

ChildFund International Humanitarian Situation Report

Humanitarian Situation Report [05]
**[Desert Locust Invasion Emergency Response in Marsabit, Kitui, Samburu, Baringo
Turkan and Isiolo Counties – Kenya]**
[July 2020]
[Issa Kipera, Program and Sponsorship Director, IKipera@childfund.org]
[June-July 2020]

1. The Overall Situation

According Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) July 2020 Desert Locust situation update in Kenya, locust swarms have declined in the northwest, mainly in Marsabit county, but continue to be present in Turkana where aerial and ground control operations are in progress. Most of these swarms are still expected to migrate northwards to Ethiopia and Sudan via South Sudan. There is a risk that a few swarms may cross the border into northeast Uganda. The scale of the migration of remaining swarms from Kenya is likely to be smaller than previously anticipated due to control operations. The current situation remains volatile, with the possible cross-border movements of immature swarms between counties, this could course upsurge in other counties that have contained the situation. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has stated that with the onset of long rainy season in parts of Samburu East and Marsabit Counties, this may create a conducive condition for an increase in locust swarms. National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Early Warning Bulletin indicates that the locust invasion is projected to cause significant damage to forage and crops in Turkana, Marsabit and Samburu counties. Further, the disruption of market operations due to the COVID 19 pandemic is likely to negatively affect food supply and livestock prices which might lead to the deterioration of the food security situation in most ASAL counties.

Marsabit County – Currently various interventions are ongoing in the county including ground and aerial control sprays operations against hopper bands. In Loyiangelani, Marsabit County, the reported presence of new swarms forming could negatively impact on food security and livelihoods as it coincides with the beginning of planting season. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it is projected that the onset of long rains could also lead to a dramatic increase in desert locust invasion as it will allow the new swarms to mature and continue laying eggs into the next generation.

Samburu County – Due to the impact of invasion of desert locusts on the pastures and rangelands, there is a threat of conflicts arising over limited grazing fields among pastoralist communities, for example in Samburu East Sub-County, the locusts have caused significant damage in grazing fields within pastoral regions.

Isiolo County - There has been no reports of new locust infestation currently following the previous reports on the breeding in Oldonyiro ward where scattered adults and hopper groups were reported. There was no intervention in July, however the previous

interventions by the government and partner led to reduction of the invasion by the locust these includes a series of aerial spraying from National government in partnership with FAO.

Turkana County – The infestation has not been completely contained, immature swarms are present in larger parts of Turkana County (majorly in Loima, Turkana North, Turkana Central & Turkana South Sub-Counties) where aerial control operations continue. According FAO, one swarm crossed into adjacent areas of northeast Uganda near Moroto where it was controlled by aerial spraying on 10 July 2020.

Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet – During the month of July, there has been no desert locust movement reported. The counties are currently experiencing light evening rains. Surveillance on breeding patterns and movement of locust in Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo County was conducted.

Interventions by other stakeholders (National and County Governments, FAO etc.)

The National Government Control Unit has not been able to manage the situation due to the limited resources available and the infestation rate and scale in the face of multiple disasters including COVID 19, drought, floods and conflicts in some counties, this has caused a strain in the response. However, both the National and County Government Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation have ongoing and planned response interventions in various counties includes; provision of farm inputs, ground and aerial spray of desert locust, livestock vaccination, pasture establishment and conservation, stockpiling of county strategic hay reserves, rainwater harvesting, ground surveillance, impact assessments and community household sensitization on treatment of drinking water. Some NGOs have also provided logistical and ground surveillance assistance in Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. Further other development partners have planned response in some counties including Marsabit, Turkana and Samburu. These partners are FAO, World Vision, Pastoralists Community Initiative and Development Assistance, Caritas, Kenya Red Cross, AMREF, World Food Program, Food for the Hungry and Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). These are mainly emergency livelihoods and health interventions with focus on food security and response to COVID 19 pandemic, however, the level of humanitarian response remains low.

2. The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works and interventions by ChildFund Kenya Through the Local Partners i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc.

In response to desert locust invasion in Turkana, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit, ChildFund Kenya has carried out and planned a number of interventions through the local partners (LPs) that are intended to save life and preserve the dignity of the most at risk families especially those with children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers and older persons. These interventions targeted the most deprived, excluded, and vulnerable members of the community especially from sponsored children. The local partner, Nawiri

CDP, took the task of distribution of food items and non-food items to selected number of beneficiaries.

In Samburu East, Isiolo central and Marsabit county, Nawiri, a Local Partner of ChildFund Kenya has continued to support vulnerable families with cash transfer programme to enable them access food. These are families who have been affected by recent drought, desert locust invasion and floods in addition to the increasing food prices and loss of jobs in the current COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 1,200 caregivers were reached with the cash transfer programme with each household receiving 1,500 Kenya Shillings through its subsidy kitty. Further, awareness campaigns on COVID-19 through its champions (Sponsor Relation Volunteers) has continued in the target areas.



