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Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- **President Kibaki appoints commissioners to Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission**
- **Malnutrition levels increase among the urban poor and drought affected areas**
- **Government to review Operation Rudi Nyumbani (Return Home)**
- **Inter-Agency missions to the North and North-East reveal deteriorating drought conditions.**
- **MoSSP forms committees to strengthen advocacy strategies on fire safety**
- **First- ever IDP stakeholders forum held in Nairobi**

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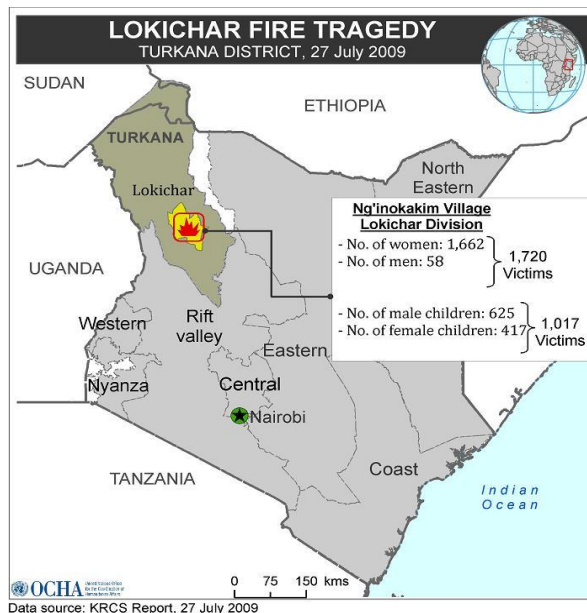
General Overview

On 22 July, Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki appointed commissioners to the recently formed Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC). The Commission's mandate is to promote Justice and Reconciliation for the past injustices since 1963 to 28 February, 2008. These will include historical injustices, political and economic crimes, corruption and ethnic clashes, assassinations, state-sponsored ethnic violence, police executions, disappearances, detentions, torture, sexual violations, extrajudicial killings, murder, ill-treatment and loss of property suffered by any person between independence and end of last year's post-election violence.

A two-day IDP stakeholders Forum on Protection and Durable Solutions under the auspices of the Protection Working Group took place in Nairobi on 30-31 July. The forum aimed to create an opportunity for relevant institutions and people to discuss the progress made in protection and assistance to IDPs over the last 20 years and to develop mechanisms for collective action and durable solutions. This is the first forum organized by the PWG in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and MoSSP.

The Climate Prediction centre has warned of a possible El Nino in the October-December Short Rains Season. Flooding and displacements are widely expected. Humanitarian operations covering drought affected populations are likely to be interrupted and exacerbate poor nutrition conditions and undermine access to clean water & sanitation practices for vulnerable populations. With humanitarian operations facing major funding shortfalls to respond to drought needs, El Nino conditions may exacerbate vulnerabilities of drought affected populations and present even new vulnerable groups.

On 26 July, a fire swept through 215 households in a village in Turkana district in the north of Kenya. Ng'inokakim village is in a division of the greater Turkana currently badly affected by drought. The area is dry and hot with persistent dry winds and has severe water. The extreme environmental conditions exacerbated the fire which villagers, school children, local administration and a large number of Kenya Red Cross volunteers attempted in



vain to bring under control. A total of 1720 people were left homeless after their thatched houses burned down and their properties destroyed. The Kenya Red Cross reported that the affected population was in need of shelter, food, water and NFIs. It is feared that the population risk contracting diseases as they have limited access to clean water and sanitation. There has been no response from the humanitarian community and the District Commissioners Office says they have no funds to respond. OCHA is discussing ways of mobilizing support to the area.

