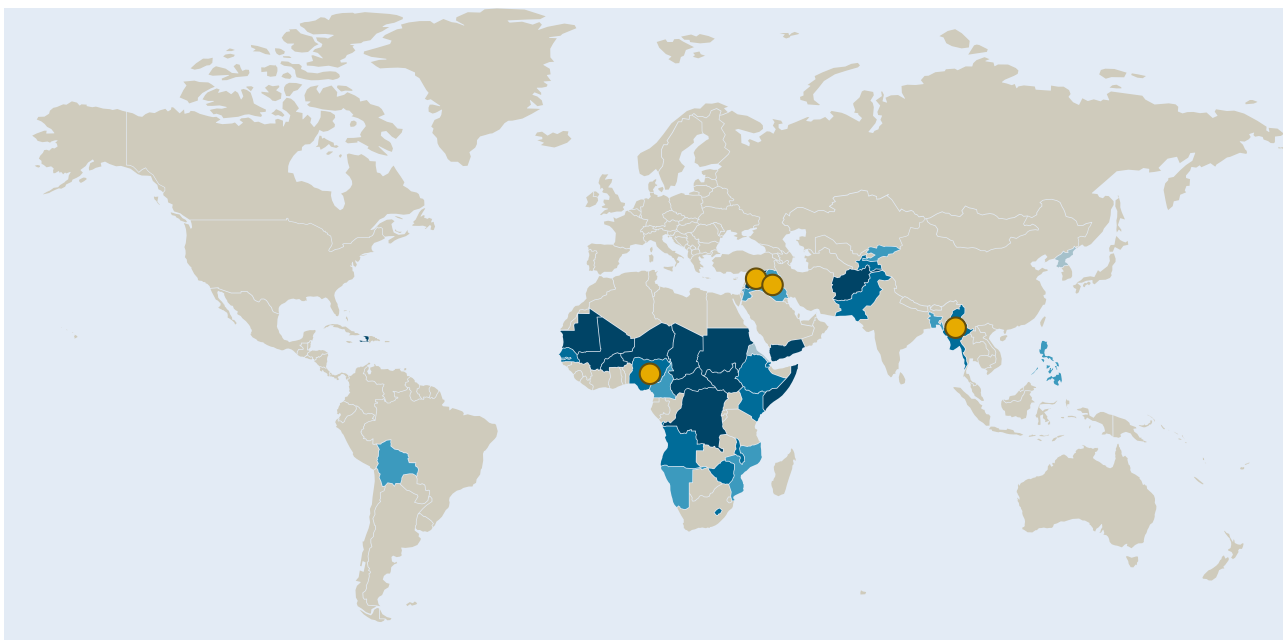




# GLOBAL OVERVIEW

June 2013



## Snapshot 27 May – 03 June

In **Syria**, the government military continued its offensive on opposition-controlled Qusayr, a strategic city in Homs province connecting the capital to the Mediterranean coast. Humanitarian agencies expressed alarm over the fate of thousands of civilians still trapped in the city. The UN estimates that over 6.8 million people are in need of humanitarian aid in Syria. While an estimated 5 million people are internally displaced, the number of Syrians registered or awaiting registration in host countries has surpassed 1.6 million.

Following fighting between the government forces and the Islamist group Boko Haram in northeastern **Nigeria** in May, UNHCR stated that at least 2,400 people have fled to Niger. Humanitarian agencies reportedly expect more displacement in the coming weeks as fighting is ongoing. On 31 May, President Goodluck Jonathan renewed his offer of amnesty to any Boko Haram's member ready to surrender on the advice of a peace resolution committee he set up in April.

Sectarian and ethnic strife opposing Muslims and Buddhists in various parts of the country continues to plague **Myanmar**. On 29 May, fighting reignited in Lashio town in eastern Myanmar where a mosque and an orphanage were torched by mobs roaming the streets. According to OCHA, at least 1,400 people have been displaced by the recent clashes.

### Severe humanitarian crisis

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

### Humanitarian crisis

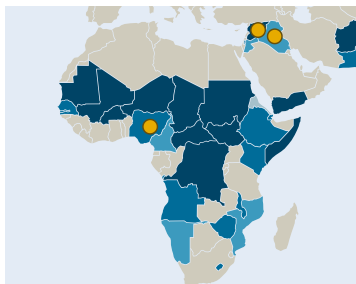
Angola	● Myanmar
Djibouti	● Nigeria
Ethiopia	oPt
Gambia	Pakistan
Kenya	Senegal
Lesotho	Tajikistan
Malawi	Zimbabwe

### Situation of concern

Bangladesh	Kyrgyzstan
Bolivia	Marshall Islands
Cameroon	Mozambique
● Iraq	Namibia
Jordan	Philippines

### Watch list

DPRK	Eritrea
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# AFRICA

## BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

According to FEWSNET, as of **June**, at least 80% of the households are currently able to meet their consumption needs and are facing Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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

**Displacement:** As of 10 May, 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, the majority situated in the northern region of Sahel) which are recognized as refugee camps by the Government, as well as at several spontaneous settlements.

**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. An estimated 52% of the refugees and 58% of the host populations are 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. In general, limited household recourses to the market to purchase food have kept cereal prices stable since January 2013 and at levels close to, or slightly above (by no more than 12%) compared to the five-year average. These prices are helping to maintain good household food access.

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 metric tons, marking a 26.9% increase compared to the five-year average. Likewise, the production of cash crops was up 16.5%

and the production of other food crops (cowpeas, yams, and sweet potatoes) was up 29.9% compared to the five-year average, according to FEWSNET.

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. The number of new SAM admissions from January to mid-March 2013 amounted to 11,141 children.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### Highlights

According to UNICEF, the security situation across the country is severely hindering planned distributions of food and other essential supplies from reaching beneficiaries. In addition, access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads as of **mid-May**.

**14 May:** WFP activated Level 2 Emergency Response mode for operations in CAR.

### Political and Security Context:

Several security incidents have been reported over the past week in CAR, including in the area around Bossangoa (north of Bangui) and Obo (south-eastern CAR). Armed men reportedly attacked several villages around Bossangoa, killing at least 25 civilians. In Bangui the security situation remains fragile despite gradual improvements. Patrols of the regional peacekeeping force FOMAC/MICOPAX continue to operate in the city. Recent reports suggest that Séléka elements have forcefully occupied some residences, especially those belonging to people perceived to have been close to the Bozizé Government. There are increasing signs of mounting resistance of the population to crimes and human rights violations by Séléka elements, and tensions between the Séléka and the population run high.

Fractures have deepened within the coalition, hampering the Seleka leadership's control over its own elements. An attempted coup was reported to have been made on 14 May as tensions rise between the two of the main groups struggling for control.

According to UNICEF, a disarmament and demobilization process was launched on 13 May and is ongoing in Bangui, with reportedly 200 troops already disarmed and another 400 planned in the coming days. However, the process has been *ad hoc* without sustainable options proposed to those who have been disarmed.

