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Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Heavy rains cushion drought-stresses and improve food security conditions and access to water**
- **Floods in late December 2009/early January 2010 leave 30, 000 in need of assistance**
- **Most families return home as flood waters recede, but require support**
- **The Government of Kenya (GoK) allocates Kes 4.5 billion for flood response**
- **Flood Preparedness efforts undertaken in 2009 laudable for less costly and efficient response to floods**
- **Government confirms 11, 769 Cholera cases with 274 deaths in 2009, whilst seven districts report new cases in 2010**
- **The Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) approves US\$ 10 million for underfunded projects**

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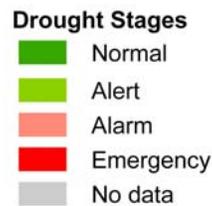
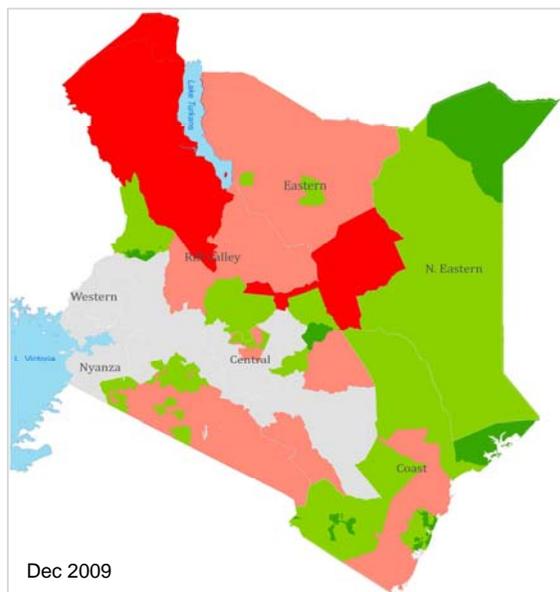
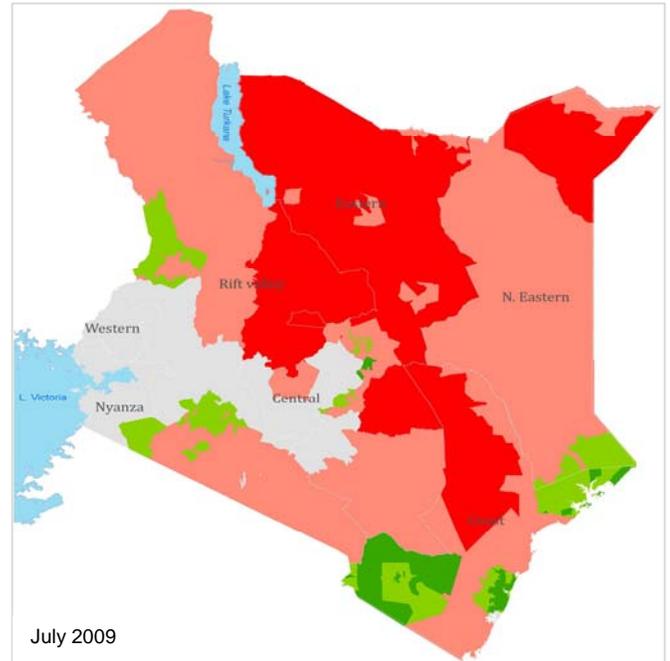
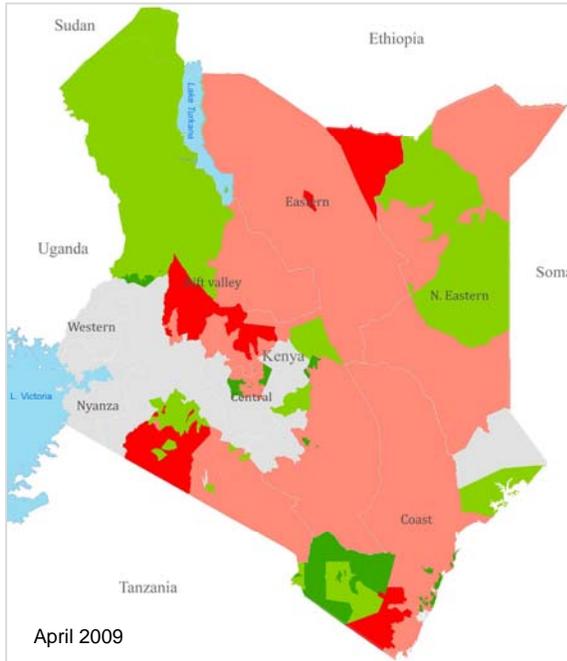
General Overview

