APPLICATION FORM – humanitarian Intervention: RAPID RESPONSE

X Yes: reference no.: 19-446-OC Financial ceiling: 5 mill/year

No – if no, an OCA application must be submitted together with the intervention application.

Has your organization prequalified for DERF funding?

## The humanitarian intervention

* **What sectors will the proposed interventions most relate to (please tick ALL boxes that apply)?**
* **WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)**
* **Health**
* **Shelter**
* **Nutrition**
* **Camp Management**
* **Education**
* **Protection**
* **Emergency FSL (Food Security and Livelihoods)**
* **Other (specify): \_CASH\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **The overall purpose in short, including the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators to be applied.**

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| **Overall objective**  Respond to the humanitarian immediate needs of vulnerable families/households affected by the locust invasion in Kenya. | |
| **Immediate objective**  Vulnerable men, women and their families affected by locust invasion in northern Kenya are able to meet their basic food and livelihoods needs through the provision of cash-assistance and livelihoods packages (seeds) complemented with community awareness raising and surveillance of the locust in two communities in Tharaka Nithi county. | |
| **Outputs**   1. Unconditional cash transfers distributed to 800 affected households, particularly children, women and other vulnerable groups. 2. 800 livelihoods packages (climate resistant seeds) distributed to affected households. 3. Locust awareness raising and surveillance information provided to 2800 affected households, approximately 11200 individuals. | |
| **Main Activities**  1.1 Beneficiary identification and community orientation on child safeguarding, GBV prevention.  1.2 Beneficiary registration by issuing ID cards to each of the selected HHs.  1.3 Cash-transfers distributed to 800 locust affected households.  1.4 Conduct post-distribution monitoring among selected beneficiaries to gather information on effectiveness and impact of the intervention - learning & documentation.  2.1 Procure and distribute livelihoods packages consisting of climate resilient seeds for food crops to affected population.  2.2 Sensitise beneficiaries for the seeds on crop management including pest controls.  2.3. Monitor the progress of farmers and provide necessary technical support.  3.1 Conduct awareness raising on locusts in the communities (what they are, how they look, where to report, residual effects on the sprayed locusts/crops/soil).   * 1. Develop and disseminate IEC Material on locusts and management.   3.3. Surveillance on the locust movement and hatching areas.  Across all 3 outputs:   1. Support coordination of the response including stakeholders’ meetings. 2. Roll out accountability and feedback mechanisms. 3. Quarterly review meetings of the project (every three months). 4. Documentation of best practices and lessons learnt. | **Indicators**  ***Ind.1.*** *# of households (segregated by gender of head of household) provided with cash assistance*  ***Ind.2.*** *# of households (segregated by gender of head of household) provided with livelihood packages*  ***Ind.3.*** *# of individuals received locust awareness raising and/or surveillance information* |

**The context of your selected response, in relation the relevant DERF call. Is the intervention appropriate and relevant (CHS 1) effective and timely (CHS 2) and are the resources managed and used in an effective, efficient and ethical manner (CHS 9)?**

Locust swarm invasions are known to be a far-reaching disaster, destroying crops while leaving families/famers and communities with substantial economic losses, and threatening the food security of a population in a region already weakened by extreme-climate events and armed conflict. The invasion currently striking East Africa is caused by the extreme weather conditions that saw 2019 start with a drought and end with floods. Widespread egg laying and hatching started in the month of February and so far, numerous dense Locust (early instar hopper) bands have been spotted in several East Africa Countries, including Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia.

According to experts, the current locust infestation in Kenya, which started in late 2019, is the worst the country has experienced in 70 years. A swarm containing an [estimated 200 billion locusts](https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2020/jan/24/billions-of-locusts-swarm-through-kenya-in-pictures) was recorded, and taking into consideration that each insect can eat its own weight in food, equal to about as much food as 84 million people eat a day, the effects of the locust invasion are devastating.

One of the areas severely affected by the locust invasion is Tharaka Nithi county where Plan Kenya implements programmes. During a field visit to Tharaka, the week of 16th February, Plan Kenya conducted a rapid assessment and noted that the two sub-counties Kamaguna and Kathangacini were two of the most affected areas with several farms invaded with bands of hatched hoppers that had eaten all of the crops and pasture on the farms. Currently, the hatched hoppers are destroying anything that was left by the adult locust or crops that are germinating. The locusts have consumed all fruits, flowers, soft seeds, barks and the young shoots of grass. Shrubs have not been spared either causing shortage of pasture for livestock, further decimating families’ food security.

