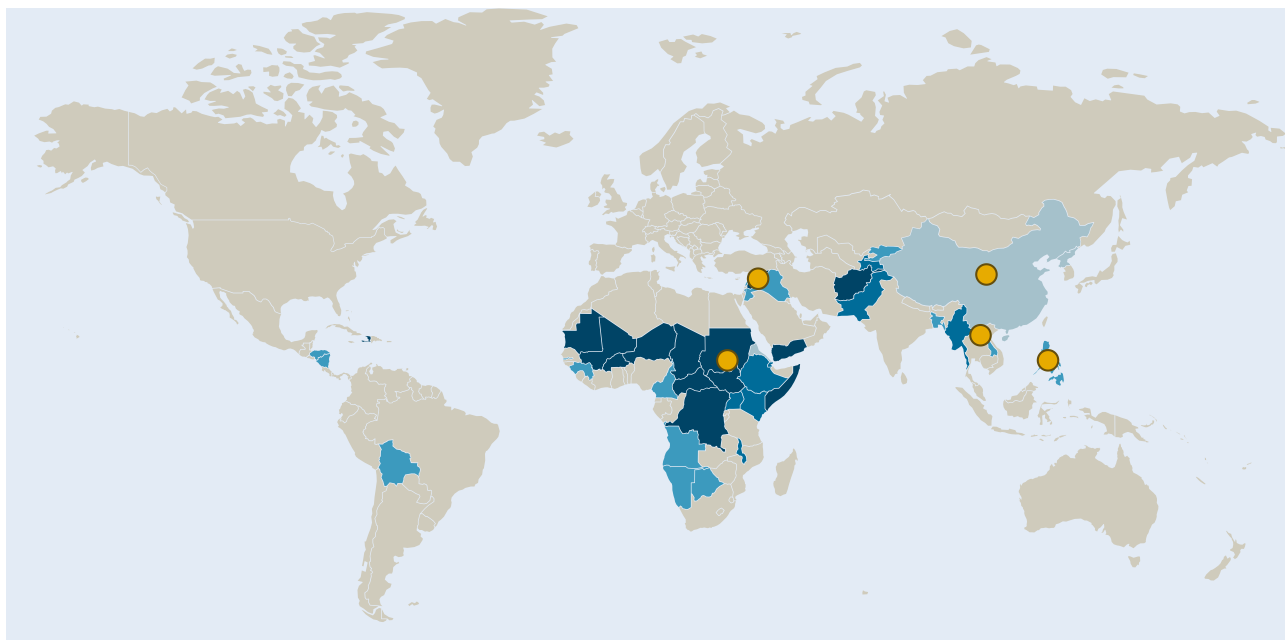




GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

August 2013



Snapshot 12 – 19 August

In **Syria**, fighting between governmental forces and opposition groups has been concentrated in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus this week. Meanwhile, infighting is ongoing within the opposition. As during previous weeks, FSA forces have clashed with Islamist opposition groups on multiple occasions while Kurdish groups continued to fight with Islamist groups in the north of the country. The mass influx of Syrian refugees to neighbouring countries is ongoing. As of 19 August, over 1.9 million Syrians had fled the country.

Last week saw one of the largest mass displacements of refugees since the beginning of the crisis: **Iraq** experienced a sudden influx of Syrian refugees between 15 and 19 August. Over 20,000 refugees are reported to have entered northern Iraq through the Peshkabour crossing, according to UNHCR.

Following its passage across the **Philippines** on 12 August, the Typhoon Utor hit southeastern Guangdong province in **China** on 14 August. As of 19 August, the Typhoon and following rains have affected an estimated 4 million people in China after having affected over 380,000 in the Philippines.

In parallel, the provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang in north-eastern **China**, near the border with Russia, have been hit by severe flooding in mid-August. To date, over 3.5 million people were reportedly affected in the area.

Severe humanitarian crisis

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

Humanitarian crisis

Djibouti	oPt
Ethiopia	Pakistan
Kenya	Tajikistan
Malawi	Uganda
Myanmar	

Situation of concern

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

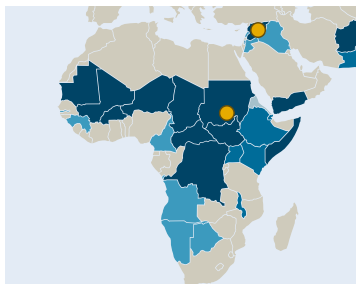
Watch list

● China	Eritrea
DPRK	

In **Laos**, two tropical storms caused flooding that affected 44,000 people in the northern provinces of Oudomxay, Xayabuly, Xiengkhoung and Bolikhamxay, and in the central province of Khammoune. To date, information on damages remains limited.

As of 16 August, according to OCHA, heavy rains have displaced at least 150,000 people across nine states in **Sudan**. Immediate needs include emergency shelter, health and water and sanitation services.

Last Updated: 19/08/2013 Next Update: 26/08/2013



AFRICA

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Cereal prices have been stable since January 2013 and at levels slightly above the five-year average (by no more than 12%). OCHA reported in early August that the cost of coarse grains rose by 8% for millet, 19% for local sorghum, and 11% for maize. Limited non-agricultural income is expected to further affect the quantity and quality of food access until September 2013. During this period, 25-30% of households in the north will have food security issues and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

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

In the Sahelian area of Burkina Faso, an estimated 90% of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Civil strife in northern Mali has contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country, and OCHA reported in early July that the arrival of Malian refugees and their cattle had further increased pressure on scarce resources leading to tensions with local communities. A May WFP and UNHCR joint assessment showed that 15% of the Malian refugee households have poor or borderline food consumption, against 13% in the host population. A February FAO/WFP joint assessment indicated an elevated prevalence of food insecurity in Malian refugee camps and in Burkinabe host communities with an estimated 52% of refugees and 58% of host populations affected by food insecurity.

The 2013 total annual caseload of children <5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), as reported by UNICEF in late June, remains at January levels at an estimated 120,000. The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels, bringing the <5 General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 10.9%. According to 2012 assessments, the highest GAM rates were recorded in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. In May, UNHCR and WFP reported that malnutrition is alarming among certain Malian refugee communities, especially in Goudebou, where the rates are beyond critical thresholds (SAM: 5.3%, MAM: 19.1%).

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

18 August: The former rebel leader Michel Djotodia, head of the Seleka coalition that took control of the Central African Republic (CAR) following a coup in late March, was formally sworn in as the country's new president. The investiture of Djotodia officially marks the beginning of his interim administration's 18-month deadline to restore order

and organise elections.

Mid-August: OCHA reported that 1.6 million people were reported to be in dire need of assistance. UNHCR reported that 62,714 people have fled from CAR since the latest CAR crisis erupted last December. The Democratic Republic of Congo alone has received an estimated 40,500 refugees.

Mid-August: According to the authorities, the measles epidemic was reportedly affecting large parts of the country, notably the towns of Ngaoundaye, Abba and Carnot, Begoua and Mbaiki, in suburbs of the capital Bangui.

14 August: The new CAR leadership has reiterated its intention to fight against the spread of small weapons within the country. Reports indicated that the local population is increasingly responding to widespread violence by organizing vigilante groups.

12 August: In Bangui, a local UN staff member was reportedly attacked by rogue Seleka elements. The last incident followed one a week ago in which another local UN staff member was seriously wounded and his wife killed.

11 August: Local sources reported violence in Bossangoa city, in the central eastern part of the country, with 7 people killed in clashes with Seleka elements. UNHCR reported new clashes between population in rural areas and elements of the Seleka in the village of Beboura, 30 km from Paoua a city near the Chadian border. To date, the number of casualties remains unknown.

Political and Security Context

On 18 August, the former rebel leader Michel Djotodia, head of the Seleka coalition that took control of the Central African Republic (CAR) following a coup in late March, was formally sworn in as the country's new president. The inauguration of Djotodia officially marks the beginning of his interim administration's 18-month deadline to restore order and organise elections. The ceremony was attended by Chad's President Idriss Deby and Congo Republic's President Denis Sassou Nguesso in what may be seen as a sign of support of regional strongmen to the new CAR leadership.

The situation in CAR remains highly volatile with various sources reporting widespread insecurity and clashes between elements of the Seleka coalition and the population. Various rebel leaders, de facto new warlords, are reportedly dominating the country outside of the capital Bangui. On 14 August, the new CAR leadership has reiterated its intention to fight against the spread of small weapons within the country. Looting and destruction is virtually unchecked, with an increasing number of unpaid Seleka members roaming the streets and setting up checkpoints to collect money. Increasingly, the local population is responding by organizing vigilante groups.

According to a senior UN official who visited the country in early August, the security is at present virtually non-existent beyond the capital while State institutions are close to collapse. In various parts of the country, human rights infringements, arrests and executions are reported. In mid-August, a UN official commented that the country is on the brink of collapse and the crisis is threatening to spread beyond CAR's borders.

With several international organizations having ceased operations in CAR, information on levels of violence remains difficult to ascertain. On 11 August, UNHCR reported new clashes between the population in rural areas and some elements of the Seleka in the village of Beboura, 30 km from Paoua a city near the Chadian border. Although information to date remains limited, casualties were reported and moved to a hospital in Paoua. In a separate incident on the same day, local sources reported violence in Bossangoa city, in the northwest prefecture of Ouham, that resulted in 7 people killed in clashes with Seleka elements. Two other people have reportedly been killed in the area over last week while local sources reported widespread insecurity along the road between Bozoum and Bossangoa where armed men have attacked several villages.

In early August, Caritas also reported ongoing violence in a village called Ouhman-Bac in the country's northwest where between 30 and 50 people have been killed. While information remains difficult to ascertain, local reports also pointed to possible mass killings occurring in the area of Bambari, the country's third biggest city in the south. On 5-6 August, attacks and arbitrary killings by Seleka-affiliated elements continued to be reported from the capital Bangui. As of June, OCHA reported that at least 8 attacks, 20 killings and 60 abductions took place in the second quarter of 2013, notably in the northwestern Haut-Kotto Préfecture.

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

Initially, violence had erupted in CAR in December 2012, when the Seleka coalition, a group of five rebel movements, took up arms against the Government claiming that the latter had failed to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals declaring amnesty for fighters who laid down their arms. Throughout March, the Seleka rebels took control of various towns and continued their advance until they seized Bangui on 24 March and toppled President Bozizé who fled to Cameroon.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

More than four months after Seleka rebels seized power in CAR, the country is still struggling with a humanitarian emergency. Humanitarian agencies have warned that the humanitarian situation across the country and in Bangui is worsening, advocating for security, access and protection of civilians. Ongoing lawlessness is considerable, and administrative offices, hospitals, health centres and schools have been pillaged, depriving vulnerable communities of basic services. UNICEF reported in early July that the current humanitarian crisis is affecting an estimated 4.6 million people or the entire population of CAR, including 2.3 million children. As of mid-August, 1.6 million people were reported to be in dire need of assistance by OCHA.

Displacement: UNHCR has identified at least 206,000 people, including 100,000 children, as being internally displaced, although this number is believed to be higher, as

displacement has continued in the Northern and Western part of the country. Currently restricted humanitarian access limits the access to information.

As of mid-August, UNHCR reported that 62,714 people have fled from CAR since the latest CAR crisis erupted last December. The Democratic Republic of Congo alone has received an estimated 40,500 refugees while Chad witnessed the arrival of 13,087 people, including 4,125 who arrived to the Moissala area since mid-July; an additional 4,841 people moved to Republic of Congo and 4,286 to Cameroon respectively. Cumulatively, there are over 220,000 refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries.

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

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

Access: In Bangui, a local UN staff member was reportedly attacked by rogue Seleka elements on 12 August. The last incident followed one a week ago in which another local UN staff member was seriously wounded and his wife killed. UNHCR reported that it remains extremely concerned with the limitations on humanitarian access, although access to the refugee camps at Bambari, Batalimo, and Zemio that host mainly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in central and southern CAR, have improved. On 14 August, Caritas reported ongoing attacks against aid workers in the country.

OCHA reported on 17 July that the restriction of humanitarian space due to insecurity is limiting the delivery of aid to people in need. However, almost all NGOs have now returned to their previous locations and are deploying teams and resuming activities. The Humanitarian Country Team is facilitating access negotiations with Seleka authorities in regions outside Bangui to enable humanitarian actors to assist people affected by the crisis. UNDSS approved the gradual return of critical international UN staff on 18 June, indicating an improvement in security related constraints.

Despite these improvements, the use of secondary roads is inadvisable due to physical and infrastructural constraints, exacerbated by the impending rainy season. Access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As the region has entered the 'lean season' when food supplies run low from mid-May until the harvest in September, WFP reported that food insecurity may reach crisis levels in the coming weeks. On 8 August, the WFP announced that it was scaling-up operations in CAR, amid increasing concerns that ongoing insecurity is fuelling hunger among people who have fled their homes and farms.

OCHA and FSNWG reported that 2 million people in CAR faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity as of 22 June. As of mid-August, OCHA reported that 484,000 people (10.5% of the population) were severely food insecure. As reported by FEWSNET in early June, households in the central, northern and eastern

areas of the country are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels until the September harvest. Households in southern and western areas are likely to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity through the end of September.

A recent Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment indicated that the most vulnerable populations have begun adopting negative coping mechanisms, such as eating once a day only, and reducing food diversity. Unless urgent food assistance is provided, a nutritional crisis is high likely during the lean season. The report highlights that the food security situation of IDPs remains critical.

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

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

Health: As reported by Merlin in early June, 3.2 million people are living without health care. In August, OCHA reported that less than 20% of the country's medical facilities are operational. In July, MSF stated that even before the coup, the country was in a state of crisis with mortality rates being well above the emergency threshold in several regions.

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

According to UNICEF, a measles epidemic in Bangui county was confirmed and the organization coordinated a vaccination campaign in late May. As of mid-August, the measles epidemic was reportedly affecting large parts of the county, such as the towns of Ngaoundaye, Abba and Carnot, Begoua and Mbaiki, as well as the suburbs of the capital Bangui.

As of mid-August, over 13,000 people living with HIV/AIDS had their anti-retroviral treatment interrupted as a result of instability since December 2012.

Protection: INGOs have reported a sharp rise in human rights abuses across the country, including attacks on civilians, child recruitment, arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, summary executions, rape, and other violations against civilians. Overall, several INGOs have indicated that children, notably those displaced by the conflict, remain as a particularly vulnerable group. Several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children <18, some of whom had been recently demobilized, into Seleka forces. According to OCHA, as of mid-August, at least 3,500 children have been recruited into armed groups.

In late July, the International Federation for Human Rights reported that Seleka rebels have killed 400 people, carried out dozens of rapes, and intentionally destroyed 34 villages/towns since February this year.

Updated: 19/08/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

13 August: On-going political turmoil in the Central African Republic (CAR) has led to 13,087 CAR refugees crossing into the country since December, bringing the total number of CAR refugees in Chad to more than 70,000.

13 August: Sudanese refugees in camp Djabal (eastern Chad) are suffering from an acute lack of drinking water, putting the lives of 19,500 people at risk.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

On-going political turmoil in CAR has led to 13,087 CAR refugees crossing into Chad since December (including 4,125 refugees who arrived mid-July in Moissala, southern Chad), bringing the total number of CAR refugees in Chad to over 70,000, UNHCR reported on 13 August.

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

People fleeing violence in northern Nigeria have crossed into Western Chad around the area of Lake Chad. Returnees from Nigeria are primarily unaccompanied minors from fishing villages in Bagakawa, according to UNICEF. As of early June, Chadian authorities

reported an estimated 1,200 returnees dispersed across three hard-to-reach insular locations: Bagasola, Ngouboua and Tchoucoutelia.

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

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

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

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

Displaced populations seem more vulnerable to food insecurity. In mid-July, local media reported that Sudanese refugees, located at camps in eastern Chad faced food shortages. A joint assessment by WFP and UNHCR in May showed that the food security situation is alarming for 22,131 Central African refugees in the Belom camp in Maro (southern Chad). The most affected are refugees who arrived in Chad from January to March 2013 (compared to earlier refugees from 2002 to 2009), with 71.2% of them being food insecure. This is mainly due to the lack of access to agricultural lands, poverty, lack of diversified livelihoods and unsustainable income generating activities. Local media also reported on 13 August that Sudanese refugees in camp Djabal (eastern Chad) are suffering for an acute lack of drinking water, putting the lives of 19,500 people at risk.

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

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

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

Highlights

19 August: Clashes between the militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo, a rebel group based in Pinga) and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the territory of Walikale (North-Kivu) have caused displacement for 3 consecutive days.

As of 15 August, an outbreak of measles in the area of Kamonia killed 40 children in Kamako (Kasai Occidental), exacerbated by unsanitary conditions following massive population displacement and overcrowding in settlements.

15 August: In the Uvira area (South-Kivu), unidentified armed men attacked Mutarule-Katekama, killing 11 people including a woman and four children.

14 August: The official military forces (FARDC) and the UN intervention brigade in Democratic Republic of Congo are currently controlling areas between Sake, Mutaho and Moja, in anticipation of a M23 attack on Goma.

