

ChildFund International Humanitarian Situation Report

**Humanitarian Situation Report [06]
[Desert Locust Invasion Emergency Response in Marsabit, Kitui, Samburu, Baringo
Turkan and Isiolo Counties – Kenya]
[Aug 2020]
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1. The Overall Situation

Currently, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other partners are fighting the second generation of Desert Locusts. There is significant progress made in several countries, especially in Kenya, where only two of the 29 counties that were infested in February have Desert Locusts today. It is projected that this could soon drop to one county, and this should lead to Kenya being free of large-scale infestations altogether. That is a success but the threat of possible re-infestation towards the end of the year will call for careful and continued surveillance. In East Africa, there has been a lot of progress in the entire region, where expertise was very low at the beginning. Some of the affected countries had not seen Desert Locusts for decades - in the case of Kenya it was 70 years. However, there is still a need to build up monitoring and response capacity across the region, to be ready if a renewed upsurge occurs.

A few spring-bred swarms persist in parts of Turkana and Samburu counties in the north of Kenya as the cool temperature and local winds are hampering northern migration, this has given a chance for continued aerial control operations since there is low probability that the swarm migration from North West Kenya to Sudan as had been anticipated. The major challenge has been the high mobility of Desert Locusts which requires a very agile operation to follow the swarms and the juvenile locusts. With swarms that can move up to 150 kilometres per day, this requires all the assets, pesticides, planes, helicopters, fuel, plus the teams on the ground doing scouting and surveillance, to be moved accordingly. Further, the Desert Locusts have been moving to very remote areas, where they spread out to a huge territory, thus requiring more ground and air for surveillance capacity. One of the biggest challenges is thus the areas where the locusts have moved to which are hard to reach and have little infrastructure and few people on the ground.

Marsabit and Isiolo Counties: Aridity and desert-like conditions within Marsabit and Isiolo Counties set a fertile breeding ground for desert locusts. They have been wreaking havoc on pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods since February 2020. Currently, there has been no major incidences of reported swarms still ravaging crops and pasture in the area. The impact of the infestation on food security and livelihood in the region is of great concern to the government and other actors. The communities and especially the poor and vulnerable are directly affected and the priority at present are to help them recover from this crisis.

According to FAO in **Samburu County**, there is limited presence of swarms currently, with limited reports on the Desert locust that were sited during the reporting period. The county remains volatile based on conflicts, which is attributed to the impact of invasion of desert locusts on the pastures and rangelands. In re-emergence of swarms is a threat in triggering more conflicts over limited grazing fields among pastoralist communities, potentially leading to worsening the current emergency, where children are the most affected. For example, in Samburu East the locusts have caused significant damage in grazing fields within pastoral regions and livestock have moved far longing for pasture and living children at home without milk.

In **Turkana County** the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has stated that the onset of long rains season in most parts of the County could potentially allow an upsurge in locust swarms invasion if control measures are relaxed. While several control interventions are ongoing involving ground and aerial control sprays, the onset of rains will allow the new swarms to mature and continue laying eggs into the next generation. The warning by Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) indicates that the swarms may increase if successive generations are left unchecked. This will pose food insecurity to the local community in Turkana County.

Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet counties – the Locust swarms have declined, mainly in Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, but continue to be present. However, aerial and ground control operations are in progress. Reports by the Baringo County Government indicates that most of these swarms have migrated to Turkana. There is a risk that a few swarms may cross the border into Baringo. The scale of the migration of remaining swarms is likely to be smaller than previously anticipated due to ongoing control operations. No locust movement has been seen during the Month of August 2020.

Interventions by other stake holders (National and County Governments, FAO etc.)
National Government, FAO, other partners

In Marsabit County, with funding from the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid – (ECHO), the Kenya Cash Consortium led by ACTED , and joined by partners Concern Worldwide and PACIDA, Kenya, remain committed to deliver emergency assistance to vulnerable and affected communities. The Consortium is working together to deliver multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable families affected by the desert locust infestation, aiming to support households in their recovery, improve food security levels, and ensure access to basic household needs.

In Isiolo County, the National Government, Plant Protection Services Directorate (PPSD) and other partners have jointly developed a structure to coordinate the control of the desert locust. Additionally, FAO has partnered with the National government to equip locust control bases hosted by the Isiolo County Government at Isiolo Agricultural Training Center and operating from the Isiolo International Airport and Lewa Conservancy.

Samburu county government on its part has continued to conduct aerial surveillance of the desert locust migration patterns with aerial and ground spraying being done in Samburu east sub-county and supporting of affected families with relief food. National government and FAO also participated in the surveillance and Spraying of located sites by locust nymphs

Turkana County has had various government departments responding to DLI since February 2020 with support of national government and FAO. The departments involved included the Department of Agriculture which has provided farm inputs and ground and aerial spraying. Animal disease control interventions, pasture establishment and conservation as well as stockpiling of county strategic hay reserves are undertaken by the Department of Livestock/Veterinary. The Department of Water on its part is leading in the promotion of rainwater harvesting and sensitization on hygiene and sanitation.

In Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, 30 locust scouts were trained by County Government through the support of World Vision as locust county surveillance team. There is surveillance on breeding pattern and movement of locust and the County Government in collaboration with World Vision trained 24 farmer groups for surveillance and reporting. Further, the National Government did aerial spraying in Tiaty area, Baringo County. For effective sharing of information, the County Government created Whatsup group to share information.

