Isiolo residents march in Isiolo Town to mark the national celebrations for International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction on October 16, 2019. (PHOTO by Waweru W. Nation Media Group)

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Current Humanitarian Context in Kenya

a) Food Security Update
Overall, the food security situation in Kenya has continued to deteriorate. Currently, the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse stands at 2.6 million people an increase from the estimated 1.6 million people that was established in May 2019 during the mid-season assessment. This was a further increase from 1.1 million people that had been identified in February 2019 after the short rains assessment. From this trend, this number is estimated to rise to above 3 million people in the next three months by October 2019. However, a third failed rain season (Short Rains Season in October) would exacerbate the food insecurity situation further. Currently, while almost all the ASAL counties have populations in either Crisis or Emergency, majority of these populations are in Turkana, Mandera, Baringo Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit and Tana River in the predominant pastoral livelihoods and Kitui, Makueni, Kilifi, Meru North in the marginal agricultural and agro-pastoral livelihoods.
https://www.ndma.go.ke
Some improvements in food security are expected to be driven by the October-December short rains season and availability of the unimodal long rains harvest in November. However, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely to persist as households gradually recover.

b) Flash Floods Update in Kenya
More than 144,000 people in 25 counties across the country are estimated to be affected by riverine and flash floods, rock falls, mudslides and landslides, according to the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). The Government’s National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC) also confirmed that at least 17,000 people have been displaced and 48 died due to the floods. With the current weather forecasts, which predicts heavy rains until the end of November, the NDOC expects these numbers to rise, including affecting 200,000 refugees living in settlements in Dadaab. The destruction of crucial livelihoods, including an undetermined acreage of farmland and livestock, according to NDOC, will likely heavily impact the food security situation across the country.

Photo: Residents of Handaraku village relocate following the bursting of River Tana banks.
Photo By: LABANWALLOGA, Nation Media Group Kenya
Complex Emergencies Toolkit Update

HPPP held a learning workshop on 15th August 2019 with the theme: *Private Sector Engagement in Delivering Sustainable Solutions in Complex Emergencies*. The workshop was sponsored by Connecting Business Initiative (CBI). The following HPPP members were present: World Vision Kenya; World Vision International; GSMA; Mastercard; JustRich Limited; Eneza Education; Equity Bank Kenya, Global Compact Kenya, KEPSA, UNDRR, Oracle, Slum Child, DHL Foundation; AfriPads and the CBI Programme Coordinator.

The workshop followed a successful landscape analysis of the Kenyan man-made disaster context and a validation workshop held in June 2019. The objective of the workshop was to identify key action points for creating meaningful humanitarian and private sector led collaborations that will lead to collective action in a targeted way to avoid duplication; and that which will create resilience in disaster affected and marginalized communities especially displaced populations, refugees and communities in disaster prone areas.

The CBI Coordinator gave a presentation on the Global Guidance Toolkit and emphasized the need for collective action which has various benefits among them; a) reduced duplication, b) encourages local leadership and ownership, c) brings about aggregate contribution which supports SMEs engagement, d) private sector networks provide a clear and easy entry point into existing humanitarian activities, which makes it easier for government and humanitarian organizations to identify and utilize private sector capabilities.

To learn more about the Global Guidance Toolkit developed by CBI Click here

HPPP developed an action plan of engagement and will provide a coordinating role to the various working groups identified and especially on advocacy as this will provide easy entry of other private sector partners in the humanitarian context. The members identified key activities of priority in the 2019/2020 workplan among them:

a) Advocacy to strengthen goodwill with government and other stakeholders,
b) Implement a communications strategy to engage partners and network members in the area of man-made disasters,
c) Strengthen Capacity of network members and MSMEs,
d) Resource mobilization to build network sustainability.

Photo: An interactive group discussion session during the workshop
The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) was on October 13th with the 2019 theme being "To reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services." The theme continues to be part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, focused on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework. The 2019 theme was centered on target (d) of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030."

The Kenyan government marked the day in Isiolo County through a three-day event. The forum brought together disaster risk reduction stakeholders and experts from different sectors which included: the National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC), private sector, non-governmental organisations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNDRR.

Isiolo County is the first County to develop the County Disaster Risk Management Policy, which is at the County Assembly awaiting debate. Also, Isiolo County Climate Change Fund Act 2018 is operational. Currently, in Kenya there is no legal framework for DRM as the National Disaster Risk Management Bill (DRM) 2017 is still pending debate at the parliament. This bill seeks to establish the much-awaited National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA) with the mandate for coordinating the implementation of the National Policy for Disaster Management in Kenya.

HPPP's partner- Slum Child Foundation marked the day by conducting a training to school going children in the heart of Korogocho slums on various forms of fires and how to manage them in Partnership with a private company; Thermal Fire East Africa Limited. There was a simulation and a demonstration on a fire drill and how to manage different types of fires; as fires are a major man-made disaster especially in slums in Kenya.

*Primary school student participating in the fire fighting simulation exercise at Korogocho slums, Nairobi*  
*Photo by George Ochieng- Slum Child Foundation*
A group photo of participants during the HPFP’s learning workshop held on 15th August, at Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel Nairobi.

Below: A fire simulation exercise conducted by Slum Child Foundation on 14th October 2019 to mark the International day of DRR (Photo By George Ochieng)

For More information about HPFP, Please visit: https://www.connectingbusiness.org/east-africa

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