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HUMANITARIAN UPDATE vol. 11 March 13-19, 2008

Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- **President signs reconciliation and constitutional amendment bills into law**
- **Government unveils US \$486.65 million recovery plan**
- **Ekerenyo, Keroka and Manga IDP camps in urgent need of aid**
- **IDPs in Mulot Camp, in Narok South, afraid to return home**
- **Revised Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan being drawn up**

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

President Mwai Kibaki signed into law this week the National Reconciliation Accord Bill and the Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill, setting the stage for Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga to be named prime minister. The new post is now entrenched in the constitution, along with two deputy prime ministers. On 18 March, the government unveiled a 31.5-billion-Kenya-shilling (about US \$486.65 million) recovery and reconstruction plan following December's post-election violence, which Kibaki presented to representatives of donor governments in Nairobi. The government has already allocated 1.25 billion shillings (about \$19.31million) for the effort and appealed to donors for additional support. These developments will help in the drive towards national reconciliation and recovery.

However, tension remains high in Trans Nzoia and Mount Elgon districts as thousands of people flee the ongoing military drive to root out the Sabao Land Defence Force, the Mooreland Forces and the Political Revenge Movement that have been causing mayhem in the area. Security forces arrested at least 1,000 people in the first two weeks of the operation though most were freed later. The Bungoma branch of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), working closely with local administration, is carrying out an assessment of the needs of thousands of displaced people, most of who are staying with friends and relatives in Cheptais Division.

As the Ministry of Health moves away from the initial emergency response, its Emergency Health Steering Committee is developing an early recovery phase to be integrated into the annual operation plans of the sector. It is likely to start dealing with the complex health situation posed by IDPs living in camps and host communities and by returning populations. One of the difficulties is to reach IDPs and returning populations dispersed in the host communities to offer medical services.

Protection monitoring and sectoral assessments have identified acute ongoing humanitarian needs (such as shelter, now that the rains have started, and food) for IDPs who remain in camps and with host communities, and for those returning home or choosing to resettle in another area of the country. Recognizing this, the humanitarian community is in the process of revising the Humanitarian Emergency Response Plan for Kenya. UNHCR facilitated an informal donor briefing in preparation for this revision, on 13 March. Seven donors took part in this briefing, with numerous representatives from the clusters, to discuss the strategies and the need for protection and humanitarian aid for IDPs until the end of 2008.

Given the fluidity of the situation, the revised response plan includes three scenarios, ranging from best case, to medium, to worst. No matter which holds true, Kenya will face a food security crisis through the end of 2008 and humanitarian needs will persist for several months. There are two main planning assumptions to consider. The first is whether the power-sharing agreement is implemented successfully or not. This will affect whether IDPs can go home or whether there will be new displacements. The second unknown at this time is the quality of the long and short rains, which will have a significant impact on food security. In the medium case scenario, other elements include the possibility of localized violence due to political differences and in traditional hot spots; limited return of IDPs from camps; IDPs outside camps seeking assistance, high prices of farm inputs and flooding in western Kenya.

The strategic priority is to support effective, appropriate and timely humanitarian aid to populations affected by post-election violence as well as other populations in need. This will involve provision of coordinated aid to and protection of IDPs and other vulnerable populations; promotion of community-based peace-building and reconciliation; increasing access to basic social services for IDPs and host populations; support for the recovery of lost livelihoods; strengthening national institutions; and addressing HIV/AIDS related vulnerabilities.

II. Humanitarian Situation

Kenyan NGO Girl Child Network describes camp conditions in Ekerenyo, Keroka and Manga, in Kiisi District as appalling. In the largest of these, Ekerenyo Camp, 1,329

displaced persons live two families to a tent. The congestion could lead to an outbreak of airborne diseases. Moreover, tents are flooded and cold when it rains, forcing their occupants to stand. There are no mattresses and each family has only one blanket to ward off the cold, a situation that could lead to pneumonia among the elderly and children. Camp committee members say they need 700 more blankets. Another 200 unregistered IDPs at the camp, mostly women, some of whom are breastfeeding, and children, have been sleeping on a veranda for two weeks, the NGO says. Women lack undergarments and sanitary towels. Conditions are similar in Keroka Camp, where there are 384 IDPs, over two-thirds of whom are women and children. In Manga Camp, a few of the 200 IDPs occupy a single building, but the majority – again women and children – sleep outside in the cold. The Kisumu branch of KRCS has agreed to act on the NGO's recommendations.

