



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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 9, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated January 15, 2010.

BACKGROUND

Recurrent seasons of failed or poor rains, sustained high food prices, environmental degradation, outbreaks of disease, and flooding have led to deteriorating food security conditions throughout Kenya, straining coping mechanisms, exacerbating pre-existing chronic poverty, and contributing to increased inter-ethnic conflict over 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 August 20, 2009, the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)¹ increased the projected number of people requiring emergency food assistance between September 2009 and February 2010 to 3.8 million individuals, representing a 32 percent increase since February 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 until February 2010²	3.8 million	KFSSG – August 2009
Refugees in Kenya	374,165	UNHCR ³ – February 2010

FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Kenya	\$3,046,957
USAID/FFP ⁴ Assistance to Kenya	\$92,607,300
State/PRM ⁵ Assistance to Kenya	\$3,637,703
Total USG⁶ Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya.....	\$99,291,960

CURRENT SITUATION

Above-normal rainfall early in 2010 has improved food security prospects for much of Kenya. The 2009/2010 short rains—which usually occur in November and December—extended into mid-January, increasing harvest yields, improving pasture conditions, and reducing malnutrition rates among pastoralists and marginal agricultural farmers, according to FEWS NET. As a result, FEWS NET expects a short rains maize harvest of approximately 540,000 metric tons (MT), the largest achieved since 1998. However, total maize production for the 2009/2010 season remains

below average due to the below-normal February to August 2009 long rains harvest.

On March 8, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that heavy rains in early March at the onset of the long rains season have caused flooding in at least nine districts of Northern, North Eastern, and Western Provinces. The flooding had resulted in an estimated 11 deaths and affected more than 8,000 people as of March 8, according to OCHA. In addition, floods have destroyed roads and bridges, swept away livestock, and

¹ KFSSG works as an advisory body on 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 Humanitarian agencies anticipate the release of new beneficiary estimates in the KFSSG short-rains assessment, expected in late March.

³ The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁴ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁶ U.S. Government (USG)

damaged agricultural land. As of March 5, GoK and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) personnel had begun conducting assessments and responding to identified needs in flood-affected areas. However, KRCS noted that flood-related damage to bridges and road networks has hindered humanitarian access to affected areas. The GoK Meteorological Department predicts continued heavy rainfall through mid-March, potentially resulting in additional flooding.

In response to needs resulting from food insecurity and flooding, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$3 million for humanitarian interventions in Kenya to date in FY 2010. Of the total, USAID/OFDA has provided \$200,000 through USAID/Kenya to KRCS for the provision of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations and nearly \$1.3 million to U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for nutrition interventions. In addition, the majority of FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded programs remain ongoing.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to FEWS NET, the short rains recommenced in late December—following a cessation of rains for up to three weeks in some areas during November—and continued through mid-January. FEWS NET expects the extended rainfall to result in a near-normal to above-normal harvest in the southeastern marginal agricultural lowlands, where short rains production accounts for approximately 70 percent of household food supply. Improvements in food security may be sustained through 2010, particularly if the February to August 2010 long rains also result in a near-normal harvest.

The 2009/2010 production season will end with the final short rains maize harvest, expected in early March. FEWS NET estimates total seasonal maize production at 2.35 million MT, including 1.83 million MT from the long rains harvest and 540,000 MT from the short rains harvest. FEWS NET attributes the high short rains maize production to the provision of relief seeds and fertilizer to drought-affected households, an increase in area planted, and a 40 percent decrease in the cost of fertilizer, in addition to the extended rains. Despite the favorable short rains harvest, the total production remains below Kenya's short-term average of approximately 3 million MT.

The Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) reported significant food security and livelihoods improvements in many pastoral areas of Kenya in February. Increased pasture vegetation has resulted in improved livestock body condition, increased reproduction rates, shorter trekking distances for pastoral households, and improved pastoralist terms of trade, according to FEWS NET. However, FEWS NET notes that continuing pastoralist livelihood recovery will require normal rainfall during the 2010 long rains season.

Between January 23 and 28, USAID/OFDA staff traveled to Turkana Central and East Pokot districts in Rift Valley Province to visit USAID/OFDA-funded projects and assess food security, livestock, and nutrition conditions. In Turkana Central District, USAID/OFDA staff reported significantly improved livestock conditions and pasture availability compared to an October 2009 USAID/OFDA assessment. However, USAID/OFDA staff noted limited replenishment of water sources and pasture in East Pokot District despite receiving some rain in late December. As a result, livestock health and food security conditions remained poor in East Pokot District.

According to the GoK Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), armyworm outbreaks occurred in areas of Coast Province, lower Eastern Province, and Kajiado District in Rift Valley Province following the December to January floods. The MoA detected a potential outbreak through use of pheromone moth traps and implemented effective control measures. In late January, the MoA reported that armyworms had destroyed 386 hectares of late-planted maize and 2,474 hectares of pasture. However, 80 percent of the maize crop had surpassed the vulnerable stage at the time of the outbreak and remained unaffected.

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.

Refugees in Kenya

Relief organizations continue to note concern regarding humanitarian conditions at the Dadaab refugee complex in North Eastern Province, as the three camps host more than three times the intended capacity. Although the GoK has yet to allocate additional land for a fourth refugee camp in Dadaab, the Garissa county council has approved land for expanding Ifo camp, one of the three existing camps at Dadaab. UNHCR plans to resettle an estimated 30,000 current Ifo camp residents in the extension, as well as an additional 5,000 to 10,000 residents of Daghaley camp. The remaining space, which could accommodate up to 40,000 people, would be reserved for newly arriving refugees. The camp extension is expected to begin accepting residents in September 2010.

