Kenya: Inter-communal Conflict in Mandera County
Situation Report No. 2 (as of 12 July 2013)

This report is produced by OCHA Eastern Africa in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA. It covers the period from 25 June-12 July 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 26 July.

Highlights

- Tensions remain high in Mandera and Wajir Counties, where inter-communal conflicts since March 2012 have left over 90 people dead and more than 52,000 others displaced.
- On 29 June, three people died and 20 houses were burnt down during a retaliatory attack by members of the Garre community against the Degodia in Mandera.
- On 30 June, a peace team comprising the Wajir County Governor, Senator and Women Representative were ambushed by unknown assailants during an assessment mission in the County. No injuries were reported.
- On 4 July, leaders from the two warring clans signed a peace agreement in Mandera calling for an end to hostilities and made a commitment to take responsibility for promotion of peace and justice in their respective areas.
- The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and partners, in collaboration with the Government, continue to provide humanitarian assistance amidst the current access and operational constraints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected people</th>
<th>People targeted for assistance</th>
<th>Internally displaced</th>
<th>Deaths reported</th>
<th>Seriously injured cases</th>
<th>Individuals out of learning institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Situation Overview

Mandera Situation Update

Sporadic inter-communal clashes between the Garre and Degodia communities in Mandera and Wajir Counties continued to cause more injuries, loss of lives and livelihoods, and population displacements. As of 11 July, more than 90 people had lost their lives and over 10,000 families (over 52,000 people) remain internally displaced in both Mandera and Wajir, according to KRCS.

On 28 June, three people died and more than 20 houses were torched in a retaliatory attack waged by the Garre against the Degodia in Shirshir village, Banisa District in Mandera County. Two people who sustained serious injuries were treated and referred to the Mandera District Hospital by the KRCS emergency health response team.

A revenge attack reportedly occurred on 29 June between the Garre and Degodia militia in Malkamari border town, on the Ethiopia side. Due to lack of access to Mubarek woreda, Ethiopia, humanitarian actors have been unable to verify the humanitarian impact of the attack. An estimated 30,000 individuals (6,000 to 7,000 households) displaced by the attacks of 25 and 27 May in Kenya continue to be hosted by the local community in Mubarek woreda.

Governments and partners from Ethiopia and Kenya are closely monitoring the situation, with plans to conduct an assessment and offer assistance subject to access and security.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report
Wajir Situation Update

The inter-ethnic conflict which escalated two months ago in Mandera and Ethiopia has had a spillover to neighbouring Wajir District, where revenge attacks since June 2013 have resulted in six deaths, including three men, two women and one Kenyan police reservist. Several casualties and livestock deaths have also been reported. Villages in Gunana, Burmayo and Ogorale locations of Wajir District have been deserted with an estimated 4,500 families (23,700 people) displaced to safer areas in Sarman, Badia and Eldas Districts. Schools remain closed due to rising tensions.

On 30 June, a team of political and community leaders from Wajir County were ambushed by armed militia in Burmayo village, during a tour to assess the humanitarian needs in the affected areas. Wajir Senator, Abdirahman Olow, and Governor, Ahmed Abdullahi, who were caught up in the attack, condemned the incident as unfortunate in light of the prevailing deplorable humanitarian conditions.

“There is a serious humanitarian crisis here. The displaced families are staying in the cold for many days without sufficient food, water and medicine. We appeal to the Government and other well-wishers to intervene with humanitarian aid,” the Senator lamented.

Gaps continue to be identified in health, food, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, education, and reconstruction of shelter and water structures in Gunana and Burmayo that were burnt down during the skirmishes. Information flow from the region is also limited.

Incident Reporting in Wajir County (17-30 June 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Affected Area</th>
<th>Humanitarian Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 17/6/13    | Basanija and Gunama locations | • 3 people, including 2 women, killed  
• Villages burnt down |
| 18/6/13    | Burmayo village       | • 1 Kenyan police reservist killed  
• Village burnt down |
| 20/6/13    | Eldas district        | • 4 men killed  
• Vehicle set on fire |
| 25/26 June 2013 | Grenade attacks in Wajir town | • 4 people injured |
| 30/6/2013  | Burmayo               | • Peace team, including Governor, Senator and Women Representative from Wajir ambushed. No injuries reported. |

Source: KRCS/Wajir Peace and Development Agency

Peace teams consisting of elected leaders from both communities in Mandera and Wajir County have been established and continue to facilitate peace dialogues and reconciliation efforts. A peace agreement signed by the leaders from the two parties on 4 July called on the warring parties to cease hostilities and refrain from perpetrating further acts of violence in the area. The peace accord, dubbed “Ramadhan gift” because of its proximity to the Islamic holy month of fasting, further called on the leaders to accept the results of the 2013 elections, pending hearing of the ongoing election petitions. In addition to increasing the number of security personnel in the affected areas, the Government has deployed more trucks and police patrol cars.

