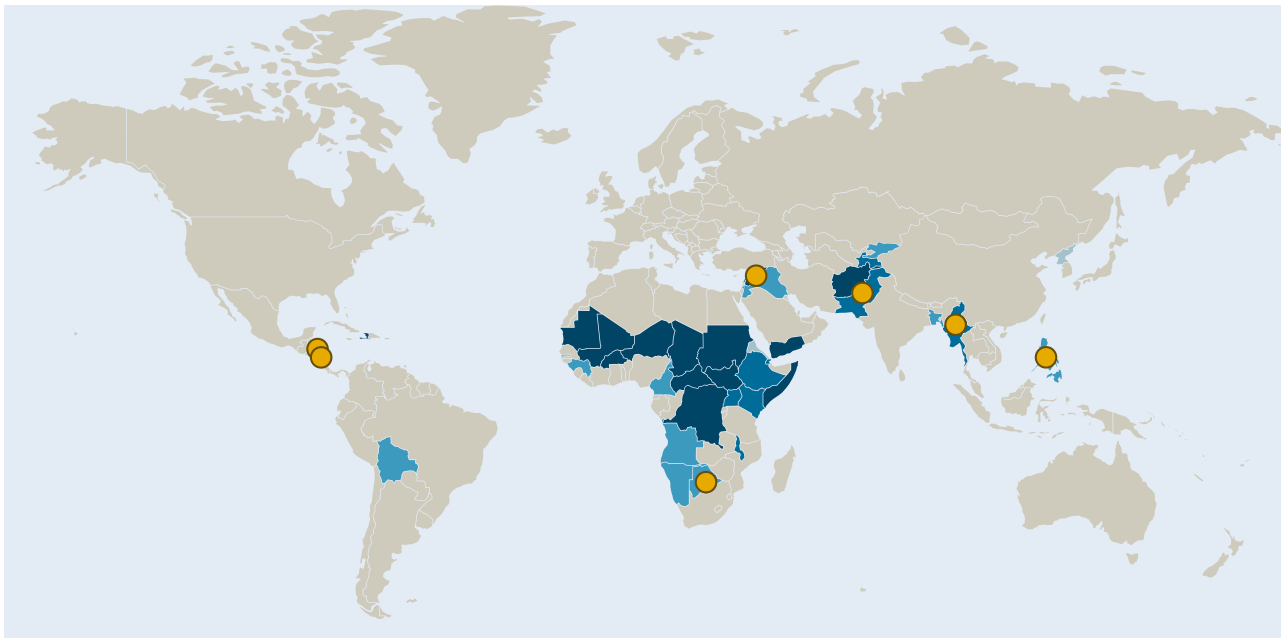




# GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

August 2013



## Snapshot 29 July– 05 August

In **Syria**, Government forces are advancing in Homs and expected to retake opposition-held districts in the short-term, while operations have been ongoing in other major cities, including Aleppo and Damascus. Meanwhile, infighting within opposition forces is spreading between various armed groups. Clashes are continuously reported between Kurdish fighters and al-Qaeda affiliated Islamists near the border with Turkey in Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqqa governorates. Besides, tensions are also rising between the Free Syrian Army and fighters of the Islamic State Iraq and Syria, mainly in Aleppo and the countryside of Idlib. As of 5 August, over 1.89 million Syrian refugees have been registered in neighbouring countries according to the UNHCR.

Flash floods across Asia have affected several countries with at least 250,000 people affected in the **Philippines** 165,000 affected in **Pakistan**, 124,000 in **Bangladesh**, around 38,000 in **Myanmar** and 20,000 in Thailand. Flash floods triggered by days of torrential rain have killed more than 40 people and destroyed dozens of houses in **Afghanistan** however there is no information yet on the number of affected.

Similarly this week floods and a dengue epidemic affect Central America with more than 12,500 flood affected in **Nicaragua** and 16,000 in **Colombia**. On 31 July, **Honduras** declared a state of emergency after an outbreak of dengue fever that has killed 16 people so far this year. More than 13,000 people have been diagnosed with the

### Severe humanitarian crisis

Afghanistan	Mauritania
Burkina Faso	Niger
CAR	Somalia
Chad	South Sudan
DRC	Sudan
Haiti	● Syria
Mali	Yemen

### Humanitarian crisis

Djibouti	oPt
Ethiopia	● Pakistan
Kenya	Tajikistan
Malawi	Uganda
● Myanmar	

### Situation of concern

Angola	Iraq
Bangladesh	Jordan
Bolivia	Kyrgyzstan
● Botswana	Lebanon
Cameroon	Marshall Islands
Gambia	Namibia
Guinea	● Philippines

### Watch list

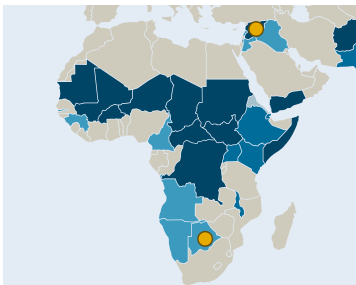
DPRK	● Honduras
Eritrea	● Nicaragua

disease.

In **Botswana**, the Government declared a drought for the 2013/2014 agricultural season, affecting the whole country. Almost half of the rural population, 18% of the total population, is estimated to be food insecure. Agro-based livelihoods are expected to suffer further losses and asset depletion.

*Last Updated: 05/08/2013 Next Update: 12/08/2013*

# AFRICA



## BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

Burkina Faso has been affected by insecurity and the on-going military intervention in Mali.

**Displacement:** As of 30 June, UNHCR noted that the current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso stands at 49,975, unchanged since 22 April. Refugees are located at seven formally recognized camps and informal settlement sites: Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou. The majority of the camps are in the northern region of Sahel, in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Seno, where almost 90% of the Malian refugees are settled. The presence of Malian refugees and their cattle in this arid area exacerbates the scarcity of natural resources and poses a risk of increased tensions between local communities and refugees.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to WFP, cereal production from the 2012/2013 agricultural season was over 30% higher than the 2011/2012 production. However, despite significant improvements in cereal production across the country, the food security situation remains critical in parts of Burkina Faso. Over the past five years, the country has undergone several shocks, including the 2011/2012 drought, and the population has not yet recovered from the last food crisis, mainly because many households still suffer from the effects of negative coping strategies, such as the sale of assets, implemented during the 2012 crisis.

FEWSNET states that 80% of the 16.9 million Burkinabe are currently meeting consumption needs and face Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity, as of June 2013. However, OCHA noted that at the end of June, 1.8 million people (20% of the population) in Burkina Faso were food insecure. Difficulties in accessing food are primarily due to low purchasing power, low household agricultural production, and difficult geographical access to markets. A March FAO report stated that the food insecure are

located predominantly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

Cereal prices have been stable since January 2013 and at levels slightly above (by no more than 12%) the five-year average. However, high staple food prices (millet, maize and sorghum) and limited non-agricultural income are expected to affect the quantity and quality of food access between July and September 2013. During this period, 25-30% of households in the north will have food security issues and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

Civil strife in northern Mali has also contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country. A February FAO/WFP joint assessment indicated an elevated prevalence of food insecurity in Malian refugee camps and in Burkinabe host communities with an estimated 52% of refugees and 58% of host populations affected by food insecurity. In early July, OCHA reported that the arrival of Malian refugees and their cattle had further increased pressure on scarce resources leading to tensions with local communities. In the Sahelian area of Burkina Faso, an estimated 90% of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods.

The 2013 total annual caseload of children <5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), as reported by UNICEF in late June, remains at January levels at an estimated 120,000. The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels, bringing the <5 General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 10.9%. According to 2012 assessments, the highest GAM rates were recorded in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun.

**Health:** In early July, OCHA reported registration of 2,586 suspected cases of measles, 35% were in the Sahel Health Region. Of the 35% Sahel cases, 40% were from the refugee camps.

According to UNICEF, the incidence of meningitis was at 1,679 cases as of early May 2013. In comparison to the previous year which saw 4,814 officially registered cases for the same period. The incidence rate this year is 66% lower indicating that the country is emerging from the high-transmission meningitis period and will most likely not experience an outbreak in 2013.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### Highlights

As of **early August**, the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains highly volatile, with widespread insecurity and clashes between elements of the Seleka coalition and the population. Disarmament operations have continued in the capital Bangui, where security seems to improve though it remains virtually non-existent in the countryside. The Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC) has become the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA) and has been deployed to restore control over the whole territory.

**19 July:** The Mission for the consolidation of peace in CAR will be reinforced with a new 3,600-strong peacekeeping mission in August 2013.

**17 July:** Preliminary findings of security assessment missions reveal that the situation is quiet in the north-west and the south, though serious security incidents and looting are reported regularly across the country and in Bangui. An estimated 4.6 million people are affected by ongoing violence.

### Political and Security Context

As of early August, the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains highly volatile with various sources reporting widespread insecurity and clashes between elements of the Seleka coalition that took power after a coup in late March and the population. Reportedly, outside of the capital Bangui, the country is now largely dominated by rebel warlords. According to a senior UN official, as of early August, security is virtually non-existent beyond the capital while State institutions are close to collapse. In various parts of the country, human rights infringements, arrests and executions are reported.

Looting and destruction is virtually unchecked across the country an increasing number of unpaid Seleka members roaming the streets and setting up checkpoints to collect money. If security has increased in the capital, where disarmament operations have continued, it has by contrast significantly lessened in the countryside. On 17 July, OCHA reported that the situation had somehow improved, although incidents continue to be reported across the country, in the northwest and in the south.

As of June, OCHA reported that eight attacks, 20 killings and 60 abductions had been reported in the second quarter of 2013, mostly in Haut-Kotto Préfecture. With several international organizations having ceased operations in CAR, information on levels of violence remains difficult to ascertain and the actual number of victims remains largely unknown with local reports pointing at possible mass killings, notably in the area of Bambari – the third biggest city.

On 28 June, clashes between ex-rebels of the Seleka rebel coalition and armed civilians killed six people in the capital Bangui and left 25 wounded, according to local authorities. Violence erupted after a person believed to have been kidnapped by the Seleka was found dead, instigating protests that were violently shut down by armed Seleka members. While actions by Seleka elements have instigated protests before, the 28 June events were unprecedented in terms of scope and level of violence.

On 1 August, the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC) that had been dispatched to CAR to help in improving security has become the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA) with the main mandate of helping restore control of the authorities over the whole territory. MISCA is composed of 2,475 military from Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Chad. FOMAC has been operating in CAR since before the coup, alongside the 550 French military posted in CAR, with a role to helping with the disarmament of militias and in easing tensions.

Initially, violence had erupted in CAR in December 2012, when the Seleka coalition, a group of five rebel movements, took up arms against the Government claiming that the latter had failed to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals declaring amnesty for fighters

who laid down their arms. Throughout March, the Seleka rebels took control of various towns and continued their advance until they seized Bangui on 24 March and toppled President Bozizé who fled to Cameroon.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

More than four months after Seleka rebels seized power in CAR, the country is still struggling with a humanitarian emergency. Humanitarian agencies have warned that the humanitarian situation across the country and in Bangui is worsening, advocating for security, access and protection of civilians. Ongoing lawlessness is considerable, and administrative offices, hospitals, health centres and schools have been pillaged, depriving vulnerable communities of basic services. According to UNICEF, the humanitarian crisis is affecting the entire population of CAR – an estimated 4.6 million people including 2.3 million are children – as of early July.

**Displacement:** As a result of the current crisis, UNHCR has identified at least 206,000 people as being internally displaced. This number is believed to be higher in reality as displacement has continued in the Northern and Western part of the country. Restricted humanitarian access to affected populations is limited information.

Since December 2012, 58,870 people have fled CAR, UNHCR reported as of early July, for Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the latter having received 42,663 CAR refugees. Cumulatively, the total number of refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries stands at over 220,000.

There are an estimated 17,000 mostly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in CAR. In April and May, the UN reported that an estimated 5,000 people were displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes. According to local media, the 2,200 Sudanese refugees of camp Bambari demanded to be moved from the camp due to the deteriorating security and the humanitarian and health situation in the camp.

According to OCHA on June 2013, the number of displaced in LRA-affected areas remains at 21,000 but requires verification when the situation stabilizes; 3,815 DRC refugees remain hosted in Haut-Mbomou with a majority (3,225) in Zemio camp.

**Access:** According to OCHA on 17 July, restriction of humanitarian space due to insecurity is limiting the delivery of aid to people in need. However, almost all NGOs have now returned to their previous locations and are deploying teams and resuming activities. The Humanitarian Country Team is facilitating access negotiations with Seleka authorities in regions outside Bangui to enable humanitarian actors to assist people affected by the crisis. UNDSS approved the gradual return of critical international UN staff on 18 June, indicating an improvement in security related constraints. Despite these improvements, the use of secondary roads is inadvisable due to physical and infrastructural constraints, exacerbated by the impending rainy season. Access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As the region has entered the 'lean season' when food supplies run low from mid-May until the harvest in September, WFP reported that food insecurity may reach crisis levels in the coming weeks.

OCHA and FSNWG reported that 2 million people in CAR faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity as of 22 June. As reported by FEWSNET in early June, households in the central, northern and eastern areas of the country are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels until the September harvest. Households in southern and western areas are likely to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity through the end of September.

A recent Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment indicated that the most vulnerable populations have begun adopting negative coping mechanisms such as eating once a day and reducing food diversity. There is high risk of a nutritional crisis during the lean season if urgent assistance is not provided. The report's main findings suggest that the food security situation of IDPs remains critical.

Several Rapid Response Mechanism assessments conducted in April and May indicated that large numbers of households do not have seeds due to looting and/ or household consumption. This has delayed planting activities that should normally have begun by mid-April.

According to UNICEF, malnutrition rates remain high with an estimated 13,500 children <5 suffering from SAM and 44,000 affected by MAM. A recent exploratory mission in southwest CAR, in Nola, Boda, Berberati, Gamboula and Gadzi, revealed an increase in levels of GAM, which ranged from 6%-10.3%. In May, as reported by an IPC seasonal analysis, the prevalence of SAM in children <5 was above the emergency threshold of 2% in nine of 16 prefectures.

**Health:** As reported by Merlin in early June, 3.2 million people are living without health care. In July, MSF stated that even before the coup, the country was in a crisis state of emergency with mortality rates well above the emergency threshold in several regions. Malnutrition and preventable diseases are rife; malaria is the leading cause of death.

According to UNICEF, a measles epidemic in Bangui was confirmed and the organization coordinated a vaccination campaign in late May. As of early June, 15,000 people had their life-prolonging antiretroviral treatment interrupted as a result of instability since December,.

In the first quarter of 2013, MSF teams saw alarming numbers of malaria cases, which are 33% higher than during the same period last year. Children <5 are among the worst affected by the epidemic. Some 23,910 children sought treatment for malaria during this period in 2012, while nearly double (44,469) have done so this year.

**Protection:** INGOs have reported a sharp rise in human rights abuses across the country, including attacks on civilians, child recruitment, arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, summary executions, rape, and other violations against civilians. In late July, the International Federation for Human Rights reported that Seleka rebels have killed 400 people, carried out dozens of rapes, and intentionally destroyed 34 villages/towns since February this year. Several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children <18, some of whom had been recently demobilized, into Seleka forces.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 22/07/2013.**

**19 July:** The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reports that regional instability is leading many Chadians refugees to return to Chad, along with refugees from Central African Republic (CAR), northern Nigeria and Sudanese Darfur.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries since March. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on 29 July, instability in CAR, northern Nigeria and Darfur region of Sudan has led many Chadians to return home with an estimated 1,000 returnees from CAR, 1,500 returnees from Nigeria and 22,000 returnees fleeing Sudanese Darfur to the border town of Tissi.

As of early July, 20,640 Chadian returnees and 30,448 Sudanese refugees had arrived at Tissi. This marked the largest influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad since 2005, and according to OCHA, since the beginning of the year, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad has increased to 350,000 people.

On-going political turmoil in the CAR has led to a rising number of refugees crossing into the country since December, bringing the total number of CAR refugees in Chad to 69,889, OCHA reported early July.

Humanitarian needs amongst incoming refugees: access to potable water; hygiene; shelter; and health and nutrition care for children and women. Against this background, UNICEF reported in late April that basic social services are inexistent in Tissi, with most having been destroyed or damaged during the 2004-2006 civil war and following ethnic tension in the Sila region.

People fleeing violence in northern Nigeria have crossed into Western Chad around the area of Lake Chad. Returnees from Nigeria are primarily unaccompanied minors from fishing villages in Bagakawa, according to UNICEF. As of early June, Chadian authorities reported an estimated 1,200 returnees dispersed across three hard-to-reach insular locations: Bagasola, Ngouboua and Tchoucoutelia.

**Access:** Insecurity, particularly in eastern and southern Chad, continues to limit humanitarian access. Moreover, the imminent rainy season starting in July is expected to obstruct humanitarian access to Tissi, with the aerial route between Tissi and the humanitarian bases in Koukou and Goz Beida likely to be closed from late June.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** In mid-July, local media reported that Sudanese refugees, located at camps in eastern Chad were facing food shortages while Ramadan officially started four weeks ago.

In Chad, two consecutive years of continued climatic shocks, including poor rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012, continuing into 2013. According to WFP and the Chadian Government, 13% of households (around 1.2 million people) face severe food insecurity and another 9% face moderate food insecurity in 18 regions across the country. In total, 2.1 million people are reportedly food insecure.

The Chadian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reports that the final cereal production figures for the 2012/2013 agricultural season stand at 3.1 million tons of cereals. This marks an increase of 91% compared to the previous season and 54% compared to the five-year production average. The good 2012/2013 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish food reserves while market prices across the country have remained stable and even occasionally trending downwards. According to FEWSNET, food security conditions will steadily improve with the rebuilding of the production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets.

However, despite a net cereal production surplus from the current harvest season, production deficits have been registered in some structurally food-deficient regions of the Sahel belt. The main reasons are drought, crop diseases, and destruction by birds. In the southern part of Chad, deficits are largely a result of floods.

The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is at critical levels with a GAM rate surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in 9 of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The areas most affected are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22% GAM), Salamat (22% GAM), Beg (21% GAM), and Kanem (21% GAM). According to UNICEF, an estimated 126,000 children will still suffer from SAM in 2013.

**Health:** Local media reported on 25 July that Sudanese refugees of camp Treguine in eastern Chad have complained of high rates of malaria, diarrhoea, deterioration of the environmental health, and lack of medicine.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO **CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

### Highlights

**1 August:** Clashes between the official military force (FADRC) and the militia Mai-Mai NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo) caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala and its surroundings.

**1 August:** 70% of the 66,000 Congolese refugees who fled to Uganda after ADF/NALU's attack on Kamango have now returned to their village, according to WFP.

**30 July:** The United Nations peacekeeping mission in DRC imposed an ultimatum to disarm to the M23 rebel group, and announced it would use its intervention brigade to enforce a security zone around Goma.

**23 July:** Renewed clashes were reported between M23 rebels and the official military force FADRC in North-Kivu.

**17 July:** Security conditions are deteriorating in the south of Irumu territory (Orientale province), following clashes between the official military force (FADRC) and the Patriotic Resistance Force in Ituri (FRPI) in the city of Koga.

**11 July:** Some 66,000 refugees from DRC have crossed into neighbouring Uganda, after ADF/NALU Ugandan rebels – Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda – attacked governmental forces and seized the city of Kamango in North-Kivu.

### Political and Security context

On 1 August, clashes between the official military force (FADRC) and the militia Mai-Mai NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo, a rebel group based in Pinga) caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala (western North-Kivu) and surrounds. The fighting has been ongoing since then on the axis between Walikale and Kisangani.

On 30 July, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC announced that it would use its intervention brigade to enforce a security zone around Goma, giving M23 rebels (and individuals who are not members of national security forces) 48 hours to hand in their weapons to a MONUSCO base and join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement process (DDR/RR). The rebel group disregarded the ultimatum and threatened to retake Goma over the coming days.

Clashes continue between M23 rebels and the Official military force (FADRC) in the area of Kibati, North-Kivu. Hostilities began on 14 July in areas around Mutaho, Kanyarucinya, Kibati and in the mountains near Ndoshoh (a few kms from Goma) and are considered to be the deadliest events since the beginning of the rebellion in April 2012. Over the last month, the M23 has reinforced its position around Goma, and on 12 July, peace talks in Kampala between the DRC Government and the M23 were interrupted after government teams allegedly left the talks, according to representatives of the insurgents.

OCHA reported on 17 July that security conditions are deteriorating in the south of Irumu territory (Orientale province), following clashes between the Official military force FADRC and the Patriotic Resistance Force in Ituri (FRPI) in the city of Koga.

On 11 July 2013, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in North-Kivu, causing at least 66,000 refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganizing to carry out attacks on Uganda. The Congolese official military force FADRC, tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has been engaged in several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FADRC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July. Following reports of human rights abuses by ADF/NALU against civilians in Kamango district near Beni in North Kivu, a UN patrol was sent to assess the security situation in the area and address concerns related to the protection of civilians, the UN reported on 16 July.

In June, violent clashes between rebels and government troops were reported in the

conflict-prone eastern North-Kivu province, which is dominated by rebel movements. According to local media, North-Kivu harbours 27 different armed groups. Since February, clashes have been occurring between various armed groups throughout the province. The UN has reported ongoing human rights abuses by militias and governmental troops. According to ICRC, there are reports of indiscriminate and fierce attacks on civilians and of increasing tension between various communities.

Tensions between armed groups remain high in eastern DRC. Local media reported that people from Kibati, Buyengwe and Zanga in North Kivu fled their homes in late June following offensives by the M23, who tried to strengthen its hold in the area, and clashes between various non-state armed groups. According to local reports, fighting occurred in Kihali, 10 km northeast of Kiwanja, in Rutshuru Centre, and along the axes of Kiwanja – Nyamilima and Rutshuru – Bunagana. Ongoing insecurity is affecting civilians in the region, with inhabitants of several villages reportedly experiencing raids, looting, and violence by armed groups, according to OCHA.

Since late May, renewed fighting between local militias has also been reported in other parts of North-Kivu, notably in Lubero and Kitchanga areas, where it resulted in new displacements. According to OCHA, repeated clashes between armed groups, notably the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo and the Nduma Defence of Congo, are occurring in Pinga area, northeast of Walikale territory. Although information is difficult to ascertain, an estimated 150 people have been killed in Pinga since late May.

In Katanga Province, the separatist militia group Bakata Katanga has carried out continuous attacks since early June in Nganie causing large displacement and unrest for the local communities.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Overall, as of 5 July, OCHA estimated that 2.6 million people remained displaced in DRC as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups.

In North-Kivu, early July, OCHA reported clashes around Kibati and Kanuarucinya, between the M23 and the Official military force FADRC, have led 6,000 to seek refuge in Goma and in the neighbouring towns of Kibumba and Kabuhanga, in Rwanda. Since April, clashes in various parts of North-Kivu have displaced over 74,000 people. North-Kivu has the highest number of internally displaced, with 967,050 IDPs, according to OCHA as of 25 July.

On 11 July, the ADF/NALU's attack on the town of Kamango led to 66,000 people from eastern DRC North-Kivu province fleeing into neighbouring Uganda. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees have returned and now face food shortages. UNHCR reported on 17 July that Uganda was already host to over 125,000 DRC refugees and asylum seekers before the latest clashes.

In Kasai Oriental, local sources reported that hundreds of people have been displaced following clashes in the area between two Dimbelenge communities in which seven people were killed in early July. According to the information available to date, IDPs in Kabeya Kamwanga remain without assistance or shelter.

In South-Kivu, 52,600 new IDPs were registered due to conflict since January. As of late June, WFP reported that the number of people displaced has increased from 702,093 to 712,254 since end of March 2013, following clashes between FARDC and local militias that progressively established a stronghold in the province, leading to more insecurity. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between January and June 2013, 184,530 IDPs who previously fled South Kivu have returned, mainly in Shabunda territory.

Some 428,543 people (of whom 51,262 have been displaced since January 2013) remain displaced in Orientale province where OCHA reported on 25 July that the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan militant movement operating in DRC since 2005) allegedly conducted 30 attacks in Q2 of 2013, mostly in Dunga territory.

In the Katanga province, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and FARDC led to new population displacement in April. Overall, at least 368,000 people were reportedly displaced in the province as of 3 July. Since the beginning of June, attacks in Katanga Province by the Bakata Katanga militia resulted in the displacement of 23,000 people according to official sources. Most recently displaced groups have fled from Nganie to Mwanza, putting large strains on the Mwanza community, notably in terms of heightened food insecurity.

An estimated 450,000 Congolese refugees are residing in neighbouring countries.

DRC is facing increasing numbers of refugees crossing from CAR. As of 30 June, an estimated 42,663 CAR refugees were registered in DRC, according to UNHCR. DRC is currently hosting over 178,000 refugees among whom over 127,000 come from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and the Republic of Congo.

