

REPORT ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT CRISIS IN KAJIADO COUNTY

School Sanitation Improvement Project

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INTRODUCTION

The ravaging effect of the drought along the Eastern Horn of Africa, including Kenya, has left 11.3 million people in need of food assistance (WFP 2011). In Kenya, the ASAL Regions such as the Northern Kenya, parts of Eastern Province and parts of the Rift Valley are hardest hit. This has been worsened by the successive seasons with very low rainfalls contributing to successive droughts in these regions. The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance in the country is approximately 3.5 million of the Kenyan population.¹This has seen local, regional and international community supporting the Government in responding to the crisis.

However due to the influx of refugees from the surrounding countries such as Somalia more efforts are focused on the North Eastern region which harbors majority of the refugees from neighboring Somalia. This has left other ASAL regions such as Kajiado in the country facing drought with little intervention. Further to this, the situation has been worsened by the crisis facing the Kenyan economy where inflation is at its highest, currently at 15.5% leaving many Kenyans facing difficulty in meeting their basic needs. There is increasingly shortage of

1 USAID-DCHA Horn of Africa Drought Fact Sheet 2011

commodities such as sugar where a kilo is at an all time high costing at 200 shillings (1.6 Euros) from 100 shillings (0.8 Euros)² two months ago.

The crisis has seen calls from the citizens and civil society on the need for government to develop sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies that would help in mitigating the impact of such disasters in future. Further to this, the Civil Society including GCN, Private Sector, Media and the Kenyan Community developed an initiative dubbed Kenya for Kenyans in raising funds to respond to the Kenyan crisis; currently the total funds raised is approximately 650 million shillings.

Apart from the Kenya for Kenyan initiative GCN as a child rights organization, has partnered with the Redemptorists Development Program and Aidlink, in implementing an emergency response to the looming drought in Kajiado as a means of mitigating the impact of the drought. Further to this the initiative aims at enhancing the School Sanitation Improvement Project being implemented in order to ensure girls and boys remain in school and attain their right to education. Further to this GCN has been mainstreaming the components of DRR in its programming particularly projects in ASAL regions such as Tharaka, Kajiado and Tana River County.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kajiado County is located in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya and is mainly dominated by the Maasai Community, a community that is predominantly Nomadic Pastoralists. It borders the Republic of Tanzania to the Southwest, Taita Taveta District to the Southeast, Nairobi City to the Northeast, Kiambu District to the North and Narok District to the West.

In this region, GCN in partnership with Aidlink has been implementing *The School Sanitation Improvement Project* in 57 schools. The objective of the project is to enhance participation of girls in education through provision of appropriate sanitation facilities, sanitary towels and capacity building of relevant stakeholders.

In its Risk assessment, vagaries of climate such as drought emerged as the highest risk to the implementation of the project. In response to this an intervention such as the Emergency Response was seen as critical in order to ensure that girls can still attain their right to education even during the drought seasons. According to the Drought Monitoring Bulletin from the Ministry for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, nearly 80% of the Kajiado County which include Kajiado North and Central were put on high alert from the month of May in response to the growing drought crisis.

Reports from the District Office indicate that the situation is getting dire and families are beginning to look for pasture as the drought begins to bite and the water sources begin to dry up, noting that 80% of the population relies on water pans and dams. This is also in the reality that only 71,660 people are

2 Exchange rate at 125 Kshs

benefiting from any form of food distribution in comparison to the approximately 600,000 population. Further to this, schools in the area may not be receiving any funds for the School Feeding Program, due to the recent audit reports where it emerged that funds in the Free Primary Education (FPE) Package amounting to 4 billion shillings was misappropriated. Donors such as DFID have since suspended the funding FPE leading to initiatives such as the School Feeding Program being greatly affected. Currently only 15% of the Schools under the School Sanitation Improvement Project are under the Government Feeding Program. Some Teachers and Community Members are in fear of an enrolment crisis when schools re-open in 3rd term as families are moving further to look for pasture and water.

