



East Africa Drought Response

Six Month Update February 2012

In 2011, the East Africa region experienced its lowest rainfall levels in 60 years. As household food supplies were depleted, the average prices for food rose at alarming rates. Over 13 million people were affected and many were unable to purchase food to meet their families' needs.

CRWRC responded in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia with food assistance,

safe water projects, and livestock feed and veterinary care. Because of the generous support by individual and organizational donors, over 25,000 households or 170,000 people have been helped. Thank you!

"There have been many stories of hope and resilience that have inspired us in our work. Many lessons have been learned from this drought

response, which has given us new strategies upon which to build in the future," said Wayne de Jong, CRWRC Director of Disaster Response and Rehabilitation.

In these pages you will hear some of these stories as you also read about the work of CRWRC, its staff and partners as we responded on your behalf to the needs in East Africa.



Ethiopia — Food Assistance for Nudo

“Before receiving the relief food, my family ate one or two times a day,” said Nudo Kedir, an Ethiopian woman who received assistance from CRWRC. “After receiving the food ration of maize, haricot beans, oil and famix for three months, we have been able to eat three times a day.”

Nudo’s family owns one hectare of land. Before the drought, they owned two oxen and one cow, but they had to sell the animals to cover their family’s financial needs. When money again ran low, the family members attempted to find work as day laborers. Children were taken out of school so that they, too, could find work. Unfortunately, jobs were scarce, so the family began reducing the number of meals they ate each day.

Nudo and her family were not alone. The drought affected thousands of families across Ethiopia. To respond to this need, CRWRC worked with two



Women from Mbeere, Kenya in community meeting

partners in four districts of Ethiopia to deliver food assistance. In partnership with Food for the Hungry Ethiopia, CRWRC provided 5,151 households (25,756 people) with emergency food assistance for five months. With the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC), CRWRC provided 3 months worth of food to 3,133 households (15,665 people) in the Galena District.

In each of these responses, CRWRC provided cereal, beans, and vegetable oil. To meet the specific nutritional needs of children and pregnant women, CRWRC also provided a grain-based product called famix. Famix can be mixed with water and eaten like a porridge to fight severe malnutrition.

Nudo and her family are very thankful to the people who donated to the project as this has enabled them to maintain a healthier life.

Kenya — New Harvests and New Assets

After several months of CRWRC food distributions, the communities in Mbeere, Kenya have been given new strength and new hope. Many participants have described significant changes in their lives in a variety of different ways – from the elderly and sick regaining their health and strength, to the children who are able to return to school with full stomachs.

Along with these food distributions, CRWRC has also been conducting what is known as *Food-For-Asset (FFA) and Cash for Asset (CfA)* projects. In these projects, people participate in the creation, ownership and maintenance of productive community assets in exchange for food or cash which can be used to purchase food available on the local market, thereby also strengthening the local market system. This includes building water pans to contain rain water, building and maintaining

demonstration farms to grow drought-resistant crops, and planting trees to conserve nutrient-rich topsoil. Asset based programs are designed to help people meet their immediate food needs while also looking to the future and equipping them to better withstand future disasters.

With the arrival of the short rains bringing a new harvest in January, the CRWRC disaster response project has reached its end. While some still look to the future with uncertainty, others have expressed a new hope. One community member spoke, “we can now cope and move into the future. We are truly thankful to God and for the work you are doing here in our lives.”

Kenya — Caring for Livestock Affected by Drought

“Before the droughts started becoming recurrent and severe, I had a herd of 25 cattle and over 200 sheep and goats. Now I am left with 10 sheep and goats and one cow

with a calf which I have given out to a relative’s herd since I cannot look after one cow,” said Moses Lonyil, a Kenyan man and recipient of CRWRC East Africa Drought response programs. As a pastoralist, Moses relies on selling his animals to buy food and provide for his family. While drought affected millions in the region, it was even more strongly felt by pastoralists as their animals faced decreasing water sources and grazing land. Many became ill or died. Because animals are so vital to the livelihood of pastoralists, it takes these communities longer to recover from such shocks.