13 August: Nine people died in heavy fighting in Baraka (South-Kivu) between FARDC and the militia Yakutumba.

As of 13 August, UNHCR reported that 40,500 CAR refugees have arrived in DRC since December 2012.

12 August: ICRC reported that less than 50% of the population of South-Kivu has access to drinking water.

11 August: Clashes between the militia NDC and the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS, a Hunde-dominated rebel group based in northeastern DRC) caused the displacement of an unknown number of people from Bihiri, toward Malemo and Kalembe (North-Kivu).

3 August: The Tutsi-dominated insurgency group M23 threatened to retake Goma (North-Kivu) if the government did not respect its commitment to peace talks, which are supposed to resume this week. The UN intervention brigade has established a security zone around Goma-Sake (North Kivu) to protect civilians from potential clashes.

1 August: Clashes between FARDC and the militia Mai-Mai NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo) caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala (North-Kivu).

1 August: 70% of the 66,000 Congolese refugees who fled to Uganda after ADF/NALU's attack on Kamango have now returned to their village, according to WFP. 37,000 of these IDPs are currently in the area of Nobili, 10,700 in Kizimba, and 810 in Kinigi and Rubaya. Some of these IDPs (in Kizimba, Kinigi and Rubaya) are reported to have fled clashes related to other armed groups including the Popular Congolese Forces (FPC) and the militia Nyatura.

End of July: Floods in the town of Gbadolite (northeastern Equateur) destroyed the houses of thousands of people.

Political and Security context

North-Kivu

On 14 August, MONUSCO (the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) reported that its intervention brigade and the official military forces FARDC currently control areas between Sake, Mutaho and Moja, which constitute potential entry points for a rebel attack on Goma. This follows the threat by the M23, a Tutsi-dominated insurgency group, to retake the capital if the government did not respect its commitment to peace talks at the beginning of August.

Hostilities between the official military forces and the M23 began on 14 July in areas around Mutaho, Kanyarucinya, Kibati and in the mountains near Ndosho (a few kms from Goma) and are considered to be at the deadliest events since the beginning of the rebellion in April 2012. During June, the M23 had reinforced its position around Goma and launched a series of attacks in retaliation for the interruption of peace talks in Kampala between the DRC Government and the M23 on 12 July, when representative of the insurgents claimed that government teams left the talks. On 30 July, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC announced that it would use its intervention brigade to enforce a security zone around Goma, giving M23 rebels (and individuals who are not members of national security forces) 48 hours to hand in their weapons to a MONUSCO base and join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement process. Though the rebel group disregarded the ultimatum, the security zone was established around Goma-Sake. On 2 August, people demonstrated in Goma to request the extension of the safety zone to Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories, which continue to experience large-scale M23 exactions against civilians. National dialogue is ongoing in Kampala, in neighbouring Uganda.

On 19 August, local media reported that clashes between the militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo, a rebel group based in Pinga) and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the territory of Walikale have caused displacement for 3 consecutive days. An unknown number of people from Kishimba and Ikobo sought refuge in Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanyabayonga. Earlier in August, clashes between the militia NDC and the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS, a Hunde-dominated rebel group based in northeastern DRC) caused the displacement of an unknown number of people from Bihiri, toward Malemo and Kalembe. The zone around Pinga has been experiencing insecurity and tensions for over a year, with the two rebel groups fighting for control of the area and committing exactions against civilians. On 1 August, clashes between the militia NDC and the official military force (FARDC) on the axis between Walikale and Kisangani already caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala (western North-Kivu) and surrounds. The same week, the population of 5 villages around Pinga sought refuge inside Pinga following the arrival of the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the area, local media reported on 15 August. Although information is difficult to ascertain, an estimated 150 people have been killed in Pinga since late May.

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

According to local media, North-Kivu harbours 27 different armed groups. The UN has reported ongoing human rights abuses by militias and governmental troops. According to ICRC, there are reports of indiscriminate and fierce attacks on civilians and of increasing tension between various communities.

South-Kivu

In the Uvira area, on the Rusizi plain, local media reported on 15 August that unidentified armed men attacked Mutarule-Katekama, killing 11 people including a woman and four children. On 13 August, local media reported heavy fighting in Baraka, between the official military forces (FARDC) and the militia Yakutumba (a rebel group also known as Fal Alleluia). Four militia men died and five civilians were wounded in the attack on FARDC headquarters which was aiming at releasing rebel fighters arrested on 9 August. No displacements were recorded but villagers were advised to restrain their movements until the situation stabilized. The Uvira area, along the Burundi border, is currently hosting 6 armed groups, and has been experiencing increasing tensions since end of July, according to local media.

Katanga

Militia fighters allegedly killed the member of a local organisation on 7 August in Kanwankolo, south of Pweto, because of his apparent links with FARDC. In Pweto, OCHA reported on 16 August that clashes between FARDC and local militia caused the displacement of over 4,000 people toward Lwantete (north) and Mutabi (southwest). In the same area, the presence of the rebel group Popular Self-Defence Forces (FAP) around Kizabi is creating tension and risk of additional clashes. In Katanga Province, the separatist militia group Bakata Katanga has carried out continuous attacks since early June in Nganie causing large displacement and unrest for the local communities.

Maniema

On 30 July, OCHA reported the presence of armed groups in eastern areas of Maniema, affecting the safety of civilians. Looting was reported on 15 July and the town of Kitamuna is still under the control of armed groups since January 2013, causing the displacement of hundreds of villagers.

Orientale

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access: Access is limited in large parts of DRC. Physical and infrastructural impediments to delivering aid are significant due to mountainous and volcanic terrain and a lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province. In Kabeya Kamwanga in Kasai Oriental, IDPs remain without assistance or shelter.

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

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

The INGO Médecins Sans Frontières announced early August that it would cease its activities in the area of Pinga (North-Kivu), where clashes between rebel groups and FARDC have caused increasing insecurity, and after receipt of threats of attack on its staff. The suspension will worsen an already dire health and humanitarian situation.

Disaster: Local media reported on 12 August that the end of July floods in the town of Gbadolite (northeastern Equateur, along the CAR border) destroyed the houses of thousands of people.

Displacement: Overall, as of 5 July, OCHA estimated that 2.6 million people remained displaced in DRC as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups. An estimated 450,000 Congolese refugees are residing in neighbouring countries. DRC is facing increasing numbers of refugees crossing from CAR. As of 13 August, UNHCR reported that 40,500 CAR refugees have arrived in DRC since December 2012. DRC currently hosts over 178,000 refugees among whom over 127,000 come from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and the Republic of Congo.

North-Kivu

On 19 July, clashes between the militia NDC and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR in the territory of Walikale have caused displacement for 3 consecutive days. An unknown number of people from Kishimba and Ikobo sought refuge in Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanyabayonga. Local media reported IDPs are staying with host families or outside, and are in urgent need of food.

From 5 to 11 August, clashes between the two militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo) and the APCLS (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo) caused the displacement of an unknown number of people from Bihiri, toward Malemo and Kalembe. On 1 August, clashes between NDC and the official military force between Walikale and Kisangani already caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala (western North-Kivu).

On 13 August, OCHA reported that a joint assessment conducted in Cantine (Beni territory) showed the presence of 6,600 IDPs, including 5,800 people from Province Orientale, namely Pangoy, Kitembo, Mabutua, and Camp Liberté, and 940 people from Kambau and Midele (northwest of Lubero). These population movements occurred between 22 and 29 July after attacks by Simba militia men.

In Kikuvo (southwest of Lubero), OCHA reported on 13 August the presence of 3,000 IDPs (from Ndwali, Munihi, Kakindo, Musuti, Bukununu, Vupwanza and Matolu), displaced after clashes between the official military forces FARDC and the armed group Congolese Patriotic Resistance (PARECO) which occurred in May 2013 and fighting between militias Shetani and Nyatura in June 2013. A joint assessment reported high levels of food insecurity, and concerns around the WASH situation of the displaced.

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

On 11 July, the ADF/NALU's attack on the town of Kamango led to 66,000 people from eastern DRC North-Kivu province fleeing into neighbouring Uganda. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees have returned and now face food shortages. A joint assessment conducted from 25 to 28 July reported that 37,000 of these displaced people are currently in the area of Nobili, 10,700 in Kizimba, and 810 in Kinigi and Rubaya. Part of these IDPs (in Kizimba, Kinigi and Rubaya) are reported to have fled clashes related to other armed groups including the Popular Congolese Forces (FPC) and the militia Nyatura.

Maniema

On 30 July, OCHA reported the displacement of 1,000 people from Kitamuna toward the south of Punia after an armed group attacked and looted their village. Kitamuna is reportedly still under control of the rebels.

Kasai oriental

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

South-Kivu

In South-Kivu, 52,600 new IDPs were registered due to conflict since January. As of late June, WFP reported that the number of people displaced has increased from 702,093 to

712,254 since end of March 2013, following clashes between FARDC and local militias that progressively established a stronghold in the province, leading to more insecurity. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between January and June 2013, 184,530 IDPs who previously fled South Kivu have returned, mainly in Shabunda territory.

Orientale

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

Katanga

In the Katanga province, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and FARDC led to new population displacement in April. At least 368,000 people were reportedly displaced in the province as of 3 July. Since the beginning of June, attacks in Katanga Province by the Bakata Katanga militia resulted in the displacement of 23,000 people according to official sources. Most recently IDPs have fled from Nganie to Mwanza, putting large strains on the Mwanza community, notably in terms of heightened food insecurity. In Pweto, OCHA reported on 16 August that clashes between FARDC and local militia caused the displacement of more than 4,000 people toward Lwantete (north) and Mutabi (southwest).

Food Security and Malnutrition: A June report by FSNWG estimated that 6.4 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, which represents an increase of about 75,000 people compared to October 2012. Two-third of them (about 4.2 million people) are considered severely food insecure and are mostly concentrated in the east of North-Kivu province and in the south of Katanga province, where civil conflict has been escalating since March. Persistent insecurity severely damaged local livelihood systems, caused massive displacement and is restricting access to land and agricultural inputs. High food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food insecurity for poor households.

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

In the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, the planting of the main season maize crops, to be harvested from October, has been completed under average rainfall conditions. Satellite analysis indicate that good rains benefited crops in northern and southern regions, while poor rains may have affected crops in central provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental.

Health: Across the country, 17,423 cholera cases were registered for 2013 as of 17 June, WHO reports. 337 deaths have been reported for a fatality rate of 2%. Over 60% of the cases (more than 18,163) are registered in Katanga Province. During 2012, DRC had 30,753 registered cholera cases, with 709 deaths, compared to 21,700 cases in 2011. The surge in cholera cases is largely the result of limited access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions, and poor sanitation. More than 4 million cases of malaria have been reported since the beginning of 2013 as of 17 June; 8,500 deaths have been registered due to malaria during the same period. On 1 August, WHO reported 519 measles cases since January 2013.

North-Kivu

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

Kasai Oriental

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

Kasai Occidental

On 15 August, local media reported an outbreak of measles in the area of Kamonia. So far, 40 children died of the disease in Kamako (including 28 deaths on 6 and 7 August), due to unsanitary conditions following massive population displacement and overcrowding in settlements.

Maniema

An inter-cluster mission conducted in Punia and Kasese from 11 to 18 July reported an important number of death among children due to measles and severe anaemia.

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

WASH: On 12 August, ICRC reported that less than 50% of the population of South-Kivu has access to drinking water.

Updated: 19/08/2013

MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

15 August: Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was announced winner of the Malian presidential elections with 77.6% of the votes.

Early August: In areas occupied by armed groups, 65% of health structures are reported partially or non-functional compared to 17% nationwide.

1 August: Between 25 June and 12 July, 8,148 refugees returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou.

End of July: An estimated 517,315 people are still displaced due to the crisis in the north, including 342,033 IDPs and 175,282 Malians refugees in neighbouring countries.

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

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

Political and Security Context

On 15 August, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was announced winner of the Malian presidential elections with 77.6% of the votes. Both rounds passed without incident, although OCHA reported on 14 August that sporadic violence continues in the north of the country where civilians live in fear of attacks by Tuareg rebels, namely the MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad).

Between 28 July and 11 August, Malians voted in the first polls since a military coup and insurgency 16 months ago. The election process was seen as an important step on the path to recovery for the country which also witnessed renewed fighting between Government forces and Tuareg rebels, as well as the seizure of its northern territory by radical Islamists.

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

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

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

took over from a French-led mission on 1 July.

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to OCHA as of 25 July, an estimated 517,315 people are still displaced due to the crisis in the north, including 342,033 IDPs in Mali compared to 261,000 as of late January. As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, an increasing number of IDPs have started to return home. According to IOM, 137,422 people have returned to the north between January and May 2013. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between 25 June and 12 July, 8,148 Malian refugees who previously fled to neighbouring countries returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou. Another joint assessment by OCHA and UNHCR reported that 226 refugees returned to the Douekire, namely to Inalkary, Dongwe-Haussa, Adjowal, and Takumbaout, while an unknown number of refugees returned from Mauritania to Goundam Circle at the end of July.

IOM reported in the end of July that reasons cited for return by refugees and IDPs have been attributed to: the return to relative stability in the north following recent attempts to restore order; the desire to participate in the country's elections; and the desire to survey what was left of homes and possessions. The gradual return of IDPs to the north is likely to strain limited social services.

According to OCHA as of 29 July, 175,282 Malians are still registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, with 75,261 in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger and 49,975 in Burkina Faso.

Access: Humanitarian access continues to improve in central regions and parts of the North and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Aid activities in

other parts of the North are limited due to continued insecurity and banditry. Access to basic social services (water, education, and health) remains limited in the North largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure, and a lack of materials to support basic services.

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

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

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

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

Health: On 5 August, OCHA reported that in the areas that were occupied by armed groups, 65% of health structures are reported partially -or non- functional compared to 17% nationwide.

Updated: 19/08/2013

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Early July: Some 800,000 people are food insecure in Mauritania, with 240,000 persons (30%) classified as severely food insecure. This number marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people in January 2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

16 August: 19,386 people are affected by floods in the areas of Tillabery, Dingazi, Tondikiwindi, Banibangou, Agadez and most of all, Maradi.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 16 August, OCHA reported that floods are affecting the areas of Tillabery, Dingazi, Tondikiwindi, Banibangou, Agadez and, most of all, Maradi. So far, 19,386 people are affected (including 1,004 in Maradi only).

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

As of 20 June, an estimated 6,240 people arrived from Nigeria to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram in the north of the country. These refugees have been crossing into Niger since mid-May and have mainly settled in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa,

Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou. UNHCR reported 2,692 Nigerian nationals, 3,544 Nigerien returnees, and 94 people of other nationalities (mainly Chadians). The majority of refugees live with host families, while others live in rented houses but lack the money to pay their rent or have no shelter at all.

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

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

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

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

On 31 July, OCHA reported that malnutrition has slightly decreased, with a rate of 13.3% GAM for children <5, compared to 14.8% in 2012, except in Maradi district where 16.3% GAM rate is source of concern.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

14 August: The international medical humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) announced the closure of all its programmes in Somalia, the result of fatal attacks on its staff.

14 August: The outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 105 cases in Somalia, primarily in the Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions.

5 August: Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region said on 5 August that it had cut all ties with the central government in a likely setback to efforts to stabilise and appease the country.

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

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

In June, Al-Shabaab militants launched one of the biggest assaults in the past years targeting the UN compound in Mogadishu killing 15 people and causing all UN missions outside Mogadishu International Airport to be suspended for 24 hours. The attack on 19

June came at the beginning of the transfer of international staff from Nairobi to Mogadishu, where a new country office had been created and an integrated UN mission officially due to start on 1 January 2014. As a result of the attacks, the transfer of staff was temporarily suspended.

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

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

On 5 August, Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region cut all ties with the central government in a likely setback to efforts to stabilise and appease the country. Puntland accused the Mogadishu government of refusing to share power and foreign aid with the region in line with the country's federal structure, as well as taking its eye off the fight against Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants.

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

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

According to the African Union (AU) on 9 May, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia since 2007. Despite recent success by Somali forces and AU peacekeepers against Al-Shabaab fighters, tensions exist between the different military

forces involved and the local authorities to the extent that, on 22 April, Ethiopia officially announced its wish to remove part of its troops from Somalia, but has no plans for a complete withdrawal from the fight against al Qaeda-linked insurgents. During March-April, the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Hudur, a town in the southern Bakool region, led to its immediate occupation by Al-Shabaab.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access: On 14 August, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) announced that it is immediately stopping all operations in Somalia as a result of increased attacks on its staff. MSF has been operating in Somali since 1991 and has treated approximately 50,000 people a month.

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

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

Between November 2011 and February 2012, humanitarian aid worth £480,000 was appropriated by Al-Shabaab in southern Somalia from the offices and warehouses of partner organisations.

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

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

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

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

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

The FSNAU states that most rural households will experience stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions between July and December 2013. Most pastoral households are likely to see improvements due to the positive effect of *Gu* rains on rangeland and water conditions leading to improved milk yields. This is with the exception of coastal areas in central and northeastern regions which are likely to face deteriorating food security from May to September due to declining livestock production, poor rainfall in the last six months, and unfavourable pasture conditions. Therefore, it is likely that the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Hiran and Central agropastoral livelihood zone, the cowpea belt, will increase between July and September due to crop failures and an expected below average crop production.

FAO reported in June that current maize prices were 15-25% below their levels of 12 months earlier and about 60-80% below the peak reached in June 2011 when famine was declared.

In January 2013, FSNAU estimated 215,000 children <5 to be acutely malnourished of whom at least 45,000 were severely malnourished. This is attributed to the lack of adequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices. At the beginning of August, FSNAU reported critical levels of GAM (GAM rate ≥ 15 percent and < 30 percent) in North East, Central and South Somalia. In Kismayo, 19% GAM rates were reported in an area which was the recent flashpoint for tribal fighting that also hampered the polio vaccination campaign in the area.

Health: The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. As of 14 August, 105 cases have been confirmed primarily in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia. According to OCHA on 18 July, the Somaliland Minister of Health confirmed the disease had reached the northern regions with a case of polio in Sool region. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May in Somalia. However, recent fighting in Kismayo has put a halt to a polio vaccination campaign planned for the beginning of July, targeting 24,000 people. Large areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009 due to insecurity, leaving up to 600,000 children particularly vulnerable according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases have been confirmed from these parts of Lower Shabelle region. The risk to populations across other areas of Somalia is also very high, due to substantial subnational population immunity gaps.

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

17 August: Local authorities in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State in South Sudan reported that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in recent days. The refugees are reportedly severely food insecure; four have died since their arrival. To date, it was reported that 4,000 to 5,000 people were already in the area, with urgent need of food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance.

16 August: According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected Sudan since 1st August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, Khartoum, Northern and Red Sea, River Nile and Blue Nile, West Kordofan, El Gezira states. More rains are expected in the coming weeks. To date, the heavy rains have displaced at least 150,000 people across nine Sudanese states. As reported by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), at least 36 people were killed and 93 others injured across the country. On 14 August, WHO reported that the rains have affected an estimated 232,135 people overall.

Mid-August: As reported by WFP in mid-August, the overall food security situation has improved compared to the same period in 2012 even if an estimated 8% (over 850,000 people) and 34% (over 3.5 million people) remain respectively severely and moderately food insecure in South Sudan. WFP reported that the food security situation has deteriorated in some particular areas – Unity State, eastern parts of Eastern Equatoria and Lakes – that are experiencing drier-than-normal conditions characterized by erratic rainfall coupled with prolonged dry spell. In addition, the food security situation, mainly because of problematic access to food because of limited and unreliable income and poor purchasing power, is grim in southeastern Jonglei State following prolonged insecurity in Pibor County.

8 August: Violence between ethnic groups, state and non-state actors has raged in Pibor County in Jonglei State since mid-July. Although the situation remains tense locally with inter-communal fighting in Gumuruk and Verthet payams and along the Nanaam River being reported, most of the violence has allegedly calmed in August according to local sources. In July, the fighting forced up to 140,000 civilians to flee into the bush. At least 6,700 were also displaced in Pochalla County, also in Jonglei state, following the fighting. To date, casualty figures and information remains difficult to ascertain, but the authorities have reported that over 300 people were killed.

Political and Security Context

Sudan and South Sudan continue to work to end the oil dispute that has jeopardized bilateral relation since June. Sudan and South Sudan continue to work to end the oil dispute that has jeopardized bilateral relation since June. On 12 August, Khartoum announced that it is extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September, following mediation by the African Union (AU). On 15 August, Juba announced that it was optimistic a new understanding may be reached between the two countries

ahead of the new deadline. On 1 August in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to cease immediately support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides, and to prevent rebels or support for them from crossing the common border. On 5 August, despite ongoing negotiations, tensions remained high along the border with one Sudanese soldier being killed after a South Sudanese patrol allegedly crossed into Sudanese territory near Khartoum's main oilfield in the border area of Heglig, an area also disputed with South Sudan.

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

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

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

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

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

On 24 July, the South Sudanese President Salva Kiir dismissed his entire cabinet, including main political rival Riek Machar who has already announced his intention of running in the 2015 elections. While the AU urged President Kiir to form a new government and respect the country's diversity in doing so, the sacking of the government has highlighted increasing tensions within the South Sudanese ruling Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Party. Salva Kiir and Riek Machar were on opposing sides of a split within the SPLM during much of the civil war with Khartoum that led to the independence of South Sudan.

Ethnic clashes and violence continue to affect large parts of South Sudan with an increasing number of human rights abuses being reported, notably by Government forces, according to a Human Rights Watch report released in July. Violence is concentrated primarily in Jonglei State and the tri-state area of Lakes, Unity and Warrap. In Jonglei

State, the precarious security situation stems from the protracted conflict between armed groups and official troops, as well as from ongoing inter-tribal fighting. Boma, Pibor and other population centres remain deserted due to fighting; almost all civilians have fled into the bush, amid increasing tensions between state and non-state armed actors.

Since 12 July, violence between ethnic groups, state and non-state actors has raged in Pibor County in Jonglei State. Although the situation remained tense locally with inter-communal fighting in Gumuruk and Verthet payams and along the Nanaam River being reported, most of the violence had allegedly calmed in August according to local sources. In July, widespread fighting affected large parts of Jonglei state, mostly Pibor County and to a lesser extent Pochalla County. The fighting has forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee. Initially, local authorities reported that groups of heavily armed South Sudanese gunmen, belonging to the Lou Nuer and Dinka tribes, were fighting their way toward a rival community, the Murle people, in eastern Jonglei state. This last spike of tribal clashes in Pibor County has forced thousands of Murle civilians to flee the advance of the militias. As of mid-August, the information such as the number of casualty remains lacking, although according to the authorities, over 300 people were killed during the clashes and at least 4,000 people have been injured. These figures have not been independently verified.

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

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

Some 800 rebels belonging to a group blamed for attacks in Upper Nile state over the past two years accepted an amnesty offer from the South Sudanese government and handed over their weapons as reported on 5 June. The surrender came two months after some 5,000 fighters from the South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM), led by Brigadier General Bapiny Monytuel, took up the amnesty offer from South Sudanese President Salva Kiir. On 5 August, talks officially started between the former rebels of the SSLM. The rebel groups South Sudan Democratic Army and South Sudan Defense Forces also declared peace with the government of South Sudan and entered the negotiations.

Cattle-raiding are a recurrent issue affecting people throughout South Sudan with recent incidents in Jonglei and Unity states. In mid-August, OCHA reported that violence in Pibor County in July was followed by an increasing number of cattle-raids and clashes in other

parts of Jonglei. On 8 August, 9 people were killed and 7 others injured in a cattle raiding incident in Twic East County in Jonglei state. Cattle raiding attacks mirror local ethnic tensions with officials blaming the Murle group and the David Yau Yau group for staging the last raid. Another incident was recorded in Bor County on 6 August. In mid-July, another incident was reported in Twic East and a separate one recorded in Panyijiar County in Unity State.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Following the recent spike in inter-communal violence in Jonglei, various international organizations have reported newly displaced people. According to ECHO, there are some 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom are displaced within Pibor County or have fled to Juba or neighbouring countries following fighting in July. In early August, local sources reported that at least 6,700 were displaced in Pochalla County, in Jonglei state, following the fighting. IDPS in the area reportedly face food shortages.

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

UNHCR states that an estimated 5,000 South Sudanese have arrived in western Ethiopia, predominantly from violence affected Pibor County in Jonglei State. Instability in Jonglei has resulted in a further influx of refugees into neighbouring countries with roughly 23,000 people crossing into Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda as of 30 July. To date information remains limited and the figures are difficult to ascertain.

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

As of 21 July, according to preliminary estimates released by OCHA, some 4,000 people were displaced in Koch County in Unity State, following cattle raids. As of mid-August, an additional 800 people were confirmed as displaced by cattle-raids in Unity State's Guit County.

Local authorities in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State in South Sudan reported that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in recent days. The refugees are reportedly severely food insecure; four have died since their arrival. To date, it was reported that 4,000 to 5,000 people were already in the area, with urgent need of food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance. In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 new IDPs arrived in Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around River Kiir, South Darfur and South Kordofan. Some 26,000 people are reportedly displaced in the area as of 21 July. According to MSF, the remote area is practically inaccessible and IDPs have little access to aid. Their food situation is already dire and may further worsen as the rainy season gets underway.

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

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

Some 223,228 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Sudan reside in South Sudan as of mid-August. There are currently over 117,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile State and nearly 74,000 in Unity State who are in need of humanitarian assistance according to ECHO. According to OCHA, an estimated 50,000 South Sudanese returned from Sudan since January 2013, the lowest number for the period since 2007. Overall, fewer than 500 refugees have reportedly from Sudan crossed into Unity and Upper Nile states in July. Yet, some 580 people fleeing from South Kordofan in Sudan have been registered as newly arrived to Upper Nile state since the beginning of August. Up to 350,000 South Sudanese remain in Sudan.

Access: On 5 August, an MSF vehicle was attacked outside the capital Juba by unidentified gunmen. The attack resulted in the death of one MSF South Sudanese staff.

ECHO noted in early July that limited humanitarian assistance and access to basic services is a challenge for 148,000 conflict-affected people, most of whom are believed to be displaced in swamps, in Pibor County, Jonglei state. Humanitarian partners continue to work to expand access and response to needs of civilians in Pibor County, Jonglei State. On 14 July, as reported by OCHA, for the first time this year aid agencies reached this area of Pibor County, Jonglei, where thousands of civilians have been hiding in the bush following clashes between state and non-state actors. Permanent insecurity in Pibor County makes it complicated for the humanitarian actors to operate in the area. In July and August, aid agencies reached IDPs in Dorein, Labrab and Pibor town. As of 5 August, multiple areas still remain cut off from assistance due to insecurity according to OCHA. On 7 August, WFP reported that it managed to bring three additional helicopters to reach more people in need. In mid-August, it was reported that the most pressing needs in the area included food, household items, clean water and sanitation facilities. Protection is another major concern.

The rainy season is affecting roads across the country, according to OCHA, making them inaccessible and hindering humanitarian access, notably in Jonglei and Lake States, Unity state, and Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Up to 60% of the country is inaccessible by road from May to October, with only 10% of Jonglei accessible during the rains. Limited air assets mean that responding to flooding over the coming months will be restricted.

Insecurity and poor infrastructure continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide. In May, various raids were carried out on compounds of foreign aid organisations in Pibor town and on MSF hospital in Pibor County, the only medical facility for the county. According to MSF, the hospital was left temporarily inoperative, affecting access to healthcare for some 100,000 people in the region.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As reported by WFP in mid-August, the overall food security situation has improved compared to the same period in 2012 even if an estimated 8% (over 850,000 people) and 34% (over 3.5 million people) remain respectively severely and moderately food insecure in South Sudan. In 2012, an estimated 4.7 million people were food insecure in across the country.

In June, FAO estimated that some 4.1 million people were food insecure in South Sudan and would remain so until the next harvest in September. FEWSNET also indicated that the food security is forecasted to improve in October due to the harvest, with only a few counties in Jonglei State remaining in crisis phase.

Yet, WFP reported that the food security situation has deteriorated in some particular areas – Unity State, eastern parts of Eastern Equatoria and Lakes – that are experiencing drier-than-normal conditions characterized by erratic rainfall coupled with prolonged dry spell. In addition, the food security situation, notably because of problematic access to food because of limited and unreliable income and poor purchasing power, is grim in southeastern Jonglei State following prolonged insecurity in Pibor County. The food security situation across the country is projected to remain precarious in the coming months. The IDPs and the returnees from Sudan remain as an especially vulnerable group.

In early August, FEWSNET highlighted that the ongoing insecurity negatively impacted food security outcomes in Pibor County in Jonglei State. In Unity, Warrap, and Lakes States, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity was also expected and was expanding to other areas previously considered to be in Stress (IPC Phase 2). An estimated 1.2 million were considered to be at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) with parts of Jonglei (especially Pibor county), Unity, Lakes, Warrap states and the Abyei area, disputed between Sudan and South Sudan, being of particular concern.

According to WFP, there is an ongoing rise in prices, albeit on a smaller scale than a year ago, that is coherent with seasonal patterns in South Sudan. As indicated by FAO, prices of locally produced cereal crops are increasing in most markets as the lean season progresses, household food stocks begin to dwindle, and most roads, especially in remote areas, become impassable during the rainy season, thus disrupting market supplies.

According to OCHA, as of mid-June, the children <5 GAM rate was 18.1%. In August, using MUAC measurements, WFP estimated average malnutrition rates to be around 11% in the country with Jonglei, Unity, Warrap and Lakes States showing serious to critical levels ranging from 14% to 21%.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

18 August: Heavy bombing reportedly destroyed an entire village in East Jebel Marra and killed at least four people. A European-based international organization, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), condemned what it described as "indiscriminate air raids on civilians in the Jebel Marra Mountains" that forced thousands of people to flee the area. According to STP, an estimated 17,000 people have fled the area.

17 August: Local authorities in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State in South Sudan reported that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in recent days. The refugees are reportedly severely food insecure; four have died since their arrival. To date, it was reported that 4,000 to 5,000 people were already in the area, with urgent need of food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance.

16 August: According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected Sudan since 1st August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, Khartoum, Northern and Red Sea, River Nile and Blue Nile, West Kordofan, El Gezira states. More rains are expected in the coming weeks. To date, the heavy rains have displaced at least 150,000 people across nine Sudanese states. As reported by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), at least 36 people were killed and 93 others injured across the country. On 14 August, WHO reported that the rains have affected an estimated 232,135 people overall.

15-17 August: In East Darfur, since mid-July, tensions over land ownership and cattle have increased between the Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes in Kulaykili Abu Salama in Adila locality. Over 300 people were killed in four days of clashes between the two nomadic pastoralist groups that started on 9 August. According to local media, the East Darfur Governor has announced that the authorities are not in control of the situation, and they are effectively unable to stop the fighting. On 17 August, the abduction of 42 people from the Maaliya tribe by Rezeigat tribesmen marked a new spike in the dispute and compromised efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

12-15 August: Sudan and South Sudan continue to work to end the oil dispute that has

jeopardized bilateral relation since June. On 12 August, Khartoum announced that it is extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September following the mediation by the African Union (AU). On 15 August, Juba announced that it was optimistic a new understanding may be reached between the two countries ahead of the new deadline

Mid-August: As reported by OCHA, in total, 3.2 million people – over a third of Darfur's population – are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the decade-long conflict and insecurity. According to UNHCR, there are an estimated 2.4 million displaced people in Darfur of whom an estimated 1.4 million live in camps.

Political and Security Context

Sudan and South Sudan continue to work to end the oil dispute that has jeopardized bilateral relation since June. On 12 August, Khartoum announced that it is extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September, following mediation by the African Union (AU). On 15 August, Juba announced that it was optimistic a new understanding may be reached between the two countries ahead of the new deadline. On 1 August in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to immediately cease the support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides, and to prevent rebels or support for them from crossing the common border. Despite ongoing negotiations, tensions remained high along the border, resulting in an incident where a South Sudanese patrol allegedly crossed into the Sudanese territory in the border area of Heglig, resulting in a death of one Sudanese soldier.

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

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

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

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

Khartoum continues to struggle to curb insurgencies waged by non-state armed groups

reunited under the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) banner in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

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

On 17 July, Minni Minawi, Deputy President of the SRF alliance and leader of one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM), announced, during a meeting in Geneva, that the SRF is ready to accept a humanitarian cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan as a first step before taking part in a comprehensive process aiming at resolving Sudan's multiple conflicts on a national scale. It is yet unclear how the Sudanese authorities, who have been suspicious of negotiating with the SRF umbrella group rather than with each separate paramilitary group, will respond to that proposition.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: An estimated 2.8 million Sudanese are currently internally displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of mid-July, there were also an estimated 191,400 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and another 32,000 in Ethiopia, according to UNHCR.

OCHA stated that an estimated 50,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan since January 2013, the lowest number for the period since 2007. Fewer than 500 refugees from Sudan have reportedly crossed into Unity and Upper Nile states in July. Yet, some 580 people fleeing from South Kordofan in Sudan have been registered as newly arrived to Upper Nile state since the beginning of August. Up to 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin are still in Sudan. UNHCR reports that there are 153,000 refugees originating from other countries in Sudan as of mid-July.

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

According to information released in August and republished by OCHA, up to 60,000 of the over 100,000 people displaced from Abyei in May 2011 have returned.

Disaster: According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected Sudan since 1st August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, Khartoum, Northern and Red Sea, River Nile and Blue Nile, West Kordofan, El Gezira states. More rains are expected in the coming weeks.

As of 16 August, according to OCHA, the heavy rains have displaced at least 150,000 people across nine Sudanese states. As reported by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), at least 36 people were killed and 93 others injured across the country. On 14 August, WHO reported that the rains have affected an estimated 232,135 people overall.

The SRCS also reported that initial estimates indicate that the flooding has destroyed or damaged over 26,000 houses while also affecting public buildings, including schools, health facilities, offices, shops, markets and water and sanitation facilities. According to OCHA, immediate needs include emergency shelter, health and water and sanitation services.

Several roads have also reportedly been damaged, affecting the transport system and disrupting markets. Local media reported a lack of bread and around 27% increase in commodity prices in some areas in Khartoum last week.

SRCS reports that Khartoum State is the worst hit by heavy rain and floods, with over 84,000 people displaced, with some 10,500 homes destroyed and almost 5,000 houses damaged. Other hard hit areas include River Nile, West Kordofan and El Gezira states

Access: The heavy rains that are hitting Sudan since early August have affected the transport system while stagnant water that remains in some areas is also hindering humanitarian access to affected population.

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

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

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

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

In Abyei, most households face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level food insecurity according to FEWSNET. Due to high food prices because of restricted cross-border trade with South Sudan and the decrease of the cultivation areas, local communities in Abyei have expanded their livelihoods strategies, switching to coping mechanisms employed in times of severe food insecurity. As more and more people are returning to the area where

tensions eased in the wake of the signing of the agreement between Juba and Khartoum, it is likely that the humanitarian assistance will have to increase to keep up with rising needs.

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

Malnutrition rates in east Sudan (Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref states) are the highest in Sudan, with 28% of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition in Red Sea state.

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

Darfur

Political and Security Context

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

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

As reported since the beginning of August, SAF is continuing regular air raids targeting East Jebel Marra in South Darfur, and Kadja and Dady areas of North Darfur. On 18 August, heavy bombing reportedly destroyed an entire village in East Jebel Marra and killed at least four persons. Air raids in North Darfur on 11 August killed nine people and wounded dozens. A European international organization, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), condemned what it described as “indiscriminate air raids on civilians in the Jebel Marra Mountains” that forced thousands of people to flee the area.

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

In East Darfur, since mid-July, tensions over land ownership and cattle have increased between the Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes in Kulaykili Abu Salama in Adila locality. On 17 August, the abduction of 42 people from the Maaliya tribe by Rezeigat tribesmen marked a new spike in the dispute and compromised efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement. Last week, as reported by STP on 14 August, over 300 people were killed in four days of clashes between the two nomadic pastoralist groups that started on 9 August. According to local media, on 15 August, the East Darfur Governor has announced that the authorities are not in control of the situation, and that they are effectively unable to stop the fighting. In July, the fear of clashes forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area. New displacements may be expected as fighting is reportedly spreading to localities in southeastern Darfur.

In Central Darfur, clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat have been raging since 24 July with allegedly over 230 people being killed after two weeks of fighting as of 30 July. Previously, the two had signed an agreement in Zalingei that proved to be yet another unsuccessful attempt at lasting reconciliation. Since April, violence has flared between the two tribes with ongoing clashes reported between late May and mid-June, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties. In April, fighting between Misseriya and Salamat in April led 50,000 people to flee into Chad, according to UN estimates.

In South Darfur, disputes over land ownership and tribal fighting continue. On 26 June, conflict resumed between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes in the town of Katela with nine people killed and dozens displaced. While the situation remained volatile, Khartoum was forced to deploy Special Forces to enforce a buffer zone between the two tribes. In April, conflict between the two tribes reignited after a relatively stable period since February. Fighting intensified at the end of May in South Darfur, leading to 23 people being killed and 51 others injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe and to large displacements and to the Al-Gimir tribe accusing the Sudanese authorities of colluding with the Beni Halba tribe. Meanwhile, clashes between the Dajo and Beni Halba tribes were reported in Kubum locality, South Darfur.

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

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

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

resumed operations in the area.

In North Darfur, on 26 July, the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes signed a comprehensive peace agreement in El Fasher, the capital of the State. On 18 August, the treaty allegedly came into effect with the reopening of roads linking Saraf Omra with Al Sareif Beni Hussein. Since the beginning of 2013, the two tribes had clashed violently for control of the Jebel Amer gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein locality, leaving at least 500 people killed and an estimated 100,000 displaced according to the UN. Most recently, clashes between the two groups were reported in June and early July with SAF contingents being allegedly involved.

In recent weeks, there have been reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against IDPs in camps in Darfur. On 5 and 6 August, two IDPs were killed in two separate shooting incidents in Zalingei camp in Central Darfur state. On 29 July, local sources from El Salam camp in South Darfur reported attacks and lootings against IDPs. In separate incidents on 30 June and 1 July, one person was killed and three seriously injured near the Dumma and Toum Kittir camps in South Darfur. In June, attacks against IDPs resulting in casualties were reported near Murnei camp in West Darfur, Dreige camp in Nyala, Um Haleeb camp and Nertiti camp in Central Darfur. According to local sources, the vast majority of the attacks were blamed on SAF and on pro-governmental militias.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As reported by OCHA in mid-August, in total, 3.2 million people – over a third of Darfur's population – are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the decade-long conflict and insecurity.

Displacement: OCHA stated on 30 June that an estimated 287,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between various armed groups and the Government from January to June. According to an August UNHCR report, there have been almost 300,000 new IDPs since the beginning of the year. Since mid-July, renewed tribal fighting across Darfur triggered new displacements, though no figures are available to date.

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

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

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

Kalma IDP camp.

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

In East Darfur, according to UNAMID, 10,000 people in Labado town continue to seek refuge near the UNAMID Team Site, with the rest of the town remaining empty. In Kulaykili Abu Salama in Assalaya locality, East Darfur, tribal tensions forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area in mid-July. New displacements may be expected as fighting is reportedly spreading to southeastern Darfur.

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

As reported by the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) in mid-August, ongoing bombing by SAF of the Jebel Marra Mountains in North and South Darfur over the last weeks has led to 17,000 people being displaced from the area. According to the UN, there are about 100,000 people in the Jebel Marra area either displaced or severely affected by conflict.

According to UNHCR as of mid-August, there are an estimated 2.4 million displaced people in Darfur of whom an estimated 1.4 million live in camps.

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

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

Access: On 6 August, UNHCR stated that it had increasing difficulties negotiating the renewal of work permits for its international staff in Darfur. After some staff had to leave Sudan, UNHCR had to temporarily scale down operations in Darfur. Other agencies such as WFP and UNICEF have not experienced problems with the renewal of work permits.

OCHA reported that, as of 21 July, relief supplies for newly displaced people in Um Dukhun in Central Darfur are still stranded in Zalingei and El Geneina, the state capitals of Central Darfur and West Darfur respectively, due to logistic and security challenges. Most commercial transporters in the area are not willing to go to Um Dukhun, citing insecurity on the roads. Inter-tribal violence reignited in the area over the previous week.

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

In South Darfur on 15 July, Government security forces informed humanitarian agencies

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

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

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

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

Blue Nile and South Kordofan states

Political and Security Context

Although fighting has calmed in South Kordofan and Blue Nile following the onset of the rainy season, local sources reported renewed bombing that resulted in one person being killed in South Kordofan's Rashad locality on 8 August.

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

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

the date for the next round of talks has been made public.

In May, the city of Abu Karshola in the area of Rashad in Southern Kordofan state was the scene of fierce fighting between rebel groups, under the umbrella of the SRF, and SAF.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: On 17 August, local authorities in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State in South Sudan reported that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in recent days. The refugees are reportedly severely food insecure, with four persons died since arrival. It has been reported that between 4,000 and 5,000 people were already in the area with urgent need for food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance.

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

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

As of 30 June, OCHA reported that an estimated 231,000 people in South Kordofan and

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

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

Access: According to a UN report released on 6 June, access has remained constrained to rebel-held areas while it has improved in Government-controlled areas since January. As of mid-August, there is no humanitarian access from Sudan to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan.

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

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

On 4 April, WFP reported a breakthrough in delivering food aid to the Blue Nile state for the first time since conflict began there 18 months ago. Access to rebel-held areas remains extremely challenging. On 5 August, WFP reported that it delivered aid to 33,000 people displaced to North Kordofan from the Abu Karshola area in South Kordofan in April and May.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to a FEWSNET report published in July, food security conditions in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are likely to further deteriorate during the peak of the lean season from August through September. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels are likely to prevail in the SPLM-N-controlled areas in Blue Nile and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels in SPLM-N-controlled areas in South Kordofan.

The deterioration will be exacerbated by the continued lack of access to humanitarian

assistance, the near-absence of income sources from agricultural production and labour, and progressive stripping of assets over an extended period since June 2011.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, 70,000 vulnerable people are at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The northwest, southwest and southeastern pastoral border livelihood zones are the worst affected. Rainfall levels in coastal areas at the end of the Heys-Dadaa rainy season (October through March) were 50% to 75% below normal. Rural areas near Obock town in the northeast, 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 from June, according to FEWSNET. According to the April WFP report, food insecurity in Djibouti has increased since November 2012 while households' own food production has decreased from 14.6% to 5.1% due principally to delayed rainfall and persistent cold.

Food security among poor households in Djibouti City's urban centres of Balbala, Radiska, and Baulaos is anticipated to heighten but remain within Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) following a substantial decline in labour opportunities and increase in food prices. High unemployment rates (48%) and high staple prices are causing urban to peri-urban

migration to areas such as Balbala. Wholesale prices of wheat flour, which had been stable at low levels since the beginning of 2012, increased from November to December 2012 by 17%. However, prices are still about 25% below the high levels recorded in 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable during the second semester of 2012. These prices depend heavily on the availability of food aid on markets of the interior regions.

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 12/08/2013.

End of July: UNHCR reported that Ethiopia is hosting 415,038 refugees: 240,226 Somalis; 74,513 Eritreans; 65,447 South Sudanese; 30,614 Sudanese; and 4,238 refugees from other countries.

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

Political and Security Context

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of end July, UNHCR reported that Ethiopia is hosting 415,038 refugees: 240,226 (58%) Somalis; 74,513 (18%) Eritreans; 65,447 (16%) South Sudanese; 30,614 (7%) Sudanese; and 4,238 (1%) refugees from several other countries.

UNHCR registered 5,779 new arrivals in July, up from 3,555 in June. Over 3,000 new arrivals originated from South Sudan (mostly from Pibor County in Jonglei state, where violence between various non-state actors and Government forces has surged over the past weeks), and another 1,519 from Eritrea, representing the highest arrival figure from that country so far this year. The new camp at Hitsats now accommodates 2,570 Eritrean refugees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The situation is particularly difficult in sweet potato growing areas of SNNPR following the poor output of the recent harvest and the reduced income opportunities from coffee plantations as a result of low coffee production and prices.

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

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

Health: The Yellow Fever outbreak declared in mid-May by the authorities continues in South Omo, Segen and Arbaminch zones, SNNPR with 141 cases reported and 55 suspected deaths (still to be confirmed) in North Ari, South Ari, Benatsemay and Selmago woredas, as reported by OCHA. Past weeks saw a decrease in reported cases in parallel with the spread of the outbreak to neighbouring zones. Reported cases have gradually declined since mid-June.

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

16 August: An attack blamed on Somali Islamist insurgents killed at least four people in Garissa, southeastern Kenya, and caused the displacement of hundreds of people into the bush.

End of July: Heavy rain has increased water levels of Lake Baringo in western Kenya, forcing around 2,000 people in Marigat district to flee their homes for higher ground. Food crops have been destroyed and local leaders say many people are at risk of starvation.

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

Political and Security Context

On 16 August, an attack blamed on Somali Islamist insurgents killed at least four people in Garissa, southeastern Kenya, and caused the displacement of hundreds of people into the bush. Dadaab has experienced high levels of insecurity due to the volatile situation in Somalia where clashes are reportedly occurring between the Garre and Degodia ethnic Somali clans, which have been feuding in Mandera County since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities has historically revolved around competition for natural resources. Since March 2013, however, emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. Inter-clan violence has spread to neighbouring Wajir County. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed 24 June.

On 11 July, OCHA reported that since January 2013, at least 181 people have been killed,

217 injured and many displaced from their homes as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya. The Kenyan Red Cross reported that inter-communal conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County had left over 85 people dead as of 25 June.

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: At the end of July, local media reported that heavy rain has increased water levels of Lake Baringo in western Kenya, forcing around 2,000 people in Marigat district to flee their homes for higher ground. More than 800 acres of food crops have been destroyed and local leaders say many people are at risk of starvation. The western district of Pokot was also affected with floods destroying maize crops, local media reported on 14 August.

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

According to OCHA, recent rains have displaced 12,380 people as of 17 May 2013, with an additional 2,000 displaced in Marigat district after the waters of Lake Baringo rose, flooding farms and homesteads at end July.

The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues. According to UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees amounts to 494,704 as of 30 June. Of these, 425,000 reside in Dadaab refugee complex in northern Kenya. The Kenyan Government estimated the number of Somali refugees in Kenya at 600,000 people as of late June 2013. In July, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for "voluntary repatriation" with the actual modalities to still be agreed between the two neighbours.

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: The food insecure population declined to 1.1 million in February 2013 from 2.1 million in August 2012 according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group 2013 short rains assessment. This was attributed to near average short rains crop production and improved grazing conditions compared to the 2012 August to September lean season.

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

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

Health: In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 31 cases in total. According to OCHA on 16 August, ten cases were registered in Kenya, all in Dadaab in northeastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in Kenya since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

The situation is compounded by the devaluation of the local currency and the increasing

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

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

Reviewed: 15/07/2013

UGANDA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

16 August: The Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Omot sub-county of Agago, northern Uganda.

7-10 August: Heavy rain in the eastern district of Bududa and northern district of Amuru affected respectively 10,000 and 6,000 people.

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

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 10 August, heavy rain and hailstorms ravaged several villages causing landslides and floods in Bududa district (eastern Uganda). Many people are reported missing and local sources reported that over 10,000 people may require urgent resettlement. On 7 August in Amuru district (northwestern Uganda), heavy rain caused the Nyama stream to burst, flooding houses and leaving over 6,000 homeless.

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

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

Instability in South Sudan and movement of South Sudanese into Uganda is also an issue of concern. OCHA reported 3,200 refugees from Jonglei as of 31 July.

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

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

Health: On 19 August, local media reported that clinics outside the capital are facing drug shortages, especially of HIV test kits and Anti-retroviral treatment (ARVs).

On 16 August, the Ministry of Health of Uganda declared an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Omot sub-county of Agago, northern Uganda. One case has been confirmed so far and three deaths are currently being investigated.

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

In April, the Uganda Ministry of Health reported an outbreak of cholera in the eastern districts of Hoima, Nebbi and Buliisa. Since the beginning of 2013, the cumulative number of reported cases from the cholera affected districts has reached 216 cases with seven people killed by the epidemic. The overall case fatality rate nationally from these districts stands at 3.2%. It is estimated that 217,350 persons (38,128 households) in the affected sub-counties are severely at risk of cholera infection, with a wider population of 900,500 people in the districts also at risk due to the high mobility of local populations.

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

14 August: Some 1.5 million people are reported to be food insecure due to the impact of the current severe drought.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security and Malnutrition: Since November, Angola has been affected by prolonged drought leaving 1.5 million people food insecure as of 14 August. The five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila and Benguela are the most severely hit. In Cunene, the hardest hit province, the GAM rate has reached 24%. Crop losses in Cunene are expected to reach up to 80%, adversely impacting farmers including semi-nomadic communities and children <5. This represents 50% of Cunene's population of whom 130,000 are children <5.

In Namibe province, a joint assessment conducted in early June found that roughly 250,000 people were affected by drought and 70% of crops destroyed. According to CARE, remaining household food stocks will not last until September. After food insecurity, the greatest reported problem is lack of access to water. Half of all water points are no longer

working or have dried up according to UNICEF. People are reported to be migrating in search of water and pasture for their cattle.

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

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

Health: As a result of the use of untreated stagnant water, levels of water-borne disease are increasing. An estimated 1,571 cases of cholera have been reported in the provinces of Huila, Cunene and Benguela, with 62 deaths. The Ministry of Health has reported an epidemic of dengue fever (over 900 cases and ten deaths) and an outbreak of measles in 60% of the municipalities across Angola, particularly affecting children suffering from malnutrition. Malaria is affecting large numbers of Angolans, with 75 deaths reported in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013 and over 15,000 cases registered overall, according to official sources.

Updated: 19/08/2013

BOTSWANA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new updates. Last updated: 05/08/2013.

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

Humanitarian Needs and Context

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

The 2012/13 cropping season was also largely characterized by a prolonged period of below average rains, punctured by intense rainfall in January which caused localised flooding and minor damage to the agriculture sector. In addition to the unfavourable weather conditions, an outbreak of armyworms in late 2012, mainly concentrated in south-

eastern areas of the country, infested approximately 4,500 hectares of cropped land, representing about 3% of average cropped area to cereals.

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

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

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

13 August: 4,286 Central African refugees have been registered in Cameroon between January 2013 and August 2013.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

According to UNHCR on 13 August, 4,286 Central African refugees have been registered in Cameroon between January 2013 and August 2013. 1,800 registered refugees are located in the eastern region, and roughly 1,400 live in urban areas, mainly Yaounde and Douala. UNHCR cites an estimated 85,000 CAR refugees living in Cameroon.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Humanitarian context and needs

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

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

25 July: The death toll rose from 58 to at least 100 with 242 wounded, and 30,000 displaced after a sudden outbreak of ethnic violence in southeastern Guinea between 15-17 July.

