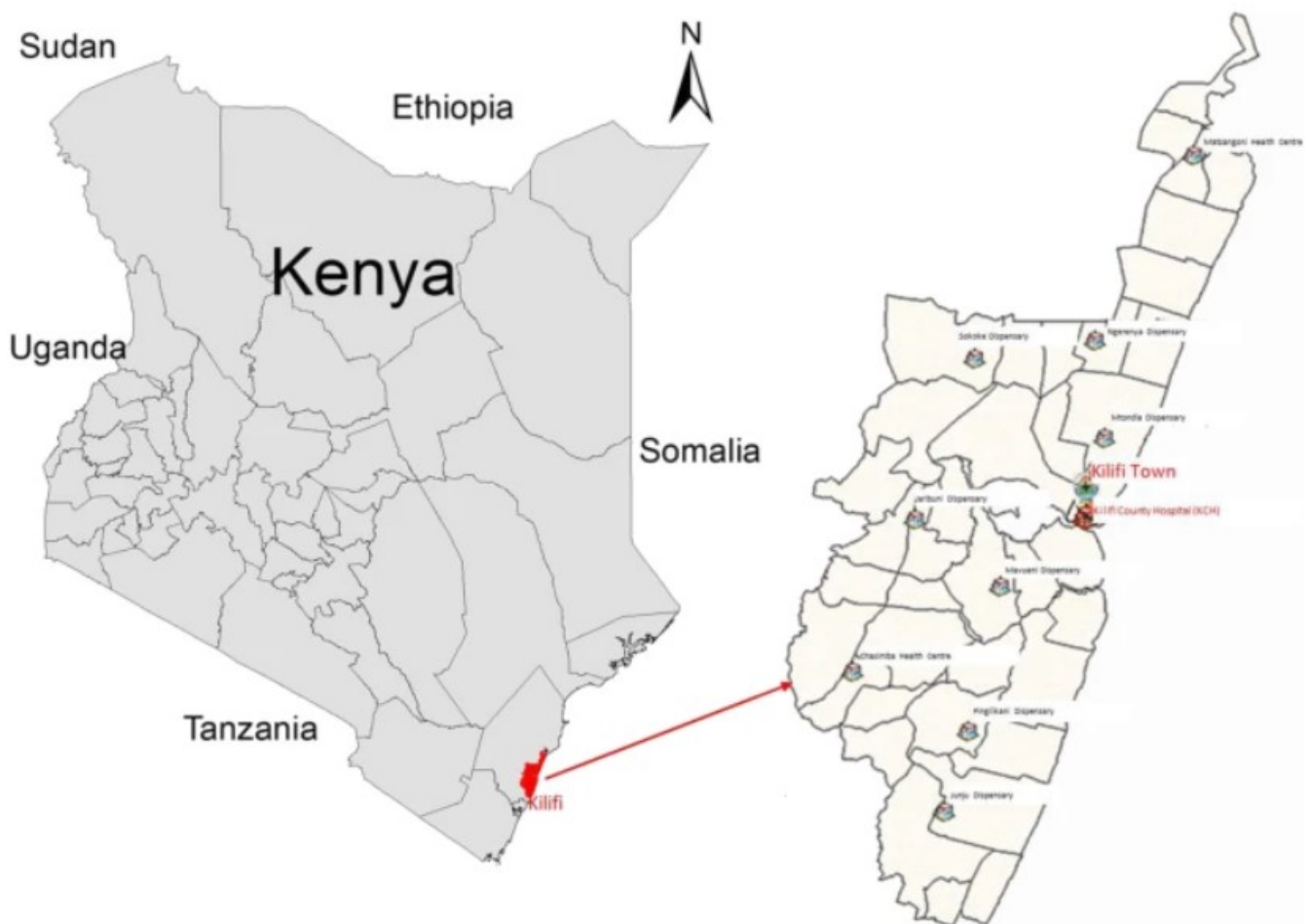




KRCs Volunteers in the field

Appeal: MDRKE057	Country: Kenya	Hazard: Other	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 123,686	
Glide Number: N/A	People Affected: 3,000 people	People Targeted: 3,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-05-17	Operation Timeframe: 2 months	Operation End Date: 2023-07-31	DREF Published: 2023-05-18
Targeted Areas:	Kilifi		

Description of the Event



Kenya Counties Map from Kenya health centers

What happened, where and when?

