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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Kenya – Food Insecurity

Situation Report #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

January 15, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated December 11, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Recurrent seasons of failed or poor rains, sustained high food prices, environmental degradation, outbreaks of disease, and flooding have led to deteriorating food security conditions throughout Kenya, straining coping mechanisms, exacerbating pre-existing chronic poverty, and contributing to increased inter-ethnic conflict over access to limited land and water resources. Food insecurity in Kenya has also occurred in the context of ongoing civil and political unrest, including violence associated with the December 2007 election that displaced more than 663,000 people in Nairobi and across areas of Rift Valley, Western, Nyanza, and Coast provinces, according to the Government of Kenya (GoK). Although the majority of displaced individuals have subsequently returned to areas of origin, vulnerabilities among remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) and disruptions to agricultural production in affected areas have contributed to increased food insecurity.

On August 20, the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)¹ increased the projected number of people requiring emergency food assistance between September 2009 and February 2010 to 3.8 million individuals, representing a 32 percent increase since February 2009. In response to ongoing humanitarian needs, on October 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger renewed the disaster declaration for food insecurity in Kenya for FY 2010.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population in Need of Emergency Food Assistance until February 2010	3.8 million people	KFSSG – August 2009
Refugees in Kenya	374,165 people	UNHCR ² – January 2010

FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Kenya	\$1,996,957
USAID/FFP ³ Assistance to Kenya	\$75,885,900
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya	\$77,882,857

CURRENT SITUATION

Following a dry period in November, heavy rainfall beginning in late December has resulted in floods throughout Kenya, killing an estimated 38 people and leaving approximately 30,000 to 40,000 others in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). Humanitarian agencies report that the floods have affected populations already vulnerable due to heightened food insecurity following consecutive seasons of prolonged drought and recent outbreaks of cholera.

The floods are likely to recharge depleted water sources and improve pastoral conditions in previously drought-affected areas, including areas of the northern Rift Valley and parts of Kenya's southern districts. However, humanitarian agencies note that the floods also resulted in population displacement and damage to

crops and infrastructure in affected areas. According to early January projections, the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) expects rains to continue at lower levels in flood-affected areas through mid-January, with occasional light to moderate rainfall in North Eastern and Coast provinces, as well as southeast regions of Eastern Province.

In response to ongoing food insecurity and newly-assessed needs arising from floods, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2million for humanitarian interventions in Kenya to date in FY 2010. Of the total, USAID/OFDA has provided \$200,000 through USAID/Kenya to KRCS for the provision of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations. In addition, the majority of FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded programs are ongoing.

¹ KFSSG works as an advisory body on drought management and food security in Kenya. The group consists of 12 members, including GoK departments and ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, and the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

² The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

³ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

Flooding

Following heavy rainfall and flooding in Coast Province in late October and early November, most areas of Kenya received little or no rainfall during November. However, heavy rainfall beginning in late December has resulted in prolonged flooding, increased population displacements, infrastructure and crop damage, and human and livestock deaths throughout Kenya, particularly in western, northwestern, central, and southeast regions. The persistent rainfall has led to rising river levels along the Nyando and Nzoia rivers in southwestern Kenya and has exacerbated flooding conditions in the central Rift Valley Province and Central Province.

On January 14, OCHA reported that some regions in Turkana District, one of the most flood-affected districts, remain difficult to access due to damaged bridges and roads. According to OCHA, heavy rainfall in neighboring Tanzania caused flash floods in Taita Taveta District, Coast Province, affecting an estimated 2,780 individuals and leaving an additional 500 people displaced. On January 14, FEWS NET reported that heavy rainfall in Taita Taveta District between January 7 and 13 has resulted in additional population displacement. Heavy rainfall and flooding around Nairobi and Nakuru has also resulted in infrastructure damage, death, and population displacement. According to UNHCR, flooding had not affected the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps as of January 8, although UNHCR has allocated funding for flood response in the camps if necessary.

The GoK has developed a national response plan to assist with immediate and early recovery needs resulting from the flooding. On January 11, the GoK announced the approval of \$53 million dollars in spending for flood response.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided \$200,000 through USAID/Kenya to KRCS for the provision of emergency relief supplies. With USAID/OFDA support, KRCS plans to target 15,000 vulnerable people with essential household items, including blankets, mosquito nets, water purification tablets, medical supplies, water containers, kitchen sets, and soap. In addition to helping families recover from the impact of the floods, the supplies will help minimize the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera, which is common in flood-affected areas.

Agriculture and Food Security

The annual October to December short rains ceased for up to three weeks in most areas of Kenya during November, according to FEWS NET. Although rainfall resumed in the first week of December, FEWS NET anticipates a negative impact on food security as a result of the cessation. FEWS NET expects food needs to decrease by March due to the harvest from crops

affected by recently improved rainfall; however food needs will likely remain above five-year averages.

On December 24, FEWS NET reported that the 2009–2010 maize harvest is likely to be significantly below normal levels. The GoK Ministry of Agriculture estimated Kenya's total 2009–2010 maize production at 2.29 million metric tons (MT); the U.S. Department of Agriculture expects total maize production of 1.8 million MT. Regardless of the precise figure, FEWS NET expects a maize deficit to begin in the second quarter of 2010. The effect of increased rainfall in late December and early January on maize production remains undetermined.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$17 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems interventions in Kenya, including ongoing programs designed to strengthen livelihood opportunities, protect and diversify household assets, and increase agricultural productivity.

