

# **Kenya Overview Mid-March 2019**

Page	Contents		
1 2	Glossary & Risk Levels Political and Conflict Summary		
3	Humanitarian Situation		
Glossary			
AS	al-Shabaab		
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo		
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification		
NPRs	National Police Reservists		
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence		
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees		

This document is for the use of the Japan Platform and its member agencies. This document must not be distributed further without the consent of the JPF Security Advisor.

In the text when 'Comment: ...' appears in italic and the subsequent text is also in italic, this information is not fact, but the opinion of the author.

**Disclaimer:** The aim of this document is to give information, make analytical comment and give advice. Japan Platform is not responsible for any actions taken by the reader.

Locations	Risk Level	Comment	Forecast
Nairobi except for those neighborhoods listed below.	Low	The main threats in Kenya are road traffic accident and crime; followed by a major terrorist attack on a high-profile target. Whilst Nairobi is assessed as Low, it can quickly change to Moderate or High especially during elections, which can be violent. The next parliamentary election is in 2021.	The pattern of crime statistics shows a gradual growth in most areas of crime. Whilst the Kenyan police are supposedly becoming more professional and less corrupt, there is little to suggest this is inhibiting the growth in crime. Similarly, the risk of road traffic accident and terrorism will at best not change.
Nairobi neighborhoods Mathare, Kawangware, Huruma, Majengo, Kayole, Mukuru Kayaba. Less than 30km from the Somali border and coastal area north of Malindi.	High	The Nairobi neighborhoods assessed as High are well known for high criminality, especially at night. Areas close to Somali border and the northern section of the coast are High Risk due to al Shabaab and criminal activity.	There are no indicators in Kenya or Somali to suggest the risk presented by al Shabaab will reduce.
Areas not listed above	To be assessed	There are several other locations in Kenya where the risk could be High due to tribal and ethnic violence. Risk assessments will be conducted on these areas if required. Likewise for Dadaab Camp where the levels change depending on the current situation.	

# 1. Political and Conflict Summary

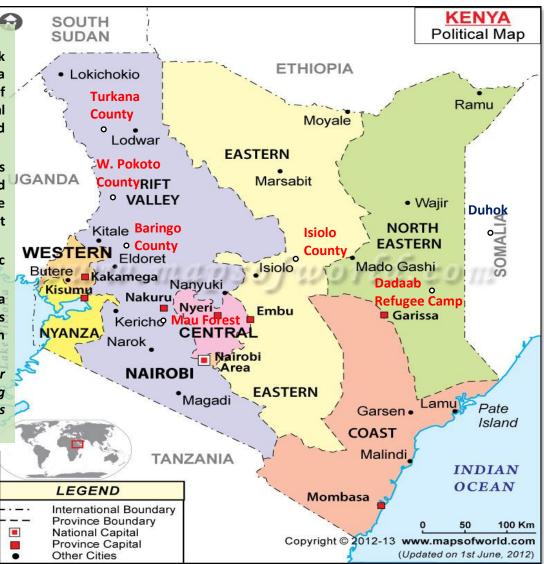
## TRIBAL AND INTERCOMMUNAL CLASHES

- O Between the 10 and 12 Feb 2019, there were 4 reports of livestock rustling activities along the border areas of West Pokot and Turkana counties resulting in the abduction and killing of a herds boy and loss of an unspecified number of animals. In the heightened inter-communal tension that followed, suspected raiders on a revenge mission shot and injured two NPR's (National Police Reservists) in an armed clash.
- On 17 Feb, an armed clash between the Turkana and Pokot communities left at least 6 dead and another 3 were killed on 18 Feb in another armed raid and an unspecified number of animals stolen. Security forces were deployed in the affected areas along the border of Turkana – West Pokot Counties.
- In Baringo county, suspected Pokot raiders on 21 Feb attacked ethnic Ilchamus inhabitants, killing 5.
- On 19 Mar, two armed groups of herders from the Samburu and Borana communities clashed leaving 3 dead and 1 injury. No livestock was stolen during the incident. Security forces deployed to ease tension in the area.

Comment: The clashes in these areas are attributed to competition over scarce resources which has forcing herders to compete as a coping mechanism to sustain their livelihoods. In the short-term, the conflict is expected to continue if the expected March-April 'short rains' fail.

## **AL-SHABAAB (AS) ACTIVITY**

- On 15 Jan 2019 AS carried out a complex attack on 14 Riverside Hotel and Office complex in Westlands, Nairobi. Six gunmen (at least 3 of Kenyan origin) detonated a suicide bomb in the hotel foyer and stormed the buildings taking civilians captive inside. A 17-hour siege ended with security forces killing the remaining assailants. 21 civilians were killed and at least 30 injured.
- On 26 Jan a homemade bomb exploded in central Nairobi injuring two people. No group claimed responsibility although AS is suspected.
- AS is also suspected of an attack in Garissa county in the North East province in Jan 2019. Six armed men attacked a road construction site on the Garissa – Mado Gashe road. The police repelled the attack, but 2 civilians were injured.



