

Kenya Humanitarian Update

9 November 2011

 **OCHA**
Coordination Saves Lives



HIGHLIGHTS

- Two killed in church explosion in Garissa as Kenya surges on in fight against Al-Shabaab militants
- National Commission on Integration and Cohesion warns against xenophobic attacks on Kenyan Somalis
- Food security set to improve in coming months as 3.75 million people remain dependant on relief aid
- Prices for the staple maize decrease by 42 per cent in some areas; but high fuel prices remain a concern
- Conflict in Isiolo far from over; tensions remain high

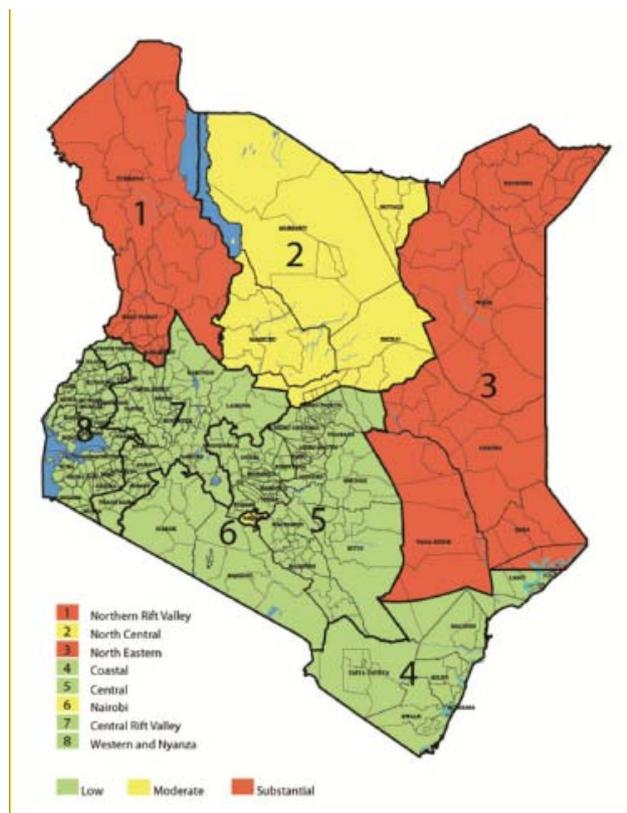
I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

As the Kenya military incursion continues in Somalia, attacks on civilian and police targets continue in Kenya. An explosion on 6 November, at a church compound in Garissa (north-eastern province) left two people dead. Three others were injured when the attackers hurled a grenade at the East Africa Pentecostal Church. On 7 November, a police reservist at Damasa border village in Lafey District of Mandera district (northeast Kenya bordering Somalia) was shot dead by suspected Somali militants. At least two humanitarian convoys came under fire over the weekend, one between Garissa and Dadaab, the other between Liboi and Dadaab. An IED planted on the road close to Hagadera refugee camp failed to detonate on 5 November when a police escort vehicle rolled over it. Humanitarian operations at Dadaab face severe restrictions; operations for drought-affected areas of northeastern Kenya are disrupted by insecurity and cross-border movement of aid personnel to Somalia has all but stopped. The GoK is not registering new refugees and the number of new asylum seekers is unknown, but thought to be low but could present a public health risk if not screened.

UN DSS assessment of threat levels (Nov 11)

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security says roadside banditry is currently the most common form of attack in North Eastern Province (NEP) with recent reports indicating a significant escalation in attacks in past four months. Many of the attacks are carried out by known criminal elements; however, the situation has also been compounded by defectors from militias crossing over the border from Somalia with their weapons.

Tension in the Isiolo area is not simply cattle and natural resource-related conflict, but a complex cocktail of local politics, land issues and other factors, according to a recent protection-oriented humanitarian mission. After weeks of conflict and tension between communities in and around Isiolo, leading to deaths and injuries to civilians, and displacement, the current situation can be described as a low level conflict with tensions capable of fuelling further clashes. There is a high possibility of larger scale displacement of both Turkana and Borana communities and subsequent humanitarian and protection needs if the situation is



www.unocha.org

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives • Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action

not contained. Some limited numbers of people are still displaced and unlikely to return home in coming weeks. The PWGID is monitoring the situation closely, and is working on reaching specific decision makers through advocacy to help resolve the current crisis.

