



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Kenya – Food Insecurity

Situation Report #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

May 14, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated April 7, 2010.

BACKGROUND

Although the recent short rains have improved food security in several areas of Kenya, recurrent seasons of failed or poor rains, sustained high food prices, environmental degradation, disease outbreaks, and flooding have led to deteriorated food security conditions throughout Kenya, straining coping mechanisms, exacerbating pre-existing chronic poverty, and contributing to increased inter-ethnic conflict regarding 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 hundreds of thousands of people in Nairobi and across areas of Rift Valley, Western, Nyanza, and Coast provinces, according to the Government of Kenya (GoK) Ministry of State for Special Programs. 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 March 25, 2010, the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)¹ decreased the projected number of people requiring emergency food assistance between March and August 2010 to 1.6 million individuals, representing a 57 percent decrease since August 2009. In response to ongoing humanitarian needs, on October 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger renewed the disaster declaration for food insecurity in Kenya for FY 2010.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Number of People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance	1.6 million	KFSSG – March 2010
IDPs in Kenya	268,600	OCHA ² – March 2010
Refugees in Kenya	379,208	OCHA – April 2010

FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	\$5,641,350
USAID/FFP³ Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	\$101,907,300
State/PRM⁴ Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	\$4,837,703
Total USG⁵ Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	\$112,386,353

CURRENT SITUATION

According to FEWS NET, unseasonal rainfall in January and February and the early onset of the March to September long rains have improved food security in many areas of Kenya. FEWS NET anticipates continued food security improvements in most areas of Kenya through September 2010, including in previously drought-affected districts. However, according to FEWS NET, populations in areas that experienced poor October to January short rains may remain food insecure until July, when the short-cycle crop harvest begins.

USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor humanitarian conditions among IDPs and returnees throughout Kenya. Between March 24 and 26, a USAID/OFDA team traveled to Rift Valley Province to assess humanitarian conditions among individuals displaced from Mau Forest since November 2009 and remaining populations displaced by post-election violence (PEV) in 2008. Residual PEV IDPs reported incomplete distribution of GoK cash payments as the major factor preventing return. Discussions with IDPs and local officials indicated that, while some PEV IDPs residing

¹ KFSSG serves as an advisory body regarding 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 U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

³ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁵ U.S. Government (USG)

in transit camps have legitimate claims to the GoK cash payments, others may be ineligible.

Agriculture and Food Security

Humanitarian organizations note continuing food security improvements through April in most areas of Kenya. FEWS NET reported substantial food security improvements in coastal and southeastern marginal agricultural districts due to adequate October to January rainfall which resulted in an above-average short rains harvest. The short rains harvest typically accounts for approximately 70 percent of annual household food needs in these areas. However, food insecurity remains high among vulnerable households in areas of Kitui, Makueni, and Mwingi districts, Eastern Province, due to inadequate rainfall and poor agricultural practices. As a result, households employ negative coping strategies, such as charcoal production, sand harvesting, and meal reduction, according to FEWS NET.

FEWS NET expects the 2010 long rains maize crop production to exceed the four-year average of 2.52 million metric tons (MT) as a result of above-average rainfall in most of Kenya, with the exception of coastal agricultural areas. The long rains maize harvest accounts for approximately 85 percent of total annual maize production in Kenya.

Above-average short rains and the early onset of the long rains have increased pasture and water availability in most pastoral areas of Kenya, resulting in improved milk production and livestock health. FEWS NET anticipates pasture and water supplies to remain adequate through the October 2010 onset of the short rains season. However, localized flooding in areas of Rift Valley, Eastern, and North Eastern provinces has damaged roads, resulting in reduced access to markets and increased rates of water- and vector-borne livestock diseases in affected areas, according to FEWS NET. In April, the GoK commenced an inoculation campaign intended to vaccinate approximately 1.1 million animals against Rift Valley Fever, mitigating a potential increase in flood-related disease cases.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$17 million to support agriculture and food security programs and economic recovery and market systems interventions in Kenya, including funding for seed distribution and pastoral livelihood activities.

Floods and Landslides

Following the onset of the long rains, flooding in March and April has resulted in population displacement and damage to roads and agricultural land. According to OCHA and the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), heavy rainfall continued in western, central, and coastal areas of Kenya during late April and early May. On April 30, a landslide caused by

heavy rain displaced approximately 600 people and killed 12 people in Marakwet District, Rift Valley Province, bringing the total number of flood-related deaths in 2010 to more than 100, according to KRCS. The GoK has advised residents of neighboring areas to move to higher ground in order to avoid loss of life in potential additional landslides. Although ongoing rainfall and road blockages resulting from the landslide have hindered access to affected areas, the GoK, KRCS, and NGO partners continue to respond to flood-related humanitarian needs.

USAID/OFDA has provided \$200,000 to KRCS through USAID/Kenya for the provision of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations. In addition, USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor humanitarian conditions in flood-affected areas.