To avert from the looming crisis, GCN in partnership with the Redemptorists Development Program and Aidlink are implementing a Feeding Program as a short term measure in mitigating the impact of the crisis on the attainment of education by girls in Kajiado County. The Overall objective of the Emergency Response to the Drought Crisis in Kajiado County was to enhance the retention of 7119 children (3366 girls and 3753 boys) from 31 Project schools by December 2011.

This report highlights the first phase of the emergency program and the achievements so far. Below is a summary of the outputs achieved:

Objective	Outputs	Achieved
To enhance the retention of 7119 children (3366 girls and 3753 boys) from 31 Project schools by December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 Project Schools will access food and clean water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of clean water and food conducted to the 31 targeted Primary Schools -7119 children (3366 girls and 3753 boys)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying and Advocating for increased response by Stakeholders including development partners, civil society, private sector and Government to the drought crisis in the Kajiado County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of GCN local forums such as the Kenya for Kenyans Initiative and Civil Society DRR and Climate Change Stakeholders Forum Participation of GCN in the District Education Taskforce on response measures in mitigating adverse effect of drought in schools.

WIDER CONTEXT – INTERVENTIONS VS OUTPUTS

Activity 1 - Collaboration with the District Education Office, the School Management and Parents in providing clean water and food for lunch to 7,119 girls and boys in 31 schools

In Partnership with the District Education Office, the School Management Committees and Parents, a distribution work plan was developed thereby making the process more effective. The 31 Schools each received wheat pallets, peas, cooking oil and water to facilitate the cooking of the food and drinking water for the children.

Outputs

- 7119 children (3366 girls and 3753 boys) from the 31 Project Schools, have access to food and clean water
- Support from the School Management, local community and Local Education Office enabled smooth distribution process of the food and water.

Outcomes

- Teachers and the School Community in the targeted schools are no longer fearful of low enrolment and retention levels as the schools re—open for the 3rd Term in September.

Oldonyarasho Primary School is located in the border of Tanzania and Kenya and children from both countries get their education from the institution. According to the Head Teacher:

“It has not rained in this area for nearly a year and children from both countries have been affected by the ravaging drought. In fact as a school we had closed 2 weeks earlier due to lack of food. I was distraught as I did not know what to do for the children and that is when we approached GCN to help us. We are happy because we now have food that will enable the school program to run. Children are even eager to come back to school as they are guaranteed to have a meal for the day. The school seems to be their only source of food. Indeed GCN has come at a time when we had no hope, we are grateful that we have not been forgotten as we had even considered closing the school till the rains come back.”

- Girls and boys in the school particularly those in Standard 8 who will be sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education at the end of the year were jubilant that with the food issue addressed, they will be able to continue with their studies and have an opportunity to finish primary school and transit to higher education.
- The teachers stated that the school curriculum will be able to go on as usual as girls and boys in class will continue to engage in school activities as they are guaranteed of a meal.
- Children appreciated the food distributed (wheat and peas) as it was better than the meal they have under the school feeding program which is usually white maize that is boiled. The initiative therefore goes further to improve the nutrition status of the girls and boys.

- Through the Rights of the Child (ROC) Clubs, girls stated that they now feel safe, as they can stay in school, as when they stay home during the drought, they are vulnerable to be married off as a means of the family getting livestock or money for food.

Activity 2 - Lobbying and Advocating for increased response by Stakeholders including development partners, civil society, private sector and Government to the drought crisis in the Kajiado County.

As part of its advocacy strategy, GCN has continued to carry out efforts in highlighting the impact of the drought in areas such as Kajiado which are yet to receive the necessary aid needed. The much needed attention to ensure collective and more objective efforts in addressing the current crisis in the country. GCN and her members are trying to ensure objective and collective efforts are put in place to effectively address the current crisis and ensure that certain areas that have been neglected are included in the ongoing initiatives. The areas GCN is lobbying for inclusion in the disaster strategies include Kajiado, Tana River and Tharaka Counties where GCN run some of its projects.

