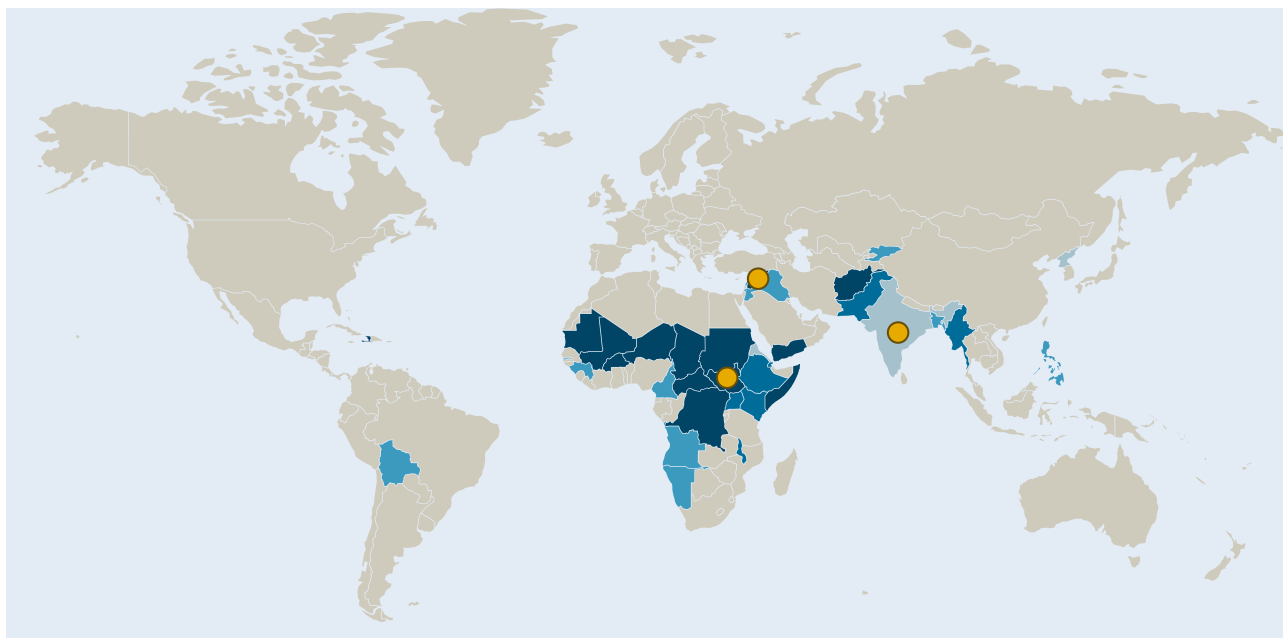




GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

July 2013



Snapshot 15 – 22 July

In **Syria**, despite the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan on 9 July, large-scale operations have been ongoing in several major cities, including Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Idlib with regime forces pushing to extend the gains obtained over the past weeks with support of the Lebanese Hezbollah fighters. Infighting within opposition forces has escalated in recent days with clashes reported between various Islamist and more moderate groups, notably between Kurdish fighters and al-Qaeda affiliated Islamists near the border with Turkey in Al-Hassakeh governorate. As of 18 July, over 1.8 million Syrian refugees have been registered in neighbouring countries according to the UNHCR.

In **India**, the death toll from the floods that hit in Uttarakhand State in mid-June is estimated to be up to 6,000 people as of mid-July. New heavy rains are expected in different parts of India, including in Uttarakhand State. Against this background, some humanitarian organizations are concerned that the affected communities are likely to face acute food insecurity in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, protesters and government troops clashed in Indian-administered Kashmir.

In **South Sudan**, inter-tribal fighting coupled with clashes between government forces and insurgents has been raging in Pibor county in Jonglei state since mid-July amid alleged massive human-rights abuses committed by all belligerents. As reported by humanitarian actors, some 120,000 civilians have been displaced as a result of

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	Uganda

Situation of concern

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

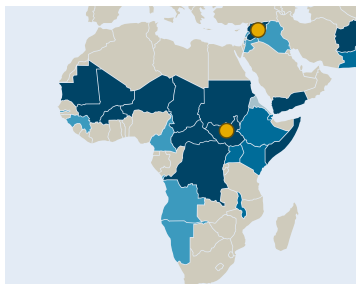
Watch list

DPRK	● India
Eritrea	

the recent surge in violence and are in urgent need of assistance. To date, and although aid agencies managed to reach Pibor county for the first time this year last week, access to the area remains severely constrained. Tensions over oil remain ongoing between Juba and Khartoum.

Last Updated: 22/07/2013 Next Update: 29/07/2013

June 2013.



AFRICA

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: As of 30 June, UNHCR notes that the current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso stands at 49,975, unchanged since 22 April. The refugees are located at seven formally recognized camp or informal settlement sites (Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou). The majority of the camps are 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 their cattle in this arid area exacerbates the scarcity of natural resources and poses a risk of increased tensions between local communities and refugees.

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

According to OCHA, as of 30 June, 1.8 million people in Burkina Faso were food insecure. Difficulties in accessing food are primarily due to low purchasing power, low household agricultural production and difficult geographical access to markets. A March FAO report stated that the food insecure are located predominantly in the Sahel, North and East regions. However, FEWSNET states that 80% of the 16.9 million Burkinabe are currently meeting consumption needs and face Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity, as of

Although cereal prices have been 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 25-30% of households in the north will have food security issues and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 22/07/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Early July: As CAR approaches the 'lean season', WFP fears that food insecurity could

reach crisis levels. Recent exploratory mission revealed an increase from 6% to 10.3% in levels of GAM.

