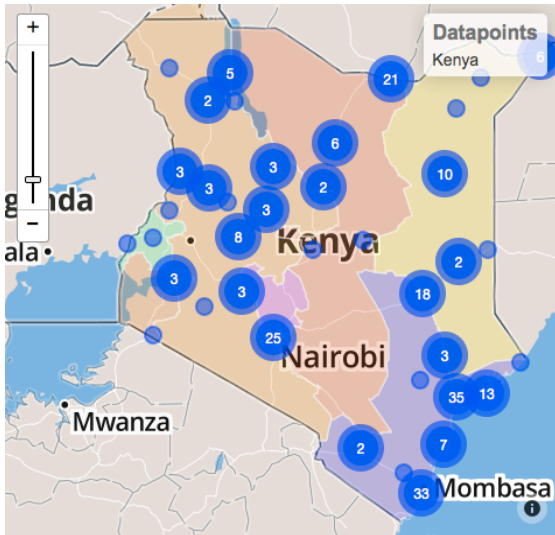


# Kenya Situation of Concern: Sentinel Project Monthly Report August 2014



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## 1.0 Executive Summary

Unrest has been experienced in northern Kenya due to multiple incidents of inter-ethnic clashes and terror attacks. This has not received public attention in comparison to recent attacks in Lamu and residents of those areas feel sidelined by the government. The ongoing inter-clan war, which began in May 2014, is currently at its worst.

The Coastal region is also experiencing unrest due to the drought that is causing conflict between farmers and pastoralists as they fight over resources. The aftermath of Lamu attacks are being felt throughout the area. The Ministry of Land is dealing with land issues in the coastal region to avoid further attacks.

## 2.0 Incidents

Incident	Region	Category	Date
Death toll hits six in Rhamu inter-clan clashes, residents trapped in houses	Mandera	Extermination	25-08-2014
Ethiopian clashes blamed for spate of killings in Garissa	Garissa	Polarisation	25-08-2014
Buffer zone set up at Isiolo-Samburu border to separate warring groups	Isiolo-Samburu Border	General	24-08-2014
Six injured, cars damaged in fierce Kilifi land clash	Kilifi	Polarisation	23-08-2014
One person dead, dozens injured in fresh inter-clan fighting in Mandera	Mandera	General	22-08-2014
Locals Living In Fear As Foreign Pastoralists Invade Farms In Tana River County	Tana River	General	20-08-2014
Vehicle burnt as gunmen attack police station in Garissa	Garissa	General	18-08-2014

Suspected Al Shabaab carry out three attacks within 12 hours in northern Kenya	Garissa	General	18-08-2014
Three killed in Mandera's inter-clan attack	Mandera	General	14-08-2014
Tana River leaders meet Ngilu, reject land survey saying it might spark tribal clashes	Hola	General	10-08-2014
Al-Shabaab commander arrested in Nairobi	Nairobi	General	03-08-2013
Lamu killings suspects to face trial September	Lamu	General	03-08-2013

## 2.1 Mandera

The ongoing inter-clan war between the Degodia and Warre clans has intensified this month. The death toll has reached six people as of August 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 and the area has been cordoned off by the militia, such that food supplies and humanitarian efforts cannot reach the area. The Red Cross pulled out for the safety of staff members after an ambulance was attacked and a staff member injured<sup>1</sup>. The residents have called for support from the army as the violence intensifies<sup>2</sup> since the Kenya police service has not been effective in curbing the violence.

The government needs to act quickly to restore order in this area or else this may result in further loss of life. Policies and action need to be taken to bring lasting peace to the region by ensuring the two communities' concerns are addressed. This violence is said to be political and for lasting peace the political issues in the area need to be dealt with.

