

Floods Update

Regional Overview of the Flooding in Eastern Africa

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Prepared by OCHA Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA)

No. 1

Highlights

- More than 50,000 people in need of immediate assistance due to floods across the Eastern Africa region.
- Kenya and Tanzania worst hit, as heavier than normal rainfalls lead to destruction of infrastructure and loss of lives and livelihoods.
- Humanitarian response on-going in affected areas in Kenya and Tanzania.
- Government of Kenya approves spending KES 4.5 billion (US \$ 53 million) for flood response.

Regional Flood Summary

A mild to moderate El Niño, characterized by heavier than normal rainfalls, continues to affect several countries in the region. Heavy downpour in Kenya and Tanzania has resulted in increased population displacements, destruction of infrastructure, loss of human and animal lives, loss of livelihoods and disruption of learning, as schools and business premises have been destroyed by the floods. According to Governments and Red Cross, more than 50,000 people are in need of immediate assistance across the region.

In Burundi, heavy downpour in early January 2010 resulted in damage to houses in Bujumbura rural province.

No flood reports have been received from Uganda, Eritrea, Rwanda, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia. Parts of Ethiopia and Somalia are currently experiencing below normal harvests following erratic rainfalls received during the last quarter of 2009.



Humanitarian Challenges

Humanitarian access to affected villages remains a challenge as the heavy rains have swept washed away key transport roads and major bridges in Kenya and Tanzania. As reported by OCHA Kenya, the main bridge connecting Lokori and Morelem in Turkana District was damaged by the heavy floods thus complicating access to the area, which can now only be accessed by four wheel drive vehicles¹. The government and local actors have requested for logistics and transport support for affected areas.

Humanitarian needs have been identified in all sectors with priority needs being in shelter, food distribution and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). UNICEF has warned of a high risk of increased water-borne diseases, including cholera, due to lack of access to safe clean water and poor hygiene in affected areas.

In Tanzania, an estimated 9,000 flood victims have been evacuated from their submerged homes in Kilosa area and are currently hosted in 23 temporary shelters. Local authorities are considering relocating the displaced population from to three identified locations, which however require camp set up, management and support services in shelter, water and sanitation².

Country Specific Updates

Kenya

In Kenya, amplified short rains between late December 2009 and early January 2010 have resulted in flooding in Rift Valley, Western, Northern and Central Kenya. World Vision has also reported of flash floods in Taveta region following heavy rains in Usambara region of Tanzania.

According to the National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC) 20 Locations have been affected, with the over 5,800 people displaced, more than 8,400 households destroyed, and over 6,000 livestock killed. An assessment conducted in early January by the Kenya Red Cross (KRCS) indicates that between December 2009 and 12 January, 24 people had been confirmed dead in eight districts in Kenya and up to 60,000 people have been affected countrywide. Worst affected is Lokori Division, Turkana East District in Northern Rift Valley Province, where more than 23,000 people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Increased risks of diarrheal diseases including cholera and rift valley fever have been reported hence need for urgent interventions in Water and Sanitation. A number of bridges and roads have also been damaged complicating access to affected communities.

Response

- The Government has put in place an Inter-Ministerial national response plan to address immediate and early recovery needs. Additionally, the GoK announced on 11 January that it had approved spending of KES 4.5 billion (US \$ 53 million) for flood response.
- KRCS in collaboration with Kenya government has distributed food, Non-food items (NFIs) and medication to affected populations in Homa bay, Turkana South and West Pokot Districts
- World Vision providing shelter assistance to 800 households in Lokori, Turkana South.
- Assessment missions undertaken by UNICEF/Kenya Red Cross in Nyakach/Nyando District and dispatched non food items and WASH supplies – the latter previously provided to the District as part of its cholera prevention and response programme.
- German Red Cross preparing a grant proposal for 100,000 Euros to procure and mobilize Interagency Health Kits (x10) including two malaria modules to support KRCS.
- IFRC Emergency Appeal to support flood response by the Kenya Red Cross is under consideration.
- Transfer of DREF funds CHF 404,471 to the National Society completed.

Forecast : Weather outlook by Kenya Meteorological Department suggests a general reduction of rains across most of Kenya with the wet weather conditions expected to subside by February.

¹ OCHA KENYA • Floods Situation Report #3, 13 January 2010

² International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Zone Office for Eastern Africa, 11 January 2010

Tanzania

Serious levels of flooding have been reported across much of Tanzania following heavy rains that started in late December 2009. Worst affected are the Central and South-Western parts of the country, especially areas within Kilosa district in Morogoro region, Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts in Dodoma region. The flooding situation has escalated rapidly since the beginning of January 2010, and has now spread to previously secure regions in Shinyanga, Mwanza, Mara Ruvuma and Karatu/Arusha. As of 12 January 2010, an estimated 50,000 people (over 8,000 families) had been affected by the floods in the three Districts, with up to 28,000 displaced.