Security

Calm has returned to Nakuru, in contrast with previous weeks when tension was reported in the outskirts of the town. Police are deployed to most parts even though the curfew has been lifted. The Nakuru to Molo highway is safe except in the interior areas where police escort is needed. Molo is calm, with reports of rival communities returning to town, a sign of growing peace. However, the outskirts of the area remain tense with daily criminal activity. Illegal checkpoints are reportedly being set up along the Mau Summit and Narok highways, but police are patrolling the area.

Increased cattle rustling has been reported in Baringo North, Kipkelion (a town roughly midway between Nakuru and Kisumu), and Laikipia. Police have stepped up security and arrested a number of criminals. Elders of Kipkelion have convened a meeting with the aim of uniting rival communities in the region.

Security at the Nakuru ASK Showground IDP Camp is a problem because many different local organizations have taken control. There was no access control at the main camp gate until KRCS set up a security team formed from among the IDPs at the main entrance. One organization, the Patriotic Response International, has started conducting parallel registration and settlements of IDPs, making it difficult for KRCS to manage the camp. KRCS wants the government to expel all local organizations from the camp and give it complete control; increase police presence at the camp; improve co-ordination between the government and KRCS; the district officer in Nakuru to supervise the filling in of settlement forms; and for local church leaders, politicians and businesspersons to be kept out of the camp.

At the weekly Humanitarian Forum, Oxfam GB made a presentation on resettlement challenges, including weak security, impunity for crimes and ethnically based politics. It said that peace-building activities were an essential precondition to recovery and resettlement and for concrete steps to be taken to tackle the underlying causes of conflict. Social reconstruction requires dialogue among communities involving grassroots leaders (who need training in peace-building and whose experience should inform policy at all levels), psychosocial trauma healing and building of trust. Oxfam described the army operation in Mount Elgon as an unsustainable game of "cat and mouse". Resettlement guidelines have yet to be developed, including a definition of IDPs, given some 400,000 people remain displaced because of the 1990s clashes and pastoralist conflicts. A thorough analysis of IDPs is a necessary first step. Oxfam's view is that

political leaders should not rush the resettlement of IDPs and should include poor communities in the process. It said a funding mechanism was needed for planned peace-building activities.

Population Movements and Displacement Trends

By 17 March, KRCS had registered 258,396 IDPs in 249 camps and centres nationwide. Population shifts are occurring, which are signs of return or movement to safer areas, especially in Central, Western and Rift Valley provinces. Although the overall IDP figures in camps have gone down since the beginning of the crisis in January, they have risen in some areas. In Kisii District and Central Province this is because host communities are unable to meet the needs of IDPs who have moved to camps for help. In South Rift Valley, the IDP population in Burnt Forest is up by 1,500 due to returnees. Some have taken refuge in a local church, Full Gospel, while awaiting the allocation of plots at a new site in the area, while others have occupied deserted homes. Those in the Burnt Forest Camp, with a population of 7,519, are straining the provision of aid as they share the other IDPs' limited food rations. In Nyandarua District, some 70 km southeast of Nakuru in Rift Valley Province, there has been a 6% increase in the population, overstressing health and nutrition services. Three new camps have been set up for returnees in Bungoma in Western Province.

IDP numbers in the North Rift Valley fell by 26% in a little over three weeks although some camps are growing due to returnees from Nakuru, Naivasha and Laikipia. From 7 to 17 March, some 2,500 to 3,000 IDPs left Noigam IDP camp for Geta Farm in Trans Nzoia District. An inter-agency meeting, including the special district officer assigned to Geta Farm, on 19 March will coordinate a harmonized response in the return area.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that all 4,500 registered IDPs who had requested relocation to various destinations in the country would have been moved by 21 March.

