

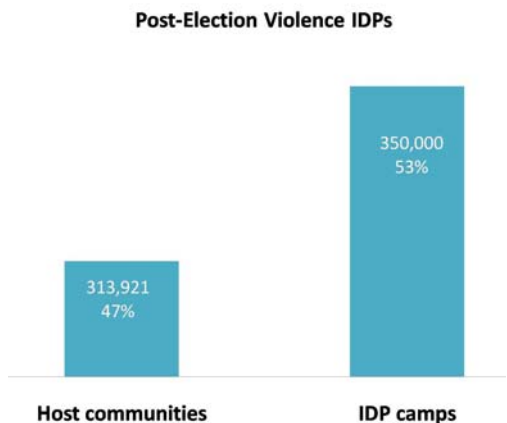
Who is considered an IDP in Kenya?

The Government of Kenya (GoK) uses the UN Guiding Principles on Displacement to define an Internally Displaced Person (IDP). According to the UN, “IDPs are persons or a group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid effects of armed conflict, situation of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border”.

Internal displacement in Kenya is attributed to five key factors :-

- Politically influenced violence
- Natural disasters (floods, landslides, drought)
- Cultural inter-clan conflicts
- Social/Communal tensions
- Climate-Change induced displacement

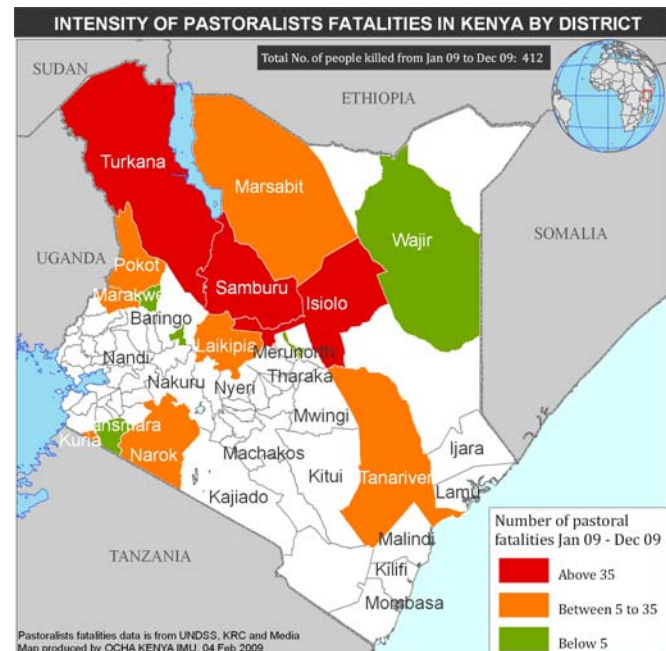
The announcement of the Presidential election results on 30 December 2007 led to widespread violence across Kenya. The violence which took on an ethnic dimension lasted for nearly two weeks and left Kenya facing an unprecedented level of displacement of its own people. The Ministry of State for Special Programmes, in its most recent update on the status of IDPs states that 663,921 people were displaced from the orgy of violence. Of that number, 313, 921 IDPs fled to host communities and integrated within those communities for months to come. The other 350, 000 internally displaced sought refuge in 118 camps. Thousands still remain displaced. An estimated 78, 254 houses were burnt countrywide. The government further estimates that 1, 300 lost their lives in the post-election melee. Furthermore, thousands of Kenyans fled to Uganda and Tanzania and became refugees. UNHCR estimates by October 2009, 1990 Kenyans were registered refugees in Uganda, out of which 449 have returned back to Kenya as at 4th February 2010.



The concept of internal displacement is not new to Kenya, nor was it only recognized after the 2007 post-election violence. The country is faced with multiple natural and man-made disasters that lead to displacements. Kenya’s yearly short and long rain seasons leave thousands of families temporarily displaced to schools, community halls and host family homes. In 2009, flooding in the short rains season (October-December) alone led to the short-term displacement of

58 000 people, according to the government's coordination body, the Crisis Response Centre. Whilst most of the displacements from flooding tend to be short-lived and temporal, the affected populations are recognised as internally displaced.