On 10 May, Human Rights Watch stated that, in the wake of the coup, Seleka fighters went on a rampage, executing opponents, raping women and looting homes – acts that constitute war crimes. The report, the first one to provide comprehensive information on the full extent of ongoing violence since the ousting of the former President, also describes indiscriminate shootings in the capital and killings of people resisting the looting of their homes. Several organizations, including UNICEF, have reported the ongoing re-recruitment of children under 18, some of whom had been recently demobilized, into Seleka forces.

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 up by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). On 13 April, the transition council, in charge of leading the country until the elections, elected him President by acclamation. Djotodia has however promised not to seek re-election at the end of the transition.

On 18 April, the ECCAS confirmed its support of the transition process agreeing also to Djotodia's election. In the wake of the ECCAS, the international community seems also to have come to terms with the country's takeover by the coalition, as long as it respects 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.

The ECCAS has also agreed to deploy a 2,000 strong military force, under the FOMAC framework, to help CAR's authorities in re-establishing security in the country and has also pledged to create a special fund to finance the transition process in CAR. At present, the FOMAC force in CAR numbers only 730 soldiers. The ECCAS is expected to send an additional 1,200 regional troops to CAR by 05 June.

Initially, violence had erupted in CAR, when the Seleka coalition, a grouping of five rebel movements, took up arms against the Government in early December 2012, claiming that the authorities had failed to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals under which fighters who laid down their arms were to receive compensation. 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 continued their advance and took control of the towns of Gambo and Bangassou on the border with the DRC, as well as of the towns of Batangavo and Bouca, north of Bangui. Addressing President Bozizé an ultimatum, the Seleka rebels demanded the release of political prisoners and the withdrawal of foreign troops, brought into the country to support the Government military against the uprising. Considering the concessions made by the authorities to be insufficient, the rebel movement resumed its advance seizing Bangui and toppling 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, 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 for almost four months.

**Displacement:** According to the UN envoy to CAR, the whole Seleka offensive has left, since December, more than 206,000 people internally displaced, a figure likely to increase as soon as updated data is available. Since December, an estimated 51,000 people have also sought refuge in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the latter of which hosts over 39,810 CAR refugees as of 29 May. On 25 April, UNHCR issued a warning advising governments worldwide against possible forced returns of refugees to CAR in light of the prevailing insecurity in the country. In addition to this, there are an estimated 17,000 mostly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in CAR. Eventually, the UN also reported that an estimated 5,000 people have been displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes.

**Access:** 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.

Since mid-March, humanitarian access – which was already limited to a third of the Seleka-controlled areas, excluding 300,000 people in the southeast- has been further hampered with the departure of many INGOs, according to UNICEF. As of 3 May, OCHA reported that information on the needs outside of Bangui remains limited. For humanitarian actors, access is likely to become even more challenging with the rainy season starting in May.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** A recent IPC seasonal analysis classified the entire country in either Phase 2 (Stressed) or Phase 3 (Crisis). In 9 out of 16 prefectures, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition in children <5 is above the emergency threshold of 2%. Chronic poverty was identified as the general cause of food and nutrition insecurity, with civil insecurity exacerbating conditions in the north and north-east. Following the crisis of March 2013, livelihoods have been greatly disrupted and an estimated 62,000 people are reported as severely food insecure. This is in addition to the 80,500 people already suffering from severe food insecurity caused by the first crisis in December 2012.

**Health:** On 9 April, a WHO report indicated that health needs in Bangui were still critical. Some 3.2 million in the country are reported to be living without health care and 1.2 million have been cut off from basic services since December. According to UNICEF, a measles epidemic in Bangui has been confirmed and the organization will be coordinating a vaccination campaign in late May.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## 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:** UNHCR reported that 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.

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

### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

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

**Displacement:** Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries since March. As reported by OCHA, more than 50,000 people (an estimated 28,500 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.

The displaced people have 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.

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.

**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 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 amelioration 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.

**Health:** On 18 February, a yellow fever outbreak was confirmed by WHO in the town of Goz Beida. There were 139 suspected yellow fever cases and 9 deaths reported. A vaccination campaign against the disease was launched in Djabal camp for Sudanese refugees in the east of the country. Neighbouring Sudan is also experiencing a yellow fever outbreak in 35 localities in Darfur with 849 suspected cases and 171 deaths (case-fatality rate of 20.1%) as of 6 January 2013.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

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

### Highlights

**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 that 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 has reported ongoing human rights abuses by militias and governmental troops.

From 20 May onwards, rebels from the Tutsi-dominated March 23 Movement (M23) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) fought north of Goma, the regional capital of North Kivu that the rebels had occupied briefly in November. Fighting in the area progressively spread to the town of Goma itself while both belligerent groups used artillery and intensified on 23 May. On 24 May, both parties declared a temporary ceasefire for UN-chief Ban Ki-Moon's visit to the conflict-affected area. Although casualties' figures are difficult to ascertain, at least 25 people were killed in the fighting since 20 May, while an unknown number of civilian deaths has also been reported.

The clashes are the first to happen since the rebel movement withdrew from Goma in December and are clearly jeopardizing the recent talks conducted between M23 leaders and the authorities regarding a possible peace deal and the reintegration of some of the insurgents who laid down arms into the army. The future of the peace talks remains unknown.

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

Since late May, renewed fighting between various local armed groups was also reported in the Lubero and Kitchanga areas, allegedly leading to new displacements. To date information on the violence remains limited while the security situation is reportedly precarious in both areas. In addition, clashes between FARDC and a local militia, a Mai Mai group, have also been reported next to the town of Beni, further north of Goma on 15 May. Although reports on casualties remain difficult to ascertain, some sources reported that at least 23 militia fighters and 8 soldiers were killed in the series of clashes in Beni.

On 15 May, new fighting erupted between Mai-Mai Kata Katanga militia group and local armed groups in the Moba area, Katanga province, resulting 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.

In March, violence in the Katanga province flared up when the separatist militia group Kata Katanga attacked a military camp and the Provincial Governor's office in Lubumbashi. At least 35 people were killed and 16 injured in the fighting, before the rebels forced their way into a UN compound and surrendered on 24 March, according to the UN.

#### **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, Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC) and Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APLCS), have notably

been reported in Walikale area and led to thousands of displaced. 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 over the past few weeks have 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. In North Kivu, OCHA reported that over 920,000 people remain displaced as of 31 April.

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 some 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.

In April, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and FARDC have led to new population displacement in the Katanga province, according to OCHA. Overall, **at least 353,000** people were reportedly displaced in the province as of March.

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 some 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 neighbouring countries.

DRC is facing increasing numbers of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR). As of 2 May, an estimated 38,000 CAR refugees have been registered in DRC according to UNHCR. 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 reports 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, the 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.

A cholera outbreak continues to affect 9 of 11 provinces, with around 32,000 cases during 2012. As of 26 March, a cholera outbreak is suspected in Pweto where more than 300 cases have been registered over the last two weeks, resulting in 25 deaths, according to the UN.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**2 June:** Unconfirmed reports from the rebel-controlled Kidal area stated that the Tuareg separatist National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (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 the MNLA 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.

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. As of 2 June, the talks are still ongoing.

