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Kenya

Humanitarian Update

Overview

The government has announced an intention to look for external experts to help harness flood waters especially in the Lake Victoria Basin. Holland and China have been suggested as countries which could be approached for expertise owing to their success in controlling water.

The government wants to build dams in Budalang’i, Busia, to control flooding. But the country does not have a free hand because the Nile Basin Treaty binds countries not to dam waters in the catchment area owing to its importance as source of River Nile.

The Government is in discussions with other countries to come up with a solution that will be beneficial to all players because the area suffers from perennial flooding that causes loss of lives and destruction of property.

Apart from the floods and drought that is still persistent in some parts of the country, the country has been engaging in constitutional reforms and an intensified war on corruption.

Approximately 103,000 people are expected to benefit from food for work projects by the World Food Programme and Kenyan Government. The projects will distribute a total of 4,018 MT of food aid (cereals, pulses, and oil). The food aid is released to the beneficiaries based on the amount of work accomplished. By the end of May, the beneficiaries had received 450 MT of food.

A short rains assessment by the Kenya Food Security Group on nutritional status of children in Turkana, Baringo and West Pokot indicate that while the situation in West Pokot is stable, there has been a marked deterioration in the malnutrition rates in Turkana and Baringo. Global Acute Malnutrition rates in Turkana have increased to between 18-37% from rates of 11-21% during the same time in 2002.

Focus is also shifting to areas that are “grain basket” for the country. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) has already revised downward the predicted long-rains maize output from a long-term average of 2.2 million MT to 1.8 million MT.

The MoALD has reiterated that current national stocks are unlikely to meet domestic needs beyond the end of June 2003. The two-month delay in the start of the 2003 long-rains season in southwestern areas implies that the bulk of the first maize crop will be harvested toward the end of August instead of in late July. Response to displaced population has been very encouraging and the Kenya Red Cross and Office of the President have been the main bodies co-ordinating security.

The country security awareness was put under the spotlight following the sighting of an Al-Qaeda operative in Mombasa. Some Western governments closed their embassies and Britain suspended direct flights into Nairobi. In addition, several countries issued travel warnings on non-essential travel to Kenya which has in turn adversely affected tourism and is likely to trigger massive loss of jobs in this sector.

UNHCR repatriates Somali refugees

A first group of some 2,880 Somali refugees from Dadaab and Kakuma camps in Kenya have returned to north-east Somalia. The first group of 50 refugees was taken to Galkayo, north-east Somalia, aboard a UNHCR-chartered aircraft.

The UN refugee agency expects to assist the return by air of some 300 refugees to Bosasso, on the shores of the Gulf of Aden, and to Galkayo. At the end of the operation, some 2,880 refugees will be repatriated. The group is part of 6,000 refugees who had signed up for voluntary repatriation in 2001. A combination of funding difficulties and security problems in Somalia hindered their return.

Before leaving the Dadaab refugee camps, north-east Kenya, the returning refugees received an assistance package consisting of basic supplies such as plastic sheeting to cover their tukuls (the domeshaped shelter used by Somali communities), blankets, cooking utensils and jerry-cans. Each family also received a transport allowance for their onward trip to their places of origin. On arrival in Bosasso and Galkayo, they will receive a nine months’ food ration from World Food Programme.

In Puntland, UNHCR is helping to reintegrate returning refugees into the community by sponsoring a number of health, education and income-generating projects that cost the UN refugee agency more than $500,000 a year. These include health centres, a primary school, and fishing projects to export the sea’s riches to the Middle East. UNHCR is now assessing the needs of the returnees and plans to set up further projects worth an additional $250,000.
FLOODS

Weather forecasts in April had indicated that most of the country would receive normal to below normal rainfall thus people were caught unawares when unexpected heavy rainfall engulfed most parts of the country during the second half of April and continued into the second week of May with lessened intensity in the last two weeks of the month.

