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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

STATEMENT BY UN-HABITAT ON THE NAIROBI FLOODS ON 26 APRIL 2024

UN-Habitat stands in solidarity with the Government of Kenya and county governments as they grapple with the devastating floods triggered by heavy rain. Our hearts go out to the families who have lost their loved ones and to all those affected by this calamity. UN-Habitat urges support for community-led organizations at the forefront of the response. These initiatives play a crucial role in providing assistance to the vulnerable.

The floods have claimed the lives of over 70 individuals, with informal settlements bearing a heavy toll. Young people in Mathare, one of the informal settlements in Nairobi, have shown incredible bravery by rescuing stranded residents and distributing essential supplies. Reports indicate that more than 13 lives have been lost in this community alone.

The Kenya Meteorological Department has issued warnings that heavy rainfall is expected to persist. This underscores the urgent need for coordinated action to mitigate further loss and suffering. And further underlines the importance of urban planning measures and the critical need for the enforcement of special planning guidelines to avoid casualties. Let us come together in solidarity and support for the vulnerable communities.