



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## Kenya Red Cross Society

*Alleviating Human Suffering*

### **KENYA: FLASH FLOODS**

**17 May 2006**

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 183 countries.

#### **In Brief**

*This Information Bulletin (no. 2/2006) reflects the information available at this time. For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- *Abbas Gullet, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society, Email; [gullet.abbas@kenyaredcross.org](mailto:gullet.abbas@kenyaredcross.org) Phone 254.20.60.35.93; Fax 254.20.60.35.89*
- *Farid Abdulkadir, Head of Department, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Kenya Red Cross Society; Email [abdulkadir.farid@kenyaredcross.org](mailto:abdulkadir.farid@kenyaredcross.org) Phone 254.20.60.35.93; Fax 254.20.60.35.89*
- *Anthony Mwangi, Public Relations Manager, Kenya Red Cross Society, Email [info@kenyaredcross.org](mailto:info@kenyaredcross.org) Phone 254.20.60.35.93; 254.20.60.86.81/13 Fax 254.20.60.35.89*

*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>*

#### **The Situation**

Kenya started experiencing the long rains season since March 2006 and in the middle of a biting drought that has affected 3.5 million people. Coast, North Eastern, parts of Eastern, Central, Nairobi, Western and Nyanza Provinces have registered high levels of rainfall. A number of people have been reported dead due to the floods. Crops and some houses have been submerged and damaged, while roads in parts of the country have been rendered impassable or damaged. Some communities were displaced for a short while but returned their houses even though their houses were still wet. Most drinking water sources for the communities are feared to have been contaminated by pit latrines that had over flown.



*Submerged crops. Most crops have been destroyed by floods.*

In Western Kenya, flash floods have partly been as a result of heavy rains in the region, as well as from rivers flowing from highlands far from the lake basin area. Rivers flowing from the neighbouring hilly parts of the rift valley such as Nandi, Kericho and Mau Summit/Trans-Mara regions have been the major cause of the havoc experienced downstream. There is a further likelihood of poor harvests and food shortage in one to two months due to crop destruction. Due to inadequate home and communal sanitation facilities, there has been an increase in diarrhoeal diseases, with a further fear of the outbreak of water-borne diseases such as typhoid, amoeba, cholera etc. The community are also reluctant to move to higher ground due to lack of extra land and cultural reasons.

The Kenya Meteorological Department earlier indicated that the onset of the rainfall may continue until end of May and early June 2006. However, the latest prediction from the department indicates that the rains may subside much earlier. Nairobi and neighbouring areas are expected to receive more rain than the rest of the country, especially in the evenings.

*Brief round up of the flooding situation countrywide:*

- In Nyando, Upper Nyakach, Miwani Divisions, 36 families were displaced due to floods on 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at the Kando plains. A number of homes were submerged in the flooding.
- In Dagamra location, Marafa Division of Malindi District, flooding was reported between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006 that resulted in the submerging of houses and the displacement of 2,000 people. This was caused by the overflow of River Sabaki.
- In Samburu Division of Maralal District three people were reported dead on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 when a mini bus plunged into a raging seasonal river about 20 km from Maralal town.
- 500 people were displaced and 45 children were hospitalised due to malaria and water borne diseases in Kwisero Division of Butere Mumias on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006. This followed heavy flooding that caused the destruction of 6,000 acres of food crops and submerging of toilets.
- In Nyatike Division of Migori District, five people died and 668 families were displaced by flooding between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006. 25 ha of crops were submerged.
- In Budalangi, River Nzoia almost burst its banks on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The dykes may break up due to erosion caused by forceful waters. The rising water levels receded but most crops were submerged, especially the ones planted between the dyke and the river. Crops on 150 to 200 acres of land, including maize, cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and sorghum, were underwater or destroyed.
- In West Ugenya and Usonga in Siaya District, floods due to River Nzoia and Milambo dam displaced 116 families on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006. 500 acres of farmland were submerged, with further possible contamination of water from collapsed latrines.
- In Dambas Division of Wajir District, 60 families were affected by floods on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The floods destroyed 30 pit latrines, 16 houses, shops and food stocks. 30 huts and 20% of germinated crops were swept away. Boreholes, water troughs, water troughs were submerged. 100 goats and sheep drowned. Eight classrooms along with teaching and learning materials were also destroyed. Floods were also reported in Arbajahan location of Giriftu Division that affected 700 families. The floods are suspected to have come from southern highlands in Ethiopia.
- In North Karachuonyo, Kobala (East Karachuonyo) and Kogembo (Central Karachuonyo) Kobuya East and Wang'cheing in Rachuonyo District, 350 families were displaced on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006 following floods. 100 acres of maize and sorghum were also submerged. Some displaced families returned back to their water logged homes.

