



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### PRESS STATEMENT ON HEALTH SECTOR PREPAREDNESS FOR ELNINO 2023

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The Kenya Meteorological Department issued a warning on September 2nd, 2023, forecasting heavy rains in several parts of the country from October 2023 to January 2024 due to the El-Nino phenomenon.

As the Ministry of Health, we have implemented mitigation preparedness measures, which we outline below:

1. The Ministry of Health has developed a comprehensive Contingency Plan for Elnino, with a focus on vulnerable areas within the health system:
  - a. Health Facility Capacity Preparedness and Sensitization to address the expected surge in flood-related accidents, waterborne diarrheal diseases, and the continuous provision of essential healthcare services.
  - b. Sensitization and response strategies for water-related vector-borne illnesses, including Rift Valley Hemorrhagic fever, Dengue fever, Chikungunya, Malaria, and others.
  - c. Community Sensitization and response plans for diseases like diarrheal diseases. The Ministry emphasizes Preventive Promotive health, including vaccination against Cholera, Polio, Typhoid, and more.
  - d. Formation of Emergency Rapid Response Teams to provide Technical Assistance, strengthen, and support County Governments in the formation of response teams.
2. Additionally, the Ministry of Health is collaborating closely with County Governments and Partners to ensure:

- a. Readiness and capacity to establish temporary health facilities in areas where populations may be evacuated, rescued, or where facilities may become inaccessible due to floods.
  - b. Stockpiles of emergency response health supplies and materials are readily available.
  - c. Health facilities are well-stocked ahead of the rains to prevent supply shortages.
  - d. The national Public Health Emergency Operations Centre is activated and operational, issuing early warning signs and alerts. County Emergency Operation Centres are expected to be activated promptly, with 18 already established. All counties are encouraged to establish and operationalize one.
3. The Ministry of Health, as a critical sector in the broader Multi-Agency response mechanism of the government, will continue to provide information following established incident command system protocols as the health situation evolves.
  4. Finally, the Ministry's Rapid Response Teams will conduct rapid initial assessments and plan for effective responses, forecasting post-flood recovery efforts and building back better in areas requiring health system restoration.

**Thank you**

Ms Mary Muthoni Muriuki, HSC

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**