**Access:** Access is limited in large parts of DRC. Physical and infrastructural impediments to delivering aid are significant due to the country's mountainous and volcanic terrain in combination with lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province. In Kabeya Kamwanga in Kasai Oriental, displaced people remain without assistance or shelter.

In the Loya aea of Orientale province, an estimated 20,000 IDPS are reportedly blocked from access to humanitarian services. The situation of IDPs from Lowa and Mutchaliko in Ubundu territory cannot be assessed because of ongoing military operations, OCHA reported on 16 July.

Tensions between aid workers and the local population, with incidents of hostilities against aid workers and interference in delivering of aid, have been reported. Between January and April 2013, 106 security incidents against aid workers occurred across the country.

**Protection:** At end July, UNHCR reported that the ongoing violence in North-Kivu, involving the official army forces FADRC, the M23 and the ADF/NALU, is increasingly exposing women and girls to acts of violence, particularly rape. Between January and July 2013, 619 cases of rape were reported, compared to 108 cases during the same period in 2012. According to UNHCR, 70% of the cases of sexual violence are perpetrated by armed men.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** A June report by FSNWG estimated that 6.4 million

people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. Rutshuru, Nyragongo, Masisi and Walikale Territories in North-Kivu Province and Manono Territory in Katanga Province have been classified as stage 4 Emergency levels. Nevertheless, the current population in IPC Phase 3 and 4 is still reportedly lower than 2012.

Poor diversity of diets and extreme poverty with few livelihood options are among the main reasons for food insecurity. In eastern DRC, the renewed conflict has significantly contributed to the deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, according to WFP. The west of DRC, although relatively stable compared to the east, faces chronic food insecurity due to isolation, lack of social infrastructure and the effects of several aggravating economic shocks.

**Health:** On 22 July, local media reported that eight people died within the ten days after the official military forces FADRC regained the city of Kamango. Following violent clashes between Congolese forces and Ugandan rebels ADF/NALU on early July, health centres and shops are lacking medicines and basic items in an area where 80,000 people are exposed to waterborne diseases such as cholera or dysentery.

OCHA reports that since mid-June, an epidemic of yellow fever is spreading in Kamana, Lubao and Lubindi-Lukula (Kasai Oriental), with six confirmed cases.

Across the country, 17,423 cholera cases have been registered for 2013 as of 17 June, WHO reports. 337 deaths have been reported for a fatality rate of 2%. Over 60% of the cases are registered in Katanga Province, with more than 18,163 cases. During 2012, DRC had 30,753 registered cholera cases, with 709 deaths, compared to 21,700 cases in 2011. The surge in cholera cases is largely the result of limited access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions, and poor sanitation.

More than 4 million cases of malaria have been reported since the beginning of 2013 as of 17 June; 8,500 deaths have been registered due to malaria during the same period. On 1 August, WHO reported 519 measles cases since January 2013.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**1 August:** Between 25 June and 12 July, 8148 refugees returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou.

**28 July:** Malians voted in the first polls since a military coup and insurgency 16 months ago.

**18 July:** Clashes occurred between Tuareg and other communities following a rumour about the upcoming reinforcement of the Malian army's presence in Kidal.

### Political and Security Context

On 28 July, Malians voted in the first polls since a military coup and insurgency 16 months ago. The election process is seen as an important step on the path to recovery for the country which also witnessed renewed fighting between Government force and Tuareg rebels, as well as the seizure of its northern territory by radical Islamists. Heavy security was deployed for the voting after one of the main armed groups in northern Mali said it would "strike" polling stations. However, the first round of the elections passed without incident. The presidential election will go to a second round on 11 August in opposition to Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Soumaila Cisse.

On 18 July, clashes occurred between Tuareg and other communities following a rumour about the upcoming reinforcement of the Malian army's presence in Kidal. The city has been occupied by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) Tuareg rebels since February, until their confinement by official Malian forces on 5 July.

On 8 July, Mali's army accused Tuareg rebels of violating the ceasefire signed on 18 June by attacking civilians and the military just days after troops entered the flashpoint northeastern town of Kidal to secure it for nationwide elections. The ceasefire agreement aimed to prepare for a second phase of negotiations, planned to take place 60 days after the elections. This allowed Malian troops to enter Kidal on 5 July, when Mali lifted a nearly six-month state of emergency.

On 18 July, Nigeria announced its plan to withdraw some of its 1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali and Sudan's Darfur region, saying the troops are needed to beef up security at home. The Nigerians are part of a force of 12,600 African troops who took over from a French-led mission on 1 July.

Security in the three northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal has improved, but remains volatile. Attacks in recent months have highlighted the continued threat posed by Islamist militants as well as the growing coordination of their operations against African and French forces.

On 1 July, authority for the stabilisation of Mali was transferred from the forces of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The transfer was agreed by the UN Security Council on 25 June, and the creation of the 12,640 men peacekeeping force was approved unanimously by the UN Security Council on 25 April. As of 1 July, most of the 6,100 soldiers of AFISMA have become part of the peacekeeping operation.

The French forces still present in the country have formally handed over their security duties to MINUSMA. A separate and reduced contingent of at least 1,000 French soldiers will remain in Mali to conduct counter-terrorism operations.

France's involvement in the conflict came after Islamist fighters moved to within 20 km of Mopti, a strategically important town on the border between rebel and Government held territories, taking control of the strategic town Konna on 10 December 2012. With support from France's armed forces, the Mali Government started a counter-offence on 11 January.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs



**Displacement:** According to a report released by the Population Movement Commission on 20 June, there are currently an estimated 353,455 IDPs in Mali compared to 261,000 as of late January. As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, an increasing number of displaced people have started to return home. According to IOM the period of January to May 2013 showed, for the first time since January 2012, that population movements to the north exceeded those to the south.

On 1 August, OCHA reported that between 25 June and 12 July, 8,148 Malian refugees who previously fled to neighbouring countries returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou. According to UNHCR as of 30 June, more than 175,000 Malians are still registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, with 75,261 in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger and 49,975 in Burkina Faso.

**Access:** Humanitarian access continues to improve in central regions and parts of the North and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Aid activities in other parts of the North are limited due to continued insecurity and banditry. Access to basic social services (water, education, and health) remains limited in the North largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure, and the lack of materials to support basic services.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As the lean season is unfolding, there has been a significant deterioration of the food security situation in northern Mali. People affected by food insecurity are estimated at about 3.5 million, including 1.4 million in need of immediate assistance according to assessments finalized in May.

According to FEWSNET, as of July, food security conditions remained at Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in the north (regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu), while the lean season is underway. The depletion of household food stocks, the decline in livestock sales (due to low demand), and the lack of income-generating opportunities for residents of conflict-affected areas in northern Mali are severely curtailing household food access.

Food security levels are expected to improve gradually in August due to resumed economic activities and seasonal improvements of pastoral conditions. However, the June FEWSNET report still indicated that the northern regions would be likely to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity from August through September 2013.

According to OCHA on 19 July, the nutritional situation is serious in the entire region of Gao with a GAM rate of 13.5%. An estimated 660,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.**

**Early July:** Some 800,000 people are food insecure in Mauritania, with 240,000 persons (30%) classified as severely food insecure. This number marks an increase from the

estimated 560,000 food insecure people in January 2013.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** The number of Malian refugees in Mauritania has levelled off since March 2013 standing at 75,261 people as of 30 June, according to UNHCR. Almost all refugees live in the Mbéra camp that hosts over 74,000 people, 60% of whom are women and children, according to UNICEF, and have lived in the camp for over a year.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of late June, FEWSNET reported that the food security situation has remained steady since May. Most poor households throughout the country are likely to remain in IPC Phase 1 until September. According to a FAO report released in early June, the food security outlook is generally favorable following a good harvest. The stability of food prices, that are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, is helping to improve the food security situation.

However, despite the generally more favourable food security context, OCHA reported that some 800,000 people are food insecure in Mauritania, with 240,000 persons (30%) classified as severely food insecure. This number marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people reported in January 2013.

FEWSNET reports that poor agro-dominant households in non-oasis areas of the north, northwest, and south agro-pastoral areas and the south-east rain-fed agriculture zones remain in Stressed food insecurity conditions (IPC Phase 2) as of June. The food security situation in Mbéra camp in the southeast also remains dire.

According to FAO, more than 105,000 children <5 suffer from GAM, compared to 90,000 in 2011, as of March 2013. In 2013, the expected GAM caseload is 122,719 children, including 23,901 cases of SAM, according to UNICEF. The highest malnutrition rates were recorded in the Hodh Ech Chargui (16% GAM), Assaba (16.4% GAM), Brakna (17% GAM) and Tagant (18.2% GAM) regions in the southeast of the country.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, an estimated 11,672 people have crossed into Niger since the start of the military intervention in Mali on 11 January. As of 30 June, there are around 50,000 Malian refugees registered, or awaiting registration, with UNHCR. There are also some 3,991 Nigerien returnees in the country, bringing the total number of displaced from the Malian conflict into Niger to more than 53,000. Malian refugees continue to place a significant stress on the country with the large majority settling in the regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis.

As of 20 June, an estimated 6,240 people arrived from Nigeria to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram in the north of the country. These refugees have been crossing into Niger since mid-May and have mainly settled in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou. UNHCR reported 2,692 Nigerian nationals, 3,544 Nigerian returnees, and 94 people of other nationalities (mainly Chadians). The majority of refugees live with host families, while others live in rented houses but lack the money to pay their rent or have no shelter at all.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA on 19 July, some 2.9 million people remain food insecure in Niger. UNICEF estimates, based on initial figures from a June food security assessment, found 2,889,863 people affected by food insecurity.

However, throughout the country, household incomes are generally considered average to good this year and should allow households to purchase sufficient cereal to meet food needs. Aside from exceptionally high prices, other food security drivers are in line with normal seasonal trends, the combined positive effects of which should keep food insecurity in most parts of the country at minimal (IPC Phase 1) levels between now and September according to FEWSNET.

In Diffa, higher prices, the destruction of pepper crops, and the effect of the conflict in Nigeria on cross border livestock trading are likely to expose poor households in agro-pastoral and farming areas of this region to Stress levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) through September.

Cereal prices reached a five-year high in April, with the sharpest increases in the Maradi and Diffa regions. The prices stabilized in May but remained higher than the seasonal norm. Compared to the five-year average, the prices of dry cereals are rising, with millet (17%), sorghum (20%) and maize (9%) displaying the largest increases. As a result, many Nigeriens who are yet to recover from previous crises are unable to afford market prices. The high market prices are largely due to production shortfalls and market disruptions in neighbouring Nigeria, following the 2012 floods. Central Niger is especially dependent on Nigerian grain flows, and is likely to see the highest impact on prices.

On 31 July, OCHA reported that malnutrition has slightly decreased, with a rate of 13.3% GAM for children <5, compared to 14.8% in 2012. However, the situation is still of concern as the rate remain above 10% and SAM rate for children <5 is 2.6%.

**Health:** With 41 registered cases, of which 16 have died, diphtheria has returned to Niger seven years after the last epidemic in 2006. The recent epidemic has been confirmed by local health officials in Tillabéri, 120 km northwest of the capital. The most affected age group is 5-14 years, with 26 registered cases.

On 10 May 2013, the government of Niger officially declared a cholera epidemic. Between 18 June and 12 July, 11 new cholera cases were registered in Niger, bringing the total number of cases since the beginning of the epidemic to 398, including 10 deaths. The majority of cases are registered in the Tillabéri region in north-western Niger. There is a high risk that the disease will spread along the Niger River. In 2012, more than 5,785 cholera cases and 110 deaths were reported countrywide.

## SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**27 July:** Three Somali civilians were killed in a car bomb attack on the Turkish embassy in Mogadishu. Al Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab rebels claimed responsibility for the attack.

**18 July:** The outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 66 cases in Somalia, primarily in the Banadir region.

**5 July:** At least 71 people were killed and over 300 injured in fighting from 27-29 June between rival Somali warlords battling for control of the southern port city of Kismayo in Jubaland region. Fighting in the area had ignited on 7-8 June. These clashes are fuelling fears that the country may again slip into the anarchy of clan wars as it did two decades ago.

### Political and Security Context

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia while the country struggles to curb Islamist insurgency. The Al-Shabaab movement continues to conduct terrorist attacks and fight Government forces in different parts of the country. Although security in Mogadishu has improved since its lowest point in August 2011, attacks by Al-Shabaab in urban centres and along transport axes are common. A revival of Al-Shabaab activity in Mogadishu and nearby regions is likely to continue in the coming weeks in what the insurgents have called a renewed campaign to bring instability to the capital. The militants set off several explosions in the Somali capital on 4 August wounding at least two people. The government forces reported that they have started a massive military operation across Mogadishu in response to the attacks.

At least three Somali civilians were killed in a car bomb attack on the Turkish embassy in Mogadishu on 27 July. Al Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab rebels claimed responsibility for the attack, as they have for previous bombings, including one in mid-July that killed eight civilians. On 9 July, at least five members Somalia's security forces were injured in an attack in the capital, and three people were killed on 12 July when a suicide bomber rammed a car laden with explosives into a convoy of African Union troops in the Somali capital. In reaction, Somalia's Defence Minister Abdihakim Haji Fiqi declared that the AMISOM and the federal government troops will launch planned attacks on Al-Shabaab in south and central Somalia.

In June Al-Shabaab militants launched one of the biggest assaults in the past years targeting the UN compound in Mogadishu killing 15 people causing all UN missions outside of the Mogadishu International Airport to be suspended for 24 hours. The attack on 19 June came at the beginning of the transfer of international staff from Nairobi to Mogadishu, where a new country office had been created and an integrated UN mission officially due to start on 1 January 2014. As a result of the attacks, the transfer of staff was temporarily suspended.

In early July, WHO reported that 71 people were killed and more than 300 injured in the latest fighting from 27-29 June between rival Somali warlords battling for control of the southern port city of Kismayo. Gunmen from the Ras Kamboni militia of the former Islamist warlord Ahmed Madobe, who proclaimed himself "president" of the Jubaland region in June, battled against forces loyal to Bare Hirale, a former Somali defence minister. On 7-8 June, two days of heavy fighting between Madobe's forces and gunmen loyal to Iftin Hassan Basto, another local warlord claiming the presidency, had already left at least 31 dead and 38 wounded. First reports indicate that more than 1,604 people have been displaced by the violence. These were the heaviest clashes the city had seen in over four years and the first since several rival warlords claimed control of the lucrative port and fertile hinterlands in May. OCHA data indicated that some 60,000 people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Kismayo in early July.

The central government in Mogadishu has called for the withdrawal of Kenya Defence Force troops from Kismayo following the clashes in which the government believes they sided with Ahmed Madobe the president of Jubaland state of Somalia. Following the announcement, there have been a series of elders meetings in Dhobley to discuss the way forward. The elders also accused central government of siding with Al-Shabaab and warlords responsible for the insecurity and instability of the region.

On 14 July, at least five people were killed and ten others wounded after local residents clashed with Puntland security forces in Qardho (Karkaar region). Following the clashes, Puntland President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole announced the suspension of the 2013 Local Council elections planned for 15 July due to the instability and election violence. Jubaland lies in the far south of Somalia, bordering Kenya and Ethiopia; control is split between multiple forces including clan militia, the Al-Shabaab and Kenyan and Ethiopian soldiers. On 1 July, Puntland military forces carried out an operation on the Galgala mountains and allegedly seized a food storage location run by Al Shabaab militants. Some militias who were reported to have been on duty a check point close to Cel-Dahir were said to have escaped after noticing the troop advancement.

On 20 June, heavy fighting was reported between rival factions of Al-Shabaab near the key coastal town of Brava district in Lower Shabelle. Six militants, including two foreigners, were killed. Al-Shabaab has turned Brava into one of its main bases after losing control of many other towns and cities to African Union and government troops.

According to the numbers released by the African Union (AU) on 9 May, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers have been killed in the country since 2007. Despite recent success reached by Somali forces and AU peacekeepers against Al-Shabaab fighters, tensions exist between the different military forces involved and the local authorities to the extent that, on 22 April, Ethiopia officially announced its wish to remove part of its troops from Somalia, but has no plans for a complete withdrawal from the fight against al Qaeda-linked insurgents. During March-April, the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Hudur, a town in the southern Bakool region, led to its immediate occupation by Al-Shabaab.

In early March, the UN Security Council decided to maintain the deployment of the AU Mission until February 2014, and partially lift its 20-year weapons ban for one year to boost the Government's capacity to fight off Al-Shabaab insurgency. In a similar move, the US Government declared that Somalia was now again eligible to receive defence articles and

services, which may be seen as a tangible illustration of the improving relations between Washington and Mogadishu.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** An estimated 1.1 million Somalis are currently internally displaced according to UNHCR, settling mainly in the South-Central region. In March-April, thousands of new displaced persons were reported in the vicinity of Xudur after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the area. The flooding that affected the country also led to the displacement of an additional 50,000 people, notably in the Jowhar and Baidoa areas.

As of 4 July, over 1 million Somalis are refugees outside Somalia, mostly in Kenya (494,000), Ethiopia (242,000) and Yemen (230,000). Nevertheless, Somali refugees continue to return home, with 3,200 people reportedly moving back in April 2013. UNHCR states that a total 20,207 refugees have returned from neighbouring countries to Somalia since January 2013.

**Disaster:** As reported by OCHA, following the early beginning of the main rainy season (the *Gu*) in mid-March, an estimated 50,000 people were displaced and 6,400 hectare of crops damaged by floods.

**Access:** In southern and central Somalia, OCHA notes that humanitarian access has remained challenging, with several incidents against humanitarian personnel and cases of interference of aid delivery recorded in April and May. The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increased international presence in some areas. Insecurity in these areas, however, continues to affect trade and market activities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. As stated by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), conflict has disrupted the movement of food and other basic commodities in most parts of these regions and particularly in Bakool.

While insurgent attacks rarely directly target aid workers, they still present a constraint for humanitarian operations. For instance, the attack in Mogadishu on 5 May led to the closure of main roads in the capital, hampering movement of aid workers and supplies. According to OCHA, sporadic armed clashes took place between Somaliland security forces and the militia groups operating in Togdheer and in the disputed regions of Sanaag and Sool, further hampering humanitarian access and aid delivery.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to the FSNAU, as of May, an estimated 1.05 million people in Somalia, including 615,000 IDPs, are at Stressed and Crisis levels and in need of food assistance. According to the Red Cross, the majority of the people in need are in South and Central Somalia.

Between October 2010 and April 2012, the famine in Somalia led to the deaths of 258,000 people, according to May OCHA estimates.

The FSNAU states that most rural households will experience stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions between July and December 2013. Most pastoral households are likely to see improvements due to the positive effect of *Gu* rains on rangeland and water conditions leading to improved milk yields. This is with the exception of coastal areas in

central and northeastern regions which are likely to face deteriorating food security between May and September due to declining livestock production, poor rainfall in the last six months, and unfavourable pasture conditions. Therefore, it is likely that the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Hiran and Central agropastoral livelihood zone, the cowpea belt, will increase between July and September due to crop failures and an expected below average crop production.

Market prices are stable, while terms of trade remain favorable for poor households. FAO reported in June that current maize prices were 15-25% below their levels of 12 months earlier and about 60-80% below the peak reached in June 2011 when famine was declared.

In January 2013, FSNAU estimated 215,000 children <5 to be acutely malnourished, of whom at least 45,000 were severely malnourished. This is attributed to the lack of adequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices. FSNAU reported at the end of June that levels of acute malnutrition were sustained in most areas across the country with exceptions of the Sool plateau in the disputed northern areas, where the nutrition situation is projected to deteriorate to serious levels (GAM 10-15%) from alert levels (GAM 5-10%) due to anticipated decrease in milk availability. Bakool and Hiran regions are expected to show improvements in nutritional status.

**Health:** The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. As of mid-July, 66 cases have been confirmed in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May in Somalia. However, recent fighting in Kismayo has put a halt to a polio vaccination campaign planned for the beginning of July, targeting 24,000 people. The third round of outbreak response campaigns is currently being conducted this week targeting all age groups. Large areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009 due to insecurity, leaving as many as 500,000 children particularly vulnerable according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases have been confirmed from these parts of Lower Shabelle region. The risk to populations across other areas of Somalia is also very high, due to substantial subnational population immunity gaps.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## **SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

### **Highlights**

**1 August:** According to the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), up to 180,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting in Pibor County, Jonglei State. Previous reports from international organizations estimated that 120,000-148,000 had been displaced by fighting in the area. Since mid-July, inter-tribal clashes and fighting between Government troops and insurgents has been ongoing in Pibor County.

**1 August:** Increased insecurity was reported in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State in local media. At least three people were killed and an estimated 100 displaced in clashes between local armed groups.

**1 August:** Sudan and South Sudan are still working to find a way to end the oil dispute

that has jeopardized bilateral relation since June. In a joint communiqué, the two sides have officially agreed to cease immediately any support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides, and to prevent rebels or support for them from crossing the common border. Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) are mediating in the dispute between the two neighbours.

**30 July:** As reported by local sources, instability in Jonglei has resulted in a further influx of refugees into neighbouring countries with approximately 23,000 people crossing into Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda as of 30 July.

### **Political and Security Context**

Sudan and South Sudan are still working to find a way to end the oil dispute that has jeopardized bilateral relation since June. On 1 August in a joint communiqué, the two sides have officially agreed to cease immediately any support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides, and to prevent rebels or support for them from crossing the common border. While Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) are mediating in the dispute between the two neighbours.

On 26 July, Sudan has announced the postponement of the closure of the pipelines carrying oil from South Sudan for two weeks to allow more time to end a quarrel over alleged support by Juba to rebels in Sudan. South Sudan has repeatedly denied the claim and accused Khartoum of backing rebels fighting in Jonglei State, South Sudan. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

On 18 July, in a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba reduced its oil output and announced plans to shut it off completely. The announcement came as a response to Khartoum's early June statement that it would stop exporting South Sudanese crude oil through its territory unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border.

Against this background, South Sudan had earlier accused Sudan of launching two separate attacks with planes and land troops on areas near their disputed border, notably hitting Unity State. Although little information is available, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations.

Renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba came as a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which led to the signature in March of a technical agreement on the establishment of a safe demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms.

The two states had agreed on a plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, notably regarding the implementation of a demilitarised zone along the shared border, and the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

On 24 July, the South Sudanese President Salva Kiir dismissed his entire cabinet, including main political rival Riek Machar who has already announced his intention of

running in the 2015 elections. While the AU urged President Kiir to form a new government and respect the country's diversity in doing so, the sacking of the government has highlighted increasing tensions within the South Sudanese ruling Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Party. Salva Kiir and Riek Machar were on opposing sides of a split within the SPLM during much of the civil war with Khartoum that led to the independence of South Sudan.

Ethnic clashes and violence continue to affect large parts of South Sudan with an increasing number of human rights abuses being reported, notably by Government forces, according to a Human Rights Watch report released in July. Violence is concentrated primarily in Jonglei State and the tri-state area of Lakes, Unity and Warrap. In Jonglei State, the precarious security situation stems from the protracted conflict between armed groups and official troops, as well as from ongoing inter-tribal fighting. Boma, Pibor and other population centres remain deserted due to fighting; almost all civilians have fled into the bush, amid increasing tensions between state and non-state armed actors.

Since 12 July, violence between ethnic groups has raged in Pibor County in Jonglei State. The escalating inter-communal clashes have left over 4,000 people injured as of 18 July and forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee. Initially, local authorities reported that groups of heavily armed South Sudanese gunmen, belonging to the Lou Nuer and Dinka tribes, were fighting their way toward a rival community, the Murle people, in eastern Jonglei state. This last spike of tribal clashes in Pibor County has forced thousands of Murle civilians to flee the advance of the militias.

It comes also after a fierce round of fighting the previous week between the Government troops and various non-state actors. Against this background, HRW reported in mid-July an increasing number of abuses against civilians committed by South Sudanese authorities during the anti-insurgency campaign in Jonglei State. Earlier, the UN Security Council and the US had called for Juba to better protect civilians in Jonglei state amidst reports of killings, lootings and beatings, including by Government troops.

On 19 June, the rebel leader of a Jonglei-based rebel group, David Yau Yau, a member of the Murle group, officially agreed to begin peace talks with representatives of the Government. According to local media, preliminary meetings were conducted last week. The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group, who calls itself South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Army (SPLA) has escalated since early March, after Juba conducted a major operation against the SSDA. South Sudan issued an ultimatum to David Yau Yau on 5 June, asking him to choose between ceasing hostilities unconditionally or risking being pursued by the state's military forces. Following the recent spike in tribal fighting in Jonglei, local sources have reported the increasing involvement of the David Yau Yau rebel group in support of the Murle tribe.

