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Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian actors highlight effects of climate change in Kenya on World Environment Day
- Government of Kenya welcomes Chinese shelter support to IDPs
- Inter-communal clashes leave 20 dead in Kuria district
- IASC reiterate funding gaps as critical sectors remain underfunded
- Urban malnutrition levels rise
- Cholera affects 27 districts since the beginning of the year
- Dadaab health situation precarious as refugee influx continues

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

Humanitarian actors observed World Environment Day on 5 June by highlighting the humanitarian impact of climate change on already vulnerable populations in Kenya, and noting emerging non traditional beneficiary groups. Immediate impacts of climate change observed are poor crop production and increased food insecurity, pastoralist drop-outs, water scarcity, social conflicts caused by struggle for resources, increased natural disasters like floods & drought, migration. Some challenges noted in addressing some of the issues include lack of legislative policies to address climate change, poor funding, short term interventions that fail to link humanitarian operations to long term development initiatives.



*Drought affects livestock and agriculture*

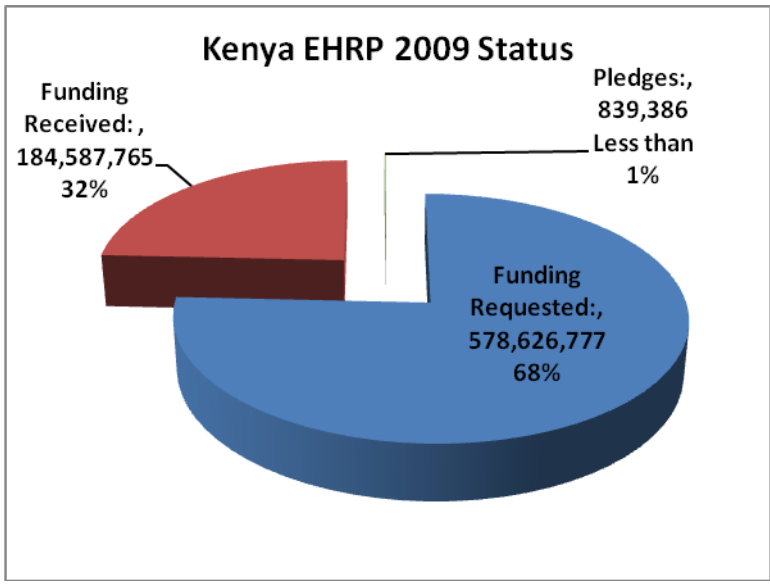


*Settlement affected by floods*

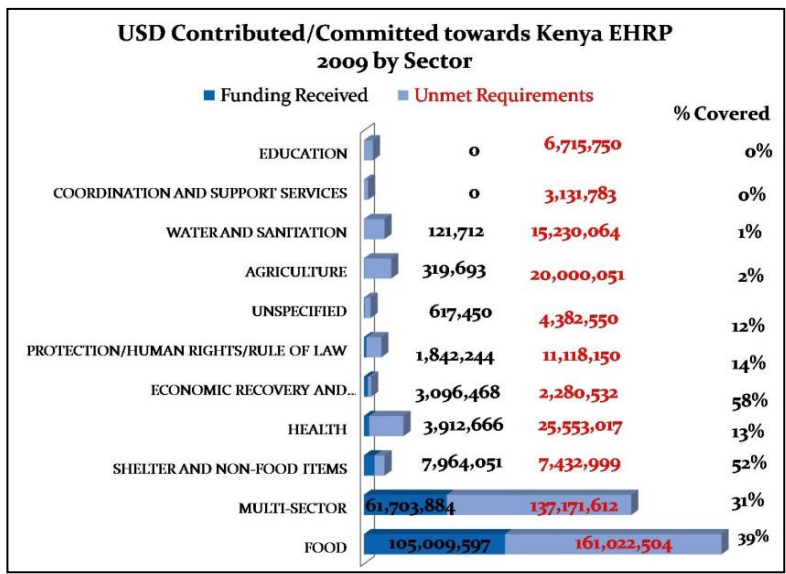
IASC regional consultations on climate change in Nairobi were held on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The consultations were focused on the humanitarian implications of climate change in the context of disaster risk management/disaster risk reduction and adaptation, with an aim to identify the role of humanitarian actors in national and regional climate change adaptation, the potential cooperation linkages between humanitarian and development actors in the climate change adaptation process. In addition, key issues to be addressed at the regional and national levels in the coming three years by humanitarian agencies, and support provided by the IASC to address these, were discussed. The first findings of the regional and national consultations will feed into a consolidated report to be presented at the Global Platform on Disaster Reduction in Geneva, 15-19 June 2009.

