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Emergency appeal operations update

Kenya: Drought



Emergency Appeal	Appeal n° MDRKE030
Operations update n° 2 Issue date: 30 September, 2014	Timeframe covered by this update: 29 August to 29 September 2014
Operation start date: 29 August, 2014	Timeframe: 9 months (end date 29 May 2015).
Appeal budget: CHF 8,512,016 Appeal coverage: 1%	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date: CHF 77,085
N° of people being assisted: 649,175 persons.	
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): National Society branches in the targeted areas	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, Danish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Kenya, National Disaster Management Agency, UNICEF, OCHA and WFP.	

Summary:

- **January 2014** the Government of Kenya declared an impending drought with an estimated 1.6 million people affected.
- **March – May 2014:** Poor performance of the long rains.
- **Ongoing:** Increasing food prices and general inflation.
- **June - July 2014:** According to SMART survey results from the Nutrition Information Working Group (NIWG) the nutritional status in the target counties has deteriorated as compared to June 2013.
- **29 August 2014:** IFRC launches Emergency Appeal.

Due to the poor performance of the long rains between the months of March–May 2014 in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Kenya, the drought situation has continued to affect both pastoral and marginal agriculture livelihood zones (the North Western, Northern, North Eastern, South Eastern and parts of Coast) affecting household food availability as well as livestock productivity. The situation has continued to worsen due to increased food prices which have continually eroded household purchasing power driven by increase in costs of fuel, and general inflation. Through the launch of this appeal, IFRC will support the Kenya Red Cross Society to assist 649,175 persons affected by the drought situation for a period of 9 months.

The Kenya Food Security Steering Group 2013 short rains assessment conducted in February 2014 indicated that poor performance of the 2013 short rains had resulted in more people becoming food insecure. The National Disaster Management Authority, through its routine early warning system bulletins, January - June 2014, issued drought alerts in Mandera, Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Wajir and Marsabit Counties with the trend either worsening or deteriorating. Earlier during the year in January 2014, the Government of Kenya declared an impending drought with an estimated 1.6 Million Kenyans being highlighted as requiring emergency food assistance. Short term food assistance was provided by the government in the affected counties with an anticipation that the conditions will improve with the long

rain seasons. Based on the short rains assessment report carried out, WFP increased the beneficiaries on food assistance from 800,000 to 1.3 million

Within the period under review, the National Society has continued to conduct an intensive resource mobilization initiative targeting various potential partners to support in the operation and currently encourage various partners to join the initiative and support in the operation. There are also more discussions between the County and National Government as well as with UNICEF as a follow-up on the CERF funding. In addressing the gaps, the National Society has continued to build upon current interventions by the central and county governments and other non-governmental organizations to promote synergy and maximum benefits at minimum possible costs. Coordination mechanisms within and with government (central and county) units, humanitarian agencies and UN Agencies at county and national level will be avenues for mapping various actors and their interventions thereby avoiding duplication over the upcoming weeks.

The appeal is currently only 1% funded. A pledge has been received from the Danish Red Cross and Danish Government. In addition Japanese RC has made a soft pledge of approximately CHF 86,000. IFRC would like to thank all partners for their continued support and to encourage more partners to support the activities under this appeal.

[<click here to view the contact details >](#)

Coordination and partnerships

The Kenya Red Cross Society has continued to work closely with the county and the central governments in monitoring the drought and food security situation in the affected counties. These include the Ministry of Special Programmes, The National Drought Management Authority, The County Governments, the County Disaster Steering Group and others. Kenya Red Cross Society also participates in County and National Coordination Forums and Technical Working Groups. These include the County and National Nutrition Technical Forum, The Water and Environmental Sanitation Coordination and others. The organization participates in the Kenya and East Africa Cash Technical Working groups coordinated by Cash Learning Partnership in Nairobi. The Kenya Red Cross Society also works in partnership with Humanitarian Organizations supporting similar humanitarian interventions.

