



Kenya
Red Cross

Operations Update

KENYA: FLOODS, LANDSLIDES & CONFLICTS

17 November 2008

The Kenya Red Cross Society's mission is to build capacity and respond with vigor, compassion and empathy to those affected by disaster and 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.

The Operations Update No. 1/2008 reflects the information available at this time:

- Kenya Red Cross launched a Preliminary Appeal No. 2/2008 targeting Ksh.585, 839,514 (CHF 6,657,407, USD 7,510,763) that will assist 300,000 beneficiaries for 3 months.

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All Kenya Red Cross Society assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning the Kenya Red Cross Society programmes or operations, or for a full description of the Society's profile, please access the Kenya Red Cross Society Website at <http://www.kenyaredcross.org> or the Federation's Website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational Summary

The Kenya Red Cross has carried out a countrywide assessment of the current heavy rains that have caused floods and landslides. More than 300,000 people have been affected by floods and landslides. The floods have resulted in loss of lives and, devastating impact on the infrastructure, livestock, and water and sanitation facilities, among others. Initial assessment by the Kenya Red Cross indicates that victims are in urgent need of shelter, food, health care and sanitation services, among others.

On 13th November 2008, Kenya Red Cross launched an official appeal targeting Ksh.585, 839,514 (CHF 6,657,407, USD 7,510,763) to assist over 300,000 beneficiaries for three months.

Situation

Nyanza/Western

The flood situation in Budalang'i remains the same especially in the northern part where there is no drainage. There are seven camps of displaced persons while some communities have refused to leave their homes in fear of losing their roofing sheets to thieves.

In Nyanza, more than 3,000 people have been affected by floods and 2,300 others lost their crops. The displaced persons in Siaya live in three camps - Nyandorera A and Nyandorera B sub-location and Rwambwa Health Centre.

Floods were also reported in Nyatike Division Makalda Central Kadem in Migori District where 700 people (200 households) were affected with 154 household shelters partially submerged and 46 household shelters totally submerged. At Karungu Market, households of about 200 people were displaced after the market was submerged.

Among the displaced people were 20 students from Lawanda Secondary school and 70 children below five 5 years.

Coast

In Coast, water level is increasing in Hola and Garsen as River Tana is swelling. There are fears that the dam waters might cause massive floods, if released. About 400 people have been displaced in Hola. In Garsen, the water level is increasing and some farms in Tiananga and Dumibeen were washed away. In Bura, 180 households in Chardente, Wayu and Maramtu have been displaced.

North Eastern

In Lagdera, most parts of Gurufa are marooned in flood waters and more than 600 acres of farmland are submerged. In El Wak, tension is high with and there is heavy presence of security forces that has led to movement of people to other divisions. More than 75 households have been displaced in Kotulo and Tabaka is experiencing diarrhoea.

In Garrissa, there have been cases of animal deaths reported and assessment is ongoing with the Ministries of Livestock and Health. In Ijaara, an outbreak of waterborne diseases, malaria and dysentery expected. Health emergencies also reported and likely to occur as 10 cases of diarrhoea reported in Hatley Village of Saka Location.

North Rift

In North Rift, some land has been submerged in Kwanza, Trans Nzoia West and East. More than 6,000 acres of farmland are submerged mainly in Namanjalala and Kapsituet after flooding of Sabwani River. In Nandi South, there is massive movement of people to higher grounds in fear of landslides.

Eastern

In Eastern, heavy rains are pounding in the province and there were reports of a landslide in Gitume village killing two and leaving two others hurt. In the same region, two houses were washed away in Timau and 50 acres of farmland were submerged. In Kitui, water overflowed a dam in Charitende, displacing 12 families.

A seasonal Daba Stream flooded due to heavy rains and 92 households submerged. A total of 485 people are camping in Daba Primary School. In Meru, landslides reported in Imenti and 50 acres of crop destroyed 12 houses flooded and household property destroyed and some livestock (cattle and goats) swept away. Heavy rains mudslides were also reported in Timau and in Meru, where 12 houses were swept away.

Red Cross Action – Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: To provide food and non-food items to flood, conflict and drought affected communities totalling 300,000 persons and enhance early recovery.

Kenya Red Cross is assessing the impact of floods in Siaya, Nyatike and Migori. A diarrhoea threat has been reported in Migori. In Siaya, Budalang'i, Kisumu and Migori, Kenya Red Cross Nyanza Region office supplied to the affected populations the following items: tarpaulins, kitchen sets, and mosquito nets, rolls of tissue paper, blankets and bar of soaps. At least 23 mobile toilets and 3,000 boxes of pur (240 sachets per box) are required

In Trans Nzoia West, there is an urgent need for mosquito nets, tarpaulins, mobile toilets and food. A water boat and a truck are also needed in Budalang'i area.

