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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

October 19, 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 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 addition, the report identified approximately 2.5 million chronically food-insecure individuals located in urban areas, 100,000 persons displaced by post-election violence, 1.5 million primary school students in drought-affected areas, and 2 million rural HIV/AIDS patients as food insecure countrywide and in need of humanitarian assistance.

On October 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger renewed the disaster declaration for food insecurity in Kenya for FY 2010. In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$243 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Kenya, including more than \$24 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, health, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, as well as local procurement and distribution of food.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Population in Need of Emergency Food Assistance until February 2010	3.8 million	KFSSG – August 2009
Refugees in Kenya	380,317	UNHCR ² – October 2009

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/FFP³ Assistance to Kenya\$50,000,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Kenya\$50,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

In September and October, ongoing drought continued to contribute to food insecurity throughout Kenya, while localized districts in western Kenya experienced increased rainfall due to the start of the October to December short rains. As a result of an El Niño weather phenomenon, the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) has projected above-normal October to December rains and extension of the short rainy season into January 2010 in most areas of the country. While humanitarian agencies anticipate

enhanced rains to result in improvements in agriculture and food security in drought-affected areas, heavy rains would also likely result in flooding, reduced humanitarian access, increased incidence of waterborne disease, and increased mortality among weak animals. Under the most-likely scenario, GoK officials and humanitarian agencies expect heavy rains to affect 750,000 people in the coming months, including refugees in the Dadaab complex in North Eastern Province.

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

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

Although food insecurity has occurred in the context of intensifying drought, relief agencies note that heightened food prices, depletion of household resources, and conflict have exacerbated conditions. As a result, above-normal short rains are unlikely to result in rapid or long-term improvements in food security, as consecutive seasons of successful rains will be required for affected populations to recover. Accordingly, FEWS NET predicts the October to January main maize harvest to generate moderate, short-term improvements in food security in early 2010, followed by declines in April 2010.

USAID/OFDA continues to monitor humanitarian conditions, conduct assessments in drought-affected areas, and coordinate with partners to prioritize critical assistance programs for affected populations. As the current rainy season progresses, USAID/OFDA staff will continue to liaise with implementing partners to facilitate rapid response to potential floods.

El Niño Weather Conditions

During September, KMD reported heavy rains in western Kenya, particularly in Kisumu and Nyando districts in Nyanza Province. Floods in Nyanza Province associated with short rains typically occur annually. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), heavy rains resulted in flash floods in the two districts, killing 3 people, affecting 14,000 others, and damaging or destroying approximately 400 houses. Floods also contaminated water sources and food reserves, damaged crops, and disrupted economic activities. To date, the GoK, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), and U.N. partners have provided food aid, conducted de-silting activities, and provided health kits to flood-affected populations.

As the rainy season progresses, KMD expects above-average rainfall performance in the North Eastern, Coast, Western, Nyanza, and central Rift Valley provinces and normal rainfall in the remaining areas of Rift Valley, Central, and Eastern provinces. In addition to resulting in flooding, reduced access, and increased incidence of disease and mortality among weak animals, FEWS NET notes that continued rains during the normal harvest period in November and December could disrupt crop drying procedures and result in crop damage in some areas.

Prior to the onset of rains, GoK ministries, donors, and relief agencies held contingency planning meetings to mitigate the effects of and prepare for potential flooding, displacement, disease outbreaks, and access disruptions. To date, relief agencies have pre-positioned nutrition and medical supplies, emergency relief supply kits, food rations, and water storage tanks in potentially affected areas. In addition, USAID/OFDA partners have conducted hygiene training, distributed water purification and treatment

tablets, and implemented terrace and drainage projects in areas of operation.

Agriculture and Food Security

Despite the onset of rains in western Kenya, FEWS NET reports intensifying food insecurity in most areas of the country due to persisting drought conditions. Due to previous insufficient rainfall, FEWS NET anticipates a 2009 long rains maize harvest of 1.9 million metric tons (MT), approximately 25 percent below the four-year average. FEWS NET notes that the long rains maize harvest, typically occurring from October to January, represents more than 50 percent of annual national maize production. Combined with an estimated short rains harvest of 540,000 MT, FEWS NET projects domestic crop production through June 2010 at approximately 2.4 million MT, significantly below the national annual demand of 3.2 million MT.

In addition, FEWS NET notes that limited availability of farm inputs and depletion of household resources could negatively affect agricultural production during the short rains. According to FEWS NET, a significant proportion of farmers in drought-affected agricultural areas have already consumed seed stocks or lack capital to purchase agricultural inputs, hampering land preparation for the growing season. As a result, the GoK recently commenced initiatives to subsidize fertilizer and provide seeds to vulnerable farmers.

In pastoral areas, FEWS NET notes increased incidence of livestock diseases due to livestock migration, including reports of increased cases of Contagious Caprine and Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia in Garissa and Wajir districts, North Eastern Province, and Narok, Samburu, Kajiado, and West Pokot districts, Rift Valley Province. According to FEWS NET, declines in livestock health and body conditions have contributed to decreased livestock value, resulting in deteriorating terms of trade for pastoral and agro-pastoral populations.

Despite recent decreases in maize prices in agricultural areas, FEWS NET reports maize prices 93 to 160 percent above normal levels and cattle prices 13 to 37 percent below the five-year average in most pastoral districts. Due to unmet national demand for maize, FEWS NET anticipates only moderate decreases in maize prices during the upcoming harvest season.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$17 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems programs in Kenya, including interventions in pastoral areas intended to safeguard livelihood assets. USAID/OFDA funding includes \$15 million provided to a five-member non-governmental organization (NGO) consortium as part of a Horn Food Price Crisis Regional Strategy, designed to strengthen livelihood opportunities, protect and diversify household assets,

and increase agricultural productivity among more than 663,000 vulnerable pastoralists and farmers.

