FLOODING IN EASTERN KENYA
May 4, 2018 | No. 1

SITUATION OVERVIEW
Floods and heavy rains in Kenya have now displaced at least 244,407 people across the country. The death toll has risen to 80 people and 33 have been injured according to the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). More than 100,000 people are affected in Tana River County alone.

Rains and flooding have also damaged infrastructure, limiting humanitarian access to the affected areas. Extensive damages and losses to agricultural fields and livestock have also been reported.

The climate outlook for May 2018 indicates continued above-normal rainfall in Western and Central Kenya. KRCS says it may be four months until families are able to return to their homes.

Emergency shelter, food supplies and non-food items (NFI) are needed as the displaced population increases. Health needs are on the rise, with a focus on prevention of cholera due to the lack of sanitation, and malaria and chikungunya due to increases in the mosquito population due to standing water.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE EFFORTS
The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has sent chlorine granules and aluminum sulfate to purify water in Tana River. Public Health Officers are supporting hygiene promotion and UNICEF has provided jerry cans, aqua tabs, soap and buckets to the affected counties.

KRCS and UNICEF have distributed emergency NFI kits to 13,040 households in Tana, Homa Bay North and Nakuru. There continues to be high demand for NFIs, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, and shelter materials.

BY THE NUMBERS
244,407 people displaced
80 confirmed dead
29 counties affected

Source: UNOCHA, Flash Update #2 Floods in Kenya. 03 May 2018.

NEW INFORMATION AND HIGHLIGHTS
Lutheran World Relief has committed an initial $25,000 for food and non-food item distribution in one of the temporary camps in Tana River County, which currently hosts about 3,000 families.

Commuters cross what was a road in Tana River County. Photo: Pastoralist Girls’ Initiative.
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

Lutheran World Relief is partnering with the Pastoralist Girls’ Initiative (PGI), a local non-governmental organization, to respond to this emergency. PGI was formed in 2001 with a focus on girls’ education, livelihood development, environment and natural resource management, and health for Tana River and Garissa Counties in eastern Kenya. Many of the girls with whom they work were displaced by the flooding along with their families.

We have committed an initial $25,000 to respond to the immediate needs of families living in temporary camps after being displaced by the flooding. In collaboration with PGI, Lutheran World Relief will provide food and NFIs, including water purification tablets and shelter supplies. We will expand our response to meet the needs of more families as additional resources become available.

Houses submerged in Bura village; Tana River County. Photo: Pastoralist Girls’ Initiative.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN THE COUNTRY

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, Lutheran World Relief is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

Lutheran World Relief helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits — whether it’s a drought, tsunami or civil war — we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Regardless of whether these challenges are chronic or acute Lutheran World Relief invests in communities to enable those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

Lutheran World Relief opened its regional office in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1983 to respond to the frequent food crises facing East Africa. Today, we collaborate with local community-based organizations, church partners, and national and county government departments on programs to improve food security, livelihoods of communities, climate change adaptation and to respond to emergencies.

For additional information about Lutheran World Relief’s response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how we respond to emergencies with a long-term view at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.