

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KENYA:FLOODS

Emergency Appeal no. MDRKE003
(Glide no. FL-2006-000159-KEN)
21 December 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. MDRKE003; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 8 December to 14 December, 2006; Appeal coverage: 20.5%. Please note that the financial update and information reflecting contributions and expenditures to date for the operation will be made available shortly.

Appeal history:

- Launched on 17 November for CHF 9,848,235 (USD 7,864,934 OR EUR 6,157,653) in cash, kind, or services to assist 300,000 beneficiaries for 6 months. Refer to - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRKE003ap.pdf
- Operations Update no. 1 captured the worsening flooding situation and Red Cross Red Crescent efforts to provide assistance to the affected population. It was issued on 24 November 2006. Refer to - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRKE00301.pdf
- This appeal was revised on 7 December 2006 for CHF 26,352,005 (USD 21,832,647 or EUR 16,563,171) in cash, kind, or services to assist 563,000 beneficiaries for 4 months. Refer to - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRKE003rev.pdf
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 750,000 (USD 630,000 or EUR 470,000)

Outstanding needs: CHF 20,953,090 (USD 17 million or EUR 13 million)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- East Africa Sub-regional Programmes: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA64003.pdf
- Kenya Drought Emergency Appeal no. MDRKE001 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRKE001.pdf

Operational Summary: The flooding situation in the country continues to unfold, bringing with it new challenges for the flood-affected population. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), in coordination with partner national societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Kenyan Government, United Nations agencies and international humanitarian agencies, is currently focusing on the provision of emergency relief non food items and addressing immediate health, and water and sanitation needs.

Please note that in addition to the information reflected in this Operations Update, the KRCS has extensive updates available on their website at <http://www.kenyaredcross.org/>

The projects and activities elaborated here are aligned with The International Federation's Global Agenda which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity". These are:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

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- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

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All International Federation 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 Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

Heavy downpours were experienced in parts of Kenya at the beginning of October, leading to heavy flooding. 34 lives were lost and an estimated 723,000 people affected, including about 60,000 others in Isiolo, Garissa, Turkana, Lodwar, Moyale, Wajir, Mandera and Kisumu. The rains have caused severe destruction to the infrastructure. Bridges have been washed away and roads linking towns cut off making transportation/access a complicated for commuters and traders. Many commuters were stranded for days without food. Reports indicate that the main livelihoods in the affected areas are farming, livestock and fishery which have been highly affected by the flooding. Crops and some motorized irrigation pumps are reported to be washed away and irrigation infrastructures are damaged.

The extremely high amount of rainfall has led to excess amounts of water at Kenya's hydro -electric dams resulting in overspill that led to the flooding of the entire Tana River flood plain triggering the displacement of hundreds of communities on both sides of the river and exacerbating the already precarious situation. This humanitarian situation is unfolding in a region that is among the least developed in the country and has been suffering successive droughts over the past decade thereby further weakening the ability of the local communities to withstand disaster. The coping mechanisms of the affected communities has already been exhausted and this floods emergency is an unusual occurrence as the region is arid and is usually a drought prone area.



During the weekend of the 2 December, heavy rainfall spread to the western region of Kenya particularly affecting Busia (Budalangi). Dykes along the Nyando River were completely destroyed, in many places, resulting in large scale destruction of property and flooding of farming land along the flood plain. According to Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) assessments, some 12,000 households have been displaced and are in urgent need of relief assistance and other services. KRCS volunteers from neighbouring branches were mobilized to carry out assessments and have so far distributed relief items to 1,000 affected households.

Photo, above: A young boy standing in a flooded residential area in Garissa. Source: The Kenya Red Cross Society

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Elwak and Mandera districts in North Eastern Province and parts of Meru in Eastern Province continue to receive torrential rainfall even as floods subside in the other affected parts of the country. The Government of Kenya has not so far declared the situation as a National Emergency. Tabulated below is a summary of the current situation per province, the current threat and the emergency response provided by the national society.

