KENYA • Kuria inter-clan clashes
Situation Report #1
26 June, 2009

This report was issued by OCHA Kenya. It covers the period from 13 to 30 June. The next report will be issued on or around 10 July, 2009.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES
1. The Kenya Red Cross estimates that 6,290 persons have been displaced and 7 people have lost their lives as a result of inter-clan clashes since May to date in Kuria East district in south-western part of Nyanza province. In addition, 765 houses have been burnt. The worst affected sub-locations are Warigabosi and Targai (Ntimaru division) and Girigiri (Kegonga division).
2. The District Education Officer in Kuria East reports that 18 primary schools have been affected in the district with a total enrolment of 7,892 student and 171 teachers. In addition, 58 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and 6 Secondary schools have also been affected.
3. The displaced populations have been camping at 9 centres that include churches and schools as well as with neighbouring host communities. Some of the displaced populations are reported to have crossed over the border into Tanzania.
4. There are 2 IDP camps hosting 750 persons with 52 families in Kenonga division and 46 families in Ntimaru division.
5. Immediate humanitarian needs include: shelter, water and sanitation, access to medical support, food and non-food items. Also noted is the need for robust peace and reconciliation interventions to address the underlying causes of conflict in Kuria district.
The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

II. Situation Overview

The clashes in Kuria East district between the Nyabasi and Bwirege clans that began in May 2007 were sparked off by cattle-rustling incidents as well as political differences over the division of the Kuria district and disputes over the location of the current headquarters in Kegonga division (hosting the Nyabasi clan) for the new Kuria East district created in 2007. The Bwirege clan has indicated that it wants the new district headquarters to be located in Ntimaru division while the Nyabasi want it to remain in Kegonga. The two clans also have different political alignments and political and civic leaders’ public opinions are reported to incite division among the two clans. The Nyabasi and Bwirege clans have had historical differences triggered by scarce resources such as land; livestock cattle-rustling and grazing lands. In addition, conflict cycles and patterns in Kuria district have involved increased cattle raids which can be partially attributed to cultural practices relating to initiation and the use of cattle primarily for dowry for marriage following the initiation rites of passage.

The conflict has resulted in at least 6,290 persons displaced. Some of the displaced populations have been reported to have crossed over the border into Tanzania. According to a Kenya Red Cross assessment carried out in the second week of June, the warring clans sought support from their neighbouring communities and relatives along the Kenya-Tanzania border.

There are 2 IDP camps hosting 750 persons with 52 families in Kegonga division and 46 families in Ntimaru division. Other displaced populations are also camped at Kebaroti Catholic Church, Nkurura Catholic Church, Kegonga Catholic Church, Girigiri Primary School, Kemutobo Royal Church, Targai chief's camps and Makararangwe SDA Church.

The District Education Officer in Kuria East reports that the clashes have resulted in the closing of 18 primary schools with a total enrolment of 7,892 student and 171 teachers. In addition, 58 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and 6 Secondary schools have also been affected which has resulted in a drop in school attendance.

Access to the affected locations has been earlier hampered as a result of road blocks erected by the warring parties along the Kegonga-Ntimaru route.

Peace initiatives that have in the past been initiated by the Government through the Provincial Administration and other stakeholders have thus far been ineffective.

The situation in Kuria East district at present is relatively calm however tension remains high in the two locations. MSF-France reports indicate that the population displaced in camps is slowly returning to their homes therefore being able to access the health centres close to the camps. The majority of the displaced are not in camps but are seeking refuge in communities, limiting their visibility and access to relief assistance.

Assessments

- The Kenya Red Cross in collaboration with the Provincial Administration and the Ministry of Health Officials carried out an initial assessment of the affected areas in Kuria East District in early June.
- MSF-France carried out an assessment on 20 June and visited the two IDP camps located in Remanyanki Primary School in Kegonga division and Pentecostal Evangelical Faith of Africa in Ntimaru division. Immediate needs noted during the assessments include shelter, water and sanitation, food and nutrition, protection as a result of insecurity and health.

Planned missions to Kuria East District

- The Kenya Human Rights Commission is planning to undertake a one day fact finding mission on 1 July to examine the causes of the recent clan fights in Kuria East through meeting various administrative structures/ District Commissioner, District Steering Committee, and the local community as well as corroborate reports shared by the Human Rights Network in Kuria district on the situation including reports of human rights violations. Partners have been invited to participate in the fact-finding mission.
### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

