

EPR BULLETIN

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



World Health
Organization

Kenya

MAY 2024



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Cover Photo: WHO Trained rapid responders in Mai Mahiu assess flash flood. © Genna Print

MESSAGE FROM THE WHO KENYA REPRESENTATIVE

Since March, Kenya has experienced one of its worst March-April-May rainy seasons

affecting 308,381 people across 43 of Kenya's 47 counties. The heavy rains have caused flooding, loss of lives, displacement, and destruction of key infrastructure.

50 health facilities in 7 counties have been impacted, of which 39 are dispensaries, 11 are health centers.

The flooding has heightened health risks, making people more susceptible to waterborne diseases like cholera, with 67 cases reported in Tana River, Lamu and Siaya Counties. Additionally, stagnant water has increased the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria.

In response, the Government of Kenya has mounted a multisectoral emergency response, led by the Kenya Disaster Emergency Operations Centre.

WHO-trained rapid responders have been at the forefront of managing the crisis, with over 720 first responders deployed or on standby for deployment to affected areas.



WHO has also provided medicines and medical supplies to Nairobi, Tana River, Laikipia, Marsabit and Nakuru to support flood-related health issues.

Beyond flood response, WHO continues to strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation for health security. In May, WHO participated in a One Health workshop. Additionally, WHO took part in a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) workshop aimed at assessing Kenya's adherence to the International Health Regulations.

We hope you find these updates informative. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we prepare for and respond to health emergencies across Kenya.

Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo

In Numbers: Impact of Extreme Rainfall



Updated Statistics from 28nd May 2024



43 /47

Counties Affected

Most affected are **Nairobi, Makueni, Machakos, Kilifi, Nakuru, Garissa & Kajiado.**



315

Loss of Life

236 adults and 71 children have been reported [source NDOC].



61,676

Households Affected

Approximately **308,381 people.**



People Injured

188



58,592

Households Displaced

Approximately **292,860 people**



People Missing

38



67

Cholera Cases

reported in **Tana River [59], Lamu [7] & Siaya [1].**



50

Affected Health Facilities

in **12 counties** by floods due to road cut-off and Marooning.



See next pages for
WHO's response.





WHO-Trained Rapid Responders on the Front Line of Kenya's Flood Relief



May, 2024



Ministry of Health, WHO & more.



Read More

Nairobi, Kenya - This year's long rainy season, which typically lasts from March to May every year, has hit Kenya hard, with unexpected heavy rainfall and widespread flooding since mid-April.

Over 410,352 people have been affected, 53,936 households displaced and 307 deaths have been reported in 43 of the country's 47 counties.

The Government of Kenya has mounted a multisectoral emergency response, led by the Kenya Disaster Emergency Operations Centre in the country's capital, Nairobi. The centre gathers information from the 43 affected counties for analysis and decision making.

Over 720 first responders, trained by WHO, have been deployed or are on standby for deployment to flood-affected areas to provide health services to affected areas. More than 120 of Kenya's public health professionals and experts, also trained by WHO are deployed at the national level.

These responders are playing a critical role on the front-lines of the response for search and rescue, mental health support, risk communication and more.

Responders include a variety of experts ranging from epidemiology, case management, disease infection, protection and control, sanitation and hygiene, communications, anthropology, surveillance, laboratory and more.

WHO trainings which took place last year helped teams to respond to the flooding emergency within 24-48 hours of declaration using a whole-of-government approach.

Image above shows rapid responders who were recruited to Mai Mahiu, within 24 hours of a flash flood which killed over 50 people. The rapid responders have been based at a temporary centre for displaced and affected families, providing expertise in water, sanitation and hygiene as well as leading mental health services.



Mai Mahiu - Flash Flood

Mai Mahiu was one of the hardest hit areas by flooding in Kenya - after water accumulated in a railway tunnel, pressure forced it to collapse causing a flash flood which carried away people, homes, cars, trees and more.



Water & Sanitation Responder

In Mai Mahiu, displaced families stayed at schools. Image captures WHO-trained rapid responder monitoring water sanitation and hygiene to prevent further health emergencies, such as a cholera outbreak.



Mental Health Responder

Another WHO-trained rapid responder led the mental health services provided to displaced families who were staying at the school. Many individuals were experiencing acute trauma including mothers who lost their children in the floods.



Rapid Responder Training

In 2023, WHO Launched Phase II of Workforce Training in Public Health Emergency Response where 120 Kenyan rapid responders graduated from the Emergency Preparedness Response training, joining a pool of over 3,000 trained emergency responders across Africa.



Displaced families from Mai Mahiu Flooding **in Images**



"My husband jumped out of the window of our bedroom after me, the house broke up and it was carried away by the water. So now we are in the water, the house is gone, and I am clinging to a tree," **Beatrice Nyokabi, a survivor of the Mai Mahiu flash flood.**



Displaced families in Mai Mahiu were housed in a local school, where they slept in classrooms, with men and women accommodated separately.



"When the water started coming we were very afraid, we **started running to get our children**" - Theresa Njeri.



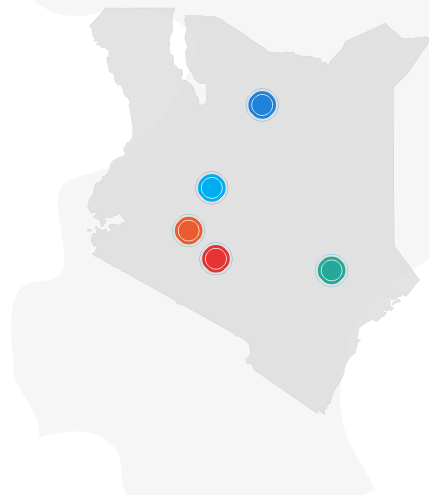
Theresa Njeri sits in a classroom where she has been sleeping, a few bags of donated clothes in the back are **all the belongings she has left**.