Table 1: An Overview of the flooding situation and response actions around the country (as at 14 December 2006)¹

Province	Overview	Threats/ Needs	Emergency response
North Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70% of Mandera town population displaced. - 2,444 families displaced in Mandera District. - The displaced are camped in 5 primary schools in Elwak/Mandera District. - 150 families in Bunisa Division displaced following collapse of the town dam. Roads impassable. - Children with diarrhoea in Garissa has risen to 86 from 64. Malaria reported. - Heavy rains in Wajir District since October. Estimated affected people 34, 545 (6,909 households). Ewaso Nyiro River cut off some areas. Shallow wells and water pans contaminated with human waste. - In Wajir District Hospital, 937 cases of diarrhoea and 6 diarrhoea-related deaths (children) reported in 15 facilities/paediatrics ward in November. - In Wajir District Hospital, 26 malaria cases reported in children in October, and 42 cases in November. - 689 children admitted in the nutritional programme. Of these 39 severely malnourished and 650 moderately malnourished. 7 malnutrition-related deaths reported. An average of 2 admissions per day in the stabilization centre in Wajir. - Mosquitoes and flies have increased considerably. - Reports of cholera outbreaks in Moyale, which poses a real risk to Wajir. - Main Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera road impassable. - 20 health centres inaccessible even by staff. - Food prices have shot up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fears of diarrhoeal outbreak. - Food, NFIs, medicines, shelter needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMOP distributions ongoing parallel to airdrops
Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water levels have subsided in most parts. - However infrastructure badly damaged. - More than 200 families displaced in central, Kyuso and Nguni divisions of Mwingi District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food, mosquito nets, shelter needs reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distributions still on-going.
Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Tana River District, an estimated 190,000 people have been affected, including Bangale, Bura, Galole, Garsen, Kipini and Madogo divisions. - Water levels in Tana River and Kwale districts subsiding though people are still camped in primary schools. In Bura, 103 families are camped in one primary school. - Over 3,000 families in Garsen displaced, including 1,542 of them marooned and un-reached by KRCS aid. - 1 case of cholera confirmed; malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia have been detected. - Diarrhoea on the increase in Kilifi & Mombasa. - In one IDP camp, the nearest health facility is 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risks of water borne diseases and generally serious health threats. - Food and shelter materials needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some bridges repaired. - 4 KRCS trucks providing food and NFIs to displaced persons.

¹ Includes reports from the KRCS, the Kenyan Government's Floods Response Coordination Centre, Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), United Nations News Centre, Agence France-Presse and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Situation Report No. 3 of 29 November.

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	<p>kilometres away and has insufficient medical personnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most camps lack toilets and clean water. - Crops have been washed away, houses submerged and most roads cut off 		
Nyanza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rain fall reduced, 380 families displaced, 320 of which are un-reached in Migori, 38 people rescued from drowning, 9 bodies unaccounted for. - 3,000 affected in Nyatike, 750 of which are displaced. - River Nyando water levels going down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water-borne diseases & malaria on the increase due to sanitation challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relief items distributed.
Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southern dyke on R. Nzoia in Budalangi division, Busia District broke down on 31st November – 1 person died. - 12,500 displaced a few people and camps marooned. Rains continue and the number of people affected has increased by 1,800 to 14,300. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility of cholera outbreak is high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relief items distributed to 1054 families initially & to more families by 8th December. - NS evacuating those trapped using community boats.
Nairobi²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most slums and low cost houses flooded due to the overflowing of Ngong River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fears of more flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An assessment indicated that no persons have been displaced in the area.
Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land-slide incidents. 276 families displaced in Meru and food relief was required. - 3 people died after a bus was submerged by floods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elephant invasion due to disruptions in their habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The local branch made arrangements to move the displaced communities.
Rift Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200 people are marooned by floods. 44 households were also cut off, roads between Lodwar and Kitale, Lokichoggio and Kakuma & Lokichoggio to Lodwar were impassable. - There is a great fear that the River Turkwel might break its banks soon. - Due to heavy rains in Baringo District, the roads are beginning to cave in. - In Nandi District, a landslide on the slopes of Nandi hills affected the Kaimosi settlement scheme leaving 60 families displaced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malnutrition and water borne diseases. Malaria outbreaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The KRCS expecting to airlift relief items to affected persons.

Operational developments

The short rains commenced when the October allocation for the World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) 5 (targeting 280,935 beneficiaries) had just rolled out. To date, over 18% (an estimated 37,899 persons) of the EMOP beneficiary population have not received their October food ration. There are also a number of households, which had received food but have lost it with the floods.

