

## CONTEXT

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- Four consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall between 2020 and 2022 have led to a severe drought across the Horn of Africa, leaving 4.4 million people in Kenya with insufficient access to food and 4.1 million people with inadequate access to water, according to the UN and the Government of Kenya. Humanitarian actors have recorded a more than 35 percent increase in the prevalence of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—among children and pregnant and lactating women between August 2021 and August 2022. Of the 884,500 children experiencing wasting, 222,700 children—more than 25 percent—are facing severe wasting.
- Drought has contributed to the deaths of at least 2.4 million livestock and forced pastoralists and their herds to migrate further in search of sustenance, reducing communities' access to livelihood opportunities and milk—an essential source of nutrition. Poor rains during 2022 have led to reduced crop yields and livestock productivity, limiting food availability and household income, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Meanwhile, poor harvests have driven high food prices and diminished household purchasing power.
- The ongoing drought has exacerbated already elevated humanitarian needs for many households that failed to recover from previous shocks, including the 2016/2017 and 2010/2011 droughts and the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which have compounded needs and reduced household resilience.
- An anticipated fifth consecutive poor rainy season in late 2022 is likely to prolong the drought and worsen food and nutrition security conditions. Food security monitors have raised concerns that increased food and nutrition assistance is necessary through at least early 2023 to prevent a further deterioration in levels of wasting and avert an increase in hunger-related mortality, FEWS NET reports.



## ASSISTANCE

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- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports partners in responding to humanitarian needs and building resilience among populations in Kenya, providing nearly \$498 million in Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021 and 2022 for emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) interventions.
- Through the UN World Food Program (WFP), USAID/BHA provides drought-affected, food-insecure communities with emergency cash and in-kind food assistance across Kenya's arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) counties. As of August, WFP had reached more than 211,200 people in four counties with emergency food aid. With USAID/BHA support, WFP and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) work closely with local government and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to treat and prevent wasting among drought-affected children and pregnant and lactating women. WFP supports a wasting treatment program that serves 15 of the most drought-affected counties in the ASALs through the procurement of specialized nutritious foods used for treatment of and recovery from

wasting. The UN agency also bolsters the capacity of county staff, strengthening the integrated management of nutrition services in areas with a high prevalence of wasting. UNICEF is addressing the nutrition needs of drought-affected populations and increasing access to nutrition services in nine ASAL counties, providing therapeutic foods for the treatment of severe wasting, facilitating mass nutrition screenings, and supporting emergency mobile nutrition outreach and referrals for individuals suffering from wasting.

- USAID/BHA, through international and local NGOs, is supporting drought response activities in 15 ASAL counties. The emergency response activities target the most vulnerable populations by providing integrated assistance, including cash transfers, agriculture, food, livelihood, nutrition, and WASH interventions.
- USAID/BHA is also responding to the food and nutrition needs of refugees in Kenya’s ASALs through WFP-led distributions of specialized nutrition products, and food, including maize, pulses, and vegetable oil, to populations in refugee camps. Additionally, the UN agency provides cash-based assistance in refugee camps to increase self-reliance and support livelihoods.
- With USAID/BHA support, WFP assistance contributes to the long-term resilience of communities in drought-affected areas through investments in the rehabilitation of critical water infrastructure in drought-affected areas, as well as cash-based assistance and livelihood support to enable the most vulnerable households to build and maintain assets, increase food security, and expand income-earning opportunities. Specifically, WFP supports activities to expand skills, diversify livelihoods, and establish access to village savings and loan associations to strengthen communities’ capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate-related shocks. As part of the program, WFP provides four transfers each year until recipients have demonstrated improved household food security and increased resilience; to date, more than 100,000 individuals have transitioned out of the assistance program.
- USAID/BHA supports Mercy Corps and Catholic Relief Services, who lead consortia partners to implement Nawiri, a five-year development and food security program that aims to reduce wasting in four of Kenya’s counties experiencing chronic malnutrition and the adverse effects of the ongoing drought. Using community-based research to assess the main drivers of wasting in communities, the Nawiri program is implementing multi-sector activities to address the underlying causes of persistent household food and nutrition insecurity. During FY 2022, the Nawiri program provided cash-based transfers to food-insecure populations, supported monitoring and treatment of wasting, supported health care services for people and livestock, invested in livestock feed for pastoralist households, enhanced systems for potable water and agricultural schemes to increase crop and livestock productivity, supported livestock disease surveillance systems, and formed business groups and community savings groups. Throughout its activities, Nawiri prioritizes the most vulnerable drought-affected individuals, supporting an estimated 492,000 people in the four counties.

USAID/BHA Funding in Kenya <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2021	\$70,570,393	\$53,030,708	\$123,601,101
FY 2022	\$315,976,497	\$57,925,616	\$373,902,113

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 21, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.