with regard to children separated from their families whereas those within families were supporting parental income for subsistence of the family. Largely, children are targeted as a cheap source of labor as compared to adults for the same work. 2,306 children were identified as marginalized including those living with disability whose needs are not adequately met as well as those from minority communities such as the Elmolo who have diminished access to basic amenities and social services. All the foregoing aspects which negatively affected children during the short rains in the year 2024 have a negative psychological impact on the children involved. 2,730 children suffered distress during the period under review. The Directorate of Children Services provided services to children identified

during the reporting period. The services provided include case management such as family reunification, cash transfers and psychosocial support.

## 3.0 | Summary of Key Findings

The population facing acute food insecurity and requiring immediate food assistance, following the October to December 2024 short rains season is approximately 2.15 million. The number is an increase from the one million people reported in July 2024 after the long rains assessment. Out of the 2.15 million, it is estimated that 265,900 people are in *"Emergency"* (IPC phase 4) spread across five arid counties (Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir and Marsabit) with the rest of the food insecure populations in *"Crisis"* (IPC phase 3). The increase in numbers is as a result of the below normal performance of the short rains that has reversed the gains made over the last three seasons and impacting negatively on household food insecurity in the ASALs. It is projected that the situation is likely to further deteriorate during the March – May long rains season with an estimated 2.8 million people likely to experience acute food insecurity.

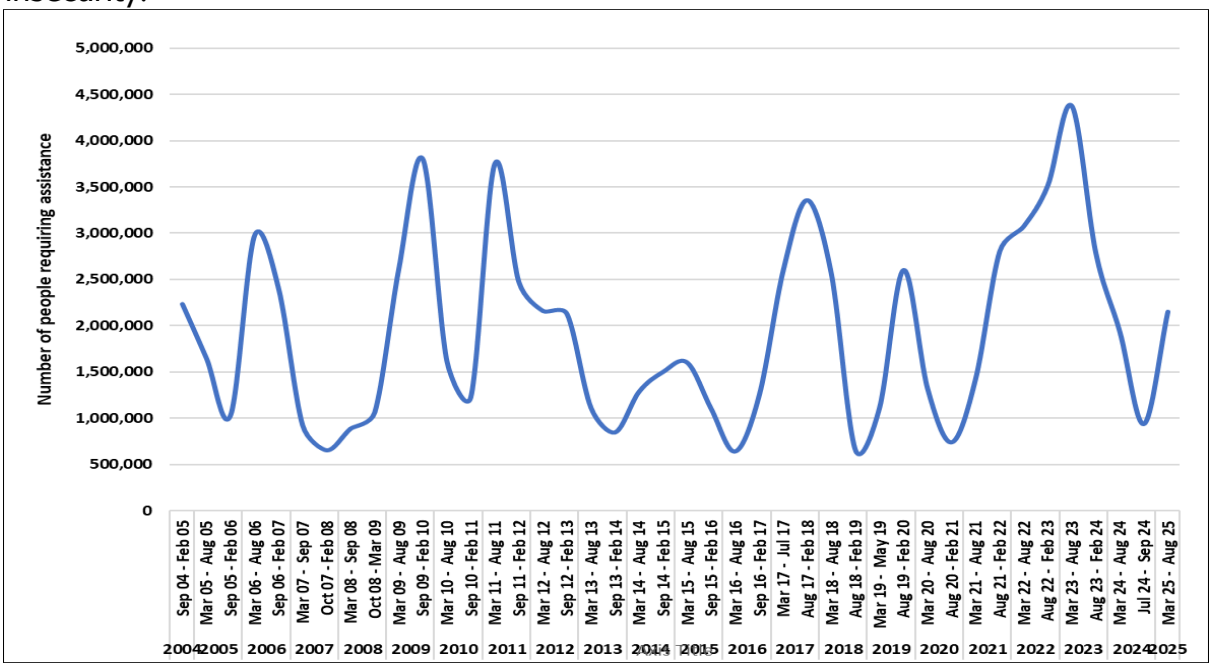


***Figure 2: Trend of Food Insecure Population in the ASAL Counties***

The food and nutrition security situation in the pastoral livelihoods is deteriorating with most counties in the northwest and northeast experiencing "Crisis" (IPC 3) food security outcomes. The worsening situation is attributed to below average rainfall driving below normal productivity that has led to household food consumption gaps and elevated levels of malnutrition. Pasture and browse condition was good to fair both in quality and quantity and is expected to last 2 – 4 months and within normal ranges. Livestock trekking distances from grazing areas to watering points are currently in the range of 3-12 km in the pastoral zone compared to the normal range of 3-10 km. However, Marsabit recorded increased distances to water of up to 30km. In the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone, livestock trek an average of 2-8 km against the normal range of 2 - 6 kms. Water for livestock is expected to last for 2-5 months in the northwest and northeast up to 70 percent of open water sources are drying up.

Livestock body conditions are good to fair for all species and is projected to maintain the desirable body conditions over the next 2 – 3 months. There was reduced milk production by up to 25 percent to 40 percent. The reduced production has resulted in an increase of milk prices by between 55 percent to 65 percent in the pastoral northwest and increase of between 15 percent to 30 percent in the pastoral northwest. Milk consumption at the household level also decreased by 35 – 40 percent across the pastoral livelihoods.

## 3.1 Categories of Food Insecure Population

The 2024 short rains season performed below average across all the livelihood zones across the 23 Arid and Semi-arid counties where the IPC analysis was conducted. After the analysis for the Acute Food Insecurity (AFI), the findings indicated a worsening food security situation across all the counties with increased number of food insecure population. IPC has three analysis scales which include acute malnutrition, acute food insecurity and chronic food insecurity. This analysis was for acute food insecurity that identifies areas and populations with food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods. The analysis classified households into five severity phases[1]. Households classified in phase three (crisis) or worse are considered to have urgent need for humanitarian assistance required to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps, save lives and livelihoods (in emergency category) and prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods for worst phase (catastrophe).

### Current Population (February – March 2025)

The current food security situation has worsened with an estimated number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3 or worse) rising to 2.15 million people in February 2025 with 1,884,700 being in IPC Phase3 (crisis) and 265,900 currently in phase 4 (Emergency). This compares to one million that had been identified in July 2024 to be food insecure and had been projected to rise to 1.8 million by January 2025 after the poor performance of the October – December short rains of 2024. Counties that were classified in IPC phase 3 in the current analysis include Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa. However, for the other counties they also had population in phase three or worse but did not meet the 20% threshold of the total county population (or 20% of the population in the area analysed) for the county to be classified in phase 3.

### Projected Population (April – June 2025)

A projection analysis was also conducted, and it is observed that the number of people who will require urgent humanitarian assistance will increase from the current 2.15

[1] **IPC severity phases: Phase 1(None or minimal), Phase 2 (Stressed)**, **Phase 3 (Crisis)** meaning Households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis.
**IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)** meaning Households either have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or can mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation and **IPC Phase 5:** Catastrophe where Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.

million (February 2025) to about 2.8 million for the period between March – June 2025. Among this 2,540,600 will be in IPC phase 3 and 291,650 in IPC phase 4 (Emergency).

The projection was conducted based on the available data and forecast for the 2025 March – May (MAM) season which indicated that most of the areas within the ASAL counties are likely to receive below normal rainfall. Considering that this would be a second failed season, that will follow in an area that was just recovering from the 2021 – 2022 drought (that had 5 consecutive failed seasons), the ecosystems remain highly vulnerable, and the livelihoods are still fragile. As a result, a failed season would have a shock that would greatly impact the food security situation negatively. 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. Additionally, Baringo, Samburu, Isiolo, Meru North, and Tana River will get into phase 3 depicting a worsened situation where over 20% of the population will be in IPC phase 3 or worse.

Most of the other counties are in IPC phase 2 (Stressed) and will remain in that phase during the projected period however with increase in the population who have food consumption gaps.

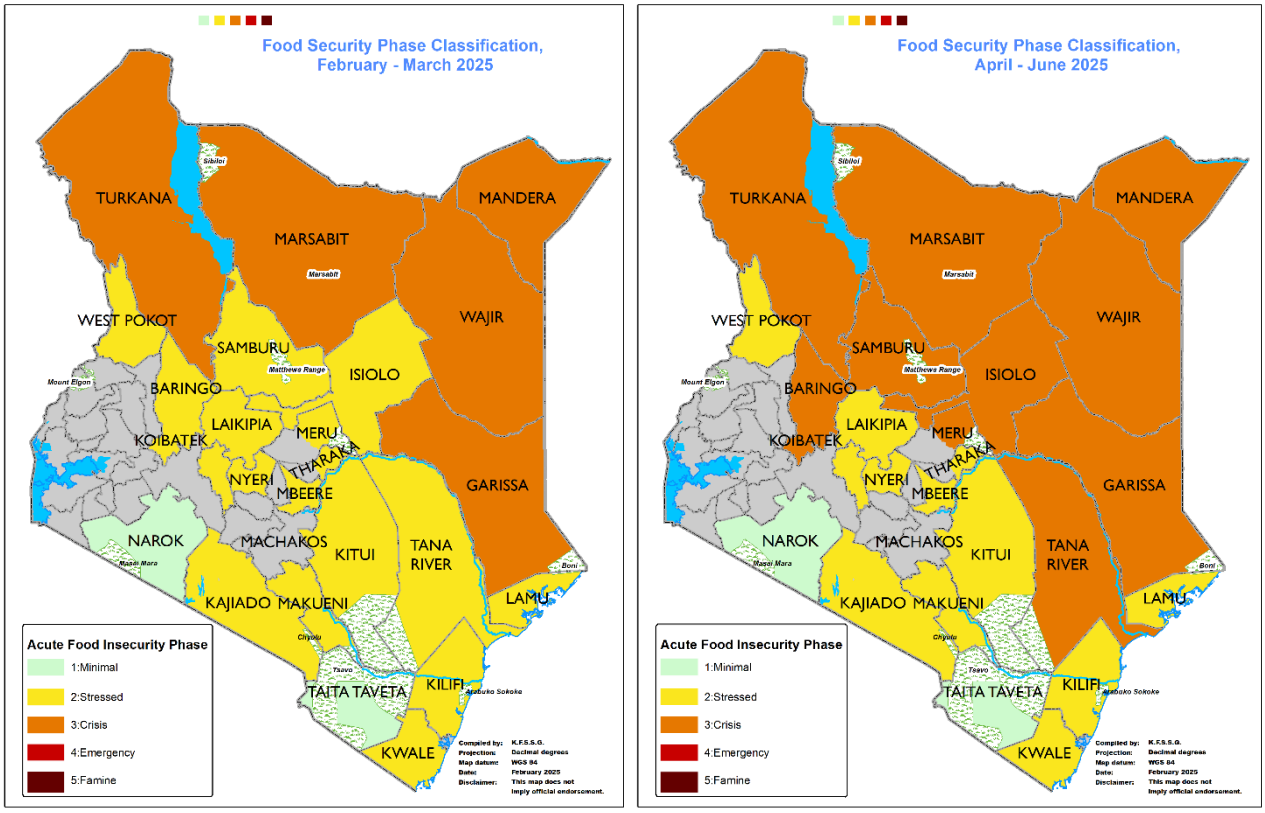


*Figure 3: Current and Projected Food Insecurity Phase Classification*

## 3.2 Population in Crisis (IPC Phase3)[2]

During the current analysis, In February – March 2025, Turkana, Mandera, Garissa Wajir, Marsabit and Marsabit counties had the highest numbers of populations in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 or worse) for the counties with pastoralism as the predominant livelihoods as shown in the table below. During the projected period between April – June 2025, the same counties are likely to have increased numbers of these with the food security situation in Baringo expected to deteriorate rapidly and numbers increasing by 50 percent.

For the marginal agriculture and Agro pastoral livelihood predominant counties, (largely the semi-arid areas), a worsened food security situation was also observed with population in IPC phase 3 or worse increasing. The counties with highest numbers include Kilifi, Kwale, Meru (Meru North) and Makueni and this is in both the current period (February – March) and the projected period (April – June). During the projected period, food security situation in Kitui is expected to deteriorate rapidly with the food insecure population expected to have a 50 percent increase.

