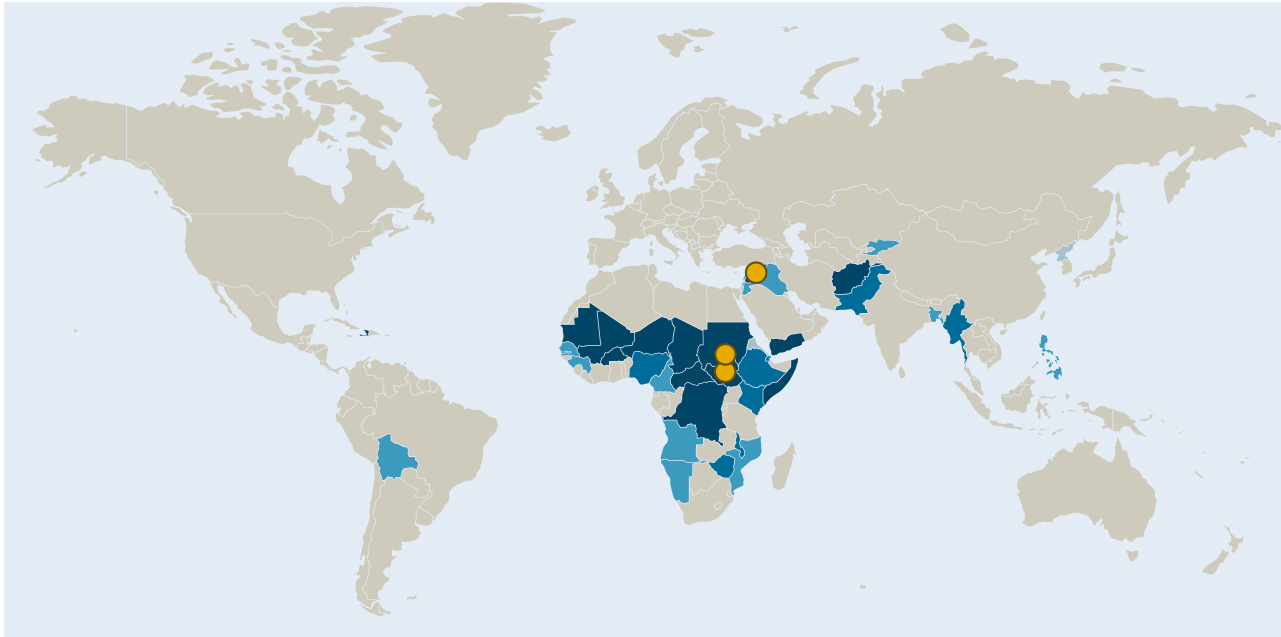




GLOBAL OVERVIEW

June 2013



Snapshot 10 – 17 June

In **Syria**, heavy shelling was reported in the provinces of Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Rural Damascus. Heavy fighting continued in Aleppo governorate, in the towns of Hraytan, Kafr Hamra and Atareb. Meanwhile, the U.S. officially stated their readiness to supply weapons to the Syrian opposition after evidence of the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian forces was ascertained. According to the latest UNHCR figures, the number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration surpassed 1.6 million; inside Syria, an estimated 40,000 people have reportedly been displaced from the al-Qusayr area in May.

Last week, **Sudan** officially informed **South Sudan** that it would stop allowing its neighbor to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that are both countries' principal source of foreign income. By the end of the week, Juba and Khartoum appeared ready to allow the African Union to mediate the conflict. Meanwhile, heavy fighting has been reported in Darfur between the Salamat and Misseriya tribes, resulting in new displacement. In South Kordofan, an estimated 50,000 people have been displaced in late May as a result notably of heavy fighting between the Government and the rebels in Rashad County where the village of Abu Karshola is located.

Severe humanitarian crisis

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

Humanitarian crisis

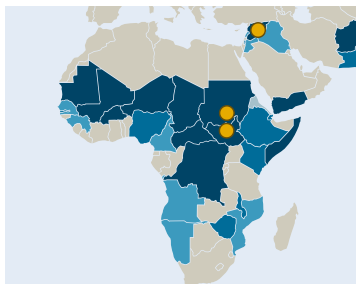
Djibouti	Myanmar
Ethiopia	Nigeria
Gambia	oPt
Kenya	Pakistan
Malawi	Zimbabwe

Situation of concern

Angola	Kyrgyzstan
Bangladesh	Lebanon
Bolivia	Marshall Islands
Cameroon	Mozambique
Guinea	Namibia
Iraq	Philippines
Jordan	Senegal

Watch list

DPRK	Eritrea
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AFRICA

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 10/06/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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

Displacement: As of 6 June, 49,975 Malian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Burkina Faso. The refugees are located at seven sites (Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou), which are recognized as refugee camps by the Government, as well as at several spontaneous settlements. The majority of the camps are situated in the northern region of Sahel. The presence of the 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, according to OCHA.

Food Security and Malnutrition: A March assessment (jointly undertaken by WFP and several partners) indicated an elevated prevalence of food insecurity in Malian refugee camps as well as in Burkinabe host communities, with an estimated 52% of the refugees and 58% of the host populations being affected by food insecurity, according to the report.

According to FEWSNET, as of June, at least 80% of Burkinabe households are currently able to meet their consumption needs and are facing Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity. Although cereal prices were stable since January 2013 and at levels close to or slightly above (by no more than 12%) compared to the five-year average, high staple food prices (millet, maize and sorghum) and limited non-agricultural income, will affect the quantity and quality of food access between July and September. During this period, at least 25 to 30% of households in livelihood zones 8 and 7 in the north will have food security issues, and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

Overall, the food supply situation has significantly improved in 2012-13 across the country. According to official production figures of last season's cereal production, from November to January, the total was close to 4.9 million MT, marking a 27% increase compared to the five-year average.

Despite these improvements, the situation remains critical in parts of the country due to prolonged localized drought, high food prices, displacement, chronic poverty and the lingering effect of last year's food crisis. According to a March report by the FAO, food insecurity is still affecting some 2 million people (15% of the population). The report states that the food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel, North and East regions. Over the last months, civil strife in northern Mali has also contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country, notably in the Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel regions, which face a high influx of refugees from Mali.

In 2012, the national Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was 10.9%, compared to 10.3% in 2011, with the highest GAM rates in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. According to UNICEF, more than 120,000 children <5 suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). The number of new SAM admissions from January to mid-March 2013 amounted to 11,141 children.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

14 June: During a meeting of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to which the CAR leadership was invited, an agreement was reached for the deployment of additional military under the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC) framework into CAR. The force will soon increase to 2,000 troops in comparison to the current 800.

13 June: At least 16 people have been killed during clashes between rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and villagers in the central mining region of Bria, as the rebels were looting houses in the area.

13 June: Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye has confirmed former rebels in key posts in the new government. Interim President Michel Djotodia, leader of the Seleka, took the defense portfolio. The cabinet reshuffle was requested by the international community to reduce the dominance of rebel leaders over the government.

12 June: According to international health charity Merlin, an estimated 300,000 people were displaced in the southeast as of early June as a result of the crisis unfolding in CAR. Earlier estimates, provided by OCHA, stated that some 206,000 people were displaced in CAR as of 24 March.

As reported by FEWSNET in **mid-June**, low market supplies and volatile food prices are aggravating what was already a precarious food security situation due to the earlier

than normal depletion of household food stocks, disruptions to basic social services, and persistent civil insecurity.

Political and Security Context:

Although the security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has gradually improved since the March military coup by the Seleka rebel coalition, violence persists in parts of the country and new incidents are regularly reported in the capital Bangui and across the country.

On 13 June, at least 16 people have been killed during clashes between rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and villagers in the central mining region of Bria, as the rebels were looting houses in the area. The LRA, a Ugandan force set up by Joseph Kony, has killed more than 100,000 people in several Central African countries over the past 25 years. The new CAR leadership has vowed to put an end to LRA attacks.

Meanwhile, several security incidents have been reported over the past month in CAR, in particular in the areas around Bossangoa, north of Bangui, and Obo in the southeast, while the situation also remained volatile in the capital. On 2 June, armed men, allegedly part of the Seleka coalition, killed at least 7 people during lootings in Bangui. Previous reports had earlier described Seleka elements forcefully occupying some residences, especially those belonging to people perceived to have been close to the former Government. On 10 May, Human Rights Watch reported numerous human right infringements committed by Seleka fighters in the aftermath of the coup, including indiscriminate shootings in the capital and killings of people resisting the looting of their homes. Several organizations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children under 18, some of whom had been recently demobilized, into Seleka forces. As of mid-June, and although the security situation has improved, tensions between armed groups affiliated to the Seleka and the population persist. In mid-May, reports indicated that tensions also existed within the Seleka coalition, compromising its control over its own elements.

In the capital, patrols from the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC), which are operating alongside the 550 French military posted in CAR, are present and trying to help in easing tensions between the different factions. On 14 June, during a meeting of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to which the CAR leadership was invited, an agreement was reached for the deployment of additional military support under the FOMAC framework into CAR. The FOMAC force will soon be increased to 2,000 troops in comparison to the current 800.

On 13 June, Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye has confirmed former rebels in key posts in the new government. Interim President Michel Djotodia, leader of the Seleka, took the defense portfolio. This cabinet reshuffle was requested by the international community to reduce the dominance of rebel leaders over the government.

On 4 April, Michael Djotodia, leader of the Seleka rebel coalition that seized the capital Bangui on 24 March, agreed to hold elections within 18 months, accepting the roadmap set out by ECCAS. On 13 April, he was elected President by acclamation, but promised not to seek re-election at the end of the transition. According to UNICEF, a disarmament and demobilization process was launched on 13 May and is ongoing, but the process has been

ad hoc without sustainable options proposed to those who have been disarmed.

On 18 April, in the aftermath of the ECCAS' support to the transition process, the international community had largely come to terms with the country's takeover by the coalition, as long as the latter respected the roadmap. However, on 23 April, the EU restated its decision not to restore its aid program to CAR before it is certain of the credibility of the new Government.

Initially, violence erupted in CAR in December 2012, when the Seleka coalition, a grouping 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. In January 2013, a tentative peace agreement was not able to put a lasting end to violence between the two parties. Throughout March, the Seleka rebels took control of various towns and continued their advance on the capital Bangui. Considering the Government's concessions to remain insufficient after issuing a final ultimatum, the rebel movement resumed its advance, seized Bangui and toppled President Bozizé who fled to Cameroon.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

According to UNICEF, the humanitarian crisis is affecting the entire population of the Central African Republic, *i.e.* an estimated 4.6 million people, of whom 2.3 million are children. Some 1 million children in the country are still not attending school and almost 1.2 million people have now been cut off from access to basic services since December. According to the international health charity Merlin, as of early June, some 3.2 million in the country are reported to be living without health care.

Displacement: Merlin reported an estimated 300,000 people displaced in the southeast as of early June, as a result of the crisis unfolding in the country. Earlier estimates, provided by OCHA, stated that some 206,000 people were displaced in CAR as of 24 March.

Since December, UNHCR reported that an estimated 55,000 people have also sought refuge in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the latter of which hosts over 42,500 CAR refugees as of mid-June.

In addition to this, there are an estimated 17,000 mostly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in CAR. The UN also reported an estimated 5,000 people displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes in April and May.

Access: On 14 June, OCHA stated that the security situation is still rendering humanitarian access challenging in parts of the country and is preventing humanitarian organizations from fully resuming their activities. On 17 May, UNICEF reported that the security situation across the country is severely hindering planned distributions of food and other essential supplies from reaching beneficiaries. In addition, it stated that for the small number of INGOs still operating in the interior, access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads since use of secondary roads is inadvisable. On 3 May, OCHA reported that information on the needs outside of Bangui remained limited. For humanitarian actors, access has become even more challenging with the start of the rainy season in May.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As reported by FEWSNET in early June, households in the central, northern and eastern areas of the country will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between June and the next harvest. Meanwhile, households in southern and western areas will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity through the end of September. Low market supplies and volatile food prices are aggravating what was already a precarious food security situation due to the earlier than normal depletion of household food stocks, disruptions to basic social services, and persistent civil insecurity that is preventing households from diversifying their income sources. In addition, several Rapid Response Mechanism assessments conducted in April and May found that large numbers of households do not have seeds due to looting and/or household consumption. This has delayed planting activities that should have normally begun by mid-April.

In April 2013, 62,000 people were reported as severely food insecure following the crisis in March. This is in addition to the 80,500 people already suffering from severe food insecurity caused by the first crisis in December 2012. According to a recent IPC seasonal analysis, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition in children <5 was above the emergency threshold of 2% in 9 out of 16 prefectures.

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

Updated: 17/06/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Late May: Refugees fleeing violence in Northern Nigeria crossed into Western Chad around the area of Lake Chad. At least 1,000 people have arrived in Chad since mid-May.

Late May: As reported by UNHCR, more than 50,000 people (an estimated 30,000 Sudanese refugees and 21,300 Chadian returnees) have crossed the border from Sudan into Chad in April. This marks the largest influx of people from Sudan into Chad since 2005 bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad to 330,000 people, compared to 300,000 Darfur refugees in Chad prior to January 2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighboring countries since March. As reported by UNHCR, more than 50,000 people (an estimated 30,000 Sudanese refugees and 21,300 Chadian returnees) have crossed the border from Sudan into Chad in April. This marks the largest influx of people from Sudan into Chad since 2005. According to UNHCR, the latest influx brings the total number of

Sudanese refugees in Chad to 330,000 people, compared to 300,000 Darfur refugees in Chad prior to January 2013. In south-eastern Chad, UNHCR reported the completion of the relocation of Darfur refugees from the volatile border area of Tissi, which lies at the border between Darfur and Chad and is in a volatile area, to the newly established Ab Gadam camp, which is now hosting 10,247 people.

Refugees from Darfur are however continuing to cross into Tissi, as tensions persist in the Um Dukhun area of Darfur, about seven kilometres north of Tissi. The displaced people arrived in two waves. In March, displacement was caused by intertribal violence between the Rezeigat and Beni Hussein tribes in Northern Darfur. Since the beginning of April, the main cause of displacement into Chad has been the spreading conflict between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Central Darfur. Most of the latest arrivals are reportedly women and children. Humanitarian needs are apparently large amongst those arriving, in particular with regard to shelter, food, clean water and medical assistance. According to the ICRC, the situation of those displaced in Tissi remains worrying. In the absence of any suitable medical facility, the ICRC has transferred 19 seriously injured people by air to Abéché Regional Hospital.

On Chad's southern border, ongoing political turmoil in the Central African Republic has led to a rising number of refugees and returnees crossing into the country since December. An estimated 7,000 people, refugees and returnees, have entered Chad. They add to the estimated total number of Central African refugees of 58,000 as reported by OCHA.

In late May, people fleeing violence in northern Nigeria have crossed into Western Chad around the area of Lake Chad. The refugees are of Chadian, Cameroonian and Nigerian origins. An estimated 1,000 people from Nigeria have arrived in Chad since mid-May.

Access: Insecurity, particularly in eastern Chad and in certain areas in southern Chad, continues to limit humanitarian access.

Food Security and Malnutrition: In Chad, two consecutive years of continued climatic shocks, including erratic rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012, continuing into 2013. According to a March assessment carried out by WFP and the Chadian Government in 18 regions across the country, 13% of the households (around 1.2 million people) are facing severe food insecurity and another 9% are facing moderate food insecurity. In total, 2.1 million people are reported food insecure. The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is at critical levels with a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in 9 out of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The areas most affected are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22%), Salamat (22%), Beg (21%), and Kanem (21%).

The current situation however represents a significant improvement from the 2011 critical levels. Good 2012-13 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish their food reserves while market prices across the country remained mostly stable and were 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. Nevertheless, structurally deficient regions will continue to face a shortage of grain.

According to UNICEF, an estimated 126,000 children will still suffer from severe acute

malnutrition in 2013. Across the country, many households have accumulated large debts during the lean period in 2012 and poor families will be forced to sell much of their produce immediately after harvest. In 2012, 149,963 children were admitted for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), well above the 127,300 forecast.

