

Community Conflict in Marsabit County Situation Report #1

Date: 23rd June 2020

Country/Location: Kenya (Saku Sub-County, Marsabit County)

Title of Emergency: Community Conflict Emergency Response

Dates covered by report: 1st June to 23rd June 2020

Country Situation Highlights

Marsabit County has experienced a wave of violent conflicts, mainly between the Gabra, Rendille and Borana communities. These resurging conflicts often have spread from across the borders of Marsabit County, though sometimes they are ignited within the county. These conflicts have continued to reoccur despite previous attempts at peace processes. For example, there has been community-led cross-border peace efforts, such as Maikona and Dukana Peace Accords that initially brought peace between the Gabra and Borana in 2006 but have not been able to hold for long.

The conflict in the area apart from being community driven by a combination of other factors such as neglect, suspicion, prejudice, and remoteness, is also exacerbated by inadequate, ineffective, insensitive and at times brutal governance by past regimes has left Marsabit's population alienated from the state. Although the promulgation of the 2010 Kenyan Constitution that brought in devolution has provided hope to the residents in terms of greater control of resources and development at county level, this has not been the case. In fact, it has brought with it a new set of problems in Marsabit and other northern frontier counties such as increased inter-community suspicion, political rivalry, and competition over fair share of government resources.

In the recent past, the situation has also been aggravated by the environmental stress due to climate change. This has put strain on natural resources, giving rise to new conflicts over water and pasture, as well as newly emerging urban resource conflicts such as competition for land for commercial purposes, control of resources through acquisition of tenders to undertake services. Additionally, poorly defined boundaries between communities (with past experiences of shifting boundaries) and the manipulation of community loyalties for political gain have further contributed to instability and inter community conflict.

Consequently, due to the factors and issues outlined above, many conflicts have broken out between the Borana, Rendille and Gabra communities between December 2013 to date. The frequent spates of violence in Marsabit as chronologized in the matrix below for the current violence that started in June shows that the root causes of the conflicts induced by competition over community control of resources is yet to be effectively addressed. As a result, these conflicts have continued to threaten the lives of thousands of vulnerable populations especially women and children.

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS OF INSECURITY IN MARSABIT COUNTY			
DATES	INSECURITY SCENARIO	DEATHS R INJURED	
8th June 2020	Brutal killings of four innocent teenagers from Rendille community in Badassa on their way to Songa.	4	0
10th June 2020	Following the fight at Horornderi area, an old man of 70 years from Gabra community was killed and about five camels were injured while the same day of 10th a middle age man was killed herding in Badasa from Borana community	2	0
13th June 2020	Four herders were killed at Jaldesa area where herders were grazing cattle. This killings were believed to be carried out by Gabra communities who are conflicting with Boran community over pasture and water points in Saku sub county.	4	0
22nd June 2020	2 High school students from St. Pauls Boys Marsabit and Sacred boys Isiolo were killed by unknown assailants in Dirip village while one survived with injuries while on a motorbike. The victims belong to Borana community	2	1
23rd June 2020	Three young adults (Rendile) aged 19,20 & 26 were ambushed by unknown bandits while riding motor bike and one was killed while 2 survived with injuries- Songa.	1	2

Photos

The photos below were taken during the food distribution exercise for the families that were affected by community conflict in Saku sub-county, Marsabit County. Traditionally for communities in Marsabit county, women are the custodian of food and therefore are the ones who are responsible for distribution of food and subsequent storage and utilization at the household level. They are primary recipients of the distributed food and non-food items. The photos depict different scenarios in the different affected zones within the geographic area of operation. The food and NFIs being distributed was bought using subsidy funds allocated by ChildFund Kenya to respond to support those affected.



• *Beneficiaries from Dub goba village receiving food items during food distribution*



• *Gima zone beneficiaries receiving food during Marsabit conflict-*



Willy zone beneficiaries receiving food and non-food items.



Thank you smile for the support - beneficiary from Gobodu.



Local Partner's (Naviri Child Development Program) Project officer Abdi assist in food distribution in Gima zone



Parent volunteer from Gima zone filling in beneficiary list.

ChildFund Kenya’s Response

ChildFund Kenya and its local partner Nawiri Child Development Program were among the first NGOs to respond to the emergency and assist families affected by the inter community conflict. ChildFund Kenya’s Senior Management Team approved the allocation of Ksh 686,310 (USD6,540) to be used to respond to the emergency. The funds that were used for community conflict emergency in Marsabit to implement the following interventions:

1. Distribution of dry ration food stuffs to 200 households

ChildFund Kenya through Nawiri Child Development Programme procured and distributed food items comprising of 80 bags of rice of 50 Kgs each, 40 bags of beans of 50 kgs each and 204 containers of vegetable oil of 1 litre each in the 6 zones affected by the insecurity. A total of 200 households as disaggregated as 172 female- headed and 28 male-headed benefitted. Each of the households that benefitted from the emergency respond received 20 kgs of rice, 10 kgs of beans, 1 litre of cooking oil and 1 water storage container of 20 litres.

2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Since most of those affected by the inter-communal conflict could not access water, ChildFund Kenya through Nawiri Child Development Programme procure and distributed 200 water containers of 20 litres to be used for fetching and storage of water. Each to the 200 households that received the food items also received the 20 litre water containers.

Target Households Supported

The 200 household that benefitted from the support were drawn from six zones of Saku Sub-county of Marsabit county. In these 200 households, there were 717 enrolled children who were affected by the conflict and thus benefitted from the support provides.

Zones Affected	No. of HHs benefited	Enrolled Children
Karare	40	85
Hulahula	30	120
Diga	35	112
Gobodu	30	90
Gima	35	180
Willy	30	130
TOTAL	200	717

SECTIONS BELOW ARE FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

1. Security and logistics

The security situation across the county is volatile as community clashes continue despite the government effort to reconcile the warring communities. The intervention sought was to address households affected by insecurity.

2. Partnership and coordination

ChildFund and its LPs continue to participate in national and county level emergency response coordination forums. Local partners are actively participating in county level steering groups charged with assessment, planning and implementation of interventions. ChildFund also works in collaboration with, government (County & National) other Non-Governmental Organizations and UN agencies such as UNICEF and World Food Program.

3. Staffing: Ongoing emergency response efforts are currently supported by existing Country Office and LP staff.

4. Donors: To date, ChildFund Kenya has utilized Ksh 686,310 (USD6,540) to response to the community conflict emergency response interventions. In addition, the CO received USD 10,000 from the IO Emergency Unit which is being used to reach more affected families.

5.

Donor	Program	Amount
ChildFund Kenya Subsidy Discretionary Funds	Marsabit Inter Community conflict emergence response	KES. 686,310
ChildFund International Emergency Fund	Marsabit Inter Community conflict emergence response	USD 10,000

6. Media/Communications

Spokesperson: Chege Ngugi, Country Director

Media contact: Awino Nyamolo, Communications Specialist

Languages Spoken: English

Resources	What's available	URL
Website	Media coverage of the drought situation in Kenya	<p>Daily Nation: Four Killed in Marsabit Ethnic Clashes https://www.nation.co.ke/counties/marsabit/4-killed-in-ethnic-clashes-/3444778-4804098-49nxsm/index.html</p> <p>MP Grilled in Nairobi over deadly ethnic Clashed in Marsabit https://nairobinews.nation.co.ke/news/mp-grilled-in-nairobi-over-deadly-ethnic-clashes</p>