

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

East Africa: Preparedness for El Nino Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDR64006

Operations update n° 1

6 November 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update: 13 October to 3 November 2009;

Appeal target: 1,124,682 (USD 1,061,020 or EUR 749,788) **Appeal coverage:** 4 %; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was initially launched on 13 October 2009 for 1,124,682 (USD 1,061,020 or EUR 749,788) for 2 months to prepare five National Societies to assist up to 25,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 161,487 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Eastern Africa Zone office to respond.



Summary: Intense rains and flooding has been experienced during the first weeks of the current October to December rainy season. Communities in eastern Kenya and parts of Uganda have already been affected by what is predicted to be an extended and above average rainy season.

The International Federation Eastern Africa Zone office has begun procurement and pre-positioning of relief, and water and sanitation (WatSan) items with support from the British Red Cross and DREF funds. More support is needed to ensure that the Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania National Societies have sufficient emergency response resources available in the region to initiate timely humanitarian intervention.

The situation

The October to December seasonal rains have started in East Africa and this year's expected rainfall will be particularly intense due to current El Nino conditions. Previous years with El Nino conditions resulted in significant rainfall and flooding throughout the region and led to tens of thousands of persons being displaced. This current rainy season is predicted to experience above normal rainfall that will last through January.

Currently after three weeks of rain, severe flooding has already occurred in northeastern and coastal Kenya, as well as southwestern Uganda. Some 1,200 households have been displaced in the Coast Province of Kenya to date and rain has been recorded in the region for the last 6 days. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has initiated a disaster response in the region targeting up to 5,000 households that are expected to be displaced over the next weeks if the rains continue at the current rate.



The seasonal rains will further exacerbate the on-going two year drought that has plagued the region. Entire communities are extremely vulnerable to the rains and floods due to damaged livelihoods as a result of failed crops and livestock death.

In addition, health emergencies related to floods are expected to rise over the next 2 to 3 months. Outbreaks of cholera have already been reported in parts of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi and are expected to increase as the rains continue. Emergency health, and water and sanitation activities will be the areas of intervention that require a quick and timely response to minimize suffering and deaths.

Coordination and partnerships

The affected National Societies and the International Federation Eastern Africa Zone office continue to work with national and regional partners to reinforce contingency plans and activate early warning systems. In addition, the national metrological departments and relevant disaster management agencies are working with the National Societies and augmenting preparedness measures.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) continues to convene inter-agency contingency planning and coordination meetings of which the International Federation is actively contributing too.

National Society Capacity Building

National Societies in the region continue to implement steps to strengthen both preparedness and community resilience. Branches in high risk areas have been targeted for refresher training of local volunteers, as well as review of pre-positioned relief items.

This appeal will also support trainings on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation in Emergency Response (PHASTER), epidemic control and household water treatment (HHWT) for 50 volunteers in high risk branches in each National Society in advance of any floods.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The International Federation Eastern Africa Zone office has begun procurement of strategic relief items that are currently in significant shortfall in the regional warehouse or have a long lead time in procurement and shipment to the region.

The International Federation Eastern Africa Disaster Management department has received and reviewed contingency plans from Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda National Societies.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (non-food items)

Objective: Appropriate relief items are rapidly distributed to 25,000 beneficiaries in flood affected areas.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items are pre-positioned for dispatch to distribution areas within 72 hours of needs being identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure selected non-food items (see list in Annex 1). Transport and store stocks for 25,000 beneficiaries.

Progress

The Eastern Africa Zone Logistics department has identified sources for local procurement and engaged Dubai Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in supporting mobilization of Framework Agreement items.

Challenge

The main challenge is lack of funds for procurement. Unfortunately donor response to this appeal has been extremely poor and therefore the Eastern Africa Zone is very concerned that the regional National Societies will not have adequate resources to support timely intervention once more wide spread flooding occurs.

Water, sanitation and health promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the timely and effective provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 5,000 families.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Water and sanitation materials are available for rapid deployment to 5,000 families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and pre-positioning of (2) cholera kits, (1) type 2 WatSan kits and (2) type 5 WatSan kits in strategic locations. Procurement of 300,000 water purification tablets and 300,000 sedimentation and/or disinfection sachets for 5,000 households to promote safe water.
250 local volunteers from flood prone areas within the 5 National Societies improve their water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 5 trainings on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation in Emergency Response, epidemic control, and household water treatment, for 50 volunteers in each National Society in preparation for the upcoming rainy season.

Progress

With support of DREF funds, the Eastern Africa Zone Logistics department has procured two cholera kits which will be pre-positioned in Nairobi. Procurement of 200,000 purification tablets and 200,000 sedimentation sachets is in progress and are expected within a week.

