

# ENDING DROUGHT EMERGENCIES IN KENYA

*A Campaign to promote best  
practices in long term intervention to  
drought in Kenya*

*March 2011 – February 2013*

## Goal:

- Promote best practices and interventions that builds community resilience in drought prone areas in Kenya. (Keeping drought preparedness a priority even when the rains come.)

# Introduction:

- OCHA Kenya launched a call for proposals for early response through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) in January 2011. This is intended to support early action to mitigate the severity of the current drought.
- While ensuring appropriate response to save lives and livelihoods in this current drought, of equal priority is the need to highlight the need for sustainable interventions that builds resilience to drought in Kenya.
- Drought in Kenya has become a 'predictable emergency', but with good planning this does not have to be so. Kenya is improving in its early warning to drought; equal support needs to be given to early action and preparedness planning.

# Strategy:

- Identify, consolidate and promote awareness on best strategies and intervention for reducing drought emergencies in Kenya.
- Ensure drought preparedness happens even when the rains come.
- A three-day workshop to consolidate best practices that are building community resilience to drought with the aim of using these in running a two-year long campaign.

# Objectives

- Consolidation of best practices in drought response, preparedness and mitigation.
- Raise awareness about the importance of continued actions to build community resistance in drought prone areas even when the rains come.
- Ensure that preparedness for drought remains a priority in Kenya
- Empower communities in drought preparedness
- Integrate DRR into drought response.
- Raise awareness in the media about interventions in drought mitigation that are working in Kenya

# Rationale

- While the current drought from the La Nina dry spells have been severe like droughts of 2005/2006 and 2008/2009, the humanitarian impact of this current 2010/2011 drought has not been as intense as was the case for the previous droughts.
- There are best practices in drought mitigation that has been implemented in the last two droughts that is mitigating the impact of the current drought.
- The ***Ending drought Emergencies*** campaign aims to consolidate the drought mitigation measures that have worked and are working in Kenya, as well as promote other best practices for ensuring that drought will not continue to lead to humanitarian emergencies in Kenya.

## Background:

- The humanitarian emergencies from drought have been increasing in severity since 2001 when Kenya had the 'first' worst drought in 60 years. Since then drought in Kenya has increased every year in severity and humanitarian impact as the coping mechanism and capacity of affected populations has been undermined.

# Background:

- Sustainable interventions can reduce the impact of drought in Kenya. We are seeing it at work in this current drought. While the severity of this drought is equal to that of 2008 and 2006, the impact has been less compared to the same stage for the 2008 and 2006 drought. This is due mainly to some long term mitigating interventions that was put in place.
- More needs to be done, there is need to capture the gains in interventions now manifesting themselves in this drought as grounds for intensifying efforts to continue to ensure the impacts of future droughts are mitigated.

# Background:

- The reoccurring nature of drought in Kenya and the increasing humanitarian suffering – loss of lives, conflict, food insecurity and child mal-nourishment – in its wake demonstrates the need for a sustainable strategy to end drought triggered humanitarian crisis in Kenya. Livestock production account for about 90 percent of employment and family incomes for the arid and semi-arid areas of the north and the northeast in Kenya. Many in these communities have been hardest hit by drought and are dependent on food aid.

# Drought does not have to lead to humanitarian emergencies:

- Drought is a recurrent natural disaster whose humanitarian impact is no less devastating than other, more sudden disasters like floods or earthquakes. Drought is more of a process than an event – with a subtle beginning and a severity that builds gradually over time – it is often overlooked as a disaster. According to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFCR) annual World Disasters Report, drought causes more deaths than any other natural disaster.

## Integrating long term strategies to urgent response can end the humanitarian impact of drought in Kenya:

- Throughout history, many regions of the world have experienced drought, with varying degrees of impact. Drought is a natural disaster that without proper management triggers other man-made tragedies like famine, widespread displacement and death. Because of this, preparation for and response to drought is more complex and politically charged than other natural disasters.
- Drought does not have to lead to emergencies and disasters in Kenya. Early interventions can save lives and livelihoods. Some key sustainable actions and solutions to end drought-triggered emergencies require integrated response strategy to:
- Ensure the sustainable recovery of livelihoods and restore local coping mechanisms to enable populations deal with the recurring problem of drought,

## Integrating long term strategies to urgent response can end the humanitarian impact of drought in Kenya:

- Utilize Kenya's irrigable land to provide water in times of drought instead of depending on rain-fed agriculture;
- Support the increase of pastoral-livestock production by providing water, establishing disease-free zones, improving breeding services and promoting an efficient marketing system,
- Utilize drought resistant crops;
- Synergize the efforts of the diverse and many actors engaged in drought interventions in Kenya;

# Activities and deliverables:

Finalization of Campaign goals and objectives February 16 – Feb 25; 2011:

First stakeholders' consultative meeting: Feb 16 – March 10 2011

Research for drafting of Key messages on the financial, humanitarian and development challenges of not having a long term solution to drought in Kenya (Feb 20 – March 25

Financial cost of short term intervention to drought for 2005 to 2010

Cost of human lives lost through conflict in drought seasons

Cost for repeated short term interventions as opposed to building community resilience.

Drafting of key documents to support campaign; including consolidation of best interventions on drought in Kenya and globally: February 20 – April 25: 2011. Document to be drafted include:

Report on Overview of current drought mitigation measures in Kenya

Report consolidating sustainable intervention on drought response in Kenya;

Finalize draft report on best strategies for drought intervention by sectors:

# Activities and deliverables cont:

Planning of launching of the campaign: February 20 – March 25, 2011

Design of Awareness and Campaign tools: February 20 – March 10, 2011

Workshop and launch of the one-year campaign: May 4 – 5, 2011 ?

*What:* A two-day workshop to gather best practices, sustainable interventions and early action on drought in Kenya

*Who:* GoK(relevant line ministries); UN, INGOs, NGOs, Community organizations and relevant government ministries

Media Outreach: For the launch of the campaign; March 29 – 30\_

Duration of the year campaign (March 29, 2011 to march 2012.) to highlight what is working in drought response

Profiling of communities who are recovering from drought

Outreach for utilizing the rainy season for drought preparedness and DRR

April 1 2011 – March 31 2012: Monthly update of best practices of drought recovery activities & ongoing outreach and communication at events and when strategic opportunities present themselves.

# REQUEST

- Please submit projects and best practices on drought mitigation, especially interventions you know of from your organization or generally that has built community resilience to drought.

Contact;

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