



Above: Anna Nangolol. Livestock have suffered the full force of the current drought, in northern Kenya. © Brendan Cox/Oxfam

“ My name means ‘born at a river’ – but the river has been dry since April 2003.”

Anna Nangolol, who lives in Turkana, in northern Kenya.

Turkana people are animal herders. They move their cattle, sheep and goats to follow the region’s scarce rains. But droughts are becoming never-ending. People’s way of life – that has been sustainable for many hundreds of years – is now under serious threat. Communities fear for their future.

“Past droughts in Turkana have been short,” Anna explains. “The rains would return. But this drought never seems to finish.”

Paul Mayan Mariaio recalls when the winds used to come from the west: “They used to bring heavy rains. But now the winds come from the east. These are dry winds – they bring little or no rain. I don’t know what is causing this.”

“All regions are affected, adds herder Hassan Mahmood. There’s no place to escape – everywhere is dried out.”



Amalia Ruiz Condori stands in the remains of her house which was destroyed by a flash flood in January 2006. © Jane Beesley/Oxfam

“ At night, we lie awake listening. It’s very dangerous. After a sudden storm, the currents can drag away our animals – and even people.”

In Sandia, Peru, Luis Mamani Paredes fears the torrential rains that regularly cause flooding and landslides. These have always endangered villagers in this mountainous region – but now the rains are becoming more severe... more life-threatening.

Warmer temperatures are melting the glaciers – sending even more water down the rivers. Yet people are also being hit by extreme cold spells, known as “frijas”. This recent climate phenomenon is wiping out families’ herds of alpacas – and is even claiming the lives of children and elderly people.

Oxfam’s work with poor communities includes helping them to be better prepared and protected – so the improvements that people are making to their lives won’t be lost when the climate does its worst.