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

Kenya – Drought

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

April 13, 2011

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) reports that approximately 2.4 million people will require drought-related food and non-food assistance for at least six months—an increase of 800,000 people since August 2010. The KFSSG findings are based on a February assessment of the October–December 2010 short rains performance.
- As of March 22, an estimated 1.4 million pastoralists in northern Kenya remained moderately to highly food insecure due to consecutive seasons of failed rains, resulting in grazing land and water shortages, weakened livestock, declining livestock prices, and limited household milk availability, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Declining livestock prices combined with increasing food, water, and fuel prices continues to worsen pastoralists’ terms of trade. In addition, increased migration has led to conflict over grazing land and water, resulting in death, livestock losses, and decreased market access.
- The Kenya Meteorological Department (MRD) forecasts substantially depressed rainfall during the March–May long rains season, particularly in eastern Isiolo District, Eastern Province, and Mandera, Wajir, and northern Garissa districts in North Eastern Province. The MRD also expects below-normal rainfall in southeastern marginal cropping areas, coastal lowland areas, and northern central, northwestern, and southern pastoral areas. FEWS NET expects the below-normal rainfall to exacerbate drought-related conditions, particularly food insecurity.
- To date in FY 2011, the U.S. Government has provided nearly \$95 million to support drought-affected Kenyans, as well as drought-affected refugees residing in Kenya. Of that total, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$3.4 million to support drought-affected populations through agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Since FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$24.5 million for programs that intend to meet drought-related emergency needs and build resiliency over the long term. USAID/OFDA staff in Nairobi, Kenya, have conducted four field assessments in drought-affected areas since January 2011 to ensure that new programs meet the most urgent humanitarian needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Drought-Affected Population	2.4 million people	KFSSG, February 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Kenya	\$3,443,998
USAID/FFP ¹ Assistance to Kenya	\$79,500,000
STATE/PRM ² Assistance to Kenya	\$11,888,008
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	\$94,832,006

CONTEXT

- Following unfavorable October–December 2010 short rains, food security among pastoralists in northern Kenya and populations in rain-dependent marginal agricultural areas sharply deteriorated. A severe shortage of grazing resources resulted in abnormal migrations, whereby pastoralists travel long distances and group livestock in areas of limited remaining pasture and water. Livestock body conditions and prices have deteriorated markedly, with milk production declining significantly for the majority of affected households.
- On January 28, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger declared a disaster due to the effects of the drought. USAID/OFDA staff in Washington, D.C., and Nairobi, Kenya, continue to monitor humanitarian needs and provide targeted assistance in coordination with USAID/Kenya and the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Food Insecurity

- Approximately 2.4 million Kenyans are likely to remain moderately to highly food insecure through November, according to FEWS NET. From April to June, the majority of poor pastoralist households in northern and northeastern areas are likely to be highly food insecure, while the majority of poor households in southern and southwestern Kenya are likely to remain moderately food insecure. FEWS NET reports that populations in localized areas of Marsabit and Moyale districts in Eastern Province are likely to face extreme food insecurity between July and September.
- Poor farming families will be unlikely to be able to meet daily food requirements and will likely use limited livestock holdings to bridge food gaps, according to FEWS NET. Both pastoralist and farming families are adopting harmful coping strategies, including skipping meals, reducing meal size, and removing children from school to join the labor force.
- In response to food insecurity in Kenya in FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided more than 67,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to drought-affected populations, including to approximately 2.4 million Kenyans and an estimated 322,000 Ethiopian, Somali, and Sudanese refugees residing in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps located in drought-affected northern Kenya.