Outputs

- Participation of GCN local forums such as the Kenya for Kenyans Initiative and Civil Society DRR and Climate Change Stakeholders Forum
- Participation of GCN in the District Education Taskforce on response measures in mitigating adverse effect of drought in schools.

Outcomes

- GCN has been able to share current initiatives in Kajiado through various forums such as the Civil Society DRR and Climate Change Stakeholders Forum; GCN was able to share how it's mainstreaming DRR in its program. The School Sanitation Improvement Project was the case study that GCN used. From the forum it emerged that there is need for civil society working in the children sector to ensure that DRR is mainstreamed throughout programming to ensure that the rights of children are effectively addressed.
- The Kenya for Kenyan Initiative has seen the Kenyan community contributing a total of 650 million shillings in responding to the drought crisis in the country and developing long term strategies that would avert such crisis in the country. Through this other countries such as Ghana and Somali (particularly those in the Diaspora) have started similar interventions.
- Participation of GCN in the District Education Taskforce on response measures in mitigating adverse effect of drought in schools has reinforced the partnership between

GCN and the MoE. Further to this the intervention has given the DEO an opportunity to engage other stakeholders working in the County to provide similar support in other schools that are in dire need.

MONITORING

GCN has been following up on the progress of utilization of the foods. Girls and boys who are currently having remedial classes are most appreciative as they are able to take part in the remedial classes and concentrate in revising for the upcoming national examinations, KCPE.

Part of the monitoring process includes a monitoring visit by Father Gerry O'Connor from the Redemptorists Development Program in Ireland, to Enkoireroi Primary School where he was able to engage with members of the SMC, parents, girls and boys and community representatives. Among the emergence issues was the reality of the drought in the area and its impact not only to girls' participation in school but also their vulnerability to harmful cultural practices. Father Gerry was able to hear testimonies from some of the women who were present who had been married off at an early age and how they seek to ensure that the same does not happen to their girls.

GCN continues to monitor the progress of the initiative vis-à-vis the milestones set.

CONCLUSION

Summary of Achievements

- The School Community is now assured of positive enrolment and retention levels of girls and boys in school as they have food that will be able to support them in this first phase. More so some of the schools are even anticipating over enrolment as children from schools that do not have a feeding program will transfer to their schools.
- Children appreciated the nutritional value of the meal as those that used to have feeding programs usually have only white maize in the school feeding program
- GCN has been able to share current initiatives in Kajiado through various forums such as the Civil Society DRR and Climate Change Stakeholders Forum; GCN was able to share how DRR has been mainstreamed in its projects. The School Sanitation Improvement Project was the case study that GCN used. From the forum it emerged that there is need for civil society organization working in the children sector to ensure that DRR is mainstreamed in programmes to ensure that the rights of children are effectively addressed.

- The Government through the Ministry of Education has appreciated GCN in its continuous efforts in addressing gaps within the Education sector. The Emergency response has validated the image of GCN as a critical partner in the Education sector and enhanced the partnership with the Government. Currently GCN is in the process of signing a new MoU with the Ministry Education at the national level reinforcing the advisory role of Government in GCN Education initiatives. These collaborative efforts are aimed at enhancing sustainability of projects.
- Participation of GCN in the District Education Taskforce on response measures in mitigating adverse effect of drought in schools, has given the DEO an opportunity to engage other stakeholders working in the County to provide similar support in other schools that are in dire need.

