



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON
& NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

PRESS RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

7th May, 2024.

STATEMENT ON THE FLOODING SITUATION IN KENYA

1. Kenya continues to grapple with the devastating effects of the floods from the 2024 long rains season. The on going flooding and landslides across the country have damaged property, impacted our households and are disrupting critical infrastructure and public services.
2. As a government, we condole with the friends and families who have lost their loved ones and also empathize with those who are recovering from injuries resulting from the poor weather conditions. We also appreciate those of you who have come out to support the victims of the floods through your material and financial donations, as well as those who continue to volunteer their time and expertise, in alleviating the suffering of their neighbours.

REVIEW OF THE FLOOD SITUATION

TRANSPORT

3. Landslides, mud slides as well as bridge overflows have been reported in **Makueni, Nyandarua and Bomet Counties**. There has also been a spillage in the Mwea East camp masinga dam in **Embu County**, and a severe overtopping of Kangundo Road at Joska bridge in **Machakos County**.

4. A similar situation ensues in **Kisumu County**, where River Nyando has burst its banks and overtopped Nyando bridge rendering the Nairobi-Kisii- Homa Bay road impassable. The Kapenguria- Lodwar Highway has also been cut off at the Lous trading center, while the Tuthu and Karururo road in **Muranga County**, has been blocked by a landslide.
5. Additionally, the seasonal lake in **Kajiado County** has displaced some families while the Kiramatian bridge, over the Oletepesu- Magadi Road has been overtaken by raging water and some sections of it are currently impassable.
6. We are equally concerned about the villages that have been marooned including in Ingarua/ Ngambo in **Baringo County** as well as the Huruma and Rongai villages in **Nakuru County**, where several households, have been displaced and a landslide has damaged parts of the railway line.

AGRICULTURE

7. It is unfortunate, that agricultural activities have also been impacted across the country. A total of **7,533 acres** of agricultural land has been destroyed and **4,003 livestock** have died.
8. Equally concerning, is that the current environment is conducive for the multiplication of vectors and poses a high risk of the outbreak of vector bone diseases especially, the **Rift Valley fever**. Accordingly, county teams have been trained on early detection and diagnosis of the Rift Valley disease and an advisory issued by the Director of veterinary services, has called for the setup of vector control measures, enhanced surveillance of vector bone diseases and the use of personal protective equipment by professionals, when handling sick animals.

EDUCATION

9. The devastating effects of the floods and landslides are also being felt in the education sector, with various schools experiencing

infrastructural disruptions and hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). As at today **1,203 primary schools** have been affected. The heavy rains have also impacted **439, 081 primary school students, 294 secondary schools and 124,358 secondary school students**. Additionally, **3, 945 toilets** primary school toilets are sunken and **81 roofs** in secondary schools have been blown off, thereby preventing the resumption of normal academic activities.

HEALTH

10. Dispensaries and health facilities in **Tana River, Kisumu, Kajiado, Busia and Kiambu Counties** have been flooded and/or the roads leading to some of cut off by landslides. This has rendered the facilities inaccessible and hampered disaster responsive activities in of the areas. There is however, enhanced disease surveillance in all the counties for Acute diarrheal diseases, Febrile illnesses, injuries and other diseases. Daily reporting of MAM-associated public health incidents is being carried out by the county health teams.

OVERALL IMPACT

11. In the course of these destructive events, we have regrettably lost a total of **238 lives**, with an additional **8 deaths** reported since the last update. A total number of **174 people** have been injured, with **75 individuals** reported missing. The number of households displaced and the number of households affected stand at **47,000 HHS** and **57,202 HHS** respectively.
12. Nairobi County has the highest number of affected persons at **146,354**. The Eastern region has a total of **5,957** displaced households with the Rift Valley region reporting the highest number of injuries at **128** persons.

ONGOING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

13. There is thus an immediate need for increased food and non-food items, as well as resource mobilization for search and rescue, in most of the affected areas.
14. Accordingly, the government has deployed varied mechanisms to handle the disaster and to manage the on going evacuations. The KDF & NYS have been deployed to assist in the SAR efforts while the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) have been mobilized to assist residents to move to safer areas.
15. It is important to note that unlike the previous evacuations, this government is implementing a humane and structured evacuation process where evacuations are taking place during the day (between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m) and temporary shelters are being provided to the affected groups. This is a departure from the past, where affected residents were arbitrarily evacuated without any government assistance. The impacted households are also receiving food, blankets medicines, mattresses to cushion them from the harsh weather elements.

Kisumu County

16. In Kisumu County, the food and non-food items that have been received so far for **Rachuonyo North Sub County** include, 720 bags of 50 kg bag beans, 400 bags of 50 kg rice, 20 bags of 25 kg flour, 1500 iron sheets, 5.50 kg nails, 20 cartons of soap, 100 jikos and 100 solar lamps.
17. The county also received varied items for the El-Nino mitigation including 800 bags of rice (50kgs), 320 bags of beans (50kgs) 700 pieces of mattresses, 300 pieces of blankets, 8 bails of sanitary pads and 10 boxes of soap.
18. Further, the affected households in the **Nyando, Kadibo and Nyakach sub-counties** have received 360 bags of beans, 200 bags of rice and 20 cartons of 25 kg fortified food.

