



KENYA: MOUNT ELGON CLASHES

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 113,430 (USD 94,146 or EUR 69,906) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by October 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by January 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

According to the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), a total of 116,220 people (approximately 19,370 families) have been affected as a result of land clashes in Mt. Elgon¹, along the Kenya-Uganda border, that erupted in December 2006. The fighting between the parties in conflict has intensified, creating insecurity and population movement. Out of these, 15,870 have been displaced internally with another 2,000 and 1,500 in Bungoma and Trans-Nzoia districts respectively. A total of 253 lives have been lost -- 184 people died from bullet wounds and machete cuts. Another 69 people, mostly children, have died of malnutrition and other diseases such as pneumonia, malaria, and upper respiratory infections attributed to the cold weather. A number of people continue to nurse bullet wounds, cuts and burns in Bungoma and Mt. Elgon hospitals. Other reports say that some people have fled to neighbouring countries such as Uganda. There is thus a need to trace and re-unite missing family members.

The land clashes are concentrated in Kapsokwony, Tuikut and Kopsiro areas of Mt. Elgon District. The situation on the ground has been changing daily with more displacements being recorded regularly. Security forces have been deployed to stabilize the situation. The internally displaced persons are living mainly in market centres with their kinsmen or with relatives in nearby locations. Some have sought shelter in churches, schools, mosques and government institutions. Chances of families going back to their original homes are slim because of insecurity and destruction. Most residents have been left extremely vulnerable as their houses have been burned, food stocks destroyed, and their livestock and livelihood threatened. Some of the IDPs have sought refuge in Kapsokwony and Kaptama divisions within the district and in the neighbouring districts of Bungoma, Teso and Busia. Chwele, Lwandanyi and Malakisi divisions of Bungoma district and Tamulega division in Teso District are also hosting the IDPs.

Socio-economic effects: agricultural production has been hampered by insecurity, and food security is a significant concern. Over 9,610 hectares will not be cultivated resulting in the loss of approximately 192,200 bags of maize. Other affected crops are beans, Irish potatoes, onions and carrots. Some IDPs moved with their livestock to areas in nearby divisions causing tension in terms of grazing land. Over 30,000 heads of cattle have died, been killed or sold at cheap prices. Prices of foodstuffs have risen and productivity has gone down. Prices of charcoal, firewood and other essential fuels have also gone up. The IDPs are now working in farms, hotels and recreational facilities doing odd jobs, as well as begging to raise income for their families. Residents are starving due to lack of food and malnutrition cases have been reported.

Water and Sanitation: Due to congestion in the hosting division, there has been competition for scarce water and sanitation facilities, leading to compromising of hygiene standards. There are further fears of outbreaks of waterborne diseases due to increased usage of untreated water. The clean water sources are not accessible to the affected people due to the ongoing clashes and so the IDPs have had to drink or use unclean water from springs and rivers.

According to the KRCS, health problems among the displaced are likely to arise due to lack of adequate water and sanitation systems in churches, schools and government institutions where some IDPs sought refuge. The IDPs are likely to become ill and die from diseases related to inadequate water and sanitation supplies, such as diarrhoea and other diseases transmitted by the faecal-oral route, and through poor hygiene and contaminated water. Other water and sanitation related diseases include those carried by vectors associated with solid waste and water.

Health: There have been deaths, mostly among women and children, due to communicable diseases such as measles, violence, rape and other weather-related factors since January 2007. Malnutrition is rampant, following the destruction of crops harvested and food stores in the district. Overcrowding was reported in the households where the displaced people were living, therefore increasing the risk of the spread of respiratory, water-borne and contagious diseases. The existing health structural facilities are either facing a significant strain, or are inaccessible to the displaced people. The few accessible facilities are overwhelmed. The district Ministry of Health (MoH) reported an upsurge of malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory tract infections, malnutrition and other

¹ Mount Elgon is an administrative district in the Western region of Kenya. The district is located on the south eastern slopes of Mount Elgon with Kapsokwony as its headquarters. The district has an area of 944 square kilometres with a population of 135,033 people (1999 Census).