Heavy rains in late December 2009/early January 2010 caused massive flooding in northern, central and western Kenya causing human and livestock deaths and destroying property worth millions of Kenyan Shillings. The National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) estimates that 58, 000 people have been affected by flooding in the October- December Short Rains season. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has called for support for 30,000 people facing dire humanitarian consequences from floods. As at 12 January, 30 people were confirmed dead, with reports of more missing or feared dead. Heavy rains on 9/10 January 2010 caused more flooding in Nairobi where hundreds of people were affected by flood waters, a building under construction collapsed in Kiambu and reportedly caused the death of three people. In Kawangwere slum in Nairobi, media reports estimate that 900 families have been affected by floods on 9/10 January 2010. Whilst flood waters have receded and most families have returned to their homes, needs in shelter, water and sanitation, infrastructure rehabilitation and livelihood recovery for the affected populations remain paramount.

In Taveta district, heavy rainfall on 11 January 2010 across the border in Tanzania caused flash floods in nine (9) sub- location areas and affected 556 households whose houses were submerged and household property was damaged. World Vision confirmed the displacement of 100 households. Abori Primary was flooded and had toilet facilities under water posing a significant health risk to residents. The Ministry of Health officials on the ground have reported diarrhoea cases though exact numbers are yet to be confirmed. More recent rains on 18 January 2010, in Narok (west of Nairobi) left four classrooms at a school destroyed. Roofs were blown away by strong winds that followed the heavy rain. There are fears of landslides happening and the local community has been evacuated to higher and safer grounds. The District Officer and KRCS volunteers visited the landslide prone area to urge resisting residents to vacate.

The Crisis Consultative Forum (CCF), the government-led humanitarian coordination group, met on 13 January 2010. The Permanent Secretary in MoSSP lauded humanitarian actors for preparedness efforts that resulted in quick response and less costly operations in the aftermath of floods. The PS briefed that three sub-committee meetings chaired by the Prime Minister took place in January 2010 to review response to the floods and discuss what additional support can be provided. The Government has announced that it will make available Ksh. 4.5 billion to help address the situation which includes the rehabilitation of roads, and provision of food and non-food items as well as addressing health issues. Out of the Ksh. 4.5 billion, Ksh. 2.91 billion is new funding while Ksh. 1.58 billion will be funding sourced from other Ministry budgets and the existing drought funds. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is being planned for early February 2010 by UNDP and OCHA to support the government to determine the recovery needs. UN Agencies, NGOs and the Kenya Red Cross Society participate in the CCF.

Analysis into the drought progression between April and December 2009 show improvement from alarm to alert levels, with certain parts (Mandera, Ijara and Lamu) showing complete recovery to normal stages. The improvement is attributed to heavy rains received in October 2009 in north-eastern and coastal belts of Kenya. Pasture has regenerated, water sources recharged and dramatically reduced walking distances for residents to access water for household and livestock use. Body conditions of livestock started to improve with market prices increasing in December 2009. In September, Mandera was at the worst stage of emergency levels whilst parts of Lamu and Ijara were at alarm levels. In Northern Kenya, the situation steadily deteriorated with areas that issued early warning signals of drought alert in April 2009 deteriorating from Alert-Alarm- Emergency levels in four months (e.g. Turkana). Other districts like Marsabit, Isiolo and Samburu (in northern Kenya) have consistently shown alarm or emergency levels of drought between May and November 2009. The areas remained dry and the long dry spell experienced in November 2009 further exacerbated drought conditions. However, in late December 2009, heavy rains received in northern, central, western and southern Kenya will contribute further to improving conditions



