

UNICEF Kenya

Post-Election Violence Situation Monthly Report

January 2008

Updates on Political/Humanitarian Situation

- **National.** Post-election violence that began in late December 2007 continued to occur in January throughout Nairobi, Rift Valley, Western, and Nyanza Provinces. Some estimates put the total death toll above 1,000 with 300,000 internally displaced persons needing assistance. Most are sleeping in makeshift shelters or even in the open air at police stations, show grounds, stadiums, prisons, and churches.
- There are a disproportionate number of women with young children in the camps. At least 150,000 of those displaced are children – and more than 80,000 are children under the age of five years. The violence, particularly severe in Rift Valley Province, has caused further displacement and prevents humanitarian access to many areas in need. Even when there is relative calm, fear and threats are driving many people to try to get back to their rural homes.
- Many children in the poorest communities in Nairobi who have not been displaced are nevertheless living in appalling conditions of insecurity with armed gangs controlling their neighborhoods. Food price increases and interruptions in food supply have affected households across large areas of the country, impacting the poorest the hardest.
- There have been increased efforts to bring a resolution to the crisis including mediation talks initiated by Kofi Annan and a visit by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to Nairobi on 1 February 2008. The African Union also reiterated the importance of a crisis resolution during its Heads-of-State summit in Addis Ababa between 31 January – 2 February 2008.
- **Nairobi.** The killing of opposition MP Mugabe Were at the gate of his home in Nairobi on 29 January 2008 triggered violence in slums around Nairobi. At least four people were reported killed in the Kibera while automatic gunfire continued to be reported in Dandora, Mathare, and Huruma over the following days. Mobs forcefully evicted families near Kikuyu town (north of Nairobi) before clashing with police forces on 30 January. This incident caused the displacement of many people towards Tigoni and Limuru where up to 7,000 IDPs are reported to have arrived.
- **South Rift Valley Province.** Nakuru and Naivasha became the latest flashpoints as mobs battled police in both towns during the latter part of the month. At least 64 people were reported killed between 24-28 January in fighting around both towns. Reports indicated many cases of extreme violence involving large mobs of youths armed with machetes, bows and arrows as well as other makeshift weapons. Similar violence was reported in areas around Nakuru including Molo district where many displaced people (up to 60,000 according to latest reports) have sought refuge. The violence in and around this region has caused tremendous economic fallout as some large flower farms – among Kenya's largest employers and revenue earners – have been had to close or reduce their activities.
- **North Rift Valley Province.** Opposition MP David Too was killed in Eldoret town on 31 January 2008 sparking violent clashes in Eldoret and Nairobi. The MP was killed along with a female companion who was traveling with him in the vehicle when he was shot. The death of Mr. Too, the second opposition MP to be killed in a 2-day period, has increased tensions throughout the country but particularly in the North Rift Valley Province. During January violence and ethnic attacks around Kericho have caused over 20,000 people to flee, including many workers from the tea estates – heavily impacting this key economic sector.



- **Western and Nyanza Provinces.** This region continues to be a no-go zone for UN agencies and their staff due to security concerns. Violence was reported throughout both provinces during the month with fatalities occurring in Kisumu and Kakamega towns. While security concerns are paramount there are fears that the absence of the UN in the western areas may be misinterpreted – Western and Nyanza Provinces most strongly back the opposition.
- **Economic Impact** The economy is spiraling to a halt and no one has been spared. Handcart pushers and hawkers, neighborhood shopkeepers and multi-nationals are all affected. So are real estate tycoons, hotels, farmers, airlines, and players in rail and road transport [The Standard], The Chamber of Commerce estimates the loss of KShs200billion since post election violence began. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reports annual inflation rate increase 12 percent to 18.2 percent in January. The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Tourism says that every tourist lost translates into 8 job losses. Out of 150 hotels with 32,000 beds in the region, 20 have been shut down, with many others facing imminent closure. Those still operating are recording only 10 to 20 per cent bed occupancy. Insecurity on Kenya's roads has impacted the Mombasa Port. News reports state that in addition to the 17,000 containers already at the port, there are 21 ships waiting to offload their cargo. The ideal capacity of Mombasa port is 12,000 containers. The flower, tea and coffee industries have also been very hard hit.

