

## ChildFund International Humanitarian Situation Report

**Humanitarian Situation Report [07]  
[Desert Locust Invasion Emergency Response in Marsabit, Kitui, Samburu, Baringo  
Turkan and Isiolo Counties – Kenya]  
[Sept 2020]  
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[Sept 2020]**

### **1. The Overall Situation**

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), September 2020 Desert locust briefs, in East Africa, only a few immature swarms remain in northwest Kenya a few residual immature swarms persist in Samburu county where aerial control operations continue. A small third generation of breeding is likely to commence in October but may be limited by below-normal Short Rains that are predicted for this year. Significant progress has been made in controlling the spread and breeding of locust due to the effort by the Government, FAO and other actors. Currently out of the initial 30 counties affected in Kenya, only 2 counties; Samburu and Turkana currently have locust presence. However, as the northerly winds over the Horn of Africa become established in the coming weeks over northern Somalia and progressively move southwards during November, immature swarms in northeast Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and southern Yemen are expected to migrate southwards to the Ogaden in eastern Ethiopia and adjacent areas of central Somalia where they could eventually threaten and reach northern Kenya from November onwards.

ChildFund Kenya and its partners continued with the response during the month by supporting the affected families in five counties of Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Turkana and Baringo. The supported included monthly cash transfers, distribution of emergency farm inputs and provision of livestock feed (hay) and provision of solar powered radios to families and learners.

**Marsabit and Isiolo Counties:** According to FAO, the locust has been controlled in these counties, however community continue to report low numbers of immature swarms in Marsabit and Isiolo Counties. This should not be ignored even with the gradual improvement through recovery efforts, the assistance is still needed in the counties, where the vast majority of people depend on livestock and agriculture for their livelihoods as the crops and grazing lands having been adversely affected by the locust.

**Samburu county:** there is reports of residual immature swarms in Samburu county. FAO carried out environmental and health impact assessment of the chemical spray of Desert locus in 5 sites in the county, it was found out that in one site where SOPs was not fully respected and awareness not adequate and the recommendation was that there is need for further training of storekeepers during handling. On the other 4 sites no significant effect of treatments on the environment was reported. The Samburu County government

has reported the possibility of new swarms moving into the country from Somalia and need for the control momentum to continue.

**In Turkana County**, 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.

Environmental and health impact assessment of the desert locust chemical spray conducted by FAO in 8 sites indicated that no significant effect of treatments on the environment with no health issue reported. However, there is need to assess livestock feeding on pasture with Desert Locust presence (presence of E. Coli in fecal pellets) to verify the possibility of effect.

**Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet counties** – in the two counties, the Desert Locust situation has improved with no locust movement seen during the Month of September 2020. There has not been new migration of new swarms across the border into counties, with the scale of any migration likely to be smaller than previously anticipated due to ongoing control operations. One swarm was treated with biopesticide in Baringo county.

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

In **Marsabit and Isiolo Counties** with funding from a private donor, Catholic Relief Services in September supported and continue to support the county governments on a number of recovery activities that included providing drought tolerant seeds to farmers, rehabilitating rangelands by managing invasive species of plants, reseeding grazing lands, cash-for-work activities to support livelihoods, and continued surveillance of desert and tree locusts through Caritas of catholic Diocese. Other actors include the Kenya Cash Consortium led by ACTED , and joined by partners like Concern Worldwide and PACIDA. 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.

**Samburu county** government 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. FAO also facilitated the environmental impact assessment of the DL control measures in 5 sites in the county.

**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, the county governments continued with the control operations and surveillance of immature swarms for any incidence of breeding and movement of locust. The farmer groups trained by the County Government in collaboration with World Vision continue to carry out surveillance and reporting including sharing of information, the County Government created WhatsApp 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. During the month ChildFund Kenya with the funding from ChildFund Korea supported the affected families in the 5 counties; 1,420 enrolled families received monthly cash transfer of about \$15 each to purchase food and other household basic needs with cumulative cash transfer of \$20,988, a total of 320 farmers received emergency farm inputs worth USD 2,228 consisting of 320kgs sorghum, 320kgs maize seeds, and 160kgs bean seeds. Livestock feeds (hay) worth \$2,940 was distributed to 150 pastoralist families in Marsabit, Isiolo and Samburu with each receiving 5 bales to feed their livestock. The distribution of solar powered radios worth \$6,600 is ongoing in the five counties with a total of 220 households targeted.

