



Fast Facts

Country: Kenya

Duration: August 2001 to June 2002

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: UNDP; Government of Kenya; WFP; WHO; NGOs

Budget: \$1,009,985.86

Key Words: Food security; nutrition; emergency relief; rural communities; climate-related insecurity

BACKGROUND

Throughout the 1990s, Kenya experienced successive droughts and devastating floods that caused crop failure, water scarcity and huge loss of livestock and livelihoods for pastoralist communities. The situation was especially dire in the north of the country where more than one million children and 200,000 pregnant and lactating women were in need of supplementary

feeding. As a result, the health status of Kenyan children deteriorated and maternal mortality increased to 590/100,000 live births in 1998. At the same time, health clinics experienced acute drugs and vaccine shortage, which increased the risk of epidemics and seriously threatened the survival of women and children in particular.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to alleviate the impact of drought in north-western and north-eastern Kenya, the project provided primary health-care services and food assistance to the most vulnerable and food insecure populations. Assisting the emergency relief operations in Kenya, the project executed targeted interventions aiming at (i) reducing

malnutrition by providing supplementary feeding to women and children; (ii) addressing the acute shortage of medicine by delivering emergency drug kits to health clinics; and (iii) evaluating the nutrition and health status of Kenyan children in order to standardize practices and enhance efficiency in the delivery of healthcare.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries were 560,000 children and 168,000 women in ten of the most drought-

affected districts in north-western and north-eastern Kenya.