

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KENYA: DROUGHT

4 February 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 18/2004; Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: November 2004 to January 2005; Appeal coverage: 63.1%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List dated 15 February 2005, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 17 August 2004 for CHF 3,561,767 (USD 2,785,900 or EUR 2,311,300) to assist 200,000 beneficiaries for six months. Refer to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/1804.pdf
- Operations Update no. 2 decreased the Appeal budget to CHF 2,121,677 and increased the number of beneficiaries to 308,000. Refer to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/180402.pdf
- This Operations Update extends the operating timeline until 31 May 2005. Budget and beneficiary levels remain as presented in Operations Update no. 2.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 783,549 (USD 659,000 or EUR 506,000).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: East Africa sub-regional programmes, 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA004 – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA04.pdf. This Appeal includes Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda within the East Africa sub-region.

Operational Summary:

This Operations Update is being issued:

- To report on progress in implementation of activities over the reporting period, and
- To request for an extension of the drought operation by three months to allow for the completion of certain activities that run over the initial end date of March 2005.

After an initially-poor response to an appeal by the President of Kenya contributions both in form of food aid and cash donations from the Kenyan citizens and private organizations increased significantly. Approximately KES 2,820,000¹ was raised nationally by the Kenya Red Cross Society.² The international community has donated KES 3.2 billion (CHF 48 million) through the World Food Programme (WFP). The Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross donated KES 80 million (CHF 1.2 million) towards this Appeal.

By December 2004, the Government of Kenya spent KES 2.1 billion (CHF 31.7 million) in the initial intervention both on food and non-food aid. The assistance from local donations to the affected communities has been and continues to be channelled through the Kenya Red Cross network; donations from the international community are channelled through WFP.

¹ KES – Kenyan Shillings. The exchange rate is approximately KES 66 = CHF 1; KES 2,820,000 = CHF 42,000

² Kenya Red Cross Society – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=93>

Kenya: Drought; Appeal no. 18/2004; Operations Update no. 3

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Kenya: Mary Kuria, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society, Nairobi; Email kuria.mary@kenyaredcross.org; Phone 254.20.60.06.69; Fax 254.20.60.35.89:*
- *In Kenya: Steve Penny, Disaster Management Coordinator, Nairobi; Email ifrc78@ifrc.org; Phone 254.20.283.5117; Fax 254.20.271.8415*
- *In Geneva: Josse Gillijns, Federation Regional Officer for Eastern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email josse.gillijns@ifrc.org; Phone 41.22.730.42.24 ; Fax 41.22.733.03.95*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Successive rain failure in various parts of the country resulted in massive crop failure in marginal agricultural areas and acute shortage of pasture and water for livestock in Arid and Semi Arid (ASAL) Districts. This led to extreme food shortages that put the lives of an estimated 3.3 million people in 26 districts at risk of starvation.

Although many people have gone without food for days on occasions, no deaths have been reported as a result of hunger. This has been attributed to immediate food distribution conducted by the Kenya Red Cross and other stakeholders under the Kenya Food Security Meeting (KFSM) and Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). Most of the food distributed was from the corporate sector and the general public.



The severity of the drought forces many to collect stagnant, fetid water for their daily needs. The Kenya Red Cross works to raise community awareness about the health and hygiene risks.

Operational developments

The Government of Kenya handed over relief food in the entire 26 drought stricken districts between October and December 2004 but says that the country still requires some 80,000 metric tonnes of food worth USD 33 million to assist the populations in need until February 2005 when they are expected to have recovered depending on the performance of the short rains. The government also gave the Kenya Red Cross 980 MT of assorted food items which the national society distributed in Kwale in December 2004.

The private sector has not been able to meet importation deadlines resulting in delays in food distribution countrywide. However, a WFP report to the KFSM in early December 2004 indicated that a complete food basket for all districts will become available in January 2005. The huge task of co-ordinating the local logistics of food and seed collection and distribution was and will continue to be undertaken by the Kenya Red Cross.