Humanitarian Response

Education

Parents at the Ekerenyo and Keroka IDP camps are appealing for greater emergency educational opportunities for their children, the Girl Child Network says. In Ekerenyo, 15 children need to enrol in a secondary school but lack fees, uniforms and books, while eight disabled children are looking for places at local special schools. Parents are also asking for a nursery and primary school. Some of the IDPs at these camps who are teachers say they would teach if provided with materials. Schools in IDP camps and those outside hosting IDPs desperately need additional toilets, textbooks, portable blackboards, desks, tents, education and recreation kits, as well as funding. Gradually, aid agencies are providing furniture and toilets.

In other areas, some volunteer teachers, recruited to make up the teacher shortage, have walked out, demanding minimal pay for their services. The Ministry of Education is deciding whether it can pay volunteer teachers incentives.

On 16 March, training started for the first two groups of teachers in Nakuru. Over the next three weeks, 200 teachers from 100 schools will receive the training to enable them deal better with the needs of IDP children, raise issues associated with child protection

and establish protection procedures, improve emergency preparedness within schools and ensure that displaced children are better integrated within schools.

CCCM

On 14 March, KRCS and the district commissioner in Trans Nzoia announced that they would consider Endebess an official IDP site and transit camp that should be reorganized in light of the rains that have just started. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster meeting discussed how to overcome sexual exploitation and abuse in camps through training. Red Cross also committed to apply SPHERE standards for water and sanitation in the camps.

Registration

In Kisumu, during the Protection Cluster Working Group meeting on 11 March, participants agreed to launch a major information collection effort and introduce the joint registration forms developed at the national level by the government, KRCS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Registration observers from each agency are to be trained and sent to the districts to monitor and provide guidance in collecting registration data together with district authorities and NGOs on the ground.

In Nakuru, the Red Cross and UNHCR are planning a Level II registration at Nakuru Showground, following irregularities in the registration last week, on 20 March. The Red Cross has assigned staff to assist a team from Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development in identifying sites for mapping. The mapping team will begin with the Afraha Stadium and showground and plans to finish the task within two months.

In Eldoret, KRCS, IOM and UNHCR have formed a working group to streamline the registration in the North Rift and are developing a work plan to roll out statistics on a weekly basis. KRCS has been asked to find out about allocating additional land to IDP camps given the increasing camp populations. UNHCR has compiled site profiles for eight consolidated sites in the North Rift that will be used for camp management.

Satellite Camps

The Danish Refugee Council carried out a rapid assessment in the Molo region, one of the worst affected parts of the country. The main gaps were found to be in the provision of protection and assistance, especially in satellite camps. The satellite camps are generally very small and have been established spontaneously by IDPs in their search for security, usually near to police stations or churches. They are not planned so facilities are basic and receipt of aid sporadic. In some areas, early return cannot be expected due to security issues, while in other areas return may be more feasible. Discussions are underway with KRCS and UNHCR concerning the Danish Refugee Council's operations in Kuresoi, Elburgon and rural parts of Molo, which will focus on satellite camps and IDPs residing in the local communities.

Protection

On 12 March, displaced persons at Mulet Camp, in Narok South, asked the government to find them alternative land until security near their farms improves. The IDPs also need help to improve their livelihoods. Men want money to start small businesses while women are asking for skills training as well as business start up capital.

On 11 March, the first Protection Cluster meeting for Kisumu and Western Provinces was held in Kisumu. Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection and Non-Food Item (NFI) coordination focal points were assigned. Additional focal points for shelter and HIV/AIDS will also be selected. In Kisumu, World Vision International has contracted the Kenya Association of Professional Counselors to carry out counseling in Koru, Kondele Police Station, Muhoroni and the slums. The Amani Counselling Centre plans to facilitate training for primary service providers from the camps on basic counseling skills. The two-week effort began 11 March.

Child Protection

International Rescue Committee (IRC), an NGO, appointed a child protection adviser to assess the situation of children, youth and education in Kitale. The following concerns were identified including limited safe spaces and structured activities for children and youth in IDP sites; need for improved identification/tracing/case management practices, lack of coordination; need to prepare return sites conducive for children and youth with schools, shelter and safe spaces). The NGO also initiated a child protection coordination meeting.

