How many people were displaced in Kenya as a result of the post election violence?

Widespread violence followed the announcement on 30 December 2007 that incumbent Mwai Kibaki had narrowly won a contested presidential election against Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader Raila Odinga. Rioting and looting broke out in cities and towns, particularly in the west of the country and in and around Nairobi; political discontent was characterized by an ethnic dimension, signalling a serious protection crisis and resulting in the displacement of approximately 500,000 people. Many moved to their ethnic homelands for security, despite the fact that there may not have been adequate services to meet the needs of the displaced.

Source: Kenya Red Cross, 1 December 2008

The Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) reported that as of 19 November, over 238,000 IDPs had returned from IDP camps to pre-displacement areas or transit sites. 4,211 IDPs remain in four IDP camps. The returns process was accelerated by the Government on 4 May with the launch of Operation Rudi Nyumbani (Return Home) which included transport and some financial support for returning IDPs.

Are returnees going home?

Many IDPs who have left IDP camps and returned from host communities have relocated to transit sites, which are often in close proximity to their pre-displacement homes. The Ministry of Special Programmes, indicates that as at 23 October there are at least 121 transitional/satellite camps a total population of 75,704 persons.

Whilst it is difficult to generalize about the nature and function of the transitional sites, which are unique to each return area, the sites have some similarities. They are often located in the centre of a farm area, which is comprised of many family plots (shambas) and may cover several hundred acres. Many sites are located at police posts or at a location chief’s office. In many cases, IDPs are close enough to farm their plots of land during the daytime; however, variable security in areas of return has impacted farm accessibility.

Many of the transit sites lack basic services, including adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities as well as access to schools and health facilities. Food assistance is currently being provided on a monthly basis by WFP and the KRCS to IDPs in transit sites through established food distribution points. The continuous
movement of IDPs and the dispersed nature of the transit sites is presenting challenges to adequate service provision and the humanitarian community is also focusing on conflict sensitive investment in areas of return to help ensure that returns are sustainable.

Another trend in return is the formation of self-help groups, who are identifying land on which to relocate to, rather than return to their homes. As the Government continues to facilitate for the closure of the IDP camps, relocation self-help groups are emerging as a collective solution towards a durable solution. At least 16,000 IDPs in eight groups have relocated to a new area, ranging from 42 to 2,500 households. However, the composition of the groups and the nature of their relocation is very diverse.

**Is the situation safe for IDPs to return home?**

A mediated power-sharing agreement was reached on 28 February, which ended much of the violence in Kenya. A coalition government was subsequently sworn in on 17 April. However, after neighbour turned on neighbour during the violence, many displaced persons remain sceptical of their security should they return to their places of displacement. Significant mediation will be required to ensure that punitive measures are implemented for past violence, whilst reconciliation efforts will be necessary to re-build trust within communities. Formal measures will be elaborated in the Trust, Justice and Reconciliation Bill.

Through the National Steering Committee on Peace-building and Conflict Management, the Early Recovery Cluster has provided training on conflict management and peace building for provincial administrations, in partnership with the Ministry of Provincial Administration and Internal Security. The training targeted District Officers, District Commissioners, Law Enforcement Officers, Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and members of the District Peace Committees. It is anticipated that the training will be integrated into the regular administrative training so as to enhance the national capacity to maintain peace and security through conflict mitigation.

**District Peace Committees** (DPCs) are also being promoted in all districts by the National Dialogue and Reconciliation Committee. Drawing on both traditional conflict resolution mechanism as well as modern formal dispute resolution processes, the Committees are mandated to prevent, manage or transform inter-ethnic or intra-ethnic conflicts. The model institutionalizes and legitimizes traditional conflict resolution mechanisms while also ensuring sensitivity to gender and age.

To ensure that returns are sustainable, the underlying causes of conflict, such as land distribution and inequities, must also be addressed.

**What has been the government’s response to meet IDPs’ needs?**

The Government recognizes five groups of IDPs who require assistance: 1) those who need to return to their homes; 2) those who need to be resettled elsewhere; 3) those who need re-integration support; 4) those who need to return to areas of employment; 5) and those who need to restart their businesses.

In response to the large-scale displacement, a Department of Mitigation and Resettlement was established in the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP). A Ksh 29 billion appeal was launched to help fulfil the needs of the displaced; approximately USD 83 million was allocated to this fund in the 2008-2009 budget.

To facilitate returnees to re-start their livelihoods, the Government has been providing start-up funds of Ksh10,000 (USD 150) per household. So far the Government has spent Ksh. 1.4 billion in financial assistance to 140,000 households. As of 19 November, 91,180 households have received the Ksh. 10,000 financial assistance and 18,195 households have received the Ksh. 25,000 assistance for shelter.

An IDP at the Nakuru Showground questioned the Government’s “resettlement funds”: Why should I get the same amount of money as someone who is going back to his farm? Even if you are moved [from the camp] with the tent, where will you pitch it? IRIN, 7 July
However, there has been some resistance from IDPs, particularly those who owned small businesses, who claim that the start-up funds are insufficient to support their livelihoods recovery.

The MoSSP also plans to construct 40,000 shelters for IDPs by the end of March 2009 under a shelter project, supported by the Early Recovery Advisor to the Humanitarian Coordinator. IOM is also supporting 715 shelters and UNHCR is working with GOAL and Danish Refugee Council to provide 3,000 transitional shelter kits. The total Government shelter project will cost an estimated USD 22 million; approximately USD 1.9 million has been secured to support the project.

