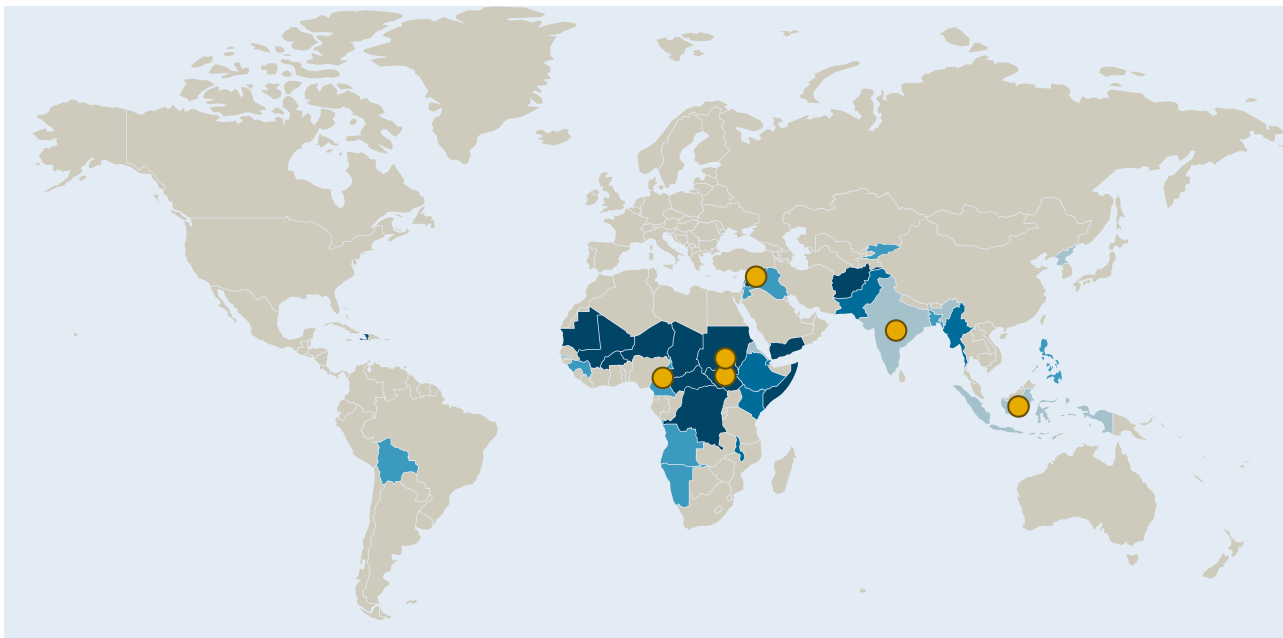




GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

July 2013



Snapshot 1 July – 08 July

In **Syria**, the regime's offensive on Homs governorate and city is on-going with artillery and air strikes being reported. An estimated, 2,500 and 4,000 civilians are allegedly trapped in and around the city. Meanwhile, the number of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries continues to increase and is now approaching 1.75 million people according to UNHCR.

A 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest of Bener Meriah District, Aceh province in western **Indonesia**. According to local authorities, at least 22,125 people took refuge at emergency shelters while the earthquake also destroyed an estimated 15,919 houses and 623 public facilities. Information about the actual number of affected is still lacking.

Assam State, in northeastern **India**, was hit by new floods while the State Government declared a red alert across 4 districts and directed the administration to evacuate people. According to local estimates, some 27,000 people have been affected so far while new heavy rainfall hit the State later during the week. Meanwhile, as of 4 July, 580 people have been confirmed dead after floods hit the State of Uttarakhand in late June. According to local sources, up to 3,000 people remain missing. Overall, the disaster has affected approximately 500,000 people across 13 districts. Over 100,000 people have been displaced from their homes and around 10,000 people have been injured.

Severe humanitarian crisis

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

Humanitarian crisis

Djibouti	Myanmar
Ethiopia	oPt
Kenya	Pakistan
Malawi	

Situation of concern

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

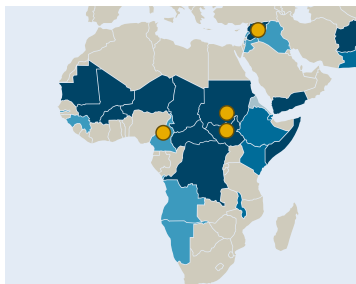
Watch list

DPRK	● India
Eritrea	● Indonesia

The serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in neighbouring Nigeria has resulted in a significant influx of refugees into **Cameroon's** Far North Region since 10 June. The number of arrivals is uncertain, with statements by national and local authorities indicating between 4,000 to 20,000 newly arrivals. The refugee influx could strain the capacity of the already extremely vulnerable Far North and North regions, where some 350,000 people are estimated to be food insecure.

Tensions continue to run high between **South Sudan** and **Sudan**. Last week, Juba allegedly accused Khartoum of launching two separate attacks with planes and land troops on areas near their common disputed border, notably hitting Unity State. To date, little information is available. In addition, wide-spread tribal fighting was reported in Darfur region over last week with notably clashes occurring in Nyala, one of Sudan's biggest cities and also an area hosting large number of displaced. During the clashes, two aid workers from an international aid organization were killed.

Last Updated: 08/07/2013 Next Update: 15/07/2013



AFRICA

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

30 June: The 2013 total annual caseload of children under 5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) remains at January levels at an estimated 120,000, UNICEF reports. The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels.

30 June: 1.8 million people in Burkina Faso remain food insecure. Difficulties in accessing food are primarily due to low purchasing power, low household agricultural production and difficult geographical access to markets.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: According to UNHCR, as of 30 June, the current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso stands at 49,975. The number has not changed since 22 April. The refugees are located at seven sites (Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou), which are recognized as refugee camps by the Government, as well as spontaneous settlements. The majority of the camps are situated in the northern region of Sahel, notably in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Seno, where almost 90% of the Malian refugees are settled. The presence of Malian refugees and of 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: Despite significant improvements in cereal production, the food security situation remains critical in parts of the country. Burkina Faso has undergone three shocks in a span of five years including the 2011/2012 drought, and the population has not yet recovered from the last food crisis. According to OCHA as of 30 June, 1.8 million people in Burkina Faso remain 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 report by FAO states that the food

insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

Civil strife in northern Mali has also contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country. A joint assessment in March indicated an elevated prevalence of food insecurity in Malian refugee camps as well as in Burkinabe host communities, with an estimated 52% of the refugees and 58% of the host populations being affected by food insecurity, according to the report.

Overall, the food supply situation has significantly improved in 2012/2013 across the country. According to WFP, the cereal production from the 2012/2013 agricultural season was over 30% higher than the 2011/2012 production. Official production figures support these findings.

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

The 2013 total annual caseload of children under 5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) remains at January levels at an estimated 120,000, UNICEF reported in late June. The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels. In previous assessments, the highest GAM rates have been recorded in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun.

Updated: 08/07/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

5 July: Some 58,870 people have fled CAR since December 2012, UNHCR reports. The refugees have arrived in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the latter of which has received 40,781 new CAR refugees.

3 July: As of early July, the humanitarian crisis is continuing to affect the entire population of the Central African Republic, i.e. an estimated 4.6 million people, of whom 2.3 million are children.

28 June: Clashes between ex-rebels of the Seleka rebel coalition and armed civilians killed six people in the capital Bangui, and left at least 25 wounded, according to local authorities. The violence erupted after a person believed to have been kidnapped by the Seleka was found dead, instigating protests that were violently shut down by armed Seleka members.

Political and Security Context

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) continues to gradually improve since the March military coup by the Seleka rebel coalition. However, looting and general criminality persist at reduced rates, and tensions between Seleka elements and the local population, as well as between Seleka factions continued to be reported in early July.

On 28 June, clashes between ex-rebels of the Seleka rebel coalition and armed civilians killed six people in the capital Bangui, and left at least 25 wounded, according to local authorities. The violence erupted after a person believed to have been kidnapped by the Seleka was found dead, instigating protests that were violently shut down by armed Seleka members. While exactions by Seleka elements have instigated protests before, the 28 June events were unprecedented in terms of scope and level of violence. Concerns have been raised that this may trigger further violent confrontations in absence of resolution to the security problem.

On 1 July, patrols from the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC), which are operating alongside the 550 French military posted in CAR, officially initiated disarmament operations in the capital. The forces, present in CAR since 24 March, are intended to help in easing tensions, disarm militias and secure the electoral process. As agreed on 14 June during a meeting of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the FOMAC force will soon be increased to 2,000 troops in comparison to the current 800.

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

According to UNICEF, the humanitarian crisis is continuing to affect the entire population of the Central African Republic, i.e. an estimated 4.6 million people, of whom 2.3 million are children, as of early July.

Displacement: As a result of the current crisis, at least 206,000 people are internally displaced in CAR, according to UNHCR. This number is believed to be higher as displacement has continued in the Northern and Western part of the country, but owing to restricted humanitarian access, information is limited. The INGO Merlin reported an estimated 300,000 people displaced in the southeast as of early June.

Some 58,870 people have fled CAR since December 2012, UNHCR reports as of early July. The refugees have arrived in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the latter of which has received 40,781 new CAR refugees. Cumulatively, the total number of refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries stands at over 220,000 to date. The number of refugees leaving CAR has stabilised over the past weeks according to

UNICEF.

In addition to this, there are an estimated 17,000 mostly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in CAR. The UN also reported an estimated 5,000 people displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes in April and May 2013. 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.

Access: The volatile security situation continues to render humanitarian access challenging in parts of the country. Nonetheless, several NGOs and UN have reported a gradual resumption and scaling up of activities in previously inaccessible areas and populations. UNDSS approved the gradual return of international critical 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: OCHA and FSNWG report that some 2 million people in CAR faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity countrywide as of 22 June. As reported by FEWSNET in early June, households in the central, northern and eastern areas of the country will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between June and the next harvest. Meanwhile, households in southern and western areas will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity through the end of September. Low market supplies and volatile food prices are aggravating what was already a precarious food security situation due to the earlier than normal depletion of household food stocks, disruptions of basic social services, and persistent civil insecurity that is preventing households from diversifying their income sources.

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

In addition, several Rapid Response Mechanism assessments conducted in April and May found that large numbers of households do not have seeds due to looting and/ or household consumption. This has delayed planting activities that should have normally begun by mid-April. According to a recent IPC seasonal analysis, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition in children <5 was above the emergency threshold of 2% in 9 out of 16 prefectures.

Health: As reported by Merlin in early June, some 3.2 million in the country are reported to be living without health care. According to UNICEF, a measles epidemic in Bangui was confirmed and the organization coordinated a vaccination campaign in late May. As of early June, some 15,000 people in CAR had their life-prolonging antiretroviral treatment interrupted as a result of instability since December, OCHA states.

Protection: Reports indicate a sharp rise in human rights abuses across the country, including attacks on civilians, child recruitment, illegal detentions, summary executions,

rape and other exactions against civilians. Human rights watch reports that members of the Seleka rebel coalition have targeted and killed at least 40 civilians, and intentionally destroyed 34 villages or towns since February this year. Moreover, several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children under 18, some of whom had been recently demobilized, into Seleka forces.

Updated: 08/07/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Early July: More than 30,000 refugees and 20,640 Chadian returnees have arrived since March in the volatile border area of Tissi, following intertribal violence in central and northern Darfur.

Early July: On Chad's southern border, on-going political turmoil in the Central African Republic has resulted in an estimated 7,500 refugees and returnees having entered Chad, bringing the total amount of CAR refugees present in Chad to 69,889.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighboring countries since March.

In June, refugees and returnees from Sudanese Darfur continued to cross into the volatile border area of Tissi, as tensions persisted in the Um Dukhun area of Central Darfur, about seven kilometres north of Tissi. As of early July, 30,448 refugees and 20,640 Chadian returnees have arrived at Tissi. This marks the largest influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad since 2005. According to OCHA, since the beginning of the year, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad increased to 350,000 people. The displaced people arrived in two waves. In March, displacement was caused by intertribal violence between the Rezeigat and Beni Hussein tribes in Northern Darfur. Since the beginning of April, the main cause of displacement into Chad has been the spreading conflict between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Central Darfur. Most of the latest arrivals are reportedly women and children.

