The Eastern Africa cluster continues to face one of the biggest humanitarian crises in its history. Driven by successive episodes of drought and failed harvests, conflict, insecurity and economic shocks affecting the most vulnerable, humanitarian needs are expected to increase. According to Fewsnet, the number of people in need of food assistance in the East Africa region stands at 26.5 million and the number of refugees who have sought protection in the Horn of Africa region had increased to 4.4 million by June 2017.

Across East Africa, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes persist in parts of South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia while Crisis (IPC Phase 3!) prevails in other parts of South Sudan as humanitarian assistance is mitigating outcomes that are primarily conflict driven. In many previously drought-affected areas of the region, better seasonal performance has driven substantial improvements in Ethiopia’s Somali Region and pastoral areas of Kenya and Somalia. However, food security outcomes have deteriorated for about one million conflict-displaced people along Ethiopia’s Oromia-Somali regional border.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda continue hosting the region's largest refugee population from Somalia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The repatriation of refugees from Kenya to Somali and Tanzania to Burundi is ongoing. Various factors pose a challenge to the repatriation process including the political situation in Burundi and Somalia remains highly tense coupled with limited capacity to receive the refugees. In addition, most returnees have nowhere to go upon arrival in their country of origin.

The cluster will work with various Movement and non-movement partners to ensure realization of planned activities. Movement and external partners support Emergency Appeals, disaster management and resilience programmes.
AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

IFRC EA Cluster will support DRR interventions through the Green Response Project implemented in Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania whose aim is to reduce negative environmental impacts of refugees through provision of clean and sustainable energy in line with SDG7 and Strategy 2020. GPDC project will also implemented Tanzania to complement other interventions. Anticipated outcomes:

- 150,000 people will be reached by Red Cross with public awareness and education campaign using harmonised message to reduce mitigate and respond to identified risks.
- 100% of people trained on community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness retain knowledge and skills after 2 months.
- 6 NS apply WPNS and DRCE to assess their disaster preparedness for response capacity.
- 3 policies influenced through NSs engagement.
- 20,000 people reached by climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability campaigns.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

Emphasis will be on incorporation of learning, strengthening community participation, as well as promoting approaches that contribute to sustainability, such as rotational livestock programmes, etc. Technical support will be provided to development of focused FSL strategies to guide the work of NSs. Focus Countries for livelihoods will be Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. The Livelihoods work will align with SGD 2 on ending hunger. Anticipated outcomes:

- 75% of the targeted populations livelihoods are restored to pre-disaster level.
- 75,000 HHs/ productive organisations/ MSME apply new acquired knowledge / skills promoted by the project to strengthen/ diversity/ protect livelihoods.
- 15,000 people supported with in kind assets or cash or cash vouchers for recovering or starting/ strengthening economic activity.
- 15,000 HHs supported to increase/improve HHs food production.
- 8000 people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs.

HEALTH

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) with support from partners has been providing essential services since 2011 in Dadaab Refugee Complex in the sectors of health, nutrition as well as WASH sector services, Camp Management (until 2014) and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention and response until 2017. The Health programme in 2019 will build on existing strengths and capacities of Staff and Volunteers at HNS in areas such as CBHFA, Community Based Surveillance, Epidemic control for Volunteers. These will strengthen Community Health, National Health Systems, and Health Emergency Risk Management. Anticipated outcomes:

- 853,444 will be reached by the national societies’ health program and services.
- 640 volunteers will be trained by NSs on epidemics and pandemics to effectively detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- 86,197 people will be provided with clinical health care services during emergencies.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Specific focus will be on the 4 themes namely: Developmental WASH, Emergency WASH, Public Health WASH and Urban WASH. In Long term Developmental WASH, the focus will be to mobilise resource and support the implementation of WASH programmes primarily geared towards contributing to SDG goals 6; which seeks to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. A target of 2 NSs are set to receive support in developing proposals.

- 620,000 HHs provided with knowledge on and access to improved excreta disposal.
- 75% of the targeted populations livelihoods are restored to pre-disaster level.
- 2 policies influenced through NSs engagement.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In 2019, the cluster will focus on cash preparedness and cash interventions capacity building for National Societies. Timely launching of emergency appeals and allocation of DREF funds will be ensured in addition to timely deployment of surge personnel for emergency operations. The National Societies will be supported to develop long term programs including institutionalising PMER, CEA & PRD while finalising the development and roll out of EA program strategy within IFRC and PNs. The cluster will support National Societies to have effective and motivated volunteers and strengthen community based DRR, response and preparedness.

STATISTICS

People in the Horn and East Africa classified as severely food insecure.

16M

Number of emergency operations launched between 2015 & 2018.

29

Number of people reached by emergency operations in 2018.

3.2M

CONTACTS

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