On 14th April 2023, police acting on intelligence made a shocking discovery of 4 people who were suspected to have died of starvation while 10 others were rescued at night in Shakahola a remote village near Malindi Town in Kilifi County along the Kenyan coast. The victims were suspected members of a church led by a known preacher operating in the area. More graves were later discovered and exhumed while survivors were rescued and evacuated to Malindi Sub County Hospital. <https://nation.africa/kenya/news/shakahola-deaths-blunders-and-how-cult-was-discovered-4214110>.

The first figures shared by local authorities reported missing or already found in the Shakahola forest. The alerts reached the threshold of Government capacity with more than five hundred reports of missing people in the surrounding village of Kilifi, increasing the statement of people concerned by this event. Following that, on 3rd May 2023, KRCS received a letter from the County Government of Kilifi requesting the NS to scale up humanitarian activities <https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/89097-cs-kindiki-finally-allows-media-3-other-groups-access-shakahola-forest>.

The people rescue from the forest that survive represent a necessity of speeding the actions on the ground to save more people with engaging intensive research in the forest which cover more than 800 Hectares. The floods season in the same areas has slowed the rescue and research activities with very bad weather and recess to pave the way for PMS and DNA services.

Scope and Scale

On 8th May 2023, 19 days since onset of the operation, 61 (Male 24, Female 37) people have been rescued, 565 (293 involving children) missing persons have been reported and 112 bodies had been recovered and post-mortem services concluded. The casualties were admitted at Malindi Sub County Hospital awaiting relocation to safe homes. The rescue operation engaged by the government with Kenya Red Cross had identified 43 new graves increasing the number to 124 and awaiting resumption of exhumation on May 9th, 2023 in the 800-acre Shakahola Forest.

The operation is likely to spill to the month of June and beyond as rescue and recovery continues in the unreached parts of the forest. In addition, out of the 124 identified graves, 43 are yet to be exhumed. The government through the interior CS declared Shakahola Village a disturbed area as well as a security operation and authorized access to only security team from National Government, Kilifi County government and Kenya Red Cross Society for humanitarian support. This has urged Kenya Red Cross to maintain a capable team in the area since, putting pressure on the existing resources and expanded operational requirements for the duration of the operation. However, the aim of keeping the actions of KRCS is also considering the 75 people rescued alive as of 16th May even if facing critical medical needs with urgent evacuation. Any probability to still find people alive is significant in this case.

The Shakahola loss is traumatic and painful for the families and friends directly affected, and also for the public exposed to the details. The level of media attention, public backlash and judgement of the dead makes the experience of the loss even more difficult for those directly concerned. This leads to an increased requirement for constant psychosocial support for those affected and responders who are constantly exposed to trauma. At least 3,000 families members and witnesses of this situation can experience that.

The huge number of reported missing people has led to a need for constant Restoration of Family Links desk at Malindi Referral Hospital and at the entrance of the affected ranch to support family members who are looking for their kin suspected to be in the ranch.

The response efforts are rescuing more people who are in different levels of emaciation and require immediate evacuation to hospital. Increased number of family members seeking information of their kin require marshalling and control at Malindi Hospital and Mortuary compound. This involves support from at least 15 KRCS volunteers daily and 1 ambulance on standby for casualty evacuation and transfer to hospital.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population groups?	No
Did the National Society respond?	No
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	No
If yes, please specify which operations	-

Lessons learned

- KRCS Cooperation with local authorities play a key role on overall NS and RCRC leadership in country and at different county level. As such, the place of KRCS in managing life saving crisis in the counties is high and at the same time, the cooperation from the county to the local community enhanced support to KRCS teams within the



intervention areas.

ii. Continuous preparedness enhanced less harm to the community although the violence was only in a few counties, the KRCS team was able to make decisions on when to respond and what items to respond with and reduce the risk of more harm to the communities.

iii. KRCS has experience in ensuring the RCRC principles are kept in challenging and various crisis environments as well as changing environments. The NS is prepared to respond in highly challenging areas requiring constant review to guarantee efficiency and effectiveness. That experience is also an advantage here as this allows NS to quick start the intervention. The branches team were already well prepared with the right competencies, equipment and SoPs for such interventions.

iv. KRCS responses approach to security, safety and complex environment always include a continuous self-care in the team with a continuous evaluation This scan was done by looking at the welfare of the volunteers and the mental health of the teams involved and will be kept all over the intervention and after.