## **FORCED RELOCATION OF 10,000**

The Kenyan government is reportedly planning to force 10,000 people living in Mau forest to move elsewhere. They claim it is necessary to protect East Africa's largest indigenous forest. The forest is under threat from illegal logging, forest clearing, and the loss of water. Reportedly those living in the forest say that they are struggling to survive, and the government is making that worse.

#### 2. Humanitarian Situation

## **OVERVIEW - FACTS & FIGURES**

The Political and the humanitarian situation in the region will continue to impact upon Kenya, mainly due to the refugee producing countries of Somalia and South Sudan, but also due to unrest in Burundi and the DRC. It is anticipated that the political situation in Ethiopia will be stable and the current influx of asylum seekers will be limited. Kenya will continue to be among the top refugee hosting countries in Africa.

After experiencing serious drought in 2017 and early 2018 many pastoral areas of Kenya are now recovering due to above average rainfall during the 'long rains' season, resulting in good vegetation growth. However, pastoral livelihood areas will remain IPC Phase 1 (Minimal) and IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) into 2019 due to below average seasonal 'short rains'. Livestock prices are currently between 13% and 30% above the 5-year average while maize prices remain below the 5-year average.

#### **Total number Refugee & Asylum Population: 475,412**

Somali: 259,100 / 54.5%S. Sudan: 116,172 / 24.4%

DRC: 41,784 / 8.8%
 Ethiopia: 27,587 / 5.9%
 Burundi: 13,529 / 2.8%
 Sudan: 10,176 / 2.1%

Uganda: 2,441
 Rwanda: 1,753
 Eritrean: 1,863
 Other: 737

## **Refugees and Asylums are Hosted In**

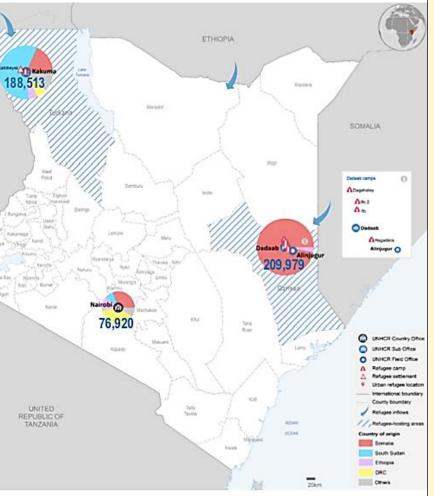
Dadaab: 209,979
 Kakuma Camp: 188,513
 Urban Areas: 76,920

84% are living in the Camps and 16% in Urban Areas. 89% have Refugee Status, 11% are Asylum Seekers.

https://www.unhcr.org/ke/wp-

content/uploads/sites/2/2019/02/Kenya-

Infographics January-2019.pdf



#### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

The French news agency, AFP, reports an internal UNHCR document, dated 28 Feb 2019, states the Kenyan government has informed the agency of its plans to close the Dadaab camps by the end of August 2019. The three-decade-old Dadaab camp in eastern Kenya is home to some 210,000 people, the vast majority are Somalis who fled across the border following the outbreak of civil war in 1991.

Amnesty International Kenya's Executive Director, Irungu Houghton, said:

"These men, women and children have fled ongoing armed conflict in fear for their lives and suffered a raft of other human rights abuses. These plans must be shelved. The Kenyan government must seek genuine durable solutions for Somali refugees including integration into the Kenyan society and resettlement to third countries."

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/03/kenya-must-not-force-refugees-back-to-somalia-by-closing-dadaab-camp/

A convoy of trucks carrying relief food arrived in Turkana and West Pokot counties on the 23 and 24 Mar 2019. Civilians in the counties are suffering severe shortages due to drought.

#### **KEY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

Food Security: Below-average 'short rains' have slightly increased the food insecure population from 655,800 in Aug 2018 to 1,111,500 currently, with the 12 most affected counties having a total of 865,300 food insecure people.

Health: Various disease outbreaks are affecting Kenya, including cholera and Rift Valley Fever.

Protection: Effective mechanisms for prevention, surveillance, reporting, and response for SGBV is a priority concern and many girls and women are affected by female genital mutilation. Early marriage and child labour increase during drought. Education: School attendance is impacted by drought, food insecurity, lack of access to safe water, and displacement, as well as general insecurity.

Access: Insecurity particularly affects the counties bordering Somalia, with Al Shabaab conducting sporadic attacks against civilians and state security forces. Some regions, such as the Rift Valley and Isiolo county, are affected by inter-communal violence and banditry. Access in Kenya has been problematic during periods of flooding but has improved in 2019.