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| Camp Coordination | The MSF-France assessment that took place on 20 June revealed a number of needs in the two camps that include shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation, food and nutrition, security and health. | MSF-France has undertaken observations and inspection of tents, buildings used for sleeping as well as hygiene and sanitation facilities.                                                                 | - Need for the activation of the District Steering Group which will assist in the coordination of humanitarian response for affected populations within and outside of camps.   
- There is a need for an assessment to be carried out on the situation of displaced persons who have sought refuge over the border into Tanzania. |
| Early Recovery  | - Peace building initiatives have been identified as a critical need in order to address the root causes of conflict in Kuria district.  
- Need to mobilize the community and elders on peace initiatives within and across district borders.                                                                                      | Peace initiatives have in the past been initiated by the Government through the Provincial Administration and other stakeholders however they have not yielded much. Elders from the warring clans have met to sign a peace accord. The talks have been facilitated by Action Aid.  
- The Nyanza Provincial Commissioner will hold a meeting with the local administration, security forces and the community on 2 July 2009 at Kehancha. | A number of districts’ Peace and Development Committees have been trained among them the older/larger Kuria district however the new Kuria East District has not been supported on the same hence the urgent need to set up the DPCs and provide training to DPC staff. |
| Education       | The District Education Officer in Kuria East reports that 18 primary schools have been affected in the district with a total enrolment of 7,892 boys and girls and 171 teachers. In addition, 58 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and 6 Secondary schools have also been affected.  
- Needs include 160 educational kits; 50 ECD kits; 25 recreational kits; school uniforms and psychosocial support.                                                                 | The District Education Officer has provided assessment of impact of the clashes on schools, teachers, and children and has identified areas for support. The Ministry of Education is reviewing its supplies and is to confirm actions/response from their end.  
- Mobilization of support for the education response will be raised at a planned Education cluster meeting on 30 June.  
- Children camping in churches have been supported to join the nearest primary schools while teachers have been relocated to safer areas. | Presence of security personnel has encouraged reopening of schools.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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<td>Emergency Shelter and NFIs</td>
<td>765 houses have been burnt as a result of the clashes.</td>
<td>World Vision International has distributed shelter materials to 69 households as well as kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses, sanitary kits, undergarments soap and jerricans.</td>
<td>Lack of shelter and household items such as jerry cans and cooking pots.</td>
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<td>-Kenya Red Cross has distributed plastic sheets, mosquito nets and soap. -UNICEF has provided 110 family kits (tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and jerry cans to the Kenya Red Cross pre-positioned items in Kisumu for identified IDPs (750) in camps in Kegonga (52 families) and Ntimaru (46 families).</td>
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<td>Food and Nutrition</td>
<td>Need for additional supply of food to the displaced populations.</td>
<td>-On 13 June, the Kenya Red Cross dispatched two trucks with 24MT of food items (maize flour and vegetable oil).</td>
<td>-The Kenya Red Cross distribution of maize flour and vegetable oil is likely to last until 27 June, after which there will be a need to replenish the supply to the affected population.</td>
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<td>Health</td>
<td>-Critical need for medical personnel in the affected district. Current ratio of nurses to patients is 1: 4,633. In addition, there is no ambulance in the affected district to support referrals and patients. - Cholera is endemic in Nyanza province and therefore it remains important that cholera response kits are shared with the affected population as there is a high risk of a cholera outbreak due to population movement.</td>
<td>The Kenya Red Cross supported Ntimaru Sub-district and Kegonga District Hospital with medical supplies that include: 48 bottles of infusion (normal saline), 500 bandages, one IEHK Basic unit including one inter-agency emergency health kit which was distributed between the district and sub-district hospitals. -The Kegonga hospital has handled 12 critical cases as a result of the clashes.</td>
<td>-Continuation of regular medical outreaches in displaced persons camps and areas with poor access to health facilities. -Support to household water treatment. -Strained capacity of existing health facilities due to increased demand for health services, lack of sufficient medical supplies, referral services and under staffing.</td>
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<td>Logistics</td>
<td>Logistics for transportation of food and non-food items has been identified as a great need.</td>
<td>The Kenya Red Cross Western Kenya Regional branch had previously pre-positioned relief items for 100 families at Migori Branch and additional items for 50 families were added during the response. The KRC has three vehicles in the district that supported the assessment and distribution of relief items.</td>
<td>Logistical support for primary and secondary transportation of food and non-food items as well as storage and warehousing of relief items.</td>
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<td>Protection</td>
<td>The inter-clan clashes have raised a number of protection issues that include:</td>
<td>-Government deployment of GSU personnel to quell the clashes.</td>
<td>-Need for psycho-social support and counseling for children affected by the conflict.</td>
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<td>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene</td>
<td>- alleged harassment (sexual) in camps and looting by General Service Unit (GSU) officers deployed in the affected district on 12 June to carry out an operation to seize illegal firearms. - In the past, the district has experienced girls not attending school due to fear of circumcision. - There is an overall need to carry out more assessments on the protection issues as well as ensure increased social protection as a result of reported cases of sexual harassment. - Need to follow up on tracing activities to facilitate family reunification. - Need for promotion of International Humanitarian Law.</td>
<td>- The Kenya Red Cross has received 21 tracing requests. 7 of the tracing requests have been responded to and reunification of families has been undertaken while 14 cases remain pending. - Strengthened community policing.</td>
<td>Access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities.</td>
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<td>Water</td>
<td>Water and sanitation facilities remain critical in the IDP camps.</td>
<td>UNICEF has prepositioned water purification tablets for the response as well as deployed a water testing kit.</td>
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IV. Coordination

A few agencies are currently located on the ground with reports that there has been a general lack of a coordinated humanitarian response. There is a need for the activation of the District Steering Group that will assist in the coordination of humanitarian response for affected populations within and outside of camps.

OCHA convened an inter-agency coordination meeting on 24 June to further gather information on respective agencies’ humanitarian response in Kuria East district. OCHA is not present in Kuria district and therefore relies on partners including the Kenya Red Cross for information on the situation on the ground. Email: info@kenyaredcross.org

MSF-France has been able to access Kuria district due to their location and base in Homa Bay about two hours away from Kuria district. The organization is therefore well placed to intervene quickly in case of any deterioration of the situation or on request from other actors on the ground.

UNICEF is in touch with World Vision and Kenya Red Cross in Kisumu (Western province) and is able to provide additional supplies from pre-positioned items as needs become clearer.

V. Funding

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

VI. Contact

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