



UNITED

NATIONS

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE vol. 17 April 24 - 30, 2008

Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Leaders tour Rift Valley Province to preach peace and promote reconciliation**
- **Talks on institutional reforms under Agenda Four resume**
- **11,953 IDPs in Turkana District need more assistance**
- **Government approves transitional shelter kit**
- **UN appeals for \$17 million for new arrivals from Somalia**

The information contained in this report has been compiled by OCHA from information received from the field, from national and international humanitarian partners and from other official sources. It does not represent a position from the United Nations.

I. General Overview

During their three-day tour of Rift Valley Province, President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga encouraged communities to reconcile so that displaced people could return home and farm to alleviate the looming food crisis. MPs from Rift Valley province have put forward their own pre-conditions for the resettlement and return of IDPs which are: 1) for suspects arrested for participating in the post-election to be released, 2) for those displaced from Mau Summit during President Kibaki's first term to be resettled and 3) the termination of the military operation in Mount Elgon. They feel all of these actions are unfairly targeting the wider Kalenjin community. Nevertheless, the visit is seen as a positive step as it shows the issue of return and resettlement is high on the political agenda.

Mediated talks on long-term constitutional, institutional and legal reforms, known as Agenda Four, resumed. The reforms aim to resolve the underlying causes of Kenya's political crisis. A Commission of Inquiry on Post-Election Violence will be officially established on 1 May, chaired by Kenyan Court of Appeal Judge Philip Waki. A draft bill to establish a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission is being finalized. The commission will investigate human rights violations, economic crimes, including corruption and historical land injustices, committed since independence.

The chairman and the treasurer of the outlawed Mungiki sect were shot dead on 28 April. Analysts believe that the sect is experiencing a power struggle over its leadership. As a result of these recent killings, the sect cancelled its first planned reconciliatory meeting with church and government officials.

Floods have displaced at least 38 families in Homa Bay and Nyando districts in Nyanza Province. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) is responding with blankets, mosquito nets, food, aquatabs, cholera kits, shelter materials and medical treatment.

II. Humanitarian Situation

Oxfam, KRCS and UNICEF have appealed for greater attention to be paid to the needs of 11,953 IDPs, most of whom fled to their 'ancestral lands' in Turkana District from Rift Valley as a result of

the post-election violence. An additional 15 families were displaced by violent rains in Lokori in Turkana South District earlier this month. The most critical needs are for food and medical assistance and the response so far has been slow. Ad hoc assistance has been given by UNICEF (non-food items), Oxfam, the Diocese of Lodwar (food), World Vision (blankets and mosquito nets), KRCS (635 bales of flour) and WFP (food for 1,300 IDPs).

The District Commissioner from Turkana has taken responsibility for providing food for all IDPs through the KRCS. The challenge is to target IDPs living outside of camps as many people in the district are food insecure. Camps are being formed to attract assistance. It is likely they will become a draw for other vulnerable groups seeking assistance. Family kits (blankets, mosquito nets, soap, cooking utensils), shelter, water and sanitation facilities are in short supply. For example, in Kanamkemer Camp in Lodwar, 2,144 people are sharing two latrines. A coordination body has been formed, comprising KRCS, UNICEF, Diocese of Lodwar, World Vision and Merlin, to assess and report on the situation.

A new Emergency Operation (EMOP) is beginning in Turkana District because of an impending drought. The EMOP is intended to cater for IDPs among the increased number of beneficiaries from 88,000 to 160,000. UNICEF is giving nutritional support to some IDPs through its programme for all children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers but other family members also need support.

The Overseas Development Institute, UK-based think tank, published a policy briefing *Crisis in Kenya: land, displacement and the search for 'durable solutions'* on 24 April. Its key messages were that humanitarians need to engage with land specialists to ensure that their programming does not exacerbate tensions and is consistent with efforts to address the structural causes of conflict. It noted that return, relocation and local integration should not be promoted as durable solutions in the absence of serious attempts to resolve land-related grievances. Durable solutions must also take into account IDPs from previous earlier waves of displacement. It identifies lack of data about IDPs outside camps as a "significant failing".

