

EPR BULLETIN

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE



World Health
Organization

Kenya

NOVEMBER 2023



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Cover Photo: Heavy rains cause road to be cut off at Tula on the road from Garissa to Nairobi, November 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE WHO KENYA REPRESENTATIVE

I hope the articles here will give you a feel of the momentum of activities as we race toward the last month.

It has indeed been an eventful year! We started with the drought crisis racing along the 2022 Cholera outbreak, followed by an Ebola scare due to the outbreak in the neighbouring Uganda, as well as other outbreaks like Measles, Yellow Fever, among others.

We have done a lot to strengthen our emergency pillar with a major increase in staffing levels and the opening of an office in Garissa town that will serve the counties in Northern Kenya. The arrival of Dr Martins Livinus late last year enabled us to build a strong team and we look forward to his team delivering major results in the coming years.

We have also strengthened our relationship with the WHO's regional hub in Nairobi and have immensely benefitted from its support on logistics and access to a pool of highly specialized trainers in various fields. This collaboration saw the launch of major capacity-building initiatives like the African Health Volunteers Corps (AVoHC-SURGE) which saw 650 Ministry of Health personnel trained as members of the Rapid Response Teams. This is



part of WHO's regional efforts to train 3000 emergency responders in the African region.

There were also major strides made in the vaccination realm against Cholera and a resurgent Polio. I am glad that the vaccination for Cholera, which for the first time, enabled the country to turn a corner on the outbreak that haunted us since October 2022.

The last few months were used to prepare for the onset of the El Nino rains. You will find stories in the bulletin and we hope that this preparedness will play a key role in the response towards the impact of the floods and the associated disease outbreaks.

Thank you again and again for supporting us. This great time to be part of the frontline healthcare workers who make a difference in times of need.

Dr Abdourahmane Diallo



Kenya Health Care Workers Prepare for **El Niño**

The much-awaited El Niño Phenomenon is finally in Kenya and with a devastating impact in many parts of the country. **Thousands have been displaced by the floods, roads swept away and healthcare facilities destroyed.**

WHO Kenya and the Ministry of Health have for months been preparing healthcare workers to respond to this situation.

The preparations have taken many forms which include (1) supporting the national ministry and the counties in developing the response plans, (2) training of health care workers as well as (3) prepositioning essential medicines and medical supplies that would be needed for the response in at-risk and priority counties.



Wajir Town engulfed in floods during the ongoing heavy rains, November 2023



14

High-Risk Counties received **medicines, medical supplies and equipment.**

Items include: (1) Emergency medical kits, (2) cholera kits, (3) tents, (4) beds, and (5) ready-to-use therapeutic foods and milk.



24

Laboratory Officers

taken through a 5-day Cholera/General Microbiology hands-on trainings.



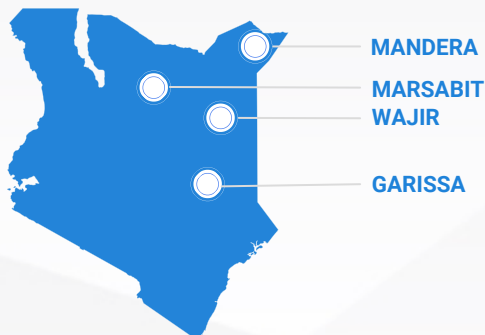
Officers were drawn from 12 counties. In addition, WHO prepositioned essential diagnostic kits in at-risk counties.

05

Day-Trainings were conducted to strengthen **case management, indicator & event-based surveillance** for waterborne & vector-borne diseases.



The training targeted: healthcare workers from (1) Wajir, (2) Garissa, (3) Marsabit, and (4) Mandera Counties.



07

Counties joined a **workshop to enhance public risk communication, messaging and community engagement** skills for disease outbreaks.

The workshop brought together: (1) Community Strategists, (2) Health Promotion & (3) Disease Surveillance Officers.

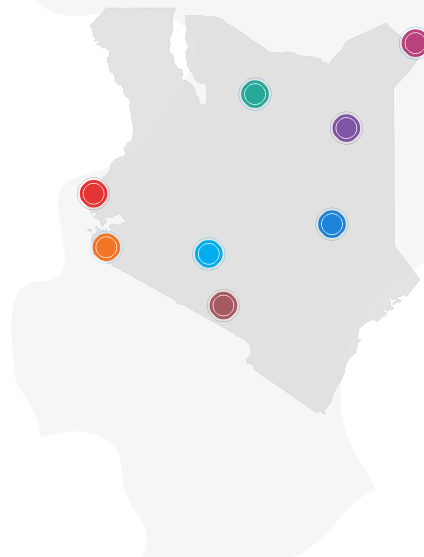


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In Images

El Niño Preparedness

14 High-Risk Counties received supplies including emergency medical kits, cholera kits, tents, beds, and ready-to-use therapeutic foods and milk.



