

**In The Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
(CEWARN)**

in the

**Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Region**

CEWARN Regional Report

4th Regional Report on the Karamoja Cluster
May – August 2005

CEWARN, Addis Ababa

I. Executive Summary

This Fourth Regional Report of the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) of the IGAD region seek to provide and share “Cluster” based analysis on the nature, characteristics and dynamics of the national and cross-border pastoral conflicts on gathered data for the period of May through August, 2005 on the three countries of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. (This report does not cover the Sudanese side of the Karamoja cluster).

This report will contribute to early warning on potential conflicts to decision- makers on a timely basis so as to initiate actionable responses that reduce the number of violent incidents and intensity of conflict in the Karamoja cluster. .

During the period May – August 2005 in the Karamoja Cluster violent conflicts were reported along the Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda borders. The country reports indicate that the violent incidents, Raids and Other Crimes remained high as competition for resources increased due to restriction of pastoral movements as result of the disarmament programme both in Kenya and Uganda and restriction to Omo National Park in the case of Ethiopia. The acceptance of raiding as a survival strategy, revenge attacks, sporadic and inconsistent response of governments to violent incidents; and disruption of patterns of movement in search of pasture and water and amount of seasonal rainfalls still remained factors that keep augmenting tensions and violence in the cluster.

From May-August 2005 a total of 226 deaths, 174 violent incidents and 5023 herds of raided livestock were reported. And since July 2003 to August 2005 CEWARN's data has documented a total of 1438 deaths and 60,601 herds of livestock raided. The above trend on loss of human lives and livelihoods shall continue aggravating the situation and feeding into the spiral of violence.

Various peace forums organized by NGOs in an effort to mediate, create understanding and enable sharing resources in this period, though most are short lived, did have an impact. Such deeds need to be supplemented by involvement of local administration and the security to maintaining sustainability. Initiatives of coordinated efforts to complement the national responses such as the joint disarmament programmes between Kenya and Uganda were made sustainable, encouraged the participation of local and community based mechanisms and bilateral agreements were reached on fishing between Kenya and Ethiopia on Turkana Lake. These were some of the major peace activities that help mitigate the violence from further escalation.

II. Background

The term “Karamoja Cluster” is commonly used by CEWARN and other institutions to describe the pastoral and agro-pastoral ethnic communities that encompass Southwestern Ethiopia, Northwestern Kenya, Southeastern Sudan and Northeastern Uganda.. Some share a common language and culture. More specifically the Karamoja cluster in this report covers:

- Four districts in Uganda: Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Kapchorwa;
- Three districts in Kenya: Turkana, West Pokot and Trans Nozia in Rift Valley Province;

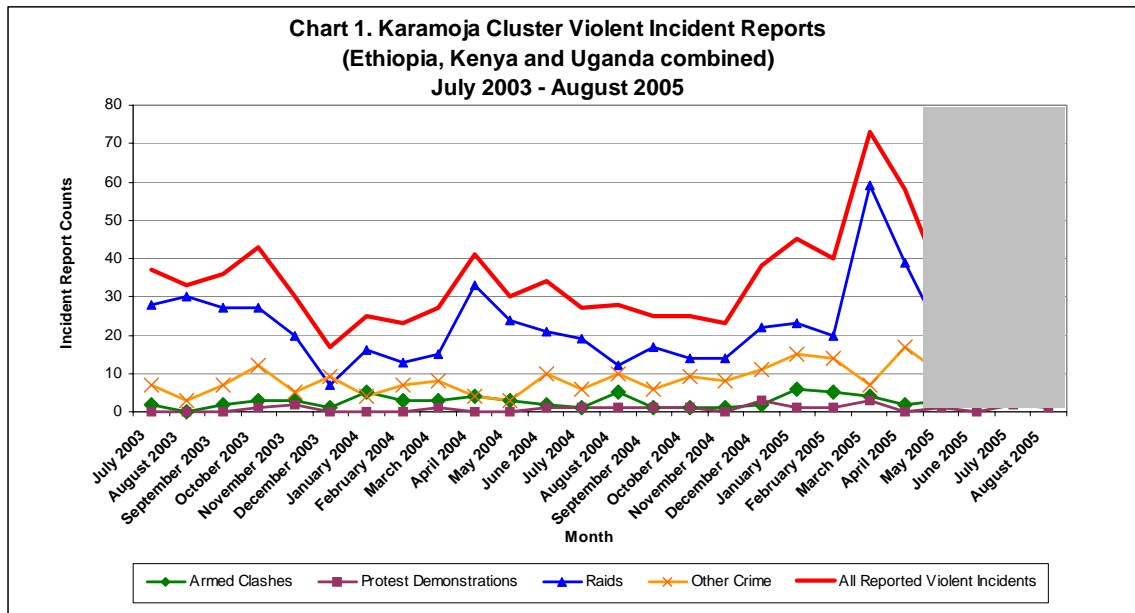
- One Woreda: in Ethiopia Kuraz Woreda of the South Omo Zone of the Southern Nations & Nationalities Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS);
- Two counties in the Sudan: Kapoeta and Budi in the Eastern Equatoria Province in Southern Sudan **(the Sudanese side of the Karamoja cluster is not included in this report).**