Security

Security in the country is generally good. There was one incident in Turkana District's Kainuk Division on 18 April, when a Turkana herder died after being shot by Pokot bandits who stole 200 goats. Security personnel are on high alert as there are fears of revenge attacks. Heavy rains in the district could cause Baileys Bridge in Kainuk Division to collapse. The Garissa-Daadab highway was closed on 23 April due to flooding. It has since reopened.

Uasin Gishu District is generally calm but on 20 April, two police officers died after the bus they were escorting was hijacked near Timboroa trading centre on the Eldoret-Nakuru highway. Tensions remain high in Mount Elgon and Trans Nzoia districts as military operations against armed militias continue. There are reports that property has been stolen from vacated houses in the Kapsabet area in Nandi District, indicating that reconciliation and return of IDPs will be a challenge here.

Population Movements, Displacement Trends

IDP populations are increasing in all major North Rift Valley camps as IDPs return to their home area from Nairobi and the South Rift. Some IDPs have moved from Naivasha to camps that are closer to their farms in Molo. In Molo's Sawmill Camp, the majority of IDPs told a visiting UNHCR monitoring team that they are not ready to return home but want to move to transit camps closer to home, such as Total and Muchorve, so that they can farm. The Molo District Commissioner reported that 70% of IDPs in the district are returning to their farms during the day.

In camps in the South Rift, like Nakuru Showground, populations are increasing as IDPs living in host communities are seeking humanitarian assistance and security. In Londiani Camp, some men requested government protection to visit their farms and to lead regular reconciliation meetings with their former neighbours.

	21 April	21 April	28 April	28 April
Region	No. of camps	No. of IDPs	No. of camps	No. of IDPs
North Rift Valley	41	77,588	41	82,418
South Rift Valley	79	49,575	70	51,981
Nyanza	15	4,294	15	4,345
Western	16	14,648	16	14,648
Central	9	1,958	9	1,958
Nairobi	6	2,608	6	2,608
Total	166	150,671	157	157,958

(Source: Kenya Red Cross Society)

IDPs Living Outside of Camps

There is as yet limited information focused on IDPs living with friends and relatives in host communities or renting or buying their own accommodation. Nearly all of the 50,000 IDPs displaced by the conflict in Mount Elgon fall into this category (they are not included in the table below). Generally, it is assumed that these IDPs have access to food and other essentials; these IDPs are often as “integrated IDPs” a description that perpetuates the notion that they are adequately catered for. However, recent malnutrition figures in Central Province

and increases in the number of IDPs coming to camps for food and other essentials have raised questions about this. The major impediment to assisting these IDPs has been the lack of harmonized and systematic registration which could facilitate targeting. KRCS and UNHCR will assist the government with profiling of IDPs outside the camps once they have completed camp registration at the end of May. A complete picture of IDPs, in camps and

Region	No. of IDPs outside of camps
Rift Valley	27,959
Nyanza	73,000
Western	20,000
Central	85,000
Nairobi	Not available
Total	205,959

Table 1: # of IDPs living outside of camps who have registered with the Provincial Administration.
Source: National Disaster Operations Centre

