

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kenya: Drought

Emergency appeal n° MDRKE016
GLIDE n° DR-2011-000029-KEN
Operations update No. 1
30 May 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: March
–April 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 4,931,743

Appeal coverage: 25%

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

Appeal history:

- A national drought appeal was initially launched locally on 14 January 2011 for CHF 28,343,156 for 6 months.
- An Emergency appeal was later launched on 23 March 2011 for CHF 4,931,743 for 6 months to assist 855,000 beneficiaries.
- This operation update provides information about progress and the evolving situation



Summary: The La Nina phenomenon predicted in the country in June 2010 by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) is already manifesting in severe drought over many parts of the country particularly the arid and semi arid areas. The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) reports that approximately 700,000 people in the northern and north-eastern pastoralists districts of Marsabit, Isiolo and parts of Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa can be classified as highly food insecure following the failure of the 2010 short rains and a poor start to the 2011 long rains. The organization also reports a marked deterioration in grazing resources, coupled with severe water scarcity leading to exceptionally long migrations, heightened clustering of livestock, and resurgence of debilitating conflict as communities compete for fast dwindling resources. The humanitarian needs in the affected areas are dire as families grapple with the lack of basic needs including food and water.

The Kenya Red Cross Society, has made progress in line with the appeal objectives, providing supplemental food to 9,415 school going children and an additional 2,177 community members at risk of malnutrition..Communities report increased school enrolment as a result.

KRCS has purchased 2,600 shoats and 520 cattle, for slaughter and distribution of the meat. Approximately 29,120 community members have been recipients and 3,120 community members received payment for livestock, thereby injecting cash into the economy.

As part of its early recovery strategy, the society has distributed 12 green houses and 50 tonnes of drought tolerant seeds to 25,000 farmers.

To meet needs for water, the society has rehabilitated 9 boreholes providing 85,584 people and 253,500

livestock with safe water. KRCS dispatched nine bladder tanks and 12 PVC tanks, along with 60,000 water treatment tablets. Water trucking services reached a total of 285,843 beneficiaries.

The public relations department has been actively engaged in activities aimed at raising awareness on the drought and KRCS's response, including featuring KRCS leadership on prime time broadcast media. The society has also taken advantage of various social networking websites in order to raise funds. Increased public awareness has resulted in increased individual and corporate donations.

With progress, challenges have also been made clear. Activities under the Health and Care component have yet to be implemented due to lack of funding. The need for supplemental food in schools outweighs the KRCS interventions with a gap of 10,500 school going children to be fed in the next 8 months.

The situation

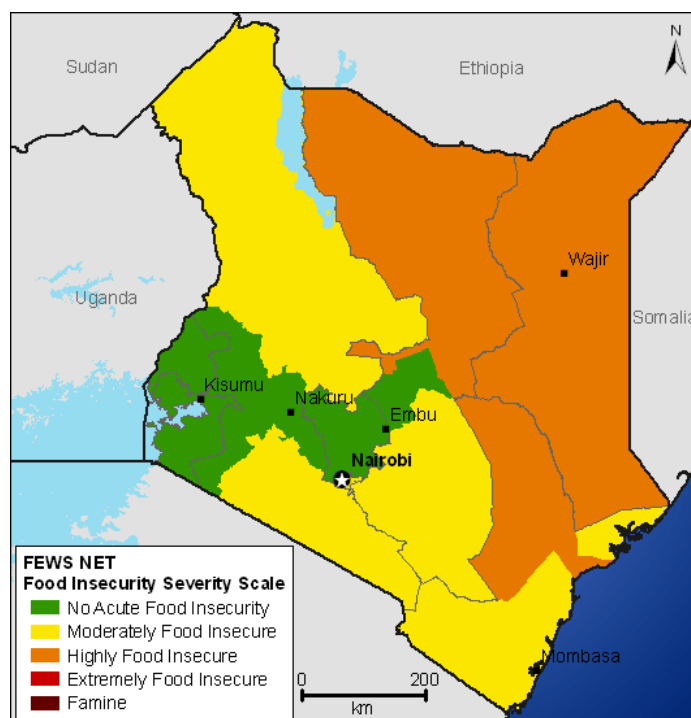
The June 2010 onset of the La Nina phenomenon predicted in the country by the Kenya Meteorological Department resulted in depressed rainfall during the October-December 2010 'short rains' period leading to poor crop performance during that planting season, failure to recharge of water resources in many rural areas and inadequate regeneration of pasture and browse in the affected regions.