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

ChildFund Kenya and its Local Partners are supporting affected households to recover from the effects of DLI, improve their food security and ensure access to basic household needs. Nawiri Child Development Program has distributed 320 Kgs of maize seeds, 320 Kgs of Sorghum, 160 Kgs of beans and 500 pieces of hay bales targeting 100 Pastoralists mostly affected by the locust invasion in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. Additionally, 568 households have also been supported through cash transfers twice, covering for the month of July and August 2020. The total values were USD 5,166 for the farm inputs distributed to farmers and a cumulative amount of USD 17,358.08 transferred to the 586 targeted households in the two counties.

In response to desert locust invasion in Samburu county, ChildFund Kenya through local partner Samburu Children Programme (SCP) has distributed certified seeds (Sorghum, maize and beans) worth USD 1,208 to 160 farmers, distribution of Hay (Livestock feed) worth USD 1,375 was done to 40 pastoralists and 284 households received a total cash transfers of USD 8,679.04.

In Turkana, Frontiers Children Development Organization has supported 497 vulnerable households affected with desert locust invasion in Loima, Turkana South, Turkana central and Turkana North Sub-Counties with farm inputs worth USD 2,614.78 and cash transfers amounting to USD 8,679.04 to cushion them from the impact of the DLI. Additionally, in the

efforts of responding to Covid-19 pandemic Frontiers has continued conducting awareness campaigns on COVID-19 and support hygiene education promotion including distribution of hand washing components, provision of hand sanitizers and soap to vulnerable members of the community.

Isiolo and Marsabit (Nawiri)

Annex 1: Beneficiaries reached (for completed interventions) i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc. please specify

The beneficiaries reached in the month with the emergency response intervention by the LP under the Desert Locust Invasion project are 568 households for cash transfers for both Isiolo and Marsabit county, provision of seeds (Maize, Beans and Sorghum) for 320 farmers and 500 bales of hay to 90 pastoralists from both counties Nawiri Child Development Programme is working with.

Category	Female	Male	Total	Type of Intervention
Households	428	140	568	Cash transfer (July & August 2020-DLI)
Farmers	250	70	320	Farmers supported with farm seedlings
Pastoralists	22	68	90	Distributed Hay for Isiolo & Marsabit
Total	700	278	978	

Samburu County

Annex 2: Beneficiaries reached (for completed interventions) i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc. please specify

Category	Female	Male	Total	Type of Intervention
Children	72	90	162	Cash transfers
Youth	42	50	92	Cash Transfers
PLWs	30	0	30	Cash transfers
Farmers	80	80	160	Seeds
Pastoralists	20	20	40	Hay(pastures)
Total	244	240	484	

In Turkana County, through Frontiers Children Development Program, a local partner, ChildFund and ChildFund Korea supported 163 farmers with farm inputs, 50 pastoralists with bales of hay and 284 households through cash transfers. The seeds consisted of maize and beans.

Turkana County

Annex 3: Beneficiaries targeted (for ongoing and planned interventions) i.e cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc please specify

Category	Female	Male	Total	Type of Intervention
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Farmers	79	84	163	Farm inputs
Pastoralists	28	22	50	Hay
Households	202	82	284	Cash Transfers
Total	309	188	497	

In Baringo County, the local partner, Central Rift CDP, identified 284 households with enrolled children who received cash transfer worth USD USD 8,679.04. to enable them procure food commodities, distributed farm inputs worth USD 624 to 160 beneficiaries including maize, sorghum and beans and Livestock fodder (250 bales of hay) worth USD 1,250 to 50 pastoralist beneficiaries. A total of 200 farmers were also trained on crop husbandry by the County Government Agriculture/Livestock officer through the facilitation of the DLI project. Cumulatively a total of 494 beneficiaries were reached (210 with farm inputs and hay and 284 reached with cash transfer).

The partner has currently identified 17 school going children to benefit from solar radios with at least two reading lights to enable them access learning through the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. The procurement of the same is at an advanced stage while additional 50 pastoralist will receive another 5 bales of hay each to supplement for their livestock feeds.

Baringo County

Annex 4: Beneficiaries targeted (for ongoing and planned interventions) i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc. please specify

Category	Female	Male	Total	Type of Intervention	Status
Farmers	99	61	160	Farm inputs,	Completed
Pastoralists	23	27	50	Farm inputs/Hay,	Completed
PLWs/Caregivers/Youth	196	88	284	Cash transfer	On-going
Total	318	176	494		

Challenges

- The current floods in Baringo County has also destroyed more field crops posing additional risks to vulnerable households who are already exposed locust infestation.
- Lost livestock pasture and homesteads due to floods has complicated the situation further in Baringo due to the expansion of Lake Baringo and Bogoria.
- Insecurity in some areas of Samburu North has affected the response due resource-based conflicts in Samburu east
- Emergence of Livestock diseases that is new in the area (Lumpy skin disease and foot and mouth disease) in Samburu central

- The threat of COVID-19 pandemic has affected the rate of response by most partners due to the observance of the laid-out protocols.
- Vulnerable and deprived families with children continue to suffer significant damage
- Possible escalation of food insecurity in the affected, the resultant impact of the locust invasion of crops in the farms will be reduction on the production in areas adversely affected thereby exacerbating vulnerability.

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	Implemented
ChildFund International	5,000	"
ChildFund New Zealand	9,000	Ongoing
ChildFund Korea	100,000	Implementation ongoing
UNFPA*		Not yet

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

Media/Communications

- NDMA County Drought Coordinators
- Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- FAO
- WFP
- IGAD

➤ RDLA

- 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



Pastoralists in Perkerra and Ngambo respectively receiving bales of Hay in Baringo County



Farmers receiving farm seeds in Saku, Marsabit County, and Rabal a beneficiary in Leroki zone in Samburu County