



FAO'S ROLE IN THE KENYA 2008 EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN (REVISION)

Background

The controversial re-election of President Mwai Kibaki in December 2007 spurred ethnically motivated riots responsible for the displacement of 500 000 people. The violence is deeply rooted in the ethnic-based patronage of Kenya's political system and the grievances of communities that feel subjected to political and economic marginalization.

Thousands of households – victimized by ethnic association as either pro-government or pro-opposition – lost their homes, possessions, livelihoods and family members to post-election violence. Some 250 000 people have fled to camps for shelter, with a similar number being hosted by local communities.

Hopes for lasting reconciliation lie in the implementation of the power-sharing accord, signed on 28 February, for the formation of a coalition government comprising members of both parties. On 13 April, opposition leader Raila Odinga was appointed prime minister.

The growing humanitarian crisis related to these events is further compounded by early stages of drought. The projected rain shortages will exacerbate the loss of the March planting season crops and production shortfalls resulting from post-election violence, contributing to increased food insecurity and commodity costs throughout the country.

The Kenya 2008 Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP), initially launched in mid-January, was revised on 8 April to respond to a more comprehensive assessment of needs in line with the evolving political situation and projected rainfall shortages. Food security and livelihood interventions form an integral part of assistance under the 2008 EHRP.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Approximately 75 percent of Kenya's population depends on agriculture for its livelihood, and for many, as a means to meet household food requirements. The recent violence forced hundreds of thousands of farmers and pastoralists to abandon their homes, fields and production assets, much of which were either burned or looted during the riots.

Rift Valley Province – the area most affected by the post-election crisis – is both the 'grain basket' of Kenya, producing 70 percent of the staple maize crop, and one of the main milk producing parts of the country. By March, only 10 to 20 percent of land had been prepared for cultivation as compared to the 60 to 90 percent usually cultivated by that time.



With the likelihood of drought in the coming season, vulnerable groups are at greater risk of food insecurity. It is essential that displaced farmers are able to safely return to their fields and receive the seeds, tools, fertilizers and veterinary inputs necessary to resume agricultural activities. Production costs have also risen by 27 percent, with steep increases in the cost of commercial commodities reported in surrounding countries of up to 50 percent.

With agriculture as a sustainable means to enhance food security and self-reliance, rehabilitation of the sector will be key to rebuilding livelihoods, promoting spontaneous recovery initiatives and establishing the foundation for longer-term recovery. These efforts will respond to critical humanitarian needs and the national food production crisis.

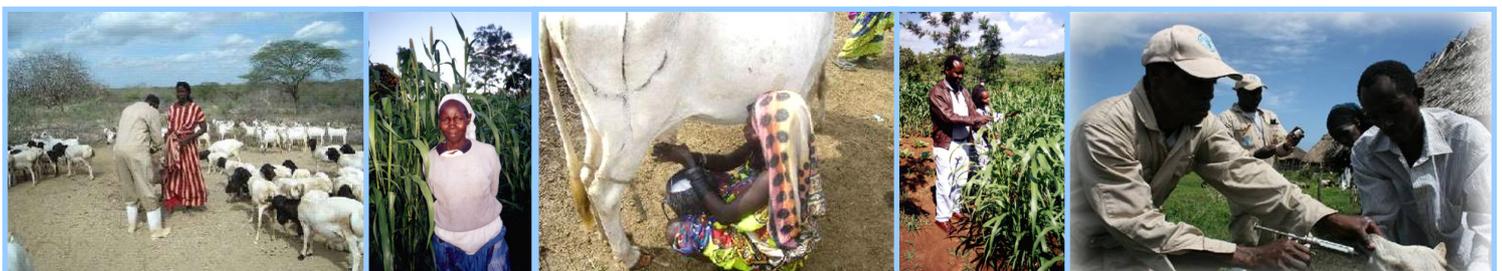
FAO in Kenya

Within the framework of the 2008 EHRP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aims to support Government efforts to restore the agricultural production and self-reliance of rural families most affected by post-election violence and the projected drought.

