

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kenya: Civil unrest

Information bulletin n° 1  
3 January 2008

**This bulletin (largely based on a Kenya Red Cross Society Information Bulletin issued on 1 January 2008, and available at):**

<http://www.kenyaredcross.org/highlights.php?newsid=61&subcat=1>

**is being issued for information only.**

**Responding to election-related unrest and violence, the KRCS is helping to coordinate the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance to those affected in the areas, cities, and towns of Kibera, Nairobi, Kisumu, Migori, Nyando, Siaya, Eldoret, Butere-Mumias, Busia, Kakamega, Sirisia, Lugari, Meru and Mombasa-Likoni, Kisauni, and Changamwe. The KRCS provided emergency First Aid and ambulance services to many of the injured prior to transporting them to hospitals. The KRCS conducted a helicopter assessment mission to Burnt Forest and Eldoret on 1 January 2008, noting that those affected needed urgent humanitarian assistance in the form of food and non-food items. Assessments are ongoing to determine the extent of the humanitarian crisis. Today (3 January), sporadic clashes have occurred in Nairobi, the capitol city, though there are limited details on the evolving situation. Reports indicate that the authorities have managed to clear the roads leading to Eldoret and the Uganda border, thereby allowing convoys to proceed.**

**The KRCS is preparing to launch a national appeal to assist some 500,000 people for 1 month with basic relief supplies. An international appeal is not currently being launched, but the Federation is ready to provide assistance to the KRCS as needed and if requested, and is discussing possible further targeted support with the affected national society branches.**

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

## The Situation

Following the announcement of the results of the Kenya General Election on Sunday, 30 December 2007, sporadic violence erupted between various communities resulting in considerable loss of lives, injuries, looting, destruction of property, and displacement of thousands of people. The violence has been attributed to political parties disputing the election results. Over 100,000 people have reportedly been affected or displaced, including about 10,000 people in Busia, 20,000 in Burnt Forest, 30,000 in Eldoret, 1,980 in KiberaNairobi and 720 in Bungoma. Over 300 people have been reported dead, and well over 1,000 people confirmed injured. The wounded sustained injuries from panga (machete) cuts, gunshot wounds and burns.

As tension remains high, there is continued displacement of people seeking shelter and protection in police stations, churches, schools and market centres. Thousands of people are affected in 19 areas including Nairobi Province (Kibera, Kawangware, Dandora, Mathare, Korogocho, Dagoretti); Nyanza Province (Kisumu and its environs, Migori and Nyando); Western Province (Busia, Butere-Mumias, Bungoma and Webuye); Rift Valley Province (Nakuru, Eldoret town, Narok, Kericho, Sotik, Kuresoi, Burnt Forest, Trans Nzoia and West Pokot); Coast Province (Mombasa in particular Likoni and Kisauni, Mtongwe, Changamwe); Eastern Province (Meru town and Nkubu); and North Eastern Province (Mandera Rhamu).

A number of towns were reportedly totally cut off due to barricades across many major roads. The roads from Nakuru town to Nyanza, Rift Valley and other key towns are thronged by displaced, impeding the delivery of relief assistance and essential supplies, including fuel to the neighbouring countries of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

According to local media reports, in Eldoret and Burnt Forest, between 35 and 40 people had died, including women and children, following the burning of a church at about 10:00am at Kiambaa area in Eldoret town on 1 January 2007. According to the Kenya Red Cross, 42 people sustained serious burns and were rushed to hospital, while many more remain unaccounted for. Over 20,000 people had been displaced in Burnt Forest and another 30,000 people in Eldoret. Hundreds of the displaced people sought shelter at the church when they were attacked by another community. A number of houses have been burned, and scores of people have been streaming into various churches, schools and police stations seeking shelter and safety.

Today (3 January), sporadic clashes have occurred in Nairobi, the capitol city, and in Bungoma (between Eldoret and the Ugandan border). However, reports indicate that the authorities have managed to clear the roads leading to Eldoret and the Uganda border, thereby allowing convoys to proceed.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The KRCS had put in place an election contingency plan prior to the elections, with over 500 trained staff and volunteers on high alert throughout the country. Over 40 light vehicles and 50 trucks are on standby. Major roads leading to Burnt Forest and Eldoret have been barricaded making it difficult for the Kenya Red Cross to deliver the much needed humanitarian assistance. KRCS personnel have assisted the affected people in Kibera, Nairobi, Kisumu, Migori, Nyando, Siaya, Eldoret, Butere-Mumias, Busia, Kakamega, Sirisia, Lugari, Meru and Mombasa-Likoni, Kisauni, Changamwe. The KRCS also provided emergency First Aid and ambulance services to injured people. Over 18,000 family sets are immediately available, to be used where needed. The KRCS is ready to conduct an emergency distribution of relief items once the road network is accessible.

