



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

# WORKING TOGETHER TO END DROUGHT EMERGENCIES IN KENYA BY 2022

## PILLAR 5: DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT

The Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) goal is:

*Communities in drought-prone areas are more resilient to drought and other effects of climate change, and the impacts of drought are contained.*

The focus of the Drought Risk Management Pillar, or Pillar 5, is to develop and strengthen the institutions, mechanisms, and capacities that build resilience to drought and climate change. Drought risk management cuts across the first four EDE pillars (peace and security, climate-proofed infrastructure, human capital and sustainable livelihoods) but also relies on them to build the foundations for drought-resilient livelihoods.

### Rationale

Drought response in Kenya has often been late and reactive due to a number of institutional weaknesses. Government

systems of planning, budgeting and resource allocation are generally not flexible enough to deal with the inherent variability of dryland systems and their changing needs. Finance for drought response can only be obtained through budgetary re-allocations, which are lengthy and divert resources from long-term development. In the counties, traditional structures for drought risk management have been progressively weakened, particularly those which manage conflicts and ensure sustainable natural resource management.

Another challenge is the lack of integration between drought risk management, climate change adaptation and social protection activities, despite the fact that they all share a common goal of managing risk and building the resilience of communities to shocks.

This pillar therefore provides for a paradigm

shift from crisis management to risk management. It focuses on mechanisms that ensure earlier response, the scalability of existing services in response to shocks, market-based approaches, and stronger complementarity of interventions across separate disciplines. Its focus on governance, institutional capacities and the mainstreaming of drought risk management in development reflects the commitments outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### Priorities

The strategic framework for this pillar has the following priorities.<sup>1</sup>

**Result 1: Drought risk reduction, climate change adaptation and social protection measures integrated into development policies, plans, budgets and activities at national and county levels.** This includes linking the priorities in community-level plans with county plans, as well as new financing mechanisms for preparedness, adaptation and risk management, including insurance.

**Result 2: Drought, climate and socio-economic information facilitates concerted and timely action by relevant stakeholders at county, national and regional levels.** This includes strengthening the drought early warning system and climate information services, as well as interaction between these systems at national and regional levels.

**Result 3: Scalable response mechanisms ensure timely and well-coordinated assistance to drought-affected populations.** Drought contingency planning systems need to be fully operational and supported by all stakeholders at the county level with appropriate mechanisms that finance early response, including the National Drought Contingency Fund (NDCF), cash transfers, and risk insurance.

**Result 4: Institutional and legal frameworks for drought risk reduction, climate change adaptation and social protection exist at all levels with adequate capacity,** including passage of the NDMA Bill, operationalisation of the NDCF, and frameworks for social accountability.

**Result 5: Knowledge is effectively managed for evidence-based decision-making and practice.** This includes the participatory development and adoption of standards in drought risk management.

### Structure

The pillar is led by the Ministry of Devolution and Planning through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and co-chaired by WFP, with membership from state and non-state actors and development partners. The primary responsibility for investing in resilience and responding during drought rests with the sectors, at national and county levels, under the coordination of the NDMA. Sector and county plans and budgets should also accommodate preparedness and contingency measures, complemented by finance from the NDCF.

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<sup>1</sup> The pillar frameworks are available for download at <http://www.ndma.go.ke>