

HIGHLIGHTS

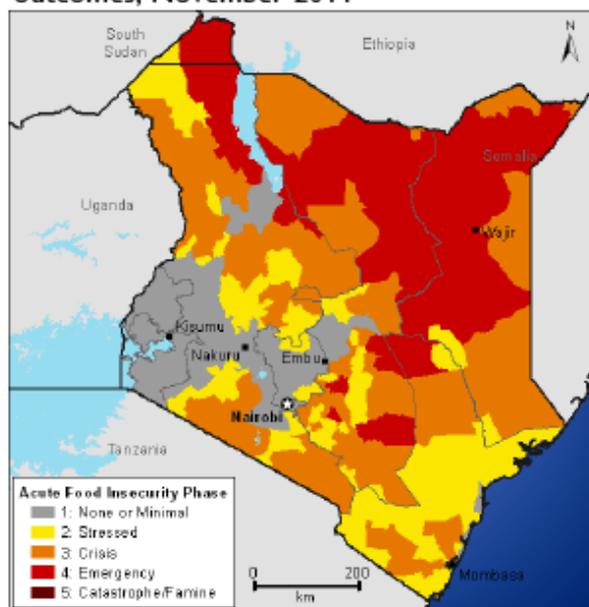
- Security incidents in north-eastern Kenya affect refugee and other operations.
- Malnutrition rates decrease in Turkana but remain high in Mandera.
- Floods affect more than 80,000 people across Kenya and undermine food security recovery.
- Government, United Nations and partners seek US\$764 million to tackle emergency and resilience efforts in 2012.

I. Situation Overview

Two months after Kenya launched military action against Al-Shabaab militants in southern Somalia, the country is bearing the brunt of retaliatory attacks, especially in North Eastern Province where the security situation continues to deteriorate. More than 10 serious incidents involving grenade attacks and improvised explosive devices (IED) have occurred in Dadaab, Garissa town, Wajir and Mandera in December alone. Aid workers suspended some operations in the Dadaab complex after a grenade attack near a food distribution point left one police officer dead and several others injured. On 24 December, two grenades were hurled at a club in Wajir district in north-eastern Kenya near the Somali border, wounding at least seven people, security sources said. On 7 December, the Kenyan parliament approved the African Union (AU) request for the Kenya Defence Forces to join the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Dadaab and Somalia from 9 to 10 December and acknowledged Kenya's challenges in hosting more than half a million refugees and the security challenges aid workers face in delivering aid in the Dadaab complex. Ban has urged the Security Council to consider expanding the ceiling of AMISOM forces in Somalia.

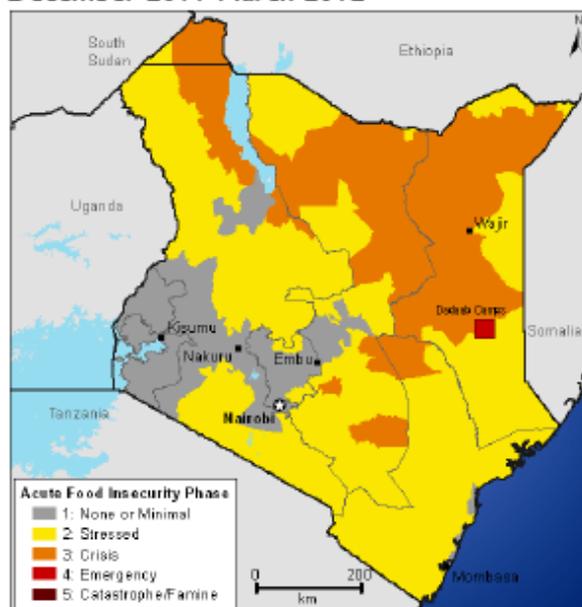
Drought conditions in the northern, north-eastern and southern parts of Kenya have significantly eased following good rainfall received in the October-December short rains season. Also, according to FEWS NET, food security conditions for most of the southern marginal agricultural areas and parts of northern pastoral Turkana have improved from "Emergency" to "Stressed" level in four months. Parts of Turkana, Garissa, Mandera, Wajir and Moyale remain at "Crisis" level but have also shown an improvement from the Emergency level observed from August to October at the peak of the drought. Insecurity in North Eastern Province may, however, impact delivery of relief aid and free movement of pastoralists, and undermine recovery of the livelihoods base.

Figure 1. Estimated current food security outcomes, November 2011



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 2. Estimated food security outcomes, December 2011-March 2012



Source: FEWS NET

President Mwai Kibaki has issued a presidential decree to establish the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) mandated to, among other things, coordinate structures for drought management; operate an efficient drought early warning system; support drought-related policy formulation; coordinate the preparation of risk reduction plans; undertake risk reduction awareness and education, and coordinate the implementation of risk reduction activities; and develop clear evidence-based criteria for the Contingency Fund and other financial sources appropriated to deal with drought. The establishment of the NDMA has been welcomed as a positive move in drought management in Kenya and is anticipated to play a key role in implementing the Kenya Country Programme and Nairobi Strategy on Ending Drought Emergencies, adopted at the Heads of State Summit on the Horn Crisis in September 2011.

II. Food Security Update

Food

There are 3.75 million people impacted by drought and in need of food assistance in Kenya. Malnutrition levels soared at the peak of the drought in Turkana and districts in North Eastern Province, as well as in the refugee camps. In November, WFP operations were challenged by heavy rains that left roads impassable.

Nutrition

Following heightened response in blanket supplementary feeding, nutrition and health outreach services, as well as general food distribution programmes by the Government, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and other partners, malnutrition rates have significantly reduced in Turkana North East over the last six months. According to preliminary reports of nutrition surveys by UNICEF, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has reduced from 37.4 per cent to 13.7 per cent and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) reduced from 9.4 per cent to 3.2 per cent. Under-five mortality rates have also fallen below alert levels (less than 2/10,000/day). On the other hand, preliminary results for nutrition surveys conducted in Mandera East and North reveal GAM rates of 25.3 per cent (21.6 - 29.3 per cent) and SAM rates of 5.3 per cent (4.1 - 7.0 per cent), which are only slightly lower than the rates reported in May 2011 (GAM 26.9 per cent and SAM 5.6 per cent). The sector's interventions remain constrained by impassable roads following heavy rains and flooding in the area, which lacks alternative transport routes.

Supplementary feeding programme stock-outs have been reported in Makueni and Mbooni health facilities following the seizure by the authorities of corn-soya blend (CSB) suspected to be aflatoxin-contaminated; the CSB could have reached 7,900 children.

Agriculture and Livestock

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is warning farmers about the dangers of aflatoxin. There have been no confirmed reports but damp conditions are favourable for the deadly fungus that can develop in grain crops stored in warehouses. FAO is providing training and supplying building materials for 200 metal grain silos for eastern Kenya, which is the area most prone to aflatoxin.

The joint Government/FAO survey on food production in Kenya's high potential agricultural areas concluded that maize production in 2011 will be approximately 11 million 90kg bags (990,000 MT) from the long rains harvest and 6.5 million 90kg bags (585,000 MT) from the short rains. Milk production has improved in Rift Valley and Central Provinces with a commensurate decrease in price. Sugarcane production, though profitable for larger farms, seems to compromise food security of poor households due to their inability to apportion their farms adequately for food production and cash crop production. Marketing channels and distribution networks for food commodities are still not very well developed.

Heavy rainfall has led to pasture regeneration and improved access to water for livestock. Livestock body conditions have improved and contributed to better terms of trade.

III. Floods Update

Heavy rainfall in November and December led to widespread flooding and displacement of more than 80,000 people in western Kenya, Nairobi, Mandera, Isiolo, Wajir and parts of the Coast. Reports from UNICEF and KRCS on 28 December indicate that the situation is normalizing and flood waters have subsided.

According to the Ministry of Special Programmes, more than 100 acres of crops estimated to be worth over KES 5 million (\$55,000) have been destroyed by floods in Kiboi Irrigation Scheme, after River Yeptos in Baringo County burst its banks. About 200 farmers who had crops at the scheme may become food insecure as a result of the floods. The Government and WFP had rehabilitated the irrigation scheme at a cost of about

KES 8 million (\$88,000) and anticipated it would benefit more farmers and boost food security in the semi-arid area.