 Busia



 Nairobi



 Migori



 Marsabit

Preparedness saves lives.

Kenyan Counties

- Busia
- Garissa
- Migori
- Wajir
- Marsabit
- Mandera
- Nairobi
- Kajiado



● Mandera



● Garissa



● Wajir



● Kajiado

Skills Upgrade for Health Care Workers & Community Leaders at the Dadaab Refugee Camps

WHO supported the Garissa County Department of Health to run a **10-day integrated cholera outbreak response skills upgrade** in response to the new wave of infections in Refugee camps at Daadab and Fafi sub-counties.

The exercise complements response efforts already undertaken by UNHCR and its partners who are primarily involved in the delivery of healthcare and nutrition services to the refugees and host communities.



Refugee camps are
Cholera hotspots in Kenya,

2700

people have been infected
since October 2022.

Ifo 2 Refugee Camp in Dadaab
© Evan Schneider



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Public Health Officers

Underwent a 2-day **water hygiene and sanitation training**.



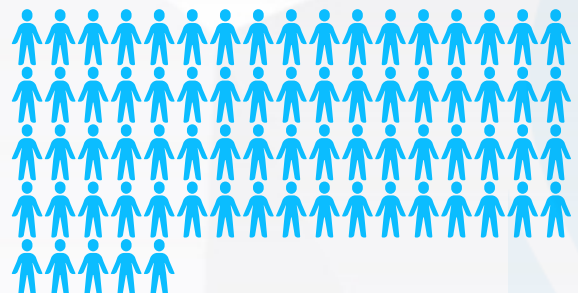
with 3 selected for an additional 2 days of specialized water sample collection and analysis

73



Front-Line Health Workers

Participated in **case management and surveillance training**.



27



Nutrition Officers

Engaged in a 6-day **acute malnutrition management** intensive training.

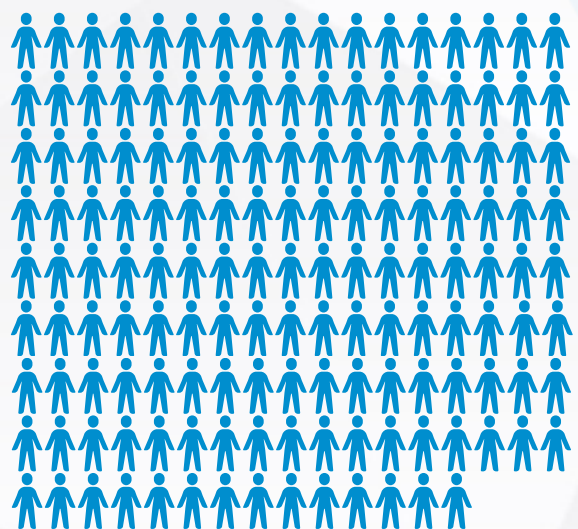


150



Community Health Promoters & Leaders

Were trained on **cholera prevention and control**, with a 2-day intensive program for promoters and a 1-day sensitisation for leaders.



