

East Africa Drought Kenya Response FAQs

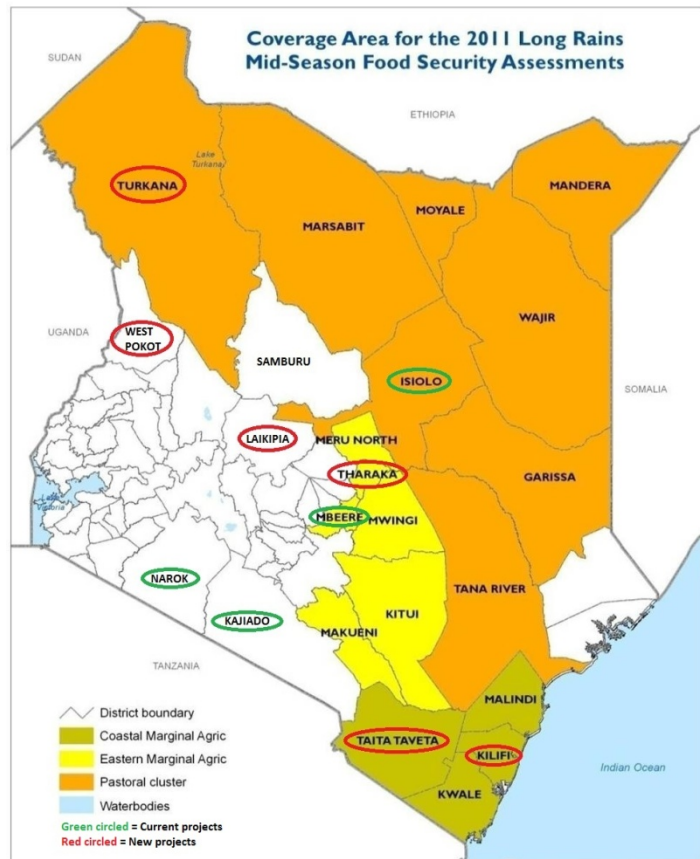
CRWRC

Last revision: July 19, 2011

1) What led to the current crisis in northeast Africa, and what is the situation now?

The “Horn of Africa” or Somali Peninsula is the northeast tip of Africa that juts out into the Arabian Sea. It includes Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Kenya lies just to the south of the HOA, having borders with Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, and the Indian Ocean on the east.

Lack of rainfall is the basic problem, especially with the March to May 2011 period (the long rains), resulting in failed harvests causing food shortages. Drought has been a chronic problem here for many years that has reduced people’s ability to cope. Food shortages have caused the cost of food to skyrocket so that, along with the drought and sporadic conflicts, people have become both displaced and severely malnourished. In pastoral areas, livestock are also suffering severely from lack of grazing land and water.



In general, drought is a regular occurrence in the arid and semi-arid areas of east Africa. 11 million people were affected by drought in 2006; 20 million were affected in 2008-09; and 2009-10 was, in contrast, a very good rainfall year—but not enough to carry people through two years of drought and food needs. 2011 is the driest period in the HOA since 1995, and overall this year is the worst drought in sixty years (since 1950-51) in many affected areas. The UN has identified the 2011 drought in the HOA as the worst food crisis in the world today—with Somalia being the most affected country.

2. Who is affected?

More than ten million people now or will soon need assistance and external support for survival. This is a 30% increase since the beginning of 2011 (so it was *already* bad)! The current breakdown of people affected is:

Somalia:	2.85 million (A third of the population, with 360,000 in Dadaab camp, Kenya)
Kenya:	3.5 million
Ethiopia:	3.2 million
N. Uganda:	600,000
S. Sudan:	Unknown
Djibouti:	120,000

3. What is the overall humanitarian response situation at this point?

So far, there has been a limited global humanitarian response, but a major crisis *can* still be averted in most areas if we respond with aid quickly. The next rainy season is a short, unpredictable one that starts in October 2011 and will hopefully result in a January 2012 harvest—if the rains are good—however, there is NO likelihood of improvement until then. If these short rains fail, the needs will become even more serious.

4. Is the HOA drought caused by climate change?

While it's hard to say, because the factors involved are not well defined yet, the drought seems to be more likely due to one of the strongest La Nina events the world has experienced since the 1970s. La Nina events cool the surface water of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean and intensify rains in Australia, the Philippines, and Indonesia—at the expense of Africa which then gets much less rain, as we are currently experiencing.

