

BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA) OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Kenya – Food Insecurity

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

November 6, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated October 19, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Recurrent seasons of failed or poor rains, sustained high food prices, environmental degradation, outbreaks of disease, and flooding have led to deteriorating food security conditions throughout Kenya, straining coping mechanisms, exacerbating existing chronic poverty, and contributing to increased inter-ethnic conflict over access to limited land and water resources. Food insecurity in Kenya has also occurred in the context of ongoing civil and political unrest, including violence associated with the December 2007 election that displaced more than 663,000 people in Nairobi and across areas of Rift Valley, Western, Nyanza, and Coast provinces, according to the Government of Kenya (GoK). Although the majority of displaced individuals have subsequently returned to areas of origin, vulnerabilities among remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) and disruptions to agricultural production in affected areas have contributed to increased food insecurity.

On August 20, the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)¹ increased the projected number of people requiring emergency food assistance between September 2009 and February 2010 to 3.8 million individuals, representing a 32 percent increase since February 2009. In addition, the report identified approximately 2.5 million chronically foodinsecure individuals located in urban areas, 100,000 persons displaced by post-election violence, 1.5 million primary school students in drought-affected areas, and 2 million rural HIV/AIDS patients as food insecure countrywide and in need of humanitarian assistance.

On October 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger renewed the disaster declaration for food insecurity in Kenya for FY 2010. In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$245 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Kenya, including more than \$24 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, health, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, as well as local procurement and distribution of food.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE		
Total Population in Need of Emergency Food Assistance until February 2010	3.8 million	KFSSG – August 2009	
Refugees in Kenya	376,377	U.N. – October 2009	

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Kenya	.\$51,196,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	.\$51,196,000

CURRENT SITUATION

Food insecurity remains high in many parts of Kenya due to consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. However, FEWS NET expects normal- to above-normal October to December short rains resulting from an El Niño effect to improve agricultural and pastoral productivity throughout the country. As a result of increased rainfall, humanitarian organizations anticipate improved food security throughout Kenya between January and March 2010.

Heavy rains beginning in late October have led to flooding in low-lying areas, resulting in population displacement and damage to houses and farmland. Infrastructure damage due to flooding has increased needs among affected populations and hindered humanitarian response efforts. In addition, many areas of Kenya have experienced increased incidence of waterborne disease, including a significant increase in cholera cases.

¹ KFSSG works as an advisory body on drought management and food security in Kenya. The group consists of 12 members, including GoK departments and ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, and the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

USAID/OFDA continues to monitor humanitarian conditions, conduct assessments, and coordinate with partners to prioritize programs to meet critical needs of affected populations. In October, USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham and USAID/DCHA Acting Assistant Administrator Susan Reichle visited Kenya to meet with humanitarian partners and visit the Dadaab refugee complex in North Eastern Province. As the current rainy season progresses, USAID/OFDA staff will continue to liaise with implementing partners to monitor conditions and facilitate rapid response if necessary.

Agriculture and Food Security

Although the October to December short rains have begun in most parts of Kenya, the effects of several consecutive seasons of drought continue to negatively impact food security. Due to insufficient February to August long rains, FEWS NET anticipates an October to January harvest of 1.9 million metric tons (MT), approximately 25 percent below the four-year average. Heavy rains may decrease the yield of the remaining 900,000 metric tons (MT) of unharvested crops since harvesting requires dry conditions. In response, the GoK plans to provide drying facilities for newlyharvested crops in an attempt to reduce losses. FEWS NET expects the long rains harvest to provide sufficient food stocks to last through March 2010, though a substantial food deficit may occur in the second quarter of 2010 due to reduced crop production.

FEWS NET anticipates improved food security in drought-affected southeastern and coastal agricultural areas beginning in December, when short rains crops mature. According to FEWS NET, households in areas that rely primarily on short rains crops are likely to produce sufficient crops to sustain themselves through the subsequent short rains season. However, heavy rains have resulted in flooding in riverine and coastal agricultural areas, damaging crops and potentially decreasing crop production. While FEWS NET expects the majority of flooding to conclude by the end of November, the impact of the floods may persist into 2010 in localized areas.

From October 5 to 10, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP staff visited pastoral areas of Laikipia District, Rift Valley Province, and Isiolo and Marsabit districts, Eastern Province, to assess reports of food insecurity associated with poor long rains performance. The assessment team noted deteriorating livestock conditions and reports of populations engaged in negative coping mechanisms, including charcoal collection, decreased meal consumption, and migration to urban centers.

FEWS NET anticipates limited improvement in pastoral food security by the end of December as increased rainfall improves livestock conditions and milk availability. However, FEWS NET notes that full recovery of pastoral productivity requires several consecutive seasons of sufficient rainfall to replace livestock lost during drought. Heavier than normal rains may also cause an initial increase in livestock deaths as livestock weakened by drought contract disease.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$17 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems interventions in Kenya, including programs designed to strengthen livelihood opportunities, protect and diversify household assets, and increase agricultural productivity among more than 663,000 vulnerable pastoralists and farmers.

