



KENYA NUTRITION SITUATION OVERVIEW

ARID AND SEMI-ARID AREAS (ASAL), FEBRUARY 2019

Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for acute malnutrition has been conducted as part of the Short Rains Assessment (SRA). The analysis shows the nutrition situation is stable across the Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) areas (Figure 1) though still critical in some counties. Turkana, Samburu and Mandera counties as well as East Pokot and North Horr sub-counties have remained at critical level (Phase 4; GAM WHZ 15.0 - 29.9 percent) while Wajir, Tana River, West Pokot, Garissa and Laisamis counties are at serious level (Phase 3; GAM WHZ 10.0 -14.9 percent). Isiolo, Saku and Moyale are classified as alert (Phase 2; GAM WHZ ≥ 5 to 9.9 percent) while Laikipia, Kitui, Kajiado, Taita Taveta, Kilifi, Kwale and Lamu are at acceptable level (Phase 1; GAM WHZ <5 percent). Nutrition situation is likely to remain stable across the areas during the projection period except for Wajir-Pastoral and Tana River which are likely to deteriorate to critical and Isiolo to serious phase respectively (Figure 2).

The negative effects of the below average 2018 short rains was offset by the positive impacts of the 2018 long rains which resulted in substantial regeneration of pasture, improved crop production and subsequently improved food and nutrition security situation. As a result stable food prices and access to markets, favorable terms of trade, reasonable milk availability in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas and food stocks in agricultural areas were recorded during the period under review. However, poor child feeding and care practices, low level of maternal education, reliance on rain fed agriculture and livestock production, and poor access to health care services continue to negatively impact health and nutrition situation especially in the arid counties. While the nutrition situation is projected to remain stable in most areas, there is potential for fast deterioration should the 2019 long rains performance be poor.

The estimated number of children 6 to 59 months requiring treatment is 541,309 with more increase observed in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) caseloads (Figure 3 and Table 1). The increase was mainly informed by the review and consideration of SAM program admissions where over achievement of SAM program admission was recorded surpassing the targets for 2018 (Figure 4) despite modest coverages being observed during coverage assessments. The capacity of the health system has been improving over the past several years in relation to continued recruitment of health workers, increasing number of health facilities and improved delivery of commodities directly to health facilities. Hence several counties surpassed their respective targets, and in some cases the estimated total caseload leading to adjustment of estimates to fit to the actual admissions observed.