UNICEF has reported that basic social services are inexistent in Tissi, with most of them destroyed or damaged during the 2004-2006 civil war and ethnic tension in the Sila region. Humanitarian needs are also reportedly large amongst those arriving, in particular with regard to access to potable water, hygiene promotion, shelter, health and nutrition care for children and women. Insecurity remains volatile in Tissi; a total of 40 deaths and 48 wounded by gunfire have been registered during this crisis.

On Chad's southern border, on-going political turmoil in the Central African Republic has led to a rising number of refugees and returnees crossing into the country since December. An estimated 7,500 people, refugees and returnees, have entered Chad, bringing the total amount of CAR refugees present in Chad to 69,889. More than 1,000 Chadian returnees fleeing the same crisis in CAR have also arrived in Tissi, OCHA

reports.

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: In Chad, two consecutive years of continued climatic shocks, including erratic rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012, continuing into 2013. According to WFP and the Chadian Government, 13% of the households (around 1.2 million people) are facing severe food insecurity and another 9% are facing moderate food insecurity in 18 regions across the country. In total, 2.1 million people are reported 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 their food reserves while market prices across the country have remained mostly 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. Main reasons are drought, crop diseases and destruction by birds. In the southern part of the country, deficits are largely a result of floods.

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

5 July: OCHA estimated that 2.6 million people remained displaced as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups across the entire

country. North Kivu remains the province with the highest number of internally displaced, estimated at 967,050.

30 June: Following three days of heavy fighting, the cities of Mamundioma and Totolito along the DRC-Uganda border were under the control of the Ugandan rebels group AFD/Nalu. Local media reports that an estimated 16 people were killed in the clashes.

30 June: End of the clause concerning Rwandan refugees. Rwandans who fled the country between 1959 and 1998 have lost their refugee status

Late June: An estimated 6.4 million people in DRC are in acute food security and livelihood crisis.

28 June: Since April, as reported by OCHA, clashes in various parts of North Kivu have allegedly displaced over 74,000 people. North Kivu remains the province with the highest number of internally displaced.

20 June: Talks between rebels from the Tutsi-dominated March 23 Movement (M23) and the authorities in Kinshasa resumed in Kampala, after a break-off on 15 June. The parties are expected to work toward the signing of a peace agreement.

17 June: A series of clashes between M23 and other armed militias were reported from several locations in North Kivu.

Political and Security context

Over the last few weeks, violent clashes between rebels and government troops were reported in the conflict-prone eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), notably in North Kivu province, which is dominated by rebel movements. According to local media, North Kivu harbours 27 different armed groups. Since February, clashes have been occurring between various armed groups throughout the province while the UN reported on-going human rights abuses by militias and governmental troops. According to ICRC, there are reports of indiscriminate and fierce attacks on civilians, and of increasing strains between various communities.

Instability in eastern DRC persists as the first troops due to be part of a new UN intervention brigade arrived in May in the country and are currently deploying. Weeks before the full operationalisation of the UN intervention brigade, tensions have risen in North-Kivu, following the stationing of hundreds of FARDC soldiers along the frontiers of the Tutsi-dominated March 23 Movement (M23) territory. On 28 March, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the creation of a brigade of more than 3,000 troops from South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania with a mandate to conduct “targeted offensive operations” against rebels in eastern DRC.

Meanwhile, inter-group tensions remain high in eastern DRC as well. Local media reported that people from Kibati, Buyengwe and Zanga in North Kivu are fleeing their homes since end of June, following offensives by the M23 in order to strengthen their position in the area. End of June witnessed a series of clashes between M23 and other armed militias. Reports of fighting occurred in Kihali, 10 kilometres north east of Kiwanja, in Rutshuru Centre, and along the axes Kiwanja – Nyamilima and Rutshuru – Bunagana. Ongoing

insecurity is affecting civilians in the region, with inhabitants of several villages reportedly experiencing raids, looting, and violence by armed groups, according to OCHA.

On 1 July, Mai-Mai groups attacked the central prison of Kangwayi in Beni in Eastern DRC, freeing 244 inmates. Local media reports that four people were killed in the attack.

Following three days of heavy fighting, the cities of Mamundioma and Totolito along the DRC-Uganda border are under the control of the Ugandan rebels group AFD/Nalu since 30 June. Local media reports that an estimated 16 people were killed in the clashes. The district of Beni, which neighbours Uganda, has continuously been subjected to attacks by Ugandan militias for more than two decades.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Since April, clashes in various parts of North Kivu have allegedly displaced over 74,000 people. North Kivu remains the province with the highest number of internally displaced, estimated at 967,050 according to OCHA as of 25 June.

In South-Kivu, 52,600 new displacements were registered due to conflict since January. However, some IDPs began to return to their homes since February leading to a decrease of the overall number of displaced in the area. As of late June, OCHA reported that the most recent estimate suggests that 702,000 people remain displaced in South Kivu, particularly due to clashes between FARDC and local militias that progressively established a stronghold in the province, leading to more insecurity.

Some 428,543 people are also reportedly displaced in Orientale province, of which 51,262 have been displaced since January 2013.

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

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

Finally, DRC is facing increasing numbers of refugees crossing from the Central African Republic (CAR). As of 30 June, an estimated 40,781 CAR refugees have been registered in DRC according to the UNHCR. Overall, DRC is currently hosting over 178,000 refugees among which over 127,000 come from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and the Republic of Congo. On 30 June, the cessation clause concerning Rwandan refugees came into effect, which means Rwandans who fled the country between 1959 and 1998 have lost their refugee status.

Access: Access is limited in large parts of DRC due to several factors. Physical and infrastructural impediments to delivering aid are significant due to the country's mountainous and volcanic terrain in combination with lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province.

In Orientale, an estimated 20,000 IDPS in the Loya area are reportedly blocked from access to humanitarian actors.

Throughout the country, humanitarian access is also hindered by the insecurity stemming from on-going hostilities and localized conflict, especially in the South and North Kivu, Orientale, Maniema and Katanga provinces. The latest escalation of hostilities between militias and government troops in particular has hampered humanitarian access in North Kivu province. On 23 May, Médecins Sans Frontières reported that it had to suspend its activities in the two refugee camps next to Goma because of on-going fighting and displacement of the refugees.

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: A recent June report by FSNWG estimates that 6.4 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. In particular, Rutshuru, Nyragongo, Masisi and Walikale Territories in North Kivu Province and Manono Territory in Katanga Province have been classified as stage 4, which indicates a humanitarian emergency. Poor diversity of diets and extreme poverty with few livelihood options are common. 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 effects of several aggravating economic shocks. Countrywide, the current population in IPC Phase 3 and 4 is lower than 2012 but comparable to previous years.

Health: Across the country, 17,423 cholera cases have been registered in 2013 as of 17 June, WHO reports. 337 Deaths are reported, marking a fatality rate of 2%. More than 60% of the cases have been registered in the Katanga Province, with more than 11,091 cases. During 2012, DRC had 30,753 registered cholera cases, with 709 deaths, compared to 21,700 cases in 2011. The surge in cholera cases is largely the result of the population's lack of access to 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.

Updated: 08/07/2013

MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

5 July: Mali lifted a nearly six-month state of emergency. The same day, Malian troops entered the north-eastern town of Kidal, which has been disputed and under rebel control since late January.

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).

18 June: Mali's government signed a ceasefire accord with the Tuareg separatist rebels of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) who control the key northeastern town of Kidal. The agreement will enable Malian troops to enter the city of Kidal and allow for the conduction of polls scheduled to take place on July 28.

Political and Security Context

On 5 July, Mali lifted a nearly six-month state of emergency. The same day also marked the start of campaigning for the July 28 presidential election, according to media reports. The removal of the state of emergency marks a gradual return to normality in Mali, emerging from some 18 months of political crisis and conflict.

Meanwhile, Malian troops entered the hitherto rebel-held north-eastern town of Kidal on 5 July, according to official sources. This development was preceded by an agreement, which included the signing of a ceasefire accord between Mali's government and Tuareg rebels from the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) on 18 June. The agreement also prepares for a second phase of negotiations, planned to take place 60 days after the elections, and aiming at fostering national reconciliation and building a sustainable peace.

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

On 1 July, Authority for the stabilisation of Mali was transferred from the forces of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The transfer was agreed upon in 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 kilometres of Mopti, a strategically important town on the frontier between rebel-held 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: An estimated 528,737 people have been displaced by the current conflict. According to a report released by the Population Movement Commission on 20 June, there is an estimated 353,455 IDPs in Mali compared to 261,000 as of late January.

As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, an increasing number of displaced people have started to return to their homes. According to IOM, the period from January to May 2013 showed, for the first time since January 2012, that the population movements to the north exceeded movements to the south.

UNHCR reported that, as of 30 June, some 175,282 Malians are 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, health) remains limited in the North largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure and the lack of materials to support basic services.

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

According to a FEWSNet June update, food security conditions remain at crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in the north. The entire north (regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu) will face crisis conditions during the lean season in July. Food security levels are expected to improve gradually due to resumed economic activities and seasonal improvements of pastoral conditions. FEWSNet estimates that the northern regions will face stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity from August through September 2013. 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.

An estimated 660,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000

from severe acute malnutrition.

Updated: 08/07/2013

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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, as well as the 2012 June estimation at 700,000 people.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

However, despite the generally more favourable food security context, OCHA reports 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 in January 2013, as well as the 2012 June estimation at 700,000 people.

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 Global Acute Malnutrition (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 Severe Acute Malnutrition (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. Many refugee children also suffer from malnutrition.

Updated: 08/07/2013

NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

3 July: With 41 registered cases, of which 16 have died, diphtheria has returned to Niger seven years after the last epidemic in 2006. The recent epidemic has been confirmed by local health officials in Tillabéri.

30 June: There are around 50,000 Malian refugees registered with UNHCR, or awaiting registration. There are additionally 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.

Late June: According to OCHA, some 2.5 million people remain food insecure in Niger. However, this figure might be higher. According to UNICEF estimates based on initial figures from a food security assessment from June 2013, 2,889,863 people are affected.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to UNHCR, an estimated 11,672 people crossed into Niger since the start of the military intervention in Mali on 11 January. As of 30 June, there are around 50,000 Malian refugees registered with UNHCR, or awaiting registration. There are additionally 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. The Malian refugees continue to place a significant stress on the country with the large majority settling in the regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis.

In addition, as of 20 June, an estimated 6,240 people, including Nigerian nationals (2,692), returnees to Niger (3,544) and people of other nationalities (94) – mainly Chadians, have crossed into Niger since mid-May to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram in the border states of northern Nigeria. New arrivals have settled mainly in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou, according to UNHCR. The majority of refugees are living in host families, while others live in rented houses but lack the money to pay their rent or have no shelter at all.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to OCHA, some 2.5 million people remain food insecure in Niger. However, this figure might be higher; according to UNICEF estimates based on initial figures from a food security assessment from June 2013, 2,889,863 people are affected.

However, throughout the country, households' incomes are generally considered average to good this year, and should allow households to purchase sufficient cereal to meet food needs. 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.

Nevertheless, 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.

Health: With 41 registered cases, of which 16 have died, diphtheria has returned to Niger seven years after the last epidemic in 2006. The recent epidemic has been confirmed by local health officials in Tillabéri, 120 kilometres 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 and 24 June, eight new cholera cases were registered in Niger, bringing the total number of cases since the beginning of the epidemic to 331. 10 deaths have been registered. The majority of cases are registered in the Tillabéri region in north-western Niger. There is a high risk that the disease would spread along the Niger River. In 2012, more than 5,785 cholera cases and 110 deaths were reported countrywide.

Updated: 08/07/2013

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

5 July: At least 71 people were killed and over 300 injured in the latest fighting between 27 and 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 fuelled fears that the country may again slip into the anarchy of clan wars as it did two decades ago.

1 July: The outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 25 cases in Somalia, primarily from Banadir region.

20 June: Heavy fighting broke out between rival factions of Somalia's militant Islamist group Al-Shabaab near the key coastal town of Brava. Six militants, including two foreigners, were killed.

Political and Security Context

In early July, WHO reported that at least 71 people were killed and more than 300 injured in the latest fighting between 27 and 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

defense 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, according to WHO. 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.