Challenge

Most of the planned activities have not yet been implemented due to the slow donor response.

Emergency shelter

Objective: 5,000 most vulnerable disaster-affected families in flood affected locations are rapidly provided with suitable emergency shelter and protected from exposure.	
Expected results	Activities planned

Shelter items for 5,000 households are pre-positioned for dispatch to distribution areas within 72 hours of needs being identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of additional tents and shelter kits (see list in Annex 1). • Transport and storage of tents and shelter kits¹. • Training of specialist shelter teams in each country to ensure necessary skills and knowledge for designing and delivering effective shelter solutions for flood affected communities.
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Progress

The Eastern Africa Zone Logistics department has procured 330 family tents, against a total 1,100 that are required, from Dubai RLU with the support of DREF funds. The tents are in transit and expected in Kenya within two weeks. Once additional support of the appeal is received the remaining amount of tents needed to support the proposed 5,000 households will be procured.

Challenge

Lack of funds for procurement.

Logistics

Objective: Procurement and pre-positioning of relief items in Kenya and Rwanda to meet the immediate needs of 25,000 beneficiaries in flood affected areas.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items to assist 5,000 households are strategically pre-positioned in Rwanda and Kenya to augment current NFI capacities of the National Societies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of relief, shelter and WatSan items through the Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai. • Strategic pre-positioning of relief items in Kenya and Rwanda to ensure quick mobilization to flood affected areas. • Maintenance of relief stocks in warehouses. • The International Federation will work with the five identified National Societies to support and build logistics capacity.

Progress

The Eastern Africa Zone Logistics department has worked closely with Dubai RLU in procuring relief items and facilitating shipment to Kenya. Due to lack of donor response priority is being given to relief items that require long lead time or are currently in significant shortfall in the regional warehouse. Mobilization table has been created and posted for donor support.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability and transparency. The communications activities outlined in this appeal are aimed at supporting the National Societies to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department at the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

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.

¹ Both tents and shelter kits are being pre-positioned to provide flexible shelter solutions according to needs.

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:

- **In Kenya:** Eastern Africa Zone Office (Nancy Balfour, Disaster Management Coordinator, Eastern Africa, Nairobi), phone: +254.20.283.5208; Fax: + 254.20.271.2777; email: nancy.balfour@ifrc.org
- **In Kenya:** Eastern Africa Zone Office (Dr. Asha Mohammed, Head of Zone, Eastern Africa, Nairobi), phone: +254.20.283.5124; fax: 254.20.271.27.77; email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for Eastern Africa; phone: +41.22.730.43.81; fax: +41 22 733 0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)

EAZ Logistics El Nino preparedness planning.

Summary of procurement required to enhance preparedness level from 2,000 families to 5,000 families.

Preparedness level for : **5,000** families

	Quantity per family	Total Quantities required for 5,000 HH (pcs)	Quantities available EA Zone stock @ 6 October 2010	Shortfall / surplus	Unit of Measure
1.0 Items to be distributed at family level					
1.1 Items fully covered by current EAZ Nairobi stock					
				Surplus	
Tarpaulin Sheet	1	5,000	16,221	11,221	pc
Mosquito net	2	10,000	24,048	14,048	pc
Jerry can (20L)	2	10,000	10,000	0	pc
Shelter Tool Kit	1	5,000	4,994	-6	pc
Tarpaulin Sheet (for shelter kit)	2	10,000	9,988	-12	pc
Sleeping Mat	2	10,000	20,000	10,000	pc
1.2 Items with shortfalls - To be procured					
				Shortfall	
Blanket	5	25,000	19,825	5,175	pc
Kitchen set	1	5,000	3,000	2,000	pc
Tent	0.25	1250	150	1100	pc
Soap	30	15,0000	50,000	10,0000	pc
Chlorine tablets (1 tablet / 10ltr)	720	30,0000	0	30,0000	pc
Sedimentation / Disinfection sachets (1 sachet / 10 ltr)	60	30,0000	0	30,0000	pc

2.0 Items to be used in community level interventions

Sanplast moulds (750x900 mm)		250	0	250	pc
Plastic casings for rapid latrine (1100 mm diameter)		250	0	250	meter
Plastic sheeting (for latrine walling)		3,000	0	3,000	meter
Latrine supporting frames and fixings		250	0	250	lot
Chlorine pellets in 25 kg drums		1,000	0	1,000	kg
Cholera Kits		4	2	2	kit
WatSan Kit 2		2	1	1	kit
WatSan Kit 5		2	0	2	kit