Livelihoods

- Pastoralists' purchasing power has deteriorated by 25 to 45 percent compared to previous five-year averages, according to FEWS NET. Increasing cereal and fuel prices combined with weakened livestock and poor access to markets resulted in a 5 to 10 percent decrease in livestock prices between February and March in Garissa, Ijara, and Mandera districts, North Eastern Province; Isiolo and Marsabit districts, Eastern Province; and Baringo, Kajiado, and West Pokot districts in Rift Valley Province. Abnormal migration patterns and localized conflict have prevented livestock owners from traveling to markets.
- Farming households in southeastern marginal cropping areas harvested less than 20 percent of normal crop output following the October–December 2010 short rains, compounding a poor 2010 March–May short rains harvest, according to FEWS NET. As a result, maize prices remained up to 45 percent above normal in March in these areas.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided support to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Save the Children/United Kingdom (SC/UK), and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Germany (VSF/G) to assist more than 133,000 livestock owners to market and sell livestock, specifically by creating linkages between livestock sellers and buyers, distributing meat vouchers, helping livestock owners to manage animal stocks, and supporting vaccination and deworming campaigns. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports numerous multi-year programs that intend to bolster pastoralist and farmer resiliency over the long term. For example, through the three-year, \$15 million Arid and Marginal Lands Recovery Consortium project, USAID/OFDA supports a variety of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist Kenyan farmers to increase agricultural productivity and diversify income generating activities to strengthen household purchasing power.

Nutrition

- February surveillance data suggests that the proportion of children under five years of age at risk for malnutrition is 20 to 30 percent above the February average in Garissa, Ijara, Mandera, and Wajir districts, North Eastern Province; Marsabit and Moyale districts, Eastern Province; and Baringo, Kajiado, Samburu, Turkana, and West Pokot districts, Rift Valley Province, according to the Government of Kenya (GoK) Arid Lands Resource Management Program.
- In February, GoK-led assessment teams comprising U.N. and NGO representatives recorded a global acute malnutrition rate of 15.7 percent in Samburu District, Rift Valley Province, exceeding the U.N. World Health Organization emergency threshold of 15 percent. The teams also recorded a severe acute malnutrition rate of 3.2 percent in Samburu District and observed limited variety in households' diets and a reliance on emergency food assistance.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million for emergency nutrition programs benefiting approximately 104,000 people, including in Samburu District through the International Medical Corps (IMC). The IMC initiative supports the GoK to integrate malnutrition treatment into existing health facilities, building the capacity of local health workers to respond to malnutrition in a chronically food insecure area. Additional USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition programs include inpatient and outpatient treatment, as well as community-based nutrition education.

WASH

- The GoK is supporting water trucking in drought-affected areas, while humanitarian agencies are supporting borehole repair and construction, as well as distributing chlorine tabs to disinfect drinking water in an effort to prevent water-borne disease outbreaks, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided support to the Wajir South Development Association (WASDA), a Kenyan NGO that is working to provide water to 180,000 vulnerable pastoralists, as well as livestock, in Wajir District, North Eastern Province, through borehole rehabilitation, the establishment of community-based water user committees to oversee borehole use and maintenance, and limited water trucking.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

FY 2011			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Rift Valley Province	\$790,058
Concern	Nutrition	Rift Valley Province	\$510,000
IMC	Nutrition	Rift Valley Province	\$524,266
Mercy USA	Nutrition	North Eastern Province	\$467,860
SC/UK	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	North Eastern Province	\$493,197
VSF/G	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	North Eastern Province	\$250,000
WASDA	WASH	North Eastern Province	\$408,617
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,443,998
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	67,290 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$79,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$79,500,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
CARE	WASH	Dadaab Camp, North Eastern Province	\$1,200,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health	Dadaab Camp, North Eastern Province	\$2,300,000
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Child Protection, Psychosocial Support, Refugee Reception, Support to People with Special Needs and Unaccompanied Minors	Kakuma Camp, Rift Valley Province	\$400,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Shelter, Vocational Training	Dadaab Camp, North Eastern Province	\$600,000
Salesian Missions	Vocational Training	Kakuma Camp, Rift Valley Province	\$200,000
World University	Education	Dadaab Camp, North Eastern Province; Kakuma Camp, Rift Valley Province	\$288,008
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Refugee Support	Countrywide	\$6,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$11,888,008
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2011			\$94,832,006

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 13, 2011.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Kenya may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.