

The Conflict Early Warning and Response mechanism (CEWARN)



in the

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

CEWARN Country Updates: January-April 2005

For the Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

Report to Kenyan CEWERU
July 20th, 2005

CEWARN Country Update

Update Period:

January through April 2005

Area of Reporting:

Kenyan Side of the Karamoja Cluster

National Research Institute:

Africa Peace Forum

Country Coordinator:

Coordinator: Ms. Jebiwot Sumbeiywo

Assistant: Mr. Edwin Rutto

**Report to Kenyan CEWERU
July 20, 2005**

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Country Update is to establish the incidence and outcomes of pastoral conflict on the Kenya side of the Karamoja cluster from January 2005 through April 2005, set in the context of all reports submitted from January 2005 through April 2005. The reporting locations on the Kenyan side of the Karamoja cluster are 4 in number for the reporting period: Turkana North, Turkana Central and Turkana South in Turkana District and Trans Nzoia District. This Update presents both positive and negative precursors to the pastoral conflict situations as a means to illuminate trends that can help signal imminent outbreaks or escalations or mitigate ongoing conflicts in the cluster.

For the reporting period January 2005 through April 2005, 82 deaths were reported and 2,108 livestock were raided on the Kenyan side of the Karamoja Cluster. These losses were reported in a total of 69 incident reports. Of these reported incidents 22% involved parties from the neighboring countries of Uganda, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Violence was highest in January 2005. Peace indicators were highest in April 2005.

The impact of violent pastoral conflict on the local population on the Kenyan side of the Karamoja Cluster is severe and far-reaching. A great number of people, have been killed and maimed, some displaced from their homes and majority made destitute after their property was destroyed and livestock raided. Schools and health services were disrupted and this affected the socio-economic development in the area of reporting. Overall, there was an increase in the number of reported incidents between January and April 2005. Compared to 9 for May – August and 22 for September – December 2004 reporting periods the January - April violent incidents have increased tremendously (69).

The Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) of The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has coordinated the field reporting and editing of these reports. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have contributed funds towards this effort. CEWARN in collaboration with Virtual Research Associates (VRA) developed the early warning methodology and reporting tool.

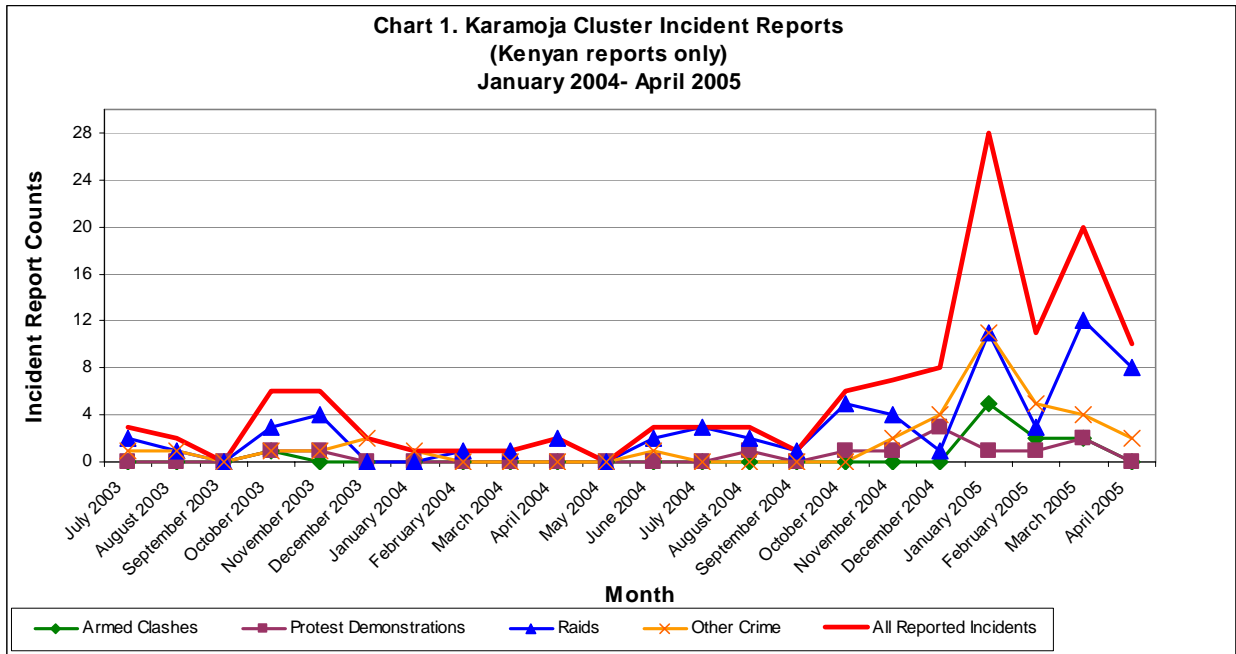
Suggestions and comments on this initial baseline are welcome. Please contact CEWARN Office (cewarn@ethionet.et) in Addis Ababa with any questions, comments or suggestions. The next CEWARN Country Update May-August 2005 for the Kenyan side of the Karamoja cluster is scheduled for posting in September 2005. In the course of the year these Updates will be enhanced with specific response options identified and tied to their associated thresholds of indicator values that signal pastoral conflict escalation, destabilization or violence.