On Friday 15 May, a symposium on the challenges facing pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa/East Africa took place in Nairobi. "The Changing Drylands: Collective Solutions to Recurring Problems" was organized by The Horn of Africa Pastoral Network, Oxfam and FAO as part of the Regional Drought Decision Programme funded by ECHO. The symposium consisted of a series of seminars and discussion

on current policy, climate change and adaptation, demographic trends, social protection, preparedness planning, cross border issues and trade. Cutting across these issues is the long-standing marginalization of the mobile pastoralist production system, in form of unsupportive policies and inadequate standards and the lack of investment and services. This is compounded by the region's rapidly growing human population, diminishing resources and increasing environmental degradation threatening pastoralist livelihoods. Hon. Mohammed Elmi, the Minister for the Development of Northern Kenya and other ASAL areas, criticized the "short-term fixes" approach towards the region and called for a comprehensive, long-term approach to dry land development and pastoralism.



The IASC Country Team reiterated funding gaps highlighting main concerns as slow funding streams, low funding levels and the imbalance in sectoral funding that leave major sectors underfunded, e.g the WASH sector stands at 1 % funding as at 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The overall EHRP is 30 percent funded. Meanwhile the Emergency Response Fund has been launched with US\$600 000 received from the Swedish government. OCHA has started receiving project proposals.



The Government of Kenya and the African Development Bank concluded an agreement for a grant worth 1.5 billion KSH to help addressing disaster related issue as a consequence of the post election violence. The resources will be used to construct houses.

**II. Humanitarian Situation**

The IASC meeting on 4 June acknowledged the full transition of clusters to government-led Sectoral Working Groups. The HC advised that as the operational dynamics have shifted from acute emergency phase the IASC should further rationalize the sectoral working group's mandates. The Inter- Cluster Group which met on 3<sup>rd</sup> June agreed the government is leading Sectoral Working groups and is supported by UN agencies. Hence forth, the Inter-cluster forum has been replaced by Inter-Sector meeting with invitation to government sector working group. The SWG will deal humanitarian issues (not development). Each agency sector focal point will commence discussions with the government on ToR for the SWG and on streamlining the agenda and calendar of the meetings.

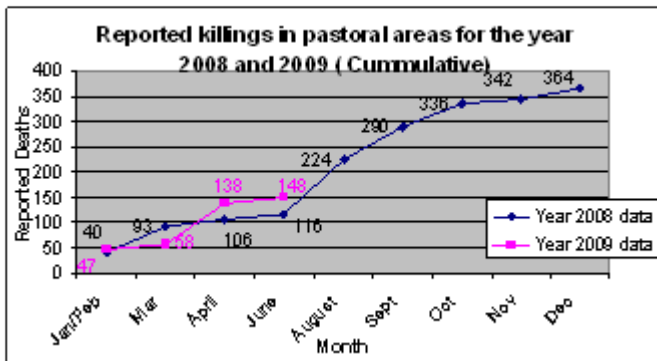
Clashes between two clans in the Kuria ethnic community (Nyabasi and Buirege Clans) in Kuria East District have left 20 people killed (as at 9 June). Tension still remains high in the areas with five deaths

reported in the recent fighting 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> June. The two clans have a historical traditional hatred that date way back in time with small triggers now sparking fierce clashes. Land, boundary and leadership disputes have recently been the main triggers to the current fighting. The latest fighting was triggered by cattle theft. Insecurity is still high in the district with assessment teams (from local KRCS Branch in Migori) unable to reach all areas affected. About 600 people are said to be displaced (rough estimate in the Nyabasi Clan alone to relatives' homes). The clashes have led to:

- The closure of six schools.
- 1 dispensary at the border between the two clans is closed.
- Farming and transportation are hampered in the connecting routes between the two clans
- Markets are not functioning and prices for commodities have shot-up. A bar soap that normally costs Ksh. 10 is now selling at Ksh. 50. Traders are said are using long routes to get supplies from Migori.
- No comprehensive assessment done so far.