The phenomenon which was expected to run into the first quarter of 2011 is already manifesting in drier than normal conditions over most of the country with the delayed onset and/or poor distribution of the March-April-May (MAM) 'long rains' in many parts of the country. The rainfall performance has also been poor with rainfall performance to date ranging between 10-50 percent of normal with deficits of between 50-200mm reported (*source: FEWSNET*).

The Arid and Semi Arid Lands have suffered disproportionately with most of the regions failing to record any rainfall during the important MAM 'long rains' season. Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) are currently encouraging contingency planning as the food security for an estimated 700,000 people in northern and Eastern pastoral areas is likely to deteriorate to crisis and Emergency levels (IPC phase 3 and 4) beginning in June 2011. Overall, at least 2.4 million people residing in the pastoral, agro pastoral, and marginal agricultural livelihood areas remain highly food insecure and will require food and non-food assistance through most of 2011.¹

Livestock productivity has also been compromised with milk production dropping significantly and livestock mortalities increasing by 15% in Moyale, Mandera, Wajir, parts of Isiolo and Tana River districts as a result of severely depleted pasture. Preliminary findings from a nutrition survey conducted by Save the Children-UK in March indicate that acute malnutrition rates are unseasonably high and above the emergency thresholds (>20 percent GAM in Marsabit in March (WFH, WHO standards), and >25 GAM in Mandera Central).

The situation is exacerbated by other factors such as the increase in fuel and staple food prices and general reduction in purchasing power. The World Bank reports a 27% increase in the price of maize flour, a food staple in Kenya, in last three months. The spiralling fuel prices have not



¹ http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/Kenya_Alert_2011_05_final.pdf

only caused sharp increases in the price of food but have also hampered humanitarian relief operations by increasing transport costs across the region exponentially. ,

Assessments carried out the KRCS offices highlighted the following information:

Lower Eastern

As at February 2011, approximately 70% of the lower Eastern region had been estimated to be fairly food secure. The Kenya Meteorological Department had predicted near normal rainfall for the Mar-Apr-May season, however the Kenya Red Cross field assessments reports indicate delayed rainfall for March-April leading in early crop failure². Areas like Mutomo, Kitui and Makueni districts continue to report food scarcity as evidenced by dwindling food stocks in markets coupled with escalating food prices.

The delayed rainfall has led to acute shortage of surface water, which is the main source of water for the affected communities as evidenced by drying of seasonal rivers and sand dams. This has forced communities to trek for long distances in search of water for human and livestock use. (*Source: KRCS assessment and media reports*)

North Eastern

The KMD had predicted highly depressed rainfall conditions in the Mar-Apr-May 2011 season for the North Eastern Region. KRCS assessment reports indicate that the region has not received any rains since October 2010 apart from slight showers that could not support replenishment of pasture or recharge of water resources.

Massive livestock deaths have been reported in Ijara, Wajir, Garissa and Mandera districts as a result of the worsening drought that has led to lack of pasture and water. The herd of livestock that are present in the districts are emaciated with poor market value exacerbated by the long trekking distances in search of pasture and water. The vulnerability of these communities continues to increase because livestock is their main source of livelihood. Furthermore, the government sponsored animal off-take programme has delayed and thus has not cushioned the communities from livestock losses and loss of livelihood. (KRCS field assessment report).

Reports from local authorities indicate heightened tensions between communities in Kenya and along the Kenya Somalia border competition for remaining pasture and water resources. The strain on the resources in the area is compounded by the huge influx of pastoralists from Somalia as a result of the recent intense fighting in Somalia.

Water stress is the major and most life-threatening problem throughout the region. Over 98% of water pans in the district are dry, and the remaining 2% cannot meet the demand.