Updated: 17/06/2013

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

12-15 June: Talks between rebels from the Tutsi-dominated March 23 Movement (M23) and the authorities in Kinshasa were initiated on 12 June. The talks reportedly broke off only days later as the M23 accused the DRC Government of refusing to negotiate.

Early June: Recent attacks in Katanga Province by the Bakata Katanga militia have resulted in the displacement of some 23,000 people since the beginning of June.

Late May: Fighting between armed groups was reported in various parts of North Kivu province, notably Lubero and Kitchanga areas, and Katanga province, notably Moba and Manono areas.

Late May: Although numbers are difficult to ascertain, various reports from OCHA indicate that probably over 50,000 people have been uprooted following clashes in various part of North-Kivu since April. Some of the displaced have allegedly returned since.

Political and Security context:

Over the last few weeks, violent clashes between rebels and government troops were reported in the conflict-prone eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo, notably in North Kivu province, which is dominated by rebel movements. According to local media, North Kivu harbored 27 different military groups as of mid-May. Since February, clashes have been occurring between various armed groups throughout the province while the UN reported ongoing human rights abuses by militias and governmental troops.

On 12 June, talks between rebels from the Tutsi-dominated March 23 Movement (M23) and the authorities in Kinshasa were resumed. The talks reportedly broke off again on 15 June as the M23 accused the DRC Government of refusing to negotiate. Fighting that erupted between rebels from M23 and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) north of Goma, the regional capital of North Kivu on 20 May, and that later spread to the city itself caused the death of at least 25 military and of an unknown number of civilians. These clashes were the first to happen since the rebel movement withdrew from Goma in December.

Renewed fighting in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) occurred as the first troops due to be part of a new UN intervention brigade arrived last month in the country and are

currently deploying. On 28 March, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the creation of a brigade of more than 3,000 troops from South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania with a mandate to conduct “targeted offensive operations” against rebels in eastern DRC. This prompted M23 to accuse the UN of promoting war while peace talks are ongoing and subsequently to break off negotiations with the Congolese government in early April.

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 (APCLS) and the Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC), are also 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.

On 8 June, factional infighting clashes between two factions of the Nyatura armed group, which are fighting for the control of the Nyakariba area in Kitchanga, caused the displacement of the habitants of the area towards surrounding villages.

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

On 15 May, new fighting erupted between Kata Katanga militia group and local armed groups in the Moba area, Katanga Province. The clashes allegedly resulted in at least 7 killed and another 5 injured with the reported burning of the village of Kavuba. Both groups allegedly fought for the control of a local gold mine located at Ntoya, west of Moba. Renewed violence along with civilian casualties and human rights infringements were also reported in Manono area, also in Katanga province.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: Since April, as reported by OCHA, clashes in various parts of North Kivu have allegedly displaced over 26,000 people although information remains difficult to ascertain. In late April, clashes between two rival militias, NDC and APLCS, have led to thousands of displaced in Walikale area. Some of the displaced have allegedly returned since. In February-March, the conflict between the FARDC and the APCLS had already displaced an estimated 75,000 people, according to IOM.

Clashes between the M23 and the FARDC in the vicinity of Goma in May also forced some 30,000 displaced people who were living in the camps of Mugunga and Bulengo to flee the area while the UNHCR called for the protection of civilians. Additional displacement from the settlement of Kibati to Goma was also reported in local media. North Kivu remains the province with the highest number of internally displaced, estimated at 973,000 according to WFP as of 13 June.

The recent attacks in Katanga Province by the Bakata Katanga militia have resulted in the displacement of some 23,000 people since the beginning of June according to local and official sources. The displaced are fleeing from Nganie to Mwanza, putting large strains on the Mwanza community, notably in terms of heightened food insecurity.

In April, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and FARDC led to new population displacement in the Katanga province, according to OCHA. Overall, at least 364,643 people were reportedly displaced in the province as of 20 May.

In South-Kivu, 52,500 new displacements were registered due to conflict since January. However, according to OCHA, some IDPs began to return to their homes since February leading to a decrease of the overall number of displaced in the area. As of 31 March, OCHA estimated that 702,000 people currently remain displaced in South Kivu, particularly because of clashes between FARDC and local militias that progressively established a stronghold in the province, leading to more insecurity.

Some 428,543 are also reportedly displaced in Orientale province and over 174,000 in Maniema province according to OCHA, as of 31 April.

Overall, as of early May, OCHA estimated that 2.6 million people remained displaced as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups across the entire country. Although the number of displaced countrywide has decreased by some 40,000 people over the last two months, protracted conflict has led to more displacements in several parts of the country in April.

In addition, an estimated 450,000 Congolese refugees are residing in neighboring countries.

Finally, DRC is facing increasing numbers of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR). As of 6 June, an estimated 39,810 CAR refugees have been registered in DRC according to the UN. The number of CAR refugees in DRC is likely to further increase while instability in CAR remains widespread. Overall, DRC is currently hosting over 178,000 refugees among which over 127,000 come from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and the Republic of Congo.

Access: Access is limited due to mountainous and volcanic terrain. The lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province, is also hindering aid delivery.

Throughout the country, humanitarian access is also hindered by ongoing localized conflict, especially in the South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema and Katanga provinces.

The latest escalation of hostilities between militias and government troops has further hampered humanitarian access in North Kivu province. Tensions between aid workers and the local population have also been reported. On 23 May, the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières reported that it had to suspend its activities in the two refugee camps next to Goma because of ongoing fighting and displacement of the refugees.

Food Security and Malnutrition: The renewed conflict in eastern DRC has significantly contributed to the deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, according to WFP. The December 2012 IPC analysis reported that 6.4 million people are in acute food security and livelihood crisis (Phases 3 and 4). The west of DRC, although relatively stable compared to the east, faces chronic food insecurity due to isolation, lack of social infrastructure and effects of several aggravating economic shocks.

Health: Over the second week of April, heavy rains have affected an estimated 2,500

people in Zongo, Province Orientale, according to OCHA. Some 10,300 cholera cases have been registered in Katanga province since January 2013. This is the result of the population's lack of access to drinking water, poor hygiene conditions and poor sanitation.

According to WHO, 60 new-borns have died of neonatal tetanus (NNT) out of 112 cases registered in northeastern DRC province between January and May 2013, a 53% death rate.

Over 79,000 malaria cases were reported in three consecutive weeks in May and June, according to OCHA. From 27 May to 2 June, the province recorded 22,151 malaria cases of which 46 deaths against 27,082 of which 55 deaths the previous week, and more than 30,000 of which 81 deaths the week before.

Updated: 17/06/2013

MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

12 June: Tuareg rebels from the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) who control of the key northeastern town of Kidal said they were prepared to sign a deal with the Government after a few amendments were made. The rebels had been reluctant to let Government troops step in to secure the town for a planned July 28 presidential election. The Government has not yet signed the compromise accepted by the rebels.

5 June: The army started an offensive to re-establish control of Kidal, which has been held by the MNLA since February.

2 June: Unconfirmed reports from the rebel-controlled Kidal area stated that the Tuareg separatist MNLA is allegedly attacking the black population of the city and is trying to force it to relocate south to Gao. The information was denied by the MNLA.

28 May: OCHA reported that the living conditions, notably regarding access to safe water, electricity and food, were deteriorating in Gao in Eastern Mali.

Political and Security Context:

Mali is expected to hold its presidential elections on 28 July. Meanwhile, the situation in the country remains volatile while the Tuareg separatist National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) is still holding the city of Kidal in northeastern Mali and is refusing access to the city to the central authorities and to the army. On 2 June, unconfirmed reports from Kidal stated that it is allegedly attacking the black population of Kidal and is trying to force it to relocate south to Gao. The information was denied by the MNLA. On 3 June, the Malian Government announced that an army presence in Kidal was non-negotiable in light of the alleged abuses and that the Government would make every effort to ensure that Malian troops were in Kidal before the elections scheduled for 28 July.

Clashes between the Malian army and the MNLA separatists were reported about 120km south-west of Kidal, near the village of Anefis. The army started an offensive to re-establish control of Kidal and succeeded in taking Anefis village from the MNLA, marking its first victory and territorial gain without the help of French forces present in the country since the beginning of the ethnic Tuareg rebellion in early 2012. The Malian soldiers are reportedly not yet moving towards Kidal.

The Tuareg group stated that its members would only be confined "with their weapons" and disarmed once a final agreement is reached with the legitimate Malian authorities installed after the presidential election, and on the condition it is given a "special status" to Azawad, by which the Tuareg refer to the northern region of Mali. But the Malian authorities consider that disarmament must take place in the wake of the cantonment of combatants.

The security situation in the three northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal remains volatile. On 10 May, Islamists believed to belong to the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) undertook a coordinated attack on Malian and African troops. Five suicide bombers detonated explosives at a military checkpoint in Gossi near Timbuktu, injuring two Malian soldiers. The attacks highlight the continued threat posed by Islamist militants, as well as the growing coordination of their operations against African and French forces. Over the last month, militants have carried out several attacks, using landmines, IED's, suicide bombings, and various guerrilla methods. The attacks have been mostly focused on military checkpoints and have so far not caused mass casualties. Since the start of military operations on 11 January, French and Malian troops, supported by Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the AU, have removed Islamist militants from the major northern towns.

The security situation in the north is further exacerbated by clashes between armed groups. On 17 May, clashes were reported between the MNLA and alleged Islamist militants in the town of Anefis, 95 kilometres southwest of Kidal. Similar clashes, between Tuareg and Islamist groups have reportedly taken place in the town of Ber, over the past weeks.

Meanwhile, talks between the MNLA and the Malian Government have resumed as announced by Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister, on 20 May. The announcement came shortly after a failed attempt by the Malian forces to recapture Kidal from MNLA, after the latter refused to comply with the deadline to hand it over. According to AFP, talks scheduled to be held on 7 June between Malian authorities and the MNLA have been postponed indefinitely.

On 25 April, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the creation of a 12,640-strong peacekeeping force in Mali starting 1 July. The force – to be known as United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) – will take over the authority from the current UN-backed African force, African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), although most of the AFISMA force is likely to become part of the peacekeeping operation. On 5 May, forces to be included in the MINUSMA started arriving in Mali and an estimated 6,300 troops have already been deployed in the country.

Meanwhile, French forces continue their planned phase-out, and are now relocated in Gao.

The continued volatile security situation raises concerns of the impact of the announced withdrawal of French troops from Mali, which is planned to be downsized to 2,000 from 4,500 by July this year. France has proposed to maintain a permanent force of 1,000 troops in Mali to continue fighting armed Islamist militants, according to diplomatic sources. The Chadian President Déby has announced that his country will begin to withdraw its troops, only keeping some of its 2,000 soldiers.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

On 28 May, OCHA reported that the living conditions, notably regarding access to safe water, electricity and food, were deteriorating in Gao in Eastern Mali.

Displacement: An estimated 467,000 people have been displaced by the current conflict. According to OCHA, as of 30 April, there are an estimated 310,783 IDPs in Mali compared to 261,000 as of late January. UNHCR reports that, as of 8 May, some 174,129 Malians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, with 74,108 in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger and 49,975 in Burkina Faso.

As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, UNHCR estimates that a significant number of displaced people will return to their homes, although considerable challenges and poor conditions remain for a large share of those returning.

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, 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, according to OCHA. The humanitarian space is shrinking, and reaching people in rural areas, particularly in the north, is increasingly difficult.

Food Security and Malnutrition: People affected by food insecurity in Mali are estimated at about 3.5 million, including 1.4 million in need of immediate assistance according to new assessments finalized in May. These new figures show a deterioration of the situation compared to the beginning of the year when 2 million people were affected by food insecurity, including 747,000 in need of immediate assistance.

According to the April round of the *Cadre Harmonisé*, food security conditions are at crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in the north, with pockets of emergency (IPC Phase 4) in remote areas of Kidal, where insecurity is very high. The entire north (regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu) will face emergency conditions during the May to July lean season, should insecurity continue to disrupt pastoralist livelihoods. In the riverbelt zones, Stress (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity outcomes are reportedly remaining stable.

According to FEWSNET, improving trade flows, the gradual economic recovery, and ongoing deliveries of humanitarian assistance since March should prevent any deterioration in food security in areas of concern. Food prices remained largely unchanged or up slightly from last month by 5 % to 10% in most of the country. However, they are still above the five-year average by 15% in Timbuktu and 35% in Gao.

Rapid assessments undertaken in areas that are, once again, under Malian control are showing deteriorating food security conditions. FAO reports that although domestic UNHAS flights have resumed to Mopti, Kayes, Timbuktu and Gao, many supply routes to the north are disrupted, with the exception of the Douentza-Gao road and the Niger river. Food stocks are diminishing, leading to increased prices and limited availability of, and access to, food and agriculture inputs. The closure of the Algerian borders, and increased control at the borders of Burkina Faso, are hindering cross border trade and livestock movements, which are imperative to people's livelihood and local economic systems.

An estimated 660,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition. The depletion of household food stocks, a 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.

Health: Cholera has re-appeared in Mali, with a total of 21 cases and two deaths recorded between 8 and 19 May, according to OCHA. The cases were registered following the epidemic in Ayoyou, Niger, about 60 km from the Malian border at Ansongo. According to OCHA, as of 6 June, the outbreak is contained in Gao region. No new cases have been reported since 21 May. However OCHA stressed the need to rehabilitate the water supply and increase food assistance. The amount of available drinking water has fallen by 60% over the past weeks, which could exacerbate the cholera outbreak reported in the region.

In the north, eight new measles cases (six in Gao and two in Mopti) have been registered between 27 May to 2 June. The preparation of a vaccination campaign targeting 26 health districts at epidemic risk is ongoing, as reported by OCHA.

Education: The education of 700,000 Malian children has been disrupted during the crisis, but recently schools have gradually started to reopen in Gao and Timbuktu regions, with 321 of 1,030 schools working to date.

Updated: 17/06/2013

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 10/06/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: The number of Malian refugees has levelled off over the past weeks, remaining at over 75,000, the figure stated by the UNHCR at the end of March. Almost all of the refugees are living in the Mbéra camp that hosts over 74,000 people, 60% of which are women and children according to UNICEF and have lived in the camp for over a year.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of late May, FEWSNET reported that the food security situation is likely to remain stable and that most of the poor households throughout the country would remain in IPC Phase 1 until September. According to a FAO

report 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 also helping in improving the food security situation.

However, despite the generally more favourable food security context, at least 560,000 people will remain food insecure as a result of the lasting effects of the 2011 food crisis according to FAO. In late May, FEWSNET reported 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 security 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 Global Acute Malnutrition, 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%), Brakna (17%) and Tagant (18.2%) regions in the southeast of the country. Many refugee children also suffer from malnutrition.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

Early June: UNHCR reported that an estimated 6,240 people, including Nigerian nationals (2,692), returnees to Niger (3,544) and people of other nationalities (94) – mainly Chadians, have crossed into Niger since mid-May to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram militants in the border states of northern Nigeria. New arrivals have settled mainly in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou.

Political and Security Context:

On 1 June, an attack by gunmen on a prison in Niamey resulted in at least 2 people killed and some 10 being wounded. According to local authorities, some 22 inmates, including some convicted of terrorism, managed to escape. It is yet unclear who was behind the attack.

On 23 May, two car bombs detonated simultaneously, one inside a military camp in the city of Agadez and another in the remote town of Arlit at a French-operated uranium mine. In total, 25 people were left dead by the attacks, and another 30 people were injured, according to official sources.

The attacks, occurring more than 100 miles apart and with the bombers being able to penetrate a well-guarded military installation and a sensitive, foreign-operated uranium mine, raised concerns of an increasing reach and sophistication of extremist groups operating from Mali. Both attacks were claimed by the Mali-based Islamist group the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO). On 27 May, Libya dismissed Niger President's allegations that the attackers had come from Southern Libya.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Niger is coping with four concurrent disasters: the Sahel food crisis, the Malian refugee crisis, flooding and a cholera outbreak.

