Inter clan conflict situation along the border areas of Wajir and Mandera Counties

One of the torched houses in Wagberi, Wajir during the ongoing inter-clan clashes

Background

Wajir County is divided into 8 districts namely; Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir South, Habaswein, Wajir West, Eldas, Buna and Wajir North districts. There are 6 constituencies currently that is, Tarbaj, Wajir East, Wajir South, Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir North districts. The current inter ethnic clashes between the Degodia and Garre communities along Border areas of Mandera and Wajir began on May 13, 2014.

The inter clan clashes between Garre and Degodia communities along the Wajir – Mandera Border has directly affected 10 locations in Tarbaj District namely; Lehely, Bojigaras, Mansa, Burmayo, Ogoralle, Berjanai, Dunto, Basaneja, Gunana and Belowle (Wajir North). The clashes in Wajir County further affected other centres that have had an influx of displaced persons which include Sarman, Elben, Tarbaj, Kutulo, Belatalu, Danaba, Quadama and Gulani

a) Impacts of conflicts
Following renewed wave of deadly clashes in Gunana in Tarbaj, the County Government, KRCS staff and volunteers, and partners including Save the Children, Islamic Relief, WASDA, Aldef, amongst others carried out a Rapid Impact Assessment using KIRA Framework to assess the impact of the clashes and needs (immediate, short
and long term) of the affected populations both displaced and host communities. The County Governor in an emergency interagency county coordination meeting requested KRCS in collaboration with Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to lead the emergency response including the medical outreach, Rapid Impact Assessment of the immediate Humanitarian Situation and support required in distribution of emergency food aid and NFIs, amongst others.

The following are the summary findings;

- People feel very insecure, there is tension, fear and uncertainties leading to further displacements.
- A total of 18 people lost their lives, 9 injured including 1 child in Wagberi Location (Wajir East – June 2, 2014) referred to Wajir District Hospital + Nairobi.
- A total of 230 houses were burnt with an estimated over 100 houses looted of all the belongings (furniture, clothes, kitchen utensils etc) after their owners fled to Gunana and Central.
- Primary and secondary schools closed in 10 locations, teachers left.
- Dispensaries and Health Centres closed in 15 locations, staff left.
- Major sanitation problem in all the affected areas
- Food insecurity very high in for the displaced in the affected areas
- Water scarcity in a number of affected areas – overstretched, IDP exacerbating the situation by putting pressure on the scarce resources
- Lack of drugs and absence of health staff in a number of health facilities visited
- Displaced people were camping outside under tree shades
- IDPs - Most of the children are sick mostly with fever and diarrhoea.
- Sanitation – low latrine coverage, in some areas especially in central, access to Health services a problem (expensive)
- Livelihood availability – Collapse of livestock markets, shops closed, decreased income which has extended to Wajir town
- Education widely affected – children not attending school
- Water contaminated and salty - Sarman
- Drying up of shallow wells
- IDP protection – Security, nutrition, shelter
- Malnourished children reported
- Collapse of transport and access.

b) Triggers of Inter clan conflicts in the region
The scarcity of pasture, water and increase in settlements and concentration of people and livestock in the available water points is believed to be a major trigger of conflict in the border areas of Takaba (Mandera County) and Tarbaj (Wajir County) between the
different communities over the rights of use of the scarce pasture and water resources. Similarly, lack of clear mechanisms and arrangements between the different communities sometimes leads to misunderstanding on the access to land rights.

c) Displacement of population

Children, women and elderly people were affected the most by the conflict, in terms of displacement, trauma of loss, human rights violations, and deprivation of the essential building blocks to live a dignified life. Children have dropped out of school, food insecurity, malnutrition, and young adults involved early in their lives in armed conflict in affected areas with the mandate to protect their property from external aggression. The wave of inter clan clashes in Wajir – Mandera Border areas left 18 people killed, referrals of 9 people, displacement of 12140 Households translating into 84980 persons, 230 houses burnt down in Gunana (Tarbaj District) and Wagberi (Wajir East) in Wajir county. The conflict affected households by inter clan clashes fled towards Kutulo, Elben, Tarbaj, Elben, Wajir Town, Sarman, Kabululla (Tarbaj), Malkagufu, Batalu, Gulani, Quadama, and Danaba in Wajir North District., and currently lack access to basic social services like water, health, education as well as suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition. Areas people were displaced from include Leheley, Bojigaras, Burmayo, Ogoralle, Ber janai, Dunto, Gunana, Basaneja and Belowle.