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.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Assessments warn of a looming food security crisis in northern Mali. According to WFP, a total of 1.4 million people are in need of immediate food assistance in Mali and another 2.1 million people are at risk. Food security conditions are at Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in pastoral areas of the north where the lean season is underway. Localized Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity has been reported in remote areas of Kidal. The whole north (regions of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu) is expected to experience Emergency levels during the May-July lean season if insecurity continues 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.

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. As reported by UNICEF on 28 May, the outbreak of cholera was specifically registered in Gao region.

**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: 03/06/2013*

## MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

### 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. 90% of those refugees are women and children. Mauritania is the single largest recipient of Malian refugees who are mostly settled in the Mbéra camp.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of late April, FEWSNET reported that the food security situation is likely to remain stable and most of the poor households throughout the country would remain in IPC Phase 1 until September. However, poor agro-dominant households in north-western agro-pastoral areas and south-eastern rain-fed agriculture zones are expected to move into Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2) between March/April and June, along with northern households impacted by the protracted drought in that area since last year. According to FEWSNET, 25,000 people (5,000 farming households) were already experiencing stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2).

As reported by UNICEF, many refugee children suffer from malnutrition. According to FAO, close to 1 million people (30% of the overall population) are affected by food insecurity in Mauritania as of March 2013, and more than 105,000 children <5 suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition, compared to 90,000 in 2011. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in the Hodh Ech Chargui (16% GAM), Assaba (16.4%), Brakna (17%) and Tagant (18.2%) regions in the southeast of the country.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**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.

**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, 26 people were left dead by the attacks, and another 30 people were injured, according to official sources.

### 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, raise 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.

**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) between July and September. Overall, OCHA estimated on 12 May that at least 800,000 people will require food aid in Chad in 2013 despite last year's good harvest.

As reported by UNICEF on 7 April, 81,305 children under-five have been admitted to therapeutic feeding centres for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), while another 115,758 have been receiving treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

As reported by FEWSNET, food prices were at their highest levels in five years in April. 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. Although prices followed a similar dynamic last year, the scale of the increase was smaller. 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.

**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 with 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 country-wide.

As of 7 April, 1,470 suspected cases of measles have been 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: 03/06/2013*

## SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

As reported by OCHA in **early May**, since 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

As of **May**, an estimated 1.05 million people in Somalia are in need of food assistance at Stressed and Crisis levels according to Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit. According to the Red Cross, the majority of the people in need are located in South and Central Somalia

**25 May:** A polio outbreak has been reported in Mogadishu. A high risk that the disease reaches Puntland State was reported.

**9 May:** According to the numbers released by the UN, an estimated 3,000 African Union peacekeepers have been killed in the country since 2007.

### Political Context:

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia while the country is still struggling to curb an Islamist insurgency. The al-Shabaab movement, affiliated to al-Qaeda, 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 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.

On 6 and 8 May, clashes between government forces and al-Shabaab fighters were reported in Doble town and west of Kismayo in the Lower Juba region. At least one governmental soldier was killed and three injured in the fighting. On 5 May, an attack in Mogadishu against a convoy carrying Qatari officials killed 12 people. In April, dozens of people were killed as a result of terrorist attacks across the country. On 14 April, in one of the deadliest attacks this year, some 34 people were killed outside the law courts in Mogadishu after two car bombs successively exploded and a 9-man suicide commando attacked the building before engaging into a fight against the government forces.

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 (507,800), Ethiopia (239,000) and Yemen (229,000) as of April.

**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 over the past month, 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 UNOCHA, 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 hamper humanitarian access and aid delivery.

**Disaster:** As reported by OCHA, with 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.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), as of May, an estimated 1.05 million people in Somalia are in need of food assistance at Stressed and Crisis levels. 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 has led to the deaths of some 258,000 people according to new estimates provided by OCHA in May.

FEWSNET reported that food security has recently reduced to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels through most parts of Somalia thanks to humanitarian aid, a very good cereal harvest, estimated to be the largest in the past ten years, 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.

FSNAU reported that, in January 2013, an estimated 215,000 children <5 were acutely malnourished, of which at least 45,000 were severely malnourished. This is attributed to the lack of adequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices. During the April to June rainy season, possible outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and measles may lead to a deterioration of the 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.

**Health:** The first confirmed case of the Wild Poliovirus since 2007 has been reported in Mogadishu and apparently there is a great risk that the disease reaches Puntland State. Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious disease caused by the polio virus which invades the nervous system, and can cause irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs) or even death in a matter of hours.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

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

### Highlights

**Late-May:** According to the UN, some 19,000 have fled South Sudan to neighbouring 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.

**18 May:** At least 29 people were killed when cattle raiders from the South Sudanese minority group Murle opened fire on members of the Jikany minority in a village in Upper Nile state, according to local officials. A total of 23,350 people have been affected by cattle raiding and related violence in Jonglei and Upper Nile States between February and April.

### Political and Security Context:

March was marked by agreements signed on border security and oil exports and various gestures of openness, 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. On 9 May, renewed tribal fighting between two Lou-Nuer clans in Akobo county led to seven people being killed and another 15 injured. The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group, who calls itself South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Army (SPLA) also escalated since early March, after Juba conducted a major operation against the SSDA, as part of a disarmament campaign started ahead of the upcoming rainy season. The Yau Yau rebel group seized the town of Boma after fighting erupted in the Maruwa Hills.

Cattle raiding is a recurrent issue that continues to affect people throughout South Sudan. On 18 May, at least 29 people were killed when cattle raiders from the South Sudanese minority group Murle opened fire on members of the Jikany minority in a village in Upper Nile state, according to local officials. On May 14, five people were killed in what seems to be reprisal attacks from cattle raids the previous week. The attack took place at the border between Mayom and Koch counties.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Displacement:** OCHA reports that inter-tribal and insurgency violence has displaced almost 15,000 people countrywide in 2013 as of May. 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.

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.

**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.

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.

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: 03/06/2013*

## SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**26 May:** The rebels, under the umbrella of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, have staged an attack against a Sudan Armed Forces' military base east of South Kordofan's capital Kadugli while fighting in the area has been ongoing over the weekend. To date, information on casualties is not yet available while both sides are claiming victory.

**21 May:** Intensifying clashes between Al-Gimir and Bani Halba tribes in South Darfur resulted in at least 23 people being killed and some 51 others injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe and to the displacement of the 20,000 residents of Katela town to the southern neighbouring locality of Tulus. Following the violence, Al-Gimir tribe has accused the Sudanese authorities of colluding with the Bani Halba tribe.

### Political and Security Context:

On 12 April, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir visited South Sudan for the first time since the split in 2011, pledging again his commitment to peace and to normal relations with the neighbouring country.

