



UNITED

NATIONS

KENYA HUMANITARIAN UPDATE vol. 53

1 September- 7 October 2009

Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Government leads Inter- Agency Contingency Planning for El Nino rains**
- **Torrential rains hit the western part of Kenya leaving thousands affected**
- **Three(3) people die and over 13,000 are affected by floods**
- **Food insecurity continues to affect millions**
- **Urban poor increasingly vulnerable and in need of assistance**
- **Cholera outbreak re-emerges in Turkana**
- **Thousands of refugees relocated to Kakuma from overcrowded Dadaab camps**

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

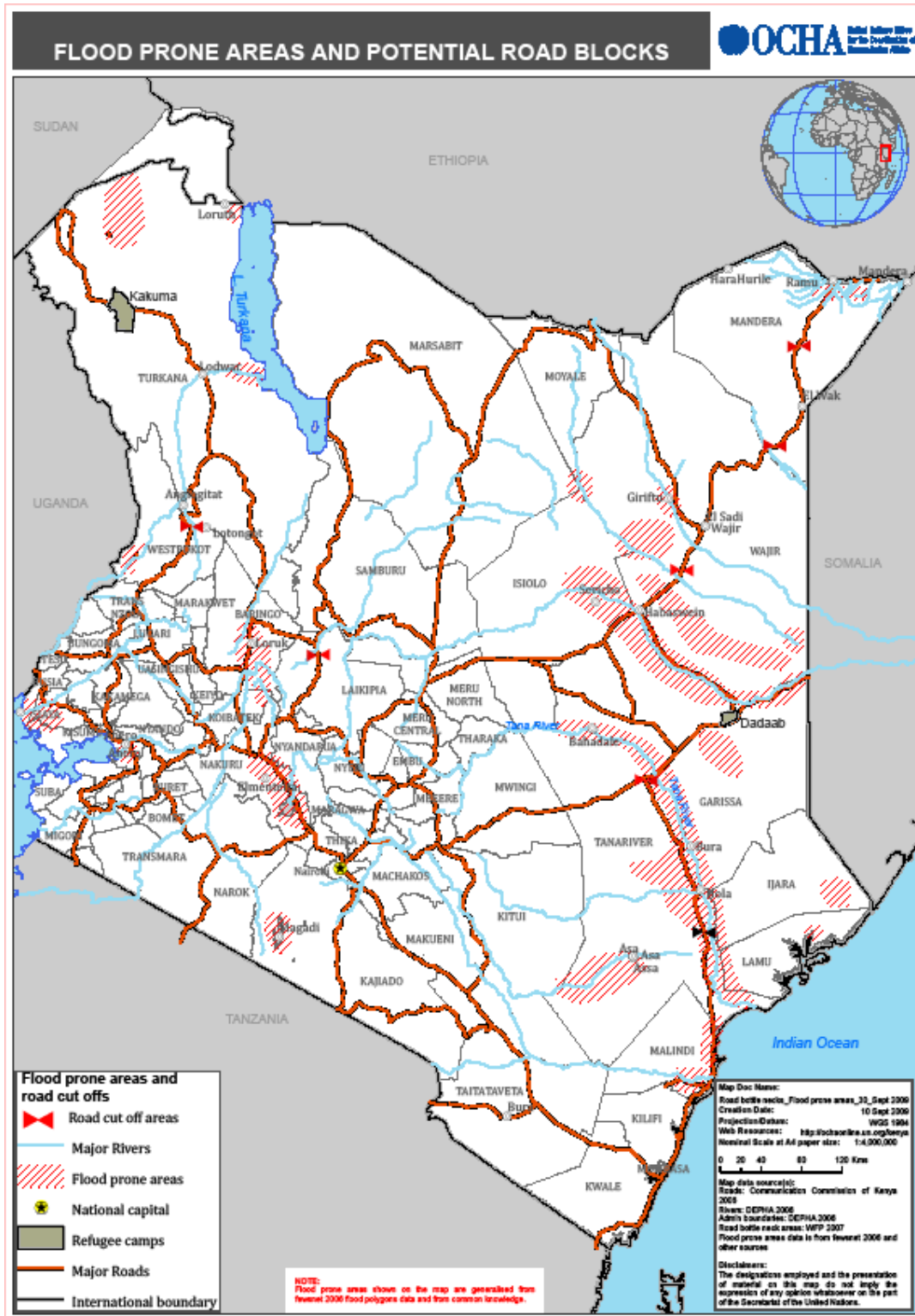
Mr. Kofi Annan, the Chief Mediator of the dialogue and reconciliation efforts for 2007 post-election violence, visited Kenya to review the progress made in key areas agreed upon for reform. These include police, land, electoral and judiciary reforms. Youth unemployment, truth and justice and reconciliation are other areas that are under review. Officials from the International Criminal Court at The Hague will meet key Government leaders (the President and Prime Minister) to discuss the way forward for trying key suspects of the post-election violence, following the expiry of the 30 September deadline set for the establishment of a local tribunal.