Inter-Clan conflicts are rife especially in pastoral communities and often leave hundreds/thousands displaced. Traditionally pastoral communities have practiced cattle rustling as a show of dominance over another tribe. But more recent developments in small arms proliferation, the commercialisation of cattle rustling, competition for natural resources as climate variability changes migration patterns, are combining to make conflict in these areas becoming more violent and frequent. OCHA's analysis into pastoral conflicts in 2009 estimates 412 people died from cattle rustling related clashes and nearly 9000 people fled their homes from violence in their places of residence. These displacements have been temporal in nature and affected families have returned to their homes.



The Mount. Elgon land clashes between the Saboot Land Defence Force Militia, the community and the military in western Kenyan that erupted in December 2006 led to massive population movement displacing nearly 45, 000 people in neighbouring districts as well as to neighbouring Uganda. Several hundreds were injured during flight or were caught in gunfire/matchete attacks. The IDPs fled to churches, market places or sought refuge with family or friends. Through efforts of the government and humanitarian partners, the situation stabilized after several months and most families returned to their homes. There remains an unknown number of displaced people in the Mount. Elgon region.

The eviction of illegal squatters from the Mau Forest Complex in November 2009 has left 12, 000 people displaced to makeshift camps in the peripherals of the forest. The government of Kenya is leading humanitarian support to this group of IDPs. In 2005, the government had also evicted illegal squatters from the same forest and temporarily displaced some 15, 000 people.

Climate change is contributing to displacements in Kenya. Whilst figures remain uncertain, several humanitarian missions to severely drought affected communities are indicating that families are becoming more and more displaced within their usual eco-systems because of climate variabilities and its impact on livelihoods. Pastoralists drop-out of their lifestyles and move to new areas in search of alternative economic opportunities. The most recent inter-agency mission, in January 2010 to the Maasai cluster by OCHA, IOM, ISS and UNEP revealed displacement patterns induced by climate change.

Who are the remaining IDPs? And what support is being provided?

(i). Post-Election Violence IDPs

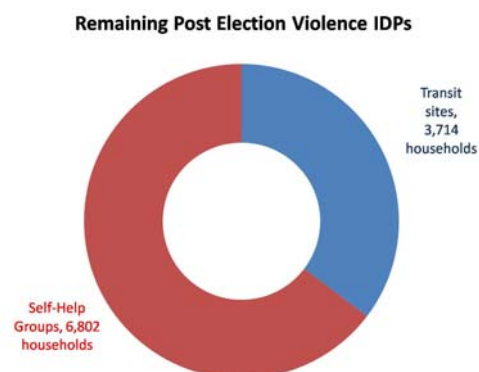
On 5 May 2008, five months after the election violence melee had simmered down, the Government of Kenya launched Operation Rudi Nyumbane (Return Home), encouraging the displaced to go back to their homes. Prior to the launch of the programme, several interventions took place on the political front. A National Peace Accord that paved way for power-sharing between the disputing parties was signed in February 2008, mediated by UN former Secretary General Kofi Annan who was supported by the African Union and other international organisations, which helped to bring some stability. A local team led by a veteran Judge Phillip Waki was mandated to investigate the violence of 2007/2008.

The National Humanitarian Fund for Mitigation and Resettlement of Victims of 2007 PEV was set up to support the returns process. The fund would help replacement of basic household items for returnees and support actual logistical movement. Every returning household was entitled to a cash payment of Kes 25,000 (estimated US\$ 350) for reconstruction of houses. The government states that so far, 38,145 heads of households have received this payment. Another 40,108 beneficiaries are yet to be paid. Humanitarian actors also provided extensive support to IDPs through distribution of Non-Food Items, food assistance in return areas, protection of civilians and support to education.

Operation Rudi Nyumbani has seen the return of 350,000 households to their homes, but many still remain displaced in poor conditions two years after they were marooned from their homes. IDPs who felt uncomfortable to return to their homes left camps after they were closed down to 'resettle' at Transit sites or formed Self Help Groups. Transit sites are often located in the centre of a farm area and comprises of many family plots (sahambas) and may cover several hundred acres. In many cases, IDPs at Transit sites are close enough to their farming plots but there are different security variables in various locations that impact on access to these farming plots for some IDPs. Some IDPs who chose not to return to their homes at all have formed Self Help Groups, by pooling their funds and purchasing a small piece of land to resettle on. This turned out to be unsustainable as families were squeezed on small parcels of land presenting challenges for accessing livelihoods, which is farming in most cases.