Funding

No financial appeals have been made for the response to date. Inter-agency assessment missions are yet to be conducted due to insecurity in the area. Operational costs related to distribution remain a key factor to consider. The Humanitarian Coordinator has endorsed the use of the remaining USD160000 Emergency Response Funds (ERF), for the emergency response in Mandera. Of these, the KRCS has received $120,000, while the rest will be donated to a local NGO operating in Mandera.
Humanitarian Response

The Government in collaboration with KRCS and implementing partners continue to provide life-saving assistance to the affected communities in secure areas. Humanitarian access to beneficiaries remains a challenge due to insecurity, thus affecting provision of and access to services by both humanitarian workers as well as the affected people. Humanitarian partners continue to call on the Government to guarantee security in affected areas in order to facilitate distribution and provision of available assistance to the communities.

An estimated 52,000 people are particularly in need of life-saving assistance.

Education

Needs: In addition to insecurity, the education situation in Wajir and Mandera has been paralyzed due to the ongoing countrywide - teachers' strike. The actual impact is yet to be verified as teachers and pupils have moved away from the institutions. KRCS estimates that more than 60 primary schools in Mandera North and Banisa have been closed down, thus disrupting learning in the area.

Response: School-going children are being sheltered in IDP camps.

Gaps & Constraints: Schools are deserted and learning has been disrupted due to insecurity.

Food Security

Needs: Over 10,900 households have been forced to abandon their farms and homes and are now dependent on humanitarian assistance, especially in Mandera North, Banissa districts in Mandera and Sarman district in Wajir. The conflict has further disrupted WFP projects implemented through Food for Assets (FFA), which include 11 water and road projects benefiting an estimated 21,000 people in Malkamari, Banisa, Rhamu and Rhamu Dimtu divisions of Mandera. FFA workers have temporarily suspended operations pending improvement in security. WFP has delayed ration deliveries for the month of June.

Response: The Government, KRCS and WFP through implementing partners (ALDEF) are distributing prepositioned food and non-food items to safe areas. An estimated 3,953 beneficiaries in Shantoley, Dana, Doday, Sala, Olla, Khodi, Girisa, and Rhamu towns of Mandera, hosting displaced families and those integrated with family and friends have been reached with food supplies sufficient for one month. Following donations of relief food from the Government of Kenya, KRCS is targeting 3,150 integrated IDPs in Elwak, Rhamu Dimtu, Ashabito, Eymole, Kiliwehiri and Banisa areas. In Wajir, ALDEF distributed food donated by the Government to affected people in Sarman.


Health

Needs: Health facilities in affected areas remain non-operational and lack essential drugs and personnel, thus affecting referrals. Assessments by the KRCS in beneficiary settlements indicate an increase of respiratory diseases amongst the IDPs. Malaria, intestinal worms, skin diseases, diarrhoeal diseases and pneumonia have also been diagnosed. Hygiene promotion activities and medical outreach remain priorities for the area. A number of affected people, including children, require psychosocial support.

Response: KRCS in partnership with Save the Children, ALDEF, Islamic Relief, APHIAplus and the Ministry of Health continue to provide mobile medical outreach in Wajir, targeting some 3,000 people in Sarman area.
The health centre in Wajir is operational but in need of supplies. KRCS continued to organize medical evacuations for the most severe cases. A medical team comprising one clinical officer, one nurse, one nutritionist and 20 volunteers trained in the basics of emergency health have been deployed. In Mandera, KRCS and Ministry of Health are targeting some 6,294 people. Emergency health teams have reached some 2,049 beneficiaries through integrated medical outreach in Banisa district.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Logistical challenges as hospitals have been abandoned and those available lack supplies and personnel. Access to health facilities for the wounded has been hampered by long travel distances, lack of medical supplies at the nearest facilities and a fear of retaliatory attacks by warring tribes. Medical staff in Government health centres fear for their lives and have deserted the area.

### Nutrition

**Needs:** A large number of the IDPs include mothers, children and the elderly. Determining figures of the vulnerable population in need of nutritional support form part of the proposed needs assessment.