In July, Inter-Agency Teams conducted assessments in the North & North-East (Marigat & East Pokot, Samburu, Marsabit Isiolo, Moyale, Garrisa and Wajir). The Teams held meetings with government officials, NGOs on the ground and local populations to get a clear picture of coordination mechanisms existing, humanitarian situation in regard to drought and growing insecurities, as well establish networks for strengthened partnerships & coordination. The drought has led to a deteriorating humanitarian situation for local populations with very dry conditions causing severe scarcities of water, pasture and food. Among the impacts of drought in the areas visited include :-

- High migration is reported in the three districts, e.g livestock from Isiolo migrated to Meru National Park, Karatina, Nyahururu and Okalau areas in Central province. Livestock from Samburu migrated to northern parts of Samburu in Nyuri division where there is a high concentration of livestock from within Samburu, Turkana and Marsabit estimated to be 100, 000. There is high competition for access to water and pasture, a high recipe for conflict;
- The Arid Lands Management Office in GoK reported that in the same area, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was at least four out of every 20 cows has the disease, and at least 15 000 livestock to have died. Vaccinations were carried out but only reached 2000 livestock due to shortage of vaccines, and the capacity to respond has surpassing the Livestock Department due to the high numbers of livestock that have converged in on. In Marsabit, livestock have migrated to mount Marsabit, Moyale and southern Ethiopia.
- There are increasing pastoral drop-outs who are migrating to urban areas in all the three districts.
- Acute water scarcity has been reported with the situation being critical in Isiolo and Marsabit. Close to 3 500 families in larger Isiolo district are facing severe shortages of water and are being provided with water trucking for the past four months by Arid Lands Office. In Samburu, government is providing water trucking to communities and schools in the Samburu east areas. In the central parts of Marsabit district, including the town areas of 48 000 people is being assisted with water trucking services by Ministry of Water. NGOs, among them PISP, are assisting 21 schools with water trucking.

The government Long Rains Assessment which started on 15-31 July will give a clear and detailed analysis of the extent of the drought and provide a guideline for sectoral response required.

Cattle rustling incidents in July spiralled in two districts in Northern Kenya (Isiolo and Turkana). In two different locations in Isiolo up to 50 raiders attacked residents of a village and stole up to 1000 cattle. In another retaliatory attack which left 600 families displaced, unknown number of livestock was stolen. The Kenya Red Cross took lead in responding to the Isiolo crisis. In Turkana district (In Northern Kenya), a fierce and armed cattle raid on 23rd July left three people dead, 7 injured and around 530 families (3000 people) fled to nearby villages where they are staying with other community members. The community remains food insecure after the animals which were the source of livelihood were taken away. It is worth pointing out that Turkana and Isiolo have recently had an extensive cross-boundary peace negotiation which involved local leaders, the district peace committees and members of parliament. At the KHF meeting held 31st July, it was reported that the affected families have returned back to the village after security forces guaranteed improved security.

II. Humanitarian Situation

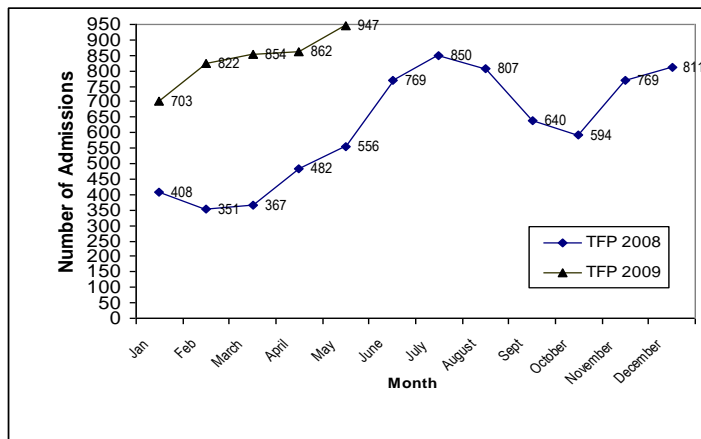
Food Security

With the drought conditions worsening, the food insecure populations are increasing. WFP says the Kenya recovery PRRO is faced with a shortfall of 125,000 mt. up to the end of the year. Currently the recovery operation is reaching some 2.6 million beneficiaries through general food distributions or food for assets. In addition, nutrition programmes implemented in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation provide assistance to children under five years of age and nursing mothers in all the arid districts, and as of recently in the most food insecure semi-arid districts. New admissions are on the rise, due to deteriorating nutritional status of the most vulnerable categories of population. The Kenya Food Security Network warns of substantial crop failure in the southeastern and coastal marginal cropping lowlands is expected to lead to deepening food insecurity. Most parts of the eastern and northern pastoral

districts have experienced yet another poor season, and food security is likely to accentuate through October. The food pipeline remains under-resourced at this point, as do non-food interventions, all intended to alleviate and mitigate growing food insecurity. Food prices, particularly for maize, have remained high, in spite of growing imports from Uganda and Tanzania.