communicable diseases. The affected population has also been exposed to other sexual and reproductive health challenges.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The KRCS has been conducting regular assessments in the area to determine emerging needs among the IDPs and affected communities, distribution of emergency relief items and assistance to the IDPs. The national society conducted a health assessment in Mt. Elgon district between 6 and 9 March 2007. The Red Cross branches of Mt. Elgon and Bungoma have distributed maize flour/grains, beans, cooking oil, sugar, dried milk, biscuits and tinned fish, as well as non-food items such as family kits, blankets, drugs, sanitary towels, jerricans, assorted clothes and baby kits to the affected communities. However, local capacities including KRCS resources have been exhausted following prolonged vulnerability resulting from the fighting.

The KRCS handed over medical equipment and other medical supplies to the district hospitals to facilitate continued health service provision by the MOH. The health team managed to distribute over 50,000 Aqua tabs and over 500 sachets of water purifiers to 1,000 families in the affected areas in Trans-Nzoia district. Prior to the water purifiers' distribution exercise, the health team carried out an intensive social mobilization exercise in Saboti division. The team exploited the existing network of Ministry of Health public health personnel on the ground to intensify social mobilization. Demonstrations on the proper use of water purifiers were carried out, as well as health talks and hygiene promotion. The team delivered health education to over 2,000 people during the medical camps held in 5 centres.

The KRCS deployed a Basic Health Unit in Mt. Elgon on 13 April 2007, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, to provide health care to the affected population in parts of the district where routine health services were inaccessible. The Basic Health Unit was split into two semi mobile clinics; firstly, the Basic Health Care unit provided health services based on the primary health care framework; secondly, the health care unit primarily targeted IDPs at market places and other places of refuge. The host communities formed the secondary beneficiaries.

The health teams comprised of local volunteers drawn from the affected communities and health professionals from Mt. Elgon, Bungoma and Trans-Nzoia districts. The operation continued for a period of 8 weeks, serving IDPs distributed throughout Mt. Elgon district and those who spilled over to the neighbouring Bungoma and Trans-Nzoia district. The teams provided curative and preventive/promotion health services through 42 treatment centres. A total of 18,658 patients were treated through the two semi mobile clinics. Patients included mostly pregnant women and children under five years old. The preventive and promotion services focused on health education on practical methods of preventing disease transmission and promotion of hygiene and sanitation.

Common conditions treated were respiratory tract infections, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, skin diseases and intestinal worms. A high percentage of health service consumers were women and children, reflecting their susceptibility in emergencies. In addition to out-patient and growth monitoring services, child vaccinations, health education and promotion, ante natal care, vitamin A supplementation and HIV counselling and testing services were also provided. The team conducted group counselling and filtered those who were ready for testing. The team then organized follow-up services for the clients who turned out to be HIV positive. A total of 1,231 adults were tested out of which 39 were found to be HIV positive. This represented 3.17 percent of all those tested.

Proposed Plan of Action

The KRCS has a contingency stock of NFIs in its warehouses for at least 15,000 families, part of which it wishes to distribute to the affected communities. The Government of Kenya has provided food for six months which the KRCS intends to distribute to the affected communities. The KRCS thus seeks DREF support in order to meet the logistical requirements of transporting this relief aid to the affected families in Mt. Elgon.

Objective 1: To provide logistical support for transportation and warehousing of food and non-food items for at least 40,000 people for 4 months within the clashes-affected district.

Expected result: Identified food and non food items reach the targeted beneficiaries in a timely manner.

Activities:

- Primary and secondary transportation of food and non-food items.
- Distribution of food and non-food items.
- Transportation of personnel and volunteers.

Capacity of the National Society

Bungoma Branch is assisting Mt. Elgon Branch with the relief response. Through this intervention, as well as training sessions, the Branch will be equipped sufficiently to carry out detailed assessments and response in future interventions. The networking with other stakeholders and the government will also be improved through this intervention.