The pastoral communities that inhabit the region live in poverty and insecurity which is exacerbated by the availability of small arms. The poor state of infrastructure makes it difficult for governments and civil society to provide social services while also curtailing the capacity of security forces to respond to the increasing violence and cattle rustling that have such a devastating impact on the livelihood of pastoral communities.

While arid lands of the Karamoja cluster have a diversity of ecosystems dependent on seasonal patterns of rainfall, the predominant mode of food production and livelihood is livestock keeping and subsistence agriculture mainly millet and sorghum. A characteristic feature of pastoral food production is the degree of movement associated with livestock in search of water and pasture. In

Until colonialism in the 19th century boundaries among the ethnic groups of the Karamoja cluster were not rigid and limiting but rather were fluid and dependent on the relationships of the pastoral groups inhabiting certain areas. An intricate web of relations developed among pastoral communities to provide for the sharing of resources, these relationships were shaped by conflict and cooperation as adaptive strategies for survival by pastoral groups in an otherwise harsh environment.

Chart 1 below presents the frequency of all Violent Incident Counts combined for Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda sides of the Karamoja cluster for the reporting period.



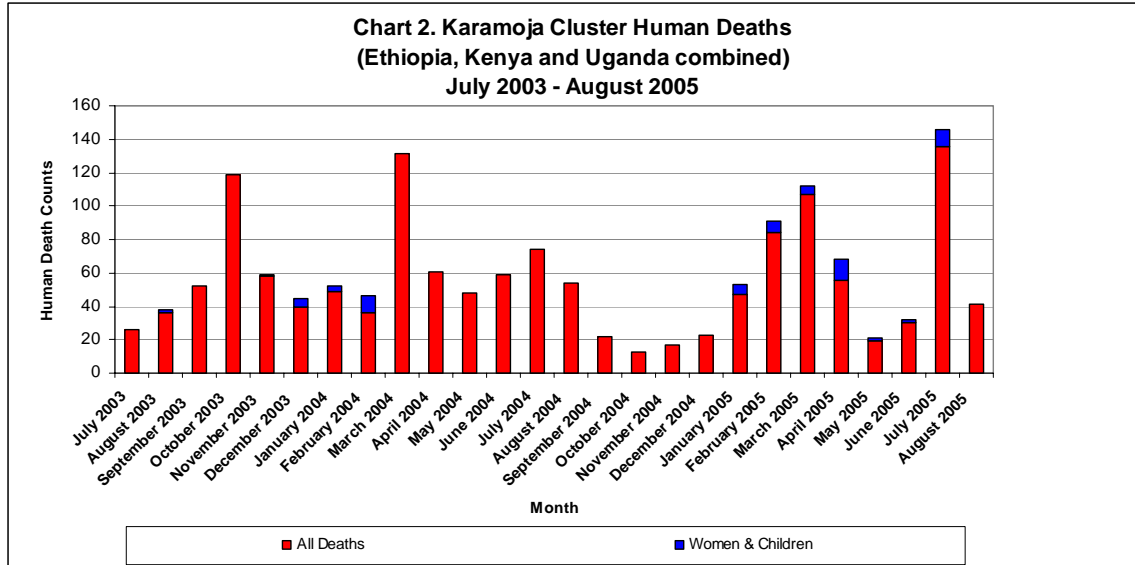
For the reporting period Violent Incident counts were highest in June(61) while August recorded the lowest (31). Of the total 174 incidents reported from the three countries, 14 were Armed Clashes, 95 were Raids, 61 were Other Crimes, and 4 were Protest Demonstrations¹. Raids alone accounted for 54% of the total incidents. All these violent incidents involved communities within each country and across their national borders.

