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Information bulletin

Kenya: Garissa University College Attack

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of disaster 2 April, 2015	Point of contact (name and title): Dr Abbas Gullet, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society
Host National Society: Kenya Red Cross Society	
Number of people affected: approximately 1,000 students, faculty and other staff	Number of people to be assisted: 5,000
Other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): County and national government	

This bulletin is being issued for information purposes and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has immediately responded and will request in the coming days for assistance through IFRC international disaster response mechanisms.

The situation

- Suspected Al Shabaab Islamist militants attacked and laid siege to the Garissa University College, in the town of Garissa (North Eastern Province) on the 2nd of April. Reports indicate that several gunmen opened fire on guards at around 05h30 before being confronted by police and withdrawing into the campus buildings with several hostages.
- At 22h00 2 April, official and local sources have confirmed that the siege is over.
- As of now, at least 147 people have been confirmed dead, although it is likely the number will be much higher. At least 79 people are reported injured. Victims are being transferred to Garissa General Hospital and the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi. However, due to the high number of injured, some of them have been referred to private hospitals.
- Kenya's Interior Minister told reporters in Garissa that about 500 out of 815 students were accounted for.
- All 4 attackers (who reportedly had explosives strapped to them) are reported to have been killed.
- The affected area has been cordoned off by the security forces. A 18h30-06h30 curfew in Garissa, Mandera, Wajir and Tana River is to be implemented from 3 April to 14 April.



Kenya Red Cross Volunteer assists while a student is escorted out of Garissa University College after Kenya Defence Forces ended the attack by Al Shabaab gunmen.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kenya Red Cross Response team was on the ground soon after the attack working closely with other command structures within the government. KRCS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) deployed ambulances and paramedics at the scene. The Garissa County hospital had 120 units of safe blood available and an additional 64 units has been availed to Garissa for transfusion with an initial projection need of 250 units will be required. KRCS Garissa team has conducted a mini blood donation at the Garissa Blood

Transfusion Satellite Centre. KRCS has airlifted two (2) surgeons and two (2) anaesthetists and surgical supplies to back up the resident surgeon in Garissa County hospital. The hospital has one theatre and considerations have been made to convert other rooms to serve as operating rooms. The chartered plane was used to airlift critically injured cases and later the bodies of the deceased. KRCS is also supporting with Psychosocial, Counselling and tracing services in Garissa and have standby teams in Nairobi.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The KRCS hosts a number of Participating National Societies including: Australian, Austrian, British, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, German, Japanese, Netherlands, Norwegian, and Swedish Red Cross. The IFRC Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands regional representation is located in the country and supports operations in 15 countries across the region, including the KRCS. The ICRC regional delegation is also hosted in Nairobi which serves as a hub for operations in Eastern and Central African countries.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.