Nutrition

UNICEF reports that levels of acute malnutrition are critical in Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit/Laisamis and Samburu where rates of global acute malnutrition are above 20%¹. In other words, 1 child out of 5 is affected by acute malnutrition hence exposed to high risk of morbidities and mortalities. Levels of global acute malnutrition are serious (> 10%) in Baringo as well as in areas traditionally not affected such as



Kajiado and Kinango, suggesting emerging nutrition problems. In Isiolo, a rapid nutrition assessment indicate very high levels (i.e. >30%) of children being at great risk of becoming malnourished.

With similar intervention coverage, admissions of severely malnourished children in therapeutic feeding programs indicate an increasing and worrying trend as indicated in the figure below. Admissions have been of serious concern in Nairobi and Kisumu urban slums (1700 between January and June 2009).

Health

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation has confirmed 22 cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) in Kenya. There is heightening surveillance and public health education through FM radios and in the mosques.

Thirty-four (34) cases of measles have been line listed in Hagadera Refugee Camp in Dadaab. The age group most affected is above five year old attributed to lack of immunisation in Somalia and poor screening of refugees arriving. The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation together with stakeholders are preparing for mop up campaign in Hagadera Refugee camp.

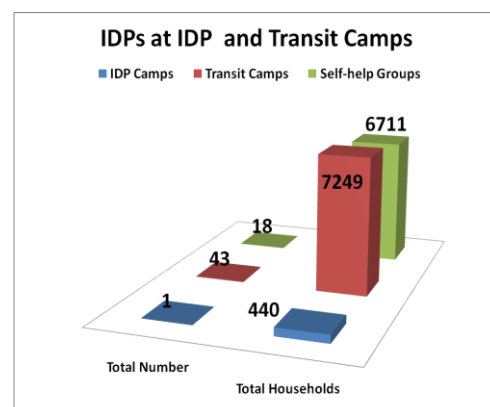
The cholera outbreak which affected 32 districts nationwide with a total of 4269 suspected cases, 94 deaths and a CFR of 2.2% since January 2009 have been contained in 24 districts. Two (2) districts (Isiolo in the Eastern and Malindi in Coast province) reported new cases. Preparations are advanced by WHO and Partners to build capacity for the most severe districts in Disaster Preparedness and response, and contingency planning.

WASH

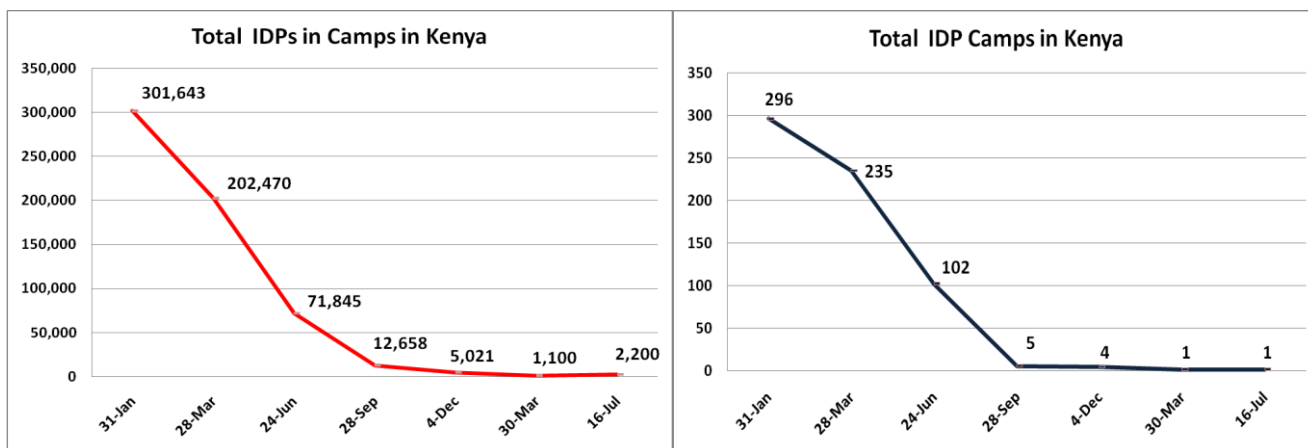
At the WESCOORD meeting of 17 July, it was reported that there was an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Isiolo district. The affected areas remain Kipsing area, Merti and Cherab divisions. Outbreak control measures ongoing but there is difficulty in daily relaying of information from the outlying affected areas to the district remains. UNICEF conducted field assessment of preparedness and response in a number of affected districts and those neighboring them and the districts' capacity to stock supplies for rapid response distributed hand washing posters (600) to Laisamis and Isiolo districts.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The Ministry of State for Special Programmes in collaboration with UNHCR will conduct a review of Operation Rudi Nyumbani (Return Home). The 5-week review is expected to start in September prior to which MoSSP and UNHCR will independently hire two consultants for the operation. There has been no comprehensive study or analysis of the operation to ascertain the successes, failures, constraints and challenges of the programme. 2,200 IDPs remain in the Eldoret showground camp. The IDPs mainly comprise of hawkers and landless squatters. 7,249 households are hosted in 43 transit camps in the Rift Valley provinces. There are 18 self-help groups hosting 6,711 households.

