

A woman with a baby is the central focus of the image. The woman is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored beaded necklace made of small beads in shades of green, red, blue, and yellow. She is also wearing a blue cloth draped over her shoulder. The baby is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background shows a traditional thatched-roof structure, likely a dwelling in a rural setting. The overall composition is a close-up shot, emphasizing the textures of the beads and the fabric.

# THE SMALLER PICTURE

A CLOSER LOOK AT **THE CHILDREN WHO**  
**INSPIRE US IN KENYA**



# HELPING SAVE MALNOURISHED CHILDREN DURING THE DEADLY DROUGHT



Asinyen, 24, was once a mother of two but she lost a child to malnutrition. She knows how quickly children can die from hunger and related diseases. One evening her son had diarrhoea and vomiting and by dawn he was dead.

Kerio in Turkana, Kenya, has been severely affected by the 2017 drought. Asinyen's family lost 90% of their livestock. Her remaining son was brought to a Save the Children drought response outreach during a period where she was struggling to breastfeed. Her son was malnourished and the condition was moving from bad to worse due to lack of food.

He was admitted at Kerio hospital for one week. When his condition improved and he was discharged, Save the Children enrolled him in its Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and ensured Asinyen also benefitted from a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP). The family received regular screening and medical check-ups by Save the Children's primary health care unit, which strengthens the Ministry of Health's capacity to address the nutrition needs of drought affected communities.

**“ THIS DROUGHT  
WAS BAD FOR  
US. WE ATE  
ONLY ONE  
MEAL A DAY.”**

**Asinyen said**

“I was always hungry and had trouble breastfeeding my remaining son. On a good day, the children got some portions of rice for lunch. The only difference between this drought and the 2011 one is that we are getting help from organisations like Save the Children. Our children were treated by health workers who visited our village. In 2011 we were not getting any help.”

Since 2013, the level of acute malnutrition in Turkana County has reduced significantly from as high as 1 in every 3 children recorded in Jan 2017 to 1 in every 6 children in 2018.

According to the Turkana County Nutrition Technical Forum, this improvement is attributed to a robust and integrated

emergency response strategy mounted by Save the Children and other partners led by Government through BSFP, integrated health and nutrition outreaches, hunger safety net and other cash transfer programmes, general food distribution, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and child protection interventions among others.

**The situation was further boosted by relatively better performance of the short rains season late last year.**

Save the Children is working with the Ministry of Health in three sub-counties: Turkana Central, Turkana North, and Kibish where it has established outreach sites in communities that are at least 10km from existing functional health facilities in order to reach remote communities who are often found to be desperately in need of assistance.