

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kenya: Fires 2011

DREF operation n° MDRKE015
GLIDE n° FR-2011-000030-KEN
22 March 2011

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 205,575 is being requested from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in replenishing stocks used in delivering immediate assistance to 4,667 households. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Nairobi has witnessed an increase in response to fire disasters in the first quarter of 2011. At least 11 fatalities and more than 472 injuries have been reported as a result of four major incidents. Numerous smaller fires were also reported but with minimal casualties. The fires, whose causes have often been difficult to ascertain, have affected at least 4,667 households and rendered them in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) responded by mobilizing staff and volunteers to provide humanitarian response including distribution of food, family kits, First Aid services, provision of psychosocial support, tracing services and transportation of casualties from the site to hospitals.

The KRCS through this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund seeks to use funds to replenish a total of 4,667 family kits (comprising blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, soap and jerry cans) distributed during its response to various fires in the Nairobi City area. The National Society's policy of replenishing emergency stocks is in line with its preparedness strategy which strives to ensure that the stocks are always readily available to respond to disasters.

This operation (Replenishment) is expected to be implemented over a month and will therefore be completed by 20 April 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 July 2011)

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



Kenya Red Cross volunteers evacuating people from one of the fire scenes in Nairobi.
PHOTO/KRCS

The situation

The KRCS Emergency Operation Centre (E.O.C) Incident Database reports that approximately 42 fire incidents have been reported between January and March 2011; resulting in at least 11 fatalities and about 472 casualties, with all major incidents occurring in informal settlements.

Response to fires, especially in informal settlements, continues to be a daunting task due to the lack of publicly provided fire fighting systems including the lack of water sources to douse fires, extreme proximity

and high density of shelters coupled with combustibility of construction material and poor infrastructural development in these areas including lack of access roads into the settlements.

On 8 February 2011, a fire was reported in an informal settlement in Katuekera Olympic, Kibera where a total of 82 households were affected by the fire. On 10 February 2011, in Kibera Laini Saba a fire that was attributed to an electric fault completely affected 83 households who lost their homes, while others sustained minor injuries as they attempted to rescue their belongings.

On 28 February 2011, KRCS through its hotline number responded to distress calls of a fire at Mukuru Fuata Nyayo informal settlement. The inferno, which reportedly broke out at 1100hrs, burnt down numerous houses estimated to spread over four hectares. Families that were rendered homeless were provided with shelter at Mariakani Primary School where KRCS put up two tents. The school also donated five of its classrooms to house the affected people. The families were provided with essential non-food items (NFIs) including blankets and food for the night. On 1 March 2011, the National Society undertook a rapid assessment of the area in order to determine the communities' immediate needs. The assessment indicated that at least 3,259 households were affected by the fire. Regrettably, one fatality was also reported. It is important to note that children accounted for 40% of those displaced by the incident. The assessment was a challenge due to the confusion and disorder that broke out following the fire. In addition, some of the affected families especially the women and children were not available for the assessment as they had relocated and sought refuge at the neighbouring Mariakani Mosque. The Administration Police security personnel supported the process by requesting each of the affected families to stand beside the debris of their houses and undertook registration of those affected. Distribution activities commenced on 2 March 2011, where KRCS deployed NFIs to cater to 3,259 households. A total of 3,259 family kits were distributed, where each family received one. A family kit comprises 2 blankets, 1 set of kitchen items, 2 mosquito nets, 2 jerry cans and a tarpaulin. The NFIs distributed were part of KRCS emergency stocks. The National Society also distributed relief food on behalf of the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders.

On 8 March 2011, the E.O.C. responded to information of a fire in Suswa Deep Sea Village, Parklands which broke out at 1340hrs. The E.O.C. coordinated an initial response by the G4S and Securex fire engines and E-plus ambulance service. At least 40 KRCS volunteers and 4 Federation EA Regional staff were also mobilized for the initial response. A rapid assessment conducted indicated that one fatality and 37 casualties were reported from this incident. A total of 1,243 households were accorded humanitarian assistance in the form of temporary shelter, food and NFIs as well as First Aid. Most of the affected were given shelter for the night by a local church. The National Society distributed food and NFIs to the affected after completion of the assessment.

Coordination and partnerships

The KRCS monitored the fire incidents through its Emergency Operations Centre (E.O.C). The centre coordinated the collection of data from the field through its extensive volunteer networks. Approximately 40 volunteers responded to each response operation and supported the rapid assessments, distribution of food and non food items and provision of First Aid services. The National Society is also in regular contact with the IFRC EA Regional Representation on the fire situations. The IFRC Office also participated in part of the fire response activities.

The EOC is in close contact with the Government's disaster operations centre; the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) and other units relevant to fire response such as the Kenya Fire Brigade. KRCS, therefore, reported incidents to these centres to initiate response in the affected areas.

