

## Nyando District Kisumu Hub

### Post-Floods Needs Assessment Report 13-16th January 2013

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The Kenya meteorological department predictions indicated that the country was expected to experience enhanced rainfall for the period October-December 2012, during the short rains with most parts of Kenya experiencing above normal rainfall while most parts of the Rift valley, Nairobi and parts of North Eastern counties experiencing slightly above normal rainfall.

West Kenya catchment areas experienced heavy rains between 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012, in the upstream areas of the Rift valley-Nandi hills, which were slightly above normal, causing Rivers Nyando, Awach, and Sondu to break their banks in the down stream Kisumu County. This caused flooding with displacement and destruction of property in Nyando, Nyakach and Rachuonyo North Districts from 29<sup>th</sup> December 2012. At the time of this assessment, the rains have receded and most of the flooding waters are drying up in the affected areas. However, the flooding risk is still at alert level.

**BACKGROUND ON THE LOCATION:** Nyando District is a fairly new district, which broke away from Kisumu District in Nyanza Province in 1998. It is named after the Nyando River, which flows from the Nandi Hills in the Rift Valley Province and empties its waters into Lake Victoria. Nyando district is in Kisumu County, and borders Nyakach, Muhoroni, Rachuonyo and Kisumu East Districts and the Rift Valley Province. The District capital is the town of Awasi, located 30 kilometers east of Kisumu City, the county capital of Kisumu County. The District is affected by perennial floods, usually twice in a year during the short and long rains seasons.

#### **District Disaster Management Committee meeting(s) DDMC flood response coordination meeting: Nyando District**

The District Disaster Committee meetings of 8th January reported that displaced families were returning home after the subsiding of the heavy rains and the drying up of the flooding waters in the settlements.

KRCS Rapid Assessment dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January reported a total of 439 HH had been affected/displaced in Nyando District as at 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. At the time of the assessment it was not clearly established, the number of households which were displaced living in private dwelling and those hosted by others in the two sites visited.

It was also reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> January that flooding had affected 24 primary schools in Kokola/Ahero Zone and 6 secondary schools and damaged some school infrastructure, and there was concern over continued use of schools as displacement sites, which was likely to affect the re-opening of schools.

#### **Humanitarian Profile:**

Most of the Household visited in Kokola Location and Wawidhi were displaced and currently—in private dwelling, meaning that most of them had already moved back to their homes and were in the process of reconstructing and carrying out repairs and others Displaced and hosted by other persons, this group could still not access their homes due to flooding waters that had not receded. The team also visited a peri-Urban community who were back to their homes but reside close to the River Nyando.

Approximately 84 households were displaced and living in evacuation/campsites and 355 households were affected and not displaced,(hosted by community) in five locations of (Magina, Ayweyo, Kokola/Ahero, Kogwedhi and East Kano) this is according to the KRC Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Methodology:** *A rapid assessment tool, Kenya Initial Rapid Assessment (KIRA) was used to examine access to: food, shelter, health care services, education, water and sanitation and protection issues. Focus group discussions were held with target*

Groups of Men, women, Girls and Boys as well as key informants to get primary data. The team used transects walks/drive as well as direct observations.

Secondary data was availed by the District Commissioners office, KRC Rapid Assessment report, and sector reports from key line ministries.

The below locations were visited by the two teams are below: Areas not visited and affected are Kochogo, Kokola and Onjiko.

**Table 1: Sites visited by Assessment teams**

	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Assessment Sites</b>
	<i>Wawidhi Location</i>	<i>Kogwedhi Primary School Kogwedhi Village (Some areas were not accessible)</i>
	<i>Bunde/Ahero Location</i>	<i>Bunde Village Bunde Primary School Ombaka Area (rural)Transect Drive Mawembe Estate (peri-urban)</i>

**Objectives:**

The overall objective of the assessment mission was to establish the impact of the floods on the affected population and identify areas of interventions.

**Limitations**

- Access to the population was problematic due vastness of the affected areas.
- Poor road infrastructure
- Inadequate data at community level
- Limited resources e.g. four wheel vehicles and fuel by District administration to visit far locations.

