



## ECHO FACTSHEET Kenya

### Facts & Figures

**Number of  
IDP's/Refugees:** 600 000

**People in need of  
humanitarian  
assistance:** 1.1 million

#### ECHO Funding:

2012 - €34.2 million  
2013 - €20 million has  
been allocated

#### Other important facts

**Population:** 39.8 m

**Life expectancy:** 55 years

**Infant mortality (per  
1 000):** 55

**Under-five mortality  
(per 1 000):** 84

**Access to clean water:**  
57%



*Regina Nakaalei bought foodstuff, paid school related expenses and started a small retail business. She is one of the 14,000 people receiving cash instead of in-kind food in a three-month trial funded by the ECHO. © EU/ECHO/Martin Karimi*

## Humanitarian situation and needs

### Key messages

- While the situation has improved in 2012 due to good rainfall and substantial aid, 1.1 million Kenyans are currently still in need of humanitarian assistance;
- The situation in Dabaab refugee camp, the biggest in the world, has been stable, but there are still gaps in the provision of adequate food and security;
- The overall situation remains fragile and requires constant vigilance also due to the upcoming elections in the country. The European Commission together with other donors actively contributes to helping the country prepare for elections to avoid outbreaks of violence within the country seen at the last elections.

### Situation in Country

Kenya is affected by recurrent droughts; particularly hit are the Arid and Semi Arid Lands in the northern part of the country. Structural under-development and chronic poverty put 5.5 million people living in Northern Kenya, mainly pastoralists, in a vulnerable position. People have little or no time to recover from one drought before facing the next and millions who depend on their livestock live very precarious existences.

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The worst drought in 60 years hit Kenya in 2011. Over 3.75 million people needed urgent food assistance, water, medication, sanitation, shelter, protection and support simply to survive.

Currently, the number of food insecure people in Kenya has decreased from 2.1 in 2012 to 1.1 million at the beginning of 2013. Short rains have been normal throughout the period and a surplus harvest is expected in June 2013 with a positive impact on the markets prices.

### Major needs and related problems

Despite improved food security linked to better rains in 2012 and the consecutive ending of the droughts, under-nutrition remains an issue in many areas of the country.

Kenya hosts nearly 600 000 refugees from neighbouring conflict-prone countries, especially Somalia. Dadaab, the world's biggest refugee camp, hosting almost 500 000 refugees, living under difficult conditions, has shown stable conditions since the start of 2012.

During the month of November 2012, Kenya witnessed a series of violent incidences scattered across the country. Humanitarian consequences still remain minimal but tensions arising remain a cause of concern in light of the upcoming elections.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response

### Funding

#### European Commission

In 2012, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) made over €34.2 million available to support drought mitigation, emergency preparedness and response as well as nutrition programmes in the arid regions affected by drought. Water sources are being rehabilitated and sanitation facilities also installed. In addition programmes promoting livestock's health, managing natural resources by building boreholes and renovating wells, and treatment for those who are malnourished are being funded.

The Commission is also supporting emergency programmes such as the culling of livestock and targeted food assistance to vulnerable groups of populations. So far, ECHO has allocated €20 million for Kenya in 2013 with a focus on elections preparedness and response, building up of the resilience of the vulnerable populations of Northern Kenya and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.

In response to the worst drought that affected some areas in Kenya for 60 years, in 2011 the European Commission made over €47 million available, including €14 million for refugees and over € 4 million for Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives.

The Commission is funding supplementary and therapeutic feeding for the malnourished and encourages the integration of the diagnosis and treatment of this problem in the Ministry of Health Structures. It also provides food, clean water and sanitation facilities. Food security programmes, through cash for work and food vouchers, are also supported.

The EU is also boosting funding of pre-emptive actions with the aim to strengthen the resilience of those most vulnerable to disasters. For example, funds are channeled into projects for destocking livestock to guarantee an income to the pastoralists when demand collapses and programmes for the distribution of cash vouchers to guarantee a minimum income to the affected families.

## Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners

The EU is funding UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies which deliver basic services to the refugees in Kenya. Because of the tense security environment, access is very restricted affecting the delivery of the assistance. The refugee communities themselves are being involved to overcome these difficulties.

## Examples of Humanitarian Projects in Kenya



During the 2011 drought, 3.7 million people were in immediate need of food, clean water and basic sanitation. Under **SHARE**, the EU is enhancing its support to boost recovery and build resilience through a revamped early warning system, institutional support to authorities such as the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) managing the Disaster and Drought Contingency Fund (NDDCF), and community level livelihoods projects which expand people's economic opportunities. Renewed investments by the Kenyan government and its institutions in arid lands are expected to help translate early warning into early response in ways that will avoid the development of similar crises in the future.

**Moyale** was the only region in Northern Kenya where the malnutrition rates of the population remained below the emergency level of 15 %. This was the result of several factors, including years of investment in community preparedness for droughts and access to functioning markets. Much of that investment came through the Disaster Risk Reduction programme financed by the European Commission's humanitarian aid. The programme focused on community-based actions aimed at helping villages to better cope with the impact of droughts and at building the resilience of the population at risk. From 2006 to 2011, ECHO has invested over €17 million for such projects straddling the Kenya-Ethiopia border – an investment that paid off for the benefit of the people of Moyale.



The European Commission operates a direct air service to northern Kenya, **ECHO Flight**, to enable partners and other humanitarian agencies to gain access to remote areas. ECHO Flight is also available for medical or security evacuations. In 2012, ECHO made €3 million available for this service, for crucial logistical support to humanitarian and transitional projects funded by the Commission and many other donors. Last year, ECHO Flight transported almost 8 000 passengers and almost 33 tons of cargo within Kenya.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) is piloting the use of **cash** instead of in-kind food for some 14,000 people in north-western Kenya. The project rolled out through the World Food Programme is substituting maize, sorghum, pulses, cooking oil with cash delivered via mobile money services. The Commission has set aside 2 million euros for this trial. So far, families benefiting from this project have said that cash gives them dignity and self-worth, something that people living on handouts often lack. Cash is a more cost effective way of assisting the most vulnerable than distributing food and helps promote local markets, benefitting local farming and food supply systems.

