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# INVESTING IN RESILIENCE: EVIDENCE FROM NORTHERN KENYA

Cyclical droughts in Kenya threaten lives and livelihoods, and cost the Kenyan economy billions of dollars in losses in and beyond the livestock sector. Responding to these recurrent crises with life-saving humanitarian assistance is also extremely costly.

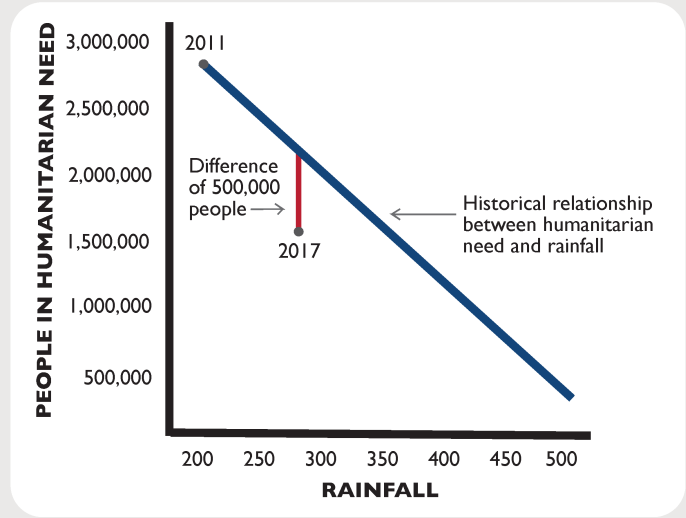
## INVESTING IN ENDING DROUGHT EMERGENCIES

Following the historic drought in 2011, the Government of Kenya (GoK), USAID and other donors committed to making long-term investments to address the underlying causes of these recurrent crises and to responding earlier and more effectively when they do occur. The GoK launched and committed \$1.6b to their Ending Drought Emergencies strategy, which was matched by \$1.5b from other donors, including USAID.

## WHAT LIKELY CONTRIBUTED TO GREATER RESILIENCE IN 2017?

- Comprehensive investment by GoK and donors aligned to a common programming framework, including through USAID’s Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth.
- Forward-leaning drought cycle management, including an innovative index-based livestock insurance product that was piloted by USAID and scaled up by GoK and private sector.
- Devolution of authority and resources to counties and the establishment of the cross-ministerial National Drought Management Authority.
- Private sector investment stimulated by GoK infrastructure investments and grants and other forms of risk-sharing by USAID and others to incentivize investment.

## MEASURING THE RESILIENCE DIVIDEND



**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE NEEDS IN 2017 WERE FAR LOWER THAN** expected given the historical relationship between drought severity and humanitarian need.

**HUMANITARIAN SPENDING IN 2017 WAS ALSO HALF THE AMOUNT SPENT IN 2011.**

*“An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure”*



A 2017 USAID study in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia estimates that, over the long-term, every **US\$1** invested in people’s resilience will result in up to **US\$3** in reduced humanitarian assistance needs and avoided losses.

**CENTER FOR RESILIENCE**