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

NOTE: The y-axis are dynamically scaled on all of the charts presented below. Therefore, the reader should pay special attention to the upper and lower values presented for each chart. The range of values for all “scores” is from 0 to 100.

Chart 1 (below) presents the frequency of violent incident counts for the Kenyan side of the Karamoja Cluster for the reporting period¹.

In the reporting period 69 violent incidents were reported, of these 22 were Other Crimes, 34 were Raids, 4 were Protest Demonstrations and 9 Armed Clashes. From January through April 2005, violent incident reports were at their highest levels. Violence was lowest in April for the reporting period. Among the 69 incidents reported on the Kenyan side of the Karamoja cluster, 22% were identified as cross-border incidents in that it involved parties from the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda.



A total of 82 people died as a result of violent pastoral conflict between January and April 2005 compared to 17 between May and August 2004 and 8 between September and December 2004. There is however no clear relationship between the high number of human deaths and the high number of incidents; the two incidents in Turkana South in which a total of 34 people died serves to illustrate this point. At the same time, there was an increase in the number of livestock raided in the reporting period. A total of 2,108 livestock were lost on the Kenyan side of the Karamoja cluster compared to 1,200 for the May – August 2004 reporting period, and 413 for the September – December 2004 reporting period. On the basis of the established correlation between drought and violent conflict in the Areas of Reporting, there is likely to be an increase in the number of violent incidents in the next few months owing to the expected decrease in rainfall and the onset of dry conditions between June and October which will result in intense competition over arable land, water and pasture.

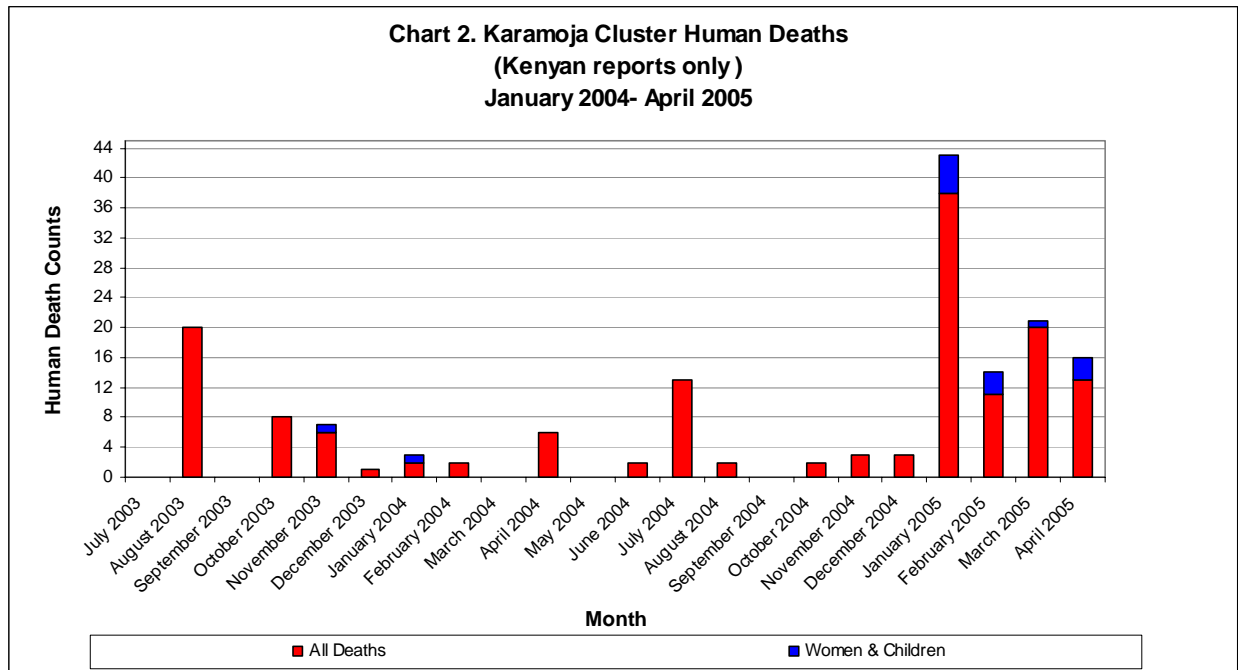
Trans Nzoia District continued to report the highest number of incidents, (49 for the reporting period) such as cattle theft, banditry, rape, criminal offences and burglary just as was the case in the September to December 2004 reporting period. The border between Kenya and Uganda and the border between West Pokot and Trans Nzoia Districts in Kenya were the most affected. In January, tension in the area continued to be experienced as a result of the eviction of squatters from the Kanyarkwat settlement scheme. And even after this process stopped the tension did not subside.

