

**ChildFund International Humanitarian Situation Report**  
**Humanitarian Situation Report [03]**  
**[Conflict Emergency Response in Marsabit and Samburu Counties– Kenya]**  
**[Sept/Oct 2020]**  
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## **1. The Overall Situation**

The community conflict situation has remained fragile and under threat in Marsabit county and Baragoi area of Samburu County (new). The ethno-political instigated control of resources including land, pasture and water still poses a risk and potential for massive destabilization.

In Marsabit County, on 18th September 2020 Rendille community from Hulahula were attacked by unknown raiders in Marsabit forest where bullets targeted a boy-hit three livestock and killed one cow. Currently the county government and other development partners are holding peace meetings involving political, religious and opinion leaders from the affected communities to find a long-lasting solution to end the inter-community conflict/attacks. The national government also deployed a contingent of armed security personnel in all the affected areas to protect the communities. Despite reducing escalation of the strife, the presence of the security personnel has however led communities to being restricted from accessing markets and other sources of their livelihoods. There is a daily surveillance by the security agents within the forest where the attacks are being organized and perpetrated. In addition, the government is fast tracking the fencing of the forest within Marsabit Mountain, which is part of the national park, is hoped to bar the use of forest cover as hide-out for criminal and organizing community attacks.

In Samburu County, community conflict dates to the early 1990s. On the 16th September 2020, fresh escalation of the retaliatory attacks between Turkana and Samburu communities was reported, on 19th September 2020 an enrolled child was shot by the bandits as he was grazing their livestock near their homestead and he eventually succumbed. Three days earlier, a mother of another enrolled child shot dead by the bandits. Both incidences occurred less than 2 kilometers away from the Elbarta site office. The motive of the two killings were not clearly known, but points to perennial tribal conflicts in Baragoi, Samburu north. Further, a few days after the burial of the two casualties of banditry, on 29th Sep 2020, two people from Turkana community (an old man and a young boy) were killed in cold blood near Natiti village, beyond Baragoi River just three days after forty-three (43) cattle from Samburu community were raided by Turkana bandits. On 30th September, suspected Turkana bandits were repulsed by Samburu herders during a cattle raid. Following the incident, one bandit was killed and another injured. On 10th October it was also reported that a vehicle belonging to the Samburu county Senator was sprayed with bullets on their way from Maralal to Baragoi but without any casualties.

On 15th October, there was reported conflict in in Sagante Jaldessa ward, Jaldesa Location in Badassa Village - 20 Km from Marsabit Town. The incident left one dead and a number of cows stolen.

**2. Interventions by other stakeholders (National and County Governments, FAO etc.)**

Despite the periodic and sporadic inter - communal and cattle rustling incidents in Marsabit and Samburu counties, community peace meetings continue yielding fruits from the warring communities of Borana verses Rendille, Borana verses Gabra, and Samburu verses Turkana. These meetings are being facilitated by the National and County governments. Other NGO's like PACIDA and Kenya Red Cross Society are stepping up efforts to facilitate such meetings at the community level. Though tension is still on, this has led to the return of some normalcy, with the free movement of people and goods resuming. Joint security agents continue conducting vigilance and surveillance patrols especially along the border points of Marsabit National Park and mountain and in Baragoi. These teams comprise of regular police, anti-stock theft unit, Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), General Service Unit (GSU), and Kenya Wildlife Service. Patrols are also carried out along all roads in the affected areas.

**3. The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works and interventions by ChildFund Kenya through the Local Partners i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc.**

In the areas where ChildFund LP operates, families which have also borne the brunt of desert locust invasion (DLI) have been adversely impacted in terms of their livelihoods. ChildFund Kenya and its local partner, Nawiri Child Development Program that operate in Marsabit county in September supported 200 affected families using subsidy funds to procure food items. Each of the 200 affected families received 20kgs of maize, 10kgs of beans, 1 liter of fortified cooking oil and a 20-liter water container and 15 water treatment reagents of 100mls each. The LP supported joint peace meeting comprising of opinion leaders and chiefs from the hot spot location alongside child protection champions. A special County Steering Group (CSG) was organized to bring into play all peace building stakeholders to evaluate on the progress so far made.

**Beneficiaries reached with the interventions i.e. cash transfers, food distribution, farm input vouchers, trainings etc. please specify**

| Category   | Female | Male | Total |
|------------|--------|------|-------|
| Children   | 451    | 266  | 717   |
| Households | 172    | 28   | 200   |
| Youth      | 96     | 55   | 151   |
| PLWs       | 122    | 0    | 122   |

The CO has not been able to respond to the conflict in Samburu due to a number of factors including access and limited resources.

