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Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- *The ICC holds its first hearing of post-poll violence cases.*
- *High costs of living contribute to increased vulnerability and dependency.*
- *Drought situation is worsening in ASAL areas.*
- *Water and sanitation initiatives are up scaled in drought and conflict affected areas.*
- *Efforts are underway to increase cross border collaboration with Somalia.*
- *Sectors gear up for the EHRP 2011+ mid year review.*

The information contained in this report has been compiled by OCHA from information received from the field, from national and international humanitarian partners and from other official sources. This report does not represent a position from the United Nations. This report is posted on: <http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya>

I. General Overview

The International Criminal Court (ICC) held the first hearing for six-named key suspects of post-electoral violence. Mixed emotions flared in Kenya as the ICC summoned the six persons suspected of playing a major role directly or indirectly instigating ethnic violence in the 2007/08 post-election period. The six appeared before the ICC on 7 and 8 April 2011, during which they were informed of their rights. The six are accused of being criminally responsible for murder, forcible transfer of populations and persecutions constituting crimes against humanity. The pre-trial Chamber set 1 September 2011 as the date for the hearing of whether the case continues and for the suspects to confirm their pleas. The 2007/08 post-poll violent clashes left more than 350 000 displaced, thousands injured and more than 1 300 dead. Currently, more than 30, 000 PEV IDPs remain in the Rift Valley- a centre and heart of political tensions.

Kenya is going through turbulent economic times; rising inflation and weakening shilling resulted in drastic increase in fuel and food prices. The price of maize rose by 25 percent between April 2010 and April 2011 in key markets such as Nairobi, Eldoret and Kisumu. Prices have also increased elsewhere in Kenya. The situation has contributed to an increase in urban vulnerability and deterioration of terms of trade for pastoral households. Part of the price increase is attributed to producers hoarding the 2010 long rains harvests against a background of increasing prices of fuel and continued government policies to maintain high taxation leading to high producer prices. It is also possible that the price hike is due to a lack of stocks as the long rain harvests may have been over estimated. The price of maize is expected to continue rising but may slightly decline upon successful performance of the long rain harvests, expected between July and September 2011. Other food commodity prices are also projected to continue increasing in the next six months – mainly attributable to the weakening of the shilling and the increase in fuel prices. Civil society groups called for country-wide demonstrations, in order to demand that Government cushions citizens from increased negative impact of fuel and food prices. On 18 April, in a move seen aimed at countering mass action, Government reduced the taxes of kerosene and diesel by up to two shillings and sixteen cents.

Rains have finally started in the North Eastern Province. Wajir and Garissa districts received sporadic showers during the week ending 16 April. However, the rains are not sufficient and the Food and Nutrition Sector Working Group projects that population living in northern Kenya will be hardest hit, given below average rain expectations. In addition, this will be the third successive season where rains have been below average.

II. Humanitarian Situation

Humanitarian financing

The Humanitarian Coordinator convened the first Donor Humanitarian Coordination Forum (DHCF) to facilitate a common understanding, enhance coherence and plan response to humanitarian challenges. The meeting discussed rapid increase in food prices, challenges in the food pipeline, funding status of the Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan 2011 and sector funding gaps for drought response.

Preparations are underway for mid-year review of the Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan 2011. The review of project submissions, attainment of the Gender Marker and submission of new projects are discussion topics for the mid-year review. A workshop aimed at building consensus among partners will be held on a date that will soon be announced.

The funds from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) are being disbursed to 11 agencies selected to respond to the ongoing drought emergency in northern Kenya. Agencies selected will respond to the needs in the water, agriculture and livestock sectors.

Drought

The Kenya Meteorological Department's (KMD) prognosis of the long rains, and particularly the March-April - May (MAM) rains, points to highly depressed rainfall for Kenya's North-Eastern Province, heightening concerns for drought impacts in those regions already hard-hit by dry weather conditions. The onset and cessation dates for the rains in North-Eastern are also predicted to be unconventionally late and early respectively, making it impossible for the region to recover from effects of the poor October - December 2010 short rains and current effects of La Nina. Escalation of on-going resource-based conflicts in pastoral areas has resulted in loss of lives, livestock assets, and has constrained market access. In addition, all earth pans in Mandera County including Banissa Earth Pan which serves an estimated 80,000 people dried up. The humanitarian sector working groups have been revising its response strategy for drought response in line with new weather conditions and will consolidate it in the mid year revision of the EHRP 2011+.