The rains came almost two months late; the long rains season starts in mid March up to June, thereby causing a delay in planting. Despite the late onset of the March-May rainfall, severe flooding was reported in many parts of the country by early May. According to government statistics, 77 people died through drowning and floods related cases. The floods led to displacement of more than 60,000 people. Some areas experienced mudslides near riverbanks. A mudslide at Ndakaini dam disrupted water supply to Nairobi for more than two weeks but there were no fatalities occasioned by the mudslides. Some people were marooned in an Island in Malindi near the Indian Ocean and only accessed humanitarian assistance when the waters went down allowing some strong swimmers to swim to the mainland to seek assistance.

In addition, Wakol Bridge situated between Ortum and Marich Pass was swept away cutting off Kakuma Refugee Camp and access to Southern Sudan by road. The World Food Programme was forced to airlift food and other essential commodities from the Eldoret Airport for Sudan. Construction of a new bridge started on May 29 and it is expected to take about one week to complete.

Despite the heavy rains, assessments show that the flooding is not as severe as during the 1997/98 season. Most of the displacements in Western Kenya were caused by flooding after water swept away dykes on River Nzoia. The dykes were only repaired last year. When the first cases of flooding were reported at the beginning of May, the Disaster Sub Committee of the Kenya Food Security Meeting called a meeting to plan a disaster response. Since then, this group meets twice a week to assess the situation and recommend further action. It was at this meeting that the UN Disaster Prevention, Management and Coordination Unit was asked to co-ordinate information on behalf of the group. The Kenya Red Cross, BRPC, Oxfam, Save the Children, UN, GoK, religious organisations and NGO’s are responding to the displaced humanitarian needs.

Response to the displaced humanitarian needs has been encouraging. Though the President did not declare it a national disaster, help came from multilateral donors, the UN, NGOs and Kenyans. The United Nations Development Programme gave a total of US$50,000, UN Environmental Programme US$40,000, World Food Programme US$19,000 and Unicef US$115,000. UN Disaster Prevention and Coordination Unit chartered a plane (US$3,750) to conduct an assessment mission.

In addition, the US government gave Sh20 million in emergency aid. The funds were used for buying supplies such as plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, soap and Jerry cans. The grant was a result of an appeal by the Kenya Red Cross. The US Agency for International Development (USaid), gave 384 tonnes of supplementary food worth more than Sh16.8 million as part of the US government donation to be provided in areas where crops were destroyed by heavy rains.

On the local scene, Barclays Bank of Kenya donated Sh5 million, Safari Com Sh1 million, Samia Group Sh 3m and Later Day Saints Sh3,861,000.

President were mandated to co-ordinate the operations.

There are 17 districts affected by floods in the country with varying degrees of intensity. The Lake Victoria Basin is the worst affected and has experienced the highest level of displacement especially in Busia, Migori, Nyando, Rachuonyo and Kisumu with more than 50,000 displaced persons. Tana River flood plains, starting from Garissa to the Indian Ocean, are also flooded leaving more than 10,000 persons displaced. A FEWS Net report indicates that the floods will have an adverse effect on food security because a total of 10,800 ha of land is under water and some of the maize crop has started yellowing which is a sign of nitrogen deficiency after leaching. The coastal flood plains became flooded in the last two weeks of May although the area is not receding any meaningful rainfall at the moment. The water is flowing from the Mt Kenya region and can no longer be contained in the power generation dams because they are already full. The UN, GoK, religious organisations and NGO’s are responding to the displaced humanitarian needs.
Food shortage looms in Kenya

Early warning systems in Kenya are raising concerns that the country is likely to have a food shortfall between July and September because of the late onset of the long rains season and subsequent flooding that has destroyed more than 10,800 ha of arable land. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) anticipates a national shortfall of an estimated 270,000 MT in that season.

FWEIS Net reports that the national maize supply has tightened significantly and is unlikely to meet national consumption needs, particularly before the first long-rains crops are harvested.

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) has been holding an estimated 261,000 MT of maize constituting 135,000 MT of Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) stock, 90,000 MT of Government of Kenya (GoK) famine relief maize and 36,000 MT of the NCPB’s own commercial grain stock. The GoK is currently building up the SGR, which is half of the target level of 270,000 MT.

Before the rains set in, reduced amounts of rainfall led to deterioration of soil moisture conditions with resultant withering and poor performance of early planted crop and a decline in levels of water in perennial rivers as well as boreholes and wells. Maize production in South Rift, Central and Eastern Provinces is likely to be most affected by the erratic rainfall.

In spite of the heavy rains experienced in the Mt Kenya region, Eastern Province and Western Kenya, parts of southern Kenya, including Eastern and Coast Provinces, and parts of Kitui, Isiolo and Samburu Districts, are still reporting well below average rainfall.

The intensity of the rains has tempered an initial optimism for improved 2003 long-rains crop production. Severe flooding, particularly in the districts around the lakeshore, has caused significant damage to newly planted crops. Some of the maize crop has started yellowing which is a sign of nitrogen deficiency after leaching. If they continue to be submerged, they will wither and die due to lack of nutrients and water logging.

Heavy rains have also slowed down planting in the neighbouring “grain-basket” districts of the Rift Valley Province due to lack of nutrients and water logging.

The ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) has already revised downward the predicted long-rains maize output, from a long-term average of 2.2 million MT to 1.8 million MT. The MoALD has reiterated that current national stocks are unlikely to meet domestic needs beyond the end of June 2003. The two-month delay in the start of the 2003 long-rains season in southwestern areas implies that the bulk of the first maize crop will be harvested toward the end of August instead of in late July.

Limited cross-border imports from both Uganda and Tanzania are expected, where the seasons also began erratically. As national supplies continue to tighten, the NCPB is faced with heightened demand for its stocks by millers and traders. Maize prices rose during the last week of April. These high prices are expected to reduce the purchasing power of most of the country’s predominantly deficit maize-producing households.

In areas based on the amount of work accomplished. The beneficiaries had received 450 MT of food. The two-month delay in the start of the 2003 long-rains season in southwestern areas implies that the bulk of the first maize crop will be harvested toward the end of August instead of in late July.

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VFP/GoK in projects to mitigate effects of drought

The Disaster Preparedness Fund that is currently under implementation by WFP in collaboration with the Office of the President has started implementing 103 projects to mitigate the effects of drought in Isiolo, Turkana, Mandera and Marsabit districts. The projects main focus is Food for Work and Food for Assets activities.

In the drought-prone districts, a sub-committee of the District Steering Committee (DSG) identifies the communities that are most food insecure and vulnerable to drought. These communities identify the projects that are most likely to contribute to reducing the impact of drought. Women are particularly encouraged to engage in the decision-making process, through elected community rehabilitation/development committees. These committees are an extension of the Relief Committees that were established during the emergency operation, and serve to ensure full and democratic community representation but also accountability at this level. Participants on the scheme are selected based on their poverty levels.

Most of the projects selected so far focus on community-based water resource management, irrigation and environmental conservation including the development or rehabilitation of pans, shallow wells and canals, and the de-silting or expansion of dams. Small-scale water projects reduce the impact of drought in three main ways. First, the migration distances in search of water are reduced, and less mobile small stock can be preserved. Second, women spend less time fetching water and can devote the time saved to other activities. Third, the water sources are permitting an increasing amount of kitchen gardening, which helps to diversify income and food consumption, especially for poor households without large herds.

Approximately 103,000 people are expected to benefit from these projects, and will receive a total of 4,018 MT of food aid (cereals, pulses, and oil). The food aid is released to the beneficiaries based on the amount of work accomplished. By the end of May, the beneficiaries had received 450 MT of food.

Floods hampered deliveries of food aid to the districts in May. Communities working on water dams benefited from the rains during the month of May, and were able to harvest some water. On the other hand, the heavy rains destroyed some irrigation canals of some projects. Communities in the targeted areas continue to...
**NUTRITION**

A short rains assessment by the Kenya Food Security Group, indicated that while the situation in West Pokot is stable, there has been a marked deterioration in the malnutrition rates in Turkana and Baringo.