Some 800 rebels belonging to a group blamed for attacks in Upper Nile state over the past two years accepted an amnesty offer from the South Sudanese government and handed over their weapons as reported on 5 June. The surrender came two months after some 5,000 fighters from the South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM), led by Brigadier General Bapiny Monytuel, took up the amnesty offer from South Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

Cattle raiding is a recurrent issue affecting people throughout South Sudan, including

recent incidents between the Murle and members of the Jikani minority in May in Upper Nile state. On 15 July, at least five people were killed in a cattle raid in Jonglei State, in Twic East County. On 13 July, at least six people were killed and 12 others wounded in a cattle raid in Panyijiar County in Unity State.

Meanwhile, on 1 August, increased insecurity was reported in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State according to local sources. At least three people were killed and an estimated 100 displaced in clashes between local armed groups.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** OCHA reported that some 55,763 persons are newly displaced due to inter-tribal conflict, insurgency, and insecurity in South Sudan as of 14 July.

Following the recent spike in inter-communal violence in Jonglei, various international organizations have reported numbers of newly displaced people. According to ECHO, there are some 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom are displaced, while the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) reported that up to 180,000 people have been displaced within Pibor County or have fled to the capital Juba or neighbouring countries following fighting in July.

As reported by MSF, as many as 120,000 civilians, mostly from the Murle group, have fled their homes as a result of recent spikes in the ongoing battle between state and non-state armed actors and inter-communal clashes. These vulnerable populations are living outside of protected communities and without consistent access to food, safe drinking water, shelter, and health care. Most of the displaced have resorted to extreme coping strategies, with some eating wild fruits and leaves. Following cattle raids, reported to be in the tens of thousands of cattle, the population is slaughtering female cattle for meat, even if this means that they cannot replenish stocks. According to the UN, 100,000 people have been cut off from vital aid in Jonglei State. As of 26 July, according to the authorities, some IDPs have begun to return home.

According to UNHCR, an estimated 5,000 South Sudanese have arrived in western Ethiopia, predominantly from South Sudan's Pibor County in Jonglei State where violence between various non-state actors and government forces has surged over the past weeks. As reported by local sources, instability in Jonglei has resulted in a further influx of refugees into neighbouring countries with approximately 23,000 people crossing into Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda as of 30 July. To date information remains limited and the figures are difficult to ascertain.

On 21 July, the SPLA has urged civilians displaced by fighting in Pibor County, Jonglei State to move to towns for easy protection. As reported by Médecins Sans Frontières, more than 4,000 victims of the recent fighting in Jonglei state are receiving treatment in the city of Gumruk in Pibor County. According to WHO, the increasing numbers of IDPs and returnees in Pibor, Gumruk, Akobo and Boma is of high concern to humanitarian partners.

As of 21 July, according to preliminary estimates released by OCHA, some 4,000 people were displaced in Koch County in Unity State, following cattle raids.

In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 newly displaced people arrived in

Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around River Kiir, South Darfur and South Kordofan. Some 26,000 people are reportedly displaced in the area as of 21 July. According to Médecins Sans Frontières, the remote area is practically inaccessible and the displaced have little access to aid. Their food situation is already dire and may further worsen as the rainy season gets underway.

UNHCR stated that recent estimations of the number of South Sudanese arrivals in Ethiopia are smaller than suggested by earlier reports. UNHCR assessments note the arrival of 2,178 refugees between 7 May and 7 June. More people are expected to arrive in Ethiopia from the Nyalongoro, Kaiwa and Niate areas of South Sudan.

In the first five months of 2013, more than 5,390 South Sudanese from Jonglei were registered at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. These numbers approach the total number of people that arrived in Kakuma from South Sudan in 2012. In Uganda, some 2,700 refugees from Jonglei have arrived since the beginning of the year, averaging about 527 per month.

According to IOM, as of mid-June, 38,236 returnees, mostly from Sudan, arrived in South Sudan since the start of the year.

Some 223,228 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Sudan reside in South Sudan. There are currently over 117,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile State and nearly 74,000 in Unity State who are in need of humanitarian assistance according to ECHO. An estimated 300 refugees crossed from Sudanese South Kordofan into South Sudan between 15 and 21 July and the inflow continues.

**Access:** Humanitarian partners continue to work to expand access and response to needs of civilians in Pibor County, Jonglei State. On 14 July, as reported by OCHA, aid agencies reached for the first time this year areas of Pibor County, Jonglei, where thousands of civilians have been hiding in the bush following clashes between state and non-state actors. Increasing fighting in Pibor County makes it complicated for the humanitarian actors to operate in the area according to the UN.

As reported by ECHO in early July, limited humanitarian assistance or access to basic services is ensured for some 148,000 conflict-affected people, most of whom are believed to be displaced in swamps, in Pibor County, Jonglei state. As of 23 July, WFP was able to reach IDPs, providing assistance notably in Dorein, Labdab and Pibor town, but is reporting an urgent need for additional food supplies and helicopters to increase assistance, and emergency funding.

As reported by OCHA, the rainy season is affecting roads across the country, making them inaccessible and hindering humanitarian access, notably in Jonglei and Lake States, Unity state, and Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

Insecurity and poor infrastructure continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide. In Jonglei State, several organisations restricted their operations in the area in March due to repeated attacks against humanitarian workers. In May, various raids were carried out on compounds of foreign aid organisations in Pibor town and on MSF hospital in Pibor County, the only medical facility for the County. According to MSF, the hospital was left temporarily inoperative, affecting access to healthcare for some 100,000 people in the

region.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of June, an estimated 4.1 million people in South Sudan are food insecure and will remain so until the next harvest in August-September according to FAO. This marks a decrease from 2012 figures at 4.7 million. An estimated 1.2 million currently face Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) with parts of Jonglei (especially Pibor county), Unity, Lakes, Warrap states and the Abyei area, disputed between Sudan and South Sudan, being of particular concern. As reported by FEWSNET in August, the recent outbreak of violence is likely to further impact food security outcomes in Pibor County in Jonglei State. In Unity, Warrap, and Lakes States, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity is also expanding to counties previously in Stress (IPC Phase 2), according to FEWSNET.

According to FAO, prices of locally produced cereal crops are increasing in most markets as the lean season progresses, household food stocks begin to dwindle, and most roads, especially in remote areas, become impassable during the rainy season, thus disrupting market supplies.

According to OCHA, as of mid-June, the children <5 Global Acute Malnutrition rate was 18.1%.

**Health:** OCHA reported that the hepatitis E outbreak that began in mid-2012 and peaked in February 2013 in refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile States is now under control. Though the number of cases per week is decreasing in most locations, it is still increasing in others, with Maban and Doro refugee camps (Upper Nile State) being of particular concern. In Maban, as of mid-July, 11,279 cases and 205 deaths were recorded since the beginning of the outbreak.

Sudan's Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of meningitis in Malakal county, Upper Nile state. As of 27 May, 141 cases and five deaths had been reported with additional cases being reported from Jonglei State and Aweil West County.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**3 August:** According to local sources, heavy rains and floods have been registered across Sudan since early August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, and the localities of East Nile, Khartoum, Karari and Ombadda, all part of the capital Khartoum. Overall, the heavy rainfall and subsequent floods have affected thousands of people across the country while causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. To date, detailed information remains limited.

**1 August:** Sudan and South Sudan are still working to find a way to end the oil dispute that has jeopardized bilateral relations since June 2013. In a joint communiqué, the two sides have officially agreed to cease immediately support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides, and to prevent rebels or support for them from crossing the common

border. Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) are mediating in the dispute between the two neighbours.

**31 July:** According to FEWSNET as of July, an estimated 3.7 - 4 million people in Sudan faced Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity. Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, the Darfur States and notably the IDP population in camps, and the contested Abyei region.

**31 July:** In Central Darfur, clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes moved into a second week with allegedly 134 more people killed as of 30 July. The feud between the two tribes had restarted on 24 July and resulted in three days of fighting with over 100 people being killed.

**30 July:** The UN Security Council has renewed the mandate of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in the western Sudanese region (UNAMID) for a further 13 months, until 31 August 2014. Since the beginning of 2013, violence has significantly risen across Darfur.

**27 July:** Elements of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front staged an attack on a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) patrol in Al Deleima village 18 km north of Delling town and 150 km from Kadugli on the main Kadugli - El Obeid highway linking the capital of South and North Kordofan respectively. While the situation remains volatile, the UN has temporarily suspended road movement between Kadugli and El Obeid.

### Political and Security Context

Sudan and South Sudan continue to work to find a way to end the oil dispute that has jeopardized bilateral relation since June. On 1 August in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to cease immediately support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides, and to prevent rebels or support for them from crossing the common border. Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) are mediating in the dispute between the two neighbours.

On 26 July, Sudan announced the postponement of the closure of the pipelines carrying oil from South Sudan for two weeks to allow more time to end a quarrel over alleged support by Juba to rebels in Sudan. South Sudan has repeatedly denied the claim and in return has accused Khartoum of backing rebels fighting in Jonglei State, South Sudan. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

On 18 July, in a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba reduced its oil output and announced plans to shut it off completely. The announcement came as a response to Khartoum's early June statement that it would stop exporting South Sudanese crude oil through its territory unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border.

Against this background, South Sudan had earlier accused Sudan of launching two separate attacks with planes and land troops on areas near their disputed border, notably Unity State. Although little information is available, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate against what it labelled as provocations.

The renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba came as a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which led to the signature in March of a technical agreement on the establishment of a safe demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms.

The two states had also agreed on a plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, notably regarding the implementation of a demilitarised zone along the shared border, and the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

Meanwhile, Khartoum is struggling to curb the insurgencies waged by several non-state armed groups reunited under the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) banner in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

On 24 July, in an indication of the increasing level of coordination achieved between the various armed movements, fighters of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), part of the SRF, from the Darfur region managed an attack on an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with deaths reported on both sides. Rachad is close to the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack of the SRF in April.

On 17 July, Minni Minawi, Deputy President of the SRF alliance and leader of one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM), announced, during a meeting in Geneva, that the SRF is ready to accept a humanitarian cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan before participating in a comprehensive process aiming to achieve peace in Sudan. It is yet unclear how the Sudanese authorities, who have always been suspicious of negotiating with the SRF umbrella group rather than with each separate paramilitary group, will respond to that proposition.

In Abyei, a contested border area between South Sudan and Sudan where a self-determination referendum is to take place in October 2013, violence recently escalated. On 4 May 2013, members of the Khartoum-allied Misseriya tribe killed the paramount chief of the Nine Ngock Dinka tribe of Abyei supported by Juba.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** An estimated 2.5 million Sudanese are currently displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of mid-July, there are also an estimated 191,400 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and another 32,000 in Ethiopia, according to UNHCR. The Government of Sudan and UNHCR report that between 220,000 and 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin are still in Sudan in early May. UNHCR has now registered 109,000 people for voluntary return. UNHCR also reports that there are 153,000 refugees originating from other countries in Sudan as of mid-July.

East Sudan has received an average 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly shelters at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees. According to UNHCR in June 2013, there are an estimated 86,900 registered refugees across the eastern states. These refugees are mostly from Eritrea, with smaller numbers

of people from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Chad.

**Disaster:** According to local sources, heavy rains and floods were registered across Sudan since early August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, and the localities of East Nile, Khartoum, Karari and Ombadda - all part of the capital Khartoum. The heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding has killed at least 38 people and injured dozens across the country. To date information remains limited, however, the rains have reportedly destroyed thousands of houses, including at least 2,400 in Darfur and 1,400 in other parts of the country while damaging hundreds more. Thousands of people are reportedly affected.

**Access:** According to OCHA, as of early July, access to Abyei remained blocked from Sudan.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to FEWSNET as of July, an estimated 3.7 - 4 million people in Sudan faced Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity. According to OCHA as of March, an estimated 4.3 million people faced Stressed and Crisis food insecurity. Some 560,000 people experienced Emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity, notably across SPLM-N controlled areas in South Kordofan, the Darfur States and Abyei as of June.

In July 2012, 4.6 million people overall were food insecure in Sudan. The slight decrease in the number of registered food insecure is mostly attributed to a good harvest this year. The total area planted during the 2012-13 season is more than double the previous year's figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher than last year due to favourable rainfall and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected.

Despite the good harvest, Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and Abyei due to the impacts of conflict on production, market access, and livelihood options. 80% of the food insecure population is located in these four areas. The current escalation of insecurity is particularly affecting the food security situation in South Darfur.

In Abyei, most households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level food insecurity according to FEWSNET. Due to high food prices because of restricted cross-border trade with South Sudan and the decrease of the cultivation areas, local communities in Abyei have expanded their livelihoods strategies, switching to coping mechanisms employed in times of severe food insecurity. As more and more people are returning to the area where tensions eased in the wake of the signing of the agreement between Juba and Khartoum, it is likely that the humanitarian assistance will have to increase to keep up with rising needs as the returnees are expected to heavily rely on the host community for food.

Nationwide, GAM levels for children <5 stands at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. In mid-June, the Sudanese Ministry of Health issued a report that found that 33% of Sudanese children are chronically malnourished while 5.3% suffer from severe acute malnourishment. An estimated 500,000 children <5 suffer from severe acute malnutrition and up to two million children are stunted, according to a recent report on malnutrition in Sudan produced by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and partners.

Malnutrition rates in east Sudan (Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref states) are the highest in

Sudan, with 28% of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition in Red Sea state.

**Health:** According to WHO, between 13 May and 30 May, 33 suspected cases of Dengue Fever, including one death, were reported from Port Sudan locality (10 cases) and Sawakin (23 cases) in Red Sea state. From 1 January 2013 to 31 May 2013, 317 suspected meningitis cases including 14 deaths were reported.

## Darfur

### Political and Security Context

In late July, the UN Security Council renewed the mandate of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in the western Sudanese region (UNAMID) for a further 13 months, until 31 August 2014. Since the beginning of the year, violence has significantly risen across Darfur.

Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi (SLM-MM) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been ongoing in Southern and Eastern Darfur since April. Conflict between the SAF and allied militias and SLM-MM was reported in Oganja, South of Nyala, then Labado and Muhajria to the east and later in Donkey Darisa, and left hundreds of thousands of civilians without home and shelter in May. The Government forces are facing attacks from the dissident faction of the SLM led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur in Northern Darfur. Fighting has resulted in the displacement of all civilians north and northwest of Nyala. As reported in early August, SAF is continuing to carry regular air raids on the East Jebel Marra locality in South Darfur.

Near the cities of Katila, Um Dukhun, Ed Elfirsan, Kubum and Rihaid Albirdi in Darfur, tribal fighting between the Abbala and Beni Hussein, the Salamat and Ta'isha, Al-Gimir and Beni Halba, Dajo and Beni Halba, Misseriya and Salamat tribes have been flaring up. Clashes between the Tarjam and Fur tribes were also reported in Southern Darfur in early May.

In East Darfur, in mid-July, tensions over land ownership have been increasing between the Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes in Kulaykili Abu Salama in Assalaya locality. The fear of clashes has reportedly forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area.

In Central Darfur, clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes moved into a second week with allegedly 134 more people being killed as of 30 July. The feud between the two tribes had restarted on 24 July and resulted in three days of fighting with over 100 people killed. On 1 July, the two tribes signed yet another unsuccessful reconciliation agreement in Zalingei. Since April, violence had flared up between the two tribes with ongoing clashes reported between late May and mid-June, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties. In April, fighting between Misseriya and Salamat in April led 50,000 people to flee into Chad according to UN estimates.

In South Darfur, disputes over land ownership and tribal fighting continue. On 26 June, conflict resumed between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes in the town of Katela with an estimated nine people killed and dozens displaced. While the situation remained volatile, Khartoum was forced to deploy Special Forces to enforce a buffer zone between the two tribes. In April, conflict between the two tribes reignited after a relatively stable period since February. Fighting intensified at the end of May in South Darfur, leading to at least 23



people being killed and 51 others injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe and to large displacements and to the Al-Gimir tribe accusing the Sudanese authorities of colluding with the Beni Halba tribe. Meanwhile, clashes between the Dajo and Beni Halba tribes were reported in Kubum locality, South Darfur.

In South Darfur in the vicinity of Nyala, attacks against civilians on the 25 and 26 July led to three persons being killed and several injured. On 13 July close to Nyala, seven UN peacekeepers were killed and 17 wounded after they came under heavy fire from unknown gunmen. In a separate incident, four people were killed after being attacked by unidentified gunmen in the province.

On 4 July, local reports indicated that men from different paramilitary factions exchanged fire with people inside a security compound in Nyala. More fighting was reported in the area on 7 July. According to local reports, at least 6 people were killed and 21 injured in the area. According to the UN, reports indicated that several offices and premises of international organisations in Nyala were looted. The Nyala area is hosting an increasing number of displaced people from Darfur's various ongoing conflicts. Following the clashes, the Governor of South Darfur imposed strict security measures in the area.

During the clashes on 4 July, two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured while the office of the organisation was also looted. Several other international organisations also expressed concerns regarding the security situation in the area. On 17 July, having had their programme suspended since 4<sup>th</sup> July World Vision nevertheless resumed its operations in the area.

In North Darfur, on 26 July, the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes signed a comprehensive peace agreement in El Fasher, the capital of the State. Since the beginning of 2013, the two tribes had clashed violently for control of the Jebel Amer gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein locality, leaving at least 500 people killed and an estimated 100,000 displaced according to the UN. Most recently, clashes between the two groups were reported in June and early July with SAF contingents being allegedly involved.

In recent weeks, there have been reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against displaced people sheltering in camps in Darfur. On 29 July, local sources from El Salam camp in South Darfur reported a series of attacks and lootings against IDPs. In two separate incidents on 30 June and 1 July, one person was killed and three seriously injured near the Dumma and Toum Kittir camps in South Darfur. In June, attacks against IDPs that resulted in casualties were also reported near Murnei camp in West Darfur, Dreige camp in Nyala, Um Haleeb camp and Nertiti camp in Central Darfur. According to local sources, the vast majority of the attacks were reportedly blamed on SAF elements and on pro-governmental militias.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** As reported by OCHA on 30 June, an estimated 287,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between the various armed groups and the Government from January to June. In mid-May, previous UN reports stated that as much as 300,000 people had been forcibly displaced since the beginning of this year. Two weeks ago, renewed tribal fighting across Darfur allegedly triggered new

displacements although no figures are available to date.

According to UNHCR, an estimated 74,000 people fled into Chad, including Sudanese (30,000) and Chadians who lived as refugees in the conflict zone since January 2013, following intertribal fighting in North and Central Darfur. It is the largest influx of refugees from Sudan into Chad since 2005, where there are currently an estimated 330,000 Sudanese refugees. As instability persists across Darfur, the number of refugees may increase in the coming months. An estimated 5,000 people were also displaced from Sudan to the Central African Republic in March according to the UN.

Internally, as many as 200,000 people, according to local sources, were reportedly displaced to the Nyala area in South Darfur. At present, people continue to arrive to camps in the Nyala area, notably to Alsalam camp where the living conditions are dire.

In South Darfur, on 21 May, renewed violence between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes led to the displacement of the 20,000 residents of Katela town to the southern neighbouring locality of Tulus. IOM reported that fighting between Salamat and Taisha tribes led over 1,800 people to flee their homes in East and South Darfur and take refuge in South Darfur's Kalma IDP camp.

An estimated 60,000 people also took refuge in El Sereif and Saraf Omra localities in North Darfur.

In East Darfur, according to UNAMID, 10,000 people in Labado town continue to seek refuge near the UNAMID Team Site, with the rest of the town remaining empty. In Kulaykili Abu Salama in Assalaya locality, East Darfur, tribal tensions forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area in mid-July.

Since April, although verifications are currently ongoing in various areas, an estimated 22,300 people have been displaced in Central Darfur, notably in the Um Dukhun area, following fighting between Misseriya and Salamat tribes. According to the Humanitarian Aid Commission, most of these people have not yet received food assistance, although some have benefited from non-food item distributions and water and sanitation assistance.

As of 31 May, there were an estimated 1.43 million IDPs in camps in Darfur according to OCHA. As violence is intensifying, more displacements are likely to occur in the coming weeks.

**Disaster:** In early August, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding was recorded across North Darfur, notably affecting the localities of the localities of El Fasher, Mellit, El Kuma, and El Malha. According to local sources, the rains resulted in the destruction thousands of building and affected at least 10,000 people.

Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding was also recorded in South Darfur, notably in the Nyala area and the surrounding IDP camps, killing seven people and destroying 400 houses. Rains reportedly also affected the districts of Al Wadi, Jebel, Al Jeer, Taiba and Texas.

**Access:** As reported by OCHA, as of 21 July, relief supplies for newly displaced people in Um Dukhun in Central Darfur are still stranded in Zalingei and El Geneina, the state capitals of Central Darfur and West Darfur respectively, due to logistic and security

challenges. Most commercial transporters in the area are not willing to go to Um Dukhun, citing insecurity on the roads. Inter-tribal violence reignited in the area over the previous week.

According to WHO, inaccessibility due to insecurity has been a major concern in North Darfur, particularly in the conflict-affected areas of Jebel Amir, namely Elseraif town, Kebkabya and Saraf Omra. The situation has posed threats to health service delivery. In South and East Darfur, access to some localities, particularly those within Jebel Marra, has been a concern for organisations working in the area.

In South Darfur, Government security forces informed humanitarian agencies of the presence of criminal groups in Nyala town, most of which reportedly come from Kass locality and other areas north of Nyala, on 15 July. The UN has warned of threats of carjacking and abductions targeting the UN and international NGOs. In early July, growing insecurity in Nyala had heavily impacted humanitarian actors after two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured as a result of fighting in the city.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of early June, approximately 3.5 million people receive food aid, including some 1.4 million in camps in Darfur, according to OCHA. As reported by FEWSNET in early August, conflict-affected areas and new IDP populations in Darfur States, particularly in South Darfur are likely to remain at IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) levels through September and into the post-harvest season.

As violence has increased across the region, and especially in the vicinity of IDP camps, local sources reported that in Central Darfur poor security has resulted in a failed planting season for IDPs in the vicinity of the state capital Zalingei.

**Health:** According to WHO, cases of suspected acute jaundice syndrome and measles were reported from Elseraif area, North Darfur, and emergency response was not immediately carried out due to security issues. In addition, as reported by local media on 23 July, four children have died of measles in El Salam IDP camp near Nyala, and there are threats that the camp might have to be dismantled.

## Blue Nile and South Kordofan states

### Political and Security Context

On 24 July in an indication of the increasing level of coordination achieved between the various armed movements, elements of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, an alliance of armed opposition movements comprising notably People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) from South Kordofan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) from Darfur, staged an attack on an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with people reportedly killed on both sides. Rachad is close to the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack of the SRF in April. On 27 July, elements of the SRF staged an attack on a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) patrol in Al Deleima village 18 km north of Delling town and 150 km from Kadugli on the main Kadugli - El Obeid highway linking the capital of South and North Kordofan respectively. While the situation reportedly remains volatile, the UN has temporarily suspended road movement between Kadugli and El Obeid.

The recent increase in fighting may further strain relations between Juba and Khartoum. The fighting comes as the AU is trying to mediate the oil crisis that has led to the worsening of the relations between Juba and Khartoum over the past weeks.

On 27 April, talks about a possible ceasefire between the rebel SPLM-N and the Sudanese Government stalled over the issue of humanitarian access corridors. According to SPLM-N, the adjournment of the negotiations is linked to Khartoum insists on linking the humanitarian issue to the political one, a condition that the rebel group strongly rejects. Humanitarian access to the area remains limited. As of early June, no announcement regarding the date for the next round of talks had been made public.

In May, the city of Abu Karshola in the area of Rashad in Southern Kordofan state was the scene of fierce fighting between rebel groups, under the umbrella of the SRF, and SAF. The city that passed under rebel-control in late April was retaken after several governmental offensives, supported by aerial bombings, on 28 May. However, according to reports in local media, the rebels have since been staging blitz attacks against the city, killing several SAF military.

At the end of April, after seizing the Abu Karshola village town, an SPLM-N armed group managed to briefly besiege and loot the town of Um Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan state to Northern Kordofan state. This unprecedented attack and the fighting that ensued in the aftermath triggered regional resonance, leading Khartoum to overtly accuse Juba of supporting the rebels. In Sudan, according to Human Rights Watch, the authorities arrested more than 26 people believed to be allegedly supporting the SRF. As of 10 July, at least seven Darfuri and Nuba civilians are believed to be remaining in custody at unknown locations.

On 23 July, local reports indicated rising tensions between Kawahla al-Humr and Kawahla al-Zurug clans in the Balula area with six civilians reportedly killed. To date, there is limited information on the scale of the clashes and possible resulting displacement in the area.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

On 26 June, in a controversial statement, Khartoum pointed out that the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states is generally witnessing no problems, with the exception of limited areas under the control of the rebel movements.

**Displacement:** According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), ground fighting and aerial bombardment in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan have resulted in displacements in Buram, Dellami, Heiban, Rashad and Um Dorain counties in May. Fighting in South Kordofan, notably in Rashad County where the village of Abu Karshola is located, reportedly led to the displacement of over 63,000 civilians across SAF- and SPLM-N- controlled areas in late May according to various sources, including IOM, SKBNCU, HAC and SRCS. According to reports, some 21,000 displaced people have recently returned to their areas of origin in South Kordofan, particularly to Abu Karshola, with returns still ongoing in late July. The remaining displaced people are in need of food assistance and non-food supplies according to WFP.

