

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kenya: Fires 2011

DREF operation n° MDRKE015

GLIDE n° FR-2011-000030-KEN

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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 205,575 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) in replenishing non food items used in delivering immediate assistance to some 4,667 households affected by fires for a period of one month.

Summary: The increase in the incidence of fire in the country since 2009 is attributed to various factors including human error and carelessness, overcrowding in informal settlements, lack of access roads and fire fighting services, as well as declining environment, among others. The absence of a well-coordinated urban crisis preparedness mechanism further undermines efficiency and timeliness of actors during response.



Food distribution. Photo/KRCS

Rapid assessments carried out by the Kenya Red Cross Society during the reporting period indicated that at least 25 fatalities were recorded with approximately 4,667 households affected by the fires either through the loss of homes or through injuries. The assessment further highlighted several factors that influenced how the intervention was implemented. First, given the nature of informal settlements, the number of people affected is usually high even for small fires. Secondly, the needs identified during assessments are varied and go beyond fire safety issues. The importance of implementation of a cross sectional intervention that includes issues of first aid response, hospital transfer support, psychosocial support, distribution of food and non food items to individuals is therefore heightened in every operation. Thirdly, assessment teams found that children comprise a large portion of those affected by fires—especially in informal settlements, thereby necessitating an intervention that takes protection issues on board given children's special needs.

Following the rash of fires, the National Society mobilized staff and volunteers to respond through recovery of mortal remains, rapid assessments, registration and verification of beneficiaries, distribution of food and non-food items, provision of First Aid and hospital transfers, tracing of missing persons and provision of psychosocial support. DREF resources assisted in the intervention by supporting the

replenishment of non-food items used in disaster response operations during the reporting period. All 4,667 targeted households were reached, including 3,259 households from Mukuru Fuata Nyayo, 1,243 from Suswa Deep Sea Village Park, 83 from Line Saba and 82 households from Katuekera Olympic in Kibera. Each family was targeted to receive 2 blankets, 1 set of kitchen items, 2 mosquito nets, 2 water jerry cans and a tarpaulin.

Lessons learned: The existence of capable community-based disaster response units minimized fire damage by enabling a quick procedural response. These units - established in response to vulnerability capacity assessments (VCAs) in Mukuru and Mathere informal settlements applied their acquired skills by coordinating the first response to the fire and were also instrumental in supporting the overall KRCS response.

Well-trained standby teams comprising staff and volunteers continue to be an essential component in fire safety response due to speed of deployment and the skills they possess.

Recommendations: Increase the scale of disaster risk reduction projects in the informal settlements in order to minimize the vulnerabilities caused by human error.

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The situation

The KRCS Emergency Operation Centre (E.O.C) Incident database indicated that the NS responded to at least 126 fire incidents between January to July 2011. It's important to note that 51% of these incidents



Fire damage a Mukuru Kayaba. Photo/KRCS

(64) have occurred in the informal settlements where fire risk is heightened by absence of fire fighting systems and the proximity and high density of shelters in these settlements. Response to fires, especially in informal settlements, continues to be a daunting task due to the lack of publicly provided fire fighting systems including the lack of water sources to put out the fires, combustibility of construction material and poor infrastructural development in these areas including lack of access roads into the settlements. The four main incidents that the National Society responded to between January and March include:

Katuekera Olympic, Kibera: On 8 February 2011, a fire was reported in the informal settlement at around 1500hrs. KRCS assessments revealed that a total of 82 households were affected by the fire. The cause of the fire was not established.

Line Saba, Kibera: On 10 February 2011, a fire was reported at 1900hrs. The Nairobi branch Disaster Risk Reduction team responded by carrying out an initial assessment which showed that approximately 83 households had lost their homes. The fire was attributed to an electric fault as live wires could be seen hanging by the poles. The inferno was contained in an hour. Although no fatalities were reported during the incident, many individual sustained minor injuries as they attempted to rescue their household belongings.