These survey showed that Global Acute Malnutrition rates in Turkana have increased to between 18-37% from rates of 11-21% during the same time in 2002.

UNICEF and Oxfam GB have undertaken response planning missions to Turkana. UNICEF, as a first line response, has already dispatched supplementary food and micronutrients for children attending pre-schools and pregnant and lactating women presenting themselves at health centres.

Given that malnutrition is an outcome of several underlying causes, ongoing UNICEF interventions in health, water and education will be accelerated.

**Education sector calm after revision of teachers pay**

The United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) has set up some mobile schools in the flood hit Budalangi division in Busia District.

The agency is working with the Government to ensure that displaced children continue attending school.

The conflict in the region has been a result of a severely eroded asset base following a succession of poor seasons coupled with current poor conditions in these areas.

Apart from the Government and World Food Programme Food for Work projects which are aimed at improving food security in the areas, water tankering has been recommended in parts of Baringo East.

**Malnutrition in Baringo and Turkana worrying**

UNICEF reports suggest that while short term interventions such as enhanced food for work projects, as well as the addition of supplementary food to the food basket, are required immediately, it is clear that longer term interventions are required to deal with the chronic problems facing these communities.

Other districts reporting rising rates of child malnutrition include parts of Marsabit, Samburu and Mandera (ALRMP reports).

These rates are likely a result of a severely eroded asset base following a succession of poor seasons coupled with current poor conditions in these areas.

**Water tankering**

Apart from the Government and World Food Programme Food for Work projects which are aimed at improving food security in the areas, water tankering has been recommended in parts of Baringo East.

Restocking of livestock has been reported flooding during the on-going rainy season which has further compromised their food security.

**Education sector calm after revision of teachers pay**

The areas of Turkana, West Pokot and parts of Baringo have reported flooding during the on-going rainy season which has further compromised their food security.

Five schools in the area had been submerged in water and were inaccessible to both teachers and pupils. The schools are set up in temporary camps set up by the displaced population.

Meanwhile, primary and secondary schools are set to enjoy less teacher strikes after the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the Government reached an agreement allowing a disputed salary increment to be implemented in six years instead of an earlier agreed 10 years period.

**Pay rise**

KNUT says it is hopeful that the Government will continue to support teachers by further reviewing the agreement.

The controversial pay rise has been the cause of many teacher strikes since 1997 when the Government promised teachers a 200% apay rise that was to be implemented in two years.

**Discontentment**

Only one part of the pay hike was implemented resulting in a lot of discontentment in the teaching profession for the last five years.

Elsewhere, Sweden has promised Kenya’s education sector 400m shillings (about US $5.6m dollars) in support of the free primary education programme introduced in January this year. The money would be available in the next financial year.

Sweden said it wants to support education in Kenya because it was impressed by the reforms undertaken by the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) government especially through creation of the justice ministry, the war on corruption and changes in the civil service and other government institutions.

(Source: Daily Nation 20 May 03)
Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN) and a Kenyan company, Kentainers, are piloting use of toilets that are ecologically friendly (EcoSan) in Wajir Town.

The town operates the largest bucket latrine system in Kenya, with a recorded 2,300 buckets registered with the local County Council. These toilets serve approximately 43,000 residents, an estimated 19 users per bucket, with the balance of Wajir Town’s mostly peri-urban population having no access to any toilet facility.

This alternative waste disposal system will help in addressing the immediate concerns of the bucket latrine system. At present, MERLIN and Kentainers have piloted two EcoSan units in Wajir. Through close consultation with the Public Health Department, the units have been installed at a household level and an institutional level since Dec 2002 and have highly commended. The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Kentainers have pledged four and two units, respectively, as a result of the interest shown by the residents.

MERLIN is planning a broader pilot study of the potential of ecological sanitation in the Town. The study will focus upon low cost retro-fitting of the present bucket latrines and communal EcoSan toilets in areas currently without sanitation facilities.

There has been a ‘push and pull’ effect created for ecological sanitation through the emerging national support and interest for the technology and the ‘pull’ for practical trials at a community level due to dissatisfaction with the bucket latrine system.