During May, SKBNCU reported that aerial bombardment and ground fighting resulted in

civilian displacement in Blue Nile state, notably from Mayak, Olmedon, Mufu, Abu Dera, Marmiton, and Khor Bashum in Wadeka payam, to Bellila and Sammari areas, moving closer to the South Sudan border. Within Kurmuk County, ongoing internal displacement of more than 20,000 civilians inside Wadeka payam was reported during late May – early June. The SKBNCU has estimated that over 52,000 people were forcibly displaced in Blue Nile state in May.

As of 30 June, OCHA reported that an estimated 231,000 people in South Kordofan and 95,000 people in Blue Nile were displaced or severely affected by conflict in Government-controlled areas. In SPLM-N areas, 700,000 people in South Kordofan and 90,000 in Blue Nile are displaced or severely affected by conflict according to local estimates. The UN reports that it has no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas and is unable to independently verify these figures.

According to UNHCR, an estimated 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily. Reportedly, 200,000 people have fled to neighbouring South Sudan and Ethiopia.

**Access:** According to a UN report released on 6 June, access has remained constrained to rebel-held areas while it has improved in Government-controlled areas since January.

In mid-July, the UN and its agencies continued to advocate with the Government and SPLM-N to allow a polio vaccination in areas not under Government control. To allow for the vaccination campaign to take place, both sides would need to agree on a temporary cessation of hostilities and reach an agreement on a location for the vaccination and on where the vaccines should be sourced from. On 13 July, the SPLM-N openly proposed to involve the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in the vaccination campaign. As of 21 July, negotiations were advancing but with no resolution to date.

On 25 June, the Sudanese ruling National Congress Party (NCP) warned foreign aid groups that were expelled from the country against attempting to enter the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states without Khartoum's permission. The secretary of the NCP stated that some organisations previously working in Sudan who had been expelled due to violating Government policies are currently trying to sneak back in. He claimed that these groups are seeking entrance through political bodies and people with connections to rebels to collect information on the humanitarian situation in Sudan and fabricate reports with the help of organisations such as Amnesty International and Transparency International. The NCP official revealed a new strategy for civil society organisations that is in line with the Government's policies regarding human rights work in Sudan and underscores permanently banning any groups that support rebels from entering the country. The authorities are currently banning the access of foreign groups to the rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

On 4 April, WFP reported a breakthrough in delivering food aid to the Blue Nile state for the first time since conflict began there 18 months ago. Access to rebel-held areas remains extremely challenging.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to a FEWSNET report published in July, food security conditions in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are likely to further deteriorate during the peak of the lean season from August through September.

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels are likely to prevail in the SPLM-N-controlled areas in Blue Nile and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels in SPLM-N-controlled areas in South Kordofan.

The deterioration will be exacerbated by the continued lack of access to humanitarian assistance, the near-absence of income sources from agricultural production and labour, and progressive stripping of assets over an extended period since June 2011.

Conflicted-affected areas are controlled by the Government in Blue Nile and South Kordofan are expected to be at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels through September, depending on access to land, labour opportunities and levels of displacement.

According to unofficial reports, the malnutrition rates among children <5 in the conflict-plagued regions amounts to 30%, double the emergency threshold.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase in humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. As of 17 April, there were 8,725 Somali refugees in Djibouti.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to FEWSNET, food security conditions are expected to further deteriorate due to the effects of poor rainfall and to the ongoing lean season, particularly in the southeastern border areas and Obock pastoral areas through September.

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, 70,000 vulnerable people are at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The northwest, southwest and southeastern pastoral border livelihood zones are the worst affected. Rainfall levels in coastal areas at the end of the Heys-Dadaa rainy season (October through March) were 50% to 75% below-normal. The rural areas near Obock town in the northeast, situated in the central pastoral lowland livelihood zone, are experiencing severe water shortages and critical malnutrition levels. In the southeast, water access is expected to become increasingly limited, particularly in the areas of Sankal and Kabah-Kabah.

With the start of the lean season, households in southeastern pastoral border areas will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity through June, according to FEWSNET. According to the April WFP report, food insecurity in Djibouti has increased since November 2012 while households' own food production has decreased from 14.6% to 5.1% due principally to delayed rainfall and persistent cold.

Food security among poor households in Djibouti City's urban centres of Balbala, Radiska, and Baulaos is anticipated to heighten but remain within Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2), following a substantial decline in labour opportunities and increase in food prices. High unemployment rates (48%) and high staple prices are causing urban to peri-urban migration to areas such as Balbala. Wholesale prices of wheat flour, which had been stable at low levels since the beginning of 2012, increased from November to December 2012 by 17%. However, prices are still about 25% below the high levels recorded in 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable during the second semester of 2012. These prices depend heavily on the availability of food aid on markets of the interior regions.

Reviewed: 05/08/2013

## ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 22/07/2013.**

**Mid-July:** According to UNHCR, an estimated 5,000 South Sudanese sought refuge in western Ethiopia. Most refugees arrived from South Sudan's restive Pibor County in Jonglei state where violence between various non-state actors and Government forces has surged over the past weeks.

### Political and Security Context

As of mid-June, according to local reports, Kenyan and Ethiopian surveyors finalised a fresh demarcation of the disputed border around Lake Turkana. The exercise is expected to resolve protracted armed conflict among pastoralists from the two countries and enable fishing in Lake Turkana.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, an estimated 5,000 South Sudanese arrived in western Ethiopia. Most of the refugees arrived from South Sudan's restive Pibor County in Jonglei state where violence between various non-state actors and Government forces has surged over the past weeks.

Overall, Ethiopia is hosting over 394,000 refugees, of whom 239,000 are Somalis and 62,000 South Sudanese, according to UNHCR as of late April. Apart from Somalia, refugees primarily originate from Eritrea and Sudan. According to OCHA in May, 2,487 new refugee arrivals were registered throughout the country, including 975 South Sudanese, 725 Eritreans, 719 Somalis and 68 Sudanese.

Since January, UNHCR and the Ethiopia Government's refugee agency, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), have registered over 4,000 new Eritrean refugees. As of June, Ethiopia hosts nearly 72,000 Eritrean refugees in four camps in the northern Tigray region and two others in the Afar region in northeastern Ethiopia.

UNHCR is relocating thousands of South Sudanese refugees currently settled in the border Wanthowa district to the existing Pugnido camp in Ethiopia's Gambella region. Although 16,000 South Sudanese are estimated to reside at the border with host communities, their exact number is unknown since refugees in the area remain unregistered.

**Disaster:** As stated by OCHA on 9 May, floods affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country since April. Oromia and Somali regions were the most severely hit.

The arrival of the seasonal rainfall allowed for an improvement of water and pasture availability in most drought-prone areas around the country. Water sources were fully replenished in the Somali region and in all woredas of Oromia region, with the exception of Shalla and Siraro in West Arsi zone. In Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), rains were not sufficient to replenish ground water sources after two consecutive seasons of significantly below average rainfall, although they improved the availability of surface water sources.

As reported by OCHA, over 8,300 hectares of *belg* cropland were destroyed by armyworms in Wolayita zone of the SNNPR, an area that suffered from heavy rains that had already damaged *belg* crops. The damage caused by armyworms will further reduce the expected harvest from July to September. The infestation is rapidly spreading with armyworms reported in Boricha, Bona Zuria, Dara, Dale, Hawassa Zuria and Loko Abaya woredas of Sidama zone; Loma and Mareka woredas of Dawro zone (SNNPR), as well as in drought prone areas of East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region. In Borica woreda, more than 655 ha of *belg* cropland was destroyed in a week.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of March, OCHA estimated that 2.4 million people in Ethiopia were facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) levels of food insecurity, notably in the Afar, Oromia, SNNPR and Somali regions. Other estimates suggested that the total number of people affected by food insecurity might be as high as 3.5 million.

Recent reports indicated that East and West Hararghe zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average Meher harvest in October-November 2012.

According to OCHA, delayed *belg* rains in most *belg*-receiving parts of the country, including SNNPR, north eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray and central and eastern Oromia regions, have led to late planting of *belg* crops. According to FEWSNET, poor households in affected areas will not be able to meet their food needs through the next harvest without depleting livelihoods assets. Most households have turned to the market to access food as early as January, as their food stock from the 2012 *belg* and *meher* harvest was exhausted. Following the seasonal decline in grain supply, wholesale prices of main cereals increased from March to mid-May by 5-10% in most markets.

In *belg* cropping areas of southern Tigray and eastern Amhara regions, the planted area was reported to be well below average levels. Despite an increase in rainfall since mid-April, the delayed onset of seasonal rainfall has led to unfavourable ground conditions for northeastern *belg* producing areas of Ethiopia. The erratic nature of the seasonal rains has negatively impacted cropping activities, likely resulting in below-average crop yields.

The situation is particularly difficult in sweet potato growing areas of SNNPR following the

poor output of the recent harvest and the reduced income opportunities from coffee plantations as a result of low coffee production and prices.

Poor rains in pastoral areas mean that pasture availability will remain lower than usual and water sources will not fully refill, leading most pastoral areas to be classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April to June.

As reported by WFP in June, year-on-year prices increased by 7.4% for general, 3.7% for food, and 11.9% for non-food items, compared to same time in 2012. The wholesale price of staple cereals increased in all monitored markets compared to the previous month. The retail price of maize, wheat and sorghum also showed a month-to-month increase in most markets. However, the rate of increase is higher in most of East and West Hararghe woreda markets and in a few markets in SNNPR and Tigray region

**Health:** The Yellow Fever outbreak declared in mid-May by the authorities continues in South Omo zone, SNNPR with roughly 137 cases reported in North Ari, South Ari, Benatsemay and Selmago woredas, as reported by OCHA.

**WASH:** According to the UN, critical water shortages continue to be reported in Afar Region. Water availability also deteriorated over the past two weeks in Tigray Region. On the other hand, the seasonal rains have fully replenished water sources in Somali and SNNP regions, and in nearly all woredas of Oromia and Amhara Regions. In total, more than 566,000 people are in need of water trucking across the country, down from 720,500 people in March.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## **KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY**

### **Highlights**

**No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.**

**11 July:** At least 181 people were killed, 217 injured and over 52,000 people newly displaced from their homes since January 2013 as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya.

### **Political and Security Context**

On 11 July, OCHA reported that since January 2013, at least 181 people have been killed, 217 injured and many displaced from their homes as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya. Recent localised clashes have been attributed to competition over political representation, land, and resources, between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County. The most affected areas are in northeastern, Rift Valley and western provinces.

The northeastern county of Mandera, along the Somalia border region, has recently experienced a spike in tribal clashes. On 29 June, four people were killed and at least ten others injured in tribal fighting in Shirshir village. Three consecutive days of violence from 21-23 June left at least 16 people dead and more than 20 people, according to the Kenyan

Red Cross.

Dadaab has experienced high levels of insecurity due to volatile situation in Somalia where clashes are reportedly occurring between two ethnic Somali clans, the Garre and Degodia clans, which have been feuding in Mandera County since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities has historically revolved around competition for natural resources. Since March 2013, however, emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. The inter-clan violence has increasingly spread to neighbouring Wajir County. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed 24 June. The Kenyan Red Cross reported that inter-communal conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County had left over 85 people dead as of 25 June.

From June 2012 to May 2013, Dadaab camp has seen kidnappings of humanitarian workers, explosions, grenade attacks, random shootings, and increased banditry. In 2010/2011, the camps experienced a huge influx of refugees from Somalia. But during 2012 and 2013, the refugee population has remained relatively constant

In unrelated violence in western Kenya, tension is high along the West Pokot and Turkana County border after three herders were killed and another injured in a raid on 28 June, according to Kenyan police. The motives behind the attacks are unclear as the raiders allegedly did not steal any cattle. Western province saw a surge in indiscriminate attacks by various armed groups and gangs in early May, affecting the cities of Bungoma and Busia. However, the two communities recently held talks where they agreed to peacefully resolve any feud between them.

Countrywide, at least 153 people have been killed and 237 injured as a result of inter-communal conflict since the beginning of 2013, as reported by OCHA.

### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement:** On 11 June, OCHA reported that inter-communal conflict has caused over 52,000 people newly displaced from their homes since January 2013.

In addition, according to OCHA, recent rains have internally displaced 12,380 people as of 17 May 2013.

The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues. According to UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 494,704 as of 30 June. Of these, 425,000 reside in Dadaab refugee complex in northern Kenya and have limited access to basic necessities. The Kenyan Government estimated that the number of Somali refugees in the country amounted to 600,000 people as of late June 2013. Last month, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for "voluntary repatriation" with the actual modalities to still be discussed between the two neighbours.

Population displacements from Jonglei state in South Sudan to Kenya have been reported, with some 5,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Kenya since May 2013.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** The food insecure population declined to 1.1 million in

February 2013 from 2.1 million in August 2012 according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group 2013 short rains assessment. This was attributed to near average short rains crop production and improved grazing conditions compared to the 2012 August to September lean season.

In the south-eastern and coastal marginal mixed farming livelihood zones in Kenya, the average to above average rainfall in March and April 2013 was followed by a dry spell in May, which ceased during a critical stage of maize development. Nonetheless, the dry harvest of maize will likely begin in July, and some dry maize along with more drought resistant pulses are expected to sustain minimally adequate consumption. Poor households are likely to be able to meet minimum food requirements, however will remain at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels through September 2013, according to FEWSNET.

FEWSNET also reported that the March to May long rains have been beneficial in the pastoral areas of Kenya, where livestock conditions and milk production have improved, and the prices of livestock have generally increased compared to the dry season.

**Health:** In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 31 cases in total. According to USAID on 17 June, seven cases were registered in Kenya, all in Dadaab in northeastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in the country since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

According to UNHCR, eleven epidemic outbreaks were reported in 2012. The situation is expected to deteriorate due to an influx of new arrivals following the Government's decision to transfer Somali refugees from urban areas to camps around Dadaab.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new developments this week. Last update was: 01/07/2013**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** In total, almost 173,000 people have been affected by flooding and storms since the onset of the rainy season in February. The hardest-hit areas were the Mangochi, Phalombe and Nsanje districts, located in the south of the country, in the same region that had previously suffered from rain shortages and drought.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** An estimated 2 million people were classified as food insecure in Malawi, marking a significant increase since June 2012 with some areas having experienced four consecutive poor harvests. As many as 15 out of 28 districts are affected by the food crisis, with the southern (Mulanje and Chikwawa Districts) and central parts (Balaka District) of the country being the most severely affected. Even before the current crisis, 40% of the population was living below the poverty line.

In central and northern parts of the country, low crop yields due to the dry spells are expected to result in stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions until September as households begin to deplete their food stocks and incomes from crop sales.

The situation is compounded by the devaluation of the local currency and the increasing price of maize, the staple food, which already far exceeds the purchasing power of most rural households. Between April and May, average national maize prices dropped by 19% in response to increased supplies. However, in May, the average national retail price for maize was 129% higher than the average retail price in the corresponding period in 2012. As a result of high prices, social unrest has increased within the country.

Simultaneously, low strategic grain stocks are contributing to lower levels of maize availability on the market. FEWSNET reported that informal cross border maize exports have decreased significantly and are now less than half of the export levels registered in May 2012. This is mainly due to restrictions placed upon the transport of maize that are being imposed by local leaders and the government's strict enforcement of the maize export ban.

*Reviewed: 15/07/2013*

## UGANDA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights:

**1 August:** 70% of the 66,000 Congolese refugees who fled to Uganda after ADF/NALU's attack on Kamango (Democratic Republic of Congo) have now returned to their village, according to WFP.

**11 June:** Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in neighbouring North-Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), causing at least 66,000 refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district.

### Political and Security Context

On 11 July 2013, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in North-Kivu, causing significant population displacement from Kamango and surroundings toward Uganda's Bundibugyo district. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganizing to carry out attacks on Uganda. The Congolese official military force FADRC, tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has had several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FADRC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July.

On 30 June, the cities of Mamundioma and Totolito, located in the district of Beni in North-Kivu along the DRC-Uganda border, passed under the control of ADF/NALU with at least 16 people killed in the fighting according to reports in local media. Over the past decades,

the area has been highly volatile with incursions by militias from neighbouring Uganda being regularly reported.

President Museveni's current term in office has been characterized by increased opposition action and mounting parliamentary pressure on the government, especially over governance. There have been periodic tensions between opposition protestors and security forces, especially in 2011. Mid-May, the government allegedly shut down two newspapers following the publication of an article suggesting that President Museveni was grooming his son for power.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Since 11 July, insecurity in neighbouring DRC has led 66,000 DRC refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district over the last month. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees have returned and now face food shortages. UNHCR reported on 17 July that Uganda was already host to over 125,000 DRC refugees and asylum seekers before the latest clashes.

Instability in South Sudan and movement of South Sudanese into Uganda is also an issue of concern.

**Disaster:** In May 2013, heavy rains caused the banks of the Nyamwamba River to burst, resulting in flooding in Western Uganda's Kasese district. As of early May, 25,445 people had been reportedly affected by the floods, according to the Uganda Red Cross Society.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Food insecurity is increasing among poor and very poor households, putting 1.2 million at risk according to reports from the government and aid agencies.

According to FEWSNET on 19 July, harvesting of 2013 first season crops is underway and production prospects are near average. Overall food security is satisfactory but deteriorating in the Karamoja region. According to the Uganda Food Security Steering Group, about 80,000 people are considered in crisis food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 3), mostly concentrated in Karamoja region. Also in Karamoja, an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in June analysis revealed that up to 975,000 people in the semi-arid region faced Stressed levels of food insecurity, with an additional 234,000 unable to meet minimum food needs. In May, an assessment carried out WFP indicated that the food security situation was especially poor in the districts of Kotido, Kaabong, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit. By mid-July, about 66,000 refugees fled fighting from North Kivu province in DRC and arrived in Uganda's western district of Bundibugyo. The influx of refugees is putting pressure on the capacity of Government and humanitarian agencies to meet new refugees' needs in terms of food, water, shelter, sanitation and health.

**Health:** In June, the Red Cross Movement confirmed an outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Luwero district (Central Uganda).

In April, the Uganda Ministry of Health reported an outbreak of cholera in the eastern districts of Hoima, Nebbi and Buliisa. Since the beginning of 2013, the cumulative number of reported cases from the cholera affected districts has reached 216 cases with seven

people killed by the epidemic. The overall case fatality rate nationally from these districts stands at 3.2%. It is estimated that 217,350 persons (38,128 households) in the affected sub-counties are severely at risk of cholera infection, with a wider population of 900,500 people in the districts also at risk due to the high mobility of local populations.

Many affected communities are fishing communities where lack of clean water coupled with poor sanitation and hygiene practices have contributed to the outbreak and spread of the disease.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update: 01/07/2013.**

**27 June:** Over 1.8 million people have been affected by severe drought in Angola that has destroyed crops in parts of the country. The most severely affected areas are the five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila, and Benguela.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Since November, Angola has been affected by prolonged drought affecting over 1.8 million people as of late June. The five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila and Benguela are the most severely hit. According to a Monitoring Agricultural Resources report published by the European Commission in June, the provinces of Cunene and Namibe have had their driest spells in 25 years. Across the country, the Ministry of Agriculture has reported a 60% decrease in average rainfall during the planting season, which resulted in a 30% drop in crop production in 2012, affecting ten coastal and central highland provinces.

As a result of the drought, and despite an anticipated improvement of food security nationally compared to 2012, it is expected that the southern provinces will record a poor cereal harvest for the second consecutive year, negatively impacting food security. Crop and livestock productions have already reported prolonged dry conditions and resulting poor pastures. The government has established an emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where an estimated 640,000 people are affected by the drought.

In Namibe province, a joint assessment conducted in early June found that an estimated 250,000 people have been affected and 70% of crops destroyed. According to CARE, remaining household food stocks will not last until September. After food insecurity, the greatest reported problem is lack of access to water. Most boreholes are not working or have dried up. People are reported to be migrating in search of water and pasture for their cattle.

Furthermore, an estimated 533,000 children suffer from varying levels of malnutrition in a country that is still recovering from decades of civil war lasting until 2002.

**Health:** In the wake of the 2012 cholera outbreak, a total 598 new cholera cases were recorded by the local sanitary authorities between February and June 2013. Malaria is also affecting large numbers of Angolans, with 75 deaths reported in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013 and more than 15,000 cases registered overall, according to Angolan official sources.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## BOTSWANA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**23 July:** The Government declared the 2013/14 agricultural season a drought year following a government drought assessment. The food insecure rural population is estimated at 372,479 (49% of the rural population), 18% of the total population.

### Humanitarian Needs and Context

**Disaster:** The Government declared the 2013/14 agricultural season a drought year following a drought assessment. The food insecure rural population is estimated at 372,479 (49% of the rural population), 18% of the total population. The exercise confirmed that rainfall was poorly distributed and much below normal in most parts of the country. The overall food situation across Botswana has deteriorated and the whole country was declared to be affected by the drought. The most affected areas are Ngamiland District, Ghanzi, Kgalegadi, Southern and Central Districts.

Although the area planted was comparably high, the long dry spells between rainfall and the high rate of moisture loss due to above normal temperature, resulted in poor crop conditions. As such, total cereal production estimates are very low.

The 2012/13 cropping season was also largely characterized by a prolonged period of below average rains, punctured by intense rainfall in January which caused localised flooding and minor damage to the agriculture sector. In addition to the unfavourable weather conditions, an outbreak of armyworms in late 2012, mainly concentrated in south-eastern areas of the country, infested approximately 4,500 hectares of cropped land, representing about 3% of average cropped area to cereals.

The national annual inflation rate remained comparatively stable between the last quarter of 2012 and first quarter of 2013, averaging at about 7.4% over the six months.

The human water supply is generally low, especially the southern part of the country supplied from Gaborone Dam which is facing a precarious situation due to the dam's low water volume. Agro-based livelihoods are expected to suffer income losses and asset depletion, especially in light of the anticipated drought related livestock mortality.

Roughly 28% of Botswana's population suffers from chronic food insecurity.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**29 July:** Attacks carried by the religious extremist group Boko Haram throughout Nigeria and the North East of Cameroon have led to a significant deterioration of the security situation in the states of Borno, Yobe and KL Adamaoua.

**17 July:** The International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. Government and UNHCR figures show more than 8,000 located in the Far North Region alone.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** On 29 July, operational INGOs reported that attacks carried by the religious extremist group Boko Haram, operating throughout Nigeria and the North East of Cameroon, have led to a significant deterioration of the security situation in the states of Borno, Yobe and KL Adamaoua. As a result, since 10 June 2013, Nigerian refugees have been crossing the border to Cameroon's far north region, mainly in the departments of Mayo Sava, Logone Chari and Mayo Sanaga. As of 17 July, the International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. As of 15 July, Government and UNHCR figures showed more than 8,000 located in the Far North Region, mainly women and children. A joint assessment mission conducted on 20 June (UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP) in the village of Zelevet concluded that needs among the arrived refugees are largely in WASH, Health and Nutrition sectors.

According to UNHCR, there are currently an estimated 85,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon. WFP reports the total number of CAR refugees entering Cameroon since December at an estimated 1,130.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** The two Sahelian regions, Far North and North, remain extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. The regions have been slow in recovering from the 2011-2012 drought and 2012 floods. As of 30 June, OCHA reports that 350,000 people are food insecure. In the second half of 2013, a further increase in vulnerability is expected due to the exacerbating effect of the present inflation of grain prices. According to UNICEF in early July, prolonged drought in northern Cameroon has reduced food output pushed up prices and increased severity and prevalence of malnutrition in the whole Sahel region.

UNICEF reports that the nutrition situation for 2013 is similar to that in 2012 due to a structural vulnerability of populations in the northern regions which has increased with each consecutive crisis. As of 30 June, an estimated 83,233 children <5 suffered from SAM and 134,680 suffer from MAM.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights



**No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.**

**Early July:** Some 103,000 people are estimated as food insecure in the Gambia. This marks a decrease from over 241,000 people estimated to be food insecure at the same time in 2012.

### Humanitarian context and needs

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Although the agricultural production in 2012/2013 was higher than in the previous season, OCHA observed that it remained below the 5-year seasonal average as of July. In addition, floods, outbreaks of epidemics, or a reoccurrence of the Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) remain risks that would exacerbate the existing vulnerabilities further.

As of early July 2013, humanitarian actors estimated that 103,000 people still required food assistance across the country. This number marks a decrease from over 241,000 people estimated as food insecure at the same time in 2012. The proportion of food insecure is generally higher in urban areas of Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama.

Despite an improved domestic harvest, prices of imported cereals are likely to stay high, in view of the continuing depreciation of the Dalasi, the Gambian currency. Access to food will remain difficult for the population with a significant portion continuing to be food insecure in 2013 as a result of high food prices and of the lingering effects of last year's food crisis, according to FAO.

29,500 children are affected by malnutrition, of which up to 4,000 are suffering from SAM and the remaining from MAM as of July.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 29/07/2013.**

**25 July:** The death toll rose from 58 to 98, with 163 wounded, and 30,000 displaced after a sudden outbreak of ethnic violence in southeastern Guinea between 15-17 July.

### Political and Security Context

The Guinea Government reported on 25 July that the sudden outbreak of ethnic violence killed 98 people between 15-17 July, a significant increase compared to previously announced death toll of 58. UNHCR reported on 19 July that 163 were wounded after Guerze tribesmen, who form the majority population in the forest region, allegedly attacked three ethnic Konianke in the town of Koule. Fighting spread to the provincial capital N'Zerekore, 570 km southeast of Conakry, and clashes reached the town of Beyla on 17 July. According to the UN, security and defence forces were deployed to restore order, with the support of additional troops from Macenta and Gueckedou, and calm seems to

have been restored as of 22 July.

On 3 July, in a political breakthrough, Guinea's presidential coalition and opposition parties signed an agreement to hold legislative elections in September 2013. Guinea's electoral commission, CENI, had previously postponed the parliamentary elections scheduled for 30 June, after the Government and the opposition failed to agree on how to proceed with the vote.

Guinea's opposition parties withdrew from UN-mediated election talks with the government after violence broke out on 20 June and left three anti-government activists shot and nine others wounded. The negotiations aimed to secure opposition participation in the long-delayed parliamentary polls, which are meant to seal the mineral-rich nation's transition to civilian rule following a coup in 2008.

On 8 June, President Alpha Conde had announced that he might delay legislative elections scheduled for 30 June if authorities found technical problems. The statement was seen as a concession made to the opposition while more than 50 people have been killed in the country in three months of clashes between protesters and security forces. The opposition activists have accused President Conde of seeking to rig the legislative polls and are asking for the elections to be postponed until their complaints are met.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Several international organisations reported on 23 July that approximately 30,000 people were displaced following the outbreak of ethnic violence between 15-17 July. On 19 July, UNHCR reported that several hundred IDPs had sought refuge in military camps in Nzerekore and Beyla.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to FAO, land preparation and planting of the 2013 rice and coarse grain crops are underway countrywide following the start of the rainy season in May. Crops benefited from favourable climatic conditions in most areas of the country. The aggregated 2012 cereal production is estimated to have increased by about 10% to 3.2 million tons compared to 2011. Overall, access to food has improved in recent months, driven mostly by lower prices of imported commodities. However, despite the improved food security situation, FAO indicated that 600,000 people, located mostly in Kindia, Labe and N'Zerekore regions, still suffer from severe food insecurity, while an additional 1.7 million people are considered at risk.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## NAMIBIA DROUGHT

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 13/05/2013.**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security:** On 17 May, the President of Namibia declared a national drought

emergency and called for assistance from the international community. WFP has identified 331,000 people as food insecure (14% of Namibia's total population). Another 450,000 are moderately food insecure, according to an Emergency Food Security Assessment carried out from 8-20 April 2013. The results of an Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment also indicated that agricultural production will be very poor as a result of the lowest seasonal rainfall for decades.

The Government forecasted that, following the prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June), Namibia's main cereal production for 2013 will be down by an estimated 42% compared to 2012 production levels. Grazing pastures have also been severely affected in six regions where many households rely on livestock production; 4,000 livestock deaths have already been recorded.

The Namibia Red Cross Society said last week that there are about 109,000 rural children <5 at risk of malnutrition because of lack of food and poor sanitation.

In some parts of the country, the cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average. The poor rains were most pronounced in southern and western parts of Namibia. The north western Omusait Region, which contributes approximately 14% to the national cereal output, was severely affected by below-average rains and an outbreak of army worms. It is expected to record a sharp decline in cereal production, estimated at 50% below average.

Water levels are quickly decreasing and about 40-50% of water points no longer function. Many farmers are being forced to sell cattle, due to lack of pasture, while cow-herds from Angola, which is also suffering from the drought, are reported to have crossed the border in search of food, fuelling tribal tensions as competition for scarce pastures intensifies.

Droughts are recurrent in Namibia, impacting local economy and food security. The northern regions of the country have been historically most affected by droughts and are particularly vulnerable due to the high density of the population.

As reported by IFRC, the initial response of government's food aid only targeted rural communities. However, it has been reported that people in urban areas especially those in informal settlements in Kunene are equally affected by the drought. Local authorities in Kunene have appealed to the government to include people in urban areas on the beneficiary list of government food aid.

**Health:** According to IFRC, cases of cholera were reported in Kunene region along the border with Angola at the end of July. These are now said to be under control. A screening centre was opened at the border between Namibia and Angola. At the end of 2011, Angola suffered a severe cholera outbreak.

**WASH:** An assessment in the four regions of Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kavango states that due to high food insecurity and malnutrition, and as only a few people practice household water treatment, the risk to water and sanitation related diseases from possible water contamination at household level is high. Particular concern are regions with lowest access to water and sanitation, and prone to diseases like cholera, including Kunene, Ohangwena and Kavango regions.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 24/06/2013.**

**No confirmed data on the food security situation or food price levels is available. Therefore, Eritrea is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.**

### Political and Security Context

According to the Human Rights Watch, Eritrea is still plagued by human right abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religious freedom. Military conscription is compulsory and can last for an indefinite period of time.

On 21 January, dissident Eritrean soldiers with tanks laid siege to the Information Ministry, forced state media to call for the release of high-profile political prisoners and demanded the implementation of the constitution, which was never enacted by Parliament. However, calm reportedly returned to the capital Asmara on 22 January. No further information is available on the events.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in this country of about 6 million people. The UN Human Rights chief has accused the Eritrean Government of torture and summary executions.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, Eritrean refugees crossing to neighbouring Ethiopia are on the rise, while the number entering Sudan has dropped compared to the previous year.

Since January, UNHCR and the Ethiopia Government's refugee agency, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), have registered over 4,000 new Eritrean refugees. As of June, Ethiopia hosts nearly 72,000 Eritrean refugees, a record high, in four camps in the northern Tigray region and two others in the Afar region in north-eastern Ethiopia.

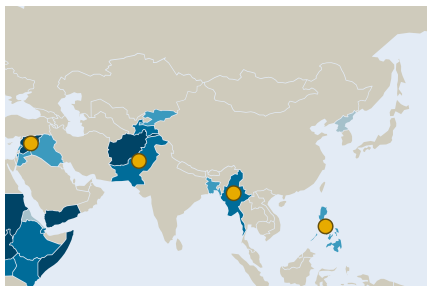
According to UNHCR, eastern Sudan receives an average of 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly shelters at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees.

Djibouti also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month.

**Access:** There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access and a ban on humanitarian organisations assessing needs.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** An estimated six million people in Eritrea are food insecure (98% of the population). Local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on vulnerable groups' coping mechanisms. The Government of Eritrea officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*



## ASIA

### AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

#### Highlights

**4 August:** 17 people were seriously injured in a roadside bomb attack in Jalalabad, capital city of the eastern border province of Nangarhar.

**3 August:** Suicide bombers attacked the Indian consulate in Jalalabad killing nine people, including children, and injuring an additional 23 civilians in front of the consulate. The Taliban denied responsibility for the attack.

**1 August:** Flash floods triggered by days of torrential rain have killed more than 40 people and destroyed dozens of houses, according to the authorities. The rains and subsequent floods notably affected nine eastern and southeastern provinces and some districts of the capital Kabul with Surobi district being the hardest hit in the capital.

**31 July:** According to a UN report, between January and June, the number of civilians killed and injured in Afghanistan rose by 23% on last year with homemade landmines still the principal threat to Afghan civilians. Overall, 1,319 civilians were killed and a further 2,533 injured between January and June 2013.

**31 July:** 5 Afghan policemen were accidentally killed in a US air attack during an overnight operation in Nangarhar province. Casualties within Afghan military caused by air strikes conducted by NATO-led forces have long been a major source of friction between Kabul and its international allies.

#### Political and Security Context

Western diplomatic sources reported on 9 July that peace talks between the Taliban and the US are likely to resume in the coming weeks in Qatar after a previous attempt in late June failed. Infuriated by the opening of a Taliban office in Qatar and by being bypassed for the negotiations, the Afghan Government reacted angrily, forcing the US leadership to delay the talks. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in the peace talks if these are not "Afghan-led". On 30 June, Afghan President Hamid Karzaï restated his suspicions regarding direct dealings between the West and the Taliban in Qatar and the role played by neighbouring Pakistan in brokering the talks, although he expressed hope that the peace talks would begin soon. According to unofficial information, the bilateral relations between the two neighbours allegedly worsened after a Pakistani official openly floated the idea of an Afghan power-sharing arrangement between Kabul and the Taliban.

A spokesperson for the Taliban indicated in late June that the insurgents have no intention of changing their tactics in conflict-plagued Afghanistan despite the possible peace talks in Doha. Since they vowed to start a new campaign of attacks on 27 April, identifying "insider attacks" as a key tactic against foreign and Afghan military forces targets, the Taliban have been intensifying their attacks across the country. In May, insurgents increasingly targeted foreign humanitarian personnel deployed in the country. On 5 July, a spokesman for the Taliban insurgents restated that the movement would continue attacks over Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that started on 9 July. On 22 July, the Afghan parliament voted to remove the country's Interior Minister after accusing him of failing to quell attacks from militants as the responsibility for security has been handed over to the local forces.

According to a UN report released in late July, the number of civilians killed and injured in Afghanistan rose by 23% since the beginning of the year with homemade landmines still the principal threat to Afghan civilians. Overall, 1,319 civilians were killed and a further 2,533 injured between January and June 2013. The UN reported that 74% of the casualties were caused by the insurgents, 9% by pro-government forces, and 12% resulted from ground fighting between the two sides. These numbers are a significant increase when compared to the first half of 2012 and close to the record casualties recorded during the same period in 2011. The increase in attacks underscores rising levels of violence as the international troops have started to disengage from the country.

On 4 August, 17 people were seriously injured in a roadside bomb attack in Jalalabad, capital city of the eastern border province of Nangarhar. On 3 August, suicide bombers attacked the Indian consulate in the same city killing nine people, including children, and injuring an additional 23 civilians in front of the consulate. The Taliban movement denied being responsible for the attack. On 25 July, 12 Afghan policemen were captured by Taliban fighters in Zabul Province where the Afghan forces have conducted numerous operations in recent months. A Taliban statement indicated that the policemen would be punished under Islamic law over complaints from residents that police allegedly tortured people. On 23 July, a suicide attack against a NATO military convoy killed three soldiers and their Afghan interpreter in Wardak province, a stronghold of the Taliban insurgency. On 18 July, 8 Afghan civilians on their way to work at a US military base were killed in the eastern Logar province, a Taliban stronghold south of Kabul. In a separate incident, 2 Afghan officers were killed in a Taliban attack on a police post near the city of Kunduz in the north of the country.

As of late July, ICRC continues to operate with caution in Afghanistan, following the major

security incidents on the IOM compound on 24 May in Kabul, as well as their own compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, on 29 May.

Meanwhile, on 18 June, the formal handover of national security from the US-led NATO coalition to Afghan forces took place. This handover is a major step toward the gradual disengagement of international forces from the country. Most of the 85,000 international troops stationed in Afghanistan are scheduled to withdraw by the end of 2014, and over 75% of the country is expected to be under national security control by end-July 2013. Within the US-led NATO coalition, there is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000 members of the Afghan security forces to cope with the insurgency. To date, there is no clear understanding over how many international troops, if any at all, will stay in Afghanistan after 2014 as relations become increasingly tense between Kabul and its western allies.

Against this background, military operations are ongoing in Afghanistan since the “fighting season” resumed with the arrival of spring. On 31 July, five Afghan policemen were accidentally killed in a US air attack during an overnight operation in Nangarhar province. Casualties of Afghan military caused by air strikes conducted by NATO-led forces have long been a major source of friction between Kabul and its international allies.

Meanwhile, and although information remains limited, heavy military operations were reported in Faryab, Badakhshan and Maidan Wardak provinces in May and June. In early July, an Afghan general commented that the insurgents have generally stepped up operations in the east, near the border with Pakistan. According to Afghan military sources, insurgent numbers are up around 15% on last year’s summer fighting months.

In early May, tensions sharply escalated between Kabul and Karachi following two border incidents, further straining the relations between the two governments.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, Kandahar, Helmand and Nangarhar are among the most vulnerable Afghan provinces, ranking high in the number of security incidents, civilian casualties, and conflict displacement, health and nutrition indicators. Across Afghanistan, an estimated 7.7 million people are in need of protection while the situation in the country is increasingly volatile.

**Displacement:** In 2013, conflict displacement continues to be the main cause of acute humanitarian need, with a marked increase in previously stable provinces within the north, particularly Faryab and Badakhshan, according to OCHA. As of 31 May, there are an estimated 570,000 internally displaced people in Afghanistan.

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran. There are an estimated additional 2.4 million undocumented refugees from Afghanistan in the two countries. The Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue their efforts to find solutions to the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in the host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of all Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan

refugees’ stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, and Baluchistan.

Overall, an estimated 5.4 million people are affected by the ongoing conflict.

**Disaster:** In early August, flash floods triggered by days of torrential rain have killed more than 40 people in Afghanistan and destroyed dozens of houses, according to the authorities. The rains and subsequent floods notably affected nine eastern and southeastern provinces and some districts of the capital Kabul with Surobi district being the hardest hit in the capital. To date, there is no information on the total number of affected.

**Access:** As reported by the UN in June, security incidents continued to affect humanitarian workers. Although humanitarian programmes were not suspended, movement restrictions were increasingly applied and several organisations are reviewing their security protocols.

In June, 25 incidents against humanitarians were reported in 16 provinces, ranging from killings, intrusion of health facilities, abduction, arrest and detention, collateral impacts of IEDs, intimidation, disruption of aid distributions, theft of humanitarian assets, direct small arms fire and rocket attacks. Overall, the humanitarian space in Afghanistan is shrinking as the security situation becomes increasingly precarious. Local sources quoted by OCHA registered an increase of 62% in attacks on aid workers, excluding UN staff, during the first three months of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA, as of mid-June, 4.5 million people in Afghanistan are food insecure, including 2.25 million people severely food insecure and targeted with humanitarian aid. However, agricultural prospects for 2013 look generally reassuring, notably because rain-fed and irrigated wheat harvests are likely to be promising in most provinces. Rangelands have also benefited from steady spring rain falls, offering livestock good grazing areas. As during last year, this year’s good grain production will support recovery from the 2011 drought, offering above-normal wages and job opportunities, healthy livestock and lower prices on wheat grains in most markets across the country.

However, households in the extreme northeast, notably Badakhshan province, central highlands, low-income and disaster-affected households across the country, as well as internally displaced populations are likely to remain vulnerable to food insecurity. According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), several reports have been received regarding localised droughts in Kunduz, Ghor and Nimroz provinces. Assessments are currently ongoing or scheduled to be conducted soon across these areas, notably in Ghor province, by WFP and FEWSNET.

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, some 125,692 children <5 suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), including some 28,650 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

**Health:** War-related admissions increased by 42% between January and April 2013 as compared to the same period last year. In Helmand province, there has been almost an 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict. The Health Cluster reported a

40% increase in security incidents from January to April 2013 compared to last year.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## SYRIA CIVIL WAR

### Highlights

**3 August:** On 3 August Syrian rebels reportedly captured an ammunition depot from Government forces in Denha, north of Damascus, near the town of Yabroud, seizing a hoard of anti-tank missiles and rockets which could strengthen their firepower after a string of defeats. In the same border region, Syrian jets killed at least six people in an air strike, also wounding people in Lebanon.

**31 July:** In the northwestern Homs district of al-Waer, UNICEF warned that 400,000 civilians, who had moved there to seek shelter from the violence in central Homs, were in danger. Seven children in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo and another four in Homs in the centre were among 17 civilians killed in air raids on 30 July.

**31 July:** Syrian troops attacked opposition stations outside Khan al-Assal as they sought to recapture the northern town. Fierce fighting erupted on the Khan al-Assal's outskirts, which the oppositions seized on July 22 inflicting heavy losses on the army.

**24 July:** Clashes between Kurdish fighters and Islamist armed groups continued in northern Syria in the town of Tal Abyad, Ar-Raqqqa. Opposition forces report that many families have fled the violence in Tal Abyad. Since 24 July, Kurdish fighters are reported to control new villages such as Koor Hesso, 'Atwan, Sarej and Kherbet 'Allaw to the west of Tall Abyad.

**24 July:** Fierce fighting erupted in and around the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in southern Damascus this week. At least 15 people were killed and 45 wounded in a rocket attack on the refugee camp on 24 July.

**19-20 July:** Clashes between Kurdish fighters and elements of the Al-Nusra Front and of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were reported in areas near Ras al-Ain in Al-Hassakeh governorate. Local reports indicated that a key checkpoint near Ras al-Ain passed under the control of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) that has been gaining ground in the area over the Islamist groups. The PYD announced a constitution and a plan to elect a council to administer the area known as Rojava or west Kurdistan.

**17 July:** Kurdish fighters from the PYD, a group with links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey, seized control of Ras al-Ain in Al-Hassakeh governorate on the border with Turkey.

**15 July:** While fierce fighting continued in Homs City, 400,000 people reportedly fled the Old City and between 2,500 and 4,000 are trapped in ongoing clashes.

### Political and Security Context:

### Infighting

As many observers suggest, the overall cohesion of groups fighting the Government in Syria is weak and more infighting is arising and spreading between armed groups that have different ideologies, goals, and international backers.

Tensions between the FSA and fighters of ISIS continue across the country. In Aleppo people crossing the two parts of the city (Western-Government-controlled and Eastern-opposition controlled) have been targeted by ISIS for arrests on charges of secularism.

ISIS fighters are focusing on strengthening their grip on the Aleppo countryside and some neighbourhoods of the city, the countryside of Idleb and to a lesser extent in other regions and rural areas of Lattakia, as well as Ar-Raqqqa. Jabat Al-Nusra is reported to have starting withdrawing gradually handing over control to the ISIS. The latter are said to be establishing barriers and Sharia courts, and controlling roads. Fighters of Al-Nusra Front and ISIS have seized control of Tall Aren village in Aleppo province and are laying siege to another village nearby, Tall Hassel.

### Kurdish Areas

#### Al-Hassakeh

Daily clashes continue between Kurds and Al-Nusra fighters across Syria's north. The Al-Nusra forces have regrouped in Tel Halaf, three kms west of Ras al-Ain, from where they have been shelling and firing in an attempt to recoup their losses, although the Kurds appear to be holding their ground. On 17 July, Kurdish fighters from the PYD, a group with links to the PKK in Turkey, seized control of Ras al-Ain in Al-Hassakeh governorate on the border with Turkey. On 19 July, clashes between Kurdish fighters and elements of the Al-Nusra Front and ISIS were reported in the area. PYD fighters killed 12 Islamist militants in Al-Hassake on 2 August. On a regional level, the capture of Ras al-Ain by the PYD is likely to further fuel the Government of Turkey's concern regarding the possible emergence of an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria.

#### Ar-Raqqqa

Clashes between Kurdish fighters and Islamist armed groups continued in northern Syria in the town of Tal Abyad, Ar-Raqqqa. Opposition forces report that many families have fled the violence in Tal Abyad. Since 24 July, Kurdish fighters are reported to control new villages such as Koor Hesso, 'Atwan, Sarej and Kherbet 'Allaw to the west of Tall Abyad. On 30 July, a prominent Syrian Kurdish politician, Isa Huso, was killed in a car bomb attack in the north-eastern town of Qamishli, Ar-Raqqqa, near the Turkish border. Isa Huso was a member of the newly formed umbrella group for Kurdish groups including the PYD - Supreme Kurdish Council. On 26 July, the Head of PYD met with members of the Turkish National Intelligence Agency. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan said on the same day that necessary warnings will be made to the PYD in light of the seizure of control in areas close to the Turkish border in northern Syria

### Fighting

## Homs

Government forces are likely to continue clearing opposition fighters from the district, which will enable them to then advance on seven other opposition-held neighbourhoods in the Old City of Homs. While opposition fighters have proven adequately entrenched and supplied to hold out for a limited period against government advances, it is assessed that these opposition districts will likely fall in the near term. These districts remain largely enveloped and Assad's forces, who have amassed a considerable force in Homs, are determined to retake the city ahead of any build-up and offensive on Aleppo.

In the northwestern Homs district of al-Waer, UNICEF warned that 400,000 civilians, who had moved there to seek shelter from the violence in central Homs, were in danger. Seven children in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo and another four in Homs in the centre were among 17 civilians killed in air raids on 30 July, a watchdog said. The deaths in Homs come as troops pressed an offensive against remaining rebel areas there. In Aleppo province, the raid comes exactly a year into the rebel takeover of the targeted town of Anadan.

Government forces are advancing in Homs. On 29 July, government troops are reported to have brought Khaldiyeh neighbourhood in Homs City under their control. Earlier in the week, a statement by opposition activists in Homs said the military siege of the city was halted after differences emerged between pro-government militiamen and the National Defense Forces. The district links the outskirts of the city with the center of Homs and is crucial to government attempts to link the capital to President Bashar al-Assad's coastal strongholds and divide opposition units in the north and south. In Homs alone, 400,000 people are said to have fled the Old City and an estimated 2,500 are reportedly still trapped in and around the city. ICRC revealed that it has been negotiating a humanitarian cease-fire since early July to enable entry into Homs to bring medical supplies and other aid, but despite negotiations with both sides they have still not received the go-ahead from the Syrian authorities.

## Damascus

On 3 August Syrian rebels reportedly captured an ammunition depot from Government forces in Denha, north of Damascus, near the town of Yabroud, seizing a hoard of anti-tank missiles and rockets which could strengthen their firepower after a string of defeats. In the same border region, Syrian jets killed at least six people in an air strike, also wounding people in Lebanon. Escalating fighting has been reported from Adra on the northeastern outskirts of Damascus, another key target for all armed groups, over the past week. According to observers, Adra is believed to be an entry point to the capital's strategic Abbasiyeen Square, the target of several attacks by insurgent forces over the past months. On 14 July, Government troops reportedly fired tank shells and artillery in clashes with insurgents on the outskirts of Damascus in Jobar and Qaboun districts. On 16 July, reinforcements for armed opposition groups reportedly arrived in these two districts. These areas of Damascus have been a recurrent flashpoint for fighting.

## Aleppo

Syrian troops attacked opposition stations outside Khan al-Assal on 31 July as they sought

to recapture the northern town. Fierce fighting erupted on the Khan al-Assal's outskirts, which the oppositions seized on July 22 inflicting heavy losses on the army. Khan al-Assal was the scene of a chemical weapons attack that killed 30 people on March 19.

Residents of western Aleppo have reportedly been crossing into the opposition-held east at Bustan al-Qasr to purchase food and other needs. Two million people are reportedly under siege in the western part of Aleppo City. As of mid-July, armed groups in opposition-controlled areas are prohibiting food and medicines from entering the Western side of Aleppo controlled by the Government by blocking the access from the city center through the crossing border in Bostan al-Qasr district. Half the citizens of the city reside in Western Aleppo, and according to reports, supplies have been unable to reach this part of the city for weeks. The tactic is aimed at weakening the supply routes of President Bashar al-Assad's forces but is affecting thousands of civilians. According to OCHA, as of mid-July, over 35,000 people were besieged by armed opposition groups in Nubul and Zahra, north of Aleppo. The two villages are reportedly backing President Assad. In mid-June, opposition activists and military sources stated that the army took measures to reinforce the two villages.

At least 29 people were killed, including 19 children in Aleppo's Bab Nairab neighbourhood in a surface-to-surface missile strike by regime forces on 26 July according to the SOHR. In addition, at least 150 Syrian regime forces died fighting opposition forces for control over Khan al-Assal, a key town in northern Aleppo. The opposition had for months tried to take Khan al-Assal, a strategically located town in the west of Aleppo province. It fell on 22 July but fighting reportedly continued on its edges. Last week, fighting reportedly resulted in disrupted access on the main road linking Aleppo with other governorates in the center, west, and south.

According to international media, at least 2,014 people, mostly combatants, have been killed in Syria's civil war since Ramadan began on July 10. Although the overall casualty estimation for the two-year conflict remains difficult to ascertain, the death toll is estimated to range from 94,000 to 120,000, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

## International Context

The main Western-backed Syrian opposition (SNC) will not take part in any peace negotiations with the government until the opposition gains the upper hand on the battlefield again, the group's chief Ahmad Jarba said on 31 July. The statement reflected the new reality on the ground, where forces of President Bashar Assad have made significant gains against the oppositions on several key fronts. International efforts to end the conflict remain focused on plans for a new peace conference initiated by the US and Russia which will possibly take place in September. Talks were postponed several times after the SNC indicated that it will not take part in the planned summit as long as Lebanese Hezbollah fighters continue to fight in Syria alongside Government forces. In parallel, Damascus stated that it would be willing to attend peace talks, but any subsequent deal would have to be approved by a referendum among the population.