As at 20th January 2010, the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) stated that there are 3,714 households from the post-election violence living in 25 transit sites in three districts (Molo, Uasin Gishu/Wareng, and Trans Nzoia West/Kwanza). The families in Transit sites have access to their farms. Some families are still awaiting the Kes 25,000 government cash grant to return to their farms. The government is providing food assistance through MoSSP.

There are 19 Self-Help Groups, with 6,802 families that also require support from the government. The government has committed to purchase land and allocate 2.25 acres to each household and resettle these families in an eco-village. So far



521, 113 and 62 families have been relocated from the Mawingi to Salgaa (Rongai district), Nakuru North District and Molo District respectively. The MoSSP is working with the Ministry of lands to identify and purchase land. The Ministry has so far acquired 3,552 out of the required 17,000 acres for resettlement. Some 300 houses have been built at Giwa farms in Rongai at an eco-friendly village.

Shelter

The 2007/2008 violence led to the destruction of 78,254 houses, which were burnt down or vandalised. Shelter reconstruction therefore formed a key component of recovery efforts of the government and humanitarian and development partners. The government's Humanitarian Mitigation and Resettlement Fund provided cash grants to PEV returnees to support rehabilitation efforts. It is estimated that 38,145 heads of households received the Kes 25,000. However, contrary to intended actions, some households redirected their funds to other basic needs of the family (like education or starting up livelihoods) and never rebuilt their homes. Out of a total pledged 43,792 houses, 26,589 houses have so far been constructed.

The Government of China has donated 105,000 iron sheets worth Kes 200 million; the government of Morocco has donated US\$ 1 million; and ADB has provided Kes 1.5 billion for restoration of farm infrastructure and livelihoods. The Government of Kenya intends to construct 19,000 houses through IOM. Implementation has begun with 359 houses completed.

The Private enterprises have also contributed to shelter reconstruction. Royal Media has donated 3,500 iron sheets worth Kes 2.1 million in Uasin Gishu.

In the immediate aftermath of displacement, humanitarian actors that operated under the UN-led Cluster system, provided camp management support to IDPs. Tented shelter, accompanied with water and sanitation facilities were provided in the camps.

Livelihoods

The GoK, in partnership with development partners like UNDP and IOM have streamlined livelihood support to returnee families. The ADB shelter funded project being implemented by IOM has a livelihood support component to it. UNDP has partnered with the GoK to restore livelihoods of youth and women in the Greater Kisumu, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia and Nakuru districts. The three year project, starting in 2009, is pegged at US\$1.6 million.

Peace Building and Reconciliation Efforts

The coalition GoK moved quickly to address conflict resolution through national and district level initiatives as the country grappled with nation torn on ethnic lines. In finalizing discussions on Agenda Item Two of National Reforms, whose focus was on "Immediate Measures to Address the Humanitarian Crisis, Promote Reconciliation, Healing and Restoration", the National Dialogue and Reconciliation Team recommended the establishment of DPCs in all Districts. The DPCs were to spearhead peace building and reconciliation efforts in areas severely affected by the PEV. An estimated Kes 6.5 million was directed to 13 districts in the Rift Valley, Nyanza and Central Provinces where violence was rife in 2007/2008. The Early Recovery Cluster (now transitioned to a government-led sector Working Group), provided training on

"Two PEV returnees were killed in November 2009 in Karosei in the Rift Valley, in what is believed to be ethnically motivated disputes. The killings raised concern amongst humanitarian actors about the lingering ethnic hostility which has historical roots in central Kenya."