Recurrent droughts in this region during the past 10 years have left him almost destitute. In the face of this latest disaster, he and many others did not know how they would keep their animals alive and maintain their livelihoods.

In response to this need, the CRWRC Disaster Response Team’s veterinary specialist in Kenya, Dr. Jeniffer Waiyego, has worked with CRWRC’s partners in four districts of Kenya

to provide veterinary support to affected people.

Moses, for example, received support in de-worming his animals and providing medical treatments for ticks and other parasites.

“Ticks are very bad since they spread animal diseases, while flies that increase during the rainy season bite and disturb our animals,” he said. “My female goat kidded twins recently after the CRWRC-supported treatments, and the mother and her kids are in good health. I am very grateful for the support since we did not have money to buy drugs for animals after these severe droughts.”

Over 4,100 households have been impacted through the livestock care work in Kenya. A total of 400,000 animals were de-wormed, thereby protecting the overall livestock



Deworming a goat as part of CRWRC’s livestock care program.

East Africa Drought Response At A Glance

- Food Assistance to 25,184 households (14,100 in Kenya, 8,284 in Ethiopia, 2,800 in Somalia) or about 170,000 people
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene activities (water purification, boreholes, water pans, water tanks, latrines, hand-washing stations, hygiene education, Water Sanitation and Health community committees) to 3,500 households and 13 schools (38,000 people)
- Livestock feed and care to 4,100 households (400,000 animals)
- Cash for assets program for 600 households
- 600 goats through “goats for work” projects
- 4 communities engaged in peace and reconciliation training



A beneficiary of CRWRC's programs in Somalia proudly displays the food voucher he received through CRWRC's partner, World Concern.



A woman receiving food assistance in Atir, Kenya

population through the containment of disease. 2,400 households received four months of fodder for their sheep and goats. 600 households participated in a "goat for work" project where they will receive a goat for their work in constructing a water pan. In addition, a dispensary is being developed so that herders can have greater access to medicines for their livestock.

Somalia — Food Vouchers Feed Families

In Somalia, CRWRC is assisting 2,800 households (16,800 drought-affected people) through a food voucher program with our partner World Concern. In this program, men and women in Dhobley, Somalia receive a voucher which they can use to purchase food supplies from selected local merchants. This helps stimulate the local economy. It is also safer than trying to deliver physical food assistance in this conflict-laden region.

Sudana Ali is one of the people benefiting from this program. The 27 year-old mother of three was identified to receive vouchers when she carried her severely malnourished child to a hospital. Concerned medical staff decided to pay her a visit.

"We visited her house and found she had nothing," a nurse at the local hospital said.

"Her house was a simple mud structure with only a mat, some clothes suspended on a string, and the items that she had purchased with her food voucher."

"I am proud to receive the voucher," she said. "I give thanks to those who donate this food and I pray for them."

So far, 5,400 food vouchers have been issued in the Dhobley area. As a result, 231.75 metric tonnes of food have been distributed through merchants in the town.

Thank you for providing Hope

The numbers are impressive, 170,000 people receiving food, 38,000 people receiving enough water to meet their daily needs, 400,000 animals kept alive, thereby preserving the livelihoods of nearly 50,000 families, and four communities engaged in peace and reconciliation work.

In the midst of all these statistics it is easy to forget that each number represents a separate story of a real family or a person. Often it is a story filled with hardship and misfortune, but they all represent stories of resiliency. For the 30 CRWRC staff and volunteers that have worked alongside these communities in the last six months their stories have become entwined with our own. We celebrate when they celebrate and mourn when they mourn. At times it can become an emotional rollercoaster.

In November we received an email from James Origa, our engineer working in Turkana, Northern Kenya.



IRMs, Rients and Margarets greeting community members in Turkana, northern Kenya

James starts; “I just could not keep this to myself; I am an overly excited young man this fine evening. The Lord has done it again. WE FOUND WATER AT KAKONG, RIGHT AT THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE! Do you feel the excitement?!”

Indeed we did. Because, in addition to finances, we had all invested in hope; hoping alongside the community of Kakong that we would find water that would resolve the communities’ chronic shortage and improve the lives of thousands. And we found A LOT of water. Early tests on the borehole showed it was capable of producing 3,000 litres of water per hour.

Within days, however, we received devastating news from another community, Atir. Atir is located in an arid area of Kenya just four hours north of Nairobi. The families living in the area rely on animals for their livelihood, and the repeated droughts of the last decade have had a ruinous effect. But Atir was not a community willing to give up, even in the face of these challenges.

Working with our Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist, Geoffrey Mahinda, the community had been growing a test plot of drought resistant grass. We were with them when they planted the grass and, despite some skepticism, they were definitely hopeful for a positive outcome. We watched them guard the grass from elephants, setting up a 24 hour watch post to mind the one acre plot. We had seen the grass grow and we had even traveled to Atir and danced with the women as they harvested a bumper crop of highly nutritious grass. It was an exciting day, watching families return home with their grass and the seedlings ready for transplanting onto their own plots. But even amidst the joy the dark clouds were gathering; whispers of violence had started.

Atir is located in a district made of up of five different tribes. With elections looming in 2012, tensions were rising. Within two weeks of that day, tensions had spilled over and attacks began - senseless violence of the highest order. Women and children were targeted

International Relief Managers

Ethiopia

Jack and Elly Dalmaijer

Kenya

Rients and Margaret Mazereeuw

Lee and Sue Mys

Bernard Schaaf

John and Hilda Van Gysel

Mozambique

Harry and Greta Harsevoort

Please see CRWRC website for IRM reflections on their experience in East Africa.

*CRWRC would also like to thank **Engineering Ministries International (eMi)** for providing four engineers to assist with the water provision and catchment projects: Rodney Beadle, David Hill, Kirk Moberg and Rose McPherson.*

in an effort to displace as many rival communities as possible. The district was engulfed in attacks and revenge attacks. The community of Atir, at the centre of it all, was left with no choice but to abandon their homes and seek shelter at nearby churches. More than 2,000 people were displaced in just a few weeks.

Disasters will break your heart.

As we wind-down the last of our emergency response programs our attention turns to rehabilitation activities; helping communities restore their livelihoods, rebuild their assets and prepare for the next disaster.

Thank you for being a part of the CRWRC story in East Africa. For letting over 170,000 people know that they have not been forgotten. That people from a faraway place that most have never heard of were compelled by compassion to respond. To provide hope.

—Jacqueline Koster is the East and Southern Africa Disaster Response Manager

Finances

Revenue

Through January 24, 2012 CRWRC had received over \$10.2 million for its East Africa drought response. This included \$3,143,391 in donations from individuals and churches. These donations were leveraged through CRWRC's membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its partnerships with outside funders and aid organizations to raise an additional \$7,130,729.

Expenses

Through January 24, 2012 CRWRC had spent or committed \$8,469,416 million (82.4%) of the funds it had received for the East Africa drought response. This included \$6,289,565 (74.2%) for food assistance (food provision, food for work, food for assets, cash vouchers). For non-food assistance projects, \$2,179,851 was spent (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Activities (WASH); Livestock Feed and Care, Cash for Assets and Disaster Risk Reduction). The remaining unspent balance of \$1,804,704 will be used to continue to provide support to communities as they re-establish their lives and to further strengthen their communities in anticipation of the next disaster.



Special Thanks

CRWRC would like to thank the following funders for contributing directly or indirectly to the East Africa Drought Response over these last six months:

- Individuals, churches, schools and businesses across the United States and Canada
- ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- CEDAR Fund (Hong Kong)
- Christian & Missionary Alliance
- Church of Sweden
- Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund
- Disasters Emergency Committee (UK)
- Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
- Emergency Relief & Development Overseas (ERDO)
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- Primate's World Relief & Development Fund
- Presbyterian World Service & Development
- Reformed Church in America
- Scottish Government
- S.E.L. Service d'Entraide et de Liaison (France)
- TearFund Switzerland
- TEAR Australia
- Tearfund UK
- United Church of Canada



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