

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KENYA: ETHNIC CLASHES

30 April 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 1/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Activities undertaken are aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross/Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

At least 15 people have died in recent weeks following clashes due to cattle rustling between pastoral communities in northern Kenya. According to media reports, the attacks have resulted in the loss of thousands of heads of cattle, sheep, goats and camels— which are the main source of livelihood for the affected pastoral communities. Residents of the affected areas, whose livestock has been substantially depleted due to the ongoing drought, say that the

¹ Kenya Red Cross Society- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=93>

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resurgence of cattle rustling is aimed at restocking the raiders' own communities. With the onset of rains and the rejuvenation of pasture, livestock now has a higher rate of survival and an improved market.

While these clashes are not a new phenomenon, there are fears that their escalation may spread into other districts and cause further complications. In recent months, the clashes have increased in frequency, intensity and sophistication due to the proliferation of small arms into various districts in Kenya. This combination has resulted in massive displacement of people, and thereby outstretching the communities' capacity to respond effectively. Thousands of people have so far been displaced by the clashes, sparking a spiral of revenge attacks that may last months if peace missions do not bear fruit.

In the absence of proper safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, shelter and food at their camping points, pastoral women and children become vulnerable to diseases and other hardships. With the frequent droughts that substantially depleted the livestock resource base, coupled with a proliferation of small arms, the entire northern Kenya region has been rendered extremely vulnerable.

Due to the prevailing drought, most of the Kenyan pastoralists had moved to neighbouring countries where pasture is available for their animals. Others would normally cross over to Kenya, particularly at the end of the rainy seasons (June and December).

On 14 April 2006, armed raiders looted thousands of livestock belonging to villagers in Sololo, Forole and El Hadi in Marsabit District. More families fled their homes in North Horr and Uran village in Moyale District following fear of attacks. Further raids that led to loss of lives, animals and property were reported on 16 April in Gorai village (22 kilometres from Dukana), Marsabit District. Residents fled Gorai village and camped at Galwar, Dukana and El Hadi towns. 73 of the displaced families (438 people) are now camped in Dukana, 57 families (285 people) moved to Galware and 5 others (30 people) camped at El Hadi. A total of 3,535 animals were stolen; 1,024 camels, 450 heads of cattle and 2,931 goats and sheep. However, 50 goats and sheep were recovered during a security operation conducted by the government.

Last year, the differences between the Gabra and Borana communities in Marsabit resulted in what is now known as the 'Turbi massacre', leaving 90 people dead and 7,500 others displaced. Though peace missions have been ongoing for months (with active participation of government ministers and members of parliament from the local communities), cattle rustling has intensified in recent days. The clashes came shortly after a plane crash that claimed the lives of 14 who were on a peace mission to Marsabit, including MPs from Marsabit and Moyale.

Similar raids – with similar consequences – have also taken place in Samburu, Baringo, Laikipia and Trans Nzoia districts, where thousands of people have been displaced and are currently sheltered in churches and schools. In some instances the stolen animals have been recovered during military and police operations.

[Click here to view the map of the affected area](#)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Samburu District

A rapid assessment was carried out in Samburu by the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) personnel on 9 April 2006. On 17 April 2006, KRCS volunteers assisted 1,539 displaced people with food at Suguta-Marmar Catholic Church. The KRCS also moved in to assist 15,000 residents of Loroki division of Samburu District, who were affected by cattle rustling. The national society distributed non-food relief items including 2,000 blankets, 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 kitchen sets, 1,000 jerry cans and 4,000 bars of soap. Food items distributed included 13.6 metric tonnes (MT) of maize flour, 1.98 MT of maize grains, 3.87 MT of beans, 3 MT of rice, 7 MT of UNIMIX and 1.8 MT of cooking oil.

Marsabit District

The KRCS also carried out relief food distributions in Marsabit. Items distributed included 31 bags of maize, 7 bags of beans, 50 bags of rice, 138 kilogrammes of UNIMIX and 34 cartons of powdered milk.