Maps produced by OCHA Kenya with information from GOK/ALRMP

On 15 January 2010, the Prime Minister launched a massive tree planting campaign in the Mau forest. The Mau forest complex is the largest water catchment in the country and occupies an estimated 400, 000 hectares, out of which 100, 000 is said to be destroyed through illegal encroachment and logging. The Prime Minister Raila Odinga has been spearheading efforts to start re-forestation in the Mau which has suffered massive deforestation and land degradation over the years. In October, the government started the evicting illegal squatters from the forest amidst high political rhetoric. There are an estimated 12, 000 people displaced following their eviction from the Mau forest by the government. The Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) has concluded a profiling exercise of the affected population. Response to affected populations has been highly politicized with the government discouraging humanitarian actors to distribute humanitarian aid. The Kenya Red Cross has provided support through distribution of NFIs and food aid has been given by the government. On 19/20 November 2009, an Inter-Agency team comprising OCHA, UNICEF and UNHCR visited the peripheral areas of the Mau forest where illegal squatters evicted from the forest are seeking refuge.

Humanitarian Financing

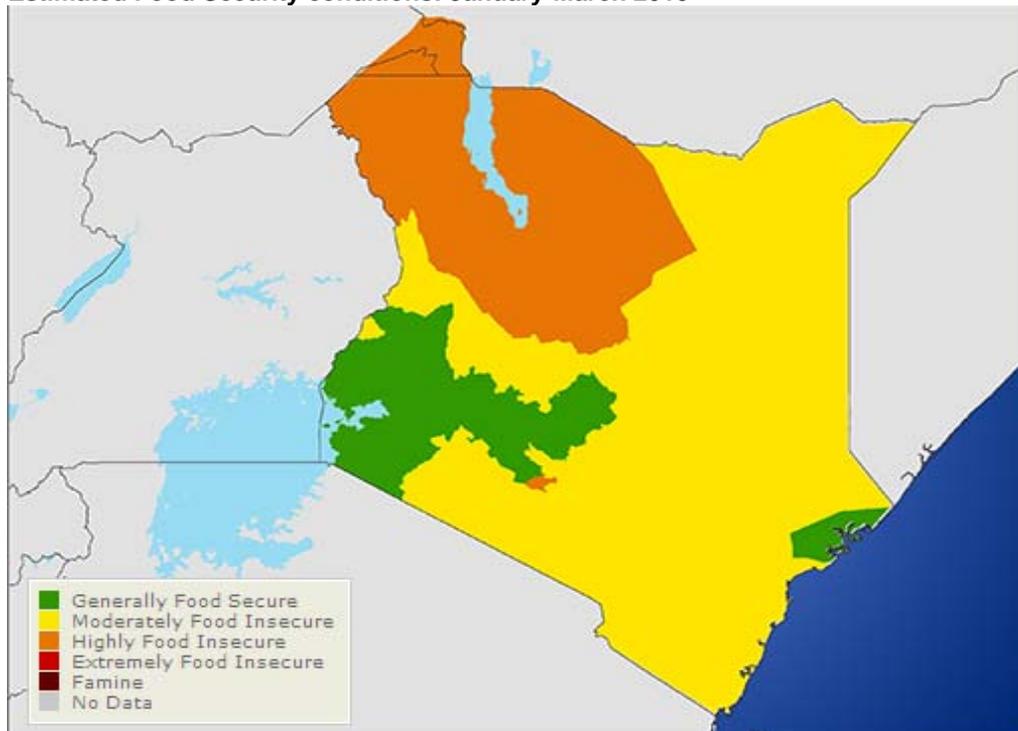
The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Sir John Holmes, on 15 January 2010, approved the allocation of US\$10 million Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for underfunded projects. Kenya was selected due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the imbalanced funding levels to the 2009 Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP). The Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team (KHPT), a forum led by the Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya, on 14 February agreed that focus of the underfunded grant will be in the Rift Valley for cholera response, food aid and malnutrition. The KHPT also agreed to target refugee needs in Dadaab and Kakuma.