Meanwhile, the National Commission on Integration and Commission (NCIC) in a statement on 6 November 2011 warned that hate is permeating social media networks, broadcasts and SMS text messages amounting to civilian 'ethnic and racial profiling' of Kenyan "Cushites", specifically against Kenyan Somalis. The NCIC says they have received many complaints of victimization of Kenyan Somalis, including allegations of women in buibus being spat on, harassment of Somalis in public buses (matatus) and in schools. The NCIC says that "increasingly Kenya is preparing the ground to make Somalis targets of xenophobia and violent attacks" but warns that there are laws in place to address this.

II. Humanitarian Needs and Response

FOOD

As part of WFP Kenya rapid drought response, rapid upscale of unconditional cash transfers (UCT) is ongoing. Beneficiary enrollment and bank account opening are taking place in several targeted districts. For Cash for Assets project, disbursements are ongoing. The North Eastern Province has been hard hit by heavy downpours which have rendered roads impassable in Garissa and Hola. The WFP says that the food pipeline is secure up to late February 2012. Current challenges are related to logistics/ transport in Turkana. In Mandera, huge demands in Somalia put pressure on local transport availability.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Water access is improving in Garissa County following the onset of rains in October. However, water trucking is still ongoing to, for example, Damajale. Water quality is an ongoing issue, particularly for surface water and shallow well sources. A focus on water quality response has prompted partners to undertake the chlorination of shallow wells and the distribution of aqua-tabs in Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit and Wajir. In West Pokot, the Sector has completed fencing of six shallow wells. Cholera Emergency Preparedness and Response Training was held on 31st October-5 November. The training was attended by 32 District water Officers (DWOs), District Public Health Officers (DPHOs) and NGO staff. There are anecdotal reports that in flooded areas there is an increasing risk of water borne diseases where bucket latrines are being used and emptied directly into flowing water. However, information on the extent and severity of this practice is lacking. The transportation of WASH items is still problematic in many areas of the north and north east due to insecurity and poor road conditions.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

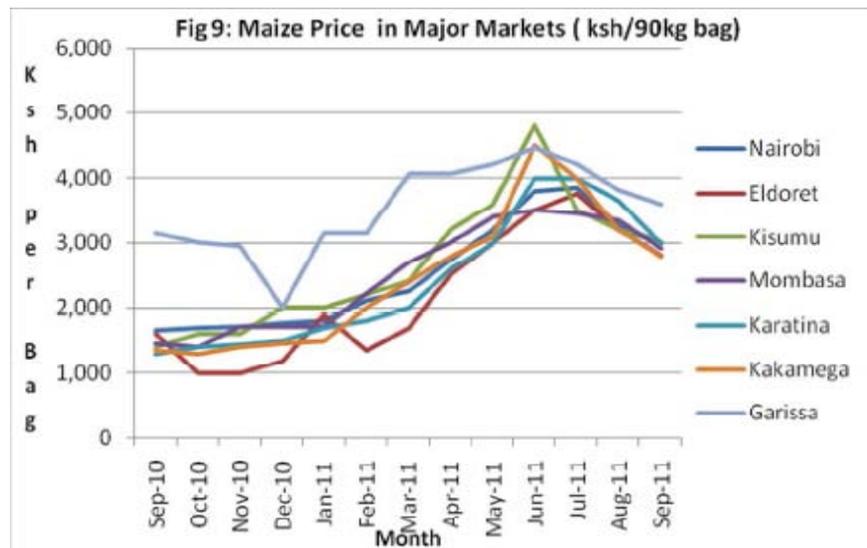
The good rainfall over various agricultural areas in the central highlands and parts of South Eastern districts has been beneficial to farmers who planted at the right time (end of August or beginning of October). There has also been flooding in several parts of the country and full impact on livestock is being assessed by the government. The rainfall also improved pastures for livestock in the pastoral areas of North Eastern districts. The Ministry of Livestock estimates that some 248, 854 livestock have been lost due to drought in 24 drought affected districts as follows:-

Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Donkeys
124,427	41,476	16,590	8,295	58,066

