

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya: Drought

DREF operation n° MDR64002

Glide Nos: DR-2008-000043-ETH, and OT-2008-000043-DJI, OT-2008-000043-KEN

23 April, 2008

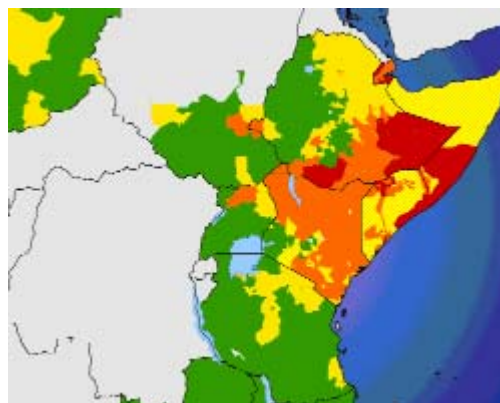
The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 35,760 (USD 35,760 or EUR 22,719) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Djibouti Red Crescent, Ethiopia Red Cross, and Kenya Red Cross societies in assessing the extent and severity of ongoing drought conditions, its impact, and the ability of affected households to meet their essential food requirements, without damaging their livelihoods, health and dignity. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Drought conditions in several areas of the Greater Horn of Africa, including Djibouti, southern-eastern Ethiopia, and northern-eastern Kenya, are likely to prolong, further exacerbating severe water and pasture shortages and food insecurity. In combination with rising food prices, displacement, market disruptions, civil insecurity and conflict, there is a certain risk of a food crisis and humanitarian emergency for the second time in a little over two years. This operation aims at providing a demonstrated understanding of how people and communities currently affected by drought normally access food, the impact of the drought on their current and future food security, and hence the most appropriate response in areas where they are facing or at risk of facing high to extreme food insecurity.

This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be completed by 23 May, 2008. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23 August, 2008).

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Map showing countries affected by drought. Source: FEWSNET, 2008

KEY
Red/Maroon: Extremely Food Insecure
Brown: Highly Food Insecure
Yellow: Moderately Food Insecure
Green: Generally Food Secure

The situation

According to the latest Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET) Food Security Update for East Africa, the combined effects of a strong La Niña event and the cooling of the western Indian Ocean waters will result in below-normal March-May rains in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA). Drought conditions in several areas, including Djibouti, southern-eastern Ethiopia and northern-eastern Kenya, are therefore likely to prolong, further exacerbating severe water and pasture shortages and food insecurity. In addition, high international fuel and cereal prices, the recent political crisis in Kenya, and the below-normal October to December 2007

rains in northern Tanzania, which resulted in lower crop output, is likely to result in reduced access to food imports by the affected countries to be able to cope with food shortages. In combination with rising food prices, displacement, market disruptions, civil insecurity and conflict, there is a certain risk of another food crisis and humanitarian emergency for the second time in a little over two years.

Following two previous poor rainy seasons, and a more severe than normal dry season in Djibouti, southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, and northern and eastern Kenya, pastoral and agro-pastoral households relying on livestock for access to income and food face high to extreme food insecurity. Another poor rainy season would exacerbate food insecurity in these areas, where unusual livestock migrations are already taking place and significant deterioration of livestock body conditions negatively impact both livestock production and their market value. A decline in livestock prices combined with an increase in staple food prices result in reduced pastoral terms of trade, household income and food access. Reduced harvests in rain-fed agro-pastoral and marginal crop-production areas would result in limited replenishment of household and market food stocks and further increase food prices.

Delayed and below-normal rains in **Djibouti** are increasing food security concerns. Djibouti is very heavily dependent on imports of the main staple foods. Record-high staple food prices are severely restricting food access, especially among the poorest urban and rural households. Terms of trade are not in favor of pastoralists and poor urban households can hardly meet three-fourths of their daily minimum food requirements. Increasing global prices of cereals and oil will further exacerbate this trend.

In **Ethiopia**, the south-eastern pastoral areas have suffered dry conditions as a result of poor rains in the last two seasons, leading to a short supply of water and pasture. Livestock body conditions, and therefore livestock prices as well as production have notably worsened. Low cereal supply and high prices have deteriorated the terms of trade of pastoral groups. Security related restrictions in Somali Region continue to limit food access and worsen food insecurity, a situation aggravated by general inflation. Below-normal March to May rains would further limit national cereal supply and worsen drought conditions in the south-eastern pastoral areas. Coupled with soaring international prices, this would significantly increase the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance.

According to the government's Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) in **Kenya**, pastoral terms of trade have declined to more than 30 percent of the long-term mean. Poor livestock body conditions have led to a reduction of between 5 and 10 percent in livestock prices in most pastoral areas during the January to March dry season. The northwestern pastoral areas of Turkana have suffered the highest decline, up to 30 percent. Displacement as a result of the political crisis that erupted on December 2007 has led to losses of 2007 crop harvests and reduced prepared land for the 2008 main cropping season. This will likely result in reduced overall food availability, both locally and nationally. According to the inter-agency Kenya Short Rains Assessment Report 2008, the combined effect of increased price of staple food commodities, supply shortages as a consequence of reduced national production, high international cereal prices, and a possible drought situation in some areas in 2008, poses a serious risk of a food security crisis in Kenya in 2008 and the first half of 2009.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actors takes place through monthly meetings and regular information sharing and communications at the regional and country levels. Regional coordination with other key operational agencies and organizations happens through the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group. Country-specific coordination mechanisms include the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in Kenya, and the Early Warning Working Group (EWWG) in Ethiopia. Coordination with government authorities is ensured through the Djibouti Red Crescent, Ethiopia Red Cross and Kenya Red Cross societies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kenya Red Cross Society has supported community water trucking activities. The International Federation has coordinated with the Djibouti Red Crescent, the Ethiopia Red Cross and the Kenya Red Cross societies to organize an assessment in affected areas which would constitute the basis of a Plan of Action in anticipation of a possible emergency appeal, subject to assessment recommendations. In the case of Kenya, further discussion is ongoing with regards to the timing and suitability of the assessment. The International Federation has also launched a five year, 15 country African food security strategy, which includes Kenya and Ethiopia, seeking to address some of the long-term underlying factors contributing to food insecurity.

The needs

In view of the initial information available, it is necessary to complement existing assessments through country-specific field assessments in order to determine the extent and severity of the drought, its impact, and the ability of affected households to meet their essential food requirements, without damaging their livelihoods, health and dignity. These will constitute the basis for a Plan of Action to address needs that may range from food assistance, to support primary food production, income-generation or employment, access to markets and/or asset development, protection or early recovery.

The proposed operation

Food Security: Assessment and Analysis

Objective: To base programme decisions in areas where people are facing or at risk of facing high to extreme food insecurity on a demonstrated understanding of how they normally access food, the impact of the drought on current and future food security, and hence the most appropriate response.

Activities planned

- Preparation of a food security assessment, including formulation of objectives, selection of assessment team, drafting terms of reference, budgeting and preparation of field visits.
- Collection of secondary information.
- Collection of primary information.
- Analysis.
- Reporting.
- Designing and drafting a Plan of Action.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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