In March, Sudan and South Sudan signed 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 agreed on an overall implementation plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements and the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

On 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. Since its independence, South Sudan has been struggling to contain insurgents that it claimed were supported by 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 have killed the paramount chief of the Nine Ngock Dinka tribes of Abyei while the latter was travelling with a convoy escorted by the United Nations Interim Forces for Abyei (UNISFA) back from a meeting with the Sudanese authorities. Two Ethiopian UN peacekeepers along with at least 17 Misseriya tribesmen were also reportedly killed the clash. The Misseriya and the Ngock Dinka tribes both inhabit Abyei, although the former is allied to Khartoum while the latter is closer to Juba. This incident may have major importance and trigger renewed conflict in the region by completely annihilating the rapprochement Sudan and South Sudan achieved in March. While all actors are showing a very relative restraint, the African Union has urgently called for an urgent meeting to discuss the situation in Abyei.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Displacement:** Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million people 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 32,000 Sudanese refugees 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. 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. Some 80% of the food insecure population is in the conflict-affected areas of Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei. The 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. The current escalation of insecurity is particularly affecting the food security situation in South Darfur.

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%. The national inflation rate in March was 47.9 %, a 0.9 % increase since February. 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 slightly increased in March. 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.

**Health:** On 29 October 2012, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health declared a yellow fever outbreak in seven localities in Central and South Darfur. As of 6 January, the total number of suspected cases had reached 849, including 171 deaths (CFR 20.1%). The majority of cases are reported from Central Darfur, North Darfur and West Darfur. An emergency mass vaccination campaign targeting 3.4 million people is currently being implemented. In addition, on 12 December, the Ministry of Health of West Darfur announced an outbreak of Hepatitis D in the state.

#### 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 SLA-MM in Oganja, 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 SLA-MM 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, 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 despite the signing of a ceasefire agreement, on 11 April. 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.

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 in mid-May, an estimated 300,000 people have been forcibly displaced in Darfur since the beginning of this year as a result of inter-tribal fighting and conflict between SAF and armed rebel groups. This is more than the number of people displaced in Darfur over the last two years according to the UN.

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.

An estimated 60,000 people have also taken refuge in El Sereif and Saraf Omra localities in North Darfur. As of 31 March, 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.

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.

#### **Blue Nile and South Kordofan States**

#### **Political and Security Context:**

On 27 April, the talks on a possible ceasefire between the rebel group SPLM-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. Although the negotiations are not officially broken off, the fighting in South Kordofan is intensifying.

On 26 May, the rebels, under the umbrella of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, have staged an attack against a Sudan Armed Forces' (SAF) military base east of the capital Kadugli while fighting in the area has been ongoing over the weekend. To date, information on casualties is not yet available while both sides are claiming victory.

On 15 May, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) conducted heavy shelling of the town of Abu Karshola killing 25 civilians according to a local source. Ten days prior, retaliating against SPLM-N military operations, the SAF had already bombed a village northeast of Abu Karshola, which had passed under rebel control, killing 16 civilians and wounding 5 more. 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, the armed group managed to briefly besiege and loot the town of Umm Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan State to Northern Kordofan State, killing three civilians and nine police officers in the process.

The unprecedented bold attack on Umm Ruwaba also 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 various reports, the recent fighting around Abu Karshola and Ruwaba has displaced an estimated 40,000 people.

As of 30 April, 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, the UN 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.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to reports, the malnutrition rates among children under five in the region are 30 %, double the emergency threshold. According to

FEWNET, 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.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

#### 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 are 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. Ten coastal and central highland provinces have been affected. However, weather conditions were more favourable in the large crop producing areas of the 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. The Angolan Government has established an emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where about 500 000 people in six municipalities have been affected by the drought conditions.

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:** Some 75 people have 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.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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.

#### 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 are 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.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**15 May:** The Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute's Public Health Emergency Management center (EHNRI/PHEM) formally notified the WHO of a yellow fever outbreak in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR).

#### 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. Several localized areas across the country continue however to report critical water shortages, notably some woredas in Afar, Tigray and Amhara regions. In SNNPR, rains were not sufficient to replenish ground water sources, although they improved the availability of surface water sources.

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

The onset of the secondary "Belg" rains was generally late by three to four weeks in February/March, negatively affecting planting operations of crops to be harvested from July. 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.

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.

The situation is particularly difficult in sweet potatoes 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. Increasing water shortages are reported across the country. In Somali, immediate water trucking needs were identified. Some 720,500 people required water trucking as of 11 March.

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.

**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

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

### 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 crop failure resulting from poor rains. In mid-May, WFP reported that local food production was recovering, but remained below potential due to overabundant rains, scarcity of seeds and inaccessibility of fertilizer.

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% 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.

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 exactly assess 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. So far, due to lack of resources and institutional capacity to contain it, the livestock disease already caused the death of estimated 4,000 animals as reported by WFP. A national cattle vaccination campaign is underway and ought to be completed by late May.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

### 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## LESOTHO FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

### Humanitarian context and needs:

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Lesotho’s food security deteriorated significantly for the second year in a row. As a result of the impact of consecutive droughts and late rains in the cropping season 2011-12, around 725,500 people are food insecure (40% of the population) in Lesotho as of the beginning of March 2013. Last year, the agricultural production dropped 70%, resulting in Lesotho’s worst harvest in ten years. This situation is compounded by maize prices increasing by 60% since the beginning of the year. On 9 August 2012, the Government declared a food crisis situation and called on development partners to assist.

The 2012-13 harvest is also likely to be below average, though better than last year. In early January 2013, the area planted was 40% below the five-year average. Poor rainfall performance in December delayed planting. Other reasons that have negatively impacted on production include the late start of the season, the early frost in the mountains, a mid-season dry spell and severe armyworm infestations that have affected 25% of the estimated cropped area. Many poor households experienced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security levels until the delayed green harvest starts in April. According to FEWSNET, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity outcomes are projected during the April to June period because many households are expected to harvest enough food to take them through the first three months of the 2013-14 consumption period, and some poor households plagued by food insecurity will be receiving humanitarian assistance during this period.

Lesotho's population is extremely vulnerable – the country has the world's third highest prevalence of HIV (23.5%) and 39% of children <5 are stunted. Lesotho suffers from widespread poverty with the proportion of households living below the poverty line exceeding 55%, out of which about 40% are extremely poor.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**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. However, 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 GIEWS.

**Disaster:** OCHA reported that, as of 15 February, flooding in southern Malawi had displaced some 33,000 people. In total, 86,000 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 Rumphu district of Muzuzu. This could further affect maize prices and availability.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**29 May:** UNHCR stated that at least 2,400 people from Nigeria have crossed into Niger following military operations conducted by the army against Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria.

**31 May:** While military operations against the armed Islamist group are still ongoing in the northeast of the country, President Goodluck Jonathan 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 while military operations by government troops are still ongoing.

#### 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 violence 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 active Islamist group Ansaru that is linked to al-Qaeda.

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) have 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 the same day, President Goodluck Jonathan ordered the release of several detainees arrested over alleged links with Boko Haram over the past 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 29 May, UNHCR stated that at least 2,400 people from Nigeria have crossed into Niger following military operations conducted by the army against Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria. Some reports suggested that Nigerian refugees were prevented from entering Cameroon because of measures taken to prevent the infiltration of armed groups. 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.

As reported by OCHA in early May, 296,500 children under-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: 03/06/2013*

## SENEGAL FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**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.

### Political and Security Context:

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.

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.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**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 Fouta (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.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY, UNREST

### Highlights

**31 May:** Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court ordered President Robert Mugabe to set a date for presidential elections, general elections and elections of members of governing bodies of local authorities" no later than the 31st of July 2013.

**22 May:** President Robert Mugabe signed the new constitution, voted on 16 March, into law. The new constitution should introduce presidential term limits, abolish presidential immunity after leaving office, bolster the power of the courts, strengthen parliament's powers and set elections to decide whether President Mugabe will remain in power. Zimbabwe is expected to hold elections by October of this year.

### 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 elections to decide whether President Mugabe will remain in power. On 22 May, Robert Mugabe signed the new constitution into law. On 31 May Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court ordered President

Robert Mugabe to set a date for crucial elections, which will end an uneasy power-sharing government, before the end of July.

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 recent weeks, the police have 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 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 Matabeleland 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 up until April occurred after late and erratic rains, poor agricultural practices, limited access to agricultural inputs, and a reduction in planted area, which contributed to a 33% decrease in last year's harvest if compared to 2011, and to soaring maize prices in affected areas. Cereal and flour prices are likely to remain high in those areas, making food accessibility difficult 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.

In Zimbabwe 3.7 million (29% of the population) people are chronically food insecure. Chronic and acute child malnutrition stands at 32% and 3%, respectively. Masvingo, Matabeleland North and South, and parts of Mashonaland, Midlands and Manicaland provinces are the worst affected areas.

The food security crisis 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: 03/06/2013*

## 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 the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and FAO – although official production estimates are not yet available as of mid-April –, 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 department (Far North region) has 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 GIEWS and 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. Furthermore, 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: 03/06/2013*

## MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

### Highlights

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

#### Political and Security context:

A recent outbreak of violence in Mozambique raises concern about next year's elections.

On 5 April, members of Renamo opposition party's militia killed four police officers in an attack on a provincial police station, whilst trying to free more than a dozen party members arrested the day before in a police raid on their headquarters.

The following day, armed men attacked a bus and a truck in central Mozambique, near the opposition stronghold of Muxungue, killing three people in the process. Renamo denied being behind the assault that was the first such attack on a civilian vehicle in Mozambique in a decade. Mozambique's President Armando Guebuza stated that he would respond firmly to the attacks against civilian vehicles blamed on armed members of the former rebel group Renamo. Renamo has seats in the country's parliament but is effectively excluded from power.

Mozambique has begun registering voters for upcoming polls amid heightened political tension, with the main opposition party Renamo threatening a boycott after its feud with the Frelimo-led government descended into violence. The country will hold local elections in November and use the same voters' roll in general polls next year.

Technical glitches like broken computers and ink shortages marked the kick-off of registrations last weekend. But Renamo's almost complete withdrawal from the political process has raised concerns as its eight-month spat with Frelimo led to deadly clashes with police. While would-be voters trickled into registration stations, the former rebel movement launched another blistering verbal attack on its civil war foe Frelimo.

#### 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:** 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).

Limited access to food due to 2011-12 production shortfalls of almost 19%, high food prices and restricted movements of goods due to heavy rainfall and flooding has Stressed (IPC phase 2) the food security situation in areas including parts of Cahora Bassa, Mutarara, Macossa, Machanga districts in the central zone, and Chigubo, Chókwe and Funhalouro in the south. Overall, the country suffers from high chronic food insecurity, affecting nine million people (39% of the population).

**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: 03/06/2013*

## NAMIBIA DROUGHT

### Highlights

**29 May:** As reported by FAO, following a prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June), Namibia's main cereal crop output for 2013 is expected to suffer a severe decline following drought conditions.

**17 May:** The President on Namibia declared a national drought emergency and called for assistance from the international community.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Food Security:** On 17 May the President on 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.

As reported by FAO, following a prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June), Namibia's main cereal crop output for 2013 is expected to suffer a severe decline. In some parts, the cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average and a 50% below average cereal production is expected, notably in the southern and western parts of the country. Livestock conditions are also deteriorating due to lack of water. As of 20 May, the ongoing drought had already killed some 4,000 large and small stocks according to local media.

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.

## 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.

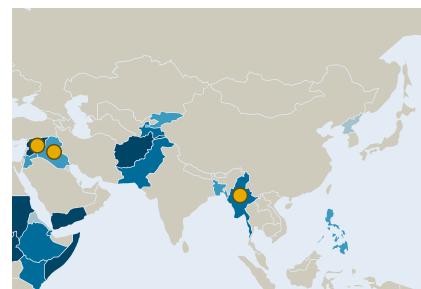
Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in this country of about 6 million people. The United Nations Human Rights chief has accused Eritrea of torture and summary executions.

### 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: 03/06/2013



## AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**01 June:** Three NATO soldiers and a civilian working with the international military coalition in Afghanistan were killed in three incidents on Saturday.

**29 May:** Militants launched a suicide and gun attack on a Red Cross office in Jalalabad city, east Afghanistan, on Wednesday killing at least one guard.

**24 May:** Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack on an IOM compound in the centre of the capital, Kabul, setting off explosions and battling the security forces. One Afghan security personnel was killed.

### Political and Security Context:

On 27 April, the Taliban vowed to start a new campaign of attacks, for the first time identifying "insider attack" as a key tactic, against foreign military targets, as well as Afghan military forces. The following weeks proved to be among the bloodiest for the international troops in 2013 while the international coalition is preparing to withdraw from Afghanistan.

On 29 May militants launched a suicide and gun attack on a Red Cross office in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan. The Taliban has denied any role in this week's attack on the Red Cross compound, stating they had previously co-operated with the aid agency and did not support targeting it. The strikes followed a major assault on Kabul on 24 May, when the Taliban launched a similar suicide and gun attack on an IOM compound in the city centre and triggered a battle that lasted several hours. At least one Afghan police officer was killed while 14 other people, including three international staff of the IOM, were injured.

Several coordinated attacks have been carried out since the beginning of May on Afghan forces, government institutions and foreign troops in Kabul leaving at least 35 people dead. The latest of these attacks killed three NATO soldiers on June 1.

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 that is allied with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, military operations have been ongoing in Afghanistan while the so-called has resumed. On 22 April, violence escalated in Faryab province where heavy fighting between Afghan military and insurgents has been recorded. Initially focusing on Qaisar district, military operations then spread to Almar, Pashtun Kot, Dawlatabad and Qaramqol districts, as well as to Ghormach area in Badghis Province. According to local media quoted by OCHA, the Taliban forces are still present in Faryab province as of late May, making it the most-affected zone in the Northern region. Over the past month, heavy military operations have also been reported in Badakhshan province and in Maidan Wardak province.

In addition, tensions between Kabul and Karachi alongside Afghanistan's contested eastern border in Nangarhar province escalated on 1 May, when a fire exchange resulted in the death of one Afghan border policeman and in two Pakistani soldiers being wounded. On 6 May, new clashes erupted in the area. These clashes will likely contribute to further worsen the already complex relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. While international forces are withdrawing, Pakistan is likely to become vital in bringing stability to Afghanistan in the future.