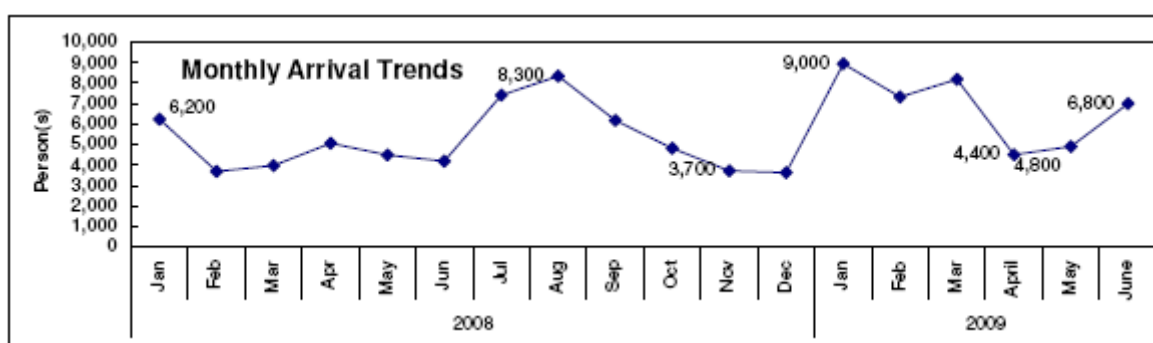


¹ Note: WHO classifications: a) Global acute malnutrition > 15% indicate a critical situation; b) Global acute malnutrition > 10% indicate a serious situation



Refugees

Dadaab continues to experience a continuous influx of new arrivals from Somalia. More than 43,000 new arrivals have registered this year with some 39,000 from Somalia. There is a noticeable increase of arrivals in June. The arrivals are mainly from the Lower/Middle Juba regions and also from Mogadishu. The overall population in Dadaab currently stands at 286,962 persons as of 19 July 2009, an increase of 22% since the beginning of 2009 (from 235,455 persons).



Source: UNHCR

Disaster Risk Reduction/Management

In light of possible El Nino rains that may cause flooding and displacement, Agencies are beginning to look at preparedness efforts for their operations which may be hampered if flooding occurs and access to vulnerable populations is compromised. OCHA has met with MoSSP to discuss contingency planning for El Nino.

OCHA supported the Ministry of State for Special Programmes to design a campaign on the dangers of siphoning fuel in light of the recent oil tanker incident in the country. In addition, a National Fire Safety Manual has been developed through a collaborative effort of the Government departments, Kenya Red Cross Society, private companies and OCHA. One of the main activities planned is a national Fire Safety week scheduled for 3rd – 7th August, 2009.

At a meeting held at MoSSP on 30 July on Highway Road Safety on Petroleum Accident, five (5) Committees were formed to look into the details of an advocacy strategy for safety on the roads in relation to handling petroleum products.