The prolonged drought has resulted in poor food harvests, extreme water scarcity and increased the vulnerability of drought-affected populations. Extreme effects can already be seen with massive livestock deaths and drying up of Masinga dam, which is part of the Seven Forks Hydropower Complex. The food security prognosis for the next three months remains precarious despite the projected El Nino rains that are expected in the October-December rainy season, and whose harvests are only be expected in January 2010.

Kenya is increased urbanisation leaves the poor urban population more and more vulnerable due to a number of factors, among them, poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, food price hikes and climate change which has an impact on national food security. The urban poor, are estimated to comprise 70% of the population (UNHABITAT 2008). The current drought has also made it difficult for the urban population to access clean water, which is necessary to prevent the spread of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and malaria. Diminished livelihood of the urban poor has also affected their ability to purchase food, water and access health services.

The Kenya Meteorological Department have highlighted the oceanic temperature variance that foretell an El Nino phenomenon with a probability of enhanced rainfall at 80% for eastern and western belts of the country; the central zone should expect a 75% chance of enhanced rainfall. Using historical trend- based analysis, it seems likely that the country will undergo a moderate El Nino event from October 2009 to January 2010 with severe consequences of flooding and mudslides but with possibly good impact on crop production. Previous El Nino cycles in 1997/1998 (severe) and 2006/2007 (moderate) marooned thousands in displacement and caused several hundred deaths. Roads were cut off and parts of northern Kenya were inaccessible except by air for week on end. Humanitarian aid supplies to the Dadaab refugee camps, to affected populations in Wajir and Mandera and even to Somalia were halted. The flood waters proved a breeding ground for mosquitoes and cases of malaria and other infectious diseases. By early

1998 and 2007 respectively, outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever claimed dozens of lives. Below a map on high risk areas expected to be affected by flooding in the October- December rains.



II. Humanitarian Situation

Food Security

Food insecurity continues to affect millions of people. 3.8 million people have been placed on immediate food aid assistance through the WFP/government run Emergency Operations Program (EMOP), and another 1.5 million school children are benefitting from school-feeding to cushion the stress. The World Food Programme (WFP) is partnering with USAID to end malnourishment in selected villages in Kenya, as part of the Millennium Villages Project.

On 30 September, Government launched *The National Produce More Food Campaign* to boost food production. 198,636 tonnes of fertilizer worth ksh7.54billion will be supplied to farmers at a subsidized cost.

Health

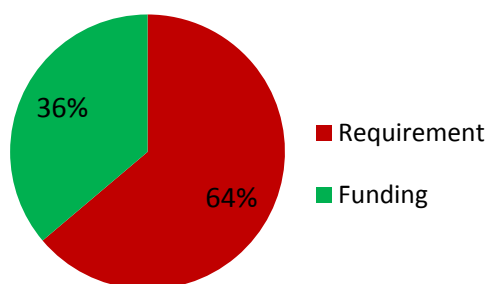
The World Health Organization (WHO) conducted an emergency preparedness planning training for the El Nino rains for the Health sector in Garissa district from the 28 September-1 October. Wajir and Mandera districts have already developed similar emergency preparedness plans. During the training, it was agreed that surveillance measures need to be stepped up in addition to taking stock of medical supplies that are available. OCHA is facilitating the development of comprehensive multi-sectoral inter-agency plan. The District Steering Group (DSG) of Garissa District met in September to discuss preparedness measures. A cross-sectoral preparedness workshop for the North East of Kenya is planned for 16th October 2009, and will be facilitated by the Ministry of Development for Northern Kenya and other Arid lands.

OCHA is supporting coordination and fund-raising efforts to address cholera outbreak, reported to have re-emerged in Turkana district, on the 22 September. Six (6) people have died following the outbreak and 73 admitted in hospital. Earlier in the year, Turkana district had been affected by cholera outbreak but was contained. The re-emergence of the outbreak is attributed to poor access to water and the compromised sanitation practices. UNHCR and its partner organizations have increased surveillance activities to avert any possible outbreak at the Kakuma Refugee Camp. UNHCR reports indicate that 30 cases have been reported within a 42km radius from the camp.

Funding update

OCHA held a two day workshop in preparation for the 2010 Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP). Participants developed proposed strategic objectives and prioritization criteria for humanitarian issues that were presented to the IASC on 1 October for endorsement. Participants at the workshop also developed multi-hazard sectoral scenarios for 2010. The scenarios will be useful in the development of sector priorities and proposals, a process that is on-going.

The funding status of the EHRP stands at 64 % as at 7 October. Concern remains on the slow stream of funding inflows, imbalance between sectoral funding and also underfunding of some sectors.



Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 25 September, the Presidential Press Service (PPS) issued a statement by the President, ordering the resettlement of all genuine Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within two weeks. The Ministry of Special Programmes was asked to provide IDPs with Ksh35, 000 resettlement allowances. The Ministry of Internal Security was also asked to ensure that no new camps crop up thereafter. The Eldoret Show Ground IDP

Camp has 2,700 IDPs remaining. In addition, 7,249 households are hosted in 43 transit camps in the Rift Valley provinces. As of 2 October, 221 people had received Ksh35, 000 while others refused to receive the payment and demanded that Government also provides them with alternative land to resettle. 545 households are expected to receive the payment.

OCHA supported Nakuru district in the preparation of Contingency Plans in anticipation of the Mau Forest eviction. Displacement and conflict is anticipated when government evicts squatters living in the forest. Close to 500,000 people are likely to be displaced.

Refugees

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that as of 4 October, Kenya hosts 380,317 refugees and asylum seekers. The number of people who arrived went down from 5,200 as reported in August, to 3,000 during the month of September. 288,089 individuals are in the refugee camps in Dadaab, 49,935 in Kakuma and another 42,293 in Nairobi. 80,222 refugees arrived in Kenya since January 2009 to date. 7,113 individuals were registered in Nairobi, 61,380 in Dadaab and 11,729 in Kakuma, who were relocated from the overcrowded Dadaab camps.

UNHCR included the surveillance of the H1N1 virus in its surveillance activities. Five positive cases have so far been identified.

UNHCR says that new procedures for the issuance and authorization of pass movements were issued by the provincial commissioner on 29 September 2009. The new procedures could see the delay or cancelling of travel, even for urgent and legitimate needs such as medical treatment.

Voluntary movement of Kenyan refugees from Uganda took place during the month. 28 households comprising 60 persons each crossed the Malaba border to Kenya on 24 September where they were received by the Provincial Commissioners and District Commissioners from the region. The returnees fled to Uganda following the violence that followed the 2007 elections.

Disaster Risk Reduction/Management

Disaster

A Crisis Operation Centre (CRC) was established in the Prime Minister's Office on 28 August 2009 to scale up humanitarian interventions that cover food distribution, livestock off-take, water provision and the supply of agricultural inputs. A total of Ksh47 billion is required to contribute towards crisis interventions, with government contributing Ksh21.2billion. A deficit of Ksh25.8billion remains and government has appealed for the support of humanitarian agencies.

Floods

Three (3) people were killed and more than 13,000 affected when floods hit Nyando and Kisumu districts, located in the western part of Kenya. In Kisumu district, flood waters that originated from Nandi hills washed away six (6) houses, destroyed the walls, floors and roof tops of 40 houses and slightly damaged the walls and floors of 220 houses. Household food reserves were also contaminated with sewer water. Water supply to the affected areas was disrupted as a result of mud clogs around the Nandi hills area, which is one of the main sources of piped water. Kisat River, the other source of piped water has



Woman wading through flood waters to access her house in Nyando district Source: KRC

also been contaminated and cannot be used without purification. Most of the latrines in the area were submerged in the flood waters with Nyamasaria area being the only area with surviving ecosan latrines.

Floods in the flood prone district of Nyando occurred in Miwani division that is part of Kano plains whose soil structure predominantly comprises of black cotton soils that have poor drainage. 1126 people (206 households) had their houses submerged and an additional 3,000 people were affected by the floods. Eight schools were submerged and subsequently closed. One of the primary schools in the area had the roof-tops to three classrooms, offices and a toilet blown away by the winds. In addition, water sources

have been submerged and contaminated by flood water that got mixed up with sewer water. Food reserves and mainly cereals which had been stored in houses were also contaminated when sewerage mixed with the flood waters.

For more information on the floods that occurred in Nyanza Province, please refer to the Floods Bulletin No.1 which can be found at [Http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya](http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya)

Preparedness activities

On 14 September 2009, the Crisis Response Centre (CRC) with support from UN OCHA convened a workshop to develop a National Contingency Plan in preparation for the El Nino rains. An estimated 750,000 will be affected by the floods, 150,000 of whom are refugees. The plan will be implemented at provincial and district levels with support from national level. The livestock, agricultural, health nutrition, education, shelter and non-food items sectors are also encompassed in the plan, in addition to Food and, WASH. Also covered are search and rescue and protection sectors. Agencies involved in the planning process included government ministries and departments, UN Agencies and non-governmental organisations operating at national and international levels.

At the district level, OCHA supported Kisumu, Nyando and Nakuru districts with the preparation of Contingency Plans, for the expected enhanced rains. In Nyando and Kisumu District where floods have occurred, OCHA supported the coordination of emergency response initiatives. In addition, there was a revision of the Contingency Plan that was developed earlier in the year, and target number of households increased to 3,500 people/ 20,000 households. A Disaster Response Team was formed in Nakuru District. Inter-agency meetings on interventions and preparedness planning were convened in Nyando and Kisumu district, with support from OCHA.

According to a study by the Kenya Red Cross Society, floods in Mandera district have caused damages estimated in over Ksh 150 million between 2003 and 2008. Mandera district is one of those that are affected by perennial floods when River Daua bursts its banks. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) estimates that floods incurred damages worth Ksh34 million to crops and irrigation infrastructure in 2003, Ksh 68 million in 2006 and Ksh100 million in 2008. KRCS is supporting communities in Rhamu and Rhamtu divisions of the district, with the technical knowledge of tapping water from the River for agricultural use and managing the floods, which in return improves the food security situation at household level.

Climate change

OCHA in partnership with UNEP held an exhibition dubbed 'Climate Voices- Africa Voices' to raise awareness about the humanitarian face of climate change. A visual display of the impact of climate change and accompanying advocacy messages were portrayed through the exhibition. Additional messages were relayed to participants by the Head of OCHA Kenya and the Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Africa.

On 25 September 2009, The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) signed a memorandum of understanding that is aimed at strengthening the linkage between scientific knowledge of climate prediction and field application for disaster risk reduction. People living in disaster prone areas will have access to information that will help them be better prepared for disasters in addition to and assisting them with early recovery activities. Moreover, disaster risk reduction activities will be strengthened through activities that include the pooling of networks for more coordinated action. The activities that will be undertaken will also contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Kenya.

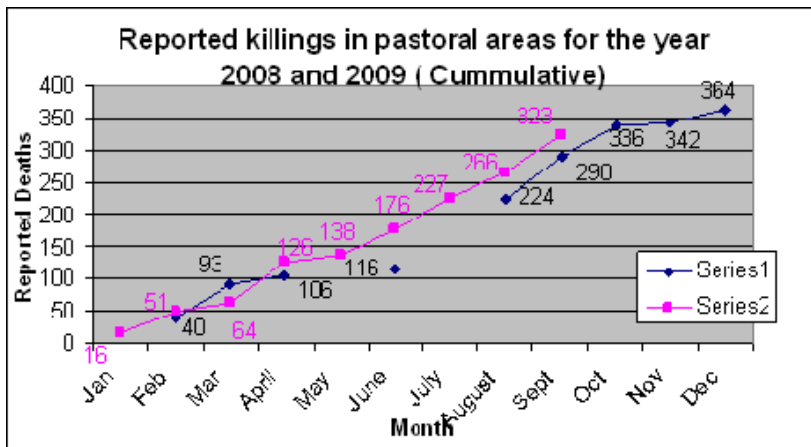
Urban vulnerability

OCHA is currently facilitating joint planning sessions with UN Habitat, on Urban Vulnerability. A workshop is scheduled for the 28 October which will discuss issues pertaining to advocacy and strengthened coordination.

Conflicts

Resource based conflict continue to be on the increase, especially in the arid and semi-arid lands that are hardest hit by drought. The number of people losing their lives, property and sources of livelihood continues to be on the rise. In Laikipia district, Rift Valley Province, 32 people lost their lives and 40 cattle, 20 goats and 30 sheep were stolen while another 26 were shot dead. In Turkana district, two attacks occurred between the 12-14 September and four people, including a child were killed and 1200 people displaced. Retaliatory attacks are

likely. Meanwhile, OCHA’s analysis into pastoralist killings indicates that the cumulative number of reported people killed between January and September has risen to 323 from 266 reported in August.



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.