

Kenya (Moyale)

Displacement from Ethiopia

Following security operations in Moyale, Ethiopia, some 10,000 people have been displaced to Moyale in Marsabit county, Kenya, since 10 March. The displaced population is currently staying in makeshift camps around Moyale. 80% of the displaced people are women and children, including 600 pregnant women and 1,500 children under five. Multisectoral assistance is urgently needed.

NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



IMPACT



Map source: Maphill 2011

Anticipated scope and scale

In Moyale, Kenya, some **10,000 displaced people from Ethiopia** are in need of multisectoral assistance. An increase in numbers is likely as more people are registered. More arrivals from Ethiopia are possible, although there have been no further reports of violence since 10 March. While the Ethiopian government stated it is working on activities to enable the return of the displaced people, **political tensions** in Ethiopia are likely to continue and have the potential to prevent returns. Pre-existing **food insecurity** in Moyale compounds the situation. The **rainy season** has started and increases risk of water-borne disease outbreaks, including cholera.

Key priorities



WASH assistance
to prevent disease outbreaks



Food assistance
for displaced population



Shelter and NFIs
in makeshift camps

Humanitarian constraints



Heavy rains and flash floods have been affecting parts of Kenya, including Marsabit since the beginning of March and could potentially impact aid deliveries. Heavy rains have impacted Moyale in the past.

Limitations

It is unclear how many people have been displaced into Kenya without being registered.

The last available breakdown of numbers of people staying at different locations within Moyale is from 15 March.

Crisis impact

Displacement

Security operations by the Ethiopian security forces in Moyale, in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, have displaced around 10,000 people from Ethiopia into Moyale, Marsabit county, in Kenya, since 10 March.

According to a UNHCR report on 19 March, around 9,700 Ethiopians have arrived in Moyale, Kenya since 10 March (UNHCR 19/03/2018). On 21 March it was reported that over 10,500 displaced people had been registered (DW 21/03/2018). An unknown number of displaced people are also staying with host families (UNHCR 19/03/2018). The needs of the displaced people who have not been registered are yet to be reported (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

As of 15 March, the majority of displaced people in Moyale are located at Sessi (over 3,000), Sololo (2,300), and Somare (1,800), with additional people staying at Cifa/Butiye, Maeyi, Kukub, Gatta Korma, and Dambala Fachana sites (The Star 15/03/2018). An updated breakdown across sites is not available at the time of writing.

The number of registered arrivals has continuously increased since 10 March, with the last figure of around 10,500 reported on 21 March. On 15 March, more people were expected to cross into Kenya as insecurity in Ethiopia was ongoing (ECHO 15/03/2018). However, as of 22 March, no further incidents of violence in Moyale, Ethiopia, have been reported. It is unclear for how long the displaced people will stay in Kenya (UNHCR 19/03/2018). Returns are only likely if the security situation in the place of origin has stabilised and the displaced people do not fear being targeted by the Ethiopian security forces again.

Security situation

On 10 March, Ethiopian security forces conducted an operation in Moyale, Ethiopia, during which civilians were targeted. 13 people were killed, 20 people were injured, and 16 were reported missing (ECHO 15/03/2018). According to the Ethiopian government, the military erroneously conducted the attack due to false intelligence about the presence of members of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a militant opposition group, in the area (Voice of America 12/03/2018). Reportedly, soldiers involved in the incident have been disarmed and a government delegation is investigating the attacks (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

According to local residents, victims were from different ethnic groups (Voice of America 12/03/2018). Residents described that the military conducted house searches, and that people were shot at and killed indiscriminately, including at the market and in mosques (Voice of America 12/03/2018, Nation 14/03/2018).

Food: The displaced people in Moyale are in need of food assistance (UNHCR 19/03/2018). Food shortages in Moyale have been reported since the beginning of the influx (Bloomberg 16/03/2018). There is pre-existing food insecurity in the region receiving the displaced people: Moyale is classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) for the February-April projection period (FEWSNET 16/03/2018). This suggests that local resources to cover the food needs of the displaced population in the medium term are limited.

WASH: The displaced people are in need of water and sanitation assistance (UNHCR 19/03/2018). Sanitation facilities for the displaced population are inadequate. Open disposal of human waste and open defecation has been reported (Bloomberg 16/03/2018, Nation 14/03/2018).