Political and Security Context

According to OCHA on 17 July, the security situation in Central African Republic (CAR) remains volatile following violent protests and clashes between the civilian population and Seleka elements in late June. Preliminary findings of security assessment missions revealed that the situation is quiet in the north-west and the south though serious security incidents and looting are reported regularly across the country and in Bangui, where disarmament operations have continued. An estimated 4.6 million people are affected by ongoing violence, despite stabilization efforts since establishment of a Government of National Unity. Criminal activity is rising and arrests and executions have taken place with total impunity.

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.

Patrols from the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC), operating alongside 550 French military posted in CAR, have been present in CAR since 24 March and are intended to help ease tensions, disarm militias, and secure the electoral process. FOMAC includes the Mission for the consolidation of peace in Central African Republic (MICOPAX), which will be reinforced with a new 3,600-strong peacekeeping mission in August 2013, as announced by the African Union on 19 July.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: As a result of the current crisis, UNHCR has identified at least 206,000 people as being internally displaced. This number is believed to be higher as displacement

has continued in the Northern and Western part of the country, but owing to restricted humanitarian access, information is limited.

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

There are also an estimated 17,000 mostly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in CAR. The UN 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: According to OCHA on 17 July, constriction of humanitarian space due to insecurity is limiting the delivery of aid to people in need. However, almost all NGOs have now returned to their previous locations and are deploying teams and resuming activities. The Humanitarian Country Team is facilitating access negotiations with Seleka authorities in regions outside Bangui to enable humanitarian actors to assist people affected by the crisis. UNDSS approved the gradual return of critical international UN staff on 18 June, indicating an improvement in security related constraints. Despite these improvements, the use of secondary roads is inadvisable due to physical and infrastructural constraints, exacerbated by the impending rainy season. Access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads.

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

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

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

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

According to UNICEF, malnutrition rates remain high in CAR, with an estimated 13,500 children <5 suffering from SAM and 44,000 affected by MAM. A recent exploratory

mission in southwest CAR, in Nola, Boda, Berberati, Gamboula and Gadzi, revealed an increase in levels of GAM, which ranged from 6% to 10.3%. In May, as reported by an IPC seasonal analysis, the prevalence of SAM in children <5 was above the emergency threshold of 2% in 9 of 16 prefectures.

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

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

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

Protection: INGOs have reported a sharp rise in human rights abuses across the country, including attacks on civilians, child recruitment, arbitrary arrest, and illegal detention, summary executions, rape and other exactions against civilians. In late June, the Human Rights Watch reported that members of the Seleka rebel coalition have targeted and killed at least 40 civilians and intentionally destroyed 34 villages/towns since February this year. Several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children <18, some of whom had been recently demobilized, into Seleka forces.

Updated: 22/07/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries since March. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on 19 July, instability in CAR, northern Nigeria and Darfur region of Sudan has led many Chadians to return home with an estimated 1,000 returnees from CAR, 1,300 returnees from Nigeria and 22,000 returnees fleeing Sudanese Darfur to the border town of Tissi.

As of early July, 20,640 Chadian returnees and 30,448 Sudanese refugees had arrived at

Tissi. This marked the largest influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad since 2005, and according to OCHA, since the beginning of the year, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad has increased to 350,000 people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is at critical levels with a GAM rate

surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in 9 of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The areas most affected are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22% GAM), Salamat (22% GAM), Beg (21% GAM), and Kanem (21% GAM). According to UNICEF, an estimated 126,000 children will still suffer from SAM in 2013.

Updated: 22/07/2013

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

15 July: Clashes between the Tutsi-dominated March 23 Movement (M23) and the Official military force FADRC have led 4,200 people to seek refuge in Goma and neighbouring Rwanda.

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

Political and Security context

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

In North-Kivu, OCHA reported that last week's clashes between the M23 and the official military force (FADRC) in areas around Mutaho, Kanyarucinya, Kibati and in the mountains near Ndoshoh (a few kilometres from Goma) have led many people to seek refuge in the capital and in neighbouring Rwanda. However, according to the UN, the situation has stabilised since 18 July. Over the last month, the M23 had reinforced its position around Goma, and on 12 July, peace talks in Kampala between the DRC Government and the M23 were interrupted after government teams allegedly left the talks, according to representatives of the insurgents.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people have protested in Goma against President Joseph Kabila accusing him of incompetence in efforts to neutralise rebels who have long plagued the region.

On 11 July 2013, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in North-Kivu, causing at least 66,000 refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganizing to carry out attacks on Uganda. The Congolese official military force FADRC,

tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has been engaged in several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FADRC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July. Following reports of human rights abuses by ADF/NALU against civilians in Kamango district near Beni in North Kivu, a UN patrol was sent to assess the security situation in the area and address concerns related to the protection of civilians, the UN reported on 16 July.

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

In North-Kivu, OCHA reported that last week's clashes around Kibati and Kanuarucinya, between the M23 and the Official military force FADRC, have led 4,200 to seek refuge in Goma and in neighbouring Rwanda. Since April, clashes in various parts of North-Kivu have displaced over 74,000 people. North-Kivu has the highest number of internally displaced, 967,050 IDPs, according to OCHA as of 25 June.

Over the past two weeks, at least 66,000 refugees from eastern DRC North-Kivu province have crossed into neighbouring Uganda after fleeing an ADF/NALU rebel attack on the town of Kamango. The streams of refugees started crossing to Uganda's Bundibugyo

district after the attack on 11 July. UNHCR reported on 17 July that Uganda was already hosting more than 210,000 DRC refugees and asylum seekers before the recent influx of 66,000.