¹ For full description of Violent Incidents see Appendix 1

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

From Turkana North, the incidents mainly consisted of Armed Clashes and Raids involving the Toposa of Sudan, Didinga of Uganda and Merille (Dassenech) of Ethiopia. In Turkana Central, most of the incidents consisted of Raids such as livestock thefts by the Matheniko of Uganda, while in Turkana South, most of the incidents consisted of Armed Clashes, and Raids conducted by members of the Pokot community from the West Pokot District of Kenya.

Human Deaths for the reporting period are presented in Chart 2 (below)

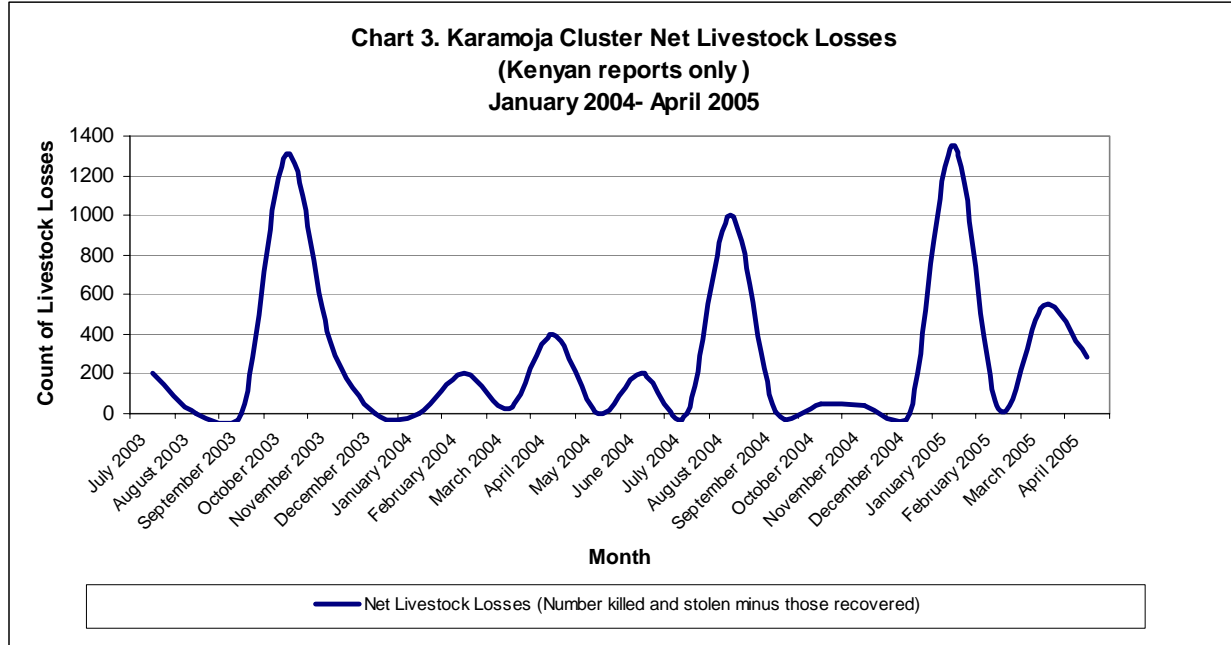


A total number of 82 human deaths were reported out of which 12 (or 15%) were women and children on the Kenyan side of the Karamoja Cluster.

The number of deaths range from a low of 11 in February 2005 to a high of 38 in January 2005. The largest number of deaths occurred in one incident reported from South Turkana on 22nd January 2005, where 5 Turkanas and 23 Pokots were killed. It involved Pokot raiders from Kasei in West Pokot District who attacked Kakong Sub-Location, Kainuk Location, Kainuk Division of Turkana South. No livestock were raided as the Turkana managed to repel the raiders. The second highest number of deaths' incident occurred in Kaloposuk village, Mogilla Sub-Location, Mogilla Location, Lokichoggio Division, Turkana North, involving the Toposa of Sudan and the Turkana on 2nd March 2005 where nine people were reported killed. There is no relationship between the high number of incidents and the high number of people killed because the highest numbers of incidents were reported from Trans Nzoia District while the highest number of human deaths were in Turkana District.

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

Livestock losses are presented in Chart 3 (below).