Partnership and Coordination

The National Society has been attending the Mt. Elgon District Steering Group (DSG) coordination meetings. A security operation by the Government of Kenya is ongoing in Mt. Elgon to quell further clashes between the warring communities. Mt. Elgon and Bungoma Branches are working closely with the local administration to ensure that relief supplies are distributed effectively to the affected communities and IDPs.

World Health Organisation provided financial resources that were used in paying health workers and volunteers, as well as in purchasing drugs. These resources were made available from the third week of operation. The Academic Module for Prevention and Treatment of HIV (AMPATH) provided counselling services and HIV testing in the semi mobile clinics. UNICEF donated 2,000 family kits, water emergency sanitation equipment and 100 education kits. UNICEF also donated Therapeutic Nutrition Formulas that were used in cases of severely malnourished children admitted at Mt. Elgon District Hospital. ICRC donated 14,735 litres of cooking oil, 1,000 kitchen sets, 40 bales of sleeping mats, 60 bales of Kanga clothes, 200 bales of tarpaulins, 67 boxes of jerrycans, 80 cartons of bar soap and 50 cartons of buckets. The National Society's Water and Sanitation team received plastic water storage tanks and mobilelets from UNICEF which were distributed to schools in the districts, especially those that were affected by influx of students due to the clashes.

The Government of Kenya donated food that was distributed by the National Society since January 2007. The government has committed to support relief efforts in Mt. Elgon as may be requested by the National Society following any assessment mission. 1,000 cartons of powdered milk from the Office of the President have already been delivered for distribution in the month of June. Peace meetings are ongoing through government initiatives and reconciliation initiatives by the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK). The Ministry of Health provided a strong and reliable back up in the provision of health services during the entire period. The ministry provided a team of health workers including clinical officers, pharmacists/ pharmaceutical technologists, nurses, nutritionists and public health officers in addition to drugs and other consumables. In Mt. Elgon, the ministry provided a vehicle and fuel, which was used in the entire exercise within the district and parts of Bungoma.

Chemsagen Radio Station donated 65 bags of maize, 17 bales of assorted clothes and 4 bales of salt. Medecins Sans Frontiers provided health services through semi mobile clinics. Organizations that have also supported through the National Society include; World Vision, ICRC, Rural Women Peace Link, St. Lukes ACK Kitale, Calvary church USA, Lukes Foundation, KADDU and NCCCK.

Communication and Advocacy

The National Society has issued six Information Bulletins on Mt. Elgon, which have been shared widely and posted onto its Website. The National Society has also facilitated media visits to Mt. Elgon. The National Society will continue to share information further with partners, stakeholders and the media on the Mt. Elgon crisis.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Field officers will be based in Mt. Elgon. Headquarters programme officers will also boost the Branch during the intervention through monthly monitoring visits, or as per the need. Operational updates, challenges and lessons learnt will be circulated to all partners and stakeholders. The monitoring and evaluation will be participatory where the community members will be actively involved in accessing the impact of the intervention.

