

### Floods Emergency in the North Eastern and Coastal Provinces

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Following the long drought in the north eastern province, the excessive rains recently have developed into floods disaster. More than 23 people have died and hundreds displaced. The population at risk is estimated to be between 300,000 and 500,000. The main regions in Kenya affected are the Coastal and the North eastern provinces. Garissa including the refugee camps, Wajir, Moyale, Mandera, Isiolo, Tana River are the worst affected in the N.E and Kilifi, Mombassa and Kwale districts in the Coast province.

The main obstacle to delivery of humanitarian response is inaccessibility of the vulnerable groups who needed the services most.

Water sources are contaminated, drainage systems have collapsed and water pipes have been washed away. There is therefore poor water and inadequate toilet and sanitation facilities. Communication within the districts and from districts to national level has come to a stand still, particularly roads networks in the North east.

The opening of the dams from Eastern Province and continuing torrential rains have caused havoc and exacerbated the situation downstream of the dams. Houses, farms and even animals have been washed away. Several villages along the Tana River both from Coast as well as North Eastern Provinces have been displaced and are now being hosted in schools.

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The refugee camps are inaccessible. About 90% of the Ifo camp is submerged and access within the camps is extremely difficult, including the hospital. Over 50% of Dagahaley camp is also inaccessible. All toilets in the camps have collapsed and the contaminated water flowing within the camps is proving to be another time bomb as the children play in this same water.

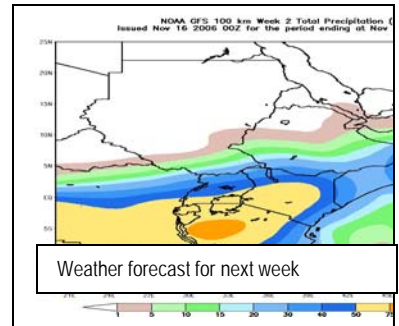
As a result, all refugees totaling about 60,000 at the Ifo camp are being formally relocated to the Hagadera camp.

The immediate outbreak of acute waterborne diseases, cholera, dysentery, acute respiratory tract infections, measles, poliomyelitis and other endemic diseases and malaria rift valley fever and other vector borne diseases in a few months across the country cannot be ruled out.

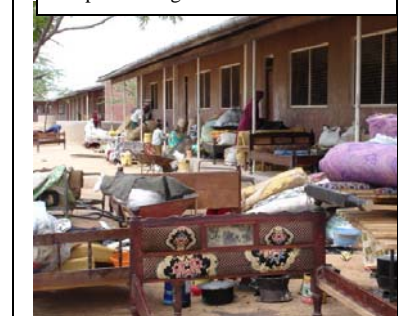
The Ministry of Health has issued cholera alert for Mombassa, Kwale and Moyale districts. The Ministry has reported that 178 suspected cases of cholera in Mombassa district with one death, 12 cases and one death in Kwale and 15 cases with two deaths from Moyale.

#### The weather forecast

The rains are forecast to continue to the middle of January. In the immediate one and half weeks, there will be a shift of the pattern from the Northeast towards the western parts of the country. However, the pattern is changing for the worse on daily basis. Most of the rains in the central and western parts will eventually end up in the low lying areas in the north east and the coastal regions which are presently experiencing the floods.



Map of damaged road networks



Displaced people in Garissa



Screening of more displaced people

# World Health Organization responds to floods emergency

## Who Strengthens Internal Technical Capacity

The WR convened Technical Officers meeting in the office on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2006. He emphasized that the response activities are the responsibility of all technical officers. That any technical officer could be called upon at any time including those on leave to contribute to the emergency response activities when their services are required.

## Resources Mobilization

With support from the Central Emergency Relief fund (CERF) WHO is mobilizing USD 440,000 to support partners and quick start the health humanitarian response activities.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The World Health Organization is supporting the emergency response activities at four levels

1. WHO is collaborating with the UN Country Team UNCT,
2. The National Emergency Task force
3. The Disaster Management and Disease Outbreak Management Unit of the MOH (DOMU) and
4. Operational at the Sub office level in the midst of the flood in Garissa.

## Combined Inter Agency and National Task Force Meeting.

A combined meeting of the National Task force and all Stakeholders on the 21<sup>st</sup> November by the Ministers for Special duties in the office of the President at the Kenyatta International Conference Center. Participants came from the line Ministries, UN Agencies, NGOs, Kenya Red Cross, and International Federation of the Red Cross among others. WHO was represented by three technical officers.

Each Agency and Ministry updated participants on the potential areas of their support. WHO and MOH together elaborated on areas such as; surveillance, coordinated Master plan, outbreak investigation and response and supply of essential drugs and technical support.

Another meeting to review all sectoral Master plans is planned for 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at the KICC.

## United Nations Country Team Meeting

The World Health Organization participated in the UNCT meeting convened on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006 by the Humanitarian Coordinator to urgently mobilize resources for response to the emergency response. This was followed up by the UN Agencies stakeholders in health, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA to identify critical areas of support in order to avoid overlap and duplication.

## National Emergency Task Force Meeting.

WHO participated in two National Task Force meetings on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Members of this task force comprise UN Agencies, NGOs, Kenya Red Cross, Government Ministries such as Health, Works, etc. It was co-chaired by the Hon Minister for Special duties at the office of the President and the Humanitarian Coordinator. Members were briefed on the situation and expectations for the coming week. Plan of action to conduct aerial survey of the affected districts were also developed. WHO/MOH were given one seat on the flight. WHO participated in all the activities and is supporting the MOH to lead the health and nutrition sector.



## WHO SUB OFFICE IN GARISSA

The National Program Officer is collaborating with the Provincial Medical officer and the District Health Management Teams and Partners to coordinate relief activities. In addition to providing technical support to the Ministry of health and partners, the sub office in Garissa had performed the following tasks:

## AERIAL SURVEY OF FLOOD AREAS

A team comprising, WFP, MOH/WHO, Ministry of Works, UNICEF, and FAO conducted aerial survey over the affected areas from the Coast province and through the North East from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> November. The findings from the aerial survey were summarized in the introduction. The major impediment was all road networks to the north from Garissa and Isiolo directions are impassable. Trucks were also found stuck in the mud in Tana River district.

Another mission using helicopters which will provide the opportunity for landing and in-depth assessment is planned from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## WHO, MOH and Health Sector Partners Meeting

This meeting was convened by MOH for a coordinated approach to the emergency situation on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The EHA Focal point and the DPC represented WHO. The meeting was chaired by the head of the Disease Outbreak and management Unit (DOMU) of the MOH. Partners agreed that there should be a coordinated Master plan for the response activities which should be coordinated by the Disaster Prevention and Management Unit of the MOH. A five member technical committee including WHO as a member was formed to come out with the first draft of the Emergency response plan.

The Sub office team is collaborating with the Provincial Medical officer and the District Health Management Teams and Partners to coordinate relief activities. In addition to providing technical support to the Ministry of health and partners, the sub office in Garissa had performed the following tasks:

Coordinated with MOH, UNICEF, DANIDA, Red Cross and WFP, in setting up a medical camp for screening and treating the sick especially those who were displaced in and around Garissa.

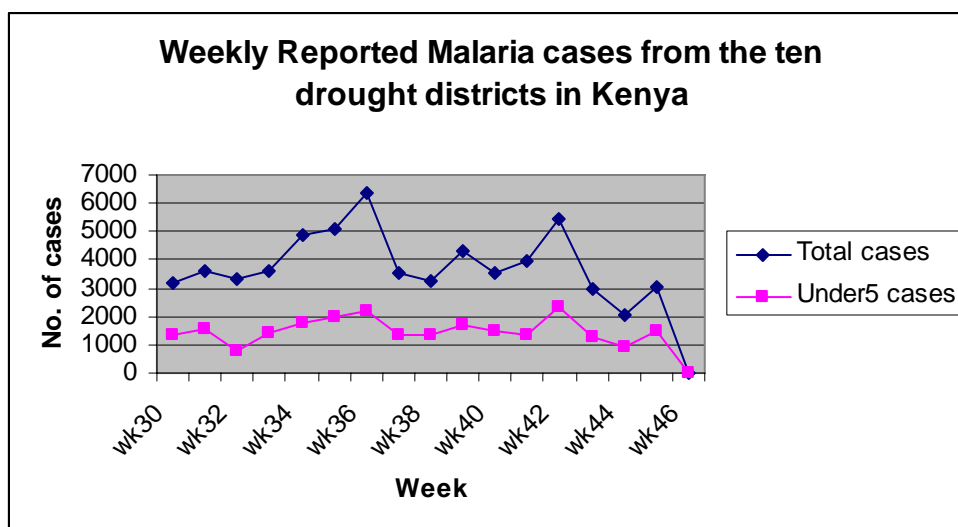
Provided logistical support to MOH to distribute basic health amenities such as: Water Guard jerry cans, food, blankets and Mosquito nets.

## DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NEWS

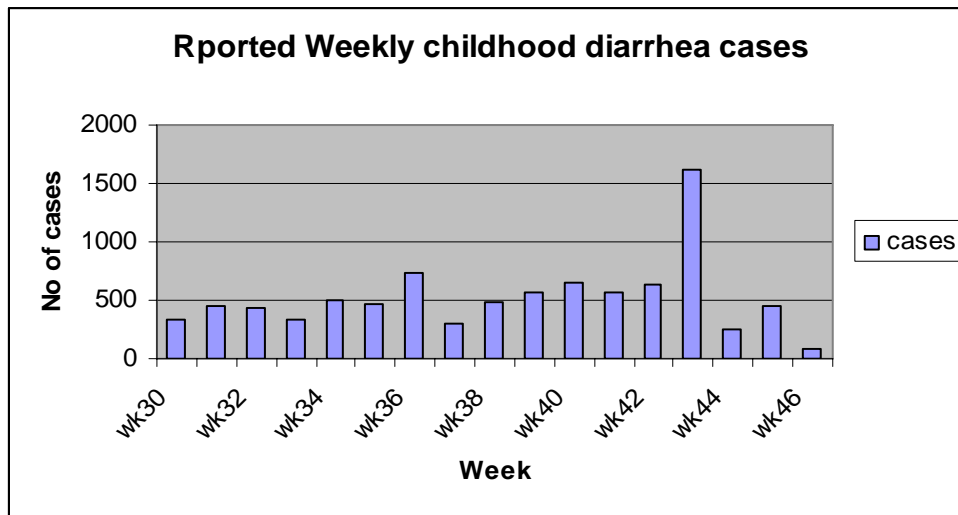
Weekly reporting improved this week as some communication networks and roads have improved as compared to last week. Below is the table of reported 14 targeted diseases from the ten drought affected districts.

Disease	WEEK																	
	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	TOTAL
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
AIDS	1	1	8	11	2	13	11	13	0	13	8	18	13	14	0	11	0	137
Childhood Diarrhea	341	455	430	337	496	461	738	303	480	569	654	572	641	3304	242	450	76	10549
Cholera	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	447	472
Dysentery	22	16	42	8	29	46	12	44	56	10	25	43	18	40	3	12	0	426
Malaria	3198	3595	3299	3629	4847	5125	6386	3553	3278	4345	3541	3959	5433	2948	2081	3071	0	62288
Measles	4	14	0	1	20	0	8	13	0	11	13	14	10	6	0	7	0	121
Meningitis (meningococcal)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Others	0	0	53	231	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16	0	0	0	0	302
Plague	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	451	1278	466	536	795	782	884	316	489	598	669	643	542	890	299	517	73	10228
Tuberculosis	5	35	54	6	112	59	72	17	88	31	38	18	35	44	2	42	0	658
Typhoid	13	70	81	32	55	57	97	57	53	52	74	8	88	79	15	42	0	873
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4035</b>	<b>5465</b>	<b>4433</b>	<b>4792</b>	<b>6356</b>	<b>6544</b>	<b>8208</b>	<b>4317</b>	<b>4445</b>	<b>5653</b>	<b>5023</b>	<b>5277</b>	<b>6797</b>	<b>7325</b>	<b>2642</b>	<b>4154</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>86062</b>

The incidence of malaria remains the same among both adults and children below five years. 39% of the cases seen were among children less than five years old. The table below shows the trend of malaria in the general population and in children less than five years of age. The apparent decreasing trend only reflects the poor reporting pattern but not real change



The incidence of childhood diarrhoea also remains the same. Follow up and investigation of the sudden increase in week 34 was associated with the onset of torrential rains and floods in Garissa district. Laboratory investigations did not reveal any cholera outbreak



Similarly acute bloody diarrhoea trends remain the same. No shigellosis was reported.

There was no reported acute flaccid paralysis in the week. No neonatal tetanus was either reported.

Surveillance is being intensified in the entire drought and flood affected districts

Public health education is also on going

Elaborate response plan is being developed with the MOH>

For further information concerning articles in this Bulletin contact the WHO Representative, World Health Organization, Nairobi, Kenya.