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Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

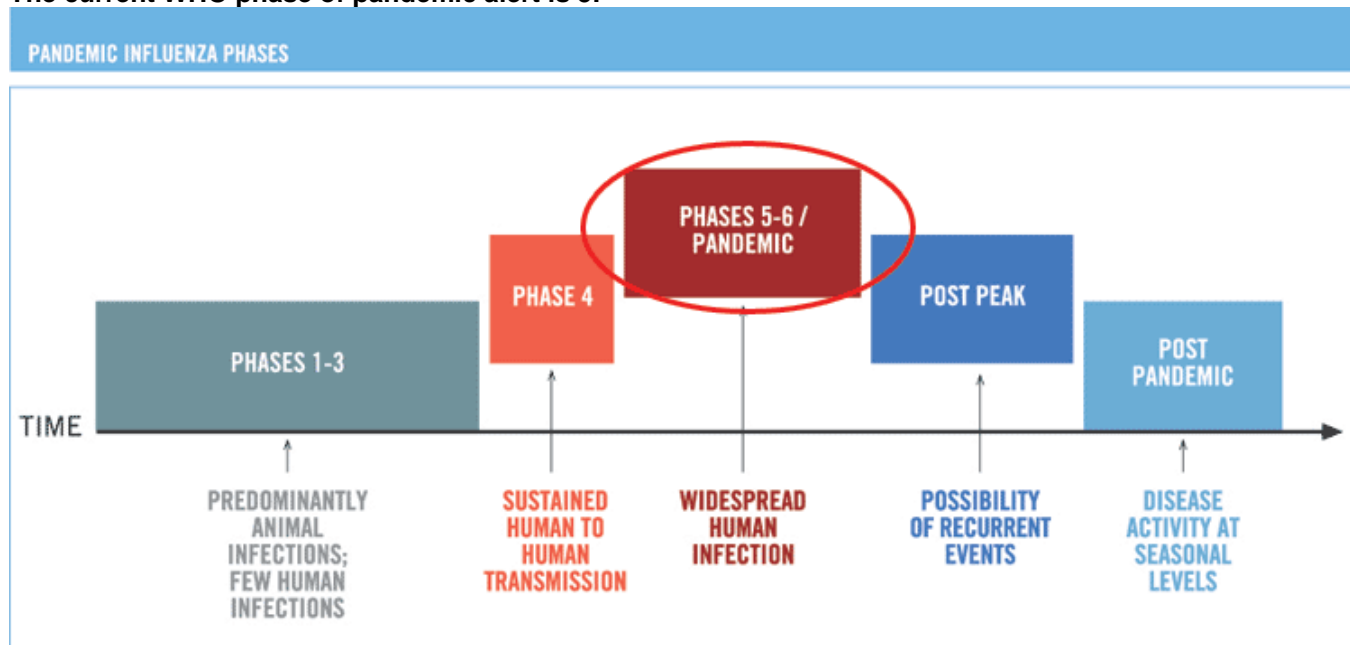
- GoK responds to the global A(H1N1)Swine flu pandemic
- Coalition government remains divided as ODM demands a re-negotiation of the power deal
- Mungiki descends on villagers killing 28 in retaliatory attacks
- Ten die in floods as thousands remain displaced in Nyanza and North Rift provinces.
- Humanitarian actors appeal for CERF funding to respond to increasing humanitarian needs
- Pastoralist killings continue to rise
- DRC works with farmers in Molo to establish a cereal bank
- OCHA Donor Support Group meets GoK, partners and beneficiaries in Nakuru

The information contained in this report has been compiled by OCHA from information received from the field, from national and international humanitarian partners and from other official sources. It does not represent a position from the United Nations. This report is posted on: <http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya>

General Overview

The Government of Kenya (GoK) is screening incoming travellers at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in response to the global influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. The influenza is commonly referred to as swine flu. As at 4 May, WHO at global level informed that 20 countries have officially reported 985 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) with 25 deaths in Mexico and another in the USA. The epidemiological data received by WHO demonstrates human-to-human transmission and the ability of the virus to cause community-level outbreaks. Given the widespread of the presence of the virus, WHO considers that containment of the pandemic is not feasible and that current focus should be on mitigation. Whilst there is no restriction on international travel, it is advised that people who are ill delay travel and for those developing symptoms to seek medical attention. Symptoms include fever (usually high), cough, runny nose or stuffy nose, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue or tiredness (which can be extreme), diarrhoea and vomiting (sometimes). WHO says there is also no risk of infection from this virus from consumption of well-cooked pork and pork products. For up -to-date information on the outbreak and prevention visit <http://www.who.int/en/>.