***Table 1: Number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3 or worse) by county***

| County | County population KNBS 2023 projection) | Population in need of assistance Feb 2023 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse Aug 2023 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse Feb 2024 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse July 2024 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse | Projected Population in IPC 3 or Worse |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Feb - Mar 2025 | Apr – Jun 2025 |
| **Pastoral Livelihoods** | | | | | | | |
| **Turkana** | **1,022,773** | 511,400 | 358,050 | 306,900 | 196,117 | 306,900 | 358,050 |
| **Garissa** | **927,031** | 509,900 | 324,450 | 185,400 | 92,700 | 185,400 | 231,750 |
| **Mandera** | **959,236** | 527,600 | 287,700 | 191,800 | 95,900 | 287,700 | 335,650 |
| **Wajir** | **870,636** | 478,900 | 261,300 | 174,200 | 87,100 | 174,200 | 217,750 |
| **Marsabit** | **515,292** | 283,400 | 206,000 | 103,000 | 70,906 | 128,750 | 180,250 |
| **Kajiado** | **1,268,261** | 190,200 | 126,800 | 157,700 | 5,295 | 63,400 | 63,400 |
| **Baringo** | **733,333** | 220,000 | 109,950 | 73,300 | 36,650 | 73,300 | 146,600 |
| **Samburu** | **348,298** | 156,700 | 104,400 | 52,200 | 34,800 | 52,200 | 69,600 |
| **T/ River** | **352,549** | 158,600 | 88,250 | 52,950 | 52,950 | 52,950 | 70,600 |
| **Isiolo** | **315,937** | 110,600 | 79,000 | 63,200 | 15,800 | 47,400 | 63,200 |
| **West Pokot** | **676,326** | 33,800 | 67,600 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 33,800 | 67,600 |
| **Narok** | **1,284,000** | 128,400 | 64,200 | 64,200 | 5,957 | 64,200 | 64,200 |
| **Laikipia** | **561,223** | 84,200 | 56,100 | 56,100 | 28,050 | 28,050 | 56,100 |
| **Sub Total Pastoral** | **9,834,895** | **3,393,700** | **2,133,800** | **1,490,950** | **726,225** | **1,498,250** | **1,924,750** |
| **Marginal Agriculture/Agro pastoral Livelihoods** | | | | | | | |
| Kitui | **1,229,790** | 307,400 | 184,500 | 20,000 | 25,000 | 61,500 | 123,000 |

[2] **IPC Phase 3** (Crisis), Households either Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis

| County | County population KNBS 2023 projection) | Population in need of assistance Feb 2023 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse Aug 2023 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse Feb 2024 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse July 2024 | Population in IPC 3 or Worse | Projected Population in IPC 3 or Worse |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Feb - Mar 2025 | Apr – Jun 2025 |
| Makueni | **1,042,300** | 208,500 | 156,300 | 104,200 | 52,100 | 104,200 | 156,300 |
| Meru* | **794,476** | 158,900 | 79,500 | 39,750 | 39,750 | 119,250 | 159,000 |
| Kilifi | **1,577,335** | 78,900 | 78,850 | 157,700 | 78,850 | 157,700 | 236,550 |
| T/Taveta | **363,990** | 54,600 | 54,600 | 5,000 | 3,875 | 18,200 | 18,200 |
| Kwale | **944,464** | 94,400 | 47,200 | 156,300 | 47,200 | 141,600 | 141,600 |
| Embu* | **280,979** | 28,100 | 14,050 | 14,050 | 4,000 | 14,050 | 28,100 |
| Nyeri* | **205,139** | 30,800 | 10,250 | 10,250 | 3,000 | 10,250 | 10,250 |
| T/Nithi* | **177,709** | 17,800 | 8,900 | 8,900 | 10,000 | 8,900 | 17,800 |
| Lamu | **167,332** | 16,700 | 8,350 | 8,350 | 10,000 | 16,700 | 16,700 |
| **Sub Total Marginal Agric** | **6,783,514** | **996,100** | **642,500** | **524,500** | **273,775** | **652,350** | **907,500** |
| **TOTAL** | **16,618,409** | **4,389,800** | **2,776,300** | **2,015,450** | **1,000,000** | **2,150,600** | **2,832,250** |

* Population in the semi-arid part of the county only

## 3.3 Nutrition Situation Overview

The Integrated Phase classification Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN) analysis conducted in February 2025 indicates an overall stable nutrition situation though with persistent high acute malnutrition. Areas in IPC AMN Phase 4 (Critical) include; Samburu, Turkana South, Turkana Central, Turkana West, Turkana North, North Horr, Laisamis, Mandera, and Tiaty having remained within the same phase, while Wajir, Tana River and Garissa have deteriorated from IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious). Areas in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious) include; Isiolo and West Pokot remaining in the same phase compared to the previous season. Areas falling under IPC AMN Phase 2 (Alert) include; Laikipia, Kwale, Moyale, and Baringo North/South remaining in the same phase while Makueni, Kitui, and Taita Taveta have deteriorated from IPC AMN Phase 1 (Acceptable) and Saku, having improved from IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious). Areas in IPC AMN Phase 1 (Acceptable) include; Lamu, Kajiado and Narok having remained in the same phase, while Kilifi has improved from IPC AMN Phase 2 (Alert). Several areas, including Kieni, Mbeere, Meru North, and Tharaka, remain unclassified due to insufficient data. The absence of comprehensive nutrition assessments in these areas limits evidence-based decision-making.

Elevated levels of food insecurity remains to be one of the key drivers for acute malnutrition, as this has led to consistently low levels of food consumption across affected regions and contributing to acute malnutrition, necessitating urgent and intensification of existing interventions. Persistent disease burden in ASAL regions continue to drive recurrent acute malnutrition. There is increasing trends of upper respiratory tract infects across the clusters, malaria endemic especially in West Pokot, Kajiado and Baringo, and high through stable levels of diarrhea across the clusters. Poor access to health services is observed across the clusters due to scale down of outreaches and mass screening attributed to constrained resources- affecting access

to services in hard-to-reach areas in the ASAL Counties with suboptimal Vitamin A supplementation, low immunization and IMAM coverage. The persistent high acute malnutrition, especially in areas classified in IPC AMN Phases 3 and 4, underscores the continued burden of malnutrition and the need for sustained, multi-sectoral interventions to address the ongoing challenges. The nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate, with areas deteriorating either within the same phase or the next phase, some areas reporting high levels of acute malnutrition in IPC AMN Phases 3 (Serious) and 4 (Critical). The likely deterioration is mainly attributed to the expected deterioration of food insecurity resulting from the projected poor performance of the rains, especially in the counties in the North, Upper Eastern and North Eastern parts of the country which are expected to experience below average rainfall.

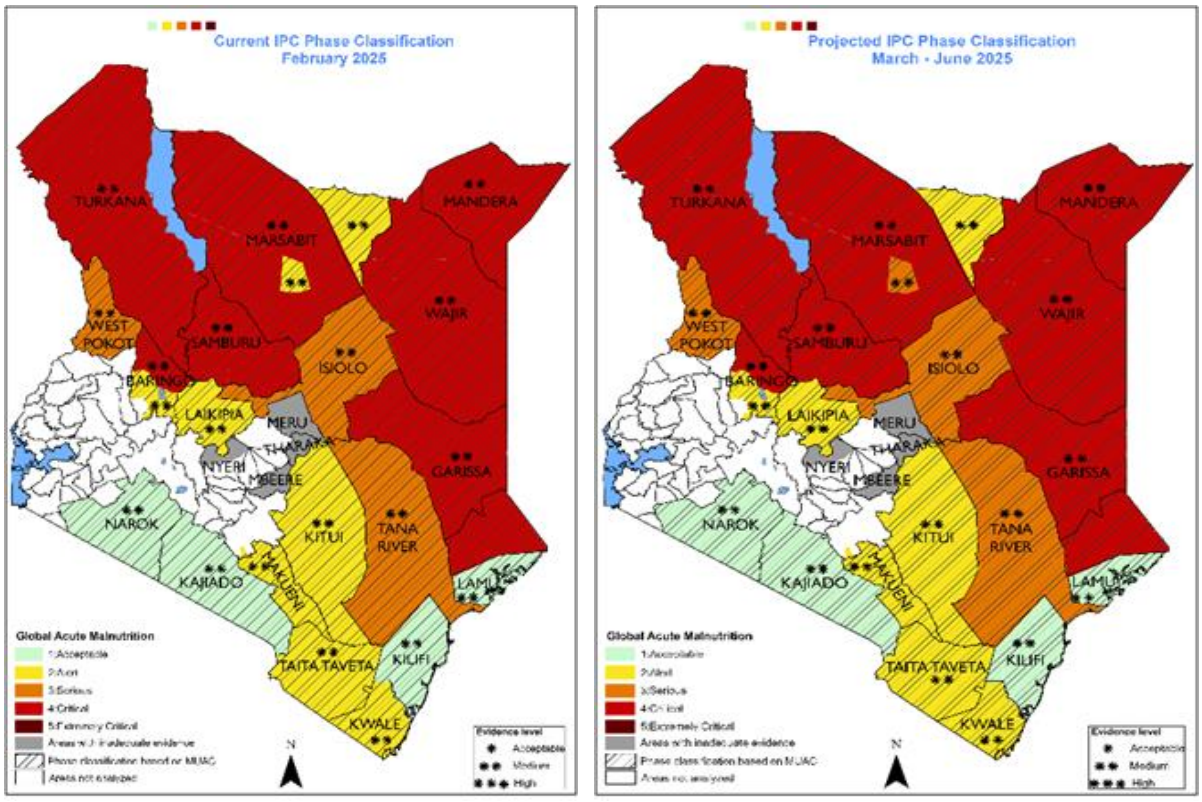


***Figure 4: Current and Projected Nutrition Phase Classification***

The number of children aged 6 to 59 months requiring treatment for acute malnutrition has increased from 760,488 to 800,202, indicating a worsening nutrition situation, particularly in ASAL and urban areas. Additionally, the number of pregnant and breastfeeding women in need of acute malnutrition treatment has risen from 112,401 to 120,732, reflecting heightened vulnerability among this group.

*Table 2. Estimated Caseloads and Targets of Children 6-59 months and Pregnant & Breastfeeding Women Requiring Treatment for Acute Malnutrition*

| Area | Global Acute Malnutrition | | Moderate Acute Malnutrition | | Severe Acute Malnutrition | | Pregnant and breastfeeding women | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 to 59 months | | 6 to 59 months | | 6 to 59 months | | | |
| | Total Caseload | Target | Total Caseload | Target | Total Caseload | Target | Total Caseload | Target |
| ASAL | 493,560 | 274,841 | 382,502 | 191,547 | 111,058 | 83,294 | 118,824 | 118,824 |
| Urban | 85,210 | 51,744 | 48,653 | 24,327 | 36,557 | 27,417 | 1,164 | 1,164 |
| Non- ASAL | 221,432 | 123,354 | 170,880 | 85,440 | 50,552 | 37,914 | 744 | 744 |
| **TOTAL** | **800,202** | **449,938** | **602,036** | **301,314** | **198,166** | **148,625** | **120,732** | **120,732** |

### 3.3.1 Key proposed response actions

- Ensure the delivery of essential nutrition interventions, healthcare services, and safe water supply, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations in arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) counties where malnutrition rates remain critically high.
- Enhance the reach and effectiveness of integrated community nutrition services, improving coverage of preventive health and nutrition interventions while ensuring early identification, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition through sustainable, community-led approaches.
- Implement evidence-based SBCC strategies targeting caregivers, households, and community influencers to improve knowledge and practices on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition, care-seeking behaviors, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices.
- Strengthen the nutrition supply chain to ensure uninterrupted access to essential commodities for the prevention and management of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, including Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF), micronutrient powders, and essential medicines.
- Implement multi-sectoral strategies that enhance food security, dietary diversity, and income resilience, including livelihood support, climate-adaptive agricultural practices, cash transfers, and school feeding programs, ensuring improved nutrition outcomes for vulnerable populations.
- Update and operationalize national and county-level contingency and response plans, incorporating early warning systems, risk-informed programming, and resilience-building approaches to mitigate the impact of recurrent climate shocks and economic disruptions on nutrition security.
- Invest in robust nutrition information systems to enhance real-time data collection, early warning mechanisms, and evidence-based decision-making, enabling timely and targeted responses to emerging malnutrition trends.

### 3.3.2 Factors to monitor

- Continuously track and analyze acute malnutrition rates across the country, with heightened focus on priority areas such as Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, and Mandera, ensuring prompt identification of high-risk populations requiring urgent intervention.

- Monitor food availability, access, and affordability by assessing the impacts of drought, floods, and market fluctuations on household dietary intake, including staple food prices, agricultural yields, and food distribution networks.
- Assess the availability, stock levels, and distribution efficiency of therapeutic and supplementary foods, micronutrients, and essential medical supplies to prevent pipeline disruptions that could impact malnutrition treatment and prevention efforts.
- Monitor the prevalence of infectious diseases such as measles, cholera, malaria, and diarrheal illnesses that exacerbate malnutrition, ensuring timely interventions to mitigate their impact on child and maternal health.
- Assess the consequences of the recent U.S. foreign aid suspension on critical health and nutrition programs, including reductions in funding for food assistance, maternal and child health services, and community-based nutrition initiatives. Monitor disruptions in service delivery, commodity procurement, and program sustainability, with a focus on mitigating potential negative effects on vulnerable populations.

### 3.4 Crop Production Prospects

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the 2024 national maize production is projected to be 4.0 million Metric which is about 10 percent above the five-year average. In the ASAL region, the acreage under maize, green grams and beans was comparable to the long-term average (LTA) while cowpeas, Irish potatoes and sorghum acreage declined by eight, nine and 38 percent respectively below the LTA. The production of maize, green grams, beans, cowpeas and sorghum reduced by 51, 58, 30 and 76 percent below the LTA except for Irish potatoes production that increased slightly by nine percent above the LTA.

In the Agropastoral cluster the area under maize and beans was within the LTA, at 98 percent and 103 percent of the LTA respectively while the acreage under Irish potato increased slightly by nine percent above the LTA. Maize and beans production reduced by 23 and 16 percent below the LTA respectively, while Irish potato production was 99 percent of the LTA. In Baringo and Kajiado counties increased acreage under maize was attributed to farmers responding to advisories predicting enhanced rainfall while in Laikipia County, maize acreage declined due to the high costs of seeds and fertilizer, high labour cost, as well as a shift towards alternative livelihood activities. The reduction in maize production in Laikipia, Baringo, and Kajiado counties was further exacerbated by use of substandard seed and Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestations. Maize Necrotic Lethal Disease (MNLD) significantly affected maize crops in Narok and Baringo counties.

In the South Eastern Marginal Agriculture cluster, the area under maize and cowpeas declined slightly by five and seven percent, respectively, while the area under green grams was 98 percent of LTA. However, the production of maize cowpeas and green grams reduced 71, 60 and 53 percent below the LTA. The decline was attributed to

poor rainfall performance, high pest incidences, use of poor-quality seeds due to high input costs, and declining soil fertility. Makueni county experienced total crop failure in some areas due to Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestations and destruction of crops by elephants. Embu County collaborated with the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) to establish satellite fertilizer depots in various wards to facilitate the last-mile delivery of subsidized fertilizers.

In the coast marginal Cluster area under maize, green grams and cowpeas was 16, five and 12 percent below the long-term average (LTA) consequently the production of the respective crops was 78, 40 and 56 percent below the LTA. The low acreage was attributed to high prices of certified seeds and poor rainfall distribution. The decline in production across the cluster was attributed to poor rainfall performance, use of low-quality seeds and wildlife destruction. Taita Taveta and Kilifi counties experienced African Armyworm infestations but the situation was managed using pesticides. However, Fall Armyworm (FAW) outbreak affected 42 hectares in Ganze, Sokoke wards, and Rabai Sub-County in Kilifi County. Elephant intrusions was reported in Livestock Farming zones in Kwale County. In Lamu County, approximately 400 hectares experienced crop failure, leading to a 46 percent loss in maize and a 35 percent loss in both cowpeas and green grams. Kwale County experienced near to , total crop failure in most areas due to erratic rains. The uptake of subsidized fertilizer remained low across the cluster due to limited awareness and usage. The Kwale county Department of Agriculture conducted sensitization efforts and established more distribution points for the subsidized fertilizer.

In the Pastoral North West Cluster, the area under beans was 63 percent above the LTA while that of sorghum and maize was at 29 and 72 percent of the long-term average respectively. In Samburu, acreage increased impressively due to completed land subdivision to individual ownership hence majority turning to farming. The production of beans, sorghum and maize reduced by 96, 90 and 99 percent below the LTA indicating near total crop failure. In Turkana County farmers experienced limited access to certified maize and sorghum seed hence farmers used recycled seeds. Sorghum seed banks that are maintained by farmers in Turkana were exhausted due to adverse impacts of locusts, grasshoppers and floods during the long rain season. The area planted under cowpeas increased due to availability of seeds from Development Partners promoting kitchen gardens but still remained lower than LTA.

In the Pastoral North East Cluster, the area planted for green gram, sorghum and maize was 31, 36 and 37 percent below the LTA respectively. The production of green grams, maize and sorghum was at 46, 69 and 84 percent below the LTA respectively. The decline in production was attributed to poor rainfall performance, reduced acreage, Fall Armyworm, wildlife destruction as well as poor soil fertility. Garissa experienced massive destruction of farm infrastructure caused by the El Niño floods in the previous season. Overall, the maize and sorghum stocks with households were 27 and 53 percent below the LTA due to below average production across the cluster.

## 3.5 Staple Food and Livestock Prices

Staple food prices remained considerably low attributed to improved production following favorable weather conditions in much of the high potential food baskets in Western and North Rift region. The prices of maize have been trending seasonally. Towards the end of 2024, the availability of average to above average unimodal production from the high and medium potential areas of Western Kenya and North Rift region improved the availability of dry maize, a factor that pushed the prices downwards to levels below those recorded in the year 2023. In January, the wholesale price of maize across the urban reference markets of Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa and Eldoret ranged between Ksh.3,200 to Ksh. 4,400 per 90kg bag. The wholesale price was 14 percent, 13 percent, 15 percent and five percent below the short-term average in Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret and Kisumu respectively.

