UN Kenya appeals for Sh10.6 billion to curb drought effects in Kenya

Kenya’s humanitarian partners have appealed for Sh10.6 billion to scale-up response to drought in the northern parts.

UN Humanitarian partners appealed on 7 September 2017 for the international community to pledge additional resources to bolster relief efforts for the months ahead. The Flash Appeal will enable response to the most life-threatening needs of 1.9 million people. The partners will prioritise the 11 counties facing the highest levels of malnutrition and food insecurity.

According to the UN, an estimated 5.6 million people are affected by drought and some 3.4 million have been classified as food insecure.

In a statement, UN Kenya Resident coordinator Siddharth Chatterjee noted 2.6 million people risk facing severe food insecurity while 500,000 are experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity.

This is according to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) system.

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“We as the UN family and the humanitarian community stand with the government and people of Kenya to address the devastating effects of drought on some of the country’s most vulnerable communities,” said Chatterjee.

The appeal will cover September to December 2017.

The United Nations has attributed the escalated drought to poor rains in the past two years and the infestation of Fall Army Worm early this year. “A total of 369,277 children in the arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya now require urgent treatment for acute malnutrition and, in the worst-affected counties, Global Acute Malnutrition rates are more than twice the emergency threshold of 15 per cent,” the statement reads.

In Turkana South, for example, the GAM rate is an alarming 37 per cent.

The UNDP lauded the government for its response to the persistent drought. Since November 2016, Kenya has allocated Sh12.4 billion through phases one and two of its response plan.

“The government of Kenya is doing its part with its resources stretched to breaking point. So should we,” said Chatterjee.

“The third phase of the government’s response is likely to be delayed due to political developments, making the response planned by humanitarian partners through the Flash Appeal all the more critical.”

The Flash Appeal for Kenya launched in March 2017 is 43 per cent funded so far.

In February, the government declared a national disaster the drought that had affected 23 arid and semi-arid counties and pockets of other areas.

President Uhuru Kenyatta asked all local and international stakeholders to support the government by up-scaling drought mitigation programmes.

UNESCO, in collaboration with the Center for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREAW) and the Ministry of Education of Kenya, organized, a teacher training on Healthy Literacy and Behavioral Change, in Kibera Nairobi from 31st July to 2nd August. The training aimed at decreasing girls dropout rate in schools. The teacher training enabled 90 teachers from both public and non-formal primary and secondary schools in Kibera, the largest informal settlement in Kenya, to be empowered on health literacy topics, ranging from life skills, sexual and reproductive health skills for adolescents, self-awareness, decision-making, friendships and relationships, identity, peer-pressure as well as coping with emotions.

The Health Literacy teaching and learning materials, used also during the teacher training, have been developed by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education of Kenya, with the support of the Government of Azerbaijan and approved by Kenya Institute of
World Humanitarian Day: UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency, staff in Dadaab refugee camp re-affirm commitment to serving the displaced

August 19 marks World Humanitarian Day. It’s a day dedicated to paying tribute to humanitarian workers, some of whom risk their lives in humanitarian service. There are approximately 1,000 humanitarian workers in Dadaab working for over 30 organisations including over 200 working for the UN Refugee Agency. When the civil war broke out in Somalia in 1991, a large scale humanitarian crisis developed across the country. Tens of thousands of Somalis fled across the border into Kenya. That was the beginning of the Dadaab Refugee Camp some 25 years ago.

Moulid Hirsi, Assistant Field Officer at UNHCR in Dadaab was there. He’s one of UNHCR’s longest serving members of staff.

He vividly remembers when refugees...
Habibo Abdirahman fled Somalia with her family in 1992. She is now the Chairlady of Dagahaley camp where 69,000 refugees live. (Photo by A.Nasrullah/UNHCR)

arrived in 1992 in a boarder town known as Liboi. He describes how they were weak, exhausted, and with almost nothing in their possession.

“Not so much has changed between then and now but I have to say the living conditions of refugees in Dadaab has greatly improved.” Says Moulid

On World Humanitarian Day, Mouliid says he’s loved working and serving refugees over the years.

“I’m happy to see today some of those children who were carried on their backs by their parents into Kenya, have grown up in a peaceful place. They have received education and have had opportunities to improve their lives. Most of them are now fully independent.” He adds.

Many refugees in Dadaab say life has not been easy for for them. Some say the Government of Kenya’s encampment policy, instability and perennial uncertainty about the situation in Somalia has left them without so much oprogress. The situation has led to a protracted refugee situation in Dadaab where some have lived for more than 25 years now.

Refugees like 39-year-old Habibo Abdirahman, who arrived in Dadaab as an 11-year-old when her family fled violence in Somalia. Habibo has grown up in the Dadaab. She’s managed to complete her primary education, and gotten married, and she’s also the Chairperson of one of the refugee committees of the 4 camps that make up Dadaab.

She says life has been hard in the camps. Without the help of the UN Refugee Agency, and others, her life life would be different and she would have faced serious problems. She talks of how in many instances she would have had no water, food or medical assistance. “I am incredibly grateful for the work of humanitarian workers here,” she adds.

Habibo narrates how UNHCR and staff members from other humanitarian organizations have helped her in her personal development. Her children attend the same school where she studied and she is so happy about that

Dr. Orkhan Nasibov, originally from Azerbaijan works as Senior Public Health Officer in Dadaab, and has been around for nearly five years. He says he’s happy with the support given to refugees like Habibo. Dr Nasibov has handled many health issues over years serving displaced communities. He’s currently helping refugees in Dadaab affected by a recent outbreak of cholera.

He says that on World Humanitarian Day, he believes he is in the right place at the right time and happy to assist many displaced and needy communities.

“I feel satisfied and blessed to have the opportunity to work as a medical
practitioner in refugee camps.” He adds
Humanitarian workers in Dadaab
serve about 242,000 refugees and asylum
seekers. About 96 percent of the refugees
are from Somalia. The first refugee camp
was established in 1991 when refugees
fleeing the civil war in Somalia started to
cross the border into Kenya. A second
large influx occurred in 2011, when some
130,000 refugees arrived, fleeing drought
and famine in southern Somalia.

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**Extension: Call for nomination of UN Person of the Year 2017**

The UN Communications
Group in Kenya (UNCG)
is launching the 15th
Annual Selection process for the
“United Nations in Kenya Award
of the Year”. The deadline for
submissions of candidates has been
extended until 15 October 2017.
This has been a collective UN-family
exercise. The “United Nations in
Kenya Person of the Year” ceremony
has proven to be one of the highlights
of our UN Day celebrations, generating
extensive coverage in the press and much
anticipation amongst our NGO and
civil society colleagues throughout the
country.

All Agencies and Programmes are
responsible for ensuring the credentials
and credibility of the nominees they put
forth as possible candidates for this year’s
award.

“We cannot over-emphasize this
point.

We look forward to working once
again with all of you on this exciting
process to shine a spotlight on an
individual or institution who will
serve as an inspiration to all Kenyans.

Please send your duly filled-in
forms of your nomination to:
nairobi.unic@unon.org
World Humanitarian Day marked at UN Office at Nairobi- 18 August 2017

One of the participants at World Humanitarian Day 2017 (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

UN OCHA Head Regional Office East and Southern Africa, Ms. Gemma Connell addresses participants at World Humanitarian Day 2017. (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

Participants observe a one minute of silence in remembrance of students from Moi Girls School who died in August. (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

Participants displays #NOTATARGET posters. (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

Participants at World Humanitarian Day 2017 (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

UNIC Deputy Director, Newton Kanhema interviews Kenya Red Cross Executive Director, Abbas Gullet. (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

Participants at World Humanitarian Day 2017 (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

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