Jubaland lies in the far south of Somalia, bordering both Kenya and Ethiopia, and control is split between multiple forces including clan militia, the Al-Shabaab and Kenyan and Ethiopian soldiers. At present, several rival factions are therefore claiming ownership of Kismayo. Until September, Kismayo was controlled by the Islamist Al-Shabaab movement affiliated to al-Qaeda that was ousted from the area following an offensive of Kenyan troops deployed in the country. Renewed internal strife may benefit weakened Islamist militants in Somalia while Al-Shabaab blamed the recent clashes on Kenya. The last series of clashes fuelled fears that the country may again slip into the anarchy of clan wars as it did two decades ago.

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

However, a possible split of the Al-Shabaab movement was reported, on 29 June a top Islamist, Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, arrived in the capital Mogadishu amid reports of a split in the Al-Shabaab group. It is unclear whether he has surrendered or defected. The exact cause of the Al-Shabaab split is unknown, but there has been a long-running internal power struggle between its leader Ahmed Abdi Godane and those seen as more moderate who oppose links with al-Qaeda according to international media. There are conflicting reports about the fate of the second-in-command – Ibrahim Afghan, the Al-Shabaab founder – following last week's fighting.

Despite these reports, Al-Shabaab militants launched one of the biggest assaults in the past years targeting the UN compound in Mogadishu on 19 June killing 15 people. All UN missions outside of the Mogadishu International Airport were suspended for at least 24 hours. The attack came just 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 is officially due to start on 01 January 2014. As a result of the attacks, the transfer of staff was however temporarily suspended. On 25 June, Al-Shabaab militants threatened to continue attacking disbelievers. Security was reported to be tight on 27 June as the Somali army blocked the main road linking the city centre with the fortified airport and the nearby U.N. base that was targeted with heavy machine guns.

On 20 June, heavy fighting was also reported between rival factions of Al-Shabaab near the key coastal town of Brava district in Lower Shabelle. Six militants, including 2 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 (AU) and government troops.

According to the numbers released by the African Union (AU) on 9 May, an estimated

3,000 AU peacekeepers have been killed in the country since 2007. Despite recent success reached by Somali forces and AU peacekeepers against Al-Shabaab fighters, tensions exist between the different military forces involved and the local authorities to the extent that, on 22 April, Ethiopia officially announced its wish to remove its troops from Somalia. During March-April, the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Xudur, a town in the southern Bakool region, led to its immediate occupation by Al-Shabaab, while fighting has been ongoing in the area.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Access: In southern and central Somalia, humanitarian access has remained challenging, with several incidents against humanitarian personnel and cases of interference of aid delivery recorded in April and May, according to OCHA. The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increased international presence in some areas. Insecurity in these areas however continues to affect trade and market activities as well as 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 region.

While the insurgents' attacks are rarely directly targeting aid workers, they still present a constraint for humanitarian operations. For instance, the attack in Mogadishu on 5 May led to the closure of main roads in the capital, hampering movements of aid workers and supplies, particularly to people in settlements. According to OCHA, sporadic armed clashes take place between Somaliland security forces and the militia groups operating in Togdheer and in the disputed regions of

Sanaag and Sool, which also hamper humanitarian access and aid delivery.

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

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

According to FSNAU, most rural households will experience stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions between July and December 2013. Most pastoral households are likely to see improvements due to the positive effect of Gu rains on rangeland and water conditions leading to improved milk yields. This is with the exception of coastal areas in central and northeastern regions which are likely to face deteriorating food security between May and September due to declining livestock production, poor rainfall in the last six months as well as unfavourable pasture conditions.

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

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

Health: The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. As of early July, 25 cases have been confirmed in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May in Somalia. The third round of outbreak response campaigns is currently being conducted this week targeting all age groups. Large areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009 due to insecurity, leaving as many as 500,000 children particularly vulnerable in this area according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases have now 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.

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SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

5 July: South Sudan accused Sudan's army of launching two separate attacks with planes and land troops on areas near their disputed border, notably hitting Unity State, in a new sign of renewed hostility between the two neighbours. Although little information is available to date, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations. Although relations between the countries had deteriorated in recent weeks following a dispute over oil, the two neighbours seemed to have recently decided to take some steps toward improving their relations.

Early July: The overall scale of the displacement and of humanitarian needs in Jonglei State remains largely unknown due to limited humanitarian access. However ECHO is reporting as much as 148,000 conflict-affected people, most of whom being displaced.

Political and Security Context

On 5 July, South Sudan accused Sudan's army of launching two separate attacks with planes and land troops on areas near their disputed border, notably hitting Unity State, in a new sign of renewed hostility between the two neighbours. Although little information is available to date, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations. Although relations between the countries had deteriorated in recent weeks following a dispute over oil, the two neighbours seemed to have recently decided to take some steps toward improving their relations. On 30 June, the visit of South Sudan's vice president to Sudan has marked the highest-level talks between the two neighbours since the oil crisis that strained bilateral relations in early June.

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

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

On 11 June, the Sudanese Government had already officially informed South Sudan that it would stop allowing it to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. In turn, Juba accused Khartoum of backing rebels on its territory. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

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

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

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

On 29 June, fresh inter-communal clashes have left two dead in Lakes state prompting the involvement of the army and raising fears among the local population that it would trigger a hardening of the authorities' policies.

On 19 June, the rebel leader of a Jonglei-base rebel group, David Yau Yau, officially agreed to begin peace talks with representatives of the government. According to local media, some 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) had 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.

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

Cattle raiding is also a recurrent issue that continues to affect people throughout South Sudan, including recent incidents between the South Sudanese minority group Murle and members of the Jikani minority in May in Upper Nile State. On 17 June, a new cattle-raiding incident occurred in Unity State.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: OCHA reports that some 58,846 persons are newly displaced due to conflict and insecurity in South Sudan as of 15 June, notably due to inter-tribal and insurgency violence. Some 223,228 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Sudan reside in South Sudan. In particular, there are currently over 117,000 Sudanese refugees are in Upper Nile state and nearly 74,000 are in Unity state who are in need of humanitarian assistance according to ECHO.

The overall scale of the displacement and of humanitarian needs in Jonglei State remains

largely unknown due to limited humanitarian access. However ECHO is reporting as much as 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom being displaced. Earlier reports already indicated that thousands of civilians were displaced in the region after clashes between the SPLA and the David Yau Yau rebel group intensified.

According to various reports, almost all of the 10,000 residents of Pibor town in Jonglei State fled their homes, following lootings by government forces and rebel threats to attack the town. In addition, a fresh assessment conducted in Manyabol, Pibor County, reported that all of the town's population of 4,000 people had been displaced following clashes in mid-June. An estimated 560 people sheltered in the city of Gumuruk while information about the other displaced remains lacking.

In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 newly displaced people arrived in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around River Kiir, South Darfur and South Kordofan.

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

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

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

Access: Humanitarian partners continued to work to expand access and response to needs of civilians in Pibor County, Jonglei State, while information on needs remains limited. As reported by ECHO in early July, no humanitarian assistance or access to basic services is ensured for some 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom are believed to be displaced in the swamps, in Pibor county, Jonglei State, where the security situation is very tense. To date, humanitarian agencies have only been able to reach the town of Gumuruk in the area.

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

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

In May, various raids were carried out on compounds of foreign aid organisations in Pibor town and on MSF hospital in Pibor County, the only medical facility for the County. According to MSF, the hospital was left temporarily inoperative, affecting access to

healthcare for some 100,000 people in the region.

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

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

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

Health: OCHA reported that the hepatitis E outbreak that started in mid-2012 and peaked in February 2013 in refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile States is now under control. However, while the number of cases per week is decreasing in most of the locations, it is still increasing in some others, with Maban and Doro refugee camps (Upper Nile State) being of particular concern. In Maban, 10,569 cases and 191 deaths have been recorded since the beginning of the outbreak.

In parallel, Sudan's Ministry of Health has declared an outbreak of meningitis in Malakal County, Upper Nile State. As of 27 May, 141 cases and 5 deaths had been reported with also some cases being reported from Jonglei State and Aweil West County.

Updated: 08/07/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

5 July: South Sudan accused Sudan's army of launching two separate attacks with planes and land troops on areas near their disputed border, notably hitting Unity State, in a new sign of renewed hostility between the two neighbours. Although little information is available to date, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations. Although relations between the countries had deteriorated in recent weeks following a dispute over oil, the two neighbours seemed to have recently decided to take some steps toward improving their relations.

4 July: In South Darfur, a gunfight broke out in Sudan's second-largest city in Nyala. Although little information is available to date, local reports indicated that men from

different paramilitary factions were exchanging fire with people inside a security compound. More fighting was reported in the area on 7 July. According to local reports, at least 6 people were killed and 21 injured in the area last week. During the clashes on 4 July, 2 aid workers from World Vision were killed and 2 others injured. In the aftermath, the organization has suspended programmes throughout South Darfur.

Early July: According to a recent FEWSNET, food security conditions in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are likely to deteriorate to 'Emergency' levels (IPC Phase 4) during the peak of the lean season between June and September. The deterioration is likely to be triggered by reduced access to food, income generating activities and humanitarian assistance, restricted trade and increased susceptibility to waterborne diseases.

Early July: An estimated 500,000 children under the age of five suffer from severe malnutrition and up to two million children are stunted, according to a recent report on malnutrition in Sudan produced by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and partners.

1 July: In Central Darfur, a reconciliation agreement that should put an end to violence has reportedly been reached between representatives of the Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Zalingei. Since April, violence had occasionally flared up between the two tribes, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties.

Political and Security Context

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

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On 11 June, the Sudanese Government had already officially informed South Sudan that it would stop allowing it to export crude through its territory within two months unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. In turn, Juba accused

Khartoum of backing rebels on its territory. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

The renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba came as a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which led to the signature in March of a technical agreement on the establishment of a safe demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms. The two states had also agreed on an overall implementation plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, notably regarding the implementation of a demilitarised zone along the shared border, and the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of 15 March, an estimated 4.3 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity in Sudan, according to OCHA. Some 3.7 million people face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity and 560,000 people are experiencing Emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity, compared to 4.6 million people in July 2012. This slight decrease is mostly attributed to a good harvest this year. The total area planted during the 2012-13 season is more than double the previous year's figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher than last year due to favourable rainfall and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected. In spite of the good harvest, Stressed and Crisis levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and Abyei due to the impacts of conflict on production, market access, and livelihood options and 80% of the food insecure population is located in those 4 areas. The current escalation of insecurity is particularly affecting the food security situation in South Darfur.

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

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

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

In particular, 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.

Darfur

Political and Security Context

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

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

In different parts of Darfur, near the cities of Katila, Um Dukhun, Ed Elfirisan, Kubum and Rihaid Albirdi, 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 has been intensifying. Clashes between the Tarjam and Fur tribes have also been reported in

Southern Darfur in early May.

In Central Darfur, a reconciliation agreement that should put an end to violence has reportedly been reached between representatives of the Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Zalingei on 1 July. Since April, violence had occasionally flared up between the two tribes with notably ongoing clashes being reported since late May, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties. On 10-11 June, clashes between the two tribes left some 100 people dead and dozens injured in Um Dukhun locality. According to local media, violence further erupted in the area on 14 June and 18 June. To date, reports on casualties remain unavailable.

In South Darfur, disputes over land ownership and tribal fighting continue. On 26 June, conflict resumed between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes in the town of Katela with an estimated 9 people being killed and dozens displaced in the area. In the aftermath, Khartoum was forced to deploy Special Forces to enforce a buffer zone between the two tribes while the situation remained volatile. In April, conflict between the two tribes reignited after a relatively stable period since February and intensified at the end of May in South Darfur, leading to at least 23 people killed and some 51 others injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe and to large displacements 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 also reported in Kubum locality, South Darfur.

Also in South Darfur, a gunfight broke out on 4 July in Sudan's second-largest city of Nyala. Although little information is available to date, local reports indicated that men from different paramilitary factions were exchanging fire with people inside a security compound. More fighting was reported in the area on 7 July. According to local reports, at least 6 people were killed and 21 injured in the area last week.

During the clashes on 4 July, 2 aid workers from World Vision were killed and 2 others injured. In the aftermath, the organization has suspended programmes throughout South Darfur. According to the UN, reports also 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.

In North Darfur, renewed violence erupted between the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes with over 60 people killed and dozens injured on 26 June. New clashes were reported in the area on 1 July. According to local sources, the clashes that continued during last week resulted in the suspension of secure goods and petrol convoys between Saraf Omra and Al Sareif Beni Hussein over the weekend. On 30 June, clashes involving Abbala tribesmen and a SAF contingent stationed in Al Sareif Beni Hussein resulted in 3 people killed and 4 wounded. In January, the two tribes clashed violently over control of the Jebel Amir gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein locality, leaving at least 500 people killed and an estimated 100,000 displaced according to the UN.

Meanwhile, in recent weeks, there have been reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against displaced people sheltering in camps in Darfur. In two separate incidents on 30 June and 1 July, 1 person has been killed and 3 seriously injured near the Dumma and Toun Kittir camps in South Darfur. Attacks against IDPs were also reported near Murnei camp in West Darfur on 30 June. On 22 June, local media reported that 4

displaced people were killed and 9 others injured after being attacked by pro-governmental militias next to Dreige camp in Nyala, capital of South Darfur. The incident resulted in a sit-in by thousands of displaced in front of the UNAMID headquarters in Nyala on 24 June. On 21 June, a group of displaced people were allegedly assaulted by a pro-government armed group in the Wadi Tor area near Murnei camp in Central Darfur. On 19 June, an attack by pro-government militiamen was also reportedly staged against Um Haleeb camp in South Darfur. On 11 June, one staff member of a humanitarian non-governmental organisation was killed and 10 civilians were injured after a shooting incident occurred in Nertiti IDP camp in Central Darfur. According to local sources, the camp was allegedly raided by elements from the SAF and pro-governmental militias.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As reported by OCHA on 31 May, an estimated 276,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between the various armed groups and the government from January to June. In mid-May, previous UN reports stated that as much as 300,000 people had been forcibly displaced since the beginning of this year. Last week, renewed tribal fighting across Darfur has allegedly triggered new displacements although no figures are available to date.

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

Internally, a large number of people – as much as 200,000 according to local sources – were also reportedly displaced to Nyala area in South Darfur. At present, people continue to arrive to camps in the Nyala area, notably to Alsalam camp where the living conditions of the refugees are dire. In mid-June, an estimated 6,500 people were newly displaced to the Nyala area from conflict zones of South and Central Darfur, according to local reports.

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. In addition, 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 in early June.

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

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

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of early June, approximately 3.5 million people receive food aid, including some 1.4 million in camps, in Darfur according to OCHA.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

Political and Security Context

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

On 14 June, shells fired by the SPLM-N hit a UN base in Kadugli, capital of South Kordofan state, killing one Ethiopian peacekeeper and wounding two more. According to local reports, the shelling was aimed at military targets in Kadugli in response to a series of attacks by SAF on SPLM-N bases. Fighting around Kadugli is reportedly ongoing.

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 Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) that also includes the SPLM-N, and Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). The city that passed under rebel-control in late April was retaken after several governmental offensives, supported by aerial bombings, on 28 May. However, according to reports in local media, the rebels have since been staging blitz attacks against the city, killing several SAF military. To date, information remains limited. Meanwhile, fighting between the two groups was also reported east of the capital Kadugli in late May.

At the end of April, after seizing the Abu Karshola village town, an SPLM-N armed group managed to briefly besiege and loot the town of Um Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan State to Northern Kordofan State. This unprecedented attack and the fighting that ensued in the aftermath triggered regional resonance, leading Khartoum to overtly accuse Juba of supporting the rebels.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit

(SKBNCU), ground fighting and aerial bombardment in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan have resulted in important displacement in the Counties of Buram, Dellami, Heiban, Rashad and Um Dorain in May. Overall, fighting in South Kordofan, notably in Rashad County where the village of Abu Karshola is located, has reportedly led to the displacement of over 50,000 civilians across SAF- and SPLM-N- controlled areas in late May. According to local reports, some 19,000 displaced people have however recently returned to their areas of origin in South Kordofan, particularly to Abu Karshola.

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

As of 31 May, OCHA reported that, overall, an estimated 231,000 people in South Kordofan and 95,000 people in Blue Nile were displaced or severely affected by conflict in government-controlled areas. In SPLM-N areas, some 700,000 people in South Kordofan and 90,000 in Blue Nile are displaced or severely affected by conflict according to local estimates. The UN also reports that it has no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas and has thus been unable to independently verify these figures.

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

Access: On 25 June, the Sudanese ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has 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 that had previously worked in Sudan and were booted out due to violating government's policies are currently trying to sneak into the restive two states. He claimed that these groups are seeking entrance through political bodies and people with connections to rebels in order to collect information on the humanitarian situation in Sudan and fabricate reports with the help of world powers and organisations such as Amnesty International and Transparency International. The NCP official revealed a new strategy for civil society organisations that is in line with the government's policies regarding human rights work in Sudan and underscores permanently banning any groups that support rebels from entering the country. The authorities are currently banning the access of foreign groups to the rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile as well as the establishment of camps for the displaced civilians.

As of 6 June, Khartoum and the SPLM-N were still disagreeing on how to provide humanitarian access to UNICEF and WHO teams to conduct a polio vaccination campaign in rebel-held areas. On 20 June, according to a UN report, access remained constrained to rebel-held areas while it improved in government-controlled areas since January.

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to a recent FEWSNET, food security conditions in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are likely to deteriorate to 'Emergency' levels (IPC Phase 4) during the peak of the lean season between June and September. The deterioration is likely to be triggered by reduced access to food, income generating activities and humanitarian assistance, restricted trade and increased susceptibility to waterborne diseases.

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase in humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. As of 17 April, there were some 18,725 Somali refugees in all areas of Djibouti.

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

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

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

In addition, 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.

Updated: 08/07/2013

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Early July: The Yellow Fever outbreak that was declared in mid-May by the authorities continues in South Omo zone, SNNPR, with close to 137 cases reported in North Ari, South Ari, Benatsemay and Selmago woredas as reported by OCHA.

Political and Security Context

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recent reports indicated that East and West Hararghe zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average Meher harvest in October-November 2012. According to FEWSNET, food security outcomes are unlikely to significantly improve until June 2013 when consumption of green Belg crops begins.

According to OCHA, delayed Belg (mid-February to May) 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 their livelihoods asset. 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 between 5 and 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.

The total price index of bread and cereals in May 2013 has increased by 6.5 % as compared to May 2012. Based on a 12 month moving average calculation, the country level general inflation stood at 14.6%, food inflation at 14.4 % and non-food inflation at 15.1%.

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

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

Early July: In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 6 cases in Kenya. All cases were registered in Dadaab in north-eastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in the country since 2011.

29 June: Four people were killed and at least ten others injured in continued inter-clan fighting in north-eastern Kenya county of Mandera, where the conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans has left almost 90 people dead, and over 25,000 displaced cumulatively since March 2012.

28 June: Tension is high along the West Pokot and Turkana County border in western Kenya after three herders were killed and another injured in a raid.

21-23 June: Inter-clan violence over three consecutive days in Kenya's north-eastern border region with Somalia has left at least 16 people dead and more than 20 wounded.

17 June: Kenya is planning an international conference in the second week of August 2013 to discuss the modalities for repatriating the over 1 million refugees hosted in the country. The conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Somali and UNHCR.

Political and Security Context

The north-eastern Kenya county of Mandera, along the border region with Somalia, is experiencing a spike in inter-clan clashes, with several deaths recorded in the past weeks. On 29 June, four people were killed and at least ten others injured in inter-clan fighting in

Shirshir village. Three consecutive days of violence on 21-23 June left at least 16 people dead and more than 20 people wounded, according to the Kenyan Red Cross.

The clashes are reportedly occurring between two ethnic Somali clans, the Garre and Degodia clans, which have been feuding in Mandera County since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities have historically revolved around competition for natural resources, but since March 2013 the emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. The structures were introduced with the March elections and principally seek to decentralise administrative, financial and political power to the local level in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government. The inter-clan violence has increasingly spread to neighbouring Wajir County. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed already on 24 June. The Kenyan Red Cross reports that the inter-communal conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County had left over 85 people dead as of 25 June.

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 especially 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 intercommunal conflict since the beginning of 2013, as reported by OCHA.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to the Kenyan Red Cross, the violence in Mandera county has displaced over 25,000 people cumulatively since March 2012 as of 25 June.

Kenya is planning an international conference in the second week of August 2013 to discuss the modalities for repatriating the over 1 million refugees hosted in the country. The conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Somali and UNHCR, with the International Organization for Immigration (IOM) being invited.

The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues. According to UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 494,704 as of 30 June. A large part of these, some 425,000, reside in the Dadaab refugee complex in northern Kenya and have limited access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, water and sanitation. The Kenyan Government estimates that the number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to some 600,000 people as of late June 2013.

In addition, according to OCHA, the recent rains have internally displaced some 112,380 people as of 17 May 2013.

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

Access: Episodes of insecurity since March 2012, have reportedly affected the delivery of aid to thousands of displaced people according to official reports.

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

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 the 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.

In addition, FEWSNET reported that the March to May long rains have also been beneficial in the pastoral areas of Kenya, where livestock body 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. 6 cases were registered in Kenya, all of which were registered in Dadaab in north-eastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in the country since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

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.

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: 08/07/2013

ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

As a result of the drought, and despite an anticipated improvement of food security at the national level if compared to the previous season, southern parts of the country are expected to record a second consecutive poor cereal harvest, with negative food security

implications. Crop and livestock productions have already been reported to have been adversely affected on account of the prolonged dry conditions and the resultant poor pastures. An emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where an estimated 640,000 people are affected by the drought, was established by the authorities.

In Namibe province, a joint assessment in early June found that an estimated 250,000 people have been affected and 70% of crops destroyed. According to CARE, remaining households' food stocks will not last until September. In addition to food insecurity, the greatest problem is currently the lack of access to water since most of the boreholes are not working or have dried up. It is reported that people have started to migrate in search of water and pasture for their cattle.

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

Health: In the wake of the 2012 cholera outbreak, a total of 598 new cholera cases were recorded by the local sanitary authorities between February and June.

In addition, Malaria is also affecting large numbers of people, with some 75 deaths being reported in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013 and more than 15,000 cases registered, according to Angolan official sources.

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

Early July: The serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in neighbouring Nigeria has resulted in a significant influx of refugees into Cameroon's Far North Region since 10 June. The number of arrivals is uncertain, with statements by national and local authorities indicating between 4,000 to 20,000 people to have arrived.

30 June: The two Sahelian regions Far North and North remain extremely vulnerable to food insecurity with some 350,000 people estimated to be affected.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: The serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in neighbouring Nigeria has resulted in a significant influx of refugees into Cameroon's Far North Region since 10 June. The number of arrivals is uncertain, with statements by national and local authorities indicating between 4,000 to 20,000 people. As of 25 June, UNHCR had registered approximately 2,000 people, mainly women and children. A joint UN assessment mission conducted on 20 June (UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP) in the village of Zelevet concluded that needs among the arrived refugees are large in WASH, Health and Nutrition sectors.

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.

UNICEF reports that the nutrition situation for 2013 is similar to that in 2012 as there is a structural vulnerability of populations in the northern regions which is exacerbated with each consecutive crisis. As of 30 June, an estimated 83,233 children < 5 suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 134,680 suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

Updated: 08/07/2013

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Early July: Some 103,000 people are estimated to remain food insecure in the Gambia. This number 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, it remained below the 5-year seasonal average as of July, according to OCHA. In addition, floods, outbreaks of epidemics, or a reoccurrence of the Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) are risks that would exacerbate the existing vulnerabilities and needs even further.

As of early July 2013 humanitarian actors estimate that some 103,000 people still require food assistance across the country. This number marks a decrease from over 241,000 people estimated to be food insecure at the same time in 2012. The proportion of food insecure is generally higher in the main 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 hence remain difficult for the population, with a significant portion continuing to be food insecure in 2013 as a result of high food prices and 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 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and the remaining of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) as of July.

There is a lack of information on food supply in The Gambia.

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

3 July: Guinea's presidential coalition and opposition parties signed an agreement to hold legislative elections, set for September.

30 June: Guinea's electoral commission, CENI, postponed the parliamentary elections scheduled for 30 June, after the Government and the opposition failed to agree on how to proceed with the vote.

5 June: According to FAO, although the food security situation has improved in Guinea, an estimated 600,000 people remain severely food insecure in Kindia, Labe and N'Zerekore regions. An additional 1.7 million people are considered at risk

Political and Security Context

On 3 July, in a political breakthrough, Guinea's presidential coalition and opposition parties signed an agreement to hold legislative elections, set for 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 the UN-mediated election talks with the government after violence broke out on 20 June and left 3 anti-government activists shot and 9 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 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.