A rapid health assessment conducted by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Spain in Garissa District from 7 to 8 December 2006 indicated that the most urgent need in all areas visited was for food. Although there was some increase in cases of malaria and diarrhoea in some of the health facilities visited it was not clear whether this was an expected increase at this time of the year as a result of the rains. No systematic assessment of the nutritional status of children under 5 years of age is currently being undertaken (except in Amuma). Access to clean water was a real problem but as in most cases the water is very dirty. Disinfection by chlorine tablets will not be effective unless the water can be cleared of sediment prior to disinfection.

² Information on Nairobi remains the same as of 17th November 2006

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The MSF report states that there are currently no supplies of Coartem, the first line treatment for uncomplicated Malaria by the Ministry Of Health (MOH), in the health facilities visited. As Malaria is currently the main morbidity seen it is recommended that supplies of Coartem be sent to these health facilities as soon as possible. Sanitation was a problem in all areas visited as toilets/latrines were almost non-existent and the population practices open defaecation. To obtain the necessary privacy for defecation most people choose to hide in the vegetation growing along open water sources. During periods of heavy rain this washes all faecal matter directly into the water source used by the population for drinking, washing, etc.

There is an increased need for support with shelter materials as some villagers have suffered severe damage to their homes as a result of the heavy rains. Many men were complaining of increased problems with their livestock – sickness and death of both cows and goats.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Goal: To contribute towards the mitigation of the effects of floods and increasing the resilience of affected people in Kenya.

Relief, recovery and livelihoods

Objective 1: Provide search and rescue (SAR) services to minimize the effects of floods on vulnerable communities isolated or threatened by the ongoing floods in the next 4 months.

Expected results:

- Loss of lives and property of floods affected communities are minimized;
- Mechanisms for detecting and alerting vulnerable communities are improved;
- Separated families are unified and family links are restored.

Progress: An early warning message was issued by the national society urging people settled in low lands to move to higher grounds. In Tana River, the national society commissioned its boat that is conducting search and rescue, as well as evacuation and relief assistance to the affected people along the river basin. The boat is capable of carrying 10 tonnes of relief assistance.

Constraints: The main cause of flooding in Bura and Madogo divisions (Tana River) is the overflow of nearby dams. Early warning messages were only heeded by a few residents in the area, while some in the Mnazini and surrounding areas did not heed a Red Cross call to move to higher ground. As a result, several families were marooned and are at great risk due to the flood waters.

Objective 2: To improve the status of 503,000 affected beneficiaries through timely provision of appropriate emergency relief kits.

The immediate targeted areas are Garissa, Tana River, Wajir, Kwale, Busia (Budalangi), Nyando, Moyale, Isiolo and Mandera.

Expected results:

- Floods affected communities have improved resilience against the impact of floods.
- Human lives have been saved from the complexities resulting from exposure to rain, cold weather and diseases.

Progress: The national society continues with assessments in affected areas that can be accessed. The focus on the Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps is now shifting to health issues (especially sanitation) as opposed to relief. In Kisumu, 1,800 families have already received non food relief assistance. In Mandera, out of the targeted 2,444 households, the following relief items were distributed; 2,400 mosquito nets, 575 blankets and 180 tarpaulins. In Wajir, the national society is conducting a day-to-day monitoring of the situation. The national society is also continuing with its distribution of WFP EMOP commodities. A logistics ERU from British Red Cross is assisting with the reception and forwarding of essential relief items.

Table 2: Non Food Items Distribution (as at 11 December 2006)

