



## ***EASTERN AFRICA: REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE***

**DREF Bulletin no.  
MDR64001  
17 February 2006**

*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 183 countries.*

### **In Brief**

**DREF bulletin no. MDR64001, Update no. 2; Period covered: 4 February to 17 February 2006.**

This DREF bulletin no. 2 is being issued based on the situation described below, reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 250,000 (USD 196,000 or EUR 161,000) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to deploy a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), to provide support and assistance to national societies, and to begin to respond to the needs. This operation continues to evolve; separate Emergency Appeals are being developed and it is anticipated will be launched shortly. The information in this update is intended to indicate progress towards this goal, and to provide an initial basis for planning for partner national societies and donors. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[Click here to go directly to the attached map of the affected area](#)

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## **The situation**

Food security in Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa is in a precarious state, with parts of several countries (Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, in particular) in the midst of what the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) has termed a "phenomenal drought". Concerns over the situation in Djibouti, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea and Uganda have also been expressed by a number of organizations. At present the crisis predominantly affects the agro pastoralist livelihood zones, however there are pockets of acute food-insecurity developing in farming areas of the Great Lakes region. The immediate meteorological outlook is pessimistic with the dry spell predicted to last until April for the Horn of Africa.

The crisis, precipitated by the failure or inadequacy of recent rainy seasons, is also complicated by chronic weather, conflict, and/or economic issues. The United Nations (UN) currently estimates that there are 17.5 million food-insecure people in the greater Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti) of which 7.5 million are in immediate need. This does not include emerging needs in Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi. Immediate concerns include not only the deteriorating food, health, water and sanitation (WatSan) conditions, but also the disaster that could result if the coming rainy season again falls short of providing what vulnerable populations, (including pastoralists and agro-pastoralists), require to feed their cattle, harvest their crop, support their health and welfare, as well as that of their families a situation would further strain coping mechanisms that are already stretched perilously thin.

Should the next rainy season fail, the consequences will be dire, not only for the currently affected population, but it can be expected that the crisis will widen. What is at present a patchwork of food-insecure pockets around the region could well deepen into a generalized famine situation.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far**

### **Burundi**

- Assessment findings regarding the humanitarian needs of Internally Displaced People (IDP) and refugees were completed in late January. Detailed food security assessments (health, WatSan, food security) are being conducted by the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) as from 14 to 22 February 2006. Recommended response activities, based on the assessment findings, will be developed.

### **Djibouti**

- An assessment was completed on 10 January 2006, and the report is currently being finalized.
- Developments: The *Weather Hazard Assessments for 16 to 22 February 2006* of FEWS NET indicates that seasonal rains across Djibouti and the surrounding area have been erratic and lighter than normal.
- The UN estimates that there are 150,000 food insecure people, of whom 60,000 are affected by the current drought.

### **Eritrea**

- A joint FACT with the Eritrean Red Cross Society assessment is being planned and will proceed following the identification of a livestock specialist.
- Needs: Current information indicates the most seriously affected areas are the Gash Barkal and Anseba zones.
- The UN estimates that there are 2 million food-insecure people, of whom 500,000 are affected by the current drought.

### **Ethiopia**

- A task force composed of members of the Federation's regional delegation in Nairobi, FACT and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society met on 15 January 2006 to review the Ethiopian Red Cross Society assessment. Follow-up questions regarding the assessment were developed at this meeting and submitted to the national society and a response is pending. It is anticipated that an appeal for Ethiopia may be issued in the coming week.
- Developments: A recent report from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) noted that in the Oromiya region's Borena zone, the number of food beneficiaries is anticipated to double. In Teltele woreda, there has been a meningitis outbreak. In the Somali region, water shortages and malnutrition are reaching critical levels. The report indicates a 75 percent decrease in the value of livestock, significant increase in grain prices, serious pasture depletion, and an influx of pastoralists from Kenya and Somalia. The forecast for the (March to May) *Gu* rains is not promising and such a situation could see the number of beneficiaries double. The Ethiopian government announced that it will conduct a house-to-house polio eradication campaign from 17 to 20 February 2006 to vaccinate about 11.5 million children in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa City Administrations, Amhara, Harari, Oromiya, Somali, and Tigray regions.
- The UN estimates that of the 9.7 million food-insecure people, 1.7 million are affected by the current drought.