In addition to facilitating the provision of shelter materials, the MoSSP has also verified 31,000 households who will receive Ksh25,000 (USD 373) for the rehabilitation/reconstruction of their homes. The Government is currently appealing to the international community for increased support for shelter activities.

What has been the international community's response to support IDPs?

The Kenya Inter-Agency Standing Committee adopted the cluster approach in Kenya in support of humanitarian reform and to ensure a well-coordinated and streamlined response to humanitarian needs. In response to the high levels of returns, an inter-cluster assessment and monitoring tool has been developed to help inform an accurate picture of the needs and gaps in each of the areas of return and in the transit camps. Assessments have been undertaken in the North Rift and in Molo District, which are forming the basis for district recovery strategies; further assessments are planned in all areas of return.

With the end of the acute emergency phase and recognizing the need to strengthen national capacity, clusters are transitioning to expand their mandate beyond the post-election violence to cover other humanitarian concerns, and to better support national coordination structures. The achievements of the clusters and partners have been vital for ensuring basic social service needs and protection among displaced communities:

- **Camp Coordination/Management** has ensured that IDP camps were effectively established and managed. With the emergence of transit sites, KRCS camp managers will now be more mobile, monitoring IDP camps and transit sites.
- **Shelter and Non-food Items** are targeting returnees, particularly in transit sites, where tarpaulins and tents are being provided as needed. Many partners are also providing shelter support and coordinating with the Government Shelter Project on targeting and the cohesion of the shelter models.
- **Protection** guidance, training and advocacy is being provided, and special documentation of the most vulnerable was undertaken. During the returns process, monitoring is being undertaken to avoid family separation and there has been follow up to help reunite separated children. Furthermore, systems to track cases of gender-based violence (GBV) are being facilitated and survivors have been supported to report their cases to the Commission of Inquiry to the Post-election Violence.
- **Water and sanitation services** were established in most IDP camps, with complementary hygiene promotion activities; services are also being provided in transit sites and water points are being rehabilitated in areas of return.
- **Minimum nutritional packages** are provided to all IDP children and surveys are being undertaken to monitor the nutrition status of all IDPs.
- **Food aid has been provided** to all IDPs in camps and more than 200,000 outside of camps. Monthly rations of food are being provided at distribution points in areas of return and transit sites.
- **Functional health care systems** were established in IDP camps and disease outbreaks have been averted. Basic health services are being assessed in transit sites and areas of return to determine need.
- **Education** resources and continued learning opportunities for displaced children have been supported, however increased resources are needed to help ensure that displaced children can continue to access education.
- **A Strategic Framework for Early Recovery** was developed and livelihoods task force has been set up to strengthen livelihoods work, which has become a priority during the returns process. District Recovery Steering Groups are also being supported. Early Recovery has only received approximately 15% of the funding appealed for under the EHRP; however, peace-building and reconciliation urgently require increased and sustained engagement of both local and national leaders. Meanwhile, increased investment in livelihoods, particularly for
non-land owning farmers, is essential to ensure that recovery processes take hold so returnees can lead productive lives and meet their basic needs while re-building their socioeconomic security.

- **Emergency telecommunications** were established in three hubs to facilitate humanitarian coordination.
- **Transport, storage and information dissemination logistics** have been provided to facilitate movement and communications.

**What resources does the international humanitarian community need?**

A revised Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP) for USD 191,929,303 was launched in April 2008. Thanks to the generous support from the donor community, a total of US$259.8 Million has been committed to humanitarian action in Kenya. Due to the fluid nature of the IDP movements, many humanitarian actors also require increased resources to ensure that interventions and facilities can be provided in areas of return and transit sites. Furthermore, one of the most critical areas in need of increased support is early recovery, including peace-building, reconciliation and livelihoods support.

**Were there IDPs in Kenya before the 2007 election violence?**

Before the 2007 elections there were approximately 350,000 IDPs in Kenya, owing to earlier election-related clashes, unresolved land grievances, poor governance and socioeconomic insecurity. In the Mount Elgon region, clashes between the Sabaoth Land Defence Force militia, communities and the military resulted in the displacement of 45,000 persons, some of whom remain in five IDP camps in the district. Between 6-8 September conflict over land between agriculturalists and pastoralists resulted in the displacement of 200 individuals from Maela to Kongoni police station, Naivasha district. In order to preserve a critical water catchment area, the Government is also planning to evict up to 10,000 households from the Mau Forest in October, which could lead to an increased caseload of chronic IDPs; in 2005 some 15,000 people were displaced from the Mau Forest. Recent inter-communal clashes in Mandera in north eastern Kenya has resulted in three deaths and 60 persons injured in addition to loss of houses and property.

**What are the other major humanitarian concerns in Kenya?**

The Long Rains Assessment concluded that there are many contributors to declining food security throughout the country, including erratic and insufficient rains; increased commodity and input prices; poor health; conflict; livestock diseases; and reduced crop production. Kenya also suffers from recurrent droughts and floods, which further aggravate food insecurity and humanitarian needs throughout the country. Furthermore, inflation reached 27.6% in May from 18.2% in January, which is impeding socioeconomic recovery at the household level.