In **Marsabit and Isiolo counties**, the rapid Social economic assessment conducted by Marsabit Caritas revealed that the locust infestation occurred at a time when most of the crops (79%) were still in the field with majority of respondents reporting either decreasing or failed crop yield. Information from Key Informants (KIs) also indicated that availability of pasture has also been quite depressed compared to a normal year causing livestock to migrate to areas that is atypical to the normal migration pattern of livestock. ChildFund through Nawiri supported a total of 1,090 households consisting of 320 farmers who received farm inputs (sorghum, maize, and bean seeds) for planting during the short rains season that starts in September, 568 families were support with cash transfer worth \$14.78 each to purchase food and other household basic needs, 100 pastoralist households received each 5 bales of hay for their livestock, 10 families provided with mobile phones and another 92 households in the two counties to be reached with solar radios.

In **Turkana county**, 284 households received monthly cash transfers of about \$15 per household and another 72 households to be reached with solar powered radios with the distribution ongoing.

In **Samburu county**, a total of 375 families were reached, 284 received Cash transfer while 210 bales of hay were distributed to 50 pastoralists families. Distribution of Solar radios is ongoing in the county targeting 41 households.

In **Baringo County**, 284 caregivers received monthly cash transfers and like in other counties, distribution of solar powered radios is ongoing targeting 15 households.

### Isiolo and Marsabit

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

The beneficiaries reached in September with the emergency response intervention by the LP under the Desert Locust Invasion project are 568 households for cash transfers in both Isiolo and Marsabit county, provision of seeds (Maize, Beans and Sorghum) for 320 farmers and 500 bales of hay to 100 pastoralists and 10 families provided with mobile phones from both counties. Distribution of solar radios to 92 households is currently ongoing.

Category	Female	Male	Total	Intervention	Status
Households	428	140	568	Cash transfer	completed
Farmers	250	70	320	Farm inputs (seeds)	completed
Pastoralists	30	70	100	Hay	completed
Families	7	3	10	Mobile phones	completed
Households			92	Solar Radios	ongoing
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,090</b>		

### Samburu County

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

In the county, a total of 334 families were reached; 284 received cash transfer while 210 bales of hay were distributed to 50 pastoralists families. Distribution of Solar radios is ongoing in the county targeting 41 households.

Category	Female	Male	Total	Intervention	Status
Households	144	140	284	Cash transfers	Completed
Pastoralists	25	25	50	Hay(pastures)	completed
Households			41	Solar radios	Ongoing
<b>Total</b>			<b>375</b>		

### Turkana County

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

A total of 284 households were received with monthly cash transfers during the month while another 72 household to be reached with solar powered radios of which distribution is ongoing.

Category	Female	Male	Total	Type of Intervention	Status
Households	202	82	284	Cash Transfers	completed
Households			72	Solar radios	ongoing
<b>Total</b>			<b>356</b>		

### Baringo County

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

A total of 354 families reached and targeted in the county with 284 caregivers receiving monthly cash transfers, 5 families provided with mobile phones and distribution of solar powered radios is ongoing targeting 15 households.

Category	Female	Male	Total	Type of Intervention	Status
Households	196	88	284	Cash transfer	Completed
Pastoralists	23	27	50	Farm inputs/Hay	Completed
Farmers	4	1	5	Mobile phones	Completed
Pupils			15	Solar Radio	On going
<b>Total</b>			<b>354</b>		

### Challenges

- The current flooding situation in Baringo County has also destroyed more field crops posing additional risks to vulnerable households who are already exposed to desert locust infestation.
- Lost livestock pasture and homesteads due to flooding has complicated the situation further in Baringo due to the expansion of Lakes Baringo and Bogoria.
- Insecurity in some areas of Samburu North has affected the response due resource-based conflicts in Samburu east, this has also expanded to Marsabit County.
- Insufficient resources for response especially in sustaining the monthly provision of a full food ration to affected population
- Planting season for Sorghum is not favorable at the moment and may be delayed, this will affect the access to food in the medium term.
- The threat of COVID-19 pandemic has affected the rate of response by most partners due to the observance of the laid-out containment protocols.
- Vulnerable and deprived families with children continue to suffer significant damage

- Possible escalation of food insecurity in the affected areas; the resultant impact of the locust invasion on 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**



*Locust invading farms in Kasilangwa.*



*New breed of Locusts*



*Distribution photos of Hay for 10 Pastoralists at Maikona – Marsabit Count*



*Beneficiary of farm inputs, Andrew Chepsom (Centre) in his beans farm and right; Simon Wendot in his maize farm*