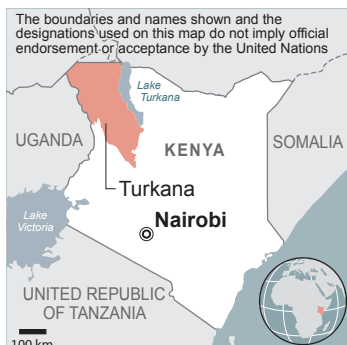


# Strengthening human security in the border communities of Turkana, Kenya



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Kenya

**Duration:** July 2012 - June 2015

**Implementing UN Agencies:** OCHA; UNDP; FAO; IOM; WHO; UNICEF; ILO

**Other Implementing Partners:** Local peace networks/committees; local government; Arid Lands Resource Management Project

**Budget:** \$6,328, 827.67

**Key Words:** Climate change; migration; poverty reduction; conflict prevention

## BACKGROUND

Natural hazards by themselves do not cause disasters. It is rather the combination of factors which turn hazards into major emergencies and make the effects of climatic shocks particularly devastating for vulnerable populations. In 2009, Central Turkana experienced one of the worst droughts to ever hit the region. Large areas of livestock were wiped-out, livelihoods were significantly undermined, and food and health security were deeply compromised. Moreover, a growing population and new administrative boundaries, which had changed the context in which the mobile pastoralist production systems operated, further threatened the daily lives of

the communities in the region. As pastoral communities struggled to sustain their basic living standards, crime and violence flourished within and across the region's porous international boundaries. Today, Central Turkana suffers from a 'climate change-migration-conflict' nexus. Cycles of severe and recurring drought have resulted in a significant drop in livestock production, increasing competition over scarce resources, growing incidences of violent conflicts and lawlessness, high rates of malnutrition and regular outbreaks of communicable diseases due to lack access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

By strengthening pastoral production systems, improving access to basic education for out-of-school children and youth, enhancing the delivery of basic social services, and advancing skills training in alternative livelihoods, the project aims to reduce inter-communal and cross-border tensions and preserve the resilience and dignity of pastoral communities. Specifically, the project seeks to: (i)

improve pastoral livelihoods and food security among the most vulnerable; (ii) expand people's livelihood choices; (iii) ensure access to basic healthcare for vulnerable communities; (iv) promote peace and prevent recurring conflicts through the provision of early warning systems and peacebuilding activities; and (v) increase access to education for nomadic children and youth.

### BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries include approximately 273,000 persons in Central Turkana, predominantly pastoralists that have been the most affected by the 'climate

change-migration-conflict' nexus. In addition, the project targets vulnerable and marginalized populations immediately across the border in Uganda.



Credit: IRIN/Gwenn Dubourthoumieu



Credit: OCHA

## APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

The specific constellation of climate change, migration and conflict in Central Turkana requires a comprehensive framework that targets the full spectrum of threats and vulnerabilities facing people. As a result, the project is focused on strengthening the survival, livelihood and dignity of pastoral communities faced with frequent, successive and prolonged droughts. Through coordinated and sustainable responses, the project is strengthening the human security of the population through improvements in the areas of food, education, health and conflict prevention.

Furthermore, with a strong focus on the protection and empowerment framework, the project is consolidating the capacities of local Government and institutions to establish early warning mechanisms and improve access to basic services in a manner appropriate to

nomadic lifestyles. Meanwhile, affected communities are empowered through the promotion of communal spaces for broader participation and improvements in livelihoods through vocational and skills training that capitalize on the existing capacities of nomadic pastoralists.

Lastly, as both a developmental and environmental concern, the effects of climate-related hazards underline the need for comprehensive solutions that bring together the expertise of a diverse network of stakeholders, including UN-agencies, local authorities, civil society groups and community-based organizations. Through targeted, people-centred and prevention-oriented responses, the combined impact of a suitable multi-actor strategy can result in more concrete and sustainable solutions to existing and future insecurities in Central Turkana.