KEY MESSAGES

• **Families are struggling:** 3.4 million Kenyans do not have enough food to eat and are in desperate need of assistance. Among this number, 700,000 children under age 5 are unable to get the necessary food and nutrition to thrive. The impact of the drought is forcing families to rapidly deplete their assets, increasing their vulnerability for the future. As it is, most food insecure households are consuming one to two meals per day, consisting mainly of cereals and pulses, and less and less of other food groups. Malnutrition rates are high and likely to continue deteriorating, especially in pastoral areas in the northeast. Food prices are significantly above the five-year average as livestock prices decline, further compromising household purchasing power and limiting access to food.

• **More children are becoming malnourished:** The number of malnourished children under age 5, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers is of great concern. In July, 420,674 children were identified as malnourished, an increase of 75,000 since February. The situation is of greatest concerns where global acute malnutrition rates exceeds 15%. Those areas with critical malnutrition rates are Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, West Pokot, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera.

• **Food security situation worsening:** Low annual maize yields were recorded, due to drought conditions and the fall armyworm invasion, leading to an increase in food insecurity for families reliant on agriculture. The outlook for the next three months is worrying. Livelihoods are already under significant stress which will only deepen as the dry season unfolds. Conditions are likely to deteriorate.

• **Drought interventions must be scaled up:** Due to rising needs, humanitarian and government responses must increase to protect people from starvation. Currently, more than 200,000 people are benefiting from World Vision’s activities related to food assistance, nutrition, child protection, education and water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. World Vision is appealing for an additional $19 million US to scale up the response to meet the needs.
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW

- **Poor rainfall across the country:** The 2017 March to May long rains began late across most of the country and were delayed by up to four weeks in the marginal agricultural and pastoral areas. The distribution of rainfall was poor across the country resulting in a shortened rainy season. This marks the second, and for some counties the third, consecutive poor performing season. Approximately 3.4 million people are acutely food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance. This is an 800,000-person increase among the number identified of those in need by the 2016 short rains assessment in February.

- **Increase in severity and magnitude of food insecurity:** There are approximately 2.6 million people classified in critical need of assistance (IPC 3) of which 0.5 million are already in an emergency phase (IPC Phase 4). 800,000 people are classified as stressed. The counties classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are Turkana, Marsabit, West Pokot, Samburu, Isiolo and Lamu, as well as parts of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Baringo, Laikipia, Kilifi and Kwale.

- **Long distance to receding water source:** Water sources are drying up and fewer water sources are available for people and livestock to use. The return trekking distances between forage and water are 10 to 30km, due to the poor recharge of water sources that are projected to last for only two to three months instead of the normal three to four months. Distances are exceptionally long in parts of Turkana (Kakong) where people have to walk up to 20km and in Marsabit (Merille) where people have to walk 60 to 80km to a water point. Waiting times have lengthened as more people access a smaller number of water sources.

WHAT WORLD VISION IS DOING

To ensure children and their families are protected from a looming calamity, World Vision Kenya’s response has already reached 400,000 people affected by drought through emergency response and normal programming/early recovery supported by donors and World Vision support offices. World Vision Kenya is seeking an additional $19 million US to scale up life-saving humanitarian assistance to 335,680 more people facing starvation in 15 counties for the next six months. The interventions will include health, nutrition, child protection, peace building, livelihoods, education and water needs of those affected by the drought, giving the highest priority in our response.

During the reporting period under review, 10 to 31 August, the following activities were undertaken by World Vision Kenya’s response team:

**WASH**

- **Pipeline extension:** 1,800 people are now using two newly-constructed water kiosks in Marsabit after a pipeline was extended, ensuring affected people have a sustainable source of water.

- **Water management training:** 41 water user committee members in Marsabit (20) and Turkana (21) counties learned about water resource management and system operation during a training session.

- **Water purification:** 7,800 families received aqua tabs and 20 litre jerry cans in Moyale, Mogotio Baringo, Wajir and Turkana, enabling people to store and consume safe water at household level. The households were also trained how to use aqua tabs and the importance of safe water storage.

- **School water:** 921 students at Fifi Primary School in Wajir now have access to clean water at school after a water pipeline extension project was completed.

**NUTRITION**

- **Malnutrition screening and providing nutrition assistance:** 20,473 children under age 5, pregnant women and lactating women in Turkana South and Moyale through a blanket supplementary feeding project. In Turkana South, World Vision Kenya is delivering nutrition services to 92 sites in partnership with UNICEF and Kenya Red Cross Society.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**

- **Cash assistance:** 635 families benefitted from cash transfer through the Mwatate–Taveta Drought Action Project. Each household received Kshs. 2,500 to cater for 50 per cent of their monthly household needs.

**EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION**

- **School meals:** 12,223 students in 34 primary schools benefitted in Taita Taveta benefitted from the distribution of 18.169 MT of cereals, pulses, oil and salt.
NUTRITION STATUS IN KENYA

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **248,427** people reached with food security and livelihood support
- **47,625** people reached with water, sanitation and hygiene support
- **33,812** children and women reached with nutrition support
- **23,063** people reached with non food item interventions
- **2,400** people reached with non food item interventions

GAPS AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (in millions US$)

- **$8.7M** received
- **$27.7M** requested
- **$19 M** funding gap
- **$23,063** children reached with child protection and education interventions
World Vision

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