

ALERT FLOODS



actalliance

KENYA, SOMALIA, UGANDA, SOUTH SUDAN

Nairobi, 21 May 2020

SITUATION

HORN AND EAST AFRICA OVERVIEW:

Since the beginning of the "long rains" season (March 2020), the Horn and East Africa region is faced with extreme rainfall and widespread flooding which has directly affected 1.26 million people (Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) May 2020). The region is facing disruption in the food supply. In addition, prices of food and other essential commodities have gone high due to a recent unprecedented locust invasion and border restrictions brought about to COVID-19.

Countries in the region are already affected by an unprecedented threat to food security, with over 12.5 million people currently in crisis and emergency levels, further aggravated by the worst Desert Locust upsurge in over a generation. The current seasonal rains are conducive for the reproduction of the Desert locust and new swarms are affecting the crop season and pasture availability across the whole region. The combination of border restrictions brought about to COVID-19, food insecurity, Desert locust, and floods will increase the vulnerability and exacerbate the number of people in need

KENYA:

Kenya's Western, North Eastern and Coastal Regions have experienced extremely heavy rains accompanied by landslides over the last one month across the Country¹. The floods have claimed the lives of over 237 persons displacing over 161,000 families in 36 counties². This is according to a joint report by the Kenya Red Cross Society, Ministry of Devolution and Kenya's National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC). In addition, Lakes and Rivers are experiencing climatic changes for example Lake Victoria in the western region has attained the highest water level (approx. 2.5m rise) in decades. Its rivers backflow is causing massive floods and destruction to communities and surrounding ecosystems. River Tana on the other hand has just burst its banks and is already causing severe displacement and submergence. Villages and farms are submerged, exposing affected communities to lack of food, shelter, safe water, and susceptible water borne diseases. The current weather forecast predicts heavy rains until the end of June 2020 with further threats to overflowing Dams like Masinga. These affected communities with over 2.5 million people have been on a cycle of multiple emergencies including drought, floods, locust invasion and now under threat for COVID -19 infections, these emergencies are yet to recover³. Kenya has a current ACT flood response appeal KEN201 ending on 31.01.2021.

SOMALIA:

Moderate to heavy continuous Deyr seasonal rains, which started in early October in many parts of Somalia, have continued to be received across the country causing flood emergencies. The effect of the floods has led to a deterioration in the state of the already vulnerable populations leaving these populations in dire need of basic and crucial services as indicated by various assessments. Recent updates by Somalia NGO consortium indicate that over half a million people are negatively affected by floods and an estimated 370,000 people have fled their homes and are internally displaced. The majority of the displaced population are forced to flee to higher ground in urban areas after floodwaters inundated their homes. Puntland authorities have declared the storm an emergency due to the natural disaster and informally appealed for humanitarian assistance.

UGANDA:

On May 6, 2020, devastating floods occurred in different parts across Uganda with the Rwenzori region (part of Western Uganda) being the worst hit. This was followed by days of heavy rains that resulted in

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-floods-flash-update-no-1-7-may-2020>, ¹ <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2020/05/237-dead-800000-displaced-in-kenya-floods/>, ¹ <https://reliefweb.int/map/kenya/horn-africa-floods-food-insecurity-and-desert-locust-infestation-dg-echo-daily-map>, ¹ Mubuku, Nyamugasani, Nyamwamba, Lhubirha (Kasese) and Lamia (Bundibugyo), ¹ Uganda Red Cross Society – Bundibugyo Branch
¹ Kasese District Disaster Management Committee, ¹ Kilembe Sub County, Nyamwamba Division, Bulembia Division, Central Division, Kyondo Sub County, Kyarumba Sub County, Kyarumba TC, Karusandara Sub County, Maliba Sub County, Ibanda/Kyanga TC, Kisinga Sub County, Kitholhu Sub County, Karambi Sub County, Bugoyi Sub County and Mpondwe Lhubirha TC

major rivers⁴ bursting their banks, leaving a trail of destruction to infrastructure, education, agriculture, and food security.

On 7th May 2020, one (1) person was confirmed dead while 5 have been injured and an estimated 1,607 households and 3,257 individuals reported to have been affected with 126 households being displaced and structures destroyed⁵. The floods caused significant damage to both public and private property including loss of crops, loss of animals, and Loss of social and physical infrastructure both private and Government such as Schools, bridges, Health Facilities and most importantly Kilembe Hospital⁶. In Kasese, a total of 15 lower local government units⁷ have been affected with an estimated 8,266 households and 45,980 people have been affected and over 1,760 individuals and 5,525 people displaced

SOUTH SUDAN:

The forecasts this year 2020 indicate more heavy rains to come in the second half of May through early June across some of the worst affected areas in the region and flood risk remains high through out in the region including South Sudan. In addition, the above-average rains have also created a conducive environment for the breeding and development of desert locust and have protracted the outbreak, which remains a significant concern in southern South Sudan, eastern Uganda, Somalia, southern Ethiopia, central and northern Kenya (www.cropmonitor.com).

In late 2019, heavy continuous rains devastated the country's states of Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity, Bahr el Gazal and parts of Greater Equatoria fronting the government to declare a state of emergency on October 27, 2019. The magnitude of these floods has affected over 900'000 people with estimated 420'000 people displaced in a country which is already harbouring cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict, chronic vulnerabilities and weak essential services that have even further left 7.5 million people more than two thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance (SSHRP 2020). South Sudan ACT Forum is currently implementing activities under SSD191 which ends in the current flood response appeal on 31.11.2020.

