

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kenya: Drought

Emergency appeal n° MDRKE009

GLIDE n° DR-2009-000197-KEN

Operations update n° 2

27 October 2009

Period covered by this Ops Update: 28 September to 09 October 2009.

Appeal target: CHF 8,680,692 (USD 8,427,856 or EUR 5,748,803)

Appeal coverage: 6% [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 500,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond.

This [Emergency Appeal](#) was initially launched locally on 17 September 2009 for **CHF 8,680,692 (USD 8,427,856 or EUR 5,748,803)** for 6 months to assist **1,692,428** beneficiaries.



A pastoralist in Laisamis district points out to carcasses that were the last of his remaining livestock. Source: KRCS

**Summary:** To ensure early recovery and increase resilience of communities affected by the drought situation, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has completed the distribution of 200 MT of relief seeds to 20,000 farming households in Yatta district, Additionally, KRCS has completed the distribution of seeds donated by the Government through members of Parliament to 25,000 households in Kaiti in Machakos and 25,000 households in Mwingi South thus totaling all families provided with seeds at 70,000 families in South Eastern part of the country. The seeds distribution aims to maximize on the predicted favourable rains expected in mid October. KRCS is also actively involved in resource mobilisation and creation of awareness on the current drought situation, to ensure implementation of activities and objectives under this Emergency Appeal.

## The situation

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), the October to December food security situation will improve if favourable rains are received during the short rains season. The current drought situation, however, remains precarious and has been further compounded by high food prices, conflict and low implementation of food security interventions by various stakeholders. The worst affected people are pastoralists in Marsabit, Isiolo, Tana River, Samburu, Kajiado, Wajir and parts of Mandera, Garissa, and Narok districts.

Livestock conditions and productivity has rapidly deteriorated due to failed rains and lack of pasture in all the pastoralist districts. This has resulted in congestion in limited grazing areas, with some pastoralists migrating with their livestock into Somalia, Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and Uganda. Increased trekking distances of up to 40 km for water and pasture have adversely affected less resilient livestock like cattle and sheep, leading to numerous livestock deaths in Marsabit, Kajiado, Isiolo, and Tana River districts.

Pastoralists and livestock in the north-western region of Kenya have been displaced by increased conflicts, therefore, negatively impacting on pastoral production and compromising livelihoods due to loss of human and livestock lives and inaccessibility of 'fall back' dry season grazing areas. Turkana, Samburu, Marsabit, West Pokot, and Marakwet are the worst affected by the recent conflicts.

### **North Eastern**

Although September marks the end of the dry season, failure of the long rains has worsened the drought situation, leading to diminishing of water and pasture sources for livestock. This has also led to deterioration of livestock health, due to lack of essential nutrients.

The main water sources in Garissa are a few boreholes, the Benane Springs and the Tana River. Estimated distances to water sources are over 40 km and communities rely heavily on water trucking services by Government line ministries and humanitarian organisations including the KRCS. Livestock in Garissa are concentrated on the eastern side of the district, while those from Ijara have moved to Tana River and Lamu districts. Most livestock from Garissa, Wajir and Mandera have migrated to Somalia and Ethiopia. Milk production has also declined, affecting nutrition status of the communities, who rely on livestock produce as a source of food. This has particularly negatively affected nutritional status of children. The nutritional status of those at risk in the district was 13.4 per cent in August and 13.4 per cent in September<sup>1</sup>. Out of an estimated population of 1.2m, 65 per cent are said to be severely food insecure and out of these, about three quarters live in the hinterland areas of the districts, which are the main pastoral areas<sup>2</sup>. The World Food Programme and Government of Kenya (WFP/GOK) food targeting the most vulnerable is ongoing, covering some 25-30 per cent of the food insecure population.

