

An information sharing tool for the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) stakeholders

## Drought Management Agency Disburses KSh517 Million to Cushion Drought-hit Kenyans



NDMA CEO Lt. Col. (Rtd) Hared Hassan Adan (Standing left) and Mr Abdinoor Dunow, the Garissa County Drought Coordinator (standing right) look on as an enumerator collects data in a household in Garissa County in the ongoing registration of potential beneficiaries

The Government, through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), has disbursed KSh517 million to the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) beneficiaries in Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana counties.

The disbursement to cover 94,000 poor and vulnerable households is part of the routine cash transfer to Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties under the NDMA.

The Authority disbursed a further KSh150 million under the drought shock-responsive cash transfer portfolio to an additional 55,699 households in Mandera, Marsabit and Wajir counties.

The cash disbursements were part of the World Bank-funded Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP).

Each household under the routine segment is entitled to KSh5,400 while those under the shock-responsive portfolio receive KSh2,700 monthly.

“This will go a long way in ensuring food for the vulnerable households in these four counties, which are among the most affected by drought occasioned by three consecutive failed rain seasons,” said NDMA chief executive officer Lt. Col. (Rtd) Hared Hassan Adan.

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Security Assessment Report released in February, the counties of Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir, and Mandera were among those singled out as having huge populations in dire need of relief assistance.

“The number of people in need of relief assistance has increased from 3.1 million in February to 3.5 million in April,” Adan said. “The Government has increased relief assistance with the help of other development partners,” he added.

The HSNP beneficiaries will begin receiving their payments on May 27, 2022 through Equity Agents and branches within their regions.

The payment, covering the March-April payment cycle, has seen Mandera and Marsabit counties, with over 20,000 and 19,000 beneficiaries respectively, receive KSh111 million and KSh107 million respectively.

Wajir county, with over 18,000 beneficiaries, received KSh98 million.

Since September 2021, the Government has disbursed over KSh2.11 billion in cash transfers under HSNP and a further KSh 8.58 billion targeting the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children and People with severe Disabilities

### KSh 517 Million

Amount disbursed under HSNP to 94,000 poor and vulnerable households in Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Turkana counties

# New Registration to Raise 5,000 More NICHE Beneficiaries

An additional 5,000 beneficiaries will be brought on board after the ongoing On-Demand Registration (ODR) by the Nutrition Improvements through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) programme is completed at the end of June 2022.

This will bring to 13,800 the total number of households who will benefit from NICHE top-up payments at the start of financial year 2022/2023.

As part of the exercise, communities in Kilifi, Kitui, Marsabit, West Pokot and Turkana counties are being sensitised on how to become part of programme.

As per the ODR guidelines, sensitisation involves providing information to communities on the broad objectives of the programme, eligibility criteria, the procedures of registration, the transfer value, the transfer cycle, and the mechanisms for grievances and case management.

Department of Children Services Assistant Director Frankline Makhulu said the registration started in early May and involves National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) officers including chiefs and sub-chief. The officials are trained and empowered with NICHE information for sharing with communities.

“Once the community leaders have been trained, community mobilisation and sensitisation through barazas will then follow,” he said.

Makhulu said NICHE Beneficiary Application Forms will be made available, free of charge, at offices of the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, Community Health Assistants, and within local health facilities.

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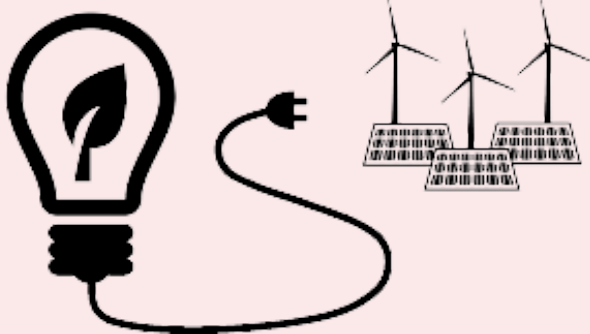
**Frankyn Makhulu**

Before the final approval of the new beneficiary households, ODR Guidelines require that confirmation of eligibility/listing, and household level verification be conducted.

The approved beneficiary list should, within 7 days, be shared with the respective Community Health Units to allocate the newly registered households to specific Community Health Volunteers for purposes of providing the required nutrition support services.

The On-Demand Registration (ODR) is being conducted by the NICHE multi-sectoral committee through Technical Support from UNICEF.

## Project Enlists 4,700 Households to Clean Energy



**A total of 4,730 households from Kilifi and Garissa Counties in the Inua Jamii cash transfer programme are accessing clean energy thanks to the Mwangaza Mashinani, an energy cash transfer initiative.**

Implemented by UNICEF and the Government of Kenya, the project has been providing solar devices to Inua Jamii beneficiaries, which has seen an improvement in security and children’s school attendance and performance.

Several beneficiaries in the Inua Jamii cash transfer lack access to clean energy, according to Peter Ombasa, Assistant Director, Department of Children Services.

This undermines the living conditions of households especially in the off-grid/remote areas as witnessed in the selected pilot counties of Kitui and Garissa,” Ombasa said.