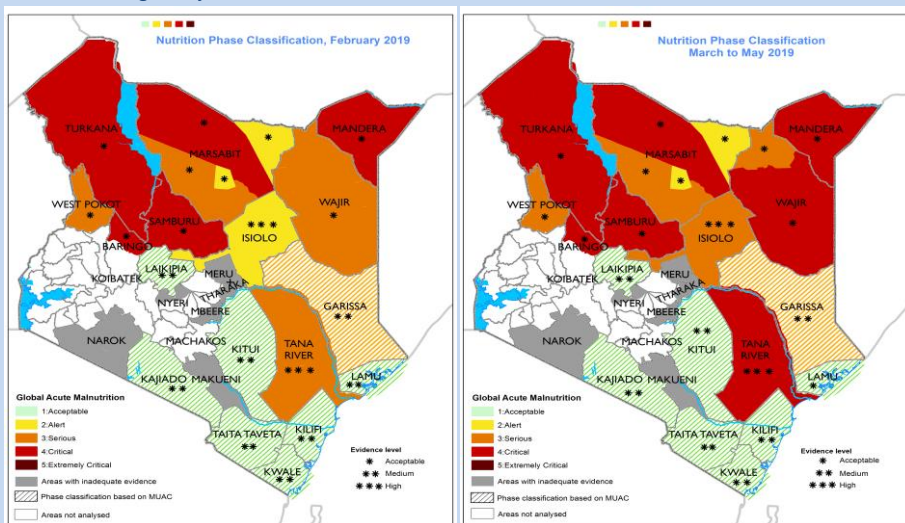


Figure 1. Current nutrition situation map

Figure 2. Projected nutrition situation map

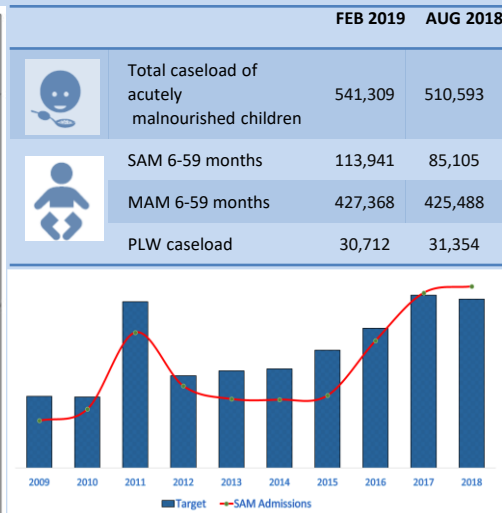


Figure 4: Trends of Admission in SAM Reported From Health Facilities Versus Annual Targets

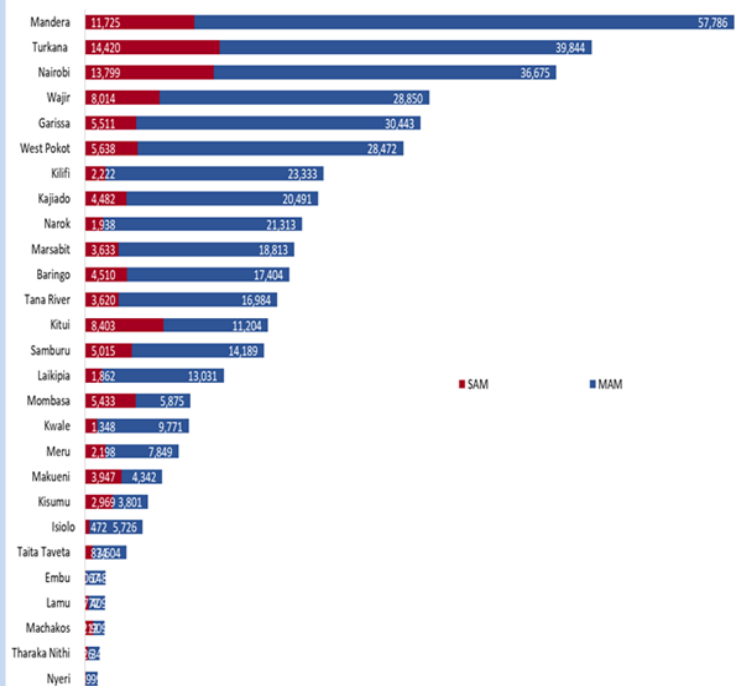


Figure 3. Estimated Caseloads of Children 6-59 months requiring treatment for Acute Malnutrition - ASAL and Urban counties, February 2019

Table 1. Estimated Caseloads of Children and Pregnant & Lactating Women Requiring Treatment for Acute Malnutrition, Feb 2019

Area	GAM 6 to 59 m	SAM 6 to 59 m	MAM 6 to 59 m	PLWs
ASAL	472,757	91,740	381,017	27,960
Urban	68,552	22,201	46,351	2,752
Total Caseload	541,309	113,941	427,368	30,712

Key recommendations:

- Closely monitor the performance of the 2019 long rains, update the nutrition situation projected if needed - for timely program adjustment and scale up should the rains perform poorly
- Update contingency and response plans including response to current outbreaks
- Continued implementation of the high impact health and nutrition interventions with focused effort to improve coverages in counties with inadequate coverages
- Closely monitor implementation of the detailed recommendations provided in the full nutrition situation report
- Scale up current levels of health and nutrition interventions in Wajir and Tana river counties to mitigate the effects of the projected deterioration
- Close monitoring of IMAM program admissions versus targets at health facility and community level to better inform program targeting

IMAM – Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition;
MAM – Moderate Acute Malnutrition;
SAM – Severe Acute Malnutrition; PLW – Pregnant and Lactating