Nawiri is currently implementing a livelihoods recovery programme targeting farmers and pastoralist households. The support includes provision of livestock feed (Hay), agricultural inputs (Seeds) and cash transfers to cushion families from effects of locust invasion.

Beneficiaries reached for Marsabit and Isiolo with the interventions of Cash Transfer

Category	Female	Male	Total
Children	2,470	2,021	4,491
Households	941	259	1,200

Beneficiaries reached in Samburu County with the interventions i.e. cash transfers (Planned), food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc. please specify

Category	Female	Male	Total
Children	558	537	1,095
Youth	206	214	420
PLWs	195	105	300

In Turkana County, awareness creation/sensitization was done by Frontiers, County Government, and other stakeholders. The Local Partner also supported 280 Households affected by providing them with foodstuffs, staff training on desert locust. Through support from ChildFund Kenya, the LP has planned to carry out cash transfers, distribution of certified seeds to farmers and hay to the pastoralists affected to the affected families with children below 5 years of age (Life Stage 1)

Beneficiaries reached in Turkana County with the interventions i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc. please specify

Category	Female	Male	Total
Children	2,111	2,120	4,231
Youth	7,818	7,602	15,420
PLWs	420	0	420
Farmers	30,844	28,471	59,315

Baringo county is currently planning response interventions targeting Baringo central and Baringo South Sub-Counties. The Central Rift CDP has already identified 284 vulnerable households with children to benefit from cash transfer. Further, the beneficiaries to be supported with farm inputs-seeds, including maize, sorghum, beans, and hay have been identified. These activities are supported by DLI Korean Grant

Summary of Beneficiaries Reached and Targeted

Category	Children		Youths		PLWs		Farmers		Pastoralists	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Reached	5,139	4,678	8,024	7,816	615	105	30,844	28,471	0	0
Sub-Total	9,817		15,840		720		59,315		0	
Total	85,692									

Challenges

- An early warning system is not yet in place, yet early detection and early action are critical in locust management in the outbreak phase before they can hatch and form into swarms since once this happens, they are very mobile and difficult to control. An early warning system is also essential in the coordinating intervention efforts to prevent locust upsurges and the formation of large swarms. Use of better surveillance technology will help to monitor and forecast potential outbreaks, infestations tracked and managed effectively.
- The COVID 19 pandemic continues to negatively affect household and will potentially worsen the food security situation in most ASAL counties. Vulnerable and marginalized families with infants and young children continue to suffer significant damage to their livelihood assets coupled with the current disruption of markets due to COVID-19.
- Trigger of other risks in the pastoral counties including conflicts over limited pasture and grazing land – there has been significant destruction of pasture by the locust, this poses a challenge for the herders as it may cause movement from one place to another and may pass territories in search of pasture, with inherent risk of communal conflict over pasture or grazing land.
- Some counties like Samburu have experienced floods that has led to displacement of people and loss of properties and further complicates the response. While in Turkana the vastness, remoteness and poor infrastructure and made access difficult.

**Below Sections for Internal Use Only
Sponsorship and Grants**

Sponsorship Area	Sponsored Children
Samburu	4,204
Marsabit	2,435
Kitui	1,921
Baringo	2,084
Isiolo	630
Turkana	997

County	Active Grant	Donor	Primary Implementer
Samburu	DLI Response	ChildFund Korea	ChildFund Kenya
Marsabit	Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and DLI Response	ChildFund Korea	ChildFund Kenya
Kitui	None		
Baringo	DLI Response	ChildFund Korea	ChildFund Kenya
Isiolo	None		
Turkana	DLI Response	ChildFund Korea	ChildFund Kenya

DLI Funding

Donor	Amount USD	Status
Barnfonden	10,000	Implementation
ChildFund International	5,000	"
ChildFund New Zealand	9,000	
ChildFund Korea	100,000	Implementation ongoing
UNFPA*		
FAO**		
OFDA**		

*Under the partnership signed with UNFPA-it has agreed to provide dignity kits to HHs receiving support from ChildFund

**Have been approached to cultivate potential funding opportunity pending response

Partnership and Networking

In the DLI emergency response, the CO has been working in partnership and collaboration

- **NDMA County Drought Coordinators**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock**
- **FAO**
- **WFP**
- **IGAD**
- **RDLA**

Media/Communications

- Plans for collecting photos/videos/stories, i.e. should an outside photographer be hired?

Normally when implementing such emergency grants, the officers in the field are provided with HD cameras for collecting quality photos and videos and providing success stories from beneficiaries who have benefitted and become resilient out of the intervention. The donor at times can arrange for the outside media services to collect videos and stories in the form of documentary meant for visibility and fund raising.

- Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host government sensibilities that must be considered.

Being guided by humanitarian principles and measures, the information for visibility either by print or broadcast media must meet the threshold of the standards that govern it either internationally or locally.

Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote.

The Country Office will need the support to raise funds for the locust invasion response to safeguard livelihoods of those affected.

Photos



Desert Locust invading a maize farm in Samburu



Locust invasion in Turkana County