

ChildFund International Humanitarian Situation Report

Humanitarian Situation Report [04] [Conflict Emergency Response in Marsabit County– Kenya]

[Aug 2020]

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1. The Overall Situation

Marsabit County has experienced a wave of violent conflicts, mainly between the Gabra, Rendille and Borana communities. The previous attempts to initiate peace processes through community-led cross-border efforts, such as Maikona and Dukana Peace accords that initially brought peace between the Gabra and Borana in 2006, have not been successful.

The situation remains fragile and under threat, demonstrating that ethno-political struggles for control of resources including land still pose the potential for massive destabilization. Many of the root causes of Marsabit's violence have not been effectively addressed and retain significant potential to erupt into violence again. On Thursday the 27th August, a raid was reported in Hula-hula location within Saku where goats belonging to the Rendille Community were allegedly raided by the Borana community who are neighbors, but endemic rivals of the Rendille. The security forces pursued and returned all the animals. There were no human casualties reported, but the situation is tense in the area, which is within our program's operation. Despite the tension however all our program activities are running smoothly. The field staff are monitoring the situation keenly.

In the areas where ChildFund LP operates, none of the enrolled families have directly been affected by the reported conflict. This is the same area that has borne the brunt of desert locust invasion (DLI) and ChildFund in partnership with the LP is responding to DLI emergency.

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

Inter community peace meetings continue yielding fruits from the warring communities of Borana verses Rendille and Borana verses Gabra. These meetings are being facilitated by the National and County governments. Other NGOs like PACIDA and Red Cross are stepping up efforts to facilitate such meetings at the community level. This has led to some normalcy to return, 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. These teams comprise of regular police, anti-stock theft unit, Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) and Kenya Wildlife Service. Patrols are also because 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, none of the enrolled families have directly been affected by the conflict. However, families in this area, 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 operated in Marsabit county has 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. Peace committees have also been mobilized alongside child protection champions for follow-up meetings scheduled for the third week of September. The government technical staff who will facilitate the meetings have also been notified and these meetings are scheduled to kick off once the government technical officers are available. A special County Steering Group (CSG) has been 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

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 shelter from.
- 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 exercise 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 as a result 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.

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1. **Security and Logistics:** Despite the ongoing joint security operations in the county comprised of regular police, anti-stock theft unit, Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) and Kenya Wildlife Service, the current normalcy is unpredicted, and conflict could erupt any time due to underlying issues hence continues affecting communities. The intervention sought was to address households affected by insecurity.
2. **Partnership and Coordination:** ChildFund Kenya and its local partner, Nawiri Child Development Program that operates in Marsabit county continues to collaborate with both county and national government officials and technical staff, other Non-Governmental Organizations e.g. PACIDA and Kenya Red Cross, 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 (USD16,863) towards the community conflict emergency response interventions in Marsabit County where USD 6,863 is from ChildFund Kenya Subsidy Discretionary Funds and USD 10,000 from the ChildFund International Emergency Response Fund.

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 meetings and CSG are yet to be conducted.

ChildFund International Emergency Fund	10,000	Marsabit Inter Community conflict emergency response	Distribution of food stuffs already completed. Peace and child protection meetings and CSG are yet to be conducted.
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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 to safeguard livelihoods of those affected.

Photos



Distribution of Food and Non-Food items in Karare and Manyatta Jillo



Beneficiaries in Karare and Manyatta Jillo receiving food