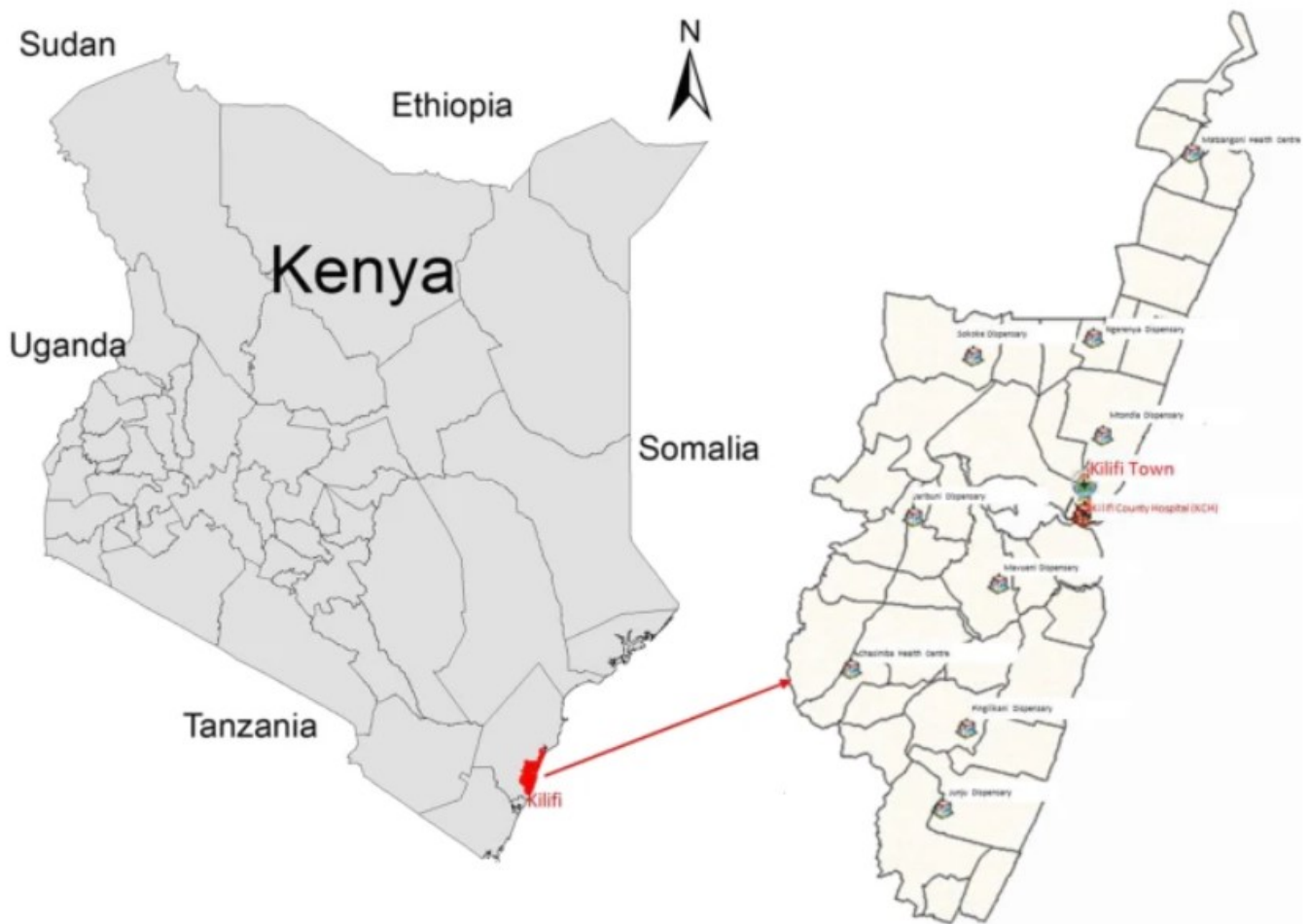




Medical Evacuation to Malindi Sub-County ospital

Appeal: MDRKE057	Total DREF Allocation CHF 123,686	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Other
Glide Number: N/A	People Affected: 3,000 people	People Targeted: 3,000 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 2023-05-17	New Operational end date: 2023-08-31	Total operating timeframe: 4 months
Additional Allocation Re- quested -	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 rescued from the forest that survived represented 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. A launch of the DREF operation was done to scale-up the support of KRCS on research, rescue and immediate lifesaving aid of potential survivors across the forest of 800 acres.



