

# ***KENYA: Assistance to Victims of Bomb Explosion***

**appeal no: 25/98  
25 August 1998**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 845,000 IN CASH,  
KIND AND SERVICES TO ASSIST 1'000  
BENEFICIARIES FOR 12 MONTHS***

## ***Background to the Disaster***

On Friday 7 August at 10.35 local time, a major explosion rocked the business district of Nairobi. More than 30 buildings were severely damaged, and the five-storey Ufundi Building, next to the American Embassy, was flattened. Search and rescue started immediately, with the Red Cross first on the scene. By the end of the first day 108 dead bodies had been removed from the rubble, many by Kenya Red Cross volunteers.

The emergency rescue phase ran over five days, at the end of which the official casualty figures were 253 dead and 5,000 injured -- ranging from injuries requiring specialised care and amputation to superficial cuts related to the huge amount of glass scattered all over the areas. Ten days after the disaster, 147 patients were still hospitalised. A detailed breakdown of injuries and the prognosis for victims is currently being established.

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) was at the scene within minutes of the blast, and was active 24 hours a day during the rescue operation. Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs) worked tirelessly to remove debris and help extricate survivors and bodies from the rubble. A First Aid post was set up next to the blast site providing for those working on site or those anxiously waiting for information about relatives. Over 500 volunteers were recruited by the National Society to donate blood at various hospitals. KRCS co-ordinated the distribution of 2,000 hot meals for rescue workers. Tracing services started two days after the explosion.

The Regional Delegations of the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross provided logistical and technical support to the National Society, in the form of medical equipment, supplies to hospitals, vehicles, staff and other emergency items.

As the disaster dominated international news, external assistance came in the form of military search and rescue teams from Israel, France and the USA. Kenyan police, army units and health care facilities were rapidly mobilised. Local communities responded generously and quickly to the immediate needs. The Hindu Council, St John's Ambulance, scouts, churches and many individuals came to assist in clearing debris, transporting the wounded to health care facilities and serving meals to rescue workers.

Several initiatives co-ordinated by the Kenyan Medical Association to providing limited free medical care. Emergency psychological counselling was put in place by specialised local agencies. The Kenyan

Government established an on-site co-ordinating group made up of army representatives, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Interior. A Presidential co-ordinating body launched an international appeal for material assistance.

## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

### **Red Cross Objectives •**

The social and psychological effects of this incident have left many in need of post-emergency assistance such as provision of food parcels, medicine as well as social services geared towards those who have lost their breadwinners, children orphaned as a direct result of the explosion and persons with permanent injuries.

Many donors have expressed their interest in rebuilding the disaster preparedness stocks of the Red Cross and expanding the National Society's response infrastructure to ensure adequate capacities are in place especially for response in urban settings. The offers of support are in recognition of the life saving emergency services of the Red Cross in mass casualty incidents.

The Red Cross beneficiaries for this programme include an estimated 350 school age children who have lost one or both their parents; women and older youth left responsible for the family unit, emergency relief workers in need of psychological debriefings, rehabilitation/health services for those severely injured by the blast, KRCS volunteers and staff who form the Red Cross Action Teams.

In this context, the Red Cross objectives are two-fold:

Objective 1: to provide social and psychological assistance to the victims of the bomb explosion.

Objective 2: to retrain the KRCS Action Teams based on experiences learnt, to restore and further develop the KRCS response capacities, with an emphasis on urban relief and rescue.

### **Short Term •**

The immediate actions are geared to ensure that: (1) those requiring psychological debriefing receive it; (2) orphaned children are provided with school uniforms and related schooling necessities so that their education goes uninterrupted; (3) 100 families --women and older youth heading family units-- receive food parcels, medical assistance, rent and other necessities required to allow sufficient time to get back on their feet; and, (4) the emergency response capacities of the KRCS are restored with medical kits, tarpaulins, tents, blankets and emergency equipment.

### **Mid Term•**

Due to the nature of urban disasters involving mass casualties, some of the related implications require the Red Cross to engage itself in upgrading its training of emergency response workers as new urban operational experiences are gained. In this respect, 100 counsellors will receive training and refresher courses, while 5 additional training sessions will be given to emergency disaster and relief health workers. Simultaneously, eight local branches of the KRCS will be refitted to upgrade their response infrastructure with basic communication resources and emergency radio equipment.

Vocational training and income generation activities will be offered to those injured victims requiring this type of assistance. It is expected that government authorities will take into consideration long-term social services for such persons, therefore KRCS will co-ordinate closely with the relevant authorities.

### **Capacity of the Kenya Red Cross Society•**

The Kenya Red Cross Society has been a key auxiliary for relief and development work in Kenya since 1965. The Society's capacities have been improved over the years, with a current focus on integrated approach towards their service delivery. This is clearly reflected in their Strategic Plan for 1999-2000. The assistance programme proposed herein is a natural part of the KRCS goal to strengthen its own as well as the community's capacities in responding to health, development and disaster relief needs. Practically, the KRCS has the necessary infrastructure and manpower to carry out the stated objectives.

However, technical support in terms of reinforcement of finance/administration and social welfare departments is required. Priority will be given to national recruitment. Expatriate technical assistance will be considered only if necessary.

#### **Capacity of the International Federation●**

The International Federation has a Regional Delegation for East Africa based in Nairobi. The Regional Delegation provides technical support services to 15 national societies in East Africa and has the available human resource base to assist the KRCS. Any additional needs exceeding the current capacities of the Regional Delegation will be provided by the Federation Secretariat.

#### ***Budget summary***

Please see Annex 1 and for further information donors are invited to contact Ms. Atoussa K. Parsey, Desk Officer, ++ 41 22 - 730 4335, e-mail: parsey@ifrc.org

#### ***Conclusion***

Having proved its strengths in responding to man-made and natural disasters, the Red Cross needs to expand its current preparedness capacities and to further develop response mechanisms for urban relief and rescue. This is crucial when one considers the growing trends in incidents of urban disasters. Thus, the KRCS/ Federation have by design, integrated necessary capacity building elements into the assistance programme for victims of Nairobi the bomb explosion.

Margareta Wahlström  
Under Secretary General,  
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber  
Secretary General

**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**KENYA - Assistance to victims of Bomb Explosion**

**IN CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Tents (52 units)	55,500.00	
Tarpaulines (500 units)	8,600.00	
Blankets (3500 pieces)	18,400.00	
Food parcels for 200 families	30,000.00	
Medical equipment	185,000.00	
Medical kits (100 units)	4,500.00	
Training material	120,000.00	
Vehicle (1 unit)	30,000.00	
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>		<b>452,000.00</b>

**NEEDS IN CASH**

Capital equipment (computer/fax/radio/office)	42,500.00	
Transport, storage & vehicle costs	25,000.00	
Personnel (2 delegates / 12 months - month/del)	135,000.00	
Personnel (local staff)	82,000.00	
Training workshops	38,000.00	
Travel & communications	7,500.00	
Information	13,000.00	
Administrative, office & general expenses	10,000.00	
Secretariat operational support	40,000.00	
<b>TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH</b>		<b>393,000.00</b>

<b>TOTAL APPEAL IN CASH &amp; KINDSERVICES</b>	<b>845,000.00</b>
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LESS CASH ON HAND	<b>0.00</b>
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<b>NET REQUEST CASH &amp; KIND</b>	<b>845,000.00</b>
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NB: All items can be procured in the region