### Challenges

- The needs of the affected people are much more than what ChildFund Kenya and LP can meet as majority of the affected are not enrolled.
- The situation is further compounded because of the COVID-19 control measures that government has put in place as the displaced families are not able to adhere to the social and physical distancing in the areas where they have sought refuge.
- Vulnerable and deprived families with children continue to suffer significant damage to their livelihood assets coupled with the current disruption of markets due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The current normalcy is unpredicted, and conflict could erupt any time due to underlying issues and hence caution should always be exercised and the communities must also remain alert and vigilant.
- There is fear of the rising cases of child protection related issues due to disintegration of families because of the conflict and coupled with the extended closure of schools occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic.
- There is fear of retaliation of the Rendille people after several goats were recently driven away by suspected Borana youth in Hula hula. Though they drove the goats away with the herder, there is no reported death incident. Another retaliatory incident happened in Jirime about a kilometre from Marsabit Central Business District whereby a middle-aged man was shot dead by suspected Borana assailants. The matter is under investigation.

### Below Sections are for Internal Use Only

- 1. Security and Logistics:** Heavy presence of security personnel with armored vehicles has been reported around Bendera and Ngilai villages on mission to recover the stolen livestock and probably on disarmament exercise following the series of intercommunal attacks between Turkana and Samburu communities which have resulted to the killings of five people and three others injured. Community members are claiming to have been harassed by security personnel present in the area with a man and his son from Bendera village alleged to have been arrested and taken to police station for questioning. The ongoing security operation in the area has instilled fear to community members hindering them from moving out from their homesteads to look for food.
- 2. Partnership and Coordination:** ChildFund Kenya and its local partner, Nawiri Child Development Program, and Samburu Children's Programme that operate in Marsabit and Samburu counties respectively continue to collaborate with both county and national government officials and technical staff, other Non-

Governmental Organizations e.g. PACIDA and Kenya Red Cross Society, in ensuring that peace meetings take place.

3. **Staffing:** Ongoing emergency response efforts are currently supported by existing Country Office and LP staff.
4. **Donors:** To date, ChildFund Kenya has utilized Ksh1,686,310 (USD16,540) towards the community conflict emergency response interventions in Marsabit County where USD 6540 is from ChildFund Kenya Subsidy Discretionary Funds and USD 10,000 from the ChildFund International Emergency Action Fund (EAF).

### Sponsorship and Grants

| Sponsorship Area | Sponsored Children              |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Marsabit         | 887 (Female = 462 & Male = 425) |

| County   | Active Grant                         | Donor                   | Primary Implementer  |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Marsabit | Marsabit Community Conflict response | ChildFund International | ChildFund Kenya and Nawiri Child and Development Programme |

### Marsabit Community Conflict Funding

| Donor                                       | Amount USD | Program  | Status  |
|---|------------|--|---|
| ChildFund Kenya Subsidy Discretionary Funds | 6,540      | Marsabit Inter Community conflict emergence response | Distribution of food stuffs already completed. Peace and child protection and county steering group (CSG) meetings are yet to be conducted. |
| ChildFund International Emergency Fund      | 10,000     | Marsabit Inter Community conflict emergence response | Distribution of food stuffs already completed. Peace and child protection and CSG meetings are yet to be conducted.                         |

### 5. Media/Communications

- NDMA County Drought Coordinators
- Cabinet Secretary, Internal Security
- Office of the President through County Commissioners and area chiefs

### Plans for collecting photos/videos/stories, i.e. should an outside photographer be hired?

Normally when implementing such emergency grants, the officers in the field are provided with HD cameras for collecting quality photos and videos and providing success stories from beneficiaries who have benefitted and become resilient out of the intervention. The donor

at times can arrange for the outside media services to collect videos and stories in the form of documentary meant for visibility and fund raising.

- Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host government sensibilities that must be considered.

Being guided by humanitarian principles and measures, the information for visibility either by print or broadcast media must meet the threshold of the standards that govern it either internationally or locally.

**Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote.** The Country Office will need the support to raise more funds for the Marsabit community conflict response which is expanding to other areas to safeguard livelihoods of those affected.

**Photos**



September'20 Food Distribution to the affected families in Marsabit