NEEDS

KENYA:

Homes have been destroyed and the people are hosted in schools and other open spaces with little or no shelter in the current very wet weather. Children are prone to diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases. With no health care, safe water and sanitation, warm clothing and basic non-food items and food supplies, there is high risk of disease outbreaks. Critical for the future, are livelihoods. This has been destroyed with an estimation of over 80,000 acres of farmland and livestock, according to NDOC, which will heavily affect the food security situation across the country.

The floods have put the affected counties in a state of crisis and emergency. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to: food, basic shelter and non-food items, basic health services and facilities, safe drinking water as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, livelihood activities, protection services. Women and girls are highly exposed to gender-based violence. The displaced population are at high risk of the COVID-19 infections due to poor hygiene, lack of information and social distancing is impractical due to the nature of the shelters.

SOMALIA:

Assistance to the flood-affected populations is ongoing and gradually scaling up. Somalia have reported significant gaps regarding food assistance, emergency shelter, non-food items (NFI), safe drinking water and construction of latrines. There is also a need to decontaminate shallow wells, establish mosquito and vector control and provide services to prevent Gender-Based Violence and provide child-friendly. According to ACT Somalia Forum members, affected communities are in desperate need of food, water, emergency shelter, health, and sanitation/latrines and mosquito nets. Other identified gaps are in provision of nutrition services and mobile health supplies and medicine.

UGANDA:

The floods have destroyed roads, this may disrupt the supply for food and other essential supplies and secondly Prices of food and other essential commodities have gone high due to increased demand brought about to COVID 19. Uganda Joint Christian Council therefore requests for emergency humanitarian relief assistance with the goal of supplementing Government’s efforts to alleviate the suffering of the flood affected populations in Kasese and Bundibugyo districts targeting the most vulnerable households especially those that have been put in temporary relocation centres. The relief items required will include food (Beans, Maize flour, Cooking oil and Salt) and other domestic items such {blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, basins, soap, utensils (saucepans, plates, cups, etc.)} This support is expected to improve the welfare of the flood victims through provision of food and other essential supplies to 20,000 most vulnerable flood victims in Kasese and Bundibugyo through the rapid response fund (RRF).

SOUTH SUDAN:

In 2019, the floods in South Sudan have destroyed 20,000 metric tons of food, caused houses, water points, pit latrines, and school shelters to collapse including livelihoods (crops and livestock) being smashed and affected populations directly hindered access to basic services by the floods (UN OCHA-Report November 5, 2019).

The floods have put the Horn and East Africa region in a state of crisis. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to: Food, Non-Food items and Shelter among other needs below:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities. The elderly, women and girls as well as people living with disabilities bearing the greatest brunt of the flood’s disaster. The situation is complicated by the current COVID-19 pandemic that is putting the affected population at risk with most countries recording up to 35% increase in the Gender Based Violence. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS		
National and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	<p>Kenya: Ministry of Devolution and ASALs, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government coordinating rescue and settlements as well as food supply.</p> <p>Uganda: Uganda Local Government with support from partners have established emergency relocation centres at different schools across the districts to provide temporary shelter to the victims. In addition, Uganda Office of the Prime Minister is providing in-kind food and other nonfood items assistance; however further assistance is required.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UNOCHA Kenya has been coordinating the information exchange platform
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	<p>Kenya: Church World Service has started minimal support to communities affected in Tana River; World Renew has provided support to affected populations in Western Kenya and Dan Church Aid is providing some support in Elgeyo Marakwet.</p> <p>Somalia: NCA Somalia has been providing WASH (distribution of hygiene kits, soap, jerry cans) and Livelihood assistance in response to floods in their areas of operation since April 2020 through cash voucher assistance project to over 1,500 households.</p> <p>Somalia: DKH, together with its local partner Sustainable Development and Peace Building Initiative (SYPD), providing WASH and Livelihood assistance in its target locations to address effects of floods and desert locust infestation supporting 4,300 HHs) from IDP settlements and the most vulnerable of the host community shall benefit through the interventions. DKH have also been treating flood water and construction of emergency latrines, hand washing facilities and provision of soap bars and sanitizers for public. In addition, DKH is providing multipurpose Cash for 1,000 most vulnerable HHs.</p> <p>South Sudan: Christian Aid, LWF, NCA, PRDA, FCA, ICCO and local partners through ACT Appeal SSD 191 (Flood Response) are responding to save lives and restore livelihoods through WASH, shelter, food and non-food activities.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements	<p>Kenya: Kenya Red Cross Society has been providing live saving support, evacuation, and temporary shelters to the affected population</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military presence	<p>Kenya: The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF have been supporting the search for the bodies of those swept by floods and / or trapped by the mudslides in Elgeyo Marakwet</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	<p>Kenya: Anglican Development Services, National Council of Churches of Kenya have been assisting affected communities with little support.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	Kenya: National Council Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) – Country Coordinating Committees for target Counties
<p>In Kenya, the emergency response is currently being coordinated by The Kenya Red Cross. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT Kenya forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team (KHPT), County Steering Groups (CSGs)) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback. The same applies to other countries whose flood emergency is supported by the relevant government authorities.</p>		
ACT ALLIANCE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members in the region have been working in The affected Countries and now responding to help people affected by the floods.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members in the region work in areas affected by the floods, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members in the region are currently monitoring the situation and is preparing rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members are monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forums in the region have identified a gap in WASH, health, food security, protection, early recovery and livelihoods and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gaps.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT forums in the region are planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide WASH, NFIs, food security and nutrition, livelihoods, health and protection to ensure that the floods affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to WASH, Health, Food Security, Livelihoods, Protection.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members in the region have already started responding according to activities within published appeals in South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda are planning to submit a Rapid Response Fund. In Uganda, Uganda Joint Christian Council intends to supplement humanitarian relief assistance by providing food and non-food items.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance members in the region will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the floods are amplified.	

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

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