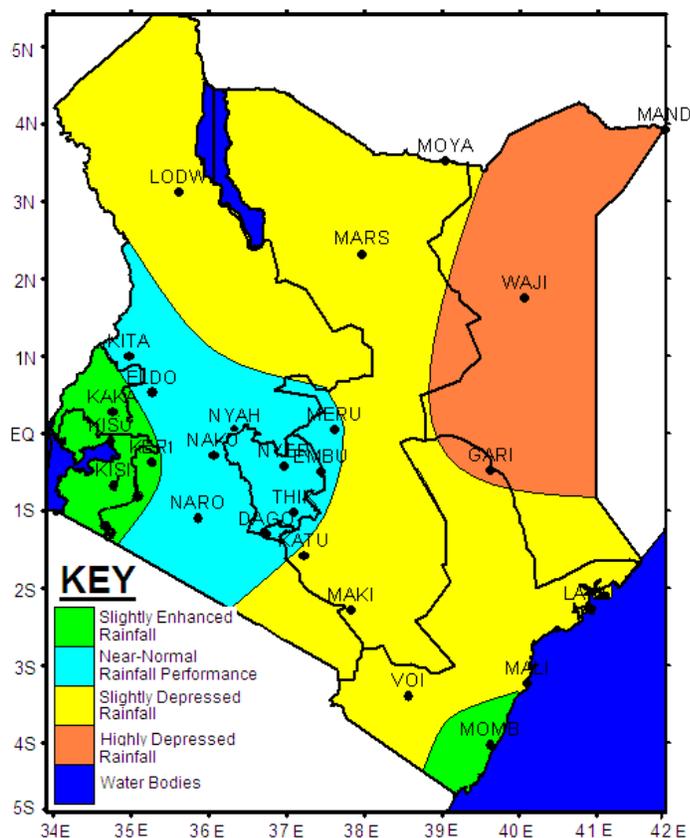
Food

The World Food Programme (WFP) is concerned with the recent increase in food prices. This affects beneficiary access to food on the one hand, and WFP's ability to procure food on the other. Reduced supplies and high prices have constrained local and regional food procurement. Procurement from other regions in Africa, for example South Africa is also not possible due to Genetically Modified Food (GMO) regulations, which are not yet published by Government.

Water and Sanitation

The sector's current focus is on drought response and refugee interventions. Repair, construction and the extension of seventy water points that include boreholes, pipeline extensions and shallow well infiltration

Rainfall outlook for March-April-May 2011 "Long Rains



galleries are some of the interventions that will benefit an estimated 80,000 people in Turkana and West Pokot districts. In addition, 37 schools hosting 18,000 students will be provided with water supply, latrines and hand washing facilities. A total of US\$442,000 received from the Department for International Development (DFID) will fund high impact WASH interventions. Prepositioning WASH supplies, improving access to safe water through sustained household water treatment and safe storage and improved hygiene practices will benefit 45,000 vulnerable households in Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu Districts. In Kajiado, a local agency was contracted to provide water and latrines in two schools, drill two boreholes, provide storage tanks and distribution pipeline for a total of 8,600 people.

Water trucking, provision of storage containers, water treatment chemicals, emergency latrines were some of the interventions that supported an estimated 12,500 refugees and Internally Displaced Persons following fierce fighting along the Somali - Kenya border last February and March.

11 projects in the WASH and, Agriculture and Livestock have been prioritized for the response to the drought through the Emergency Response Fund for a total of USD1.6 million donated by DFID. The 11 projects are targeting at least 320,000 people in the worst drought affected areas in North Eastern Province.

Cross border collaboration with the WASH cluster in Somalia and the mapping of projects and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) presence are also on-going.

To access the full situation report, log onto <http://tinyurl.com/yzpmck6>.

Nutrition

The Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) held its annual meeting in Nairobi. Kenya was requested to provide an update of the nutrition sector's structure, performance and transition from a cluster to a sector. Lessons learnt from Kenya provide guidance on "cluster approaches."

The sector finalized the *La Nina Preparedness Response Plan*. An affected population of 4,909,806, comprising of 726,599 children under five years and 294,815 pregnant and lactating mothers will benefit from the therapeutic and supplementary feeding programme. In addition, the sector will continue to support 433 health facilities located in the Rift Valley, Eastern and North Eastern Province with therapeutic and supplementary feeding supplies. The sector has a funding gap of US\$7,050,469. Baringo (western Kenya), Isiolo, Samburu (central Kenya) Mandera and Moyale (northern Kenya) districts are in the alert phase, having recorded increased cases of acute malnutrition. On the other hand, Narok, Kajiado (south western Kenya), West Pokot (north western Kenya), Lamu, Taita Taveta and Malindi (coastal Kenya) districts are under close surveillance.

An upscale of projects in areas affected by drought is in progress. Mwingi, Laikipia, Isiolo and Moyale districts recorded an increase of hospital admissions as a result of complications related to malnutrition. Bi-weekly surveillance aimed at identifying admissions, death trends and progress being achieved at district level is being conducted. In addition, the drought contingency and response plan is being updated following the Short Rain Assessment and expiration date of some funds. The World Bank is conducting a nutrition sector gaps analysis. The mapping of partners and projects is also on-going.