District	Blankets	Kitchen sets	Jerry cans	Tarpaulins	Soap	Chlorine tablets	Bladder tanks	Mosquito nets	Water	Unimix	Used clothes
Kwale	2,740	936	1,400	850	2,700	-	-	-	-	50	-
Kilifi	-	250	250	250	1,000	-	3	-	-	-	-
Lodwar	600	500	1,000	300	2,000	14,000	-	600	-	-	150
Nyeri	174	87	-	87	188	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elwak	800	320	-	400	576	168,000	-	800	-	-	-
Kisumu	3,700	1,931	2,503	2,770	9,677	560,000	-	-	-	-	-
Garissa	5,060	680	4,560	2,180	9,998	252,000	-	800	1,200	-	330
Meru	200	100	200	100	400	14,000	-	-	-	-	-
Thika	30	15	-	15	60	-	-	-	-	-	50
Mwingi	40	20	40	20	80	-	-	600	-	-	20
Garsen	3,325	1,400	3,196	2,300	8,625	70,000	-	-	-	-	-
Isiolo	1,325	1,000	2,000	780	4,000	-	-	-	-	20	-
Total	17,994	9,239	15,149	10,052	39,304	1,078,000	3	2,800	1,200	70	550

Constraints: The key issue is access. Many areas, especially in Ijara District, still remain isolated.

Objective 3: To establish livelihood recovery and rehabilitation needs and ensure that they are linked to humanitarian assistance in floods affected areas.

Expected results: Livelihood assessments are conducted and recovery as well as rehabilitation livelihood proposals are developed and shared with partners and donors.

Progress: Terms of reference for the assessment have been agreed between the International Federation's regional food security advisor and the KRCS. The teams will include representatives from KRCS, ICRC and possibly other organizations present in Kenya and is scheduled to begin early in 2007 and is expected to take up to two weeks.

Constraints: As with all programme sectors access will be the key issue deciding which areas are to be assessed.

Objective 4: Enhance the operational capacity of KRCS to respond to potential future disasters throughout Kenya.

Expected results:

- The capacity of KRCS to respond to disasters is enhanced;
- The disaster preparedness capacity of KRCS is enhanced.

Progress: The National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) will now be concentrating their efforts in Bura as this is the most affected part of the district, while operating from Bura-Tana. Two cargo planes carrying non-food items were sent to Mandera by the National Society.

Health and epidemic control

Objective 1: To contribute towards reducing mortality and morbidity through provision of preventive public health community care and basic clinical care to 150,000 floods affected people.

Expected results:

- Reduced mortality and morbidity among the general population;
- Improved access to basic healthcare services among the flood affected population;
- Increased awareness of health issues and disease control by the affected population;
- Reduced risk of water and vector borne diseases in the targeted communities;
- Improved capacity to respond to epidemic diseases;
- Increased access to reproductive health services, including HIV/AIDS awareness.

Progress: No update available at the time of reporting.

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Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of KRCS in the provision of basic health care as well as epidemic preparedness and response in remote areas, using BHC-ERU.

Expected results:

- Increased disaster response capacity of KRCS, with a strong public health in emergency (PHE) capacity;
- Strengthened capacity KRCS staff and volunteers in the provision of basic health care, epidemic preparedness and response;
- Strengthened ability to set up operational mobile centres for case management;
- Increased capacity of KRCS to build on the usage of BHC-ERU;
- Improved collaboration and networking with MoH and civil society partners.

Progress: Three Basic Health Care Emergency Response Units (ERUs) have been deployed one in Garsen – Japanese Red Cross, 2 in Bura – Finnish and Spanish Red Cross. A spare unit is on standby in Nairobi ready to deploy to other areas should the need arise. Basic Health Care units provide immediate emergency health care needs up to for up to 30,000 people. In Tana River, the MoH, in conjunction with the National Society, are planning several medical camps in Bura-Tana. The Government has already supplied cholera kits to Hola as a precautionary measure.

Objective 3: Ensure transition into rehabilitation and longer term community health programming to prepare communities to face future health emergencies.

Expected results:

- Improved public health in emergency preparedness and response;
- The affected population has access to improved health services;
- Strengthened long term community health programme;
- Reduced community vulnerability to health emergencies, epidemics and disasters;
- Improved collaboration and networking with MoH and civil society partners.

Progress: No update available at the time of reporting.

Objective 4: Ensure preparedness for a prolonged flooding situation and for temporary support in case of possible influx of refugees from Somalia.

Expected results:

- Have basic stocks and capacity to provide temporary support to additional disaster stricken communities as well continued support to those currently targeted;
- Have basic stocks and possible temporary support mechanisms in case of major influx of refugees;
- More KRCS staff and volunteers are trained and are available for such eventuality;
- Increase the KRCS and regional delegation's PHE management capacity.