Children in particular at risk to mental health and other challenges. Play therapy is one form of support being offered to children in Mai Mahiu, helping children open up.

WHO provides Supplies & Medicines to support Flooding Response

6,200 people were reach with medicines and **70,000 people** with medical equipment/supplies from 5 counties.



● Nairobi Warehouse



● Nairobi - Kibera



● Nairobi Warehouse

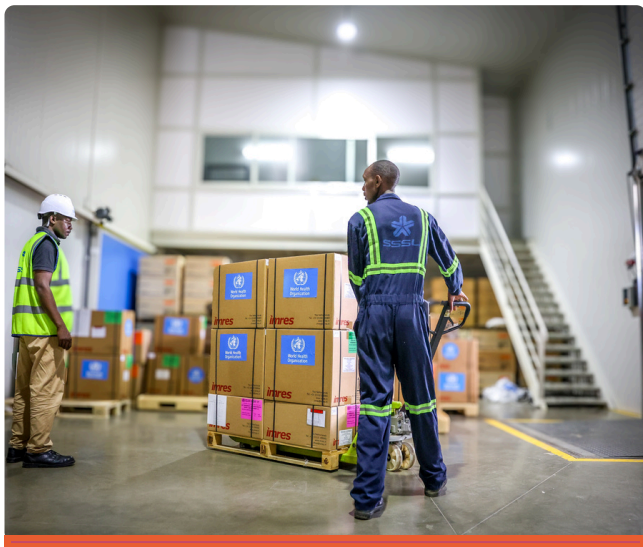


● Nairobi - Dandora

Swift Response, Lifesaving Impact

Kenyan Counties

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| ● Nairobi | ● Laikipia |
| ● Nakuru | ● Marsabit |
| ● Tana River | ● Nairobi Warehouse |



● Nakuru



● Laikipia



● Tana River



● Marsabit

Strengthening Health Security in the Horn of Africa

WHO Kenya Participates in One Health Policy Dialogue



May 20-22 2024



IGAD, UKHSA, WHO AFRO, WHO EMRO, MoH & more.

Nairobi, Kenya - WHO Kenya participated in a One Health Policy Event focused on enhancing cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation for health security. Held in Nairobi, the event aimed to implement a One Health approach to improve health, prosperity, and well-being in the Horn of Africa.

Organized by IGAD, Chatham House (PANDORA Consortium), and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), in collaboration with WHOAFRO and WHO EMRO, the event included ministers from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, the Director General of Health from Kenya & representatives from various health organizations.

The event's primary objectives were to present evidence-based priorities to the Director Generals of Health, Agriculture & Environment from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia; agree on actionable recommendations for improved outbreak and cross-border One Health emergency preparedness and response; and facilitate high-level policy dialogue to endorse outcomes and recommendations.

Dr. Abdourahamane Diallo, WHO Kenya Country Representative, highlighted the need to address gaps in surveillance systems and to strengthen cross-border cooperation.





"The deliberations of this meeting should address the gaps and establish mechanisms to strengthen crossover surveillance systems in member states and encourage timely information sharing while investing in community-based surveillance,"

Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo
WHO Kenya Country Representative

The Horn of Africa faces challenges such as extreme weather events, recurrent epidemics, and political instability, complicating disease control. Droughts and famines in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia have impacted populations, livelihoods, and ecosystems, increasing disease spread risks, particularly in pastoralist communities.

The policy dialogue aimed to enhance cooperation and implement One Health approaches. The discussions are expected to result in an official statement or communique, leading to a session with potential funders and development partners. This session will initiate resource mobilization for One Health implementation in the Horn of Africa.

WHO Kenya is committed to supporting One Health initiatives, scaling up country support, and strengthening preparedness and response capacities, aligning with the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH-JPA) 2022–2026 to enhance global and regional frameworks.

The One Health Policy Event in Nairobi marks a step towards strengthening health security in the Horn of Africa. Through collaborative efforts and policy dialogue, the participating countries aim to improve their preparedness and response to health emergencies, ensuring better health, prosperity, and well-being for their populations.

WHO Hands Over 2.8 Million Ksh of Medicines & Supplies to Laikipia



May 2024



Laikipia County, WHO

The WHO team, led by Country Representative Dr. A. Diallo, visited Nanyuki, Laikipia County, following Governor Joshua W. Irungu's visit to WHO Kenya at the UNON campus last June.

The discussions focused on the county's health initiatives, priorities, and potential areas of collaboration.

WHO handed over medicines and supplies worth 2.8 million KSH, including cholera and pneumonia kits, as well as malnutrition and emergency medicines.

During the presentations, WHO was impressed to hear that Laikipia County invests over 40% of its annual budget in health, significantly higher than Kenya's average of 20-30%.





Kenya's Health Regulations Evaluated in Joint External Review



May 2024



WHO Kenya, Ministry of Health, Interior, Water, Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Defense Forces & more.

The National Public Health Institute (NPHI) convened a workshop to conduct a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) aimed at assessing Kenya's adherence to the International Health Regulations (2005). WHO along with representatives from various sectors were actively involved in the evaluation.

The JEE entails a comprehensive review of IHR competencies, resulting in a final report that will identify 3-5 priority actions per sector. These outcomes are expected to enhance health security both locally and globally.

Thank you!

TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS



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A person wearing a grey and red striped shirt and shorts stands in a doorway, looking out at a flooded area. The doorway is framed by dark, textured stone walls. The ground outside is wet and reflective, showing a red tarp and a corrugated metal roof in the background. The text "We champion health and a better future for all." is overlaid on the image, with a blue vertical bar to its left.

**We champion
health and a better
future for all.**



**World Health
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Kenya



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