### **Coast**

The worst affected areas in Kilifi include Ganze, Bamba and Marikina divisions, while those in Malindi are Malindi, Marafa, Magarini and Lango Baya divisions. Resource-based conflicts between the Orma and Giriama communities in Chakama in Lango Baya Division, Malindi district, that were earlier reported have escalated to include Somali pastoralists. The Somali communities drove out pastoralists from the Orma community, who take their livestock for grazing along the River Chakama on farms owned by members of the Giriama community. The Orma have now moved out of the farms due to encroachment by the Somalis, leading to renewed conflicts between the Somali and Giriama pastoralists. Security patrols in the area have intensified and the situation is reportedly under control, albeit fears of escalation. A District Steering Group meeting in Malindi reveals that the drought situation in Malindi is worsening with crop failure, and scarcity of water and pasture. Communities in Malindi have to trek distances of up to 20 km for water for domestic use.

### **Lower Eastern**

The drought situation in Lower Eastern remains critical and poor rains have led to crop failure throughout the region. Light showers were received in Makueni south for one day during the reporting period, therefore not creating significant impact on water availability or pasture regeneration. Trekking distances to water sources are at 15 km to 20 km. Weak livestock conditions and crop failure have adversely limited household access to food. As a result of the worsening drought, KRCS, through the PRRO of the World Food Programme, will distribute relief food to 203,700 beneficiaries up from 166,661 beneficiaries in the previous months, in Makueni South, starting October.

Relief seeds distribution by KRCS is likely to ensure early recovery by communities after arrival of the short rains. The Ministry of Agriculture has also received 98 MT of maize, beans, cow peas and sorghum seeds for distribution in Makueni South.

### **North Rift**

Light showers received in Turkana South during the reporting period have slightly improved the situation in terms of water availability, whereas Turkana Central and North remain dry. Light rains were also received in Kacheliba Division in Pokot North, while the rest of the district remains very dry. Light showers were also received in most parts of Pokot with the exception of Sosook and parts of Kongelai in Pokot Central, and Sigor.

The rains have improved the situation particularly in Pokot East and Central since the Kerio River which borders the two districts and was reported to have dried up during the previous reporting period, is now flowing. School children in Pokot North have been adversely affected by the drought situation and the education has been

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<sup>1</sup> Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP)

<sup>2</sup> Garissa District Commissioner's Office

hampered. The schools are lobbying to be included in the PRRO school feeding by WFP and have also appealed to KRCS for assistance.

Heightened insecurity has also been reported in the North Rift Valley region due to migration of pastoralists and livestock to peripheries of neighbouring districts like Pokot and cross border migration to Ethiopia, Uganda and Sudan, which also have limited resources. Malnutrition rates remain high due to decline in milk production owing to poor livestock body conditions.

### **Upper Eastern**

Due to rain failure and subsequent low recharge levels, water scarcity is being reported in areas that normally do not experience chronic water shortages. Frequent borehole breakdowns have further aggravated the water crisis. Most water sources including shallow wells and rivers have dried up, leaving the communities to depend on limited water trucking efforts by various stakeholders.

Rains have been received in the southern parts of Ethiopia thus providing respite to the pastoral communities of Moyale, who migrated with their livestock early in the year. The few animals left behind are, however, weak with deteriorating body conditions and therefore limiting milk production for household use.

Meru district is also experiencing severe food shortage, particularly in Tharaka, which is now being considered for inclusion in the PRRO by the World Food Programme after the long rains assessment carried out by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in July – August 2009. Mbeere in Embu district has also been hard hit by the drought where communities face critical water shortages.

Cases of severe malnutrition have risen in the region and are particularly high in Bubisa, Ngurunet, Mpagas, Laisamis and Burgabo in Marsabit. Recurrent cholera outbreaks in Loiyangalani Division of Laisamis district have further worsened the situation.

Conflicts over water and pasture have risen in the region as a result of migration of communities. Pastoralists in Samburu, for instance, have migrated with livestock to Isiolo while those from Isiolo have migrated to Meru, resulting in frequent clashes over limited resources. Following acute water shortage in the region, livestock are concentrated around what seems to be the only remaining grazing area around national parks and game reserves, giving rise to human/livestock - wildlife conflicts.