Progress: No update available at the time of reporting.

Water and sanitation

Objective: Reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases through provision of sustained access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion as well as education services to 503,000 flood affected people.

Specific objective 1: Provide safe drinking water to SPHERE standards.

Expected results:

- Increased access to safe water for 503,000 persons;
- Increased capacity of KRCS staff to respond to water and sanitation related disasters.

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Progress: Alongside the Health Care ERUs are also 5 Mass Water Supply ERUs provided by the Spanish, Finnish, German, Norwegian and French Red Cross societies to provide up to 20 litres of clean water per day for 15,000 people. In El Wak, the national society is carrying out a Health Education Programme, as well as a campaign to distribute aqua-tabs and treat shallow wells.

Specific objective 2: Provide emergency and household latrines to the affected populations.

Expected result: Increased access to sanitation facilities for around 200,000 persons.

Progress: No update available at the time of reporting.

Specific objective 3: Provide emergency hygiene promotion and education services to the affected population.

Expected results:

- Increased awareness of household water treatment methods among the affected population;
- Improved hygiene practices amongst the target population.

Progress: Baseline surveys have been conducted in Garissa town and Bora IDP camps. A workplan to improve the health and well being of 21,865 displaced people (4,470 households) in 10 IDP camps in Garissa and Bura localities has been developed in conjunction with KRCS, the authorities and other actors. The plan involves the establishment of latrines and washing facilities as well as health promotion activities.

Federation Coordination

The Norwegian Red Cross special fleet of M6 trucks that was deployed in response to drought in northern Kenya early in the year is now available to support the floods operations and will initially be based in Garissa. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has donated non food items for 2,000 families to the KRCS to replace stocks previously used during the ethnic clashes. The ICRC has also provided two trucks for use in Garsen and Kisumu. In addition, two logisticians from the ICRC will assist at the KRCS headquarters and in Garissa.

Regular communication is being maintained with humanitarian agencies, the UN, government agencies and other partners. The KRCS hosts a weekly briefing of the general situation with the International Federation, the ICRC and partner national societies.

In Wajir, health outreach activities are being carried out by Merlin in the accessible areas. Merlin has been handling nutrition. The MoH, with support from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), also distributed mosquito nets. There have been difficulties by some humanitarian agencies and local authorities accessing over 20 health facilities in Wajir for the last seven weeks. This is likely to cause shortage of medicine in the health centres.

Training has been conducted for Red Cross volunteers by the Public Health Department and Merlin in Wajir town and its surroundings to enhance awareness on health risks and how to manage and identify the most urgent sanitation risks. It covered hygiene and malaria awareness, diarrhoea control, environmental cleaning and chlorination of wells. Water has already been chlorinated in all wells in Wajir town and its surroundings. Water sampling will be undertaken regularly by Oxfam GB in collaboration with Public Health Department to monitor quality and design additional interventions.

On 8 December 2006, a rapid needs assessment was conducted in Tana River District by representatives from the Kenya Red Cross Society, MoH and the World Food Programme covering Majengo, Mnazini, Matagala, Kau, Shirikisho and Kibokoni areas. Other organizations on the ground include WFP, UNICEF and Child Survival (run by Catholic Diocese of Garissa). MSF donated 200 blankets and 600 bar soaps to those affected in Mandera District. CARE International, acting as an implementing partner for UNICEF, distributed non food items in Garissa District.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

This operation was 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.

National Society Capacity Building

The KRCS has built up its preparedness and response capacity from challenges and experiences of past disaster operations. This floods operation will reinforce the capacities of its personnel in the affected branches. Skills in relief distributions and the awareness of the need for coordinated disaster preparedness will be improved. In addition, the national society will organize training for volunteers and other key personnel. Where capacity gaps exist, the national society may seek technical assistance from the International Federation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The media is to be engaged more to publicize the KRCS intervention. In this regard, the national society, with technical support from the regional communications unit, will implement a communications strategy to ensure that the KRCS is featured in local and international media. The national society also released hotline mobile numbers for donations to assist the affected people. The KRCS held a press conference on 11 December to launch the revised Appeal. The national society continues to issue its operational updates on a regular basis. So far, 8 updates have been released.

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