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS) has declared an outbreak of Measles in the region with 27 lab confirmed cases, 659 suspected cases and six confirmed deaths in the last four months. The ministry attributes the rapid spread of measles to high levels of malnutrition caused by the drought (Daily measles update 27.4.2011, MoPHS)

North Rift Region

The situation in the Greater Pokot and Turkana remains dire. The delayed rainfall has led to acute shortage of surface water, which is the main source of water for the affected communities as evidenced by drying of seasonal rivers and sand dams. This has forced communities to trek for long distances in search of water for human and livestock use. (*Source: KRCS assessment and media reports*). UNOCHA reports that the April 2011 estimates on trekking distances in areas of Turkana and Baringo to be about 38 kilometres daily

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS) has declared an outbreak of Measles in Turkana District with 13 lab confirmed cases and 72 suspected cases in the last four months. The ministry

² Early crop failure means crops failing immediately after germination.

attributes the rapid spread of measles to high levels of malnutrition caused by the drought (*source: daily measles update 27.4.2011, MoPHS*).

KRCS field assessments reports of April 2011 confirm that at least 4 deaths occurred in Nakurio sub-location (2 children and 2 adults) which could be attributed to starvation. About 1377 households are feared to be highly vulnerable to hunger and starvation in that area. Families are reportedly feeding on wild fruits and animal carcasses in order to survive. Observed cases of malnourished children are reported to be on the rise (reports from health facilities).

Inter clan conflict between the Turkanas of Kenya and Dasaanage (Merrille) of Ethiopia erupted on 4th May 2011 resulted in at least 40 deaths and 2,000 displaced³. The communities have carried out cyclic revenge attacks on each other since the 1990s although the recent episode is the worst the community has had to endure (*source: UNOCHA*) The conflicts are linked to resource sharing for which the two groups compete for food, such as cattle and the fish found in and around Lake Turkana.

Field assessments undertaken by the KRCS branch office indicates that the residents of Kariobur, Sasame, Kokuro and Meyan villages, Turkana North district are exhibiting signs of heightened malnutrition due to severe food scarcity in the areas. Approximately 75% of the community in Turkana depend on relief food⁴ donated by various agencies including the Kenyan Government. Food aid has not been distributed in the last three months. Women and children are the worst affected.

Communities in the greater Turkana area depend on traditional hand dug shallow wells, natural rivers and boreholes⁵ for water for household and livestock consumption therefore the highly depressed rainfall in the area has severely compromised access to safe water amongst the affected population.

Upper Eastern

The KMD had predicted slightly depressed rainfall conditions in the Mar-Apr-May 2011 season in the ASAL areas of the Upper Eastern Region. KRCS assessment reports indicate that the region has received erratic showers and in Marsabit, a one-day flash flood that occurred in March 2011 led to the death of over 20,000 shoats, leaving the already vulnerable communities in a worse situation.

KRCS reports in the field also indicate that 75% of wells in the ASAL region have either dried up or broken down which has affected access to sufficient water supply to the communities.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) in the affected districts' reports have indicated increasing school dropout cases from the month of January 2011 to date. Schools benefitting from school feeding programmes are however recording increased enrolment. In some cases, parents are dropping off toddlers in schools for feeding during feeding times.

The District Nutrition Officer in the area confirms that malnutrition rates currently stand at 32.6% especially amongst children under 5, lactating and pregnant women.

Coast Region

An assessment carried out in Tana River district by the KFSSG in Feb. 2011, indicated that water points were steadily drying up. Currently the situation is worsening owing to the fact that it has not rained since January 2011. Pasture in the area is reported to have been depleted. The Kenya Red Cross Field Assessment report indicated that a conflict occurred in March 2011 between two communities in Bura due to competition for water and pasture leading to at least eight deaths. The report indicated that an estimated 56,482 people in the District require food aid.