### UNICEF and Other Partners' Response

The Kenya Red Cross is the agency designated by government to lead in emergency response. UNICEF co-leads with line ministries the coordination of emergency response in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and in Education. UNICEF also leads sub-clusters in child protection, nutrition, and telecommunications. UNICEF staffs are operating on the ground in the epicenters of displacement – in Eldoret and Nakuru as well as Nairobi.

While the crisis affecting IDPs is the most visible, UNICEF response is also increasingly focused on addressing host as well as IDP communities.

**Preparedness:** UNICEF and other stakeholders mobilized quickly in January to respond to a humanitarian emergency that is widely acknowledged as the worst in the country's history. Much of the response was facilitated by emergency preparedness activities undertaken in the period preceding the December elections. In 2007, UNICEF and its implementing partners (mainly KRCS with whom an agreement was signed in mid-2007) developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan in anticipation of potential violence before or after the December elections. As a result, UNICEF was ready to respond to the crisis. A stock of pre-positioned materials (shelter, WES, health, and nutrition) worth US\$ 1.5 million in addition to funds that had been specially set aside (from the government of Spain and UNICEF's internal resources) allowed an immediate and substantial response. As soon as access was granted to the most seriously affected areas of the Rift Valley, UNICEF dispatched 13,340 family kits to the KRCS and other international organizations from 6 January 2008. These family Kits (containing shelter materials, blankets, cooking sets, jerricans, and soap) provide emergency shelter, household items, and hygiene materials to provide a displaced family of five with the most basic needs. Beneficiaries began receiving the kits on 6 January and the distribution continues today in close coordination with the KRCS. UNICEF has maintained field presence since 4 January 2008 in Eldoret and Nakuru ensuring targeted distribution and avoiding duplication through collaboration with local partners. To date, UNICEF and its partners have provided 45,700 displaced people with vital shelter, household, and hygiene items.

### Health

Health services have been critically affected by post-election insecurity. In the worse affected areas it is estimated that over 30% of health facilities are not functioning as staff did not feel safe enough to return after the holiday period. Many have been threatened and the facilities where they worked vandalized and looted. The resulting mass population movement has placed a tremendous pressure on an already under funded health system and the few functioning facilities are now catering for a larger number of people. The hospitals are over stretched but have done an excellent job in dealing with the many cases of serious trauma.

In order to support these facilities, UNICEF has worked closely with the MoH and health cluster partners to hire additional health professionals and provide emergency supplies to assist about 100,000 people and long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITNs). The medical supplies and LLITNs have been used to provide services to recently displaced persons (such as those escaping violence in Naivasha and Nakuru), and for establishing health posts in and around established IDP sites. A special effort has been made to ensure that host communities continue to have access to routine health services. The MoH has established an emergency co-ordination structure and the UN health cluster works as part of this system with WHO

representing the UN in the overall steering committee. UNICEF is also supporting the MoH to coordinate the emergency response in districts of the Rift valley, Nairobi and Central provinces. Where possible UNICEF has worked with the MoH to carry out an assessment of all IDP sites and the results have been used to prepare a prioritized plan of action.

In response to the MoH's request for personnel assistance, UNICEF is continuing the recruitment of health and nutrition professionals. Over 60 staff had been identified but due to the violence throughout the South Rift Valley province area, only 35 could report for duty so far.

### **Nutrition**

UNICEF responded immediately to the current crisis using existing contacts and operational frameworks with Ministry of Health, World Food Programme and other partners. Contingency stocks and other supplies purchased for the longer term emergency in the arid areas of the country were used to initiate operations in all accessible areas. To prevent the deterioration of the nutritional status of all displaced and affected persons, UNICEF dispatched a total of 270 MT of WFP-supplied supplementary foods that benefited 72,300 children in emergency-affected regions in the month of January. These deliveries occurred in spite of security constraints that often made road transport extremely difficult. Particular effort was made to reach parts of Nyanza and Western Provinces that have been no-go zones for UN personnel since the crisis began. UNICEF nutrition supplies reached Kisumu for the first time this year on 21 January 2008, for example, thanks to an emergency airlift funded by ECHO.