Insecurity and Population Movements

As of late December 2009, ongoing conflict and insecurity in neighboring Somalia continued to result in population displacement to Kenya, although at lower levels than during the first six months of 2009. According to UNHCR, more than 2,600 Somalis arrived at the Dadaab refugee complex in the North Eastern Province of Kenya during December 2009, compared to approximately 8,100 Somalis arriving at the complex in January 2009. Despite decreased numbers of new arrivals in late 2009, population movements from Somalia continued to account for the majority of new refugee arrivals in Kenya, with Somalis representing approximately 90 percent of total new arrivals registered in Dadaab in 2009.

While increased insecurity in early January has not resulted in significant increases in new arrivals to Dadaab to date, humanitarian agencies have expressed concern regarding the impact of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP)'s temporary withdrawal from al-Shabaab-controlled areas of southern Somalia on population movements to neighboring countries, including Kenya, in the coming months. In response to heightened security concerns in refugee camps, UNHCR has implemented extra security procedures as a precautionary measure, including the stationing of armed police at the Dadaab compound.

Due to ongoing population movements, relief agencies continue to note concern regarding humanitarian conditions within the Dadaab complex, as the camps host more than triple the intended maximum capacity and the GoK has not yet approved the use of additional land for a new, fourth camp to alleviate overcrowding. Originally established to accommodate 90,000 people,

the Dadaab complex hosted more than 258,000 individuals as of January 8, according to UNHCR.

In FY 2009, Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$27 million in funding to UNHCR and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners for refugee assistance in Kenya, including shelter, health care, psychosocial services, and WASH interventions, as well as other assistance to refugee populations.

Health and Nutrition

Humanitarian agencies also continue to express concern regarding nutrition conditions in Kenya due to ongoing food insecurity. According to the U.N. Nutrition Cluster, the number of children under five years of age treated for malnutrition in Kenya in 2009 was approximately four times higher than the number of children treated in 2008. In 2009, the cluster recorded an estimated 84,000 children admitted for treatment of global acute malnutrition and approximately 17,000 admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition. As of January 8, U.N. Nutrition Cluster staff reported that floods had not resulted in increased malnutrition rates, noting that the cluster maintains capacity to respond if needed.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.3 million to support nutrition activities throughout Kenya, particularly in highly food-insecure areas. The majority of these programs remain ongoing in FY 2010.

Emergency Food Assistance

According to FEWS NET, an estimated 3.8 million Kenyans continue to require emergency food assistance through February 2010. However, recent WFP projections highlight that an estimated 4.5 million individuals will likely require food assistance in Kenya in 2010. The KFSSG plans to conduct an inter-agency short rains assessment in February to establish new beneficiary estimates.

WFP experienced a pipeline break in November due to delayed commodity shipments. As a result, Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, Mwingi, Tharaka, Mbeere, and other districts did not receive scheduled food assistance. However, distribution of pre-positioned food stocks partially mitigated the impact of the pipeline break. WFP anticipates a shortfall of 197,000 MT of food valued at approximately \$171 million through May 2010.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has contributed 79,480 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to populations in Kenya, including 52,230 MT of food assistance, valued at more than \$51 million, through WFP for drought-affected populations and 26,250 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$25 million, to WFP for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma

refugee camps. In FY 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$9 million for WFP school feeding programs and nutritional education support for mothers in Nairobi and surrounding areas.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Limited water availability due to localized drought conditions, as well as water contamination and damaged sanitation and hygiene facilities resulting from flooding continue to raise concerns regarding the spread of waterborne diseases throughout Kenya.

During 2009, the GoK Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS) recorded nearly 11,770 reported cases of cholera in 50 districts throughout Kenya, including 781 confirmed cases and 274 deaths. Between January 1 and 14, the MoPHS recorded 131 reported cases of cholera, 11 confirmed cases, and no deaths in seven districts, including four districts in Nairobi; Kajiado District, Rift Valley Province; Marsabit District, Eastern Province; and Siaya District, Nyanza Province.

As of mid-December, the MoPHS had recorded 205 confirmed cholera cases, including 26 deaths, in East Pokot and Turkana districts in Rift Valley Province. The MoPHS noted a decline in the number of new cases at health centers in East Pokot as of December 10; however, humanitarian organizations cannot determine whether the decline is due to reduced incidence of disease or the inability of infected residents to reach local health centers. The rough terrain and lack of road networks in affected areas have hindered local populations seeking to reach treatment centers and hampered the provision of humanitarian assistance, according to KRCS.

On January 2, at the request of the MoPHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention deployed a four-person team of epidemiologists to assist MoPHS staff with investigating the increased incidence of cholera; evaluating the current surveillance system; conducting a health care worker case survey; examining cholera knowledge, attitudes, and practices among the community; assessing water quality in informal settlements in Nairobi; and evaluating response efforts.

In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$764,000 to support WASH interventions in affected areas, including programs designed to increase access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation practices in Turkana District, Rift Valley Province. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.8 million in FY 2009 to support similar programs, the majority of which remain ongoing.

USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya

In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the USG has provided more than \$288 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Kenya, including more than

\$26 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, health, agriculture and food security, and WASH interventions, as well as local food procurement and distribution.

FY 2010 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

FY 2010 Assistance			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location / Province	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Horn Relief	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	North Eastern Province	\$1,585,404
KRCS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$200,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$211,553
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,996,957
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	79,480 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Central, Coast, Eastern, North Eastern, and Rift Valley Provinces; Dadaab and Kakuma Refugee Camps	\$75,885,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$75,885,900
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2010			\$77,882,857

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 15, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of January 15, 2010.



Carol Chan
Deputy Director
USAID/OFDA