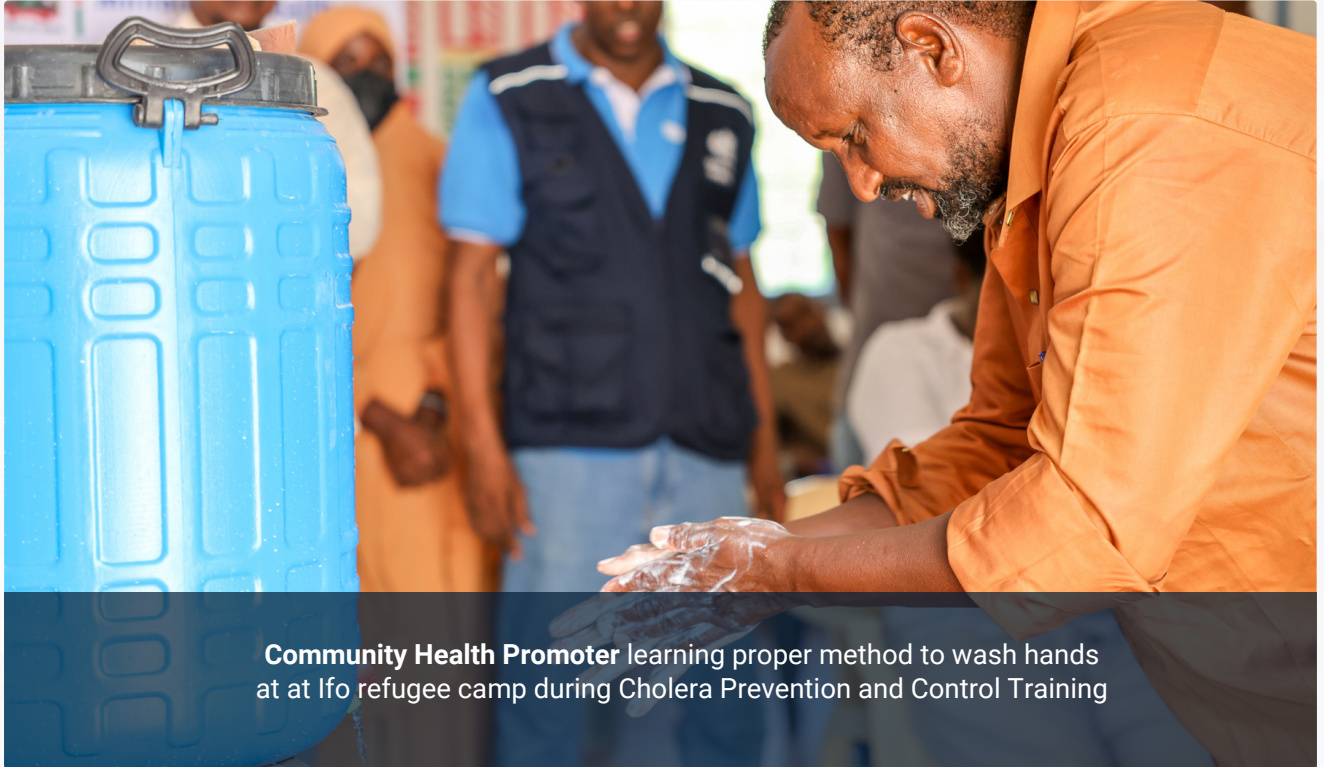
23



Medical Laboratory Technologists

Went through **laboratory trainings**.





Community Health Promoter learning proper method to wash hands at at Ifo refugee camp during Cholera Prevention and Control Training



Case Management and Surveillance session with **clinical officers** in Dadaab Sub-County



WHO Risk Communication and Community Engagement Officer Ibrahim Gedi training community health promoters



A clinical officer learning the right amounts of chlorine mix in Dadaab Sub-County



WHO Officer Ibrahim Gedi training community health promoters on cholera prevention and control

Lessons for the Future: Cholera After-Action Review



Early November.



Carried out by **Ministry of Health** with support of **WHO**.

The After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and involved a wide range of technical experts and organizations who played a role in the response to the outbreak that started in October 2022.

WHO supported the AAR technically and financially.

The AAR is a qualitative review of actions taken to respond to an emergency as a means of identifying gaps, lessons and best practices.

The participants are those that were involved in the preparedness and response to the cholera outbreak and used the opportunity to translate their experiences from the response into actionable roadmaps, which would be incorporated into the national planning cycles.

The outputs of the process will be shared with senior management at the Ministry of Health and other relevant institutions for further action that will improve future cholera responses.





8 Core Pillars in the Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan

All the pillars of the cholera response were assessed through a **collaborative and open process** involving national and county health experts and partners.



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Four Counties Ready to Manage Acute Malnutrition



October and Early November

06 Day Training
on Integrated
Management of Acute
Malnutrition.

AIM

to ready staff in the
management of **acute
malnutrition**.



Practical Sessions were ^{at:}

LOCATED

- 1 An inpatient
Stabilization Centre
- 2 Outpatient Therapeutic &
Supplementary Feeding
setting.

TRAININGS

TARGETED

- 1 **Health care workers** who
do outreach nutrition
services in remote and
hard-to-reach areas
- 2 **Health service providers**
managing children with
malnutrition in inpatient
and outpatient facilities.



4 counties with high
malnutrition cases.



See next page for counties
supported.



