



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## Kenya Red Cross Society

Alleviating Human Suffering

### **KENYA: FLOODS**

7 June 2007

The Kenya Red Cross Society's mission is to build capacity and respond with vigour, compassion and empathy to the victims of disaster and those at risk, in the most effective and efficient manner. It works closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

#### **In Brief**

*This Information Bulletin (no. 2/2007) reflects the information available at this time. For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

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#### **The Situation**

Heavy rains resulting to flooding have hit the coastal towns of Mombasa, Kipini, Kilifi, Mpeketoni, Witu and Malindi affecting a total of 22,953 people as of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007. As the rains continue to pound the Kenyan coastline, more people are expected to be affected and displaced. Most of the displaced people are living with neighbours, friends and relatives in areas that have not been affected. The onset of the flooding has also caused destruction of the roads and bridge infrastructure, making movement of people and goods difficult. Fears of health emergencies are emerging with the collapsing of sanitation facilities.

#### **Kilifi**

Flooding in Kilifi has affected 5,700 people with many homes submerged and houses destroyed. Crops have also been destroyed in large fields leaving many residents dependent on relief food to cope for the few next weeks. There are also fears of malaria due to stagnant water, which are serving as a mosquito breeding ground. Destroyed latrines are posing a serious health risk among the communities affected. Though water levels have gone down as the rains have subsided, the situation is still precarious.

#### **Mpeketoni And Witu**

Heavy showers have pounded Mpeketoni for the past two days affecting 10,218 people both in Mpeketoni and Witu. Watemere farms are completely flooded and not accessible. Most villages are completely submerged and many houses destroyed or damaged. Most crops have also been washed

away. Mukuru Bridge in Mpeketoni has been washed away and most school going children affected as they are unable to access the schools. This collapsed bridge has also caused inaccessibility problems for the nearby communities. 1,428 pupils and learning in Bomani, Lakeside, Mungumoine and Kangaza primary schools were affected by floods, as well as six nursery schools. Due to collapsed latrines and sanitation systems there is now a growing threat of cholera and bilharzia outbreaks, as well as other waterborne diseases. Malaria cases have also been reported and are emerging as a major problem.

### **Mombasa**

Rains have currently stopped in Mombasa giving the residents a chance to recover from floods that have devastated the infrastructure and some weak houses and makeshift structures. 2,835 people have been affected as more displacement expected if the rains persist. In Bamburi, poor water drainage systems have caused the accumulation of water and resulted in the submerging of a number of houses. In Bangladesh, a number of makeshift houses have been damaged or destroyed. Flooding has also been reported in Likoni.

### **Malindi**

Currently, floods have affected 876 people in Magarini, Bomani, Marekebuni, Vijana Heri, Kogombani, Majenjeji, Fundisa, Gongoni, Ngomeni and Janda locations in Malindi District. Most houses have collapsed. The water is receding as the rains have stopped.

### **Kipini**

The community in Kipini is agro-pastoralist and depend of farming for their livelihood. Their farmlands are underwater and this has significantly affected their food support structures. Approximately 1,200 people have been displaced in Kau, while in Kilelengwani and Ozi areas, inaccessible problems have been experienced. It is not clear how many people have been affected in these two areas as half of the communities are underwater and currently completely cut off. There are approximately 3,000 people living here.

### **Red Cross Action**

The National Society Branches at the Kenyan coastline are conducting assessments regularly to determine emerging needs, as well as identifying the needs of the affected people. The assessment has indicated that there is urgent need for food, water and non-food items, as well as medical support.

More than 5,700 people have received non-food relief assistance from the National Society in **Kilifi** District. The government donated to the National Society some 2,500 blankets, 1,000 bags of (90kg), 600 bags of rice (50kg), 600 bags of beans (50kg), 300 bags of sugar (50kg) and 14,000 aqua tabs. The Branch distributed 500 tarpaulins, 500 kitchen sets and 1,000 mosquito nets.

The National Society's Mpeketoni Branch assisted 5,220 people in **Mpeketoni** and 4,998 people in Witu with non-food items such as tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerricans, bars of soap and aqua tabs for water purification. Distribution is still ongoing. The National Society's Regional Office in Mombasa has also pre-positioned available relief items and personnel to the flooded areas for further intervention within the affected areas.

In **Mombasa**, the Mombasa Branch has distributed kitchen sets, tarpaulins, jerricans, blankets and mosquito nets to 2,235 people affected by floods in Bangladesh informal settlement. In addition, the Branch distributed food donated by the government, which included 467 bags of rice, 187 bags of beans and 800 blankets. Further distribution is ongoing in Bamburi area of Mombasa. At Likoni, 600 people have received non-food items, as well as relief food items from the government, which included rice, beans, flour and sugar.

Malindi Branch has distributed blankets, mosquito nets and aqua tabs to the affected areas to assist 876

people. Assessments are being carried out concurrently with the distribution in **Malindi**. The Lamu and Mpeketoni Branches conducted assessments in **Kipini** and later distributed aqua tabs to help guard against waterborne diseases. The Tana River District Commissioner has dispatched 7 Metric Tonnes of food, which included cereals, pulses and cooking oil. Further distribution has been organised on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

### **Coordination**

The National Society is working closely with the Ministry of Health to contain any possible outbreak of waterborne diseases. The Ministry of Health is expected to supply water purification tablets and spray the stagnant pools of water with insecticides in the affected coastal districts. Currently, the Lamu District Commissioner is conducting a joint assessment with the National Society's Lamu Branch team.