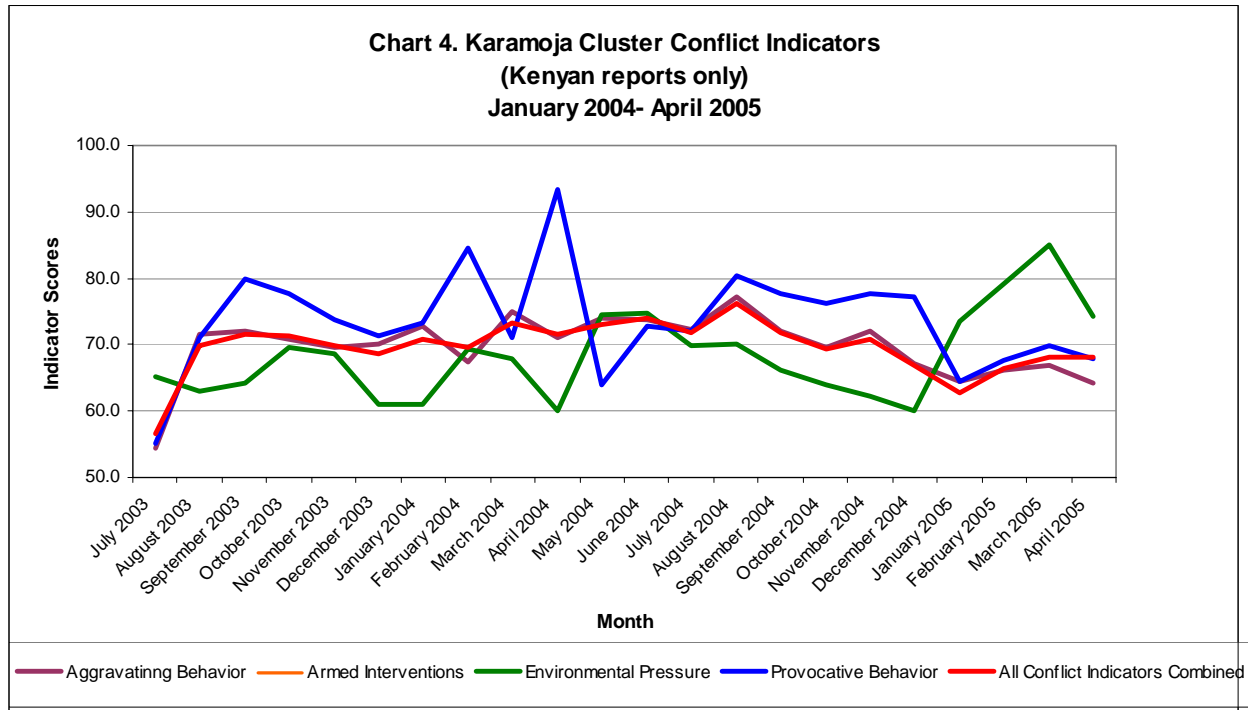


A total number of 2,208 livestock were reported raided for the reporting period. The highest number (1348) of livestock raided was in January while the least (25) were in February. A total of 772 livestock were reported raided in January in Turkana Central in two major incidents: In the first incident on 3rd January 412 livestock were raided when a joint force of Pokots from Kenya and Uganda attacked the Turkana at Koolok; in the second incident, a combined force of Matheniko warriors with the support of UPDF soldiers raided 360 livestock when they attacked a Turkana homestead in Loima division on 13th January. On the 8th of January 559 livestock were raided in Kaptega Sub-Location, Chepchoina Location, Endebbes Division, Trans-Nzoia District, in an organized raid by Sabinu raiders from Kapchorwa District of Uganda. The increase in the number of livestock raided in March is attributed to two incidents in Turkana North, where 400 livestock were raided on the 7th of March 2004, and 109 livestock raided on the 20th of March.

There are no clear relations between livestock losses, incidents and deaths because the livestock losses were mainly reported from single incidences in Turkana Central, Turkana North and Trans-Nzoia occurring in specific and separate incidences from the reports of deaths and violent incidents.

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

Conflict indicators for the Kenyan side of the Karamoja Cluster are presented in Chart 4 (below).



Conflict Indicators in Chart 4 above presents Aggravating Behavior, Provocative Behavior, Armed Interventions, Environmental Pressure, and the Combined Conflict Indicators².

Environmental Pressures rose in January to March and decreased in April. Provocative Behaviour and Aggravating Behaviour recorded a slight increase in March and there appears to be a close relationship between these two indicators for the reporting period. The increase in Environmental Pressures can be attributed to field reports on: the abandonment of traditional grazing areas; more livestock in secure areas; and competition over arable lands, water and pastures.

Provocative Behaviour rose slightly in March. There were cases of Provocative Behavior reported in South Turkana in April as a result of male group movements to avert possible attacks by Pokots. Male youth were regrouping in Kainuk, Lorigon and Nakwamoru to counter groups of Pokots believed to be aiming to attack the area. There were few cases of traditional forecasting confined to South Turkana in the month of January 2005.

Aggravating Behaviour remained almost constant for the reporting period due to the availability of small arms, the use of bullets as commodities, security escorts, separation of communities, and interruption of pupils'/ students' attendance at school in all the Areas of Reporting.

Both Turkana Central and Turkana North reported livestock movement restrictions imposed by the Ugandan Government and the poor relations between Turkana and their neighbors. The Kenya Government's proposed disarmament in the "North Rift" (part of Rift Valley Province) also created tension especially in April and limited the movement of livestock due to the perceived threat of disarmament. In Trans Nzoia District also, the restrictions by the Ugandan Government on livestock movements from Kenya into Uganda was reported and this affected the state of health of the livestock that depends on the grazing areas in Uganda.