19. In other parts of the country, those who have lost their basic documents are being assisted through the deployment of the civil registry, lands, the Kenyan National Examination Council (KNEC) and registration or persons departments that been mobilized on the ground.
20. A database of the affected households is also being compiled into a priority list of beneficiaries, for the social housing program. **20,000 units** will be put up within **Nairobi County** to move these households from the slum and riparian areas into homes, where they would continue to pay **KES 3,000** as rent, until they are able to own their own homes.
21. We are grateful for the continued support from our development and international partners. In particular, the **UN** has pledged up to **\$ 7 Million** in support to approximately **900 million** people globally. This will go a long way in enhancing the on going interventions in the affected countries.
22. The British High Commission in Nairobi has also announced an emergency funding uplift of **KES 140 M** to support the on going relief efforts across the country. These amounts will be channelled through UNICEF and will enable the provision of cash assistance to approximately **6,900 households** who have been most affected by the extreme weather. UNICEF will also provide health, nutrition and sanitation services including safe drinking water, temporary sanitation facilities and hygiene kits, to safeguard the health and well being of the affected populations and to help prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. Previous funding from the UK government has provided cash assistance to **1,800 families** in Tana River County as well as healthcare and sanitation services.
23. On going local support has involved the mobilization of food and non-food items from the private sector. The **KEPSA** membership through **KEPSA FOUNDATION** which is steered by its Executive Director, Ms Gloria Ndekei has supported the call to action by the Deputy President's

Office and have distributed food and non-food items in the low settlement areas of **Mukuru , Kibera Githurai** and **Mathare** in Nairobi County. These has included;

- 10 trucks of assorted foods
- 300kg green grams
- 16000 blankets
- 6300 mattresses
- 1600 cups and plates
- 4000 additional hampers 20 boxes of milk from pearl dairy
- 83, 500 worth of dignity packs and
- A pledge of KES 300, 000 worth of medicines for the Mai Mahiu victims.

The KEPSA team alongside the community bodies has done the distribution of the items and we are grateful to the membership of the alliance, for their generous donations and continued engagements in the NDOC meetings.

24. The **PanKaj Foundation** has also donated 16,000 mattresses, 4,000 hampers, 16,000 cups and plates and 1,600 blankets to the effected households.

25. We have also received bales of maize flour, green grams, super cereals, cooking oil and salt from the **M-Pesa Foundation** which has been channelled to the households in Kibra, Viwandani, Babadogo and Lindi Mawe residents.

26. Special thanks go to the varied companies and captains of industry for their generous donations to the flood victims and for continued engagements with the NDOC. They include;

- Dr Manu Chandaria
- Peter Ndegwa (Safaricom CEO)
- Team Pankaj
- Patrick Obath
- Shofco
- Trinity

- Bimal Kantalia Elgon
- Lee Karuri
- Bill lay
- Carol Kariuki
- Jaz Bedi

We anticipate additional intervention from varied private sector groups and all the support will be challenged through the NDOC.

WEATHER UPDATE

28. Residents should expect occasional rainfall over the Western, Lake Victoria basin, Central, the Coastal strip, the Rift Valley, parts of the Southeast and Lowlands and portions of North Eastern.

29. Heavy rainfalls will however, continue in the Lake Victoria Basin, Western Kenya, Central, the coastal region and parts of Mandera County. The water levels have also increased in the **Tana, Nzoia, Athi** and **Nyando rivers**, demanding extra caution, to prevent the loss of lives or additional loss of property.

29. The on going rainfall in Central region and the overflow of the seven Forks Dams, is expected to increase flooding in the Tana Delta impacting the **Lamu, Tana River** and **Garissa** counties. The **Kiambere** dam in particular, has recorded an overflow/ discharge of 1373.1 cumecs, while the **Gitaru** and **Kamburu** dams have recorded 1134.9 cumecs and 1143cumecs overflows respectively.

Updates on tropical cyclone ‘HIDAYA’

30. The Kenya Meteorological Department reports that the tropical **cyclone ‘Hidaya’** has completely lost its strength. This follows the weakening of the remnants of the rain clouds that accompanied the cyclone and which have been observed to weaken and spread out in various areas of the Southern region of Tanzania.

31. **Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi** and **Lamu Counties** are thus likely to

experience moderate to heavy rainfall offshore as well as strong winds which might propagate inland over the next days. Accordingly, beach activities, fishing, swimming and none essential transport within Kenya territorial waters have been suspended. Additionally, the coast guard has a ship patrolling the long Indian Ocean coast of the Kenyan territory water and additional three boats have been deployed with 20 officers on standby.

32. Residents, particularly those in the coastal region, as well as individuals involved in marine activities within and around the Indian Ocean, are encouraged to stay informed to regularly check the latest weather forecasts and to take maximum precautions in order to keep safe from the impacts of the flooding impacts of the rains

33. Rainfall is expected to continue over several parts of the country. Heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley during the first half of the forecast period. Rainfall intensities across the country are likely to reduce during the second half of the forecast period with high average daytime (maximum) temperatures of more than 30°C experienced in most parts of the Coast, North-eastern and North-western Kenya. Average night-time (minimum) temperatures will be low (less than 10°C) over some parts of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley.

34. We advise all Kenyans to stay prepared and safe. Public sensitization and the structured evacuations will continue, even as the government collaborates with its partners in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the resumption of normal services.

HON. SEN. (DR.) ISAAC MAIGUA MWAURA, CBS

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN