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

Kenya – Food Insecurity

Situation Report #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

April 7, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated March 9, 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 led to deteriorating 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 nearly 664,000 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 |
| Refugees in Kenya | 374,165 | UNHCR ² – February 2010 |

FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Kenya | \$4,584,219 |
| USAID/FFP ³ Assistance to Kenya | \$101,907,300 |
| State/PRM ⁴ Assistance to Kenya | \$4,837,703 |
| Total USG⁵ Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya..... | \$111,329,222 |

CURRENT SITUATION

Above-average and extended October 2009 to February 2010 short rains has resulted in significant food security improvements in many areas of Kenya. The KFSSG released the 2009/2010 short rains assessment report on March 25. The report indicates increased food security in most areas of Kenya due to above-normal crop production, as well as improved pasture and livestock conditions. As a result of the assessment findings, the KFSSG decreased the estimated number of Kenyans in need of emergency food assistance from 3.8 million people to 1.6 million people, a decrease of 57 percent since August 2009.

As of March 26, flooding in areas of Rift Valley, Eastern, North Eastern, and Nyanza provinces had resulted in approximately 25 deaths and affected nearly 12,000 people since the onset of the long rains in early March, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), the GoK, and NGO partners continue to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from the floods. However, the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) forecasts continued heavy rainfall through April in northeastern, southeastern, and northwestern Kenya, as well as

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 The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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)

Nairobi, increasing the likelihood of additional flooding in affected areas.

In response to needs resulting from long-term food insecurity and flooding, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$4.6 million for humanitarian interventions in Kenya to date in FY 2010. In addition, the majority of FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded programs remain ongoing throughout affected areas of Kenya.

Agriculture and Food Security

Above-average short rains extending from October 2009 to February 2010 improved agricultural and pastoral food security in most areas of Kenya, according to KFSSG. The survey team noted that increased food security in southeastern marginal agricultural districts has had particularly significant positive effects because the area contains the highest food-insecure population in Kenya.

Despite reduced vulnerabilities in many areas of Kenya, food security remains a concern in parts of Eastern and Coast Provinces, where an abbreviated and sporadic short rains season resulted in crop losses of up to 80 percent in isolated areas, according to FEWS NET. In addition, KFSSG notes that several consecutive seasons of drought have depleted household assets and eroded coping mechanisms, requiring several successive good harvest seasons to facilitate full livelihood recovery, particularly in marginal agricultural areas.

Between March 28 and March 31, USAID/OFDA field staff traveled to Samburu East and Central districts, Rift Valley Province, to assess USAID/OFDA-supported programs in the area. The visit confirmed improving food security conditions described in the recent short rains assessment; however, USAID/OFDA staff noted that local milk availability remained poor and emergency assistance needs will likely continue for at least an additional six months.

Unseasonable rains in February and early March have sustained food security improvements in pastoral areas, particularly in northern and northwestern Kenya, according to FEWS NET. Although some northeastern pastoral areas experienced below-normal short rains, FEWS NET anticipates food security improvements in affected areas in the coming months resulting from the early onset of the February to August long rains season.

KMD staff expects normal to above-normal long rains in most of Kenya, with slightly below-normal rainfall anticipated in southeastern coastal areas. According to FEWS NET, an additional adequate rainy season will likely consolidate food security gains made in agricultural and pastoral households following the successful short rains season, allowing households to

rebuild assets depleted during previous drought seasons.

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 seed distribution programs and pastoral livelihood interventions.

Flooding

Since the onset of the long rains, flooding due to heavy rainfall had affected nearly 12,000 people in Kajiado, Nandi, Samburu, Tinderet, Turkana, and West Pokot districts in Rift Valley Province; Homa Bay District in Nyanza Province; Marsabit and Moyale districts in Eastern Province; and Mandera District in North Eastern Province as of March 26. Kakuma Refugee Camp, located in Turkana District, Rift Valley Province, has also been affected. Flooding temporarily displaced more than 2,500 households in five districts, according to OCHA; however, as of March 26, approximately 1,950 households had returned after floodwaters receded. In addition, floods have destroyed roads and bridges, reduced livestock herds, and damaged agricultural land.

