Overall, an estimated 2.5 million people may be affected by El Niño.

Drier conditions in coastal and north eastern regions have caused a deteriorated crop and pasture production that resulted in severe food insecurity affecting approximately 1.1 million people.

Unusual heavy storms and flooding related to El Niño are likely to occur during the short rainy season in Kenya until January 2016 with health consequences that could last into mid-2016. This could cause the displacement of 800,000 people. In November 2015, 76,000 people have already been displaced due to flooding in Garissa and Tana River counties. Most parts of the country are expected to experience floods, especially within the low lying areas of the Nyando river basin, Western Kenya, Wajir, Garissa and Mandera, and the lower parts of Tana, Kilifi, Kwale and the coastal region. Urban centres of Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu and Narok may also be affected by heavy flooding.

Above-normal rainfall and floods may cause the following health consequences:

- The country is currently experiencing a cholera outbreak that is now affecting 21 counties and is expected to worsen and spread to more locations due to floods.
- There is increased potential for vector-borne diseases outbreaks such as malaria, dengue, Rift Valley Fever and water-borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea, typhoid and dysentery. In the past the country has experienced a surge of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases during prolonged rains. Measles outbreaks may occur especially among children less than five years of age.
- Floods may lead to further damage to roads and supply chain challenges for medical and non-medical commodities, constraints in emergency referral to health facilities, damage to health infrastructure and disruption of services.

*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: http://www.inform-index.org/
HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

- The Government has taken the lead in El Niño contingency planning, with the Deputy President chairing the El Niño Task Force coordinated through the National Disaster Operations Centre. A national El Niño preparedness and response plan and county-level contingency plans budgeted at USD 157 million has been developed. Humanitarian partners are supporting preparedness and response efforts through the sector working groups. The Government informed United Nations partners and donors that the anticipated magnitude of the expected emergency is beyond its capacity to respond alone.

- In September 2015, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and partners has developed a national El Niño contingency plan for the health sector with a budget of 2.92 billion Kenya shillings (USD 28.5 million). The objectives are to:
  - Ensure preparedness of the health sector for upcoming floods;
  - Ensure the continuity of essential health and nutrition services before and after the El Niño rains.

- Main strategies are:
  - Multi-sector preparedness planning;
  - Technical assistance to the county health departments in flood prone counties;
  - Joint rapid assessments;
  - Optimal medical commodity management to minimize supply chain challenges during the rains;
  - Capacity building for county health management teams on disaster management and outbreak response;
  - Social mobilization, risk communication and health promotion activities;
  - Services for key special vulnerable groups;
  - Early warning system and surveillance systems for communicable diseases detection;
  - Mobilizing resources for logistical support in hardest hit areas.

- WHO has submitted a proposal to DFID, asking for GBP500 225 (USD 758 000) to support the implementation of the National Plan.