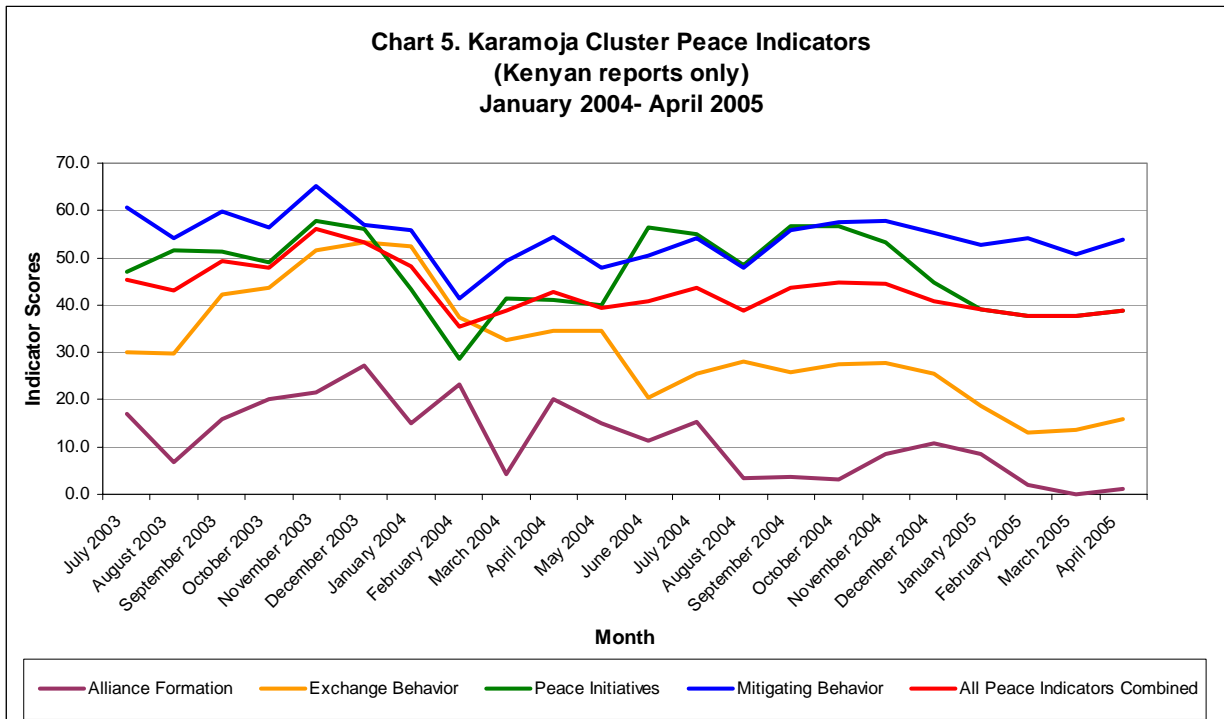
² For a full list of Indicators see Appendix 2

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

The education and health sectors were affected throughout the reporting period in Trans Nzoia and as a result schools and health centers were closed on various occasions due to the heightened tensions in Kanyarkwat, Kapkoi and Biketi farms. There was a large number of families displaced in Trans Nzoia as a result of the conflict between people settled along West Pokot and Trans Nzoia District boundaries and the government evictions at Kanyarkwat farm. Some of these families have moved as far as Kitale town.

While Provocative and Aggravating Behaviour registered a decline in January 2005, a trend that had been continuing from mid November 2004, Environmental Pressure was steadily increasing. In the reporting period the slight rise of the Combined Conflict Indicators is comparable to a similar rise in livestock raids, livestock losses and human deaths.

Peace Indicators are presented in Chart 5 (below).



The Chart presents Alliance Formation, Exchange Behavior, Mitigating Behavior, Peace Initiatives, and All Peace Indicators Combined³. Mitigating Behavior was the highest peace indicator while Alliance Formation was the lowest peace indicator. Mitigating Behavior remained constant throughout the reporting period due to the continued access to health care, education and relief distribution especially in Turkana district.

Alliance Formation remained low as there were no major alliances of communities during the reporting period except for a forecasting by Pokot oracles of an alliance between the Sabiny of Uganda and the Luhya of Kenya. However, in the last reporting period (September-December 2004) it was noted that there were several alliances formed between groups and generally low number of deaths but the opposite is true in this reporting period.

