



Kenya
Red Cross

Drought Operations Update

Alleviating Human Suffering

KENYA DROUGHT

28 September 2009

The Kenya Red Cross Society's mission is to build capacity and respond with vigour, compassion and empathy to the victims of disaster and those at risk, in the most effective and efficient manner. It works closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

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Operations Summary

A Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) Emergency Appeal was launched on 17th September 2009. The Emergency Appeal seeks to raise CHF 8,198,431 (USD 7,881,364 OR EUR 5,411,256) OR Ksh 589,944,920 in cash, kind or services to assist 1,692,428 beneficiaries for 6 months. Prior to the Emergency Appeal, KRCS was included in the HOA appeal, which was not well funded. KRCS had initially launched a National appeal in January 2009. The National Society through this national fundraising initiative received Ksh108, 323,605 from corporate organisations, Partner National Societies and other donors, and distributed more than 7,276 MT of food in various parts of the country.

The Situation

Heightened food insecurity has been reported throughout the country, following the findings of the long rains assessment that was carried out by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in July – August. According to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group, an estimated 3.8 million in pastoral, agro pastoral and marginal agricultural areas are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing drought situation. The extremely food insecure populations include pastoralists in many parts of Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, and Tana River districts and marginal agricultural farm households in parts of Mwingi and Kitui districts. Some 2.5 million urban poor and 2 million rural poor affected by HIV/AIDS have also been affected. The post election violence has also rendered some 100,000 persons vulnerable since their livelihoods have not fully recovered. The education system has largely been affected due to food insecurity, where 1.5 million schools children in drought affected areas are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

Resource based conflicts have been reported in various parts of the country, particularly in the North Rift and Upper Eastern regions, which has consequently resulted in loss of human lives, livestock deaths and subsequent loss of livelihoods. The conflict situation has hampered relief efforts and recovery in areas that received fair rains during the long rains' season. Scarcity of water continues to characterise the drought situation and according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Networks (FEWSNET), trekking distances have extended to 40 kilometres for cattle and camels, and over 25 kilometres for sheep and goats in most pastoral areas, compared to 10-15 and 10 kilometres, respectively, during rainy seasons.

The Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) has reported that boreholes are running for an unusual 18 to 24 hours as compared to the normal eight hours a day, leading to frequent breakdowns. The water scarcity has further worsened already weakened livestock body conditions since animals in some areas only access water once, every three days, instead of every day. This is expected to slow recovery in the event of the predicted El Niño rains. Scarcity of water and pasture has extended migrating distances to game parks, thus resulting in Human/Livestock – Wildlife conflict. Livestock from Kajiado and Tana River districts have for example, migrated to Tsavo National Park, thereby increasing likelihood of conflict exposing animals to diseases.



Livestock carcass in Garbatulla in Isiolo. PHOTO/KRCS

Cases of Contagious Caprine and Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP and CBPP) have been reported in Wajir, Samburu, Kajiado, Garissa, Narok, and West Pokot. According to FEWSNET, livestock mortality rates in Turkana have risen from 3.4 per cent in July to 6.5 per cent in September among small stock, and from 2.3 per cent in July to 7.1 per cent in September among large stock. In the marginal agricultural lowlands of the south east and coast, influx of livestock from Kajiado, Garissa and Tana River continues to promote conflict due to limited resources. Farming communities in Taita Taveta, Kwale and Kilifi have been affected by wildlife, especially elephants and buffaloes from Tsavo National Park, which have destroyed crops.

Reports by the Famine Early Warning System further indicate that the predicted El Niño rains could result in significant pre and post harvest losses. The rains are, however, expected to benefit pastoralists and marginal agricultural households towards the end of the year.

Lower Eastern

The drought situation in Lower Eastern region remains critical as pastoralists grapple with lack of pasture and scarcity of water. Many of them have migrated to Kyulu hills where the situation is more favourable. Trekking distances are now at an average of 10km to 20km. In anticipation of the short rains in October, communities in Kitui have started preparing their farm lands. A high percentage of the households, however, do not have the capacity to purchase seeds since their livelihoods have been crippled by the severe drought situation.