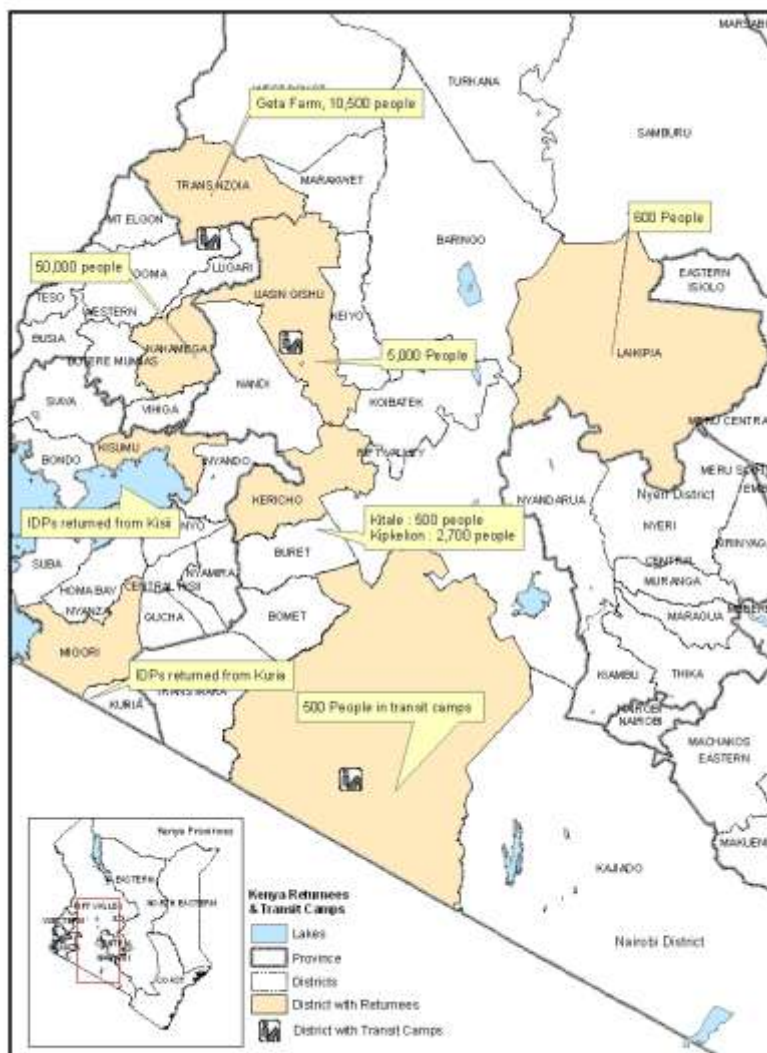
host communities, should be available by the end of June.

Nyanza is already one of the poorest provinces in Kenya and the National Council of Churches of Kenya described IDPs hosted in communities here as being “in dire need”. A local organization, Christian Women Partners, said many IDPs in Bondo District lack food and clothing and some shelter as they are forced to share with relatives. Malaria is also a problem. Similar needs have been identified in Kisii. In Western, camp populations have increased recently as families and communities face increasing difficulty in supporting the IDPs over a protracted period. The promise of compensation for camp residents is another pull factor towards the camps. In Western Province’s Kakamega, Vihiga, Mbale and Chakali Police Station camps, 174 of the 459 IDPs are living outside the camps but present themselves for food and non-food aid, UNHCR reports.

IDP Returns

Barazas (public meetings) have been organised by District Commissioner in Eldoret Showground, the country’s second largest camp, to involve IDPs in planning their return. The International Organization for Migration is offering “go and see” visits to IDPs in Uasin Gishu

District who intend to return home. The aims of this initiative are threefold: to provide IDPs with first hand knowledge of the situation on the ground so that they can make informed decisions; to enable humanitarian partners to identify the needs in return areas and discuss solutions; and to provide information to the government and partners so that they can prioritize their responses to aid recovery of IDPs and host communities. Plans are underway to visit Yamumbi, 10km from Eldoret town, and Nasianga, which is towards Noigam, some 40km east of Kitale in Trans Nzoia District. At least 254 people have registered to return to Nasianga, where houses are largely intact.



Return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
 Sources: IOM, National Disaster Operations Centre, OCHA, World Concern, Western Province Provincial Commissioner's Office; March- April 2008
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Another area of return is Burnt Forest in Uasin Gishu District, which has experienced repeated ethnic clashes since the 1990s. Many of those who were displaced during the recent violence moved to Nairobi and Central provinces. Some of the IDPs who remained behind moved into the damaged homes and shops that were not their own. IOM reports that the IDPs from Nairobi and Central are now returning home, forcing the other IDPs to move out. As a result, numbers in area camps are increasing. In Burnt Forest, around 3,500 people are in camps and 5,000 are living in the community and have been registered by KRCS and IOM. Registered IDPs come to the camps to receive food aid on distribution days.

