



PRESS RELEASE

Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) releases its first emergency cash transfers to over 90,000 additional vulnerable households in Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana, says National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)

In an effort to combat the current severe drought, the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) has released its first emergency cash transfers worth Kshs. 416,710,700 to an additional 90,648 vulnerable households in parts of Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana. The payments were made on 15th April 2015. These four counties are among the poorest in Kenya and have been the worst affected by the current drought from January to March.

On 5th May 2015, a further Kshs. 447,496,150 will also be released to the existing 76,090 households who are currently the regular beneficiaries of the HSNP in the same four counties.

Therefore, in total, during April and May, Kshs. 0.9 billion will be released to 166,738 households (approximately one million people). All payments are made electronically directly to beneficiary bank accounts. Beneficiaries must have a valid ID and active account to be able to receive payments.

The emergency cash transfers made on 15th April represent the first rapid drought response of this kind and at this scale in Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa.

“Timely delivery of cash transfers in response to severe drought situations has proven to be effective. It affords households greater dignity and gives them more flexibility in how they choose to cope. By transferring the payments directly into their accounts, the assistance is given quickly and accountably. We believe that an intervention on this scale will help cushion thousands of people from the current drought and from sinking further into poverty,” says James Oduor, CEO of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).

HSNP is a flagship programme under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, managed by the NDMA. HSNP provides regular and predictable cash transfers for up to 100,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable households in its four target counties. It can also deliver emergency payments to additional households in response to drought. The emergency payment on 15th April was the first time this has been done.

Poverty levels in the four counties are high and droughts are frequent. While HSNP's contribution will help, as resources are limited, it cannot reach all those in need.

“We therefore urge the County Governments and other partners to work together with HSNP and see how they can support the programme in reaching out to more people,” says James Oduor.

HSNP is part of the National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) and is funded by the Governments of Kenya, the UK (UKAid through the Department for International Development) and Australia (Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade).

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Read more: www.hsnap.or.ke , Facebook Page: Hunger Safety Net Programme-Kenya, NDMA: www.ndma.go.ke

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