In Numbers Children Requiring Treatment for Acute Malnutrition



Turkana



Wajir



Marsabit



Garissa

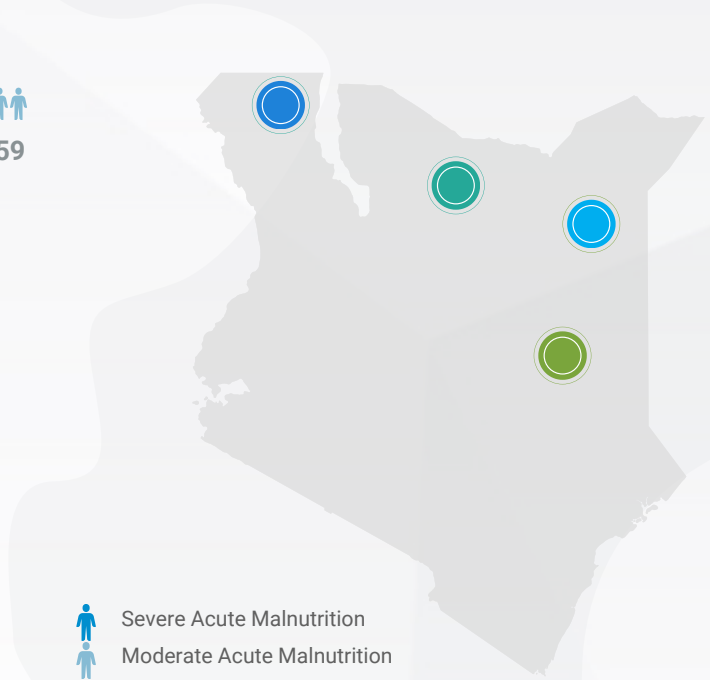


Severe Acute Malnutrition



Moderate Acute Malnutrition

Estimated number from July 2023



Child gets weighed at Moroto Nutrition Centre during 2022 drought.
© WHO / Esther Ruth Mbabazi

Strategic Workshop on National Multi-Hazard Strategy



Workshop: September



A **strategic workshop** to finalize the National Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan



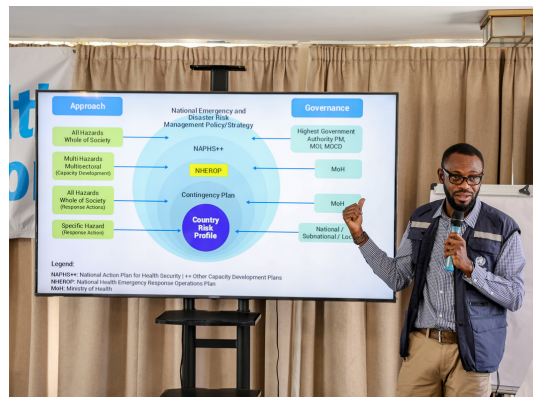
The strategy used a **participatory approach** involving whole of government, public health experts & civil society



Moving forward, the plan will go through a validation process before it is rolled out



Dr. Levinus Martins, WHO EPR Lead.



Dr. Livinus Martins making a presentation



Active participation by workshop participants.



STRATEGY

is in line with



International Health Regulations (2005)



Health Emergency & Disaster Risk Management Framework.

AIM

Reinforce government's commitment to strengthening structures for a **multi-sectoral response** to disasters and public health threats



6 Focus AREAS



Prevention



Mitigation



Detection



Response



Preparedness



Recovery Phases

of diverse hazards.



Carried out by **Ministry of Health** with support of **WHO**.



Workshop took place in **Nakuru**.

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Viral Hemorrhagic Fever: 124 County Teams in Rapid Response Training



September

124

county and sub-county Rapid Response Teams from Homabay, Kericho, Kisii & Narok actively engaged in this **intensive training**

AIM

Increase ability to detect, investigate, and respond to **viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks** at county and sub-county levels

**Hemorrhagic
Fever Diseases**
in Kenya include:



Ebola Virus



Marburg Virus



Yellow Fever



Rift Valley Fever



Dengue Fever



Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever



Carried out by **Ministry of Health** with support of **WHO**.



Training took place in **Kisumu & Nakuru**.



The Big Picture



This is a **continuation** of WHO's goal of strengthening Kenya's response infrastructure.

635



Rapid Reponse Teams have been trained at county and sub-county levels **across 18 counties so far.**



The goal is to rapidly detect, investigate, and respond to potential disease outbreaks



Dr Mark Nanyingi, WHO, EPR One Health Specialist during a Rapid Response Training session in Naivasha.



Rapid Response Team trainee learning the ins and outs of Personal Protective Equipment





**We champion
health and a better
future for all.**

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Thank you!

TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