Challenges

- The Distance of some of the schools such as those located at the Kenyan border including poor roads made the distribution a bit difficult. However the support of the SMCs, Head teachers and the Local Education Officers in the development of the distribution work plan enabled officers to put schools in sizeable clusters making the process easier.
- No other stakeholder in Kajiado County providing a feeding program. Other schools in the area are in dire need of food aid and are contemplating opening schools. The Local District Education Office is trying to drum up support for a similar initiative to be implemented in other schools. This is critical as it will even affect effective participation of girls and boys who are scheduled to sit for the KCPE in November. Further to this it makes the girls more vulnerable to harmful cultural practices such as early marriage as a means of re-stocking livestock thereby affecting their attainment of education
- At the national level, politics such as the 2012 general elections continue to dominate the scene and therefore inadequate attention given to the drought crisis although it was declared a national disaster.
- There is fear of high levels of enrolment as girls and boys from other schools transfer to the project schools due to availability of food. This is might put a strain on the schools' resources and infrastructure.
- If the government does not respond to the crisis soon, low retention of girls and boys in schools might also affect their transition level. This is particularly so for the girls and boys sitting for the national examinations, KCPE which will be held in November, affecting their performance and therefore their transition to Secondary Schools thereby negating interventions geared towards boosting education attainment in Kajiado County as per the benchmarks set.
- As much as the feeding program is helping children, the community they come from is also in dire need of food aid. Children have been asking if they can take some food

portion home to share with their siblings and parents. It is therefore critical for government through the provincial administration to provide food aid for households so as to complement the efforts being implemented in schools by stakeholders.

Recommendations

- There is need for GCN to continue its lobbying efforts to avert the looming crisis in Kajiado and ensure the County is given the much needed attention by all stakeholders including Government, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector.
- Disaster Risk Reduction is a critical component and needs to be mainstreamed in programs being implemented in regions that are at risk of calamities such as drought in ASAL areas. This will ensure that sustainable measures are developed to mitigate the adverse effects of disasters particularly on the lives of girls, boys and livestock.
- There is dire need to organizations working in Kajiado County to develop a joint DRR strategy to ensure interventions in the County are coordinated for better results/outcomes.

ANNEXURES

Annex 1 - List of Schools Targeted for the Drought Emergency Response Initiative

#	SCHOOL	ZONE	ENROLMENT		
			Boys	Girls	TOTAL
KAJIADO NORTH					
1	Endonyio-olasho	Ewauaso	63	45	108
2	Ilkirolit	Ewauaso	59	47	106

3 .	Kimuka	Ewauso	178	138	316
4 .	Kisharu	Ewauso	130	108	238
5 .	Olngarua	Ewauso	37	50	87
6 .	Olosho-oibor	Ewauso	150	127	277
7 .	Osupukuo	Ewauso	84	104	188
8 .	Shompole	Magadi	175	123	298
9 .	Ensonorua	Magadi	59	51	110
1 0 .	Pakase	Magadi	118	95	213
1 1 .	Embolei	Magadi	48	56	104
1 2 .	Enkoirereroi	Kisamis	115	58	173
1 3 .	Ilmasin	Kisamis	177	162	339
1 4 .	Kipeto	Kisamis	184	170	354
1 5 .	Leshuta	Kisamis	33	44	77

1 6 .	Olchorro-onyori	Kisamis	182	167	349
1 7 .	Olekemunke	Kisamis	54	28	82
1 8 .	Olepolos	Kisamis	199	133	332
1 9 .	Olorien	Kisamis	239	202	441
2 0 .	Olooserian	Kisamis	23	36	59
2 1 .	Olooltepesi	Ngong	135	105	240
2 2 .	Kisaju	Ngong	154	97	251
2 3 .	Ereteti	Ngong	176	152	328
KAJIADO CENTRAL					
2 4 .	Enkorika	Enkorika	166	154	320
2 5 .	Olomunyi	Enkorika	124	114	238
2 6 .	Emarti	Central	91	84	175
2	Inkinyye	Central	84	75	159

2 8 .	Enkaroni	Central	227	212	439
2 9 .	Iislale	Central	95	87	182
3 0 .	Mailwa	Namanga	221	198	419
3 1 .	Narrolukuny	Namanaga	172	144	316
Totals			3753	3366	7119