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. In parallel, 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 on-going 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 Afghan refugees undocumented refugees in the two countries.

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

**Access:** Humanitarian access has been increasingly compromised in Afghanistan over the past weeks. Ongoing military operations in several provinces are hampering the delivery of humanitarian aid, 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). Humanitarian space has shrunk considerably while needs are on the rise.

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. As reported by OCHA, April further recorded a spike in access-related incidents mainly in the East, South and North of the country. Over the last month, 27 attacks against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities were recorded in 11 provinces across the country.

**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.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## SYRIA CIVIL WAR

### Highlights

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

**30 May:** The UN Security Council blacklisted the al-Nusra Front, an armed group in Syria, as an alias of al-Qaeda in Iraq.

**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.

**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:

The Syrian military continued its offensive on opposition-controlled Qusayr, a strategic city in Homs province connecting the capital to the Mediterranean coast. Syrian troops and Hezbollah fighters launched the offensive in mid-May and reportedly gained control of 80% of the city. 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.

Meanwhile, a car bomb killed at least three people in the Damascus suburb of Jobar. Jobar is a scene of frequent clashes, with opposition groups trying to push from there toward the capital. The city of Damascus has seen frequent car bomb attacks, often targeting Government officials.

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. However, 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 case of an Israeli intervention.

In addition, Austria – which provides the largest number of troops to the U.N. Disengagement Force on the Golan – has threatened to withdraw its troops over concerns for their safety if the EU lifts an embargo on supplying arms to the Syrian opposition. Furthermore, repeated kidnappings of UN staff in the Golan have led to talks of UN troops being pulled from the region.

International efforts to end the conflict are focused on plans for a new peace conference initiated by the US and Russia, 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 on Saturday 18 May rockets and mortar rounds hit the eastern Baalbek region. 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. ICRC, along with UN humanitarian agencies, expressed alarm over the fate of thousands of civilians believed to be trapped in the contested city of Qusayr, including many wounded.

**Displacement:** 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 Syrians registered or awaiting registration surpassed 1.6 million with over 499,000 Syrians registered or awaiting registration in Lebanon (Government estimates of 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), some 494,000 in Jordan (Government estimates of 513,000 Syrians in total), over 377,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 400,000), over 154,000 in Iraq and more than 86,000 in Egypt and other countries in North Africa as of 30 May according to UNHCR.

According to UNHCR, after a week of dramatically decreased numbers of refugees crossing the border, 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. 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 over 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, are expected to be launched at the start of June.

**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: 03/06/2013*

## YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**01 June:** Seven suspected al-Qaeda militants have been killed in two drone air strikes in southern Yemen.

**24 May:** Unidentified armed elements blew up Yemen's main export oil pipeline in Serwah in central Maarib province.

UNHCR reported that almost 36,000 people have crossed into Yemen between January and April, an estimated 30,000 coming from Ethiopia and the rest from Somalia.

#### 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 continues across the country, with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates.

On 26 May, a special forces commander was shot dead in the Hadramaut region of eastern Yemen by alleged Islamist militants. The previous day, a remote explosive device killed 2 and injured 6 more in the same area. 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.

7 suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed in a drone strike on 1 June 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 indicates who ordered the strikes, previous drone attacks have been carried out by the U.S. Several such attacks have been carried out in Yemen since January.

On 8 May, an ambush set up by alleged al-Qaeda militants resulted in the death of three Yemeni military in the southern Lahj province. The following day another military officer was killed in the same area. On 6 May, tribal fighting between the Bani Al-Harith and the Bani Hushaish broke up in the northern area of Sana'a with no information on casualties or on the source of the dispute.

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 protest and violent incidents in particular in Sana'a and in the Aden governorate.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Displacement:** An estimated 13 million people (55% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, according to OCHA. As a result of widespread conflict, an estimated 340,000 people remain internally displaced in the north of the country, including Sana'a, as of May. Meanwhile, over 180,000 internally displaced people have returned to their areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate so far and further returns are on-going, 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.

**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. On 13 May, armed groups kidnapped three ICRC staff members in the southern Abyan governorate. All of the captured staff was released three days later.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure, according to OCHA. Some 970,000 people suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), with the 15% emergency threshold exceeded in six Governorates and the situation being serious (GAM 10-14%) in six other Governorates. UNHCR sources state that 998,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished in the country. 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.

**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: 03/06/2013*

## MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

### Highlights

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

**29 May:** One person was killed and five injured as fighting between Muslims and Buddhists reignited in Lashio town, eastern Myanmar. A mosque and an orphanage were torched by mobs roaming the streets and threatening Muslims.

**14-15 May:** Myanmar was affected by the tropical cyclone Mahasen, which had considerably weakened and become a tropical storm by the time it made landfall. The country was effectively spared much impact from the cyclone since the storm took a more westerly track than initially anticipated.

#### Political and Security context:

Sectarian and ethnic strife opposing Muslims and Buddhists in various parts of the country continues in Myanmar. Various incidents erupted in recent weeks.

On 29 May, government troops patrolled the riot-scarred streets Lashio in Shan state, eastern Myanmar where hundreds of Muslims fled their homes, after a new outbreak of religious violence left at least one dead. Fighting broke out between Muslims and Buddhists that saw a mosque and orphanage torched and stick-wielding mobs roaming the streets and threatening Muslims. Three religious buildings, dozens of shops and several

homes were torched during the fighting.

On 30 April, the attack on a Mosque and shops in the small town of Oakkan, 100 km north of the commercial capital Yangon, followed by unrest in nearby villages, left one person dead and 10 more injured.

On 20 March, similar clashes between Muslims and Buddhists had already inflamed the central town of Meikhtila, leading to the death of 43 people and 61 more being injured, and triggering a state of emergency. According to Government officials, the violence also spread to other townships in the region by the end of March, and even the capital Yangon. According to the UN, attacks on religious buildings and shops in the townships of the Bago region were reported on 27-29 March.

Those latest confrontations between Buddhists and Muslims mark the deadliest inter-communal unrest since the violence between the ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya shook western Rakhine state last year, killing hundreds of people

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 between the government and the KIO and to prevent further clashes while efforts are underway to reduce fighting. A new round of peace negotiations between Myanmar's Government and Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) and its armed wing, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), had started mid-March in Ruili, China but soon stalled. Fighting between the Government and KIA re-ignited in June 2011, when a 17-year ceasefire with the KIA rebels broke down. KIA is seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people residing in Myanmar.

#### Humanitarian context and needs:

**Displacement:** As a result of the fighting between Rakhine Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya, between 115,000-140,000 people were still displaced as of late December, mostly across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung).

The clashes in Meikhtila also uprooted an estimated 12,846 people, according to a rapid interagency assessment, of which 10,834 people still remained displaced in 11 locations as of April.

In addition to the approximately 75,000 people who remain displaced across Kachin State and Northern Shan States, UN reports indicate at least 2,000 newly-displaced people due to recent fighting between Government forces and KIA, since mid-December 2012.

