

# 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***

12 May 2003

*This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.*

*Appeal No. 12/03; Launched on 9 May, 2003 for CHF 846,000 (USD 645,256 or EUR 560,898) to assist 60,000 beneficiaries for 2 months.*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000*

*Operations Update No. Period covered: 9-11 May, 2003*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Coverage: 0%; the updated list of contributions will be issued with the next Ops Update.  
Related Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for Kenya (01.06/2003)*

## ***The situation***

The floods in Kenya are worsening as heavy rains are spreading from western, to the central and eastern regions of the country. There is growing concern over the Tana river basin in eastern Kenya as the Masinga dam has reached its full capacity. More rainfall upstream around the Mount Kenya region could result in floods in the low lying areas of Garissa, Hola and Tana River districts, putting some 20,000 people at risk.

The most flood-affected area of the country remains western Kenya. Combined Red Cross and government/UN/NGOs field reports indicate that there are over 53,000 people who have been affected by the floods in Nyando, Kisumu, Rachuonyo, Migori and Busia districts, 73 schools are inaccessible and over 10,000 hectares of land are submerged. The continuing rains are hampering relief intervention activities in flooded areas. In Busia alone, the government puts the number of people displaced by waters up to 24,000.

Thousands of Nairobi residents continue to be deprived of water following the destruction of one of the city's water purification stations by landslides. City authorities said they need one more week before the taps will start running again.

## ***Red Cross and Red Crescent Action***

In addition to the USD 610,000 needed to support the Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS) relief intervention, the government estimates that it will require over USD 2.7 million to fully meet the needs of 60,000 people affected by the floods.

More rains are likely to occur over the Lake Victoria basin, and central Kenya which increases the risk of floods, especially over the eastern sector of Kenya (Athi and Tana River catchment areas). Key areas under KRCS surveillance are Garissa, Garsen and the outskirts of Nairobi.

Meanwhile the defence ministry has continued to avail logistical support to the national society for the transport of relief items to the flooded areas both by air and by road. The navy is also on standby to rescue possible victims trapped by waters.

Over the weekend a convoy of five trucks with KRCS relief supplies reached the Budalangi constituency, probably the most affected in the whole country, with volunteers distributing 3,340 kitchen sets, 20 toilet slabs, 100 bales of 2nd hand clothes, 850 jerry cans, 200 tarpaulins, and 1,500 blankets.

On Wednesday (14 May) 'KenGen', an electricity company, is expected to release the excess water from the Seven Folks dam - seven huge hydroelectricity generating dams along the Tana River -which reached their maximum capacity. The immediate effect will be further flooding of the Garissa, Hola, Garsen, Bura, Lamu, Malindi and Tarasa regions. In the Tana River constituency the police received the order to forcefully remove families along the river banks who refuse to relocate to higher grounds.

Meanwhile, the KRCS is already working on an emergency plan to pre-position relief stocks in the Malindi and Tana River.

*For further details please contact: Martin Fisher, Federation Regional Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4440; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email:martin.fisher@ifrc.org*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*