

Kenya Humanitarian Update

20 September 2011



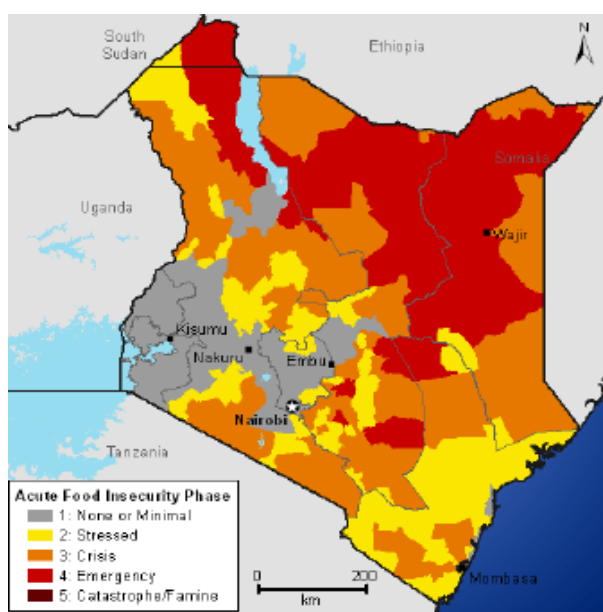
HIGHLIGHTS

- A recount of applicants for refugee status in Dadaab has found large numbers attempting double registration. The apparent large backlog in applications for registration has been adjusted from 40,000 to 1,909. The average daily arrival rate for the past week was about 1,100 people per day.
- Deteriorating security situation along Somali border and around Dadaab; a vehicle belonging to an international NGO has been hijacked in Hagadera camp.
- Maize prices are on a downward trend but remain significantly above the five-year average

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

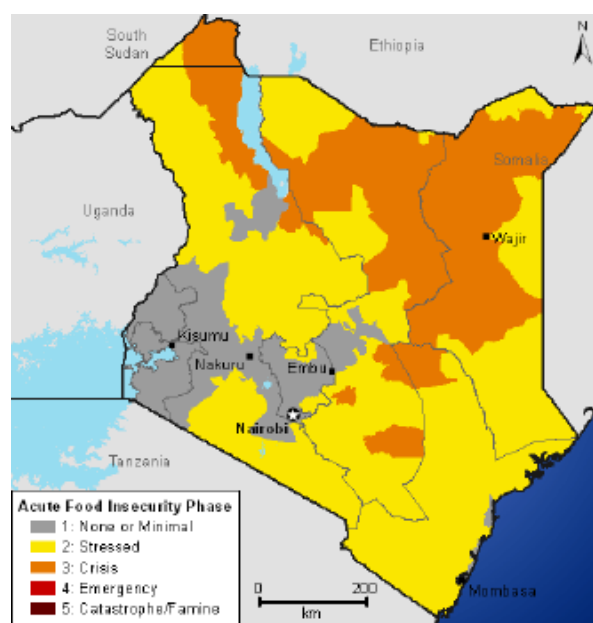
According to FEWS NET, although food insecurity is expected to worsen in the coming weeks as the lean season progresses, improvements in pastoral food security are expected from October with the expected onset of short rains and continuation of humanitarian relief interventions. Households however remain extremely vulnerable. Due to above normal rains, flooding may cause loss of livelihood assets, water borne diseases, and displacement, aggravating food insecurity. Although the land surrounding the Dadaab camps is currently dry, it can flood during rains and is also a source of risk for refugees.

Food Security Situation (Sept 2011)



Source: FEWS NET

Estimated Food Security Outcomes (Oct – Dec 2011)



Source: FEWS NET

The humanitarian situation is meanwhile deteriorating in Mandera district near the Somalia border. A significant number of herders have lost 80 to 90 per cent of their livestock; poverty levels in El Wak are at 66 per cent (20 per cent higher than the national average); and malnutrition rates are at 33 per cent, according to a new assessment by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

FEWS NET reports that conflict is evident in areas where there is increasing competition over resources, especially where livestock has clustered (Isiolo, Tharaka, Meru North, Marsabit and Samburu). These conflict incidents are not likely to decline until March next year, when competition over scarce resources is set to ease. The security situation in and around Dadaab is worrisome, with an international NGO having

had a car and driver hijacked in Hagadera camp on 19 September; the whereabouts of the driver and vehicle remained unknown on 20 September.

Refugees in Dadaab camps and the majority of new arrivals are classified in “Emergency” (IPC Phase 4) state, according to FEWS NET. The food security of an additional 80,000 refugees in Kakuma camp (Turkana District) is stable.