GBV Sub-Cluster

UNFPA and UNICEF will begin a series of two-day train the trainers' workshops on sexual exploitation and abuse. The trainings will be held in Nairobi (18-19 March), Kisumu (26-27 March), Nakuru (1-2 April), and Eldoret (3-4 April). For more information contact Jennifer Miquel (miquel@unfpa.org) and Tracy Vaughan (tvaughan@unicef.org).

In Eldoret, to strengthen protection from sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and increase remedial support to survivors, the UNHCR Eldoret team and other partners are finalizing draft standard operating procedures on the prevention and response to SGBV.

A GBV Sub-Cluster statement on sexual exploitation will be posted on the humanitarian reform Website: <http://www.humanitarianreform.org/Default.aspx?tabid=521>.

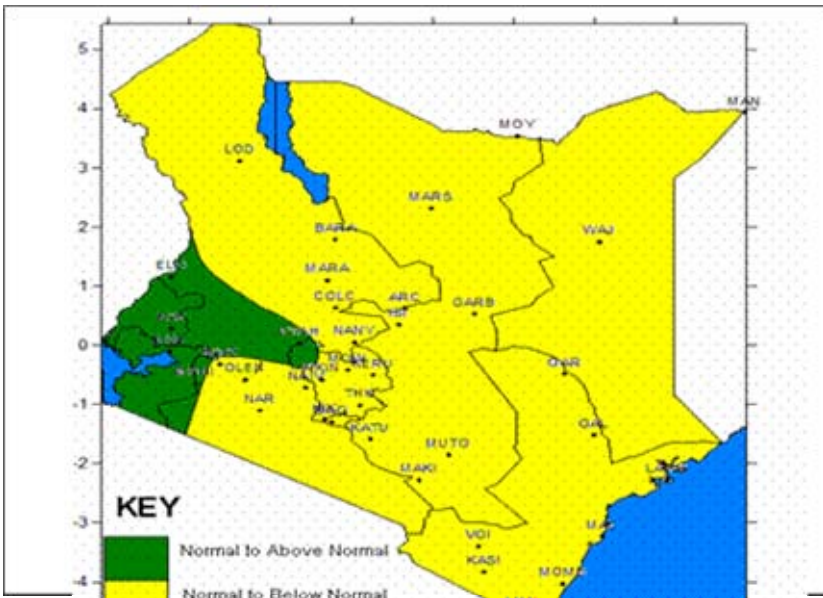
Shelter and NFIs

On 10 and 11 March in Nakuru, Shelter Cluster members, together with the Ministry of Housing, constructed a prototype of the transitional shelter project. The structure will help the cluster members test the technical integrity of the structure and identify the need for any improvements.

In Kisumu, during the 11 March Protection Cluster meeting, it was agreed that NFI distribution should only take place after consulting KRCS and verifying the proposed recipients' registration data. KRCS and the Logistics Co-ordination Committee are to coordinate NFI distributions.

In Kitale, IRC continued firewood collection and distribution activities for residents in the Noigam and Kitale showground camps. Three instruction sessions were held on construction of fuel-efficient stoves leading to additional construction of stoves in the camp. IRC also trained 15 church volunteers on safe and ethical distribution mechanisms, including the introduction of IRC's distribution guide and post-distribution monitoring forms.

In rural Nyanza, Danish Refugee Council distributed seed kits to the remaining 700 households it had targeted.



On 13 March, UNHCR distributed 1,152 packages of sanitary pads to 576 women in Mathare, Nairobi. On 14 March, 6,700 plastic sheets were sent to Nakuru and Eldoret for distribution to respond to needs arising from the rainy season. UNHCR evaluated the needs for plastic sheeting for flooring in preparation for the rainy season to be distributed in Narok through World Concern. UNHCR will need to provide plastic sheeting for 400 households.

