

**ChildFund International  
Humanitarian Situation Report**

**Humanitarian Situation Report [04]**

**[Desert Locust Invasion Emergency Response in Marsabit, Kitui, Samburu, Baringo  
Turkan and Isiolo Counties – Kenya]**

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**[April-May 2020]**

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

Food and Agriculture Organization warned that new swarms expected to hatch in the month of May will be up to 20 times larger than the previous ones. It said that this could cause an unprecedented threat to food security in the region. As of April, more than 240,000 hectares had been treated with chemical pesticides and bio-pesticides across the region. However, movement restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic has hindered the supply of motorized sprayers and pesticides.

“With some 25 million people already at risk of food shortages in the region, the desert locust upsurge is an additional threat to food security and livelihoods, especially for the most vulnerable communities,” statement issued by EU when it donated Sh2.4 billion to Kenya to assist in the fight against locusts, and support affected farmers amid the coronavirus pandemic. With more than 20 affected counties, the financial aid is meant to bring relief to farmers whose produce has been lost due to the locust invasion. “The purpose of the support is to strengthen value chains in the horticulture, dry land crops and dairy sectors. The integration of food security and water programmes is a crucial component of this effort, with the ultimate aim being to build resilience and ensure longer-term food security,” a statement released by the EU read. Whereas a big boost to the DLI response efforts, this will not reach the most vulnerable areas of Arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) in Northern Kenya which were the first areas to be affected and where the mainstay of livelihood is pastoralism and agro-pastoralism.

The current situation remains extremely alarming in agro-pastoral areas in Samburu and Marsabit counties as they continue to face an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods. New swarms from current breeding is forming since mid-May, coinciding with the start of the harvest especially in Isiolo County. Thereafter, there is a risk that swarms will migrate further towards rangelands of Samburu County where pastoralist community depend entirely on vegetation for their livestock survival.

**Marsabit County** - Ground and aerial control operations continue against hopper bands in Marsabit County. A few late-maturing swarms were seen south of Loyianganai and new

infestations were found along Laisamis where hopper bands are present. Ground and aerial control operations continue.

**Samburu County** - A few immature and mature swarms remain in the north. Breeding has increased along suyan region, Samburu East Sub County and hopper bands are present. Breeding continues along Merti area where hopper bands persist, and adults have formed groups and swarms. Breeding also occurred on the eastern edge of the lowlands, causing hopper bands to form.

**Isiolo County**- Breeding is reported underway in Oldonyiro ward where scattered adults and hopper groups are present after a series of Ariel spraying from National Government in partnership with FAO in the period March - April 2020. Few swarms are seen crossing towards Samburu East through Ewaso Nyiro belt.

**Turkana County**- The situation remains extremely alarming regarding Desert Locust Invasion; a new generation of breeding threatens food security and livelihoods in Turkana County. The swarms are mobile moving from one corner of the county to the other.

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

Currently, the National Government Control Unit is reported to be overwhelmed given the resources available and the infestation rate and scale. FAO continues to provide logistical and ground surveillance assistance that includes monitoring and chemicals/pesticides spraying in Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties.

Other actors such as World Vision, PACIDA, Caritas, Kenya Red Cross, and WFP are providing livelihood support, but 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 Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit, ChildFund Kenya moved with speed to counter the aftermath through initiating several interventions that are geared towards saving human lives especially those of children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers and elderly. These interventions targeted the most vulnerable members of the community especially from sponsored children. ChildFund Kenya rolled its interventions through the local partners (LPs). Nawiri CDP therefore took the task of distributing food items and non-food items (NFIs) to selected number of beneficiaries.

Nawiri CDP procured and distributed 5.4 tons of assorted food items ranging from cereals, pulses and vegetable oil to 120 households. Due to restrictions imposed by the government as a means of controlling the growth and expansion of COVID-19 pandemic, the organization arranged the distribution in the manner that it cannot attract a gatherings and keenly observed the social and physical distancing. A long side food distribution, face masks were too distributed and beneficiaries sanitized before handling the food commodities.

Description of Food and NFIs distributed:

| Item description   | Qty Procured                           | Amount in quantities per HH | Total No. of Kgs/liters distributed |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Food and Non-Food Items (120 Households)</b>               |  |                             |                                     |
| Maize  | 80 bags of 45 kgs each                 | 30 kgs per HH               | 3600 Kgs                            |
| Beans  | 40 bags of 45kgs each                  | 15 kgs per HH               | 1800 Kgs                            |
| Fortified cooking oil  | 30 cartons of 12 liters each           | 3 litres per HH             | 360 Liters                          |
| Face Mask  | 150 face masks                         |                             |                                     |
| <b>2. Crop Seedlings for Farmers (25 Farmers)</b>                |  |                             |                                     |
| Maize Seedlings  | 10 bags of Maize seedling @ 25Kgs each | 7 Kgs per HH                | 175 Kgs                             |
| Beans Seedlings  | 7 bags of beans seedlings @ 25kgs each | 3.5 Kgs per HH              | 250 Kgs                             |
| <b>3. Support Coordination of CSG on DLI</b>                     |  |                             |                                     |
| Fuel for Monitoring (Department of Agriculture- Marsabit County) | 300 litres of fuel                     |                             | 300 Litres                          |

After food distribution, interviews were conducted with some beneficiaries including the committee members and children to air their views on how the response is done and generally on effects of locust invasion that has really disrupted their mother livelihoods of pastoralism and nomadism. The responses registered were that really locust have ravaged a wide vast land of pasture, have made the watering points inaccessible and contaminated, scanty pasture that was depleted by locust has rendered their livestock vulnerable because of diseases and their body conditions deteriorating. Beneficiaries' lauded the efforts put by the organization in combating locust threat and registered optimism that all will be well now that the rains will regenerate the sprouting of the vegetation.

Nawiri is also cognizant of the COVID-19 pandemic and has put in place interventions for prevention both to staff and the sponsored children households. At the entry point of the office, there is running water with soap for washing the hands before accessing office premises. There are certified hand sanitizers in every office and face masks. During food distribution strictly beneficiaries were put to social distancing and sensitized on how to prevent the pandemic prior to being given the food. They were provided face masks that were to be worn every time. The organization also distributed water containers for supply of running hand washing water.

### **Beneficiaries reached with the interventions**

Target beneficiaries were drawn from households that were hard hit by locust invasion that destroyed grazing fields and made the watering point inaccessible and those that were accessible, water was contaminated by locust droppings. As per the monthly bulletin by National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the affected households were sampled within Nawiri areas of operations. These households met the criteria for vulnerability as stipulated by the government guidelines and met the criteria for being from enrolled households. Food was distributed in clustered manner from Archers Post, Lerata, Lolngereded and Ngaremare villages. A meeting with the committee was prior initiated to inform them of the available food commodities and device the beneficiaries targeting criteria. Every village was represented by Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) members to bring balance and accountability in what the organization is implementing towards response to this locust menace.

In Isiolo County, 25 farmers received maize and beans seeds in preparation for planting in July to compensate for the failed harvest due to desert locust invasion.

In Marsabit County, coordination team was supported with 300 litres of fuel during monitoring and surveillance of desert locust in the county. The department of Agriculture – Marsabit County plays a key role in updating County steering group meetings with the progress of the desert locust invasion interventions.

| Category     | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------|--------|------|-------|
| Children     | 360    | 240  | 600   |
| Youth        | 123    | 111  | 234   |
| PLWs         | 120    | 0    | 120   |
| Farmers      | 18     | 7    | 25    |
| Pastoralists |        |      |       |

In Turkana County, awareness creation/sensitization was done by the ChildFund LP (Frontiers Children’s Development Program), County Government and other stakeholders. The Local Partner also supported 280 affected households by providing them with foodstuffs. The County Government has also been involved in spraying of the locusts and a platform was created to give early warning information about Desert Locust Invasion and to train people on coping strategies. ChildFund is in the process of disbursing funds to the LP to carry out cash transfers, food distribution and give farm input vouchers to the affected families especially those with children below 5years of age (Life Stage 1)

**Beneficiaries reached with the interventions in Turkana to Date**

| Category     | Female  | Male    | Total   |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Children     | 102,321 | 100,112 | 202,433 |
| Youth        | 116,342 | 115,211 | 231,553 |
| PLWs         | 715     | 0       | 715     |
| Farmers      | 30,844  | 28,471  | 59,315  |
| Pastoralists | 123,376 | 113,886 | 237,262 |

### 3. Challenges

The main challenge remains funding especially because of the many emergencies Kenya is encountering currently; COVID-19, flooding and Desert Locust Invasion (DLI). Due to its impact on the economy and people, COVID-19 has been given a priority focus thus most of the funding. As such DLI has remained a poor funded and supported emergency despite its long-term impact of food and nutritional security and the health of children and the most vulnerable in the community.

Whereas FAO is leading the response on behalf of the National Government, coordination in the response among the different stakeholders remains elusive. However, the formation of the formation of Regional Desert Locust Alliance (RDLA) in which ChildFund is a member is easing this.

On the other hand, with the support of FAO, the County and National Governments have established a national DLI Control Centre in Nairobi and 6 field bases to monitor the response.

#### **Below Sections for Internal Use Only**

##### **Sponsorship and Grants**

| <b>Sponsorship Area</b> | <b>Sponsored Children</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Samburu                 | 4,204                     |
| Marsabit                | 2,435                     |
| Kitui                   | 1,921                     |
| Baringo                 | 2,084                     |
| Isiolo                  | 630                       |
| Turkana                 | 997                       |

| <b>County</b> | <b>Active Grant</b>                            | <b>Donor</b>    | <b>Primary Implementer</b> |
|---------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 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 from July  |
| Isiolo        | None   |                 |                            |
| Turkana       | DLI Response                                   | ChildFund Korea | ChildFund Kenya from July  |

### DLI Funding

| Donor                   | Amount USD | Status              |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Barnfonden              | 10,000     | Implementation      |
| ChildFund International | 5,000      | “                   |
| ChildFund New Zealand   | 9,000      | To commence in June |
| ChildFund Korea         | 100,000    | To commence in July |
| 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

### 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 also 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**



***Fig 1: Nawiri CDP Staffs distributing assorted foodstuffs to caregivers in Laresoro Village, Samburu East Sub County.***



***Fig 2: Nawiri CDP staff sensitizing caregivers on the efforts made by the organization in responding to desert locust invasion & COVID-19 pandemic and possible effects to livelihoods and food security.***