The overall incident counts for the Cluster remained high for the reporting period. The increase and decrease in Raids and Other Crimes seem to correspond and may be explained by the communities' pattern of vicious cycle of counter reprisals in response to either raids, livestock thefts, banditry and assaults.

Compared to Raids and Other Crimes the low count of Armed Clashes, which in most instances occur, when the targeted communities became aware and defend back to protect their livestock, indicates that most incidents were successful. Moreover, due to the disarmament programme in Kenya and Uganda the presence of more security personnel may have made communities reluctant to engage in open armed clashes for fear of being exposed with possession of arms. The increase in Other Crimes (Banditry and Assault) was due to violent incidents that have repeatedly occurred between Nyangatom of Ethiopia and Turkana of Kenya over fishing nets on Turkana Lake. While the low figure for protests still remains indicative of the course of actions that the communities undertake to settle differences.

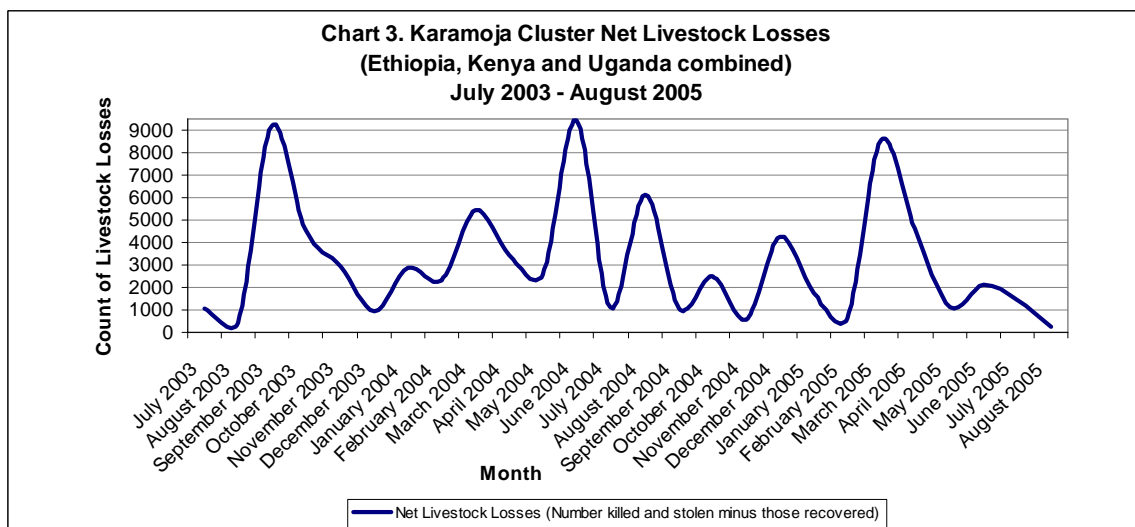
¹ For full description of Violent Incident indicators see Appendix I.

Chart 2 (below) presents Human Deaths for the Karamoja cluster in the reporting period



A total number of 226 deaths were recorded for the reporting period. The highest number of death was reported in June (136) while May recorded the lowest number (19). The months for highest number of raids, June (see **Chart 1**) and death (July) differ denoting that such incursions were being made while the party targeted was not prepared and is caught unaware with the intention of minimal violent engagement. But trends do indicate that Other Crimes and Armed Clashes have a strong implication to a rise in deaths. The human loss by these pockets of crimes does not draw the attention and response of governments, other non-government actors and media as the big raids and clashes do. This in turn might have encouraged the culprits to engage more and more in such activities.

