



PRESS RELEASE
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**SEVEN MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS FOR EL NIÑO
RAINS**

The upcoming October–December (OND) El Niño rains are expected to bring above-normal rainfall across most parts of the country.

The anticipated impacts include flooding, drowning, injuries and fatalities, displacement and isolation of communities, disease outbreaks, disruption of essential services, damage to roads and other critical infrastructure, and losses to crops, livestock and livelihoods.

With some counties, particularly in the Western/Nyanza and North Eastern regions, expected to experience an early onset of the rainfall season, the government is implementing a National Contingency Plan to strengthen preparedness and response and minimise the potential impacts of the rains.

The Plan, developed in collaboration with national and county government agencies, humanitarian partners, security agencies and other disaster management stakeholders, outlines the following measures to improve early warning and enhance response capacity ahead of the rainfall season:

1. Hotspot mapping has been undertaken to identify areas particularly vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of heavy rainfall. The mapping is informing the prioritisation of preparedness, evacuation and response interventions.

Priority areas include riverine and low-lying areas, coastal areas, highland and landslide-prone areas, arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) and northern Kenya, as well as urban areas prone to flooding.

Roads and transport infrastructure likely to be affected have also been identified across the North Eastern, Tana River, Coastal, Western/Nyanza, Rift Valley, Turkana, Nairobi, Central and Eastern regions. This is enabling relevant agencies to strengthen monitoring, undertake preventive measures and improve response planning.

2. Unclogging and desilting of drainage systems, culverts and other water channels are ongoing to improve water flow and reduce the risk of urban flooding. Choke points along specific drainage systems have already been identified, with relevant agencies, including the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), working to clear and unblock affected sections.

Agencies responsible for infrastructure and disaster preparedness are also continuing to clear drainage systems and water channels in areas at risk of flooding.

Solid waste and garbage management is also being strengthened, including through Climate WorX, while ensuring that workers involved in these operations have the necessary equipment to undertake their duties safely.

3. Awareness of the evacuation of people living on riparian land and in other high-risk areas is on track, with temporary holding grounds identified to accommodate populations that may be displaced by flooding and other emergencies.

In this regard, water levels in rivers and other water bodies are being monitored, with particular attention to areas around major dams and communities living along river banks.

4. Relevant agencies are inspecting bridges, roads, and critical utilities in flood-prone areas to identify vulnerabilities and undertake preventive interventions.

5. Community-level early warning systems are also being strengthened through Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, and Nyumba Kumi structures to ensure that timely information reaches communities, particularly those living in high-risk areas. Public sensitisation on disaster preparedness, early warning information, and appropriate response measures is also being intensified to ensure that

communities understand the risks and know what action to take before, during, and after heavy rainfall.

6. Emergency relief items, including food, non-food items, and emergency medical supplies, are being pre-positioned at strategic locations to facilitate rapid response in the event of displacement or other emergencies.

Coordination among National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs), county governments, the Kenya Red Cross Society, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), security agencies, health workers, and other disaster management stakeholders is being enhanced to ensure a coordinated and timely response.

7. Rapid response teams are on standby and are being strengthened to undertake search and rescue operations, evacuation and post-disaster assessments whenever required. First responders from various agencies are ready to respond whenever called upon.

The government, through the National Disaster Operations Centre and County Disaster teams, remain committed to ensuring that the country is prepared, responsive and resilient throughout this rainfall season.

However, preparedness should not be mistaken for an absence of risk. Heavy rainfall can rapidly overwhelm our drainage systems, rivers and critical infrastructure, particularly in areas already identified as vulnerable.

The potential for flooding, displacement, loss of livelihoods, damage to infrastructure and, in severe cases, loss of life remains real. While these measures are in place, the government urges members of the public to remain vigilant and take the necessary precautions, particularly those living in areas vulnerable to flooding, landslides and other rain-related hazards.

We urge those living along river banks, riparian reserves, low-lying areas, areas prone to flash floods and landslides, and other identified high-risk locations to heed evacuation advisories and move to safer ground when directed to do so.

We also call upon wananchi to report blocked drainage systems, rising water levels, damaged infrastructure and other emerging hazards to the relevant authorities.

We will continue to monitor the evolving weather situation and provide timely advisories through relevant agencies and official channels.

Public Communication Division

Ministry of Interior and National Administration