On 21 May, violence had escalated in Guinea with independent sources reporting at least 12 people killed and 89 others wounded over the following week during protests in the capital Conakry.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

additional 1.7 million people are considered at risk.

Updated: 08/07/2013

NAMIBIA DROUGHT

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Political and Security Context

According to Human Rights Watch's "World Report 2013", Eritrea is still plagued by human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religious freedom. In addition, military conscription in the country is compulsory and can last for an indefinite period of time.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

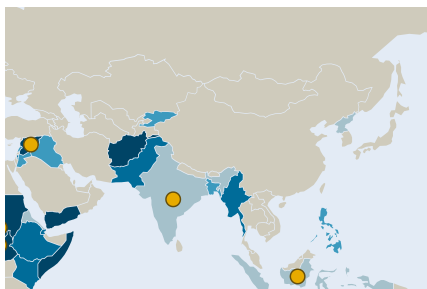
Djibouti, also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month.

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

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

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

ASIA



AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

5 July: In an apparent insider attack, a suicide bomber in uniform killed at least 12 policemen in Trinkot, in central southern Uruzgan province. In a separate incident, 2 Afghan security forces were killed in an attack on a border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan, fuelling the already tense bilateral relations.

5 July: A spokesman for the Taliban insurgents reiterated that the movement will continue attacks over Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that is starting this week.

4 July: 4 children were killed in a bomb attack and one senior woman police officer was shot in the southern province of Helmand.

2 July: Taliban Islamists, including a suicide bomber, killed 6 people in an attack on a foreign logistics and supply company in Kabul used by several foreign companies supplying NATO forces.

30 June: After talking with U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron over the previous week, Afghan President Hamid Karzaï stated that he hoped peace talks would begin as soon as possible. However, he also 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.

Political and Security Context

In late June, a fresh effort, brokered by Pakistan, to end the Afghan impasse progressively unfolded as the representatives of the U.S. and of the Taliban Islamist insurgents were scheduled to meet in Doha to conduct peace talks. However, as of 1 July, the talks were still in limbo while a diplomatic quarrel was building momentum. Infuriated by the opening of a Taliban office in Qatar and by being bypassed for the negotiations, the Afghan Government reacted angrily, forcing the U.S. leadership to delay the talks. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in the peace talks if these are not “Afghan-led”. On 30 June, after talking with U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron over the previous week, Afghan President Hamid Karzaï stated that he hoped peace talks would begin as soon as possible. However, he also 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. On 28 June, according to unconfirmed information, the bilateral relations between the two neighbours had allegedly already taken a turn for the worst after a Pakistani official openly floated the idea of an Afghan power-sharing arrangement between Kabul and the Taliban as part of a peace talks during a meeting with the Afghan Ambassador. The suggestion triggered an outrage in Kabul.

If the talks are eventually to proceed, it is believed that one of the first confidence-building measures would be a prisoner swap between the two-sides, an issue already raised by the Taliban in the past and that the U.S. now seems to be ready to discuss. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Taliban stated that the insurgents have nevertheless no intention of changing their tactics in conflict-plagued Afghanistan.

On 5 July, a spokesman for the Taliban insurgents reiterated that the movement will continue attacks over Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that is starting this week. 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, the insurgents have also increasingly targeted foreign humanitarian personnel deployed in the country.

On 5 July, in an apparent insider attack, a suicide bomber in uniform killed at least 12 policemen in Trinkot, in central southern Uruzgan province. In a separate incident, 2 Afghan security forces were killed when a suicide bomber attacked a border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan, fuelling the already tense bilateral relations. On 4 July, 4 children were killed in a bomb attack and one senior woman police officer was shot in the southern province of Helmand. On 2 July, Taliban Islamists, including a suicide bomber, killed 6 people in an attack on a foreign logistics and supply company in Kabul used by several foreign companies supplying NATO forces. On 25 June, the Taliban insurgents conducted a high profile attack on the presidential palace and nearby buildings, including the U.S. CIA headquarters, in central Kabul. After explosions and gunfight, the Afghan forces reported that all of the assailants had been killed, as well as at least 2 security guards. In a separate incident in Kandahar province, 9 people were killed in a roadside bomb explosion.

On 18 June, a bombing in Kabul targeting a prominent Hazara politician killed 3 people and wounded 30 more and an insurgents’ attack against the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan killed 4 U.S. military. On 10 June, a coordinated suicide and grenade attack by a Taliban commando on the Kabul airport ended with all seven attackers being killed and no other reported casualty. As reported by the UN on 3 June, 124 Afghan civilians were killed and another 287 injured over the previous two weeks in attacks across the country, notably in Paktia, Farah and Laghman provinces. These various incidents followed a major assault on an IOM compound in the centre of Kabul on 24 May and an attack on an ICRC compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, on 29 May, which prompted the ICRC to curtail its operations in the country.

Meanwhile, on 18 June, the formal handover of nationwide security from the U.S.-led NATO coalition to Afghan forces took place. The handover of responsibility of security to local forces is a major step toward the gradual disengagement of international forces from the country. Most of the 85,000 international troops stationed in Afghanistan are scheduled to withdraw by the end of 2014 and over 75% of the country is expected to be under actual

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran. There are an estimated additional 2.4 million undocumented refugees from Afghanistan in the two countries.

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

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

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

Access: Humanitarian access has been increasingly compromised in Afghanistan over the past weeks due to ongoing military operations in several provinces, notably in Faryab and Badakhshan provinces. As reported by OCHA in late May, security incidents involving humanitarian workers are rampant, and include attacks on UN convoys and NGO offices, abduction of NGO staff and an increased risk of attacks with improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Local sources quoted by OCHA registered an increase of 62% in attacks on aid workers, excluding UN staff, during the first three months of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. Humanitarian space has shrunk considerably while needs are on the rise.

Country-wide, 25 security incidents involving humanitarian actors were recorded in 11 provinces in May. The second half of May also saw a resumption of large-scale armed confrontations and the capture of security checkpoints in Warduj district, Badakhshan province. These incidents hindered access for both humanitarians and civilians and caused conflict-induced displacements.

As OCHA reports, a growing number of local militia and other armed groups are also targeting civilians through intimidation, coercion, extortion, abuse and targeted killings. Some of the intimidations are directly linked to the ongoing conflict; others are triggered by historical underlying tensions such as local rivalries, power play and tribal feuds.

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

However, households in the extreme northeast, notably Badakhshan province, central highlands, low-income and disaster-affected households across the country, as well as internally displaced populations are likely to remain vulnerable to food insecurity.

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 to the facilities of the NGO Emergency increased by 42% between January and April 2013 as compared to the same period last year. In Helmand province, there has been almost an 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict. The Health Cluster reports a 40% increase in security incidents from January to April 2013 compared to last year.

Updated: 08/07/2013

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Highlights

6 July: The Syria National Coalition elected Ahmad Asi al-Jarba as the new president of the main Syrian opposition group.

29 June: The Government has accelerated its offensive on opposition hold areas in Homs city. Government troops are reportedly supported by Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon.

14 June: The US announced that it will supply direct military aid to the Syrian

opposition after the administration concluded Syrian forces under President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons.

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

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

Political and Security Context

Syrian Context

The Government offensive in Homs governorate is on-going, where Government forces attack opposition positions throughout the governorate with artillery and air strikes. Fierce fighting is occurring in Homs city, and an estimated, 2,500 and 4,000 civilians, are reportedly trapped in and around the city. On 2 July, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon renewed his call on the parties to the conflict in Syria to avoid civilian casualties, voicing grave concern about the situation in Homs. It is reported that opposition forces defending the old centre of Homs and five adjacent districts had repelled a ground attack on 29 June by Syrian forces backed by Hezbollah fighters from neighbouring Lebanon. Lebanese security forces said Hezbollah appeared to be present in the rural areas surrounding Homs. Activists said that loyalist forces have been issued with masks as protection against chemical weapons. They said sarin gas had been used in the past few months to dislodge opposition fighters from Deir Baalba, northeast of Homs.

The newly elected president of the main opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition (SNC), Ahmad Asi Al-Jarba offered Assad's forces a truce for the duration of the holy month of Ramadan to stop fighting in the besieged city of Homs on 8 July. No response has been received yet.

The UN Secretary General also expressed concern over threats by armed opposition groups to seize two Shia villages, Nubbul and Zahra, in the northern province of Aleppo, which supposedly back President Assad, unless they surrendered to the opposition. In mid-June, opposition activists and military sources stated that the army reinforcing the two villages. In addition, the Government airlifting troops to Aleppo airport and to the Kurdish area of Afrin, to re-capture positions from opposition forces as well as cut off their arms supply routes from Turkey. In response to the Government's offensive on Aleppo, opposition forces attacked a main highway in northern Syria on 19 June attempting to cut off a major supply line for President Bashar al-Assad's forces in the region. Opposition forces had reportedly seized three checkpoints and needed to capture three more to cut off army access to the M5 highway that connects Aleppo and Damascus.

In the meantime on 28 June Syrian opposition fighters reportedly captured a major army post in the southern city of Deraa after nearly two weeks of intense fighting. The capture opens the way for opposition groups to take the southern neighbourhood of Manshiyeh,

close to the Jordanian border. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported intense shelling by Syrian Government troops on the village of Karak in Daraa. This week, explosions were also reported in several army ammunition depots in Latakia, according to the SOHR. There were unconfirmed reports of deaths and injuries in the blasts on 5 July. There were indications that the blasts were caused by rocket fire targeting the depots, but that there was uncertainty over who was behind the attack.

Clashes between armed groups also continue. On 6 July opposition groups clashed with an armed unit linked to al Qaeda in Dana, Idleb governorate, close to the Turkish border. The opposition group known as the Free Youths of Idleb said dozens of fighters were killed, wounded or imprisoned. Growing divisions among rebel groups and rising tensions between locals and more radical Islamist factions are reported across the country.

Three people were killed and 10 wounded in Amuda, Al-Hassakeh, where members of a dominant Kurdish party opened fire at a protest in the Syrian Kurdish-dominated town of Amuda on 27 June. Protests were held against the detention of three prominent Kurdish activists by the Democratic Union Party (PYD). The clashes in the area broke out after YPG units surrounded the city and denied access into and out of it following the attack by the armed group. Clashes with PYD members are also occurring in other traditionally Kurdish areas. Accusing fighters from the Syrian Kurdish Popular Protection Units (YPG) of supplying Zahra and Nubul, opposition forces have cut main roads from Afrin to the provinces of Idleb and Aleppo this month, causing prices of basic goods in Afrin to soar. On 20 June, YPG gunmen and members of the Al-Qaeda linked Jabhat Al-Nusra Front reportedly clashed over a roadblock near Jindaris, a Kurdish town southwest of Afrin city, despite a truce brokered two days earlier with a moderate FSA commander. Under the deal between the FSA and the Kurdish Protection Units, a de facto PKK unit, the siege on Afrin was to be lifted on 19 June and both sides were to have freed their prisoners. An opposition source in northern Syria reported that the ceasefire deal had little effect because the FSA commander had only limited influence on the Islamist groups which hold control on the ground.

Fighting in Syria continues across all governorates, with the exception of Tartous and As-Sweida where fighting is rare. Heavy shelling was reported in the provinces of Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Rural Damascus. Although overall casualty estimation for the Syria conflict remains difficult to ascertain, the death toll of the two-year conflict is estimated to be ranging from 94,000 to 120,000 according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

In the meantime, asymmetric attacks and fighting is ongoing in the capital Damascus. On 27 June, a suicide attack took place in the Christian quarter of Damascus, killing 4 people, while the army continued its shelling of Ghouta in the eastern outskirts of Damascus. Opposition forces further attacked two security compounds in Damascus, killing at least 5 people.

International Context

At a meeting in Qatar on 22 June, ministers from 11 nations in the "Friends of Syria" group agreed to provide urgently all the necessary material and equipment to the opposition on the ground. Their final statement also condemned the involvement of Hezbollah militias in

Syria and of fighters from neighbouring Iran and Iraq. In parallel, the U.S. restated that the decision to provide military support to the rebels was not to seek a military solution but to give the rebels more power in negotiating an end to the conflict. On 14 June, the U.S. announced that they are ready to provide direct military aid to the Syrian opposition after the administration concluded Syrian forces have used chemical weapons while the UN called on Damascus to allow a team of experts into the country. However, there have been no confirmed reports of shipments reaching Syria so far.