**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 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.

**Disaster:** On 14-15 May, Myanmar was affected by the tropical cyclone Mahasen even though it had considerably weakened and become a tropical storm by the time it made landfall. The country was effectively spared much impact from the cyclone since the storm took a more westerly track than initially anticipated. However, some 50 Muslim Rohingya were killed after their boat capsized as they tried to flee the storm from Myanmar to Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, where the storm landed, at least 17 people were killed.

The estimated 140,000 displaced – largely Rohingya Muslims – living in dire conditions along the coast in Rakhine State following last year's violence were spared the full force of the cyclone. The populations that were relocated in days prior to the catastrophe are now returning to the camps.

However, the displaced people living in flood-prone camps and in dire conditions 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.

On 3 May, heavy rains hit southern Shan State in eastern Myanmar killing at least 11 people and flooding some 170 buildings according to the country's Red Cross.

**Food Security:** The rice harvest in 2013 is expected to be significantly affected by the heavy flooding that occurred at the beginning of September 2012 as the rains inundated around 250,000 hectares of crops. 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: 03/06/2013*

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES **COMPLEX**

### Highlights

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

#### Political and Security Context:

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.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

### Highlights

**01 June:** Newly elected members of Pakistan's 14th National Assembly have taken oath, officially marking the first transition of power between democratically elected governments in the 66-year history of the country. Although the victory of the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) at the parliamentary elections is likely to remain uncontested, results from a few constituencies remain uncertain amid fraud allegations. Re-polling has also been conducted in a few others where security issues prevented voting. Tensions are running high in Pakistan following a number of serious post-election incidents.

**31 May:** At least 34 militants and three soldiers were killed in gunfights in the tribal districts of Kurram and Khyber, in the villages of Para Chamkani and Maidan, during an operation against Taliban militants.

**30 May:** A US drone strike killed six militants among which the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali ur Rehman, in the North Waziristan region.

**28 May:** Gunmen killed a female anti-polio worker in northwest Pakistan, the latest in a series of deadly attacks on vaccination teams.

#### Political and Security Context:

On 11 May, Pakistan held its parliamentary elections amidst terrorist attacks by the Pakistani Taliban. As the high turnout allowed for the victory of the PML-N, its leader, Nawaz Sharif, is likely to become Prime minister. This will mark the first transition between civilian governments in a country that has long been ruled by the military. In the 1990's, Nawaz Sharif served twice as Pakistan's Prime Minister before being ousted by a

military coup that brought General P. Musharraf to power in 1999. On 20 May, N. Sharif hinted at the possibility that he might negotiate with the Taliban who have been waging a bloody insurgency marked by numerous terrorist attacks in the country.

Although the victory of the PML-N is likely to remain uncontested, results from a few constituencies remain uncertain amid fraud allegations. Re-polling has also been conducted in a few others where security issues prevented voting. Tensions are still running high in Pakistan.

The election week-end was also tarnished by numerous terrorist attacks with a bomb attack against the office of the Awami National Party (ANP) killing 11 people and wounding 40 others in Karachi while another ANP office was blown in the northwest. Eleven people were also killed in three separate attacks in the insecure southwestern province of Baluchistan.

An estimated 150 people were also killed in the run-up to the elections, during which terrorist attacks intensified while the Taliban attempted to obstruct the polls.

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. The clashes took place in an area between the tribal districts of Kurram and Khyber, during an operation against Taliban militants. The death toll could not be verified by independent sources as the area is out of bounds for media due to ongoing military operations. The fighting took place in the wake of a fresh military push in the Tirah valley in Khyber tribal district, where the military has been targeting Taliban and Lashkar-e-Islam militia threatening the nearby city of Peshawar. On 28 May two people were killed and a dozen wounded when a motorbike bomb exploded in Imamia Colony neighbourhood of Peshawar the main city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Afghanistan's border.

Quetta has been particularly hit by violence in recent weeks. On 23 May, a bomb planted in a rickshaw killed at least 13 people in the outskirts of Quetta, capital of Pakistan's restive Baluchistan province. The Taliban claimed the attack. On 19 May, a senior female politician from the Tehreek-e-Insaf party was shot dead in Karachi. On 17 May, twin bomb attacks killed at least 8 people outside two mosques in the Malakand region in northwest Pakistan. On 12 May, a suicide bomb blast killed 8 and wounded 90 others in Quetta. Some observers expect protests in the capital in the coming days.

On 1 May, tensions escalated between Kabul and Karachi alongside Afghanistan's contested eastern border in Nangarhar province where a fire exchange resulted in the death of one Afghan border policeman and two Pakistani soldiers being wounded. A second border incident, which was reported on 6 May, is likely to further unsettle the relations between the two neighbours.

A US drone strike killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali ur Rehman, in the North Waziristan region. Rehman had been a prominent figure in the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) since its inception in 2007 and was second-in-command of the national hierarchy behind Hakimullah Mehsud, as well as leading the group in South Waziristan. Wednesday's raid was the first drone attack since the May 11 general elections won by Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League. Sharif, who is preparing to take power in the first week of June, has called the drone strikes a "challenge" to his country's sovereignty.

## 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 militants groups in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency have led to additional massive population movements. As of early May, 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 27 May, 5,192 families (31,152 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.

**Disaster:** A major 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Iran on 16 April. The epicentre was in an area of mountains and desert, 78 kilometres from the border with Pakistan. According to OCHA, at least 13 people were killed and 53 others injured, mostly in the southwestern province of Baluchistan that borders Iran. 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.

**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:** Measles cases in 2012 surged by almost five times compared to 2011, leading to the deaths of more than 485 children, up from 64 deaths in 2011. Some 269 deaths have been reported since the beginning of 2013 alone, which amounts to 89% of last year's total figure of 301 deaths. 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. Only 8% of the children received the recommended two doses of the measles vaccine.

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. Insecurity continues to affect the polio eradication campaign in Pakistan. On 28 May a female anti-polio worker was killed in northwest Pakistan, which is the latest in a series of deadly attacks on vaccination teams. The two attackers on a motorbike opened fire on the team as they went to administer polio drops on the edge of the city of Peshawar, near the restive Khyber tribal region where the military has been battling homegrown insurgents with links to the Taliban.

On 20 May, gunmen attacked a polio vaccination team in Bajaur Agency in FATA, killing a policeman who was providing security. This was followed by another team being harassed and their equipment seized and destroyed in Frontier Region Kohat District, FATA.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

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

## Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Since the beginning of January 2013, over 3 million people (32% of the population) in Tajikistan are estimated by WFP to be at risk of food insecurity due to a prolonged lean season and depleted winter stocks. According to WFP, around 870,300 people in 12 livelihood zones are classified as being in Crisis food security conditions (IPC Phase 3). Another 2.4 million people are classified as being in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2). Overall however, the food security status of the analysed zones has relatively improved in the reporting months compared to the previous year thanks to increased remittances received, good rainfall and good cereal production reaching 1.2 million tons at the end of 2012, which is 12% higher than during the last season. Spring rainfall in March has been temporarily well distributed and it is expected to continue at its current regular pace.