The Red Cross has dispatched a consignment of relief items from Kisumu for the displaced and affected population.

A total of six people are reported killed in conflicts, bringing the cumulative number of those dead to 178 (inclusive of Kuria conflict). Herdsmen from Samburu have invaded the Shaba National Park, due to an increase in drought in the area. Moving into the park puts the lives of animals and herdsmen at risk, but herders have limited options, as they desperately need pasture. Fighting has been reported in Wajir District where herders have invaded the area in search of pasture. Herders have moved into this area that has received near normal amounts of rain, raising tension in the area.



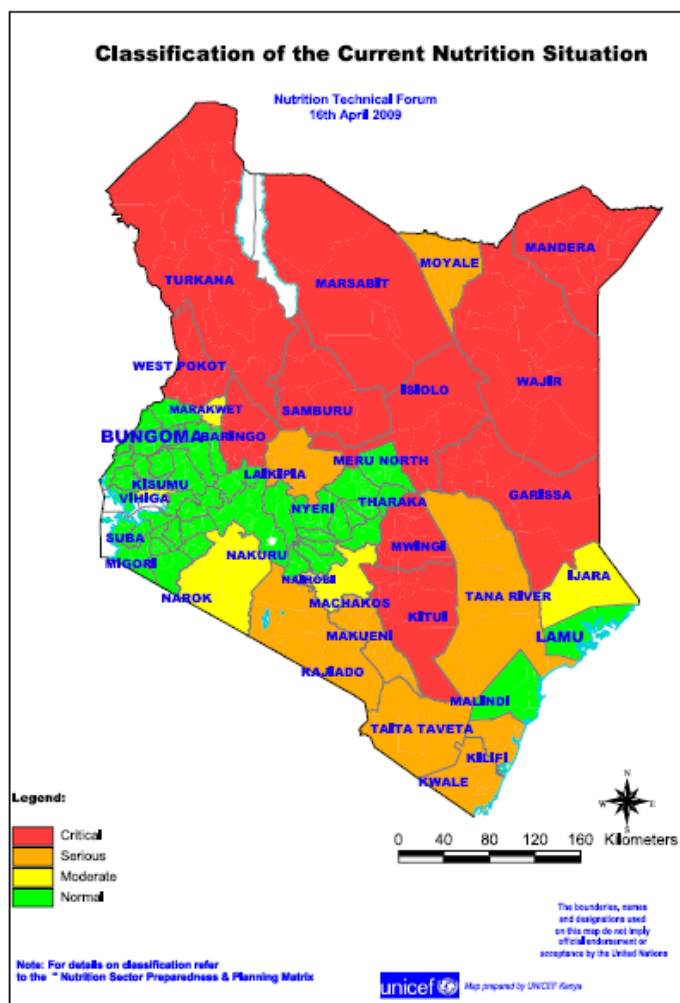
### Food Security

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) says that National maize stocks as at 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 is 6.5 million bags against national requirement of 9 million bags to reach 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009 when the earliest harvest will start. The national Maize deficit therefore is 2.5 million bags. It is however expected that the Long rains season harvest could offset another 1 million bags which would leave the deficit of 1.5 million bags. MoA says this deficit can be overcome if external inflows of maize continue. Food insecurity concerns remain high as the purchasing powers are compromised by maize price hikes, failure of markets to recover from past shortages, effects of drought in certain areas and market controls by traders.

Meanwhile WFP informed that the scale-up for food distribution is happening at slow rate due to lack of funding and long operational processes that slow down the acquisition of cereals. Cereals are being sourced from India and South Africa due to limited availability and market limitations on the local market. WFP states that there are enough cereals to last until August. Rations were reduced in May. WFP updated on its funding constraints informing that the program is running at a shortfall of USD 120 million to cover operations in the next six months.