Health and Nutrition

According to FEWS NET, increased food security has resulted in limited improvements in the nutritional outlook; however, humanitarian agencies note that nutritional status typically improves at a slower pace than food security. Nutrition assessments in Turkana District, Rift Valley Province, and Mandera District, Eastern Province, indicate that the percentage of children at risk of malnutrition has declined to approximately 20 percent below average.

In late April, the U.N. Nutrition Cluster identified greater Isiolo District, Eastern Province, as the most food insecure district in Kenya, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 17 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 3.8 percent, exceeding U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency thresholds. The U.N. Nutrition Cluster plans to maintain a presence in areas with nutritional needs and will reduce operations if the nutrition situation improves.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.6 million in support of nutrition activities throughout Kenya. USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition programs include support to NGO partners to assist the GoK in training health center staff to mainstream treatment of acute malnutrition within existing health care structures.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Health staff reported an increased incidence of cholera in Coast Province since mid-February, likely resulting from a lack of safe drinking water and poor sanitation facilities, according to WHO. A joint GoK-WHO assessment team visited the province from March 31 to April 1 and identified Kilindini, Kwale, Mombasa, and Msambweni districts as the areas most affected by cholera. The U.N. Health Cluster reported that WHO restocked treatment centers in affected areas with medication following reported shortages in March. As of April 21, health officials had reported 1,852 cholera

cases in 20 districts of Kenya and 29 deaths since January, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.5 percent, above the WHO recommended threshold of 1 percent. Humanitarian organizations expect a higher number of cholera cases to be reported in 2010 than in 2009 due to heavy rains; however, health officials anticipate that increased preparedness activities will contribute to a lower CFR in 2010 than in 2009.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in affected areas to improve access to safe drinking water and promote good sanitation practices.

Emergency Food Assistance

Following a reduction in the estimated number of food insecure Kenyans in the March KFSSG short rains assessment report, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) commenced food distributions targeting districts with highly vulnerable populations. In areas that have experienced increased food security, WFP plans to incrementally transfer responsibility for supplementary feeding programs to the GoK in the coming months. WFP may phase out support to supplementary feeding programs in coastal areas of Kenya by June due to improving food security conditions. In March, WFP commenced implementation of food-for-assets programs in 15 districts—including rain water harvesting, soil conservation, and irrigation programs—for 783,000 food-insecure individuals in 15 districts.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has contributed 98,190 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP for vulnerable populations in Kenya, including 71,940 MT of food assistance for drought-affected populations, valued at nearly \$69 million, and 26,250 MT of food aid for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, valued at nearly \$33 million.

Refugees in Kenya

On May 12, UNHCR released an appeal for additional funding to support more than 300,000 Somali refugees currently residing in Kenya. The new appeal seeks \$23.5 million for the extension of Ifo camp—one of the three camps in the Dadaab refugee complex located in North Eastern Province—to accommodate 80,000 refugees. The appeal also seeks more than \$13.9 million to implement enhanced protection activities in the Dadaab refugee complex.

UNHCR notes that the Ifo camp extension will help alleviate significant overcrowding in the Dabaab refugee complex, which currently hosts more than three times the intended capacity. UNHCR plans to complete the first site extension, Ifo camp 2, during 2010 to accommodate 40,000 refugees currently residing in flood-prone areas of the original Ifo camp and Daghaley camp. UNHCR plans to complete the second site extension—Ifo camp 3—in 2011.

UNHCR postponed a population verification exercise planned for early April in Daghaley camp due to confrontations with the host community beginning on April 5, including a violent incident on April 12 in which a host community group damaged the verification site.

In FY 2010 to date, State/PRM has provided more than \$4.8 million in funding to support refugee protection, shelter, health care, psychosocial services, and WASH interventions, as well as other assistance to refugee populations in Kenya.

USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya

To date in FY 2010, the USG has provided more than \$112 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Kenya, including more than \$5.6 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, health, agriculture and food security, and WASH interventions.

FY 2010 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

FY 2010 Assistance			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location / Province</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Horn Relief	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, and WASH	North Eastern Province	\$1,585,404
KRCS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$200,000
Mercy USA	Nutrition	Rift Valley Province	\$299,622
Merlin	Nutrition	Rift Valley Province	\$557,131
Save the Children (SC/UK)	Nutrition	North Eastern Province	\$500,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	WASH	Coast Province	\$1,237,640
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$11,553
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,641,350
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	108,780 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Central, Coast, Eastern, North Eastern, and Rift Valley Provinces; Dadaab and Kakuma Refugee Camps	\$101,907,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$101,907,300
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
CARE	WASH	Dadaab Refugee Camps	\$1,200,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health	Dadaab Refugee Camps	\$1,050,000
IRC	Health	Kakuma Refugee Camp	\$1,250,000
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Multi-Sectoral Response	Kakuma Refugee Camp	\$499,703
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Shelter, Education	Dadaab Refugee Camps	\$838,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,837,703
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2010			\$112,386,353

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 14, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of May 14, 2010.

Carol Chan

Carol Chan
Deputy Director
USAID/OFDA