



Kenya
Red Cross

Drought Operations Update

Alleviating Human Suffering

KENYA DROUGHT

28 JANUARY 2009

The Kenya Red Cross Society's mission is to build capacity and respond with vigor, compassion and empathy to the victims of disaster and those at risk, in the most effective and efficient manner. It works closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Kenya Drought Bulletin No. 2/09 reflects the information available at this time. For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Operations Summary

Kenya Red Cross is coordinating various activities and programmes to raise funds and food towards the Drought Appeal made on 21st January 2009.

Drought assessment is ongoing in various districts countrywide.

There are fears of spread of *Kalazar* disease in North Eastern and Eastern provinces, with the latest cases being reported in Moyale District.

Hunger Pangs in Kibwezi

Crop failure, dried water sources and lack of food, sums up the devastating impact of drought facing some 20,000 people crammed in Kiboko settlement scheme in Kibwezi, Lower Eastern Region.

"For two seasons, we have not harvested anything in our farms. All crops have dried up and many people are starving," said Eunice Lai, 30, a squatter living in Kiboko C scheme.

"We depend on wild fruits, locally known as *mauwa*, which at times cause diarrhoea and constipation especially among young children."

Mutua Musili, 44, who has lived in the scheme for over 10 years, cannot remember when his family last received relief food. Standing outside his small hut, thatched using dried reeds from a dry swamp, the man who looks older than his age, ponders the next move. Families here are literally between a rock and a hard ground.

"I have lost everything. There is nothing in my farm. The long rains (November-December) failed us, we can't hope in the March rains," said Musili, a well of tears filling his eyes.

Kibwezi settlement scheme is now a temporary home for thousands people ejected from Chyulu hills, a forest reserve. In the entire scheme and neighbouring farms, stunted and withered maize, beans and cow peas, underline the wrath of Mother Nature in the past two years.

Young boys and girls, some in school uniforms and tattered clothes, watched in amazement as the Kenya Red Cross officers and journalists from the local media, walked from one hut to another. Smoke billowing from pockets of houses, was like a mirage. As journalists emerged from the huts, the message on their faces was clear – "no food."

It is past noon, and there is no sign of residents retreating to their huts to each lunch. Young boys and girls, now affected by a nationwide teachers' strike have not been spared by the ravaging drought. Most of them have been relying on the school-feeding programme, whose fate hangs in the balance due to prolonged drought.

A group of women seated on pieces of firewood under a baobab tree, seemed motionless, watching an elderly lady weaving a *kihondo* (basket), which would fetch her some money to buy food for her family of six children.

"I make one *kihondo* every week. Each costs Ksh50," she said.

Some water vendors using ox carts to draw water 20km away from Kiboko settlement scheme are making booming business, albeit the meagre pay from the poor squatters. A 20-litre jerrican of the coloured water goes for Ksh10 to Ksh20 shillings.

"One jerrican is enough to prepare porridge and one meal, if I am lucky to buy *unga* (flour). Whoever wants to use the water for bathing must buy two jerricans or more," Musili adds, wiping his dry mouth.

Kenya Red Cross' Lower Eastern Region Relief Coordinator, Munyao Yulu, said at least two million people in the region are facing severe drought, famine and acute shortage of water due to prolonged drought. The entire population relies on untreated water from vendors after trekking many miles from their homes.

Makindu District Hospital Superintendent, Said Rashid, confirmed that at least 321 children have been treated for malnutrition-related cases. The health facility has provided Unimix to children in the district, but much is required to meet the needs of thousands at home and in schools.

Wajir

Dilmanyale, Asal, Haragal, Macheza and Dadajbula (Wajir South) boreholes have broken down. The breakage of Abokherey borehole has affected 30,000 people and hundreds number of livestock. Some 26 centres that were initially relying on water pans and wells now depend on water trucking services. Water scarcity and poor quality of the commodity used by residents have aggravated the health status in the district.

Last week, a third child died due to malnutrition in Wajir Hospital on 21/01/2009.

