



OCHA

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Partnership for Humanity

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL REPORT 1st- 5th SEPTEMBER 2008

ELDORET SUB-OFFICE

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The Government started the last phase of Operation Rudi Nyumbani in the North Rift on Tuesday 2nd September last week which aimed at resettling all IDPs to their original farms/final destinations. In this regard, a total of 185 families received the sum of KSH10,000 each in Noigam and another 84 families in Endebes camps in Kwanza and Trans Nzoia respectively. These camps were subsequently were closed down by the District authorities on Tuesday 2nd September 2009. The closure of camps in the region started with the visit by the Deputy Prime Minister, Uhuru Kenyatta who in a statement to the IDPs declared that all camps and transit sites will cease to exist on or before 30th September as the GoK has secured sufficient funds to resettle all IDPs back to their homes. The Deputy Prime Minister assured the IDPs that each family would receive Kshs.10,000 as compensation and another KSH25,000 to rebuild their homes. Despite this pronouncement by the DPM, agencies in the region have not received any official communication/information from authorities on the ground. OCHA and UNHCR upon receipt of the information that Endebes and Noigam camps have been closed made brief visits to the area and observed the following.

The Priest of the Catholic Mission in Noigam informed the team that the authorities had completed the payment exercise on Tuesday 2nd September at 18:00 hrs after which all IDPs were to leave the camp. It was further reported that 20 households were not paid. The Catholic Church is now housing approximately 50 men, women and children, (8 households) following the eviction from the camp on Tuesday night. These families are squatters and with limited livelihood capabilities. However, the Priest in Noigam is liaising with the District Administration for these families to benefit from the compensation package thereafter will further be encouraged to find homes and means of livelihood. Similar problem was also observed in Endebes where 23 households were left out and have also been evicted from the camp. ***OCHA, UNHCR and the protection cluster will engage the authorities to resolve this problem of unpaid households.*** Payment of similar token has been ongoing by the District administration in Uasin Gishu, North and South Nandi. Agencies will provide the last shelter and NFI supports to these IDPs in the coming week.

The current IDP figures stand at the following: ASK Show Ground (3787); Burnt Forest (278); Kapsabet (1320) and Nandi Hills (300). The IDPs in Kapsabet, Nandi North,

originally came from Mount Elgon and have expressed their desire to return home. The District Administration has requested for agencies to provide transport support to facilitate their movement to Mount Elgon but funds were already provided for transportation by the Ministry of Special Programme. Agencies will support the movement with shelter and household kits. The plan by the authorities is to ensure that all these IDPs including those living in transit centres are resettled on or before end of the September.

There has been little or no consultation with the agencies by the authorities on this new round of movements so some of the same problems related to lack of information sharing during Operation Rudi Nyumbani are emerging. For example, because some areas of return may not be suitable for return, more transit camps could emerge. Agencies will however distribute the remaining shelter and household kits for their final resettlement phase as these are in great demand. More important is the fact that the funds given to them are either insufficient to purchase household kits and construction materials or already used to repay debts. As the final resettlement of IDPs continue, there are still pending issues that remain unresolved including: 1) *how to resettle the squatters; and 2) what the pupils at the ASK Show ground awaiting the coming exams in October and November will do. These pupils would require funds to pay for their accommodation, laboratory tests and food. This will be discussed in the inter-agency meeting with the DC Uasin Gishu in the coming week.*

KEY HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

Coordination

The Protection Cluster has finalized the reviewing of the handbook on ‘The Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and inputs suggested have been submitted for final review. The cluster has formed another sub-committee to prepare a strategy for the GoK, informing them of the likely scenarios and suggest mitigating ideas on the on-going Operation Rudi Nyumbani final phase. This has been necessitated by the complexity of the situation on IDP payments of Kshs.10000 and 25000 which may have some challenges.