The current WHO phase of pandemic alert is 5.



Worldwide figures on confirmed cases and deaths as at 4 May 2009:-

Country	Confirmed laboratory cases	Deaths
United States of America	226	1
Mexico	590	25
Austria	1	0
Canada	34	0
Germany	3	0
Israel	2	0
Netherlands	1	0
China, Hong Kong Administrative Region	1	0
Costa Rica	1	0
Colombia	1	0
Denmark	1	0
Republic of Korea	1	0
Switzerland	1	0
France	2	0
El Salvador	2	0
Ireland	1	0
New Zealand	4	0
Italy	1	0
Spain	13	0
United Kingdom	2	0

Divisions in the coalition government deepened with ODM deciding to boycott cabinet meetings until their power sharing grievances are addressed. A cabinet meeting scheduled for 16 April was consequently called off. Mr Odinga is believed to have met President Mwai Kibaki on 15th April where the two agreed that the Grand Coalition Management Committee meet on 16 April. The Grand Coalition Management meeting was aimed at addressing issues tabled by ODM and Party for National Unity (PNU), at a retreat that fell apart on 4 April after the two sides disagreed on the agenda. The rift further deepened in the Coalition government as the ODM and PNU jostled for weeks over who leads Parliament's Business Committee. The Speaker of the National Assembly has ended the political stalemate by temporarily taking charge of that Committee himself.

Twenty eight (28) villagers in Gathaiti village in Nyeri district (Central province) were killed in cold blood by members of the outlawed Mungiki sect. Local media showed graphic images of slain bodies. The killings came one week after villagers (through vigilante groups) took the law into their own hands lynching to death seven suspected members of the Mungiki sect. The villagers ignored earlier warnings from the District Commissioner whom they accuse is slow to act when cases of extortion and killings have been brought to his attention. The outlawed Mungiki is a local militia that uses brutal methods to extort money from traders and force its ideology in Kenya. The Mungiki sect leader has been arrested and accused of ordering the killing of the 28 villagers. Police is on high alert after receiving information that the sect intensified its recruitment of youth. Oath taking is part of the initiation rituals that have to be undertaken by new comers. Police arrested six (6) youth who were allegedly part of 200 youth who took oath with the sect. Over 50 other youth were arrested in Nyeri town and another four (4) in Nyandarua North district as police continue their crack-down on the sect members.

Flash and river overflow floods have been experienced in Nyanza province in western part of Kenya since 15th April 2009. Areas hard hit include those around River Nyando and River Nyalbiego – Awasi, Ayweyo, Magana, Sanda and Nyakach. According to Kenya Red Cross report issued on 20th April, at least five people have been confirmed dead, several households displaced and homes and farms submerged in the affected areas. In Nyando, it is estimated that 8 houses were totally destroyed and 46 pit latrines submerged raising fear of possible escalation in the spread of cholera outbreak, which has affected the region since. Floods also led to the displacement of least 55 households in Ayweyo sub-location who camped at the Baptist church and Luora Primary School. In addition, 80 household displaced in Awasi have



River Nyalbiego overflows its banks making submerging roads and destroying crops and houses (photo by KRC)

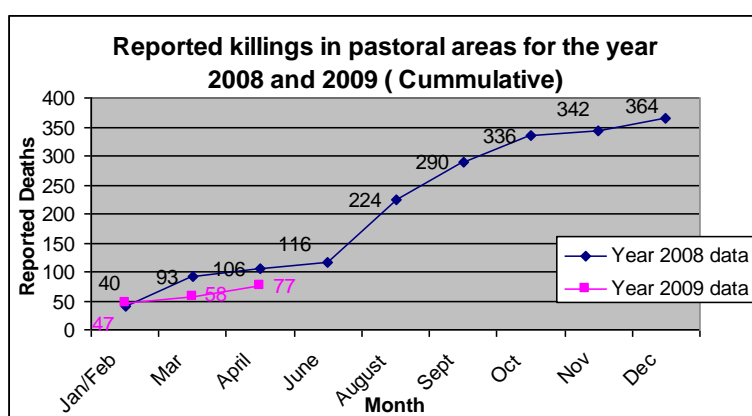
moved to Oriedo church and Gerliech School in search of shelter. The District Commissioner in Eldoret held an Inter-Agency meeting on 23 April to discuss response and follow up actions to activities already started by the Kenya Red Cross Society.

OCHA Donor Support Group arrived in Kenya on 23th April on a 7- Day mission to assess OCHA's role, responsibilities and performance in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia), looking in particular at the level of implementation of the Humanitarian Reform (including pooled funds, HC Strengthening system and the cluster approach). The mission also looked at the impact of the combination of drought, volatile food prices and conflict on the humanitarian situation in the region. The donors visited Nakuru and Moyale on 25th and 29th April respectively. In Nakuru, the mission paid a courtesy call to the Rift Valley Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner (DC); met South and North Rift Inter-Agency team who gave an overview of the operations in response to the post election crisis and other emergencies in the region; and visited the pipeline relocation site in Nakuru, where around 1200 families (with an estimated 6,000 persons) pooled financial resources and bought 16 acres of land in Nakuru pipeline area. In Moyale, the donors took a conducted tour of cholera and malnutrition wards at the Moyale District Hospital. Doctors briefed the mission on case management, surveillance and challenges. The donors also visited pastoralist drop-outs displaced in Watiti village from communities around the greater Wajir (Wahir north, east, south and east). The pastoralists have converged at the small village where they seek better access to pasture and water as drought conditions affect their places of origin.

In light of the escalating humanitarian needs on several fronts in Kenya, the Humanitarian Coordinator has put in an application for a CERF grant totalling US \$8,610,238. The Grant is aimed at addressing the following areas: -

- Response to the cholera outbreak where more than 2,600 cases have been reported and 58 deaths recorded in the past 2 months. The epicentre of the current outbreak is in northern Kenya along the border with Ethiopia where an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea has also been reported,
- Response to acute malnutrition as a result of the escalating food insecurity and continued increase in food prices. The delayed onset of the rains is also having a dramatic effect on food security and vulnerability,
- The unavailability of cereals in Kenya has had a dramatic impact on already critical food insecurity. Funding streams have dried up and for several months, there has been a scarcity of maize on the markets. Ration cuts were introduced in February for these reasons and this looks set to continue and worsen if funds are not availed urgently for the Emergency Operation,
- The refugee situation in Dadaab has surpassed critical thresholds and while negotiations for additional space continue with the Government of Kenya, the refugee influx from Somalia has not abated. While CERF funds have already been availed to the Dadaab programme this year, the needs are acute and additional assistance is necessary.

The month of April continues to record an increase in the number of reported killings that are related to conflicts taking place in pastoral areas. As of 20 April 2009, nineteen deaths had been reported. This brings the cumulative number of deaths reported since January to 77. Those dead include two police officers, twelve raiders and five pastoralists. The occurrences took place in the Eastern and Rift Valley Provinces. Tension has been rising in the North Western part of the country which covers Kwana and Trans-Nzoia districts, with disputes related to boundaries, water and pasture contributing to an increase in violence. In response to the increase in violence, the GoK supported by various donors and humanitarian actors have launched District Peace Committees to address causes of conflict, peace building and reconciliation.



The Division Peace Committees launched were on 20th April 2009 in Solai and Rongai divisions, Nakuru district. The peace committees launched in 9 locations was attended by the Nakuru DC, area Member of Parliament, local councillors, and the public. 200 District Peace Committee from the division level were

awarded certificates for the completion of Peace building training in March 2009.