## 2.2 Garissa

In Garissa we have received news of terror attacks allegedly coordinated by Al Shabaab. In a new twist it has been said that the attacks are revenge missions against sympathizers of rebel groups carried out by the Ethiopian government<sup>3</sup>. The separatists have evaded arrest by fleeing to neighboring countries,

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-186202/kenya-red-cross-suspends-mandera-operations-over-attacks>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000132693/mandera-appeals-for-army-help-as-six-killed-in-inter-clan-fights>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000132638/ethiopian-clashes-blamed-for-spate-of-killings-in-garissa>

including Kenya. However the attackers in the Garissa incidents remain unknown so it is not yet possible to conclusively announce why the attacks are being carried out.

### **2.3 Coastal Region**

Early in the month tension was low in the Tana Delta region and the Sentinel Project Team located in the area reached out to its community ambassadors about the role they play and the challenges they face. A significant sentiment of the volunteer ambassadors was that Una Hakika has served as a valuable information system, since it provides them with true and accurate information. Previously the residents had limited sources of accurate information, and the implementation of Una Hakika in the region has brought a reduction in misinformation through the provision of reliable and truthful information.

The Tana River Governor Hussein Dado toured Ngao urging the Ormas and Pokomos to coexist peacefully<sup>4</sup>. However, an incident of theft in Ngao village raised tension and interethnic animosity between the Ormas and Pokomos. The incident did not incite any major violence between the groups. Towards the end of the month the coastal region, particularly Tana River and Lamu County, have experienced tension as cases of pastoralists herding on farmers' land have increased due to drought. During the dry season there is an increase in competition for resources as pastoralists go in search of pastures, going beyond their allocated boundaries, leading to tension.

Lamu county has been peaceful this month with no cases of violence apart from the killing at Kiunga<sup>5</sup> by Al Shabaab. The land tenure process is ongoing under directive of Ministry of Lands through the probing of the illegal ownership of substantial amounts of land by companies in Lamu, and the issuance of title deeds to legal owners. The curfew in Lamu is in its second month and this may have contributed to the relative peace in the area, though it has brought about mixed feelings with some claiming it is an impediment to the socioeconomic state of the region, while others support it.

### **2.4 Nairobi**

This month there has been no terror attacks in the region. Due to the lingering threat of terrorism and insecurity there has been major reorganization in the national security sector, carried out by the President in a bid to restore peace. The latest adjustment was the post of the National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director, which was recently filled by Major General Philip Kameru after the resignation of Micheal Gichangi.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000132265/governor-visits-violence-hit-villages-calls-for-lasting-solution-to-conflicts>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-186131/shabaab-kill-miraa-pick-driver-lamu>

### **3.0 Mitigation measures**

#### **3.1 Improve surveillance**

The surveillance system, which was tendered to Safaricom, has yet to be launched. With the reshuffle of the security sector by the President it is hoped that intelligence system will be made more efficient, as previous terror attacks exposed the loopholes in intelligence collection after some security directors were said to be sitting on substantial intelligence. As surveillance is improved the border needs to be tightened to weed out terrorists.

#### **3.2 Land ownership**

Currently the Ministry of Land is dealing with the land issues in Tana River and Lamu County. However, the county government of Tana River has told Ngilu to slow down with the land tenure system in Tana River County, claiming violence could be inflicted if care is not taken in the process due to cultural land ownership and practices in the area. The issue of the land ownership system is delicate and in order to avoid conflict and future risks the division and ownership of land should take into account cultural practices as well as future development plans.

#### **3.3 Creation of pasture areas**

Conflict has often arisen when pastoralists have gone beyond their traditional lands in search of pasture for their cattle and in order to prevent this problem, mechanisms need to be put in place. One solution could be the use of modern farming methods, such as zero grazing, providing pasture land or providing roads for cattle to pass through, while educating pastoralists on land ownership laws. Cases of leniency towards pastoralists who graze on farmers' land have been noted and this has led to farmers taking the law into their own hands through violent means. The law needs to be stringent on such cases to avoid subsequent incidents.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

This month the violence has now shifted to the hotspot of Northern Kenya through inter-clan war and terrorist attacks. Other parts of the country have experienced cases of violence between farmers and pastoralists due to the drought and land ownership. Measures have been taken by the government to try and reduce disputes arising from land ownership. In terms of terrorism the government has undergone major security reorganization to improve intelligence.