On 26 April, an interagency assessment mission involving KRCS, UNHCR and UNOCHA visited Geta Farm in Trans Nzoia District in order to better understand the challenges facing IDPs in returning home. This is an area which has experienced a lot of return, although some IDPs have asked for a local primary school where they are camping to be turned into a transit camp as conditions are not yet in place for them to live on their farms. The team found that some areas, like Metobo village, were deserted and all the houses had been torched. Geta Farm borders Marakwet District and the Kisii community are scared to return home as they have not reconciled with the Marakwets. Last week, police reportedly recovered petrol bombs and other ammunition from Tugumo in Marakwet District, raising fears of further attacks. There is only one police vehicle available to patrol the area. The team will use the information gathered to advocate for conditions to be put in place to enable safe return. During the leaders' tour of Rift Valley Province, the government provided 17,000 iron sheets to displaced people who have returned to Geta Farm as part of their commitment to resettlement. A further 18,000 sheets were promised, as well as timber, nails and other construction materials. In Endebess Camp, the District Commissioner and agencies are planning for the return of 6,500 to their homes in Trans Nzoia District.

Security appears to be good in Narok where four transit sites have been set up by IDPs moving closer to their farms, in addition to the three existing camps. The camp population has increased from 1,500 to 2,000. Most of the inhabitants of the new sites are men who have left their wives and children in Central, Nairobi and Rift Valley provinces for the time being. Some IDPs have returned home without security escort.

There are concerns that IDPs are may be under pressure to return in some areas, although this is not official government policy. The Western Provincial Commissioner has urged the 5,200 IDPs in camps in the province to go home. IDPs in Busia said the main reason they are in the camps is not because of insecurity but lack of capital to restart their livelihoods.

III. Humanitarian Response

Camp Co-ordination/Camp Management

The government has finalized an IDP registration/ profiling form to be used for all IDPs, living in or outside of camps. The new forms replace the Level II registration form currently being used supplementing information gathered on areas of origin, resettlement intentions and property.

In Eldoret, verification is ongoing for previously completed registration in light of concerns that double registration may be leading to inaccurate figures. Figures for Nakuru North District are also being double-checked as the District Officer's latest figure of 11,294 IDPs covering IDPs living in and outside of camps is much lower than the previous figure of 31,000.

UNHCR Field Office Kisumu has compiled a database of IDP sites in Western and Nyanza provinces. Maps of camps will be posted on the CCCM website by 2 May. They will be updated monthly.

Congestion problems are largely being dealt with by the establishment of overflow and transit sites. Burnt Forest Camp has expanded and a new site has been identified to decongest Turbo camp. In Kirathimu Camp in Central Province, 229 people have asked to move to Naivasha Stadium but there is no space for them. They may be moved to camps closer to their homes in Burnt Forest or Eldoret.

Early Recovery

Cluster members have set up a peace and reconciliation task force as this is the main challenge for IDPs returning to their homes. It aims to improve and share knowledge of conflict dynamics at all levels; refine peace and reconciliation strategies; develop capacity building tools for all partners and mainstream peace and reconciliation in humanitarian and recovery interventions. The International Labour Organisation is looking at the impact of the post-election violence on livelihoods and formal and informal employment.

Following the leaders' tour of Rift Valley Province, the government is moving ahead to define its strategy for the displaced, led by the Ministry of Special Programmes. Return is the current focus but other options will also have to be considered. The government has mentioned reviving the Resettlement Fund, which was used to settle Africans working on white farms at independence, to buy alternative land for IDPs who cannot go home. The IASC country team and the government are discussing ways of increasing humanitarian, private sector and donor involvement in the development of the government's recovery strategy. The Ministry of Special Programmes plans to convene the first meeting of the Humanitarian Services Executive Committee to refine the recovery strategy and develop another one for return and resettlement.

Peacenet is finalising a training manual on peace building and conflict resolution which is the first step towards the establishment of a National Peace Initiative. Peacenet are preparing a report looking into the causes of the post-election violence which will be released in May. It aims to build thoughts around reconciliation and peace building at national and community levels. From 24 to 26 April, UNDP and UN Volunteers trained 40 peace volunteers to preach peace throughout the North Rift Valley area.