On 14 July, in another indication that the Syrian conflict is increasingly becoming a flashpoint of a global sectarian war, Taliban commanders in Pakistan announced that hundreds of fighters have been dispatched to Syria to fight alongside al-Qaeda affiliated groups of the al-Nusra Front and ISIS. This announcement comes at a time when Syrian

opposition appears more and more divided between moderate groups and the Islamists. Against this background, Damascus forces have gained significant ground over the past weeks with the support of Hezbollah fighters.

At a meeting in Qatar on 22 June, ministers from 11 nations in the "Friends of Syria" group agreed to provide the necessary material and equipment to the opposition on the ground. Their final statement condemned the involvement of Hezbollah militias in Syria and that of fighters from Iran and Iraq. In parallel, the US reiterated that the decision to provide military support to the rebels was not to seek a military solution but to give rebels more power in negotiating an end to the conflict.

On 14 June, the US announced that they are ready to provide direct military aid to the Syrian opposition after the administration concluded that the Syrian forces used chemical weapons. On 10 July, Russia presented evidence to the UN saying that Syrian opposition forces have attacked regime forces with sarin gas. While the US rejected the claims, the UN is yet to be allowed an independent investigation inside Syria. At the invitation of the Government of Syria, the UN High Representatives for Disarmament Affairs and the head of the UN fact-finding mission set up in March to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict, visited Damascus on 24 and 25 July. The visit led to an agreement on the way forward, however details were not specified.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated on 14 June that the militant group would continue fighting alongside the Syrian Government, after its fighters played a decisive role in the recapture of the strategic town of Qusayr on 5 June.

The conflict continues to spill over into neighbouring countries and is particularly triggering increased polarization in Lebanon and Iraq. On 17 July, a well-known media defender of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Lebanon was assassinated by unidentified gunmen.

Tensions between Hezbollah and Syria's opposition groups have risen sharply since the Lebanese militia stepped up its armed support for President Bashar al-Assad's Government in April. Armed opposition groups have threatened to attack Hezbollah bases in Lebanon, and rockets and mortar rounds continue to hit the eastern and northern regions. The FSA and the armed faction Jabhat al-Nusra separately warned that their fighters may start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. Lebanese President Michel Suleiman called on the Shia Muslim Hezbollah movement to pull its fighters out of Syria, saying any further involvement in its neighbour's civil war would further fuel instability in Lebanon.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

The UN estimated that over 6.8 million people are in need of humanitarian aid as a result of the heavy fighting and subsequent lack of access to livelihoods and services.

**Displacement:** According to the findings of an UN inter-agency mission to Hasiya, an estimated 40,000 people fled Qusayr during May. Since the start of the conflict, over 5 million people have been displaced inside Syria. UNRWA estimates that around 235,000 Palestine refugees have been displaced inside Syria.

As of 5 August, close to 1.89 million Syrian refugees are registered or awaiting registration with over 668,000 in Lebanon (Government estimates 1 million Syrians in total, including a

large number of Syrian migrants), some 512,000 in Jordan (Government estimates total 600,000 Syrians), over 431,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 490,000), over 160,000 in Iraq and over 103,000 in Egypt (Government estimates up to 300,000). The remainder are spread across other countries in North Africa, according to UNHCR.

Syria's neighbour states have recently closed or tightened restrictions at several border crossings leaving tens of thousands of people stranded in Syrian border regions, as reported by Human Rights Watch. An average 8,000 Syrians cross into Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey every day, according to the UN, putting an increasingly heavy economic, political and social burden on these countries.

On 8 July, the new Egyptian government imposed new visa requirements for Syrian refugees, under which Syrian nationals must apply for a visa and security clearance prior to travel to Egypt. Flights carrying hundreds of Syrians were turned back. UNHCR voiced concerns that the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus does not have the capacity to issue visas at this time.

**Access:** Humanitarian needs across Syria continue to far outweigh support provided. The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, urged the UN Security Council to grant aid agencies cross-border access to Syria without permission from the Syrian Government. Accessibility into and around Damascus is increasingly difficult and reaching certain areas of rural Damascus, Quneitra, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo and Idlib remains challenging. Several UN agencies have warned that resources are running low, and added that without additional funds they will be forced to scale back relief efforts across the region. A proliferation of additional checkpoints around Damascus city is affecting the pace of food dispatches, while active military operations in some areas are restricting access of UN organisations for monitoring purposes.

Two UN response plans, one requesting funding for Syria and one for host countries, were launched on 7 June, requesting over 5 billion USD to fund humanitarian operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

**Food Security and Economy:** 4 million Syrians will need urgent food aid, as crop and livestock production has been devastated by the civil war. Wheat production for 2012/2013 is estimated at about 2.4 MT, an estimated 40% decrease from the average annual harvest of more than 4 MT in the 10 years before the conflict, according to WFP and FAO.

The Syrian economy lost almost 40% of its GDP and the Syrian pound has lost around 77% of its value since the onset of the violence. Price hikes on basic food and fuel have negatively affected the ability of many Syrians to access adequate food for their families.

**Health:** The health situation is worsening with basic services becoming more inaccessible to growing numbers of people. The Ministry of Health reported that, at the end of April, 60% of public hospitals were partially damaged or out of service. During an assessment in the northern areas of the country in March, health was consistently mentioned as a key priority for intervention. The current rise in temperatures is expected to increase existing WASH and health concerns.

A measles epidemic is reported in districts of northern Syria with up to 7,000 known cases. Médecins Sans Frontières has reportedly vaccinated over 75,000 children in the

provinces of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqah and Idleb in an effort to stem the epidemic.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**3 August:** Members of Yemen's now dissolved elite republican guard once loyal to Yemen's ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh clashed with a rival army faction near the presidential palace in Sana'a. The demonstrations continued after at least two people died and five others were injured when Yemeni presidential forces fired at protesters on 2 August.

### Political and Security context

On 3 August, members of Yemen's now dissolved elite republican guard once loyal to Yemen's ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh clashed with a rival army faction near the presidential palace in Sana'a. The demonstrations continued after at least two people died and five others were injured when Yemeni presidential forces fired at protesters on 2 August. The soldiers demanded that the Ministry of Finance pay them a bonus for Ramadan and called on the minister to resign. Yemen's military remains divided between allies and opponents of Saleh, who stepped down in a Gulf-brokered deal in 2012 after a year of protests against his rule, but still looms large in Yemen.

Soldiers blocked roads outside Western embassies in Sanaa on Sunday, after a US warning of a possible major militant attack in the Middle East prompted the closure many missions in Yemen and US missions in several other Arab states. Yemen is home to one of the most active wings of al Qaeda. Three drone strikes in Yemen in the past 10 days killed 10 suspected militants.

Yemen remains a strategic spot for the US and its Gulf allies who need to contain threats from al-Qaeda-affiliated militants and separatist tribes to Saudi Arabia and nearby sea lanes where oil tankers pass. Violence and insecurity continue across the country with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates.

On 5 June, at least 11 people were killed during a large-scale offensive of the Yemeni forces, backed by tanks and helicopters, against al-Qaeda affiliated groups that recently seized villages in the southeastern province of Hadramaut, east of the port city of Mukalla. The aim of the Islamist militants was allegedly to set up an Islamist State in the east of Yemen. To date, available information on the offensive remains limited.

Meanwhile, national dialogue sessions, which started in March, with a view to start drafting a new Yemeni constitution, agree on other reforms, and prepare for elections in February 2014, spurred numerous protests and violent incidents in Sana'a and the Aden governorate. The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum announced on 28 June that a referendum for the new Yemeni constitution will be held on 15 October and

followed by general elections. This is seen as a success following the discussions achieved so far by the National Dialogue Conference.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 13.1 million people (55% of the population) in Yemen need humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA.

**Displacement:** On 5 July, Yemen asked IOM to assist 200,000 Yemeni migrant workers forced to leave Saudi Arabia since April as part of a crackdown on undocumented migrants. Although a Saudi amnesty for undocumented migrants previously scheduled to expire this week was extended until November, it is expected that the Yemeni migrants will have to leave by September. The number of Yemeni migrants returning from Saudi Arabia could therefore increase in the coming months.

As a result of widespread conflict, an estimated 344,000 people remain internally displaced in the north of the country, including Sana'a, as of early July according to UN sources. Meanwhile, 162,000 internally displaced people have so far returned to areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate and in neighbouring areas thanks to improved security. Further returns are ongoing, according to UNHCR, however authorities are struggling to meet the needs of the returnees.

As of April, Yemen hosts more than 242,000 refugees, with the majority being Somali and Ethiopian, according to UNHCR. The number increased significantly by 107,500 in 2012, which saw record levels of new arrivals. UNHCR also reported that almost 36,000 people crossed into Yemen from the Horn of Africa between January and April, an estimated 30,000 from Ethiopia and the rest from Somalia. According to IOM, 22% of the refugees are women and girls who have experienced repeated gender-based violence.

**Access:** Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain. Humanitarian access is hampered by insecurity across the country. There is a high risk of abduction of foreigners.

Over the last few months, since the start of the National Dialogue, civil disobedience campaigns have disrupted humanitarian work and educational institutions in southern Yemen.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA, approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure. WFP reported on 23 July that 5.3 million people are severely food insecure. Food security conditions are of particular concern in Aden and Lahij Governorates where 90% of households are food insecure, and 30% severely food insecure.

The causes of food insecurity will likely persist and be aggravated by poor prospects for local agricultural production, estimated to be roughly 8% lower than in 2012, and by rising wheat and wheat flour prices. According to FAO, the recent surge in prices that reached their highest level since 2011 in April is likely due to conflict in several southern areas. During April 2013, Yemen's general inflation was 14% while that of food inflation stood at 16.5%.



The Ministry of Agriculture announced that swarms of red desert grasshopper locusts have descended on Sa'ada and Al-Jawf Governorates, threatening this year's harvests. However, considering that Yemen imports up to 90% of its staple foods, it is expected that the locusts will not have a large impact on domestic food prices and availability.

UNHCR reported that 998,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished in Yemen with the 15% emergency threshold exceeded in six Governorates and the situation being serious (Global Acute Malnutrition rates of 10-14%) in six other Governorates.

**Health:** A collapse of public services following the civil unrest in 2011 has severely disrupted access to health services, clean water and basic sanitation. As reported by the UN, an estimated 6 million people did not have access to healthcare across the country in May. Epidemics are again recurring, with 170 children dying from measles in 2012.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

### Highlights

**Late July:** In late July, heavy rains caused flooding along the Salween River in southern Myanmar's Kayin (Karen) State, inundating large parts of Hpa-an, Hlaing Bwe, Kyar Inn Seik Kyi, Myawaddy, Paing Kyone and Kyondo townships. To a lesser extent, floods have also affected Mon, Tanintharyi and Rakhine States, as well as the Ayeyawadi Region. According to OCHA, as of 2 August, the monsoon floods have displaced 38,316 people across all areas with Kayin state being the most affected with 33,409 people relocated in 79 camps

**24 July:** The UN welcomed the release of an additional 73 political prisoners on top of January's release of 600 political prisoners. On 15 July, President Thein Sein stated that for the first time in six decades a nationwide ceasefire was possible. He promised that all political prisoners would be released by the end of the year.

### Political and Security Context

Sectarian and ethnic strife opposing Muslims and Buddhists in various parts of the country continues in Myanmar. In June and October 2012, confrontation between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority shook western Rakhine state, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands. In recent weeks, human rights infringements were reported and tensions remain high.

On 1 July, rioters torched two houses in Thandwe, a coastal town in Rakhine State, in another episode of sectarian violence between Muslims and Buddhists. The security forces allegedly managed to restore order the following day. On 28 June, a violent incident in the Kyein Ni Pyin IDP camp in Pauktaw Township in Rakhine State resulted in the killing of two displaced people after a dispute arose between the IDPs and host communities. At least six other people were injured in the incident.

At the beginning of June, reports indicated that ethnic violence spilled over from Myanmar

to nearby Malaysia where four Buddhists from Myanmar were killed in separate incidents. In Rakhine State, three Muslim women were shot dead and a few other people wounded in a confrontation with security forces on 4 June. The incident took place in the Parein camp, where inter-communal violence occurred last year.

On 22 July, a bomb exploded in Mandalay, the country's second city in central Myanmar, north of Yangon, at a sermon by a radical Buddhist monk who heads a movement accused of stirring violence against Muslims. Although the explosion wounded several people, no casualties were reported, but the incident highlights the ongoing volatility of the local context.

On 20 July, authorities lifted the state of emergency imposed on the riot-hit area around Meikhtila, following the clashes and attacks which resulted in 44 people killed and over 70 injured during March and April, which also affected Yangon and surrounding areas. New fighting between Buddhists and Muslims was reported in Lashio town in eastern Shan state in late May.

Over the past months, central authorities have made significant progress towards pacification of Myanmar, signing several ceasefire agreements with various insurgents groups representing ethnic minorities across the country. On 15 July, President Thein Sein stated that for the first time in six decades a nationwide ceasefire was possible and promised that all political prisoners would be released by the end of the year. On 24 July, the UN welcomed the release of an additional 73 political prisoners on top of January's release of 600 political prisoners

On 20 June, the Union Peace-Making Committee and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), representing the Red Karen located in Kayah State in the east of the country entered into an agreement vowing to push ahead with a nationwide ceasefire accord.

On 10 June, the Myanmar government's effort to make peace with ethnic minorities took a step forward as representatives of the country's biggest minority group, the Shan, met with the president. The parties agreed to form a committee to work toward peace.

The Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) and government representatives signed a historic seven-point ceasefire agreement on 30 May. The agreement includes provisions to continue the political discussion and to prevent further clashes while efforts are underway to reduce fighting. Fighting between the Government and the Kachin Independence Army, the armed wing of the KIO, who is seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people residing in Myanmar, had re-ignited in June 2011.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** As of June, an estimated 140,000 people are still displaced because of the inter-communal violence between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority in June and October 2012. The displaced are mostly located across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung).

OCHA reported in July that an estimated 88,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states, including over 50,000 in areas beyond Government control. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering renewed

and additional needs for provision of basic services, livelihood and protection. The most urgent needs in displaced communities include education, health care, renovation of shelter, and replacement of NFIs and WASH facilities.

Up to 400,000 people across 36 townships continue to be displaced in the southeast following years of conflict, according to OCHA.

In June, UNCR reported that some 28,000 Rakhine Muslims were registered as refugees in Malaysia. However, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and has surged this year because of the violence.

Roughly 440 people remained displaced as of 2 June in Lashio, following inter-communal violence at end May, while some 6,800 people remain displaced in June as a result of the clashes in Meikhtila. Of the over 12,000 affected people at the beginning of the unrest in March 2013, more than 6,800 people remain displaced in Meikhtila as of July 2013.

While several ceasefires have been agreed in recent months, discussions on IDPs returns are ongoing.

**Disaster:** In late July, heavy rains caused flooding along the Salween River in southern Myanmar's Kayin (Karen) State, inundating large parts of Hpa-an, Hlaing Bwe, Kyar Inn Seik Kyi, Myawaddy, Paing Kyone and Kyondo townships. About 30 relief camps have been set up on higher ground to provide shelter to the displaced. To a lesser extent, floods have also affected Mon, Tanintharyi and Rakhine States, as well as the Ayeyawadi Region.

According to OCHA, as of 2 August, the monsoon floods have displaced 38,316 people across all areas with Kayin state being by far the most affected with 33,409 people relocated in 79 camps. To date, figures remain provisional as some relocated people have returned to their homes to recover belongings, while newly displaced groups continue to arrive in relocation sites. To date, floods waters still hinder access.

In Mon State, 2,878 people have been relocated to 21 sites, although water levels are allegedly already receding. In Tanintharyi and Tanintharyi States, and Ayeyawadi region 785, 165, and 1,079 people have been reportedly affected.

**Access:** Access has reportedly improved as major highways in Kachin state, closed since the outbreak of hostilities between the Government army and KIA in 2011, were reopened on 17 March, following the renewal of talks between the two sides.

On 21 June, a UN-led aid convoy was allowed to cross into non-government controlled parts of Kachin state to deliver food and other life-saving relief to communities displaced by the conflict. It is the first time in nearly a year that the UN has been allowed to enter the area.

Access to affected populations in Rakhine state remains difficult, complicated by media campaigns based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the non-Rakhine Muslim minorities. According to OCHA, as of mid-April, access to IDPs is still seriously hampered by ongoing intimidation of aid workers. In early July, OCHA encouraged humanitarian providers to adopt a "conflict-sensitive" approach to aid distribution with clear communication with the communities to explain the basis of aid distribution to mitigate the perception among the Rakhine population that assistance had

been disproportionately provided to Muslim minorities.

**Food Security:** As reported by FAO in mid-June, the food security situation has improved across most of Myanmar. However, a poor harvest due to below average seasonal rains in lower Sagaing, western and central parts of Mandalay and most of Magway, is expected to lead to a deterioration of food security conditions in these areas. In Rakhine, southwest, Kachin, and Northern Shan states, where thousands of people have been displaced, the food security situation remains of concern.

**Health:** As reported by OCHA in mid-July, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 vulnerable people in 113 isolated villages have no or limited access to basic services in Rakhine State, including markets, education and health care while there are ongoing tensions and restrictions on movement in the area. This is in addition to the estimated 140,000 people displaced by last year's inter-communal violence.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES **COMPLEX**

### Highlights

**No new development. Last Update was: 29/07/2013.**

**29 July:** Israeli and Palestinian teams headed to Washington for preliminary talks toward a formal re-opening of negotiations.

**28 July:** The Israeli government has approved the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners, as a sign of its readiness to revive the Middle East peace process.

**19 July:** An initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations, was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington.

### Political and Security Context

On 19 July, an initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations was announced. On 28 July, the Israeli government approved the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners as a sign of its readiness to revive the Middle East peace process, and on 29 July, Israeli and Palestinian teams headed to Washington for preliminary talks toward a formal re-opening of negotiations.

While the negotiation process is expected to be lengthy, an ease of access and restrictions of movement for the population in the OPT and for goods is pressing. Egyptian authorities have targeted the underground passages between the Gaza strip and Egypt as part of a military offensive to regain control of the vast Sinai desert.

On 5 July, the Egyptian authorities closed the Egyptian-controlled Rafah passenger crossing, citing security concerns. Official sources in Gaza indicated that as a result of the closure, more than 3,000 Palestinians waiting to enter Gaza are currently stranded on

the Egypt side and around 15,000 others are waiting to cross into Egypt. On 10 July, OCHA stated that the crossing re-opened briefly allowing roughly 1,500 people to cross from Egypt into Gaza and another 326 holding foreign passports or referred to specialized treatment in Egyptian hospitals to cross into Egypt. According to the WHO, an average 300 patients exit the Gaza Strip each day to access medical treatment, having been either referred by the Ministry of Health or at their own expense.

The Rafah Crossing is the primary exit and entry point to the Gaza Strip for Palestinians; movement across the Erez Crossing in northern Gaza Strip has been severely restricted since September 2000. The closure of the crossing has affected prices of fuel, medicines, commodities and food.

On 26 June, the Kerem Shalom crossing reopened after being closed for two days by Israeli authorities as a response to rockets fired from Gaza. Kerem Shalom, the only functioning official crossing for goods to and from Gaza, was closed for 52 days during the first four months of 2013. Frequent closures have left OPT short of gas for cooking and heating, affecting businesses, agricultural production and health services, according to the UN.

On 23 June, the new Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah resigned from the government after a dispute over authority with his deputy. Only on 6 June, a new Palestinian government, headed by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, was sworn in in front of president Mahmud Abbas at his headquarters in Ramallah. Hamdallah succeeded Salam Fayyad, who resigned in mid-April after six-months of difficult relations with president Mahmud Abbas and stayed on as caretaker until Hamdallah's appointment.

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine non-member observer State status at the UN while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians to move toward a permanent two-State solution. Direct negotiations between the two sides have been on hold since September 2010.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

According to the Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal, the humanitarian situation in OPT remained unchanged during the first five months of 2013. Longstanding protection threats affecting the Palestinian population, including movement and access restrictions, continue to generate high levels of humanitarian need with 2.1 million people in need of assistance.

**Access:** Combined with the heavy Egyptian military deployment along the border and severe access restrictions on people and vehicles into the border area, a dramatic decline in the transfer of goods and fuel through the tunnels between Egypt and Gaza has been reported.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA, 1.8 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, with protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement as the highest priorities. Over 770,000 people are food insecure in the West Bank alone as of 17 June, according to the UN.

Preliminary results of a the annual joint Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, WFP, UNRWA, and FAO found that 1.6 million people (34% of households) were food insecure in 2012. This represented a significant increase from 27% in 2011. Contributing factors include high unemployment rates (35%), stagnant economic growth, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the blockade of Gaza.

*Reviewed: 05/08/2013*

## PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

### Highlights

**4 August:** As reported by OCHA, heavy monsoon rains across Pakistan have triggered flash floods that claimed the lives of over 80 people and rendered thousands homeless since 1 August. The rains have also led to an extensive loss of crops, property and livelihoods, and caused widespread damages to infrastructure. Although information to date remains limited, over 165,000 people in Rajanpur Punjab province are estimated to have been affected. Thousands more people have been affected across the other provinces. More rainfall is forecasted in the upcoming days.

**2 August:** As reported by WFP, several macro-economic factors are maintaining pressure on food and non-food prices in Pakistan. Food inflation in particular contributes to recent food insecurity. In June 2013, food inflation rose by 8.1% from last year, against 4.4% for non-food inflation. In Pakistan, food insecurity is reported as being at emergency levels with an estimated 60% of the Pakistani population being food insecure.

**1 August:** In an attempt to ease tensions with Islamabad, the US Secretary of State John Kerry announced that drone strikes in Pakistan would end soon. Islamabad continues to see them as a breach of its sovereignty. On 30 and 31 July, nine militants were killed in two separate drone strikes next to the border with Afghanistan.

**30 July:** Mamnoon Hussain, an ally of the recently elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, has been voted to become the Pakistani President, a largely ceremonial role. The new head of state has been elected by an electoral college made up of members of the two houses of parliament and assemblies in Pakistan's four provinces.

**30 July:** Taliban fighters disguised in police uniforms staged an attack on a prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near Afghan border. The attackers managed to break out 250 prisoners, including Taliban militants. As the attack underlines the growing capabilities of the Pakistani Taliban, it also puts into question the efficiency of the new government's efforts to combat the insurgents.

### Political and Security Context

On 30 July, Mamnoon Hussain, an ally of the recently elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was voted to be the Pakistani President, a largely ceremonial role. The new head of

state was elected by an electoral college made up of members of the two houses of parliament and assemblies in Pakistan's four provinces.

On 31 July, three al-Qaeda operatives were killed in a drone strike on a militant training camp near the border with Afghanistan. On 30 July, six militants were killed in a US drone strike in North Waziristan. Over the past weeks, an increasing number of such attacks in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) has been reported with at least three others occurring since Nawaz Sharif was sworn in on 5 June. Seeing these US-led attacks as a breach of Pakistani sovereignty, the new Prime Minister has repeatedly called for an end to US drone strikes against militants, although one such attack killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali Ur-Rehman, in North Waziristan on 29 May. To avenge for the death Wali Ur-Rehman, the Islamist movement officially announced that it has created a new wing to attack foreigners in June. On 1 August, in an attempt to ease tensions with Islamabad, the US Secretary of State John Kerry stated that drone strikes in Pakistan would end soon.

Since the victory of his party Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) on 11 May, N. Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Taliban even if it is yet unclear if the Pakistani army would welcome such negotiations. On 31 July, the Chief Minister of Baluchistan announced his intention to hold dialogue with all militant groups operating in the area as an alternative to the use of force. According to various sources, Pakistan has already played a pivotal role in establishing contacts between the Taliban and the US, paving the way for possible peace talks to be held in Qatar soon.

Meanwhile, tensions are running high in Pakistan with regular Taliban attacks reported across the country, notably affecting the FATA. On 30 July, Taliban fighters disguised in police uniforms staged an attack on a prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the border with Afghanistan. The attackers managed to break out some 250 prisoners, including Taliban militants. As the attack underlines the growing capabilities of the Pakistani Taliban, it also puts into question the efficiency of the new government's efforts to combat the insurgents. On 29 July, eight people were injured in a grenade attack in Gwadar town in the south of Balochistan province.

Tensions between majority Sunni Muslims and Shi'ite Muslims, a little over 10% of the country's population, are reportedly rising in Pakistan. On 26 July, two coordinated suicide bomb attacks hit a predominantly Shi'ite area in Parachinar, capital of the tribal Kurram area in northwest Pakistan, killing 57 and injuring 150 more. The attack was claimed by capital of the tribal Kurram area in northwest Pakistan. Separately, on 26 July, gunmen attacked a coast guard checkpoint in the southwestern Baluchistan province, next to the border with Iran, killing seven security officials. A banned militant group, the Baloch Liberation Front, claimed responsibility for the attack. On 24 July, an additional seven security forces were killed and 40 injured in an attack on a heavily guarded Pakistani intelligence compound in the town of Sukkur, in southeastern Sindh province. The attack went unclaimed, but previous such high profile attacks were carried out by the Taliban.