### **Central Region**

Nearly 90 per cent of the population in the region are pastoralists or agro pastoralists and are affected by the ongoing drought. Some pastoralists have encroached on the slopes of Mt Kenya, a water catchment area, hence negatively impacting on the ecosystem. Conflicts over water and pasture in the region have led to deaths, with the most recent conflicts being reported between communities from Laikipia and the Samburu. The agricultural districts of Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Murang'a, Thika and Maragua have been adversely affected by the climatic changes, thus significantly reducing agricultural produce in the region. School children in Kambiti in Margua district, Kieni in Nyeri district, Kiharu in Murang'a district and Kakuzi in Thika district, have been affected by the situation and many have dropped out of school due to hunger.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

Kenya Red Cross maintains strong collaboration and networking with donors, Government line ministries, District Steering Groups (DSG) and other stakeholders in carrying out interventions within the Emergency Appeal. KRCS continues to mobilise resources and carry out interventions under this Emergency Appeal with the guidance of the Federation East Africa Zone Office and is holding briefings and updates with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Red Cross Red and Red Crescent Movement partners including PNS.

Kenya Red Cross is working with various donors with the most recent including Rotary and Lions International, who have so far contributed 60 MT of food and Panjali Yoga Community and Sewa Society, who have so far distributed relief food in Machakos and Kajiado districts.

The KRCS, in partnership with the Government and the World Food Programme, continues to provide food aid to 1,196,495 beneficiaries in 13 districts under the PRRO targeting 2.6 million people.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Kenya Red Cross has distributed 200 MT of seeds to 20,000 farming households in Yatta district ahead of the expected short rains to ensure early recovery. Divisions covered include Yatta, Ikombe and Katangi, each receiving 137.93 MT, 39.54 MT and 22.53 MT of seeds respectively.

KRCS intends to expand distribution of seeds to Mwingi, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos. So far the Government has provided 10 tons of seeds for Kaiti and Mwingi South districts which were distributed by KRCS field teams and volunteers.

The National Society is also actively involved in communication and awareness with the public to highlight the drought situation and mobilise resources towards the Emergency Appeal.



Beneficiaries in Yatta district, Eastern Province receive maize seeds from the Kenya Red Cross. Source: KRCS

Following severe water shortages in North Eastern Kenya, KRCS is providing water trucking services in Garissa, in areas within 60kms radius from Tana River, which is the major water source. The operation started on 22 September 2009, and so far, 628,000 litres have been delivered to 24,540 beneficiaries.

**Table 1: Target areas and beneficiaries of water trucking in Garissa**

District	Area	Distance (km)	Deliveries (litres)	Beneficiaries
Garissa	Aragadud	15	72,000	1,489
	Alango Arba	50	36,000	2,459
	Lago	35	78,000	2,300
Lagdera	Hagarbul	57	36,000	6,000
	Daat Derre	18	80,000	1,670
Fafi	Hagarbul	57	118,000	6,000
	Diiso	30	78,000	1,750
	Arijebs	80	38,000	1,780
<b>Total</b>		<b>342</b>	<b>536,000</b>	<b>21,668</b>

Kenya Red Cross Society has distributed 20MT of food in Bangali in Tana River district and Hagarbul in Garissa district. Some 12 MT of food have also been distributed to schools in Njoro. In total 7,308 MT of food have been distributed in various parts of the country.

KRCS continues to distribute 8,472 MT of relief food a month to 797,141 beneficiaries in 13 districts under the PRRO undertaken by World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Kenya. The 13 districts include Kwale, Garissa, Marsabit, Ijara, Maragua, Tana River, Malindi, North Pokot, East Pokot, Lamu, Machakos and Makueni and the newly included Koibatek district.

## Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food)	
<b>Objective: To provide supplementary feeding to 500,000 school-going in Mwingi, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos districts.</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved nutritional status of affected children and retention in schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide supplementary food rations (CSB/Unimix) to the schools for 6 months (one distribution per month) 1.2 kg per child a month.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** 12 MT of food was distributed to 9,973 primary school children in 20 schools in Njoro.

KRCS is working with Partner National Societies and other donors to provide funding for the expansion of the school feeding programme in Mwingi and implementation of the programme in Makueni, Kitui and Machakos districts. KRCS is also lobbying through the District Steering Groups (DSGs) to recommend that the schools be targeted under the Home Grown Programme (HGP) by WFP which is more sustainable.

**Challenges:** The school feeding programme has stalled due to lack of funding and KRCS is working with partners to mobilize resources for continuation of the school feeding programme.

Emergency health and care	
<b>Objective: To contribute to reduction of morbidities and mortalities in 629,174 people in drought affected areas with emphasis on pastoral areas through provision of basic community health care services.</b>	
Expected Results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases among the population.</li> <li>Increased disease awareness, prevention and control in addition to other health issues the affected population.</li> <li>Improved disease surveillance systems that enhances regular reporting and feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerated mobile outreach services to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase vaccination coverage to reduce on number of children vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases;</li> <li>Strengthen community based surveillance for early outbreak detection;</li> <li>Support referral services and linkages;</li> <li>Treatment of common ailments and screening for malnutrition;</li> <li>Increase coverage in distribution of household water treatment chemicals;</li> </ol> </li> <li>Carry out health promotion and education among the affected population for disease prevention especially diarrhoeal diseases.</li> <li>Support existing Ministry of Health integrated surveillance systems.</li> <li>Support monitoring, evaluation and supervision of emergency health activities.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** KRCS is working with a Partner National Society to secure funding for nutritional surveys among other interventions. KRCS Turkana Branch provided 5 emergency medical kits to Ministry of Health Offices in Turkana North (2) and Turkana South (3) following a recent cholera outbreak where at least 122 people were admitted in Turkana Central, South and North districts.

**Challenges:** Activities under this objective have not been implemented yet due to lack of funding. Kenya Red Cross is actively involved in mobilising resources to implement the activities.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Objective (a): To provide access to safe water, in line with WHO/SPHERE standards for an estimated 897,277 individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas affected by drought in north eastern, upper eastern and lower eastern regions.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to safe water (15 litres per person provided to 897,277 persons as damaged systems are restored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to rapid response teams by providing fast moving spare parts for 24 boreholes &amp; servicing 11 generator sets.</li> <li>Lay 20 KMs of pipeline to enhance water supply to drought stricken areas.</li> <li>Increase storage capacity at distribution points through provision of 11 bladder tanks &amp; 50 UPVC water tanks.</li> <li>Identify and rehabilitate 20 boreholes/shallow wells at selected sites (institutions and community centres).</li> <li>Form and train 38 water management committees to manage the constructed/rehabilitated water facilities.</li> <li>Distribute water treatment products to 30,000 vulnerable households.</li> </ul>

**Objective (b): To promote hygiene and sanitation in line with WHO/SPHERE standards for an estimated 897,277 individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas affected by drought in north eastern, upper eastern & lower eastern regions.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved health status of the population through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.</li> <li>Key hygiene messages disseminated effectively at household/community level and positive hygiene behaviour adopted by targeted households.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train 20 volunteers/TOTs on PHASTER methodologies.</li> <li>Conduct continuous hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns among the affected individuals.</li> <li>Produce and distribute generic hygiene promotional IEC materials.</li> <li>Establish/strengthen community water committees within the rehabilitated water points.</li> <li>Conduct Child to Child hygiene promotion in 35 schools.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** KRCS distributed bladder tanks of 3,500 litre capacity in Lagdera (2 units), Garissa (1 unit) and Fafi (1 unit). The three groups that received the bladders tanks have also continued to distribute water to various parts of Garissa.

**Challenges:** The above activities were implemented through funds mobilized outside this Emergency Appeal. Activities under this objective have not been implemented due to lack of funding.

## Livelihood

**Objective: To provide seeds to 150,000 households to ensure early recovery in Mwingi, Makueni, Kitui and Machakos districts.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities recovered from the adverse effects of the drought and harvest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide seeds to the communities to enhance early recovery. 2 and ½ Kgs Maize, 1 Kg beans, 1 Kg Green Grams, 1 Kg Cowpeas and 1 Kg Sorghum (one off distribution).</li> <li>Conduct post distribution monitoring to measure effective use of seeds and ensure that harvest expected is achieved.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** KRCS has purchased and distributed 200 MT of seeds to 20,000 farmers in Yatta, Katangi and Ikombe divisions in Yatta district, Eastern Province. Each farming household received 10kg of seeds to plant ahead of the expected short rains in October.

**Table 2: Seeds distribution plan for Yatta district**

Division	Location	HH (Census 99) 2.4 annual growth	Targeted HH	MT of seeds (Ration size of 10 Kg per HH)
Yatta	Ndalani	3661	3679	36.79
	Mavoloni	3042	3140	31.4
	Matuu	5089	3418	34.18
	Kithimani	4097	3556	35.56
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>15889</b>	<b>13793</b>	<b>137.93</b>
Katangi	Kyua	1714	1217	12.17
	Katangi	1740	1036	10.36
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>3454</b>	<b>2253</b>	<b>22.53</b>
Ikombe	Kinyatta	2664	2092	20.92
	Ikombe	2623	1862	18.62
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>5287</b>	<b>3954</b>	<b>39.54</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>24630</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>200</b>

**Challenges:** KRCS experienced delays in delivery of the seeds from suppliers and this slowed down the distribution process.

### Logistics

<b>Objective: To provide strong logistical support in primary and secondary transportation as well as warehousing in the field that would enable rapid access to beneficiaries in targeted areas.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coordinated mobilization goods; coordinated reception of all incoming coordinated warehousing, centralized provision of vehicles as required; and coordinated and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct rapid assessment to determine logistical needs or gaps.</li> <li>Transport 2,267 MT of food and non food items to final distribution points.</li> <li>Identify suitable warehouses for storage of relief items.</li> <li>Maintain mobilisation table.</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>Reinforce regional logistics capacity in warehousing and transportation.</li> <li>Procurement of CSB/Unimix, Seeds and drugs supplies both locally and internationally.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** KRCS has moved 20 MT of food to Garissa, 12 MT of food to schools in Njoro and 200 MT of seeds to Yatta district. Light vehicles are also being engaged in community mobilization for is engaging trucks and light vehicles in interventions and activities under the current Emergency Appeal. This includes transportation and distribution of food and seeds and community mobilisation. KRCS plans to transport and distribute 50 MT of seeds in Yatta district.

**Challenges:** KRCS experienced delays in delivery of seeds from supplies and the National Society was forced to source and purchase seeds from various suppliers to hasten the distribution process.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

KRCS organised a media field trip to Garissa on 23 September 2009 to highlight the drought situation and water trucking by KRCS, the Government and other organisations. The Society organised another trip to Laisamis on 3 and 4 October 2009 to highlight the drought situation in the area and also highlight the National Society's interventions in a destocking programme funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Society also organised a media visit to Yatta to on 30 September highlight the drought situation and this was featured in mainstream TV stations, radio stations and newspapers countrywide while distributing seeds to 20,000 farming households in Yatta on 1 October 2009. KRCS intends to organise more media trips to drought stricken areas to highlight the situation and mobilize resources.



KRCS Special Programmes Manager Abdishakur Othowai is interviewed by journalists from various media houses during a visit to Laisamis District. PHOTO/KRCS

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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.

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