Dry river beds in Lower Eastern. Arrow points to holes dug in the river bed to source for water. PHOT/KRCS

Livestock deaths continue to be reported in the region. Some residents of Kibwezi and Makindu are reported to be affected by Pellagra, which is a vitamin deficiency caused by lack of niacin (vitamin B3) and which may also be caused by alterations in protein metabolism disorders. The cases of Pellagra were reported at Kathyaka Dispensary, Kathyaka Location, Makindu Division, and Makindu District, where at least 29 people were diagnosed as suffering from the disease. The Kenya Red Cross Society in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) is implementing SFP in nine health facilities and targeting a total population of 4,006 beneficiaries.

North Eastern (The larger Garissa, Ijara, Mandera, Wajir and Mwingi districts)

The drought situation in North Eastern is worsening and most water sources, especially pans, have completely dried up in all the five districts. Majority of livestock have migrated to Somalia and Ethiopia in search of water and pasture, while livestock from Ijara have migrated to Tana River and Lamu Districts. Sheep and milking herds, which were left behind have succumbed to the drought and carcasses are strewn over most parts of Mandera, Wajir and Garissa. Severe water scarcity has also been reported in five districts and distances to water sources range from 30 to more than 100km.

North Rift Region

The greater Turkana District is still experiencing severe drought with reports of livestock deaths. Severe water scarcity has also been reported in Turkana where communities trek long distances in search of water and in some cases consuming highly contaminated water. All parts remain dry with the exception of Turkana South, which received light showers for one day, therefore not creating significant impact on pasture regeneration. Pastoralists have migrated with livestock along borders to neighbouring countries increasing conflicts. Tension between Turkana pastoralists and those from Sudan have resulted in deaths. Tensions also continue to escalate between the Pokot and Turkana communities.

The drought situation has been further aggravated by a recent cholera outbreak that had devastating effects on livelihoods of the communities since fishing, which is the major source of income in the affected divisions of Kalokol and Kerio in Turkana Central District, has been banned.

The drought spell has gripped most parts of Pokot, with the worst hit areas being Pokot North, eight locations in Central Pokot namely Masol, Porkoyu, Sekerot, parts of Batei, Cheptulel, Lomut, parts of Wei Wei and parts of Sekerr (Orwa sub location) and Kong'elai, Sook (parts of Endugh, Nakwijit, Ptoyo and Tamugh) and Chepkopegh in Chepareria division all in West Pokot. Most dams and water pans in Pokot remain dry and the little water collected has since been exhausted. Most permanent rivers including Sighya, Kerio and Wakor in Pokot Central have also dried up, while water levels at the Suam (Turkwel) and the Muruny rivers are now dwindling to water levels not witnessed before.

With the critical drought situation, more livestock have migrated to insecure Pokot - Turkana border - heightening likelihood of perennial conflicts over pasture and water. Livestock have migrated northwards towards Turkana South to Amolem, Akiramet and Katembulion. The migrations have raised cross-border conflicts between the Pokot community and the neighbouring Karamoja and Turkana, along the northern border, and with the Marakwet along the central border.

Conflicts between Pokot herdsmen (who moved from Pokot East to Pokot Central (Nasolot) and those who had moved from Kasei division in Pokot North) and the Turkana occurred from 22-23 September 2009 where more than 10 people lost their lives and several livestock were stolen. Despite the security situation in Uganda that has seen Pokot pastoralists harassed by Ugandan military, most have vowed to remain in Uganda.

The drought situation has aggravated livestock health, which has subsequently affected the health of communities since most people depend on livestock products. Women, children and the aged are the most vulnerable, since the few healthy livestock have migrated to Uganda, leaving them with no source of food except reliance on relief food.