Since early July, over 120 people were killed in terrorist attacks that notably hit the port city of Karachi, the area between the towns of Kohat and Hangu in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the city of Doaba in KP, the city of Lahore in the eastern Punjab province and the Baluchistan province.

Although reports remain scarce and casualty figures are difficult to ascertain, military operations appear to be ongoing in Pakistani tribal areas between government troops and Taliban insurgents. On 14 July, according to official sources, the Pakistan Air Force bombed several alleged militant hideouts and killed at least 17 people in a mountainous tribal area between Orakzai, Khyber and Kurram that is seen as the Taliban-linked militants' main stronghold.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** OCHA reported at the end of May that more than one million people remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas due to protracted conflict. Since mid-March, Government military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency have led to additional massive population movements. As of early June, UNHCR reported an estimated 80,000 people displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the camps of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalozai in Nowshera District. An estimated 60,000 additional people began to flee their homes in Kurram Agency in mid-May due to the Government's security operations against armed non-state actors. As of 6 June, 51,582 people had been registered in New Durrani camp.

In late June, the thousands of displaced families from Para Chamkani area in Kurram Agency have allegedly started returning to their homes with the help of the FATA Disaster Management Authority.

According to OCHA, as of 15 July, an estimated 1.03 million internally displaced people were still in need of humanitarian assistance, 45% of them are located in the Peshawar area in northwestern Pakistan.

On 30 June, the Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue their efforts in finding solutions to the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in the host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees' stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran. There are an estimated additional 2.4 million undocumented refugees from Afghanistan in the two countries. Most of the 1.64 million Afghan refugees located in the FATA require humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA.

**Disaster:** As reported by OCHA on 4 August, heavy monsoon rains across Pakistan have triggered flash floods that claimed the lives of over 80 people and rendered thousands homeless since 1 August. The rains have also led to an extensive loss of crops, property and livelihoods, and caused widespread damages to infrastructure. More rainfall is forecasted in the upcoming days.

The floods have affected Baluchistan (Sibi, Harnai, Jhal Magsi, Loralai and Jaffarabad

districts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Chitral, Bannu, Tank, Peshawar and Lakki Marwat districts), Sindh (Jacobabad, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Benazirabad, Sanghar, Thatta, districts and Karachi), Punjab (Rajapur district) provinces and the FATA (Frontier Region Tank, South Waziristan, Kurram, Khyber and Bajaur agencies). Although information to date remains limited, over 165,000 people in Rajapur Punjab province are estimated to have been affected. Thousands more people have been affected across the other provinces.

In mid-June, heavy rains struck northern Pakistan, notably Peshawar in the northwest and Lahore in the northeast, killing 19 people and displacing an unknown number of others to temporary camps in flood-affected villages. Heavy rainfall have also hit upper and central parts of the country in mid-July.

In the second half of May and in June, Pakistan suffered its most severe heat wave in decades. Heavy damages to various crop cultures have been reported across the country. Although there are no official casualty figures to date, local sources estimate that up to 100 people have died.

According to OCHA, as of late April, around 1.5 million people were still in need of critical services in Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces, following the flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September 2012. Many affected districts are still struggling to recover from the 2010 and 2011 flooding and have large inundated areas.

**Access:** Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity, standing floodwaters, visa delays and attacks against aid workers. In June, OCHA reported 44 attacks against aid workers across the country between January and April, with 18 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 15 in Sindh province, four in Baluchistan province, one in the capital Islamabad and six in the FATA. The total figure for last year was 42 across the whole country.

Insecurity continues to affect the polio eradication campaign in Pakistan. On 16 June, two anti-polio workers were killed in an attack in Swabi, in the area of Kandaro, according to local media and police sources. This was the latest in a series of deadly attacks on polio vaccination teams in various parts of the country.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Food insecurity is at emergency levels with an estimated 60% of the Pakistani population being food insecure. Inflation, with rising fuel prices and stagnating domestic productivity, is also pushing up food prices. Seven districts are classified as facing IPC phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).

As reported by WFP in early August, several macro-economic factors are maintaining pressure on food and non-food prices in Pakistan. Food inflation in particular contributes to recent food insecurity. In June 2013, food inflation rose by 8.1% from last year, against 4.4% for non-food inflation. Prices of wheat and wheat flour have been steadily increasing across the country since June 2012, underpinned by higher producer support prices.

Malnutrition rates in some flood-affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the recurrent floods in 2012 and are predicted to worsen. According to WFP as of June, 15% of Pakistani children are severely malnourished, and 40% suffer from stunted growth.

**Health:** 269 deaths caused by measles have been reported since the beginning of 2013. According to local media, 141 children have died of measles since January in Punjab province alone. Sindh province, the area hardest hit by the measles outbreak, was also affected by the flash flooding that occurred in September 2012. WHO has described the situation in Pakistan as alarming due to a steady increase in measles cases and deaths. According to OCHA, in Punjab and Sindh provinces, 54% of 8,844 children assessed between January last year and mid-May this year were not vaccinated against the disease.

According to reports in local media, a steady increase of the number of children's deaths from diarrhea and gastroenteritis has been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in May.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**Early August:** According to FEWSNET, prices of wheat and wheat flour fell slightly in June, most noticeably in the South, as the wheat harvest progressed in Tajikistan and prospects for northern Kazakhstan's wheat harvest in August-September continue to be fairly good. The grain harvest in Tajikistan is likely to be of above average volume.

**26 July:** As reported by WFP, an analysis of the food security situation in 11 livelihood zones in Tajikistan for the period of January to May 2013 showed that the situation remained worrying. As of July, the food security status of 3% of the population (about 152,000 people) in rural livelihood zones was classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The status of 39% of rural population (about 2,285,000 people) was classified as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As reported by WFP on 26 July, an analysis of the food security situation in 11 livelihood zones in Tajikistan for the period of January to May 2013 showed that the situation was worrying. As of July, the food security status of 3% of the population (about 152,000 people) in rural livelihood zones was classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The status of 39% of rural population (about 2,285,000 people) was classified as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).

However, food security has improved since the previous period (October-December 2012), with highly food insecure areas in Phase 3 (Crisis) shifting to moderately food insecure status Phase 2 (Stressed) across the country. In the beginning of 2013, over 3 million people (32% of Tajikistan's population) were estimated by WFP to be at risk of food insecurity due to a prolonged lean season and depleted winter stocks.

Across the country, which heavily depends on imports and humanitarian aid, wheat flour prices were recorded at, or close to, historic highs in the main and regional markets of the country. In April 2013, they decreased compared to March, but still remained high compared to the same period in 2012. However, they are reportedly not as high as 2008

peak prices. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices.

According to FEWSNET, the prices of wheat and wheat flour fell slightly in June, most noticeably in the South, as the wheat harvest progressed in Tajikistan and prospects for northern Kazakhstan's wheat harvest in August-September continue to be fairly good. The grain harvest in Tajikistan is likely to be of above average volume. According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, cereal production is tentatively forecasted to increase by 6% in 2013 leading to prices further dropping.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

### Highlights

**1 August:** A Bangladesh court declared as illegal the country's main Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), forbidding it to take part in a general election due early next year. In the aftermath, party activists took the streets in the capital, Dhaka, and other towns including Bogra, Jessore and Gaibandha. JI has called for a protest strike across the country to be held on 12-13 August.

**Late July:** In a publication released in late July, Human Rights Watch reported that Bangladeshi security forces frequently use excessive force in responding to street protests, killing at least 150 protesters and injuring at least 2,000 more since February 2013.

**Mid-July:** Torrential rainfall and consequential onrush of water from the upstream resulted in floods in several northern districts of Bangladesh, notably Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Dinajpur Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmoirhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sirajgonj. To date, an estimated 124,000 people have been affected with at least nine killed.

### Political and Security Context

Tensions between Islamic groups and secular activists are ongoing in Bangladesh while the authorities struggle to contain protests. In a publication released in late July, the Human Rights Watch reported that Bangladeshi security forces have frequently used excessive force in responding to street protests, killing at least 150 protesters and injuring at least 2,000 more since February 2013.

On 1 August, a Bangladesh court declared as illegal the country's main Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), forbidding it to take part in a general election due early next year. In the aftermath, party activists took the streets in the capital, Dhaka, and other towns including Bogra, Jessore and Gaibandha. JI has called for a protest strike across the country to be held on 12-13 August.

On 17 July, a war crimes tribunal sentenced a second top Islamist politician of JI to death for crimes, genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction, committed during the 1971 War of Independence with Pakistan. On 15 July, the conviction of another

Ji leader triggered a nationwide three days strike enforced by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh's main opposition political party, and JI, in support of the convicted. Across the country, shops and businesses were closed and main roads were largely deserted of cars in the capital Dhaka.

According to local reports, activists of the JI party threw homemade bombs at the security forces that fired rubber bullets at the crowd. Numerous clashes were reported between the protesters and the police in cities countrywide. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least nine people were killed during the protests. According to the authorities, five more JI leaders and two from the BNP are on trial. The tribunal is due to deliver verdicts in their cases soon.

Since January 2013, Bangladesh has seen recurrent *hartals* or strikes called by JI or BNP, as a protest against the arrest of senior party officials for committing offenses during the country's war of independence in 1971. Those *hartals* have caused significant disruption to business and commerce and vast losses to the economy.

Violence erupted in May after Islamist protesters demanding religious reforms from the government took to the streets in Dhaka and outside the capital, where several hundred people were reportedly injured and at least 20 killed in the clashes. The protesters were largely trying to impose an Islamist agenda on Bangladesh by demanding an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty.

Over the past months, authorities had to address outrage over the collapsed garment factory on 24 April in Savar, 25 kms northeast of the capital Dhaka, which left 1,100 people dead according to official reports. The collapse of the building sparked widespread and violent protests in and around Dhaka.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** In July, torrential rainfall and consequential onrush of water from the upstream resulted in floods in several northern districts of Bangladesh, notably Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Dinajpur Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmoirhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sirajgonj. To date, an estimated 124,000 people have been affected with at least nine killed.

Bangladesh was spared significant human impact from Cyclone Mahasen that was weaker than expected. Nonetheless, the cyclone caused damage, including 49,000 completely destroyed and 45,000 partially destroyed houses, mostly in Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna districts. Government sources report that 14 people were killed and 65 injured by the cyclone. As of 22 May, over 1.2 million people were estimated to have been affected by the cyclone with 1.1 million people having been evacuated.

Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard-prone countries.

**Food Security:** Some 40% of the population is food insecure. The lingering effects of frequent natural disasters, including the floods at the end of June, mid-July, late September in 2012 and mid-May in 2013, violent demonstrations and disturbance, and other localised problems have raised the level of food insecurity of a high number of households.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

### Highlights

**1 August:** More than 1,050 people have been killed and 2,326 injured across the country this month according to the UN, making July the deadliest month since the start of 2013.

**29 July:** A deadly wave of car bombings struck mainly Shia neighbourhoods in and around the capital Baghdad, killing at least 48 people and wounding another 226.

As of **28 July**, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 160,335 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees.

**22-28 July:** Over the past week, deadly violence continued across the country, notably in the provinces of Nineveh and Kirkuk and in Sulaymaniyah province in Iraqi Kurdistan, increasing concerns regarding possible further intersectarian strife in Iraq as the attacks targeted mainly Kurdish areas. Overall, a series of attacks targeting police stations, army convoys and army patrols killed at least 87 people, including 6 civilians.

**21 July:** A double assault against the Abu Ghraib and Taji prisons in the Baghdad area resulted in at least 40 people being killed while also allowing at least 500 prisoners to escape, allegedly including several high-ranking al-Qaeda members.

### Political and Security Context

Iraq struggles to contain spiking intersectarian violence, with casualty rates being the highest since 2008. More than 1,050 people have been killed and 2,326 injured across the country in July according to the UN, making it the deadliest month since the start of the year and the highest official death toll in a single month since April 2008. The impact of violence on civilians remains high, with at least 4,137 civilians killed and 9,865 injured since the beginning of 2013. Baghdad was the worst-affected governorate in July followed by Salahuddin, Ninewa, Diyala, Kirkuk, Anbar, Babil, Wasit and Basra.

Over the past week, deadly violence continued across the country, notably in Baghdad and Kirkuk provinces, increasing concerns regarding possible further destabilisation of Iraq. A series of attacks targeting police stations, army convoys and army patrols killed at least 81 people between the 29 July and 4 August. The previous week, several major attacks hit Diyala province, notably the areas populated by Kurds.

On 29 July, a deadly wave of car bombings struck mainly Shia neighbourhoods in and around the capital Baghdad, killing at least 51 people and wounding another 226. On 21 July, a double assault against the Abu Ghraib and Taji prisons in the Baghdad area resulted in at least 40 people being killed and allowing at least 500 prisoners to escape, allegedly including several high-ranking al-Qaeda members. An international alert from Interpol was subsequently issued which described the jailbreak as a major threat to

global security leading to the close-down of international embassies across the region. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility for the Abu Ghraib jailbreak, issuing a statement that described it as part of a mass prisoner-freeing plan by its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The failure of the authorities to prevent the jailbreak and the ongoing violence has reportedly led to tensions within the governing coalition and between ministers themselves, which could further deepen the ongoing political instability.

The ongoing wave of violence is largely linked to the country's long-running political dispute between Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and religious and ethnic groups opposing the allegedly sectarian policies of his Shia-led Government. Since the start of the year, widespread discontent of the Sunni Muslim minority has fuelled the surge in unrest with tensions at their highest since US troops left the country two years ago. Since the start of the Ramadan on 10 July, attacks on Shia communities have increased across Iraq with many attributed to groups affiliated to al-Qaeda. Meanwhile, tensions between different sectarian neighbourhoods are running high in Baghdad and in cities across the country.

The civil war in neighbouring Syria further contributes to the volatile relations between Sunni, Shi'ite and Kurdish communities. On 17 July, the UN warned that escalating violence in Iraq can no longer be separated from the war in Syria due to the increased active presence of Iraqi armed groups in Syria.

On 20 April, Iraq held its first provincial elections since the departure of US troops, which, despite only a 50% turnout, were an important test of the country's political stability ahead of next year's parliamentary elections. The Prime Minister's State of Law coalition came top in the elections, but failed to win a majority in any district. The three provinces comprising the autonomous Kurdistan region in the north hold elections on their own timetable and are scheduled to go to the polls in September. However, in Iraqi Kurdistan, the Regional Government delayed local presidential elections to 2015, extending the term of Kurdish leader Barzani, on 30 June. Kurdish opposition denounced the extension as illegal.

While some tensions exist between the central authorities in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan, both sides have made attempts to move closer in recent weeks. Better relations with the Kurds should help ease pressure on Iraq's Shi'ite leadership which is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on Sunni Islamist insurgents. On 8 July, Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani visited Baghdad, following a visit of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to Kurdistan in June, the first such visit in over two years. According to local reports, such questions as Iraq's deteriorating security situation and the practical repartition of power between the two parties over areas that they both claim administrative jurisdiction over are to be addressed.

The withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan, decided following a recent peace deal achieved between the PKK and Ankara, is ongoing. The withdrawal began on 14 May, but the Turkish Government has stated that as of June only 15% of PKK fighters have left Turkey. Both sides have expressed disappointment with the slow pace of the process. On 4 July, Kurdish militants attacked two military outposts in southeastern Turkey, breaking a three-month ceasefire. The co-head of the Kurdish movement said on 31 July that the Turkish government must take concrete steps by September to advance a peace process with Kurdish militants or

risk a return to hostilities.

The arrival of former PKK insurgents is likely to strain the already tense relations between the regional Kurdish authorities and Baghdad. It is also unclear what impact the withdrawal of the PKK militants from Turkey will have on the civil war in Syria where an increased activity by armed Kurdish groups, close to the PKK, has been reported over the past weeks.

UNHCR reported that despite some political turmoil and the conflict in bordering Syria as well as the tense situation at the Turkish border, the overall security situation in the Kurdish governorates of Iraq remains stable. Nevertheless, Kurdish militants in Iraq previously warned that the fragile peace process is endangered by increased military activity in the area, a lack of co-operation from Baghdad, and the continued detention of Kurdish politicians. Increased military surveillance and the construction of new army posts in the mainly Kurdish southeast are seen as undermining the oppositions' withdrawal from Turkey to Iraq.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** An estimated 1.2 million remain displaced inside Iraq as of June 2012, but there remains an information gap of updated displacement figures.

As of **28 July**, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 160,335 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees. According to UNHCR, refugee arrivals to Iraq average 700-750 people daily. The total number of refugees is expected to double by the end of this year despite informal border crossings in the Kurdish region having been closed in June.

Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, currently houses over 70,000 Syrian refugees in critically overcrowded conditions. The camp's inadequate water and sanitation facilities increase the risk of water borne diseases. In addition to camp residents, some 90,000 refugees are scattered in and around urban centres in Iraqi Kurdistan. Spontaneous returns to Syria stand at 12,807 individuals returning through the Darabun crossing point.

Many Iraqis residing in Syria have also returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, UNHCR cited 68,122 returnees since mid-July 2012, with Baghdad receiving the largest number of returnees.

**Access:** Although humanitarian access has become less restricted, security threats for international staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, the north, the central governorates, and the Disputed Territories. The security situation in Anbar province remains unstable with underlying internal conflict, risk of terrorism and spillover of the Syrian crisis. Access to Al Qa'im refugee camp remains difficult, though missions can now be carried out by helicopter.

**Health:** Overcrowding in Domiz camp is negatively impacting sanitation, which is already below humanitarian standards. Congestion and warmer temperatures are increasing vulnerability to outbreaks of diseases and tension between camp residents. Measles has been reported amongst new camp arrivals.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**04 August:** Over half a million Syrian refugees (509,401 persons), including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis according to UNHCR.

### Political and Security Context

Jordan is reportedly increasingly concerned that the Syrian civil war will spill over and ignite a regional conflict. In the beginning of June, the US said that it would make Patriot batteries and advanced F-16 fighter jets available for annual military exercises scheduled for June in Jordan. The US has expressed that they may consider keeping the jets in Jordan after the exercise.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** In Jordan, the number of refugees crossing the border has fallen from 2,000-3,000 per day to 600-700 per day by mid-July. At the beginning of July, an average 1,600 people were reportedly crossing the border daily compared to 2,500 persons per day in February. At the end of June, fighting along the Jordanian-Syrian border closed off the main access routes into Jordan forcing displaced Syrians to use more arduous desert routes to enter the country. According to Syrian opposition groups, heavy clashes and shelling blocked off routes into southwest Syria, forcing opposition forces to restrict cross-border activity to "essential movement" of fighters and medical supplies and continue a suspension of mass refugee crossings. Refugees reportedly are waiting two to three days in border regions before crossing into Jordan due to increased security measures put in place to deal with the increasing number of forged documents.

With a high number of Syrian reportedly waiting to cross from Syria into Jordan, and given reports of expected post-Ramadan influxes, UN organizations are reportedly scaling up their contingency planning to ensure capacity to rapidly respond to a large refugee influx in the coming weeks and months.

As of 4 August, 509,401 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. The Government of Jordan estimated that 600,000 Syrian refugees were hosted in Jordan as of 4 July. Recent reports warn of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, in particular in communities that host large numbers of displaced Syrians. Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp has become the equivalent of an entirely new city that would be the country's fifth largest with over 120,000 residents.

In April, UNHCR reported that Syrians were opting to return home for a number of reasons, including improved security in border villages and to protect their property. Some were also returning to reunite with family members and left-behind relatives and bring them to Jordan. Nearly 9,000 refugees in Jordan left for Syria in June, bringing the number of



returnees to over 68,000 in the past two years. In the past weeks, the numbers of Syrians going home has dropped to zero due to Syrian troops engaged in heavy shelling around border towns.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As a result of the refugee influx, Jordan's economy, water and energy resources remain strained. Commodity prices are higher in Jordan than in Syria and the purchasing power of refugees to cover basic needs keeps decreasing. Jordanians residents also suffer from high unemployment (around 14%), inflation, and poverty.

The large influx of Syrian refugees has significantly stretched the national capacities. According to WFP, the school feeding programme was reduced by 80% between 2008 and 2012, the fuel subsidy was lifted in November 2012, and the government is considering withdrawing or reducing other subsidies (most notably bread) which could potentially trigger social discontent and further economic deterioration.

According to the National Department of Statistics, the monthly rate of food price inflation (year-on-year) reached 4.4% in June 2013, fuelled by high increases in vegetable prices. By contrast, bread and cereal prices declined by 1.4% due to Government support schemes.

Humanitarian organisations have been requested to provide support to vulnerable Jordanians as a way of sharing the considerable burden the Government of Jordan is undertaking in meeting the ongoing needs of refugees as well as its own vulnerable population. All humanitarian programming must include interventions to support poor Jordanians. The socio-economic conditions in poor and food-insecure areas are not expected to improve in the short or medium term and could deteriorate with the prolongation of the crises.

The economic burden is also felt in the host communities of Za'atari village who suffer from poverty and irregular water supply. In the last week the UN reported that some Syrian refugees are now donating to poor Jordanians, or selling them extra food they receive from aid agencies at a discounted price. In Mafraq governorate food, blankets, tents, and other items with UNHCR logos are publicly for sale.

To accommodate the spike in water demand, Jordan has begun drawing on additional water resources, including buying water from private wells. It is estimated that the extra demand on water and sanitation services will cost the Jordanian government over \$700 million dollars per year, even as Jordanians receive less water per capita.

Northern governorates have been hit particularly hard by the refugee influx and demands on basic service provision.

**Health:** New cases of waterborne and water-related diseases are appearing in the Za'atari camp on a weekly basis, including diarrhoea, scabies, leptospirosis, rotavirus and hepatitis A. Other communicable diseases related to hygiene conditions have also been reported, including acute jaundice syndrome, chicken pox, lice, and measles. While these diseases are often seasonal or endemic in the region, there have been alerts issued for a measles outbreak (six cases in Za'atari camp from 9 November 2012 to 14 June 2013, according to UNHCR early July) and higher-than-usual levels of jaundice, scabies and lice.

Updated: 05/08/2013

## KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 13/05/2013.**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Findings of the most recent Household Food Security Assessment (HFSA) conducted by WFP in March 2013 showed that an estimated 24% of households – about 1.3 million people – were food insecure. The proportion has remained high since September 2012 (25%) and indicates deterioration compared to the same month in the previous year (18%, March 2012). The highest levels of food insecurity were found in Jalalabad (48%), Osh (38%) and Batken (38%) regions.

The situation of currently food-insecure and vulnerable households has further deteriorated during spring when stocks of food from the previous harvest were depleted and additional inputs were required for the spring planting campaign. The WFP assessment also revealed that another 13% of households – i.e. 547,000 people – are at risk of becoming food insecure should they be affected by an additional shock, such as further rises in food prices.

For the first time in ten months, the retail price of wheat flour decreased by 5% on a month-to-month basis in April. However, the national average price remained 42% higher than in April 2012. Since June 2012, the retail price of wheat flour has increased by 56% in rural and 47% in urban areas, and by an average of 52% across the country. The domestic retail price of wheat flour in March was 42% higher than in the same month of 2012 and only 4% lower than the peak level of early 2011. The 2012 wheat production was affected by delayed planting due to a long cold winter, followed by a hot summer. The current forecast of cereal production is at 1.3 million MT, which is 19% lower than 2012 levels.

Reviewed: 29/07/2013

## LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

### Highlights

**1 August:** Close to 669,000 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR in Lebanon or are awaiting registration since the beginning of the conflict.

**23 July:** The Lebanese Government stated that starting this week special teams would start shutting down unlicensed Syrian-run businesses, particularly in the eastern Bekaa valley region near the border. Furthermore, Lebanese security forces will start checking whether those arriving at the border are coming from a war-ravaged area before granting them refugee status. Those who do not will be granted entry as ordinary visitors.

**9 July:** A car bomb exploded in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut's southern neighbourhood Bir Abed, wounding over 50 people in the worst incident linked to the unrest in Syria since it began.

### Political and Security Context

The Syrian conflict is increasingly spilling over to Lebanon, with almost daily shelling in the north and eastern border regions. With repeated inter-sectarian strife reported in Tripoli, fears are rising that the Syrian conflict may eventually turn into a regional opposition between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

In one of the worst incidents since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, a car bomb wounded over 50 people in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut's southern neighbourhood Bir Abed. A Syrian rebel group, the Special Forces 313 Brigade, reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. The group also claimed it was behind an attack on a Hezbollah convoy in eastern Lebanon on 28 June.

