



SHOCK RESPONSE UPDATE.

THE KUZA JAMII II PROGRAM

ISSUE NO. 1: DECEMBER - JANUARY 2026

**INNOVATION
AND FORWARD
THINKING**

IN SOCIAL POLICY AND GLOBAL HEALTH.



INTRODUCTION

Kuza Jamii II – Transforming Communities is a four-month economic inclusion program implemented by BOMA, CHASP Advisory, Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF), and Smart Regional Consultants (SRC), with support from the UK Government.

The programme seeks to move beyond cash transfers toward more sustainable social protection approaches by expanding access to economic opportunities for extremely poor households in three Kenyan counties: Wajir, Samburu, and Turkana. The programmes overall objective is to strengthen social and economic inclusion for vulnerable households by improving access to skills, productive inputs, assets, finance, and livelihood opportunities.

CHASP Advisory is spearheading the technical guidance for the implementation of Result Area 3 of Kuza Jamii II, which focuses on strengthening the Government of Kenya’s capacity to deliver effective and sustainable social and economic inclusion services. A key focus within this area is building shock responsiveness, which will enable the project and other government programmes to adapt and respond effectively to emerging challenges, like droughts, floods, or conflicts, that may severely affect the targeted populations.

The quarterly shock update supports Kuza Jamii II partners and stakeholders by providing timely information to anticipate and plan for disruptions that may affect implementation. Findings in this update draw on the NDMA Drought Bulletins for Wajir, Samburu, and Turkana and are intended to inform adaptive programming and coordinated action across the programme.





WAJIR COUNTY



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Wajir County recorded a complete failure of the October–December 2025 short rains, with no rainfall in December. The county is currently in an alert drought phase, and forecasts show that dry and hot conditions are likely to continue into January 2026. Vegetation has declined to a moderate deficit, indicating severe depletion of pasture and browse.

Pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods are under serious strain. Livestock body conditions range from fair to poor, milk production has reduced, and rain-fed crops have completely failed. Access to water has worsened, with increased dependence on boreholes and water trucking, longer trekking distances, and growing pressure on limited water sources.

Nutrition conditions are also deteriorating. 14% of children under five are moderately malnourished, and 35% households report poor food consumption.

The July 2024 SMART survey reported a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 11.2% and Severe Acute Malnutrition at 1.8%, underscoring the urgent need for a comprehensive and targeted response.

SHOCK & RISK PROFILE

Drought:

Widespread drought in Wajir County has led to food insecurity, declining household incomes, and an increased risk of malnutrition among vulnerable populations.

Waterborne Diseases:

Increased reliance on shared human–livestock water sources has increased exposure to waterborne diseases, driven by pressure on limited and often unsafe water points.



PREPAREDNESS & ONGOING RESPONSE

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Drought	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> LOW MODERATE HIGH </div>
<p>Preparedness and Response: Upscaled water trucking; rehabilitation of strategic boreholes; prepositioning of fast-moving spare parts; dissemination of drought early warning information; cash transfers and relief food assistance.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Public Health & WASH Risks	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> LOW MODERATE HIGH </div>
<p>Preparedness and Response: Scale-up of WASH interventions; public health promotion; disease surveillance; provision of safe water and storage facilities in health facilities.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Food Insecurity & Malnutrition	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> LOW MODERATE HIGH </div>
<p>Preparedness and Response: Prepositioning of nutrition commodities; integrated health and nutrition outreach services; cash-based assistance to stabilize household food access.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Feed Shortages & Productivity Decline	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> LOW MODERATE HIGH </div>
<p>Preparedness and Response: Distribution of livestock feed; supportive livestock treatment; protection of core breeding herds.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Diseases	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> LOW MODERATE HIGH </div>
<p>Preparedness and Response: Continuous disease surveillance and monitoring; prepositioning of essential drugs and vaccines.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Resource-Based Conflict	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> LOW MODERATE HIGH </div>
<p>Preparedness and Response: Peacebuilding initiatives in conflict hotspots; activation of conflict mitigation teams; strengthening conflict early warning systems.</p>	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen shock-responsive and nutrition-sensitive social protection systems

Operationalize shock-responsive guidelines under Kuza Jamii II by adapting cash transfers and livelihood support to respond flexibly to drought impacts. Integrate routine malnutrition screening with nutrition-sensitive interventions, including behavior change messaging targeting women and children.

2. Improve access to safe water and basic services

Enhance water access through collaboration with county authorities to scale up water trucking, rehabilitate boreholes, and promote sustainable household-level water storage solutions to reduce health and protection risks.

3. Promote resilient, conflict-sensitive livelihoods and social cohesion

Support climate-resilient and conflict-sensitive livelihood strategies by promoting agro-pastoral diversification and developing non-livestock value chains. Mainstream conflict sensitivity and early warning systems into program planning to mitigate resource-based tensions and strengthen social cohesion in areas affected by population movements.