The government's National Steering Committee for Peace Building and Conflict Resolution (NSC) is establishing District Peace Committees in all areas affected by the post-election violence. These committees have been working well in the traditional conflict-prone northern parts of Kenya. They are headed by District Commissioners and co-ordinate peace building work. The first DPCs to be set up since the crisis began are in Nairobi's three districts where the NSC has trained members of Provincial Security and Intelligence Committees, police officers, chiefs, assistant chiefs to prepare for peace building work. In Western Province, 18 peace committees have been established. The DCs will share their work plans and fortnightly updates with the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration.

Education

While some schools are struggling to integrate large numbers of IDP children, agencies have found evidence that suggests others are underutilized. Arnessen Secondary School in Eldoret has a capacity of 500 but only 150 students are enrolled. Similarly, Saint Colombus Primary School and Foresta Primary and Secondary Schools near the Turbo Camp in the North Rift Valley also appear underutilized. As these schools are better equipped and staffed than camp schools, educators are keen to see more IDP children using their facilities. Some IDP parents fear for their children's safety while traveling to the host schools or worry that they may be teased or threatened at an ethnically heterogeneous school.

However, schools that have integrated IDP children report that this problem can be solved with psychosocial support and that new students are soon accepted by their peers. Cluster members are working with Parent Teacher Associations and school management committees to increase the enrollment of IDP children in local schools. While overcoming ethnic tensions is the main hurdle, payment of fees and the scholastic ability of the potential new students are also issues in some secondary schools. For example, Arnessen Secondary School is a provincial school which has traditionally enjoyed a high level of academic achievement and struggles to maintain that.

The cluster will finalize the development of a standardized assessment tool this week which the Ministry of Education will use in the field in order to gather information to develop a work plan for spending the \$22 million donated earlier this month.

Emergency Telecommunications

A WFP international radio trainer is in Nairobi to teach aid workers about usage of radio equipment, satellite phones, Global Positioning Systems and standard communications procedures. Free training is available until 16 May for users, drivers, security guards and radio operators. Contact Kamal.Ahmed@wfp.org to make a booking. After this, the trainer will be travelling to Kisumu, Eldoret and Nakuru to instruct field staff.

Food Aid & Food Security

WFP appealed for \$13 million to feed an expected 40,000 new arrivals of refugees from Somalia this year. Close to 1,000 Somali refugees cross into Kenya each week, with 12,000 having arrived in Dadaab camps into northern Kenya since the start of 2008. In mid-April, the camps were home to 189,699 refugees. CARE will release a situation report on the Dadaab in May.

In the North Rift, most farmers who are on their land have now planted. However, there was a false onset of the long rains in late March, while the rains did not actually begin properly until mid April, when most farmers planted. As a result, planting has been spread out over a long period of time and crops are at different stages. If the rains end early, there may be a poor harvest for the later planted crops, adding to food insecurity.

In May, the crops will need nitrogen fertilizer (CAN) to boost crop growth and grain development. Due to the current high costs of fertilizers, most farmers cannot afford them. FAO has funds to distribute one bag of CAN fertilizer to 1,700 households in May but requires more funding to assist a total of 10,000 vulnerable and post-election affected farm families in the North Rift. The government has reduced the price of CAN from 1,850 to 1,650 shillings and has promised to distribute fertilizers to farmers.

Nutrition

In Central Province, WFP and the government carried out a nutrition assessment and distribution in March, targeting vulnerable people like orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS. Malnutrition rates in Central are up from a baseline of 0.6% (Kenya Integrated Malnutrition Survey 2005/06 using weight for height) to 4% (Provincial Medical Officer using Mid-Upper-Arm-Circumference <110mm). This increase may be attributed to the problems related to hosted IDPs and/or could indicate food insecurity for poorer residents of the province as a result of price hikes. Still, rates of malnutrition are much lower than those found in northern Kenya. Humanitarian actors are monitoring the situation closely. Save the Children are planning to carry out nutrition surveys in Central, Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western provinces in May. The Centre for Disease Control is also carrying out a survey in Nairobi's Kibera slum. Further surveys are planned in October, which will enable a comparison with the May baseline. The government is encouraging people to bring their children under-five to health centre to be screened and receive Unimix supplements.