A report entitled 'Kenya Vulnerability Update', issued by the government, FEWS-Net and WFP on 14 December 2004, reported exceptionally heavy rainfall over the short rainy season in November and through to December in some of the drought affected areas of eastern province (including Makeni), the northern pastoral districts bordering Somalia (including Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Ijara), the north-western districts, and along the coast where Kenya Red Cross has operations in Lamu and Kwale.

Although expected to increase household maize supply and help lower high food prices, the rains were not sufficient or consistent enough to sustain proper harvesting. As a result, the drought situation has not eased in most of drought-affected areas. This was confirmed by a January 2005 Kenya Red Cross assessment that found many crops in Kwale to have withered. Consequently, food distribution will have to continue to assist those who will not

Kenya: Drought; Appeal no. 18/2004; Operations Update no. 3

harvest anything at all and those with insufficient crop at least until the situation improves based on the performance of the short rains. The report of the multi-agency assessment of the short rains conducted in mid-January in 20 of 26 districts will be shared during a meeting of lead agencies later in February 2005.

The Ministry of Special Programmes also confirms that the drought situation has not eased in spite of the short rains hence the need to continue with food and non-food aid. In the meantime, seeds worth KES 64 million (CHF 970,000) purchased by the Government with the support of various organisations were distributed to farmers in 35 districts who planted them during the short rain season.

Three-month extension of the drought operation

The Appeal foresaw the end of the drought operation by 28 February 2005; however, the Kenya Red Cross requires additional time – until 31 May 2005 - to fully implement activities as listed below. The national society continues with procurement of essential items. As well, the prevailing drought condition has been confirmed by an assessment by the Kenya Red Cross and the Ministry of Special Programmes.

- § The distribution of seeds for the April-June short rains to be purchased and distributed in March-April 2005.
- § Implementation of water projects in Kwale and Makueni and training of the water committees that will go on until the end of April 2005.
- § Purchase and distribution of Unimix for children under the age of five to take place from February-April 2005.
- § Completion of HIV/AIDS awareness activities that run up to the end of March 2005.
- § Procurement and distribution of relief food in March and April 2005.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action – objectives, progress, impact

Goal: To assist 308,000 targeted beneficiaries cope with the present drought, reduce its impact and initiate recovery activities.

Objective 1: Transport and distribute adequate food rations to the drought affected populations in the districts of Kwale and Lamu and purchase and distribute supplementary food in Kwale, Makueni and Lamu.

Progress/Achievements

Relief food was distributed to a targeted 138,000 beneficiaries in Kwale and Lamu districts during the reporting period. Trucks hired from the ICRC were used in transporting the food to the distribution sites.

The relief committees in Kwale had initially overestimated the number of beneficiaries necessitating the Kenya Red Cross under the guidance of the District Steering Group (DSG) and WFP to review the figure to 114,000 beneficiaries. In Lamu the number of beneficiaries increased by from 9,000 to 24,000 following a later assessment by the Kenya Red Cross and the DSG that found some divisions in Mpeketoni, Witu and Hindi to be in need of food aid.

Activities planned under this objective during the extension

- § Purchase and distribution of relief food to targeted beneficiaries in the months of February, March and April 2005.
- § Purchase and distribution of unimix to targeted groups of children under the age of five in Kwale, Lamu and Makueni districts.

Objective 2: Assist the target population in recovering from drought through support to their agricultural livelihood in Kwale, Makueni and Lamu.

Progress/Achievements

Assorted drought resistant seeds worth KES 8 million (CHF 120,000) were purchased; 50 MT of assorted of these drought resistant and early maturing seed varieties comprising maize, beans, sorghum, cowpeas, millet and green grams were distributed to approximately 10,000 households in Kwale, Lamu and Makueni districts.

Kenya: Drought; Appeal no. 18/2004; Operations Update no. 3

Although not part of the Federation appeal, the Kenya Red Cross received a donation of KES 4 million (CHF 60,000) from Coca Cola bottling company and KES 8 million (CHF 120,000) from the Office of the President to bridge existing gaps in the need for seeds. These were distributed to 11 districts: Machakos, Makueni, Kilifi, Kwale, Malindi, Taita Taveta, Baringo, Laikipia, Meru Central, Meru North and Meru South.