Ijara

Populations from Korahindi Location in Hulugho Division are migrating to Tumtish after water pans dried. There is also movement of some communities from Hareri dero to Kabasalo despite there being a water crisis in Kabasalo. This shows that scarcity of water is severe in Ijara District.

Mwingi and Kyuso

Drought situation remains the same. The Kenya Red Cross Mwingi Branch is supporting the District Commissioner and business communities' efforts in appealing for donations to assist people affected by the drought.

Lagdera, Fafi and Garissa

Due to the drought situation, approximately 200 households from Galmagala Division moved to Fafi centre (Madahmarug) and later moved to Daadere in Jarajilla Division, Fafi District after conflict in Fafi centre. There has been movement of approximately 40 households from Shmbiri in Sankuri Division of Garissa District to Dujis centre in Balambala Division. Shimbiri, Abdisemad and Owliye are relying on water trucking due to the current water crisis. There is a water crisis and dire need of food aid. The dam in the area is already drying up. At least 150 children of an early child development centre are learning under a tree.

Kenya Red Cross Action – Objectives and Progress

Objective 1(a): To provide food to 1,692,428 people (1,192,428 drought-affected beneficiaries and supplementary feeding to 500,000 school-going children in affected districts); and distribute non-food items (NFIs) to 5,000 families.

Safaricom Company Ltd has donated 100MT of food, while the House of Manji has donated 50 cartons of high energy biscuits.

Kenya Red Cross has dispatched relief food for Garissa and Mwingi districts, while awaiting more funds and donations to meet the needs of the targeted populations. Relief maize has also been dispatched to Tana River. In Mwingi, some mothers have been given Unimix in the health centres.

In Wajir 1200 bags of Government food has been distributed. Kenya Red Cross is undertaking distribution of the relief aid to drought-affected populations. This week, the Society distributed 250 bags CSB to 250 households. Volunteers teamed up with Marlin Health Outreach in Makoror to identify and target malnourished children in Makoror, Guriftu and Bulla, in Isiolo District. The health facility's pediatric ward will receive a portion of the food for children admitted due to malnutrition.

The emergency operation programme (EMOP) food distribution of- approximately 590MT in Garissa has been completed, with 44,912 beneficiaries were targeted from the 74 FDP's in 9 Divisions. GoK food has been exhausted.

In Timau, quelea birds are reportedly feeding on wheat in farms, hence worsening the food situation

A village in Turkana South, 350km from Lodwar town with a population of 15,000 has not received relief food.

Meanwhile, food donated to Kenya Red Cross by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has been received and will be dispatched to affected districts.

Objective 2: To contribute to reduction of morbidities and mortalities in 629,174 people in drought affected districts through provision of basic community health care services.

The Kenya Red Cross Health team is carrying out an assessment in Turkana, West Pokot and Kerio Valley, focusing on the malnutrition levels and other prevalence of other diseases.

Another health assessment was carried in Ijara, Garissa and Wajir.

Objective 3(a): To provide access to safe water for an estimated 1,035,583 individuals affected by drought.

Safaricom Company Ltd has donated Ksh11 million for rehabilitation of Katalwa borehole in Mwingi District. The National Housing Corporation has start work at Burgabo borehole in Eastern Province.

Objective 3(c): To support hygiene promotion activities for 1,035,583 individuals affected by drought.

Kenya Red Cross Water and Sanitation team has assessed the water situation in drought-affected, and more support is required to assist thousands of people relying on untreated water.

Some cases of cholera have been reported in Homa Bay, Nyanza Province. Cholera kits will be dispatched to the district.

Objective 4: To strengthen the capacity of the Kenya Red Cross Society staff, volunteers and communities to effectively respond to disasters.

A Logistician, Finance Officer and two Relief Coordinators have been hired to support the Drought Appeal operations. A number of KRCS and volunteers have been involved in the drought assessment and humanitarian response across the country.

However, more vehicles are required for relief distribution, especially in the Lower Eastern Region.