FAO's proposed activities include:

- **assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs)** to resettle and resume agricultural activities;
- **maximizing food production** through the provision of seeds, tools, fertilizers and veterinary supplies;
- **rehabilitation** of fields, pastures and key infrastructure;
- **strengthening emergency preparedness** and food security information systems.

As part of the 2008 EHRP, FAO has appealed for **USD 11.7 million**.





FAO's COMPONENT OF THE KENYA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN 2008

Total funding required: USD 11 700 000

Project Title: Assistance to the resettlement of IDPs.

Objectives: Assist IDPs to recover their livelihoods and resettle in areas of displacement.

Beneficiaries: 40 000 farming households (240 000 people).

Implementing Partners: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), private sector stockists, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Funds Requested: USD 2 285 000

FAO's proposed project "**Assistance to the resettlement of IDPs**" aims to provide 40 000 returning IDPs with the technical support and agricultural inputs necessary to resume their livelihoods. Donor funding will enable FAO to equip IDP farming families with seeds, tools, fertilizers and cash vouchers for land preparation/labour to help recuperate for the losses and damage incurred to their livelihoods as a result of the recent violence. The input package was designed to enable each beneficiary farmer to cultivate one acre of land.

This assistance will respond to the early recovery needs of farmers, whose land is currently out of production and who without assistance would lack the means to resume planting upon return. Rapidly reactivating crop production, for which the planting season began in mid-March, will have a significant impact on local and national food production and food security.

Project Title: Support to emergency preparedness and response information systems.

Objectives: Support the development and implementation of emergency preparedness and food security information systems.

Beneficiaries: National population.

Implementing Partners: Office of the President, MoA, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Education, WFP, FEWSNET, UNICEF, KFSSG members.

Funds Requested: USD 300 000

The updating, management and sharing of information related to food security is essential in order to effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable populations. In 2007, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System (IPC) was rolled out as part of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group assessment system, with FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) as the data management and sharing platform.

"**Support to emergency preparedness and response information systems**" aims to further the integration of these systems and build local capacity in IPC use, standardized food security and livelihood assessment analysis and response planning in 16 districts. Project efforts will enhance data management and sharing among key food security actors and support the development a Dietary Diversity Index as part of regular food access analysis.

Project Title: Support to the recovery of agriculture in the Rift Valley.

Objectives: Enable non-displaced farmers to maintain agricultural production for local and national food security stability.

Beneficiaries: 40 000 farming households (240 000 people).

Implementing Partners: MoA, private sector stockists, international NGOs.

Funds Requested: USD 8 345 000

Agricultural production in Rift Valley Province, the 'bread-basket' of Kenya, has been severely disrupted by post-election violence, the mass displacement of farming households and dramatic increases in the price of farming inputs, particularly fertilizers, raising production cost by 27 percent. An estimated 30 percent of land has been taken out of production as a result of these factors.

"**Support to the recovery of agriculture in the Rift Valley**" seeks to provide fertilizers and cash vouchers for land labour/preparation to 40 000 farmers who were not displaced by the recent violence. The assistance will mitigate the effect of increased costs of farming inputs on agricultural production and directly contribute to maintaining levels of key food commodity production for local and national food security.

Project Title: Rehabilitation of livestock systems and support services.

Objectives: Assist livestock owners and service providers to rehabilitate their operations following the post-election crisis.

Beneficiaries: 50 000 people (including 30 000 women).

Implementing Partners: Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, VSF-Belgium, Vetaid, among others.

Funds Requested: USD 770 000

Rift Valley is also one of the main milk producing parts of Kenya. The crisis severely impacted livestock production itself as well as the services that support pastoral livelihoods. Many agro-veterinary shops, zero-grazing units, cattle dips and milk collection centres have been either destroyed or burned, while others sustained considerable losses as business was non-existent or minimal over the past four months.

Under project "**Rehabilitation of livestock systems and support services**", FAO seeks to assist livestock keepers and service providers in rebuilding their premises and resuming livelihood activities. Project outcomes include the rehabilitation of the milk collection and processing chain, as well as 25 agro-veterinary shops, 35 cattle dip management committees and 80 zero grazing units.

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