In Egypt, ousted President Mohamed Mursi said he had cut all diplomatic ties with Damascus and demanded Hezbollah to leave Syria. The idea of a no-fly zone was further endorsed by Egypt. Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated on 14 June that the militant group would continue fighting alongside the Syrian Government, after its fighters played a decisive role in the recapture of the strategic town of Qusayr on 5 June.

On 5 June, the central town of Qusayr was retaken by Government's forces after an offensive that started in mid-May. Qusayr is the most important gain made by the regime in recent months. Its capture cuts off an important supply line linking the opposition forces with their supporters in Lebanon. Conversely, it secures access for Hezbollah into Syria.

In late May, Russia announced its intention to provide more weaponry to the Syrian regime while the European Union agreed to lift its embargo against arming Syrian rebels. Russia's announcement prompted Israel to declare that it would prevent the Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems from becoming operational on Syrian soil. In a reaction to this threat, President al-Assad stated that Syrian Government forces will open a new front on the Golan Heights, in the event of an Israeli intervention. On 6 June, Syrian Government forces recaptured the Quneitra crossing on the Golan, a strategic plateau captured by Israel during the 1967 conflict while several armed incidents were reported in the area by the UN. As a result of the increasing insecurity in the Golan, Austria, which provides 380 of the 1,000-strong UN force monitoring a ceasefire between Syria and Israel, has begun to withdraw its peacekeepers from the Golan Heights.

Meanwhile, international efforts to end the conflict remain mainly focused on plans for a new peace conference initiated by the U.S. and Russia which will possibly take place in August. Talks were postponed several times lastly after the SNC indicated that it will not take part in the planned summit as long as Lebanese Hezbollah fighters continue to fight in Syria alongside the Government's forces. In parallel, Damascus stated that it would be willing to attend peace talks, but any subsequent deal would have to be approved by a referendum among the population. The new SNC president Ahmad Jarba said on 8 July that the opposition would not consider attending the peace conference until its position strengthens.

The conflict continues to spill over into neighbouring countries, particularly affecting Lebanon. Syrian opposition groups have fought with Hezbollah militiamen on Lebanese soil on 2 June. Tensions between Hezbollah and Syria's opposition groups have risen sharply since the Lebanese militia stepped up its armed support for President Bashar al-Assad's 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. Recently, the FSA and the armed faction Jabhat al-Nusra separately warned that their fighters may start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. Lebanese President Michel

Suleiman called on the Shia Muslim Hezbollah movement to pull its fighters out of Syria, saying any further involvement in its neighbour's civil war would further fuel instability in Lebanon.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

The number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration is approaching 1.75 million with over 587,000 in Lebanon (Government estimates of 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), some 501,000 in Jordan (Government estimates of 600,000 Syrians in total), over 398,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 490,000), over 159,500 in Iraq and more than 87,500 in Egypt and other countries in North Africa as of 8 July, according to UNHCR.

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

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

Food Security and Economy: Four million Syrians will be in need of 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 in 2012/13, some 40% less than the average annual harvest of more than 4 mt in the 10 years before the conflict, according to WFP and FAO

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

Health: The humanitarian situation is worsening, with basic services becoming more

inaccessible to growing numbers of people. The Ministry of Health reported that, at the end of April, around 60% of public hospitals were partially damaged or out of service. During an assessment in the 7 northern areas of the country in March, health was consistently mentioned as one of the key priorities for intervention. The current rise in temperatures is expected to increase existing WASH and health concerns.

A measles epidemic is reported in districts of northern Syria, with up to 7,000 known cases. The international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières have reportedly vaccinated more than 75,000 children in the provinces of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Idlib in an effort to stem the epidemic amongst a population previously unused to outbreaks of this kind.

Updated: 08/07/2013

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

On 5 July, Yemen asked IOM to provide assistance to some 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 according to IOM, it is expected that the Yemeni migrants will have to leave by fall. The number of Yemeni migrants returning from Saudi Arabia could therefore increase in the coming months.

Political and Security context

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

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

Tribal clashes were reported on 24 June at the border between Al Shabwa and Marib Governorates involving members from the Balharith tribe and Al Abu Tuhaif tribe from the two Governorates respectively. In total, 6 people were killed and 10 wounded in the fighting that was related to a land dispute. A year and half ago, clashes broke out between the Balharith tribe from Shabwa and Abeeda from Marib Governorate due to similar conflicts on borderland disputes. Shabwa and Marib have vast gas, oil and agricultural wealth. Oil and gas infrastructure in these two Governorates have been repeatedly attacked in the last

months by tribesmen.

A violent campaign of attacks on mosques and schools is taking place in Sa'ada governorate. On 19 June, three people were killed and eight wounded in Sa'ada in a suicide attack in a busy market. The trend of electricity pipeline sabotages, which resulted in prolonged blackouts in Sana'a, also persisted despite attempted negotiations with tribesmen thought to be responsible. Consequently, Sana'a has suffered prolonged blackouts for weeks now. On 9 June, at least 9 people were left dead and some 40 people wounded in a gunfight that took place in Sana'a. According to Yemeni officials, the violence broke out when Shia Houthi rebels attacked the National Security building with automatic weapons and grenades. Conflicting reports suggested that the protests were peaceful, but that the authorities resorted to violence to disperse them. The protesters were allegedly asking for the release of political detainees.

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 Hadramawt, east of the port city of Mukalla. The aim of Islamist militants was allegedly to set up an Islamist State in the east of Yemen. To date, available information on the offensive remains limited.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: On 5 July, Yemen asked IOM to provide assistance to some 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 according to IOM, it is expected that the Yemeni migrants will have to leave by fall. The number of Yemeni migrants returning from Saudi Arabia could therefore increase in the coming months.

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

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

Access: Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain while humanitarian access is hampered by insecurity across the country. There is a high risk of abduction of foreigners, and in recent weeks, several incidents have been reported.

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

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

In addition, 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 likely have a large impact on domestic crops.

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

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Highlights

1 July: Rioters torched 2 houses in Thandwe, a coastal town in Rakhine State, in the latest eruption of sectarian violence. The security forces allegedly managed to restore order the following day.

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 Rohingya.

Political and Security Context

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

On 1 July, rioters torched 2 houses in Thandwe, a coastal town in Rakhine State, in the latest eruption of sectarian violence. The security forces allegedly managed to restore order the following day. On 28 June, a violent incident in the Kyein Ni Pyin IDP camp in Pauktaw Township in Rakhine State resulted in the killing of 2 displaced people after a dispute arose between the IDPs and host communities. At least 6 other people were injured in the incident.

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

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

In recent weeks, the Myanmar authorities however succeeded to make significant progress in signing several ceasefire agreements with various insurgents groups representing ethnic minorities across the country.

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

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

The Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) and government representatives signed a historic seven-point ceasefire agreement on 30 May. The agreement includes provisions to continue the political discussion and to prevent further clashes while efforts are underway to reduce fighting. Fighting between the Government and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), 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: On 29 May, inter-communal violence displaced an estimated 1,400 people in Lashio, Shan state. While most of the displaced have returned home since, some 440 people remained displaced in two sites as of 2 June according to OCHA.

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

Highlights

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

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

As of June, UNCR reports that some 28,000 Rohingya Muslims are 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.

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

Disaster: On 14-15 May, the country was only slightly affected by the tropical storm Mahasen, which took a more westerly track than initially anticipated. The estimated 140,000 displaced – largely Rohingya Muslims – living along the coast in Rakhine State were largely spared by the cyclone. Nevertheless, the displaced people, living in flood-prone camps, remain heavily at risk of flooding during the monsoon season from May to September. According to UNHCR, IDPs settlements in Sittwe, Myebon and Pauktaw are particularly at risk.

Access: As reported by OCHA on 21 June, a UN-led aid convoy has been allowed to cross into non-government controlled parts of Myanmar's 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 where access has been particularly constrained.

Overall, 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.

Meanwhile, access to the affected population in Rakhine state remains difficult, as media campaigns have taken place based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the non-Rakhine Muslim minorities. According to OCHA, as of mid-April, access to IDPs is still seriously hampered by ongoing intimidation of aid workers. 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 Rohingya.

Food Security: As reported by FAO in mid-June, the food security situation has improved across most of the country. 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. Moreover, in Rakhine – southwest, Kachin and Northern Shan states – northeast, where thousands of people have been displaced, the food security situation remains of concern.

Updated: 08/07/2013

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX

Political and Security Context

On 23 June, at least six rockets were fired from northern Gaza, but no damage or injury was reported. In retaliation, Israeli aircrafts bombed the area. As reported by international media, the reason for the spike in violence is yet unclear, although local sources blame the last developments on tensions in Gaza where an Islamic Jihad leader was killed by Hamas police on 22 June. Over 30 Palestinians were injured in clashes with Israeli forces last week.

On 26 June, the Kerem Shalom crossing reopened after being closed for two days by Israeli authorities as a response to the rocket fires from Gaza. Kerem Shalom, the only functioning official crossing for goods to and from Gaza, was closed for almost half of the time (52 days) in the first four months of 2013. The frequent closures have left the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) short of gas for cooking and heating, affecting businesses, agricultural production and health services as reported by 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 a non-member observer State status at the United Nations, while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians 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

Access: On 9 April, UNRWA reopened their relief and distribution centres in Gaza, which provide food to around 25,000 people a day. The centres were closed on 4 April, after demonstrators stormed one of its compounds in an allegedly pre-planned action. The incident was a further escalation in a series of demonstrations and protests that have occurred since the end of March.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to OCHA, some 1.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, with protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement as highest priorities. Some 770,000 people are found to be 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 – or 34% of households – were food insecure in 2012. These results represented a significant increase from 27% in 2011. Contributing factors include high unemployment rates (**35%**), stagnant economic growth, financial problems of the PA, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the blockade of Gaza.

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

Highlights

6 July: 3 people were killed and 38 injured in a bomb explosion in the city of Lahore in the eastern Punjab province. Over the previous week, at least 51 people were killed in various insurgents' attacks.

5 July: As reported by Pakistani media, the presence of Afghan refugees is increasingly triggering tensions in the host provinces. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan's refugees stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces.

3 July: A new U.S. drone strike killed at least 17 people in Pakistan's Waziristan region, the second this year since Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister. On 5 June, Nawaz Sharif called again for an end to U.S. drone strikes aimed at Taliban militants, one of which killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali Ur-Rehman, in North Waziristan on 29 May.

Political and Security Context

Following the victory of the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) party at the recent parliamentary elections, its leader, Nawaz Sharif, who already served twice as Pakistan's Prime Minister in the 1990s, was formally elected by the parliament on 5 June and sworn in. The elections marked the first transition between civilian governments in a country that has long been ruled by the military. However, they were plagued by numerous terrorist attacks with at least 150 people being killed in the weeks preceding the polls.

On 3 July, a new U.S. drone strike killed at least 17 people in Pakistan's Waziristan region, the second this year since Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister. On 5 June, Nawaz Sharif called again for an end to U.S. drone strikes aimed at Taliban militants, one of which killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali Ur-Rehman, in North Waziristan on 29 May. Since the victory of his party on 11 May, N. Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Taliban. According to various sources, Pakistan has already played a pivotal role in establishing contacts between the Taliban and the U.S., paving the way for possible peace talks to be held in Qatar soon.

Meanwhile, tensions are running high in Pakistan, with regular Taliban attacks being reported across the country, notably affecting the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The movement has officially promised to intensify attacks following the death of

Wali Ur-Rehman.

On 23 June, Pakistan's umbrella Taliban movement claimed responsibility for killing 9 foreigners and their guide in the Himalayas. The Islamist movement officially announced that it has created a new wing to attack foreigners to avenge for U.S. drone strikes carried out in Pakistan, and especially for the recent killing of Wali Ur-Rehman.

On 6 July, 3 people were killed and 38 injured in a bomb explosion in the city of Lahore in the eastern Punjab province. Over the previous week, at least 51 people were killed in various insurgents' attacks. On 30 June, in a high-profile attack, at least 28 people were killed and dozens wounded in Quetta, the main city in Baluchistan province. The suicide bombing that struck a largely Shi'ite Muslim neighbourhood was claimed by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, an Islamist militant group that sees Shi'ites as infidels. The blast is the last in an escalating campaign carried by militants against ethnic Hazaras who belong to the country's Shi'ite minority. In a separate bombing in a busy market in Peshawar, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, at least 14 people were killed on the same day. In Baluchistan province, at least 4 people have been killed in two separate incidents of gun firing in Kharan and Killa Abdullah towns. According to local sources, the first incident was spawned after Islamist militants opened indiscriminate fire in a market and the other resulted from a tribal dispute. On 26 June, at least 7 people were killed in an explosion that targeted a senior anti-terrorism judge in Karachi.