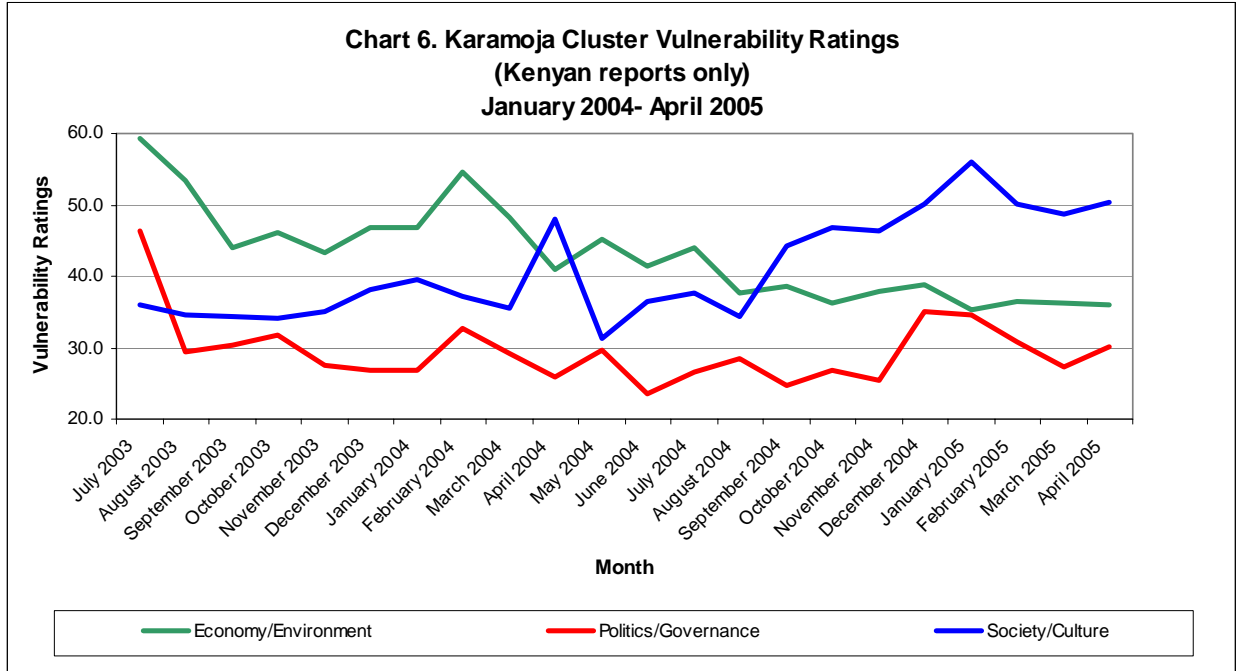
There was a decline in peace initiatives in the reporting period, a trend that has been observed since November 2004. The field reports indicated a reduction in the involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society and Religious Organizations in peace initiatives.

³ For a full list of Indicators see Appendix 2

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

There was also a decline in Exchange Behaviour in the reporting period, indeed, there were very few cases of inter-community exchange in the reporting period's as depicted by field reports. The decline in Exchange Behaviour is a trend that has been observed since December 2004.

Chart 6 (below) presents vulnerability ratings for the reporting period.

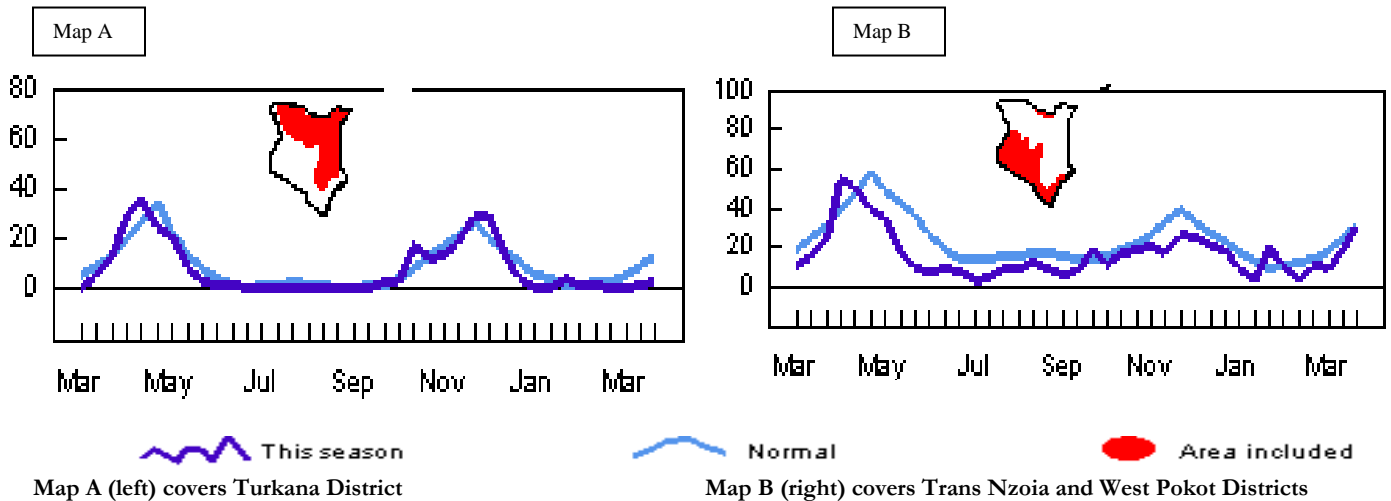


The Society/Culture Vulnerability ratings reached the highest point in January 2005, while the Politics/Governance Vulnerability rating was low in March 2005. The Society/Culture Vulnerability rating was on a downward trend from January to March 2005. This could be attributed to the end of the festive period which begins in November 2004 and ends in January 2005. This festive period is characterized by initiation ceremonies and passing out of initiates especially among the Pokot.