3 months since the Kilifi mass casualty incident operation started. Government security teams together with Kenya Red Cross response team have so far rescued 103 people and provided mental health psychosocial support services (MHPSS) to at least 1,093 people. At least 618 (318 children) people have been recorded missing at the KRCS tracing desk situated at the command center in Shakahola and Malindi sub county hospital. Of all the cases recorded, KRCS has only been able to restore back and positively link 18 families.



Tracing Services at Malindi Sub-County Hospital

MHPSS to Media, Staff and Volunteers in Kilifi County

Scope and Scale

3 months since the Kilifi mass casualty incident operation started, the government security teams together with Kenya Red Cross response team have so far rescued 103 people and provided Mental Health Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) to at least 1,093 people. At least 618 (318 children) people have been recorded missing at the KRCS tracing desk situated at the command center in Shakahola and Malindi sub county hospital. Of all the cases recorded, KRCS has only been able to restore back and positively link 18 families.

As of 29 July, the research and rescue activities conducted by KRCS and government were still recording survivors from the 800 acres in Shakahola forest with newly identified and unexhumed graves. The cases found required medical in situ stabilization for emaciated survivors and injured children before evacuating them to the hospital and subsequently to rescue centers. This was provided by the KRCS. KRCS Kilifi has initiated linkages with other county branches ahead of September 2023 1st phase burials of exhumed bodies which have been positively identified through Postmortem and DNA.

Of the 103 rescued cases, 39 are children are being hosted at Mtwapa Children Rescue Centre whereas 64 adult survivors are in Malindi Rescue Centre in Kilifi County. KRCS continues to offer the rescued people with relief interventions to meet their basic needs which including nutrition, WASH and health and through provision of MHPSS Services.

The county government of Kilifi has expressed their gratitude for the support given by IFRC through KRCS and have appealed for additional support of the volunteers and other related resources to ensure continuous support during the operation. For the survivors and the 39 children rescued, see annexed letter. The national government through the CS Interior on 5th July 2023 during the opening of the 4th phase of the rescue operation appealed to KRCS to strengthen necessary humanitarian operation activities at the forest site and the Malindi hospital to offer Search and Rescue, Medical evacuation, MHPSS, in-kind support for children, survivors and the affected families.

To recall the context that still is the same, 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.

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 have experience that.

The large number of reported missing people has led to a need for constant Restoration of Family Links (RFL) 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 operation continues with at least 15 KRCS volunteers daily and 1 ambulance on standby for evacuation and transfer to hospital.

Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification

Rescue effort deployed for 3 months contributed to save the lives of 103 people rescued from around 3,000 people reported missing or involved on the Kilifi incident. The newly discovered cases of bodies show a need to keep the Kenya RC actions supporting as the research and rescue are still ongoing. The situation creates also a need to maintain PFA for the communities and the NS and local authorities' intervention team.

As part of enhancing wellbeing of the responders, and as the response to findings of an MHPSS assessment conducted on June 29th, 2023, the Kilifi MCI responders require routine MHPSS debrief sessions to be extended. Further request from the local government and above context explains the no cost extension from 31 July to 31 August. The NS will continue the activities including those to support the PFA to the volunteers, staff, communities and relevant government agencies that were involved in the rescue intervention. The intervention was mentally exhausting for all the team engaged.