Displacement: According to UNHCR, an estimated 11,672 people crossed into Niger since the start of the military intervention in Mali on 11 January. As of 20 May, there are 43,159 Malian refugees registered, and another 7,356 are estimated to await registration. The 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.

In addition, as of 11 June, an estimated 6,240 people, including Nigerian nationals (2,692), returnees to Niger (3,544) and people of other nationalities (94) – mainly Chadians, have crossed into Niger since mid-May to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram militants in the border states of northern Nigeria. New arrivals have settled mainly in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou, according to UNHCR. The majority of refugees are living in 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: Throughout the country, households' incomes are generally considered average to good this year, and should allow households to purchase sufficient cereal to meet food needs. According to FEWSNET on 10 May, even without assistance, most poor households should be able to meet their basic food and non-food needs and will experience only Minimal levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 1). However, 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, where millet and sorghum prices are 30 to 50% above the seasonal average. Compared to the five-year average, the prices of dry cereals are rising on most markets, with millet (17% to 41%), sorghum (5% to 39%) and maize (2% to 21%) displaying the largest increases. As a result, many Nigeriens who are yet to recover from previous crises are unable to afford market prices. According to a WFP report published in early May, the price of millet, the main staple, is still above last year's crisis levels and is expected to further increase in the upcoming months.

These increases are due to the tightening of market supplies as imports from Nigeria, an important component of cereal availability at this time of year, have declined. 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.

Health: A cholera epidemic declared by the Niger government on May 11 has left 7 people dead in the west of the country, including 2 Malian refugees. To date, 248 cases have been registered in the Tillaberi region, including 31 cases among refugees in Mangaize and Tabareybarey camps. There is a high risk that the disease could spread along the Niger River. In 2012, more than 5,785 cholera cases and 110 deaths were reported countrywide.

As of 7 April, 1,470 suspected cases of measles were reported by UNICEF, the large majority being in the region of Tillaberi (50%) and in the district of Filingué (30%) where refugee camps are located. The levels of measles mark a significant increase compared to the same period in 2012.

Updated: 17/06/2013

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

15 June: At least seven people were killed when a bomb exploded in a tea shop popular with government troops in the Somali town of Wanlaweyn in Lower Shabelle region about 90 km (55 miles) from the capital Mogadishu.

10 June: Fighters loyal to Somali warlord Ahmed Madobe strengthened control of the key southern port of Kismayo, after days of clashes between rival militia forces.

7-8 June: At least 18 people were killed in fighting in southern Somalia for the control of Kismayo port – the heaviest clashes the city has seen in over four years and the first since several rival warlords claimed the control of the lucrative port and fertile hinterlands in May. These clashes fuelled fears that the country may again slip into the anarchy of clan wars as it did two decades ago.

5 June: As of early June, four cases wild poliovirus have been confirmed in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia while two more were reported from Kenya. The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May.

Political and Security Context:

On 7-8 June, according to local reports, at least 18 people were killed in fighting in southern Somalia for the control of Kismayo port – the heaviest clashes the city has seen in over four years and the first since several rival warlords claimed the control of the lucrative port and fertile hinterlands in May. The fighting broke out when the Ras Kamboni militia of Madobe, recently self-appointed "president" of the southern Jubaland region, battled forces loyal to Iftin Hassan Basto, another leader claiming to be president. Several rival factions claim ownership of Kismayo. Jubaland lies in the far south of Somalia, bordering both Kenya and Ethiopia, and control is split between multiple forces including clan militia, the Shebab and Kenyan and Ethiopian soldiers. These clashes fuelled fears that the country may again slip into the anarchy of clan wars as it did two decades ago. Until September, Kismayo was controlled by the Islamist al-Shabaab movement affiliated to al-Qaeda that was ousted from the area following an offensive of Kenyan troops deployed in the country. Renewed internal strife may benefit weakened Islamist militants in Somalia while al-Shabaab blamed the recent clashes on Kenya.

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia while the country is struggling to curb an Islamist insurgency. The al-Shabaab movement continues to conduct terrorist attacks and fight the government forces in different parts of the country. Although security in the capital Mogadishu itself has improved since its lowest point in August 2011, attacks by al-Shabaab in urban centres and along transport axes are common. As suggested by UNHCR in April, the revival of al-Shabaab activity in Mogadishu and nearby regions is likely to continue in the coming weeks.

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 its troops from Somalia. During March-April, the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Xudur, a town in the southern Bakool region, led to its immediate occupation by al-Shabaab while fighting has been ongoing in the area.

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 defense 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 were reported in the vicinity of Xudur after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the area. The flooding that affected the country has also led to the displacement of an additional 50,000 people, notably in the Jowhar and Baidoa areas.

Over 1 million Somali are living as refugees outside of the country, mostly Kenya (492,000), Ethiopia (240,000) and Yemen (229,000) as of June. Nevertheless Somali refugees continue to return to the country with 3,200 people reported to have moved in April 2013. A total 18,108 refugees have returned from the neighboring countries to Somalia since January 2013 as reported by OCHA.

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 ha of crops damaged by floods

Access: In southern and central Somalia, humanitarian access has remained challenging, with several incidents against humanitarian personnel and cases of interference of aid delivery recorded in April and May, according to OCHA. The withdrawal of al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increase in the international presence in some areas.

While the insurgents' attacks are rarely directly targeting 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 movements of aid workers and supplies, particularly to people in settlements. According to OCHA, sporadic armed clashes take place between Somaliland security forces and the militia groups operating in Togdheer and in the disputed regions of Sanaag and Sool, which also hamper humanitarian access and aid delivery.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), as of May, an estimated 1.05 million people of which 615,000 IDPs in Somalia 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 located in South and Central Somalia.

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

FEWSNET reported that food insecurity has recently reduced to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels through most parts of Somalia thanks to humanitarian aid, a very good cereal harvest, higher-than-average livestock prices, and improved milk availability. However, coastal areas of the central and northeastern regions are likely to face deteriorating food security between May and September due to declining livestock production, poor rainfall in the last six months as well as unfavourable pasture conditions.

FAO reports in June that current maize prices are about 15-25% below their levels of 12 months earlier and about 60-80% below the peak reached in June 2011, when famine was declared. Similarly, current sorghum prices in Baidoa market, located in the sorghum belt, are 36% lower than 12 months earlier and 86% below the peak of June 2011.

In January 2013, an estimated 215,000 children <5 were acutely malnourished, of which at least 45,000 were severely malnourished as stated by FSNAU. This is attributed to the lack of adequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices.

Health: During the April to June rainy season, possible outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and measles may lead to a deterioration of the health and food security situation. To date, a steady increase in cases of acute watery diarrhoea in Banadir and Lower Shabelle regions has been registered, with 565 cases in February alone according to OCHA.

The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. As of early June, four cases have been confirmed in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia while two more were reported from Kenya. Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus that invades the nervous system, and can cause irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs) or even death in a matter of hours.

Updated: 17/06/2013

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

16 June: Sudan and South Sudan appeared to be ready to try to prevent an open conflict between them over oil amidst accusations from both sides that the other is supporting insurgencies in their territories. The envisioned mediation, brokered by the African Union (AU), will include the setting up of a mechanism to examine accusations of support for the insurgencies by both parties.

13 June: Khartoum stated that rebels of the South Sudanese rebel group Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) had attacked a pipeline in its Diffra oilfield. South Sudan denied any role in the attack.

8-11 June: Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, ordered a stoppage of all South Sudan's oil exports to Sudan on 8 June, after accusing its neighbor of backing the rebels in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. On 11 June, Sudan officially informed South Sudan that it would stop allowing its neighbor to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border.

5 June: Some 800 rebels belonging to a group blamed for attacks in Upper Nile state over the past two years have accepted an amnesty offer from the South Sudanese government and are handing over their weapons.

Late-May: According to the UN, some 19,000 have fled South Sudan to neighboring countries since the beginning of the year. An estimated 12,000 have entered Ethiopia from South Sudan's Jonglei State where violence and resulting displacement have escalated over the past weeks. An additional 5,000 people have crossed the border to Kenya, and another 2,500 to Uganda.

Political and Security Context:

On 8 June, Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, ordered a stoppage of all South Sudan's oil exports to Sudan after accusing its neighbor of backing the rebels in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Moreover, he urged youths to join the army and prepare for "holy war", stopping short of explicitly naming the enemy.

Although Khartoum eventually edged back from the order to block oil shipments on 9 June by saying that it is ready to reverse its decision if Juba stops backing the rebels, the development is likely to unsettle deeply bilateral relations that had normalized over the past months. On 11 June, somehow edging back from the initial statement, Sudan officially informed South Sudan that it would stop allowing its neighbor to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. In turn, Juba accuses Khartoum of backing rebels on its territory. On 13 June, Khartoum stated that rebels of the South Sudanese rebel group Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) had attacked a pipeline in its Diffra oilfield. South Sudan denied any role in the attack.

Tensions were further building on 10 June, with local reports indicating that 3,000 Sudanese troops moved 10 km into South Sudan's Upper Nile state – a claim denied by Sudan.

In March, agreements on border security and oil exports were signed by the two countries, which translated into tensions between Sudan and South Sudan easing. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows from South Sudan had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

Ethnic clashes and violence continue to affect large parts of South Sudan. The 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. Violence and insecurity persisted in Jonglei State with reports that Boma, Pibor and other population centres remain deserted. Almost all civilians had fled into the bush, amid increasing tensions between state and non-state armed actors.

The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group, who calls itself South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Army (SPLA) escalated since early March, after Juba conducted a major operation against the SSDA. After the Yau Yau rebel group seized the town of Boma, the SPLA re-took control over the town and deployed reinforcements to Pibor. South Sudan issued an ultimatum to the Jonglei-based militia leader, David Yau Yau, on 5 June, asking him to choose between ceasing hostilities unconditionally or risking being pursued by the state's military forces.

Cattle raiding is also a recurrent issue that continues to affect people throughout South Sudan, including recent incidents between the South Sudanese minority group Murle and members of the Jikani minority in May in Upper Nile State.

Some 800 rebels belonging to a group blamed for attacks in Upper Nile state over the past two years have accepted an amnesty offer from the South Sudanese government and are handing over their weapons as reported on 5 June. The surrender comes 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.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: OCHA reports that some 58,846 persons are newly displaced due to conflict and insecurity in South Sudan as of 9 June, notably due to inter-tribal and insurgency violence. Some 223,228 refugees, mostly from neighboring Sudan reside in South Sudan.

The overall scale of the displacement and of humanitarian needs in Jonglei State remains largely unknown due to limited humanitarian access. Reports indicate that civilians, possibly numbering in thousands, are displaced in the region after intensified clashes between the SPLA and the David Yau Yau rebel group. According to various reports, almost all of the 10,000 residents of Pibor town in Jonglei State have fled their homes, following lootings by government forces and rebel threats to attack the town.

UNHCR states that recent estimations of the number of South Sudanese arrivals in Ethiopia are smaller than suggested by recent reports. UNHCR assessments have established 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 all of 2012. In Uganda, some 2,700 refugees from Jonglei have arrived since the beginning of the year, averaging about 527 per month.

Access: Insecurity, poor infrastructure and seasonal rains continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide. In Jonglei State, several organizations restricted their operations in the area in March due to repeated attacks against humanitarian workers as well as reported lootings of UN warehouses.

In a recent series of events on 12-13 May, compounds of foreign aid organizations were raided by uniformed men in the center of Pibor town in Jonglei state. MSF reported that their hospital in Pibor County, the only medical facility for the County, was sabotaged and damaged, leaving the hospital temporarily inoperative. According to MSF, this affected access to healthcare for some 100,000 people in the region.

Food Security and Malnutrition: At least 4.1 million people in South Sudan are likely to be food insecure until the next harvest in late 2013, report OCHA as of late April. This marks a decrease from 2012 figures at 4.7 million. One million, or 10% of the population, are severely food insecure, and another 30% of the people moderately food insecure. Possible causes include: diminished cross-border trade, inter-communal clashes, increasing number of IDPs, returnees and refugees, fuel scarcity and high food prices.

From January to April, retail prices of the main staple sorghum increased in Bor and Aweil by 15 and 12%, respectively, following seasonal patterns, while they were mostly stable in the capital Juba. Prices are expected to increase further in the coming months as the lean season progresses and most roads, especially in remote areas, become impassable during the rainy season thus disrupting market supplies.

Although the food security situation has improved in the western, central and eastern regions of the country, South Sudan's cereal deficit is estimated at 371,000 metric tons for 2013, which is about one-third of its total cereal requirement of just over one million tons.

In parts of the Jonglei State, and in Abyei area, most households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity. As reported by FEWSNET in late May, the recent outbreak of violence is likely to further impact on 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 Stressed (IPC Phase 2), according to FEWSNet.

Health: OCHA reported that the hepatitis E outbreak, which started in mid-2012 and peaked in February 2013 in refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile States, affecting 9,671 people and resulting in 170 deaths as of 28 April, is now under control. In parallel, Sudan's Ministry of Health has declared an outbreak of meningitis in Malakal County, Upper Nile State. As of 27 May, 141 cases and 5 deaths have been reported with also some cases being reported from Jonglei State and Aweil West County.

Updated: 17/06/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

16 June: Sudan and South Sudan appeared to be ready to try to prevent an open conflict between them over oil amidst accusations from both sides that the other is supporting insurgencies in their territories. The envisioned mediation, brokered by the African Union (AU), will include the setting up of a mechanism to examine accusations of support for the insurgencies by both parties.

13 June: Khartoum stated that rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), one of Sudan's biggest rebel groups, based in South Sudan had attacked a pipeline in its Diffra oilfield, causing an explosion and fire that lasted for several hours.

11 June: Sudan officially informed South Sudan that it would stop allowing its neighbor to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border.

10-11 June: New clashes between the Salamat and Misseriya have left some 100 people dead and dozens injured in Umm Dukhun locality.

5 June: According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), intense ground fighting in Rashad County and neighbouring areas resulted in the displacement of more than 50,000 civilians across Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) - and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N)- controlled areas in late May.

Political and Security Context:

On 16 June, Sudan and South Sudan appeared to be ready to try to prevent an open conflict between them over oil amidst accusations from both sides that the other is supporting insurgencies in their territories. The envisioned mediation, brokered by the African Union (AU), will include the setting up of a mechanism to examine accusations of support for the insurgencies by both parties, with Khartoum and Juba due to present their information to the African Union's committee between 20 and 25 June. The committee would then be scheduled to present its results on 25 July.

On 8 June, Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, ordered a stoppage of all South Sudan's oil exports to Sudan after accusing its neighbor of backing the rebels in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Moreover, he urged youths to join the army and prepare for "holy war", stopping short of explicitly naming the enemy. On 11 June, somehow edging back from the initial statement, Sudan officially informed South Sudan that it would stop allowing its neighbor to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. In turn, Juba accuses Khartoum of backing rebels on its territory. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

On 13 June, Khartoum stated that rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), one of Sudan's biggest rebel groups, based in South Sudan had attacked a pipeline in its Diffra oilfield, causing an explosion and fire that lasted for several hours. South Sudan denied

any role in the attack. On 10 June, some reports in local media, had indicated that Sudanese troops had already moved 10 Km into South Sudan's Upper Nile state.

The new 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 demilitarized border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms. The two states also agreed on an overall implementation plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, notably the implementation of a demilitarized zone along the shared border, and the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 12 April, President al-Bashir had visited South Sudan for the first time since the split in 2011, pledging his commitment to peace and to normal relations with the neighboring country. Finally, on 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

On 26 April, accepting to join the ongoing peace process, several thousands of South Sudanese rebels reportedly surrendered to Juba and returned home from alleged rear bases in Sudan. The same day, Khartoum and Juba agreed to open 10 crossings along their joint border to boost travel and trade between the two countries.