The Economy/Environment Vulnerability rating was fairly constant, while Politics/Governance Vulnerability rating declined from January to March. The steady decline in Politics/Governance Vulnerability ratings from January to March could be attributed to the de-escalation of tension in Trans-Nzoia District in the aftermath of the eviction of squatters from the Kanyarkwat Settlement Scheme. The Politics/Governance Vulnerability ratings however increased in April and this could be attributed to the heightened tension in Biketi and Kapkoi Farms between the members of the Luhya and Pokot communities, and also the tension that arose following the declaration by the government to disarm pastoral communities in the "North Rift".

The rainfall baseline in **Chart 7** (below) presents the amount of rainfall that was recorded in the Areas of Reporting for the Kenya side of the Karamoja Cluster for the reporting period. Rainfall levels were highest from March through April 2005. Rainfall was lowest during January and February 2005. Compared to the same period in the previous year, recorded rainfall was generally Lower in Trans-Nzoia and West Pokot and fairly constant in Turkana.

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster



Changes in rainfall appear to have no influence on violent incidents. Although high violent incident rates were reported in January when there were low rains, very few violent incidents were reported in February and yet like January, there were low rains. The increase in rainfall in March appears to have had no influence on the increase in violent incidents. However, it appears that increase in rainfall had an impact on conflict indicators: all conflict indicators rose from January to March when there was a dry spell. When rainfall increased in March, all conflict indicators showed a downward trend.

Comparative Analysis

Analysis of Structural Conflict Aggravating Factors

Pastoral areas have been marginalized since independence. They lag behind in terms of all development indicators in the country. Because of their marginalization, pastoral communities are steeped in retrogressive cultural practices e.g. livestock raiding which has increased in lethality as a result of the proliferation of small arms. Poor road network in pastoral areas has served to exacerbate the insecurity situation. The government has engaged the services of police reservists recruited from local communities to beef up security in pastoral areas. There have however been reports of the involvement of the police reservists in criminal activities e.g. livestock raiding. These structural factors continued to be manifest during this reporting period.

The persistent occurrence of violent incidents in Trans Nzoia and West Pokot Districts' border which reported the highest incidents is a direct result of the age old belief by the Pokot that the land belongs to them and that the communities living in Trans Nzoia must vacate the land for them. The government's decision to evict the Pokots from Kanyarkwat has resulted in continued tensions in Trans Nzoia District.

Cultural practices such as traditional forecasting and pre-raid blessings continued to occur. These practices sanction livestock raiding.

Analysis of Proximate Conflict Aggravating Factors

Environmental pressures were the most significant proximate conflict aggravating indicators in the reporting period. In all Areas of Reporting, there were regular reports of traditional grazing grounds being abandoned and the increase in the number of livestock on safe grazing grounds which resulted in competition over arable lands, water and pastures.

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

Pastoral areas are generally dry. The rainfall baseline shows that beginning January to mid March 2005, the pastoral areas in focus received low rainfall. This contributed to increased environmental pressures such as competition for arable lands, water and pasture which led to violent conflicts. Conditions of insecurity also led to the abandoning of traditional grazing grounds and the increase in the number of livestock on safe grazing grounds which exerted pressure on water and pasture. All male migration was also reported in all Areas of Reporting and are indicators subsumed under Provocative Behaviour which was fairly high for the reporting period.

The influx of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) was reported in Trans-Nzoia following the eviction of squatters from the Kanyarkwat Settlement Scheme, and the heightened tensions between members of the Pokot and Luhya communities in Biketi and Kapkoi Farms.

The migration policy introduced by the Kenya and Uganda governments restricted pastoral movements in the reporting period and this made it difficult for pastoralists from either side to cross the border disrupting the traditional pastoral movement patterns. This strained the water and pasture resources as pastoralists could not access traditional grazing grounds on either side of the border.

Small arms were readily available in all Areas of Reporting. The availability of small arms increased the intensity of pastoral conflicts. In addition the influx of Internally Displaced People (IDPs), the introduction of harmful migration policies, interruption of pastoral movements and the availability of small arms were all other proximate conflict aggravating factors and were fairly high in the reporting period.

Analysis of Structural Conflict Mitigating Factors

The governments' devolution of development funds to the constituency level has helped redress the marginalization of pastoral areas to some extent. In spite of the current public uproar about the abuse of Constituency Development Funds by Members of Parliament, if properly administered, Constituency Development Funds can help address some of the structural conflict factors in pastoral areas through funding development priorities as identified by the people at the constituency level.

The ongoing constitutional review process has provided yet another opportunity for pastoral concerns to be addressed. Pastoral communities lobbied for the recognition of their special circumstances in the constitutional review process so as to ensure that their unique needs and development priorities are addressed in the new constitution.

Analysis of Proximate Conflict Mitigating Factors

The continued access to health care and education; unhindered relief distribution; bride price stability; the use of mediation and negotiation to manage conflict and law enforcement could have helped mitigate the conflict factors. All the above comprise of Mitigating Behaviour which was the highest peace indicator for the reporting period.

Peace initiatives' remained low in the reporting period (see Chart 5). Even though there were reports that women acted as peace messengers, and that civil society organizations, NGOs and Religious Organizations engaged in peace building initiatives, it appears that there was lack of a constant engagement strategy. There is need for civil society organizations including NGOs, and religious organizations to redouble their efforts in peace building.

