

Press Release

Countrywide Floods and Huruma Building Collapse

Sunday, 1 May 2016, Nairobi: Heavy rainfall was observed in various parts of the country over the last few days. The latest forecast from the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) indicates a likelihood of continued heavy rains in most parts of the country, including parts of Western, Nyanza, Central and Northern Kenya.

Following the rains, a number of flash floods incidences were reported as below:

- **Vanga, Kwale County:** Floods resulted in the displacement of about 1,800 households. A multi-agency rapid assessment was conducted in the affected areas that highlighted non-food items and seeds as the priority needs for the affected populations.
- **Kalokol, Turkana County:** About 312 families were displaced.
- **Moyale, Marsabit County:** 230 households were displaced by floods.
- **Laisamis, Marsabit County:** 81 households were affected by floods.
- **Garissa, Bungoma, Baringo, Embu and Murang'a:** These areas reported small magnitude incidents that cumulatively affected about 210 households.
- **Nairobi County:** The County has so far seen the worst effects of the heavy rains that have affected a total of approximately 792 households due to flooding in residential estates. The floods led to a collapse of a residential building in Huruma that resulted in 135 people injured and treated for different types of injuries. 73 people have been reported as missing. Search and rescue operations are ongoing to rescue survivors that may still be trapped under the rubble.

KRCS Huruma Building Collapse Action

- KRCS activated response teams to support the search and rescue operations, first aid, evacuations, tracing of missing persons and provision of psychosocial support teams to the affected community. KRCS has so far reached a total of over 737 people.
- KRCS has 10 psychosocial counselors that have attended to a total of 227 persons through one-on-one sessions and group therapies. KRCS is conducting this assessment jointly with Amani Counselors at Starehe CDF hall in Huruma.
- KRCS mobilised partner support to provide heavy machinery resources, and participating in search and rescue. Currently, KRCS is working with National Youth Service (NYS), and the military, which have deployed machinery to support the operation. Other actors are; the National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU), the National Disaster Management Operation Centre (NDOC), the Fire Department, and St. John's Ambulance, among others.

Assessments

Assessments were finalized in all the affected areas in Nairobi, further establishing the need for urgent assistance to the affected communities with shelter, food, water, warm clothing and psychosocial support. As a result of the assessments, KRCS will conduct distribution of dignity kits, blankets, mosquito nets and soap to the displaced families in Huruma. A similar distribution of non-food items is also planned for the displaced families in various informal settlements in Nairobi.

Outlook for the next 24 hours

The latest forecast (KMD) indicates that heavy rains are expected to continue over Western, Nyanza, Rift Valley and Central Highlands, including parts of Nairobi and Northern Kenya. The Huruma operations are ongoing and will probably continue into Monday, 2 May 2016.

Immediate Needs



KRCS continues to receive donations from well-wishers as informed by actual needs of the affected community. The items received so far include, but not limited to, assorted food and clothing.

KRCS accepts the following donations:

1. Water
2. Warm clothing
3. Children's clothing
4. Blankets
5. Food
6. Assistive devices such as, wheel chairs, canes and crutches

In-kind donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

1. Starehe CDF Hall, in Huruma
2. Kenya Red Cross Offices, on Red Cross Road, South 'C'
3. Nakumatt stores. Members of the public are encouraged to drop off any donations at their nearest Nakumatt store

Cash donations can be received through:

1. Mpesa Paybill Number is 10000.
2. For online donations, visit: <http://www.redcross.or.ke/landing/donate.php>
3. Donate also by downloading the Kenya Red Cross App by using the following link: <http://www.redcross.or.ke/app/>

Note:

- On social media, please follow us twitter on @KenyaRedCross
- The #hashtag for the Huruma building collapse is: #HurumaCollapse and #HurumaTragedy
- The #hashtag for the countrywide floods is: #FloodsUpdate , #NairobiFloods

For further information please contact:

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