In Tajikistan, which heavily depends on imports, wheat flour prices remain at, or close to historic highs in the main and regional markets of the country. In April, they decreased compared to March but still remained high at all big and regional markets of the country compared to the same period of last year. According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, cereal production is tentatively forecasted to increase by 6% in 2013 and prices are expected to slowly decrease.

During 2012, an increase in food prices was recorded on other staple food products such as potatoes (by 19%), beef (by 15%), and bread. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices. However, when accounting for exchange rates, the

current prices are not as high as the 2008 peak prices.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## 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. The hartals have caused significant disruption to business and commerce and current losses to the economy are vast. However, the past few weeks have seen a decrease in violent protests activity.

On 9 May, a local tribunal convicted and sentenced to death an Islamist official of the JI party for atrocities in the country's war of independence, bringing a wave of violent protest from his supporters nationwide. While the party called for a day-long hartal on 12 May, the authorities decided to arrest 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.

The last series of street clashes came after violence earlier erupted in the capital, Dhaka. On 5 May, some 200,000 Islamist protesters demanding religious reforms from the government took to the streets. The next day, while the protests spread outside of the capital, at least 20 people, including two policemen and a security guard, were killed in clashes. Several hundred of people were reportedly injured. The protesters were largely trying to impose an Islamist agenda on Bangladesh by demanding an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty.

Initially, 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 and this is aggravated by rising food prices and disasters destroying infrastructure and inundating land. Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard-prone countries and is often subject to

floods.

**Disaster:** Cyclone Mahasen made landfall on the southern coast of Bangladesh on 16 May. The cyclone was weaker than expected and had been downgraded to tropical storm before reaching land. The storm weakened further immediately after it made landfall, and slowed down until dissipating on 17 May. Nonetheless, the cyclone caused widespread destruction. The Government of Bangladesh has reported approximately 49,000 houses have been completely destroyed and 45,000 houses partially destroyed. Of the ten coastal districts hit, the three districts of Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna were the worst affected

Government figures 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: 03/06/2013*

## IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

### Highlights

**30 May:** Amid a surge of violence that has left 168 dead in a week and increased fears of all-out sectarian conflict, fresh attacks in Iraq, including car bombs in Baghdad, have killed at least 24 people, including 12 police officers,

**28 May:** Bombings and shootings in Iraq on Tuesday killed 16 people, many of them security force members, officials said. This is the latest incident in a wave of violence that authorities are struggling to contain.

**27 May:** More than 70 people were killed in a wave of bombings in markets in Shi'ite neighbourhoods across Baghdad on Monday. In total 420 people were killed this month in Iraq.

**21 May:** Over 40 people were killed in attacks throughout the country, notably after an explosion in a Sunni Mosque in the Abu Ghraib area of western Baghdad and a roadside bomb explosion in Kirkuk in the north of the country.

#### 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. As the Prime Minister's State of Law coalition came top in the elections but failed to win a majority in any district, it

will need to find allies to keep senior provincial posts. The three oil-rich Kurdish provinces in Northern Iraq are scheduled to hold provincial elections at a later date in September 2013. The ongoing violence also forced the authorities to postpone the elections in the two Sunni dominated provinces of Anbar and 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.

High levels of violence continue in Iraq, with at least 578 deaths recorded thus far in May. The UN figures, released on Saturday, showed that 1,045 civilians and security personnel were killed last month, which surpasses the 712 killed in April, and making it the deadliest month recorded since June 2008.

On 20 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. 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 20 May, the 14 people, including six policemen, kidnapped in Anbar on 18 May were found dead.

In early May, several small-scale bombings have targeted oil-rich areas along the contested border of Iraqi Kurdistan. While tensions are also running high between Baghdad and the Kurds with an ongoing feud over northern oil control, it was reported on 14 May that the first group of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to leave Turkey under a recent peace deal arrived into Iraq. The arrival of former PKK insurgents may further unsettle the already tense relations between the authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan and Baghdad.

Confirming the current upsurge in violence in figures, figures released by UNAMI early May showed a total of 712 people (595 civilians) killed and 1,633 (1,428 civilians) wounded in terrorist attacks and acts of violence throughout the country in April, making it the deadliest month since June 2008.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Displacement:** As of 29 May, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 154,203 with Kurdistan hosting 90% of the refugees. At present, daily arrivals to Iraq have reached a rate of 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.

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, north/central governorates and 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 to tension between camp residents. Measles cases have been reported amongst new arrivals in the camp.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*

## JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

As of **30 May**, some 493,825 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, after a week of dramatically decreased numbers of refugees crossing the border, 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.

As of 30 May, some 493,825 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. The Government of Jordan estimates that 513,000 Syrian refugees currently reside in the country as of 9 May. Recent reports warn of signs of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, in particular 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.

Updated: 03/06/2013

## 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: 03/06/2013

## PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

### Highlights

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

#### 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 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 11,676 are residing in evacuation centres. A total of 158,769 houses are totally or partially damaged.

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.

Four consecutive days of rain combined with the tail-end of a cold front led to rising water levels in Mindanao in January. As of 26 January, there were more than 507,700 people affected, the majority of them, 369,000, in Davao Region.

**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: 03/06/2013

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

### Highlights

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

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.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**Access:** Humanitarian access to the country is very limited.

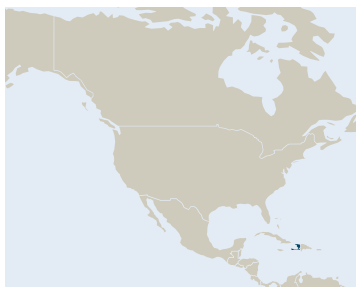
**Disaster:** DPRK still requires international humanitarian assistance. Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 affected an estimated 700,000 people,

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.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*



## NORTH AMERICA

### HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

#### Highlights

As of **late May**, Haiti is enduring the lean season that will last through June. Poor households in the northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest of the country are already facing Crisis level of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3). As the country is still impacted by last year's poor harvest and by this year's delayed rains, many poor households have already switched to irreversible coping strategies. As reported by FEWSNET, the situation is rendered more severe by the current high prices on seeds.

#### 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:** Some 2.1 million people in Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis, according to OCHA as of the beginning of April. 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 645,964, with as much as 118,000 potential new cholera cases forecasted for 2013. According to OCHA, 18,756 new cholera cases were reported between January and April 2013, resulting in 190 deaths. Contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions and inadequate sanitation remain among the principal causes explaining the spread of the disease.

*Updated: 03/06/2013*



## OCEANIA

### MARSHALL ISLANDS DROUGHT

## Highlights

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

### 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. The state of 'drought' disaster will remain in effect for 30 days from the proclamation date, unless re-issued by the RMI Cabinet.

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. There is a high likelihood that RMI will remain in drought conditions through July, although rainfall may possibly come in late May.

Up to an estimated 6,000 people are living in the drought-affected atolls and are severely affected as of mid-May. An additional 11,000 people are experiencing less severe drought conditions while crop losses have already been reported in the area.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*



# SOUTH AMERICA

## BOLIVIA FLOODS

## Highlights

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

### Humanitarian Context and Needs:

**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.

**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.

*Reviewed: 03/06/2013*

## 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](#).