The current disarmament process in the "North Rift" may help improve the security situation in the affected pastoral areas. The exercise would have been more sustainable had it entailed a regional coordination involving all pastoral communities in the Karamoja Cluster. The government has however indicated that the disarmament process would go hand-in-hand with the construction of new dams and the de-siltation of old ones.

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

RESPONSE RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTORS	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM
CEWERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider options of engaging a response mechanism to the information produced by the cewarn system. - There is a need for coordinated disarmament between Kenya and Uganda governments and both CEWERUs can spear head this process owing to knowledge they have received through CEWARN information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A need for research into the economic impact of conflict to assess loses incurred due to conflict.
AU/IGAD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A framework for response must be developed by the IGAD countries that have ratified the CEWARN Protocol. - CEWARN must invest in its institutionalization at the local levels, so that the existing structures and systems can be used to enhance the response component of Cewarn.
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kenyan government should consider the viability of Kenya Police reservists. Challenges have been raised that they are not mitigating the problem of violence but are aggravating it instead due to their alleged involvement in incidents. <p>Provide relief services to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laws that encourage trade along conflict divides should be instituted so that conflicts become too costly for communities. - Government should assist pastoral communities to develop, maintain and manage water dams, and facilitate the harmonious usage of water and pasture resources to reduce tension along borderlines. <p>Accord support to civil society organizations involved in peace building.</p>
LOCAL COMMUNITIES	<p>Invest more in the application of conflict mediation and resolution techniques to address violent conflict.</p>	<p>Encourage cross-border trade and inter-group sharing.</p> <p>Develop cooperative mechanisms in water and pasture resource use so as to reduce the chances of competition and violent conflict.</p>
CIVIL SOCIETY	<p>Vigorously engage in peace building activities in pastoral areas.</p> <p>Facilitate the provision of relief services to the IDPs and other victims of pastoral conflicts.</p>	<p>Build local communities' capacity in peace building and conflict management.</p> <p>Develop or perfect a mechanism for engaging the government and international NGOs on the development priorities of pastoral communities.</p>
INTERNATIONAL NGOs	<p>Provide relief services to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).</p>	<p>Build the capacity of civil society organizations in peace building.</p> <p>Fund development programmes that address the unique needs of pastoral communities.</p> <p>Fund research focusing on development challenges in pastoral areas and the activities of the different actors in those areas so that lessons learnt can be drawn.</p> <p>Develop close working relations with the government so as to harmonize approaches and influence policy.</p>

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

Appendix 1: Description of Indicators (from the Situation Reports)

<u>Alliance Formation</u>		
Inter-ethnic group alliance	Ethnic group – government alliance	
<u>Armed Intervention</u>		
Internal armed support	External armed support	
<u>Aggravating Behavior</u>		
Interrupt other activities Development aid problems Media controls Migrant laborers New Markets Negative media coverage	Pastoral migration Harmful migration policy Harmful livestock policy Influx of IDPs Security escorts Small arms availability	Bullets as commodities Protest Student attendance interrupted Separation of groups Livestock prices dropped Post-raid blessing Livestock sales increase
<u>Environmental Pressure</u>		
Natural disaster areas abandoned	Land competition Livestock disease	More livestock in secure areas grazing
<u>Exchange Behavior</u>		
Celebration Inter-group sharing	Inter-group marriage Cross-border trade	Gift offering
<u>Mitigating Behavior</u>		
Access to health care Small arms disclosure Access to education	Relief distributions Markets remain open Positive media coverage	Law enforcement Bride price stable Negotiations taking place
<u>Peace Initiatives</u>		
Women peace messengers Religious peace building	Weapons reduction program NGO peace initiatives	Local peace initiatives
<u>Provocative Behavior</u>		
All-male migration	Pre-raid blessing	Traditional forecasting

IGAD-CEWARN Country Update – Kenya Side of the Karamoja Cluster

Appendix 2: Definitions of the Incident Categories

- Armed Clashes
 - Military Battle (Armed hostilities or engagements between an official military unit of a government and an armed party. Includes both civil war and inter-state war battles.
 - Other Armed Clashes (All other armed hostilities or engagements. Includes all communal and inter-communal battles.
- Raids
 - Raids with Abductions (Raids focused around abductions of people or the taking of hostages. May include injuries or death to humans, and/or damage, destruction or theft of other property).
 - Organized Raids (Other organized raids. May include injuries or deaths to humans, and/or damage, destruction or theft of other property).
 - Livestock Theft (Raids focused around the theft of livestock. May include injuries or death to humans, and/or damage, destruction or theft of other property).
- Protest Demonstrations
 - Peaceful Protests (peaceful protest demonstrations or assemblies. May include isolated or low-level violence).
 - Violent Turmoil or Riots (Assemblies or crowds that get out of control. Marked by violence, disorder, damage and/or destruction).
- Other Crime
 - Assaults (Physical attacks and abuse involving the actual use of physical force against individuals, and/or groups. Does not include abductions.
 - Banditry (Commandeering of vehicles, highway robbery, and other similar criminal activities).