Mukuru Fuata Nyayo: On 28 February 2011, KRCS through its hotline number KRCS responded to distress calls of a fire at Mukuru Fuata Nyayo informal settlement. The inferno, which reportedly broke out at 1100hrs, burned down numerous houses estimated to spread over four hectares. Families that were

rendered homeless were provided with shelter at the Mariakani Primary School where KRCS put up two tents. Mariakani Primary School also donated five of its classrooms to house the affected. The families were provided with NFIs including blankets and food for that night.

On 1 March 2011, the NS undertook a rapid assessment of the area in order to determine the communities' immediate needs. The assessment indicated that at least 8,969 individuals were affected by the fire. Regrettably, one fatality was also reported. It's important to note that children accounted for 40% of those displaced by the incident. The assessment was a challenge due to the confusion and disorder that broke out following the fire. In addition, some of the affected families especially the women and children were not available for the assessment as they had relocated and sought refuge at the neighboring Mariakani mosque. The Administration Police security personnel supported the process by requesting each of the affected families to stand beside the debris of their houses. KRCS thereafter undertook registration of those affected.

Distribution exercises commenced on 2 March 2011. The NS deployed NFIs to cater for 4,667 households. Each family was targeted to receive 2 blankets, 1 set of kitchen items, 2 mosquito nets, 2 water jerry cans and a tarpaulin. KRCS also distributed relief food on behalf of the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders.



Beneficiary collecting allocated NFIs. Photo/KRCS

Suswa deep Sea village, Parklands: On 8 March 2011, the EOC responded to information of a fire at 1340hrs. The centre coordinated an initial response with the use of fire engines from a local security company and ambulance service. Approximately 40 volunteers were also mobilized for the initial response. A rapid assessment conducted indicated that one fatality and 37 casualties were reported from this incident. A total of 1,243 affected households were supported with humanitarian assistance. Most were given shelter for the night by a local church. The NS also distributed food and NFIs after completion of the assessment.

Coordination and Partnerships

KRCS monitored fire incidents through its Emergency Operations centre (EOC). The centre coordinated the collection of data from the field through its extensive volunteer networks. The centre utilized its positive work relationship with the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) and other units relevant to the fire response such as the fire brigade. The NS therefore reported incidents to these centres to initiate response in the affected areas. The response teams comprised staff and volunteers trained in various aspects of response including provision of First Aid, distribution of food and non food items, conducting rapid assessments among others.

The NS coordinated its response with the area provincial administration. For instance, KRCS in collaboration with the area District Commissioner convened a stakeholder coordination meeting in order to develop the assessment and distribution plans during the fire incident at Fuata Nyayo on 28 February 2011. The stakeholders agreed to channel the distribution activities through KRCS. The following are some of the organizations that provided services to the affected households

Table 1: Organizations that assisted KRCS with response activities in the affected areas

Organization	Contribution to disaster
Nairobi Fire Service, KK Security Services, National Youth Service, Ministry of Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three (3) fire engines and Personnel

G4S Fire Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 blankets, 50 stoves and 50 mattresses blankets
Ministry of Special programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29.25 MT of food (rice and beans)
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical care/outreach
Mater Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 278 loaves of bread, 180 packets of milk and 138 blankets
Mariakani Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 5 classrooms for the displaced to sleep in
Kenya Police and the Provincial administration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided security during the entire operation
Kenya Water For Health Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donated 2 Mobilet toilets and water purification tablets
Goal Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFIs, including soap, lesos (sarongs) and sanitary pads for 3258 households, • 4 Mobilets, • Psychosocial support and peer education. • Supplements for people living with HIV/AIDS
Child survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling for the children
Kenya Power and Lighting Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnecting illegal electric power connections that posed additional fire threat

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society in collaboration with the Provincial Administration conducted a rapid assessment at the site of the disasters. The assessments highlighted that approximately 4,667 households were affected and rendered homeless by the fires. The assessment also highlighted the fact that children accounted for a large number of those affected. Once identified, KRCS undertook the registration and verification of the affected.

KRCS set up two tents at Mariakani Primary School to house the affected households from Mukuru Fuata Nyayo. On 28 February, 733 households spent the night at the school. Those affected by the fire at Suswa Deep Sea were given shelter by a local church.