In Abyei, a contested border area between South Sudan and Sudan where a self-determination referendum is to take place in October 2013, violence has recently escalated. On May 4, 2013, members of the Misseriya tribe killed the paramount chief of the Nine Ngock Dinka tribes of Abyei, along with two Ethiopian UN peacekeepers and at least 17 Misseriya tribesmen. The Misseriya and the Ngock Dinka tribes both inhabit Abyei, although the former is allied to Khartoum while the latter is closer to Juba.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million Sudanese are currently displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of early May, there are also an estimated 190,000 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and another 32,000 in Ethiopia according to UNHCR. The Government of Sudan and UNHCR report that there are between 220,000 and 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin still in Sudan in early May and have as of now registered 109,000 people for voluntary return. The UN Refugee Agency also reports that there are 142,000 refugees originating from other countries in Sudan.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of 15 March, an estimated 4.3 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity in Sudan, according to OCHA. Some 3.7 million people face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity and 560,000 people are experiencing Emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity, compared to 4.6 million people in July 2012. This slight decrease 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. In spite of the good harvest, Stressed and Crisis 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 and 80% of the

food insecure population is located in those 4 areas. The current escalation of insecurity is particularly affecting the food security situation in South Darfur.

The food price inflation rate has increased from 43.6% to 45% from January to February and non-food inflation has increased by about 12% (from 57% in February). It has further increased in March. The national inflation rate in March was 47.9%, a 0.9% increase since February. The rising cereal prices are likely to reduce access to food for low-income households, but are not expected to bring significant changes to food security in relatively secure areas of Sudan.

In Abyei, most of the 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 already 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, the Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) levels for children under-five stands at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. In mid-June, the Sudanese health ministry issued a report which found that 33% of children in the country are chronically malnourished while one in every twenty children is suffering from acute malnourishment.

Darfur

Political and Security Context:

Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi (SLM-MM) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been ongoing in different parts of Southern and Eastern Darfur since April. As reported by the Sudan Social Development Organisation (SUDO), conflict between the SAF and allied militias and SLM-MM in Onganja, South of Nyala, then Labado and Muhajria to the East and later in Donkey Darisa, have left hundreds of thousands of civilians without home and shelter. While fighting is ongoing, grave human rights infringements have also been reported. According to SUDO, heavy fighting between different tribal groups and SLM-MM also led to new displacements in the Nyala area and to camps near Nyala on 8 May.

Separately, the Government forces are also facing attacks from the dissident faction of the SLM led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur in Northern Darfur. In the area, fighting has resulted in the displacement of all civilians north and northwest of Nyala. Some of the populations living in Mershing and Manawashi have also been displaced, according to SUDO.

In different parts of Darfur, near the cities of Katila, Um Dukhun, Ed Elfirsan and Rihaid Albirdi, tribal fighting between the Salamat and Ta'isha, Al-Gimir and Beni Halba, Misseriya and Salamat tribes is intensifying. Clashes between the Tarjam and Fur tribes have also been reported in Southern Darfur in early May.

In Central Darfur, near Um Dukhun, violence resumed between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes. The fighting between the two tribes has further spread to Southern and Northern

Darfur when members of the Salamat tribe attacked the town of Rihaid Albirdi that is inhabited by members of the Taisha tribe, a traditional ally of the Misseriya tribe. On 10-11 June, new clashes between the Salamat and Misseriya have left some 100 people dead and dozens injured in Umm Dukhun locality. This last spike of violence occurred despite the convening of a reconciliation conference in Zalingei on 3 June after fighting had resumed on 27 May and left an estimated 50 people dead. According to local media, violence has further erupted in the area on 14 June, leaving 7 people dead. A new ceasefire agreement between the two tribes is being considered to replace the one signed on 11 April.

In southern Darfur, disputes over land ownership and tribal fighting remain. On 26 April, conflict between the Al-Gimir and Bani Halba tribes resumed after a relatively stable period since February. On 21 May, clashes between the two tribes intensified in South Darfur leading to at least 23 people killed and some 51 others injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe and to large displacements. Following the violence, the Al-Gimir tribe has accused the Sudanese authorities of colluding with the Bani Halba tribe.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: As reported by OCHA on 31 May, an estimated 276,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between the various armed groups and the government from January to May. In mid-May, previous UN reports stated that as much as 300,000 people had been forcibly displaced since the beginning of this year.

In addition, an estimated 74,000 people have fled into Chad including Sudanese and Chadians – who lived as refugees in the conflict zone. The UNHCR is currently concerned that the number of refugees will increase as clashes continue in Central Darfur. It is already the largest influx of refugees from Sudan into Chad since 2005. Moreover, an estimated 5,000 people have also been displaced from Sudan to the Central African Republic in March according to the UN.

Internally, a large number of people – as much as 200,000 according to local sources – have also been reportedly displaced to 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 of the refugees are dire. According to local reports, insecurity is still present next in Nyala camps where pro-governmental militias have reportedly killed two civilians on 5 June.

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

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

As of 9 June, humanitarian agencies have been unable to assess the needs of the some 4,000 people displaced by intertribal fighting between Salamat and Misseriya in and around Um Dukhun town in central Darfur, according to IOM. On 14 June, over 1,000 people have reportedly been displaced in Wadi Salih locality in Central Darfur following renewed tribal clashes between Salamat and Misseriya.

In East Darfur, according to UNAMID, some 10,000 people in Labado town continue to seek refuge near the UNAMID Team Site, with the rest of the town remaining empty.

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.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

Political and Security Context:

On 27 April, the talks on a possible ceasefire between the rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) and the Sudanese Government stalled over the issue of humanitarian access corridors. According to SPLM-N, the adjournment of the negotiations until next month is linked to the fact that 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 very limited. As of early June, no announcement regarding the date for the next round of talks has been made public. Although the negotiations are not officially broken off, the fighting in South Kordofan is intensifying. During May, intensive fighting was also reportedly ongoing in Kurmuk County in Blue Nile State, but no precise information is available.

On 14 June, shells hit a UN base in Kadugli, capital of South Kordofan state, killing one Ethiopian peacekeeper and wounding two more. In May, the city of Abu Karshola was the scene of fierce fighting between rebel groups, under the umbrella of the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) that also includes the SPLM-N, and Sudan Armed Forces (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. To date, information remains limited. Meanwhile, fighting between the two groups has also been reported east of the capital Kadugli in late May.

On 27 April, an SPLM-N armed group, supported by armed groups from the Sudan Revolutionary Front, attacked and seized the Abu Karshola village town in the area of Rashad in Southern Kordofan State. In the aftermath, it managed to briefly besiege and loot the town of Umm Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan State to Northern Kordofan State.

The unprecedented bold attack on Umm Ruwaba and the fighting that ensued and led to over 40 deaths and dozens wounded, triggered regional resonance, leading Khartoum to overtly accuse Juba of supporting the rebels. On 17 May, Sudan's foreign minister stated that he received Juba's promise that South Sudan will not let the rebels operate along the shared border.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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 important displacement in the Counties of Buram, Dellami, Heiban, Rashad and Um Dorain in May. Overall, fighting in South Kordofan, notably in Rashad County where the village of Abu Karshola is located, has reportedly led to the displacement of over 50,000 civilians across SAF- and SPLM-N- controlled areas in late May.

In addition, 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. Overall, SKBNCU estimated that over 52,000 people have been forcibly displaced in Blue Nile State in May.

As of 31 May, OCHA reported that, overall, an estimated 231,000 people in South Kordofan and 95,000 people in Blue Nile are displaced or severely affected by conflict in government-controlled areas. In SPLM-N areas, some 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 also reports that it has no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas and has thus been unable to independently verify these figures.

According to UNHCR, an estimated 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily.

Access: On 4 April, WFP reported a breakthrough as it managed to deliver food aid to the Blue Nile State for the first time since conflict began there 18 months ago. Access to the rebel-held areas remains extremely challenging.

As of 6 June, Khartoum and the SPLM-N were still disagreeing on how to provide humanitarian access to UNICEF and WHO teams to conduct a polio vaccination campaign in rebel-held areas.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET, the majority of IDPs are likely to face crisis levels of food security by the time the rainy season starts in the next few weeks.

According to unofficial reports, the malnutrition rates among children under five in the region amount to 30% double of the emergency threshold.

Updated: 17/06/2013

DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 10/06/2013.

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 some 18,725 Somali refugees in all areas of Djibouti.

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET, food security conditions are expected to further deteriorate over the next six months due to the effects of poor rainfall and to the ongoing lean season, particularly in the southeastern border areas of Obock.

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, some 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 as 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 persisting cold.

Conditions for urban poor households are expected to remain critical during the coming months due to on-going increases 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.

Successive years of poor rains have also eroded the coping mechanisms of pastoralists in Djibouti's rural regions as high food prices and unemployment rates affect the country's urban areas.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

3 June: As reported by OCHA, over 8,300 ha of belg cropland were destroyed by

armyworms in Wolayita zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (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 this season. The infestation is rapidly spreading to neighboring regions.

Humanitarian context and needs:

Displacement: Overall, Ethiopia is hosting over 394,000 refugees, of which 239,000 are Somalis according to UNHCR, as of late April. Apart from Somalia, refugees primarily originate from Eritrea and Sudan. The rate of refugee arrivals slowed down in March with only 1,987 new registrations compared to 4,726 in February and 3,654 in January according to OCHA. New arrivals are expected to place additional pressure on the already limited refugee food pipeline.

UNHCR is preparing to relocate 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 have affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country since April. The 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, although they improved the availability of surface water sources.

As reported by OCHA, over 8,300 ha 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 this season. The infestation is also rapidly spreading while armyworms were 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 from 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: The Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) released on February 28, stated that about 2.5 million people are food insecure and will need humanitarian assistance until June, most of which are concentrated in Afar, Oromia, and Somali Regions. However, estimates of the number of people affected by food insecurity in 2013 vary between 3.5 and 2.4 million people.

Recent reports indicated that East and West Hararge 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 FEWSNET, food security outcomes are unlikely to significantly improve until

June 2013 when consumption of green Belg crops begins.

According to OCHA, the delayed Belg (mid-February to May) rains in most belg-receiving parts of the country, including SNNP, 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 their livelihoods asset. Most households have already turned to the market to access food (as early as January), as their food stock from the 2012 Belg and Meher harvest is already exhausted. Following the seasonal decline in grain supply, wholesale prices of main cereals increased from March to mid-May by between 5 and 10% in most markets.

In "Belg" cropping areas of southern Tigray and eastern Amhara regions, 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.

The total price index of bread and cereals in May 2013 has increased by 6.5 % as compared to similar month last year. Based on a 12 month moving average calculation, the country level general inflation stood at 14.6%, food inflation at 14.4 % and non-food inflation at 15.1%.

Health: Following the confirmation of Yellow Fever cases on 15 May 2013, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute's Public Health Emergency Management center (EHNRI/PHEM) formally notified the situation to WHO as per the International Health Regulation (IHR), which requires notification of a confirmed case of Yellow Fever to the WHO IHR Focal Point. To date, a total of 105 cases were reported to EHNRI/PHEM from South Ari, Benatsemay and Selmago woredas of South Omo zone in SNNPR.

WASH: According to the UN, critical water shortages continue to be reported in Afar Region. Water availability also deteriorated over the past week 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.

Updated: 17/06/2013

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

10 June: Despite an improved domestic harvest position, prices of imported cereals are likely to stay high. The high food prices coupled with the lingering effects of last year's food crisis means that access to food will remain difficult for several segments of the population, and a significant portion of the population will continue to be food insecure in 2013, according to GIEWS.

Humanitarian context and needs:

Food Security and Malnutrition: Despite good agricultural production in 2012 and good conditions for pastoralists, the situation in the Sahel remains critical, mostly due to the impact of the preceding crises such as food insecurity, floods and the Mali conflict. The Gambia continues to be affected by the Sahel food crisis after poor rains resulted in crop failure.

According to GIEWS estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 219 000 tonnes, 36 % higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 4% above the average of the past five years. Nonetheless, according to WFP, as of early-May, almost 105,000 people are affected in The Gambia by moderate or severe food insecurity, accounting for 6% of the population of the country. The number has decreased from over 11% of the population estimated to be food insecure in early 2013. The proportion of food insecure is generally higher in main urban areas of Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama. About 13% of people suffer from moderate or severe food insecurity in urban hot-spots, *i.e.* vulnerable urban dwellings characterized by high poverty rates and constant exposure to environmental shocks, as reported by WFP.

Despite an improved domestic harvest position, 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 hence remain difficult for several segments of the population, and a significant portion of the population will continue to be food insecure in 2013 as a result of reduced access to food due to high food prices and the lingering effects of last year's food crisis, according to GIEWS.

As of September 2012, the level of global acute malnutrition in The Gambia recorded 9.9%, almost reaching the WHO classified "serious" threshold. In early May, WFP also reported that humanitarian needs remained for some 40,000 people affected subsequently by 2011 drought and 2012 floods in rural and vulnerable urban areas.

There is a lack of data to assess exactly the situation with food supply in The Gambia.

Health: In November 2012, The Gambia declared an outbreak of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia threatening livestock in the country and neighbouring countries, which has so far, caused the death of an estimated 4,000 animals as reported by WFP. A national cattle vaccination campaign is underway and was completed by late May.

Updated: 17/06/2013

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 10/06/2013.

Political and Security Context:

In Western province, next to the cities of Bungoma and Busia, unrest and indiscriminate attacks by various armed groups resulted in 10 people being killed and 100 injured. As of 10 May, tensions remain high in the region according to local media. Inter-communal conflict also continues in Mandera, Dadaab, Turkana, Pokot and Lokichoggio. Countrywide, at least 137 people have been killed and 217 injured as a result of intercommunal conflict since the beginning of 2013, as reported by OCHA.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues, with 549 new arrivals since the beginning of January as of 17 May. According to the UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 492,046. A large part of these, some 425,000, reside in the Dadaab refugee complex in northern Kenya and have limited access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, water and sanitation. Moreover, since the beginning of December, heavy rains have caused floods in the camps.

According to OCHA, the recent rains have displaced some 112,380 people as of 17 May.

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 (KFSSG) 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.

However, there is a remaining risk that the number of food insecure could increase from the current level due to the poor performance of the October-to-December Short Rains in parts of the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming zones.

Disaster: Since March, several parts of the country were affected by floods following heavy downpours countrywide. The coastal and Western regions were the most affected, with a combination of heavy rains and inadequate flood mitigation measures destroying homes, infrastructure and educational facilities. To date, 95 deaths have been reported.

Health: According to the 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. As reported by WHO, an outbreak of polio in the Dadaab refugee complex has been contained after 4 cases were reported in May.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Mid-June: OCHA reported that, as of 15 February, flooding in southern Malawi had displaced some 33,000 people. In total, almost 173,000 people have been affected by flooding and storms since the onset of the rainy season.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Disaster: OCHA reported that, as of 15 February, flooding in southern Malawi had displaced some 33,000 people. In total, almost 173,000 people have been affected by flooding and storms since the onset of the rainy season. The hardest-hit areas are Mangochi, Phalombe and Nsanje districts, all in the south of the country and in the same region that was previously suffering from rain shortages and drought.

In addition, according to the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), armyworm outbreaks infesting maize crops and pasture have been reported in Ntcheu, Dedza, Kasungu and Mchinji districts of Kasungu and in Rumphi district of Muzuzu. This could further affect maize prices and availability.

Food Security and Malnutrition: An estimated 2 million people are classified as food insecure in Malawi, marking a significant increase since June 2012. Some areas have experienced four consecutive poor harvests, indicating a deteriorating situation. 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.

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. In March, the average national retail price for maize was 253% higher than the average retail price in the corresponding period during 2012. Simultaneously, low strategic grain stocks are contributing to lower levels of maize availability on the market. Social unrest has increased, despite efforts to cushion the impact of higher prices. Nevertheless, the inflation rate declined for the first time in March for almost two years. The decrease reflects better availability and lower prices of some food items such as sorghum, millet and beans, with the start of the 2013 main season's harvest. Therefore, improvements in food security conditions are expected in the next few months, according to FAO.