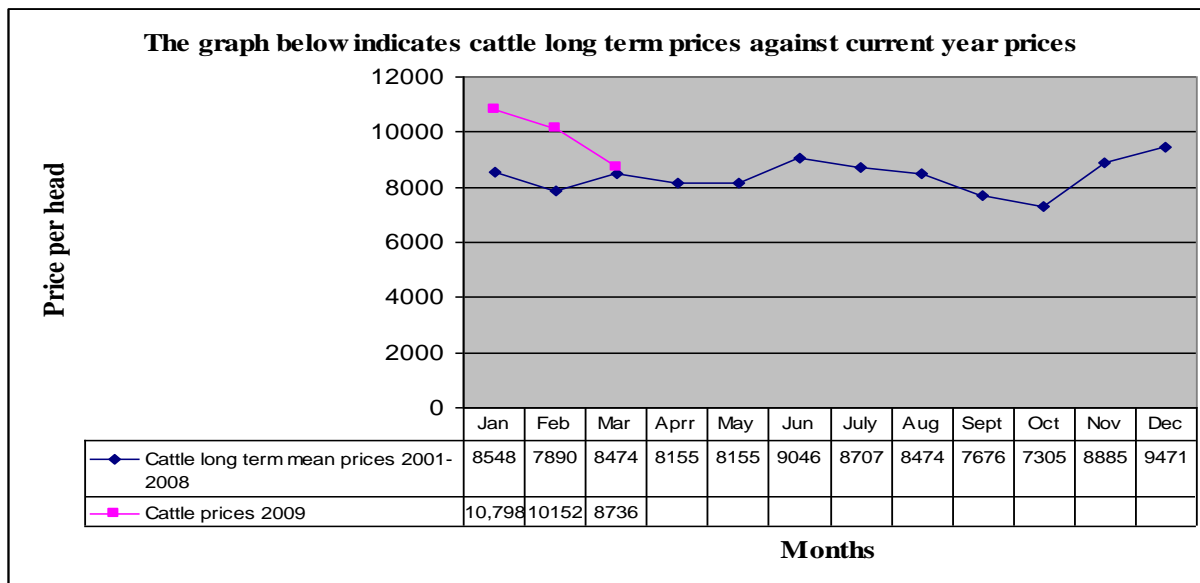
The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports with support from UNDP is currently undertaking a feasibility study in Rift Valley, which is meant to inform the development of an exchange programme targeting the youth population. The exchange programme is envisaged to take place towards the end of May. Youth exchange programmes that involve a variety of actors such as the perpetrators of violence and those involved in conflict and peace building initiatives is a follow-up to some of the recommendations advanced as a means to promoting community integration and reconciliation. Some of the areas visited by the team include Turkana, West Pokot and Kwanza District borders that have seen an escalation of killings in pastoral areas in the past two months. The recent killings at the border areas have been as a result of boundary, pasture and water related disputes. The study is engaging a wide range of actors that include pastoralists, youth groups, religious institutions, local administration and politicians.

II. Humanitarian Situation

Food Security

According to the latest reports by ALRMP - food prices have increased to between 80 – 120% of normal; livestock prices in ASALs are 25% lower than five year-average; water scarcity has led to increase in price from Ksh20/litre to Ksh60/litre. As a result, many families cannot afford buying water thus reducing consumption and increasing hygiene problems leading to increased cases of cholera, as already reported in 20 districts. The worst affected areas by the current food crisis are Mwingi and Kitui districts, where estimated 56 and 44% of the population respectively are classified as high food insecure.

The drought conditions in parts of the eastern province have affected cultivation and livestock, among other consequences. According to the Ministry of State for the Development of Northern Kenya monthly bulletin (March), the livestock body condition for all species deteriorated further during the month with goats and camels being least affected and cattle and sheep worst affected. The situation is being exacerbated by the increased distances to water points and the grazing areas. For example in Garrisa district, the unavailability of good pastoral lands is affecting the market price for cattle as their body conditions deteriorate.



The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has worked with farmers in Molo to create a cereal bank. Participatory consultations were done together with the community which yielded to a choice of maize to complement the volunteer potatoes that were in the farm. Close monitoring of crop care coupled by training was imperative to ensure a good harvest. At the inception, the idea was to ensure that the community could pool together after harvest some 30 kg of maize that could be sold to ensure that they-community- purchase hybrid seeds for the successive seasons, as well as avoid planting first generation crop. After the harvest some farmers have been able to bring some of the yield to the pool. However, due to a good harvest, the farmers have decided to divert from the initial plan of buying hybrid seeds together and resulted to extending a helping hand to the IDPs that never managed to plant last year.

The farmers will thus buy seeds and fertilizer individually to keep the initial plan -which is already in progress. (This is happening in Kuresoi where 576 farmers from Mungetho, Kamuri, Rwangondu, and Temoyetta Ngarua received each 5kg of maize and 25kg fertilizer). So far, the community has received 46.5 bags of 90kg in the cereal bank. A plan on the needy areas to be assisted through DRC with this

produce is on the pipeline. Through a rapid yield assessment done on a sample of 103 respondents, DRC has a sum total of 47,042.9 kg harvest compared to the 514.9kg seeds distributed. On average each farmer harvested 5 bags. This figure could be higher owing to the fact that those farmers whose range of harvest was 7-17 had planted the 5kg while those who planted 3kg due to fear of malicious grazing on land harvested 4.5-5bags.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

District Administration in Eldoret continued efforts to resettle the remaining IDPs at the ASK camp. The authorities removed 49 unoccupied tents, in an attempt to ascertain the exact number of IDPs in the camp. The action was met with hostility from the IDPs in the camp who alleged to be mistreated and cite lack of food, inadequate shelter and WASH facilities, and other NFIs as main issues. At the same camp, a 43 year old woman died and another collapsed. IDPs alleged it was due to hunger.

