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The drought has also heavily hit neighboring Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands; these are home to 30 percent of the country’s population (14 million people), as well as to most of its national parks—the foundation of a thriving wildlife tourism sector. This area is also the least developed, with limited services and poor infrastructure, leaving communities especially vulnerable in times of drought. The water in boreholes and shallow wells has run low, and pastoralists are migrating in search of water and pasture for their livestock. A growing demand for water and the overuse of pumping at community boreholes has led to increased pump breakdowns. People are now resorting to desperate coping mechanisms: skipping one or more meals a day, migrating to find work, and selling their deteriorating livestock at low prices to buy food. An estimated 2.7 million people are in need of emergency relief.

**CONTEXT**

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Residents of Shukurow village in Somalia examine damaged local irrigation systems. CRS is working in these regions to aid families affected and uprooted by the drought. Photo by Mohamed Sheik Nor for CRS

**Goals**

1) Repair vital water infrastructure at the community level; 2) spur coordination of local emergency WASH responders; 3) promote the health of livestock weakened by drought; and 4) support small-scale hygiene promotion activities to safely use available water.

**Activities**

**Access to water**

- Rehabilitating shallow wells and boreholes. This includes water points that have failed due to operational challenges, as well as newly drilled underground water sources that remain undeveloped because of funding constraints.
- Installing additional water points, making them more accessible, to reduce lines for water and improve drainage.
- Employing residents to maintain dams, thereby infusing cash into households and the local economy, while preparing local water infrastructure for future rains.
- Supporting the creation of county borehole maintenance teams to respond to pump breakdowns with the proper tools and better pumps, and helping local officials recruit more pump mechanics and electricians.
- Helping communities prepare for rainwater harvesting during October rains by repairing and rehabilitating surface water points.
- Supporting small-scale hygiene promotion activities that will help the community safely use available water.
- Providing emergency cash grants or vouchers to families to help them meet their nutritional and water needs.

**Improve livestock health**

- Making water for livestock more available by adding separate animal-watering points near those for people.
- Supplying high quality livestock supplementary feed and fodder to communities where animal feed is scarce.
- Facilitating disease control and prevention through vaccination and deworming, and collaborating with the government to survey disease and migration patterns.
- Helping families secure veterinary services and fodder provision for vulnerable livestock, boosting a vital source of family resilience that women often rely on for consumption and income.

**HOW TO HELP**

To support activities in Kenya and Somalia:

- Donate online: donate.crs.org
- Donate by phone: 877-HELP-CRS
- Donate by check: Catholic Relief Services P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-7090

**SOUTH SUDAN FAMINE**

In South Sudan, famine has been declared in three counties in Unity State, and a hunger crisis is affecting nearly 5 million people across the country. CRS is providing food aid to some 800,000 people in Jonglei State in the central part of the country, where levels of hunger and malnutrition are not far below the areas where famine has been declared. CRS provides food in exchange for work on building community infrastructure such as dikes and roads, as well as by supplying direct food aid when violence prevents such work. In partnership with the UN World Food Program, CRS airdrops food supplies into areas that are difficult to reach due to insecurity or a lack of infrastructure. CRS staff hike for days to reach those locations, and coordinate the distribution of the food on the ground.