In North Eastern Province more than 100 households in Rhamu are in need of relief food, while Yobicho are require clean water.

Objective 2: To contribute to reduction mortalities and morbidities caused by conflict floods and landslides by provision of preventive community health and basic clinical care to the flood affected population.

In all flood affected areas in the country, the Kenya Red Cross Regional Health staff are monitoring the situation. In Trans Nzoia, the Health team was to dispatch anti-malaria drugs and other drugs;

Some 199 people were attended to at the Kenya Red Cross mobile outreach clinics. The top five diseases attended to were: URTI (32.2 %), malaria (22.1 %), rheumatism/joint pains (15.6%), diarrhoeal diseases (14%) and skin disease (8%).

An assessment on the safety of water sold at four privately-owned water wells and a borehole in Mandera District was conducted. The assessment was done by the Ministry of Health and Public Health officers in conjunction with the Kenya Red Cross. Water samples from the wells and borehole were taken Mandera District Hospital for laboratory analysis to establish the level of chlorine and contamination (Colli form).

The Ministry of Health officers were to conduct intensive health education in Mandera town. Kenya Red Cross WatSan team working in flood affected villages has intensified household visits to disseminate health messages and distribute water purifiers. Excavation of 20 latrines is complete and 45000 Aqua tabs have been distributed. Moulding of concrete blocks in progress

Three out of five camps in Budalang'i can now access health care, while others are cut off by floods.

Objective 3: To provide access to safe water for domestic use, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion.

At least five water tanks of 5,000 litres are required in Budalang'i and Siaya. There are fears of a cholera outbreak in Migori. In Bura, the Kenya Red Cross is supplying water; however, there is need of aqua

tabs to purify the water. Aqua tabs are also needed in Mandera and Rhamu. Some 5000 aqua tabs, 250 sachets of PUR and 25l Huwa San treatment have been dispatched to Tana River.

In Mandera, toilet construction is ongoing while construction of 18 pits dug and production of slabs are underway. There is need for 6" PVC pipes to return water supply to normal level. In Wajir East, water tanks have been set up. Metal buckets are needed for at least 20,000 households.

Over 100 people were dewormed and 46 households issued with Aqua tabs 30 tablets (1,380 tablets) each to last a month. Health education was conducted to approximately 100 persons. They have been educated on proper hand washing, importance of boiling/treating water, proper use of latrines and safe food handling.

In North Wajir, there is need for Aqua tabs and Pur as pans since wells are contaminated. In Wajir East, two shallow wells have been connected and water treatment is underway. The main water supply is also operating well, but disinfection will commence soon. After floods subside, there will be need to spray stagnant water to contain an upsurge of mosquitoes.

Kenya Red Cross has dispatched drugs and water treatment chemicals to Wajir East and. A water treatment plant that was installed in Wajir is operational. A second plant will be taken to Bute followed by the dispatch of medical drugs, water treatment chemicals, sprayers and non-food items.

At least 20l jerrycans and Pur for water purification have been distributed in Isiolo. Community sensitization is underway.

Objective 04: To enhance communication and awareness.

Kenya Red Cross Public Relations office facilitated media coverage during the launch of the Preliminary Appeal on 13th November 2008. The media extensively reported the event as well as the flood situation across the country.

Partnership and Coordination

The National Society's Branches in the affected districts have conducted assessments together with the local authorities under the District Steering Group. The National Society's Secretary General has been in touch with the concerned ministries in Government and the local administration in the flooded areas to facilitate easy assistance to the people who have been affected. Food dispatches to inaccessible and marooned areas are now ongoing with the involvement of the military helicopters and other logistical support.

The Kenya Red Cross is a member of Kenya Food Security Meeting, which is the main organ for coordination of food security matters. The National Society is also the lead agency in emergency operations in affected areas. In fulfilling its mandate of alleviating human suffering, the National Society works closely with the Government, World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian organizations in all food security matters. At the district level, the Kenya Red Cross Branches are members of the District Steering Group (DSG) and are involved in carrying rapid assessments.

The Society co-chairs the Rapid-Onset Disaster Committee with the Office of the President. The Committee is a body that also comprises international NGOs, UN agencies and government ministries. The government has food stocks that will be mobilized to assist people in the affected areas, while the Kenya Red Cross may seek local donor support to meet the needs of the displaced and affected people.

Floods in Kenya: Operations Update No. 1/2008

Kenya Red Cross has built up its preparedness and response capacity from challenges and experiences of past disaster operations. All mitigation programmes are designed with sufficient consultation at community level, using and enhancing community structures where possible, and ensuring an equal representation of men and women at decision-making bodies.

Other partnering organizations and the Government have also responded in Budalangi by giving 1000 bags of maize 600 bags of rice, 100 bags of beans, 60 cartons and 60 cartons of cooking oil has also responded to the disaster by giving 60 bags of maize.