Government and other partners are responding in several ways, including chemical spraying, awareness raising and surveillance, but this has been insufficient. There are still gaps in the response, as communities struggle to deal with severe losses (crops, livestock etc.) at several levels making them unable to meet their immediate needs. From the losses incurred, households will not have any crops for self-consumption, for sale to access funds for other basic needs and/or acquire seeds for the next planting season.

Taking into account that the affected households’ immediate food security has been debilitated, since the sole harvest for the season has been mostly destroyed by the locusts, there will be no crops or food for the families until the next season harvest expected in late August 2020. If this emergency is not addressed immediately it will impact not only their current food security, but also the future food security since some of this families are the most vulnerable or marginalised populations in the semi-arid areas of Tharaka.

In addition, communities do not have adequate information on how to spot and report lotus swarms, or eggs hatching, since awareness raising and/or information campaigns have not been conducted in the county. Coherent key messages for communities affected by the infestations on how they need to react and report. This needs to be developed with the technical services and communities and must be disseminated in the whole county. Surveillance of locust sightings still remains a challenge, as a reliable systematic procedures and systems have not been established to ensure that the information on sited hoppers or swarms is quickly shared with the responsible focal person for response and monitoring by the technical officers. Currently, the local government in Kenya is responsible to spray chemicals in areas where swarms are spotted. It is therefore crucial to strengthen a sighting and reporting structure in order to minimize damages, even in areas not yet affected for precautionary measure since we have had many swarms in the county.

Plan’s overall emergency response to this crisis is targeting two sub-counties most affected in Tharaka North, with more than 4 locations and 40 units severely affected. For this intervention Plan will work in two locations namely Kamaguna (13 units previously called villages) and Kathangacini (7 units). Each unit has an average of 400 households and this project will from the 20 units in the two locations target the population broadly, 2800 households, with the awareness and surveillance activity, while the cash and seed activities will target mainly vulnerable households. The project will target 800 households with unconditional cash grants and 800 households for livelihoods package distributions, of which we expect approximately 50% of the households receiving seeds will overlap with the cash activity, based on the needs and vulnerability of these households, as by complementing these two activities sustainability of agricultural activities is ensured.

**Provision of unconditional, transfers:** 800 households affected by the locusts will be provided with unconditional, multi-sector cash transfer to assist them meet their immediate needs and food. Cash will be disbursed to targeted households in three tranches. The amount (3000/= per month) being disbursed has been agreed upon among the cash programming stakeholders to be sufficient to address identified needs of the beneficiaries per month and has been used by all for cash grants in emergencies. The target groups will be identified through the vulnerability criteria identified by both the community and the stakeholders and exclude those who are already receiving any form of cash support. Lists will be shared, and vetting done in an open Baraza (public meetings) to ensure only the most vulnerable benefit from the grant. Identified beneficiaries will be registered and their details shared with one of the mobile cash transfer agencies for verification of the numbers and Identification details before the transfer is affected. The cash will then be disbursed thrice to enable the families purchase food and also meet their basic needs. All transaction costs will be borne by the project.

**Distribution of Livelihoods packages – Climate resistant seeds**: 800 affected households will be provided with approximately four kgs of drought resistant seeds per household or equivalent e.g. seeds/cutting/vines. This is to ensure that the affected households are able to replant seeds to avoid further deterioration of food security in the areas. The seeds will be distributed at the same time to all 800 households to secure household food access through own cultivation.  Visit to the target household farms will be undertaken to monitor that the land has been prepared prior to seed distribution. Distribution lists will be prepared based on beneficiary assessments and a selection process. Seeds will be distributed in the sub-units by Plan Staff together with technical extension officers. As part of the distribution, a one-hour session will be conducted to inform beneficiaries on the different ways of maximizing the harvest, basic care, pest control etc. For all distributions we will ensure a distribution list is done and as they receive, they sign. This is to ensure we target the right beneficiaries and that we able to account for all the seeds bought. Plan will visit the farms to see how they have planted the seeds and monitor the progress and provide technical support.  We will also encourage farmer to farmer support (peer support) within the units to ensure they all benefit from the project and that they succeed as intended.

**Awareness raising and surveillance:** 2800 households (approximately 11200 individuals) will receive awareness raising through barazas (public meetings), and by the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), in their respective areas of coverage will be done. A toll number will be shared where all cases sited will be reported to the focal person at the county who has the mandate of conducting a field visit/despatch a team to verify and plan for immediate spraying. Key messages will be developed on locusts, on what they are, how to identify them, and what to do whenever you sight the locust/hoppers/nymphs. By working together with the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), the project will ensure coordination with the county government in carrying out surveillance on the sites and areas the locusts laid eggs so as to mitigate the spread and also eradicate them before planting new crops. Surveillance will ensure early detection of where the hoppers have hatched and alerting the authorities for spraying before they grow bigger and start flying. This is because the locust cycle can take five months and it will be important to ensure we mitigate the spread and new nymphs from growing as they can be very destructive.

