



## BRIEFING NOTE: Hunger Safety Net Programme Emergency Transfers in April 2015

### Background

HSNP is an unconditional poverty based social protection programme. It provides regular and predictable cash transfers to targeted poorest and vulnerable households up to 100,000 HHs (approx. 600,000 people) in the four Counties of Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit and Wajir. It is a Government of Kenya flagship programme, under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, managed by National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). HSNP is funded the Governments of Kenya, UK (UKaid) and Australia (Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, DFAT). HSNP is part of the National Safety Net Programme.

The current value of the transfer to up to 100,000 routine recipient households is Kshs. 4,900 every 2 months. HSNP can make electronic cash transfers to households on its registry with activated Equity Bank accounts. Currently over 62% of 374,806 registered households have activated accounts with more accounts being activated each week. HSNP can thus vary transfers amounts and household numbers to provide short-term cash transfers to additional households to meet urgent needs, for example in response to a drought, as is currently the case.

### HSNP Emergency Drought Response

Following the poor 2014 short rains, the food security situation of households has declined substantially in parts of the four counties reached by HSNP. In response, NDMA intends to make an emergency cash transfer to 90,648 affected households. Further, the current routine households with activated accounts (75,094HHs) will receive their next payment on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Thus the emergency and regular payment will reach a total of 165,742 households (approx. 994,452 people). The emergency payments amount to Kshs. 416,710,700. (See table 2, pg.2)

NDMA has adopted clear protocol which define the transfer amounts and coverage and this will form part of the revised National Drought Response Operations Manual, and are a key component of National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) Programme for Results (P4R).

### Scale up Trigger and Geographic Coverage

Scaled up Cash Transfers will be triggered once a Sub-County reaches a **Severe** or **Extreme** drought threshold. NDMA measures drought status using the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), derived from remote sensed satellite data. NDMA classifies drought status as: Moderate; Severe; and Extreme. In January 2015 (table 1), 7 Sub-counties in the 4 HSNP Counties had reached “**Severe**” drought status with 1 Sub-County (Eldas) in Wajir County reaching “**Extreme**”. In February, the situation worsened, with 10 sub-Counties reaching ‘**Severe**’ drought status and 2 in “**Extreme**” (Eldas, Wajir and Moyale, Marsabit). In March the report shows a further decline in household food security status with 5 sub-Counties are under “**Severe**” and 11 under “**Extreme**”.

Moyale sub-County is the hardest hit with VCI of 2.26, the lowest it has ever been in a span of 10 years. Overall, the hardest hit County is Wajir, followed by Mandera, Marsabit and Turkana. Turkana North is the only sub-County in Turkana under “**Severe**”.

Table 1: Sub-Counties to benefit from HSNP Emergency payments

VCI 2015		Jan	Feb	Mar
MANDERA	Banissa			9.5
	M East			16.04
	Lafey			11.16
	M North			8.77
	M South			8.46
	M West			9.92
TURKANA	T Central			38.38
	T. East			22.71
	T. Loima			35.87
	T. North			17.86
	T. South			35.52
	T. West			28.29
MARSABIT	Laisaimis			15.14
	Moyale			2.26
	N. Horr			8.42
	Saku			30.99
WAJIR	W East			5.35
	W.Eldas			3.64
	W. North			7.52
	W. South			3.46
	W.Torbaj			5.91
	W West			11.15

## Identification of Sub-Locations to receive transfers

There may be parts of Sub-Counties classified as generally “Moderate” where “Severe” drought conditions exist. The County Steering Group (CSG) will promptly identify such Sub-Locations and inform HSNP. The County allocation can be used to provide transfers in these Sub-Locations.

## Coverage and numbers of Households (HHs) to receive emergency CTs

Counties are allocated a budget based on the number of eligible households in Sub-Counties reaching drought thresholds, calculated as follows:

- Routine beneficiary household coverage is 27% on average in all counties, with local variations;
- The standard percentage of coverage by Sub-Location is 50% for “Severe” and 75% for “Extreme”. The percentage includes the routine HSNP beneficiaries who will not be paid any emergency CT. The percentages of beneficiaries will be reduced on a pro-rata basis if additional sub-locations neighbouring Sub-Counties in ‘Severe’ or ‘Extreme’ drought are included.
- The total County allocation is the sum of the two above calculations.

## Beneficiary Selection

Beneficiary HHs in identified Sub-Locations are selected from the HSNP register in wealth order. Only HHs with activated bank accounts will be able to receive the scale up CT. There will be no back payment to any HH that activates a bank account after the scaled up CT has been made. It is therefore imperative to facilitate ID registration by National Registration Bureau (NRB) and coordinate with Equity Bank to ensure as many households in drought affected areas acquire active bank accounts.

## Payment Amount

The payment value per household is the same as the current routine monthly transfer i.e. Kshs. 2,450, therefore selected households will receive a payment of Kshs.2,450 for each month that the scale up was triggered in that County. Households in Wajir are likely to receive three months’ payment (Kshs. 7,350) whilst Mandera HHs in identified sub-locations may only receive two months’ payment (Kshs. 4,900) for February and March.

Routine HSNP beneficiary HHs continue to receive their bi-monthly payments (Kshs. 4,900) as normal. Routine beneficiaries (with and without activated bank accounts) will not receive any additional payment as part of the pilot scale up of CTs.

## When will the scaled up cash transfer be made?

A single scaled up CT will be made to all selected HHs on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## Household Coverage and Cost of Transfers

A table summarizing of the costs of scaling up cash transfers for January – March 2015 across the four Counties.

Table 2: Household coverage and cost

County	January		February		March		Cost for 3 Months
	# HH for Scale up	Cost Kshs.	# HHs for Scale up	Cost Kshs.	# HHs for Scale up	Cost Kshs.	
Wajir	28,884	70,765,800	28,884	70,765,800	42,122	103,198,900	244,730,500
Marsabit	5,379	13,178,550	9,450	23,152,500	13,486	33,040,700	69,371,750
Mandera	-	0	7,807	19,127,150	29,029	71,121,050	90,248,200
Turkana	-	0	-	0	5,045	12,360,250	12,360,250
	34,263	83,944,350	46,141	113,045,450	89,682	219,720,900	416,710,700