As of March 26, the GoK, KRCS, and NGOs had commenced distributions of food and emergency relief supplies—including tents, blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, and water treatment kits—to affected populations. However, KRCS noted that flood-related infrastructure damage to bridges and road networks has hindered humanitarian access to affected areas, particularly in Turkana District.

KMD anticipates continued heavy rainfall through April in the Nairobi metropolitan area and districts in northeastern and southeastern Kenya. KMD expects above-average rainfall in northwestern Kenya to continue through May, potentially resulting in additional flooding.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided \$200,000 through USAID/Kenya to KRCS 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

Although child malnutrition rates in pastoral areas of Kenya remain significantly above the U.N. World Health Organization's (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent, nutrition assessments conducted by the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) indicate marginal improvements in the nutrition situation in February. ALRMP noted decreased rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in Turkana and Samburu districts in Rift Valley Province, Marsabit District in Eastern Province, and Wajir District in

North Eastern Province as compared to January statistics. ALRMP attributes the improvements to increased milk availability and the impact of ongoing blanket supplementary feeding programs in affected areas.

FEWS NET notes higher than normal GAM rates in West Pokot District, Rift Valley Province, and Kalifi, Kwale, and Malindi districts in Coast Province, although the rates remain below the WHO emergency threshold. FEWS NET attributes the increases to conflict in West Pokot District and below-normal short rains in Coast Province. Malnutrition rates may increase further in Coast Province in the coming months if the long rains season remains below-normal, according to FEWS NET.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million in support of nutrition activities throughout Kenya, particularly in highly food-insecure areas. USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition programs include support for the GoK to train health center staff to mainstream treatment of acute malnutrition within existing health care structures. In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.3 million to support nutrition programs, the majority of which remain ongoing in affected areas.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

WHO reported increased numbers of cholera cases in Tharaka District in Eastern Province, and Msabweni and Kilindini districts in Coast Province during the week of March 22, resulting in subsequent school closures in newly affected areas. As of March 22, WHO had identified cholera cases in 17 districts nationwide, with a total of 1,088 cases and 8 deaths reported since January.

In addition, OCHA has received reports of cholera cases in flood-affected areas of Rift Valley and Eastern provinces. Humanitarian organizations have responded by distributing medical kits and conducting hygiene promotion campaigns. Relief agency staff continue to express concern regarding the continuing spread of waterborne diseases throughout Kenya due to flood contamination of water sources and damage to sanitation facilities.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2 million to support WASH interventions in

affected areas to improve access to clean water and promote good sanitation practices. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.8 million in FY 2009 to support similar programs, the majority of which remain ongoing.

Refugees in Kenya

As of March 26, UNHCR had registered more than 18,000 new refugees in Kenya since January 1. Although Somalis fleeing from conflict in areas of origin continue to seek refuge in Kenya, UNHCR notes that refugee flows have not increased following reports of increased insecurity along the Kenya–Somalia border. However, relief organizations continue to note concern regarding humanitarian conditions at the Dadaab refugee complex in North Eastern Province, as the three camps currently accommodate more than three times the intended capacity. As of March 25, Kenya hosted more than 309,000 Somali refugees, according to UNHCR.

To date in FY 2010, State/PRM has provided more than \$4.8 million in funding for refugee assistance in Kenya, in addition to more than \$27 million provided in FY 2009. State/PRM programs support refugee protection, shelter, health care, psychosocial services, and WASH interventions, as well as other assistance to refugee populations.

USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya

In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the USG has provided more than \$305 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Kenya, including nearly \$29 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, health, agriculture and food security, and WASH interventions, as well as local food procurement and distribution.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has contributed 98,190 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to populations in Kenya, including 71,940 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$69 million, through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) for drought-affected populations and 26,250 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$33 million, to WFP for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.

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 Region | \$299,622 |
| UNICEF | Nutrition | Countrywide | \$1,250,000 |
| WHH | WASH | Coast Region | \$1,237,640 |
| | Program Support Costs | Countrywide | \$11,553 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$4,584,219 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE² | | | |
| WFP | 98,190 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 | | | \$111,329,222 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 7, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of April 7, 2010.



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