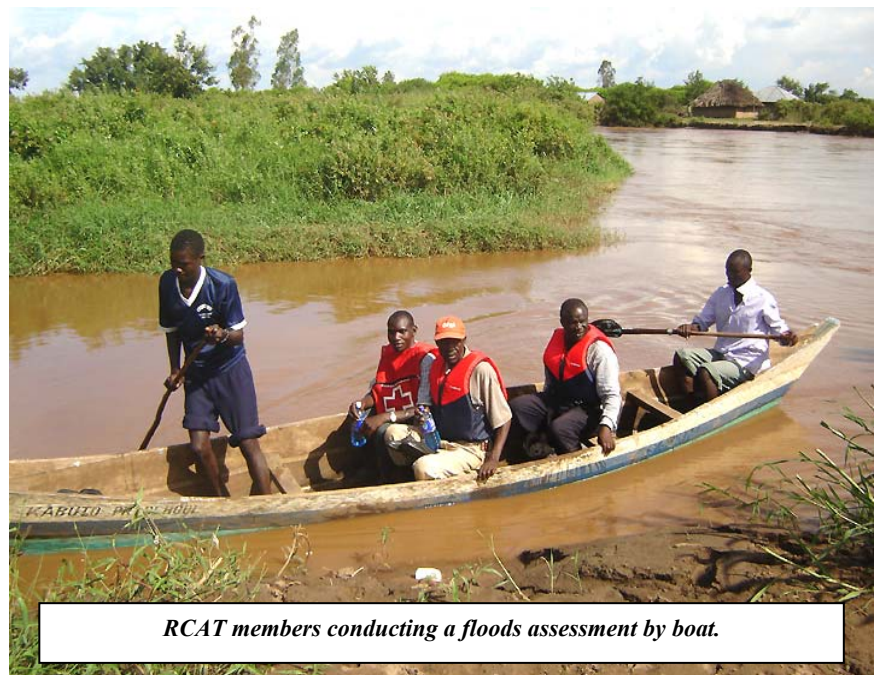


*A woman and her children displaced by floods*

- In Mnarani, Matsangoni, Kikambala and Kaloleni townships in Kilifi District, 25 homes were destroyed and this led to the displacement of 48 families on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006.
- 1,500 people were affected and 22 people displaced on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006, in Kisauni, Mwishomoroni, Changamwe, Bamburi and Bangladesh Division in Mombasa in flooding caused by heavy rains. 15 houses were destroyed. The displaced people took refuge at a church in Mwishomoroni.
- Kiangai area of Kirinyaga District witnessed heavy rains on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 that triggered a landslide that affected 15 families and destroyed properties.
- In Kilifi District, heavy rains caused severe flooding that affected 1,300 people - 400 people in Kikambala and 900 people in Bahari. The flooding also caused damage to houses and the bursting of pit latrines in some schools. In Ganze, Vitangeni and Kaloleni, farms were destroyed by floods.
- In Obeyi (Ahero), Ayweyo (Rae), Sangorota (Lower Nyakach) and Ndasi (Miwani) communities also in Nyando, floodwater damaged houses and farms that affected 72 families since early May 2006. River Miriw (Sonde) is steadily rising and Sangorota community of 98 households is likely to be adversely affected through submerging of houses, loss of animals and communication break down. Ndasi community (Miwani) of 110 households are likely to be marooned should flooding occur.
- Kanam and Olare (Rangwe) communities in Homa Bay witnessed the displacements of 27 families due to flash floods in early May 2006. Livelihoods are not adversely affected. Communal dam in Kanam burst its earth banks causing massive galley erosion and loss of domestic water.
- In Kakelo-Kakoth, West Kanyarwanda and Amoyo (Nyatike) communities of Migori, floods soaked most houses affecting 660 families and destroyed houses in early May 2006. The alluvial soil in the area long laid bare by wanton destruction of trees and poor farming methods is highly susceptible to soil erosion. Much of the area is inaccessible by 4x4 vehicles during floods. The soil type may not be able to sustain the dyke construction. Rivers Kuja and Migori are steadily rising due to continuous rains in the highlands, posing a danger to the five communities of about 600 households likely to be adversely affected through submerging of houses, loss of life, animals, property and communication break down before end of June 2006.

## Red Cross Action

The National Society Red Cross Action Team (RCAT) members in Branches in the affected Districts countrywide conducted assessments to determine the appropriate response to the communities affected by floods. These assessments were conducted in Wajir, Malindi and Western Province that resulted in relief distribution to the affected people. Joint field assessments were carried out between KRCS-Mombasa Branch, the Mombasa District Commissioner in Kisauni Division. An assessment by KRCS and the Ministry of Health was carried out in Nyando, Rachuonyo, Homa Bay and Migori Districts of Western Kenya from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006. More assessments in other flooded areas will be carried out. Busia Branch has pre-positioned relief items comprising 50 blankets, 50 mosquito nets, 50 pieces of soap and 20 collapsible jerrycans. The Society is preparing to respond to the basic needs (non-food items) to 15,000 families in 21 districts.



*RCAT members conducting a floods assessment by boat.*

DATE	DISTRICT	RELIEF FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEMS DISTRIBUTION BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
25 <sup>th</sup> –30 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	Nyando	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 72 Blankets,</li> <li>- 36 Tarpaulins,</li> <li>- 72 Jerricans</li> <li>- 144 pieces of Soap,</li> <li>- 72 Mosquito Nets,</li> <li>- 21,000 Aqua Tabs</li> <li>- 36 Kitchen Sets</li> </ul> <p><b>Government of Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 100 bags of Maize</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> to 13th April 2006	Malindi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 180 Blankets,</li> <li>- 180 Tarpaulins,</li> <li>- 180 Jerricans</li> <li>- 180 Kitchen Sets</li> <li>- 169 bales of Maize Flour,</li> <li>- 60 cartons of Biscuits</li> </ul> <p><b>Government of Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 600 bags Maize</li> <li>- 49 bags of Pigeon Peas.</li> <li>- 20 cartons of Vegetable Oil</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> week of April	Isiolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,000 Blankets</li> <li>- 500 Tarpaulins</li> <li>- 1,000 Jerricans</li> <li>- 14,000 Chlorine Tablets</li> <li>- 500 Kitchen Sets</li> <li>- 2,000 bars of Soap</li> <li>- 1,000 Mosquito Nets</li> <li>- 46 MT of Unimix</li> </ul> <p><b>Government of Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 57 MT of food</li> </ul>
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2006	Samburu	Situation under control
24-25 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	Migori	<p><b>Government of Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 800 bags of Maize</li> <li>- 50 bags of Rice</li> </ul>
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	Siaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 250 pieces of Blankets,</li> <li>- 116 pieces of Tarpaulins,</li> <li>- 116 pieces of Kitchen Sets,</li> <li>- 468 pieces of Soap</li> <li>- 232 pieces of Mosquito Nets,</li> <li>- 21,600 of Aqua Tabs</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2006	Kilifi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 89 Mosquito Nets</li> <li>- 140 Tarpaulins</li> <li>- 140 Kitchen Sets</li> <li>- 10 Blankets</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Nyando	Obeyi and Ayweyo were supported with non-food items through Kisumu Branch
5 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Kirinyaga	Kirinyaga Branch together with the local church donated food to the affected families.

5 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Mombasa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 22 Kitchen Sets</li> <li>- 54 Blankets</li> <li>- 22 Jerricans</li> <li>- Cloths</li> </ul> <p><b>Government of Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 300 bags of Rice</li> <li>- 250 bales of Maize Flour</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Kilifi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distributed blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and food to the affected people.</li> <li>- The Society also donated two Mobile toilets to Kibaoni Primary School.</li> <li>- In Ganze area 40 families were assisted with food and non-food items.</li> </ul>

### Coordination

The National Society has been alerting the community to prepare adequately for the floods. This has been taking place at meetings and *barazas* in the communities in the presence of line ministries, the local authorities and local organisations. The National Society's Branches have also conducted field assessments together with various other district structures such as from the agriculture, public health.

In Budalangi, trained RCAT members and community members are scheduled to use 3,000 gunny bags to patch up and reinforce the dykes. Kobuya and Kobala in Rachuonyo dug shallow trenches through the government Food For Work approach. Kogembo residents dug shallow trenches through their own initiative.



*A bull-dozer reinforcing the Budalangi dykes.*

The National Society's Branches countrywide are working with the local community and government authorities, non-governmental organisations, armed forces and other emergency services organisation on the ground. These groups are part of the District Disaster Committees (DDC), which are chaired by District Commissioners. The DDC works in close collaboration with the Rapid On-Set Disaster Committee at the national level, in which the National Society Headquarters is the Co-Chair, while the Government is the Chair.