## Nutrition

Urban Acute malnutrition has risen sharply since December. Humanitarian partners briefed the UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Ms. Catherine Bragg on the situation in Nairobi during a brief tour of Kibera Slum where 45% of hospital admissions are severely malnourished.



With the expectation of worsening nutrition situation, the nutrition sector has classified the acute nutrition situation in order of severity for programming purposes. This classification used the prevailing food security situation and with available nutrition information in the districts.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Key findings needs assessment for IDP profiling in the return areas in Eldoret indicate that the greatest need remains shelter. While there is an ongoing programme for shelter construction by various agencies, this needs to be accelerated to provide a more durable solution. In the greater Uasin Gishu, closure of transit sites has continued and out of the 31 sites initially set out for assessment, 10 are already closed while 21 still remain open mostly for the reason of lack of shelter at the return areas.

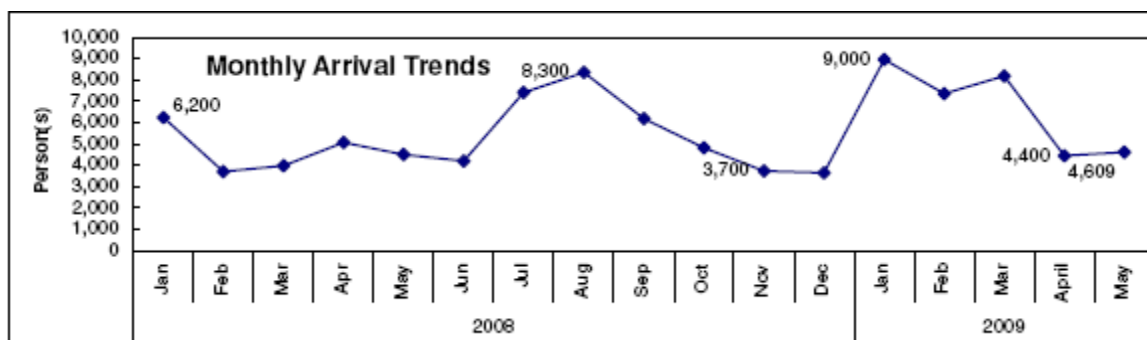
The Government of China through the Ministry of Special Programmes has donated iron sheets to support shelter construction in Pipeline and Minto relocation sites in Nakuru district (South Rift Valley). The assistance to the two sites will be additional to the 25,000 Kenya shillings shelter support already distributed by the Government of Kenya (GoK). Each household will receive 20 iron sheets as support for shelter construction. The Nakuru District Commissioner reported that the GoK will provide the other associated materials for the shelter construction. Over 80,000 iron sheets have already been received at the warehouse in the past one week. The iron sheets were officially handed over to the Ministry of special Programmes by the Chinese government officials on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The Nakuru District Commissioner says other self help relocation sites will also be targeted for the support in due course.

A group of 87 families who have been planning to split from the larger Mawingu self help group have been refunded a total of Kshs. 740,000 which were contributions for 74 families. The splinter group has already paid the Kshs. 740,000 down payments for a 10 acre land in Kirima area, Nyandarua Central district and plans to acquire the entire 10 acres at a cost of 1 million Kenya Shillings. Nyandarua Central District Commissioner (DC) has been working with the group to facilitate the land transactions. The group appeals for temporary shelters, toilet slabs, and food and non-food items to facilitate their settlement in the new site. The DC pledged to provide them with transport to move to the site soon as funds for fuel are received from MoSSP.

## Refugees

The overall population in Dadaab currently stands at 278,059 persons as of 8 June 2009, an increase of 18% since the beginning of 2009 (from 235,455 persons). Dadaab continues to experience a continuous

influx of new arrivals from Somalia. More than 34,000 new arrivals have registered this year with more than 30,800 from Somalia. There is a noticeable drop of arrivals from April possibly due to the rainy season which has made border roads hard to pass. However, there is a noticeable late surge of arrivals in the last one week which we are now observing. We have registered more than 1,200 people last week. The arrivals are mainly from the Lower/Middle Juba regions, and not many from Mogadishu where recent events of insecurity took place. Increased insecurity especially in the Middle and Lower Juba regions coupled with drought/food insecurity are cited as main reasons for this arrival trend.