Malnutrition rates continue to escalate in many parts of Pokot. For instance, malnutrition rates in Sigor in Pokot Central stands at 15.8%, 11 per cent in Kasei and Kiwawa divisions in Pokot North and 11.6 per cent in Kong'elai in Pokot West. Education in Pokot has also been disrupted since many children have migrated with their parents, in search of water and pasture. School enrolment has dropped in Pokot North and Central.

Upper Eastern (Moyale, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Meru and Embu)

The drought situation in Upper Eastern region is devastating. Numerous livestock deaths have been reported throughout the region, particularly in Merti and Cherab divisions in Isiolo, which are the worst hit areas in the district. The situation has also been characterised by severe water scarcity and resources based conflicts among communities. Most surface water sources in the region have dried up and the few water sources available are congested, therefore, increasing likelihood of conflicts.



Photo: Distribution of relief food in Samburu.

Recent conflicts have been reported in Samburu and Laikipia where at least 32 lives were lost in the area.

There is high concentration of people and livestock in Burgabo and Turbi boreholes in Marsabit. As a result, there has been escalation of conflicts between communities from Marsabit and Laisamis at Yamicha in Isiolo. Human-wildlife conflicts have also been reported in Kinna Division of Garbatulla District in Isiolo, with the existing water source being congested by wildlife from the neighbouring national park. Frequent conflicts in the region are hampering relief efforts by humanitarian organisations.

Farmers and pastoralists in Mbeere are migrating towards River Rupingazi in neighbouring Embu in search of pasture and water, resulting in human-wildlife conflicts. The areas worst hit by prolonged drought in Embu include Kiambere, Mutuavare, Karaba, Wachoro and Riakanau. In Meru North, hardest hit areas include Mutuati, Meru National Park, Akithi and the south and northern side of Tigania West District. Other hard hit areas include Tharaka District and Tharaka South in Meru South District, Timau East, Bururi, Lewa, Ndoleli, Ntugi and Ntumburi in Imenti Central District and Timau East and Rwarera in Imenti North District.

Central Region

Communities in Laikipia have been involved in resource-based conflicts with the Samburu from the Upper Easter Region. The heightened insecurity in two regions has been occasioned by competition for scarcity of water and pasture. Pastoralists in Olmoran, Rumuruti and Doldol have been adversely affected by drought while those in Laikipia are migrating to the slopes of Mt Kenya in search of water. The encroachment on the water catchment area of Mt Kenya has negatively affected the ecosystem including reports of deaths of elephants. There is need to provide relief to communities in the area to prevent further damage and protect the water catchment area.

Other areas affected include Ndungari, Nairutia, Mugunda and Gataragwa in Kieni District and communities in Nyeri slums and Solio Ranch Settlement Scheme. The severity of drought situation has increased the number of vulnerable people not targeted in the current relief aid. Despite being highly productive during normal climatic conditions, areas such as Liharu and Lyego in Murang'a District as well as Kakuzi in Thika District have been hard hit, especially the school-going children. There is need to drill boreholes for community members in Kieni District. Fish farming is being implemented in most parts of Murang'a under the Ministry of Fisheries, hence the need to provide alternative livelihoods among the residents.

Coast Region

The coastal region has not been spared by the drought although favourable rains are expected to improve the situation by the end of the year. In Kilifi, the worst hit areas are Ganze, Bamba and Marikina. In Malindi, the most affected areas include Malindi, Marafa, Magarini and Lango Baya divisions. All the divisions in Malindi are covered under the EMOP/PRRO save Malindi Division, where there is need for intervention, since the area is largely populated by the urban poor. KRCS Malindi Branch is currently working with People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLHWAs) in the area by providing Home Based Care (HBC) – the PLWHAs have been adversely affected by the drought situation since they cannot access the sufficient dietary needs.

Kenya Red Cross Society's Malindi Branch is currently lobbying for the division to be targeted by the Government relief aid. Resource-based conflicts have recently been reported between the Orma and Giriama communities in Chakama in Lango Baya Division, Malindi District, where pastoralists from the Orma communities take their livestock for grazing along the River Chakama, on farms owned by members of the Giriama community. At least three casualties are receiving treatment following the conflicts. Although the situation is under control, with the peace committee spearheading reconciliation efforts, tension is likely to escalate should the drought situation persist.