II. Humanitarian Situation

Food Security

Food security conditions for most of Kenya shows a slight improvement in the next three months, from being classified as highly food insecure to moderately food insecure, according to Fews Net. Whilst there is improvement in conditions, some households will barely manage to meet their household requirements on their own and will require humanitarian support. Food insecurity will continue in the north-western pastoral districts of Turkana, western Marsabit, and parts of Samburu, Baringo, and West Pokot, due to the impacts of poor rains in November through the first week of December.

Estimated Food Security conditions: January-March 2010



Source: Fews Net

The Government has proposed a scheme to improve food security and household nutrition among the poor. The proposed *Saidia Jamii* (Help The Family) Food Subsidy Programme will see vulnerable households receiving Ksh. 1,500 every month through a cash transfer system. The proposed programme will be presented to cabinet for consideration and possible approval. The World Bank, Oxfam, CONCERN and WFP are the main implementing partners taking part in the initiative. A pilot project involving some 100,000 people will be commissioned for eight months before the programme is fully rolled out. The 2009 Long Rains Assessment states that 2.5 million people in urban areas are food insecure. Earmarked under the pilot scheme are Mathare, Korogocho, Mukuru and Kibera slums (informal settlements). Some Members of Parliament (MPs) have expressed concern over the programme's sustainability and mechanisms in place to ensure that only eligible beneficiaries are enrolled.

The GoK and WFP have targeted 3.8 million people for food assistance through the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) general food distribution. In 2009, food security for urban poor populations deteriorated due to multiplicity of factors. More than 2.5 million people in slums (informal settlements) are food insecure. Beneficiary figures will be adjusted after the Short Rains Assessment planned for February 2010. The household food security prognosis for January- March 2010, indicate a slight improvement from the last three months in certain parts of the country according to Fews Net. Food security continues to be influenced by converging dynamics among them high food prices, government incentives on imports of cereals, limited access to basic foods, and combined effects of drought and floods on livestock.

Agriculture & Livestock

Heavy rains received in the Oct-Dec 2009 season may positively influence crop production in parts of Kenya. The Ukambani area is expecting a bumper maize harvest. The threat of army worms in Coast lower Eastern and Kajiado has been quickly brought under control by the Ministry of Agriculture. The extent of the impact of the rains is yet to be assessed.

Pasture for livestock has regenerated and water sources recharged. Pasture improved greatly due to the rains, making distances to grazing areas also reduce by 38.1% in Kilifi, for instance. Livestock trekked shorter distances to graze, improving their body condition and ultimately increasing their value at local markets. In Mandera, MoSSP reports that pastoralists who had migrated with their livestock to Ethiopia during the peak of 2009 drought have come back and formed satellite settlements (makeshift villages) in Mandera Central and West districts. The settlements have no water and the government says these populations need to be targeted under Emergency Operations (EMOP) or GoK food distributions.

Pastoral districts in northern Kenya are however still far from recovery. In Marsabit, as drought conditions persisted from April to December 2009, livestock remained emaciated. Reduced livestock prices because of poor body conditions negatively affected food security at household level especially among pastoralist and fishing communities. According to MoSSP, average cattle prices decreased by 31.5% in December 2009 in comparison to usual prices at that time of the year. However, cattle prices are expected to increase in coming months with recovering body conditions after the rains received in late December 2009.