IFRC is part of the Inter Agency Working Group on Disaster Preparedness core group members and co-chairs the Advocacy group, leading on the 'working differently agenda'- to invest in early actions and risk management rather than late response. IFRC is also part of the Food Security and Nutrition Working group Steering Committee. The purpose of the above forums is to exchange knowledge, information and experiences with respect to disasters occurring in the region as well as discuss implications for preparedness and response.

IFRC leads the Early Warning Early Action agenda at the regional level with a number of partners including FAO, WFP, Save the Children and OXFAM and actively supports Intergovernmental Authority on Development resilience agenda together with Kenya Red Cross Society.

Operational implementation

Overview

KRCS in the target counties has further prioritized sub counties for intervention based on; affected population (needs: Health and Nutrition, Food Insecurity, WASH), counties where KRCS takes a lead role, existing KRCS long term programmes, existing partners in the thematic areas and hard to reach areas due to insecurity, and infrastructure.

Table 1: General Acute Malnutrition rates in the prioritized sub-counties.

sub-county	Rate (%)
Marsabit-Loiyangalani	29.2
North Horr	29.2
Marsabit	20
Turkana Central	28.7
Turkana North	27.2
Turkana South	24.5
Wajir West	20.7
Wajir East	16.8
Samburu	17.3
Mandera North	23.6
Mandera West	27.3
Mandera South	22.3
Baringo – East Pokot	21.1

KRCS will ensure integrated programme implementation (Nutrition, Emergency Health, WASH and Peace Building) in the target counties on incremental basis depending on the funding; Marsabit, Mandera, Baringo, Wajir, Turkana and finally Samburu. These counties have high levels of insecurity, which has led to reduced humanitarian space and interventions. However, the KRCS enjoys access in most areas of these counties despite the conflicts.

Both WFP and the Kenya Government (County and Central) have supported the counties mainly on the food assistance programmes. School feeding still remains a gap among most implementing partners. KRCS will provide interventions in schools not targeted by WFP. Cash transfer programming will be unconditional and monitoring mechanisms will be put in place for the direct beneficiaries in this program. The cash transfer program will be integrated in nutrition interventions targeting households presenting under five year old children with malnutrition. On WASH the main focus by the Government has been on fuel subsidy and supporting water trucking which is very expensive. KRCS proposes rehabilitation of strategic boreholes to increase safe water access in the stressed areas. Integrated health outreaches will be community based to reach more people far away from the facilities based services currently provided by the county governments.

The primary beneficiaries will be the most vulnerable groups including children under the age of five years, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and children of school going age, especially those in ECDs and lower primary schools. Other priority beneficiaries shall be the displaced populations away from their normal settlements either in displaced camps or integrated as IDPs within the host population.

The National Society is currently conducting intensive resource mobilization initiatives targeting various potential partners to support in the operation and is encouraging various partners to join in the initiative and support in the drought operation in Kenya.

Table 2: Partners reached to support the drought operations.

Donor/Partner	
Partner National Societies	Danish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross (through Japanese Embassy)
Cooperate Partners	Safaricom Limited, Airtel, Nakumatt Ltd.

The National Society is also in discussions with the Kenya County and National Government as well as with UNICEF as a follow-up on the CERF funding. In addressing the gaps, the National Society has continued to build upon current interventions by the central and county governments and other non-governmental organizations to promote synergy and maximum benefits at minimum possible costs. Coordination mechanisms within and with government (central and

county) units, humanitarian agencies and UN Agencies at county and national level will be avenues for mapping various actors and their interventions thereby avoiding duplication over the upcoming weeks.

The national society's progress from local fundraising mechanisms (Corporates and Media) has not yielded much yet. Although discussions have been initiated with mobile telephone service providers Safaricom and Airtel as well as with , Nakumatt holdings and a mobile money transfer (MPESA) pay bill number allocated, less than 10,000 (approximately USD115) Kenya shillings has been received to date. There is need for more sensitization and publicizing of the pay bill number.