A key element of the response has also included technical and material support to ensure early screening and supplementation with Vitamin A in accessible camps. Health personnel and referral centres have been supported with guidelines, equipment and supplies for the management of severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF has provided anthropometric measurement equipment and technical assistance to health facilities and IDP displaced sites in all affected areas.

As the lead agency of the nutrition cluster, UNICEF staffs have been at the forefront of the emergency response undertaking assessments and organizing the response to newly displaced populations throughout Rift Valley, Central and Nairobi Provinces. Nutrition personnel are currently undertaking emergency assessments in Molo District (Rift Valley Province) where authorities report a total displaced population of 60,000 persons.

To respond to the MoH's serious lack of human resources (due largely to crisis-caused displacement), UNICEF has recruited 20 nutritionists who have been deployed to affected areas to mitigate the disruption in service provision. The nutritionists have received an orientation from UNICEF in Nakuru and will be sent to locations needing additional support.

The constant mobility and loss of livelihoods presents a very real risk of malnutrition, especially in children who are already under-nourished. The wide distribution of IDP sites has challenged the delivery of assistance to children. Nevertheless, in conjunction with the MoH, WFP and other nutrition partners, UNICEF has been able to assess most IDP sites in affected areas. This information on the location of IDPs and the nutrition status of children is shared by partners to enable a focused, evidence-based response. Technical guidelines have been developed and distributed to support delivery of an agreed minimum package of essential services and adherence to global standards of nutrition response.

The main challenge remains the lack of security in many areas of Rift Valley, Western, and Nyanza provinces. In these areas, access is often not granted for emergency personnel and where such access is allowed, affected populations move rapidly making service provision difficult, inefficient, and sometimes impossible. The nutrition response is also hampered by insufficient funding. Many donors are only prepared to respond when children are already malnourished, instead of acting early to prevent it.

### **Education**

Schools, educational institutions, students, and teachers have been severely affected by the post-election crisis. Many schools became temporary IDP camps (in addition to police stations and churches) while others were burned down, looted, and vandalized. Inter-communal conflict has also caused the displacement of students and teachers leaving previously functioning schools empty while children and educators found themselves in IDP camps. The Kenya Union of Teachers (KNUT) reported on 29 January 2008 that 10,000 teachers were not able to teach due to the ongoing violence.

UNICEF, in close coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and other education cluster partners, reacted swiftly to this emergency and provided tents educational kits and recreation kits to facilitate temporary learning spaces at IDP sites. Where possible, displaced children have also been enrolled in nearby schools

to avoid a disruption to their studies. In Nakuru, for example, 600 displaced children (289 girls and 281 boys) who have been enrolled in Moi Primary School – and who are currently being taught in tents and with educational supplies provided by UNICEF. Similar support has also been provided to IDP sites throughout the North Rift Valley Province and the Nairobi area enabling thousands of children to continue their education. In the larger IDP camps, such as the Eldoret showgrounds, displaced teachers have enthusiastically adapted to their new surroundings and are actively involved in teaching the children in the camp. They are recruiting other displaced teachers and even arranging shifts of classes in order to make sure that the more than 2,000 children there are able to continue their learning.



*Photo: Thomas Mongare  
Children from the Nakuru Showground IDP camp attend school assisted with UNICEF tents and learning materials*

UNICEF education staff have maintained a constant field presence in the affected areas and continue to identify priority areas needing supplies and technical assistance. The regular assessments and information sharing among colleagues made it possible to identify needs. In Turbo and Kitale (North Rift Valley Province), for example, education kits and tents are urgently required for IDP children whose families are unable to return to their homes. Many parents are afraid to let their children go back to school fearing for their safety. In Kasarani Division (Nairobi), the number of children in Early Childhood Development has dropped by 40% since November 2007.