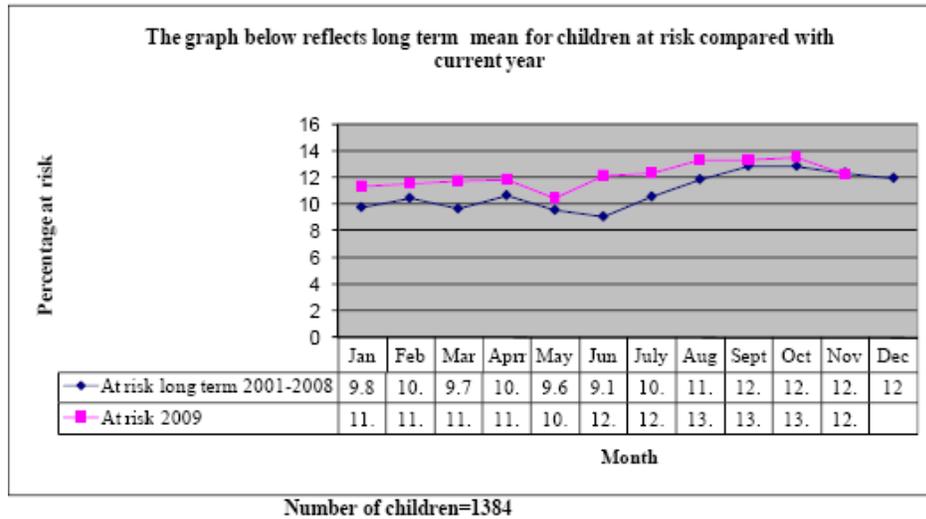
The rains have however caused loss of livestock with an estimated 6000 livestock lost in Dec/early Jan 2010 rains. FAO has recommended restocking with poultry considerations.

In Magarini district, River Sabaki broke its banks on 13th January 2010 and caused the destruction of 1000 acres of maize farms in Dagamra village. The floods washed away green maize which was about to be harvested, reports the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). In Homa Bay, western Kenya, heavy rains caused flooding and swept away parts of the community's farms and disrupted the fishing activities which form a main source of livelihoods to the population.

Nutrition

The national outlook on malnutrition indicates that children affected by malnutrition in areas hard-hit by drought in 2009 steadily rose between January and December 2009. UNICEF says there has been a four-fold increase in admissions of severely malnourished children to the feeding programmes in December 2009 compared to January 2009. The four-month blanket supplementary feeding in 5 districts (Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, Marsabit) is aimed to address the immediate nutrition needs, but also be used to determine the relevance and aptness of blanket supplementary feeding during the seasonal hunger gap.

In Kilifi, MoSSP reports that percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was 10.2% in December 2009 from 8.3% reported in November 2009. This was largely due to the poor diversity of diet and other factors like poor hygiene during the drought. Whilst there was an improvement of milk production in December 2009, consumption at household level remained poor as the milk was sold at markets for income. In parts of Marsabit, there was no milk availability except for a small group of camel herders. The shortage is attributed to the prolonged drought which has left livestock weak and emaciated. Depleted milk availability, especially among pastoralist households in the greater Marsabit district, aggravated food insecurity conditions at household level. Malnutrition rates remained high in Loiyangalani division (fishing community) of Marsabit at 44.2% followed by North Horr division with 37.0% and central and Gadhamoji divisions have the least at 13.1%.



