

## CONTEXT

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- Kenya continues to face the effects of recurrent climate shocks and disease outbreaks, which generate widespread displacement and humanitarian needs. Notably, above-average October-to-December 2023 short rains—induced by the El Niño and Indian Ocean Dipole conditions, both associated with above-average rainfall in the Horn of Africa—and associated floods across Kenya resulted in at least 174 deaths and the displacement of approximately 546,000 people between early October and mid-December 2023, according to the UN. Prior to the October-to-December rains, the region experienced five consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall between 2020 and 2022 that led to a severe drought and insufficient access to food and water, reducing populations’ ability to cope with subsequent shocks. Flood-displaced populations are in urgent need of emergency relief commodities and food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, according to the Government of Kenya Ministry of Health.
- Flooding contaminated WASH infrastructure and led to poor road conditions, limiting affected populations’ access to health facilities and increasing the risk of vector-borne and waterborne disease outbreaks, including exacerbating the cholera outbreak that began in October 2022. Health actors recorded approximately 115 cholera cases after flooding began in Kenya, bringing the cumulative total to more than 12,200 cholera cases and at least 205 related deaths in 2023 as of early December, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the UN reported. Furthermore, the flooding hindered relief actors’ ability to transport relief items to health centers and reach affected populations, according to IFRC.
- Despite the flood damage, including the destruction of approximately 18,400 acres of farmland, elevated rainfall after the prolonged drought increased agricultural labor opportunities and production activities, raising incomes to near-average levels, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and IFRC report. The increased rainfall enhanced forage, pasture, and water resources, supporting livestock production and improving household access to water in areas previously impacted by drought, according to FEWS NET. The current favorable conditions are expected to persist until the start of the forecasted March-to-May long rains, which will likely support further improvements in livestock production and household access to food and income. However, possible La Niña conditions in mid-2024 may negatively affect upcoming long and short rains in Kenya in late 2024 through 2025, bringing the possibility of resumed drought conditions in many locations, according to FEWS NET.



## ASSISTANCE

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- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports 12 international and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and two UN agencies responding to the urgent needs of those affected by drought and

floods in Kenya, providing more than \$553 million in emergency assistance between Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and FY 2024 to date. USAID/BHA also supports two partners in building resilience and reducing disaster-related risks among affected populations in Kenya, providing nearly \$97 million in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) interventions.

- USAID/BHA NGO partners conducted drought response activities in 15 arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) counties, supporting the most vulnerable populations with agriculture, cash, food, livelihood, nutrition, and WASH interventions. With USAID/BHA funding, NGO partner the Kenya Red Cross Society also provides sanitation and shelter kits—consisting of sleeping mats, soaps, tarps, and thermal blankets—to flood-displaced persons in Garissa, Lamu, and Tana River counties.
- With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) provides emergency cash transfers and in-kind food assistance to drought-affected, food-insecure communities. Moreover, WFP supports ASAL counties, including populations in refugee camps, through the procurement of specialized nutritious foods—such as cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil—used for the treatment of malnutrition. WFP assistance also contributes to the long-term resilience of communities through climate-adaptive programming, specifically focused on reducing food and livelihoods loss in the wake of climatic shocks.
- USAID/BHA also supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to address the nutrition needs of drought- and flood-affected populations in 11 ASAL counties. The UN agency facilitates mass nutrition screenings for pregnant and lactating women and children ages five years and younger; provides therapeutic foods for the treatment of malnutrition; and supports emergency mobile nutrition outreach and referrals for individuals suffering from malnutrition.
- Through USAID/BHA ER4 programming, NGOs Catholic Relief Services and Mercy Corps continue to implement Nawiri, an eight-year development and food security program in four counties experiencing chronic malnutrition and the adverse effects of drought. The Nawiri program enhances livestock disease surveillance systems, as well as systems for potable water and agricultural schemes to increase crop and livestock productivity; facilitates the monitoring and treatment of wasting; invests in livestock feed for pastoralist households; provides cash-based transfers to food-insecure populations; and supports health care services for people and livestock. Nawiri also supports village savings and loans associations, which can help strengthen communities’ capacity to withstand climatic shocks and enable livelihood diversification. In FY 2023, Nawiri assisted more than 433,000 people through multi-sector activities that aim to reduce wasting and address the underlying causes of persistent household food insecurity and malnutrition.

USAID/BHA Funding in Kenya <sup>12</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>3</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$309,981,682	\$57,925,616	\$367,907,298
FY 2023	\$212,522,252	\$38,999,446	\$251,521,698
FY 2024	\$25,252,698	-	\$25,252,698

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced emergency and ER4 funding as of February 6, 2024. 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.