Updated: 17/06/2013

NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Early June: UNHCR reported that an estimated 6,240 people, including Nigerian nationals (2,692), returnees to Niger (3,544) and people of other nationalities (94) – mainly Chadians, have crossed into Niger since mid-May to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram militants in the border states of northern Nigeria. New arrivals have settled mainly in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou.

7 June: Suspected Islamist insurgents shot dead 13 people in an attack targeting informants in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, two witnesses said on Sunday.

Political and Security Context:

Outbreaks of violence are common in Nigeria's north and central regions, including sectarian violence and attacks by armed groups, especially by the Islamist movement Boko Haram. At least 770 people have been killed in Boko Haram attacks in 2012, making it the worst year of violence attributed to the group until tensions escalated in spring 2013. Boko Haram's violence remains focused mostly on security forces in the northeast, although its attacks have spread across the north and to the capital Abuja. The Islamist movement allegedly wants to establish an Islamic State in northeastern Nigeria. Meanwhile, Nigeria is also trying to curb the activity of the less operational Islamist group Ansaru that is linked to al-Qaeda.

As of 11 June, according to reports collected from refugees fleeing to Niger and quoted by UNHCR, occasional air strikes by Government forces were continuing in the states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa where the Nigerian Government launched a military offensive against Boko Haram. To date, information on the scale of the fighting remains limited. On 7 June, suspected Islamist insurgents shot dead 13 people in an attack targeting informants in the northeastern city of Maiduguri.

After violence flared up on 18 April with hundreds of killed, Boko Haram, reportedly relying on weapons smuggled through porous borders from Chad, Niger and Cameroon in the desolate scrubland around Lake Chad, managed to gain control of 10 of the 27 local council areas in Borno state, Nigeria's most remote northeastern region on the edge of the Sahara. On 14 May, Nigeria President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in the three northeastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa and dispatched additional troops to the area to try to curb the increasingly violent Islamist insurgency waged by Boko Haram.

In early May, clashes between Boko Haram and troops of the Nigeria-Niger-Chad Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) resulted in hundreds of killed, including civilians, displacements and reported human rights infringements by all sides of the conflict. As of early June, while both Boko Haram and government troops report local successes, it is yet unclear to which extent the government military offensive is successful. On 31 May, a Boko Haram spokesman claimed that the movement remained strong and urged others to join its "Holy War".

In the meantime, on 31 May, President Goodluck Jonathan ordered the release of several detainees arrested over alleged links with Boko Haram over the previous weeks and is continuing to offer amnesty to any Boko Haram's member ready to surrender on the advice

of a peace resolution committee he set up in April. For the time being, Boko Haram's leadership is still dismissing the possibility of peace talks.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

The conflict has displaced a significant number of people, restricted population movement, disrupted food inflow and restricted agricultural activities.

Displacement: On 11 June, UNHCR reported that an estimated 6,240 people, including Nigerian nationals (2,692), returnees to Niger (3,544) and people of other nationalities (94) – mainly Chadians, have crossed into Niger since mid-May to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram militants in the border states of northern Nigeria. New arrivals have settled mainly in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou. Meanwhile, some reports suggested that Nigerian refugees were prevented from entering Cameroon because of measures taken to prevent the infiltration of armed groups. As of early June, there were some 1,200 returned nationals from Nigeria in Cameroon. As military operations are still ongoing in Nigeria, humanitarian agencies reportedly expect more displacement in the coming weeks.

Although a large number of internally displaced are reportedly present in Nigeria, reliable estimates are lacking. In April, OCHA stated that at least 22,000 new internally displaced people were reported as a result of inter-communal conflict, political crisis, disaster and insurgency, particularly in the northeast.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As reported by FEWSNET in early May, the unusually high level of cereal prices and the weakness of trade flows have resulted in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes in central Nigeria. In addition, the food security situation is reportedly especially problematic in the northeastern states of Yobe and Borno where ongoing military operations have led to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes for at least 20% of the households. Military operations are also hindering commercial activities in the area.

Floods and on-going insecurity have led to a significant increase in coarse grain prices over the past few months. For example in Kano, the most important city in the north of the country, maize prices have been following an upward trend since October-November 2012, and were about 13% above last year's level in April 2013. Market disruption in northern Nigeria also led to substantial price rises in most neighboring countries, notably in Niger and Benin.

As reported by OCHA in early May, 296,500 children <5 are estimated to be affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition in Nigeria while over 910,516 children under 5 are estimated to be affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition.

Updated: 17/06/2013

ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY, UNREST

Highlights

15 June: The 15 leader of the countries of southern Africa, who met in Mozambique under the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), urged R. Mugabe to extend the deadline for holding the vote.

13 June: President Mugabe decided that the elections would be held on 31 July. The decision resulted in a fresh political crisis after the main opposition party denounced "a unilateral decision" and asked for important electoral changes and a reform of the media and security forces to be conducted beforehand.

Political and Security context:

On 16 March, almost 95% of Zimbabweans voted in favour of a new constitution, which should introduce presidential term limits, abolish presidential immunity after leaving office, bolster the power of the courts, strengthen parliament's powers and set presidential elections to decide whether President Mugabe will remain in power. On 22 May, Robert Mugabe signed the new constitution into law.

On 13 June, after being prompted by Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court to set a date for the elections, President Mugabe decided that the elections would be held on 31 July. The decision resulted in a fresh political crisis after Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, who is part of a four-year old power-sharing government with Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party after violence rigged the previous polls in 2008, denounced a "unilateral decision". According to M. Tsvangirai, also head of the biggest opposition party – the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), important electoral changes, like making a new voter roll and overhauling the election commission, cannot be completed by the end of July. According to the opposition, an election could occur no earlier than 25 August while it is also asking for a reform of the media and security forces to be conducted beforehand.

On 15 June, the 15 leader of the countries of southern Africa, who met in Mozambique under the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), urged R. Mugabe and his party to ask the court to extend the deadline for holding the vote.

Despite a peaceful run-up to the referendum, the UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights have received an increasing number of reports about acts of intimidation and harassment, physical violence and arrests against civil society actors, in particular human rights workers. In a report released on 5 June, Human Rights Watch stated that the country's military and other security forces have interfered in political and electoral affairs in support of President Mugabe. The report further stated that the security forces were preventing Zimbabweans from exercising their rights to free expression and association.

In recent weeks, the police also reportedly conducted a crackdown on NGOs and human rights groups, raiding offices, confiscating files and arresting employees. Although President Mugabe has called for peaceful conduct during and after the referendum, violent incidents continue to be reported.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Food Security and Malnutrition: The food security situation in Zimbabwe has temporarily improved, after reaching a peak period during the lean season with an estimated 1.6 million people in need of food assistance in the period leading up to the April 2013 harvest, according to the UN.

According to FEWSNET, food insecurity in most of the country is currently Minimal (IPC Phase 1) because of the steady food imports and the continued distribution of humanitarian assistance. This level is expected to persist as poor households start to consume green foods and harvests between April and June. Significant food supply problems remain, however, in the southern areas of the country, especially in the Matebeleland South and Masvingo provinces, where dry spells have resulted in moisture deficits and lower crop yields, further diminishing harvest expectations.

The acute food crisis in Zimbabwe, spiking in April, was due to several reasons, including late and erratic rains, poor agricultural practices, limited access to agricultural inputs, and a reduction in planted area. The latter issue contributed to a 33% decrease in last year's harvest if compared to 2011 and to soaring maize prices in affected areas. In these areas, cereal and flour prices are likely to remain high, making food accessibility more challenging for poor households.

Ongoing drought in the south of the country has increased food security needs. Large numbers of labour-constrained individuals and decreased purchasing power have significantly contributed to the number of people who require seasonal targeted food assistance. A large percentage of vulnerable rural farmers depend on NGO and Government-subsidized agricultural inputs.

Chronic and acute child malnutrition stands respectively at 32% and 3% of all the children <5. Masvingo, Matabeleland North and South, and parts of Mashonaland, Midlands and Manicaland provinces are the worst affected areas.

The food security crisis in Zimbabwe is also aggravated by the high HIV-prevalence rate, which is 14% compared to 5% for the rest of the southern Africa region. In addition, some 200,000 malaria cases, with 111 deaths, were reported in the country from January to March. This represents almost the double of malaria cases reported over the same period in 2012 according to OCHA.

Updated: 17/06/2013

ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

10 June: The Government estimates that 640,000 people are affected by the drought. The United Nations has said this is an underestimate and the figure could be closer to one million. On 15 May, the Government appealed for international support.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Food Security and Malnutrition: At the beginning of November 2012, OCHA reported that more than 1.8 million people in Angola were in a situation of food security crisis, caused by prolonged drought. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture reported a 60% decrease of average rainfall during the planting season that resulted in a 30% drop in crop production in 2012, affecting ten coastal and central highland provinces. Significant dry conditions were observed in southern areas, but generally favorable rains were received in the large producing central provinces of Huamba, Bie and Huala in early 2013. Production in these parts is expected to recover from the drought-affected levels of 2012.

Despite an anticipated improvement at the national level, compared to the previous season, southern parts of the country are expected to record a second consecutive poor cereal harvest, with negative food security implications. Crop and livestock productions have already been reported to have been adversely affected on account of the prolonged dry conditions and the resultant poor pastures. The Angolan Government has established an emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where it estimates that 640,000 people are affected by the drought. The UN has said this is an underestimate and the figure could be closer to one million.

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

Health: The country is still grappling with the cholera outbreak from 2012. Between February and June a total of 598 cholera cases were recorded by the local sanitary authorities. Some 75 people died of malaria in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013, and more than 15,000 cases have been registered, according to Angolan official sources. On 8 May, floods in the Angolan capital have killed at least 9 people.

Updated: 17/06/2013

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: As of 23 April, a total of 1,889 refugees from the Central African Republic crossed into the country, according to the UNHCR.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FAO, although official production estimates are not yet available as of May, the cereal output in 2012 is tentatively put at average levels. Some parts of the country, notably in the north, will however remain food insecure due to localized poor harvests.

A joint Government/ FAO/ WFP Food Security Assessment Mission visiting Northern Cameroon in January-February 2013 estimated the 2012 cereal output in the North province to be 16% lower than the previous year, while in the Far North region, despite an increase in cereal production, localized production shortfalls occurred for the second

consecutive year. The Logone and Chari departments (Far North region) have reportedly suffered in 2012 from the lingering effects of a severe cereal production shortfall caused by the 2011 drought. In addition, both Far North and North regions were struck by flooding in September 2012, which affected 60,000 individuals, causing damage to crops.

According to FAO, the Food Security Assessment Mission also established that cereal stocks were already depleted as early as March 2013 in 21 districts out of 47 in the Far North region, where 1.78 million people (about 46% of the region's population) reside.

Based on initial findings from the 2012 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey jointly carried out by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health in northern Cameroon, the chronic malnutrition rates (44.8% in the Far North, 43.3% in the North) exceed the 40% "critical" threshold set by WHO. Similarly, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates of 6.3% in the Far North and 5.5% in the North are higher than the "precarious" threshold of 5%.

Reviewed: 10/06/2013

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 10/06/2013.

Political and Security Context:

On 8 June, President Alpha Conde announced that he may delay legislative elections scheduled for 30 June if authorities found technical problems. The statement may be 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.

Since 21 May, clashes have escalated in Guinea with independent sources stating that at least 12 people have been killed and 89 wounded over the following week during protests in the capital Conakry. On 29 May, President Conde called for a judge-led inquiry into violence between anti-government protesters and security forces. On 3 June, some reports indicated that the authorities have recently increased pressure on the media with the reported closure of an opposition-owned radio for one month in the run-up to the elections, which led to a 24-hours strike by Guinean media.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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 raining season in May. Crops benefited from favourable climatic conditions in most areas of the country. Aggregate 2012 cereal production is estimated to have increased by about 10 percent to 3.2 million tonnes 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.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

Highlights

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

Political and Security context:

In early May, Mozambique has started registering voters for the upcoming polls amid heightened political tension and rising concerns, with the main opposition party Renamo almost completely withdrawing from the political process and threatening a boycott after its feud with the government descended into violence. The country is scheduled to hold local elections in November and use the same voters' roll in general polls next year.

Humanitarian context and needs:

Displacement: Floods in Mozambique in March displaced 186,238 people and cumulatively affected 420,000 people as of late April, according to OCHA. An estimated 119 people died in the floods, with an additional 17 deaths due to the following cholera outbreak in Northern provinces. Thousands of houses have been damaged; road infrastructure, electricity, and drainage systems have been interrupted. The southern Gaza Province was the worst hit with around 175,700 people affected and 172,600 temporarily displaced, followed by Inhambane and Maputo provinces, and the central province of Zambezia, where 33,956 people were affected and 10,522 temporarily displaced.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET, at the national-level, the food insecurity outcomes expected through September remain Minimal (IPC Phase 1). Despite flooding at the beginning of March, this season's national crop production prospects are reported to be good, with substantial contributions expected from the central and northern regions. This is attributed to food being more readily available through harvests and targeted food assistance in mid-April.

However, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity outcomes, in the presence of assistance, are expected to continue in Chókwe district and surrounding areas, including the southern areas of Guijá and Chibuto districts that were affected by January floods. The end-of-season rains have contributed to satisfactory second season conditions in areas where the second season is practiced, including the areas affected by floods this year.

An UN-led assessment of the agriculture sector at the end of March indicated that an estimated 267,000 ha of agricultural land were affected by floods, of which approximately 211,000 ha, i.e. 4% of the total area sown in the country with diverse cultures (maize, rice, beans and vegetables), were lost. The Gaza province was the worst hit with 30% of crop

area lost, followed by Inhambane (9%) and Maputo (4%). OCHA estimated that 128,000 producers were affected in the 10 provinces (39 districts).

Health: A cumulative total of 1,352 cholera cases and 5 deaths were reported between 28 January and 10 March, of which 482 cases and two deaths were reported in Nampula City, the most recently affected province. As of 21 February, 413 cases and two deaths were reported in Cabo Delgado Province, northern Mozambique.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

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. As reported by WFP, 331,000 people are food insecure (14% of the country's total population) and 450,000 moderately food insecure, according to its Emergency Food Security Assessment carried out from 8-20 April 2013.

Following the prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June), Namibia's main cereal production for 2013 is expected to be down by an estimated 42% if compared to 2012, according to a government forecast. Pastures for grazing have also been severely affected in six regions where many households rely on livestock production, with 4,000 livestock deaths already recorded.

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

Recurrent droughts are common 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.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

SENEGAL FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

June: Senegalese authorities and aid organizations reported that they have begun

preparing for what will likely be another round of heavy flooding during this year's upcoming rainy season. The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) said that countries in the western Sahel zone will likely experience above-average rainfall between July and September this year, and Senegal could experience flash flooding.

Political and Security Context:

Although the country enjoys a reputation for stability in a largely volatile region, Senegal has yet been unable to resolve the conflict in the Casamance area. Separatist movements are still opposing the authorities along Senegal's southern border with Guinea-Bissau in a conflict that is however mostly dormant. In March, some attempts to restart talks between the warring parties were evoked while the rebels warned against demining the region. On 29 May, three Senegalese women who work for a demining South African organization and were kidnapped by separatist rebels of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance earlier in May, were released. Nine other male employees are still being held.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Disaster: Senegalese authorities and aid organizations reported that they have begun preparing for what will likely be another round of heavy flooding during this year's upcoming rainy season. The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) said that countries in the western Sahel zone will likely experience above-average rainfall between July and September this year, and Senegal could experience flash flooding.

Food Security and Malnutrition: Nationwide, an estimated 739,000 people (6% of the population) are affected by food insecurity, according to FAO. Results from a joint mission (Government/ ActionAid/ Senegalese Red Cross/ FAO/ WFP) carried out in late December 2012 showed critical levels of food insecurity in the areas of Bakel (65%), Matam (64%), Medina Yoro Foula (63%) and Linguere (55%). Food insecurity is low in all areas of the regions of Fatick and Kaffrine where it is less than 15%, while it is moderate in the departments of Dagana and Podor.