Recent floods in many parts of the country have heightened the risk of Rift Valley Fever and other livestock disease outbreaks. There have been sporadic reports of livestock losses from flooding, but the main damage of the flooding has been to crops submerged under water along the Kerio and Turkwell rivers. FAO has purchased 400,000 Rift Valley Fever vaccines, two million doses of PPR vaccines (peste des petits ruminants), 15,000 litres of dewormer, 1,000 litres of Pour-On insecticide against ticks and mosquitoes, and 36,000 bottles of multivitamins.

IV. Conflict Update

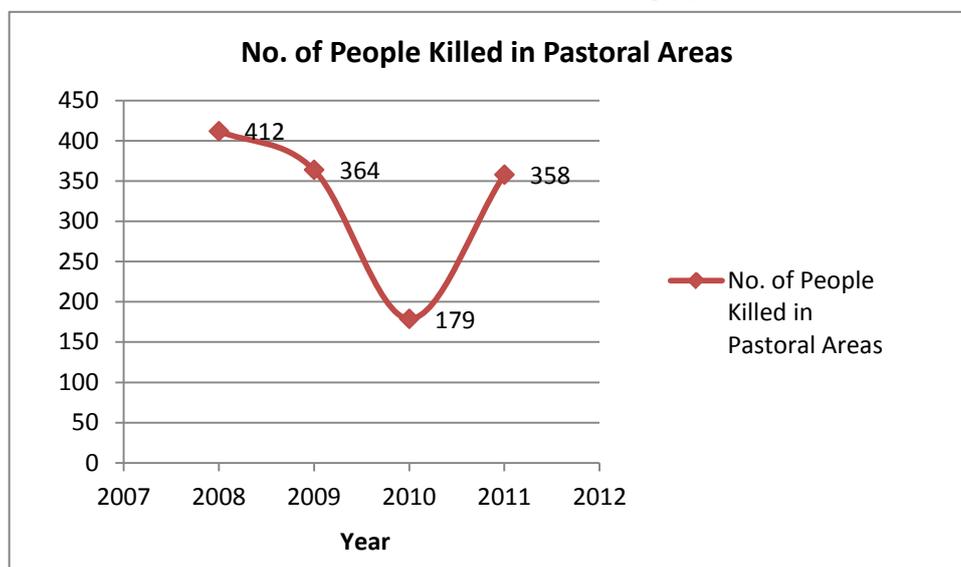
Conflict in pastoral areas has this year left more than 350 people dead, compared to 179 people killed in 2010. Conflicts over resources intensify during droughts. OCHA's 2011 tracking of violence in pastoralist areas is comparable to 2009 when Kenya faced another severe drought with 364 killings recorded. Conflict in pastoralist areas has become endemic and is exacerbated during drought episodes when cattle rustling is used as a means of restocking for livestock lost to drought, and is often associated with competition for resources, historical inter-clan clashes over land, proliferation of small arms through porous borders in the northern and north-eastern parts of Kenya, and lack of policies to address mobility of pastoralists across administrative boundaries.

In Moyale, several weeks of fighting in December between two rival communities at the Ethiopia-Kenya border has left 37 people killed and 550 households (2,775 people) displaced, and disrupted transport services, according to UN sources. Tension remains high in the area as more families flee the resource-

linked conflict between the Gabra and Borana pastoralist communities. The fighting was triggered by an attempt by both communities to seize a grazing area.

OCHA's Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) reports that the recent clashes on 20 December left a woman and four herders dead and displaced hundreds of people. Most of the displaced were from Oda, Funanyatta, Adesa, Ngibe, Kalaliwe, Illadu and Funandimo villages; the Gabra have sought refuge in Kinisa, a village along the Ethiopia-Kenya border, while the Borana are in Butiye, about 4 km from Kenya's border with Ethiopia. There has been little humanitarian response to the affected people who need protection services as well as shelter and non-food relief items.