The worst affected areas in Kilifi include Ganze, Bamba and Marikina divisions, while those in Malindi are Malindi, Marafa, Magarini and Lango Baya divisions. In the county of Kilifi, areas like Chonyi division that had been the grain basket have since seen the situation reversed and are now food insecure and currently the government has earmarked some schools for supplementary feeding and households for

³ UNOCHA Kenya Cross Border Conflict situation report number 1, 12th May 2011(pg1)

⁴ <http://nkcaucus.blogspot.com/2011/04/africa-development-foundation-addresses.html>

⁵ Arid lands resource Management Project 11, Turkana Drought Monitoring bulletin March 2011(pg 8)

relief food intervention. Hard hit areas are: Ng'ombeni, Mwarakaya and Pingilikani, with a total of 43,335 (13.39%) people out of 323,6096 being food insecure in the district. (KRCS/DSG assessment report)

Arid Lands Resource Management project reports indicate high movement of livestock from Ijara district into Witu division. The influx population is estimated at 150,000 livestock⁷. The capacity of Witu division in terms of water and pasture is 30,000 livestock. The areas resources are therefore being overstretched thus increasing the vulnerability of the host community.

Coordination and partnerships

Kenya Red Cross maintained 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 continued to mobilize resources and carry out interventions under this Emergency Appeal with the guidance of the IFRC East Africa Zone Office and held briefings and updates with ICRC and the Red Cross Red and Red Crescent Movement partners including Partner National Societies.

Movement partners that have supported the appeal include the Norwegian, Danish, British, Monaco, Swedish and Finnish Red Cross societies.

Various local organizations have also responded to the drought appeal including Prime Bank, Tausi Assurance, Leisure Lodge, Airtel, Barclays bank Limited, National Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank, Safaricom foundation, Kenyatta University, Maritas International University, Nairobi Jeffrey's Academy, Juja Preparatory and Senior school, Crown Auto parts, Compulynx, Uchumi supermarkets, Coca Cola, National Oil, East African Satang Swaminarayan temple and numerous individual donors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

Goal: To provisionally assist some 855,000 targeted beneficiaries in drought affected areas through implementation of an integrated intervention that combines short term emergency interventions with drought risk reduction activities aimed at building the affected societies resilience to future disasters.

Progress towards planned outcomes

Relief Distribution	
Outcome: To decrease the number of School drop outs in Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera, Ijara, Garissa, Wajir and Tana River districts by providing supplementary feeding.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20,000 school-going children in Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera, Ijara, Garissa, Wajir and Tana River districts are provided with supplementary feeding in their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide supplementary food rations (CSB/Unimix) to 20,000 school going children for 6 months

Progress:

⁶ Agriculture

⁷ Arid Lands Lamu

The society has so far provided supplemental food to schools, reaching a total of 9,415 school going children in the target districts for four months (East and Central Pokot (2,741), Marsabit (2,523), Kwale (1,651) and Kajiado (2,500). The intervention has also benefitted about 2,177 community members at risk of malnutrition including under five children, as well as pregnant and lactating women in Kwale and Kajiado districts. There is a reported increase in school enrolment in schools targeted by this intervention.

Challenges:

- The need for the provision of food supplements to the schools currently outweighs the KRCS interventions with a noted gap of 10,500 school going children to be fed in the 8 months.(May to December 2010)

Livelihoods	
Outcome (a): To increase branch capacity (6 branches) in early warning – early action for crisis phase of drought that will assist 60,000 people	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branches are strengthened to deliver early warning early action programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch early action plans are supported. Plans include: reducing risk of conflict over natural resources, awareness of and assistance to access livestock markets, managing livestock access to water/pasture, and supporting District level coordination coverage. • Map or distribute GoK maps of facilities and their operational status. • Share long-rain forecast with communities across district • Meet with communities to participate in decision making about contingencies if rains fail. Based on community contingencies branch will search for options to support those initiatives. • Branches take a proactive role in district coordination. Facilitate risk, hazard, and activity gap maps, DSG meetings and two weekly communications to Community.
Outcome (b): Increase access to key cash transfer service	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural communities access remittances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on KRCS partnership with leading mobile phone provider to enable marginalized communities to access M-Pesa money transfer system, especially those receiving money from de-stocking exercises as well as those receiving cash grants to purchase basic needs: Building platforms to enable mobile network reception, creation of a new M-Pesa receiving centre etc
Outcome (c) Undertake emergency livestock interventions targeting 210,000 pastoralists with the aim of providing emergency safety nets and cushioning adverse impact of the drought	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities cushioned from the adverse effects of the drought through de-stocking and cash transfers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To de-stock 15,000 shoats to mitigate the effects of the drought through early action in Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera, Ijara, Garissa, Wajir and Tana River districts. Purchase livestock from communities, slaughter and provide meat to the affected families) • To compensate 2000 families affected by flash rains