Political and Security Context

The Guinea Government reported on 25 July that the sudden outbreak of ethnic violence killed at least 100 people between 15-17 July, a significant increase compared to previously announced death toll of 58. UNHCR reported on 19 July that 242 were wounded after Guerze tribesmen, who form the majority population in the forest region, allegedly attacked three ethnic Konianke in the town of Koule. Fighting spread to the provincial capital N'Zerekore, 570 km southeast of Conakry, and clashes reached the town of Beyla on 17 July. According to the UN, security and defence forces were deployed to restore order, with the support of additional troops from Macenta and Gueckedou, and calm seems to have been restored as of 22 July.

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FAO, land preparation and planting of the

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

NAMIBIA DROUGHT

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security: On 17 May, the President of Namibia declared a national drought emergency and called for assistance from the international community. WFP has identified 331,000 people as food insecure (14% of Namibia's total population). Another 450,000 are moderately food insecure, according to an Emergency Food Security Assessment carried out from 8-20 April 2013. The results of an Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment also indicated that agricultural production will be very poor as a result of the lowest seasonal rainfall for decades.

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

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

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

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

Droughts are recurrent in Namibia, impacting local economy and food security. The northern regions of the country have been historically most affected by droughts and are particularly vulnerable due to high population density. The situation is expected to worsen with the dry season, predicted to last until December.

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

Despite the early response, the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management reported that, as the number of affected people increases, there will be a significant funding gap.

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

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

5 August: Although information remains very limited, the authorities of Eritrea have indicated that heavy rainfall and the damaging of a major diversion canal in Hashenkit area have caused flooding in Haikota sub-zone resulting in the destruction of at least 20 houses. Heavy rains were recorded in the area since mid-July. Extensive floods that affected tens of thousands of people were recorded in nearby Sudan.

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

Political and Security Context

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

Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in this country of about 6

million people. The UN Human Rights chief has accused the Eritrean Government of torture and summary executions.

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 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.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to UNHCR, Eritrean refugees crossing to neighbouring Ethiopia are on the rise, while the number entering Sudan has dropped compared to 2012.

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

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

Djibouti also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month.

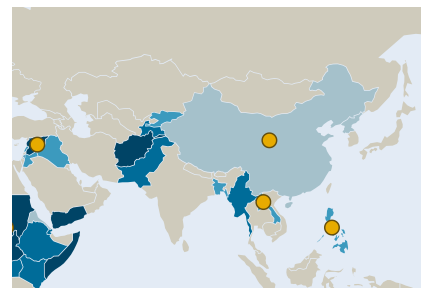
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Extensive floods that affected tens of thousands of people were recorded in nearby Sudan.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013



AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

17 August: Two separate deadly incidents in Herat and Helmand provinces resulted in ten and five people killed respectively. The previous day, three people had already been killed by an improvised explosive device in Helmand province.

14 August: As reported by a Senior Afghan peace negotiator, a former Taliban diplomat now working with the Karzai government, the resumption of peace talks in Qatar with the Taliban is becoming increasingly unlikely. To date, fresh talks in Turkey or Saudi Arabia seem to be considered as a more realistic option by Kabul. No western source has yet commented on the statement, although it is unlikely any negotiation with the Taliban might be conducted without the U.S.

14 August: As reported by WFP in mid-August, the current average price of wheat in main cities of Afghanistan is 14.5% higher compared to July 2012, while at the same time 2.9% higher than the last 5-year average price recorded in July. In addition, the current wheat flour average price is higher by 18.6% and 11.8% compared to July 2012 and the last 5-year average price recorded in July, respectively. The current average price of low quality rice – the second main staple food in Afghanistan – is higher by 23% compared to July 2012, and by 30% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July. The current average price of high quality rice is also higher by 28% compared to July 2012, and by 35% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July.

12 August: It was announced that President Karzai is scheduled to travel to Islamabad in late August. An official visit to Pakistan may be seen as an attempt to mend bilateral relations and also test the ground regarding Pakistan's possible involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

Political and Security Context

On 14 August, as reported by a Senior Afghan peace negotiator, a former Taliban diplomat now working with the Karzai government, the resumption of peace talks in Qatar with the Taliban is becoming increasingly unlikely. To date, fresh talks in Turkey or Saudi Arabia seem to be considered as a more realistic option by Kabul. No western source has yet commented on the statement, although it is unlikely any negotiation with the Taliban might be conducted without the U.S. In the meantime, the Taliban movement had officially

announced on 6 August that it did not intend to participate in next year April's presidential elections and would continue fighting until all foreign troops leave the country.

The US leadership was forced to delay the planned talks in Qatar, following the Afghan Government fury over being bypassed in the negotiations, and by the opening of a Taliban political office in Qatar. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in the peace talks if these are not "Afghan-led". On 30 June, Afghan President Hamid Karzai restated his suspicions regarding direct dealings between the West and the Taliban in Qatar and the role played by neighbouring Pakistan in brokering the talks, although he expressed hope that the peace talks would begin soon. According to unofficial information, the bilateral relations between the two neighbours allegedly worsened after a Pakistani official openly floated the idea of an Afghan power-sharing arrangement between Kabul and the Taliban. Nevertheless, President Karzai is scheduled to travel to Islamabad in late August to mend bilateral relations while also testing the ground regarding Pakistan's possible involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

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

On 17 August, nine people were killed in an attack on a construction workers' camp in Herat province. In a separate incident, five civilians were killed in a roadside bomb explosion in Marjah district in Helmand province. On 16 August, three civilians were killed in an explosion in Musa Qala district in Helmand province. On 8 August, an attack in Nangarhar province's Ghany Khel district killed 14 civilians and wounded four others as people gathered to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr at a local graveyard. The bombing is latest in a series of attacks in the province bordering Pakistan over the past two weeks. On 7 August, an Afghan Senator was ambushed in Ghazni Province with the assault resulting in the death of two people, including her 8-year old daughter. On 5 August, three people were killed and 20 injured after an explosion hit a market in the southern city of Kandahar. On 4 August, 17 people were seriously injured in a roadside bomb attack in Jalalabad, capital city of the eastern border province of Nangarhar. On 3 August, suicide bombers attacked the Indian consulate in the same city killing nine, including children, and injuring an additional 23 civilians in front of the consulate. The Taliban movement denied responsibility for the attack. In July, several attacks were recorded, hitting notably Nangarhar, Helmand, Zabul, Wardak, Logar and Kunduz provinces, and killed dozens of security personnel and civilians.

According to a UN report released in late July, the number of civilians killed and injured in Afghanistan rose by 23% since the beginning of 2012 with homemade landmines still the principal threat to Afghan civilians. Between January and June 2013, 1,319 civilians were killed and a further 2,533 injured. The UN reported that 74% of the casualties were caused

by insurgents, 9% by pro-government forces, and 12% resulted from ground fighting between the two sides. These numbers are a significant increase when compared to the first half of 2012 and close to the record casualties recorded during the same period in 2011. The increase in attacks underscores rising levels of violence as the international troops have started to disengage from the country.

As of late July, ICRC continued to operate with caution in Afghanistan, following the major security incidents on the IOM compound on 24 May in Kabul and on their own compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province on 29 May.

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 was expected to be under national security control by end-July 2013, following the formal handover of national security from the US-led NATO coalition to Afghan forces on 18 June. Within the US-led NATO coalition, there is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000-strong Afghan security forces to cope with the insurgency. To date, there is no clear understanding over how many international troops, if any at all, will stay in Afghanistan after 2014 as relations become increasingly tense between Kabul and its western allies.

Against this background, military operations are ongoing. Five Afghan policemen were accidentally killed in a US air attack on 31 July, during an overnight operation in Nangarhar Province. Casualties of Afghan military caused by air strikes conducted by NATO-led forces have long been a major source of friction between Kabul and its international allies.

Heavy military operations were reported in Faryab, Badakhshan and Maidan Wardak provinces in May and June. On 11 August, two U.S. soldiers were killed in combat operations against insurgents in Paktia province, eastern borderline of the country next to Pakistan that has seen some of the highest levels of fighting over the years. In early July, an Afghan general commented that the insurgents have stepped up operations in the east, near the Pakistan border. According to Afghan military sources, insurgent numbers are up around 15% on last year's summer fighting months.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran, with an estimated additional 2.4 million undocumented refugees. The Government of Pakistan

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

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

Disaster: On 11 August, renewed rains battered the Shomali plain north of the capital causing a new flash flood that killed at least 22 people and damaged farmlands. To date, no information on the number of people affected is available.

In early August, flash floods triggered by days of torrential rain killed over 60 people, according to the authorities. The rains and subsequent floods notably affected nine eastern and southeastern provinces and some districts of the capital Kabul. As of 6 August, an estimated 3,400 people have been affected by the flash floods with 458 houses being completely destroyed and an additional 61 damaged.

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

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

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

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

As reported by WFP in mid-August, the current average price of wheat in main cities of Afghanistan is 14.5% higher compared to July 2012, while at the same time 2.9% higher than the last 5-year average price recorded in July. In addition, the current wheat flour average price is higher by 18.6% and 11.8% compared to July 2012 and the last 5-year average price recorded in July, respectively. The current average price of low quality rice – the second main staple food in Afghanistan – is higher by 23% compared to July 2012, and by 30% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July. The current average price of high quality rice is also higher by 28% compared to July 2012, and by 35% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July.

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

Health: War-related admissions increased by 42% between January and April 2013 as compared to the same period last year. In Helmand province, there has been almost an 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict. The Health Cluster reported a 40% increase in security incidents from January to April 2013 compared to last year.

Updated: 19/08/2013

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Highlights

16 August: An unusually large wave of Syrians, more than 20,000, poured into Iraq's Kurdistan region between 15-19 August. The vast majority of refugees entering Iraq's autonomous Kurdish regions in the north were women, children and older persons, who fled because of the conflict and a lack of services and available goods.

15 August: A group of Syrian activists, including military leaders and members of the opposition coalition, presented a roadmap for political transition in Syria should President Bashar al-Assad's Government fall.

10 August: The president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region released a statement declaring willingness to intervene to defend the Kurdish population caught up in Syria's unrest if fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-Government forces in northern Syria continues.

9 August: Rockets and mortar bombs hit the Malki district in Damascus where President al-Assad lives and works, as opposition forces demonstrated their ability to strike one of the most secure areas of the capital. At least two opposition brigades claimed to have hit the presidential motorcade on its way to morning prayers. This assertion was denied by the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights (SOHR) who had no confirmation that Assad's motorcade had been hit.

8 August: After months of negotiations, UN inspectors arrived in Damascus on a mission to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in the country.

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

Security context

Fighting between the Government of Syria (GoS) and opposition groups has been concentrated in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus this week. The FSA has clashed with Islamist opposition groups on multiple occasions, while Kurdish groups continue to clash with Islamist groups in the north of the country.

Fighting among opposition groups

As many observers suggest, the overall cohesion of groups fighting the Government in Syria is weak and more infighting is arising and spreading between armed groups that have different ideologies, goals, and international backers. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) leaders have acknowledged that fighting between their brigades and Islamist rivals has reached a critical stage.

Tensions between the FSA and fighters of the Islamic State of the Levant (ISIS) are increasing across the country. For example, ISIS militia evicted FSA forces from the city of Ar-Raqqa on 14 August after armed clashes between the two groups.

ISIS fighters are reportedly focusing on strengthening their grip on the Aleppo countryside and some neighbourhoods of the city, the countryside of Idleb and to a lesser extent in other regions, and rural areas of Lattakia and Ar-Raqqa. Jabhat Al-Nusra is reported to have starting withdrawing and gradually handing over control to the ISIS. The latter are said to be establishing barriers, Sharia courts, and controlling roads.

Kurdish areas

Islamists groups have taken control of several Kurdish areas in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates. Friction between Islamist groups and Kurdish fighters escalated at the end of July, when a group of Kurdish fighters was attacked by the Jabhat al-Nusra Front in Al-Hasakeh province. On 10 August the president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region released a statement declaring willingness to intervene to defend the Kurdish population caught up in Syria's unrest if fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-Government forces in northern Syria continues.

Kurdish leaders have assured the Syrian opposition and Turkey that the de-facto autonomy of the areas under its control is temporary and that it is not seeking to set up an independent Kurdistan in Syria. However, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan stated at the end of July that necessary warnings will be made to the PYD in light of the seizure of control in areas close to the Turkish border in northern Syria.

Lattakia

At the start of August, opposition forces launched a battle to 'liberate the coast' and captured several villages in Lattakia governorate. In response, the GoS deployed large

reinforcements and heavily bombed villages captured by opposition groups. The GoS controls the majority of the coastal province barring pockets of the Jabal al-Akrad and Jabal Turkman areas in the northeast. The governorate, which has been relatively calm until August, hosts more than 75,000 IDPs as of May 2013.

Homs

Homs City is now largely under the control of GoS forces, aside from opposition held areas in the Old City, which are under siege and face heavy shelling. This week, clashes in Homs were concentrated in the districts of Al Qsour, Jouret Al Shia and Alaqrabas. Since the battle for Qusair that ended in June, the pattern of fighting suggests that GoS troops are pushing to regain the centre and isolate the north of the governorate so as to cut the supply line between Hama and Homs.

400,000 people are said to have fled the Old City of Homs and an estimated 2,500 are reportedly still trapped in and around the city. In the northwestern Homs district of al-Waer, UNICEF warned that 400,000 civilians, who had moved there to seek shelter from the violence in central Homs, were in danger.

Deir-ez-Zor

Although opposition forces are in control of most of the Deir-ez-Zor governorate, GoS forces still control three neighbourhoods in the city of Deir-ez-Zor. After months of relative calm, heavy clashes have been reported this week between GoS forces and opposition groups in Deir-ez-Zor city. Fighting is concentrated in the district of Huweika, home to several Government buildings and security headquarters. On 10 August, Islamists groups seized the local headquarters of the Baath party in Deir-Ez-Zor, prompting regime shelling.

Al-Hasakeh

Following the clashes between Kurds and Al-Nusra fighters across Syria's north in the past weeks, further outbreaks of violence are causing new population displacement and a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Al-Hasakeh Governorate. Reports indicate that Jabhat Al-Nusrah elements killed 450 Kurdish civilians in the territories controlled by the opposition in the north of Syria on 05 August. On a regional level, the capture of Ras al-Ain by the PYD is likely to further fuel the Government of Turkey's concern regarding the possible emergence of an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria.

Ar-Raqqa

Protests have been reported in Ar-Raqqa, a stronghold of ISIS. Civilians are accusing fighters of human rights abuses and unjustified detentions. ISIS has controlled the city since March 2013 and successfully evicted FSA fighters at the start of the week. Clashes between Kurdish fighters and Islamist armed groups continued in northern Syria in the town of Tal Abyad, Ar-Raqqa.

Damascus

Shelling by GoS forces on the opposition controlled districts of Jobar, Barzeh, and Qaboun continues. These neighbourhoods of Damascus are used by opposition groups to stage attacks on the centre of Damascus and have been a recurrent flashpoint for fighting.

Hostilities continued in and around the Palestinian Refugee camp Yarmouk. The camp has remained sealed off for weeks and there is a severe shortage of food and health supplies. Health centres have been unable to operate since January 2013 and facilities remain closed. Less than 30% of Yarmouk camp residents remain in the camp.

On 9 August, rockets and mortar bombs hit the Malki district in Damascus where President al-Assad lives and works, as opposition forces demonstrated their ability to strike one of the most secure areas of the capital. At least two opposition brigades claimed to have hit the presidential motorcade on its way to morning prayers. The Government has denied that the President was the target of an attack.

Aleppo

Clashes are on-going in several parts of rural and urban Aleppo with two million people reportedly under siege in the western part of Aleppo City. As of mid-July, armed groups in opposition-controlled areas were prohibiting food and medicines from entering the Western side of Aleppo controlled by the Government by blocking the access from the city center through the crossing border in Bostan al-Qasr district.

According to OCHA in mid-July, over 35,000 people were besieged by armed opposition groups in Nubul and Zahra, north of Aleppo. The two villages are reportedly backing President Assad. In mid-June, opposition activists and military sources stated that the army took measures to reinforce the two villages.

International Context

The conflict continues to spill over into neighbouring countries and is particularly triggering increased polarization in Lebanon and Iraq. On 15 August, A car bomb killed at least 21 people and wounded 250 in a southern suburb of Beirut. The following day, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, called on the residents of the southern suburbs to exercise self-restraint, while accusing extremist Sunni groups of being behind the explosion and an earlier blast that had hit the southern suburbs in July.

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

On 14 July, in another indication that the Syrian conflict is increasingly becoming a flashpoint of a global sectarian war, Taliban commanders in Pakistan announced that hundreds of fighters have been dispatched to Syria to fight alongside al-Qaeda affiliated groups of the al-Nusra Front and ISIS. This announcement comes at a time when Syrian opposition appears more and more divided between moderate groups and the Islamists. Against this background, Damascus forces have gained significant ground over the past weeks with the support of Hezbollah and Iranian fighters.

