

# **KENYA: NAIROBI BOMBING**

2 February 1999

*appeal no. 25/98*

*situation report no.03/99*

*period covered: December, 1998*

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*The response to the August 7, 1998 bomb blast in Nairobi, Kenya persists, with efforts now focusing more fully on providing mid to longer-term assistance to the victims. The Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS) and the Federation response to the disaster was effective and timely. Despite the positive reviews, the total appeal budget remains only half covered, and funds are still needed to complete the longer-term activities now being implemented.*

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## ***The context***

The bomb which exploded in Nairobi, Kenya on August 7, 1998, killed more than 200 people and injured over 5,500 others. Of these victims, 500 were hospitalised and 5,000 more were treated in various local hospitals and clinics before being released. The initial emergency phase consisted of blood supply activities and the provision of food and tracing assistance. Mid-term activities focused on providing social and psychological assistance to the victims, particularly for orphans to receive school fees, and the distribution of food parcels to affected families. Efforts are now turning to longer-term assistance for families of the deceased, orphans, and foster families, as well as psychological support for rescue operation volunteers who were traumatised by the tragic experience.

## ***Latest Developments, and Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) continues to provide assistance to families and individuals who have been affected by the bomb blast. The KRCS has started further capacity building-type training for their personnel and volunteers to improve their skills in responding to disasters. In addition, the following planned activities have been initiated:

***Counselling and Psycho-Social Support:*** Since the last report of mid-December, 1998, the social welfare team of the KRCS Community Counselling Centre (CCC) have been focusing on holistic support for bomb blast survivors and their families. 80% of the bomb blast victims were men, and 85% of these left behind very young families. 10 single parents died, leaving behind a total of 45 orphans. Special support is provided for families who have lost a family member or the bread winner. To date, 183 families have been interviewed and counselled, allowing social workers to describe a more specific pattern to the problems the survivors are facing.

***Distribution of Food Parcels:*** On 24 November and 10 December, 1998, the KRCS distributed initial food rations to those families who lost a member in the bomb blast. Each family member received 10 kg's of maize, 1 kg of beans, and 0,5 kg of oil. The social workers have selected three distribution sites in Nairobi, thereby facilitating the distributions to families. In January 1999, the social workers will start their outreach programme to the rural areas, meet with the responsible

KRCS representatives at branch level, and instruct them in the further distribution of food parcels. The social workers will meet with the beneficiaries as well and inform them about further support through the Red Cross. The supplementary food programme is planned to continue until August, 1999.

***Programme for Visually Impaired Women:*** More than 150 people suffered severe eye injuries or have lost their sight completely as a consequence of the bomb blast, 53 of them women. The International Federation and KRCS have initiated a one-year programme to assist these visually impaired women, in co-operation with other agencies such as the Kenyan Society for the Blind (KSB,) the Adventist Development Relief Agency, and the Baptist Mission of Kenya. Those who need institutional rehabilitation will be provided with an individual programme at the Technical Training Institute for the Blind in Machakos where they will learn independent living skills (e.g. in personal hygiene, child care, running a household). A Braille literacy programme will also be offered, as well as classes to encourage entrepreneurship, such as carpentry and joinery, tailoring, knitting, and tannery and leather work. The women will also be provided with the means to use the skills acquired. As part of the programme for the visually impaired, the Red Cross offered a 4-day workshop entitled "*Awareness of Stake Holders in the Rehabilitation Programme of the Nairobi Bomb Blast Visually Impaired Survivors*". The KSB produced the curriculum and organised the programme for 40 participants (KRCS volunteers, social workers and members of other NGO's) to improve their ability to assist the visually impaired. The workshop provided professional presentations and practical exercises on how to meet the needs of their clients.

***School Fees for Orphans:*** The challenging task of selecting the 40 most needy children to receive school fee support was completed just before Christmas. The criteria was based on children who have lost one, or both parents during the bomb blast; children whose economical situation does not allow them to attend school; and children who were scheduled to enter school in early January, 1999. The parent, or foster parents, have been informed about the procedure of the sponsorship. The school fees will be transferred directly to the educational institutes of the children. The programme is partially sponsored by the Italian Embassy (CHF 30,000) but much more funding is needed to support children who could not be considered this time around. The KRCS is working closely with other NGOs in order to co-ordinate their education support programme.

***Trauma and Orthopaedic Treatment:*** Orthopaedic specialists still plan to carry out surgery in January and February, 1999. Some 15,000 CHF is available to cover medical expenses which are not met by the official bodies or any other organisation. While follow up medical assistance would be free of charge, there are reports that patients have been requested to pay for their medical treatment or have been rejected by the treatment centers. Efforts are underway to resolve these problems.

***Capacity Building of the KRCS - Disaster Preparedness:*** ECHO, the American Red Cross, and the Swedish Red Cross confirmed their support for disaster preparedness (DPP) training of KRCS Action Teams, and agreed to supply disaster response material. A DPP specialist of the American Red Cross will assist the KRCS for one year to implement the programme. On 16 December, the DPP curriculum review was finalised. The first training course, which will include 25 KRCS staff and 25 from people from external disaster preparedness units, will be carried out from 22 to 26 January 1999. The KRCS will also offer 6 training courses for Disaster Management in rural and urban areas. National and international specialists will facilitate the 5-day training courses to 200 members of various Kenyan support units, forty of who will be trained as trainers.

## ***Outstanding needs***

A Finance Development Delegate is needed to assist the KRCS to administer the funds contributed to date. The Regional Delegation's Finance Delegate, in co-operation with the Social Welfare Delegate, continues to fill the current gap.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Good relations continue to be enjoyed with a number of agencies. On 19 December, NGO's offered a one day Christmas celebration for bomb blast survivors with food and entertainment for adults and children. The KRCS assisted with a First Aid Team and transport.

The Federation has also developed close contact with national and international media in the aftermath of the bomb blast. Five months after the bomb blast, both the national and international press are still actively seeking interviews with social workers and survivors in order to document the impact of the explosion.

## ***Contributions***

In addition to the contributions detailed in Annex 1 which were received in response to the Appeal, the following contributions were received before the Appeal launch:

<b>DONOR</b>	<b>SUPPLIED</b>	<b>EQUIVALENT CASH AMOUNT</b>
German Embassy	In-kind; medical supplies	CHF 77,000
German Red Cross (Nairobi Office)	In-kind; blood bags, dressing kits, rescue operation equipment	DM 110,000
Aga Khan Foundation	In-kind; HIV testing kits	n/a
USAIF	In-kind; 574 body bags	n/a
Fairfax Rescue Team ( USA)	In-kind; 2 laptops, 3 generators	CHF 117,000
Coca-Cola Co.	In-kind; fridges for blood storage	n/a
American Red Cross	Cash	CHF 75,000 (US\$ 50,000)

## ***Conclusion***

The combined KRCS and Federation action has effectively provided assistance to the victims and survivors of the bomb blast. The initial budget was considered adequate to provide support for one year, but further funding is required to meet the longer-term needs, particularly counselling, vocational training, and income generating activities.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Bekele Geleta  
Director  
Africa Department

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