	with cash transfer grants to purchase weekly basic needs.
Outcome (d) Provision of drought tolerant certified seeds to 75,000 farmers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved harvest related income for poor households in the next season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of high quality seeds to farmers in lower Eastern and Tana River districts. Facilitate better farming methods through training of farmers in Tana River and Lower Eastern Districts.

Progress:

KRCS branch offices have actively participated in regular District Steering Group (DSG) meetings at the regions, which bring together various stakeholders responding to the drought. The information has been instrumental in targeting interventions to needs highlighted in this forum. Branch offices have also played active roles during assessments carried out by organizations such as the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG).

KRCS has implemented de-stocking activities in Moyale and Marsabit districts. A total of 2,600 shoats and 520 cattle have been slaughtered and distributed to community members as meat. The operation was carried out in collaboration with officials from the Ministry of Livestock who carried out thorough inspection of the animals' prior to slaughter and distribution to the community members. Approximately 29,120 community members have benefited from relief meat distributed by the society since the beginning of the intervention. 3,120 community members received payment for their livestock during the exercise thereby effectively injecting cash into the local economy.

As part of its early recovery strategy, the society has distributed 12 green houses to farming communities in Turkana, Moyale (Walda), Samburu (Maralal). In addition, the society has also distributed 50MT of drought tolerant seeds to 25,000 farmers in Kibwezi, Mboeni, Emali, Kaiti and Kilome districts, Lower Eastern Region. Post distribution assessments indicate that all farmers targeted planted the seeds at the recommended times.

The early recovery component of the intervention aims to build the affected communities resilience to future droughts through adaptation of improved agricultural practices and technologies and is implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Challenges:

- Targeting of households to benefit from relief meat in Moyale and Marsabit was daunting as a large population was in need of relief.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome (a): To provide access to safe water, in line with WHO/SPHERE standards for an estimated 250,000 individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas affected by drought in Moyale, Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Pokot, Turkana, Mandera, Ijara, Garissa, Wajir, Kwale, Lamu and Tana River districts.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to safe and clean water (15 litres per person per day) for 250,000 persons as damaged systems are restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply point of use, water chemicals to 250,000 beneficiaries to disinfect drinking water Rehabilitate 25Kms of pipeline to normalise water supply to drought stricken areas with dysfunctional water supplies Increase capacity to transport water through the use of 20, 3,500L bladder tanks Increase storage capacity at community water distribution points through provision of 50, 5,000L UPVC water tanks. Identify and rehabilitate 20 boreholes/shallow wells at

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> selected sites (institutions and community centres) Support to rapid response teams by providing fast moving spare parts for 20 boreholes & servicing 20 generator sets as well supporting boreholes with fuel. Form and train 25 water management committees to manage the constructed/rehabilitated water facilities Roof water catchment systems in 20 schools/health centres
<p>Outcome (b): To promote hygiene and sanitation in line with WHO/SPHERE standards for an estimated 250,000 individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas affected by drought in Moyale, Marsabit, Turkana, Garissa, Malindi, Kwale, and Lamu and Tana River districts.</p>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health status of the population through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities. Key hygiene messages disseminated effectively at household/community level and positive hygiene behaviour adopted by targeted households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train 60 volunteers/ToTs on PHASTER methodologies. Conduct continuous hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns among the affected communities for a period of 6 months. Produce and distribute generic hygiene promotional IEC materials to support the hygiene promotion.

Progress:

The society dispatched nine bladder tanks and 12 PVC tanks to North Eastern, Upper Eastern and Coast regions. 60,000 water treatment tablets were also distributed in Upper Eastern.