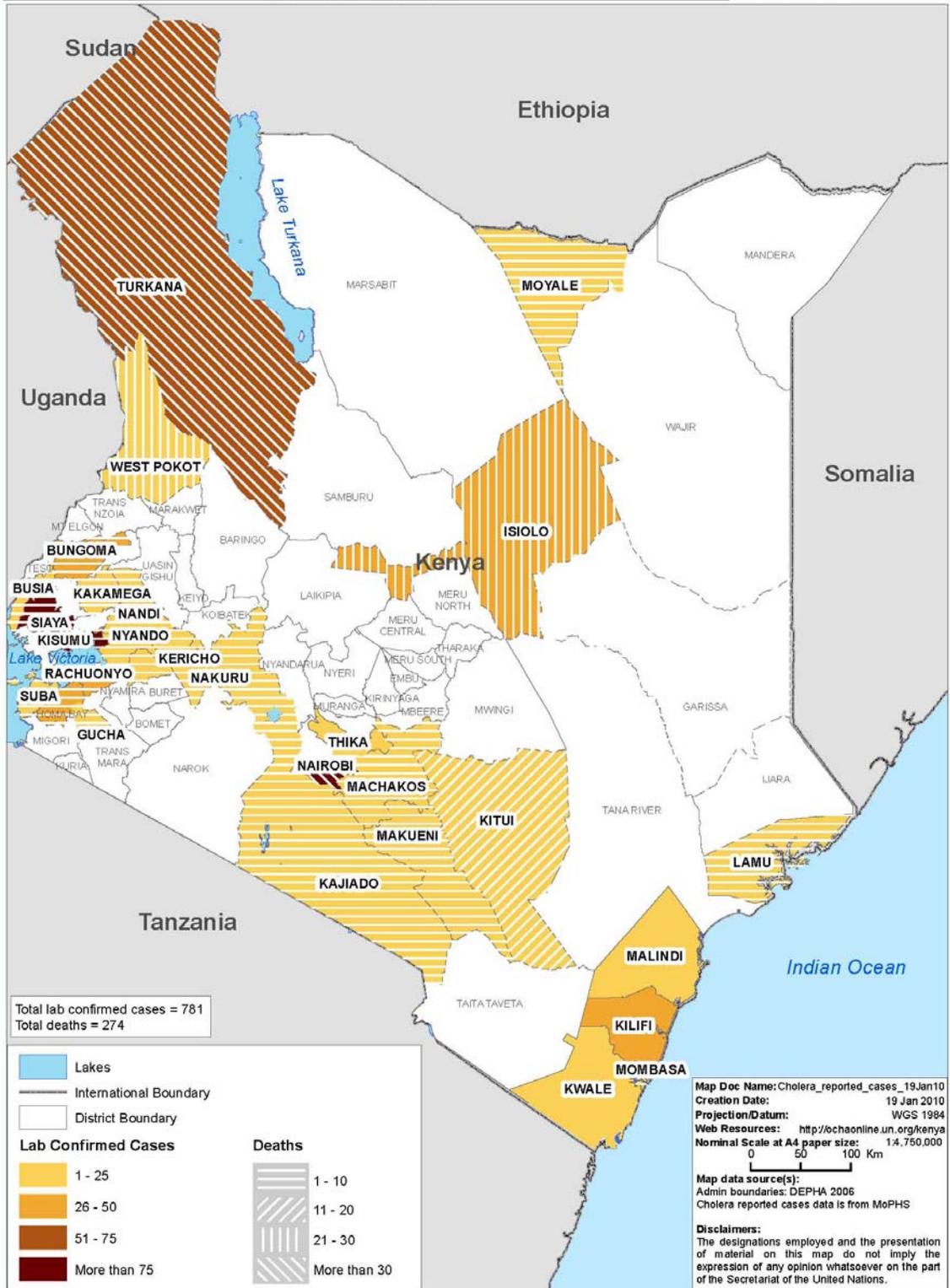
Source: ALRMP/Kilifi

Meanwhile, the improvement in drought conditions in some parts of Kenya resulted in increased milk production in some districts in December 2009 compared to November 2009. The increase was related to improved livestock body condition, with increased birth rate for different livestock species. For example in Garissa, MoSSP says that the nutrition status of children below five years continued to improve when compared with the preceding month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition falling to 10.8 from 12.3% in November 2009. The improvement is attributed to availability of livestock products, supply of CSB (Corn Soya Blend) to households and improved household income through sale of livestock.