Furthermore, cultural barriers, which would be expected in a predominantly Muslim context, have been challenged, both through the units under trial presently and through the success of programmes focused on Muslim communities in other parts of East Africa.

In April, the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) sponsored a workshop on sanitation in the district through MERLIN. Participants at the workshop identified lack of proper human waste disposal, contaminated water and environmental degradation as the major problems faced by the town residents.

The current method of waste disposal of using the night soil men has proved unhygienic and quite inefficient. It was observed that shallow wells that are protected contained low ecoli-contamination and that technical support was lacking coupled with poor inter-ministerial coordination and absence of a sanitation policy.

The participants developed a work plan both for long and short-term activities for provision of clean and portable water and safe human and solid waste disposal.

In the short term, the residents recommended frequent chlorinating of shallow wells, protection of shallow wells while in the long term they said that water should be piped from distant uncontaminated sources.

On human waste, in the short term, improve collection and efficiency of the current bucket system and hygiene education could take care of the immediate needs while a sewage system was identified as a long term solution.

On the management of solid waste, mobilization and public awareness on management of solid waste was recommended as well as identification of central collection points.

Meanwhile Oxfam-Q is conducting training on GIS and mapping in Mandera District, in order to build capacity of local personnel to update and effectively use the GIS database that has been completed for the district. The DSG also has been trained on GIS and its use in strategic planning.

As part of drought recovery initiatives, Oxfam-Q is constructing berkads, improving the earth pans through ECHO funding. So far, all earth pans have been rehabilitated except one. The project also entails provision of roof water catchment materials and training farmers in dry land farming techniques, water management and drought management.

In Turkana, World Vision is developing an irrigation scheme at Lukubale. Only two of the seven boreholes will be motorized and the rest will be fitted with hand-pumps. The yield is between 4-11m³/hr.

With funding from the United Nations Development Programme, World Vision has constructed two sub-surface dams, one water pan and a borehole at Loima Hills. Turkana is currently facing food insecurity.

WFP/GoK in projects to mitigate effects of drought

Identify more projects that are likely to mitigate the impact of successive droughts, with women playing an active role in the decision making process. Turkana, Mandera, and Isiolo have received tools and other implements from the Fund worth the equivalent of US$ 69,000 (About Sh5.4 Million). Marsabit is in the process of collecting tools worth US$ 24,000.

The Fund activities in Turkana will be expanded by a further 1,400 Mts. of food aid, making a total of 2900 Mts. The Kenya Food Security Meeting (KFSM) recommended this expansion due to high level of malnutrition being experienced in the district. WFP, World Vision and GOK are working on a budget for the implementation of this expansion. (allan.kute@wfp.org)
A chance sighting of a leading al-Qaeda terror suspect in the Kenyan port of Mombasa this month set off a worldwide security alert, with Britain and Israel banning all commercial flights to and from Nairobi indefinitely.

Fazul Abdullah Mohammed is wanted in connection with the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. According to Kenyan authorities, he was probably planning another attack. Intelligence officials had believed him to be in Somalia, which shares a long and largely porous border with Kenya.

Mohammed was indicted by the FBI in connection with the deaths of 231 people in the Kenyan and Tanzanian bombings. He is believed to have also masterminded attacks in Kenya last November, when an attempt was made to shoot down an Israeli holiday jet and 14 people were killed in a suicide bombing of the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa.

Norway and US closed their embassies in Nairobi for a few days while Britain, US, Germany and Australia issued high-level travel alerts following the sighting, advising against any "non-essential" travel to Kenya.

The US State Department advised Americans to defer all travel to Kenya following terrorist threats in the region aimed at American and Western interests, including civil aviation.

By the end of the first week after the travel advisories were issued, Tourism had lost Sh1 billion in revenue. The losses were incurred through reduced cash flow. Tourism was the second largest foreign exchange earner after tea.

Kenya responded to the security threat by stationing two Army battalions on the expansive Kenya-Somali border.

Intelligence reports had isolated the border as a possible entry point for terrorists. Kenyan security forces were put on high alert after a bomb attack in Saudi Arabia that killed 34.