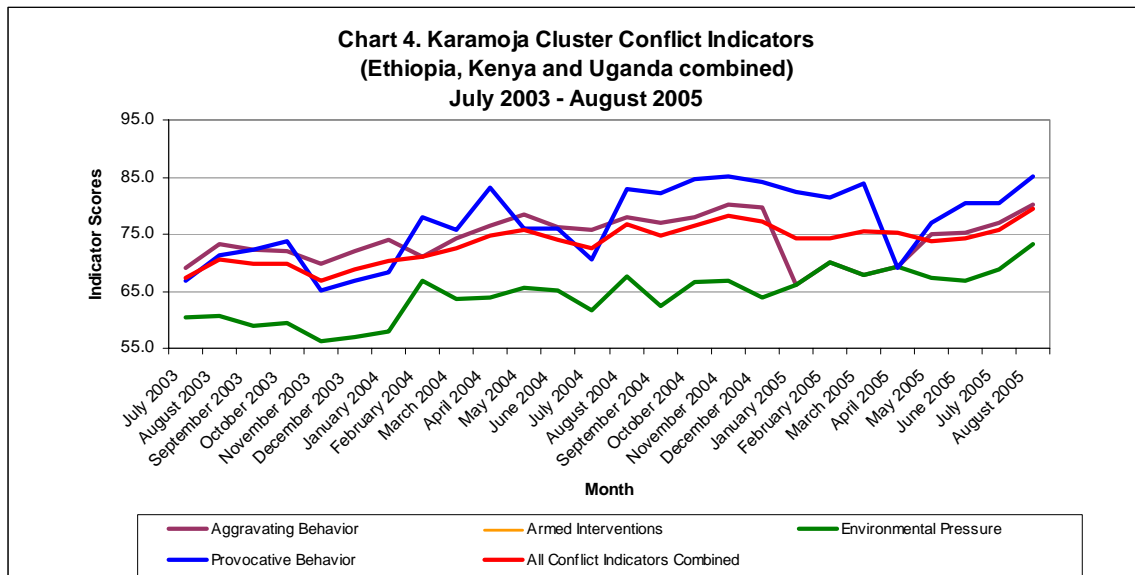
Chart 3 (below) presents Net Livestock Losses for the Karamoja Cluster in the reporting period.



A total of 4,958 heads of livestock were reported as raided during the reporting period. The month with the highest number of livestock raided was July, which accounted for 43% of the total number of raided livestock in the reporting period.

The period recorded decreased livestock losses. This may be largely attributed to the presence of security forces to oversee disarmament in Kenya and Uganda and the ease of competition over pasture in Ethiopia following the May rains. It also points out that the increase in raids may not result in high counts of livestock losses that may be accounted for aborted raids and to a lesser extent to the recoveries made through involvement of government and civil society officials and community negotiations.

Chart 4 (below) presents Conflict Indicators for the Karamoja cluster in the reporting period.