Current National Society Actions





An RFL volunteer attending to community members

Assessment	Continuous assessment during search and rescue coordination.
National Society Readiness	<p>Deployed fully kitted Kilifi Branch staff and volunteers supported by RFL and PSS staff from KRCS headquarters.</p> <p>5 assorted tents, 3 land cruisers, one ambulance and 140 ft refrigerated container.</p>
Health	<p>Rescue activities have been ongoing since 14th April 2023. KRCS has been engaged and has supported the rescue and search of people that could still be alive as well as supporting the psychosocial support and tracing. Among the actions conducted, the below are included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Aid and Medical Evacuation. - PFA to the families and response team. In total, at least 1,093 people have received PFA. - Search, rescue and RLF. Details as follows: <p>As of Saturday 29th July 2023, death toll had rose to 426 fatalities with 103 survivors recorded.</p> <p>On 26th July 2023, the government forensic team conducted postmortems where the autopsy report of 10 bodies revealed that 9 of them were children.</p> <p>On 10th July 2023, the deaths toll rose to 350 at start of Phase 4 of the exhumation.</p> <p>On 24th April 2023, 26 bodies were recovered from 19 graves and 6 people were rescued from different levels of starvation.</p> <p>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 way for the investigations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 acti-</p>

	vated 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.
Coordination	Daily briefing and debriefing with county and national government administration.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	Technical support and guidance on maintaining the RCRC principles.
ICRC	DREF draft was shared with ICRC. ICRC offered logistical 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?

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 has received support from ICRC on the deployment of branches.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

Scope of the people reported missing is still high. At least 103 people to date have been rescued and evacuated alive, more than thousands of people supported with PFA among the families, NS personnel, local authorities and security forces involved.

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 on 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 618 missing people, KRCS actions could play a role in impacting the rescue and research as well as quick evacuation for the 618 missing people.

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

Support for/with volunteers short and medium term.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The impact is usually an immediate need to cover the needs, but also a possible medium to the long-term impact that requires an important engagement with 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 after the DREF intervention. Local authorities will be engaged in those discussions.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The 618 people reported missing have necessitated the operation to continue beyond August. The government directed that only KRCS teams would be allowed into the area. This required KRCS to continuously position a team of staff and volunteers to support search and rescue, evacuation, PSS and RFL. This requires the teams to be supported with allowances, ambulance units and other logistics.

<https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/89097-cs-kindiki-finally-allows-media-3-other-groups-access-shakahola-for-est>.



County government requests to the NS include scaling up the human resources support and also supporting with logistics deployment in this intervention.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF operation still aims to provide necessary search and rescue support to find 618 people reported missing in line with the mass casualty incident in Kilifi. The NS will also provide MHPSS 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 4 months.

Operation strategy rationale

Strategy developed for the initial plan remain unchanged and is only extended for additional 4 weeks to allow NS to keep cover the needed MPHSS, rescue, first aid, following the Kilifi incident. This DREF operation gives room for 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 sustained actions that will ensure to limit the impact of 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 needs. Rotation of the rescue team should be considered 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 will be cross cutting across all sectors with particular attention towards displaced households.

All the deployed team are already trained on different thematic areas 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, a professional guidance from expert on mental health will be sought. For continuity of the PFA support, volunteers will be separated to the research even though all the teams are briefed on PSS and will receive the same support. 10 volunteers within the deployed team will cover the aspect related to PFA, RLF and community engagement. There will be 15 volunteers fully dedicated to the search and rescue and another 15 covering PSS and RLF. All will be involved on a rotative approach.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Minimum of 3,000 people including the 618 direct people missing in the forest waiting for rescue, their family members and the KRCS teams deployed dealing with this high potential traumatic situation.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Selection criteria will be based on the search 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 aside of any criminal investigation part and put in place a communication strategy with clear messages for all interventions 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 be 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


	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget		CHF 1,775
		Targeted Persons		3000
Indicators		Target	Actual	
% of community feedback collected that are treated		100	100	
Progress Towards Outcome				
<p>KRCS Toll-free line complaints and feedback number has been disseminated to the affected communities during search and rescue, medical evacuations and MHPSS. Similarly, a CEA desk has been set up at the command centre where communities can seek clarity on various issues around the ongoing mass casualty incident.</p> <p>As of 29th July 2023, KRCS had registered 67 calls through the KRCS emergency operations center and the complaints and feedback line. All the complaints have been addressed through the Kilifi County branch and some referred to the county government.</p>				