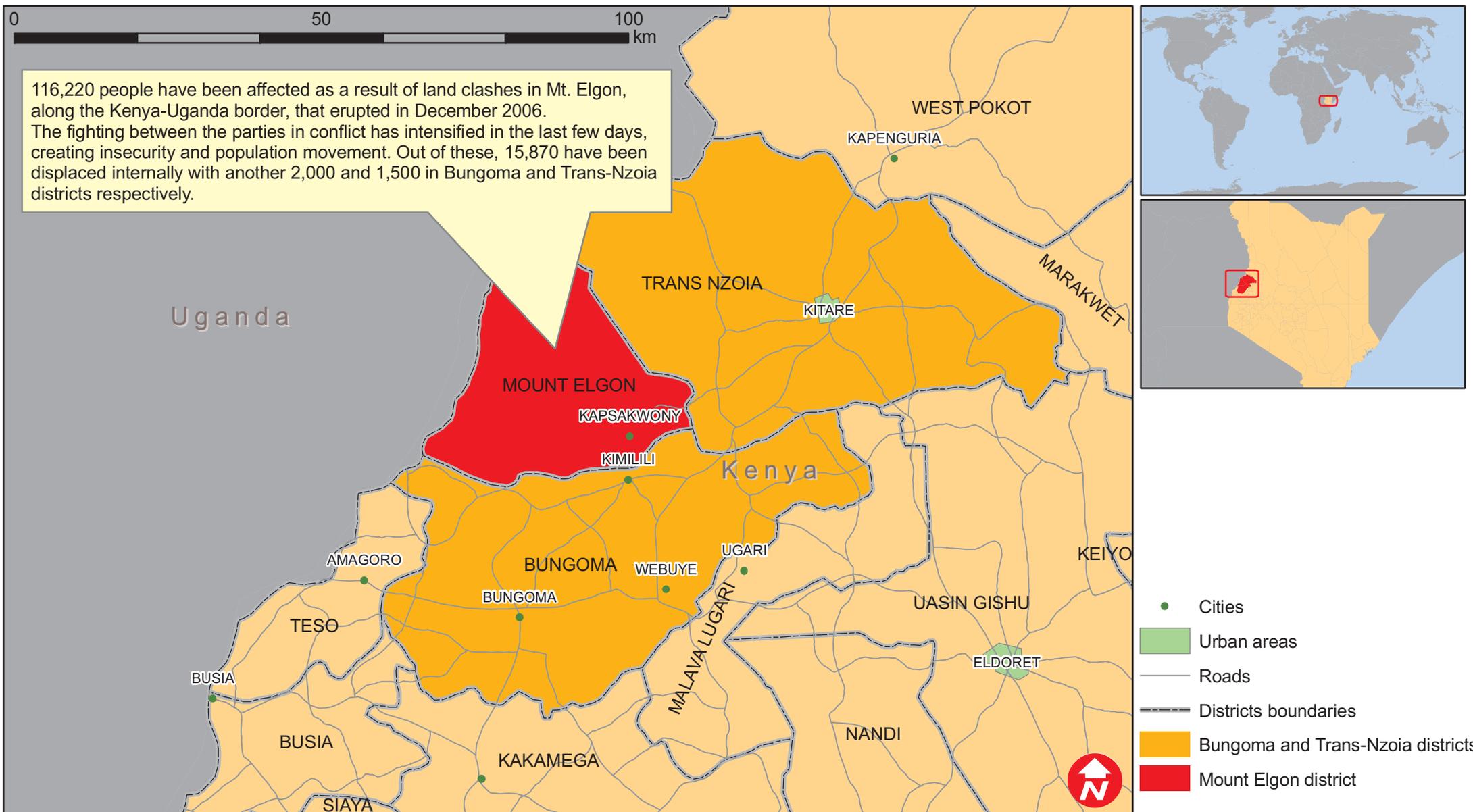
Budget.

KENYA RED CROSS SOCIETY - KENYA MT. ELGON DREF BUDGET – 2007							
ASSISTANCE TO 40,000 BENEFICIARIES IN MT. ELGON FOR FOUR (4) MONTHS							
	Activities	Description of Inputs	Unit	Qty	Unit Cost	Appeal Total Cost (Ksh)	Total Cost CHF
1	Logistics and Warehousing	Transport of food items	mtns	4,000	1,000	4,000,000	74,349
		Handling costs	mtns	4,000	200	800,000	14,870
		Perdiem HQ Officer (1xKsh5,500x4nights*4=Ksh22,000)	Months	4	22,000	88,000	1,636
		Relief Volunteers (12volunteers*Ksh300*4mths)	pax	12	36,000	432,000	8,030
		Guard/Watchman	pax	4	13,497	53,988	1,003
		Warehouse Assistants	pax	2	16,644	33,288	619
		Logistics and Warehousing Sub Total				5,407,276	100,507
	NS Admin Costs						5,000
	RDN support cost						1,000
		SUB TOTAL					106,507
	PSR						6,923
		GRAND TOTAL					113,430

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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation