

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kenya: Fires

DREF Operation n° MDRKE008

GLIDE n° AC-2009-000036-KEN & AC
– 2009-000037-KEN

10 February 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 150,572 (USD 129,580 or EUR 100,181) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 1,000 beneficiaries as well as improving its preparedness for similar disasters in future. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Kenya has faced some of the worst fire tragedies in history, a supermarket caught fire, trapping large numbers of people inside as the building collapsed. One week later a crashed oil tanker exploded and caught fire on a major highway, causing serious injuries and deaths.

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) mobilized staff and volunteers to provide humanitarian response including First Aid, tracing of missing persons, psychosocial support, recovery efforts and transportation of victims from incident sites to hospitals or mortuaries.

DREF is being requested for follow up action and to carry out preparedness and public awareness activities to reduce the impact of similar accidents in future. The operation will last for 5 months and will be completed by 9 July 2009. A final report will be available 3 months after the end of the operation (October 2009).

[<Click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details or here to view the map of the affected area >](#)



Kenya Red Cross Society staff and volunteers remove from the scene a victim of the Nakumatt Supermarket fire tragedy, in Nairobi.

The situation

At least 144 people (source: Government of Kenya) have lost their lives during the last two weeks of January 2009, in Nairobi and Rift Valley provinces of Kenya, in fire-related incidents.

On 28 January 2008 at 2pm Kenya Red Cross Society received information from various sources of a blast at Nakumatt Downtown Supermarket in Nairobi. The information was relayed to various KRCS offices.

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) immediately deployed the use of butterfly cameras (cameras mounted in strategic locations to provide aerial views of the city) to confirm the information with a visual of site upon which KRCS alerted RCAT teams from branches as well as headquarters to respond to the fire.

In this incident, some 26 people were confirmed dead and efforts are continuing to determine the fate of 30 others reported missing.



Scenes in Nairobi's Central Business Centre following a blast at Nakumatt Downtown Supermarket (Pictures captured of the Supermarket fire by Butterfly cameras)

A road traffic accident (RTA) occurred on 1 February 2009 along Nakuru-Eldoret highway at 5.35 pm. The accidents involved a long distance, long haul trailer ferrying petroleum products towards Eldoret (Actual destination not confirmed). The trailer overturned approximately 5km past Salгаа Trading Centre, at Borop Sub-Location of Sachangwan Location in Molo division of Molo District.

Following the accident, the community members from the surrounding villages including Molo town moved to the accident scene for fuel siphoning from the overturned trailer, their number is estimated to have been in excess of 200 persons (including men, women and children). Traffic policemen also arrived to assess the accident scene and control the local population. It is reported that between 6.30pm and 7.00pm, an explosion occurred while people were still scrambling

for spilling fuel. The fire, consumed the fuel in pools, the tanker, fuel stored in jerrycans, 1 motor cycle and 2 motor vehicles parked along the road. The fire also killed 89 people almost instantly while over 100 escaped with burns that ranged from very severe(over 99 percent) to minor burns. Additional deaths continue to be reported and last death toll from this accident is reported at 107 deaths.

Coordination and partnerships

The Kenya Red Cross Society responded to Nakumatt fires in conjunction with the Nairobi City council Fire Brigade, GS security service, Knight support, St Johns Ambulance, police officers and medical teams from various public and private health facilities as well as members of the public.

During the Oil tanker explosion in Sachangwan, a few kilometres from Molo town, the Kenya Red Cross Society jointly carried rescue evacuation, First Aid and other services with the security officers, Fire brigade and medical officers from Rift valley hospitals.

Other responders were the Kenya Police, General Service Unit and other security units that assisted in disaster response. The number of responders were estimated to be over 600, of which Kenya Red Cross Society staff and volunteers were 391. At least 14 fire trucks were used during the response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

[See Annex 2 for pictures of the Nairobi fire response]

The Kenya Red Cross Society staff and volunteers responded to the fire incidents as detailed below.

Nakumatt supermarket response

The Kenya Red Cross Society volunteers and staff responded promptly when a fire broke out at the Nakumatt Supermarket Downtown branch in Nairobi's Central Business District, on 28 January 2009.

The NS team from Nairobi Branch arrived at the scene soon after the fire started gutting down the supermarket, and was shortly joined by the headquarters and Thika Branch response teams. The first response was the movement of casualties from the scene to Kenyatta National Hospital, supplying rescuers with water donated by well-wishers, First Aid and counselling of people, relatives and friends, most of them shocked by the tragedy.

