



## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

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### **STATEMENT BY H.E. RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, ON THE CURRENT FLOOD SITUATION BY NOVEMBER 18, 2023**

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The Country has continued to receive enhanced rains over the last few days. Over the past week, the number of counties experiencing El Nino has risen from 19 to 33, with others being on high alert.

So far, some of the worst affected counties include Mombasa, Garissa, Tana River, Makueni, Marsabit, Kilifi, Kwale, Meru, Isiolo, Turkana, Samburu, Wajir, Homa Bay, Busia, among others. At least 80,000 households across the country have been negatively affected- mainly displacements or marooned- with numbers rising every day. Cases of fatalities and missing persons have been reported.

This situation has continued to threaten lives. I wish to take this opportunity to inform the Nation that multi-agency teams- drawn from Government Agencies, County Governments and partners- are responding in various ways to mitigate the negative impact of the El Nino to save our people.

#### **Key interventions:**

1. Government helicopters are on joint rescue missions of marooned families, distribution of humanitarian aid- foods and non-food items, medical supplies, among others;
2. With the Command Centre at the Kenya Defence Forces Headquarters, joint constant aerial and, on land surveillance for monitoring of the situation and identify emergency areas of intervention.
3. We are constantly sharing information between and among our partners for strategic interventions;

4. Funds have been allocated for repair of destroyed infrastructure to improve ground response;
5. Surveillance on human and zoonotic diseases to avoid possible outbreaks like Cholera and other hygiene-related infections;
6. Providing security to the camps.

**Way Forward:**

Predictions point to prolonged rains extending into December and into the first Quarter of 2024. For this reason, we:

1. Call on Counties to allocate and more release funds to complement mitigation efforts of the National Government and our partners;
2. Call on Counties to unclog water ways and other drainage systems in their respective urban areas;
3. Call on our partners to enhance their financial, technical and logistical support in reducing and mitigating the impact of the El-Nino;
4. Call on our people, those living in low- lying and land-slide prone areas to move to safe grounds;
5. Call on our people to heed advice from respective National and County Government Officials, Meteorological Department and other stakeholders to stay safe.
6. Call on our people to be on high alert and avoid taking risks- such as driving or walking into flood waters;
7. Continue consolidating and working closely with partners to ensure a coordinated approach of response, even as we look forward to sustainable interventions to avert future negative impacts.

We will take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of our people.

**Thank you.**