The society initiated emergency water trucking services in the Arid and Semi areas as soon as the drought intensified. KRCS has so far undertaken emergency water trucking activities in 9 districts (Garissa, Mandera, Moyale, Marsabit, East Pokot, Ijara, Lamu, Kwale and Tana River) reaching a total of 285,843 beneficiaries.

District of water trucking	Number of beneficiaries	Number of litres trucked
Wajir	26,235	2,400,000
Ijara	36,600	4,680,000
Garissa	30,000	5,400,000
Marsabit	38,910	3,944,000
Mandera	29,800	1,410,000
Moyale	30,724	4,572,000
East Pokot	10,974	904,000
Tana River	76,500	700,000
Kwale	1,800	60,000
Lamu	19,305	160,000
Total	285,843	24,230,000

The society has rehabilitated at least 9 boreholes in the ASAL areas i.e. Turkana (2), East Pokot (2), Wajir (4) and Garissa (1) providing access to a total of 85,584 people with safe water and 253,500 livestock.

Health and Nutrition	
Objective: To protect and promote health during the crisis by increasing access to primary health care services to an estimated 275,000 at risk individuals in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access to primary health care services and referral to other health services in event of emergency of more complicated cases Nutritional status of women, children and other vulnerable individuals is maintained Those considered malnourished or are at risk are referred to appropriate services Coping mechanisms during the crisis are enhanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular health outreach PHC services to vulnerable remote and migrating communities (N.B. refer to PHC activities which includes immunisation, health education etc) Identify, adapt, produce and distribute key IEC materials Conduct nutritional assessments and provide referral services to supplementary feeding UNICEF supported GoK health facilities Provide nutritional and micro-nutrient supplements to vulnerable groups (pregnant and lactating women and to children) Conduct continuous nutritional and hygiene promotion in settled communities and in migrating populations Provision of post trauma counselling for survivors of the drought Procurement and distribution of 3,000 dignity kits to the affected population.

Progress:

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

Logistics	
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.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief items delivered to target beneficiaries in the most efficient and cost effective manner Efficient and effective logistical support to the operation Staff and volunteers transported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport 2,000 MT of food and non-food items to final distribution points. Identify suitable warehouses for storage of relief items Maintain mobilisation table Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. Reinforce regional logistics capacity in warehousing and transportation Procurement of relief (food and non-food items), seeds and drugs supplies both locally and internationally

Progress: KRCS has transported foodstuffs and distributed them to schools in Pokot, Marsabit, Kwale, Samburu and Kajiado districts. This includes transportation and distribution of food and seeds and community mobilisation.

Items received through donors are received and stored at KRCS warehouses prior to distribution.

Challenges:

- The terrain where the items are delivered are often harsh resulting in frequent mechanical breakdowns.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Planned Activities

- Produce weekly drought information bulletins.
- Upload drought bulletins on the KRCS website.
- Share drought data with other stakeholders.
- Organise media field trips to drought-affected areas.
- Monitor media coverage and monitoring of drought activities.
- Produce IEC materials on drought interventions and response.
- Produce and air radio/TV spots, print adverts/supplements.
- Produce documentaries on the drought situation and intervention.

The public relations department has been actively engaged in activities aimed at raising awareness to the on-going drought situation. Following the launch of the initiative, the appeal document was posted on the society's website. Operational updates are also developed and posted onto the website. The society develops human-interest stories gathered from the field in order to better educate the public on the actual situation in the regions.

The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General have also been featured on prime time shows talking about the drought situation and rationale behind KRCS initiative. Media publishing houses have also carried story items on the same.

Two media missions that highlighted the plight of the populations living in Marsabit have been undertaken since the project inception.

Awareness raising activities executed by the department have been instrumental in raising awareness amongst the public as evidenced by an increase in both individual and corporate donations. Pledges for contribution have already been made by long time KRCS partners Barclays Bank, Prime Bank, Rotary, Lions, UCHUMI, Nation Media Group, amongst others. Numerous individual donations have also been received at the society's offices.

The society has also taken advantage of various social networking websites such as face book, twitter and U-tube in order to raise funds for the initiative.

How we work

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

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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