Kenya Red Cross Action – Objectives and Progress

While addressing other interventions undertaken by initial Drought Appeal, KRCS is engaged in providing several interventions to affected communities under the Emergency Appeal. Assessments reflect the drought situation is critical with numerous livestock death reported due to severe water shortage. Assessments also reflect that the need for animal offtake in Upper Eastern.

Following the long standing collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Upper Eastern region of Kenya, which is a conflict zone, KRCS intends to implement a livestock offtake programme for 3500–4000 animals through a grant of CHF 60,000 from ICRC. Stakeholder consultations and community mobilisation is currently ongoing.

KRCS is also providing water trucking services in Garissa, in areas within 60km radius from Tana River, which is the major water source. The operation started on 22nd September 2009, and so far, 39,000 litres have been delivered to 18,248 beneficiaries. KRCS is also targeting Welathey in Garissa District, Santur and Qabobey in Lagdera District and Daat Dawa and Maalim Muhmed in Fafi District, increasing the total of beneficiaries to 28,018.

District	Area	Distance (km)	Deliveries (Litres)	Population
Garissa	Argadud	15	5,000	1,489
	Alango Arba	50	5,000	2,459
	Lago	35	3,000	2,300
Lagdera	Hagarbul	57	13,000	6,000
Fafi	Hagarbul	57	13,000	6,000
Total			39,000	18,248

Kenya Red Cross Society has distributed 20MT of food in Samburu and Laikipia following conflicts between communities in the two areas that left 32 people dead. The Society is distributing 24MT of food to 1,000 beneficiaries in Koibatek and has distributed 11.042MT of food to vulnerable communities in low income settlement areas in Nairobi.

KRCS, as lead agency in 12 districts under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Programme (PRRO) undertaken by World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Kenya, continues to distribute 8472MT of relief food a month to 797,141 beneficiaries in the unified food pipeline, which is 31% of the total food aid beneficiaries of GOK/WFP programme. The 12 districts include Kwale, Garissa, Marsabit, Ijara, Maragua, Tana River, Malindi, North Pokot, East Pokot, Lamu, Machakos and Makueni. Distribute of food by KRCS to 45,526 beneficiaries in Koibatek, under EMOP, will start on from October 2009.

Relief distribution by KRCS as at 17th September 2009

Region	MT Distributed
North Eastern	3,714.866
Lower Eastern	1,549.982
Upper Eastern	844.724
North Rift	419.140
Coast	252.911
South Rift	374.943
Central	50.4
Nairobi	30.086
Nyanza	39.7
Total	7,276.752

Objective 1 (a): To provide supplementary feeding to 500,000 school-going in Mwingi, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos districts.

KRCS continues to implement the school-feeding programme in Mwingi and Kyuso through funding from AusAID through the Australian Red Cross. About, 60MT of Unimix was distributed in 66 schools in Mwingi and Kyuso in May and July 2009. KRCS has received an additional AUD 44 800 (Ksh2.9 million) and 30MT has been distribute in schools in Mwingi and Kyuso for the September cycle. The school feeding programme has significantly improved enrolment rates in Mwingi.

Objective 1 (b): To provide seeds to 150,000 households to ensure early recovery in Mwingi, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos districts.

KRCS is in the process of purchasing 50MT of maize seeds to be distributed in Mwingi, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos through funds mobilised locally.

Objective 2: To contribute to reduction of morbidities and mortalities in 629,174 people in drought affected areas with emphasis on pastoral areas through provision of basic community health care services.

