

KENYA: Inter-communal Conflict in Mandera County

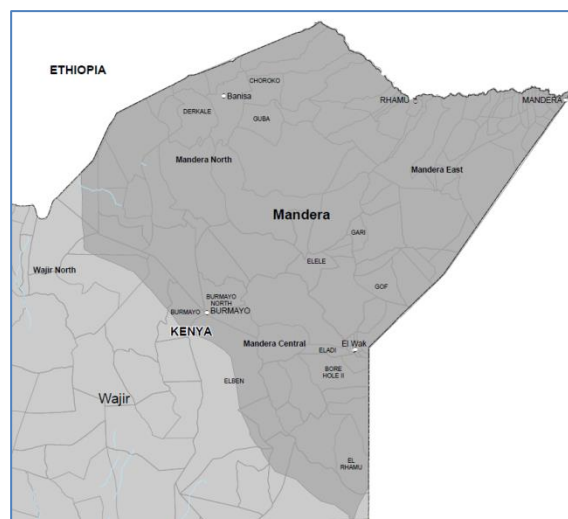
Situation Report No. 1 (as of 25 June, 2013)



This report is produced by OCHA Eastern Africa in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA. It covers the period from March to 25 June 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 8 July.

Highlights

- Inter-communal conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County has left over 85 people dead and over 25,000 others displaced since March 2012.
- Worst affected are Wajir County, Banisa and Rhamu Constituencies, with reports of emerging tensions between the relatives of the two communities across the border in Ethiopia.
- The Government has deployed security forces and commissioned a disarmament exercise in the affected area.
- The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and partners are providing humanitarian assistance amidst the current access and operational constraints.



Source: OCHA
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

30,000

Affected people

30,000

Targeted for assistance

25,000

Internally displaced

85

Dead

100

Seriously injured

5,000

People out of school

Situation Overview

The security situation in Mandera County, north-eastern Kenya, continued to deteriorate as inter-communal conflicts have persisted since March 2013. Preliminary reports by the KRCS indicate that cumulatively since March 2012, some 85 people have died and over 100 people have been seriously injured in the retaliatory conflicts between the resident Degodia and Garre communities.

Tension and conflict between the two communities have historically resulted from competition for natural resources, but recently the emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. The area has been unstable since the March 2013 General Elections in which the Garre community received most of the elective seats.

Worst affected are areas in Wajir County, Banisa and Rhamu Constituencies.

In Rhamu, 12 people were killed and six others seriously injured following seven separate incidents of armed attack in early June. An estimated 7,000 people and an unidentified number of livestock were displaced from the area resulting in massive disruption of community livelihoods. Most of the communities have since returned but are still dependant on humanitarian assistance as their livelihoods were destroyed.

In Banisa, 20 people, including four children, died in two attacks between 22 and 23 June. Several others, including a one-year-old who suffered gun shots, were seriously injured in the attacks in Guba and Choroqo villages. More than 20 houses were torched in the early morning attacks and the entire population in the two villages has reportedly fled from the area. The injured have been referred to Mandera District Hospital for specialized treatment, with critical cases being airlifted to Nairobi by KRCS personnel.

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

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Coordination Saves Lives

A rapid needs assessment conducted by KRCS in Mandera North County estimates that over 6,000 households (over 20,000 individuals) are now hosted by relatives in the relatively safer regions of Banisa, Mandera North, Mandera Central and Mandera West Counties. Of the 4,000 IDP households in Banisa, 430 arrived on 23 June.

Food and commodity prices in Banisa are reportedly over 100 per cent higher, leading to fears of emerging food insecurity in the area. Banisa has been inaccessible due to recent flooding. Farms and homes have been abandoned and this has also had a negative impact on education, with an estimated 4,184 children from 16 primary schools and 1,453 Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes in Banisa out of school. Secondary education is crowded, while adult learning for some 823 persons in the sub-county has been affected.

The conflict has reportedly resulted in tensions among relatives of affected communities in Ethiopia, as both communities mobilize support from their relatives across the border. A joint assessment mission conducted between 19 and 25 June in Moyale town (Ethiopia) was informed that there are an estimated 30,000 individuals who reportedly fled from Mandera County (Kenya) to Mubarak Woreda in Ethiopia, following an earlier inter-clan conflict between 25 and 27 May 2013. The new arrivals are hosted within the local community and rely on the host community for food. Humanitarian access to Mubarak is currently impeded due to insecurity. The situation on both sides of the border remains tense and requires close monitoring.

The Government of Kenya has deployed security officers and commissioned a disarmament exercise to the affected areas. KRCS and partners are providing both food and non-food items to the affected population. Food supplies have also been prepositioned in Mandera and will be distributed with the help of the County Government. Humanitarian needs however continue to emerge as more people flee their homes and livelihoods, in apprehension of revenge attacks.

Current response gaps are in shelter, food, medication, operational costs and security. There is no health staff at the Olla health facility and drug supplies are depleted. KRCS has recommended family tracing and reunification, especially of children and the elderly who lost contact with their relatives during the early morning forced flight.

Funding

While supplies in the area are currently sufficient, replenishment and operational costs related to distribution remain key. A joint rapid assessment by KRCS and Government authorities is ongoing to establish the extent of damage and exact needs in the area. The Humanitarian Coordinator has agreed to use the remaining funds in the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for the emergency response in Mandera.