**How you will start your activities within 7 days of the Danish CSO receiving the first transfer?**

Plan Kenya has an office in Tharaka and is already responding to the locust invasion in partnership with the county government. A rapid assessment has been conducted and a coordination mechanism is in place. The geographical coverage and target population have been identified. Plan will work quickly to identify the most vulnerable households. Internally in Plan, there are systems and emergency procurement procedures in place to procure and distribute essential supplies at a rapid pace. Plan also has Service Level Agreements with suppliers who can move the supplies as soon as Local Purchasing Orders (LPO)are shared. For cash transfer, Plan has a cash transfer platform with M-PESA, where cash transfer can be disbursed quickly, and an Emergency Response Team (ERT) is on standby to carry out the operation. There will be weekly review and planning meetings among the responding partners to address challenges and plan the next course of action.

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| **Planned target population**   (direct target group only) | | | | | | | | |
| Type of Activity | **Female** (by age) | | | **Male** (by age) | | | | Total |
| Under | Between | Over | | Under | Between | Over |  |
| 18 | 18-50 | 50 | | 18 | 18-50 | 50 |
| Provision of unconditional, multipurpose cash grant to 800 households (= 3200 individuals) | 783 | 669 | 180 | | 753 | 643 | 172 | 3200 |
| Provision of seeds to 800 households (= 3200 individuals) | 783 | 669 | 180 | | 753 | 643 | 172 | 3200 |
| Awareness raising and surveillance | 3003 | 2191 | 158 | | 3065 | 2618 | 166 | 11200 |
| Total: |  |  |  | |  |  |  | 17600 |
| Total adjusted for double counting\*: |  |  |  | |  |  |  | **6400** |
| Total vulnerable persons of the above |  |  |  | |  |  |  | **11200** |

\* correct the number if the same persons are listed in more than one activity. Each person can only be counted once.

* **How do you calculate the number of people who shall be assisted through the various activities?**

For this project we have used the 2019 country census report to extract county (Tharaka Nithi) population, gender and age shares and computed the data as appropriate. The awareness raising and surveillance activities will target the broader population in the county, 2800 households, and as the census report also specifies that there is on average 4 people in a household this totals 11200 individuals. Adjusting for double counting, the total is 11200 individuals, because the households which receive provision of seeds and cash, will also receive awareness raising and surveillance. The total vulnerable population is all the households that receive cash and/or seeds. 800 households will receive seeds, and it is expected that the same households will receive the cash-grant.. The assumption is then again that this will on average benefit 4 people in a household, which means that 800 HH \*4 pp = 3200 vulnerable persons will be targeted.

* **Which vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting?**

Plan International Kenya will specifically target the most affected and vulnerable households through it cash and seed intervention, including women headed households, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and those with disabilities. Their state of vulnerability will be assessed and ranked so that are able to target the most vulnerable from the affected population.

* **Source of goods: Briefly explain how you plan to source your goods and tick the boxes that apply.**
* **Internationally**
* **Regionally / neighbouring country**
* **In country / locally**

All goods and services to be used by the action will be sourced in Kenya.

* **Does the intervention include cash-based programming?**
* **Yes**
  + **No**

Plan International Kenya will provide unconditional, multi-purpose cash grant through a remittance company.

* **Financial localization of the intervention**

**% of DERF intervention funding which is spent by local or national partner CSOs, from the intervention budget: 88 %**

**% Funding spent on activities & goods for crisis affected persons, from the intervention budget: 73%**

## The implementing organization

* **What is the capacity, experience and expertise of the proposed partner organization(s) (CHS 8) undertaking the proposed intervention substantiating whether the humanitarian response can be delivered up to standard and to the needs of particularly vulnerable persons?**

Plan International Kenya has an Emergency Response Manager based at country level, who leads all of Plan emergency responses in the country. In addition, there is an emergency response team with technical expertise in livelihoods and food security, cash transfer, protection, health, WASH etc. The team members have been trained in different humanitarian courses and have experience in emergency responses in various capacities. At county level, the team has a programme manager who has co-led a drought response in his previous station. For this intervention, there is also staff who have skills in logistics in emergencies, communication in emergencies and finance in emergencies. The Plan procurement team will be engaged in ensuring the right items are procured and are timely to address the needs of the affected people, based on our emergency procurement policy that is in place and ensure adherence to ensuring value for money plus accountability. Our risk team will continuously work with the project staff to assess and mitigate any risk that can occur and consult the donor if need be. The regional DRM team will also provide oversight supervision to ensure the project is well implemented and as per the donor requirements. All of Plan emergency responses are guided by the Core Humanitarian standards and the sphere standards as appropriate. This project will be led by the Emergency Response Manager who has more than 15 years’ experience in disaster response management. Plan Denmark will provide technical assistance (as needed), quality assurance and compliance