As of February 5, UNHCR estimated that Kenya hosted 374,165 refugees, including 309,107 Somalis. UNHCR noted considerable fluctuations in the population figure for the Dadaab complex in January and February due to continuing new arrivals and ongoing population verification activities: the last figure reported by UNHCR, on February 26, was 262,838 residents. As of February 5, Kakuma refugee

camp in Rift Valley Province hosted 62,123 refugees, according to UNHCR.

To date in FY 2010, State/PRM has provided nearly \$4 million in funding for refugee assistance in Kenya, in addition to more than \$27 million provided in FY 2009. State/PRM programs support shelter, health care, psychosocial services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, as well as other assistance to refugee populations.

Health and Nutrition

According to FEWS NET, recent ALRMP nutrition surveillance data indicates gradual improvements in the nutritional status of children in early 2010 compared to previous months. ALRMP reported child malnutrition rate declines of 10 to 20 percent from December 2009 to January 2010 in Mandera, Wajir, Tana River, Samburu, Garissa, and Kajiado districts, although global acute malnutrition rates in many districts remain above the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent. FEWS NET notes that increased milk and livestock product availability and improved pastoralist terms of trade due to recovery of livestock prices have contributed to improved nutrition conditions. However, child malnutrition rates remained high in Marsabit and Isiolo districts due to a reduced short rains season.

Despite improvements in nutrition conditions in most pastoralist areas, USAID/OFDA staff noted continuing critical nutrition conditions in Turkana Central District in late January. According to USAID/OFDA partners, improvements in pasture and livestock conditions following the short rains have not resulted in associated improvements in the nutrition situation. NGO partners note that pastoralist populations require several consecutive seasons of normal to above-normal rainfall to recover from prolonged drought conditions.

On February 5, OCHA noted that a four-month European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)-funded blanket supplementary feeding program is assisting in meeting immediate nutrition needs in northern Kenya. According to USAID/OFDA staff, the program works alongside existing targeted feeding programs and is designed to prevent child malnutrition by providing supplemental food rations to families with children less than five years old.

From February 15 to 19, a joint U.K. Department for International Development, ECHO, and USAID mission, joined by UNICEF and WFP staff, assessed nutrition and food aid programs in Wajir East District in North Eastern Province, Greater Marsabit District in Eastern Province, and Turkana Central District in Rift Valley Province. The team highlighted a need to increase GoK health center capacity for the management of acute malnutrition, as well as noted challenges in addressing chronically high malnutrition

rates with resources intended for emergencies. The team reported mixed improvements in the nutritional situation in the areas the team visited, as some of the areas had received little to no rainfall despite overall good rains in Kenya. In addition, the team noted that families of children in supplementary feeding programs faced bureaucratic challenges registering for general food distribution.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.3 million in support of nutrition activities throughout Kenya, particularly in highly food-insecure areas. In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.3 million to support nutrition programs, the majority of which remain ongoing.

Emergency Food Assistance

According to FEWS NET, an estimated 3.8 million Kenyans continued to require emergency food assistance through February 2010. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) distributed approximately 9,700 MT of food supplies to 1.1 million Kenyans during December and January and an additional 26,000 MT of food in February. However, WFP reduced food rations by 50 percent for January 2010 distributions in response to an ongoing pipeline break resulting from delayed international food shipments and insufficient funding levels. Rations increased to 75 percent of normal in February as planned by WFP, according to USAID/OFDA staff. WFP plans to coordinate local and regional food purchase to partially mitigate the impact of the pipeline break.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has contributed 98,190 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to populations in Kenya, including 71,940 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$68 million, through WFP for drought-affected populations and 26,250 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$25 million, to WFP for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps. In FY 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$9 million for WFP school feeding programs and nutritional education support for mothers in Nairobi and surrounding areas.

WASH

Humanitarian agencies continue to express concern regarding the spread of waterborne diseases throughout Kenya due to flood contamination of water sources and damage to sanitation facilities. Exacerbating the situation, OCHA notes that the previous four consecutive seasons of poor or failed rains in drought-affected areas and associated lack of access to safe drinking water have compromised hygiene practices, and poor nutrition conditions have heightened populations' susceptibility to disease.

WHO noted that cholera had affected 15 districts of Kenya as of February 22, resulting in 550 cases and 15 deaths since January. To date, the number of reported

cholera cases has not significantly increased as a result of floods; however, the GoK Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation noted that increased incidence of cholera may take four to eight weeks to manifest following heavy rains.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$760,000 to support WASH interventions in affected areas to improve sanitation practices and mitigate the effects of drought. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.8 million in FY 2009 to support

similar WASH programs, the majority of which remain ongoing.

USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya

In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the USG has provided nearly \$294 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Kenya, including more than \$27 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.

FY 2010 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

FY 2010 Assistance			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location / Province	Amount
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
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$11,553
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,046,957
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	\$92,607,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$92,607,300
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
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 and Settlements, Education	Dadaab Refugee Camps	\$838,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$3,637,703
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2010			\$99,291,960

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 9, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of March 9, 2010.



Carol Chan
Deputy Director
USAID/OFDA