Shelter and NFIs: The displaced people are in need of shelter (UNHCR 19/03/2018). The Kenyan Red Cross has highlighted the need to set up a camp for the displaced people in order to provide coordinated assistance (Nation 14/03/2018). The displaced people are currently staying in makeshift sites dispersed throughout the area (The Star 15/03/2018). Some people are staying in schools (Standard Media 13/03/2018). Shelter assistance is urgent considering the start of the rainy season in March, which has already led to flooding in other parts of Marsabit (Daily Nation 05/03/2018).

Health: Many asylum seekers are in need of health assistance (UNHCR 19/03/2018). Some are reportedly chronically ill (Reuters 13/03/2018). The most common health issues treated so far included diarrhoea, pneumonia, upper respiratory tract infections, as well as skin and eye infections (Xinhua 17/03/2018). The hospital in Moyale, Kenya, has been overwhelmed with the numbers of people with gunshot wounds (DW 15/03/2018).

Due to the poor sanitation and the lack of drinking water, there is a risk of an outbreak of diseases such as cholera (ECHO 15/03/2018). Health risks are further compounded by the start of the Long Rains rainy season in March (Xinhua 17/03/2018).

Protection: Displaced people have voiced security concerns as they are currently located close to the border to Ethiopia (UNHCR 19/03/2018, ECHO 15/03/2018).

Issues with the registration of the displaced people have been reported. As of 14 March, there was no central registration area for the arrivals, and many people have arrived without being registered (Nation 14/03/2018).

Education: According to local media, some displaced people are being sheltered at local schools (Standard Media 13/03/2018). This could lead to disruption of education for children in the host community. The first school term will end on 6 April, with the second term starting on 30 April (Capital News 26/12/2017).

Vulnerable groups affected

Over 80% of the displaced people are women and children. Among them are more than 600 pregnant women and some 1,500 children under five. Unknown numbers of people with disabilities and elderly people are among the displaced people as well (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Since the beginning of March, heavy rains and flash floods have been affecting Kenya, mostly central, south-west, and south-east counties. The capital Nairobi has been impacted as well (ECHO 20/03/2018). In some parts of the country, including in Nairobi, infrastructure damage has been reported as the water has impacted bridges and roads (Daily Nation 16/03/2018). While Marsabit has only been moderately impacted so far, the delivery of aid to Moyale could be disrupted by the rains.

There is an airport near Moyale. A primary road connects Moyale to Marsabit and the center of the country and a secondary road leads to Wajir (Logistics Cluster 14/07/2017).

Aggravating factors

Long Rains season

The Long Rains rainy season in eastern and northern Kenya (including in Marsabit) runs from mid-March to mid-June, while in western Kenya and in the Rift Valley it lasts from mid-February to mid-August (FEWSNET 16/03/2018). Since the beginning of March, heavy rains and flash floods have been affecting counties in central, south-west, and south-east Kenya (ECHO 20/03/2018). Marsabit has been moderately impacted. In Manguno Alkana, Marsabit, flash floods on 15 March flooded homes and trapped 20 people (Daily Nation 16/03/2018). In Saku sub-county, one person died in flash floods at the beginning of March (Daily Nation 05/03/2018). In North Horr sub-county, over 100 goats died in flash floods (Daily Nation 05/03/2018). During the previous Long Rains season, in April 2017, heavy rains affected Moyale, and 200 cattle died (NDMA 07/2017).

Disease outbreaks

Kenya has been affected by various disease outbreaks. There is currently a cholera outbreak active in Garissa, Siaya, Meru, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, and Turkana counties, with 1,476 suspected cases and 29 deaths in 2018 so far (CFR: 2.0%) (WHO 16/03/2018). A measles outbreak is currently affecting Wajir county, with 24 suspected cases and no

deaths since February 2018 (WHO 16/03/2018). A chikungunya outbreak is affecting Mombasa and Lamu counties, with 841 suspected cases and no deaths since mid-December 2017 (WHO 16/03/2018). Malaria is endemic to Kenya (WHO 04/2017). In late 2017, several malaria-related deaths were reported in Marsabit (The Star 13/11/2017). A kala-azar outbreak affected Marsabit and Wajir in 2017, with 457 total suspected cases until the end of August, when the last case was reported (WHO 10/11/2017).