Insecurity and Population Movements

Inter-ethnic and resource-related conflict continues to exacerbate the impacts of drought, disease, and high cereal prices in Kenya, particularly in West Pokot and Turkana districts, Rift Valley Province, and Isiolo District, Eastern Province. According to OCHA, resource-related conflicts have resulted in the death of 323 people between January and September, an increase of 57 deaths since August. Ongoing conflict has also increasingly hampered relief and recovery efforts in drought-affected areas, causing at least one NGO to temporarily suspend food aid distributions in Isiolo District in mid-August.

In addition to inter-ethnic conflict, relief agencies report increased cattle rustling to replenish depleted livestock. Since January 2009, cattle rustling incidents have killed more than 300 pastoralists, displaced an unknown number of individuals, led to humanitarian access limitations, resulted in depleted livestock assets, and disrupted the local economy, according to OCHA. During September, FEWS NET reported that cattle raids in Samburu and Isiolo districts killed approximately 10 pastoralists and led to the seizure of more than 1,000 livestock.

Ongoing conflict in Somalia also continues to contribute to refugee movements to Kenya. As of October 4, UNHCR reported that more than 380,000 refugees had sought shelter in Kenya, with approximately 76 percent of displaced individuals residing at the Dadaab refugee complex in North Eastern Province. On October 13, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported the completion of the joint UNHCR and IOM relocation operation of more than 13,000 Somalis from Dadaab to Kakuma camp in northwest Kenya to ease crowded camp conditions. Despite the relocations, IOM reports that the population of Dadaab remains virtually unchanged. Humanitarian agencies have expressed concern regarding possible floods in the camps in the coming months during the short rains. Intended to accommodate 90,000 people, the camp complex currently hosts more than 288,000 individuals.

In FY 2009, State/PRM provided nearly \$27 million in funding to UNHCR and NGO partners for humanitarian interventions throughout Kenya, including the provision of health care and other assistance in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.

Health and Nutrition

Humanitarian agencies continue to report concerns regarding heightened malnutrition rates throughout Kenya due to lack of access to sufficient food. While malnutrition rates typically increase during the peak of the dry season in August, FEWS NET noted

malnutrition rates significantly higher than seasonal averages. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the number of acutely malnourished children under the age of five increased by an estimated 168 percent between January and September, with approximately 281,000 children currently classified as acutely malnourished. Exacerbating the situation, KRCS reports limited milk availability due to increased livestock migration and deteriorating livestock body conditions.

Ongoing population movements and limited health care system capacity also continue to contribute to disease outbreaks throughout Kenya, including the re-emergence of polio following approximately 25 years of containment. According to UNICEF, health agencies recorded 18 wild polio cases between January and mid-September. To date, UNICEF has supported the GoK to implement at least five rounds of polio vaccination campaigns in affected areas.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.3 million to support nutrition activities in Kenya. USAID/OFDA-supported nutrition interventions include the provision of \$2 million to UNICEF to expand nutrition support capacity, particularly in the most-affected arid and semi-arid lands.

Emergency Food Assistance

To support the increased number of people requiring emergency food assistance, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) plans to distribute 50,000 MT of food aid to 3.8 million beneficiaries per month from October to December. Previously, WFP provided 30,000 MT to 2.6 million beneficiaries per month. However, WFP notes the need for additional funding contributions to support the increased caseload and prevent shortfalls in the food pipeline.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has contributed 26,250 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$25 million, through WFP for drought-affected populations. USAID/FFP has also provided nearly \$25 million in food aid to WFP for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in North Eastern and Rift Valley provinces, respectively. In FY 2009, USDA provided \$9 million for WFP school feeding programs and nutritional education support for mothers in Nairobi and surrounding areas.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Successive seasons of poor or failed rains have contributed to significant declines in water availability throughout Kenya, as well as water rationing in urban areas. According to FEWS NET, farmers and pastoralists are traveling significantly farther for water in recent months due to water source depletion. In late September, FEWS NET reported water trekking distances of up to 40 km for large animals in pastoral areas compared to 10 to 15 km during normal seasons.

As water sources in drought-affected areas diminish, the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) has reported an increased reliance on boreholes for access to water for livestock and domestic use, straining limited borehole capacity. According to ALRMP, communities currently operate boreholes for 18 to 24 hours per day, compared to the usual eight hours per day, leading to frequent breakdowns and limited water availability.

Poor access to water and limited sanitation facilities have also contributed to increased incidence of waterborne diseases, particularly cholera, in drought-affected areas. Between January and mid-September, UNICEF recorded 4,316 confirmed cholera cases with

102 deaths in 33 districts in Kenya. While health partners had controlled the disease in 31 out of 33 of the districts by the end of August, humanitarian agencies reported a reemergence of cholera in Turkana District, Rift Valley Province, in mid-September. As of late September, KRCS had confirmed six cholera-related deaths and 73 suspected cholera admissions to eastern Turkana District hospitals.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.8 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in Eastern, North Eastern, Western, and Rift Valley provinces, including programs designed to increase access to safe drinking water and strengthen drought coping mechanisms in Turkana District.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

FY 2010 Assistance			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location / Province</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE¹			
WFP	53,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$50,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$50,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2010			\$50,000,000

¹ USAID/FFP funding represents actual value of food assistance as of October 19, 2009.