

NYANDO FLOODS ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION REPORT

Assessment date: 03/01/2010

Introduction:

Lower Nyakach division in Nyakach district formally in greater Nyando continued to experience flash floods on the 3rd day of the New Year 2010 with two sub locations of North Nyakach location; Gem Rae and Gem Nam being the worst hit. Most affected areas in Gem Rae sub location are Kawakungu, Karabok, Koloo, Kosano and Kanyikaya while in Gem Nam are Kosano, Karabok and Koloo villages. As a result of more heavy rainfall in Nandi hills and Kano plains, River Nyando, Awach and Nyalbiego had levels of water rising to water overflowing from the riverbanks. Continued assessments of the situation reveal that 250 households in 8 villages in the 2 sub locations are affected with a total population of 1674. So far the number of evacuated households has risen from the previous 20 to 47 at St.Alloys primary school which is acting as an evacuation centre at the moment.

Additionally, following the heavy rainfall in Nandi hills and Kano plains, 2 more sub locations [Nyakongo and Ayweyo] in Nyando district have been hit by flash floods with 56 and 24 households respectively being affected. 3 villages [Kojunga, Kojodo and Kamwanda] in Nyakongo sub location have been affected and one village in Ayweyo. This brings the total number of families affected in the greater Nyando to 340 and over 2,000 people at risk of displacement and about 300 [47 households] people already evacuated to safer ground.

Food and Nutritions;

Food is not available in the four locations (Nyakongo and Ayweyo of Wawidhi location of Nyando division and Gem Rae and Gem Nam of North Nyakach location of Lower Nyakach division) due to crop failure as a result of the delayed rains. For people in Nyakongo sub location, maize was washed away from granaries by floods and right now, food shortage in the area is very high. Besides, 75 percent of the food crop withered away and the little harvest realized have so far been depleted. It is worth noting that, this area is faced with alternate floods and drought in the biannual rain season scenario for the West Kenya region. The community relies on fishing and farming as their source of food and income. Also the community is engaged in rice farming, which has so far been destroyed by the heavy rains and floods experienced in the area.

Water and sanitation situation:

Community members for North Nyakach location have various sources of water for domestic use. There is piped water from Sondu Miriu water treatment plant which is never reliable since it serves the whole of Nyakach district and can only be seen in the location once in a month. River Nyando and Awach complements for domestic use but the safety of water from these rivers cannot be guaranteed. Too, sanitation in the location is equally very low with 20% of latrine coverage in the whole location.

In Nyakongo and Ayweyo sub locations, the community members rely on water from the ponds as their major source of water. Similarly the safety of water is not guaranteed because there is no

treated water pipe line in the area and the available water from the ponds is not treated before used for domestic purposes. Like in North Nyakach, the affected areas in Wawidhi location have low sanitation level of as low as 25%. The situation is worsened by the collapse of latrines in most of the homes posing even more danger of cholera outbreak and other water born diseases.

Communication:

60% of the community members in greater Nyando district rely on mobile phones for communication and this was not affected by the floods. Other available forms of communication are use of messengers and communication through community barazas. During this time of the floods, Gem Rae an under Disaster Risk reduction project explored the aspect of monitoring the water levels in Nyando and Awach rivers, gather information to share with the rest of the community to enable them move to safer grounds before adverse negative impacts of flooding are felt.

Accessibility:

North Nyakach location is accessible by road. The tarmac road separates Gem Nam and Gem Rae. The two sub locations have feeder roads but due to heavy rainfall and flooding most of these feeder roads are not reliable. Similarly for the sub locations in Wawidhi, accessibility is through murrum roads which are so muddy for small vehicles, motorbikes but accessible through land cruisers.

Health:

The community is served by Papo Onditi district hospital Katito health centre and Rae dispensary which are now not easily accessible. However, there have not been reported cases of any Emergency health diseases but diarrheal diseases are anticipated. In Nyakongo sub location there is Nyakongo health centre. The accessibility to Nyakongo is very poor by the patients since the bridge leading to the health facility was swept away by the floods.