Achievements against objectives:

Overall Goal: To contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations displaced as a result of a fire disasters in various parts of Nairobi.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: To distribute non food items to displaced populations.	
Outputs:	Planned activities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,667 beneficiaries are supplied with essential non food items • KRCS volunteers capacity in relief distribution built 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure family kits (blankets kitchen sets, tarpaulins mosquito nets jerry cans and soap) for 4667 households. • Transport emergency items to the fire affected communities. • Distribution of emergency items to the fire affected population

Achievements

The NS conducted three training activities for its volunteers in March 2011. The trainings were in the areas of occupation First Aid, fire safety and first responders' courses. A total of 97 volunteers participated in these trainings. They were selected from KRCS and comprised the most consistent

volunteers and represented different geographical areas. This ensured that each area was equipped with responders of relevant skills.

KRCS procured complete family kits in order to replenish the amounts utilized in response to fires during the reporting period. The items purchased included the following:

Table 2: list of procured NFIs

Item	Quantity
Tarpaulin	3,672
Mosquito Nets	6,200
Jerry cans	6,200
Blankets	6,200
Kitchen sets	3,000

- **Distribution of food and non food items**

The NS deployed NFIs to cater for 4,667 households. Each family was to receive 2 blankets, 1 set of kitchen items, 2 mosquito nets, 2 water jerry cans and a tarpaulin. At the end of the operation, the entire consignment had been distributed to the affected populations. Approximately 201 households did not turn up for the distribution despite several attempts to locate them. KRCS also distributed 29.25 MT of food on behalf of the government and other stakeholders.

- **Tracing services**

KRCS provided tracing services aimed at restoring family links during the fire incident in Mukuru Fuata Nyayo on 28 February 2011. The rapid assessment highlighted that 40% of the displaced population were children. Approximately 17 children aged below 10 years were separated from their families. All the children (100%) were reunited with their families by the end of the operation.



Family reunification. Photo/KRCS

immediately following the incident at Mukuru Fuata Nyayo. KRCS volunteers administered First Aid services to over 400 casualties with minor injuries. Kenya Red Cross Emergency Medical Services Ambulances transferred 20 casualties with serious injuries to different hospitals.

- **Psychosocial support**

Four KRCS volunteers provided counselling services to the affected. The service, which was available throughout the operation, reached 10 beneficiaries who had lost their homes in the Mukuru Fuata Nyayo fire.

- **Provision of medical services and referrals**

The NS established a triage unit at Hazina Estate. KRCS volunteers administered First Aid services to over 400 casualties with minor injuries. Kenya Red Cross Emergency Medical Services Ambulances transferred 20 casualties with serious injuries to different hospitals.

Challenges

Several challenges were experienced during implementation. First, collaborating fire fighting agencies reported grounded fire engines when called upon to respond to a fire emergency thereby increasing and/or impeding an effective response in several cases. Secondly, harsh reception by community members including stoning of response vehicles made several agencies reluctant to participate in response operations when called upon, thirdly, the absence of appropriate fire fighting gear e.g. helmets, boots etc for staff and volunteers hampered their effectiveness in times of response.

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 \(NGO's\) 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.

Contact information

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

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRKE015 - Kenya - Fires

final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/3-2011/4
Budget Timeframe	2011/3-2011/4
Appeal	MDRKE015
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	205,575					205,575
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	205,575					205,575
C4. Other Income	205,575					205,575
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	205,575					205,575
D. Total Funding = B + C	205,575					205,575
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	205,575					205,575
E. Expenditure	-205,575					-205,575
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	205,575					205,575		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	96,085						96,085	
Utensils & Tools	83,966						83,966	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supl	180,051						180,051	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,059						1,059	
Distribution & Monitoring	7,019						7,019	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	8,078						8,078	
General Expenditure								
Other General Expenses	4,899						4,899	
Total General Expenditure	4,899						4,899	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		193,028				193,028	-193,028	
Total Contributions & Transfers		193,028				193,028	-193,028	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	12,547	12,547				12,547	0	
Total Indirect Costs	12,547	12,547				12,547	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	205,575	205,575				205,575	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)		0				0		