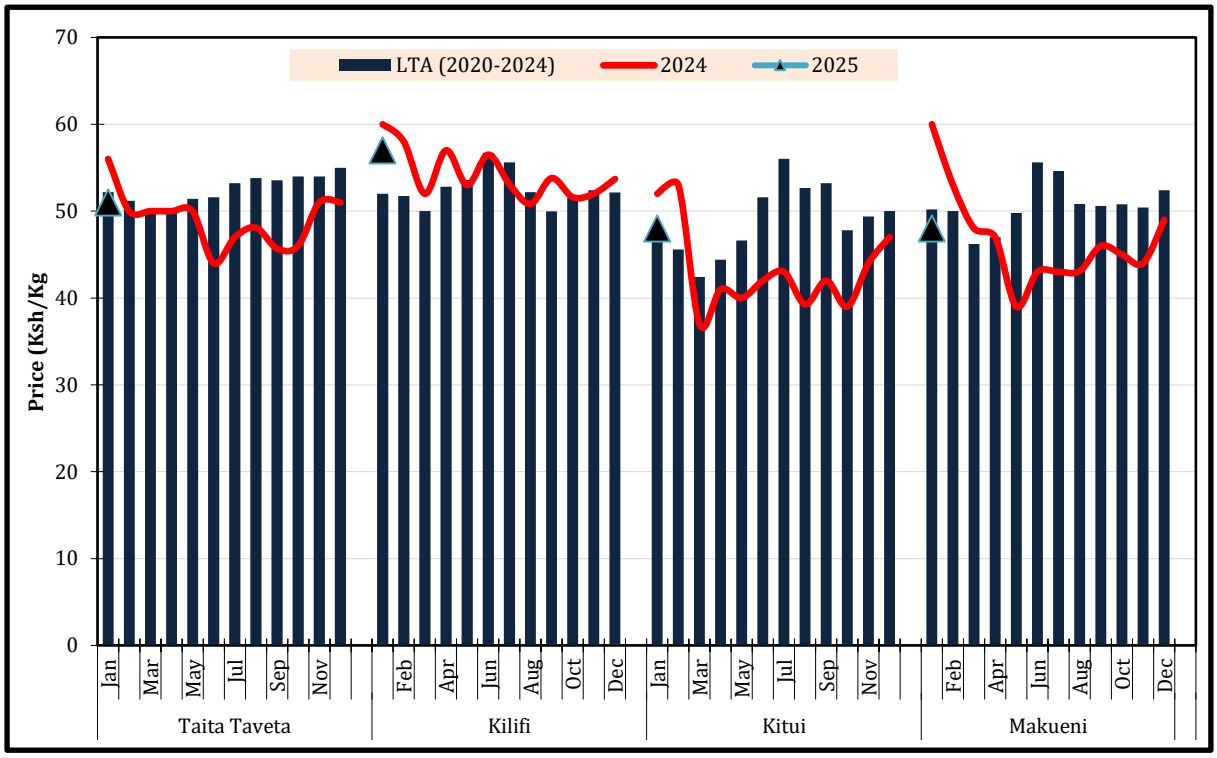


***Figure 5: Wholesale Maize Prices Across Major Urban Markets***

Majority of the households in the ASALs relied on market supplies due to depleted household stocks in the coastal marginal agriculture and South Eastern Marginal agriculture livelihood clusters amid low production due to rainfall deficits. Maize supplies from Western Kenya, North Rift regions as well as imports from Uganda and Tanzania were instrumental in supplementing stocks obtained locally.

Retail maize prices remained relatively low in the South Eastern Marginal Agricultural and Coastal Marginal Agricultural clusters at Ksh.51 and Ksh. 55, equivalent to their respective short-term averages. Nonetheless, the prevailing average maize price was five percent below the STA in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood cluster.

Cereal stocks held by traders in large market centres consisting of carryover from previous season, supplies from Western Kenya and imports from Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia supplemented the ongoing depressed maize harvests in the marginal agricultural and Agro-pastoral livelihood clusters to keep maize prices significantly low and near cluster-specific short-term average prices in majority of the counties. However, the cereal prices were comparatively high in Wajir, Mandera and Garissa due to high cost of transportation attributed to poor rural road network and conditions.

Small stock (goat) prices in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral clusters remained high above long-term average primarily attributed to good livestock body conditions, relatively low supply and a stable demand. In the Agro-pastoral livelihood cluster, the average goat price was Ksh. 6,000 being 47 percent above the STA. Meanwhile, the small-stock's price was Ksh.4,680 in the pastoral North West cluster and Ksh.5,580 in the pastoral North East cluster, being 33 percent and 38 percent respectively above the period's short-term average. The lowest small-stock price was recorded in Turkana in the Pastoral North West livelihood cluster at Ksh. 3,100 and the highest price of Ksh.7,900 in Kajiado in the Agro-pastoral livelihood cluster.

Terms of trade were favorable in the pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood clusters. The composite measure of purchasing power was comparatively higher in the Agro-pastoral livelihood cluster compared to pastoral livelihood clusters. Households in the Agro-pastoral livelihood cluster which consist of Kajiado, Narok, Laikipia, Nyeri and Baringo accessed approximately 110 kilograms of maize after sale of a medium-sized goat, being 47 percent above the long-term average. Their counterparts in the pastoral North East and Pastoral North West accessed 68 kilograms of maize, being 33 percent and 28 percent respectively above the STA. Garissa County in the pastoral North East cluster recorded the lowest ToT with households only able to access 39 kilograms of maize just slightly higher than their counterparts in Turkana County who could only access 39 kilograms of maize after sale of a medium-sized goat.