Political developments

On Monday 19 August, a UN team began a two week mission to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in three areas, including Aleppo governorate. The mission is expected to assess whether chemical weapons have been used, but the research will not assign culpability. The mission has been repeatedly delayed earlier this year amid differences with the GoS over the scope of the probe.

A group of Syrian activists, including military leaders and members of opposition coalition, have drafted a post-Assad roadmap. The report calls for disarmament of militias and restructuring of security services. Under the plan, a new national assembly would draft a constitution based on an earlier one written in 1950. In addition, the roadmap lays out plans for the country's political system, calling for a "hybrid presidential/parliamentary system."

Talks are expected at the end of August to prepare the *Geneva-2* conference, aimed at bringing Syrian rebels and the Government together. Russia indicated that it prefers to have a Syria peace conference as soon as possible, but it is unlikely to go ahead before October. The main opposition group (SNC) stated will not take part in any peace negotiations with the Government until the opposition gains the upper hand on the battlefield again, the group's chief Ahmad Jarba said on 31 July. The statement reflected the new reality on the ground, where forces of President Bashar Assad have made significant gains against the oppositions on several key fronts.

Humanitarian context and needs

In April, the UN estimated that over 6.8 million people were in need of humanitarian aid as a result of the heavy fighting and subsequent lack of access to livelihoods and services. Heavy fighting continued over the last four months and a continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation is reported. Hence, it is likely that this number is significantly higher.

Displacement: Since the start of the conflict, over 5 million people have been displaced inside Syria. UNRWA estimates that over 50% of all registered Palestinian refugees are now displaced either in Syria or to neighbouring countries.

As of 12 August, over 1.9 million Syrian refugees are registered or awaiting registration with over 690,000 in Lebanon (Government estimates 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), some 510,000 in Jordan (Government estimates total 600,000 Syrians), over 434,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 490,000), over 154,000 in Iraq and over 108,000 in Egypt (Government estimates up to 300,000). The remainder are spread across other countries in North Africa, according to UNHCR.

An average 6,000 Syrians cross into Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey every day, according to the UN, putting an increasingly heavy economic, political and social burden on these countries. However last week, an unusually large wave of Syrians, more than 15,000, poured into Iraq's Kurdistan region between 15-19 August. The vast majority of refugees entering Iraq's autonomous Kurdish regions in the north were women, children and older persons, who fled because of the conflict and a lack of services and available

goods. Syria's neighbour states have recently closed or tightened restrictions at several border crossings leaving tens of thousands of people stranded in Syrian border regions. Lebanon, the only country which has not imposed restrictions on entry, announced plans to monitor the influx more closely. Only Syrians fleeing parts of Syria that have been affected by violence will be recognised as refugees by the Government of Lebanon. Those from other areas will be granted entry, but only as visitors. On 8 July, the new Egyptian Government imposed new visa requirements for Syrian refugees, under which Syrian nationals must apply for a visa and security clearance prior to travel to Egypt. Flights carrying hundreds of Syrians were turned back. UNHCR voiced concerns that the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus does not have the capacity to issue visas at this time.

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

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

ICRC revealed that it has been negotiating a humanitarian cease-fire in Homs since early July to enable entry into Homs to bring medical supplies and other aid, but despite negotiations with both sides they have still not received the go-ahead from the Syrian authorities.

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

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

Education: Of 22,000 school buildings, 16.5% are damaged or destroyed or being used as shelters by displaced families. The school year is anticipated to re-start in the beginning of September.

WASH and Health: The health situation is worsening with basic services becoming more inaccessible to growing numbers of people. The Ministry of Health reported that, at the end of April, 60% of public hospitals were partially damaged or out of service. Water networks, pumping stations and generator sets have been subject to severe damage and destruction. The current rise in temperatures is expected to increase existing WASH and health concerns.

A measles epidemic is reported in districts of northern Syria with up to 7,000 known cases. Médecins Sans Frontières has reportedly vaccinated over 75,000 children in the provinces of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idlib in an effort to stem the epidemic.

Updated: 19/08/2013

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 12/08/2013.

11 August: Five soldiers were killed at a checkpoint in Shabwa province by suspected al-Qaeda militants in an attack on a gas terminal in southern Yemen.

As of 7 August, Yemeni security forces are on high alert amid fears of an imminent attack by al-Qaeda in Sana'a, which the US State Department described as specific and immediate.

Political and Security context

As of 7 August, Yemeni security forces are on high alert amid fears of an imminent attack by al-Qaeda in Sana'a, which the US State Department described as specific and immediate. Reports indicate that dozens of al-Qaeda militants entered Sana'a over the past several days from the Hadhramaut, Abyan, Marib, and Shabwa Governorates and may be plotting a large scale attack using motorcycle and car bombs.

Five soldiers were killed on 11 August at a checkpoint in Shabwa province by suspected al-Qaeda militants in an attack on a gas terminal in southern Yemen.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that security measures have been bolstered at all government installations in Sana'a, the presidential palace, the airport, embassies, foreign installations, and the Mövenpick Hotel which is hosting the National Dialogue Conference. Yemeni authorities reported that they have successfully hindered plans to blow up oil pipelines and take control of key cities, including two ports in the south.

Soldiers blocked roads outside Western embassies in Sana'a on 4 August, after a US warning of a possible major militant attack in the Middle East prompted the closure many missions in Yemen and US missions in several other Arab states. Yemen is home to one of the most active wings of Al-Qaeda. Three drone strikes in Yemen killed 14 suspected militants on 8 August.

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

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

National dialogue sessions, which started in March, with a view to start drafting a new Yemeni constitution, agree on other reforms, and prepare for elections in February 2014, spurred numerous protests and violent incidents in Sana'a and the Aden governorate. The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum announced on 28 June that a referendum for the new Yemeni constitution will be held on 15 October and followed by general elections. This is seen as a success following the discussions achieved so far by the National Dialogue Conference.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

UNHCR has recorded the arrival of over 46,000 refugees and migrants during the first six months of 2013, with an estimated 39,000 from Ethiopia and the rest from Somalia. Numbers of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Yemen have been rising for the past six years. In 2012, a record 107,500 people made the journey. While numbers are lower for January to June this year at 46,700 compared to 56,146 for the same period in 2012, this year is another year with a high number of arrivals.

Yemen hosts more than 242,000 refugees according to UNHCR. According to IOM, 22% are women and girls who have experienced repeated gender-based violence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Highlights

9 August: Violence flared up again in Myanmar's Rakhine state between the security forces and the Muslim minority, underscoring the volatility of the situation in villages near the state capital Sittwe. A dispute over custody of a dead Muslim fisherman quickly escalated into a day of clashes in which witnesses reported that police raked crowds of Muslims in the third such incident in two months. At least 2 people were killed and a more than a dozen injured.

7 August: The Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) noted that 7,338 people remained displaced following the monsoon floods. The number of affected and displaced has significantly decreased compared to the over 38,000 people reportedly displaced as of 2 August.

Political and Security Context

Sectarian and ethnic strife opposing Muslims and Buddhists in various parts of the country continues in Myanmar. In June and October 2012, confrontation between ethnic Rakhine

Buddhists and the Muslim minority shook western Rakhine state, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands who are still living in camps. In recent weeks, human rights infringements were reported and tensions remain high while the authorities are imposing restrictions measures on displaced Muslims.

On 9 August, violence flared up again in Myanmar's Rakhine state between the security forces and the Muslim minority, underscoring the volatility of the situation in villages near the state capital Sittwe. A dispute over custody of a dead Muslim fisherman quickly escalated into a day of clashes in which witnesses reported that police raked crowds of Muslims in the third such incident in two months. At least 2 people were killed and a more than a dozen injured. During the clashes, a crowd of IDPs and villagers burned down a police outpost in Ohntawgyi. According to international observers, the situation remained tense in the area as of 12 August while UNHCR issue a call for dialogue over the situation in Rakhine state.

The last outbreak of violence follows other incidents recorded over the past weeks in Rakhine state. On 1 July, rioters torched two houses in Thandwe, a coastal town in Rakhine State, in another episode of sectarian violence between Muslims and Buddhists. On 27 June, two IDPs were killed and six other wounded when security forces opened fire on a crowd outside a military post in Pauktaw Township after a dispute arose between the IDPs and host communities, according to the UN. On 4 June, two Muslim women were shot dead by police in Mrauk-U Township, near Parein camp, where inter-communal violence occurred last year. At the beginning of June, reports indicated that ethnic violence spilled over from Myanmar to nearby Malaysia where four Buddhists from Myanmar were killed in separate incidents.

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

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

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

On 5 August, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, a once outlawed student movement, signed a state-level ceasefire agreement with Karen State government representatives. The preliminary understanding is seen as another step toward broader national reconciliation. In mid-June, an agreement to push ahead with a nationwide

ceasefire between the authorities and the Union Peace-Making Committee and Karen National Progressive Party, representing the Red Karen located in Kayah State, was also reached.

In early June, the Myanmar government's effort to make peace with ethnic minorities already took a step forward as representatives of the country's biggest minority group, the Shan, met with the president to discuss prospects for peace.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

OCHA reported in July that an estimated 88,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states, including over 50,000 in areas beyond Government control. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering renewed and additional needs for provision of basic services, livelihood and protection. The most urgent needs in displaced communities include education, health care, renovation of shelter, and replacement of NFIs and WASH facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

The Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department reported on 7 August that 7,338 people remained displaced following the monsoon floods. The number of affected and displaced had significantly decreased compared to the over 38,000 people reportedly displaced as of 2 August. According to authorities, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine states and Ayeyawadi region, 4,365 people are still affected in 22 locations in Kayin. In Mon State 1,855 people are affected in three camps. In Ayeyawadi region, Tharbaung and Maubin townships reported some 1,079 people displaced to safer places as of 7 August. In Rakhine state, 39 people were displaced. According to the authorities, people across the flood affected areas are continuing to return home with shelters are scheduled to close.

Although most of the people have returned home, WFP reported that some affected rural people would require food assistance until the harvest season in November-December as floods have destroyed food stocks and paddy fields.

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

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

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

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES **COMPLEX**

Highlights

14 August: 26 Palestinian prisoners were released by Israel as part of the current peace negotiations.

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

Political and Security Context

On 19 July, an initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) on direct final status negotiations was announced. On 28 July, the Israeli government approved the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners as a sign of its readiness to revive the Middle East peace process. The peace talks opened formally in West Jerusalem on 14 August and Israel freed 26 of the promised 104 long-serving Palestinian and Israeli Arab prisoners on 14 August. The prisoners will be released in four groups over the next nine months depending on progress in the newly-resumed peace talks with the Palestinian authorities.

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

On 5 July, the Egyptian authorities closed the Egyptian-controlled Rafah passenger crossing, citing security concerns. Official sources in Gaza indicated that as a result of the closure, more than 3,000 Palestinians waiting to enter Gaza are currently stranded on the Egypt side and around 15,000 others are waiting to cross into Egypt. On 10 July, OCHA stated that the crossing re-opened briefly allowing roughly 1,500 people to cross from Egypt into Gaza and another 326 holding foreign passports or referred to specialized treatment in Egyptian hospitals to cross into Egypt. According to the WHO, an average 300 patients exit the Gaza Strip each day to access medical treatment, having been either referred by the Ministry of Health or at their own expense.

The Rafah Crossing is the primary exit and entry point to the Gaza Strip for Palestinians. Movement across the Erez Crossing in northern Gaza Strip has been severely restricted since September 2000. The closure of the crossing has affected prices of fuel, medicines, commodities and food. In Gaza, the flow of fuel through the tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border has returned to pre-crisis levels, but the transfer of construction materials remains severely reduced.

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

On 23 June, the new Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah resigned from the government after a

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

17 August: New heavy rains have been recorded across Pakistan over the past week resulting in new flash floods in vulnerable regions. Although heavy rains are currently ongoing, it is expected that the intense spell of Monsoon will now subside all over the country. According to the authorities, over 100,000 people have been affected so far across the country with an estimated 98 reportedly killed and 99 missing as of 17 August. 1170 people have been displaced across 18 relief camps established by the

authorities.

13 August: Although the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for a "new beginning" in relations with India last week, new incidents were reported along the contested Kashmiri border with alleged crossfire on 13 August resulting in at least two people killed. Against this background, several sources within the Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba commented in mid-August that the group is preparing to again reignited the fight over Kashmir once Western troops leave Afghanistan next year.

12 August: It was announced that the Afghan President Karzai is scheduled to travel to Islamabad in late August. An official visit to Pakistan may be seen as an attempt to mend bilateral relations and also test the ground regarding Pakistan's possible involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

Political and Security Context

Tensions have been running high along the India-Pakistan contested border in Kashmir since early August, with international observers fearing that the November 2003 ceasefire and the stalled peace talks between the two countries might be put into question. Although the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for a "new beginning" in relations with India last week, new incidents were reported along the contested Kashmiri border with an alleged crossfire on 13 August resulting in at least two people killed. Since 6 August, violence has spiked between New Delhi and Pakistan after the Indian authorities blamed the Pakistani troops for the killing of five soldiers in an attack along the border. The Indian side also hinted at possible retaliation. Islamabad denied being behind the attack and indicated that heavily armed terrorists, and persons in Pakistani army uniform, had perpetrated the attack. Two additional incidents that resulted in casualties on both sides were recorded on 7 and 11 August.

In mid-August, several sources within the Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba commented that the group is preparing to reignite the fight over Kashmir once Western troops leave Afghanistan next year. The bombing of the Indian consulate in the Afghan city of Jalalabad, for which the Taliban movement denied responsibility, might have been an early indication of this change of strategy on 3 August.

Meanwhile, New Delhi has also accused Islamabad of trying to push through militants into its side of Kashmir to revive a decades-old revolt there. Several protests have sparked within Indian Kashmir over last weeks with three people being killed on 9 August in a demonstration in the Jammu region. Underscoring Indian concerns, the group of protesters allegedly unfolded a Pakistani flag, shouting pro-Islam, pro-independence slogans after offering Eid prayers.

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

On 31 July, three al-Qaeda operatives were killed in a drone strike on a militant training

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

Since the victory of his party Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) on 11 May, N. Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Taliban even if it is yet unclear if the Pakistani army would welcome such negotiations. On 31 July, the Chief Minister of Baluchistan announced his intention to hold dialogue with all militant groups operating in the area as an alternative to the use of force. According to various sources, Pakistan has already played a pivotal role in establishing contacts between the Taliban and the US in Qatar, although the talks are unlikely to be held in Doha. Last week, it was announced that the Afghan President Hamid Karzai is scheduled to travel to Islamabad in late August to mend bilateral relations while also testing the ground regarding Pakistan's possible involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, tensions are running high in Pakistan with regular Taliban attacks reported across the country, notably affecting the FATA and the country's volatile southwest. While last week was marked by the celebration of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr, attacks surged across the country with several hitting southwestern Baluchistan provincial capital Quetta area. The city is at the forefront of militant Islamist violence, a Baluch separatist insurgency, and violence against the Shiite Muslim minority that constitute a little over 10% of the country's population. On 9 August, an attack on a Sunni Muslim mosque in Quetta killed at least ten people and injured an additional 30. On 8 August, up to 38 people were killed and 50 more injured in a suicide bombing attack claimed by the Taliban at the funeral of a Pakistani policeman in the same city. On 7 August, 11 children were killed and 26 others wounded after a blast struck at a football match in the southern port city of Karachi. In a separate incident, three people, including two children were killed, and 11 others injured in an explosion in the town of Mastung south of Quetta.

On 6 August, rebel separatists killed 14 people, including three security forces personnel, in the Bolan district of Baluchistan claiming that the people executed were all members of the intelligence and security forces. Separatist Baluch groups have been active for decades in Baluchistan opposing the central authorities that they accuse of depriving those of Baluch origins from their rights. In a separate incident in Diamar district of Gilgit-Baltistan province, 3 security forces, investigating the killing of ten foreign climbers and a local guide in June, were killed after being ambushed by Taliban fighters. On 5 August, at least three people were killed in a bombing on a train in Punjab province.

On 30 July, Taliban fighters disguised in police uniforms, attacked a prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the border with Afghanistan. The attackers managed to break out some 250 prisoners, including Taliban militants. The

attack underlines the growing capabilities of the Pakistani Taliban and puts into question the efficiency of the new government's efforts to combat the insurgents. On 29 July, eight people were injured in a grenade attack in Gwadar town in the south of Baluchistan province.

In July, Pakistan has been plagued by almost daily violence and attacks, with attacks increasingly targeting the Shiite Muslim minority. During July, 200 people were killed in violence, with attacks and bombings hitting the tribal Kurram area in northwest Pakistan, an area close to the border with Iran in Baluchistan province, the town of Sukkur in Sindh province, the port city of Karachi, the area between the towns of Kohat and Hangu and the city of Doaba in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Lahore city in the eastern Punjab province, and the Baluchistan province.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: OCHA reported at the end of May that more than one million people are displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas due to protracted conflict. Since mid-March, Government military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency have led to additional massive population movements. As of early June, UNHCR reported an estimated 80,000 people displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the camps of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalozai in Nowshera District. An estimated 60,000 additional people began to flee their homes in Kurram Agency in mid-May due to the Government's security operations against armed non-state actors. As of 6 June, 51,582 people had been registered in New Durrani camp. In late June, the thousands of displaced families from Para Chamkani area in Kurram Agency have allegedly started returning to their homes with the help of the FATA Disaster Management Authority. As of 18 July, according to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, about 66,000 IDPs have returned to their homes in Kurram, South Waziristan and Bajaur.

