

**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.***