Drought

Drought conditions have been affecting ASAL (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) counties, including Marsabit, due to below-average rainy seasons (UNICEF 02/03/2018). Food security projections for the February-April period, show most of Marsabit is in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), with Moyale in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET 16/03/2018).

Insecurity

The counties bordering Somalia (Garissa, Lamu, Wajir, and Mandera) have been affected by presence and activity of the Islamist militant group Al Shabaab, which is active in Somalia. Marsabit county and Moyale sub-county both border Wajir county. The most recent attack attributed to Al Shabaab in Kenya occurred in Wajir, when three people, including two teachers, were killed at Qarsa Primary School on 16 February (Daily Nation 16/02/2018). In Marsabit, a Muslim cleric was recently detained for alleged links to Al Shabaab (The Star 16/01/2018).

The Kenyan security forces are reinforcing their presence along the border to Ethiopia in response to the influx from Ethiopia (Bloomberg 16/03/2018).

Political instability

Kenya held presidential elections on 8 August 2017. President Uhuru Kenyatta was declared president-elect, defeating his main opponent Raila Odinga. On 1 September, the Supreme Court annulled the elections due to irregularities and the repeat elections were held on 26 October, which the main opposition alliance boycotted. Kenyatta was declared winner (Al Jazeera 30/10/2017). Odinga subsequently called for a "resistance movement" and on 30 January announced himself as "people's president" (Al Jazeera 31/10/2017, CFR 30/01/2018). The election period was marred by violence. In Nairobi, over 100 people were killed during the period. Most of the people were killed by the police during election-related protests, while some were targeted by armed gangs (HRW 25/02/2018). On 9 March, Kenyatta and Odinga jointly held a press conference and announced to resolve differences, though it is unclear how far relations have improved (Crisis Group 13/03/2018). In mid-2017, political violence in Marsabit, related to election campaigns, reportedly led to the death of at least 20 people (Daily Nation 13/06/2017).

Contextual information

Drivers of the current conflict

The displacement occurred in the context of a political crisis in Ethiopia.

In September 2017, tensions escalated between the Oromo and Somali ethnic groups along the border of the Oromia and Somali regions, which led to casualties and large-scale displacement (Voice of America 29/19/2017, OCHA 23/01/2018).

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which the Ethiopian military claimed to have targeted in Moyale, is an Oromo militant group (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 07/05/2017).

Although the Ethiopian government has since January 2018 taken reconciliatory steps, such as the release of over 6,000 political prisoners, it declared a six-month state of emergency on 16 February, after the prime minister had resigned one day earlier (Voice of America 12/03/2018, Africa Center 20/03/2018). The decision to enforce a state of emergency sparked protests, mainly in Oromia region and Addis Abeba (France24 06/03/2018, Africa News 06/03/2018). Multiple people have reportedly been killed since the beginning of the state of emergency (Africa Center 20/03/2018).

Past displacement

Kenya hosts some 484,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR 28/02/2018). 231,000 are located at Dadaab in Garissa county, 186,000 are in Kakuma in Turkana county, and 67,000 are in Nairobi (UNHCR 28/02/2018). The main countries of origin are Somalia (277,000), South Sudan (113,000), and DR Congo (36,000). Kenya also hosts some 28,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers from before the current crisis (UNHCR 28/02/2018).

As of November 2017, there are some 309,000 IDPs in Kenya, including some 39,000 people displaced in 2017 due to the drought (OCHA 03/11/2017). There is little information about their location and their needs.

Inter-clan violence affected Marsabit in 2013, with Moyale being impacted as well. Some 38,000 people were displaced within Moyale, into other regions in Marsabit and Wajir, and into Ethiopia (IRIN 06/09/2013).

In Ethiopia, there are some 1.7 million IDPs, most of them displaced in 2017 by conflict or drought (OCHA 13/03/2018). As of 5 February 2018, there are some 179,000 IDPs in Borena zone in Ethiopia, including some 29,000 IDPs in Moyale (including some 9,800 conflict-related IDPs) (IOM 05/02/2018).