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Refugees

A total of 38,144 people were registered in Nairobi, Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps between January and 8 April 2011. This is nearly twice as much as the average number of arrivals per month reported in 2010. The sharp increase is attributed to the continuation of fierce fights along Kenya Somalia border along Mandera and worsening food security conditions.

The Dadaab refugee camps continue to receive a significant number of new arrivals which continues to put pressure on existing facilities for refugees and host communities. UNHCR estimates indicate that Dadaab refugee camps receive about 2,000 new arrivals per week. The deadlock on the

decongestion/relocation exercise in Ifo camp remains a big concern for humanitarian actors whose preparation of the extended camp have been halted since January 2011. More than 18,000 new arrivals are living on the fringes on the Camps in deplorable conditions, with high risk for GBV, waterborne epidemics and increasing tension with the host community. The Government of Kenya and UNHCR are closely working together to resolve the impasse on the extended site which has impacts on host communities. Dadaab is the largest refugee camp in the world hosting 322,433 refugees.

Protection/Internally Displaced Persons

More than 100 internally displaced persons met in Nairobi with the Kenya Human Rights Commission at the launch of the agency's report on the state of IDPs in Kenya. More than 30, 000 people (6, 200 households) remain displaced from 2008 and resettlement remains uncertain because of lack of availability of habitable land, resistance from some communities to absorb IDPs from 'foreign' ethnic groups, lack of financial resources for resettlement, and alleged misappropriation of resettlement funds. There have been a number of demonstrations by IDPs in the Rift Valley blocking major access roads and demanding government attention to their prolonged displacement. Plans to resettle 800 post-election violence victims on a controversial piece of land in Mau Narok faced resistance from the host community. Government resolved to use the 2,264-acre land for agricultural research. On the other hand, the resettlement of thousands of families evicted from government forests has been hampered by the lack of funds. The Ministry for Lands requires KSh3.5 billion to resettle forest evictees.

Livestock

The livelihoods situation of pastoralists in Baringo, Turkana, Moyale and Mandera has worsened. Livestock body conditions, quality and quantity of forage in these districts continues to deteriorate. In addition, livestock trekking distances has increased to 38 kilometres. Milk production has been low in Garissa and Wajir districts of North Eastern Kenya. On the other hand, an improvement of livestock body condition and forage availability has been reported in West Pokot and Makueni (southern Kenya) districts, due to the better seasonal rains. However, the poor distribution of rains would slow the recovery of livestock body conditions and pasture growth. Destocking and animal surveillance are some of the interventions being implemented by government and other agencies in the worst affected districts.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform launched the *Fire Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness Campaign* that will have a special focus on informal settlements. Fire safety and risk reduction messages will be disseminated and fire response drills conducted. More than 90 percent of fire incidences in 2011 occurred in informal settlements. Lives were lost, more than 5,000 people displaced and property worth millions of shillings destroyed. Government, UN agencies, civil society and private sector are supporting the campaign. In addition, OCHA Kenya is spearheading the development of an Urban Emergency Response Plan in collaboration with various partners. The plan is aimed at improving preparedness and sets the foundation to advocate for increased response capacity where gaps are identified. Such include responses to urban fire.

Cross border responses

There has been increased collaboration between Kenya and Somalia humanitarian country teams on key humanitarian challenges. Joint discussions between humanitarian country teams in Kenya and Somalia were held, where contingency planning for Somalia and lessons learnt in addressing the influx of refugees and mixed migration in Kenya were shared. The most likely scenario of the Somalia Contingency plan estimates 535,000 people will need assistance and in the worst case scenario up to 2.4 million people. About 192,000 newly displaced people are expected in Somalia in the coming six months, of which 142,000 could be displaced by conflict and 50,000 by drought. On the other hand, about 200,000 returnees are expected in Mogadishu. Increased inter-clan conflict over pasture and water is also expected.

The

Killings and displacement in pastoral areas

The cumulative number of people who died from resource based conflict from January-March 2011 reached 33. The figure is the lowest recorded over the past four years during the same reporting period. The year 2008 recorded the highest number with 93 deaths; followed by 2010 with 60 deaths; and 2009 with 58 deaths. The years 2008 and 2009 experienced extreme dry conditions associated with La Nina, as is the case in 2011.

An estimated 5,500 people were displaced in Mandera district following combat which started on 20 February, between Al Shabaab and forces allied to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. As of 14 March, an estimated 500 families had not returned to their homes because their houses were partially or fully destroyed while others feared for their lives.

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