



Facts & figures

Partner: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)

Location: KENYA, Turkana & West Pokot districts, Northern Kenya

Type of Assistance: Emergency nutrition response

ECHO funding: €1 million

Number of beneficiaries: Around 15,000

CONTEXT

The last two years have been the driest in the Eastern Horn of Africa since 1950. Two consecutive rainy seasons have failed in Somalia, Northern and Eastern Kenya, Southern and Eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti. As a result harvests are very low, livestock mortality has soared, and food and water have become extremely expensive. This dramatically increases food insecurity and decreases the population's coping capacity.

PARTNER SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

IRC (International Rescue Committee) is the leading agency in a joint effort with **Action Contre la Faim (ACF)** for implementing an emergency nutrition intervention in the two areas. The project is providing aid to 11,770 children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition and 1900 pregnant and lactating women.

In Turkana ECHO supports the implementation of a support programme for 13 health facilities which are treating acute malnutrition. This support consists of 2 stabilization centres and outreach activities to communities without health facilities. The aim is to reduce mortality resulting from the complications of acute malnutrition. This is a much needed intervention as it concerns an area that is suffering from the withdrawal of food distribution providers, even while food security is worsening due to the effects of drought.

In West Pokot district, ECHO supports a partner working to tackle the emergency needs of communities that are extremely vulnerable for shocks, such as drought and conflict.

CASE STUDY: EMERGENCY NUTRITION RESPONSE

Acute malnutrition is exceptionally high in the Turkana and West Pokot districts in Northern Kenya (37.7% Global Acute Malnutrition, more than twice the emergency threshold). The food security situation in the area, mainly inhabited by pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, has declined severely over the past few months. A lack of rains, high food prices, limited food stocks for households and worsening coping mechanisms has put unprecedented strain on livelihoods.

These communities are mostly comprised of pastoralists who need to make use of land and cattle for their livelihoods. With drought hitting the area, their livelihoods are no longer guaranteed, and they are threatened by malnutrition. To improve the health environment and increase levels of food security ECHO is funding a programme that reaches out to communities with health facilities, provides health and nutrition education and supports local structures in dealing with acute malnutrition.

This project is making a difference in the lives of the beneficiaries. It is treating malnutrition and improving the nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women in communities with fragile livelihoods, suffering from drought and high food prices. By providing training on basic hygiene and nutrition practices to the beneficiaries and their families (such as exclusive breastfeeding for children below 6 months), the communities will improve their knowledge on child health, nutrition and hygiene and lives will be saved.