Figure 1.1 Summary of Displaced of families’ in Wajir County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/ Constituency</th>
<th>IDP Displacement from</th>
<th>IDP Displacement to</th>
<th>Total HH</th>
<th>General Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burmayo, Ogoralle, Mansa, Harawa (Towns)</td>
<td>Tarbaj</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>IDP Camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kenya Red Cross
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Basaneja, Gunana, Dunto, Berjanai, Ogoralle, Mansa and Burmayo. | Sarman | 1700       | Major influx from 7 centres  
No shelter  
No designated area for IDPs  
Health – Diarrhoea, contaminated water from the nearby water pan.  
URT and Malnourished children.  
KRCS doing treatment, No staff at the health facility, 2 CHWs  
Food – GFD settled population – Aldef, Registration chaotic, Pri & Sec closed, Teachers ran away.  
Sanitation a major problem – open defecation.  
Market accessible. |
| Bojigaras 32 KM, Lehely – 9km | Kutulo | 490HHs     | Security meeting OC Army, Tension and anxiety,  
Chief + 12 key informants,  
Deserted manyattas in Lehely, construction of schools stopped, Sec girls schools closed, Pri. opened,  
No place earmarked for IDPs, Integrated + shelter an issue, No registration taking place, Health Centre – Staff, no drugs.  
Sanitation – Latrine coverage.  
Children and women mainly affected |
| Bojigaras, Lehely, Mansa       | Wargadud | 490HHs     |                                                                      |
| Eldas                          | Warade/K  
abadulla/Masalale | 2000HHs    |                                                                      |
### Burmayo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Countywide Coverage</th>
<th>HHs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wajir East</td>
<td>Wagberi, Wajir Bor, Argane, Arbaqeramso</td>
<td>Hodhan, El Adow</td>
<td>800HHs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buna</td>
<td>Gunana, Basaneja</td>
<td>Batalu</td>
<td>200HHs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wajir North</td>
<td>Belowle</td>
<td>Gulani</td>
<td>200HHs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadama</td>
<td>Belowle</td>
<td>Belowle</td>
<td>200HHs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danaba</td>
<td>Belowle</td>
<td></td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countywide</td>
<td>Pastoralist</td>
<td>Countywide</td>
<td>4000HHs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12140HHs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>84980</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### d) Access to clean water supply

The assessment revealed that the displaced households in Sarman, Elben, Waradey, Kabadulla, Tarbaj, Batalu, Quadama and Gulani are faced with acute shortage of safe clean drinking water as water trucking was the main source of water at the time of assessment.

#### e) Sanitation and Hygiene

Sanitation was a major challenge during the assessment in most of the affected areas visited during the assessment. Generally, latrine coverage is very low in most parts of Wajir County and the overconcentration of IDPs in some locations has overstretched the few latrines available. Latrine coverage was reported and observed as minimal. Open defecation is a major concern since most of the displaced come from remote areas where latrine coverage is less than 1 per cent.

#### f) Healthcare services
Access to health facilities for the displaced and injuries was hampered by long travel distances, lack of medical supplies at the nearest facilities and a fear of retaliatory attacks by warring tribes. In most the location that were deserted by the residents all health facilities have been closed, staff deserted and the few facilities that were operational lack essential drugs and were manned by community health workers (CHWs). Health facilities and dispensaries closed include Mansa, Dunto, Burmayo, and Ogoralle. During the assessment, the team found KRCS Medical Response Team undertaking mobile outreach and treating patients in Sarman and Tarbaj.

**g) Education affected by conflicts**

A number of primary and secondary schools were closed in the conflict affected and inter alia include; Kutulo Girls and Mansa Secondary Schools, while Primary Schools closed include Bojigaras, Mansa, Burmayo, Ogoralle, Ber janai, Dunto and Basaneja. Currently, over 50 per cent of primary school going children in Tarbaj District are out of school since their respective primary schools have closed indefinitely. This precarious situation further aggravates the situation and hampers the drive towards universal access to primary education.

**h) Shelter and Housing**

Following the recent wave of tribal clashes, massive displacement of population has occurred in Wajir County. A total of 230 houses were burnt, property looted and vandalized in various settlements where people fled due to fear for their lives. The high levels of displacement coupled with the razing of entire villages in some areas meant that families lost all household items necessary for a normal existence; the NFI kits therefore will allow for continuation of normal life activities.

**Fig1.2: Non Food Items (NFI) Kits needs for displaced Families in Wajir County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>HH IDP</th>
<th>NFI Kits requirement</th>
<th>Availed</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarbaj</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elben</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarman</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kutulo</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wargadud</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waradey</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Adow, Hodhan</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batalu</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadama</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
i) Livelihood and Food security

The perpetual conflict has also disrupted communities’ livelihood systems by restricting access to natural resources as well as markets, and further impoverishing the people. There are few opportunities for income diversification, alternate livelihood avenues suffer from lack of support/linkages, and this has led to the stagnation of incomes & unemployment.

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**Fig 1.3: Food needs for displaced Families in Wajir County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>HH IDP</th>
<th>% Food (per HH)</th>
<th>Tota amount (kgs)</th>
<th>Total amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cereals</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County wide</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS**

- Guaranteed security and need for a safe buffer zone between the two communities
- Immediate medical outreach for the displaced in the affected areas
- Immediate Provision of food and NFIs to displaced households
- Immediate provision of shelter affected households
- Immediate awareness creation, dissemination and support on sanitation
- Immediate need for Psycho social support
- Scale up disease surveillance prevention and control measures-diarrheal diseases, dengue fever, malaria and measles.
- Scale up nutrition surveillance in affected areas
• Peace initiatives/talks by bringing the two warring communities together
• Immunization campaigns and reproductive health to be integrated in KRCS Medical outreaches.
• Safety nets to address immediate needs for vulnerable food insecure households

**Recommendations**

**Short term**

• Security – guaranteed security especially along the borders and the frontier
• Nutrition Assessment - screening
• Food aid
• Shelter support
• Medical aid
• Nutrition programme support especially for the under 5s children.
• NFI s – Blanket, kitchen utensils
• Psycho social support
• Scholastic materials for OVCs
• Peace building and conflict resolution
• Cash transfers

**Long term**

• Security – Guaranteed security.
• Sanitation – sensitization and awareness, improvement in Latrine coverage
• Protection of shallow wells
• Shelter
- Food
- Health
- Water, safe and clean water
- Activate the contingency plan and implement the response plan.