Objective 5: To enhance advocacy, communication and awareness

Kenya Red Cross organized two media field trips to drought-affected areas. Garissa Branch coordinated media coverage of the situation in Boka, Bangale Division of Tana River District, as well as Mwingi and Kyuso districts.

Another team of journalists covered the drought situation in Kibwezi District.

Kenya Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross/Crescent (IFRC) are organising a media field trip to North Eastern Province, scheduled for next week.

Partnership and Coordination

Kenya Red Cross is coordinating the humanitarian response during the current drought situation, with IFRC, ICRC, various Government ministries, DSGs, Media Owners Association, Nakumatt Supermarkets, Uchumi Supermarkets and corporate institutions, among others. A host of private and public institutions are expected to partner with KRCS in responding to the Drought Appeal targeting at least 2.5 million people.

Representatives from various corporate organizations and the Kenya Red Cross team will be touring Yatta, Kambi ya Mawe and Matuu areas, in Lower Eastern Region, to assess the drought situation. Kenya Red Cross Goodwill Ambassador, Gina Din-Kariuki, will lead the team during the tour.

Budget Summary

Table 1: Budget summaries per intervention sector

DESCRIPTION OF INPUTS	TOTAL COST (Kshs)
Emergency Relief	
Purchase of Relief Food	771,881,140.80
Non Food items	24,550,000.00
De-stocking	35,000,000.00
Transport and Handling cost of Food and NFIs	91,813,500.00
TOTAL-RELIEF	923,244,640.80
Health	
Support Medical Outreaches	226,000,000
Nutrition	1,801,600
Health Education and Promotion	66,393,600
Health Trainings	1,120,000
Staff Salary and other related costs - Medical Contribution	100,080,000
Supervision, field visits and M&E tools	6,600,000
Equipment	18,015,000
Logistics	8,000,000
Total-Health	428,010,200
Water and Sanitation	
Access to safe water	124,490,000
Access to sanitation and refuse management	4,150,000
Capacity building, M&E	46,234,500
TOTAL - WATSAN	174,874,500
Capacity Building	
Capacity Building	67,608,000
Training	24,000,000
Networking and Coordination	73,400,000
Monitoring and Evaluation	3,350,000
TOTAL-HCOD	168,358,000
Communications	
Communication and Awareness	6,102,000
Total Communications	
Total	1,700,589,340.80
Admin 10%	170,058,934.08
Grand Total	KES 1,870,648,274.88
	CHF 28,343,155.68

Target Population per Intervention

Table 2: Target population per drought-affected districts in Kenya

North Rift	Total Population	Targeted Population
Turkana	435,286	43,529
West Pokot	406,936	40,694
East Pokot	326,042	32,604
North Rift Total	1,168,264	116,826
South Rift		
Kajiado	484,615	48,462
Laikipia	418,118	41,812
South Rift Total	902,733	90,273
North Eastern		
Mandera	357,576	28,606
Wajir	444,915	35,593
Garissa	460,215	36,817
Ijara	87,437	6,995
North Eastern Total	1,350,143	108,011
Upper Eastern		
Moyale	60,212	6,021
Marsabit	136,772	13,677
Isiolo	131,740	13,174
Samburu	166,306	16,631
Igembe - North and South	147,228	14,723
Tharaka	132,707	13,271
Tigania - East and West	153,597	15,360
Mbeere	192,976	19,298
Upper Eastern Total	1,121,538	112,154
Central		
Nyeri	152,216	19,788
Muranga	354,334	46,063
Maragwa	395,595	51,427
Central Total	902,145	117,279
Lower Eastern		
Mwingi	377,679	113,304
Kitui	628,208	188,462
Machakos	1,160,475	348,143
Makueni	974,375	292,313
Lower Eastern Total	3,140,737	942,221
Coast		
Tana River	245,260	24,526
Lamu	90,774	9,077
Kilifi	719,466	71,947
Malindi	374,194	37,419
Kwale	626,936	62,694
Coast Total	2,056,630	205,663
Total	10,642,190	1,692,428

Population projections derived from district development plans