The National Society coordinates its response with the area's Provincial Administration. KRCS in collaboration with the area District Commissioner convened a stakeholder coordination meeting in order to develop the assessment and distribution plans during the fire incidence at Fuata Nyayo on 28 February 2011. The stakeholders agreed to channel distribution activities through KRCS. The following organizations provided services to the affected:

Table 1: Organizations that assisted during the fires in various parts of Nairobi

Organisation	Contribution to disaster
Nairobi Fire Service, KK Security Services, National Youth Service, Ministry of Defence	3 fire engines and personnel
G4S Fire Services	100 blankets, 50 stoves and 50 mattresses
Ministry of Special Programmes	29.25 MT of food donation (rice and beans)

Ministry of Health	Medical outreach
Mater Hospital	278 loaves of bread, 180 packets of milk and 138 blankets
Mariakani Primary School	Provided 5 classrooms for the displaced to sleep in
Kenya Police and the Provincial administration.	Provided Security during the entire operation
Kenya Water For Health Organization	Donated 2 mobile pit toilets and water purification tablets.
Goal Ireland	Provided NFIs (soap, sarongs, sanitary pads) for 3,258 households, 4 mobilets, psychosocial support and peer education. They also provided supplements for the HIV/AIDS infected.
Child survival	Provided counselling for the children
Kenya Power and Lighting Company	Disconnected illegal connections that posed additional fire threat

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Rapid assessment and registration

The National Society in collaboration with the Provincial Administration conducted a rapid assessment at the site of the fire disaster. The assessments highlighted that approximately 4,667 households were affected and rendered homeless by the fires. Once identified, KRCS undertook the registration and verification of the affected.

Distribution of food and non-food items

The National Society deployed NFIs to cater to 4,667 households. Each family that was targeted received a family kit comprising 2 blankets, 1 set of kitchen items, 2 mosquito nets, 2 water jerry cans and a tarpaulin. At the end of the operation, the entire consignment had been distributed to the affected populations. About 201 households did not turn up for the distribution despite several attempts to locate them. KRCS also distributed 29.25 MT of food on behalf of the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders.

Tracing services

KRCS provided tracing services aimed at restoring family links during the fire incidence in Mukuru Fuata Nyayo on 28 February 2011. The rapid assessment highlighted that 40% of the displaced population were children. A total of 17 children aged below 10 years were separated from their families. They have since been reunited with their families.

Psychosocial support

Four KRCS volunteers provided counselling services to the affected. The service, which was available throughout the operation, reached 10 beneficiaries, who had lost their homes in the Mukuru Fuata Nyayo fire.

Provision of medical services and referrals

The National Society established a triage unit at Hazina Estate immediately following the incidence at Mukuru Fuata Nyayo slums. KRCS volunteers administered First Aid services to over 400 casualties with minor injuries. Kenya Red Cross Emergency Medical Services Ambulances transferred 20 casualties with serious injuries to different hospitals.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: Beneficiaries were identified and quantified as per the assessments carried out by KRCS assessment teams.

Immediate needs: From the assessments, a total of 4,667 households were affected and rendered homeless by the fires. Their immediate needs included shelter, access to clean and safe water as well as food.

The proposed operation

Overall Goal: To contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations displaced as a result of fire disasters in various parts of Nairobi.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Outcome: 4,667 families receive necessary assistance to enable them to recover from the effects of fires.

Outputs:

- 4,667 households are supplied with essential non food items (NFIs)
- KRCS volunteer capacity built for relief distribution

Planned activities:

- Procure family kits (blankets kitchen sets, tarpaulins mosquito nets jerry cans and soap) for 4,667 households
- Transport emergency items to the fire affected families
- Distribution of emergency items to the fire affected families

Progress:

The National Society procured and distributed a total of 4,667 family kits to the affected population during the reporting period. The distribution was carried out by KRCS staff and volunteers. The family kits distributed were part of KRCS pre positioned emergency stocks. The distribution was carried out according to the registration lists generated during the rapid assessment. It should be noted that this DREF is for the replenishment of items that have been previously distributed.