5. What is CRWRC doing in response to the current drought in the HOA?

Right now, CRWRC is responding mainly to this major drought in Kenya, but inquiries are underway about a possible additional response in Ethiopia. CRWRC does not have the capacity or connections needed to work in Somalia right now.

6. What has CRWRC doing in Kenya in response to the drought until now?

Because of the chronic drought in the area, and the poverty of its people, CRWRC has been active in drought response in Kenya regularly over the last decade, working mainly through its local partners to assist farmer-herders and herders who are often semi-nomadic. These populations are particularly vulnerable to drought and poverty.

In 2006, CRWRC launched a \$1.9 million drought response, and then has almost continuously worked in Kenya since early 2009. This includes:

April to October 2009	\$2.4 million
September 2009 to March 2010	\$1.5 million
June to December 2010	\$0.8 million
March to December 2011	\$1.2 million.

This last response, Mar-Dec '11, is a current, CFGF-funded project that is being led by CRWRC Kenya in collaboration with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and the Anglican Church of Kenya Mount Kenya East Christian Community Services. It has already been reaching a total of 3,500 households (HH) with food aid since April 2011. This number includes 2,500 pastoralist (herders) households in Kajiado and Narok in southern Kenya and in Isiolo in eastern Kenya. (See map above.) These families suffered a severe setback after the short rains failed in 2010. It also includes 1,000 agro-pastoralists (farmer herders) in Mbeere in eastern Kenya who experienced crop failure after the 2010 short rains.

7. What will CRWRC do to expand current relief projects in Kenya to meet the recent great need?

CRWRC is expanding the current CFGF-funded project that is reaching 3,500 HH to meet the greatly increased need we have seen since it began. This project has been expanded to reach an additional 2,100 HH in four new communities in Isiolo, Tharaka, Narok, and Kajiado. It will now fund food aid to a total of 5,600 HH, or 40,000 individuals, for five months, from August to December 2011.

CRWRC has not often worked with people in refugee camps in Kenya because the United Nations, World Food Program, and large aid organizations are better equipped for this type of work. Instead, CRWRC is providing food relief to people where they live now to help them stay where they are until the next harvest—and avoid winding up in a refugee or internally displaced persons camp.

8. What new project(s) will CRWRC do to address the HOA drought?

In addition to expanding our current response, CRWRC will also launch a new drought response to feed an additional 8,400 households, or 60,000 people, for five months from August to December 2011. This project will include: 1,400 farmer herders in Laikipia; 4,000 farmers in Kilifi and Taveta; and 3,000 herders in Turkana/Pokot and the Rift Valley.

The project will be led by CRWRC Kenya in collaboration with the Anglican Church of Kenya Mount Kenya Christian Community Services, the Anglican Church of Kenya Pwani Christian Community Services, and the Reformed Church of East Africa.

In total, CRWRC will be serving 14,000 families – over 100,000 people – with food aid, water and livestock fodder and care for 5 months (from August to December).

9. What will these projects cost?

The total of CRWRC's current and new drought relief projects in Kenya for five months until December 2011 is \$7.0 million. CRWRC's budget for the current project is \$1.1 million. We are appealing for new funding to apply to this need that amounts to an additional \$5.9 million. CRWRC's response is part of an ACT Alliance and ACT Kenya Forum coordinated response. The response breakdown looks like this:

- **Food aid** will be comprised of maize, beans, cooking oil, supplementary feeding and salt, from August to December 2011 \$3.4 million
- **Water** for domestic use will include: 20 liters of water per person per day for vulnerable groups in water-stressed communities, jerry cans for water collection, and providing reservoir tanks at schools for community water distribution \$1.3 million
- **Livestock assistance** will include providing water and fodder for seed and milk animals, vaccinations, and branding to reduce ownership conflicts \$1.7 million
- In Advocacy, CRWRC will increase our partner's capacity to respond to future crises, involve church leaders in food rights advocacy and national food-related issues.
- **Recovery and Rehabilitation** will include seeds and tools programs, water catchment rehabilitation, mitigation, and partner capacity-building. (less than) \$0.3 million
- Other Expenses \$0.3 million

New project total: \$7.0 million

CRWRC is hoping to raise \$1.5 million from individuals and churches to support this initiative. Other funds will come from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ACT Alliance members, and other funding partners.