Although the 2012 harvest was generally good, the agricultural production was affected by the floods in August and September 2012 in the Senegal River Valley and western regions of the country. As a result, it is likely that a food crisis in 2013 will persist among vulnerable families which have depleted their livelihoods and do not have the means to restore them. According to WFP, as of 3 April, the prices of cereals remained high in Senegal, demonstrating, depending on the region and local speculation, up to a 30% increase when compared to the five-year average.

According to UNICEF, in 2013, four out of fourteen regions are estimated to surpass the emergency threshold of 10% of Global Acute Malnutrition: Tambacounda, Kaffrine, Matam, and Saint Louis. In addition, UNICEF has reported that the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) caseload for children under five more than doubled the expectations of 2012. For 2013, the SAM burden is estimated at 63,323 children under five, and the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 255,675 cases. So far this year 4,419 children under

five with severe acute malnutrition were treated. The Region of Diourbel has seen a 50% rise in admissions from 444 children with SAM admitted in March to 657 admitted in April. This region has already treated 61% of the SAM cases targeted for all of 2013 in just four months of mostly post-harvest season (January –April).

Updated: 10/06/2013

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 21/05/2013.

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:

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.

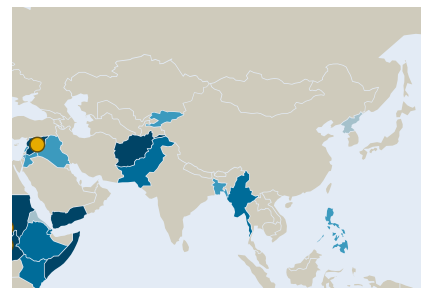
Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in this country of about 6 million people. The United Nations Human Rights chief has accused Eritrea of torture and summary executions.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Access: There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to the 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: 10/06/2013



AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

11 June: A bomb exploded near minibuses that were taking Supreme Court staff home in Kabul, killing at least 17 people and wounding dozens. The Supreme Court is about 200 metres from the entrance to the heavily fortified U.S. embassy. The Taliban claimed responsibility and threatened further attacks on the judiciary if it continued to sentence to death members of its militia.

10 June: A coordinated suicide and grenade attack on Kabul airport, claimed by the Taliban, has ended with all seven attackers being killed and no other reported casualty.

8 June: Three Americans, two soldiers and a civilian, were killed in an apparent "insider attack" in Paktika province. In a separate incident on the same day, an Italian soldier and three other people were wounded after a child threw a grenade at a NATO convoy in the western province of Farah.

6 June: Seven Georgian soldiers of the international forces were killed in a suicide bomb attack in Helmand province for which the Taliban claimed responsibility.

3 June: A suicide bomb attack targeting NATO and Afghan forces killed 13 people, including 10 children who were heading home from school and two foreign soldiers, in Paktia province in eastern Afghanistan. Another 15 children were also wounded in the explosion.

29 May: Following a suicide and gun attack on an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) compound in Jalalabad city, east Afghanistan, ICRC announced on 4 June that it is removing part of its international staff and curtailing its operations in Afghanistan.

Political and Security Context:

On 27 April, the Taliban vowed to start a new campaign of attacks, for the first time identifying "insider attacks" as a key tactic against foreign military targets, as well as Afghan military forces. Attacks on foreigners, including humanitarian targets, have hence increased. On 3 June, the UN mission in Kabul reported that 124 Afghan civilians were

killed and another 287 injured across the country over the previous two weeks.

On 10 June, a coordinated suicide and grenade attack on the Kabul airport has ended with all seven attackers being killed and no other reported casualty. The attack was claimed by the Taliban.

On 3 June, a suicide bomb attack targeting NATO and Afghan forces killed 13 people, including 10 children who were heading home from school and two foreign soldiers, and wounded 15 others in Paktia province in eastern Afghanistan. Another 11 civilians were killed in other attacks in Farah and Laghman provinces.

Following a suicide and gun attack on an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) compound in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, east Afghanistan on 29 May, ICRC announced on 4 June that it was removing part of its international staff and curtailing its operations in Afghanistan. The Taliban denied any role in the attack on the Red Cross compound, stating they had previously co-operated with the aid agency and did not support targeting it. The decision of the ICRC to downscale its involvement further stresses the ongoing deterioration of the security situation in the country.

This attack came only a few days after the Taliban launched a major assault on an IOM compound in the centre of Kabul on 24 May, that resulted in one Afghan police officer being killed and 14 other people being injured.

On 16 May, in the first major attack on the capital in more than two months, a powerful car bomb targeted a convoy of foreign troops in Kabul. The explosion killed 15 people, including six foreigners. The attack was claimed by Hezb-e-Islami, an autonomous insurgent group allied with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, military operations are ongoing in Afghanistan since the so-called “fighting season” has resumed with the arrival of spring. Over the past month, heavy military operations have been reported in Faryab, Badakhshan and Maidan Wardak provinces.

In addition, in May, tensions escalated between Kabul and Karachi following two border incidents which could further unsettle the relations between the two neighbors.

Meanwhile, 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 July 2013. Within the NATO-led international coalition, there is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000 members of the Afghan security forces to cope with the insurgency.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: In April, heavy fighting in Faryab province led to the displacement of an estimated 2,500 people. An additional 4,500 people have been reportedly displaced in Maidan Wardak Province over the past month.

Overall, 5.4 million people are affected by the ongoing conflict and the UNHCR reports that some 539,000 people are internally displaced in Afghanistan as of 30 April. 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.

Access: Humanitarian access has been increasingly compromised in Afghanistan over the past weeks due to ongoing military operations in several provinces, notably in Faryab and Badakhshan provinces. As reported by OCHA in late May, security incidents involving humanitarian workers are rampant, and include attacks on UN convoys and NGO offices, abduction of NGO staff and an increased risk of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). 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. Humanitarian space has shrunk considerably while needs are on the rise.

Country-wide, 25 security incidents involving humanitarian actors were recorded in 11 provinces in May. The second half of May also saw a resumption of large-scale armed confrontations and the capture of security checkpoints in Warduj district, Badakhshan province. The incidents hindered access for both humanitarians and civilians and caused conflict-induced displacements. Restriction of movement of humanitarian actors as well as conflict-affected population posed the main constraint of humanitarian access in addition to ongoing hostilities hampering humanitarian operations.

As OCHA reports, a growing number of local militia and other armed groups are also targeting civilians through intimidation, coercion, extortion, abuse and targeted killings. Some of the intimidations are directly linked to the ongoing conflict, others are triggered by historical underlying tensions such as local rivalries, power play and tribal feuds. In an extreme case of intimidation of conflict-affected communities, approximately 40 primary schools in Shahjoy district of Zabul Province were closed for two months. The school closure did not only affect access to education but also food distribution in the district where schools were used as distribution points. Following negotiations conducted by community elders, the schools were reopened.

Disaster: According to OCHA, in April, floods affected over 30,000 people across the country with Balkh province being hit the hardest.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FAO, more than nine million people (34% of the total population) are food insecure in Afghanistan, of whom 2.1 million people are severely food insecure. Although most households entered the lean season more food secure than last year, those in northern Badakhshan and the Wakhan corridor are currently in Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2). As reported by the WFP, the prices of wheat flour and low quality rice continued to increase in March, being respectively 35% and 47% higher in comparison to the same month last year and 32% and 50% higher if compared to the same month average over the last 5 years.

Households in the extreme northeast, central highlands and low-income households across the country remain vulnerable to food insecurity due to inflation, loss of livestock and reduced remittances from Iran. Some 18% of children <5 nationwide suffer from malnutrition, while acute malnutrition rates in the south are as high as 29.5% for children <5.

Health: War-related admissions to the facilities of the NGO Emergency increased by 42% between January and April 2013 as compared to the same period last year. In Helmand

province, there has been almost a 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict. The Health Cluster reports a 40% increase in security incidents from January to April 2013 compared to last year.

Updated: 17/06/2013

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Highlights

15 June: Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi stated that he had cut all diplomatic ties with Damascus and demanded Hezbollah leave Syria.

14 June: The death toll in Syria is rising with the UN now putting the count at 93,000.

14 June: The US announced that it will supply direct military aid to the Syrian opposition after the administration concluded Syrian forces under President Bashar al-Assad have used chemical weapons.

11 June: A suicide bomb exploded in Marjeh neighbourhood in Damascus, killing over 40 people and causing widespread damage.

7 June: The UN launched two humanitarian appeals, requesting an additional 3.8 billion USD funding humanitarian operations in Syria and in the host-countries, on top of the 1.5 billion USD requested in December 2012.

5 June: The central town of Qusayr was retaken by Syrian Government forces after a two-week battle. On 8 June government troops backed by Hezbollah fighters seized the western village of Buwayda, ending opposition forces resistance around the town of Qusayr.

5 June: Syrian Government forces and opposition forces battled over control of a strategic crossing into the Israeli-occupied Golan plateau. The increased insecurity faced by the UNDPF peacekeeping forces prompted Austria to announce the withdrawal of the peacekeeping forces from the area.

4 June: France stated that tests from Syria show use of the chemical weapon sarin, while investigators from the Syria Commission of Inquiry said they had "reasonable grounds" to believe that limited amounts of chemical weapons have been used in Syria. The UN called on Damascus to allow a team of experts into the country.

2 June: Hezbollah clashed for the first time with Syrian opposition fighters on Lebanese ground.

30 May: The Syrian National Coalition stated that it will not take part in the planned Russia-U.S. peace conference, until Lebanese Hezbollah fighters withdraw from Syria. The planned peace conference in Geneva has been postponed until July.

27 May: The European Union agreed to lift its embargo against arming Syrian rebels.

Member states indicated that they will refrain from sending weapons in the coming months, for fear of endangering a US-Russia peace initiative.

Political and Security Context:

This week, heavy shelling was reported in the provinces of Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Rural Damascus. Heavy fighting continued in Aleppo governorate, in the towns of Hraytan, Kafr Hamra and Atareb. On 3 June, a missile strike on Kafar Hamra, near Aleppo city, reportedly killed 26 people. Regime forces reportedly also shelled the opposition-controlled villages of Marea, Deir Hafer, and al-Bab in the north of Aleppo Governorate, on 11 June. Opposition activists and military sources stated that the army is airlifting troops to Aleppo airport and to the Kurdish area of Afrin, as well as reinforcing two rural Shi'ite Muslim enclaves, Zahra and Nubbul, north of the city.

These events are seen as signs that regime forces are preparing for an assault on the opposition-held countryside surrounding Aleppo and the city in an attempt to re-capture positions from opposition forces as well as cut off their arms supply routes from Turkey. On 4 June, a Free Syrian Army official said that 4,000 Hezbollah fighters are now in Aleppo and are preparing for a renewed offensive alongside the Syrian military to recapture large parts of that vital city. In addition, the Government forces are said to heavily deploy soldiers in the Aleppo region. Meanwhile, fighting continues in all 12 governorates, with the exception of Tartous and As-Sweida. Although overall casualty estimation for the Syria conflict remains difficult to ascertain, the death toll of the two-year conflict is estimated to be ranging from 94,000 to 120,000 according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) stated on 12 June that at least 60 people died in Hatla, Deir-ez-Zor governorate in what appears to be a retaliation attack by opposition groups on fighters who had been armed by the Government a few weeks earlier.

In Damascus, twin suicide bombings occurred in Marjeh Square in central Damascus on 11 June, killing at least 14 people and injuring 31 others. The apparent target of the two blasts may have been a police station located in the square. Asymmetric attacks continue in Damascus, and it remains unclear who is responsible for them.

On 14 June, the United States announced that it will supply direct military aid to the Syrian opposition after the administration concluded Syrian forces under President Bashar al-Assad have used chemical weapons. In Egypt President Mohamed Mursi said he had cut all diplomatic ties with Damascus and demanded Hezbollah to leave Syria. The idea of a no-fly zone was further endorsed by Egypt. Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated on 14 June that the militant group would keep fighting for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad after it spearheaded the recapture of the strategic town of Qusair last week.

On 5 June, the central town of Qusayr was retaken by President Bashar al-Assad's forces after a two-week battle. Qusayr is the most important gain made by the regime in recent months. Qusayr's capture cuts off an important supply line linking the opposition forces with their supporters in Lebanon. Conversely, it secures access for Hezbollah into Syria. Forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were reported to have killed at least 100 people who fled the town of Qusayr after it was captured by army troops on 9 June. The UN

and the ICRC have requested humanitarian access to Qusayr, but this request was turned down by the Syrian Government despite winning assurances of access earlier in the week. Syrian troops and Hezbollah fighters launched the offensive to re-capture Qusayr in mid-May.

Meanwhile, France stated that tests from Syria show the use of chemical weapons, while investigators from the Syria Commission of Inquiry said they had "reasonable grounds" to believe that limited amounts of chemical weapons had been used in Syria. UN called on Damascus to allow a team of experts into the country.

Bombing of the border region of Lebanon continues, and shells have landed nearby the ruins of Baalbek. The Free Syrian Army and the armed faction Jabhat al-Nusra separately warned that their fighters could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon.

Russia announced its intention to ship more weaponry to the Syrian regime while the European Union agreed to lift its embargo against arming Syrian rebels. Russia's announcement prompted Israel to declare that it will prevent the Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems becoming operational on Syrian soil. In a reaction to this threat, President al-Assad stated that Syrian Government forces will open a new front on the Golan Heights, in the event of an Israeli intervention.

On 6 June Syrian Government forces recaptured the Quneitra crossing on the Golan, a strategic plateau captured by Israel during the 1967 conflict war. The United Nations' peacekeeping operations chief confirmed that there had been incidents including shooting on the Syrian-Israeli border and the UN Security Council held an emergency meeting on the matter. As a result of the increasing insecurity in the area Austria, which provides 380 of the 1,000-strong UN force monitoring a ceasefire between Syria and Israel, has announced it will withdraw its peacekeepers from the UN monitoring force on the Golan Heights.

International efforts to end the conflict are focused on plans for a new peace conference initiated by the US and Russia that was initially scheduled for early June. However, talks are likely to be postponed after the Syrian National Coalition indicated that it will not take part in the planned summit as long as Lebanese Hezbollah fighters continue to fight in Syria alongside President Bashar al-Assad's forces. The Government 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.

In the latest spill-over of the conflict from Syria into neighboring countries, Syrian opposition groups have fought with Hezbollah on Lebanese soil on 2 June. 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 regime in April. Armed opposition groups have threatened to attack Hezbollah bases in Lebanon, and rockets and mortar rounds continue hit the eastern and northern regions. The public announcement of the involvement of Lebanese Hezbollah fighters in Syria has raised concerns that Lebanon will be further drawn into the conflict.

Finally, the UN Security Council blacklisted the al-Nusra Front, an armed group in Syria, as an alias of al-Qaeda in Iraq.

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: UNHCR stated on 31 May that at least 700 families from al-Qusayr have arrived at Hasiya, a small nearby town close to al-Qusayr and reported that they urgently needed food, bedding, clean water and medical care. According to the findings of an UN inter-agency mission to Hasiya, an estimated 40,000 people fled al-Qusayr during the month of May.

More than 5 million people have been displaced inside Syria. In addition, UNRWA estimates that approximately 235,000 Palestine refugees have been displaced inside Syria.

The number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration surpassed 1.6 million with over 530,000 in Lebanon (Government estimates of 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), some 472,292 in Jordan (Government estimates of 541,000 Syrians in total), over 380,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 400,000), over 159,000 in Iraq and more than 81,000 in Egypt and other countries in North Africa as of 17 June according to UNHCR.