Schools in Nyanza and Western Provinces were opened two weeks later than other schools, amid threats to staff and students. By the end of January, violence in Nakuru meant that only 50 per cent of schools were functioning. The MoE is facing a large number of transfer requests from students and teachers who feel unsafe in their home areas. Local media reports indicated on 26 January 2008 that “hundreds” of students and teachers have asked the MoE to move them out of Rift Valley, Western, and Nyanza schools. The current phenomenon is adversely affecting education as some areas find themselves with too many teachers while in others there is scarcity.

### **Protection**

In addition to the displacement brought about by the current political crisis, incidences of sexual and physical violence against women and children have reached alarming levels. UNICEF chairs the Child Protection working group (or sub cluster) and attends the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Psycho-Social Support (PSS) meetings. There is evidence that IDPs are forced to trade sex for food, protection, and transport according to a preliminary report by the GBV and Child protection Cluster led by UNFPA with support from UNICEF and UNIFEM. Girls and women are raped while trying to use latrines at night, or while trying to access water, or as part of inter-communal violence that has continued almost unabated since the December elections. The Nairobi Women’s Hospital reported on 23 January 2008 that more than 100 victims of rape and physical assault linked to the post-election crisis have been treated in Nairobi. The victims range from 2 years to 70 years with increased incidences of assault by gangs and strangers.

This month, UNICEF, through UNFPA, provided the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret with Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits to reduce the chance of HIV transmission for up to 1,500 victims of sexual violence who may have been exposed to the virus. UNFPA works closely with Nairobi Women’s Hospital which linked up with the Moi Hospital to ensure the distribution of the kits in western Kenya.

Many children have either lost their families or have been separated from their relatives in the post-election crisis. UNICEF, Kenya Red Cross Society, ICRC and Save the Children (Alliance), are providing support in identifying, registering, tracing, and facilitating family reunification. In addition, UNICEF is partnering with the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) in 23 constituencies in Rift Valley, Nyanza, Western, Nairobi, and Coast provinces to monitor child rights violations and provide child friendly spaces. The NCCCK network includes counselors, teachers, nurses and clergy in its network. The project entails training 92 persons as child protection monitors and an additional 92 in how to deliver basic psycho-social support. With material support from UNICEF, such as large tents and recreation kits, NCCCK will establish a minimum of 50 child-

friendly spaces i.e. 25 in “host” communities and 25 in IDP sites. The project also incorporates a comprehensive communication campaign to address the prevention of violence against children.

UNICEF is collaborating with Save the Children (Alliance) and the Department of Children's Services to put in place an inter-agency Child Protection Database in the Department of Children's Services. The database, which will be initially decentralized to Eldoret and Nakuru (and later to other provinces), will serve as a mechanism for registering, monitoring, and facilitating tracing of separated and unaccompanied children. Training for data entry personnel and implementing and operational partners will take place in Nairobi and Nakuru the first week in February. ICRC and KRCS will share necessary data from the Red Cross database for coordination purposes. (The interagency child protection database is broader, in that it covers more categories of vulnerable children, as opposed to those in need of tracing services.)

UNICEF has increased its internal capacity to monitor and respond quickly to protection issues by deploying full-time protection officers to the major urban centers around which much of the violence and ensuing displacement are occurring. Six additional protection officers have been recruited on a temporary basis and are now covering flashpoints throughout Nairobi, Nakuru, and Eldoret as well as the regions surrounding these towns.

## WES

Providing clean water and sanitation facilities to IDPs has been a particularly challenging undertaking given the dynamic nature of IDP movement. Unexpected violence prompts communities to seek refuge with little or no warning and they usually end up in areas where there is insufficient access to clean water or latrines.