Flooding

According to OCHA, as of November 4, heavy rains had caused floods in Mandera District, North Eastern Province, and Malindi and Tana River districts, Coast Province, killing at least five people and displacing approximately 5,000 others. During the week of October 26, local media reported that heavy rains also resulted in floods in Kwale, Kilifi, and Lamu districts. In addition, heavy rains on November 3 resulted in a landslide in Muranga District, Central Province, killing one person.

On October 27, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that floods in Mandera District, North Eastern Province, displaced approximately 1,800 people and damaged wells and latrines. The GoK and humanitarian partners had prepositioned enough water purification tablets in Mandera District to treat contaminated drinking water. OCHA estimates that flooding may temporarily displace up to 750,000 people throughout Kenya in late 2009 and early 2010, including approximately 150,000 refugees in the Dadaab refugee complex.

According to OCHA, Coast Province authorities have encouraged residents of low-lying areas to evacuate to higher elevations and established an IDP camp for 100 households in Tana River District. Local NGOs have begun distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations. The GoK Ministry of Health began a campaign encouraging flood-affected populations to boil drinking water in order to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

From November 5 to 9, USAID/OFDA staff members plan to visit Malindi, Tana River, Kwale, and Kilifi districts, Coast Province, to assess flood damage and resulting humanitarian conditions. USAID/OFDA staff will continue to monitor flooding in Kenya and coordinate with implementing partners on flood prevention and relief initiatives.

Insecurity and Population Movements

The U.N. reports continuing inter-ethnic tension in Eastern and Rift Valley provinces, often resulting from conflict over scarce resources. According to FEWS NET, incidents of resource-related conflict will likely decrease in early 2010 as food, water, and pasture become increasingly available due to improved rainfall.

Ongoing conflict in Somalia continues to result in population movements into Kenya. As of October 30, Kenya hosted more than 376,000 refugees, including more than 274,000 refugees residing at the Dadaab refugee complex in North Eastern Province and more than 60,000 in the Kakuma refugee camp in Rift Valley Province. The Dadaab complex was established in 1991 for a maximum capacity of 90,000 refugees and services there remain overwhelmed as the influx of Somali refugees continues. UNHCR registered approximately 3,100 Somali new arrivals in Kenya during October.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) Eric Schwartz visited the Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps on October 18 and 19. During the visits, Assistant Secretary Schwartz observed the refugee registration process and met with representatives from U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local Kenyan and refugee communities.

In FY 2009, State/PRM provided more than \$27 million in funding to UNHCR and NGO partners for refugee assistance in Kenya, including shelter, health care, psychosocial services, water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, and other assistance to refugee populations.

Health and Nutrition

Relief agencies continue to express concern regarding high malnutrition levels in Kenya resulting from food insecurity. As of October 30, the U.N. reported global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceeding 20 percent in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, and Samburu districts in northern Kenya. FEWS NET expects child malnutrition rates in northern pastoral areas to remain high through December, when milk availability may increase. Although U.N.-reported GAM rates greater than 10 percent in Kajiado District, Rift Valley Province, and Kwale District, Coast Province, do not exceed the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent, the U.N. notes that populations in these areas do not usually experience acute malnutrition.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.3 million to support nutrition activities throughout

Kenya, particularly in highly food-insecure areas of Rift Valley Province.

Emergency Food Assistance

According to FEWS NET, an estimated 3.8 million Kenyans will require emergency food assistance through the end of 2009. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reports that funding shortfalls resulted in breaks in the food assistance pipeline during the second half of 2009; however, WFP expects the pipeline to be restored from January to March 2010 as a result of increased support from donors, including more than \$26 million from USAID/FFP.

As the rainy season progresses, infrastructure damage from flooding may hinder humanitarian assistance. According to the U.N., flooding in Malindi District, Coast Province, damaged vital roadways, preventing approximately 40 trucks carrying WFP food assistance from reaching the Dadaab refugee complex.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has contributed 26,250 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$26 million, through WFP for drought-affected populations. USAID/FFP has also provided 27,180 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$25 million, to WFP for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps. In FY 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$9 million for WFP school feeding programs and nutritional education support for mothers in Nairobi and surrounding areas.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Incidence of cholera increased significantly in October, re-emerging in 12 districts. Between January 1 and October 30, WHO reported 8,363 cases and 72 deaths, including 4,136 cases and 50 deaths reported during the month of October. According to the U.N., Turkana District, Rift Valley Province, is particularly affected, reporting 603 hospital cases and 29 deaths during October. WHO expressed concern that further increases in the cholera caseload due to the effects of the rainy season may worsen the situation beyond the national capacity to respond.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.8 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in affected areas, including programs designed to increase access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation practices in Turkana District, Rift Valley Province.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

FY 2010 Assistance				
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location / Province	Amount	
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE ²				
WFP	53,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$51,196,000	
TOTAL USAID/FFP		\$51,196,000		
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2010			\$51,196,000	

¹USAID/FFP funding represents approximate value of food assistance as of November 6, 2009.