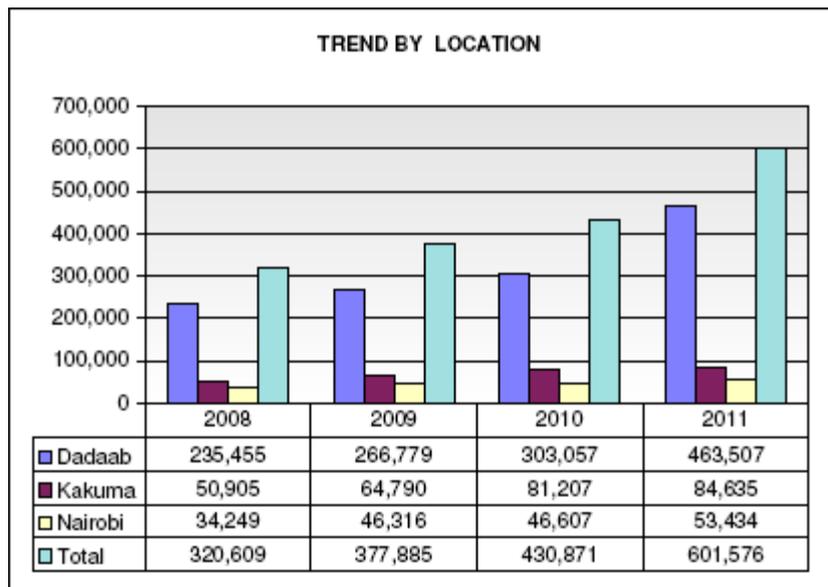
On 25 December, suspected cattle rustlers from Turkana killed six herders in Burat Village in Isiolo and allegedly stole hundreds of camels and goats. Police in Isiolo report that 1,700 people have been displaced to three locations as follows : 700 at KWS, 500 Kambi Juu Catholic Church, and 500 at Bula Pesa. This is a latest incident, in a string of clashes that have rocked Isiolo since July among three communities - the Borana, Turkana and Somali. In October tensions mounted and culminated in a major attack and the displacement of more than 1,500 people.



VI. Multi-Sector Assistance to Refugees

In mid-December, the Department of Refugee Affairs of the Kenyan Government, with the assistance of UNHCR, conducted a headcount of 1,324 new refugees who have arrived in Dadaab camps since mid-October when official registration of new arrivals was suspended. There are 463,000 refugees registered in the Dadaab camps, according to UNHCR's November statistics. A relocation exercise to an expanded camp area of Ifo and Kambioos to decongest the overcrowded camps has been suspended because of heightened insecurity.

On 19 December, a powerful improvised explosive device detonated under a police vehicle killing one police officer, injuring three others and disrupting humanitarian operations. The explosion took place just 50 metres away from a food distribution point and prompted agencies to suspend operations. A series of explosive attacks targeting police since October have led to many activities in the Dadaab camps being suspended and operations being limited to life-saving interventions in the food, health, and water and sanitation sectors. Agencies now heavily rely on refugee incentive workers who have proven to be the backbone of business continuity approaches.



Source: UNHCR/November 2011

Health: As of 15 December, 805 suspected cholera cases had been reported in Dadaab since August, with 59 per cent being children under age 5. One death of a two-year old was reported in mid-December in Hagadera, bringing the total number of cholera deaths to three. According to UNICEF, although the number of reported cases is increasing at a faster rate in children under age 5, many of these cases may not be cholera but other causes of acute watery diarrhoea. A Cholera Working Group comprised of representatives from Government Water and Health Departments and NGOs met on 14 December in Garissa and finalized the Cholera Preparedness Plan.

V. Humanitarian Financing

\$764 million
requested (US\$) for 2012

9 %
Funded (US\$69
million received)

On 15 December, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Aeneas Chuma, together with the Ministry of State for Special Programmes and the Ministry of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, launched the 2012+ Kenya Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP) appeal seeking \$764 million to

address humanitarian needs and build Kenya's resilience to disasters in 2012. As at 29 December, funding of the US\$764 million requested for the 2012 EHRP appeal stands at 9 percent with US\$69 million received.

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