1. Publicity and public Awareness Committee. (-develop strategies on talk shows in TV, radio, advocacy messages in the print and audio media,) – The already proposed strategy / concept note developed by the office will be used and improved on. Training on safety and handling of petroleum products to schools and communities on highways as well as the truck drivers and owners and truck owners.
2. Road Hazard mapping Committee.. to develop a road hazard map, depicting the black spots, unsafe roads, parking bays on the highways etc
3. Policy and Legal Framework – examine the already existing laws that regulate the transportation of petroleum products. If no policy exists, try to come up with one. This will include standardization of the oil tankers – Kenya Bureau of Standards certification of drivers who transport petroleum products - Energy Regulatory Board and the Petroleum Institute of East Africa to take lead, Maximum hours behind the wheel and the moving at night on roads with loaded tankers, etc
4. Resource Mobilization Committee – to support some of the above activities

Committee to Draft a National Response Plan for Petroleum Products. – P.I.E.A in conjunction with the Kenya Transporters Association is already drafting this plan. Plans are underway to have it launched together with the National Disaster Response Plan

Protection

On the 10 July 2009, the Protection Working Group (PWG) held a meeting with the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on the Human Rights of IDPs, Dr. Walter Kälin. Dr. Kälin was in Nairobi to attend the technical meeting on the implementation of the Great Lakes IDP Protocol. The main purpose of the PWG meeting was to provide a briefing to Dr. Kälin on the current IDP environment in Kenya and raise pertinent issues in regards to durable solutions, continuing threats to IDPs and the need for a national policy on IDPs. Two members of the PWG provided a brief presentation on the current situation of IDPs in Kenya and its challenges. Dr. Kälin hoped to make a follow-up visit to Kenya this year, even though his term of duty ends in December 2009. He tasked the PWG to share with him the report of the Stakeholders' Forum, and to give him an update on the IDP situation on a three monthly basis

Three members of the PWG attended the technical workshop on the implementation of the Great Lakes Pacts and Protocols related to the IDPs, held in Nairobi from 9th to 10th July 2009. Other participants were representatives from member states, donors, UN and NGO partners. The workshop is part of the longer-term process of engagement between the UN and the member states to support the implementation of the Protocols relating to IDPs. One key recommendation was for Member States to fulfill their international obligations to enact national legislation, policies and strategies in order to implement the IDP Protocol and the Property Rights Protocol as well as to domesticate the UN Guiding Principles. Kenya has ratified both Protocols.

On 17 July 2009, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHCR) led a consultative forum on the ICC and the local tribunal options during the re- launch of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights report on post -election violence titled: *On the Brink of the Precipice: A human rights account of Kenya 's post -2007 Election*. Following the post-election violence, KNCHR undertook an investigation on the human rights violations that took place during the period. The overall aim of the investigation was to ensure that a comprehensive record of violations was gathered as a basis for enabling redress. The Commission noted that the debate on the local tribunal and The Hague option has provoked mixed reactions from across the country. The Commission took the opportunity to elaborate on the two options and noted that there is need for better understanding by the political leadership as well as the public.

Shelter

The Ministry of State for Special Programmes has informed its partner agencies that its shelter programme funded by the African Development Bank (ADB) began in the third week of July. The ADB loan amounts to 1.61 billion shillings and funds a shelter programme of 19,000 houses and livelihood and peace and reconciliation interventions. A contracting tender will be issued for the work which is expected to last for a 3 year period. UNDP will complement the programme by initiating a 1.66 million USD programme for district business solutions which will aid the returning displaced community in Trans-Nzoia, Eldoret, Kisumu and Nakuru.

For more information, please contact:

Jeanine Cooper, Head of Office, OCHA-Kenya, +254 (20)7625155, jeanine.cooper@undp.org.

Alfred Nabeta, Desk Officer, Africa I Section, OCHA-New York, +1 917 367 2649, nabeta@un.org.

Stephanie Bunker, Spokesperson and Public Information Officer, OCHA-New York, +1 917 367 5126, +1 917 892 1679 (mobile), bunker@un.org.

Elisabeth Byrs, Public Information Officer, OCHA-Geneva, +41 22 917 2653, byrs@un.org.