Source: UNHCR

OCHA Kenya facilitated a meeting for IASC organizations working in Dadaab and Kakuma, in order to put together a joint strategy and appeal for assisting the host communities in areas hosting refugees. The strategy is in response to concerns expressed at the two Stakeholders forum that were held in Garrisa and Kakuma earlier this year.

### Health

The outbreak of cholera has cumulatively affected 27 districts with a total of 3,208 suspected cases and 74 deaths and a CFR of 2.3% since January 2009. So far the outbreak has been contained in 20 Districts. In the last one month a total of 1110 cases with 19 deaths and a CFR of 1.7% have been reported. Five (4) Districts (Laisamis, Moyale, Isiolo, Kajiado, Mombasa) are still reporting new cases. The current outbreak in Laisamis district has risen to 489 cases with seven deaths. MSF Spain is facilitating the setting up of a cholera Treatment centre and World Vision and Kenya Red Cross also providing support. WHO in addition to providing technical support to the DHMT has recruited health workers including nurses to assist in responding to the outbreak. *Ongoing intervention include* health education, mass chlorination of water wells in collaboration with ministry of water officers, contact tracing and closure of food kiosks not meeting basic hygiene standards.

The Dadaab Health and Nutrition Stakeholders meeting took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2009 and was attended by NGOs, WHO, UN agencies and Ministries of Health. It was briefed that more than 5000 new refugees still arrive every month. The health situation is precarious in Dadaab with leading cause of morbidity and mortality noted to be diarrhoeal diseases attributable to congestion, poor hygiene and sanitation and strained water resource in the camp. There are 3 confirmed cases of MDRTB patients in the refugee camp. They need to be put on medication. An alternative source of drugs needs to be worked out because the country currently only has drugs for 40 patients for the whole country.

### Disaster Risk Reduction/Management

The National Platform on DRR convened this week. DRR as practiced or mainstreamed in government departments was discussed in addition to DRR activities as implemented by the Kenya Red Cross. OCHA participated in the development of Kenya's position paper on DRR which shall be delivered at the Global Conference on DRR in Geneva from 16-19 June 09. The paper highlights best practices, challenges and way forward for the country including solicitation for resources.

The Provincial Disaster Management meeting held in Nakuru, on 28th May 2009 was held to follow up on the formation of the Provincial Disaster Management committee which will coordinate disaster risk reduction and disaster management activities in the Rift Valley province. UNOCHA presented the DRR/M concepts and a video clip on community based disaster management practices which can be adopted by the Provincial Disaster Management Committee. On the development of Terms of Reference for the Provincial Committee, a sub-committee comprising of the following proposed working groups and respective leads were tasked as follows:

- Information and communication – UNOCHA,
- Occupational safety and Hazards - Ministry of Labour, KPLC
- Infrastructure –Ministry of Roads
- Environment and Forestry – Geology department
- Food Security – WFP, Ministry of Agriculture,

- Coordination – Provincial administration
- Natural disasters – IOM, UNHCR, KRC
- Health and public health – Provincial Medical officer

The sub-committee will meet on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 to draft the Terms of reference for the Provincial Disaster Committee. The provincial TORs will align its responsibilities with National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction TORs and will be deliberated for adoption during the broader committee meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

### **Protection**

IOM conducted a peace building training on 21st - 22nd May for peace animators in the four districts of Greater Uasin Gishu, Lugari and Trans Nzoia East and West.

Training of District Peace Committee members was carried out in Nakuru district from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The training funded by USAID targeted District Peace Committee leaders from five districts namely Naivasha, Nakuru, Nakuru North, Njoro and Molo. The training facilitated by the Peace Cops – a unit under the Provincial Administration Police department, trained the District Peace Committee leaders on the linkages between their work and security issues within the community. It was meant to integrate peace building activities and community policing at the community level. Similar training will be done in other areas as well.

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