TURKANACOUNTY



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Turkana County is facing a critical drought situation classified as alert – worsening across all livelihood zones as of January 2026. The failure of the October–December 2025 rains, combined with ongoing food insecurity and weak humanitarian service delivery, has triggered a multi-dimensional crisis affecting pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

Livestock body condition has remained fair to good due to browse availability and herder scavenging efforts, maintaining relatively stable goat prices. The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition has risen to 34.4%, well above long-term averages, with acute malnutrition rates ranging from 36.2% to 54% across sub-counties. An estimated 87,249 children aged 6–59 months and 35,844 pregnant and lactating women require treatment for acute malnutrition.

Without an immediate and scaled-up response across food security, health, water, and livelihoods, conditions are likely to deteriorate further, pushing Turkana from alert – worsening into an emergency phase during the January–February 2026 dry season.

SHOCK & RISK PROFILE

Drought – Alert-Worsening

Turkana County remains in an alert-worsening drought phase, with rainfall at 67% of normal and severe vegetation deficits. Critical decline persists in Turkana East, South, and Loima (VCI 52.46–55.94), while other areas face low river flows. Zero harvests are expected, and livestock migration is rising as grazing pressure and coping capacity worsen into the Jan–Feb 2026 dry season.



Mobility & Water Access

Livestock movement is intensifying as households migrate toward better forage, with trekking distances up 18% to 11.3 km. Water access is worsening in Turkana North, East, and Loima due to declining surface and groundwater sources. Household water costs rise from Ksh 5 at source to Ksh 20–30 at the doorstep, restricting access for the poorest and hitting pastoral livelihoods hardest.

Nutrition & Food Security

Nutrition is deteriorating, with at-risk MUAC rising to 34.4% county-wide and acute malnutrition ranging from 36.2% to 54% across sub-counties, affecting 87,249 children and 35,844 pregnant and lactating mothers. Rising maize and bean prices (both up 6%) and shrinking household stocks signal fragile food security, as terms of trade fall 2% and pastoral purchasing power declines. Coping remains stressed (CSI 14.5–17.2), with agro-pastoral and fishing communities facing zero harvests and collapsing water-based incomes.

Livestock Disease

Livestock disease risk remains moderate, with PPR, CCPP, LSD, trypanosomiasis, ECF, and tsetse infestation reported but few mortalities reported to date. However, lack of vaccination and increased livestock movement heighten outbreak risk as herds concentrate and migrate. Without disease control measures, the risk will continue to escalate.

PREPAREDNESS & ONGOING RESPONSE

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Drought	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>NDMA monthly early warning bulletins issued; underground water sources monitored; county drought contingency plans under review for January-February 2026 activation.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Mobility & Water Access	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>Boreholes operational county-wide; traditional river wells preferred source (31% usage); county government water trucking standby for hard-to-reach areas (Kibish, Suguta).</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Nutrition & Food Security	LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

IMAM program at 23% coverage (119/498 outreaches); 3,500 kgs CSB++ purchased for Kalobeyei Reception Centre (700 children); mass screening conducted across hotspots.

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Disease	LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

Veterinary department disease surveillance active; common diseases identified (PPR, CCPP, LSD, Trypanosomiasis); Department of Livestock supporting camel milk/poultry/red meat value chains.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen fodder production and livestock market stabilization

Establish Shock-Responsive, Decentralized Fodder Production Hubs with IMAM Surge Capacity and Emergency Water Systems to Stabilize TOT, Prevent Malnutrition Crisis, and Secure Water Access

2. Expand nutrition surge and outreach services

Strengthen shock-responsive drought response in Turkana by investing in decentralized fodder production and preservation hubs in agro-pastoral buffer zones to stabilize livestock markets and protect pastoral livelihoods. At the same time, rapidly scale up IMAM surge capacity to restore nutrition outreach coverage in priority hotspots, targeting children and pregnant and lactating women at highest risk.

3. Enhance emergency water supply and livestock disease control

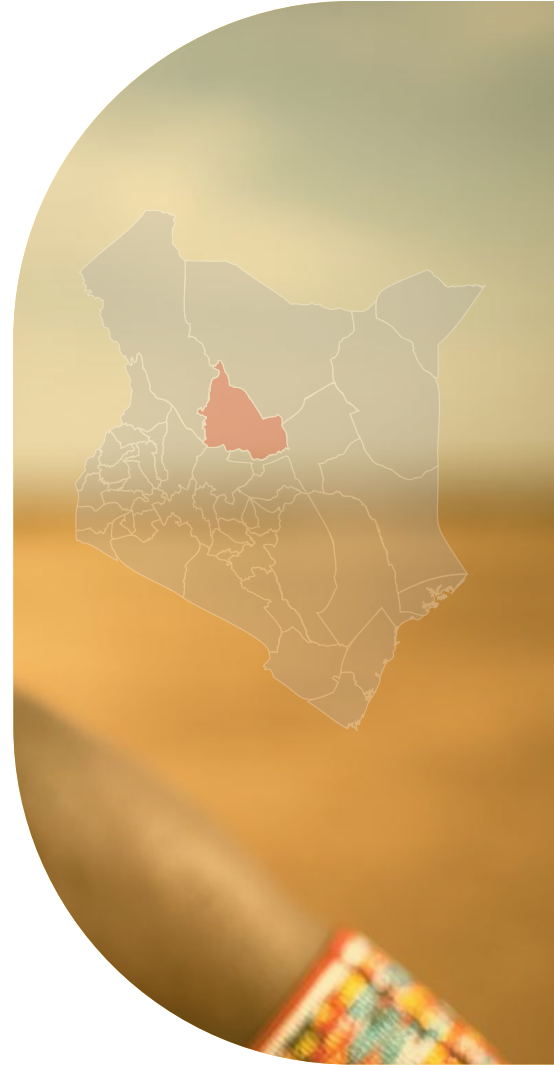
Accelerate emergency water interventions through the drilling of boreholes, extension of pipelines, and water trucking in critical shortage areas, alongside integrated livestock vaccination campaigns to reduce disease risks linked to increased migration.

4. Implement shock-responsive cash transfers and livelihood adaptation

Kuza Jamii II should activate temporary shock-responsive cash top-ups and livelihood protection measures, while shifting programme activities toward low-water and non-livestock livelihood options. Implementation should be aligned with nutrition and water access hotspots, using community structures to support early warning, household stress monitoring, and referrals to essential services.



SAMBURU COUNTY



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Samburu County is currently in the Normal drought phase, but the October–December (OND) short rains were poorly distributed, leading to localized stress and limited water recharge. Vegetation conditions remain generally normal across the county; however, Samburu East, particularly Waso Ward, is experiencing poorer conditions due to increased livestock in-migration, which is placing added pressure on pasture and water resources.

Nutrition risks are rising despite the overall normal drought classification. The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition has increased to 19%, alongside a 27% decline in household milk consumption. Samburu East and parts of Samburu North are emerging as multi-hazard hotspots, driven by drought stress, conflict risk, and worsening nutrition outcomes.

December monitoring data confirms an upward trend in malnutrition risk. The share of children at risk (MUAC 125–134 mm) rose from 17% in November to 19% in December, with cases largely concentrated in pastoral livelihood zones. This highlights that while county-level conditions appear stable, vulnerable pastoral households are experiencing declining nutrition linked to reduced milk availability.

SHOCK & RISK PROFILE

The primary risks in Samburu include localized drought impacts, heightened resource-based conflict linked to livestock in-migration, and persistent livestock diseases such as FMD, PPR, and CCPP. While overall conditions remain stable, the convergence of these risks could lead to rapid deterioration if dry conditions persist.

SAMBURU COUNTY

PREPAREDNESS & ONGOING RESPONSE

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Drought / Food Insecurity	
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>Social Safety Nets: HSNP cash transfers targeting 8,011 households, each receiving Ksh 2,700.</p> <p>Water: Repair and rehabilitation of boreholes in Suguta, Loosuk, and Lodojek wards (Samburu Central/West).</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Market Price Volatility	
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>Support to household purchasing power through HSNP cash transfers (8,011 HHs, Ksh 2,700 each). Promotion of crop residues as livestock feed to reduce market dependence.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Disease	
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>Surveillance: Management of diseases (FMD, CCPP, PPR) and development of livestock migration protocols in Samburu East.</p> <p>Insurance: Livestock insurance coverage for 6,000 households countywide.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Conflict (Resource-based)	
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>Security: Enhanced security patrols in hotspot areas and along major highways.</p> <p>Peace Building: Development of standard operating procedures for drought anticipatory actions and strengthening landscape management mechanisms in Waso Ward.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Nutritional Support	
<p>Preparedness and Response:</p> <p>County recommendations include mapping health and education institutions that may require water trucking during the Jan-Mar 2026 dry season, which is critical for safeguarding the nutritional security of children within these institutions.</p> <p>Current responses lack direct, nutrition-specific interventions targeting children</p>	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Incorporate Nutrition-Sensitive Provisions in Shock Response Guidelines

Kuza Jamii II should embed clear nutrition-sensitive triggers and response actions within its shock response guidelines during validation and rollout. Responses can be activated when child malnutrition (MUAC) rises for two consecutive months or exceeds agreed thresholds in target areas.

2. Target Samburu East for Enhanced Monitoring and Piloting

Samburu East should be designated a high-risk priority area for monitoring and piloting shock-responsive mechanisms. The programme should leverage Community Resource Persons, Beneficiary Welfare Committees, and existing community structures to support early warning dissemination, identify vulnerable households using ESR data, and coordinate localized early actions such as community food support and referrals to water services.

3. Align programme activities with seasonal early warning and coordination platforms

Project activities should be guided by NDMA seasonal forecasts to prioritize income diversification and asset protection ahead of the peak dry season, while leveraging post-harvest opportunities in Samburu Central for skills in crop processing, storage, and marketing.

Kuza Jamii II should also use county coordination platforms (e.g., County Steering Groups - CSGs, EIP Committees) that Kuza Jamii II aims to strengthen to highlight nutrition and water service gaps and align safety nets, livestock, and water interventions with programme activities to reduce duplication and coverage gaps.



THE KUZA JAMII II PROGRAM



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