According to UNHCR, after multiple weeks of dramatically decreased numbers of refugees crossing the border, new arrivals to Jordan have resumed although not at the previous usual rate of 1,000 to 2,000 a day. In February, the influx was reportedly of some 2,500 persons per day. The Jordan Armed Forces said some 150 Syrians crossed into Jordan on 16 June. An average of 8,000 Syrians are crossing 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.

Access: The needs across the country continue to far outweigh the support provided. The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, recently 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 becoming increasingly difficult and reaching certain areas of Rural Damascus, Quneitra, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo and Idlib remains particularly challenging. In the past few weeks, several UN agencies have separately warned that their resources are running low, and added that without additional funds they will be forced to scale back relief efforts across the region. Two UN response plans, one requesting funding for Syria and one for host countries, were launched at the start of June, requesting over 5 billion USD to fund humanitarian operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

Health: The humanitarian 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, around 60% of public hospitals were partially damaged or out of service. During an assessment in the 7 northern areas of the country, health was consistently mentioned as one of the key priorities for intervention. The current rise in temperatures is expected to increase existing WASH and health concerns.

Updated: 17/06/2013

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

9 June: At least seven people were killed and 30 wounded in a gunfight next to the National Security Agency building in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

5 June: At least 11 people, including a civilian, 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 Hadramawt, east of the port city of Mukalla.

4 June: According to FAO, the recent surge in wheat and wheat flour prices that reached their highest level since 2011 in April is likely due to the ongoing conflict in several southern areas. Approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure as of June, according to OCHA, with the food security situation being of particular concern in Aden and Lahij governorates.

1 June: Seven suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed in a drone air strike in southern Yemen.

Political and Security context:

Yemen remains a strategic spot for the U.S. and its Gulf allies who need to contain threats from al-Qaeda-affiliated militants and separatist tribes to Saudi Arabia and to 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.

At least nine people were left dead and some 40 people wounded in a gunfight taking place in Sanaa on 9 June. According to Yemeni officials, the violence broke out as Shia Houthis rebels attacked the national security building with automatic weapons and grenades. Conflicting reports suggest that the protests were peaceful but that the Government forces used lethal violence to disperse them. The protesters were demanding the release of political detainees.

On 5 June, at least 11 people, including a civilian, 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 Hadramawt, east of the port city of Mukalla. The aim of Islamist militants was allegedly to set up an Islamist State in the east of Yemen. To date, information on the offensive remains limited.

On 1 June, 7 suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed in a drone strike in southern Yemen. Between 18 and 20 May, at least 6 suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed

following two drone strikes, respectively south of the capital Sana'a and in the southern Abyan governorate. Although no report indicated who ordered the strikes, the U.S has carried out previous drone attacks. Several such attacks have been conducted in Yemen since January.

In May, sporadic and localized fighting between Yemeni troops and Islamist militants occurred regularly. On 24 May, unidentified armed elements blew up Yemen's main export oil pipeline in Serwah in central Maarib province, halting the flow of crude – a main source of revenue for the country. Attacks have also been reported in the southern Lahj province.

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, caused numerous protests and violent incidents in particular in Sana'a and in the Aden governorate.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

An estimated 13 million people (55% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, according to OCHA.

Displacement: As a result of widespread conflict, an estimated 320,000 to 340,000 people remain internally displaced in the north of the country, including Sana'a, as of early June according to UN sources. Meanwhile, some 140,000 internally displaced people have so far returned to their areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate and in neighbouring areas thanks to improved security. Further returns are ongoing, according to UNHCR.

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

Access: Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain due to insecurity. Humanitarian access is hampered by insecurity across the country, such as kidnappings and attacks against humanitarian actors.

Food Security and Malnutrition: Approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure, according to OCHA. Food security conditions are of particular concern in Aden and Lahij governorates where 90% of households are food insecure and 30% are severely food insecure.

The causes of food insecurity will likely persist and be aggravated by poor prospects for the 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 the conflict in several southern areas.

UNHCR sources state that 998,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished in the country with the 15% emergency threshold exceeded in six Governorates and the situation being serious (Global Acute Malnutrition 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 do not have access to healthcare across the country in May. In Yemen, epidemics are again re-occurring, with 170 children having died from measles in 2012.

Updated: 17/06/2013

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Highlights

10 June: Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) leader Yawd Serk met with President Thein Sein in the capital. The parties agreed to form a committee to work toward peace.

6 June: Over the previous week, reports indicated that ethnic violence had spilled over from Myanmar to nearby Malaysia where four Buddhists from Myanmar were killed in separate incidents.

5 June: In Myanmar's western Rakhine State, three Muslim Rohingya 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 already occurred last year.

30 May: Myanmar's government reached a preliminary ceasefire with Kachin rebels, raising hopes of an end to two years of fighting.

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 Muslim Rohingya shook western Rakhine state, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands. In recent weeks, several incidents erupted while human rights infringements were reported.

In beginning of June, reports indicated that ethnic violence also spilled over from Myanmar to nearby Malaysia where four Buddhists from Myanmar were killed in separate incidents. In Rakhine State, three Muslim Rohingya 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 already occurred last year. Local reports indicated that the confrontation erupted after displaced people refused to move into the new shelters provided by the authorities.

In late May, fighting broke out between Muslims and Buddhists in Lashio town in eastern

Shan state after a mosque and an orphanage were torched. Three religious buildings, dozens of shops and several homes were burned during the fighting that left at least one dead. Clashes between Muslims and Buddhists and attacks on religious buildings and shops occurred in March and April, in the central town of Meikhtila spreading to the neighboring region and to the capital Yangon, in the townships of the Bago region and in the small town of Oakkan, north of Yangon, leaving 44 people dead and over 70 injured.

On 10 June, the Myanmar government's effort to make peace with ethnic minorities took another step forward as representatives of the country's biggest minority group, the Shan, met with the country's 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. This followed a round of peace talks that was conducted in mid-March between Myanmar's Government and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the armed-wing of the KIO, without achieving significant results. Fighting between the Government and KIA, 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: On 29 May, inter-communal violence displaced an estimated 1,400 people in Lashio, Shan state. While most of the displaced have returned home since, some 440 people remained displaced in two sites as of 2 June according to OCHA.

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

As a result of the clashes in Meikhtila in March, over 12,000 people have been displaced, some 7,000 of which remain displaced as of 25 May according to official figures.

In addition, over 85,000 people have been displaced by conflict in Kachin State and Northern Shan States according to OCHA.

Disaster: On 14-15 May, although the country was only slightly affected by the tropical storm Mahasen, which took a more westerly track than initially anticipated.

The estimated 140,000 displaced – largely Rohingya Muslims – living in dire conditions along the coast in Rakhine State were largely spared by the cyclone. These populations that were relocated prior to the catastrophe have now returned to the camps. Nevertheless, the displaced people, living in flood-prone camps, remain heavily at risk of flooding during the monsoon season from May to September. According to UNHCR, IDPs settlements in Sittwe, Myebon and Pauktaw are particularly at risk.

Access: Access has 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. However, access to the affected population in Rakhine state remains difficult as media campaigns have taken place 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.

Food Security: The rice harvest in 2013 is expected to be significantly affected by the heavy flooding that inundated around 250,000 hectares of crops at the beginning of September 2012. In addition, according to WFP, rainfall deficiencies in the early and late monsoon seasons have impacted key crop harvests and resulted in water shortages in various parts of the Dry Zone in central Myanmar. The food security situation in the area is already of serious concern and will further deteriorate as the summer progresses.

Updated: 17/06/2013

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX

Highlights

6 June: A new Palestinian government, headed by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, was sworn in in Ramallah.

Political and Security Context:

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 months of difficult relations with president Mahmud Abbas and stayed on as caretaker until Hamdallah's appointment.

As reported by OCHA, after the killing of an Israeli settler by a Palestinian on 30 April, a wave of violence erupted, resulting in the injury of 43 Palestinians and 8 settlers in the West Bank. In a separate incident on 30 April, the Israeli air forces targeted and killed a Palestinian member of an armed group in Gaza city. It was the first attack of this kind since the announcement of the ceasefire in November 2012. Over last week, several rockets and mortars were also fired by Palestinian armed groups resulting in no injuries or damage.

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine a non-member observer State status at the United Nations, while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians moving towards a permanent two-State solution. Direct negotiations between the two sides have been on hold since September 2010, with the Palestinians insisting on a settlement freeze before returning to the negotiating table and the Israelis insisting on no preconditions.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Access: On 9 April, UNRWA reopened their relief and distribution centres in Gaza, which provide food to around 25,000 people a day. The centres were closed on 4 April, after

demonstrators stormed one of its compounds in an allegedly pre-planned action. The incident was a further escalation in a series of demonstrations and protests that have occurred since the end of March.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to OCHA, some 1.8 million people are in need of 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 highest priorities.

Updated: 10/06/2013

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

Highlights

15 June: At least 21 people were killed in a bomb attack on a bus in Quetta, capital of the Baluchistan province, according to media reports. A second attack hit the emergency ward where the wounded were taken, and was followed by a gun battle.

8 June: A drone strike killed 9 people in northwest Pakistan, next to the border with Afghanistan, and the new Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, formally protested to the U.S. envoy.

5 June: Nawaz Sharif, formally elected Prime Minister by the parliament, called for an end to U.S. drone strikes aimed at Taliban militants that many people in Pakistan view as a breach of the country's sovereignty.

4 June: Since mid-May, Pakistan has been hit by its most severe heat wave in decades. Although temperatures have dropped in late May, forecasts indicate that the heat wave will continue to strike the country until the beginning of the first monsoon rains in the first week of July. Heavy damages to various crop cultures have been reported across the country. Although there is no official casualty figures to date, local sources estimate that up to 100 people have died because of the prolonged heat wave since early May.

Political and Security Context:

On 11 May, Pakistan held its parliamentary elections amidst terrorist attacks by the Pakistani Taliban. Following the victory of the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) party, its leader, Nawaz Sharif, who already served twice as Pakistan's Prime Minister in the 1990s, was formally elected by the parliament on 5 June and sworn in. The PML-N won enough seats in the elections to operate without a coalition. This marks the first transition between civilian governments in a country that has long been ruled by the military.

On 5 June, Nawaz Sharif called again for an end to U.S. drone strikes aimed at Taliban militants that many people in Pakistan view as a breach of the country's sovereignty. On 8 June, after a new drone strike killed 9 people in northwest Pakistan, next to the border with

Afghanistan, the new Prime Minister formally protested to the U.S. envoy. On 29 May, a U.S. drone strike, the first one since the election, had already killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali ur Rehman, in the North Waziristan region. Since the victory of his party on 11 May, N. Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, tensions are running high in Pakistan, with regular terrorist attacks being reported across the country, and especially in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). In the most recent set of attacks on 15 June, militants bombed a bus carrying female students and then seized part of the hospital where survivors of the attack were taken. The attacks took place in Quetta, capital of the Baluchistan province and left at least 21 people dead and some 27 people were wounded, according to official sources and media reports.

During the last weeks of May, various bomb attacks and killings were reported in Peshawar, the main city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, in Karachi and in the Malakand region in northwest Pakistan. Those incidents claimed the lives of at least 32 people and injured over 100 others.

The election weekend was also tarnished by numerous terrorist attacks with notably two separate attacks on offices of the Awami National Party (ANP). An estimated 150 people were also killed in the run-up to the elections, during which terrorist attacks intensified as the Taliban attempted to obstruct the polls.

Meanwhile, military operations are ongoing in Pakistan. On 31 May, at least 34 militants and three soldiers were killed in gunfights in a restive Pakistani tribal region where Governmental troops have now gained control of strategic heights. As media access to the area is restricted, the casualty figures cannot be verified.

In May, tensions escalated between Kabul and Karachi following two border incidents which could further unsettle the relations between the two neighbors.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: According to OCHA, as of end of May, more than 1 million people remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) 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 Para-Chamkani in Kurram Agency in mid-May due to the Government's security operations against armed non-state actors. The registration of those from Kurram Agency began on 17 May in New Durrani camp. As of 6 June, 51,582 people had been registered.

Access: Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity, standing floodwaters, visa delays and attacks against aid workers. OCHA states that, in January alone, 20 aid workers were attacked, which is nearly half of last year's total figure of 42.

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 is the latest in a series of deadly attacks on polio vaccination teams in various parts of the country.

Disaster: A major 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Iran on 16 April. Overall, in Pakistan the earthquake affected an estimated 30,000 people while 2,200 houses were also damaged.

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 of the affected districts were already struggling to recover from the 2010 and 2011 flooding and still have large inundated areas.

Since mid-May, Pakistan has been hit by its most severe heat wave in decades and forecasts indicate that the heat wave will continue to strike the country until the beginning of the first monsoon rains in the first week of July. 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 because of the prolonged heat wave since early May.

Food Security and Malnutrition: 60% of the Pakistani population is food insecure and inflation, with rising fuel prices and stagnating domestic productivity, is pushing up food prices. Seven districts are classified as facing IPC phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency). Prices of wheat and wheat flour have been steadily increasing since June 2012, reaching record levels in most markets in February 2013, underpinned by higher producer support prices.

In addition, malnutrition rates in some flood-affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the recurrent floods in 2012 and are predicted to worsen.

Health: Some 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 most 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.

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

Updated: 17/06/2013

BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 27/05/2013.

Political and Security Context:

Since January 2013, Bangladesh has seen recurrent *hartals* or strikes called by Jamaat-i Islami (JI) the country's largest Islamic party, or Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh's main opposition political party. Those hartals have caused significant disruption to business and commerce and vast losses to the economy. However, the past few weeks have seen a decrease in violent protest activity.

While the JI called for a day-long hartal on 12 May following the decision by a local tribunal to convict and sentence to death one of its officials for atrocities in the country's war of independence, the authorities responded by arresting on this same day its leader, who is now also charged for offenses committed during the 1971 war. As a result, most observers now fear a further escalation of the tensions in the country.

Violence also erupted in May after some Islamist protesters demanding religious reforms from the government took to the streets in Dhaka and outside the capital. Several hundred of people were reportedly injured and at least 20 people 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. The wave of demonstrations started in January over the trial and sentencing of senior political leaders of the JI party including the party's leader and deputy leader over their role in the 1971 independence war.

The turmoil comes as the authorities are still struggling to deal with the outrage over the collapsed garment factory on 24 April. The collapse of the eight-story garment factory in Savar, 25 kilometres northeast of the capital Dhaka, left some 1,100 people dead according to official reports as of 12 May. The collapse of the building sparked several widespread and violent protests in and around Dhaka.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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 in some areas and other localized problems have raised the level of food insecurity of high numbers of households. Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard-prone countries and is often subject to floods.

Disaster: Bangladesh was spared any significant impact from Cyclone Mahasen that was weaker than expected and had been downgraded to tropical storm before reaching land. Nonetheless, the cyclone caused some destruction, including 49,000 houses that have been completely destroyed and 45,000 that are partially destroyed. Government figures also suggest that 14 people were killed and 65 injured by the cyclone. Over 1.2 million people have been affected as of 22 May, and 1.1 million people were evacuated.

Heavy rainfall affected coastal Bangladesh on 23 May. World Meteorological Organization reports observations of up to 109mm in 24 hours. As of 24 May, the severe weather

resulted in six deaths and a large number of roads inundated in Dhaka, according to local media.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

16 June: A wave of car bombs in southern Iraq killed 30 people and wounded 56. A total of seven vehicles equipped with explosives went off in five cities south of Baghdad, the capital, during morning rush hour in primarily Shia Muslim areas of Iraq.

15 June: Al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq has rejected orders from Ayman al-Zawahiri, the group's global chief, to break up his group's claimed union with the Jabhat al-Nusra, an armed Islamist group in Syria, according to Al-Jazeera. Al-Nusra leader Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani acknowledged a relationship between the two groups, but he denied there had been a merger and publicly pledged his allegiance to Zawahiri. Earlier this month, Zawahiri ruled that the ISI and al-Nusra should operate as separate entities. An al-Nusra front member in Syria, told Al Jazeera that following the release of Zawahiri's letter, many members of ISI rejoined al-Nusra, particularly in the province of Deyr Ez Zor. He said this new audio recording causes further division and confusion among those fighting on the ground.