Displaced children gather at one of the temporary shelters

According to IFRC disaster response teams³, in Kilosa district, a total of 23,980 people were displaced by the floods, of which 10,293 are accommodated in 23 temporary camps (mostly schools and public buildings) established by the district authorities and Tanzania Red Cross Society. The government is in the process of opening four relocation sites (Magomeni, Kilosa town, Kondo and Kimamba) to settle those in schools and public areas. Other affected communities are living either with relatives or friends, while others have rented public buildings in the area. The occupation of the learning institutions by the displaced people has resulted in the delayed opening of schools that were due to open on 11 Jan 2010. Basic assistance is currently being provided by the district authorities and local Red Cross (Morogoro Branch). The anticipated start of the annual rains in Kilosa in February/March poses a likelihood of more flooding.

In Kongwa district, an estimated 1750 people have been displaced by the floods, with up to 9,000 affected mostly due to the contamination of water supply and sanitation facilities. A significant number of water-wells are contaminated leaving thousands of families without clean and safe water. Unlike in Kilosa where human



Flooded Farmlands in Tanzania, both photos ICTC/RDRT, 12 January 2010

settlements were badly damaged, floods in Kongwa district have mostly affected the farmlands, with an estimated 5100 hectares of agricultural land submerged. Crops and pasture land have been damaged, with further destruction to infrastructure and roads. Kongwa secondary school has been marooned by the floods and all residential staff relocated to other places. The displaced communities in Kongwa are hosted by family and relatives and are receiving assistance from the government and Tanzania Red Cross.

In Mpwapwa district, an estimated 2,500 persons were displaced and 10,000 people affected. The affected community continues to suffer from the effects of massive water stagnation, including risk of contamination of water supplies and sanitation facilities. The Gulwe bridge that connects 12 wards and Msagali bridge connecting the village

to the main road of Dodoma and Dar es Salaam have also been damaged, thus hindering access to the area. This has resulted in food shortage in the area, with fuel prices in the 12 wards having doubled. The Tanzania Red Cross and the Anglican Church are providing assistance to the affected community.

³ IFRC, Tanzania Floods Assessment Report, 13 Jan 2010

All affected areas have reported incidences of public health diseases including malaria, Acute Watery Diarrhoea, Acute Psychosis and Headaches, Trauma, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections, Bronchi Asthma and skin infections.

Needs

- Urgent interventions in food, Water and Sanitation, Emergency Shelter and provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs).
- Support in the establishment of camps and resettlement of displaced persons from learning centres, to allow for re-opening of schools.
- Technical and logistical support in the reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges and infrastructure to facilitate access to affected populations.

Response

- As immediate emergency response UNICEF contributed Tshs. 5,650,000 (US\$ 4,280) and provided to Tanzanian Red Cross water purification chemicals, buckets, soap and jerry cans.
- The UN Emergency Group (ECG), presently chaired by UNICEF, is closely following up with the Prime Minister Office Disaster Management and the Tanzanian Red Cross.
- Local authorities are considering relocating the displaced population from the 23 camps to three displacement camps. Three locations have been identified but would require camp set up, management and support services (ie. shelter, water and sanitation).
- An IFRC Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) consisting of Shelter, Relief and Water & Sanitation (WatSan) specialists are in Tanzania to support the National Society with ongoing assessments and response activities.
- Two trucks carrying relief items from the IFRC warehouse arrived at the TRCS on 8 January.
- IFRC deployment of an emergency water & sanitation treatment and distribution module from Nairobi being considered. An emergency water & sanitation team being recruited and identified for standby.
- An IFRC Emergency Appeal is being drafted for release later in the week.

Forecast

Weather forecast by IRI/Red Cross Climate Centre predict that though the rainy season will continue through April, there will be a decrease in the intensity of rainfall, with a return to a more normal rainfall pattern. The rainfall pattern is currently moving towards northern Mozambique, Madagascar/Comoros hence less rains expected in Tanzania in the coming days. The water levels of Mkondo River however continue to rise hence the flooding in Dodoma and Morogoro regions are likely to persist in the coming month.

Burundi

Latest reports by OCHA team in Bujumbura indicate that about 200 mud houses built in Gatumba (Bujumbura rural province), an area prone to seasonal floods, were severely damaged in early January.

No casualties/wounded persons are reported. Assistance is underway by local authorities and Red Cross.

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