Current National Society Actions

Coordination	Daily operation meeting with County and National government administration
Assessment	Continuous Assessment during search and rescue coordination
National Society Readiness	Deployed fully kitted Kilifi Branch Staff and Volunteers supported by RFL and PSS Staff from KRCS headquarters. 5 tents assorted, 3 land cruisers, one Ambulance and 140 ft refrigerated container.
Health	Rescue activities started next to the information about the event on the 14th. KRCS was engaged and has supported the rescue and research of people that could still be alive as well as supporting the psychosocial support and discussions with communities that are pressing to have answers on their belongings. Among the actions conducted, the below are included: - First Aid and Medical Evacuation - PSS to the families - Research, rescue and RLF. details as follow: On 22nd April 2023, 34 casualties were rescued, 212 (112 children) missing persons were recorded, and 26 graves were exhumed. On 24th April 2023, 26 bodies were recovered from 19 graves and 6 people were rescued from different levels of starvation. On 26th April 2023, a mass grave containing 5 bodies of children was discovered next to the preacher's compound. Three other bodies were found in different parts of the compound. On the same day, the government declared a 30-day dusk-to-dawn curfew at the 800-acre Chakama Ranch in Kilifi County where Shakahola Forest is located to pave the way for the investigations. As of 9th May 2023, a total of 122 bodies have been exhumed, 68 Casualties rescued and 1 rescued person passed away while hospitalized at Malindi Sub County Hospital. 21 more bodies were exhumed from 10 graves bringing the total number of fatalities to 133.



Kenya Red Cross Society was requested by the Kilifi county government to provide emergency response support including First Aid, Medical Evacuation, Psychosocial Support and dead body management. Kilifi County branch activated teams for immediate support.

On 30th April 2023, KRCS Kilifi County Branch set up tracing desks at the entrance to Chakama Ranch as well as Malindi Sub County Hospital and deployed teams to support the Rescue, PSS, Tracing and dignified management of mortal remains. The Kenya Red Cross through support from the ICRC transported a refrigerated container from the KRCS Nairobi warehouse to extend morgue facilities in Malindi Sub County Hospital.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	Technical support and guidance on maintaining the RCRC principles
ICRC	DREF Draft shared with ICRC. ICRC offered Logistics support to the 140 ft refrigerated container and 25 Body bags.
Participating National Societies	None

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	National Government provided incident Management leadership and forensic support for identification.
UN or other actors	Not involved by local authorities.

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

The assistance to the communities, because it is linked to a criminal affair belongs under Government and National police and security forces. As an auxiliary of the Government, KRCS received a request for support from 3 actors.

Internally, as a security-related issue in some aspect, KRCS is also keeping close discussions with ICRC and received support from ICRC on the deployment of branches.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

Search and rescue needs are first priorities, with scaling-up current capacity both Human resource and logistic. This was a successive continuous actions engaged for the past weeks since the event. NS has engaged several resources that are now limited to continue to do the needful. Knowing that time plays an important role in the rescue in this kind of situation, speeding and scaling up the capacity of NS with more volunteers and logistic support is essential.

The other needs cover the immediate First Aid and Medical Evacuation for cases found and the mental support for the psychological and possible long-term impact of this event on the communities and the engaged NS deployed team.

Out of the 565 missing people, KRCS actions could play a role in impacting the rescue and research as well as quick evacuation for the 565 missing people.

Those people rescued, exhumed, or missing have their families potentially living this situation as a traumatic incident. Out of 3,000 people can be family members frequently seeking information and support and in this situation could need further psychological support.

Volunteers short and medium term.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The impact on that is usually an immediate need to cover but also a possible medium to the long-term impact that requires an important engagement of families, victims' families, and Volunteers families for mental support in medium and long-term recovery.

A structure and a plan will be established to cover the transition in that regard after the DREF intervention. Local authorities will be engaged in that discussions.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF operation aims to provide necessary search and rescue support to find 565 people declared missing in line with the mass casualty incident in Kilifi. The NS will also provide PFA and RLF support to both the rescued affected persons and their families as necessary, while taking into account the impact of this event on the community and volunteers in the next 2 months.

Operation strategy rationale



This DREF operation give the room for the KRCS to sustain and scale-up the deployed human and logistic support that will extend KRCS actions to attempt to rescue the missing people. KRCS will be responding to the immediate needs of those affected through provision of:

1) Health - Search and Rescue First Aid, Psychological First Aid, evacuation and deployment of health kits. Mental health and psychosocial support to be streamlined in all the activities for a sustain- actions that will ensure to limit the impact if this incident on the team deployed and support communities affected potentially facing potentially traumatic moments. Refresher on understanding MHPSS will be ensured and continuous discussions with volunteers engaged on a daily or weekly basis as debriefing based on expressed need. Rotation of the rescue team should be consider in the team parameter impact of such activities. Considering the timeframe of the DREF, and the potential for late reactions, or continuous need for MHPSS support beyond the DREF operation, especially for KRCS team and families, mental support will be a process beyond this intervention. Hence, KRCS will support the establishment of a referral mechanism for MHPSS and strengthen that with a community based approach and a plan for engagement of communities in changes and discussions to undergo this situation in a longer term.

2) RFL – Restoration of family links to those who have been separated. hygiene promotion, water treatment, sanitation for displaced.

3) PGI and CEA cross cutting across all sectors. Particular attention toward displaced households.

All the deployed team are already trained on different thematic and if needed, a weekly debrief could take place to also evaluate team feedback. The intervention will benefit from Health NS specialist that will ensure the supervision and monitoring in Kilifi. He will follow-up on feedback and PFA related. If needed professional guidance from expert on mental health will be seek. For continuity of that support the PFA volunteers will be separate to the research even though all the teams is briefed on PSS and will received the same support. 10 volunteers within the deployed team will cover the aspect related to PFA, RLF and community engagement. 15 fully dedicated to the research and rescue with 15 covering PSS and RLF. All involve in rotative approach.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Minimum 3000 people include the 565 direct people missing in the forest waiting for rescue, their families members and the KRCS teams deployed dealing with this high potential traumatic situation.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Will be based on the research actions conducted, the level of vulnerability including injured, rescued individuals and families who might have lost their kin. Children missing and/or rescue, family members of missing individual, female headed households, pregnant and lactating, disabled and elderly will also be considered.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	1,650	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	-	73.00 %	%
Men:	1,350	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	-	1.00 %	
Total targeted population:	3,000		



Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Maintainance of RCRC principle	The need to keep the actions asides of any criminal investigation part and put in place a communication strategy with clear messages for all intervening on NS position, actions and approaches.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Potential security threats stem from spontaneous or orchestrated protests and violent resistance from collaborators who led to the effects of radicalization on the affected population. The individuals use violence to chase away rescuers who are searching for the victims.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence or road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. Security orientation and briefing for all teams prior to deployment to be undertaken to help ensure safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity and an overall code of conduct will be put in place. Minimum-security requirements will be strictly maintained. All National Society and IFRC personnel actively involved in the operations must successfully complete prior to deployment the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Level 1 Fundamentals, Level 2 Personal and Volunteer Security and Level 3 Security for Managers). IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation.