Child Protection

As part of the ongoing community sensitization and awareness raising campaign, SCUK will train the police in Burnt Forest on Child Rights and other child protection related issues. This is in addition to meetings and trainings for all communities, currently being undertaken in Boror, Ndugulu and Kipnyikei in Burnt Forest. The US Army, while undertaking reconstruction and rebuilding of schools, are requesting for psycho-social counseling to all schools especially in the Burnt Forest area. While Child Welfare Society of Kenya reported that they are working with the National Council of Churches of Kenya in tracing and reuniting children to families. The KRC tracing team has opted to use the media to reunite 35 out of the 55 unaccompanied minors in their custody.

The UNICEF Child Protection Officer based in Nairobi and covering Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret reported the launch of a tool to be used in registering both unaccompanied and minor children. She will work with the Children's Department in Uasin Gishu District.

Education

The closure of camps and transit sites would pose some challenges to education department. This is more related to the candidates who were registered to sit their exams in the main ASK camp. The following issues need to be urgently addressed immediately so that these candidates will take their exams without any major glitch.

- A boarding facility has been identified at the Reformed Church of East Africa that can accommodate 150 children at the rate of 200 per child per night without meals. Mullys Children's Home pledged to provide meals, lunch/supper and will seek approval from their head office to include breakfast.
- There are still fees charged in return areas by the ECD institutions. These are payment for fees and children food items. The MoEd confirmed that free primary education did not cover the Early Childhood Development component.
- The laboratory/practical examination fees of Kshs.83,000 is still outstanding. The MoEd made an appeal to the humanitarian community to support the ASK secondary school IDP candidates by providing the funds to purchase of necessary chemicals and other items. This will be discussed in the UNIASC meeting next Tuesday, 9th September. Their response will be given in the next Education Cluster meeting on Wednesday 10th September. In the same regard, Mullys Children Home will consult with their head office in Machakos to determine the availability of the laboratory materials and equipment to provide as assistance to the kids and would report in the next meeting.
- Volunteer Teachers in most primary schools in return areas stopped providing teaching services since 31st July at the end of UNICEF's contract. According to MoEd, redeployment of teaching staff by the Teachers Service Commission depends largely on recommendations by the principal/school boards but currently, schools are operating without school boards and lack of this infrastructure has caused non-deployment. However, with the expected closure of camps, it should be possible for pupils to return to their former schools. This in turn would fast-track the deployment of new teachers to replace those that could not go back.
- UNICEF trained teachers at the Sirikwa Hotel on Peace Education and a syllabus on the same will be integrated into all school curriculums.

Protection and SEA/GBV

IMC reported about an SGBV case in Eldoret. The victim was assisted and the report will be forwarded to UNHCR. IMC and IOM are still being encouraged to harmonize their psycho-social programs to avoid duplication of efforts. They have promised to produce a work plan that will give direction of their activities. IRC has been on the ground in the Mt. Elgon area and reported that there were dire needs for assistance related to issues of human rights and SGBV due to the pull-out by the military. They reported that while the presumed aggressors want the military out of the area, the aggrieved desperately need the military around for their protection. It is a challenging situation. The understanding is that Mt. Elgon was not really affected by the PEV, rather, the historical background/politics of the region are contributing to increasing protection issues. The few IDPs who returned from the Rift Valley are well provided for with regard to food assistance and other NFIs.

Emphasis was made for SGBV cases to be referred to the Care for Assault and Rehabilitation, Eldoret centre which has one of the best infrastructure facilities for SEA/GBV cases in the country.

Peace Building and Reconciliation

There are plans for a peace walk from Eldoret to Nairobi by the Police department on 15th September. Ten youths from every division in the district will participate. In addition, a youth group calling itself Lee '07 will send 4 of their members to participate in the walk. The IRC plans to initiate peace building and reconciliation activities involving area Chiefs. Children and youth from ten schools will participate in competitive activities such long distance walking, running and football.

SCUK together with the Children's Department has planned several conferences at the Reformed Church of East Africa on the theme 'Chagua Amani' (Choose Peace) on 9th – 12th September 2008.

Missions

Ms. Rosa Malango and Mr. Rania Dagash's visit to the Horn of Africa, September 2008.