Photo: Allan dela Rosa  
One of the mobilets provided by UNICEF for IDPs at  
Karura Community Chappel IDP site

Schools, churches, and police stations are inundated by families seeking safe places to camp and their meager facilities are usually overwhelmed within a few days. Larger camps such as the Eldoret and Nakuru showground have allowed UNICEF and other WES stakeholders to set up planned water points and latrines that can cater for large IDP populations. UNICEF is working through a variety of partners to ensure rapid and sustained support to IDPs and affected populations throughout the country:

- In **Nyanza and Western** Provinces (where UN agencies are barred due to the poor security), UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health (MoH), KRCS, and MSF Spain to provide latrines for 438 IDPs that have gathered at the Busia Police station. PUR sachets and jerry cans supplied by UNICEF have also been distributed to 120 IDPs in Nyando District.
- In **North Rift Valley** Province, UNICEF is supporting OXFAM to implement hygiene promotion activities for 15,000 IDPs at the showground camp. Over 200 latrines have been constructed at this site and UNICEF has provided the supplies for their construction. OXFAM will also undertake hygiene promotion at Noigam camp for an estimated 6,500 IDPs. UNICEF is providing WES supplies for the Turbo IDP site housing 6,440 IDPs.
- In **South Rift Valley** Province, UNICEF provided financial support to facilitate the connection of the Nakuru IDP site to the town's main water supply. 25 latrines have been built for the IDPs using UNICEF-supplied concrete slabs. UNICEF is working with the District Water Officer to ensure that other IDP sites are also connected to the town's water supply.
- In **Nairobi**, UNICEF has supplied mobilets and water tanks to support the 1,000 IDPs that are gathered at the Huruma Chief's camp. UNICEF also supplied mobilets to the 234 IDPs at Karura Community Chapel

## Logistics/Supplies

Procuring, dispatching, and ensuring the delivery of vital relief supplies to violence-affected areas has been a truly difficult and dangerous undertaking. Road transport ground to a halt several times due to informal roadblocks maintained by armed youth that often attacked and killed motorists. These types of roadblocks severed the Nairobi-Eldoret road regularly during the month of January cutting off all the towns and IDP camps in between (Naivasha, Nakuru, Molo, etc.) as well as the international supply routes that cater to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Where possible, UNICEF distributed

supplies through government counterparts, NGO partners, and other stakeholders. For areas in Western and Nyanza province, airlifts were required to ensure that IDP and affected children were provided supplementary food. DHL has provided thousands of dollars worth of free delivery services through IKA.

UNICEF is working closely with the government, WFP, and the KRCS to ensure that the logistics for the emergency response are operating smoothly in spite of great obstacles. In Nakuru, for example, UNICEF has agreed to co-chair the local logistics cluster with KRCS and address issues relating to programme operation in the area. UNICEF supply officers are also reviewing clearing and forwarding operations in Mombasa where long delays have been reported in moving containers out of the port.



*Photo: Aviation sans Frontières – Belgique (ASF)  
The ASF Dornier 228 aircraft funded by ECHO that ferried UNICEF supplies to western Kenya*

In the last three days of January alone, UNICEF delivered the following supplies:

- 20,000 mosquito nets and 10 cartons of ORS were dispatched to the Kenya Medical Supply Agency in Nairobi.
- Two truckloads of WES supplies (70,000 chlorine tabs, 900 buckets, 100 cartons of soap and 900 jerry cans) were dispatched to Kirathimu Chirch in Limuru (Nairobi). Another 8,000 chlorine tabs, 100 buckets, 10 cartons of soap and 100 jerry cans were delivered to Karura Church.
- One UNICEF pick-up delivered Education Kits and Recreation Kits to Mathare IDP site.
- Two 10,000 liters bladder tanks, distribution ramps and 50 latrine slabs were handed over to MSF-Belgium and airlifted to Kitale on 30 January.
- Nutritional supplies were airlifted to Kisumu on 31 January 2008. The cargo included 1 therapeutic and 2 supplementary feeding kits, 40 cartons of F-75, 40 cartons of PlumpyNut, 6 cartons of ReSoMal and assorted anthropometric equipment (weighing scales, MUAC tapes, and measuring boards). The total payload was 1.5MT. The supplies were delivered to the Kenya Red Cross which transported them to from Kisumu to District Hospitals in Kakamega, Busia, Bungoma and Kitale.