Humanitarian Response

The Government in collaboration with KRCS and NGOs are providing life-saving assistance to the affected communities in secured areas. The conflict has negatively impacted the activities of many NGOs due to difficulty in accessing some of the areas where beneficiary communities live. Save the Children has had to temporarily halt nutrition activities as the security situation worsened. Some health facilities are reportedly closed as staff has moved away for safety. Operations of some local NGOs have also been affected since some of their staff belong to the warring clans and have had to move away for their own safety.

Needs: Over 85 people were killed and 96 others seriously injured following inter-clan conflict between the resident Degodia and Garre communities in Mandera. An estimated 25,000 others have been displaced. The cumulative figure of the affected and displaced people will be shared after the ongoing assessment mission in the area.

Response: The Government has prepositioned food supplies in Mandera and distribution will be done with the help of the County Government. KRCS and partners are providing both food and non-food items to the affected population. Humanitarian needs however continue to emerge as more people flee their homes and livelihoods, in apprehension of revenge attacks. Security personnel have been deployed to the area to restore peace and disarm the communities.

Gaps: Current response gaps are in shelter, food, and medication. Schools in Banisa that were closed due to flooding remain closed. A number of trucks carrying humanitarian supplies to Mandera are stuck en-route from Wajir due to insecurity.



Education

Needs: Learning remains suspended as teachers and pupils have moved away from their institutions. The Ministry of Education confirmed that seven schools, both primary and secondary, have been closed due to the ongoing insecurity. An estimated 4,184 children from 16 primary schools and 1,453 ECD programmes in Banisa remain out of school due to flooding and insecurity. Secondary education is crowded while adult learning for some 823 persons in the sub-county has been affected.

5,000
Children out of school

Response: County officials are meeting to discuss the current situation and provide further information on numbers affected as well as arising needs and possible responses. UNICEF has supplied education and recreation kits from pre-positioned supplies and is working with Education offices for access in Mandera and Wajir.

Gaps & Constraints: Schools are deserted and learning has been disrupted due to insecurity. Access to affected children remains a constraint.



Food Security

Needs: Over 6,000 households require food assistance as they were not able to salvage any property, including distributed relief food, from fires. KRCS estimates that some 1,480 (50 kg) bags of cereals, 300 (50 kg) bags of pulses and 580 (20-litre cartons) of oil are required per month to feed the IDPs in the County. Farms and homes have been abandoned and prices of food and commodities are reportedly over 100 per cent higher. The planting season has been delayed, hence fears of increased food insecurity.

6,000
Households in need of food

Response: The Government, KRCS, WFP and partners are distributing prepositioned food and non-food items in the area.

Gaps & Constraints: Access to affected people remains a challenge.



Health

Needs: Health facilities are non-operational and lack essential drugs, thus affecting referrals. More than 100 people required urgent medical attention, including psychosocial support.

100
Critically injured

Response: KRCS and Save the Children are providing mobile medical clinics. KRCS organized medical evacuations for the most severe cases. MSF donated trauma kits to the Rhamu district hospital while KRCS donated pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceutical products. ACTED distributed hygiene kits to 400 beneficiaries. In Banisa, KRCS initiated medical outreach to affected communities and this is ongoing.

Gaps & Constraints: Logistical challenges as hospitals have been abandoned and those available lack supplies. Access and operational costs are hindering effective response.



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 current 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. County Government requires urgent support with immediate food, medical supplies and nutritional interventions.



Protection

Needs: Lack of security has been identified as a key issue that needs to be addressed. It has hampered the distribution of emergency supplies in some areas. Tracing has also been identified as a priority. 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. KRCS is supporting family tracing.

Gaps & Constraints: Lack of security



Shelter

Needs: Due to the movement of people away from their homes to seek safety, there are growing needs in shelter and NFIs for the over 6,000 displaced families. KRCS estimates the total NFI gap to be 4,574 kits.

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

Gaps & Constraints: Lack of adequate supplies as partners are unable to access the area due to insecurity.

6,000

Households in need of shelter



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs: The quality of water available cannot be guaranteed due to the destruction and overcrowding in the area and this puts people at risk of contracting water-related diseases. The absence of enough toilets where IDPs have settled continues to pose a risk.

Response: Distribution of hygiene kits ongoing in the area. The NDMA has procured fuel to assist some 5,900 community boreholes and for other emergency operations in the area.

Gaps & Constraints: Lack of access to safe drinking water due to overcrowding.

6,000

Households in need

General Coordination

National coordination is through the Deputy County Commissioner's Office via the District Steering Groups in the respective areas. Other agencies such as NDMA 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.

A joint rapid assessment by KRCS and Government is ongoing to establish the extent of the damage and actual needs on the ground.

Background on the crisis

Mandera is one of 47 counties in Kenya, situated in the north-east. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the north and Somalia to the east. Since March 2012, inter-clan conflict between the resident Degodia and Garre communities has resulted in the death of 85 people, 96 casualties, 150 houses burned and 6,000 displaced households/families. While past conflicts between the two were related to competition over natural resources, the recent conflict is suspected to be related to the outcome of the March 2013 General Elections, during which the Garre community obtained most of the elective positions. In March, violence broke out in Rhamu resulting in the displacement of about 7,000 people, fatalities, displacement and destruction of property and disruption of learning and health facilities. The situation was especially serious in Rhamu, Rhamu Dimtu, Banisa, Malkamari, and the Lulis area. The violence has also taken a cross-border dimension with relatives of the two communities across the border in Ethiopia engaging in retaliatory attacks in support of their kin in Kenya. There is currently a fragile ceasefire in place on the Ethiopian side. Tensions remain high on both sides of the border.

For further information, please contact:

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

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