**Priority Needs:**

**Water and Sanitation**

- Hand pumps installed and shallow wells are the common source of drinking water. A number of these hand pumps were submerged in the flood water and few are not working. After the flood waters have receded, these water sources are back in use. Generally the water sources have not been treated after the flooding episode. There is need for household water treatment and disinfection of all water sources.
- Pit latrines, in some schools have collapsed or not in use due to the flood waters and the community have very few latrines. Hand washing facilities need to be set up at different places, especially where new latrines will be built. Materials for this are not available. Jerry cans with taps are needed.
- Hygiene promotion activities need to be activated in the general community

**Shelter and Non-food Items**

- The assessment team observed a number of houses had been abandoned due to it being partially submerged in flood waters, also some houses were still damp or destroyed by the floods The early warning signals relayed to the community is not established which led to loss of property ,crops and livestock. The KRCS distributed blankets, mosquito nets, jerrycans to target beneficiaries. Some classrooms in Nyamasao Primary school have been damaged due to the floods and the fact that it was being used as an evacuation center. Alternative learning spaces should be

established in schools that are still water logged or have classrooms that have been damaged and pose as a risk to the students who are back in school.

#### **Education:**

- The four schools visited have not been damaged by the floods as earlier reported to UNICEF Kisumu Office. The classroom structures are intact and school children have already resumed learning after the long holidays.
- Toilet facilities however have been partly destroyed in Nyamsao primary school.,Kogwedhi. and Ombaka primary school and Ombaka Secondary(water logged). New toilets will need to be constructed in these schools.
- The Assessment team was informed that schools have resumed normal learning and that some students lost their uniforms and books during the flooding episode. Some school facilities (teaching & learning) have been destroyed since they were being used as evacuation centers.
- Hygiene materials-sanitary towels should be provided to most of the schools affected since, many girls do not have access to the materials and their parents/ guardians are not able to afford. Orphaned children have been forced to skip school in order to take care of their elderly guardians as well as taking care of sickly parents .Young school boys are remaining at home to assist in repair /reconstruction of destroyed houses
- Psychosocial support for the lower primary students in affected schools is needed due to the fear of drowning and disruption of life caused by the flooding episode.

#### **Food and Agriculture**

- The food security situation in Nyando District has deteriorated due to consecutive washing away of food crops and rice fields by the flood waters that have been experienced in the last two years. Moreover, poor storage facilities by farmers and communities have led to economic losses since their food commodities are being affected by aflatoxin, further weakening their livelihood.
- Main source of livelihood for this community is agricultural production for those living close to the Nyando River with minimal livestock and chicken rearing. Those who were farming in the irrigation scheme are bound to experience crop failure as their crops were washed away by the floods. GOK has distributed maize food to affected households.
- Food seems to be of higher priority to the beneficiaries compared to other needs at the moment. The problem is further complicated by the fact that other food commodities in the markets have now become expensive due to demand and also the fact that farmers are disposing their assets to buy basic amenities.

#### **Health:**

- The Community normally access medical care through two dispensaries, Bunde dispensary and Kogwedhi Dispensary which was also acting as an evacuation centers. Medical supplies are not sufficient in view of the anticipated upsurge of diseases associated with the floods .Qualified medical personnel were present during the visit although nurses were not present due to the nationwide strike. More drug supplies are needed in view of the upsurge of malaria, URTI and water borne diseases.

#### **Protection:**

- No major protection issues were reported as a result of the floods. However there remains the risk of insecurity due to cattle rustling in other villages, on going political contests, and petty crime. The district administration and home guards are in charge of security. Child labour (working in rice farms) is rampant among school going children in Nyando which is affecting progression of girls to higher primary school.

#### **Coordination:**

- Coordination meetings are held on a weekly basis and chaired by the DC/DO Nyando. The meetings mainly brief partners of on going and planned interventions. Gaps are also identified. A multi sect oral approach needs to be advocated for so that all partner and line ministries can respond effectively to the needs assessed.