The KRCS conducted a helicopter assessment mission to Burnt Forest and Eldoret on 1 January 2008, and noted that the affected people needed urgent humanitarian assistance in the form of food and non-food items. Assessments are ongoing to determine the exact extent of the humanitarian crisis. First Aid has been provided by KRCS personnel. Basic non-food and food relief items needed to assist those affected include blankets, bars of soap, tarpaulins, water treatment, aqua tabs, medical supplies, First Aid kits, and maize, beans, cooking oil, salt. The KRCS also has 18,000 family parcels ready for distribution when there is access. While external assistance in the form of an international appeal is currently not envisaged, the Federation is ready to provide assistance to the KRCS as needed and if requested. The Federation has available 20,000 blankets, 5,000 tarpaulins (with another 11,500 in transit from Mombassa), 10,000 jerry cans, 150 family tents, 20,000 mats, and 4 cholera kits in its Nairobi-based warehouse.

In Uganda, unverified reports indicate that a limited number of displaced have crossed the border from Kenya seeking shelter and support. The Uganda Red Cross Society is reportedly providing immediate assistance to those in need, and the Federation zone office is in touch with the URCS to gather further detailed information.

### Coordination

Effective coordination is taking place between the KRCS (branch, regional, and national levels) and authorities (district/local administration and national levels), UN agencies, NGOs, and religious organisations. The Government has deployed security forces to maintain law and order and asked Kenyans to maintain calm. The ICRC has placed one surgical kit at the disposal of the Kenya Red Cross in Bungoma and Nairobi and offered logistical support where needed. The ICRC maintains a regional warehouse in Nairobi with stock if required.

## How we work

***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.***

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

## Contact information

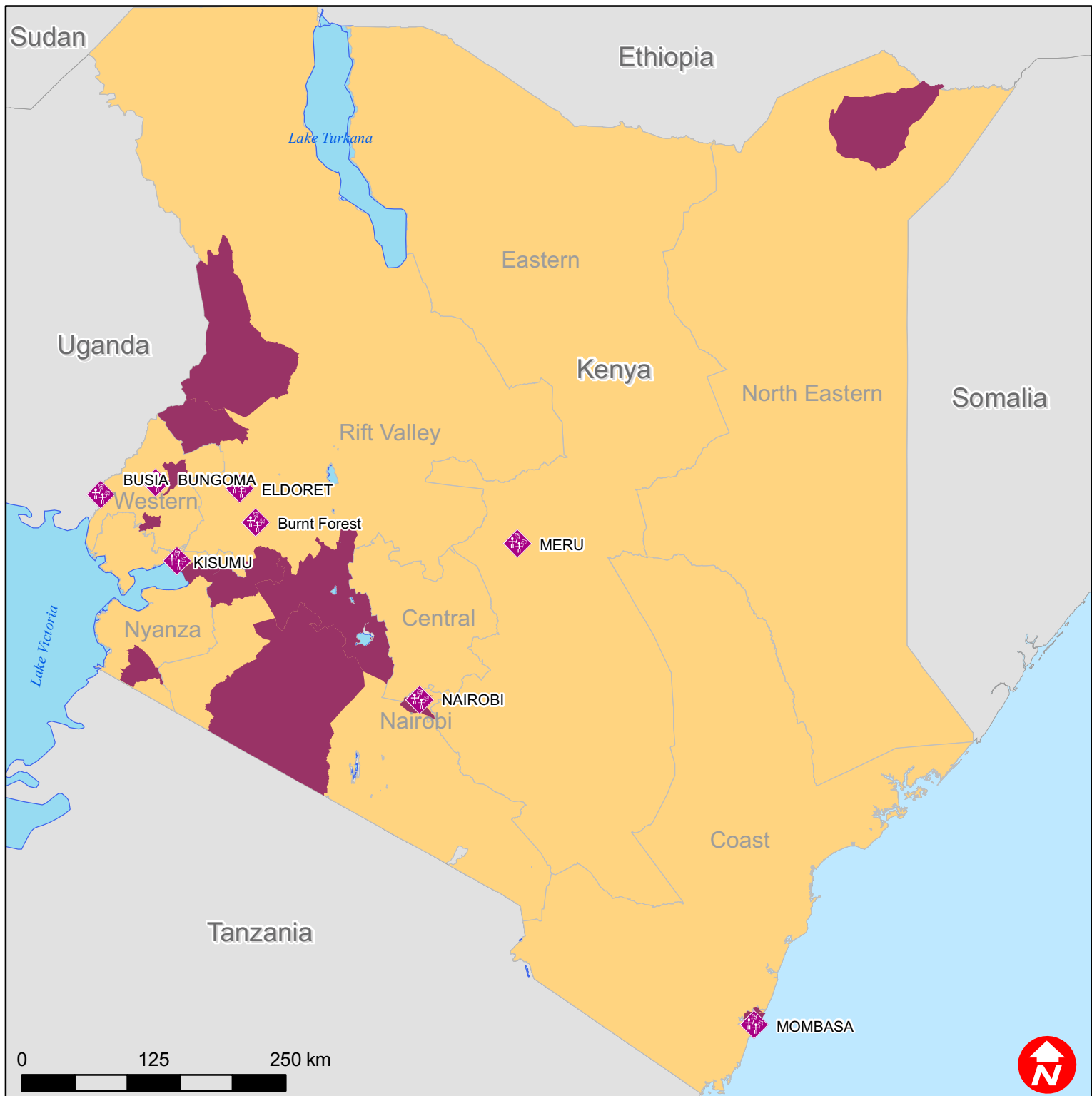
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**[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)**



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- People affected or displaced in cities
- People affected or displaced in districts/regions