The Kenyan President, Mwai Kibaki, has met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and is expected to brief heads of State at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly on the outcome of the recent Nairobi summit on the Horn of Africa crisis. The President will seek international support to implement the ‘Nairobi Strategy’, to end drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa, as well tackle the Somalia crisis.

Although maize prices remain significantly above the five-year average, they are on a downward trend in the key growing areas in the Western, Nyanza and Rift Valley highlands following the harvest. According to FEWS NET, maize prices have declined by 25-40 per cent in the key reference markets (Kisumu, Kisii, Nakuru, Eldoret and Kitale) and by 10-25 per cent in the southeastern and coastal lowland districts (Machakos, Mbeere, Mwingi, Kitui and Taita Taveta). The price of cereals and pulses remains at record levels across most areas outside the harvesting centres.

II. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE



FOOD

Food insecurity is affecting 3.75 million people countrywide. The food sector is working with the Government of Kenya to target the entire affected population through one coordinated pipeline. Beneficiaries are being targeted through general food distribution, food for assets, cash for assets and unconditional cash transfers. Other major activities will be blanket supplementary feeding and targeted supplementary feeding for the moderately malnourished.



NUTRITION

The nutrition sector is currently treating over half of the estimated 300,000 – 350,000 cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition. The majority of cases are in the northwestern and northeastern districts of Turkana, Mandera and Wajir. The targeted supplementary feeding programme has 1,100 feeding centres countrywide, up from 700 last month.

Since January, 35,687 children under age 5 have been treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Currently, there are 63,679 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in the supplementary feeding programme. Since July, 21,796 children under age 5 suffering from MAM have been admitted in the supplementary feeding programme, representing 27.6 per cent of the target.

Based on the nutrition survey data from the six most drought-affected districts (Mandera, Turkana, Wajir, Marsabit, Samburu and Isiolo), there is no significant difference in the risk of malnutrition between 6-29 month and 30-59 month age groups. This has led to a decision by the sector to expand coverage from 6-29 months and cover all children 6-59 months under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) beginning in October and continuing at least through December 2011.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS) supported by UNICEF has released a circular on the prohibition of donation of breast milk substitutes. The circular was disseminated through print.



HEALTH

The sector is on high alert for an outbreak of water- and vector-borne disease outbreaks (malaria, dengue fever and dysentery) during the rains. All health facilities in the drought-affected areas of Eastern, Northeastern and Rift Valley Provinces currently have anti-malarial drugs and supplies to ensure that these areas can respond to potential malaria outbreaks.

Outbreaks of communicable diseases such as polio, measles and bloody dysentery (shigellosis) have so far been contained. Integrated disease surveillance and response has been strengthened in all districts at risk. In Rift Valley Province, the MoPHS and WHO are investigating suspected cholera outbreaks in Turkana, Samburu and Baringo districts. In North Eastern Province, WHO and MoPHS provincial teams are conducting training on integrated disease surveillance and response for health teams in six districts hosting refugees.

Response to the polio outbreak earlier reported in Nyanza Province is ongoing, with technical personnel from WHO and MoPHS now posted to the field. No new cases have been confirmed. Based on the recently completed polio risk analysis, more areas have been targeted for the mop-up campaign including Migori, Homa Bay, Kisii, Nyamira, Trans Mara and Kisumu counties.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

An estimated 2.5 million people are in need of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Some 300,000 people now have access to water through the rehabilitation and construction of new water sources. Over 20 INGOs and local NGOs, as well as government water boards and offices, are providing 315 health facilities and 200 schools with an adequate supply of water and sanitation facilities. Currently 43 boarding schools have these facilities.

Examples of interventions include: in Marsabit, water trucking for schools and health facilities started this month. By 11 September, over 4 million litres of water had been delivered to 49 water points benefiting over 8,000 schoolchildren and patients from 4 health facilities. In addition, the Pastoralist Integrated Support Programme (PISP) has initiated the construction of five new wells, and the protection of ten existing wells. In Turkana, the Lobolo Piped Water Project being implemented by the Kenya Red Cross is 75 per cent complete; upon completion 7,800 people from three communities will benefit. A further eight hand pumps have been rehabilitated in Turkana West reaching 17,300 people from 8 communities. The Liboi water system has been completed, benefiting an estimated 20,600 within the host community and catchment area of the Liboi Health Facility.

Out of the planned 75 health facilities to receive hygiene promotion training, ten have so far benefitted, reaching approximately 10,000 households. The remaining trainings will take place in Moyale, Isiolo, Marsabit, and West Pokot and should reach an additional 120,000 households (600,000 people). Accelerated planning has taken place to respond to the water shortage crisis faced by a large number of health facilities across the north of Kenya. The supply and installation of hand washing facilities will soon be completed in 196 health facilities (Turkana: 75, West Pokot: 63, Isiolo: 35 and Moyale: 23).

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MoWI) reported that across Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties, people and livestock are returning to trucking centres and water points due to the depletion of pastures in the areas that had rains in March and April this year. Therefore, there is increasing need to upgrade capacity at existing points and to add new ones.



EDUCATION

The teachers strike ended on 11 September and the government says it will make all 18,000 temporary teachers permanent and hire 5,000 extra teachers in January 2012. Kenya's public schools have an average of 50 students per teacher, but in many of the drought-affected areas the ratio is much higher. Prepositioned supplies purchased by UNICEF continue to be delivered to schools across drought-affected areas, including day, boarding and mobile schools.

In Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Wajir and Marsabit counties, more than 45,000 primary school children and 45,000 Early Child Development (ECD) children have been reached with education and ECD kits. Boarding school supplies for more than 14,000 children in arid districts, Turkana, and North Eastern Province have also been procured, as have mobile school kits to support 8,900 nomadic children's access to education. A number of partners have begun work in local communities, with plans to engage schools in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities. According to UNICEF, of the total number of children targeted, 64,740 (103 per cent) have been reached to date in the four counties most affected by the drought (Turkana, Garissa, Wajir and Mandera).

The emergency school database for 1,666 schools in 39 arid districts has been completed by the Education Cluster and MoE with information on the availability of water, type of water source, enrolment

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levels by sex, and the type of school (e.g. day or boarding). Mapping and assessment of existing boarding schools in Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo and Garissa counties, as well as District Education Board (DEB)-proposed new boarding schools has been completed. This has facilitated an analysis of the relative needs of the boarding schools so that responsive distribution plans could be developed. This week, delivery of boarding school kits started, including beds, mattresses, and bed sheets, to all 270 boarding schools in 39 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) districts based upon the new plans. Boarding school management trainings are being developed with the MoE for district education offices and boarding school directors in Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo counties as a component of future disaster risk reduction.



PROTECTION

Immediate protection concerns include unaccompanied, separated and sexually exploited children, within the districts of Turkana, Eldoret and Garissa. Since July, 556 children have so far received child protection services in these communities, up from 105 children since last reported on 31 August.

The Protection Working Group Assessment in Turkana noted an increase in cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). The mission found that child prostitution is high on the streets of Kitale, many of the street children in Lodwar are orphans due to HIV and AIDS. The success of reunification efforts for children on the streets of Lodwar from Kitale and Eldoret is low. Interventions to address these findings are being developed. A platform has been created to strengthen protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) across all sectors, and 26 focal points and human resources personnel from UN, Government Departments, civil society and NGOs have been trained on PSEA using UNICEF and IOM curriculum. A joint PSEA assessment is planned for 25 September - 7 October at food distribution centres in Turkana and Tana River, and partners are encouraged to participate in the mission.



EARLY RECOVERY

The Early Recovery Sector is aiming to build long term resilience against drought through diversification and maximizing productivity of livelihoods, employment creation and improving economic and human security. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is establishing a project with the Ministry of Labour to train government officials on how to conduct assessments on livelihoods diversification, with the ultimate aim of providing increased job security and financial stability. German Agro Action (GAA) and the national NGO, Eastern Community Development and Humanitarian Organisation (ECDHO), are supporting projects with drought resistant seeds to provide more security in agricultural production.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Some 1.4 million pastoralists in north and northeastern pastoral areas are at Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4) and an additional 2.35 million pastoralists and agricultural farmers are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and stressed (IPC Phase 2). Some 20 to 30 per cent of Kenyan pastoralists have lost all their livestock due to drought (FEWS NET). Upcoming rains will bring mixed results. Already weakened livestock will be more susceptible to diseases and parasites. The sector is working to ensure canals are dug to draw flood water away from newly planted crops and start vaccination and treatment for livestock. Four inter-agency irrigation schemes in the Rift Valley supporting the Kenyan government's irrigation initiative for drought mitigation in dry areas have been completed. Financed by FAO with support from, inter alia, WFP and World Vision, there are 12 irrigation schemes reaching vulnerable drought-affected communities in Nyanza, Rift Valley and North Eastern Provinces. FAO has ordered 330 tons of drought-resistant seeds for farmers in Eastern Kenya to plant in early October. A voucher-for-work scheme supported farmers to implement terracing to protect against soil erosion, with a number of NGOs preparing to supply fruit trees to root the soil and stop the fertile top layer from being washed away. FAO is also having contingency planning talks with government and partners against Rift Valley Fever outbreak. Funds are urgently required to purchase animal vaccines and drugs, seeds and fertilizers.