### **Kenya**

- The Kenya Red Cross Society is conducting assessments.
- Appeal coverage: as of 11 February 2006, the drought emergency appeal had attained 3 percent coverage.
- The recent Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) report identified that 3.5 million people are in need of assistance.

### **Rwanda**

- Assessment has been completed and the draft appeal is being reviewed. The appeal is targeted to be issued next week.

### **Somalia**

- Effective Movement coordination is continuing between the Somali Red Crescent Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Federation as the effects of the drought unfold. The main affected areas are in the conflict-affected south/central zone where ICRC is operational.
- ICRC has begun its response in the worst-hit southern regions, working in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society and its volunteer network, and in coordination with other humanitarian organizations. This week, ICRC started distributing food to 48,000 people in Bakool and to 54,000 others in the Gedo and Bay regions. Families will receive enough maize, pulses and vegetable oil to last for two months. Other ongoing interventions include animal destocking, water trucking and rehabilitation of water points.
- Food security conditions in northern Somalia (both Somaliland and Puntland) at present give no cause for immediate concern. However this situation will continue to be monitored; much will depend on the performance of the March/April *Gu* rains.
- The UN estimates that of the 2.1 million food-insecure people in Somalia, 1.7 million are affected by the current drought.

### **Tanzania**

- The *Weather Hazard Assessments for 16 to 22 February 2006* of FEWS NET indicates that improvement has been noted during the past week in areas of south eastern Tanzania with the region receiving some of its heaviest seasonal rains in the past few days. Onshore moisture flow has brought substantial rainfall, with widespread weekly totals of 40-50 mm and localized amounts exceeding 75 mm in the region. This has helped to improve conditions not only in southern Tanzania, but also in the extreme northern Mozambique.
- The Food Security Information Team (FSIT) assessment of food security in Tanzania was finalized, and although the report has not been seen by FACT, there are an estimated of 3.7 million people identified as needing assistance. Follow up of this situation is ongoing.

### **Uganda**

- The situation in Uganda remains reported in the last update. Food-insecurity in Uganda is confined to the northern, conflict-affected districts.

## **Coordination**

A country-by-country matrix is being maintained and coordination meetings are being attended. The following is a list of the most recent meetings and their outcomes are as below:

- The task force met on 14 February 2006 at the regional delegation in Nairobi offices to review the Ethiopia assessment report. Follow-up questions were sent to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. The national society's response is pending.
- The United Nations drought meeting was held on 16 February 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. Preparations for the forthcoming visit of the newly-appointed UN special envoy to the region (scheduled for 22 February 2006) were discussed. Coordination structures based around the cluster approach are in progress.

## **Federation response strategy**

**Goal: To mitigate the effects of drought and increase the coping mechanisms of the affected countries in the region.**

**Objective 1: To assess individual country situations for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda to better understand the varying short, medium, and long-term needs by mid-February 2006, and to review the ongoing needs and operations in Eritrea.**

### **Activities Underway**

- The regional food security meeting for the affected countries was conducted on 19 January 2006.
- FACT and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) resources were requested. FACT members provided, however, several deployments will end shortly. New and additional resources are being identified and requested.
- Terms of reference (ToR) were prepared for assessment teams to Djibouti and Burundi. The assessments are progressing.
- Appeals are being prepared.

### **Activities Planned**

- Finalize Ethiopia and Rwanda appeals.
- Start work on Burundi appeal.
- Plan and conduct an assessment in Eritrea.

