

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KENYA: PLANE CRASH IN MARSABIT

13 April 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 1/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Activities undertaken are aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- **Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**
- **Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**
- **Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**
- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- ***In Kenya:*** Abbas Gullet, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society, Email; *In Kenya:* Abbas Gullet, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society, Nairobi; Email: gullet.abbas@kenyaredcross.org; Phone +254.20.60.35.93; Fax +254.20.60.35.89
- ***In Kenya:*** Esther Okwanga, Head of East Africa Sub-Regional Office; Email: esther.okwanga@ifrc.org; Phone +254.20.283.50.00; Fax +254.20.271.27.77
- ***In Geneva:*** Amna al Ahmar, Federation Regional Officer for Eastern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email: amna.alahmar@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730.44.27; Fax +41.22.733.03.95

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

On 10 April 2006, a Y-12 military plane on a peace mission from Nairobi to northern Kenya— in heavy fog and bad weather conditions— crashed on the hillsides of Marsabit, about 430 kilometres northeast of Nairobi, and burst into flames. The Government of Kenya issued an official statement indicating that the plane carried 17 passengers,

Kenya: Plane Crash in Marsabit; Information Bulletin no. 1/2006

out of who 13 died on the spot and one while being flown to Nairobi. The three who survived the crash are currently undergoing specialized medical attention. According to hospital sources, the survivors sustained fractures on their limbs and other injuries, but are in stable condition.

The passengers included two assistant ministers, four members of parliament (MPs), one pastor of the Anglican Church of Kenya, one provincial commissioner and one district commissioner. They were all on a peace mission to Marsabit district, which has been affected by constant internal conflicts between two communities. The conflicts have, in the past, resulted in internal displacements, injuries and death.

Kenyan President, Hon. Mwai Kibaki, received the news with disbelief and has expressed shock and concern following the disaster. The president wished all those who were injured in the accident a quick recovery and urged Kenyans, particularly the families and relatives of those who were on board the plane, to remain calm in this trying moment. The Kenyan Parliament has been adjourned until all the deceased are buried, and the President declared three days of national mourning during which all flags will fly at half mast.



Photo right: The wreckage. (Courtesy of Daily Nation newspaper)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A disaster officer from the Marsabit branch of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) was among the first volunteers at the disaster scene and was very instrumental in assisting and coordinating the rescue and evacuation operation, together with the local community. The rescue operation was impeded by heavy rainfall and the burning wreckage. Local community rescuers also had difficulties scaling part of the sloppy muddy hill to reach the wreckage site. The KRCS sent an emergency air ambulance to the area within three hours of the crash to assess the medical needs and evacuate the injured; it also dispatched body bags. The national society also put an ambulance on standby at the Wilson Airport, Nairobi (on Monday, 10 April 2006) to receive the injured; who were later taken to Nairobi Hospital for medical attention.

The Secretary General of the KRCS, Mr. Abbas Gullet, was saddened by the developments noting that this was a huge loss to Marsabit district and the entire country. “Kenya Red Cross Society has been working closely in Marsabit, providing relief items to those affected by internal conflicts between the communities,” said Mr. Gullet. “We have also been distributing relief items in Marsabit due to the ongoing drought. This has made our national society very strong and visible among the communities in Marsabit”, Mr. Gullet added. The national society has been at the forefront in championing for a peaceful resolution to the conflicts in Marsabit. Last week, three of the deceased MPs from Marsabit district were at the KRCS headquarters to discuss how to promote peace and harmony in the conflict-prone Marsabit.

The Kenya Red Cross Society hired an 18-seater plane and offered to fly families of the four deceased MPs to their homeland in Marsabit on Tuesday, 11 April. However, only the family of the late Hon. Bonaya Godana took the offer. As a preparedness measure, first aid supplies and equipment, blankets, stretchers and land cruisers were dispatched by the KRCS to Marsabit for the burials on Wednesday, 12 April 2006. A state of alert was in place for all Red Cross volunteers in Marsabit and other parts of the country due to the large number of people expected to attend the burials of the MPs. Contingency plans were also in place to handle the needs of the bereaved families and the large crowds expected at the funerals. The KRCS remained highly visible with a number of interviews conducted with the local and international media. The Marsabit branch disaster officer has also been interviewed by the media on the unfolding situation.

The Government of Kenya dispatched two planes with search and rescue teams to boost the rescue operation. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) also sent a plane to evacuate the injured. The KRCS worked closely with the government and local authorities in the coordination of the rescue and evacuation process. Government officials have, through the media, commended the coordination and rescue support offered by the national society.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)