Nutritional surveys are ongoing in Moyale by World Vision, in Turkana by World Vision and Oxfam GB and in Marsabit and Moyale by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health. The results will be out from 5 May. The recommended blanket distributions of supplements for under-fives in Mandera and Turkana for next 3 months will be subject to availability of resources. There are plans to undertake nutrition surveys in five provinces including Nairobi. The survey results, due by early June, could significantly inform programming for food insecurity.

Training on infant and young child feeding practices and management of acute malnutrition by Kenya Medical Training College, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in the 10 arid and semi-arid districts will be concluded on 16 May. Similar trainings are planned for Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western provinces. Some 75,000 vulnerable people, including women, children and those with HIV/AIDS, are being targeted with supplementary food provided by WFP in Nyanza, Rift Valley, Nairobi, Western and Central provinces.

Protection

KRCS reports that the government's Children's Department and the National Council of Churches of Kenya are visiting Turbo Camp to address cases of child neglect by parents. In Nakuru Showground, five children were abandoned by their mother who is being traced by KRCS. The Children's Department is responsible for child protection and visits camps regularly. However, it is overstretched by the crisis and is in the process of identifying local partners to assist it. UNICEF and Save the Children are giving technical advice and training to the Children's Department and helping to set up a database with forms that list vulnerable children, protection concerns and action taken. Child protection agencies are promoting community-based care for unaccompanied and separated children, rather than them being placed in charitable children's institutions.

IOM has received \$504,000 from the Norwegian government for its psychosocial programmes.

Shelter and Non Food Items

The government's Resettlement Committee has approved the transitional shelter kits proposed by the shelter cluster. The kits contain poles, corrugated iron and plastic sheeting and can be constructed by IDPs themselves and can be made larger or can be reinforced with bricks for sustainability. Each costs \$300-400. UNHCR has procured 1,000 kits out of the 28,400 that are needed to cater for returnees from camps or the community who have lost their homes. The shelter task force will agree on a distribution strategy. UN HABITAT is working on means of upgrading the shelters into more permanent structures in case the government's plans to build three-bedroom houses for the IDPs are delayed. All partners are undertaking community assessments in their areas of operation and have agreed to provide the cluster with information on their intended areas of operation so as to map coverage of the transitional shelter project. This will facilitate planning, fund-raising and the identification of gaps. GOAL and UNHCR are carrying out an assessment for a pilot transitional shelter project for 200 households in Kipkelion in the South Rift Valley. Handicap International has distributed hygiene kits to schoolchildren and blankets and firewood to camps in Trans Nzoia District.

Water Sanitation Hygiene

During an assessment mission from 24 to 26 April, it was noted that there is a dearth of hygiene promotion pictorial materials, which will be addressed as a matter of priority. There is considerable defecation on the ground in most camps, which may be partly because there are no children's latrines. The construction of children's latrines is being recommended, with a smaller hole, a superstructure that allows users to see out and a handle to help children balance. The team also believes it would be sensible to reuse composted excreta, which are a valuable fertilizer, particularly given that many Kenyan farmers can no longer afford the commercial brands. In other countries, considerable sums of money have been made recycling in this way.

One of the main challenges is still the rapid filling up of latrines. In Nairobi, the government has persuaded Nairobi Water Company to empty the latrines. Elsewhere, the problem is one of space

as there is no room to build new latrines. This means they will have to keep being emptied. In five camps in Nairobi and Central provinces, the ratio of persons per latrine is not acceptable and excreta are visible outside the facilities. Where there is space for more latrines, they are being added. Where this is not possible, efforts are being made to empty them more regularly. In Donduri Camp, in Nakuru North District, there are four latrines and plans to build another 10. However, the fluctuating camp population makes planning challenging. In the last week, numbers increased from 600 to 1,500 IDPs. More latrines will need to be supplied if the population stabilizes. Additional latrines are being installed in Nakuru Showground and Afraha Stadium camps.

Water pumping equipment will soon be installed in Timboroa and Turbo camps in the North Rift. In Trans Nzoia, data is being collected to find out how to bring sanitation facilities in schools hosting large numbers of IDP children back up to an acceptable standard. Concern has been voiced over water quality in a number of locations. A residual chlorine test, which certifies there are no bacteria in water, may be the simplest solution to this.

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