

## Regional News Roundup

### KENYA

#### **Concerted efforts to stem food crisis**

Two weeks ago Kenya announced emergency measures to stem a food crisis that has gripped parts of the country. According to the Kenya Food Security Meeting (KFSM), 9.9 million Kenyans are food insecure. The Long Rains Assessment report released on August 20 has now warned of serious maize shortfalls in September. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has appealed for at least USD 230 million to provide emergency food assistance in the next six months to 3.8 million Kenyans affected by drought and subsequent high food prices. WFP is already distributing general food rations to 2.6 million people and also plans to expand its school-feeding programme in order to reach 1.2 million children in affected areas. In Wajir South District, an education officer said it was the worst drought in recent years with the education sector being most affected. The Rift Valley has experienced three years of erratic rainfalls and many people do not expect to harvest anything.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85847>  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85800>  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85791>  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85788>

#### **Humanitarian work remains risky**

With 4.5 million Kenyans in need of food assistance and Somalia described as one of the most dangerous places for aid workers in the world, humanitarian challenges remain formidable in the region, according to UN officials. While humanitarian needs are growing fast, the ability to deal with them is not sufficient, said the head of UN OCHA in Kenya on World Humanitarian Day. Drought but also global trends like the credit crunch, the food crisis and scarcity of water as well as population pressure and migration pose major challenges to humanitarian interventions.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85773>

### SOMALIA

#### **Humanitarian situation worst in 18 years**

Somalia is facing the worst humanitarian crisis of the past 18 years, with an estimated 3.76 million people in need of aid, officials say. According to the head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) this was indicated by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit. Despite humanitarian efforts, the crisis factors are intensifying. The food security and nutrition situation has deteriorated enormously and the escalating fighting and conflict places additional burdens on people suffering but also for humanitarian relief to reach vulnerable populations. Most of the people in need of assistance are concentrated in south and central Somalia.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85843>

### SUDAN

#### **Renewed LRA attacks**

Fresh attacks by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have forced thousands of people to flee their homes and have triggered widespread panic and fear in regions bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR). In some areas the UN has suspended humanitarian work; aid workers were evacuated from Ezo near the border to DRC. Many of those fleeing had already been forced from their homes by previous LRA attacks. Since late July, more than 180 people have been killed by the LRA in Southern Sudan and since late 2008, over 230,000 have been displaced with more than 25,000 entering Southern Sudan as refugees.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85827>

#### **WFP to start airdrops**

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) will start air drops of food over parts of Southern Sudan that could be in a pre-famine state. In all, 1.3 million people in Southern Sudan now need food

assistance, mainly subsistence farmers suffering from a lack of rain, high food prices and low prices for their cattle. The expensive air drops are required as some areas are cut off due to poor road conditions and insecurity

**Read more:** <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LK710669.htm>