### Summary Response Capacity for the Floods

Organization	Response	Remarks/gaps
GOK – DC	Coordination, Security, Food	Food distribution plan not /available
Kenya Red Cross	Food distribution, Distribution of NFI -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slabs and Mobilets to construct toilets.</li> <li>• Drugs for UTR(Upper tract respiratory)</li> <li>• Hygiene promotion materials for affected centers.</li> <li>• Hand washing jerricans with taps</li> </ul>
World Vision	Food distribution Distribution of NFI	Data to be availed by WVI Nyakach
UNICEF	Aqua tabs, Jerri cans, Mosquito nets	Supplies were handed over to the KRC and DPHO for distribution

- The villages that are further from the all-weather roads and those that are next to River Nyando received the least assistance. There are identified gaps in Health, WASH, Shelter, Education, and Nutrition and Food sectors.
- Vulnerable groups: The elderly, persons with disabilities, chronically ill, orphans and widows are most affected, some of whom are being cared for by their relatives.

### Recommendations

- Support in terms of food and water treatment chemicals and containers for areas not visited are vital. Four wheel vehicles and fuel is needed so that distribution to those areas can begin. These areas could not be accessed due to bad infrastructure and distances to be covered. They are: some villages in wawidhi Kokola location .as well as area of. Kochogo ,Kokoja and Onjiko locations which were not visited
- Support on Seeds, tools and fertilizers for those doing irrigation are vital since most of their crops had been washed away by floods. Food in stores have since gone bad due to wet conditions and farmers are selling their produce at low prices in order to avoid more losses
- Support for more supply of drugs to the dispensaries is required.
- Strengthening of DDMC and stakeholders forum so to advocate for multi sect oral approach when it comes to response of disasters
- Support to the schools affected in terms of learning materials, School fees and collapsed latrines
- Disinfection of water sources and water treatment at household level should be supported and monitored so as to avoid uprising of waterborne diseases in the coming months.
- Hygiene promotion activities at household level and schools should be enhanced.

### Longer term recommendations

- Early warning traditional systems need to be enhanced so as to warn those living along River Nyando and the general community (those practicing irrigation).
- Repair of broken water pumps is urgent so as to avoid the community from taking water from unprotected water sources.
- Flood monitoring mechanisms need to be initiated since Nyando River normally over flows during rainy seasons.

- Reconstruction of the destroyed dykes/canals needs to be taken up immediately so as to avoid a reoccurrence of floods if the rains are expected to continue in the coming months. The Rice Irrigation board has constructed a wall that blocks water flow into the irrigation canals and instead allows the water to flow directly into the people's home in Mawembe.

## Annex

1. List of Participating organizations
2. Pictures Taken During the Assessment

**Table 1: Nyando Assessment Teams**

Kokola Location Assessment Sites		Wawidhi Location Assessment Sites	
Name	Agency	Name	Agency
1. Alfred Otungo	World Vision	1. Victoria Opiyo	STIPA
2. Allan Owaga	KRCS	2. Stephen Akello	CARE
3. Annastacia Some	UNOCHA	3. Rose Njagi	UNICEF
4. Joash Ogana	STIPA	4. Elly Onyango	KRCS
5. David Kimutai	MOA	5. Philip Adingo	MOPHS
6. Anne Odhiambo	MOPHS	6. Leonard Abara	OOP
7. Lillian Otieno	OOP	7. Alfet Jillo	OOP
8. Elijah Olango	MOWI	8. Meshack Henry Otieno	Ministry of Gender
9. Jacob Ongudi	MOWI	9. Elizabeth Oyango	MOE
10. Jacob Ongere	MOA	10. Augustine Ngoha	ChildFund
11. Allan Owaga	KRCS	11. Patrick Ogunde	ChildFund
12. Linda Kharemwa	UNICEF		



Impassable road in Kogwedhi location



River Nyando



Male FGD



classroom, Ombaka Primary



Impassable road in Kogwedhi



Water-logged homestead in Ombaka



Water-logged homestead in Kogwedhi



Collapsed hand pump