Meanwhile two Ugandan cattle raiders were gunned down after they raided a farm in Trans Nzoia District and ten other attackers were injured during an exchange of fire with Administration Police officers and Kenya Police Reservists on May 19.

The raid was at Chepchoina, a farm formerly owned by the Agricultural Development Corporation.

The raiders had attempted to drive away animals, but the police responded to the alarm raised by the victims. Two policemen attached to the farm said the close to 30 raiders had attempted to cross to West Pokot District through Aduruku but were repulsed.

One raider was killed on the spot while the other died as he tried to flee back to his country. The injured were carried away. They fled towards Kapchorwa in Uganda (northern Uganda)

Meanwhile, 16 suspected members of the outlawed Mungiki sect were arrested in their office at Kayole, Nairobi. They were holding a meeting at a house they call "Pentagon" in the estate.

The suspects were charged with murders of two people in the slums last month over matatu (commuter taxi) control dispute.

Inside "Pentagon", the police recovered the sect's paraphernalia which included snuff, bottles of honey, swords, axes, machetes, hand gloves and other alleged oathing materials including cow horns painted black, green and white.

The machetes and some black gloves were stained with dried blood, the police said. Also recovered were neatly printed documents on the sect's ideals and motto.

The document, printed with colours identified with the sect - green, black, white and red - was entitled Reformation and talked of violence as a way of achieving desired changes in the society.
**LIVESTOCK**

April rains have resulted in significant improvements in key pastoral production indicators across most of the pastoralist districts: browse, in particular, has regenerated substantially, and surface and ground water sources have now recharged.

In contrast, pasture growth is patchy, at best; its growth has been limited by cumulative loss in the viability of the grass seed that remained dormant for extended periods during previous droughts. Continued improvements in browse and water are expected to result in visible positive changes in livestock body conditions, birth rates and milk production in coming months, especially in areas that had received good rains during the 2002/03 short-rains season.

Nevertheless, recent food security assessments carried out by the KFSSG indicated that an estimated 500,000 people, representing close to 40 percent of the population in southern Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Keiyo and Marakwet districts, are highly food insecure and likely to need at least 20,000 MT of food aid over the next five months.

These numbers are likely to change, depending on the overall performance and impacts of the 2003 long-rains season. The season has improved significantly. Widespread rainfall has fallen in the pastoral and agropastoral livelihood areas that were previously drought-affected. However, weather forecasts predict that rains will end early in these areas. An early end to the 2003 long-rains season in the pastoral areas would halt the recovery process that had just begun during the past few seasons.

Although well above average rainfall occurred during April, floods have been reported in the drought-affected Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Marakwet and Keiyo Districts, and food insecurity is expected to persist in these districts for most of the year.

**HEALTH**

The government’s renewed commitment to reduce new HIV infections was demonstrated by participation of the President in a new anti aids commercial known as “Pamoja Campaign” (Kiswahili for together). The president plays a leading role in the shooting of the commercial with two hundred other actors. It will be broadcast on local television, radio, billboards, and posters. The campaign is spearheaded by the National Aids Control Council.

The first phase of the programme is expected to be a rallying call by the government in creating awareness, the second phase will focus on behavioural change by encouraging visits to Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres and home based care for the afflicted.

The director of the National Aids Control Council says a Bill is pending in Parliament on the ethics issue, which seeks to allow doctors to disclose Aids status of individuals to their spouses.

Elsewhere, the European Union donated to Kenya 15 million Euros (Sh1.23 billion) to support district health systems. The Kenya Health Minister talked about the donation after addressing EU parliamentarians in Brussels, Belgium, on HIV/Aids in women, teenage girls and children in the country. The Minister said the government requires a further Sh6 billion to supply essential medicine to all Kenyans.

The new government, she said, had renewed war on the epidemic, adding that strategies to prevent HIV infection in women, provide comprehensive ante-natal care, HIV testing and counselling and reduce mother-to-child transmission.