Health

Cholera, Malaria and Rift Valley Fever are a concern in the aftermath of massive flooding. The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and WHO, have increased their disease surveillance in districts affected by floods. A window period of 4-8 weeks is expected for malaria, rift valley fever and even cholera to start manifesting. Nationwide, there are 11, 769 cases with 274 deaths (CFR of 2.3%) reported by between January and December 2009. A total of 50 districts have been affected across Kenya. Between 1st and 14th January 2010, seven districts have reported 123 new cases with no deaths recorded. Most of the districts affected were hard-hit by drought last year and experience food insecurity. The four consecutive deficient rains seasons experienced since 2008 have heightened households' susceptibility to disease outbreaks given the poor access to water, compromised hygiene practices, poor nutrition and exposure to floods.

CHOLERA OUTBREAKS BY DISTRICT SUMMARY OF 2009



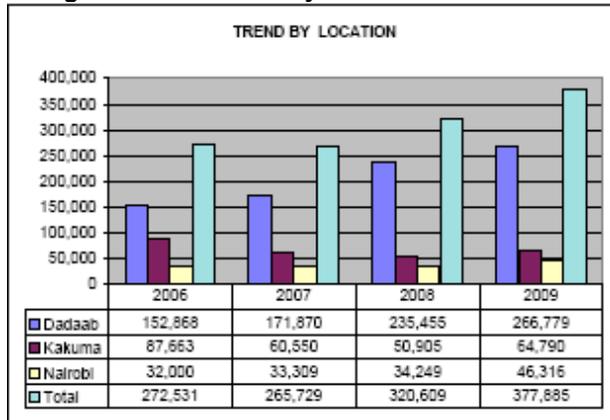
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The GoK (MoSSP) reports that 7230 families (estimated 35 000 persons) remain in 30 transit sites in the Rift Valley provinces by 30 November. There are no more IDP camps remaining after the closure of the Eldoret camp in October 2009. The Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) announced that it has now acquired 3, 422 out of the required 17 000 acres for IDPs resettlement. So far 502 families in self help group in 19 self have been resettled at Giwa Farm in Rongai district on 1171 acres of land. Some 12 000 people are displaced to nine camps after their eviction from the Mau Forest where they settled illegally.

Refugees

Kenya hosts a total of 377, 885 refugees of which 266, 779 are hosted in Dadaab camps in Garissa. There are 64, 790 refugees in Kakuma and 46, 316 in Nairobi according to UNHCR statistics for December 2009.

Refugees' inflows to Kenya between 2006 and 2009:-



Source: UNHCR

Protection

The Protection Working Group (PWG), chaired by the Ministry of Justice met on 15 December and discussed the drafting of the IDP policy in the coming months. The Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights of IDPs, Dr. Walter Kaelin, has seconded a staff member from his office to work on drafting the IDP policy with the Ministry of Justice, from January 2010. A series of meetings with government officials and other relevant partners have been scheduled. Meetings have been held with the Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya, PS in MoJ, PS MoSSP and Heads of UN agencies.

Conflict and Peace Building initiatives

The GoK has been conducting a disarmament exercise in Isiolo district, Northern Kenya. The earlier deadline of 24 December on the general amnesty issued to pastoralists to surrender illegal firearms was extended to 21 January 2010. The GoK stated that this will be a friendly operation and communities have been encouraged to cooperate. A thousand-strong joint contingent of Administration Police (AP) and General Security Unit (GSU) officers set up a camp at Buuri District, seven Kilometres outside of Isiolo District in preparation for the disarmament plan. The earlier announcement of the 24 December deadline caused panic in Isiolo with some residents reportedly fleeing their homes in fear of the government operation. The government recovered 451 guns and 2,590 rounds of ammunition from residents of North Rift and Upper Eastern by 27 December 2009. Armed conflict, linked to proliferation of small arms trade and arms flow from Somalia, is rife in pastoral Kenya.

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