**Objective 2: Provide the necessary human capacity to support national societies and the Federation to make appropriate short and medium term responses to the drought situation.**

### **Activities Underway**

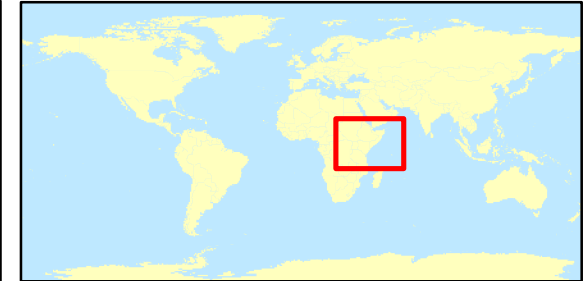
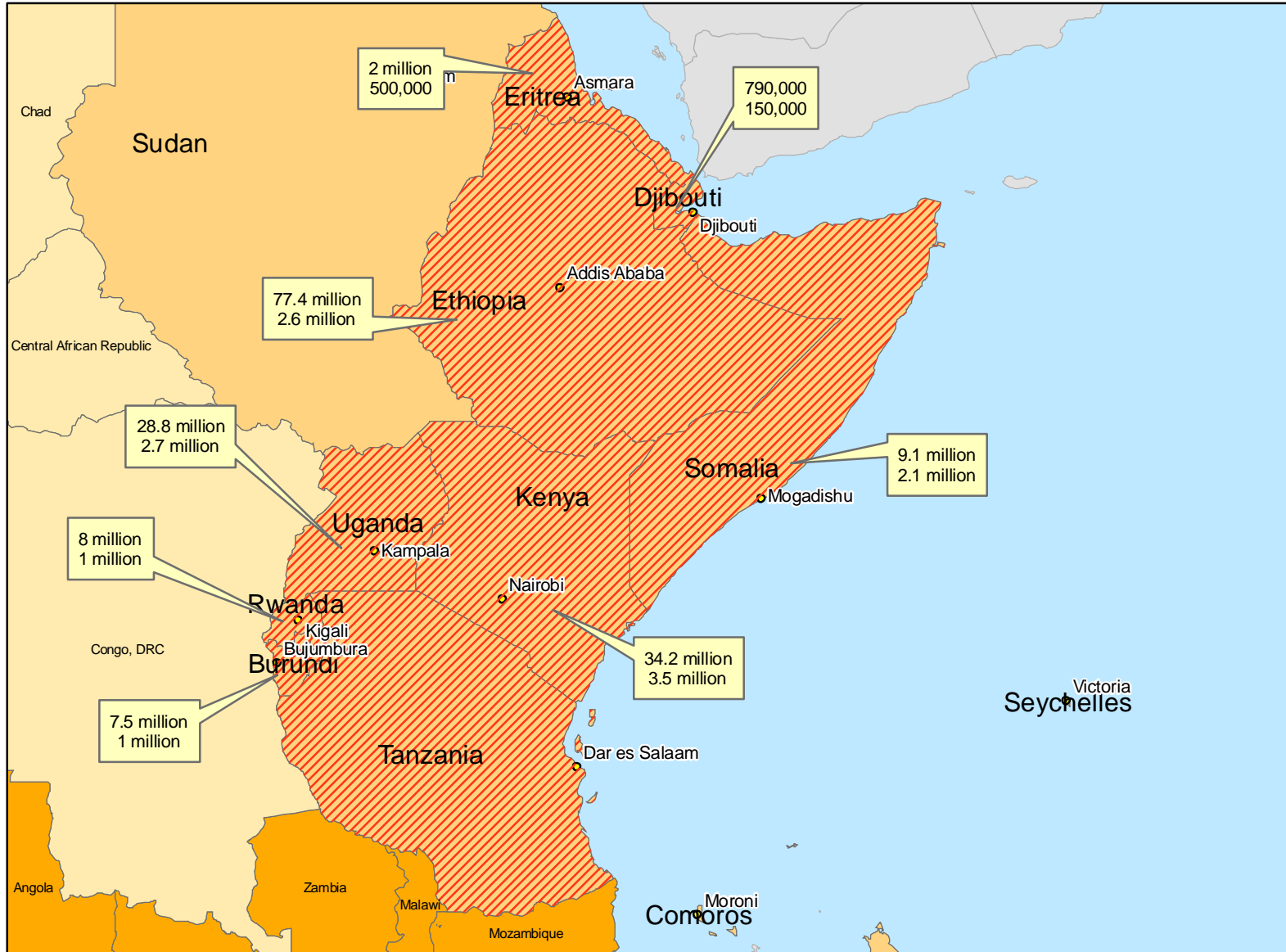
- Recruitment of drought coordinator, food security, logistics and WatSan delegates in process.
- Support being provided to national societies.
- Request for deployment of FACT information/media to provide short-term support to the launch of the appeals.