The widespread involvement of the Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shi'ite Islamist militia, alongside Syrian Government troops in the offensive against the opposition-held stronghold Qusayr has prompted the Free Syrian Army and the armed group Jabhat al-Nusra to separately warn that their fighters could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. On 2 June, the first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah militiamen and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory resulted in the deaths of at least 15 fighters near the eastern town of Baalbek. On 11 June, several rockets launched from an area in Syria believed to be controlled by opposition forces, reportedly hit the eastern Lebanese town of Hermel, a bastion of Hezbollah, killing at least one person and wounding several. On 2 August, the international media reported that at least two rockets hit an area south of the capital Beirut which houses the Defence Ministry and presidential palace. There were no casualties.

On 10 July, the UN Security Council called on Hezbollah to end all involvement in the Syrian conflict.

At least six people were killed on 3 August in a Syrian air strike on the opposition-held town of Yabroud in Syria, just across the border from Lebanon. Nine people were wounded in the attack near the Lebanese town of Aarsal. The area is known to house many refugees from the Syrian town of Qusayr which was captured by Syrian forces in June.

In the northern city of Tripoli, intermittent clashes occurred on 30 June between gunmen from the al-Baqqar neighbourhood whose residents support the armed opposition and rivals from the Jabal Mohsen neighbourhood that largely back Syria's regime. While the current fighting between these neighbourhoods mirrors Sunni-Alawi sectarian lines and is related to the Syrian conflict, inter-communal have been a long existing problem since the Lebanese civil war.

Over the past weeks, insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between different sectarian groups and more signs of the impact of the Syrian conflict. Clashes flared up in the Lebanese city of Sidon between the army and followers of a Sunni cleric mid-June, leaving at least 17 people dead. After several days of intense clashes in the

Abra neighbourhood of Sidon, 40km south of Beirut, the Lebanese military is reportedly in pursuit of ultra-conservative Sunni cleric Sheikh Ahmed al-Assir. In Tripoli, hundreds of armed men were reported to have forcibly closed the city in solidarity with Sheikh al-Assir.

The Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker announced on 9 July that the March 8th coalition, a major bloc in the Lebanese political system, collapsed after a frail alliance between two of its major parties, the Amal Movement and the Free Patriotic Movement, ended. The expiration of the March 8th alliance is expected to give a major boost to efforts to form a new Cabinet which have been delayed several times.

On 31 May, as a result of the ongoing insecurity, the Lebanese Parliament unanimously voted to extend its mandate by 17 months after failing to adopt a new electoral law at a time of deep internal divisions over the war in neighboring Syria. Elections that were originally planned for June were postponed. On 1 June, President Michel Sleiman lodged an appeal with the Constitutional Council to challenge the Parliament's decision to extend its mandate and delay elections.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

Both host and refugee populations are impacted by increasing pressure on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities and food prices. Many Lebanese families see their livelihoods eroding as wages decrease and rent prices soar, with hard-pressed Syrian refugees working for less money and sharing single-family homes with multiple families to save on rent. Tensions are on the rise between host communities and refugees over strained resources, particularly with regard to overwhelmed health facilities.

**Displacement:** As of 1 August, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached almost 669,000 people including close to 112,000 awaiting registration). UNHCR stated that more refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no formal camps in the country, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Vulnerable Syrian families have begun to settle in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, the green spaces between major roads, etc.). Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in makeshift settlements, half-finished buildings and cramped apartment blocks, often in unhygienic conditions and with little access to food, water and medical care.

The Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Wael Abou Faour stated that 2.2 million Syrians currently reside in Lebanon including both registered and unregistered refugees as well as long-standing migrant workers. Lebanon's population has grown by 25% in under two years; 1.2 million Lebanese in hosting communities are estimated to be severely affected by the refugee influx. According to media sources, the Lebanese government has started implementing strict entry controls on Syrians attempting to enter the country at all border crossing, whereby only Syrians with valid identification cards or passports can enter. Moreover, at the border crossing, they are being asked to fill in forms to identify whether they are refugees or workers. The measures reportedly aim at preventing extremist and anti-Lebanese groups from entering the country.

Unlicensed businesses owned by Syrians in the eastern Bekaa Valley will reportedly be shut by 15 August if they fail to acquire legal permits. On 23 July, Lebanese Social Affairs Minister Wael Abou Faour first stated that special teams would start shutting down

unlicensed Syrian-run businesses.

**Access:** The security situation in Tripoli and in northern and eastern border villages remains highly volatile with rockets and shelling hitting a number of towns, impeding humanitarian access in both regions, and restricting activities and the availability of services. The lack of funding continues to be a large factor hampering operations in Lebanon. On 7 June, a Revised Regional Response plan was launched, requesting 1.2 billion dollars for humanitarian operations in Lebanon. Within the plan, the Lebanese Government requested an additional 500 million dollars to provide aid to Syrian refugees and host communities.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

### Highlights

**Late July:** Strong rains have led to flooding in the island of Mindanao, notably in the provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City since 22 July. As of 5 August, OCHA reported that an estimated 250,000 people have been affected by the floods.

**27 July:** A powerful bomb attack hit a nightclub in Cagayan de Oro City in the South of the country killing six people and wounding dozens. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

### Political and Security Context

On 27 July, a powerful bomb attack hit a nightclub in Cagayan de Oro City in the South of the country killing six people and wounding dozens. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

On 13 July, the Government announced that it resolved a key issue in peace talks with Muslim rebels, bringing it closer to ending the insurgency. A compromise concerning the sharing of local revenues with the creation of a Muslim self-rule area in the Mindanao region that is expected to be led by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was achieved. The talks had resumed earlier this month amid deadly attacks by a splinter guerrilla group that left 15 dead in Mindanao. The next round of the negotiations, to take place after Ramadan, will focus on the scope of MILF governing powers and how and when the rebel force will be disarmed, the last two remaining contentious issues. The resumption of talks came while the peace settlement seemed to have stalled in previous months.

On 15 October 2012, the two parties had signed a historic peace deal that opened the way for talks that should craft the final architecture of the normalisation process and put an end to 40 years of conflict in the poor, but resource-rich, south, centred on the island of Mindanao.

On 25 May, 12 people were killed in clashes as troops fought with the Islamic insurgency group Abu Sayyaf, in the town of Patikul on Jolo Island in the Sulu province, 1,000

Kilometres south of Manila.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** Strong rains have led to flooding in the island of Mindanao, notably in the provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City since 22 July. The rains have reportedly caused the inundation of the Liguasan Marsh and of other waterways including the Pulangi River and Simuay River in Maguindanao.

Although information to date remains limited, OCHA reported that an estimated 250,000 people have been affected by the floods as of 5 August. The number of affected municipalities has increased to 22 with flooding reportedly still ongoing.

On 29 June, the tropical storm Rumbia traversed the eastern Visayas and southern Luzon, causing flooding and landslides, notably in Luzon, and affecting 3,500 people. As of 1 July, 1,800 people were still housed across 10 evacuations centres.

The Philippines frequently experiences natural disasters, particularly tropical storms and cyclones. As of 17 May, 6.2 million people were still affected by Bopha, which struck the country on 4 December 2012 causing extensive damage across Mindanao. 921,649 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and a further 11,767 reside in evacuation centres; 158,769 houses are totally or partially damaged.

**Health:** According to the Department of Health, 1,528 dengue cases were reported in the first quarter of 2013 in Soccsksargen region, of whom 669 (41% of cases) are children <10. In Korondal City, South Cotabato province, the municipal government declared a state of calamity on 27 June after a dengue outbreak was declared in the town. According to authorities, 239 dengue cases have been recorded as of 8 June, more than the 159 cases recorded in 2012. Dengue has also surged in central Philippines, particularly in the province of Iloilo, south of Manila, where the number of people affected is already 71% higher than the number recorded for the same period in 2012.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD

### INSECURITY

### Highlights

**Late July:** Heavy seasonal rain over the past two weeks has resulted in flooding in many parts of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The floods resulted in 49,000 displaced across the country, mostly in North and South Pyongan with at least 4,000 families having lost their homes. There are a reported 33 dead with 18 people still missing. The floods have also led to extensive damage to buildings, infrastructure – notably water systems, and farmland.

**No current data on child mortality, the food security situation, food price levels and the general magnitude of humanitarian needs is available. Therefore, DPRK is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.**

## Political and Security Context

On 22 July, North and South Korean officials began a fifth round of talks on reopening a joint industrial complex, after previous meetings failed to agree on a framework for resuming operations. Since early July, the ongoing talks may be seen as another indication that Pyongyang is gradually trying to improve its international position and soften its relations with South Korea and the West.

On 27 June during a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye in Beijing, the Chinese authorities agreed to push for new talks between the two Koreas and appeared to favour a denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

On 16 June, the DPRK offered high-level talks on security in the region and the nuclear weapon issue with the US to ease tensions in the Korean peninsula. However, the US stated that any discussion must involve Pyongyang taking action to show it is ready to scrap its nuclear programme. The offer came shortly after DPRK unilaterally cancelled planned ministerial-level talks with South Korea. A consultation between Tokyo, Seoul and Washington on how to deal with DPRK's offer was conducted the following week.

On 9 June, North and South Korean officials held their first talks in years in a positive end to months of soaring military tensions. The working-level discussions were intended to pave the way for ministerial-level talks in Seoul on 12 June. The talks came about after an unexpected reversal on 6 June from Pyongyang, which suddenly dropped its belligerent tone and proposed opening a dialogue.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** In mid-July, heavy seasonal rain over two weeks resulted in flooding in many parts of DPRK. Particularly severely affected are the provinces of North and South Pyongan. According to the Red Cross, Anju City, in South Pyongan province, is 80% flooded after the Chongchon River caused embankments to break in the morning of 21 July.

According to the UN as of 2 August, the floods have resulted in 49,000 displaced across the country, mostly in North and South Pyongan with at least 4,000 families having lost their homes. There are a reported 33 dead with 18 people still missing.

The floods have led to extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. Government reports indicated that 11,000 buildings were damaged. Damages to the water system are also widespread with an increased incidence of diarrhoea in some areas.

As reported by the UN, farmland has been inundated with at least 10,000 hectares affected and 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed. Damage to agricultural land is extensive with up to 40% of the land being affected in Pakchon County including 80% of the paddy.

Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaging health facilities and reducing access to primary and secondary health care. The floods further aggravated the impact of a severe dry spell in southwest and central provinces. A 30% decline in soybean production due to the dry spells in the first

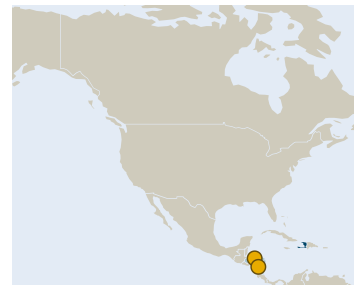
half of 2012 has been reported.

**Access:** Humanitarian access to the country is limited. In early June, WFP approved a new two-year operation for DPRK starting on 1 July and targeting 2.4 million people – almost all children, and pregnant and nursing women – with about 207,000 MT of food assistance.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to a recent report by FAO, acute malnutrition rates have improved in 2013 due to better food rations and a consistent food assistance pipeline. However, according to the report, 2.8 million people are still expected to face severe food insecurity in the northeast provinces of the country.

Chronic under-nutrition remains a public health problem. Over half (57%) of all households have 'borderline' food consumption. Chronic food insecurity continues to affect 2/3 of DPRK's 24 million people. However, according to the UN, the main 2012 harvests and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier and the production is expected to reach 5.8 million MT. WFP already reports an increased number of households with poor consumption as of 14 May, after the main harvest.

*Updated: 05/08/2013*



# NORTH AMERICA

## HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

### Highlights

**Early August:** As of early August, 1.5 million people face severe food insecurity in Haiti, and 5.2 million are suffering from moderate food insecurity.

**5 July:** The Ministry of Public Health and Population reported a 40% increase in new cholera cases in June with cases surging from 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

**5 July:** There remain an estimated 279,000 IDPs in Haiti according to IOM, down from 320,000 reported IDPs in late May. Some 73,000 IDPs hosted in 105 sites may face forced eviction in the coming months.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** As of 5 July, nearly 3½ years after the earthquake, an estimated 279,000 people remain displaced in Haiti according to IOM, 41,000 fewer than reported in late May. In the second quarter of 2013, the highest decrease in IDP population since April 2012 was recorded. Some 33 sites closed and over 41,000 people were relocated, twice as many as from January to March 2013. Currently, 352 IDP sites and camp-like settlements continue to host the remaining IDPs. The situation in these sites remains problematic with 73,000 IDPs in 105 sites possibly facing illegal forced eviction by private land owners in the coming months. Furthermore, camp-settlements remain vulnerable to floods and landslides, putting the IDP population at risk in the upcoming hurricane season.

Recent surveys showed that 119 of Haiti's 140 municipalities have been severely affected by drought, the tropical storm Isaac and/or hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people

**Disaster:** In early May, FEWSNET reported that seasonal rainfall in the Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse departments of southern Haiti and in southwestern Dominican Republic has been less than 50% below average levels. Seasonal rainfall in the Ouest and Sud-Est departments has also been below-average. The largest seasonal deficits occurred across the southwestern peninsula of Haiti in the Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse departments.

Torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grand'Anse and Sud were the most severely affected departments. As of early April 2013, 71,400 persons affected by Hurricane Sandy were still in need of humanitarian assistance according to OCHA. Forecast by the Directorate for Civil Protection anticipate that 600,000 people could be affected and 200,000 displaced by adverse weather conditions this year. The first tropical storm of the season, Chantal, did not result in a humanitarian impact despite a red alert. The storm, initially expected to directly hit Haiti, never reached Hispaniola.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** In early August, OCHA reported that 1.5 million people across Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis; another 5.2 million people face moderate food insecurity. These 6.7 million people struggle to meet their own food needs on a regular basis according to WFP. A total 44 of 140 municipalities have been affected, with over half the population facing high food insecurity. An estimated 800,000 people suffering from severe food insecurity have reportedly not received any emergency assistance.

The June IPC round in Haiti indicated that most departments are facing stressed food security conditions (IPC phase 2). Some households in these areas, such as the agro-pastoral areas of North, Artibonite and Central Highlands, are in crisis food security conditions (IPC phase 3). In addition, seasonally adjusted rice and maize prices in Haiti have risen slightly with 9% and 7%, respectively. The poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest and Nord-Est departments were already facing crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and had to switch to irreversible coping strategies. In addition, the planting of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and the first half of February. Poor seed availability due to increasing prices, which are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average, is also threatening this year's

crop yields.

An estimated 82,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, including 20,400 with SAM. Rural children are especially affected.

**Health:** Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases is 658,053. According to OCHA, 8,120 people have died since the start of the outbreak. As many as 120,000 potential new cholera cases are forecast for 2013, due to the upcoming rainy season and the funding gaps affecting cholera response, making it the least funded component in the Humanitarian Action Plan with only 16% of funding requirements for the health sector met so far. Some 20,000 new cholera cases were reported between January and June 2013. A 40% increase of new cholera cases was reported in June compared to the previous month with cases surging from 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

Contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions, and inadequate sanitation remain the principal causes explaining the spread of the disease.

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## HONDURAS EPIDEMIC

### Highlights

**31 July:** Honduras declared a state of emergency on 31 July after an outbreak of dengue fever that has killed 16 people so far this year. More than 13,000 people have been diagnosed with the disease.

### Political and Security Context

After a riot in the country's main prison which left at least three gang members dead and 12 injured, the Honduran President Porfirio Lobo ordered on 4 August that soldiers be put in charge of security at prison. Honduras' national penitentiary, which houses 3,351 inmates, is located about 15km north of the capital, Tegucigalpa. The riot comes a day after the release of a report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights saying that inmates *effectively* control Honduras' 24 prisons because the state has abandoned its role in rehabilitating people convicted of crimes. The government says there are 12,263 people incarcerated in Honduras, though its prisons can only hold 8,120 inmates. Killings, riots and corruption are common.

The Human Development Index of Latin America and the Caribbean as a region increased from 0.574 in 1980 to 0.741 today, placing Honduras below the regional average.

Honduras has high levels of organized violence and one of the highest murder rates in the world, with 92 people killed per 100,000 inhabitants in 2011. A principle driver of violence in Honduras are rival street gangs Barrio 18 and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). Between them, they are estimated to number 12,000, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and operate primarily in Tegucigalpa and the northwest city of San Pedro Sula.

## Humanitarian Needs and Context

**Health:** Honduras declared a state of emergency on 31 July after an outbreak of dengue fever that has killed 16 people so far this year. More than 13,000 people have been diagnosed with the disease, which causes high fever and joint pains. The decision to declare the state of emergency comes after an increase of 1,693 dengue cases had been reported in just one week. According to figures up to 20 July, there have been 13,828 cases of dengue and 2,003 cases of severe dengue. Health Minister Salvador Pineda said more than half of Honduras' municipalities have registered cases of the viral infection this year. Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula are the most affected cities, according to OCHA on 9 July.

In Honduras, dengue fever is endemic, and outbreaks are frequent during the rainy season. In 2013, however, the endemic curve has increased significantly, especially in recent weeks, and the cases exceed the records of the last five years, excluding 2010, which is considered to have been the worst outbreak of dengue in Honduras with almost 70,000 confirmed cases.

Due to the high incidence of the disease, health services have become saturated and could soon collapse if measures are not taken. Fumigation, larviciding and promotion campaigns are being conducted according to the resources available in each municipality and region as reported by IFRC. However, mitigation measures are hampered due to security risks for personnel in affected areas created by high levels of organized violence.

There is a significant risk that the number of dengue cases will rise due to increased rainfall over the coming months and to environmental conditions in districts, neighborhoods and communities.

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## NICARAGUA FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

### Highlights

**29 July:** 12,570 people are affected by heavy rains and floods in central and southwestern Nicaragua.

**3 July:** Nicaragua is suffering from a dengue epidemic with over 25,000 people affected. This figure represents a 188% increase in cases compared with 2012.

### Humanitarian Needs and Context:

**Disaster:** Tropical storms and heavy rains caused flooding in Nicaragua's Región Autónoma Atlántico Norte (RAAN) and Región Autónoma Atlántico Sur (RAAS) starting in late May 2013. In late July, overflowing rivers in RAAS damaged houses, infrastructure and crops. Between 26 May and 29 July, the rainy season has resulted in 15 deaths and affected more than 12,500 people.

The most impacted municipalities are located in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (Bluefieldzs, Kukra Hill, Pearl Lagoon, Mouth of the Rio Grande, Cruz de Rio Grande and

El Tortuguero) where up to 2,800 people were evacuated. Some 1,660 people are residing in 13 emergency shelters and more than 2,290 houses in 14 departments and 47 municipalities have suffered structural damages.

In the Prinzapolka municipality (RAAN), almost 10,000 people were affected by flooding in late June and July, with more than 1,500 hectares of rice, corn and other crops damaged.

Many families also lost their small canoes (cayucos), severely affecting their livelihoods. In addition, over 32,000 people in the municipality lost their jobs in 2013 in the coffee-rust industry due to an epidemic infecting the crops. October and November are anticipated to bring food insecurity due to fractional harvests, limited livelihoods opportunities, and a probably loss of saleable assets.

Since 28 July, the rains increased again in the central department of Chontales and New Guinea causing rising river levels Siquia, Mico and Branch, reported the National System for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. Rainfall continued in Bilwi, Bluefields, Ocotal, Condega, Muy Muy and Nandaime.

**Health:** Nicaragua is suffering from a dengue epidemic with over 25,000 people affected. Dengue cases in Central America have increased this year by 76% compared to 2012 as of 3 July 2013. By end June, over 1,800 cases of dengue were reported in Nicaragua. This figure represents a 188% increase in cases compared with 2012. The most affected departments in terms of greater population incidence rates are Chontales, Madriz, Chinandega, Rivas, Carazo and León, with approximately 350% more confirmed cases than those registered in the previous year. So far, five people have died of dengue fever. The epidemic could be exacerbated by the recent floods and where cases of acute diarrhea, respiratory infections, parasitism and malnutrition have already been reported in the affected communities. Reports of overflow of latrines and water pollution highlight the risk of possible spread of dengue, which is transmitted by mosquitos favorably breeding in stagnant water.

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## OCEANIA

## MARSHALL ISLANDS DROUGHT

### Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 08/07/2013.

**5 July:** The Republic of the Marshalls Islands is still affected by the effects of drought. Although seasonal rain showers have resumed in northern atolls, nearly 6,400 people in the most severely affected atolls remain in need of humanitarian assistance, particularly access to safe drinking water and food. Drought conditions have depleted freshwater reserves, caused unsafe salinity levels in groundwater, and damaged crops, according to OCHA.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** As of 5 July, the Republic of the Marshalls Islands (RMI) is still affected by the effects of drought. Although seasonal rain showers have resumed in northern atolls, nearly 6,400 people in the most severely affected atolls remain in need of humanitarian assistance, particularly access to safe drinking water and food. Drought conditions have depleted freshwater reserves, caused unsafe salinity levels in groundwater, and damaged crops, according to OCHA.

According to OCHA, the RMI Cabinet issued an elevated state of disaster on 7 May as a result of the prolonged and severe drought in the northern parts of the country, notably in Wotje and the atolls north of Majuro. On June 7, the state of emergency was extended by another month, because the rain expected for the end of March had not come. Many islands have had no rain for more than a year. Traditional crops such as banana, taro and breadfruit trees are reported to be severely affected. Because of unusually low levels of rain since February, the local crops are heavily at risk and an alarming shortage of drinking water has been reported.

Up to an estimated 6,400 people live in 15 severely drought-affected atolls. An additional 11,000 people were dependent on food aid and experiencing less severe drought conditions while crop losses were already reported in the area. The only water available for drinking, cooking and hygiene is gained through reverse osmosis water purifying machines flown into the northern atolls by aid groups. The drought is causing some villagers to relocate to be closer to water as wells have begun to dry up and become salinized.

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## SOUTH AMERICA

## BOLIVIA FLOODS

### Highlights

**End July:** According to WFP, the impact of price increases for staple foods such as rice and maize (both up 43%) are having a severe impact on the basic food basket in Bolivia, exacerbating the impact of the current drought which affects more than 220,000 people.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** Five of the nine departments are affected by some type of water deficit: Tarija, Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca, Beni and Cochabamba. In March, several southern departments were severely affected by damaging levels of torrential rain and floods, especially in Chuquisaca, Potosi, Tarija and Cochabamba. Overall, the floods affected 145,000 people in nearly 25% of Bolivia's municipalities. In Cochabamba alone, some 40,000 people were affected between 18-25<sup>th</sup> of March.

On 19 June, the Government of Bolivia issued a National Emergency Decree due to drought in the Departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, El Chaco, notably Santa Cruz, and southern Cochabamba. As of 2 August, an estimated 220,000 people are affected by drought, and 86,450 hectares of crops have sustained damage.

The department of Tarija is the worst hit with 43,724 hectares of crops estimated to have been lost. Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle with 29,357 dead. In Cochabamba, 24,805 hectares in 594 communities reported damage during the first half of 2013. The most serious damage was caused by flooding (51%), drought (33%), and other lower-impact weather events.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** FAO reported that the 2013 aggregate cereal production is forecast to decrease by 11% compared to the previous year. The recently harvested 2012-13 main season maize crop was severely affected by drought during the vegetative period.

WFP noted at the end of July that the impact of price changes of staple foods on the cost of the basic food basket from April to June was severe. The seasonally adjusted price increases for rice and maize both stood at 43%. After declining in the last few months, the price of wheat flour, which is mostly imported, rose sharply in the first half of June, increasing by 19% and 36% in the major cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz respectively, and remaining significantly higher than a year ago. It is expected that available food reserves of drought-affected households will be exhausted in the next month, deepening the crisis, and deteriorating the food and nutrition security situation of thousands of families.

According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the torrential March rains in the south of the country, but the Ministry has discounted the possibility of food security risks. However, according to WFP, at least 25,000 people were in need of food assistance in March. Subsistence farmers who normally cultivate crops at the riversides were the most affected. The floods hit at the end

of the lean season, as farmers were about to harvest their crops and as food reserves were at the lowest. Families that traditionally store their harvested potatoes and onions in the fields also lost reserves.

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## Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

The Global Emergency Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global Emergency Overview collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media sources, and displays this information in a manner that allows for quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. The primary objective of the Global Emergency Overview is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Highlights and Snapshot)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Highlights Box and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

### The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

First, the **world map** provides an overview of how the countries are prioritised, indicated by different shades of blue. The countries are subdivided by four **priority levels**: "on watch", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the <5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an on-going crisis, a country is **highlighted** by a yellow dot on the map.

Second, the **snapshot** briefly describes what has happened in the last seven days from the date of publication, by outlining the crises that have occurred in the different highlighted countries.

Third, **narratives** for each country included in the Global Emergency Overview reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country over the last months. Narratives are written based on secondary data. For each country, a specific **highlights box** is also added to put emphasis on the major developments that happened over the past 10 days.

### The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acaps.acaps>

To download the mobile application for iOS phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/global-emergency-overview/id567382309?mt=8>

## Update

The Global Emergency Overview will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Monday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an on-going crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

## Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternate sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.