The national society also received KES 4 million (CHF 60,000) from UNDP, KES 9.1 million (CHF 137,000) from the Office of the President and KES 6 million (CHF 90,000) from the Save a Life Fund Initiative to support nine districts: Kitui, Mwingi, Nyeri, Kiambu, Kuria, Nyando, Kisumu, Migori and Busia.

Activities planned under this objective during the extension

§ Procurement of an additional 350 MT of seeds for distribution to 30,000-40,000 households in the three districts during the long rains.

Constraints

Although seed germination was fair, the crops did not reach full maturation due to poor rains; little or no harvest was realized in most parts.

Objective 3: Reduce morbidity and vulnerability from water borne diseases by improving access to safe drinking water for 26,800 beneficiaries including 24 institutions; promoting environmental sanitation in the districts of Makueni and Kwale.

Progress/Achievements

The Kenya Red Cross WatSan Officer, the Kenya Red Cross Kwale Branch Treasurer who is also the WatSan focal volunteer and the Deputy Water Officer of Kwale district undertook mobilization visits in November 2004 to the seven projects sites earmarked for rehabilitation/extensions in Samburu and Lungalunga Divisions. During these visits, discussions were held with community members over the implementation of the projects as well as their participation and contribution.

These mobilization visits are in line with recommendations from an earlier field visit that future interventions address community participation and weak water point committees at both planning and implementation phases. The schedule of the visits was however disrupted by the short rains; it was also recommended that water trucking to institutions be put on hold until the rains subside.

During consultations with Kenya Red Cross Makueni Branch and the Makueni District Water Office, it was established that some of the projects earmarked for rehabilitation had either been implemented by other stakeholders or were not viable. As a result, some of the activities planned for Makueni under this Appeal have been amended to take into account these new developments. Specifically, two old activities have been replaced by two new ones as outlined below:

Original activities

1. Rehabilitate Ndovoini borehole in Makindu Division, Makueni District for 2,000 people. The work involves:
 - § Procurement of a 12 KVA generating set (Lister Engine)
 - § Procurement and installation of a submersible pump
 - § Construction of a 50m³ masonry tank
 - § Rehabilitation of the existing storage tank, cattle trough and pump house



Rehabilitation of water points is a major component of this operation. Here, the Kenya Red Cross branch coordinator inspects a broken water pump in Kwale district.

Kenya: Drought; Appeal no. 18/2004; Operations Update no. 3

2. Rehabilitation of Kanthuni shallow borehole in Kathonweni division, Makueni district that will provide around 1,500 people with portable water. This will involve:
 - § Procurement of hand pump set
 - § Cleaning of the well
 - § Installation of the pump

Revised Activities

1. Desiltation of Ituka Earth Dam in Kathonzweni Location, Kathonweni Division, Makueni District. The dam will serve a population of 2,000 people and around 1,000 livestock units. The works entails:
 - § Carrying out of topographical survey
 - § Production of working drawings
 - § Construction of the dam
2. Drilling and equipping of 1 borehole in Kathamboni Secondary School, Kathonzweni Location, Kathonzweni Division, Makueni District. The borehole will to serve 1,500 people in the neighbouring community including 140 students. The works involves:
 - § Drilling of the borehole
 - § Test pumping of the borehole
 - § Equipping of the borehole
 - § Procurement and installation of 24 M3 storage tank
 - § Construction of a standard water kiosk
 - § Construct 3 units of pit latrine/bathroom facilities at the rehabilitated water projects
 - § Train 3 water committees on operation and maintenance of water projects
 - § Train 30 volunteers on PHAST to carry out hygiene education in the project areas

Objective 4: Reduce vulnerability to, and impact of HIV/AIDS by encouraging behaviour change, communication and improved care and support for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHWA)

Discussions have been held with the branches on their needs and their capacity to implement the proposed activities. Work plans and budgets have been developed and procurement process initiated. Peer education training modules have also been prepared.