The operations went on at the site 24 hours after the fire tragedy to provide assistance in tracing, counselling and First Aid support. A total of 220 volunteers and staff were involved in the initial stages but this was reduced to 43 volunteers who continued with recovery, tracing and counselling services. The death toll so far is 26, while 30 persons are recorded as missing and 14 are hospitalized as a direct result of the fire. Five people have been reunified with their relatives.

Oil tanker fire response

At least 80 personnel from the Kenya Red Cross Society responded to the Molo Oil Tanker explosion that claimed more than 107 people and left at least 178 others injured. The team was involved in search and rescue and provision of First Aid services to the injured people, removal of dead bodies, transportation of casualties to hospitals, tracing of missing persons and psychological support.

A total of 65 volunteers and staff remained on site in the following days to assist in the recovery operation. A total of 121 people were admitted in various hospitals in Rift Valley and Nairobi. The KRCS provided the Nakuru provincial hospital with the following services:

Rescue and referrals

The immediate rescue team comprised of Kenya Red Cross Society volunteers from Molo branch were backed up by teams from Eldoret, Nakuru and Nairobi. The team provided the immediate First Aid where possible and transportation to hospitals. Well wishers also participated in transportation of casualties to the health facilities. The survivors were transported to nearby hospitals as follows:

Fatalities

The Kenya Red Cross Society teams (61 including staff from Nakuru, Eldoret, Molo and Nakuru), counted 89 bodies at the scene of the accident. The NS donated body bags which were used in clearing the charred bodies from the scene. All the bodies were severely burnt with over 90 percent having been burnt beyond recognition. The KRCS collected and transported these bodies to Nakuru.

Psycho-social support

The KRCS team has set up counseling teams to support friends and relatives of the victims of the accident as well as the health care providers to deal with mental trauma (post trauma counseling).

Tracing services

The KRCS set up a tracing unit where registration of missing persons, suspected to have been at or close to the accident scene when the incident occurred are being reported.

Provision of medical supplies

The KRCS donated medical supplies including antibiotics, analgesics, quantities of bandages and gauzes as well as infusion fluids to Molo District Hospital and the Provincial General Hospital. The KRCS also donated 150 units of body bags most of which are being used in preservation of bodies. Bottled water which was used at the accident scene by volunteers and anxious community members was donated by the KRCS.

The needs

These two large scale fires and several others that have been reported in the recent past have highlighted the need to increase and strengthen KRCS capacity to respond to sudden onset mass casualty disasters. This is not only because of the increasing frequencies of such reported cases but as KRCS continues to respond effectively, the demand for its action is becoming higher and the need to ensure safety of both the KRCS teams and others including victims of such disasters became evident as the NS continued to provide crucial urgent relief such as First Aid, tracing, psycho-social services as well as other urgent medical attention.

At the same time there is an urgent need to educate the public on fire risks and danger of practices such as siphoning spilled fuel.

To this end this DREF allocation is being requested to increase and strengthen KRCS capacity and level of preparedness to respond to high casualty emergencies and reduce risks of fire disasters through:

- a) Replenishment of emergency items such medical supplies including First Aid Kits and body bags as well as essential non-medical items that increases the safety measures during rescue operations.

- b) Increase the KRCS logistical support in search, rescue and transportation of casualties in sudden onset disasters.
- c) Scale up KRCS capacity to provide tracing services for missing persons and psychological support, during large scale sudden onset disasters.
- d) Carry out public awareness campaigns on fuel and fire risks.

The proposed operation

Goal: To increase preparedness level for KRCS to provide emergency assistance to at least 1,000 people in sudden onset disasters with large casualties of similar nature reported in the recent two fire incidents in order to mitigate their impacts.

Objective 1: Contribute to reduction of mortality and morbidity related to injuries sustained during the two reported fire tragedies as well as increased preparedness for similar action in other sudden onset disasters with high casualty levels.