III. MULTI SECTOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

As of 15 September, there are 437,797 registered refugees at Dadaab refugee camp of whom 130,289 arrived in 2011. In total, there are more than 571,000 refugees in Kenya, with the Somali refugee population estimated at 490,000 people. There were 37,015 new arrivals in August, down from the July peak of 40,434.

Following a recounting exercise conducted by UNHCR from 9-11 September in the three Dadaab camps, the number of backlog refugee cases has declined from 40,000+ persons to 1,909 persons. The results indicated that a majority of the previous 40,000+ backlog were comprised of “recyclers” attempting to register more than once for food and non-food assistance. UNHCR has as a result discontinued issuance of food and non-food items at the reception centre. New arrivals will now be issued with a 3-day ration of BP5 biscuits at the reception centres to cover their nutritional status until the completion of registration. Issuance of core relief items packages and food rations will only be done upon completion of full registration by the Department of Refugee Affairs and UNHCR.

Emergency Shelter

As of 15 September, 45,743 persons had been relocated from Dadaab outskirts to the three new sites in Ifo extension and Kambioos. Relocation to Kambioos is still on hold following interruptions by members of the host community who are demanding compensation or benefits from the government for the land currently being used for humanitarian response. Discussions are being held with relevant local authorities and UNHCR to ease tensions.

Nutrition

Preliminary results of the annual nutrition survey among children aged 6-59 months in Ifo and Hagadera Camps established a GAM rate of 22.4 per cent and a SAM of 6.8 per cent in Ifo and GAM of 17.3 per cent and SAM of 4.6 per cent in Hagadera. The Protocol for the Management of Malnourished Children aged 5 to 10 years has been endorsed at both the field and Nairobi levels, thus allowing for active case detection alongside the provision of therapeutic supply needs. Supplementary feeding is ongoing on a weekly basis, with moderately malnourished persons receiving one sachet of 500 Kcal/day of Plumpy'Sup.

Health

Of the six suspected cholera cases reported last week, three have been confirmed, all among the new arrivals. Active case finding and surveillance has been heightened in the camps, with health partners intensifying cholera control and prevention measures. There is also an increase in the identification of sporadic cases of bloody diarrhoea (shigellosis) in health posts in Hagadera and Dagahaley. An outbreak alert, including case definition, reporting, case management and specimen collection has been issued to all camps. Another round of vaccination for measles cases for persons aged 15-30 years began in Ifo extension and will be extended to other camps this week.

Protection

Security incidents involving armed persons continued to be reported within and around the camps. Three serious attacks, two of which resulted in the deaths of one refugee and four suspects were reported between 6-13 September. The Kenya Police and UNHCR are working together to increase patrols and security in the affected areas. Training sessions on refugee protection are also being conducted in the camps, targeting Community Peace and Security Teams (CPSTs), Child Protection and SGBV community based incentive staff, among others.

IV. COORDINATION

Coordination of the emergency response is taking place at the national and, increasingly, at the county level, under a government-led structure of sector working groups that mirror the sector system. At national level, the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team (KHPT) provides strategic-level direction for the response alongside the government's permanent secretary-level Crisis Response Centre. Field coordination has begun moving from the district-level to the county-level in line with the devolved government structure set out in Kenya's new constitution. County Steering Groups are starting to lead multi-sector response meetings, with technical committees handling sector-specific issues. The below table provides additional information on the humanitarian coordination structure overseeing the Kenya Drought Emergency Response.

On 13 September, the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, the National Disaster Operations Centre, the Kenya Red Cross Society and OCHA hosted a one-day planning workshop on contingency planning for potential flooding. The workshop included participation from the Government of Kenya, the UN system, international and national NGOs. A first draft of the contingency plan was circulated on 17 September, and the final version is expected during the course of this week.

The workshop to kick off the 2012 revision of the Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (2011-2013) is taking place on 20-21 September. The one-and-a-half-day meeting will provide an opportunity for humanitarian partners to review their progress in 2011, to discuss possible scenarios and anticipated humanitarian needs for 2012, and to determine priorities for response. Participation is expected from the Government of Kenya, the UN system, national and international NGOs, and donors.

As part of ongoing efforts to improve field-level coordination and information-sharing in key drought-affected regions of Kenya, OCHA travelled to Marsabit from 12-16 September to meet with provincial and regional government officials and representatives of UN agencies, national and international NGOs and the Diocese of Marsabit. Response efforts and related gaps and constraints were discussed, and an urgent need to map humanitarian response was identified.

V. FUNDING

As of 20 September, \$489 million of the requested \$740 million has been funded in the EHRP 2011+.

**741 million
requested (US\$)**

**66%
funded**

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

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