



Situation Report – MANDERA CRISIS – November 6^h, 2008

This situation report is based on information received from the Government, UN Agencies and other humanitarian partners in the field.

Highlights

- *600 hectares of farmland has been submerged in Mandera Central district, jeopardizing the livelihoods of approximately 1,200 families.*
- *Tensions have escalated in the recently flooded Mandera districts; at least 9,600 have been displaced by previous floods and clashes.*
- *Human rights groups are alleging persecution by a joint military and police security operation in the region, “Chunga Mpaka” (Guard the Border).*
- *Humanitarian response in the region has been impeded by insecurity.*

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. The water levels have receded in some areas affected by flash floods in Mandera district on 14 October; however, new flooding due to runoff and continued rainfall in some areas is impacting communities. On 3 November, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) reported that 600 hectares of farmland have been submerged in Rhamu and Rhamu Dimtu Divisions of Mandera Central district (see attached map). The 600 hectares normally supports approximately 1,200 families, whose livelihoods have now been jeopardized after recently planted crops were destroyed. The KRCS estimates that flooding will last 60-90 days; the KRCS is currently assessing humanitarian needs of the affected populations.
2. Over 9,600 persons have been displaced in the vicinity of Mandera Town; while approximately two thirds were displaced by the floods, 3,800 people were displaced by inter-clan violence which erupted in the wake of the floods. Competition for scarce resources (owing to successive droughts and the recent floods) and clan rivalries are fuelling the clashes, which have led to at least ten deaths between 16-21 October.
3. Recognizing the deteriorating security situation a joint military and police Government security operation, “Chunga Mpaka” (Guard the Border), was deployed in late September to disarm the warring clans, who are believed to be accessing some weapons from Somalia. As of 31 October, at least 48 guns and more than 1,200 rounds of ammunition had been recovered. Furthermore, at least 600 detonators en route to Mandera were recovered in Nairobi by authorities on 30 October.
4. However, there have been allegations, documented by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), that those involved in the security operations are perpetrating serious human rights violations, including indiscriminate incarceration, torture, harassment, gender-based violence (GBV) and looting. The KNCHR documented over 200 patients in two Mandera hospitals who had sustained injuries during the security operation and a total of 300 patients have been treated in Mandera, Garissa and Wajir hospitals with related injuries. There were also allegations of the widespread rape of women during the security operation.

5. Hundreds of people have fled the region, some to neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, due to the prevailing insecurity, according to IRIN. Delivery of humanitarian assistance to those affected by the floods and insecurity has also been hampered: bandits attacked KRCS returning from Garissa district; a KRCS official was reportedly mistreated and injured by security forces, even though he was wearing a KRCS jacket for identification; and some partners have discontinued their activities in the region due to insecurity. Furthermore, some shops and schools have closed due to the insecurity.
6. A former Member of Parliament (MP) for Mandera Central District was arrested on 31 October and later released on 2 November, after he called for an end to the security operation and accused the military and police of gross human rights violations. On 2 November, dozens of the MP's supporters demonstrated in Nairobi demanding his release; the police responded by shooting in the air and releasing tear gas.
7. On 3 November, the Police spokesman indicated that the security operation would continue and according to the KNCHR report, the Provincial Police Officer has denied allegations of human rights violations. However, the Minister for Northern Development and Other Arid Lands noted that MPs from the region have asked for a review of the operations and an investigation into the allegations. MPs and high level government officials have agreed to collaborate and support conflict transformation structures and processes.

RESPONSE

8. In Mandera, the KRCS and other partners continue to distribute food and non-food items targeting 920 households affected by the floods and the KRCS is currently assessing the needs of the 1,200 households whose crops were destroyed by floods. No outbreak of disease due to the floods has yet been reported, however 68 cases of diarrhoea were treated in October, according to the KRCS. The KRCS has constructed 20 three-unit communal pit latrines

in the affected areas, distributed aqua tabs, buckets and PUR sachets and are in the process of delivering health education. A water treatment plant is on stand-by for use in case of an acute shortage of clean water in the district.

9. Relief supplies for those affected by the flood were dispatched by UNICEF and WHO from their Garissa warehouse; however, they have not yet reached the region, due to disruptions in transport related to insecurity. The supplies include: family kits, water purification and health supplies, toilet slabs as well as treated mosquito nets.
10. Plans are underway to conduct door-to-door distribution of aqua tabs, PUR and 10 litres buckets to flood-affected community as well as mass health education. Volunteers trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) have been recruited to assist in mass health education campaigns on prevention of water borne diseases.
11. A government delegation will travel to Mandera on 7 November to support peace building initiatives; an inter-agency team will also travel to the area at the same time to determine outstanding humanitarian needs and begin the process of engagement and support to the District Peace Committee and the District Steering Group.

OUTSTANDING NEEDS

12. Following assessments and after discussions with stakeholders, the following gaps were identified in Mandera:
 - a). Humanitarian needs
 - Request for food provision to 920 households i.e. 5,480 persons for 1 month which is equivalent to 82.2 metric tones (100% ration sizes= 15kg/person)
 - Construction of 428 toilets to affected house holds
 - Sanitary facilities for 1,000 families i.e. toilet slabs, soap etc
 - Chlorination of five contaminated boreholes.
 - NFIs – shelter, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets etc for 2,000 households.

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This situation report, together with additional information on the current crisis is also available on <http://www.reliefweb.int>. As your tool for timely information sharing, please encourage submission of documents to submit@reliefweb.int, and maps to maps@reliefweb.int.

b). Security needs

- Intervention by the Minister for Defence and Minister for Provincial Administration and Internal Security to condemn the extra-judicial use of force by their officers during the security operation and fully investigate and prosecute perpetrators.
- Increased community collaboration in all disarmament and security efforts.
- Identification of the best ways for the humanitarian community to help ensure the protection of civilians.

COORDINATION

13. Coordination in Mandera District is spearheaded by the District Steering Group (DSG) with the KRCS as the lead agency for response and rescue efforts for populations affected by floods.

14. At national level OCHA is communicating with humanitarian agencies and partners and will continue to monitor and update on the situation.

CONTACT

For more details and updates, please contact:

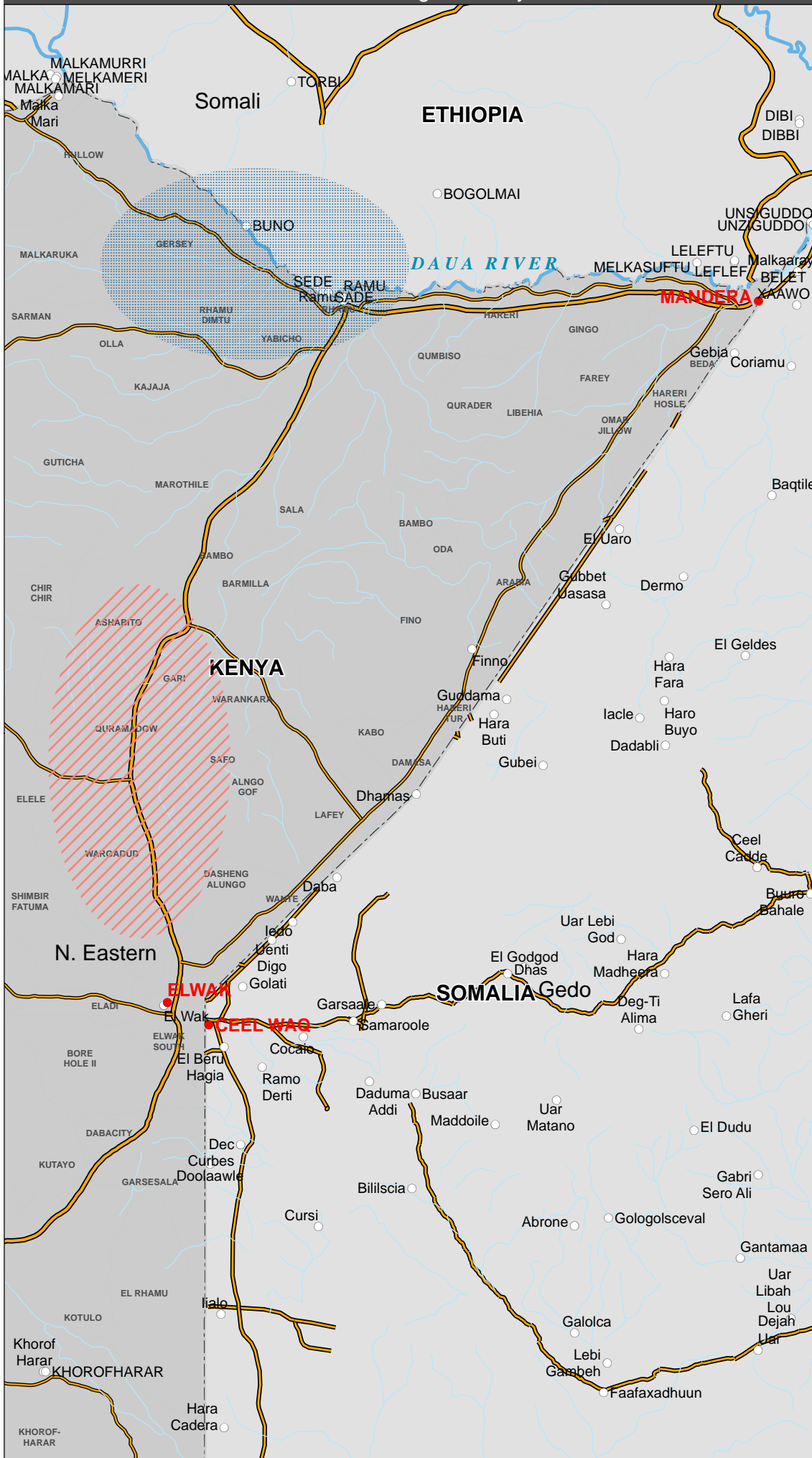
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MANDERA TRIANGLE- 06 November 2008

North East Region - Kenya



Legends

- Major Towns
- Affected Towns
- Rivers
- Roads
- International Boundary
- ▨ Conflict Area
- ▨ Flood Affected Farmlands in Rhamu & Rhamu Dimtu Divisions

Map data source(s):
 Ethiopia Settlements data is from NIMA, 2000
 Somalia Settlements data is from UNDP Somalia, 2000
 Kenya Settlements data is from DEPHA Somalia Roads data is from UNDP Somalia
 Ethiopia Roads data is from DEPHA Kenya Roads data is from OCHA ROCEA
 Administrative boundaries data is from DEPHA
 International boundaries data is from OCHA ROCEA
 River data is from DEPHA
 Flood data is from Kenya Red Cross

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