11 June: A wave of violence across Iraq has killed 73 people and wounded 80, many of them in a series of attacks in the northern city of Mosul. Markets in two northern towns were hit early on Monday, police said. Later attacks targeted security forces. No group claimed the attacks, but Iraq is facing a surge in sectarian violence that officials blame on Sunni fighters determined to drag the country into a civil war.

9 June: Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki visited Kurdistan for the first time in more than two years, in a symbolic step towards resolving the lasting dispute over oil and land that has consistently strained the country's unity. In parallel, the withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan is ongoing.

1 June: The UNAMI figures showed that 1,045 civilians and security personnel were killed last month, significantly more than the 712 killed in April. May 2013 has therefore replaced April as the deadliest month recorded since June 2008.

Political and Security Context:

On 20 April, Iraq held its first provincial elections since the departure of U.S. troops, which, despite a 50% turnout only, were considered to be 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

ongoing violence also forced the authorities to postpone the elections in the two Sunni dominated provinces of Anbar and Nineveh. The three oil-rich Kurdish provinces in Northern Iraq are scheduled to hold provincial elections on 20 June. A Sunni Arab candidate in those elections was shot dead on 14 June in the main northern city of Mosul. At least six candidates have been killed in Mosul ahead of the June 20 elections in a total of eight attacks targeting provincial council candidates in the city and surrounding province of Nineveh.

Meanwhile, the country is facing widespread unrest and is plagued by daily terrorist attacks. The current 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. Following the last wave of violence in Iraq, tensions are now reportedly at their highest since the U.S. troops left the country two years ago. In parallel, the civil war in neighbouring Syria further participates in straining the relations between Sunni, Shi'ite and Kurdish communities and in making the Iraqi context highly volatile. Baghdad has now banned off-duty officials, police and soldiers from using the desert highway without an escort due to the escalating violence in the last weeks.

This week, 103 people were killed and more than 130 wounded in coordinated attacks south of Baghdad and in Mosul, Nineveh province. Confirming the current trend, the UNAMI figures, released on 1 June, showed that 1,045 civilians and security personnel were killed last month, significantly more than the 712 killed in April. May 2013 has therefore replaced April as the deadliest month recorded since June 2008.

While tensions between different sectarian neighbourhoods are running high in Baghdad, the western province of Anbar has also grown increasingly insecure over the past weeks. When intersectarian strife was at its height in 2006-07, Anbar was reportedly a stronghold of al-Qaeda's Iraqi wing, which has reportedly regained strength in recent months.

On 30 May, over 70 people, mostly Shi'ites, were killed in a series of car bombings and suicide attacks across the country, notably hitting the capital Baghdad, the predominately Shi'ite city of Basra southeast of the capital, the city of Balad north of the capital and the city of Hila south of Baghdad.

Tensions are also running high between Baghdad and Kurdistan. On 9 June, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki visited the Kurdish region for the first time in more than two years, in a symbolic step towards resolving the lasting dispute over oil and land that has consistently strained the country's unity. Better relations with the Kurds may ease the pressure on Iraq's Shi'ite leadership who is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on the Sunni Islamist insurgents.

In parallel, 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 arrival of former PKK insurgents may contribute to strain further the already tense relations between the authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan and Baghdad and also explain Maliki's decision to travel to Kurdistan. On 3 June, a minor armed confrontation between PKK militants and Turkish military was reported along Iraq's border, the first clash reported since the withdrawal began on 14 May.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: As of 12 June, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 159,196 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees. At present, daily arrivals to Iraq amount to 700-750 people, according to UNHCR.

The situation at Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, is especially worrying. It is currently housing some 40,000 Syrian refugees and is critically overcrowded. Thousands of families are sharing tents with newly arrived refugees as almost 3,500 families do not have their own shelter. Dohuk Governorate hosts more than 100,000 of the Syrian refugees.

A large number of Iraqis residing in Syria have also returned to Iraq, with, as of 22 January, a total of 68,122 since mid-July 2012, according to UNHCR. Baghdad receives the largest number of returnees.

An estimated 1.2 million were displaced inside Iraq by 11 June 2012 but updated displacement figures remain lacking.

Access: Although humanitarian access has become less restricted, security threats for international staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, in the north and central governorates and in the Disputed Territories.

Health: The overcrowding in Domiz camp is having an impact on sanitation, which is already below humanitarian standards. Congestion and warmer temperatures are increasing vulnerability to outbreaks of diseases, as well as tension between camp residents. Measles cases have been reported amongst new arrivals in the camp.

Updated: 17/06/2013

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

16 June: Some 472,292 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan so far according to UNHCR.

6 June: Jordan threatened to expel Syria's ambassador after he warned the kingdom that Syrian missiles could be used against Patriot batteries due to be deployed soon along their border.

Political and Security Context:

Jordan threatened on 6 June to expel Syria's ambassador after he warned the kingdom that Syrian missiles could be used against Patriot batteries due to be deployed soon along their border. Jordan and Syria's other neighbors are increasingly nervous that the Syrian civil war will spill over its borders and ignite a regional conflict. Earlier this week, the United States said that they would be making Patriot batteries and advanced F-16 fighter jets

available for annual military exercises scheduled later this month in Jordan. The U.S. have expressed that they may consider keeping the jets there longer, in consultation with Jordan.

In addition, Jordan's army said it had foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of arms from Syria into Jordan, without giving details.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: According to UNHCR, after a week of dramatically decreased numbers of refugees crossing the border in late May, new arrivals to Jordan have resumed at the previous usual rate of 1,000 to 2,000 a day. In February, the influx was reportedly of some 2,500 persons per day. It is unclear as to why the flow of refugees suddenly ceased, although reports of heavy fighting in the border areas may be preventing many displaced Syrians from crossing into Jordan.

As of 16 June, some 472,292 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. The Government of Jordan estimates that around 541,000 Syrian refugees currently reside in the country as of 4 June. Recent reports warn of signs of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, in particular in those regions that host large numbers of displaced Syrians.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As a result of the refugee influx, Jordan's economy, water and energy resources remain strained. The prices of commodities are higher in Jordan than in Syria and the purchasing power of the refugees to cover basic needs keeps decreasing. Furthermore, food prices in Jordan have increased by nearly 50% due to the reduction of food imports and increased demand from new arrivals from Syria.

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 would cost the Jordanian government more than 500 million dinars (\$706m) per year, even as Jordanians receive less water per capita. Northern governorates have been particularly hit hard by the refugee influx.

Updated: 17/06/2013

KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

In 2010, 34% of the population was living below the national poverty line.

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 is likely to further deteriorate during spring when stocks of food from the previous harvest will be depleted and additional inputs will be 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 MT, which is 19% lower than 2012 levels.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

Highlights

16 June: Four Shi'ite Muslim men were killed in an ambush in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, according to official sources. The violence was the latest expression of the recent surge in sectarian violence close to the border with Syria.

13 June: Some 530,410 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Lebanon so far according to UNHCR.

9 June: Governmental troops blocked streets in Beirut with tanks and barbed wire for several hours after the killing of a protester outside the Iranian embassy further fuelled factional tensions within the country the previous day.

5 June: In a statement issued by the Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, he noted that Lebanon is considering restricting Syrian refugee arrivals to the country as it struggles to cope with the more than a half million people who have already crossed its border.

Political and Security Context:

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 resulted in an increasing spill over of the Syrian conflict into Lebanon. In May,

with repeated intersectarian strife being reported in several Lebanese cities, fears aroused that the Syrian conflict may eventually turn even more into an opposition between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims on a regional scale.

In addition, the Free Syrian Army and the jihadist Jabhat al-Nusra separately warned 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 that is believed to be controlled by rebels, reportedly hit the eastern Lebanese town of Hermel, a bastion of Hezbollah, killing at least one person and wounding several others.

Over the past week, insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between different sectarian groups and more signs of the impact of the Syrian conflict. On 16 June, four Shi'ite Muslim men were killed in an ambush in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, according to official sources. The violence was the latest expression of the recent surge in sectarian violence close to the border with Syria.

On 9 June, governmental troops blocked streets in Beirut with tanks and barbed wire for several hours after the killing of a protester outside the Iranian embassy further fuelled factional tensions within the country the previous day. The man was killed during clashes between rival groups of Shi'ite Muslims after militiamen from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement opened fire when protesters drew up at the embassy.

Sectarian clashes between Alawite supporters of the Syrian president and gunmen sympathetic to the uprising against Bashar al-Assad started in Tripoli in March and continued throughout the month of May and in early June.

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 this month were also postponed. On 1 June, the 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:

Displacement: As of 6 June, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached 530,410 with reported ongoing daily arrivals, according to UNHCR. With no camps in the country, the refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Both host and refugee populations across the region are impacted by the increasing pressure placed on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities and food prices, amongst others. The Lebanese Government estimates that the actual number of Syrian refugees residing in the country amounts to a million people.

Updated: 17/06/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

Highlights

1 June: An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale occurred near Carmen municipality, North Cotabato province on 1 June. It affected 484 families (2,578 people) and damaged a total of 360 infrastructures including 52 school buildings, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Political and Security Context:

At least 12 people were killed in clashes on 25 May as troops clashed with the Islamic insurgency group Abu Sayyaf. The clashes took place in the town of Patikul on Jolo Island in the Sulu province, 1,000 kilometres south of the capital Manila and left seven Filipino marines and at least five members of the Abu Sayyaf militant group dead, according to Philippine's military sources.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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

On 1 June, an earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale occurred near Carmen municipality, North Cotabato province. It affected 484 families (2,578 people) and damaged a total of 360 infrastructures including 52 school buildings, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. The province of North Cotabato declared a state of emergency on 4 June.

Heavy rains caused floods in Agusan del Sur in the Province of Pampanga in late February. Some 49,073 people were affected as of 27 February, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. The Municipalities of San Luis and Veruela have the highest number of affected, amounting respectively to 19,577 people across 11 barangays (villages), and 12,125 across 12 barangays. Several municipalities have suffered damages on large agricultural stretches.

Health: According to the Department of Health, 1,528 dengue cases were reported in the first quarter of 2013 in Soccsksargen region, of which 669 (41% of the victims) are children 10 years old and below.

Updated: 17/06/2013

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Early June: WFP approved a new two-year operation for DPRK starting on July 1 and targeting about 2.4 million people - almost all children, and pregnant and nursing women - with about 207,000 metric tons of food assistance.

9 June: North and South Korean officials held their first working-level talks since 2011 as a positive end to months of soaring military tensions. Ministerial-level talks are scheduled for 12 June. On 7 June, in a further signal of intent, DPRK restored its official hotline with the South, which it had disconnected in March.

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:

North and South Korean officials held their first talks in years as a positive end to months of soaring military tensions. The working-level discussions, which began on 9 June in the border truce village of Panmunjom, were intended to pave the way for ministerial-level talks in Seoul on 12 June.

The agenda focused on restoring suspended commercial links, including the Kaesong joint industrial complex that the North effectively shut down in April as tensions between the two countries peaked. The talks came about after an unexpected reversal on Thursday from North Korea, which suddenly dropped its default tone of high-decibel belligerence and proposed opening a dialogue.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Access: Humanitarian access to the country is very limited. This week WFP approved a new two-year operation for DPRK starting on July 1 and targeting about 2.4 million people - almost all children, and pregnant and nursing women - with about 207,000 metric tons of food assistance.

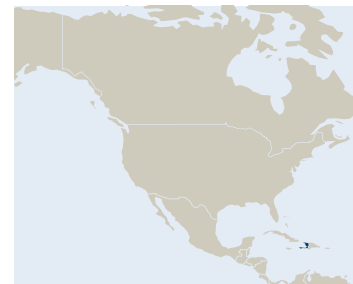
Disaster: DPRK still requires international humanitarian assistance. Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaged health facilities and reduced access to primary and secondary health care. The floods further aggravated the impact of a severe 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.

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

The chronic under-nutrition remains a public health problem. Some 57% of households have 'borderline' food consumption. Chronic food insecurity in DPRK continues to affect two-thirds of the country's 24 million people. 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 metric tons. WFP already reports an increased number of households with poor consumption as of 14 May, after the main harvest.

Updated: 10/06/2013



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Highlights

Early June: WFP, the UN food relief agency stated that 1.5 million people in Haiti need food assistance, following extreme weather conditions and poor harvests. In addition, a further 6.7 million people in Haiti are struggling to meet their own food needs on a regular basis.

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Displacement: Almost three years after the earthquake, there remain 320,000 IDPs in Haiti according to IOM as of mid-April. Since the beginning of the year, the number has decreased by 27,230 people.

Recent surveys show that 119 of 140 municipalities were severely affected by drought, Tropical Storm Isaac and/or Hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people in total.

Disaster: Torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grande-Anse and Sud were the most affected. As of early April, 71,400 victims of Hurricane Sandy still need humanitarian assistance according to OCHA.

Food Security and Malnutrition: On 11 June, WFP stated that 1.5 million people in Haiti need food assistance, following extreme weather conditions and poor harvests. In addition, a further 6.7 million people in Haiti are struggling to meet their own food needs on a regular basis. In early April, OCHA reported that some 2.1 million people in Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis.

As of late May, the country is in the lean season and is still struggling to cope with the effects of last year's poor harvest. Large parts of the country face Stressed levels of food security (IPC Phase 2). Reports on the food security situation indicate that the poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest and Nord-Est departments are already in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) despite the implementation of irreversible coping strategies, according to FEWSNET. In addition, sowing 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 first half of February. Poor seed availability because of rising prices that are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average is also threatening the success of this year's crops.

An estimated 82,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, of which 20,400 have Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Rural populations are especially affected.

Health: Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases amounts to 658,053, with as much as 118,000 potential new cholera cases forecasted for 2013. According to OCHA, 8,120 people have died with 208 between January and May 2013. Some 18,756 new cholera cases were reported between January and April 2013.

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

Updated: 17/06/2013



OCEANIA

MARSHALL ISLANDS DROUGHT

Highlights

7 June: Up to an estimated 6,400 people are living in 15 drought-affected atolls and are severely affected. On June 7, the state of emergency was extended by another month due to the delay of rains expected in March.

No new development this week. Last update was: 10/06/2013

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Disaster: According to OCHA, the Republic of the Marshalls Islands (RMI) Cabinet issued an elevated state of disaster on 7 May as the prolonged and severe drought in the northern parts of the country worsens, notably hitting 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 of the 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 are living in 15 drought-affected atolls and are severely affected as of 7 June. An additional 11,000 people are dependent on food aid and experiencing less severe drought conditions while crop losses have already been 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.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013



SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA FLOODS

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs:

Disaster: Torrential rain and floods caused damage across Bolivia. According to OCHA, five of Bolivia's nine departments are under a state of emergency for flooding and close to 145,000 people are affected in nearly 25% of Bolivia's municipalities. The southern

departments are the most affected, especially Chuquisaca, Potosi, Tarija and Cochabamba. In the department of Cochabamba alone, some 40,000 (8,000 families) were affected between 18 and 25 March. According to Civil Defense reports, the rainy season has caused 24 casualties to date.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops have been damaged by the recent rains but the Ministry discounts the possibility of food security risks. However, according to a WFP report, at least 25,000 people may need immediate food assistance. Subsistence farmers who normally cultivate crops at the riversides were most affected. The floods hit at the end of the lean season, as farmers were about to harvest their crops and their food reserves were at the lowest. Families that traditionally store their harvested potatoes and onions in the fields also lost these reserves.

Reviewed: 17/06/2013

Introduction to the Global Overview Update

The Global Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global 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 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? (Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The Global Overview consists of three main sections:

Firstly, 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.

Secondly, 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.

Thirdly, **narratives** for each country included in the Global Overview reflect recent major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country. Narratives are written based on secondary data.

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>

Update

The Global 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.

More information on the Global Overview Methodology can be found in the [Global Overview Methodology Brief](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).