Shelter and NFI needs:

60% of the homes in North Nyakach are semi permanent with mud walls and earthened floors and iron sheet roof while 20% of the housing in the location are grass thatched and only 10% have permanent houses. 60% of the homesteads in the 13 villages mentioned were submerged with water by early parts of today's morning resulting to 47 families evacuated to St.Alloys primary school which is one of the evacuation centre in Nyando by 11.00am today. More families are expected to move as the rain continues to fall. The evacuation centre [St.Alloys primary school] has 10 class rooms, 6 pit Latrines, 2 water tanks of 5000liters each and a seasonal well and displaced families are putting up in classrooms.

Safety, Security and Protection:

The registration of all the affected people was undertaken by the KRCS Nyando Branch with the assistance of the local administration registering a total of 47 families who spend the night in the school classrooms; and there are no security threats to the affected population. Besides, no cases of physical abuse, sexual abuse and gender-based conflicts reported.

Education:

One school [Miruka primary] in Kanyikwaya village in Gem Rae sub-location was affected. The school has a total population of 302 pupils and 11 teachers. The school has two pit latrines [1 for the teachers and 1 for the pupils] and the latrine for teachers has collapsed. The school is surrounded by a stream [Atoyieng] which has cut off pupils from accessing learning.

Government, Community and NGO Response:

KRCS advance team from Nyando branch has contacted a rapid assessment and at the same time activated the sensitization campaigns for people to move to higher grounds those that are at risk of the flash floods. Also, the provincial administration through the chief of North Nyakach location and Sub chief of Gem Rae sub-location were also on ground and joined the KRCS team in the assessment exercise.

KRCS AND GOK RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS

KRCS Nyando branch in collaboration with the government through the provincial administration has mobilized and distributed to the displaced families 2 bags of rice, 3 bags of beans and 100 litre of vegetable oil. Other support that was ensured for the families at St. Alloys evacuation site include; 10 water containers, 52 sachets of PUR, 500 tabs of Aqua tabs, 12 bars of soap, 15 sachets of ORS from the Nyakach DPHO's office. Each household received issued with 2 kgs of beans, 1 kg of rice, a half a litre of cooking oil, 1 sachet of PUR, 10 Tabs of Aqua tabs, a half bar of soap. This was an emergency intervention with proper food and none food items distribution planned for tomorrow 4/01/2010.

In health promotion, the KRCS response team together with the district public health officer- Nyakach district offered health education to the 47 families, with a total population of 175 people in the school. The sensitization centered on educating the displaced group on keeping proper hygiene practices in the school. The hygiene practices highlighted to the group encompassed environmental hygiene, food hygiene, and personal hygiene. Besides, KRCS Nyando branch Watsan volunteer conducted a demonstration to the displaced people on treatment of water by use of water purifiers (PUR and Aqua tabs) supplied by the DPHO's office. St. Alloys primary school has 2 water tanks of 5000 litres each and a shallow well whose water is not treated.

In addition, the KRCS team is continuing to sensitize the communities in lower Nyakach and Wawidhi location to move to identified evacuation centres since more homes are being submerged with the continued rain fall in the Kano plains and Nandi hills.

ASSESSMENT TEAM

No.	Name	Designation	Responsibility
1	Mulama Kennedy	Branch coordinator	Team Leader
2	Fred Sakwa	Branch volunteer	Response team member
3	Elly Onyango	Watsan Volunteer	Response team member
4	George Ochieng	Branch Volunteer	Assessment team member
5	Paulin Adhiambo	Branch volunteer	Response team member
6	John Ondeng	Branch Volunteer	Response team member
7	Evans Adede	Branch volunteer	Response team member
8	Jacob Odhiambo	Branch Volunteer	Response team member
9	David Odoyo	Branch volunteer	Response team member

Contact persons on the ground

No.	Name	Designation	Contact No.
1	Adie Odongo	Sub chief Gem Rae sub location	0727822311
2	Evans Odada	Chief Wawidhi location	0722455625

Conclusion:

The number of displaced persons is rising and more families are expected at the evacuation centre and other sites in the district with the continued rainfall in the district. The situation may require support from the Region and possibly HQ if rainfall will be experienced beyond the reporting time.