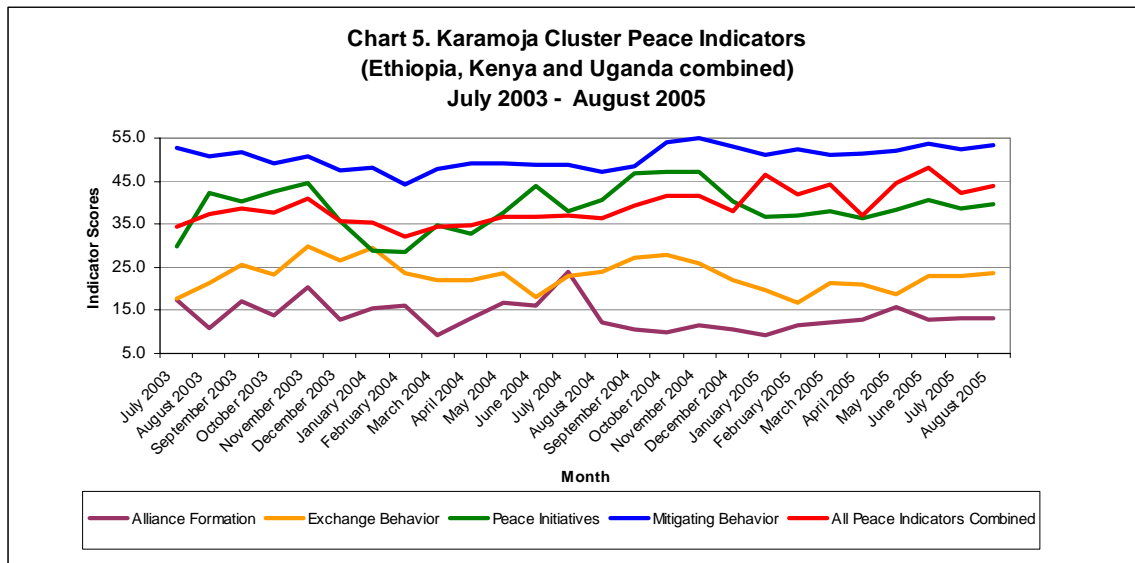
Conflict Indicators describe Aggravating Behaviors, Provocative Behaviors, Armed Interventions, Environmental Pressures and the Combined Conflict Indicators². The Combined Conflict Indicators remained constant, as did Aggravating Behavior, Provocative Behavior and Environmental Pressures with a slight rise in August.

Environmental Pressures remained moderately high throughout the reporting period due to resource competition as a result of restricted pastoral movements because of disarmament programme in Kenya & Uganda and to grazing areas of Omo Park in Ethiopia. The continuous prediction of attacks, endorsement for raids prompted youth mobilization in defense or attack thus heightening tension between communities. This coupled with Environmental Pressure caused Behavioural Aggravator to remain high throughout the reporting period. The disruption of traditional migration patterns due to disarmament programme and restriction on grazing areas of Omo National Park in Ethiopia mostly accounted for the high and constant depiction of Aggravating Behaviour.

The slight rise in August in all indicators could also be attributed to this situation where the limited pasture areas overtime decline intensifying competition and tensions among pastoralists.

² No Armed Interventions were documented for the reporting period. For the full list of Indicators see Appendix 1

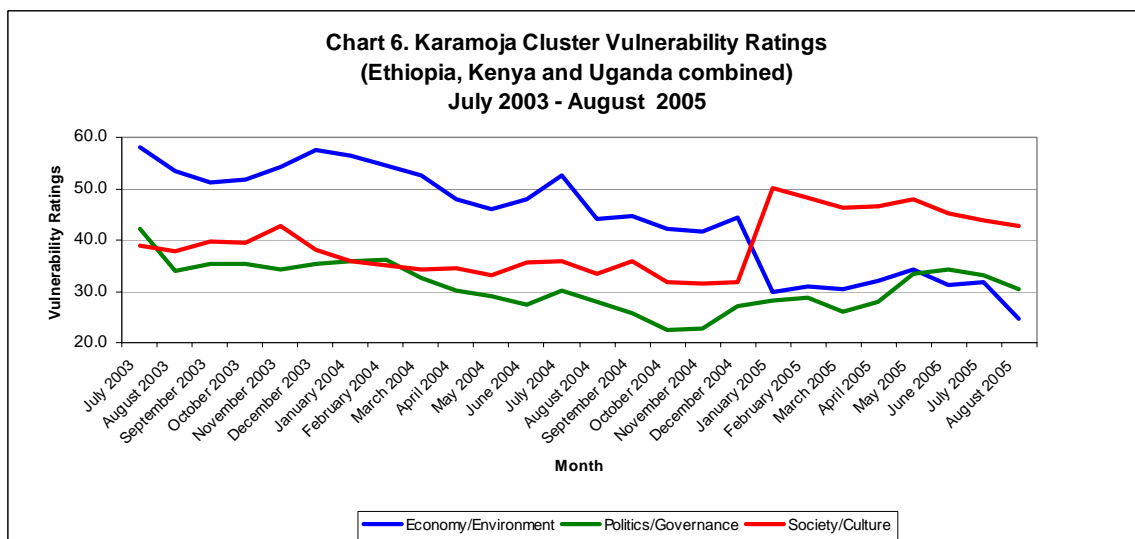
Chart 5 (below) presents Peace Indicators for the reporting period in the Karamoja cluster.