Activities

- Establish standard operating procedures for sudden onset emergencies.
- Replenish medical supplies, First Aid kits and ambulance supplies, utilized during the recent fire tragedies.
- Procurement and distribution of non-medical items to supplement 3 to 4 hospitals in Nakuru to cope with the increased numbers of patients.
- Continue provision of post traumatic counselling services to the victims and relatives still at the site of the recent tragedies and those at referral health facilities.
- Caring for carers through provision of psycho-social debriefing sessions, material supplies and provisions as part of the ongoing response activities.
- Skills building for KRCS volunteers and staff on Emergency Medical Team training (EMT).
- Train additional KRC staff and volunteers in:
 - Advanced First Aid.
 - Post traumatic counselling.
 - Crowd control.
 - Search and rescue.
- Conduct debriefing sessions for the volunteers and staff involved in the response.
- Procure personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers for use during response.
- Enhance volunteer capacity through refresher training in rapid response operations.
- Provide transport and/or logistical support for Branches and Regional offices to effectively respond to disasters.

Objective 2: Contribute to improved logistical support in search, rescue and transportation of casualties in sudden onset disasters

Activity

- Continue with logistical support in transportation of supplies, staff and volunteers in the response sites of the current reported fire tragedies.

Expected Results

- Increased KRCS capacity to respond to mass and multiple casualty incidents.
- Timely transport and evacuation of casualties of sudden onset disasters.
- Efficient and effective logistical support to respond in mass casualty operation.

Objective 3: To provide tracing services for missing persons and psychological support, during the fire tragedies.

Activities

- Procurement of tracing support materials including, GSM mobile phones and airtime.
- Follow up of tracing requests.

Expected Results

- Reunification of families.

Objective 4: Advocacy, communication and awareness

Activity

- Launch a media campaign on disaster awareness and promotion of risk reduction.

Expected results

- Timely information provided to all stakeholders.
- Daily updates on unfolding information shared to the stakeholders as well as the public.
- Increased public awareness on disasters and risk reduction.

Timeline

The operation is expected last 4 to 5 months with the first 1 month to wrap up the ongoing response activities.

Proposed Budget

The proposed budget for the whole operation is CHF 150,572 (see Annex 1 - budget summary below).

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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".

Global Agenda Goals:

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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY		Annex 1	
KENYA FIRES		MDRKE008	
		BUDGET CHF	BUDGET KSH
	RELIEF NEEDS		
500	Shelter	0	-
505	Construction Materials	0	-
510	Clothing and Textiles	3,200	208,000.00
520	Food	0	-
523	Seeds and Plants	0	-
530	Water and Sanitation	0	-
540	Medical and First Aid	75,000	4,875,000.00
550	Teaching Materials	0	-
560	Utensils and Tools	0	-
570	Other Supplies and Services		-
	Total Relief Needs	78,200	5,083,000.00
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		-
580	Land and Buildings	0	-
581	Vehicles Purchase	0	-
582	Computers and Telecom Equipment		-
584	Office/Household Furniture and Equipment	0	-
587	Medical Equipment		-
589	Other Machinery and Equipment	6,462	420,030.00
	TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND VEHICLES		-
590	Storage - Warehouse	0	-
592	Distribution and Monitoring	0	-
593	Transport and Vehicles Costs	7,000	455,000.00
	PERSONNEL		-
600	International Staff	0	-
640	Regionally Deployed Staff	0	-
661	National Staff	0	-
662	National Society Staff	16,154	1,050,010.00
670	Consultants	6,200	403,000.00
	WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING		-
680	Workshops and Training	10,769	699,985.00
	GENERAL EXPENSES		-
700	Travel	2,000	130,000.00
710	Information and Public Relations	7,500	487,500.00
730	Office running costs	0	-
740	Communication Costs	4,000	260,000.00
750	Professional Fees	2,500	162,500.00
760	Financial Charges	0	-
790	Other General Expenses	0	-
	SERVICE FEES		-
	Service Fees		-
	PROGRAMME SUPPORT		-
599	Programme Support - PSR	9,787	636,167.51
	Total Operational Needs	72,372	4,704,192.51
	DREF ALLOCATION	150,572	9,787,192.51

Annex 2 - Pictorial News: Nakumatt Fire Response

Taking a patient to the ambulance



Coordination and networking



Extrication in progress



Planning next action



Tracing missing persons



Coordination



First Aid



New Technology in use



Surveillance by chopper



Government team on site



Response teams

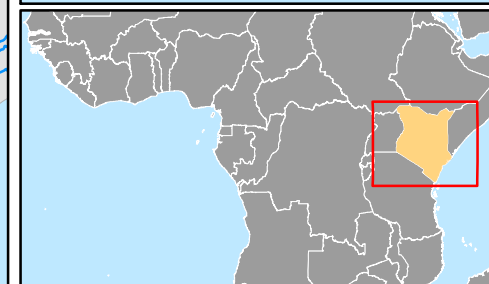
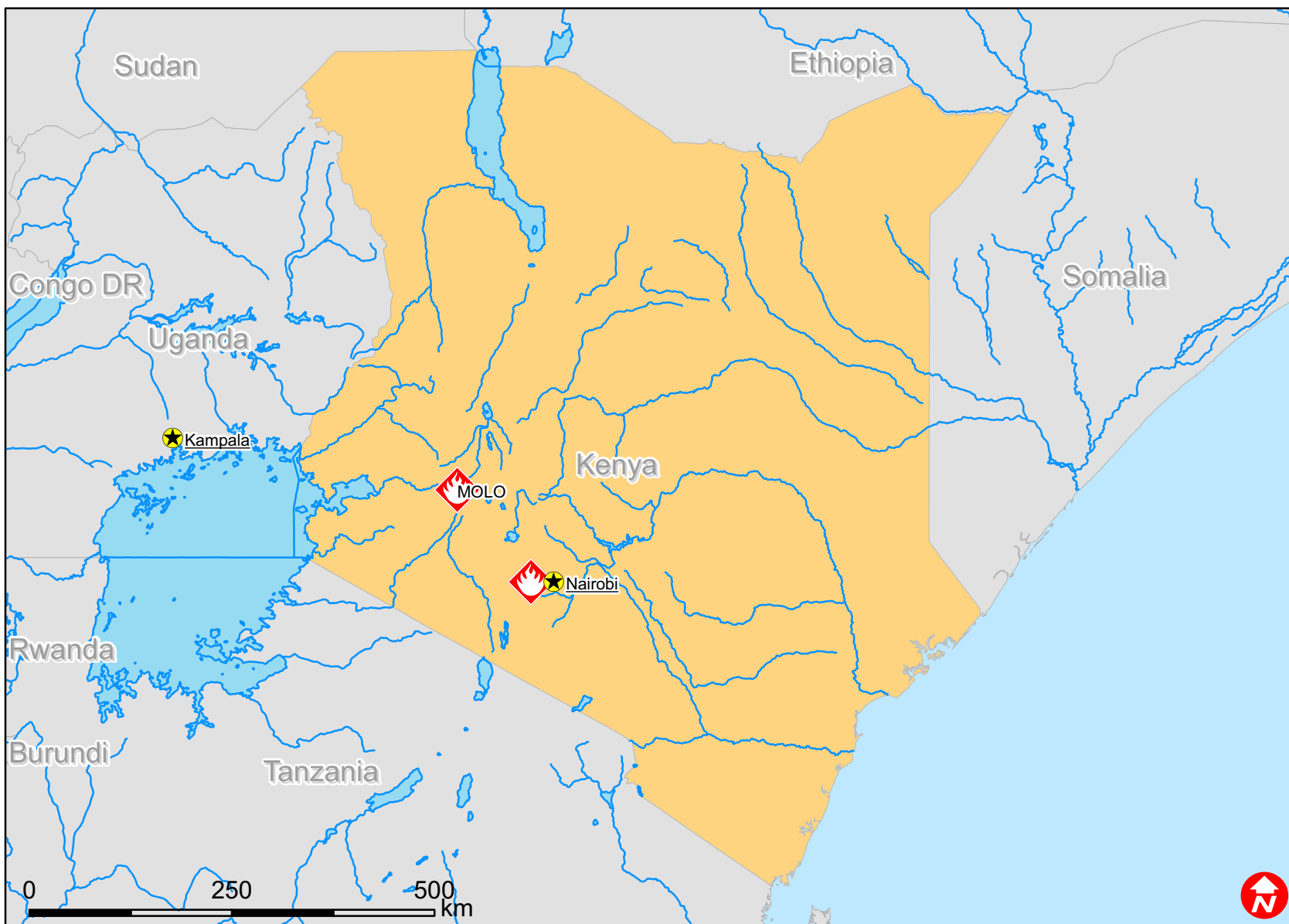


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Kenya: Fires



-  Fire and explosion
-  Capitals
-  Rivers
-  Lakes
-  Countries_DEVINFO