



## Situation Report of effects of the El Nino Rains

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015

### Introduction

Since the onset of the October - November - December (O-N-D) rains season, most parts of the country have experienced heavy rainfall. These areas include parts of Western Kenya, parts of Rift valley, Central highlands including Nairobi, parts of Southeastern lowlands, and the Coastal region. The rains have mainly been driven by the evolving El Niño condition in the Pacific Ocean coupled with the warming of the Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the western Equatorial Indian Ocean (known as the Indian Ocean Dipole) that is favorable for enhanced rainfall in East Africa including Kenya (KMS). Due to this, a number of effects have been experienced in different areas as detailed below;

### Effects of the rains

The heavy rains experienced in different parts of the country resulted in floods and landslides/ mudslides, which have so far affected 35,565 HHs and further displaced 12,398HHs. These figures are likely to change as assessments are ongoing in different parts of the country.

Further effects of the rains include damage to at least 16 schools, destruction of unconfirmed acreage of crops especially in Mt. Elgon, Kirinyaga, Narok, Busia, Kisumu, Tana River and Trans Nzoia counties. To date thousands of livestock (to include cows, goats, sheep and donkeys mainly in Samburu, Marsabit, Narok, Isiolo and Laikipia counties) have been swept away by the floods further affecting the livelihoods of already vulnerable populations. Infrastructural damages have also been reported (damage to road and bridges) in parts of Mt. Elgon region, Tana River, Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera, Wajir and Nandi counties.

### KRCS Interventions

KRCS in collaboration with County Governments and other stakeholders have actively supported communities harness the positive impacts of the enhanced rains, and to cope with and recover from the negative effects of the heavy rains.

During the pre-El Nino phase, KRCS in collaboration with the County Government of Kitui distributed maize seeds to 20000HHs in Kitui County as a mitigation measure against the drought that is likely to occur once the rains subside. Mapping is currently continuing to ensure adequate monitoring of the farms to maturity.

During the response phase, KRCS, County Government teams and other stakeholders continue to issue early warning messages to communities living in hazard prone areas, evacuation of populations at risk to safe sites, supporting search and rescue efforts, and distribution of emergency shelter materials and water and sanitation kits (WASH kits). A total of **2859HHs have been reached with NFIs and WASH kits** during this phase.

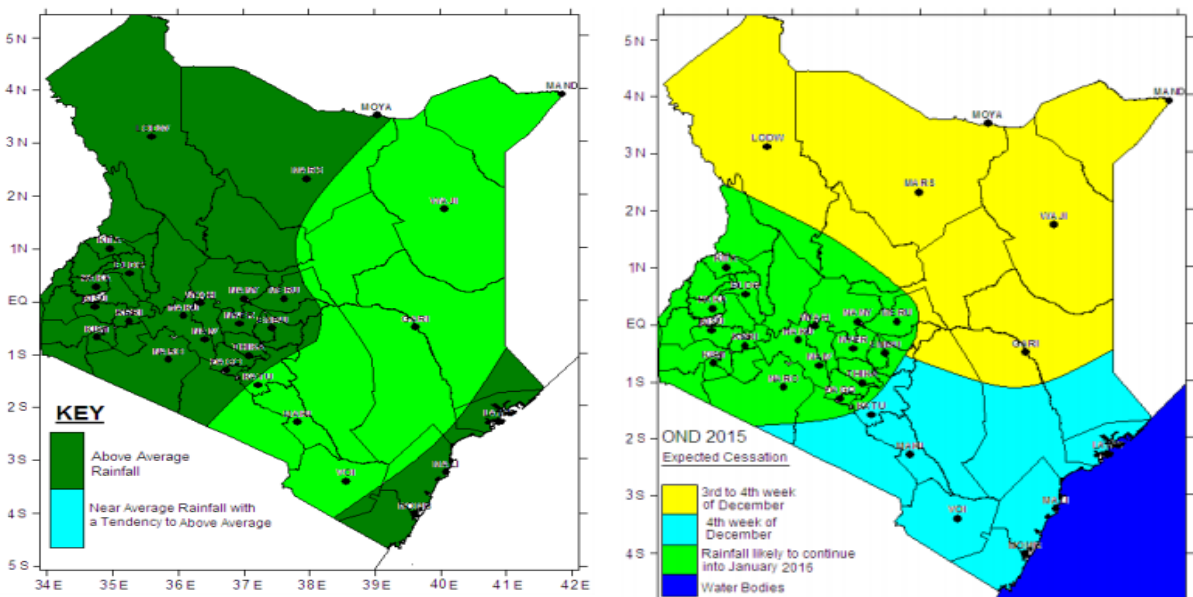
Distribution is ongoing in other areas including Tana River, Trans Nzoia and Busia counties, while in Wajir, and Isiolo, distribution of relief supplies was postponed due to impassable roads. This will resume as soon as access is restored.

County Governments have also actively responded to the effects of the rains by distributing food items to affected communities and repairing infrastructural damages to ensure access to key markets and other social services by the affected communities.

### Weather Forecast for December 2015

The latest forecast from the Kenya Meteorological Department indicates that most of the country is likely to experience enhanced rainfall during the month of December 2015. Parts of Southeastern and Northeastern Kenya are likely to experience mainly average rainfall with a tendency to above average.

The cessation period for some areas is expected starting from the third week of December. However for most of the Western Region, parts of the Rift Valley and Central Region, the rains are expected to persist into January 2016 (see maps below)



*Rainfall distribution for December 2015 (KMS)  
(KMS)*

*Expected Cessation*

Areas of possible impacts include;

- Sustained flooding in parts of West Kenya Region, parts of Rift Valley, the Coastal Region and some urban areas – mainly Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa and Narok
- Landslides in highland areas of central Kenya, South Rift and West Kenya
- Disruption of transport on unpaved roads in parts of Western Kenya, South Rift, and parts of upper eastern.

Photos of effects of El Nino rains and some of interventions implemented so far



*Aerial photo of parts of Garissa affected by floods*



*Part of a damaged road in Marsabit*



*Flooded villages in isiolo county*



*Damaged road in Maungu, Isiolo county*





*Relief distribution in Narok*



*Distribution of relief items in Modogashe,  
Garissa County*