* **Is the Danish CSO proposing to self-implement?**
* **Yes**
  + **No**

Plan International Kenya will lead the implementation of all the activities. Plan International has experience in both emergency livelihoods recovery initiatives and multi-sector cash transfers, in both development and emergency response. The last DERF funded project in 2018 that Plan implemented in Kenya also had cash transfer and livelihoods recovery for both crops and small livestock. We have also had funding from CIDA (Canada) and internal funding from UK which have been implemented to safeguard the livelihoods, recover and build the community resilience. Cash transfer has been implemented in almost all our responses because it gives the beneficiaries the ability to choose and ensure their dignity. This is because the markets are functioning and that ensures that people can make choices and will procure what they need saving us time money on logistics.

As a member of Plan Federation, Plan International Kenya have a presence and will ensure all activities are implemented in collaboration with Plan Denmark. Plan International Kenya has access to the target community. The Emergency response team in the county of Tharaka (there is an already existing office in Tharaka) will ensure they have day to day access and coordinate the responses with support from country office and Plan Denmark. The Tharaka office will also validate beneficiaries, interview beneficiaries regarding their feedback and impact of the interventions. They will also ensure they attend all distribution of both relief supplies and address any concerns. For cash they will vet beneficiaries and have review meetings to address any gaps or challenges arising.

* **Partnership:** 
  + **Kindly explain whether you have entered into partnership agreement, the main features of this agreement(s) and whether this agreement(s) was developed with the local partner**.
  + **Describe the contributions, roles and areas of responsibilities of all partners (including the Danish CSO) within this intervention**

Plan international Kenya is not entering any partnership agreement with any other CSO rather it shall be implementing the project directly through its Tharaka office in close collaboration with the government line Ministries and supporting the government in the response (awareness raising, facilitation of the sprayers including transporting them). The project will furthermore recruit individuals for community management committees and also use the already existing structures to support in the day to day running of the activities e.g. mobilisation follow ups of beneficiaries and sharing information on distribution. The community committees will also ensure the right amount of money, seeds and messaging is shared for awareness raising. They will also be responsible for forward any concerns or complaints to the management / Plan office to take appropriate action on the individual case or put in place new mitigations measures.

Local government and CHV are already existing structures and we shall work with them for mobilisation and awareness raising for any activity being carried out, including bringing water spraying to farms where the surveillance and reports there is need. CHVs are also community members and do not need an agreement since their role is already stipulated under the government guidelines. As for cash transfer Plan International Kenya will use one of the mobile cash transfers (Safaricom M-pesa services) who we already have a service level agreement with.

Plan Denmark will ensure contracts are done and implemented as per the donor requirements, as well ensure that the funds are transferred and used as appropriately. Plan Denmark will also carry out monitoring visits and provide technical support for both programme and financial management. Plan International Kenya and Plan International Denmark will sign an agreement that will cover donor requirements, expected results, the implementation period and cash flow modalities.

## Local strengthening

* **How does the intervention strengthen local capacities and avoid negative effects (CHS 3)?**

Plan international Kenya will collaborate with the county government line ministries in ensuring the communities and household safeguard their livelihoods through mitigation of the locust spread and capacity building of the households in climate resistant crops, livelihoods and livestock programmes. The project will ensure we work with the line Ministries to provide support and supervision of the initiatives. This will ensure the beneficiaries adhere to the livestock and crop management guidelines and that they build back better through diversification and good agricultural practices. The cash transfers will ensure the affected household have cash at hand and can procure items to cushion them and thus reduce the probability of negative copying mechanism. Through awareness raising the programme will ensure the communities have knowledge about the locust, what it is, how it reproduces and how to guard against them in the future.

* **How are the local actors including the target group informed and involved (CHS 4)?**

Continued field and monitoring visits will assess the impacts on the communities, adjust the intervention to changing needs and what needs to be done to ensure they do not suffer the impacts of the locusts. Since we have a presence and have already started supporting the government in the response (awareness raising, facilitation of the sprayers including transporting them). Plan Kenya has already conducted field visits and shared the probable interventions and if funded this will be actualized by having conducting community meetings to officially announce the project activities and share the roles, responsibilities and expectations. During these community meetings a project coordinating committee will be selected, who will work with the Plan staff in ensuring the activities reach the right and deserving beneficiaries. The project will also share a feedback mechanism on how and where to raise complaints. The community will be informed how the responses will be done so that as the project is implemented and if there is any challenges, they can raise these and get feedback of this will be addressed for a smooth project implementation.

As described below (CHS 5 and 7), community feedback mechanisms will be in place to allow for continual communication and feedback relevant to project activities and engagement with staff.

## M&E, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

* **How are risk management systems applied in the appropriate context?**

A risk assessment will be done coupled with our regular quarterly risk assessment to identify which risks will directly impact the project implementation and put measures in place to mitigate or address them if they arise. The project will also work with the line ministries, communities and local administration to identify the risks that could probably affect the project and put in place necessary risk mitigation measures to address them if they occur. The project will also continually analyse lessons learnt by other agencies who have done the same activities within and outside the county and come up with measures to address them.

Tharaka Nithi County border counties that are prone to conflicts – especially over resources – and Plan Kenya will work towards implementing measures to mitigate them from happening. Livestock or crop disease outbreaks within the county will be mitigated by ensuring they are vaccinated and that households are trained on appropriate use of chemicals including organics to prevent that from happening. On issues of tension from those not benefiting Plan Kenya will hold forums before the start of intervention so that community members understand what the project is about and why some will benefit and others not including exploring opportunities from other agencies for support.

* **How do the implementing partners apply monitoring, feedback and accountability systems (CHS 5), including a complaint mechanism that works in the specific context?**

At the beginning of the project the team will work with the community and agree on a complaints response mechanism which will be shared for the community to use. The mechanism will also include conducting regular visits to the target villages identifying focal persons to share their complaints with and uphold a call number for feedback if for people not comfortable to use the focal persons. The feedback mechanism will provide the communities opportunities to provide their feedback and for the organisation to address the identified complaints as they arise. The feedback will also allow the beneficiaries to provide feedback on the relevance, effectiveness, timeliness and quality of assistance. The feedback of the beneficiaries will be used to improve the response implementation and for future interventions. Post distribution review meetings will also be carried out to address any grievances.

* **How will learning and reflection be applied in terms of improving humanitarian action (CHS 7)?**

The project will be monitored based on the indicators agreed upon in the proposal, tracking will be done to ensure Plan is achieving the agreed upon outputs and outcomes. A monitoring team will gather information, which Plan will use to continuously learn from and adjust the project for better impact where need be. Plan shall also utilize lessons learnt from other similar projects. Lessons learnt for this project will also be used to inform future programming.

To do this Plan shall review the project activities, field visit reports, community participation meetings, regular field monitoring visits etc. At the end of the project the team will reflect on how the project was implemented and draw lessons learnt from it. Plan monitoring systems in place shall include systematic processes for collecting beneficiary feedback and addressing periodic gaps that may be identified. During the project period Plan will hold review meetings to get an understanding of the situation and from it we will adjust the project activities and improve as appropriate.

## Coordination

* **Are the implementing organisations involved in a coordination mechanism?**
* **Yes** 
  + **No**

Plan international Kenya is part of the county coordination forum (Disaster steering committee) for Tharaka Nithi County. Plan will also participate in stakeholder coordination meetings. The meetings bring together NGOs, CSOs and government line ministries to discuss the current disaster, coordination of the response, need and gap analysis and makes decision on what needs to be done.

At national level Plan is part of the UNOCHA led coordination and FAO as the plans for management of the current locust invasion are being implementing including sharing of the field report/situation for deliberations and decision making.

At community level Plan is supporting the coordination through our community structures for sponsorship and other projects. Through them Plan will be able to raise awareness and carry out surveillance for probable new hatching sites. This is then shared with the contact person for the response at the county for action.

**How does the intervention contribute towards coordination and complementarity of humanitarian assistance (CHS 6)?**

Plan International Kenya is actively engaged with the county and at national level with the Kenya humanitarian stakeholders’ coordination committee. There is also the county coordination (Disaster steering committee) where our interventions are coordinated. Plan is supporting coordination at county level for this response and will continue to support this for an effective response. The project support of this coordination will ensure a holistic approach and ensure that the different activities are spread well and that we are complementing each other and not competing or replicating activities and thus prudent utilisation of resources. The activities will also complement the other responses especially addressing the immediate needs through cash transfers and recovery through which is complementary for safeguarding livelihoods and building back better. The coordination will also ensure that we have synergy within the county and that our interventions ensure the affected communities are well supported. Emerging issues and any other will be raised in the coordination forum where all stakeholders meet, and solutions provided for the different challenges.