Purchase and distribution of 1,600 tons of various drought resistant seeds by FAO/Government/GIZ has been completed to benefit 200,000 vulnerable farming families in marginal agricultural areas. 200 tons that was procured too late for this planting season will be safely stored and distributed for the next season in March. The distribution of 5,000 improved indigenous breeds of chickens to 1,000 very vulnerable households in Kitui is proceeding well. This paves the way for an additional distribution of another 7,500 chickens to start soon. Because of flooding in several areas, FAO is procuring 400,000 doses of Rift Valley Fever vaccine and the government is purchasing a further 50,000 for inoculations. The inoculation campaigns will be decided after the Government flood/livestock assessment meeting scheduled for next week.

Maize Prices in major Markets: Source: Fewsnet

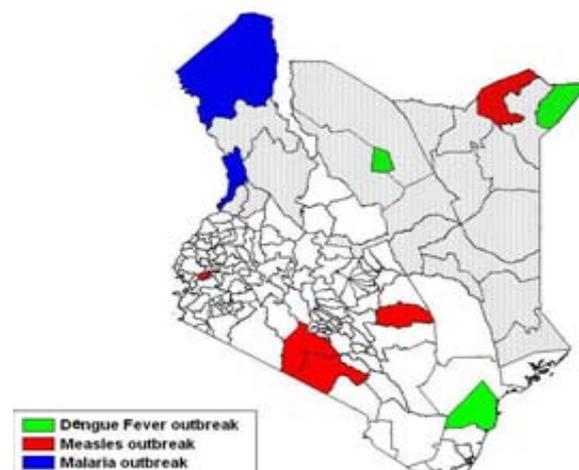
The ongoing harvesting of long rains crops in the high rainfall areas continues to boost food availability, accessibility and price stability. With exception of beans and wheat, prices of food commodities in particular maize continued to decline in most parts of the country. The price of a 90kg bag of maize decreased by about 42% percent between June 2011 and September 2011. Following the Government's removal of import duty on maize and wheat, increased imports of these commodities by private sector has been witnessed. Prices of potatoes, bananas, onions, tomatoes and other vegetables remained low in most parts of the country reflecting improved supply from the long rains production and significantly easing pressure on maize demand. However, sustained high fuel prices may continue to undermine household purchasing powers.

**HEALTH**

There is an increasing trend of malaria cases from Pokot West, Central and North districts of Pokot County. Even though the cases being seen in Turkana Central and North districts are declining in numbers, the rates are still higher than the thresholds for the season and time. However, no deaths due to malaria have been reported.

In Turkana County there are still sporadic cases of measles. Following the onset of the heavy rains, there is likelihood of outbreak of waterborne diseases, (Cholera /AWD) and increase in mosquitoes breeding sites.

Two new cases of dengue fever were detected far outside of Mandera and have both been lab-confirmed by **KEMRI**. One case was established in Kilifi district (Coast province), with no apparent travel history, the other one was reported from Marsabit (Eastern province). Currently there are cases of increasing fever being reported from Marsabit county and are being investigated.

