



SHOCK RESPONSE UPDATE.

THE KUZA JAMII II PROGRAM

ISSUE NO.2: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

**INNOVATION
AND FORWARD
THINKING**

IN SOCIAL POLICY AND GLOBAL HEALTH.

CHASP
ADVISORY



INTRODUCTION

Kuza Jamii II - Transforming Communities is a six-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 project aims to transition from cash transfers to more sustainable social protection programs by enhancing access to economic opportunities for extremely poor households in three Kenyan counties – Wajir, Samburu and Turkana. The project's objective is to enhance access of extremely poor and vulnerable households to social and economic inclusion services by increasing household access to skills, productive inputs, assets, finance, and economic opportunities.

CHASP Advisory is spearheading the technical guidance for the implementation of Result 3 of the Kuza Jamii Program. This component aims to enhance the capacity of the Kenyan government to deliver sustainable and effective 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 conflict, that may severely affect the targeted populations.

The 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 remains in the Alarm drought phase with a worsening trend, according to the January 2026 NDMA Early Warning Bulletin. The absence of rainfall and the failure of the 2025 short rains have caused severe biophysical deterioration, with the Vegetation Condition Index falling to 9.2, indicating extreme vegetation deficits. Water pans have dried up, increasing dependence on boreholes and water trucking, while both domestic and livestock trekking distances have risen, reflecting significant water and rangeland stress.

Poor pasture and browse conditions have led to declining livestock body conditions, reduced milk production and consumption, near-total crop failure in rain-fed areas, falling livestock prices, rising maize prices, and worsening household terms of trade. As a result, food insecurity is intensifying, with 35% of pastoral households reporting poor food consumption scores.

The nutrition situation is also critical. The January 2026 SMART survey reports Global Acute Malnutrition at 19.2% and Severe Acute Malnutrition at 3.7%, with a growing proportion of children at risk of moderate malnutrition. Reduced milk availability and increasing food insecurity are key drivers of this decline. For the Kuza Jamii II Programme, these conditions present serious operational and livelihood risks, including diversion of cash transfers to immediate consumption, disrupted group participation due to migration, and increased vulnerability among target households.

SHOCK & RISK PROFILE

Wajir County is experiencing a compounded drought shock driven by the failure of the 2025 short rains and prolonged dry conditions, as reported by the National Drought Management Authority. Extreme vegetation deficit (VCI 9.2), drying water pans, and extended trekking distances for households and livestock indicate severe pressure on rangeland resources.

Livestock body conditions have deteriorated to fair-to-poor levels, milk production has declined, and crop failure has eliminated seasonal food stocks in agro-pastoral areas. These factors are weakening household purchasing power, worsening food consumption, and increasing the risk of acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women. Declining terms of trade, driven by falling livestock prices and rising maize prices, further deepen economic vulnerability.

Migration and resource competition are also intensifying pressures. In-migration of livestock into better-watered areas and out-migration to neighboring counties are increasing strain on scarce water and pasture resources. Although no major conflict incidents were reported in January 2026, the risk of resource-based conflict remains high if conditions worsen. The county is also facing a deteriorating nutrition situation and an elevated risk of livestock disease outbreaks and waterborne illnesses due to overcrowding at water points and reduced watering frequency.