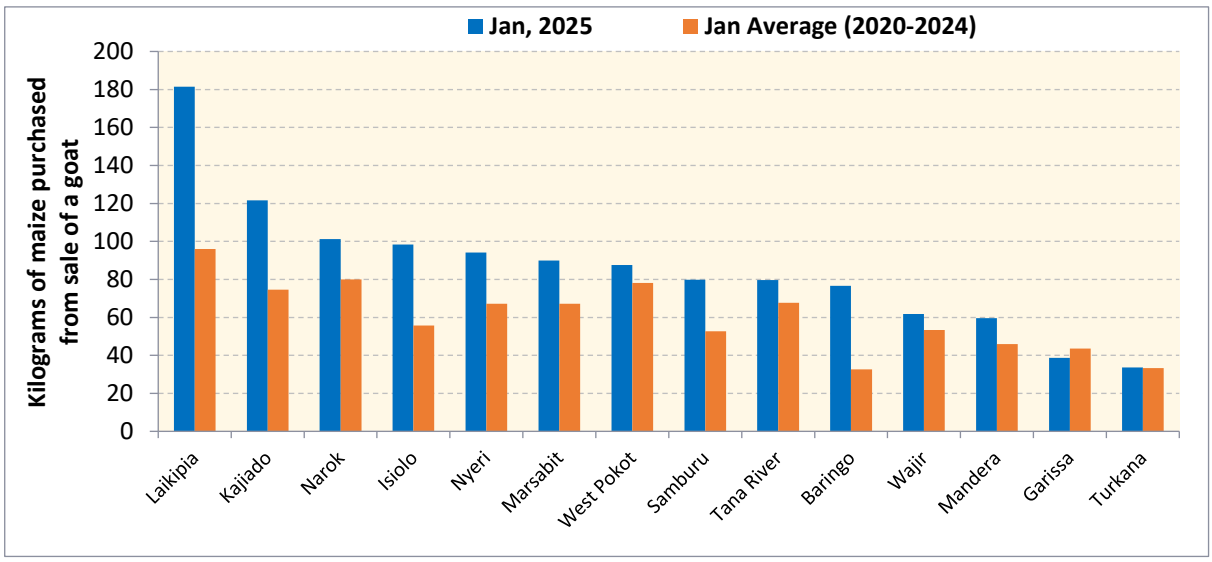


*Figure 6: Comparative Goat Prices in the Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Cluster*

# 4.0 | Food Security Prognosis

## 4.1 Assumptions

The evolution of food security during the April to July, 2025 projection period is based on the following assumptions:

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), regional climate centers, and other global sources, the March–May 2025 long rains season is expected to be below average across several parts of Kenya. The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in northern and eastern Kenya, as well as the central and coastal regions, are likely to experience below-normal rainfall, while the southwestern and Lake Basin regions are projected to receive near to above-normal rainfall.
- Warmer-than-average temperatures are expected across the country, and Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) analyses suggest drier-than-normal conditions overall. The onset of rains is expected to be normal in western Kenya, whereas the eastern regions will likely experience a normal to late onset.
- La Niña conditions are currently present, with equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) below average in the central and east-central Pacific Ocean are expected to persist through February–April 2025, with a 59% probability, followed by a likely transition to ENSO-neutral during March–May 2025 (60% probability).
- Crop production is likely to be below average in the Central Rift Valley, Highlands East of the Rift Valley, most of Northwest, Coastal regions, Southeastern lowlands and isolated areas over the Highlands West of the Rift Valley due to the anticipated average to below average rainfall. Widespread crop failure is expected in the northeastern counties of Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa as well as Lamu as a result of the expected below average rains.
- Pasture conditions (Both in quality and quantity) are expected to deteriorate in the next two months during the dry season hence leading to increased grazing distances in search of fresh pastures. However, moderate pasture recovery is expected after the onset of the MAM season. Marginal decline in body condition is expected in the next two months due to poor feeding, impact of livestock diseases and the long trekking distances in search of pasture and water. Milk production is expected to decline during the dry season as a result of deterioration in body condition and reduced birth rates but may pick up gradually after the onset of the rains.
- During the dry spell period (Lean season) of February to March, incidences of livestock diseases are expected to increase as livestock migrate from one area to another in search of fresh pastures and water. Other opportunistic diseases are expected to pick up after the onset of the long rains in April

- The price of staple commodities like maize is predicted to rise gradually due to persistent crop failures in agropastoral zones. Import assistance is anticipated to help prevent these costs from reaching all-time highs.
- Livestock prices are expected to fall as households sell their livestock to generate much-needed cash. However, due to persistent production costs and demand pressures, milk prices are set to remain high. Access to food is expected to deteriorate as a result of the combined effects of falling livestock prices and rising food costs, which are likely to impair terms of trade and diminish household purchasing power.
- Livelihood income activities across the ASAL counties are expected to be negatively impacted during the projection period. In agropastoral-dominant counties, the carryover effects of the below-average short rains (October to December) have led to poor harvests, reducing casual labor opportunities. This situation is likely to worsen in April with the anticipated below-average rainfall.

## 4.2 Food Security Prognosis (April – June 2025)

### 4.2.1 Pastoral Areas

Between April and July 2025, availability of rangeland resources will deteriorate to below normal mainly driven by the anticipated below average March-May long rains. This will subsequently lead to increased grazing and watering distances to longer than usual and consequently affecting livestock body conditions which are expected to deteriorate.

Normal livestock birth rates are expected during the scenario period. However, this is not expected to offset and recover the previous drought related losses experienced over time and hence livestock holdings will still remain below the normal both for low income and medium income households. With lower-than-normal livestock holding, milk production and consumption at household levels is expected to decline to below average.

With the anticipated rise in food commodity prices and the falling livestock prices, households' incomes are expected to reduce further constraining the households' purchasing capacities and access to food. Households are thus expected to continue facing moderate food consumption gaps as the proportion of the population with poor and borderline food consumption scores are expected to remain significantly high and neither able to consume adequate quantities of food nor a diet with minimally acceptable quantity and nutritional quality. Consequently, a significant proportion of poor households are likely to continue adopting stress consumption-based coping strategies indicative of Stress (IPC Phase 2), such as reducing the number of meals consumed in a day and consumption of less preferred foods. The households however, are expected to increase the severity with which they employ crisis livelihood coping strategies such as reducing non-food expenses, indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five years is expected to remain in Critical level (IPC AMN Phase 4) save for Isiolo and Tana River counties which are expected in remain in Serious level (IPC AMN Phase 3) and Moyale and Saku sub-counties which are expected to remain in Alert and Serious levels respectively. The expected persistence of the high level of acute malnutrition is because of sustained poor child care, feeding, hygiene and sanitation practices. Household food insecurity, high food prices and distances to not well provisioned food markets are expected to remain unchanged which are likely to compromise an already fragile situation.