**Response:** KRCS is conducting nutritional screening and assessments in Olla and Rhamu Dimtu.

**Gaps & Constraints:** The operations of some partners working in the nutrition sector have been temporarily affected by the insecurity.

### Protection

**Needs:** Lack of security and family tracing and reunification have been identified as priorities. There are also fears that the disarmament process might lead to further clashes and human rights abuses if not monitored.

**Response:** Peace dialogues by the District peace committees, clan elders and religious leaders are ongoing. A peace agreement was signed between the warring parties on 4 July. KRCS is supporting family tracing and reunification activities on the ground.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Lack of security hindering more interventions. KRCS has requested support from the Government Department of Children’s Services for the handling of unaccompanied minors.

### Shelter

**Needs:** Non-food items are required for an approximately 10,000 displaced households as most houses were burnt down and people fled without any property or items. Towns and villages experiencing high influx of displaced families are also in need of construction materials for shelter.

**Response:** KRCS and Save the Children have distributed non-food items as well as assorted food items to the affected population. Local NGOs and implementing partners are rehabilitating destroyed shelters.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Lack of adequate supplies as partners are unable to access the area due to insecurity. An in-depth assessment of the target area is yet to be conducted to identify the actual needs.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Needs:** Water scarcity has been reported in areas with high influx of internally displaced persons, particularly in Banisa, Mandera North and Sarman. The affected villages also lack water storage facilities and water treatments kits, leaving them more vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Acute water shortages have also been reported in Hullow and Malkaruqa villages, where an estimated 650 affected families who relied on water trucking as the main source of water are currently hosted.

**Response:** Distribution of hygiene kits ongoing, though on a small scale due to poor access in the area.

**Gaps & Constraints:** An in-depth assessment of the target area is yet to be conducted to identify the actual needs. Lack of access to the area also continues to hinder effective implementation of water trucking interventions in the area.
General Coordination

National coordination continues to be through the Deputy County Commissioner’s Office via the District Steering Groups in the respective areas. Other agencies such as the National Drought Management Authority and Save the Children have been supporting the coordination process by hosting inter-agency coordination meetings. District Disaster Committees have also been holding meetings to discuss and deliberate on the response.

In Wajir, a sectoral coordination mechanism has been established under the Chairmanship of the KRCS who are also the lead organization for non-food items and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Other members of the response mechanism include ALDEF (focal point for food, fuel for boreholes and nutrition), Save the Children (Health and Nutrition), Islamic Relief (Health and Nutrition in Wajir North and West), Aphiaplus Imarisha (Health) and Wajir Peace dealing with peacebuilding initiatives. The provincial administration and the Governor’s office, who are also members of the response team, are coordinating security and community liaison with the leaders and elders.

The Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team agreed to strengthen coordination in Wajir and has requested OCHA to deploy an aid coordination officer to the County, in addition to updating the 3W (Who-does What-Where) for Wajir and Mandera.

Background on the crisis
Mandera and Wajir are among the 47 counties situated in north-eastern Kenya. They border Ethiopia to the north and Somalia to the east. The inter-ethnic clashes, which began in Mandera County in March 2012, have spread to neighbouring Wajir District, where retaliatory attacks since June have resulted in six deaths. More than 90 deaths, 96 casualties, and over 6,000 displaced households/families have been reported in the two Counties. While their past conflicts were related to competition over natural resources, the recent conflict is attributed to political discontent with the results of the March 2013 General Elections, which saw the Garre obtain most of the elective positions. The peace agreement signed by the parties on 4 July called on the parties to respect the currently instituted governance structures as they await the hearing of the pending election petitions. Relatives of the warring communities across the border in Ethiopia are reportedly engaging in revenge attacks. An attack in Mandera, Kenya on 29 June allegedly triggered a revenge attack in Ethiopia leaving several people injured and homes deserted in Malkamari border town. A fragile ceasefire is in place on the Ethiopian side.

For further information, please contact:
Gabriella Waaijman, Deputy Head of Office, waaijman@un.org, Tel: 254 20 762 2148/2166 | Cell: +254 732 600 012
Truphosa Anjichi-Kodumbe, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, anjichi@un.org, Tel: 254 20 762 2076 | Cell: +254 732 500 018

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int | Kenya Website: http://kenya.humanitarianresponse.info | Corporate Website: http://unocha.org/eastern-africa Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/facebook-OCHAKenya | Twitter: @UNOCHA_EA