



# BRIEFING NOTE

Drought payments in Turkana for Group 2 and Flood preparedness payments to all Group 2

13<sup>th</sup> October 2015



*Photo 1: Drought season in Turkana*



*Photo 2: Flooding in Mandera*



## About HSNP

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. HSNP is a flagship programme with targets in the performance contract of the Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Devolution and Planning (MoDP). The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) as part of the wider National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) manages HSNP.

HSNP2 scaled-up (2013- 2017) in the four counties to reach up to 100,000 HHs (600,000 chronically poor people) with regular cash transfers of up to Kshs 2,550 month to beneficiaries with fully transactional active bank accounts and ATM cards. HSNP 2 also has the ability to act as a scalable safety net in times of crisis (e.g. climate induced such as a drought) as a shock responsive safety net.

The Governments of Kenya, UK (UKaid) and Australia (Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, DFAT) fund HSNP. Further the Government of Kenya's funding to HSNP significantly increased for financial years (FYs) 14/15 and 15/16. Consequently, the routine caseload supported by GoK has increased from 0% to 32% (24% against a 100K target). Milestones achieved against the 100,000 group 1 target households (HHs) include: 90% of accounts opened; 78% are active; 77% are being paid; 59% of the beneficiaries are women; and 86% of payments were made on time.

## Key messages on HSNP emergency payments in October 2015

### a) Rationale

1. Emergency cash transfers (CTs) during drought are one of the objectives of the HSNP Phase 2 and a key component of the National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) Programme for Results (P4R). Whereas delivery of emergency cash transfers during floods is a mandate of Government of Kenya's under the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) for mitigating the impacts of El Nino.
2. In October 2015, HSNP will make two one off emergency payments i) Drought payment to Turkana and ii) pilot flooding preparedness payments to all Group 2 in the four Counties (Mandera, Wajir, Turkana and Marsabit). The value of each one off emergency payment to a household is Kshs. 2,550.
3. NDMA drought status is determined using the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI). The trigger VCI is classified as follows: -  $\geq 50$  and 35 to 50 (wet or no drought), 20 to 30 (moderate drought), 10 to 20 (severe drought) and  $\leq 10$  (extreme drought). In September 2015, Loima sub-County in Turkana reached NDMA drought status of 'Severe' of 18.85 thus triggering emergency payment for drought. Only the sub-Counties that have reached Severe or Extreme can trigger emergency payments. Payments will be distributed across Turkana County according to a pre-agreed formula as discussed below.
4. Further, following the short rains assessment report (October- December) 2015, heavy rains and massive flooding likely to result to lose of life amongst others is expected. In September 2015, HSNP will make a single transfer payment to all Group 2 (emergency) Households in all counties with active bank accounts. This payment is an early predictive transfer to help people prepare for and mitigate the expected impacts of flooding.
5. In addition, Cycle 15 to Group 1 (regular payments) will also be paid to Group 1 HHs with active accounts on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
6. Emergency CTs will be paid on 26<sup>th</sup> October and ONLY through active bank accounts.
7. DFID will fund the emergency CTs.

## b) Geographical Selection criteria for Emergency Drought payments

1. Once the trigger is hit, the County is allocated a number of households eligible for scaled up payments.
2. When Loima Sub-County met the 'Severe' drought threshold, a budget allocation was generated for emergency cash transfer beneficiaries which brought the total number of beneficiaries in the sub-county to 50% of all households on the HSNP MIS including regular beneficiaries. The regular beneficiaries however will not receive any additional emergency cash.
3. For the October 2015 emergency drought payment, Turkana County CT allocation will be reallocated to all the five (5) Sub-Counties (Turkana North, South, Central, East and West) that met the 'Moderate', threshold in September using the formula below see Figure 1:

4. This reallocation approach will generate a quota for each Sub-Location (SL) in all Sub-Counties where drought is moderate and severe.
5. NDMA County Drought Coordinator (CDC) will inform the County authorities i.e. County Steering Group (CSG) as well as HSNP Implementing Partners in the county of this budget allocation and household selection.

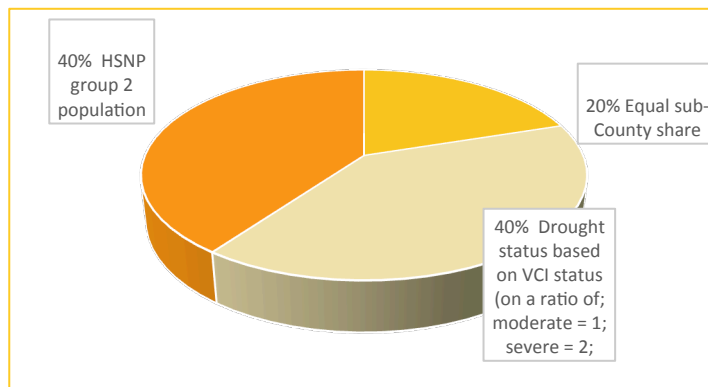


Figure 1: Formula for November 2015 emergency drought payments allocation across sub-Counties in Turkana

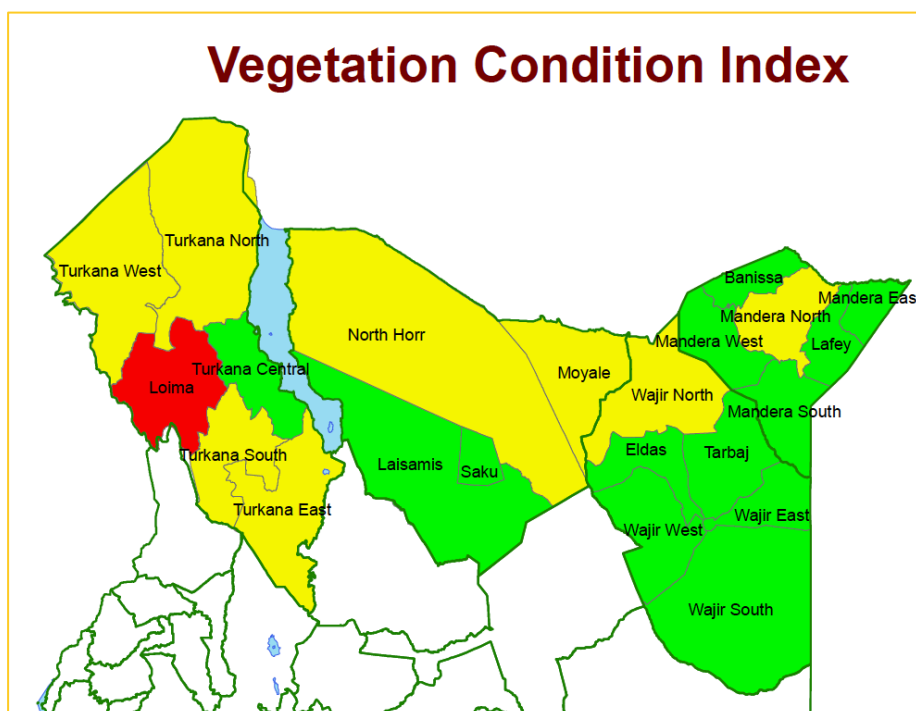


Figure 2: VCI status for September 2015

### c) Selection of households (Group 2) for Emergency Drought CT payments

1. PILU has produced lists of all Sub-Locations and specific Households in Turkana to be included in the Emergency drought preparedness CT for September 2015.
2. In each of the targeted Sub-Locations, beneficiary households will be selected from the emergency (Group 2) households on the HSNP MIS in wealth order. Households that do not have an active bank account will not be selected even where they are lower in the wealth ranking than other households that do have bank accounts, as HSNP has no means of paying them.
3. Where the percentage of routine HHs exceeds the standard percentage of HH eligible for emergency CTS, there will be no additional households.
4. The list of selected HHs will be sent to the Turkana CDC's office that will distribute the lists for each Sub-Location via Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs. The lists will be posted at their local Chief's office and HHs will be notified through radio and public *barazas* to check whether their names are listed.

### d) Geographical Selection criteria and selection of households for Emergency flood preparedness cash transfer payments

1. All Group 2 from the four Counties with active Bank Accounts will receive the one off emergency flood preparedness cash transfer payment.

### e) Payment

1. Emergency drought CTs will only be paid to the selected Group 2 HHs with active bank accounts whereas the emergency flood preparedness CTs will be paid to ALL Group 2 with active bank account.
2. Payment will be through Equity POS Agents, over the Counter at any Equity Branch and ATM if one has a PIN.
3. The value of emergency CT is Kshs. 2,550 (one month equivalent of the routine payment) for the month of September 2015.
4. Routine HSNP beneficiary HHs (Group 1), with active Bank Accounts will continue to receive their bi-monthly payments (Kshs. 5,100) as normal. They will not receive any additional payment for either the drought or flood preparedness emergency CT payments.
5. There will be no back payment due to any HHs that attain activated bank account after the emergency CTs have been made.

### f) Duration and frequency

1. Given the current context it is proposed that **the one off emergency CT payments** are made on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

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Sunya Orre  
Director Technical Services, NDMA  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lonhro Building | Standard Street, Nairobi  
Telephone: +254 020 2227496  
Email: [sunya.orre@ndma.go.ke](mailto:sunya.orre@ndma.go.ke)  
Website: [www.hsnp.or.ke](http://www.hsnp.or.ke) ; [www.ndma.go.ke](http://www.ndma.go.ke)