Food Security

The Kenya Meteorological Department released its weather outlook for the long rains season from March to May. Western, Nyanza, North and Central Rift Valley Provinces are predicted to receive normal to above normal rainfall. Flooding is possible in Budalangi (Western Province) and Kano (Nyanza Province) while landslides are a risk in Western and parts of Rift Valley Province. Western and Rift Valley provinces and the Mount Elgon area are home to 191,145 IDPs in camps. Effort has been made in some camps prone to flooding, such as Eldoret Showground, with a population of 12,050, to ensure that IDPs are moved to higher ground and that drainage systems are put in place. Farmers can liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture on ways to make best use of the rains by planting the appropriate crop and maximizing yields.

On 13 March, a European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)-sponsored livelihood study was launched. It was carried out by six NGOs in September 2007 and found that the main 'livelihood' for the poor in Garissa, Wajir and Mandera districts was food aid. Many small settlements had sprung up because of dependency on food aid while poverty had increased.

A recent workshop bringing together stakeholders in agriculture reported on the impacts of post-election violence on the sector. Over 20,000 cattle were killed or stolen. The Rift Valley accounts for 53% of Kenya's dairy industry and livestock product losses in the North Rift alone were estimated at 338 million Ksh. Some IDPs escaped with their cattle, selling them for around 5,000 Ksh, a sixth of the normal price. There are currently 3,000 cattle in IDP camps, with little pasture and a high rate of disease infection. Disruption of supply chains and increased production costs (feeds, health services, markets, breeding programmes) has contributed to high milk and meat prices.

Food

Adequate WFP food stocks are in place in the four operational hubs of Eldoret, Kisumu, Nakuru and Nairobi in addition to GOK and KRCS stocks to respond to identified needs. The biggest challenge remains assisting hosted IDPs who comprise a big percentage in all districts. Local authorities would first have to register this category of IDPs before humanitarian agencies can locate and assess their needs. Further official guidance would be needed since the government has only given aid agencies clearance to help those officially designated IDPs.

Nutrition

Rapid screening shows that the nutritional situation is deteriorating among IDP populations. The number of children under five with moderate malnutrition increased from 6% to 9% between January and February. The nutrition sector plans to support 90,000 children aged below five years and 51,000 women in post-election affected areas.

Health

Supplies of health commodities through the Kenya Medical Supplies Association need to be speeded up because deliveries are two months behind schedule and, so far, only half of the supplies have been delivered.

Disease surveillance and outbreaks

As of 13 March, 435 cases of cholera have been notified with 23 deaths in the districts of Migori, Suba, Rongo, Kisumu East and Homa Bay. Investigations are still being conducted in Siaya. By 6 March, 331 suspected cases had been reported in Mandera, with 11 deaths, seven of which occurred in the community.

The Epidemic Technical Working Group, under the Ministry of Health, has initiated four sub-committees to take charge of issues arising from the cholera outbreaks in Mandera and Nyanza districts.

Health programmes:

The HIV/AIDS mainstreamed contingency plan is finalized and the focal point for Kenya Joint UN team on AIDS in the health cluster is Dr. Rex Mpazanje from WHO.

A training workshop in emergency preparedness was conducted on 10 March for the District Health Management team and international NGOs in Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia East and West districts.

In mid February, 160 barrels leaking nitric acid, which had been imported to Mombasa, destined for Uganda, were dumped by the roadside at Kipevu, 20km from the port. About 80 people have sought medical attention complaining of skin burns, miscarriages, breathing difficulties, stomach upsets and chest pains. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has brought the situation under control. The company responsible is being charged with negligence.

Logistics

All roads and highways leading in and out of Eldoret remain open and accessible. Traffic flow from Mombasa-Nakuru-Eldoret-Malaba to Uganda is smooth and without armed escorts. However, patrols have been intensified along the major roads and highways. On 13 March, the logistics cluster stopped tracking fuel exports from Kenya to neighboring countries because there is no longer any measurable effect of the post-election crisis on the volume of fuel exports. The Kenya Ports Authority said on 14 March that port operations are going on smoothly and that there had not been any congestion so far. However, it the authority said that a continued lack of trucks to load bagged sugar and wheat consignments would eventually cause a cargo buildup. As of

17 March, there are 9,556 containers at the port and in the next 14 days, 33 vessels are expected.

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