Mwangaza Mashinani aims to improve living conditions amongst the poorest segment of the population by fostering solar energy access through a cash transfer scheme building upon the NSNP.

The pilot project targets beneficiary households including orphans and vulnerable children, older people’s cash transfer and persons with disabilities in off-grid communities with at least one child enrolled in school, with no solar devices, and willing to pay a deposit of KShs 250.

“The solar devices are acting as a source of security against theft of belongings and livestock, and safety against snakes or other wild animals that are put off by the light,” Ombasa said.

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## Mwangaza Mashinani Project Gives Hope to Thousands of Inua Jamii Beneficiaries

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“It has also led to reduced spending on lighting and charging of mobile phones, and the number of children attending school has improved so is their performance,” he added.

Ombasa said the pilot project did not have specific impacts on the health and livelihoods of the beneficiary.

“However, we acknowledge the positive impact on household’s access to better energy, increase on the

children’s study time, especially at night and improved school grades of the children,” he said.

The project, he added, was a timely innovation in the ‘cash plus agenda’ considered as complementary programme in the wider social protection interventions.

Such programmes seek to facilitate access to social services, promote livelihoods, training, foster labour and economic inclusion, he said.

## KSh8.61 Billion Released to Inua Jamii, NICHE Programme Beneficiaries

The Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special programmes has released KSh8,574,848,000 for payment to beneficiaries enrolled in the Inua Jamii programme, and a further KSh 27,109,000 for complimentary programme of Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE).

The Inua Jamii programme is a Government cash transfer programme that supports the most vulnerable members of the community by providing them with a stipend to cushion them from poverty, hunger and with the aim of improving their lives.

The programme targets Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC); Older Persons; and Persons with Severe Disabilities.

In a press statement, Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes Principal Secretary Nelson Marwa said the payments began on May 5, 2022.

“Funds were credited directly to the accounts of 1,071,856 Inua Jamii beneficiaries,” he said.

Each of the beneficiaries received KSh8,000 being payment for November-December 2021 and January-February 2022 payment cycles.

NICHE is a Government complimentary intervention that combines social protection, nutrition, and child protection programming. The project is implemented in the five ASAL counties of Kitui, Kilifi, Marsabit, Turkana and West Pokot.

It targets Inua Jamii and Hunger Safety Net Programme beneficiaries’ households with children under two years old and pregnant mothers. Under the programme, a household with one child under 24 months or a pregnant mother will receive a minimum of KSh500 per month.

A household with more than one child under 24 months, or more than one pregnant mother, receives a maximum of KSh1,000 per month.



A total of 7,454 Inua Jamii beneficiaries will receive a top up of KSh3,000 and KShs 6000 respectively, for three payment cycles (July-August 2021, November- December 2021 and January-February 2022),” read the press statement.

On the other hand, 3,400 HSNP beneficiaries will receive top up of KSh2000 and KSh4,000 respectively for two payment cycles (November- December 2021 and January-February 2022).

The Government made the payments through the six contracted banks - Cooperative Bank, Equity Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank, Kenya Women Microfinance Bank, National Bank of Kenya and PostBank. The Government has adopted a multi-agency approach in the payment process involving the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, County Governments, Ministry of Health, elected leaders and Ministries’ field staff to ensure seamless coordination.

# Government Launches National Plan of Action to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



## The Government has launched the first ever National Plan of Action to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) in Kenya.

Launched by the State Department for Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes and UNICEF, the plan revealed that 55% of children have accessed adult pornography and are exposed to sexual exploitation.

The findings also show that children are widely engaged in online dating but tend not to view it as abuse.

Speaking during launch of the report, Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Prof Margaret Kobia said although adoption of digital technology has seen an unprecedented increase in access to knowledge by children, their rights are at risk of being compromised through crimes including sexual exploitation and abuse. "The mass use of the internet and new technologies has amplified the production and circulation of illegal child sexual abuse materials and increased the incidences of online grooming for sexual abuse, sextortion, sexting, and the conduct of other forms of exploitation, including live streaming of child sexual abuse," said Prof Kobia.

At the event, stakeholders expressed concern over the worrying trends of children being exposed to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Prof Kobia said protection of children remained a key priority of the Government with a focus to protect children from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.

She called collaboration with development partners, international partners, industry, private sector, civil society organizations and community members to ensure successful implementation of the plan.

"It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the shift online of many aspects of children's lives necessitating the need to work together to protect children in the digital environment," she said.

UNICEF representative in Kenya Maniza Zaman lauded the Government of Kenya for the achievements made towards protection of children, adding that a lot needed to be done, including tracing the families and reuniting children to their families.

"More action is needed to prevent the separation of children from their parents in the first place," she said.

"We need to support all children currently living in institutions including tracing their families and reintegrating them into a family setting where possible," said Zaman.

The costed National Plan of Action to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is a historic document and the first of its kind in Kenya.

It aims to guide government, industry, policymakers, civil society organisations and communities to take the right measures to ensure the internet is safe for children.



"It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the shift online of many aspects of children's lives necessitating the need to work together to protect children in the digital environment," she said.

**Prof Margaret Kobia**