The previous week, violence was also rampant in Pakistan with an estimated 60 people being killed in attacks in Peshawar and Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and in Quetta. On 21 June, a bomb attack at a Shi'ite mosque and religious seminary near the city of Peshawar killed 13 people and injured 25 more. On 18 June, in a high-profile attack, a suicide bomber killed 30 people at a funeral, including a provincial legislator that was elected in May and had been associated with an anti-Taliban party – the Awami National Party (ANP) – in the past, in Mardan. On 15 June, in Quetta, at least 22 people were killed and 27 injured after the coordinated bombing of a women students' bus and the seizure of part of the hospital where survivors of the attack were taken. Earlier that day in a nearby area, a policeman was killed after the bombing of an historic monument.

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 31 May, at least 34 militants and three soldiers were reportedly killed following fighting in the FATA.

In early May, two armed incidents that could further unsettle the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan were also reported along the two countries' shared border.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to OCHA, as of end of May, more than 1 million people remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) due to protracted conflict. Since mid-March, Government military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency have led to additional massive population movements. As of early June, UNHCR reported an estimated 80,000 people displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the camps of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalozai in

Nowshera District. An estimated 60,000 additional people began to flee their homes in 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 people displaced families from Parachamkani area in Kurram Agency have started returning to their homes with the help of the Fata Disaster Management Authority.

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

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.

Disaster: From 14 to 17 June, heavy rains struck northern Pakistan, notably Peshawar area in the northwest and Lahore area in the northeast, killing 19 people and displacing an unknown number of others to temporary camps in flood-affected villages.

Since mid-May, Pakistan has also been hit by its most severe heat wave in decades. Heavy damages to various crop cultures have been reported across the country. Although there are no official casualty figures to date, local sources estimate that up to 100 people have died because of the prolonged heat wave.

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

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

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 that 44 attacks against aid workers had been recorded across the country between January and April, with 18 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 15 in Sindh province, 4 in Baluchistan province, 1 in the capital Islamabad and 6 in the FATA. The total figure for last year was 42 across the whole country.

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

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

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

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

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

Highlights

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

Violence also erupted in May after some Islamist protesters demanding religious reforms from the government took to the streets in Dhaka and outside the capital. Several hundred of people were reportedly injured and at least 20 people killed in the clashes. The

protesters were largely trying to impose an Islamist agenda on Bangladesh by demanding an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty. The wave of demonstrations, which started in January, is also linked to the trial and sentencing of senior political leaders of the JI party over their role in the 1971 independence war.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: Bangladesh was spared any significant impact from Cyclone Mahasen that was weaker than expected. Nonetheless, the cyclone caused important destruction, including 49,000 houses that have been completely destroyed and 45,000 that are partially destroyed, most severely affecting the districts of Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna. Government sources also report that 14 people were killed and 65 injured by the cyclone. As of 22 May, over 1.2 million people are estimated to have been affected by the cyclone while some 1.1 million people were evacuated.

Heavy rainfall affected coastal Bangladesh on 23 May and resulted in six deaths and a large number of roads inundated in Dhaka. Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard-prone countries and is often subject to floods.

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

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

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 more than two years. The trip may be seen as another attempt by both sides to promote dialogue and not let tensions build even further.

As of **3 July**, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 159,713 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees.

2 July: A wave of attacks, mostly targeting Shiite Muslims, killed 46 people in northern Baghdad. Explosions were also reported in the mainly Shi'ite districts of Abu Dsheer, Kamaliya, Tobchi and Shula.

1 July: Illustrating the current high level of violence, the UNAMI figures, released on 1

July reported a total of 761 people killed by violence in Iraq and 1,331 others wounded in June, representing a 60% increase from the same month a year ago.

Political and Security Context

On 20 June, some 2.8 million voters in Anbar and Nineveh, which lie in Iraq's west and north respectively, voted for 69 provincial council seats, under heavy security measures such as province-wide ban on vehicle traffic. The polls took place two months after elections were held in 12 other Iraqi provinces in the centre and south of the country. Officials cited security concerns to explain the postponement of the Anbar and Nineveh polls, though critics saw the delay by Shiite-led authorities as politically-motivated. Nine candidates have been killed in the run-up to the vote in Mosul city and Nineveh province according to the UN. Localized attacks were also reported during the voting although the elections went relatively calm.

On 20 April, Iraq held its first provincial elections since the departure of U.S. troops, which, despite a 50% turnout only, 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 ongoing violence also allegedly forced the authorities to postpone the elections in the two Sunni dominated provinces of Anbar and Nineveh.

The three provinces that make up 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.

Meanwhile, the country is facing widespread unrest and is plagued by daily terrorist attacks. The current wave of violence is largely linked to the country's long-running political dispute between Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and religious and ethnic groups opposing the allegedly sectarian policies of his Shia-led Government. Tensions are now reportedly at their highest since the U.S. troops left the country two years ago and the civil war in neighboring Syria further participates in straining the relations between Sunni, Shi'ite and Kurdish communities and in making the Iraqi context highly volatile. Illustrating the current high level of violence, the UNAMI figures, released on 1 July reported a total of 761 people killed by violence in Iraq and 1,331 others wounded in June, representing a 60% increase from the same month a year ago. While UN figures for June confirmed the surge in violence affecting in Iraq since the beginning of the year, the number of casualties recorded last month was lower than the one reported for May that had been the deadliest month recorded in Iraq since June 2008. In July, over 165 people have been killed in attacks in the first eight days of the month- far more than in the whole month of December, according to international media.

On 2 July, a wave of attacks, mostly targeting Shiite Muslims, killed almost 50 people in northern Baghdad. Several attacks were reported this week, most of them targeting the population in and around Baghdad and northern Iraq. While tensions between different sectarian neighbourhoods are running high in Baghdad, the western province of Anbar has also grown increasingly insecure over the past weeks. When intersectarian strife was at its height in 2006-07, Anbar was reportedly a stronghold of al-Qaeda's Iraqi wing, which has reportedly regained strength in recent months.

Tensions continue to remain high between the authorities in Baghdad and in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

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 more than two years. The trip may be seen as another attempt by both sides to promote dialogue and not let tensions build even further. According to local reports, such questions as Iraq's deteriorating security situation and the practical repartition of power between the two parties over areas that they both claim administrative jurisdiction over are to be addressed.

Better relations with the Kurds may ease the pressure on Iraq's Shi'ite leadership who is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on the Sunni Islamist insurgents.

Meanwhile, the withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan, decided following a recent peace deal achieved between the PKK and Ankara, is ongoing. In Iraq, Kurdish militants warned that the fragile peace process is being endangered by increased military activity in the area and a lack of co-operation from Baghdad, including 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 rebels' withdrawal from Turkey to Iraq.

The arrival of former PKK insurgents may contribute to strain further the already tense relations between the authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan and Baghdad. The withdrawal began on 14 May, but the Turkish government has stated that to date only 15% of PKK fighters have left Turkey. Both sides have reported their disappointment at the slow pace of the process. On 4 July Kurdish militants attacked two military outposts in southeastern Turkey, breaking a three-month ceasefire. According to the Turkish authorities the attack did not result in casualties.. On 3 June, a first minor armed confrontation between PKK militants and Turkish military had already been reported along Iraq's border. While there have been reports of minor isolated incidents of violence in the past few weeks, the attack appeared to be the most serious violation of a March ceasefire

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 3 July, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 159,713 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees. At present, daily arrivals to Iraq amount to 700-750 people, according to UNHCR. The total number of refugees is expected to double by the end of this year despite the fact that the informal border crossings in the Kurdish region were closed a month ago.

The situation at Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, is especially worrying. It is currently housing some 70,000 Syrian refugees and is critically overcrowded. Infrastructure, including inadequate water and sanitation facilities increasing the risk of water borne diseases. In addition to the people in the camps, some 90,000 refugees are scattered in and around urban centres in Iraqi Kurdistan.

In no other country bordering Syria has the appeal for financial support been equally underfunded as reported by OCHA and NRC. Only 14% of the money needed for the humanitarian response in Iraq this year has materialized.

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

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

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

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

Updated: 08/07/2013

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

7 July: Some 501,668 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan so far according to UNHCR.

Political and Security Context

On 6 June, Amman threatened to expel Syria's ambassador after he stated that Syrian missiles could be used against the Patriot batteries that are due to be soon deployed along the countries shared border in Jordan. Jordan and Syria's other neighbors are also reportedly increasingly concerned that the Syrian civil war will spill over and ignite a regional conflict. In the beginning of June, the United States said that they would be making Patriot batteries and advanced F-16 fighter jets available for annual military exercises scheduled later this month in Jordan. The U.S. have expressed that they may consider keeping the jets in Jordan after the exercise.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to UNHCR, after the number of refugees crossing the border decreased sharply in late May, new arrivals to Jordan have resumed at the previous usual rate of 1,000 to 2,000 a day. In February, the influx was reportedly of some 2,500 persons per day. It is unclear as to why the flow of refugees suddenly ceased, although heavy fighting in the border areas may have been preventing many displaced Syrians from crossing into Jordan according to local reports. In addition, refugees reportedly have to wait two to three days in border regions before crossing into Jordan since increased security measures were put in place to notably deal with the increasing number of forged

documents.

As of 7 July, some 501,668 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. This is around 14,000 people more than last week. The Government of Jordan estimated that some 600,000 Syrian refugees were currently hosted in the country as of 4 July. Recent reports warn of signs of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, in particular in those regions that host large numbers of displaced Syrians. For instance, Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp has become the equivalent of an entirely new city – that would be the country's fifth largest – with more than 120,000 people.

Nearly 9,000 refugees staying in Jordan left for Syria in June, bringing the number of returnees to more than 68,000 in the past two years as reported by the authorities. In April, UNHCR reported that more Syrians were opting to return home from Jordan for a number of reasons, including improved security in a number of border villages and to protect their property. Some were also returning to reunite with family members or fetch left-behind relatives and bring them to Jordan. In the past week, the numbers of Syrians going home dropped to zero, as 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. The prices of commodities are higher in Jordan than in Syria and the purchasing power of the refugees to cover basic needs keeps decreasing. Furthermore, food prices in Jordan have increased by nearly 50% due to the reduction of food imports and increased demand from new arrivals from Syria.

To accommodate the spike in water demand, Jordan has begun drawing on additional water resources, including buying water from private wells. It is estimated that the extra demand on water and sanitation services would cost the Jordanian government more than \$700 million dollars per year, even as Jordanians receive less water per capita. Northern governorates have been hit particularly hard by the refugee influx.

Updated: 08/07/2013

KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

The situation of currently food-insecure and vulnerable households 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 MT, which is 19% lower than 2012 levels.

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

Highlights

4 July: Some 587,795 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR in Lebanon or are awaiting registration.

30 June: Clashes broke out in Tripoli between Sunni and Alawi communities.

24 June: After several days of intense clashes in the Abra neighbourhood of the city of Sidon, 40km south of Beirut, the Lebanese military is reportedly in pursuit of ultra-conservative Sunni cleric Sheikh Ahmed al-Assir. At least 17 people were killed and more than 65 wounded in the fierce clashes between the army and followers of a Sunni cleric who have been caught up in sectarian fighting fuelled by the war in neighbouring Syria.

Political and Security Context

The Syrian conflict is increasingly spilling over to Lebanon, with almost daily shelling in the north and eastern border regions. With repeated intersectarian strife being reported in Tripoli, fears are arising that the Syrian conflict may eventually turn even more into an opposition between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims on a regional scale.

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

Over the past weeks, insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between

different sectarian groups and more signs of the impact of the Syrian conflict. Clashes flared up in the Lebanese city of Sidon between the army and followers of a Sunni cleric, leaving at least 17 people dead since 18 June. After several days of intense clashes in the Abra neighbourhood of Sidon, 40km south of Beirut, the Lebanese military is reportedly in pursuit of ultra-conservative Sunni cleric Sheikh Ahmed al-Assir. In the northern city of Tripoli, hundreds of armed men were reported to have forcibly closed the city in solidarity with Sheikh al-Assir.