Proposed sectors of intervention:

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	
Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.	Activities planned - Identify water points for rehabilitation with Ministry of Water. - Procure stocks of Point of Use Water Treatment chemicals for 60,000 beneficiaries for household water treatment. - Train volunteers and beneficiaries on use of water treatment chemicals during distributions. - Conduct household level monitoring visits to ensure proper use. - Rehabilitate and upgrade 18 water supply schemes that have boreholes to reduce the load on current system. - Reconstitute and capacity build water management committees to manage the constructed/rehabilitated water facilities.
Output 1.2: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.	Activities planned Construct 36 latrines in areas of watering points.
Output 1.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.	Activities planned - Train 120 trainer on applicable hygiene promotion techniques. - Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns targeting institutions, communal areas, in the target / migration areas. - Adapt and produce information, education and communication materials on hygiene promotion. - Disseminate information, education and communication materials.

Progress: The appeal is still very low in funding and progress on the planned activities will be reported in the subsequent updates upon receiving funding.

Food insecurity, nutrition and livelihoods	
Outcome 1: Reduced food insecurity among affected households	
Output 1.1: Productive assets/inputs for primary production provided in accordance with the seasonal calendar, via in-kind distribution, cash grants or vouchers.	Activities planned - Procure and distribute seeds and fruits for fast Procure and distribute fodder seeds. - Procure and distribute replanting kits for farmers with greenhouses and nettings.
Output 1.2: Critical nutritional status of the targeted community is improved.	Activities planned - Participate in sector coordination and technical forums for nutrition at county and national levels. - Identify vulnerable beneficiaries to be included in the cash transfer programing.

	• Train community health workers and volunteers on health education and promotion messages. • Conduct health education sensitization sessions with focus water related infections, early case detection and treatment. • Conduct regular outreach services in partnership with the Ministry of Health. • Identify, adapt, produce and distribute information, education materials on nutrition. • Provide linkages and referral service for children requiring nutrition stabilization (in-patient therapeutic feeding). • Procure commodities for supplementary feeding.
Output 1.3: Sufficient nutritious food accessed by children at schools.	Activities planned • Identify schools to benefit in collaboration with education boards school feeding coordinators and World Food Programme. • Procure and distribute food supplements to schools. • Monitor implementation to ensure compliance on recommended rations per child and adherence to hygiene practices.
Output 1.4: Cash transfers are provided to households to purchase food.	Activities planned • Conduct rapid market and household economic assessment. • Training staff and volunteers on cash based programming. • Register and enrol beneficiaries. • Establish complaint and feedback mechanisms. • Establish beneficiary communication systems • Implement planned cash disbursements. • Carry out post distribution monitoring of the cash transfer activities.
Output 1.5: Key advocacy messages and lessons learnt are shared and endorsed to improve Kenya Red Cross systems to slow onset disasters.	Activities planned • Develop an advocacy strategy using a participatory methodology. • Produce key advocacy and policy documents to share lessons learnt and best practices on early actions on building community resilience • Organise events with key stakeholders and decision makers to improve emergency operations. • Support operational research and document best practice and lessons learnt. • Participate and contribute to national coordination mechanisms.

Progress: The Danish Red Cross has recently provided earmarked funding for the implementation of the cash transfer activities in this appeal. Progress on the implementation of these planned activities will be reported in the subsequent updates.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Kenya Red Cross Society:** Abbas Gullet, Secretary General; Phone: +254 20 603 593; email: gullet.abbas@kenyaredcross.org
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Finnjarle Rode, Regional Representative for East Africa; phone: +254 20 283 5000; email: finnjarle.rode@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; phone: +254 731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer, Phone: +41 22 730 4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **Regional Logistics Unit:** Rishi Ramrakha, Nairobi; Phone +254 20 283 5142, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Region:** Diana Ongiti, Senior RM Officer; Phone +254 20 2835 276; email: diana.ongiti@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone Nairobi, Kenya:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator, phone +254 283 5000, email: Robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.