Areas reporting disease outbreaks

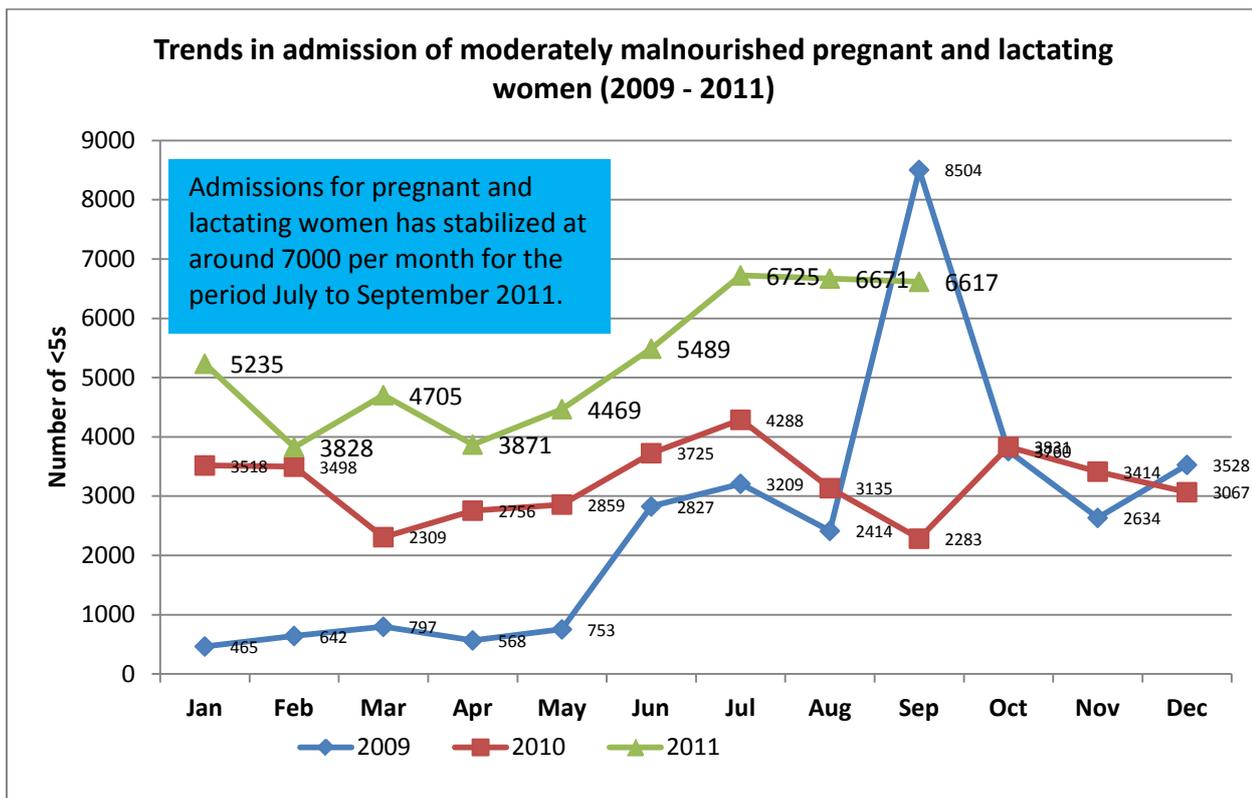
Source: MoPHS/WHO

A one day sensitization meeting on epidemic preparedness and response for the District Health Management Teams in Marsabit district was conducted on 3 November 2011. Technical support was provided by WHO on "Epidemic preparedness and response. Similar technical support was provided on "Preparing for, and conducting mass polio immunization campaign".

NUTRITION

The monthly admissions of moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women has stabilized at approximately 6,600 per month between July and August 2011 (see graph below). Severe acute malnutrition admissions increased rapidly between March and July 2011 due to effects of drought, high cost of fuel and energy and scale up of nutrition interventions which identified cases of malnutrition. Admissions between March and August are at least double the admissions in 2010 over the same period of time. The

Nutrition Sector also says that Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions are approximately 200 per month in the Kisumu urban programme.



Source: Nutrition Sector

EARLY RECOVERY

National disaster preparedness and response capacity in the event of an emergency in Kenya is being enhanced through various processes (simulation exercises, contingency planning, and scenario building through strategic response planning processes). Protecting and bolstering livelihoods opportunities is required to build economic security and the resilience of individuals, households, and communities against the impact of future droughts and other crises.

The rains provide the opportunity for agricultural inputs to support livelihoods and food security, whilst at the same time present threats to destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods. Disaster preparedness and response capacity at the national, regional and district level is being enhanced through trainings.

The Ministry of Livestock Production in partnership with Mercy Corps distributed seeds to communities in Wajir to prepare the rangelands for planting and maximise the onset of rains. The Ministry of Livestock Production provided emergency livestock feed to 530 households in Wajir to support pastoralists who still face challenges in feeding their livestock. Mercy Corps also continued cash transfers to communities in Wajir to support livelihoods diversification. In Ibrahim Ure, Wajir, cash for work will support economic security for households identified to clear roads and build latrines to serve 25 households.