On 21 June, the Lebanese army sealed off Beirut's parliamentary district with razor wire and threatened stern action against violence after a night of unrest. Around 100 protesters, angered by the postponement of June's parliamentary election until next year, fought with police on the night of the 20 June near the parliament. As the largely peaceful demonstration unfolded in central Beirut, protesters blocked roads with burning tyres elsewhere in the capital and in Bekaa Valley towns in eastern Lebanon.

In addition, 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 that is 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 others.

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. As a result, elections that were originally planned for June were postponed. On 1 June, the President Michel Sleiman lodged an appeal with the Constitutional Council to challenge the Parliament's decision to extend its mandate and delay elections.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 4 July, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached **587,795** people with reported on-going daily arrivals, according to UNHCR. With no camps in the country, the refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Both host and refugee populations across the region are impacted by the increasing pressure placed on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities and food prices, amongst others. The Lebanese Government estimates that the actual number of Syrians residing in the country amounts to a million people. The population in Lebanon has grown by 25% in less than two years. In addition, 1.2 million Lebanese in hosting communities are estimated to be severely affected by the refugee influx.

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 the country. Within the plan, the Lebanese Government requested an additional 500 million dollars to provide aid to Syrian refugees and host communities.

Updated: 08/07/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

Highlights

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

Early July: Dengue has 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 last year.

Political and Security Context

On 21 June, the Philippine Government announced that it plans to resume talks with the Muslim rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) early next month to move forward with the peace settlement that seemed to have stalled in recent months. On 15 October 2012, the two parties had signed a historic peace deal that opened the way for talks that should craft the final architecture of the normalisation process and put an end to 40 years of conflict in the poor, but resource-rich, south, centred on the island of Mindanao.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

The Philippines frequently experience 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 the island of Mindanao. Some 921,649 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and a further 11,767 are

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

Health: According to the Department of Health, 1,528 dengue cases were reported in the first quarter of 2013 in Soccsksargen region, of which 669 (41% of the victims) are children 10 years old and below. In Korondal City, South Cotabato province, the municipal government has declared a state of calamity on 27 June after a dengue outbreak was declared in the town. According to the authorities, some 239 dengue cases have been recorded as of 8 June, more than the 159 cases recorded in 2012. In addition, 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 last year.

Updated: 08/07/2013

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

Highlights

6 July: North and South Korean officials held talks regarding the possible reopening of the jointly-run Kaesong industrial zone, another indication that Pyongyang is gradually trying to improve its international position and soften its relations with South Korea and the West.

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 6 July, North and South Korean officials held talks regarding the possible reopening of the jointly-run Kaesong industrial zone, another indication that Pyongyang is gradually trying to improve its international position and soften its relations with South Korea and the West.

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

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

On 9 June, North and South Korean officials held their first talks in years as a positive end

to months of soaring military tensions. The working-level discussions were intended to pave the way for ministerial-level talks in Seoul on 12 June. The talks came about after an unexpected reversal on 6 June from Pyongyang, which suddenly dropped its belligerent tone and proposed opening a dialogue.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: DPRK still requires international humanitarian assistance. Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaged health facilities and reduced access to primary and secondary health care. The floods further aggravated the impact of a severe dry spell in southwest and central provinces: a 30% decline in soybean production due to the dry spells in the first half of 2012 has been reported.

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

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

The chronic under-nutrition remains a public health problem. Some 57% of households have 'borderline' food consumption. Chronic food insecurity in DPRK continues to affect two-thirds of the country's 24 million people. According to the UN, the main 2012 harvests and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier and the production is expected to reach 5.8 million MT. WFP already reports an increased number of households with poor consumption as of 14 May, after the main harvest.

Updated: 08/07/2013

INDIA **FLOODS**

Highlights

As of **4 July**, 580 people have been confirmed dead after floods hit the State of Uttarakhand in late June. According to local sources, up to 3,000 people remain missing. According to local media, the "missing" database is expected to be ready by the weekend, or July 8, and will be released soon after. Overall, the disaster has affected approximately 500,000 people across 13 districts. Over 100,000 people have been displaced from their homes and around 10,000 people have been injured.

3 July: Assam State, in northeastern India, faced a second wave of floods while the State Government declared a red alert across 4 districts and directed the administration to evacuate people. According to local estimates, some 27,000 people have been affected so far while new heavy rainfall hit the State later during the week.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 3 July, Assam State, in northeastern India, faced a second wave of floods while the State Government declared a red alert across 4 districts and directed the administration to evacuate people. According to local estimates, some 27,000 people have been affected so far while new heavy rainfall hit the State later during the week.

In June, the monsoon came 20 days in advance this year, hitting the State of Uttarakhand, the five districts of Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Tehri and Pithoragarh in northern India since 14-17 June. This resulted in increasing water levels and flow of two main rivers, the Alakhnanda and the Bhagirathi. As a result of the heavy rains, incidents of cloudbursts and landslides at various locations also added to devastation while rescue operations and delivery of aid were hampered by continued rains and break down of road infrastructure. According to local sources, these areas are likely to be affected with heavy rainfall in July-August as peak monsoons arrive. New heavy rains are likely to affect severely reconstruction and rehabilitation work.

As the huge rescue operations gradually wind down, the final death toll is difficult to assess. As of 4 July, 580 people were confirmed dead. However, at present, the main unknown remains the very high number of missing. According to local sources, up to 3,000 people remain missing. As remote locations that have been cut off by the floods become accessible again, it is likely that the death toll will go up again. According to local media, the "missing" database is expected to be ready by the weekend, or July 8, and will be released soon after.

Overall, the floods have affected approximately 500,000 people across 13 districts and over 100,000 have been displaced from their homes and around 10,000 people have been injured. Reports by other organisations indicated that more than 150,000 people, almost half of them children, have been displaced by the flooding and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. According to OCHA, 127 evacuation camps have been set up in the Uttarakhand State.

To date, reliable estimates of damages from the floods are lacking. On 30 June, making a preliminary assessment of the damage, the Uttarakhand authorities reported that the loss of infrastructure has been massive since June 16, with drinking water supply, power and road connectivity being among the worst hit sectors. In addition, the floods reportedly swept away houses, buildings and entire villages, also damaging more than 1,000 bridges and severely damaging over 2,500 houses. According to the authorities, thousands of villages and hamlets have lost connectivity with the central authorities in the aftermath of the disasters.

Updated: 08/07/2013

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE

Highlights

2 July: An earthquake of 6.2 magnitude struck southwest of Bener Meriah District, Aceh province in western Indonesia. According to local authorities, at least 22,125 people

took refuge at emergency shelters while the earthquake also destroyed an estimated 15,919 houses and 623 public facilities. To date, 40 people have reportedly been killed by the tremor.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

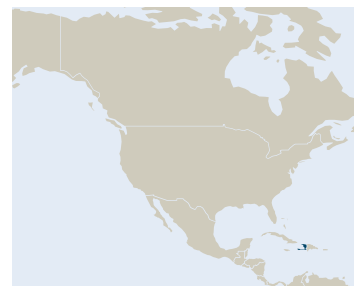
Disaster: On 2 July, an earthquake ranking 6.2 on Richter scale struck southwest of Bener Meriah District, Aceh province in western Indonesia. The epicentre was located at 10 Km depth and was reportedly strongly felt in Bener Meriah, Aceh Tengah, Lhokseumawe and Meulaboh districts and the cities. The worst-hit area spanned across 12 villages of Ketol sub-district with several aftershocks being reported on the evening of 2 July.

To date, information on casualties and damages remain limited. According to local media, the earthquake killed at least 40 people and injured over 2,800 people. According to local authorities, at least 22,125 people took refuge at shelters while the earthquake also destroyed an estimated 15,919 houses and 623 public facilities.

Indonesia remains a highly disaster prone country, regularly facing floods, earthquakes and tsunamis. Between December 2012 and March 2013, an estimated 250,000 people have been affected by heavy floods in the country that also destroyed or damaged houses, schools, infrastructure and roads according to FAO. As reported by OCHA, some 220,000 persons were also affected or displaced in about 198 natural disasters, principally floods, landslides and whirlwinds, during April and May. In 2004, over 150,000 people were killed and more than 500,000 displaced in Indonesia, mostly in the northern province of Aceh, following the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Food Security: According to FAO, as of 21 June, the food security situation in the country continues to be stable and satisfactory. However, access to food, remains a major challenge in the eastern parts of the country such as Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) and Papua provinces that were notably affected by natural disasters.

Updated: 08/07/2013



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Highlights

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

5 July: There remain an estimated 279,000 IDPs in Haiti according to IOM, down from 320,000 reported IDPs in late May.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Almost three years after the earthquake, there remain an estimated 279,000 IDPs in Haiti according to IOM as of 5 July, down from 320,000 reported IDPs in late May. In the second quarter of 2013 (April to June 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 during the January to March 2013 period. 352 IDP sites and camp-like settlements host the remaining IDPs throughout the country. The situation in these sites remains problematic with 73,000 IDPs or 105 sites possibly facing forced eviction in the upcoming months. Furthermore, camp-settlements remain vulnerable to floods and landslides, putting the IDP population at risk in the upcoming hurricane season.

Recent surveys showed that 119 of 140 municipalities across the country have been severely affected by drought, the tropical storm Isaac and/or the 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 the average levels. Seasonal rainfall in the Ouest and Sud-Est departments of southern Haiti has also been below-average. The largest seasonal deficits occurred across the southwestern peninsula of Haiti in the Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse departments.

Torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grand'Anse and Sud were the most severely affected departments. As of early April, 71,400 victims of Hurricane Sandy were still in need of humanitarian assistance according to OCHA. Forecasts of the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC) anticipate that some 600,000 people could be affected and 200,000 displaced by adverse weather conditions this year.

Food Security and Malnutrition: In early June, OCHA reported that some 1.5 million people in Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis. In addition, a further 6.7 million people in Haiti are struggling to meet their own food needs on a regular basis according to WFP. 44 out of 140 municipalities have been particularly affected, with over 50% of the population facing high food insecurity. In addition, an estimated 800,000 people

suffering from severe food insecurity have reportedly not received any emergency assistance. To date, only 40% (700,000 people) of the 1.5 million severely food insecure people have received assistance.

As of late May, the country entered the lean season and was still struggling to cope with the effects of last year's poor harvest. Large parts of the country faced stressed levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2). Reports on the food security situation indicated that the poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest and Nord-Est departments were already facing crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and had to switch to irreversible coping strategies, according to FEWSNET. In addition, sowing of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and 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.

Furthermore, an estimated 82,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, including 20,400 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Rural populations are especially affected.

Health: Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases amounts to 658,053. As much as 120,000 potential new cholera cases are forecasted for 2013, particularly due to the upcoming rainy season and the funding gaps affecting cholera response, making it the least funded component in the HAP, with only 19% of requirements met so far. According to OCHA, 8,120 people have died since the start of the outbreak. Some 20,000 new cholera cases were reported between January and June 2013. A 40% increase of new cholera cases was reported in June compared to the previous month with cases surging from 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

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

Updated: 08/07/2013



OCEANIA

MARSHALL ISLANDS DROUGHT

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: As of 5 July, the Republic of the Marshalls Islands (RMI) is still affected by the effects of the 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, 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 of the islands have had no rain for more than a year. Traditional crops such as banana, taro and breadfruit trees are reported to be severely affected. Because of unusually low levels of rain since February, the local crops are heavily at risk and an alarming shortage of drinking water was reported.

Up to an estimated 6,400 people are living 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.

Updated: 08/07/2013



SOUTH AMERICA

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 19 June, the Government of Bolivia issued a National Emergency Decree due to drought that is affecting the four Departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, El Chaco, notably Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba, particularly its southern part. As of 27 June, an estimated 87,500 people were affected by the drought and 86,450 hectares of crops were damaged.

The department of Tarija was the worst hit with 43,724 hectares of crops estimated to be lost. Meanwhile, Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle with 29,357 head being killed.

Only in March the same southern departments were severely affected by torrential rain and floods which also caused important damages, especially in Chuquisaca, Potosi, Tarija and Cochabamba. Overall, the floods affected some 145,000 people in nearly 25% of Bolivia's municipalities. In the department of Cochabamba alone, some 40,000 people were affected between 18 and 25 March.

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

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 18% and 34% in the major cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz respectively, and remaining significantly higher than a year ago.

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

Reviewed: 08/07/2013

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.