KRCS is conducting a national measles campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. All regions of North Rift, North Eastern Lower Eastern, Coast, West Kenya and Upper Eastern are involving Red Cross volunteers in community mobilisation. KRCS Turkana Branch is currently conducting the Measles Campaign targeting children under five years which scheduled to end on 25th September 2009. The Branch is involved in social mobilisation in the greater Turkana district. KRCS Kitui Branch is also spearheading social mobilisation in 10 divisions for measles immunisation which is expected to end on 25th September 2009, while KRCS Central Region is covering seven districts under the campaign. Kwale Branch is also involved in the measles campaign as well as other programme activities including working with PLWHAs in Bahari and Malaria Programme in Kaloleni and Chonyi Divisions. KRCS has also been instrumental in containing a cholera outbreak in Turkana in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Objective 3 (a): To provide access to safe water, in line with WHO/SPHERE standards for an estimated 897,277 individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas affected by drought in North Eastern, Upper Eastern & Lower Eastern regions.

KRCS has distributed bladder tanks of 3,500 litre capacity in Lagdera (2 units), Garissa (1 unit) and Fafi (1 unit). A request has been sent out to UNICEF for provision of Aqua tabs or PUR sachets.

Kenya Red Cross in partnership with the German Red Cross has ongoing water harvesting projects in Makueni (sand dam, earth dam, borehole and provision of water tanks to primary schools). KRCS Marsabit Branch is involved in provision of Aqua tabs and water filters to prevent and control cholera outbreaks in the area. The Branch is engaged in installation of hand pumps in Laisamis, Maikona and Gas, and rehabilitation of Gudas Borehole.

In Kitui, KRCS has developed two water supply systems in Ikutha and Maluma through funding from the Finish Red Cross. There is, however, need to scale up the project due to the vastness of the district which is classified as being an Arid/Semi Arid Area Land (ASAL).

Under the Food-for-Assets Programme in the EMOP/PRRO of WFP, KRCS as lead agency in Malindi, is involving communities in Marafa, Magarini and Lango Baya in excavation of earth dams before the expected short rains. KRCS is also doing water trucking to communities in Fafi, Lagdera and Garissa.

Objective 3 (b): To promote hygiene and sanitation in line with WHO/SPHERE standards for an estimated 897,277 individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas affected by drought in North Eastern, Upper Eastern & Lower Eastern regions.

KRCS Marsabit Branch is training communities in Laisamis on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) to prevent and control cholera outbreaks in the area. The KRCS Kitui Water and Sanitation Project has a software component which targeted 730 households in PHAST training. The Project, which ends on 31st December 2009, needs to be up scaled to reach more households.

Objective 4: To provide strong logistical support in primary and secondary transportation as well as warehousing in the field that would enable rapid access to beneficiaries in targeted areas.

KRCS is engaging trucks and light vehicles in interventions and activities under the current Emergency Appeal. This includes transportation and distribution of food and seeds and community mobilisation.

To enhance advocacy, communication and awareness

KRCS held a press conference on 18th September 2009, where the Secretary General officially launched the Emergency Appeal. The launch featured in all mainstream TV stations, radio stations and newspapers countrywide. The Emergency Appeal was also posted on the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and KRCS websites.

KRCS organised a media trip to Garissa on 25th September 2009 to highlight the drought situation and mobilise resources for the emergency appeal. The media highlighted the drought situation in the region as well as KRCS interventions. There are plans to involve the media in more field trips.

Partnership and Coordination

The Kenya Red Cross Society, in partnership with the Government and the World Food Programme, is providing food aid under the Emergency Operation Programme/Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (EMOP/PRRO) targeting 2.6 million people. KRCS is serving 13 districts under EMOP/PRRO programme with 797,141 beneficiaries in the unified food pipeline, which is 31% of the total food aid beneficiaries of the GOK/WFP pipeline. In addition, KRCS has a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA which addresses the needs of communities in emergencies.

KRCS continues to hold regular briefings and updates with IFRC East Africa Zone Office, ICRC and the Red Cross Red and Red Crescent Movement partners including Partner National Societies.

The Society also maintains strong collaboration and networking with Government line ministries, District Steering Groups (DSG) and other stakeholders in carrying out interventions within the Emergency App