Planned Intervention

	Health	Budget	CHF 80,922
		Targeted Persons	3000
Indicators		Target	
of people expressing need of PFA supported		100	
% of KRCS staff and volunteers supported with PFA		100	
#of days for ambulatory services		60	
Number of first aid pruchased		20	
Number of people supported with First Aid		565	
MHPSS referral mechanism is in place		1	
Priority Actions:		• Visibility materials (Procurement of emblem jackets flags and bibs) • Safety PPE (locally procured PPEs including helmets, heavy-duty gloves, safety boots, and protective goggles) • First Aid Kits for volunteers • Provision for First Aid • Provision of ambulatory and evacuation services • Provision of Psychological support services • Provision of dignity kits • MHPSS support for staff and volunteer responders through PFA sessions • Evaluate of continuous need for MHPSS support, and establishment of a referral • PFA in the communities	

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 8,698
		Targeted Persons	565
Indicators		Target	
#of toilet installed		7	

Priority Actions:	This activities are more like complement to the health and protection by ensuring people waiting around the forest, families and volunteers have access to minimum dignity care. • Procurement of Portable toilets • Support dignity to of people rescue and families most affected who are staying around (Female, Male & Adolescence) a minimum of 50 kits will be included as a complement to a first aid to the communities.
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	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 11,456
		Targeted Persons	62
Indicators		Target	
# reports produced		1	
Priority Actions:		• Round monitoring and health technical support • Post intervention deep evaluation • Financial support for the operation and reporting • Support the debrief of the unit deployed at the end of the intervention and effectiveness of PFA to volunteers and staff involved	

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 20,835
		Targeted Persons	62
Indicators		Target	
#Coordination meetings		4	
#Lesson learnt workshop		1	
#of monitoring report produced		4	
Priority Actions:		• Round monitoring and health support- 4 from HQ • Lesson learnt workshop • Support and protection of team deployed • Coordination with authorities at county and National level • Coordination with Health facility • PFA for volunteers for the impact of this intervention	

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 0
		Targeted Persons	565
Indicators		Target	

Number of people reached with dignity kits and RFL services	224
Priority Actions:	• Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors: • Conduct an assessment of specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies. • Provision of RFL services • Distribution of Dignity kits to the rescued people

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 1,775
		Targeted Persons	3000
	Indicators		Target
	% of community feedback collected that are treated		100
	Priority Actions:		• Community engagement will be aligned to the existing KRCS CEA mechanisms. All complaints will be received and responded to through the KRCS hotline. This operational plan will ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

5 Staff and 30 volunteers will be engaged for 60 days for the research and rescue in a rotative way. NDRT on health and NS HQ health focal point will support the monitoring at branch and overall. Branch NDRT will be deployed where extended technical needs for search and rescue, RFL and PSS are identified.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Local procurement and the financial service provider will be done by the KRCS following the operation's requirements and aligned to the logistics policies, processes and procedures. IFRC will provide all the technical guidance and support to KRCS to ensure compliance with IFRC standards whilst at the same time strengthening the capacity of the KRCS logistics unit. The procurement components are:

- Visibility materials (Procurement of emblem jackets flags and bibs)
- Safety PPE (locally procured PPEs including helmets, heavy-duty gloves, safety boots, and protective goggles)
- First Aid Kits for volunteers

How will this operation be monitored?

National Society M&E and operations team will support the implementing teams to ensure effective, timely, and efficient delivery of the operation. The monitoring process will focus on adherence to minimum standards in humanitarian service delivery, compliance to humanitarian principles guiding the Movement's humanitarian operations, timeliness in delivery of supplies and services to beneficiaries, management of supplies during storage, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of reporting among others. Field monitoring and technical support visits will be conducted where necessary. The KRCS will work closely with the IFRC Nairobi Country Cluster delegation to strengthen the implementation of the operation. Joint monitoring visits (IFRC and KRCS) will be conducted subject to security clearance by the security unit at KRCS and IFRC and have been budgeted. As noted, at the end of the intervention, an operational review/lessons learned workshop will be organized and a report compiled and shared to inform future operations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

The need to keep the actions asides of any criminal investigation part and put in place a communication strategy with clear messages for all intervening on NS position, actions and approaches.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRKE057 - Kenya Red Cross Mass Casualty Incident in Kilifi

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	91,395
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	80,922
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,698
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,775
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	32,291
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11,456
National Society Strengthening	20,835
TOTAL BUDGET	123,686

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

