

Situation report – Nairobi Floods and Huruma Building Collapse

Sitrep no. 001/Apr/2016

Date of issue – 30/04/2016

Time period of Sitrep: As at 1300hrs

Background

The Kenya Meteorological department (KMD) released an early warning on 25th April 2016, warning of heavy rains and storm surges (80% probability) that were expected to affect different parts of the country in the immediate period. The areas that were expected to experience heavy rains include Western Kenya, Rift valley, Coast and Central highlands including Nairobi. As a result of this KRCS activated response teams in areas which were expected to receive heavy rainfall. KRCS sent out messages through the TERA SMS platform to communities living in lowland areas of Garissa, and Tana River warning of a likelihood of floods in these areas. So far, the effects of heavy rains have been experienced Vanga in Kwale, Kalokol in Turkana, Modogashe in Garissa and Gakiria village in Maragua. Nairobi has been the worst hit region by the collapse of the Huruma occupied residential building.

Situation to date

Heavy rains were experienced in Nairobi and other areas in the country on 29th April 2016 resulting in flash floods. In Nairobi, several estates were submerged by flood waters resulting from the heavy rains. Among the areas in Nairobi that were most affected include parts of South C, Mukuru slums (400HHs), Land Mawe (500HHs), and Kinyago slums (150HHs) in Eastleigh. A perimeter wall at Department of Defence (DoD) along Lenana Road collapsed killing 4 people on the spot.

On 29th April, at around 2100hrs, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) through the Emergency Operation Centre received reports of a collapsed residential building in Huruma, Nairobi (pancake collapse). The 5-storey residential building with 24 units on each floor collapsed following the heavy rains trapping unknown number of people who were in the building at the time of collapse.

KRCS activated response teams composed of search and rescuers, First aiders, ambulances, Tracing and PSS teams to support the community members in rescue efforts of people reported to have been trapped under the rubble. 3 EMS Ambulances and approximately 30 KRCS responders were dispatched in the immediate aftermath of the incident and were later joined by back up teams from KRCS and other agencies including Military, National Youth Service (NYS), National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU), National Disaster Management Operation Centre (NDOC), St. John's ambulance among others.

At the time of this Sitrep, 11 deaths (7 from the Huruma collapse building) and at least 81 injuries had been reported as a result of floods in different areas of Nairobi. At the KRCS tracing in Huruma, 54 (30 male and 24 female) cases have been reported missing and search and rescue efforts are still ongoing.

Assessment teams are on the ground in various parts of Nairobi and other parts of the country to establish needs. KRCS is also considering cash transfer as a response option and this will be clear after the assessments.

Summary of KRCS actions

- KRCS has currently deployed 8 Eplus ambulances.
- 10 counsellors have also been deployed to provide PSS to the survivors of Huruma building collapse.
- Tracing desk has been set up to support families looking for their loved ones. The tracing hotline is:
+254 715 820 219

Immediate need

- Search and Rescue, tracing and Restoration of family links
- Shelter needs and food for the affected families
- NFIs, Dignity kits and warm clothing
- Psychosocial support

Outlook for the next 24 hours

The latest forecast (KMS) indicates that heavy rains are expected to continue being experienced over Western, Nyanza, the Rift Valley, and the Central Highlands including the parts of Nairobi and Northern Kenya throughout the weekend especially on Sunday 1st May 2016. The Huruma operation is expected to continue into the next hours and probably running into days.

Photos



Figure 1: Scene of collapsed building



Figure 2: Ongoing Search and Rescue efforts

Completed by: Diana Moraa and Kelvin Kiprono

Approved by: Kioko Kiilu, Preparedness Manager

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