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	Burundi	Djibouti	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Kenya	Rwanda	Somalia	Tanzania	Uganda
<b>Situation Summary</b>									
Magnitude	Chronic w/ some acute	Chronic	Chronic	Acute	Acute	Acute	Acute	Acute (localized)	Generalized
Locations	North	NW & SE		Oromiya, Somali	35 districts	East and South	South	North	North
Complicating Factors	Population displacement, high food prices, deforestation, HIV/AIDS	drought	political situation	drought, floods, population growth, high food prices, cross-border migration	drought, late rains, conflict in NE, food distribution constraints	drought, late rains, population density, land shortage, HIV/AIDS	drought, insecurity	drought in in parts, HIV/AIDS	conflict in north, pop displacement
Estimated food insecure	1 million	150,000	500,000	2.6 million	3.5 million	1 million	2.1 million	600,000	2.7 million
Drought affected		60,000					1.7 million (South)	3.7 million	
Estimated total population	7.5 million	790,000	2 million	77.4 million	34.2 million	8 million	9.1 million	38.4 million	28.8 million
<b>Latest</b>									
FEWS NET category	Not Listed	Emergency	Listed--No Alert	Emergency	Emergency	Warning	Emergency	Listed--No Alert	Warning Only for Conflict Area
FEWS NET outlook		Deteriorating		Deteriorating	Deteriorating	Deteriorating	Deteriorating		Improving
<b>Response Activities</b>									
Assessments Conducted	BRCS/FACT assessments (returnee & food security): underway	Interagency, DRCS/FACT assessment: completed	Interagency crop assessment: completed.	Interagency, ERCS/FACT, & ICRC assessments: completed	Interagency & KRCS assessments: completed	WFP assessment: underway; FAO food security early warning document, Ministry of Agriculture survey: ongoing	ICRC assessments in south; FAO assessments underway.	FSIT assessment complete. Identified need for 3.7 million people	
Host National Society Requests	Food security, health & watsan	Support to capacity development	Assessment; Eritrea, Drought Emergency Appeal (launched 27 January/ As of 16 February: 57%)	Technical support on livelihood and livestock; Finalizing appeal.	Kenya: Drought, Emergency Appeal no. MDRKE001 (launched: 4 January; coverage as of 3 Feb: 3%)	Drafting appeal (seeds, logistics, supplementary feeding, general food distribution).	Branch capacity development (ongoing)	Indication of preliminary needs	
Host National Society Capacity	currently restructuring	Program and other support will be needed for any action		Branches will need strengthening, exact inputs to be decided by ERCS.	KRCS experienced in drought operations; capacity is being scaled up.	Experienced in emergency operations.		Experienced in food distributions & displaced persons operations. Integrated programming could be needed.	
Conclusions	Assessing need.	Assessed need appears to indicate response activities within capacity of national society.	Assessment pending.	FACT following up with appeal planning.	This is the most advanced drought operation in the region.	Situation not yet critical, but appeal being prepared to address existing needs.	Main crisis is in ICRC area. N Somalia currently not in acute crisis.	Need to clarify scale of need.	Main affected area is URCS/ICRC responsibility.
Prepare emergency appeals, as required.	TBD	TBD	TBD	Pending	Launched: 4 January	Pending	Need for ongoing monitoring; plan of action to be defined.	Requesting clarification of needs; FACT/RDN visit possible.	Monitoring the developing situation.



# Eastern Africa: Regional drought response



- Capitals
- ▨ Countries affected
- Central Africa
- East Africa
- Southern Africa
- West Africa
- Other countries

Population  
Estimated food insecure

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, FACT team