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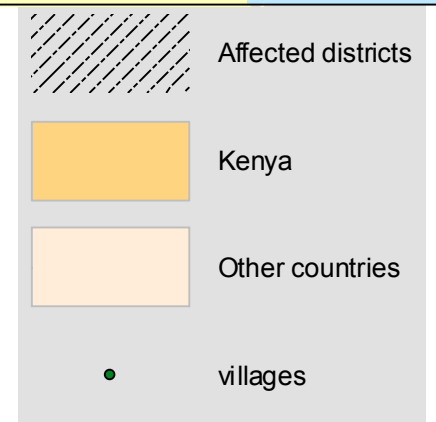
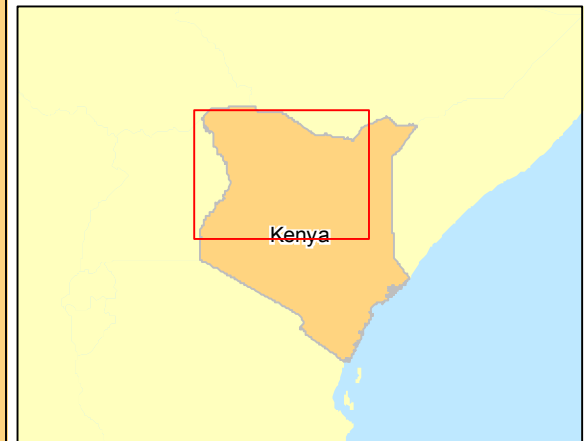
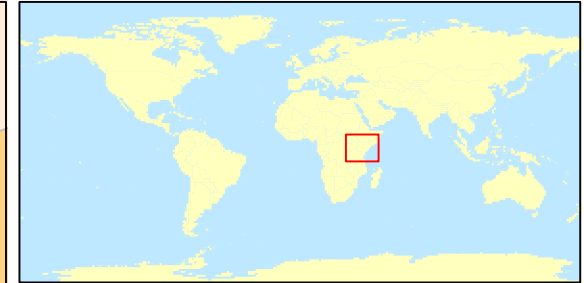
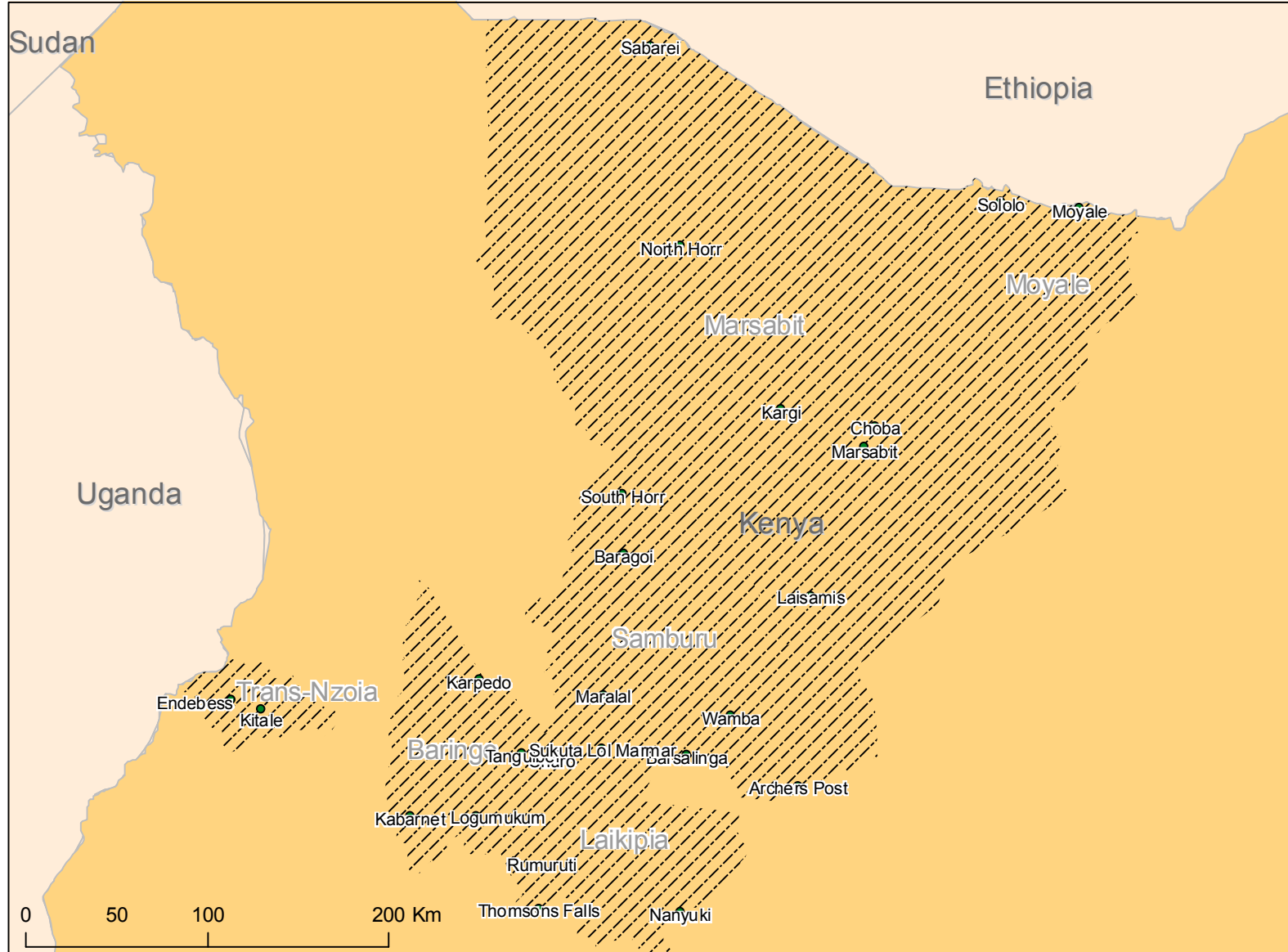
Coordination

The KRCS has been working closely with the local authorities in the affected districts during the distribution of relief food and non-food items. The Kenyan police have reassured the affected communities of improved security and have been patrolling the affected areas. Security operations have also recovered stolen animals from cattle rustlers and raiders. The government of Kenya recently announced that it will carry out a major operation to seize all illegally held firearms in the districts of the North Rift region. Several peace missions have also been sent to the affected regions.

[Map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)



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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation