

**NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT
MANGEMENT (NSC) – CONFLICT TRENDS JANUARY – MAY 2011.**

The period between January and May 2011 has experienced a relatively high number of violent conflicts within the pastoral communities. Cattle’s rustling has been the main cause of confrontations within the national borders as well as cross-border. In the Northern and North Western parts of the , the Pokot and Turkana of Kenya have been involved in armed confrontations while across our borders, the Toposa, Nyangatom and Dassenech have been involved in the conflicts.

The table below illustrates the monthly statistics in relation to the conflicts.

Analysis January- May 2011 Karamoja cluster

	Number of incident	Death	Injured	Livestock lost	Livestock recovered	Cross border
JANUARY	4	2	2	178	48	4
FEBRUARY	2	1	6	201	0	6
MARCH	6	6	28	964	306	9
APRIL	22	4	40	2168	1500	15
May	12	25	3	3561	560	2
TOTAL	46	38	79	7072	2414	36

Data gathered from the CEWARN Field Monitors.

From the above data, the following can be deduced;

Livestock Loss

The data indicates that the number of livestock lost has been increasing gradually from 178 in January to 3561 in May. This entails a percentage increase 2×10^3 . While it is important to take a conservative approach when dealing with the numbers in question since the pastoral

communities are known to exaggerate the number of livestock lost, there are various reasons that can explain an increase in the losses;

- The drought has been intense in the region and reached its peak in April
- The drought led to the communities moving to areas with pasture and water
- In the month of May as the communities retreated to their homes as the rains had come, they went away with the host's livestock. This was the case in Baringo east and Loima.
- Still in the month of May, it was alleged that Turkana east recorded 1149 losses in livestock. This occurred when the community participated in a VSF-Belgium in conjunction with the Government livestock buying activity. It is alleged that as the livestock came together Pokot warriors easily made away with them.

Deaths

In all the months in question, the area reported a low number of deaths. January to April each month had a lower death to number of incident ratio. Within these months, the deaths have mainly involved the combatants at the moment of rustling. However, the month of May reported the highest number of deaths. This high number arose from a cross-border incident pitting the Turkana and the Dassenech of Ethiopia. Unlike the other rustling events this arose out of fishing as it is alleged that four Dassenech ambushed a group of Turkana fishermen. The conflict within a short period of time resulted in the killing of women and children on their way back to their kraals from buying food in Ethiopia.

Conflict escalating factors

The following have been the main drivers of conflicts;

- Droughts leading to pastoral migration in search for water and pasture
- The cyclic raids and counter raids in the name of revenge
- Competing business interests
- Malicious propaganda
- Availability of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) on either side.

Peace initiatives

Peace meetings were intensified through civil society organizations within the cluster. The larger Pokot area had a total of 23 peace meetings targeting the community. Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like World Vision, IRC and Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation took lead in the facilitation of these activities.

The NSC initiative in the formation and functioning of District Peace Committees (DPCs) through reconstituting and capacity building was a good move in laying grass root structures for conflict resolution. This bottom up approach has enhanced response in conflict hot spots in the cluster.

In the Samburu area of reporting fostering peace through sports programmes were rolled out to benefit Pokot, Turkana and Samburu youths. Peace race was organized to harness the potential of youth for peace. Youth and especially Morans have capacity to oscillate the mind and perception of the community, various peace actors in the cluster targeted this group in a bid to minimize raids and highway banditry.

Government efforts should be applauded. The role of Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit (CEWERU)/NSC in organizing peace meetings and involving the political leadership like the case of Toposa and Turkana (in Narus) coming together for a peace accord. This involved members of parliament for Sudan and Kenya.

The introduction of Rapid Response Fund (RRF) and Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is an interventional strategy that ensures early response to a conflict situation in the cluster. Some of the beneficiaries in the cluster are Community Based Organizations (CBOs) like Riam Riam, and Adakar Peace and Development Initiative (APEDI).

ANALYSIS /Current Situation

Analysis of Structural Conflict Aggravating Factors

Within the current reporting period the herders experienced security problems due to the cluster being non accessible. The cluster is prone to difficult terrain that inhibits movement and information sharing. Poor communication inhibits information dissemination and response.

The recurrent drought in the region has impacted negatively on food security and water for human and livestock. Sporadic rainfall patterns have only led to the regrouping of people over minimal intermittent streams. The border situation along the Kibish and Dassenech corridor remains volatile despite increased uptake of livelihood services between the Merille and the Turkana, there were barter trade activities going on. There is need for increased number of trans border community connectors to enhance individual and community interaction for peaceful co existence. This corridors need complimentary resource sharing ventures that will enhance inter dependency for sustainability of cross border peace.

It will suffice to mention the skewed national land tenure systems that aggravate intra conflict within the borders. Skewed land allocation came up as a cross cutting issue especially among the Pokot clans of Sooko clan of Muino Location and Psapan. The new land policy might be a more sustainable solution in minimizing intra community land feuds.

Analysis of Proximate Conflict Aggravating Factors

- Idleness
- Lack of education
- Marginalization
- Poverty
- Alliances – Samburu, Rendille and Turkana.

Analysis of Structural Conflict Mitigating Factors

The cluster realized intense peace programs rolled out by all the peace actors in the area. The NSC conducted an institutional strengthening of cluster District Peace Committees (DPCs) for conflict resolution and early warning.

There was beefed up security patrols across the corridor despite the difficulty terrain especially in Kibish and Todonyang conflict hotspots.

The area generally has had ample relief services through free food stumps by relief agencies like Kenya Red Cross and World Food Program.