



KENYA



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Facts and Figures

Population:	39.8 m
Number of refugees:	600 000
Life expectancy:	55 years
Infant mortality (per 1 000):	55
Under-five mortality (per 1 000):	84
Access to clean water:	57 %

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Kenya is affected by recurrent droughts; particularly hit are the arid and semi arid lands in the northern part of the country. 5.5 million people living in Northern Kenya, mainly pastoralists, are in a particularly vulnerable position due to chronic poverty and structural under-development. People have little or no time to recover from one drought before facing the next and millions who depend on livestock live very precarious existences.

In 2011, after two consecutive failed rainy seasons, people in Northern Kenya experienced a particularly severe drought, the worst in 60 years in some areas. Food security assessments showed that over 3.75 million people in Kenya needed urgent food aid, water, medication, sanitation, shelter, protection and support simply to survive.

While the situation has improved in 2012 due to good rainfall and substantial humanitarian aid, 2,7 million Kenyans are still in need of humanitarian assistance.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The European Commission made available over €47 million for operations in Kenya in 2011, including €14 million for refugees and over €4 million for Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives.

Since the start of 2012, the European Commission has been supporting drought mitigation, preparedness, and nutrition programmes in the arid regions affected by drought. Water sources are being rehabilitated, and hygienic sanitation facilities installed. There are programmes to promote the health of livestock, to manage natural resources, and targeted treatment for those who are malnourished. The Commission is also supporting emergency programmes such as culling of livestock, and food aid.

The rainy season is from March to May. Rainfall this year is expected to be near to or below average in north-eastern and north-western Kenya, according to the latest forecast from the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum. In other words, there is a drought warning. The EU will boost funding and focus on pre-emptive actions and emergency preparedness with the aim to encourage the resilience of the vulnerable communities to droughts. So far, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has earmarked €27 million for Kenya this year.

Nutrition, food and early recovery

Rains in late 2011 and at the start of 2012 put an end to the drought, improving living conditions for the pastoral communities. But the forecast for the rainy season from March to May 2012 is poor, and below average rainfall is expected in the arid and semi-arid lands of north-east and north-western Kenya. Communities whose coping mechanisms were stretched by previous droughts may suffer malnutrition again. The Commission is preparing to step in should the need arise, although malnutrition rates are receding in major areas of Northern Kenya as a result of rains earlier in the year.

In the meantime, the Commission is funding supplementary and therapeutic feeding for the malnourished, and providing food, clean water and sanitation. There are also cash for work and food vouchers available.



Refugees

Kenya hosts nearly 600 000 refugees from neighbouring conflict-prone countries, especially Somalia. Since the start of 2012, the situation has been kept stable in the biggest refugee camp in the world, Dadaab, hosting over 450 000 refugees, living under very difficult conditions. But there are still gaps in the provision of adequate food and security. Overall, the situation is extremely fragile and requires constant vigilance from those involved in managing the camps. The EU is funding UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies which deliver basic services. Because of the tense security environment, access is very restricted affecting the delivery of the assistance. The refugee communities themselves are being involved to overcome these difficulties.

Humanitarian air service — ECHO Flight

The European Commission operates a direct air service to northern Kenya (ECHO Flight) to enable partners and other humanitarian agencies gain access to remote areas. In 2011, ECHO made €2 million available for this service, for crucial logistical support to humanitarian and transitional projects funded by the Commission and many other donors. Last year, ECHO Flight transported over 6 300 passengers and almost 20 tonnes of cargo within Kenya. Funding for ECHO Flight is being maintained in 2012.

European Commission Humanitarian Aid funding in Kenya

▪ 2012	€27 million
▪ 2011	€47.8 million
▪ 2010	€18 million
▪ 2009	€20 million
▪ 2008	€32 million
▪ 2007	€9 million
▪ 2006	€17.8 million
▪ 2005	€2 million

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