Overall, households are expected either to have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies, indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

### 4.2.2 Marginal Agricultural Areas

Following the forecasted below average long rains, crop production in the marginal agricultural areas is expected to be below the long averages both in the acreages planted as well as the corresponding yields. Food commodity prices are expected to continue rising following the anticipated below average crop production. However, cross border inflows especially from Tanzania is expected to help prevent the prices from reaching all-time high.

Households are expected to increase their reliance on markets through the projection period due to depleted stocks as well as the projected below average long rains production. Agricultural activities are expected to be scaled down with the projected below average crop production, thereby reducing household income from casual farm activities.

With the expected decline in households' income, purchasing capacities and access to food are likely to be constrained. Consequently, households are likely to continue engaging in consumption-based coping strategies indicative of Stressed (IPC Phase 2), such as reducing the number of meals consumed in a day and consumption of less preferred foods, and livelihood coping strategies indicative of Stressed (IPC Phase 2), such as purchasing food on credit. Proportions of households having poor and borderline food consumption scores are expected to remain minimal with a significant proportion expected to continue having acceptable food consumption scores due to the various consumption based coping strategies employed.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five years is expected to worsen as household food availability declines while access is constrained but will remain within Alert (GAM 5-9.9%) levels in most areas due to the health and nutrition services which are expected to continue.

Overall, households are expected to have minimally adequate food consumption but unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress coping strategies.

## 5.0 | Options for Response

Table 3 sets out the options for response by sector. All immediate, medium and long-term interventions should be anchored in the Ending Drought Emergencies Common Programme Framework.

***Table 3: Recommended Response Interventions for the period February to June 2025***

| Sector | Response Options | Costs (Kshs.) | Costs (USD |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Agriculture** | • Enhanced Access to Farm Inputs and Mechanization.<br>• Water Harvesting and Irrigation Development.<br>• Rehabilitation and expansion of irrigation schemes and infrastructure<br>• Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition.<br>• Promotion and capacity building on post-harvest technologies.<br>• Crop Pest, Disease Surveillance and Control.<br>• Capacity Building on Agricultural Extension<br>• Capacity building on soil and water conservation technologies.<br>• Capacity enhancement for climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. | **2.4B** | **18.5M** |
| **Livestock** | • Disease surveillance, parasitic control, deworming, treatment, vector control, and vaccination.<br>• Strategic prepositioning of vital pharmaceuticals and vaccines.<br>• Promotion of pasture production, conservation, and utilization (reseeding, invasive weed control, mechanization, capacity building).<br>• Establishment of feed reserves and fodder conservation.<br>• Commercial Off-Take Programs.<br>• Rehabilitation of rangelands and water infrastructure for livestock.<br>• Livestock Insurance and Value Chain Development. | **1.9B** | **14.6M** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Water** | • Servicing, maintenance, rehabilitation, and expansion of water infrastructure (boreholes, pipelines, water pans, and dam auxiliary facilities).<br>• Desilting of water pans to enhance storage capacity.<br>• Water trucking services to critical facilities, including communities, schools, and healthcare centers.<br>• Provision of fuel subsidies to strategic boreholes for continuous water access.<br>• Solarization of water infrastructure to enhance climate resilience.<br>• Promotion of rainwater harvesting through training and provision of infrastructure.<br>• Provision of water treatment chemicals to ensure safe drinking water. | **2.0B** | **15.4M** |
| **Health and Nutrition** | • Resource mobilization to improve nutrition supply pipeline and full implementation of response plan.<br>• Scale up essential nutrition and health services in ASAL counties, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations to reduce critical malnutrition levels.<br>• Sustain disease surveillance and response to outbreaks.<br>• Enhance integrated community-based nutrition programs for early detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition through locally-led approaches linked to sustainability.<br>• Invest in behavior change communication (SBCC) strategies to improve infant and young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition, and WASH practices at the household and community levels.<br>• Ensure uninterrupted access to critical nutrition supplies by strengthening the supply chain for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), micronutrients, and essential medicine.<br>• Advance multi-sectoral approaches that enhance food security, dietary diversity, and household resilience, including livelihood support, climate-smart agriculture, and social protection mechanisms. | **3.2B** | **24.7M** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | • Strengthen early warning and emergency preparedness systems by integrating real-time data, risk-informed programming, and contingency planning to mitigate climate and economic shocks.<br>• Improve data systems for informed decision-making by investing in robust nutrition surveillance, early warning mechanisms, and evidence-based response strategies. | | |
| **Education** | • Maintain and upscale the School Meals Programme.<br>• Construct storage facilities for food commodities to enhance access to schools.<br>• Provide water tanks and promote rainwater harvesting in schools.<br>• Support school WASH programs, including water trucking where needed.<br>• Provide school fees bursaries for vulnerable learners.<br>• Support boarding primary schools to improve access to education.<br>• Provide menstrual and dignity kits for both boys and girls to promote hygiene and school attendance.<br>• Employ Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers and scale up the enrolment drive. | **2.1B** | **16.2M** |
| **Safety Nets Programme** | • Provision of in-kind food and non-food items to vulnerable households.<br>• Cash transfers to food-insecure households for immediate support.<br>• Strengthen community resilience to future shocks through asset creation and livelihood support. | **6.4B** | **50.0M** |
| **Peace and Security** | • Peace-building initiatives to resolve conflict over resources.<br>• Monitoring of potential conflict locations and support to affected communities to build back better. | **300M** | **2.3M** |
| **Child Protection** | • Training and capacity building of key stakeholders on child protection at county levels.<br>• Capacity building of children on child rights, protection, and life skills.<br>• Tracing, reunification, and reintegration of separated children. | **50.6M** | **0.4M** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | • Provision of case management services and appropriate referrals for children with protection concerns.<br>• Psychosocial support services for children and families in distress through platforms such as the National Child Helpline 116 and MHPSS Chatbot.<br>• Mapping marginalized children and sensitizing communities on available services.<br>• Community awareness on child protection (rights, needs, and dangers).<br>• Economic empowerment for vulnerable families. | | |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | | **18.4B** | **142.1M** |