According to OCHA, as of 15 July, an estimated 1.03 million IDPs were still in need of humanitarian assistance, 45% of them located in the Peshawar area in northwestern Pakistan. As noted by OCHA in early August, the situation is further complicated with that most displaced families not living in camps; around 90% of IDPs live with relatives or in rented houses. Most IDPs are subsistence farmers. Relocation has forced them to leave their farms and relocate to the Peshawar area where employment and livelihood opportunities are limited. At present, many IDPs have already switched to irreversible coping strategies, taking debts and selling assets to pay for food.

On 30 June, the Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had a permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue their efforts in finding solutions to the protracted

refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in the host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees' stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

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

Disaster: New heavy rains have been recorded across Pakistan over the past week resulting in new flash floods in vulnerable regions. Although heavy rains are currently ongoing, notably in Punjab province where 500 villages were flooded on 19 August, it is expected that the intense spell of Monsoon will now subside all over the country.

Since early August, floods have affected Baluchistan (Sibi, Harnai, Jhal Magsi, Loralai and Jaffarabad districts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Chitral, Bannu, Tank, Peshawar and Lakki Marwat districts), Sindh (Jacobabad, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Benazirabad, Sanghar, Thatta, districts and Karachi), Punjab (Lahore and Rajanpur district) provinces and the FATA (Frontier Region Tank, South Waziristan, Kurram, Khyber and Bajaur agencies).

According to the authorities, over 100,000 people have been affected so far across the country with an estimated 98 reportedly killed and 99 missing as of 17 August. 1,170 people have been displaced across 18 relief camps established by the authorities. To date information on damages remains limited, but the Monsoon has destroyed at least 2,533 houses and damaged 1,783 more; 145,000 acres of crops have reportedly been affected.

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

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

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

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

WFP reported in early August that several macro-economic factors are maintaining pressure on food and non-food prices in Pakistan which has contributed to recent food insecurity. In June 2013, food inflation rose by 8.1% from 2012, against 4.4% for non-food inflation. Prices of wheat and wheat flour have steadily increased since June 2012, underpinned by higher producer support prices.

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

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new developments this week. Last update was: 14/08/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

Across the country, which heavily depends on imports and humanitarian aid, wheat flour prices were recorded at, or close to, historic highs in the main and regional markets of the country. In April 2013, they decreased compared to March, but still remained high

compared to the same period in 2012. However, they are reportedly not as high as 2008 peak prices. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices.

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

Highlights

12-13 August: Police and protesters have clashed during a 48-hour general strike or *hartal*, called by Bangladesh's largest Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), across the country, including the capital Dhaka. At least 50 people, including 10 policemen, were injured in the clashes across the country. The strike followed a Bangladeshi court ruling on 1 August that declared JI as illegal on 1 August, largely forbidding it to take part in general elections due at the end of the year.

5 August: OCHA reported that following inter-communal violence at the border town of Tripura in northeast Bangladesh around 1,500 people have sought refuge and protection in India.

Political and Security Context

Tensions between Islamic groups and secular activists are ongoing in Bangladesh while the Government, led by the Bangladesh Awami League (AL) in power since 2008, struggle to contain protests while upcoming elections loom. In a publication released in late July, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that Bangladeshi security forces have frequently used excessive force in responding to street protests, killing at least 150 protesters and injuring over 2,000 since February 2013.

On 12-13 August, police and protesters have clashed during a 48-hour general strike or *hartal*, called by Bangladesh's largest Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), across the country, including the capital Dhaka. At least 50 people, including 10 policemen, were injured in the clashes. However, while the JI strike triggered tensions, it was only mildly supported by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh's main opposition political party, allied to JI. The strike followed a Bangladeshi court ruling that declared JI as illegal on 1 August, largely forbidding it to take part in general elections due at the end of the year. In the wake of the decision, party activists took the streets in the capital, Dhaka, and other towns including Bogra, Jessore and Gaibandha.

Meanwhile, the authorities jailed a prominent Bangladeshi human rights activist working for HRW, over allegations that the U.S.-based group made false accusations against the government forces after a deadly crackdown on protests in May. The move may be seen

as a toughening of the AL stance prior to much awaited elections due in late December. Against this background, local observers largely expect a worsening of the situation in the country during the coming months.

Since January 2013, Bangladesh has seen recurrent *hartals* or strikes called by JI or BNP, as a protest against the arrest of senior party officials for committing offenses during the 1971 War of Independence with Pakistan. The *hartals* have caused significant disruption to business and commerce and vast losses to the economy.

In mid-July, after a war crimes tribunal convicted two other top Islamist politician of JI to death for crimes, genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction, committed during the independence war, new strikes, enforced by BNP and JI, were recorded across the country. Across the country, shops and businesses were closed and main roads were largely deserted of cars in the capital Dhaka. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least nine people were killed during the protests. According to the authorities, five more JI leaders and two from the BNP are on trial. The tribunal is due to deliver verdicts in their cases soon.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: In early August, OCHA reported that following inter-communal violence at the border town of Tripura, northeast Bangladesh, around 1,500 people have sought refuge and protection in India.

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

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

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

15-19 August: Iraq experienced a sudden mass influx of Syrian refugees between 15 and 19 August. Over 20,000 refugees are reported to have entered northern Iraq at the Peshkabout crossing, according to UNHCR.

10 August: On 11 August a wave of coordinated attacks killed 90 people and wounded 320 across Baghdad and in southern Iraq in what is said to be a response to a government campaign to arrest suspected militants. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for the attacks.

10 August: The president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region released a statement declaring willingness to intervene to defend the Kurdish population caught up in Syria's unrest if fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-government forces in northern Syria continues.

As of 13 August, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 155,000 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees.

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

21 July: A double assault against the Abu Ghraib and Taji prisons in the Baghdad area resulted in at least 40 deaths and the escape of at least 500 prisoners, allegedly including several high-ranking al-Qaeda members.

Political and Security Context

Over the past week, deadly violence continued across Iraq, especially in Baghdad and Kirkuk provinces, causing concerns about possible further destabilisation of Iraq and marking one of the deadliest Ramadan in years with over 800 killed. A wave of coordinated attacks killed 90 people and wounded 320 in Baghdad and southern Iraq on 11 August, in a response to a government campaign to arrest suspected militants. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for the attacks. At least 33 people were killed and 56 others wounded in a series of bomb attacks in Baghdad on 15 August. Six car bombs are said to have exploded across the city, one close to the heavily fortified Green Zone hosting diplomatic missions. The attacks come in direct response to an address by Prime Minister al-Maliki on 14 August who said that security forces would continue large-scale efforts to hunt militants. According to the Government, more than 800 alleged militants had been detained and dozens killed, and militant infrastructure used to make car bombs destroyed including large amounts of weapons and explosives.

While Iraqis blame the authorities for failing to prevent the increasing attacks, authorities have highlighted the largest security operations, since the departure of the US forces in

December 2011.

Iraq struggles to contain the spiking inter-sectarian violence, with casualty rates the highest since 2008. The UN reported that over 1,050 killed and 2,326 wounded in July, making it the deadliest month since April 2008. So far in 2013, at least 4,137 civilians were killed and 9,865 injured, showing the rising impact of violence on civilians. Baghdad was the worst-affected governorate in July followed by Salahuddin, Ninewa, Diyala, Kirkuk, Anbar, Babil, Wasit and Basra.

Levels of violence could increase ahead of elections, planned for April 2014. The elections are widely seen as the next major opportunity when Iraq's political deadlock can be shaken up, as changes to power structures in and between parties could force alterations in how they interact.

On 21 July, a double assault against the Abu Ghraib and Taji prisons in the Baghdad area resulted in over 40 people killed. The attack also allowed 500 prisoners to escape, allegedly including several high-ranking al-Qaeda members. An international alert from Interpol was subsequently issued describing the jailbreak as a major threat to global security, leading to a closedown of international embassies across the region. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility for the Abu Ghraib jailbreak, describing it as part of a mass prisoner-freeing plan by its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The previous week, at least 70 people died and 190 were wounded in a wave of bombings in Baghdad and Madain, south of the capital.

The failure of the authorities to prevent the jailbreak and the ongoing violence has reportedly led to further tensions within the governing coalition and between ministers themselves, which could further deepen the ongoing political instability.

The ongoing wave of violence is largely linked to Iraq's long-running political dispute between Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and religious and ethnic groups opposing the allegedly sectarian policies of his Shia-led Government. Since the start of 2013, widespread discontent of the Sunni Muslim minority has fuelled the surge in unrest with tensions at their highest since US troops left the country two years ago. Since Ramadan's start on 10 July, attacks on Shia communities have increased across Iraq with many attributed to groups affiliated to al-Qaeda. Tensions between different sectarian neighbourhoods continue to run high in Baghdad and in cities across Iraq.

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

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

While tensions persist between the central authorities in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan, both sides have made attempts to move closer in recent weeks. Better relations with the Kurds should help ease pressure on Iraq's Shi'ite leadership, which is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on Sunni Islamist insurgents. On 8 July, Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani visited Baghdad, following a visit of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to Kurdistan in June, the first such visit in over two years. The trip may be seen as another attempt by both sides to promote dialogue and not let tensions build further. According to local reports, Iraq's deteriorating security situation and the practical repartition of power between the two parties over the disputed areas of administrative jurisdiction are to be addressed in their dialogue.

The withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan is ongoing. Despite the start of the withdrawal on 14 May, the Turkish Government stated that as of June only 15% of PKK fighters have left Turkey. Both sides have expressed disappointment with the slow pace of the process. On 4 July, Kurdish militants attacked two military outposts in southeastern Turkey, breaking a three-month ceasefire. The co-head of the Kurdish movement said on 31 July that the Turkish government must take concrete steps by September to advance a peace process with Kurdish militants or risk a return to hostilities. On 18 August, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan stated that PKK failed to withdraw its fighters from Turkey as agreed. According to the Government, only 20% have left Turkey, and they are mostly women and children.

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

UNHCR reported that despite political turmoil, the conflict in bordering Syria, and the tension at the Turkish border, the overall security situation in the Kurdish governorates of Iraq remains stable. However on 10 August, the president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region released a statement declaring willingness to intervene to defend the Kurdish population caught up in Syria's unrest if fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-government forces in northern Syria continues. Posted on the Kurdistan Regional Government website, Barzani's statement referred to areas in Syria as "Western Kurdistan." Spread over large, adjoining tracts of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran, the Kurdish people are often described as the largest ethnic group without their own state.

Kurdish militants in Iraq previously warned that the fragile peace process is endangered by increased military activity in the area, a lack of co-operation from Baghdad, and the continued detention of Kurdish politicians. Increased military surveillance and the construction of new army posts in the mainly Kurdish southeast are seen as undermining the oppositions' withdrawal from Turkey to Iraq.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Iraq experienced a sudden mass influx of Syrian refugees from 15 to 19 August with 20,000 refugees reported to have entered northern Iraq at the Peshkabout crossing, according to UNHCR. Some Syrians had reportedly been waiting near the Tigris

River for two to three days encamped at a makeshift site. It is one of the largest crossings in the more than two-year-old conflict. UNHCR reports that the influx is continuing.

The majority of the new arrivals are families (women, children and older persons) mainly from Aleppo, Afrin, Al-Hassakeh and Qamishly. Some families reported that they have relatives living in northern Iraq. Some students traveling alone said that they had been studying in northern Iraq and had only returned to Syria over the recent Eid holidays.

At Erbil, about 2,000 new arrivals are now encamped at a site in Kawergost town where UNHCR has established an emergency transit/reception area. Some refugees are sheltered under UNHCR tents, others are in mosques or residing with family or friends in the area.

As of 13 August, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached close to 155,000 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees. The total number of refugees is expected to double by end 2013 despite informal border crossings in the Kurdish region having been closed in June.

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

Many Iraqis residing in Syria have also returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, UNHCR cited 68,122 returnees since mid-July 2012, with Baghdad receiving the largest number of returnees. An estimated 1.2 million remain displaced inside Iraq as of June 2012, but there is limited updated information on displacement figures.

OCHA and NRC state that Iraq's appeal for financial support to host the Syrian refugees has been heavily underfunded with only 14% of the money required for the humanitarian response having materialised as of early July.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

18 August: Over half a million Syrian refugees (510,820 persons), including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis according to UNHCR.

Political and Security Context

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

As of 18 August, 510,820 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. The Government estimated that 600,000 Syrian refugees were hosted in Jordan as of 4 July. Recent reports warn of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees especially in communities that host large numbers of displaced Syrians. Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp is the equivalent of an entirely new city that would be the country's fifth largest with over 130,000 residents.

On 13 August, officials said that Jordan is set to finalise preparations for its third Syrian camp, with the facility to receive its first refugee families as early as next month (Mkheizen Al Gharbiya camp in the eastern city of Azraq). The camp is designed to host up to 500,000 Syrians in its initial phase, according to the UN, with an expandable capacity of up to 130,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In early-August, the UN reported that some Syrian refugees are donating to poor Jordanians, or selling them extra food received from aid agencies at a discounted price. Northern governorates have been hit particularly hard by the refugee influx and demands on basic service provision. In Mafraq governorate, where locals are heavily affected by both high prices and irregular water supply, food, blankets, tents, and other items with UNHCR logos are publicly for sale.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Reviewed: 29/07/2013

LAOS FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

Highlights

7 August: Two tropical storms caused flooding affecting 44,000 people in the northern provinces of Oudomxay, Xayabuly, Xiengkhoung and Bolikhamxay, and in the central province of Khammoune.

As of 5 August, an epidemic of dengue fever that has started in January 2013, has so far affected 36,000 people and caused the death of 77 people. Highest concentrations of cases were found in Vientiane and Champasak province.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: The Disaster Management Office of Laos PDR reported that two tropical storms Jebi (31 July – 3 August) and Mankhut (5 – 7 August) caused flooding in the northern

provinces of Oudomxay, Xayabuly, Xiengkhoung and Bolikhamxay, and in the central province of Khammoune. The floods caused two deaths and affected 44,000 people. To date, information on damages remains limited.

Earlier in the season, after relatively normal rainfall between early May and mid-July, heavy rain between 24 and 26 June had already caused flash floods in Bolihan District, in the central Province of Bolikhamxay, affecting 5,000 people and damaging houses, food stocks, livestock and equipment.

Health: As of 5 August, the authorities reported that 36,000 cases of dengue fever were recorded across all provinces since January 2013. To date, there have been 77 deaths, which results in a case-fatality rate of 0.2%. The provinces in the far northwest, centre and far south of the country are among the worst affected. The highest concentrations of cases have been recorded in the capital Vientiane (4,617 cases) and the Champasak province (3,306 cases) in the southwest of the country.

As reported by OCHA in mid-July, the epidemic is expected to worsen as the rainy season is ongoing and previous epidemics have historically peaked in August and September.

Updated: 19/08/2013

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

Highlights

15 August: A car bomb set off in Beirut's Ruwais district, a reported stronghold of the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah, has killed at least 27 and wounded 336 people.

15 August: Close to 691,000 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR in Lebanon or are awaiting registration since the beginning of the conflict. This is an increase of 13,000 refugees compared to last week.

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

Political and Security Context

Insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between different sectarian groups, and the impact of the Syrian conflict is increasingly spilling over to Lebanon, with almost daily shelling in the north and eastern border regions. Several incidents were reported at border-crossings this week. A Syrian army helicopter fired on 5 August several rockets at Khirbet Daoud near the northeastern border town of Arsal, which has been the target of air raids in the past. At least six people were killed on 3 August in a Syrian air strike on the opposition-held town of Yabroud in Syria, just across the border from Lebanon. Nine people were wounded in an attack near the Lebanese town of Arsal. The area houses many

refugees from the Syrian town of Qusayr which was captured by Syrian forces in June.

On 8 August protesters attacked the headquarters of the Lebanese General Security at Arida (Wadi Khaled) crossing point after a Syrian national was killed trying to cross into Lebanon. In Wadi Khaled region the Syrian refugees and fighters outnumber the host population. Around 90% of the fighters in Qusair, AlHosn Castle and Homs fled to this region after losing strategic ground to Syrian forces.

With repeated inter-sectarian strife reported in Tripoli, fears are rising that the Syrian conflict may become a regional conflict between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims. On 6 August, the security situation in Tripoli deteriorated after clashes between gunmen over familial disputes. In Tripoli, intermittent clashes occurred on 30 June between gunmen from the al-Baqqa neighbourhood whose residents support the armed opposition and rivals from the Jabal Mohsen neighbourhood that largely back Syria's regime. While fighting between these neighbourhoods mirrors Sunni-Alawi sectarian lines and is related to the Syrian conflict, inter-communal conflict has been a long existing problem since the Lebanese civil war.

The widespread involvement of the Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shi'ite Islamist militia, alongside Syrian Government troops in the offensive against the opposition-held stronghold Qusayr has prompted the Free Syrian Army and the armed group Jabhat al-Nusra to separately warn that their fighters could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. On 2 June, the first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah militiamen and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory resulted in the deaths of at least 15 fighters near the eastern town of Baalbek. On 11 June, several rockets launched from an area in Syria believed to be controlled by opposition forces, reportedly hit the eastern Lebanese town of Hermel, a bastion of Hezbollah, killing at least one person and wounding several.

On 15 August a car bomb set off in Beirut's Ruwais district, a reported stronghold of the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah, has killed at least 27 and wounded 336 people. A previously unknown group, the Battalion of Aisha, said it carried out the attack because of Hezbollah's involvement in the Syria war. Also on Saturday, the Syrian opposition National Coalition warned against a "cycle of violence" in Lebanon if Hezbollah continues to send fighters to help the Damascus regime. In July, in one of the worst incidents since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, a car bomb wounded over 50 people in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut's southern neighbourhood Bir Abed. A Syrian rebel group, the Special Forces 313 Brigade, reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. The group also claimed it was behind an attack on a Hezbollah convoy in eastern Lebanon on 28 June.

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

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

On 31 May, as a result of the ongoing insecurity, the Lebanese Parliament unanimously voted to extend its mandate by 17 months after failing to adopt a new electoral law at a

time of deep internal divisions over the war in neighboring Syria. Elections that were originally planned for June were postponed. On 1 June, President Michel Sleiman lodged an appeal with the Constitutional Council to challenge the Parliament's decision to extend its mandate and delay elections.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Both host and refugee populations are impacted by increasing pressure on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities and food prices. Many Lebanese families see their livelihoods eroding as wages decrease and rent prices soar, with hard-pressed Syrian refugees working for less money and sharing single-family homes with multiple families to save on rent. Real economic growth was 7% in 2010, fell to 1.5% in 2011, and 1.5% in 2012, and the International Monetary Fund estimates 2% in 2013. In June 2013, general inflation reached almost 9% year-on-year (compared to 2% in June 2012). Food inflation eased from 5.7% in June 2012 to 3% in June 2013. Tensions are rising between host communities and refugees over strained resources, particularly with regard to overwhelmed health facilities.

Displacement: As of 15 August, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached almost 691,000 people including close to 111,000 awaiting registration. More refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no formal camps, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Vulnerable Syrian families are settling in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, the green spaces between major roads, etc.). Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in makeshift settlements, half-finished buildings and cramped apartment blocks, often in unhygienic conditions and with little access to food, water and medical care.

According to the Lebanese General Security Authority, there are currently 2 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon's population has grown by 25% in under two years; 1.2 million Lebanese in hosting communities are severely affected by the refugee influx. According to media sources, the Lebanese government is implementing strict entry controls on Syrians attempting to enter the country at all border crossings; only Syrians with valid identification cards or passports can enter. At border crossings, they are required to officially identify whether they are refugees or workers. The measures reportedly aim at preventing extremist and anti-Lebanese groups from entering the country.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

Highlights

19 August: The authorities reported heavy rains in Metro Manila. Although little information is available, severe floods are expected and a number of people have already been evacuated from the area.

16 August: On 11 August, Typhoon (category 4) Utor, locally known as Labuyo, struck the Philippines in the mountainous north of Luzon at about 19:00 GMT. As of 16 August, the typhoon affected over 383,000 people in 87 municipalities and 5 cities in 16 provinces across Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region according to the authorities. Over 120,000 people remain displaced at the houses of relatives while only 200 people remain in 2 evacuation centres.

5 August: Strong rains have led to the flooding of the provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City in the island of Mindanao. To date, while no casualty figure has been reported, the authorities indicated that 250,000 people across 22 municipalities have been affected to date. No information on damage is available yet.

Political and Security Context

On 5 August, at least six people were killed and 29 injured in a powerful bomb blast in the centre of the city of Cotabato in Mindanao Island in the south of the country. It was the second bombing in Mindanao in ten days after a bomb hit a nightclub in Cagayan de Oro City killing six and wounding dozens. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The authorities announced increased security measure in the area.

The area has been plagued by a decades old rebellion by Muslim fighters that has left thousands dead. As the authorities now enter the last stages of negotiating an agreement with the main rebel group, officials reportedly blamed the attack on breakaway insurgent groups or possibly on an alleged new al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group called the Khalifa Islamiyah Mindanao-Black Flag. To date, information remains limited.

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

On 15 October 2012, the two parties had signed a historic peace deal that opened the way for talks that should craft the final architecture of the normalisation process and put an end

to 40 years of conflict in the poor, but resource-rich, south, centred on the island of Mindanao.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 11 August, Typhoon (category 4) Utor, locally known as Labuyo, struck the Philippines in the mountainous north of Luzon at about 19:00 GMT. As of 16 August, the typhoon affected over 383,000 people in 87 municipalities and 5 cities in 16 provinces across Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region according to the authorities.

Over 120,000 people remain displaced at the houses of relatives while only 200 people remain in 2 evacuation centres. According to the authorities, a large number of people displaced by Utor returned to their homes over last week. To date, 8 people have been killed and another 4 are missing. Information on damages remains limited, but at least 2,000 houses have been totally or partially damaged, with road blocks, power and communications disruptions also being reported.

On 19 August, the authorities reported heavy rains in Metro Manila. Although little information is available, severe floods are expected and a number of people have already been evacuated from the area.

Since 21 July, strong rains have led to flooding of the Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City provinces of Mindanao Island. The rains have reportedly caused the inundation of the Liguasan Marsh and other waterways including the Pulangi River and Simuay River in Maguindanao. Further moderate rainfall has hit the area over the second week of August, triggering increased floods.

While no casualty figures have been reported, the authorities indicated that 250,000 people across 22 municipalities have been affected. No information on damages is available yet.

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

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

Updated: 19/08/2013

CHINA FLOODS, TYPHOON

Highlights

14-19 August: The Typhoon Utor, locally known as Labuyo, hit Chinese southeastern Guangdong province on 14 August. According to the authorities, it has also affected the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region while all the areas were also struck by heavy Monsoon rains. As of 19 August, the Typhoon and the resulting heavy rains have affected an estimated 4 million people out of which 513,000 had to be relocated. Utor has reportedly also damaged at least 19,000 houses across the province.

Mid-August: Central Hunan province was also struck by floods with over 85,400 people affected in Lanshan County.

10-19 August: The provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang in north-eastern China, near the border with Russia, have been hit by severe flooding – reportedly the worst in decades – following the heavy rains from 10 August on. To date, the authorities reported that 800,000 people have been affected in Liaoning. In Jilin, 760,000 people were reportedly affected. In Heilongjiang, nearly 2 million people were affected according to the authorities.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: Over the past week, devastating floods struck at opposite ends of China.

Following its passage across the Philippines on 12 August, the Typhoon Utor, locally known as Labuyo, hit Chinese southeastern Guangdong province on 14 August. According to the authorities, it has also affected the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region while all the areas were also struck by heavy Monsoon rains in the aftermath.

As of 19 August, the Typhoon and following rains have affected an estimated 4 million people out of which 513,000 had to be relocated. Utor has reportedly also damaged at least 19,000 houses across the provinces. At least 20 people have been killed while over a dozen remain missing as of 19 August following the typhoon and the subsequent Monsoon floods.

In parallel, the provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang in north-eastern China, near the border with Russia, have been hit by severe flooding – reportedly the worst in decades – following heavy rains from 10 August on. As of 19 August, the authorities reported that 800,000 people have been affected, out of which 100,000 were evacuated, and 113,000 hectares of farmland damaged in Liaoning. In Jilin, 760,000 people were reportedly affected, out of which over 100,000 were displaced, and 35,000 houses damaged or destroyed. In Heilongjiang, nearly 2 million people were affected, out of which 140,000 were displaced, and 15,000 houses damaged according to the authorities. At least 65 deaths were reported across the three provinces. Since these three areas are major grain producers and the autumn harvest is entering its key phase, the authorities have reported concerns regarding agriculture recovery.

In mid-August, other Chinese provinces were affected by heavy rains and subsequent floods, including central Hunan province where floods affected 85,400 people in Lanshan

County. Out of the affected, 35,000 people were displaced; five people were confirmed dead in the area. At least 6,200 ha of farmland were affected and almost 200 houses damaged.

China is an extremely hazard-prone country, regularly suffering from deadly floods, earthquakes, landslides and hailstorms.

On 22 July, Chinese northwest Gansu Province was affected by a 6.6 magnitude earthquake that hit near Dingxi, Min and Zhang counties being the hardest-hit areas. Weaker-intensity earthquakes followed soon afterward. Reportedly, over 580,000 people were affected. Nearly 2,000 houses were destroyed and about 22,500 severely damaged. According to the authorities, at least 95 people were killed and more than 1,400 injured. In the aftermath of the earthquakes, heavy rains in the area affected over 440,000 people in the province, with 39,500 people relocated and 15,600 houses severely damaged. The rains have also triggered landslides that killed additionally over 21 people.

A smaller 6.1 magnitude tremor hit southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, affecting Zogang and Markam counties in Qamdo Prefecture, on 12 August. Reportedly, 3,400 people were affected, 87 injured while the quake also damaged 45,000 houses.

Updated: 19/08/2013

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

Highlights

14 August: North and South Korea have agreed to reopen the joint industrial park in Kaesong after a series of talks concerning this rare bilateral economic cooperation. No date for the reopening of the facility was provided.

Mid-August: Little up-to-date information is available on the food security situation in North Korea. According to a report released by OCHA in mid-August, an estimated 16 million people, out of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure in DPRK. An estimated 2.4 million people are in need of food assistance. As reported by OCHA, although the overall humanitarian situation has improved slightly over the last 12 months, the structural causes of people vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably targeting the most affected northeastern provinces.

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

Political and Security Context

On 14 August, North and South Korea have agreed to reopen the joint industrial park in Kaesong after a series of talks concerning this rare bilateral economic cooperation. No date for the reopening of the facility was provided. In April, Pyongyang had pulled its 53,000 workers out of the park at the height of tensions with Seoul and Washington over its

nuclear military program.

On 7 August, Pyongyang announced that it was ready to reopen the joint industrial zone. The statement came only an hour after Seoul, exasperated by the North's lack of responsiveness, signalled its willingness to let the facility close definitively. Prior to closing, Kaesong was a rare source of hard currency for the impoverished North Korea.

The reopening of Kaesong appears as a step toward improving Pyongyang's relations with the West. After the soaring of the relations between Pyongyang and the West in early spring, relations with Seoul improved after an unexpected reversal on 6 June from Pyongyang, which suddenly dropped its belligerent tone and proposed opening a dialogue. On 9 June, North and South Korean officials held their first talks in years in a positive end to months of military tensions.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

According to the UN as of 2 August, the floods have resulted in 49,000 displaced across the country, mostly in North and South Pyongan with at least 4,000 families having lost their homes, and a reported 33 dead with 18 people still missing. The floods have led to extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. Government reports indicated that 11,000 buildings were damaged. Damages to the water system are also widespread with an increased incidence of diarrhoea in some areas. As reported by the UN, farmland has been inundated with at least 10,000 hectares affected and 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed. Damage to agricultural land is extensive with up to 40% of the land being affected in Pakchon County including 80% of the paddy.

This comes after flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 which affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaging health facilities and reducing access to primary and secondary health care.

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

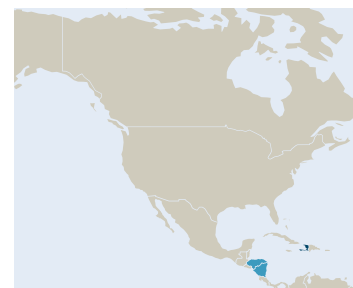
Food Security and Malnutrition: Little up-to-date information is available on the food security situation in North Korea. According to a report released by OCHA in mid-August, an estimated 16 million people, out of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure in DPRK. An estimated 2.4 million people are in need of food assistance. As reported by OCHA, although the overall humanitarian situation has improved slightly over

the last 12 months, the structural causes of people vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably targeting the most affected northeastern provinces.

Despite the UN reporting the main 2012 harvests and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier which allegedly should result in the smallest cereal deficit since at least the early 2000's, the food security situation remains grim. According to OCHA, the lack of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer and plastic sheets) remains the main challenge for food production.

In addition, despite a slight improvement, malnutrition rates continue to be alarming in North Korea. According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey quoted in OCHA's August 2013 report, the chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate among children under five stands at 27.9% while 4% remain acutely malnourished (wasting). Chronic under-nutrition is a public health problem and is one of the major underlying causes of maternal and child mortality.

Updated: 19/08/2013



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 12/08/2013

Early August: Recent rains triggered major localized cholera outbreaks in several departments, especially in Artibonite, Nord-est and Centre. 992 new cholera cases and six deaths were reported in the week between 13 and 19 July alone.

Early August: As of early August, 1.5 million people face severe food insecurity in Haiti; 5.2 million suffer from moderate food insecurity.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 5 July, nearly 3½ years after the earthquake, an estimated 279,000 people remain displaced in Haiti according to IOM, 41,000 fewer than reported in late May. In the second quarter of 2013, the highest decrease in IDP population since April 2012 was recorded. Some 33 sites closed and over 41,000 people were relocated, twice as many as from January to March 2013. The Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster expect the number of IDPs to further reduce to 242,000 people in September and to 211,000 by December 2013.

Currently, 352 IDP sites and camp-like settlements host the remaining IDPs. The situation in these sites remains problematic with 73,000 IDPs in 105 sites possibly facing illegal forced eviction by private land owners in the coming months. Camp-settlements remain vulnerable to floods and landslides, putting the IDP population at risk in the upcoming hurricane season.

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

Disaster: In early May, FEWSNET reported that seasonal rainfall in the Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse departments of southern Haiti and in southwestern Dominican Republic has been less than 50% below average levels. Seasonal rainfall in the Ouest and Sud-Est departments has also been below-average. The largest seasonal deficits occurred across the southwestern peninsula of Haiti in the Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse departments. An increase in rain during the first week of August has helped relieve the dryness over parts of Haiti. However, moderate seasonal precipitation deficits remain throughout many local areas in northwestern and southern Haiti. Continued below average rainfall could further increase moisture deficits and negatively impact crops.

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

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

The June IPC round in Haiti indicated that most departments are facing stressed food security conditions (IPC phase 2). Some households in these areas, such as the agro-

pastoral areas of North, Artibonite and Central Highlands, are in crisis food security conditions (IPC phase 3).

The seasonally adjusted rice and maize prices in Haiti have risen slightly by 9% and 7%, respectively. The poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest and Nord-Est departments were facing crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and have switched to irreversible coping strategies. Planting of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and the first half of February. Poor seed availability due to increasing prices, which are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average, is also threatening this year's crop yields.

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

Health: Recent rains have triggered major localized cholera outbreaks in several departments, especially in Artibonite, Nord-est and Centre; 992 new cholera cases and six deaths were reported in the week between 13 and 19 July alone. Nationally, the number of new cases in July was 5,136 after a 40% increase of new cholera cases was reported in June compared to the previous month with cases surging from 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

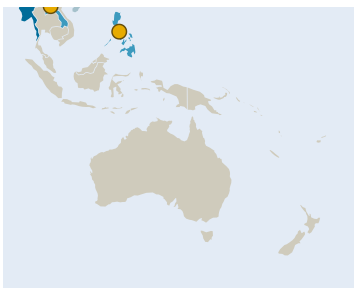
The total number of reported cases since the beginning of 2013 is 32,290 and the number of deaths to 285. Artibonite is the most affected and most vulnerable department, with just seven partners involved in the cholera-response. The number of new cases in the department almost doubled from 173 in the last week of June, to 344 in the last week of July.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases is 658,053. According to OCHA, 8,120 people have died since the start of the outbreak. As many as 120,000 potential new cholera cases are forecast for 2013, due to the upcoming rainy season and the funding gaps affecting cholera response, making it the least funded component in the Humanitarian Action Plan with only 16% of funding requirements for the health sector met so far.

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

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

OCEANIA



MARSHALL ISLANDS DROUGHT

Highlights

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Reviewed: 12/08/2013

SOUTH AMERICA



BOLIVIA FLOODS

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update: 05/08/2013.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: FAO reported that the 2013 aggregate cereal production is forecast to decrease by 11% compared to the previous year. The recently harvested 2012-

13 main season maize crop was severely affected by drought during the vegetative period.

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

According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the torrential March rains in the south of the country, but the Ministry has discounted the possibility of food security risks. However, according to WFP, at least 25,000 people were in need of food assistance in March. Subsistence farmers who normally cultivate crops at the riversides were the most affected. The floods hit at the end of the lean season, as farmers were about to harvest their crops and food reserves were at the lowest. Families that traditionally store their harvested potatoes and onions in the fields also lost reserves.

Reviewed: 19/08/2013

Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

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

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

The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

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

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

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

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

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

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

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

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

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

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

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

Update

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

Disclaimer

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