Meanwhile, the World Bank will soon disburse about Sh1billion to fight Aids among refugees and long-distance truck drivers in Kenya and five other countries.

The National Aids Control Council director, said the bank had agreed to disburse a grant of between $10 million to $15 million (approximately Sh700 million and Sh1 billion), to the Great Lakes Initiative on Aids (GLIA) in the next three years.

The grant will be shared among the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

The initiative, which began six years ago, targets mobile population such as refugees, displaced people, long-distance truck drivers and prostitutes who are “marginalised” by the national HIV/Aids programmes in their respective countries. A baseline survey on the 160 million people in the Great Lakes region will soon be carried out to establish the scope of the infections.

Poor pasture regeneration observed in arid lands

**Govt. renews commitment to fight HIV/AIDS**

Although well above average rainfall occurred during April, floods have been reported in the drought-affected Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Marakwet and Keiyo Districts, and food insecurity is expected to persist in these districts for most of the year.
Bantu Somalis Resettlement Begins in the US

The first group of Somali Bantus who have been living in refugee camps in Kenya for the last 10 years have been resettled in the United States. The resettlement programme will see 11,800 Bantu Somalis resettled and it is one of the biggest resettlement operations to take place from Africa. Another group of 150 are expected to travel before mid-June. The resettlement programme has been jointly conducted by UNHCR and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM). The trip follows weeks of cultural orientation given by the IOM, which is in charge of relocation.

The Somali Bantus - a minority group whose physical, cultural and linguistic characteristics distinguish them from the Cushitic majority in Somalia - were considered for resettlement in the US, because they faced difficult circumstances in their country where they were treated as second class citizens. In the early 1990s, during civil war in Somalia, more than 10,000 fled to refugee camps in Kenya, where discrimination against them by major Somali clans continued.

The refugee population in the north-eastern camp of Dadaab also felt impact of the floods ravaging the country. An estimated 3,000 refugees were left homeless after 650 of their shelters were destroyed. The camps that were most affected by the floods include Ifo and Dagahalley which are host to nearly 80,000 refugees. However, WFP had pre-positioned food stocks in the camps which cover the requirements of the 130,000 refugees for more than a month.

At the Kakuma Camp (Turkana), three refugees died in circumstances related to the floods. In one case, a school boy drowned as he swam across a river to get home and in the other incident a mother died in child birth with her baby because she could not access the hospital in good time because of the floods.

In addition, the road leading to the camp was partially washed away raising fears that in case of an emergency, it would be almost impossible to use the road while the airport requires urgent grading. Communication was made more difficult by the poor condition of a 6km access road between the highway and Kakuma III that is now impassable. The hospital and Natapa Secondary School in Kakuma I were under threat of flooding from the Lodoret River but luckily, the rains stopped and the water levels went down eliminating such a danger. The raging floods destroyed 125 refugee shelters in Zones 5 & 6.

Upcoming Events

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<td>12 June</td>
<td>World Day against Child Labour</td>
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<td>16 June</td>
<td>Day of the African Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</td>
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<tr>
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<td>World Refugee Day</td>
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<td>26 June</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UN Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</td>
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KFSSG at 10.00 am, KICC on June 5th
KFSM at 10.00 am, KICC on June 26, KICC
Health & Nutrition at 10 am, June 16, UNICEF (KCO)
WEESCORD at 10 am on June 11, KICC 28th Floor
Disaster Management subgroup: June 11, KICC 28th Floor.

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The purpose of the UN Disaster Prevention, Management and Co-ordination Unit (DPMCU) is to enhance, support, and service a coordinated and coherent response amongst all partners to any kind of emergency situation, natural or man made (disasters or conflicts) in Kenya; improve the early warning mechanisms and information management systems; participate in regular monitoring of vulnerability and strengthen preparedness and response capacities amongst all partners. It also facilitates mobilisation of national and international resources.


The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations. To subscribe and contribute to this report please contact UNDPMCU
email: lilian.nduta@undp.org or Tel: 624397

UN Days
12 June       World Day against Child Labour
16 June       Day of the African Child
17 June       World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
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