The Recovery Sector is supporting capacity development in DRR in Kenya. CARE Kenya hosted a capacity building training to raise awareness amongst communities on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and water resource management in Jarajila, Bename, and Dadaab, in Garissa district. These initiatives complement other actors who are supporting host communities in Garissa and working on DRR. Representatives from district disaster committees in the Nairobi region were trained by UNDP on disaster risk reduction, response to various disasters, carrying out needs assessments, and developing contingency plans, among others.

PROTECTION

A first presentation of the findings from more than 3000 household surveys in the IDP Monitoring Project conducted by the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) show critical gaps in how the return, local reintegration and resettlement

of post-election violence IDPs has been managed in terms of sustainability and continued protection concerns. In particular, unresolved documentation, land and property issues, livelihoods, food security and the high number of vulnerable persons still living in emergency (tented) or transitional shelters is a concern, along with access to education and other services. The PWGID and KNCHR is preparing a report and presentation of the preliminary findings to the inter-sector coordination mechanisms at national and field levels to share the data collected, while the household survey continues throughout affected areas.

The Kenya Land Alliance (KLA), Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC) and National IDPs Network conducted an audit of the Land and Women Rights claims of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in several counties within Rift Valley, Nyanza, Western and Central regions. The main objective of this project is to provide up to date gender disaggregated information on the land and related rights for the PEV IDPs in Kenya. The audit exercise aims to create a better understanding of the genuine IDPs and their pertinent needs against the alleged imposters or masqueraders in different places of hosting; clarify the wide ranging land demands and the related human rights and expectations for IDPs; provide data and information on the nature of land claims for both female and male IDPs reached; and provide policy recommendations on how to secure equitable land and other rights for female and male IDPs. The preliminary report observes that most IDPs feel that access to land will be one of their key means towards durable solutions; Most of the provisions to IDPs from the government have a direct and indirect relationship with ownership of and access control and use of land based resources. The report further says that most IDPs seem to have genuine land claims owing either to their legal ownership rights or historical land injustices and that most of IDPs are unwilling or unable to return due to insecurity.

III. MULTI SECTOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

Kenya hosts a large number of refugees in two camps, Kakuma and Dadaab, majority of whom are Somali. Famine and conflict in Somalia is causing an influx of asylum seekers into Dadaab despite the official closure of the Kenya border in January 2007. Until recently, the influx level has been consistently high since June 2011. The current security situation in Dadaab is highly fragile and registration of new arrivals by the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) has been halted.

Of major concern is cholera in the Dadaab refugee camps where cases have increased with 11 laboratory confirmed cases. There is now confirmed local transmission of cholera in all three main camps. As a result of the insecurity and health response limited to essential life-saving interventions and pulling out of some staff from the camp, local staff hired on incentives are now managing cases outside the hospitals. This is a worrying situation if there is a major outbreak.

IV. COORDINATION

The Kenya Humanitarian Forum on 5 November was well attended with organizations expressing concern about the insecurity in the north-eastern province which has impacted on delivery of humanitarian assistance. OCHA is following up on a contingency planning exercise that will be held in regard to scenarios for anticipated humanitarian fallout as a result of the military incursion into Somalia.

The Inter-Sector Meeting on 9 November discussed several issues among them improving access to water, food availability for relief operations and how to continue providing humanitarian assistance in the northeastern province in light of deteriorating security conditions.

The District Disaster Steering Group meeting was held in Moyale district on 31 October 2011. A presentation was made by DSG to highlight drought response activities by partners and GOK to the visiting EU MPs.

V. FUNDING

As of 9 November, \$503 million (68%) of the requested \$741 million has been funded in the Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan, up from 45 percent in July. \$122 million has been committed outside the framework of the EHRP appeal.

Sectors funded at 40 per cent or less include: WASH (40%), Agriculture and Livestock (24%), Health (17%), Education (16%) and Protection (7%).

**741 million
requested (US\$)**

**68%
funded**

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

For further information, please contact:

Aeneas Chuma,
Humanitarian Coordinator

Ben Parker, Interim Head of Office, OCHA Eastern Africa
parkerb@un.org, +254 733860082

Patrick Lavand'homme, Deputy Head of Office
lavandhomme@un.org, +254 710 602326

Thandie Mwape, Humanitarian Affairs Officer/Reporting and Analysis
mwapet@un.org, +254 728601291

For more information, please visit: <http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya>