

Kenya Situation Report #11

4 February 2008

Overview

The team spent the day in Eldoret town:

- participating in the weekly District Disaster Committee meeting chaired by the representative of the District Commissioner, Uasin Gishu district;
- taking part in the Health and Nutrition Committee meeting Chaired by the DMOH and
- meeting with the OCHA representative in Eldoret.

The security situation in Eldoret town remained calm and no incidences of significance were reported today.

Summary of events

District Disaster Committee Meeting (Uasin Gishu District)

- The weekly meeting was chaired by the DC's representative.
- *Food Supply:* Food supply is going on well despite the frequent changing population movements. However, the Ministry of Agriculture raised concerns that the farmers are not able market their farm produce due to fear of movement and lack of traders who are weary of coming to buy from the farmers. The Ministry also reported delayed land preparation for the planting season which should start by mid March 08. It was also said that the prices of farm inputs have gone up, for example fertilizers which cost Ksh.1,800 before the crisis is now trading at Ksh. 3,000 per bag.
- *Health Sector:* The sector reported continued mobile outreach services to various affected communities both the IDPs and even the host communities which have also no access to the health facilities.
 - Immunization services are also ongoing and mass immunization activities are to take place with effect from Wednesday, 6th Feb 08, due to reported suspected cases of measles.
 - Two suspected cases of dysentery were also reported at the Eldoret ASK Showground camp (which currently holds 18, 900 IDPs) and the necessary action was being taken.
 - Enhanced communicable disease surveillance has been put in place and all actors within the health sector have been alerted and instructed to report any suspected cases to the DDSC.
 - The issue of a possible increase in the number of malnourished children in the camps was reported and the health sector is to commence comprehensive nutritional assessment of all vulnerable groups in the camps after conducting an sensitization session on Wednesday, 6th February for the nutritionists and nurses taking part in the exercise. Measures are under way to commence therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres in large camps.
 - DMOH reported the good coordination among the sector members and encouraged this to continue in order to provide effective health care services to the communities.
- *WATSAN:* The sector reported continued poor water supply to most of the camps such as Burnt Forest, Turbo and Eldoret ASK Showground camps and reported that this might lead to possible disease outbreaks.
 - The Water Dept however said the major problem was Kengen which supplies power but has not been easy to solve since vandalism was also noted at some stations.
 - The idea of sinking a borehole at the ASK showground camp was raised.
 - The number of toilets and bathrooms are not also adequate according the sector and urgent measures were under way to correct the anomaly (construction of the same is already under way in some camps).
- *Shelter and camp management:* The sector reported completed registration and demarcation of Showground camp (Eldoret) since poor registration of IDPs according to various age groups and complete family lists were not available. The same shall be extended to other camps near the near future.

- The major concern of the ASK Showground hosting the IDPs was raised since the Agricultural Show was scheduled for March 08 and exhibitors are pressing that something must be done.
- Due to suspected arson attacks at the Showground camp, tighter security has been put in place and providing identification to the dwellers is being proposed in order to limit strangers getting access to the camps.
- *Peace efforts:* The meeting reported several peace missions going on where local leaders from all communities and Members of Parliament taking place and there was “extremely good process” according to the region’s PeaceNet chairman.

Health, Nutrition and Watsan Committee Meeting

- The participants of the meeting included: MoH, WHO, UNICEF, IRD, KRCS, IMC, AMPATH and MSF-B. The committee finalized the plans for mobile clinics and also harmonization of reporting system. WHO volunteered to assist the Ministry to help put in weekly situational reports as required by the HQ and the DHMT members appreciated the suggestion.
- Team suggested that WATSAN run under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Water with health sector partners attending to contribute to the health aspect.

Brief meeting with OCHA representative in Eldoret

- The meeting arose from the concerns raised at the District D. Committee meeting regarding the nutritional status of under-fives in the various camps. The OCHA focal person sought to meet WHO to gather more information on the same and determine what action plans have been put in place. The Focal person was informed that:
 - The report from the brief assessment done by the MOH and UNICEF plus the findings of the IRA conducted in several camps indicates an impending rising numbers of malnourished children and other vulnerable groups if a quick action is not taken ASAP.
 - A comprehensive assessment of these groups has been planned to take place in all the camps.
 - Nutritionists and other health workers to undertake the exercise will be inducted Wednesday, 6 February.
 - Plans are underway to commence therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres in all major camps in the region with the help of recently recruited nutritionists and nurses.
 - Advised to improve the quantity and quality of food distribution at the family level.

For further information

<http://www.afro.who.int/>

<http://www.who.int/hac/>