

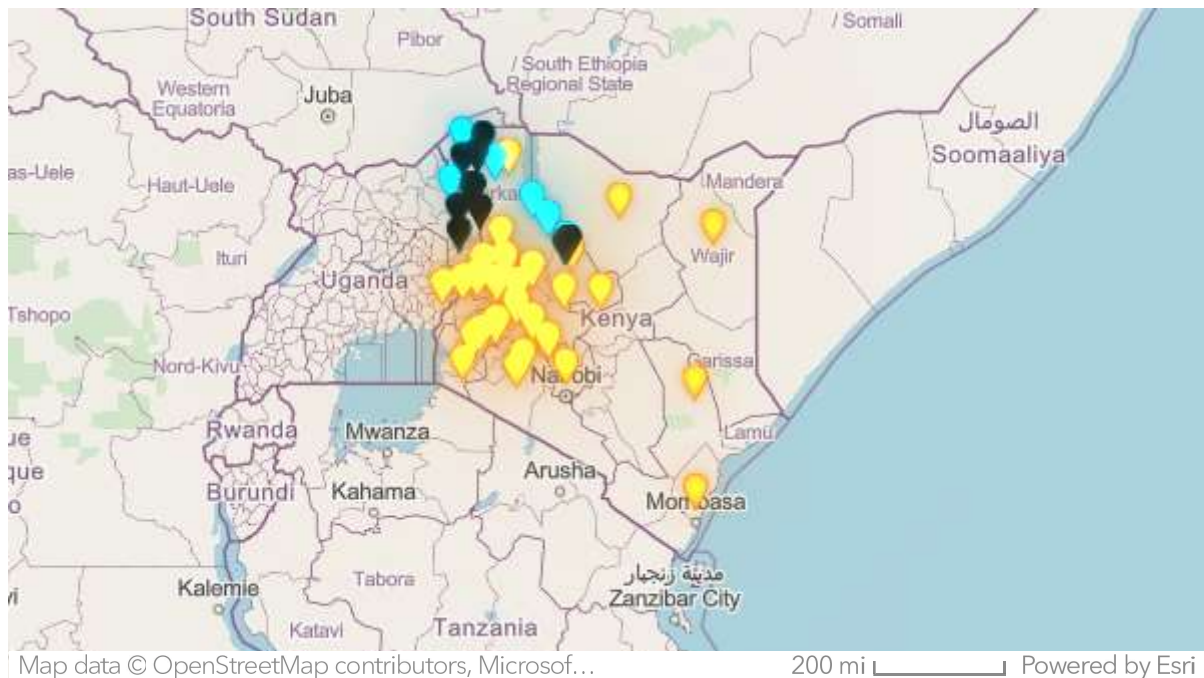
CONFLICT INCIDENTS IN KENYA.

Election violence history in Kenya.

Lorna Makena

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Kenya's next general elections are not scheduled to take place until 12 months from now in August 2022 – yet even a year ago the race to be the country's next President was hitting up. The months leading up to, and after, elections have been the most violent periods in Kenya's post-independence history, with thousands killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in election cycles since 2007. The advent of multi-party democracy in Kenya in 1992 led to the ethnicization of politics, with parties coalescing around tribal power-brokers and an ever-changing political landscape as inter-ethnic alliances were formed and fell apart. This continues to characterize Kenya's electoral landscape today. In the absence of parties based on a consistent political ideology, the instrumentalisation of tribal identities and manipulation of ethnic grievances remain the primary basis of political mobilization, with the threat of violence – and often its use – hanging over every election cycle.



ELECTION CONFLICTS 2007 TO 2017

Map shows areas where election violence in the years 2007, 2013 and 2017 occurred with multiple areas occurring more than ones.

COVID has not only exposed Kenya's socio-economic divides but also aggravated a range of other sources of insecurity and violence. As in so many other countries, there has been a sharp rise in sexual and gender-based violence, with Nairobi recording significantly higher case numbers than before the pandemic. The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of women dependent on the informal sector who are either not able to access these livelihood opportunities due to the restrictions in place, or whose contribution is no longer necessary due to work-from-home arrangements (for example washer-women). The decline of job and livelihood opportunities as a result of the pandemic has also led to an increase in petty crime. As the country experiences a 'fourth wave' of the pandemic following a short period in which restrictions were eased, many are blaming the government, with fears that economic recovery will be impossible for people who have only just started re-engaging in livelihood activities.



child running for her life during post election violence in 2007

Conclusion.

Preventing & Mitigating Conflict.

- (i) Hate speech monitoring: Programming falling under this sub-category focused on countering dangerous speech, cited as a key contributor to the 2007/08 violence. Police fulfilling its mandate as the public watchdog for hate speech,
- (ii) Peace Messaging: Programming falling under this sub-category focused on imploring Kenyans to maintain peace, calm, and unity before, during and after the elections. This includes developing and disseminating messages of peace through SMS and email blasts, door to-door campaigns, TV and radio, community events, billboards, etc.”³⁰
- (iii) Community Dialogue and Reconciliation: Programming falling under this sub-category focuses on reducing tensions and improving relationships between previously polarized ethnic communities. Programs such as “Kenya Tuna Uwezo” and the “People to People Peace Project (3Ps)” had a people-to-people approach and utilized civil society organizations, discussion groups and peace committees to start dialogue and build up communication and trust.
- (iv) Capacitating Local Peace Structures: Programming falling under this sub-category focused on the development of Kenya’s peace infrastructure. Such as strengthening the capacity of local organizations to undertake

conflict mitigation activities like
peace meetings.

(v) Early Warning Early Response (EWER): Programming falling
under this sub-category
focused on raising alarm about monitoring potential threats of
violence and undertaking effective measures to address these
threats before they escalate. This involved mechanisms operating
at both the national and local level.