Key characteristics

Demographic profile: Total population of Kenya: 47,615,739, of which 26.5% is urban and 73.5% rural. In Marsabit, the total population is 291,166 (2009).

Poverty rate: In Kenya, the poverty rate is 45.9%. The poverty rate in Marsabit is 83.2%, one of the highest in Kenya.

Food security figures: 2.55 million people in Kenya are currently food insecure. In February-April projections, Marsabit is in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Moyale is in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Nutrition levels: In Kenya, the current caseload for malnutrition of children under 5 is 328,260 for MAM and 71,560 for SAM. In Marsabit, the MAM caseload is estimated to be 8,539 and the SAM caseload 2,591. In parts of Marsabit (North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties), the level of acute malnutrition is Critical (GAM WHZ 15.0 – 29.9%).

Health statistics: In Kenya, the infant mortality rate is 37.1 deaths/1,000 live births. The maternal mortality ratio is 510 deaths/100,000 live births. In Marsabit, the infant mortality rate is 47 deaths/1,000 live births. The under-five mortality rate in Marsabit is 70 deaths/1,000 live births. In Moyale sub-county, the under-five mortality is 50 deaths/1,000 livebirths.

WASH statistics: In Kenya, 63.2% of the total population has access to improved drinking water. 56.8% of the rural population has access to improved drinking water. 30.1% of the total population and 29.7% of the rural population has access to improved sanitation facilities. In Marsabit, 77.6% of the population has access to improved drinking water.

Lighting and cooking sources: In Kenya, the main lighting sources are tin lamps (38.5%), lanterns (30.6%), and electricity (22.9%). In Marsabit, the main lighting fuel is fuel wood (47.1%). In Moyale sub-county, 22.8% of male-headed households and 15.7% of female-headed households use fuel wood.

Literacy levels: 78% of the population over 15 can read and write.

Sources: World Factbook 2018, Worldbank 2018, Daily Nation 13/10/2011, Daily Nation 17/12/2011, Knoema 2018, HumData 2018, SID 2013, UNICEF 02/03/2018, IPC 28/02/2018, FEWSNET 16/03/2018

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

Many displaced people have crossed into Kenya with their livestock, which further stretches resources of responding organisations (Reuters 13/03/2018). There is a risk of conflicts with the Kenyan host population due to livestock of the displaced population grazing in the area.

Ethiopian authorities are reportedly working on repatriating the displaced people (DW 21/03/2018, Xinhua 17/03/2018)

The county administration of Marsabit has been cooperating with UN agencies and INGOs in the provision of aid and has provided food and water (UNHCR 19/03/2018, Xinhua 17/03/2018). The Kenyan government has been working to reduce the number of makeshift camps to facilitate registration activities (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

The Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS) has been providing emergency assistance, including water, food, NFIs, shelter materials, medicine, and sanitation (UNHCR 19/03/2018, The Star 15/03/2018). KRCS is conducting nutrition screenings for children under five and pregnant and lactating women (Xinhua 17/03/2018). At Sololo, KRCS set up a makeshift camp for displaced people who had been previously located at other sites (Xinhua 17/03/2018). KRCS furthermore is providing Family Link services so that displaced people can call their relatives in Ethiopia (Twitter Kenya Red Cross 18/03/2018).

International response capacity

UNHCR is coordinating the response (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

UNHCR has been supporting the Kenyan government in the registration of displaced people (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

UNICEF, World Vision, and Concern are providing support (UNHCR 19/03/2018).

ECHO is responding through local partners (ECHO 15/03/2018).

Information gaps and needs

The number of people who have crossed into Kenya without being registered is unknown.

There is no information available about numbers or needs of IDPs currently residing in Moyale, Kenya.

Lessons learned

- Bio-metric registration is vital for the effective management of refugees' needs (UNHCR 15/05/2017).
- Livelihood support can increase the level of self-sufficiency of **refugees** (World Bank 05/2016; UNHCR 2014).
- Close involvement of main stakeholders, such as local and national authorities, host communities and refugees is imperative key in managing a refugee **influx** (World Bank 05/2016).

Map of Marsabit



Source: Maphill 2011