Humanitarian Update Vol 55

conflict management and peace building to provincial administrations. This was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Provincial Administration and Ministry of Internal Security.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) in the Ministry of Internal Security is now spearheading peace processes. An assessment conducted by the NSC in March 2009 on the Status and Needs of District Peace Committees indicate that there are challenges that need to be addressed in the functioning of the DPCs to attain long-term lasting human security. The assessment revealed among other things that integration of peace in development work is critical recommending that organizations should strive to mainstream peace building and conflict management in their programmes at all levels; there is need for peace education in schools to enable Kenya mould a peaceful generation of youth; and that there is dire need to engage the youth who have often been exploited and used in orchestrating violence. This also implies that the socio-economic needs of the youth should be addressed. The complete resettlement of PEV IDPs may be critical in 'healing wounds'. Resettlement should be done simultaneously with reconciliation efforts and peace building. The killing of two returnees in November 2009, raised critic on the lack of addressing root causes of displacement whilst encouraging returns.

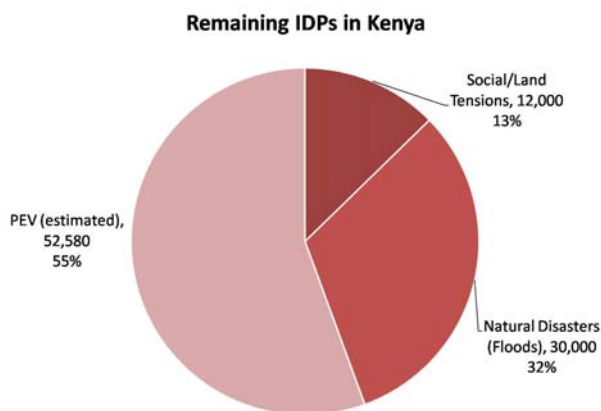
Note: For international response support to IDPs during peak of displacements, response was provided in 12 key sectors. Refer IDP Fact Sheet 16 July 2009 available on <http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya>.

(ii). Social/Land Tensions

There are an estimated 12,000 people temporarily displaced after their eviction from the Mau Forest. The government has completed a profiling exercise and leading the provision of humanitarian aid, supported by the Kenya Red Cross Society. Sustainable resettlement initiatives are being led by the government.

(iii). Natural Disasters (Floods)

The October-November short rains season temporarily displaced a near 30, 000 people destroying some of their houses and livelihoods, according to the Kenya Red Cross Society. Flood waters have subsided and most families have returned to their homes. Recovery support is still needed. UNDP and OCHA are working with partners to plan a Floods Post-Disaster Needs Assessment will address mitigation activities against future floods.



What are the key challenges for IDPs?

As stated above, most displacements wrought by natural disasters and social conflicts tend to be temporal in nature. However sustainable solutions for most IDPs in Kenya present common challenges in the following ways :-

Shelter: PEV IDPs in Transit sites and Self Help Groupd continue to live in temporary shelters. Most use tents that were distributed early 2009. Tents have outlived their lifespan, are torn and inhabitable especially during rain seasons. For Mau Evictees, there is no long-term shelter provisions made. In 2005, a similar eviction process took place.

Water and Sanitation: Provision of basic services in water and sanitation is almost non-existent in the remaining transit and relocation camps. Humanitarian actors are not providing support to these settlements after most official IDP camps ceased to exist mid 2009.

Durable Solutions: Addressing conflict resolution with the intergration of all human security components (livelihoods, physical security) remains disjointed.

Incomplete Resettlement: The delay in acquiring land for resettlement of Post-election Violence IDP in transit sites/ Self Help Groups is prolonging their resettlement, and increase tehir vulnerability. The delay for the government to pay the remaing 49, 529 households the kes 25,000 resettlemnt package provides a challenge for returns.

IDP Profiling: There is conflicting information on the number of remaining PEV IDPs. A publication by the Kenya Human Rights Commission dubbed "Out in theCold" recommends among other things, an inter-agency profiling exercise to determine the right number of remaing displaced.

For more information, please contact OCHA Kenya:

Jeanine Cooper, Head of Office, +254 (20)7625155, jeanine.cooper@undp.org

Patrick Lavandhomme, Deputy Head of Office, +254 (20)7625148, lavandhomme@un.org

Thandie Mwape, Humanitarian Affairs Officer/ Reporting & Analysis, +254 (20)762 5316, [mwape@un.org](mailto:mwapet@un.org)

Alfred Nabeta, Desk Officer, Africa I Section, **OCHA-New York**, +1 917 367 2649, nabeta@un.org