Alliance Formation and Exchange Behaviour were fairly low for the reporting period. Peace Initiatives, Mitigating Behavior and All Peace Indicators Combined also remained moderate and constant.

The low records of peace indicators may partly explain the high number of incidences of violence (see in **Chart 1**). Despite the fact that the presence of security may have contributed to a slight decrease in violence, it shows that more concerted efforts are required.

Chart 5 (below) presents Vulnerability Ratings for the reporting period in the Karamoja cluster.



Economy/Environment and Politics/Governance vulnerability ratings remained low and constant with a slight decrease in August. The overall vulnerability rating for Society/Culture also remained moderately constant for the reporting period. The presence of security for disarmament programme may have contributed to the recorded

low Vulnerability Ratings in the reporting period. The rainfalls in some of the Areas of Reporting cluster may have also help lessen the Environmental Pressure. Alliances and agreements reached between communities in resource sharing and continuation of interaction within these communities may have also played a role in the low recordings of Economy/Environment and Society/Culture vulnerabilities.

Analysis of Structural Conflict Aggravating Factors

In the reporting period cultural practices (livestock raiding) and counter reprisal attacks remained two most important factors in understanding and explaining the levels and trends of violent conflicts in the Karamoja cluster. Though harsh climatic conditions have been and still seem to contribute to the violence yet even during times of rains the decrease in violence did not appear to be significant.

The process of some of the initiatives, like disarmament intended to alleviate the situation and restriction on pastures in National Parks, have also resulted in creating negative pre-cursors.

Proximate Conflict Aggravating Factors

The tensions due to prediction of attacks and elders endorsement of raid, the unstable communal alliances and the competition for resources due to dwindled pasture after short and inadequate rain toward end of the this reporting period are the dominant factors that contributed to the escalation of the conflict and loss of human death and livestock losses.

Analysis of Structural Conflict Mitigating Factors

The disarmament program both in Uganda and Kenya, which entails presence of security, the sensitization and education programme have greatly helped and mentions of increasing the social and economic development around these areas shall address some of the structural factors that contributes to the conflict. The prediction of better climate and better harvest in Uganda and Ethiopia played a role in decreasing the competition for recourses.

Analysis of Proximate Mitigating Conflict Factors

Peace initiatives by NGOs with involvement of government and local communities to resolve conflict contributed in de-escalating the conflict in these areas. Moreover, presence of security due to disarmament programme in addition to alliances made by communities encouraged communities interaction and serve to decrease tensions and conflicts.

Response Recommendations

Actors	Short Term	Medium Term
CEWERU	<p>Involve in and promote the sustainability of joint programmes such as the disarmament</p> <p>Involve cross border communities in the sensitization and education programmes to encourage voluntary disarmament</p> <p>Foster forums and environment of sharing of information between the CEWERUs</p>	<p>Closely work with local administration and security to provide more secure environment to encourage disarmament</p> <p>Inform, use and consult bilateral commissions and mechanisms to bring coordination and make arrangement regarding sharing of resources</p>
Local Administration	<p>Closely work with NGOs and security in mediation and enforcement of law</p> <p>Work with central government and local communities in ensuring sustainability of in all efforts of peace and development</p>	<p>Proper implementation of policies</p> <p>Play a role in designing provisions of viable and alternative source of livelihood</p>
Local Communities/Civil Society	<p>Encourage peace initiatives and</p>	<p>Build local capacity in peace building and conflict resolution</p> <p>Work with government and communities in designing and implementing of provision of social and development programmes</p> <p>Put in place a forum to share information and coordinate works of the various CSO efforts both in development works and peace initiatives</p>
CEWARN	<p>Keep on sharing information with the various CEWERUs</p> <p>Encourage forums of cooperation and communication between CEWERUs</p>	<p>Build capacities of CEWERUs in peace building and conflict resolution</p> <p>Design mechanism and work together with CEWERUs to ensure implementation of response recommendations</p>