PREPAREDNESS & ONGOING RESPONSE

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Drought	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale up community water trucking in all sub-counties. Repair and rehabilitate strategic boreholes and provide fast-moving spare parts. Preposition fuel subsidies for borehole operations. Disseminate drought early warning information to communities and programme actors. Trigger shock-responsive cash top-ups under Kuza Jamii II for the most vulnerable households. 	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Resource-Based Conflict due to Migration	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensify peace dialogues in migration hotspots. Activate community-based conflict early warning systems. Coordinate with county peace committees. Apply conflict-sensitive programming approaches in Kuza Jamii II group activities. 	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Food Insecurity & Rising Malnutrition	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen linkages to ongoing cash transfers (WFP and partners). Integrate routine MUAC screening within community group meetings. Preposition and distribute nutrition commodities (RUSF, CSB++). Scale up integrated health and nutrition outreaches. Enhance SBCC messaging on dietary diversity and child feeding practices. 	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Public Health & WASH Risks	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale up WASH interventions and hygiene promotion. Provide water storage tanks to health facilities and schools. Ensure water treatment chemical distribution. Strengthen disease surveillance and rapid response at facility level. 	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Productivity Decline & Asset Loss	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote timely destocking to protect household income. Distribute livestock feed supplements where feasible. Support livestock treatment and vaccination campaigns. Encourage livelihood diversification (non-livestock microenterprises). Protect core breeding herds through targeted advisory support. 	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Disease Outbreaks	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen disease surveillance and rapid reporting systems. Preposition essential veterinary drugs and vaccines. Conduct vaccination campaigns in high-risk zones. Train community animal health workers for early detection and response. 	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Shock-Responsive Economic Inclusion and Livelihood Protection

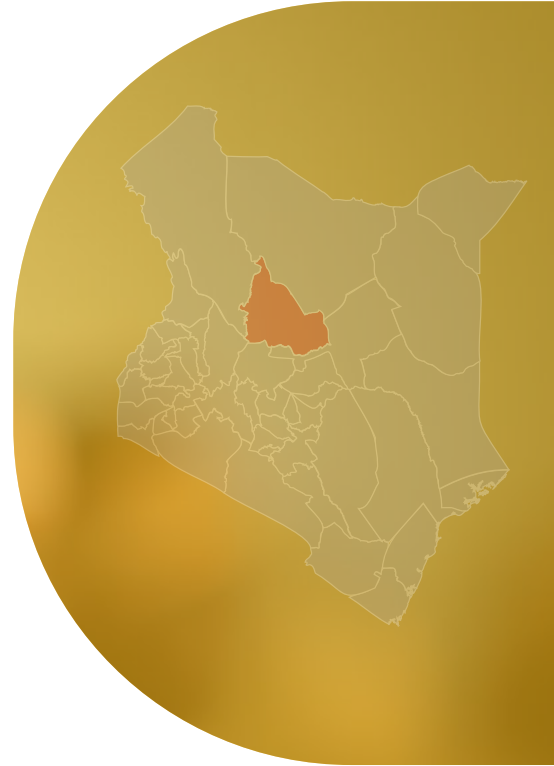
To safeguard programme gains during the ongoing Alarm drought phase, Kuza Jamii II partners should operationalize Shock-Responsive Economic Inclusion by adapting cash transfers and livelihood support to provide flexible assistance to the most vulnerable households. This includes introducing temporary cash top-ups when early warning thresholds are triggered, adjusting savings and repayment expectations, strengthening linkages with government and partner assistance, and protecting productive assets through livestock health support, timely destocking, and livelihood diversification. These actions should be guided by county early warning data to ensure timely, evidence-based responses.

2. Nutrition, WASH, and Conflict-Sensitive Community Support

At the same time, integrating routine MUAC screening, social and behaviour change communication, expanded WASH interventions, and improved water access will help address rising malnutrition and public health risks. Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity and coordinating with county peace structures will also be critical to manage migration pressures, protect household welfare, and sustain programme continuity in drought-affected areas.



SAMBURU COUNTY



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The January 2026 Short Rains Assessment (SRA) indicates a deteriorating food security situation in Samburu County, particularly within pastoral livelihood zones. The county is currently classified under IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in pastoral areas, while agro-pastoral zones remain relatively stable under IPC Phase 1 (Minimal).

The current situation is driven by poor pasture conditions, declining water availability, livestock disease outbreaks, and increasing resource-based conflict linked to livestock migration. Pasture in pastoral areas is currently poor and expected to last less than one month, triggering mass livestock movements affecting nearly 90% of cattle.

Food consumption indicators also show deterioration. Nearly half of households in pastoral areas have unacceptable Food Consumption Scores (FCS) and rely on limited diets consisting mainly of maize, oil, and salt. More than 50% of households are employing crisis or stress coping strategies, including reducing meal frequency.

The nutrition situation is worsening, with 26% of children currently at risk of malnutrition (MUAC) and the trend is increasing. The most common illnesses reported include Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) and diarrheal diseases, both associated with declining nutrition and poor water access.

Weather forecasts indicate that conditions may continue deteriorating through February–March 2026 due to limited rainfall. However, the March–May (MAM) 2026 seasonal forecast predicts near-average to above-average rainfall, which could support pasture regeneration, water recharge, and livestock recovery beginning in April.

Likely Impacted Sub-Counties:

Samburu East – remains the most severely affected sub-county. The SRA highlights severe pasture depletion, massive livestock immigration, dry surface water sources, reduced borehole discharge, and rising insecurity. Approximately 45,000 people (about 50% of the population) require immediate food assistance. The wards most affected include Wamba North, Wamba West and Waso. These areas are experiencing simultaneous risks related to food security, nutrition deterioration, water scarcity, and conflict.

Samburu West (Increasing Pressure) – Samburu West remains comparatively more stable due to agro-pastoral production and irrigation agriculture. However, livestock influx from neighbouring counties is increasing pressure on local pasture and water resources. Approximately 14,750 people (8% of the population) require food assistance, particularly in Poro, Lodokejek and Loosuk. These areas are also experiencing localized insecurity and conflict risks linked to grazing competition.

SHOCK & RISK PROFILE

- IPC Phase: Phase 3 (Crisis) in pastoral zones
- Children at risk of malnutrition: 26%
- Households using crisis/stress coping strategies: >50%
- Livestock affected by migration pressure: ~90%
- Population needing food assistance – Samburu East: ~45,000
- Population needing food assistance – Samburu West: ~14,750



SAMBURU COUNTY

PREPAREDNESS & ONGOING RESPONSE

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Food Insecurity / Drought Stress	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response: NDMA working on disbursing Cash top-ups to group 2 HSNP to protect household consumption and prevent negative coping strategies.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Market Price Volatility	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response: no ongoing intervention.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Livestock Disease (FMD, PPR, CCPP)	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response: Ongoing livestock surveillance and vaccination campaigns through county veterinary services.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Resource-Based Conflict	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response: Through the office of the county commissioner and NGAO structures ongoing peace-building mechanisms and grazing management coordination in Samburu East.</p>	

POTENTIAL SHOCK	LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT
Nutrition Deterioration	LOW MODERATE HIGH
<p>Preparedness and Response: Ongoing Mass screening across the 3 sub counties to and linking vulnerable households to health services.</p>	

RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediate Shock-Responsive Adaptation (Feb – Mar 2026) - The deterioration in food security conditions risks eroding economic inclusion gains among programme participants, particularly in pastoral areas.

Targeted Cash Top-Ups - Provide unconditional top-up transfers to KUZA Jamii beneficiaries in the most affected wards including Wamba North, Wamba West, Waso, Poro, Loosuk and Suguta Marmar. These transfers will help bridge food consumption gaps and prevent distress sale of productive assets or reduced food intake.

Enhanced Monitoring - Strengthen post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and community feedback systems to track: Household food consumption, Market access, Coping strategies, Early warning indicators with CRPs should support rapid reporting and early warning dissemination.

Community Sensitization - Disseminate information on the anticipated MAM rains and promote: Early land preparation, Kitchen gardens, Livestock vaccination and treatment.



TURKANACOUNTY



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The 2025 Short Rains Assessment (SRA) indicates that Turkana County’s food security situation has deteriorated to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) following the poor performance of the October–December 2025 short rains. The rainfall deficit resulted in widespread crop failure, reduced pasture regeneration, and declining water availability across pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

The situation has been compounded by livestock disease outbreaks (PPR, CBPP, CCP and FMD), increasing resource-based conflicts, and the continued Lake Turkana backflow, which has disrupted fishing livelihoods and displaced households along the lake shoreline. As a result, an estimated 322,200 people in Turkana County require urgent food assistance, with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates exceeding emergency thresholds (above 22%) in several sub-counties.

The deterioration in food security conditions poses risks to livelihood stability, child nutrition, and household resilience, particularly among vulnerable households participating in the KUZA Jamii economic inclusion programme. Households are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies, including distress livestock sales, reduced food consumption, and withdrawal of children from school.

Likely Impacted Sub-Counties:

The most significant impacts of the current food security crisis in Turkana County are concentrated in Turkana Central, Turkana East, and Turkana South, where households are facing multiple overlapping shocks including poor rainfall performance, crop failure, declining livestock productivity, and limited access to health and nutrition services.

Turkana Central is further affected by the Lake Turkana backflow, which has disrupted fishing livelihoods and displaced shoreline communities. In Turkana East and Turkana South, crop losses, invasive species, deteriorating irrigation systems, and localized insecurity are reducing agricultural production and household income.

Additional areas experiencing considerable stress include Loima, Turkana North, and Turkana West, where pastoral communities are affected by livestock disease outbreaks, reduced pasture availability, and growing competition over scarce natural resources. These sub-counties collectively represent the highest concentration of vulnerable households, particularly among pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, and fishing communities whose livelihoods remain highly sensitive to climate shocks.

SHOCK & RISK PROFILE

- The nutrition situation has significantly deteriorated, with Turkana South and East classified as Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) and other parts of the county in Critical levels (Phase 4). Combined with increased disease burden and poor dietary diversity, these factors are driving rising malnutrition and vulnerability among pastoral and agro-pastoral households.
- Increased negative coping strategies, including distress livestock sales.
- Reduced participation in economic inclusion activities.
- Increased school absenteeism and child labor.
- Heightened nutrition and health risks for children.

TURKAN COUNTY

PREPAREDNESS & ONGOING RESPONSE

POTENTIAL SHOCK

Food Insecurity /
Drought Stress

LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT

LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

Cash top-ups to Group 2 HSNP and food assistance programmes targeting vulnerable households are ongoing through NDMA in collaboration with the national and county governments to support food consumption and mitigate negative coping strategies.

POTENTIAL SHOCK

Early Warning
Monitoring

LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT

LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

NDMA continues to monitor drought early warning indicators including pasture, water availability, market prices, and household food consumption trends to inform timely response actions.

POTENTIAL SHOCK

Livestock Disease
(FMD, PPR, CCPP)

LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT

LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

Livestock disease surveillance and vaccination campaigns are ongoing through county veterinary services to reduce livestock morbidity and mortality.

POTENTIAL SHOCK

Nutrition
Deterioration

LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT

LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

Nutrition interventions are ongoing to support the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition, including screening, referral, and linkage of vulnerable children and mothers to health and nutrition services.

POTENTIAL SHOCK

Household Livelihood
Vulnerability

LIKELIHOOD/IMPACT

LOW MODERATE HIGH

Preparedness and Response:

The KUZA Jamii II programme continues to strengthen household resilience through economic inclusion interventions and livelihood support to reduce vulnerability to climate-related shocks

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Immediate Shock-Responsive Adaptation (Feb – Mar 2026)

The continued drought conditions and food insecurity risks threaten to undermine economic inclusion gains among programme participants, particularly in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

2. Temporary Cash Transfer Top-Ups

Provide temporary unconditional cash transfer top-ups to KUZA Jamii beneficiaries in severely affected sub-counties, including the Lake Zone ward, to support food consumption and prevent the adoption of negative coping strategies.

3. Enhanced Monitoring

Strengthen Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and community feedback mechanisms to track household food consumption patterns, market access and price trends, household coping strategies, and early warning indicators. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) should support rapid reporting and early dissemination of early warning information.

4. Linkages to Agricultural Recovery

Link programme beneficiaries to agricultural recovery interventions such as the distribution of drought-resilient seeds and climate-smart farming practices to support household food production and recovery.

5. Livestock Protection Measures

Support livestock protection initiatives, including vaccination campaigns, veterinary outreach services, and livestock disease surveillance, to safeguard key pastoral livelihood assets.

6. Community Awareness and Early Warning

Strengthen community awareness and early warning messaging through CRPs and local leadership structures to promote drought preparedness and timely response actions.

7. Inclusive Support to Vulnerable Groups

Prioritize inclusive support to vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, women-headed



THE KUZA JAMII II PROGRAM



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