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](#) Code 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 vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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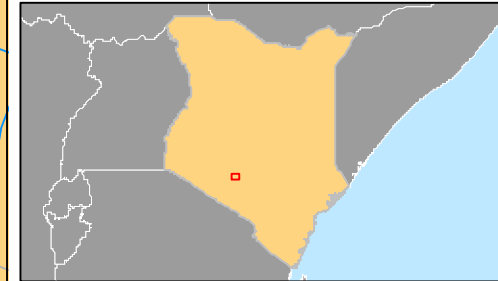
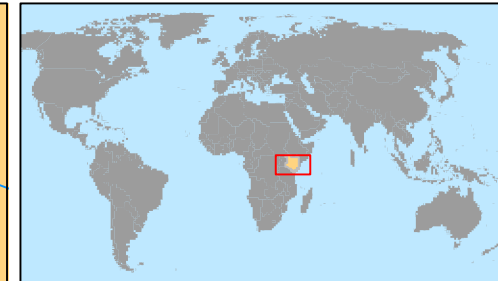
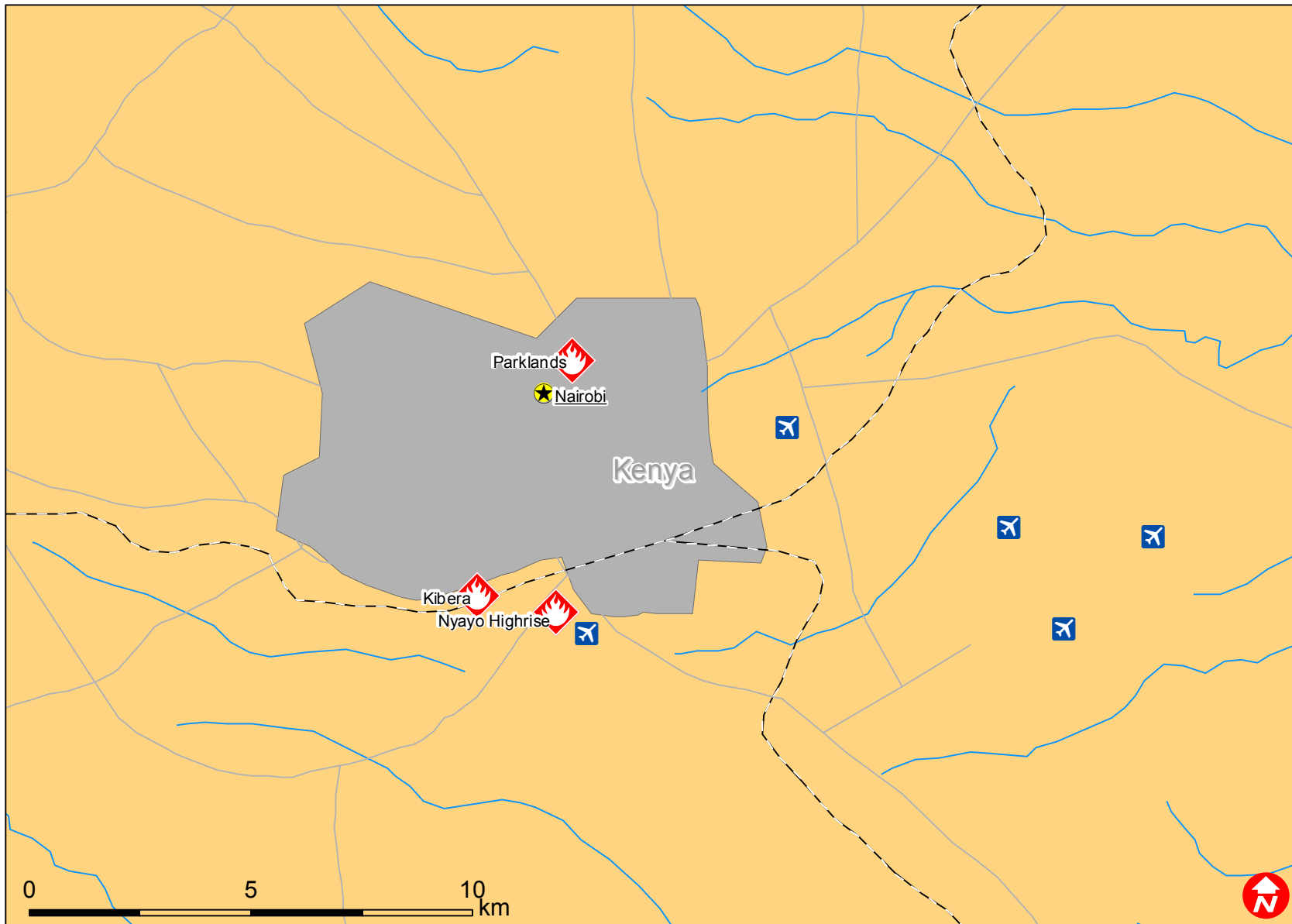
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	96,085	96,085
Food	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0
Medical & First Aid	0	0
Teaching Materials	0	0
Utensils & Tools	83,966	83,966
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	0	0
ERU (Emergency Response Units)	0	0
Total Supplies	180,052	180,052
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles	0	0
Computer & Telecom	0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage	1,059	1,059
Distribution & Monitoring	7,318	7,318
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0	0
Total Transport & Storage	8,377	8,377
Information & Public Relation	0	0
Office Costs	0	0
Communications	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Financial Charges	0	0
Other General Expenses	4,899	4,899
Total General Expenditure	4,899	4,899
Depreciation		0
Total Depreciation	0	0
Cash Transfers to National Societies	0	0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties	0	0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	12,248	12,248
Total Programme Support	12,248	12,248
Services & Recoveries	0	0
Shared Services	0	0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	205,575	205,575
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	205,575	205,575



Kenya: Fires



- Affected areas
- Airports
- Main roads
- Railroads
- Main rivers
- Urban extent