	Health	Budget		CHF 80,922
		Targeted Persons		3000
Indicators		Target	Actual	
of people expressing need of PFA supported		100	1093	
% of KRCS staff and volunteers supported with PFA		100	100	
#of days for ambulatory services		60	30	
Number of first aid purchased		20	20	
Number of people supported with First Aid		565	103	
MHPSS referral mechanism is in place		1	1	
Progress Towards Outcome				
KRCS has replenished the stock through the procurement of items distributed during the operation to enhance visibility, smooth response and dignity of all responders and the survivors.				

Medical evacuation from the Shakahola forest to Malindi sub-county hospital has been done for the 103 people rescued people.

Reporting on indicators will be fully consolidated on final report.

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget		CHF 8,698
		Targeted Persons		565
Indicators		Target		Actual
#of toilet installed		7		
#of dignity kits distributed		69		69
Progress Towards Outcome				
<p>KRCS has replenished through the procurement of items distributed during the search and rescue. These items included children, female and male dignity kits, and portable toilets to enhance the self-worth of those rescued.</p> <p>A final narrative and financial report with indicators achievement will be shared after the closure of the response.</p>				

	Secretariat Services	Budget		CHF 11,456
		Targeted Persons		62
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# reports produced		1	1	
Progress Towards Outcome				
<p>Post-evaluation will be conducted as teams do their AAR and lessons learned immediately the response is closed.</p> <p>KRCS has done an operation update after the lapse of the three months and a final narrative and financial report with consolidated indicators achievement will be shared after the closure of the response.</p>				

	National Society Strengthening	Budget		CHF 20,835
		Targeted Persons		62
Indicators		Target		Actual
#Coordination meetings		4		2
#Lesson learnt workshop		1		0

#of monitoring report produced	4	2
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Progress Towards Outcome

Frequent monitoring visits have been conducted to the command centre and Malindi sub- county hospital for progress checks and MHPSS needs assessment. Additionally, MPHSS debriefs have been conducted to the response team which include survivors, family members, volunteers, KRCS staff, security personnel, local community exhumers and media personnel covering the operation. In total, 1,093 people have been reached with the mentioned services.

Lesson Learnt is being picked on the go since this is a new response in the country of that nature. An After-Action Review and debrief session will be conducted when the response has been closed.

KRCS has provided PPEs to all the response teams involved in the MCI operation.

Final narrative and financial report with indicator achievements will be shared after the closure of the response.

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 0
		Targeted Persons	565
Indicators	Target	Actual	
Number of people reached with dignity kits and RFL services	224	103	

Progress Towards Outcome

At least 618 people among them 318 children have been reported missing at the RFL desk in Malindi sub-county hospital and at the command center.

KRCS has been conducting continuous assessments of the situation from the first phase and through working closely with the county government, they have just commenced the fourth phase.

At least 103 people (39 children, 64 adults) have been rescued. The 39 children and 64 adults who have been rescued and are currently hosted at various rescue centers in Kilifi County were supported with dignity kits fit for males, females and children.

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 4 months during the search and rescue on rotational basis. 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.

Contact Information

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

- **National Society contact:** Dr. Idris Ahmed, Secretary General, idris.ahmed@redcross.or.ke, +254720550455
- **IFRC Appeal Manager:** Mohamed BABIKER, Head of Delegation, Somalia and Kenya, mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Project Manager:** Patrick Elliot, Operations Coordinator, patrick.elliott@ifrc.org, +254733620770
- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Patrick Elliot, Operations Coordinator, patrick.elliott@ifrc.org, +254733620770
- **Media Contact:** Dr. Michael Aiyabei, HOD-Disaster Management, ayabei.michael@redcross.or.ke, +254722850484
- **For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries)** IFRC Regional Office for Africa Beatrice Atieno OKEYO, Head of PMER & QA, beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org, Phone: +254 721 486953

[Click here for the reference](#)