In Nakuru, around 205 families who were initially camping outside the DC's office finally moved to a new relocation site in Mbaruk, Lanet division, Nakuru district. The group acquired 3 acres in Mbaruk, Lanet division in Nakuru through their contribution of Kshs. 1000 each (200,000) and a well-wisher who contributed Kshs. 100,000. UNOCHA and UNHCR visited the group on 21st April 2009. Most of the people in the group came from Kipkelion, Molo (Salgar, Ndeffo, Total, Mau Summit, Burnt Forest, Kericho and Busia). Major issues noted at the site include lack of shelter (the group have used plastic sheeting in the absence of tents), poor water and sanitation facilities. The group otherwise feels safe in their new community.

Health

The cholera outbreak spread to 20 districts in six out of eight provinces. The first cholera outbreak was reported in December last year. As of 17 April, a total of 2,612 cholera cases have been reported with 58 deaths (C.F.R. = 2.2%) across twenty districts in Kenya. The worst affected areas are Nyanza Province, and districts in North Eastern and Eastern Provinces bordering Ethiopia and along the routes from the Ethiopian border to Isiolo. Poor access to improved water sources and sanitation in affected areas makes cholera prevention and mitigation especially challenging.

WASH

As part of mitigation plans to counter the spread/outbreak of cholera in the long run, World Vision, Action Aid and HWF will make a joint proposal to EU/ECHO for grants on WASH projects in informal settlement areas. Red Cross will act as the team leader to coordinate on cholera issues.

ACF reported that they had set up sentinel sites in Takaba and Banisa where water is also being trucked for their supplementary feeding centres. They are using both private and Ministry of water and Irrigation (MWI) bowsers. The water situation in Mandera West is reported to be very poor.

The WESCOORD group observed during its meeting that drought is almost becoming chronic. The water pans in Eastern Province had dried up and the need of having a stand by borehole is crucial.

The following agencies reported having received funds from various donors to respond to drought:-

- KRC has received Kshs.30 million for drought response in Makueni.
- WV has received USD 629,000 for Transmara in order to save the Mara River which is a trans-boundary river catchment and is almost drying up. They will work jointly with WWF and CARE of Tanzania. They have also received USD 190,000 from USAID/Coke.
- Action Aid has received USD 64,000 from their headquarters in UK for boreholes and pans.
- ACF-Kenya has obtained funds from their headquarters amounting to USD 35,000 for nutrition.

Disaster Risk Reduction

River Nzoia water levels are on the rise and have caused some flooding in Budalangi, Bunyala District. Residents are already moving to higher grounds hoping that this year, river Nzoia would not break its banks as is the case every year - OCHA Sub-office, Eldoret took the lead role for Inter-Agency collaboration in putting together the Budalangi Contingency/Preparedness mechanism should the perennial flooding occur this year.

Meanwhile heavy rains destroyed a classroom in Omanyi Primary School in Miwani division, Nyakungru location (Nyando district). People in areas such as Magina, Ayweyo, Migere, Oren and Rae divisions lost livestock, household goods and crops in the fields. An elderly man was struck by lightning, his son badly burnt and his three 3 goats were killed. Evacuation of residents in these areas is going on with a

rescue team giving first aid in the critical places. Local leaders issued an alert through local radio stations for people to get ready to go to raised grounds in case of more flood waters. There is need for provision of water and sanitation supplies, tarpaulins, utensils and blankets to those affected.

Protection

Members of the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) in Eldoret will join the Area Advisory Committee (AAC) and contribute to deliberations aimed at setting minimum standards necessary to formulate a policy on protection of children in the district. Currently, there are guidelines but they need streamlining. SCUK through the Street Children NGO ECCO is providing support for training Volunteer Children Officers for the three districts in the greater Uasin Gishu. The Children Department reported that they would provide trainings and capacity building on Child Rights and Protection issues for AAC members down to location levels at Kambi Miti, Pioneer and Kesses.

It was reported that the Rescue Centre Management insists on financial assistance and have refused material assistance from the SCUK such as NFIs for children's beddings and uniforms and fees payment from ECCO, who wished to pay directly to schools. This assistance is sitting with partners who cannot give out cash. The DCO promised to address this through the AAC.

IOM is currently providing counselling services to school children and their teachers at Kamoi, Kapsiret and Kabolet areas (in Eldoret), adversely affected by issues of rape and assault. The counselling is provided in groups and it is encouraging parents to speak out on these issues of concern.

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