Activities planned under this objective during the extension

- § Training of peer educators for shelter to shelter sensitisation on HIV/AIDS in emergency setting.
- § Awareness and outreach sessions on risks of HIV/AIDS in emergency situations at public locations.
- § HIV/AIDS prevention through condom mobilisation, education and distribution.
- § Procurement and replenishment of Home Based Care nutritional supplies for bed-ridden patients.
- § Branch institutional support in implementation, monitoring and reporting of activities.

Objective 5: Advocate in favour of the drought-affected population and contribute to conflict prevention efforts.

Progress/Achievements

The Kenya Red Cross has received high media coverage with over 50 mentions in both the local and international press. The national society published a 4-page newspaper supplement that appeared in two major dailies in December 2004. It also published a Special Edition of its *Reach Out* Newsletter in December 2004 and circulated it to various partners and stakeholders. An article on the drought situation was published in the Red Cross Red Crescent Magazine. As well, parts of a special edition of the national society's newsletter focusing on growth, inequality and vulnerability – published with support from SIDA/Swedish Red Cross and the Regional Delegation – are also referring to the drought operation.

A visit by a British Red Cross celebrity, Nancy Del'Olio received high coverage by British media and resulted in a donations page in the British Red Cross Website to support the drought effort.

Two Operational Updates on the drought as well as news articles and photographs have been produced with support of the Nairobi regional delegation and posted on the Federation website. The Kenya Red Cross also set up a page on its website to promote the drought relief effort.

Kenya: Drought; Appeal no. 18/2004; Operations Update no. 3

Impact

The professionalism and accountability exhibited by Kenya Red Cross in receiving and distributing relief food has increased the national society's image within the public and corporate sector in Kenya, as well as within the international community. This has also increased the national society's relationship with the corporate sector.

Kenya Red Cross has also received good response to a local appeal to assist the tsunami disaster; this is in large part due to the trust and confidence the public has in the Kenya Red Cross from its demonstrated accountability in the drought operation.

Activities planned under this objective during the extension

- § The procurement of video camera, editing suite, digital camera and related equipment which is already underway
- § Publish a January-March 2005 special edition the *Reach Out* newsletter focusing on drought and other drought related IEC materials.
- § Publish a final Newspaper Supplement on Drought as well as a Drought Evaluation Document after a final evaluation is conducted.
- § Conduct specialized Drought media monitoring.
- § Production of a video on the national society's response to the drought.

Objective 6: Strengthen the capacity of the Kenya Red Cross (National Headquarters, Makueni Branch and Kwale Branch) and empowering the target community to minimize the long-term effects of the drought.

Progress/Achievements

Kwale Branch has been provided with one computer system (computer, ups, printer and modem); an additional two computers and a printer will also be procured for the branch. A telephone line has also been installed and the branch connected to the Kenya Red Cross email system at kwale@kenyaredcross.org. Similarly, a modem has been installed in Lamu Branch and the branch connected to the email system at lamu@kenyaredcross.org. Since the current prepaid line is not fast enough to support the emailing system, another line was acquired for faster and reliable connection.

Following a site study, Kinango has been identified for a repeater station. The project and branch coordinators are following up with the authorities on renting the site. Procurement of the equipment has been done.

Activities planned under this objective during the extension

- § Procurement of a Laptop and a desktop computer for Lamu Branch.
- § Procurement of radio equipment for Lamu Branch.
- § Needs assessment in Makueni Branch.
- § A training of trainers (ToT) workshop on disaster management for 36 food monitors (resource persons) in Kwale, Lamu and Makueni districts who will in turn facilitate training of relief committees.

Constraints

The late confirmation of funding for the proposed activities and a rather slow procurement process were the main constraints noted during the current operation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Kenya - Drought

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 18/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

15/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,121,677		63.1%
JAPANESE - RC		91,900	USD	116,208	02.09.04	
NETHERLANDS - RC		251,337	EUR	384,420	07.10.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		5,000,000	SEK	837,500	07.09.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,338,128	CHF	63.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	