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

In South-Kivu, 52,600 new IDPs were registered due to conflict since January. As of late June, WFP reported that the number of people displaced has increased from 702,093 to 712,254 since end of March 2013, following clashes between FARDC and local militias that progressively established a stronghold in the province, leading to more insecurity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: A June report by FSNWG estimated that 6.4 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. Rutshuru, Nyragongo, Masisi and Walikale Territories in North-Kivu Province and Manono

Territory in Katanga Province have been classified as stage 4 Emergency levels. Nevertheless, the current population in IPC Phase 3 and 4 is still reportedly lower than 2012.

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

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

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

More than 4 million cases of malaria have been reported since the beginning of 2013 as of 17 June. 8,500 deaths have been registered due to malaria during the same period.

Updated: 22/07/2013

MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

On 8 July, Mali's army accused Tuareg rebels of violating the ceasefire signed on 18 June by attacking civilians and the military just days after troops entered the flashpoint northeastern town of Kidal to secure it for nationwide elections. The ceasefire agreement

aimed to prepare for a second phase of negotiations, planned to take place 60 days after the elections. This allowed Malian troops to enter Kidal on 5 July, when Mali lifted a nearly six-month state of emergency.

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Overall, an estimated 528,750 people were displaced due to the ongoing conflict. According to a report released by the Population Movement Commission on 20 June, there are currently an estimated 353,455 IDPs in Mali compared to 261,000 as of late January.

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

UNHCR reported that, as of 30 June, almost 177,000 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, and health) remains limited in the North largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure, and the lack of materials to support basic services.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As the lean season is unfolding, there has been a

significant deterioration of the food security situation in northern Mali. People affected by food insecurity are estimated at about 3.5 million, including 1.4 million in need of immediate assistance according to assessments finalized in May.

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

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

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 22/07/2013

NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

In Diffa, higher prices, the destruction of pepper crops, and the effect of the conflict in

Nigeria on cross border livestock trading are likely to expose poor households in agro-pastoral and farming areas of this region to Stress levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) through September.

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

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

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

12 July: At least 3 people were killed in an attack on African Union troops in Mogadishu. In reaction, Somalia's Defence Minister Abdihakim Haji Fiqi declared that the AMISOM and the federal government troops will launch planned attacks on Al-Shabaab in south and central Somalia.

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

Political and Security Context

At least five members Somalia's security forces were injured in attack in the capital Mogadishu claimed by al-Shabab on 9 July. Three people were killed on 12 July when a

suicide bomber rammed a car laden with explosives into a convoy of African Union troops in the Somali capital. In reaction, Somalia's Defence Minister Abdihakim Haji Fiqi declared that the AMISOM and the federal government troops will launch planned attacks on Al-Shabaab in south and central Somalia.

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

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

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

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia while the country struggles to curb Islamist insurgency. The Al-Shabaab movement continues to conduct terrorist attacks and fight Government forces in different parts of the country. Although security in Mogadishu has improved since its lowest point in August 2011, attacks by Al-Shabaab in urban centres and along transport axes are common. 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 has been reported. On 29 June, a top Islamist, Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, arrived in 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 at the beginning of the transfer of international staff from Nairobi to Mogadishu, where a new country office has been created and an integrated UN mission officially due to start on 1 January 2014. As a result of the attacks, the transfer of staff was temporarily suspended. 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 UN base that was targeted with heavy machine guns.

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

According to the numbers released by the African Union (AU) on 9 May, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers have been killed in the country since 2007. Despite recent success reached by Somali forces and AU peacekeepers against Al-Shabaab fighters, tensions exist between the different military forces involved and the local authorities to the extent that, on 22 April, Ethiopia officially announced its wish to remove 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.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

While insurgent attacks rarely directly target aid workers, they still present a constraint for humanitarian operations. For instance, the attack in Mogadishu on 5 May led to the closure of main roads in the capital, hampering movements of aid workers and supplies. 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 in Somalia, including 615,000 IDPs, are at Stressed and Crisis levels and in need of food assistance. According to the Red Cross, the majority of the people in need are in South and Central Somalia.

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

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

FAO reported in June that current maize prices are 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, FSNAU estimated 215,000 children <5 to be acutely malnourished, of whom at least 45,000 were severely malnourished. This is attributed to the lack of adequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices. FSNAU reported at the end of June that levels of acute malnutrition were sustained in most areas across the country with exceptions of the Sool plateau in the disputed northern areas, where the nutrition situation is projected to deteriorate to serious levels (GAM 10-15%) from alert levels (GAM 5-10%)

due to anticipated decrease in milk availability. Bakool and Hiran regions are expected to show improvements in nutritional status.

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

21 July: The South Sudanese army has urged civilians displaced by fighting in Pibor County, Jonglei State to move to towns for easy protection.

18 July: In a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba has reduced its oil output and announced its plans to shut it off completely after Khartoum insisted production be shut down by 7 August. On 11 June, the Sudanese Government had 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.

18 July: To date, the escalating intercommunal clashes and the ongoing battle between state and non-state armed actors in Pibor County have left over 4,000 people injured in the area. As reported by humanitarian actors, as many as 120,000 civilians have been displaced as a result of the recent upsurge of violence. Initially, fighting started in the area on 12 July.

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

Mid-July: Against this background, international organizations have reported an increasing number of abuses against civilians committed by South Sudanese authorities during the anti-insurgency campaign in Jonglei state.

Political and Security Context

On 18 July, in a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba has reduced its oil output and announced its plans to shut it off completely following the announcement of the Sudanese Government (June 2013) that it would stop the Government of South Sudan exporting crude oil through the territory of Sudan unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. In turn, Juba accused Khartoum of backing rebels on its territory.

This latest development follows the accusation from South Sudan that 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, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations.

In June, the two countries seemed however ready to resort to a mediation brokered by the African Union to resolve the dispute. On 30 June, the visit of South Sudan's vice president to Sudan marked the highest-level talks between the two neighbours since the oil crisis that strained bilateral relations in early June. 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 an increasing number of human rights abuses being reported, notably by Government forces, according to a Human Rights Watch report released in July. 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.

Since 12 July, violence between ethnic groups has been raging in Pibor county in Jonglei state. To date, the escalating intercommunal clashes have left over 4,000 people injured in the area as of 18 July and forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee. Initially, local authorities reported that groups of heavily armed South Sudanese gunmen, belonging to the Lou Nuer and Dinka tribes, were fighting their way toward a rival community, the Murle people, in the eastern Jonglei state. This last spike of tribal clashes in Pibor county has already forced an unknown number of Murle civilians to flee the advance of the militias. It comes also after a fierce round of fighting the previous week between the government troops and various non-state actors. Against this background, HRW has reported in mid-

July an increasing number of abuses against civilians committed by South Sudanese authorities during the anti-insurgency campaign in Jonglei state. Earlier, the UN Security Council and the U.S. had called for Juba to better protect civilians in Jonglei state amidst reports of killings, lootings and beatings, including by government troops. On 10 July, local sources had also reported inter-communal clashes in the north of Pibor county with no additional information available yet.

On 19 June, the rebel leader of a Jonglei-base rebel group, David Yau Yau – a member of the Murle group, officially agreed to begin peace talks with representatives of the government. According to local media, 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. Following the recent increase in tribal fighting in Jonglei, various local sources have also reported the increasing involvement of the David Yau Yau rebel group in support of the Murle tribe while fighting has already affected an estimated 148,000 people in Pibor county.

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 Monyuel, took up the amnesty offer from South Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

Cattle raiding are 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 15 July, at least 5 people were killed in a cattle raid in Jonglei State Twic East County. On 13 July, at least 6 people have been killed and 12 others wounded in a cattle raid in Panyijiar County in Unity State.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Following the recent spike in intercommunal violence in Jonglei, ECHO is reporting that there are as much as 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom are displaced. As reported by MSF, as many as 120,000 civilians have fled their homes as a result of recent spikes in the ongoing battle between state and non-state armed actors and inter-communal clashes. These vulnerable populations are living outside of protected communities and without consistent access to food, safe drinking water, shelter, and health care. According to the UN, some 100,000 people in South Sudan have been cut off from vital aid in Jonglei state.

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

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

In early July, according to preliminary estimates released by OCHA, some 4,700 people were displaced in Koch county in Unity state.

In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 newly displaced people arrived in Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around River Kiir, South Darfur and South Kordofan. Some 20,000 people are reportedly displaced in the area. According to Médecins Sans Frontières, the remote area is practically inaccessible and the displaced have very little access to aid. As their food situation is already dire, it may further worsen as the rainy season gets under way.

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. On 14 July, as reported by OCHA, aid agencies reached for the first time this year areas of Pibor county, Jonglei, where thousands of civilians have been hiding in the bush following clashes between state and non-state actors. However, the increasing fighting in Pibor county makes it more complicated for the humanitarian actors to operate in the area according to the UN.

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 Gumruk 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, as of mid-July, 11,279 cases and 205 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: 22/07/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

18 July: In a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba has reduced its oil output and announced its plans to shut it off completely after Khartoum insisted production be shut down by 7 August. On 11 June, the Sudanese Government had 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.

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

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

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

Political and Security Context

On 18 July, in a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba has reduced its oil output and announced its plans to shut it off completely following the announcement of the Sudanese Government (June 2013) that it would stop the Government of South Sudan exporting crude oil through the territory of Sudan unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border. In turn, Juba accused Khartoum of backing rebels on its territory.

This latest development follows the accusation from South Sudan that 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, Khartoum denied the attacks while Juba stated that it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations.

In June, the two countries seemed however ready to resort to a mediation brokered by the African Union to resolve the dispute. On 30 June, the visit of South Sudan's vice president to Sudan marked the highest-level talks between the two neighbours since the oil crisis that strained bilateral relations in early June. 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.

Meanwhile, Khartoum is struggling to curb the insurgencies wagged by several non-state armed groups reunited under the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) banner in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. On 17 July, Minni Minawi, Deputy President of the SRF alliance and leader of one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM), announced, during a meeting in Geneva, that the SRF is ready to accept a humanitarian cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan before participating in a comprehensive process aiming to achieve peace in Sudan. It is yet unclear how the Sudanese authorities who have always been suspicious of negotiating with the SRF umbrella group instead of with each separate paramilitary group will respond to that proposition.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million Sudanese are currently displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of mid-July, there are also an estimated 191,400 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and another 32,000 in Ethiopia, according to UNHCR. The Government of Sudan and UNHCR report that 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 153,000 refugees originating from other countries in Sudan as of mid-July.

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.

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of 15 March, an estimated 4.3 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity in Sudan, according to OCHA. Some 3.7 million people face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity and 560,000 people are experiencing Emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity,

compared to 4.6 million people in July 2012. This slight decrease is mostly attributed to a good harvest this year. The total area planted during the 2012-13 season is more than double the previous year's figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher than last year due to favourable rainfall and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected. In spite of the good harvest, Stressed and Crisis levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and Abyei due to the impacts of conflict on production, market access, and livelihood options and 80% of the food insecure population is located in those 4 areas. The current escalation of insecurity is particularly affecting the food security situation in South Darfur.

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

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

Nationwide, the Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) levels for children under-five stands at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. In mid-June, the Sudanese health ministry issued a report 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.

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

Darfur

Political and Security Context

Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi (SLM-MM) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been ongoing in different parts of

Southern and Eastern Darfur since April. As reported by the Sudan Social Development Organisation (SUDO), conflict between the SAF and allied militias and SLM-MM in Onganja, South of Nyala, then Labado and Muhajria to the east and later in Donkey Darisa, have left hundreds of thousands of civilians without home and shelter. While fighting is ongoing, grave human rights infringements have also been reported.

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

In Central Darfur, a reconciliation agreement that should put an end to violence was reportedly 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.

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 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.

In South Darfur, on 13 July, in a site close to Sudan's second-largest city of Nyala, 7 UN peacekeepers were killed and 17 wounded after they came under heavy fire from unknown gunmen. In a separate incident, 4 people have been killed after being attacked by unidentified gunmen in the province. The previous week, extended fighting between competing militias was reported from Nyala.

On 4 July, local reports indicated that men from different paramilitary factions exchanged fire with people inside a security compound in Nyala. More fighting was reported in the area on 7 July. According to local reports, at least 6 people were killed and 21 injured in

the area. According to the UN, reports 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. Following the clashes, the Governor of South Darfur has imposed strict security measures in the area.

During the clashes on 4 July, 2 aid workers from World Vision were killed and 3 others injured while the office of the organisation was also looted. In the aftermath, it suspended programmes throughout South Darfur. Several other international organisations have also expressed concerns regarding the security situation in the area. On 17 July, World Vision has nevertheless officially announced that it has resumed its operations in the area.

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 was killed and 3 seriously injured near the Duma and Toum 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 30 June, an estimated 287,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between the various armed groups and the government from January to June. In mid-May, previous UN reports stated that as much as 300,000 people had been forcibly displaced since the beginning of this year. Two weeks ago, renewed tribal fighting across Darfur has allegedly triggered new displacements although no figures are available to date.

In addition, according to UNHCR, an estimated 74,000 people fled into Chad, including Sudanese (30,000) and Chadians who lived as refugees in the conflict zone, since January 2013, following intertribal fighting in North and Central Darfur. It is already the largest influx

of refugees from Sudan into Chad since 2005, where there are currently an estimated 330,000 Sudanese refugees. As instability persists in various parts of Darfur, the number of refugees may increase in the coming months. 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 the Nyala area in South Darfur. At present, people continue to arrive to camps in the Nyala area, notably to Alsalam camp where the living conditions of the refugees are dire.

In South Darfur, on 21 May, renewed violence between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes led to the displacement of the 20,000 residents of Katela town to the southern neighbouring locality of Tulus. 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. In Kulaykili Abu Salama in Assalaya locality, East Darfur, tribal tensions have reportedly forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area in mid-July.

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

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

Access: According to WHO, inaccessibility due to security measures has been a major concern in North Darfur particularly in conflict-affected areas of Jebel Amir, namely Elseraif town, Kebkabya and Saraf Omra. The situation has posed threats to health service delivery. In South and East Darfur, access to some localities, particularly those within Jebel Marra, has been a concern for organisations working in the area. In South Darfur, growing insecurity in the Nyala area is posing a threat to the activity of international organisations after 2 aid workers from World Vision were killed and 3 others injured as a result of fighting in the city in early July. Reportedly, the offices of several international organisations were also looted.

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.

Health: According to WHO, cases of suspected acute jaundice syndrome (AJS) and

measles were reported from Elseraif area, North Darfur, and emergency response was not immediately carried out due to security issues.

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 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. In Sudan, according to Human Rights Watch, the authorities arrested more than 26 people believed to be allegedly supporting the SRF. As of 10 July, at least 7 Darfuri and Nuba civilians are believed to be remaining in custody at unknown locations.

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. The remaining displaced people are in need of food assistance and non-food supplies according to WFP.

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

As of 11 July, the UN and its agencies continue to advocate with the Government and SPLM-N to allow a polio vaccination in the areas that are not under the Government's control. To allow for the vaccination campaign to take place, both sides would need to agree on a temporary cessation of hostilities and also reach an agreement on a location for the vaccination and on where the vaccines should be sourced from. On 13 July, the SPLM-N has openly proposed to involve the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in the vaccination campaign.

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.

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

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

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

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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.

Reviewed: 22/07/2013

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Political and Security Context

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

Disaster: As stated by OCHA on 9 May, floods affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country since April. 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 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.

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

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: 22/07/2013

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: On 11 June, OCHA reported that inter-communal conflict has caused over

52,000 people newly displaced from their homes since January 2013. In addition, according to OCHA, recent rains have internally displaced 12,380 people as of 17 May 2013

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

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

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

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

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

Health: In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 31 cases in total. According to USAID on 17 June, 7 cases were registered in Kenya, all in Dadaab in northeastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in the country since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

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 as households begin to deplete their food stocks and incomes from crop sales.

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

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

Reviewed: 15/07/2013

UGANDA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

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

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

Political and Security Context

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

On 30 June, the cities of Mamundioma and Totolito, located in the district of Beni in North-Kivu along the DRC-Uganda border, passed under the control of ADF/NALU with at least 16 people killed in the fighting according to reports in local media. Over the past decades, the area has been highly volatile with incursions by militias from neighbouring Uganda being regularly reported.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Ongoing insecurity in neighbouring DRC has led to 66,000 DRC refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district over the last 2 weeks. Even before the arrival of these new refugees, the country was already hosting about 210 000 refugees and asylum seeker, over 60% from DRC.

UNHCR reported on 18 July that 15,500 refugees had been transferred away from the unsafe border to the Bubukwanga transit centre, where there are protection and other services. The agency also indicated that priority needs include shelter, NFIs and water.

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

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

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

According to FEWSNET on 19 July, harvesting of 2013 first season crops is underway and production prospects are near average. Overall food security is satisfactory but deteriorating in the Karamoja region. According to the Uganda Food Security Steering Group, about 80,000 people are considered in crisis food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 3), mostly concentrated in Karamoja

region. Also in Karamoja, an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in June analysis revealed that up to 975,000 people in the semi-arid region faced Stressed levels of food insecurity, with an additional 234,000 unable to meet minimum food needs. In May, an assessment carried out WFP indicated that the food security situation was especially poor in the districts of Kotido, Kaabong, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit. By mid-July, about 66,000 refugees fled fighting from North Kivu province in DRC and arrived in Uganda's western district of Bundibugyo. The influx of refugees is putting pressure on the capacity of Government and humanitarian agencies to meet new refugees' needs in terms of food, water, shelter, sanitation and health.

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

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

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

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. The most severely affected are the five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila, and Benguela.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

As a result of the drought, and despite an anticipated improvement of food security

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

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

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

Health: In the wake of the 2012 cholera outbreak, a total of 598 new cholera cases were recorded by the local sanitary authorities between February and June 2013. Malaria is also affecting large numbers of Angolans, with some 75 deaths 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: 22/07/2013

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

17 July: The International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. Government figures show more than 4,000 located in the Far North Region.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

The serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in neighbouring Nigeria has resulted in a significant influx of refugees since 10 June. As of 17 July, the International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. Government figures show more than 4,000 located in the Far North Region. As of 25 June, UNHCR had registered approximately 2,000 people, mainly women and children. A joint assessment mission conducted on 20 June (UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP) in the village of Zelevet mission concluded that needs among the arrived refugees are largely in the 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 has increased with each consecutive crisis. As of 30 June, an estimated 83,233 children <5 suffered from SAM and 134,680 suffer from MAM.

Updated: 22/07/2013

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

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

Humanitarian context and needs

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 22/07/2013

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

19 July: 58 were killed, 160 wounded, and hundreds displaced after a sudden outbreak of ethnic violence in southeastern Guinea between 15-17 July

Political and Security Context

The Guinea Government reported on 19 July that a sudden outbreak of ethnic violence killed 58 people between 15-17 July. UNHCR reported on 19 July that 163 were wounded after Guerze tribesmen, who form the majority population in the forest region, allegedly attacked three ethnic Konianke in the town of Koule. Fighting spread to the provincial capital N'Zerekore, 570 km southeast of Conakry, and clashes reached the town of Beyla on 17 July. According to the UN, security and defence forces were deployed to restore order, with the support of additional troops from Macenta and Gueckedou, and calm seems to have been restored as of 22 July.

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: An unknown number of people were displaced following the outbreak of ethnic violence between 15-17 July. On 19 July, UNHCR reported that several hundred IDPs had sought refuge in military camps in Nzerekore and Beyla.

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

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 right 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 the Eritrean Government of torture and summary executions.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

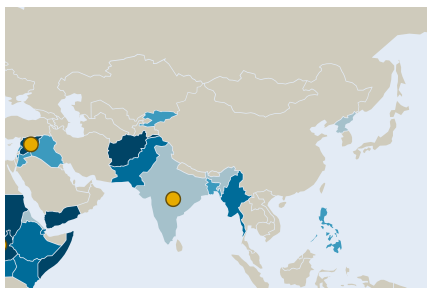
In addition, according to UNHCR, eastern Sudan receives an average of 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly shelters at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees.

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: 22/07/2013



ASIA

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

18 July: Although violence has slightly retroceded since the start of the Holy month of Ramadan on 9 July in Afghanistan, attacks continue to be reported across the country. At least 8 Afghan civilians on their way to work at a U.S. military base were killed in the eastern Logar province, a Taliban stronghold south of Kabul. In a separate incident, 2 Afghan officers were killed in a Taliban attack on police post near the city of Kunduz in the north of the country.

Mid-July: As reported by the UN, civilian deaths rose by 24% in the first half of 2013 if compared to last year. Between January and June, the UN registered 2,499 civilian casualties, attributing 74% to the insurgents and 9% to government forces. Children account for 21% of all civilians killed and wounded in Afghanistan, and casualties caused by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), a weapon largely used by the Taliban, had risen by 41% if compared to last year.

9 July: According to reports from western diplomatic sources, the peace talks between the Taliban and the U.S. are likely to resume in the coming weeks in Qatar, despite the quarrel over the opening of a Taliban office in Doha in June that infuriated Kabul. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in the peace talks if these are not “Afghan-led”.

Political and Security Context

Western diplomatic sources reported on 9 July that the peace talks between the Taliban and the U.S. are likely to resume in the coming weeks in Qatar, after a previous attempt from late June failed, following the row over the opening of a Taliban office in Doha last month. 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, the Afghan President Hamid Karzai restated his suspicions regarding direct dealings between the West and the Taliban in Qatar and the role played by neighbouring

Pakistan in brokering the talks, although he indicated his hopes that the peace talks would begin soon. According to unofficial information, the bilateral relations between the two neighbours had allegedly worsened after a Pakistani official openly floated the idea of an Afghan power-sharing arrangement between Kabul and the Taliban.

A spokesperson for the Taliban indicated in late June that the insurgents have no intention of changing their tactics in conflict-plagued Afghanistan despite the possible peace talks in Doha. Since they vowed to start a new campaign of attacks on 27 April, identifying “insider attacks” as a key tactic against foreign and Afghan military forces targets, the Taliban have been intensifying their attacks across the country. In May, the insurgents also increasingly targeted foreign humanitarian personnel deployed in the country. On 5 July, a spokesman for the Taliban insurgents restated that the movement would continue attacks over Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that started on 9 July. However, over the past two weeks, violence has slightly retroceded, even if attacks and bombings continue to be reported across the country.

Killings of civilians and Afghan security forces continue. On 18 July, at least 8 Afghan civilians on their way to work at a U.S. military base were killed in the eastern Logar province, a Taliban stronghold south of Kabul. In a separate incident, 2 Afghan officers were killed in a Taliban attack on police post near the city of Kunduz in the north of the country.

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Since the beginning of July, several attacks were recorded in Afghanistan, notably in Herat, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces, and in Kabul. 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, leaving 2 security guards dead.

ICRC continues to operate with caution in Afghanistan, following the major security incidents on IOM on 24 May in Kabul, as well as ICRC compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, on 29 May.

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. To date, there is no clear understanding over how many international troops, if any at all, will stay in Afghanistan after 2014 as relations become increasingly tense between Kabul and its western allies.

Against this background, military operations are ongoing in Afghanistan since the 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 early July, a senior Afghan general commented that the insurgents have also generally stepped up operations in the east, near the border with Pakistan. According to Afghan military sources, insurgents’ numbers are up around 15% on last year’s summer fighting months.

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

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

In June, a total of 25 incidents against humanitarians were reported in 16 provinces, ranging from killings, intrusion of health facilities, abduction, arrest and detentions, collateral impacts of IEDs, intimidation, disruption of aid distributions, theft of humanitarian assets, direct small arms fire and rocket attacks.

By comparison, in May, the same total of 25 security incidents involving humanitarian

actors was recorded across 11 provinces. Overall, the humanitarian space in Afghanistan is shrinking as the security situation becomes increasingly precarious. Local sources quoted by OCHA registered an increase of 62% in attacks on aid workers, excluding UN staff, during the first three months of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to OCHA, as of mid-June, 4.5 million people in Afghanistan are food insecure, including 2.25 million people severely food insecure and targeted with humanitarian aid. However, agricultural prospects for 2013 look generally reassuring, notably because rain-fed and irrigated wheat harvests are likely to be 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. According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), several reports have been received regarding localised droughts in Kunduz, Ghor and Nimroz provinces. Assessments are currently ongoing or scheduled to be conducted soon across these areas, notably in Ghor province by WFP and FEWSNET.

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

Health: War-related admissions 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: 22/07/2013

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Highlights

21 July: According to local reports, fighting between Syrian government forces and insurgents raged near Aleppo international airport and nearby Nairab airbase while clashes were reported from the Suleiman Halabi district of Aleppo and the Kwayris military airport.

19-20 July: Clashes between Kurdish fighters and elements of the Al-Nusra Front and of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were reported in areas near Ras al-Ain in Al-Hassakeh governorate. Local reports indicated that a key checkpoint near Ras al-Ain passed under the control of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) that has been gaining ground in the area over the Islamist groups.

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

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

15 July: 4 million Syrians are food insecure, as crop and livestock production has been devastated by the civil war, according to WFP and FAO.

14 July: In another indication that the Syrian conflict is increasingly becoming a flashpoint of a global sectarian war, Taliban commanders in Pakistan announced that hundreds of fighters have been dispatched to Syria to fight alongside such al-Qaeda affiliated groups as the al-Nusra Front and the ISIS and training camps have been set up.

Political and Security Context

Syrian Context

Despite the start of Ramadan and calls from the UN and the Red Cross for a truce during the holy month, violence continued in flashpoint areas across all governorates, with the exception of Tartous and As-Sweida. Large-scale operations have been ongoing in several major cities, including Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Idlib over the past week. Although the overall casualty estimation for the two-year conflict remains difficult to ascertain, the death toll is estimated to range from 94,000 to 120,000 according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

According to local reports, as of 21 July, fighting between Syrian government forces and insurgents raged near Aleppo international airport and the nearby Nairab airbase. Clashes were also reported from the Suleiman Halabi district of the city and the Kwayris military airport. As the regime is trying to build on recent military gains made with the support of the Lebanese Hezbollah Shi'ite militant group, gaining the control of the former commercial hub is seen as critical by both belligerents. A year ago, a large-scale advance by opposition forces into the provincial capital resulted in a lasting stalemate with Aleppo being divided into areas under and out of government control. Last week, fighting reportedly resulted in disrupted access on the main road linking Aleppo with other governorates in the center, west, and south.

Meanwhile, 2 million people are reportedly under siege in the western part of Aleppo City. As of mid-July, armed groups in opposition-controlled areas are prohibiting food and medicines from entering Western side controlled by the Government, by blocking the access from the city center through the crossing border in Bostan al-Qasr district. Half the citizens of the city reside in Western Aleppo, and according to reports, supplies have been unable to reach this part of the city for weeks. The tactic is aimed at weakening the supply routes of President Bashar al-Assad's forces, but is affecting thousands of civilians.

According to OCHA, as of mid-July, over 35,000 people are besieged by armed opposition groups in the villages of Nubul and Zahra, north of Aleppo. The two villages are reportedly

backing President Assad. In mid-June, opposition activists and military sources stated that the army took measures to reinforce the two villages.

Meanwhile, escalating fighting has been reported from Adra on the northeastern outskirts of Damascus – another key target for both parties – over past week. According to observers, Adra is believed to be an entry point to the capital's strategic Abbasiyeen Square, the target of several attacks by the insurgent forces over the past months. On 14 July, Government troops reportedly fired tank shells and artillery in clashes between Syrian forces and insurgents on the outskirts of Damascus in Jobar and Qaboun districts. On 16 July, reinforcements for armed opposition groups reportedly arrived in these two districts. These areas of Damascus have been a recurrent flashpoint for fighting. In recent weeks, the Syrian military has been pushing its offensive to retake key districts that have been in opposition hands for months.

In western Syria, fighting for the control of the strategic city of Homs is ongoing, and as reported by OCHA, has intensified over the Old City. Last week, Damascus intensified air strikes and artillery fire on Homs city with the northern district Khaldieh, being the focus of the assault. The district links the outskirts of the city with the center of Homs and is crucial to government attempts to link the capital to President Bashar al-Assad's coastal strongholds and divide opposition units in the north and south. Regime forces were reported to have been able to enter parts of Khaldieh, but according to activists they have not gained control of the area. In Homs alone, 400,000 people are said to have fled the Old City and an estimated 2,500 are reportedly still trapped in and around the city.

As reported by various sources, infighting within opposition forces has been escalating in recent days. Killings and clashes have notably been reported between various extremist Islamist and more moderate groups. On 17 July, it was reported that Kurdish fighters from the PYD – a group with links to the PKK in Turkey, seized control of Ras al-Ain in Al-Hassakeh governorate on the border with Turkey. The group is now reportedly battling the al-Qaeda affiliated al-Nusra Front. On 19 July, clashes between Kurdish fighters and elements of the Al-Nusra Front and ISIS were reported in the area. On 20 July, local reports indicated that a key checkpoint in the area near Ras al-Ain passed under the control of the PYD that has been gaining ground in the area over the Islamist groups. On a regional level, the capture of Ras al-Ain by the PYD is likely to further fuel Ankara's concern regarding the possible emergence of an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria.

On 6 July, opposition groups clashed with an armed unit linked to al Qaeda in Dana, Idlib governorate, close to the Turkish border. The opposition group known as the Free Youths of Idlib said dozens of fighters were killed, wounded, or imprisoned. Clashes between opposition forces and 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 Idlib and Aleppo this month, causing prices of basic goods in Afrin to soar. On 20 June, YPG gunmen and members of the 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 YPG, 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.

Over past weeks, clashes between fighters FSA and the ISIS were reported from Aleppo and Idlib provinces on 13 July. As many observers suggest, the overall cohesion of the groups fighting the regime in Syria is weak and more infighting is likely to arise and spread between armed groups that have different ideologies, goals and international backers.

International Context

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

At a meeting in Qatar on 22 June, ministers from 11 nations in the "Friends of Syria" group agreed to urgently provide all the necessary material and equipment to the opposition on the ground. Their final statement condemned the involvement of Hezbollah militias in Syria and that of fighters from neighbouring Iran and Iraq. In parallel, the US reiterated that the decision to provide military support to the rebels was not to seek a military solution but to give rebels more power in negotiating an end to the conflict. On 14 June, the US announced that they are ready to provide direct military aid to the Syrian opposition after the administration concluded that the Syrian forces used chemical weapons. In the meantime, the UN called on Damascus to allow a team of experts into the country. However, there have been no confirmed reports of US shipments reaching Syria so far. On 10 July, Russia presented evidence to the UN saying that Syrian opposition forces have attacked regime forces with sarin gas. While the U.S. rejected the claims, the UN is yet to be allowed an independent investigation inside Syria. On 16 July, Britain announced its intention to officially provide equipment to the Syrian opposition to protect themselves against chemical and biological weapons.

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 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 a key supply line linking opposition forces with 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. At the same time, 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.

International efforts to end the conflict remain focused on plans for a new peace conference initiated by the US and Russia which will possibly take place in August. Talks were postponed several times lastly after the Syrian National Coalition (SNC) indicated that it will not take part in the planned summit as long as Lebanese Hezbollah fighters continue to fight in Syria alongside Government forces. In parallel, Damascus stated that it would be willing to attend peace talks, but any subsequent deal would have to be approved by a referendum among the population. 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 and is particularly triggering increased polarization in nearby Lebanon. On 17 July, a well-known media defender of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Lebanon was assassinated by unidentified gunmen.

On 2 June, Syrian opposition groups fought with Hezbollah militiamen on Lebanese soil. 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.

As of 18 July, more than 1.81 million Syrian refugees are registered or awaiting registration with over 625,000 in Lebanon (Government estimates 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), some 501,000 in Jordan (Government estimates 600,000 Syrians in total), over 413,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 490,000), over 161,000 in Iraq and close to 100,000 in Egypt (Government estimates up to 300,000). The rest are spread across other countries in North Africa, according to UNHCR.

Syria's neighbour states have recently closed or tightened restrictions at several border

crossings, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded in Syrian border regions, as reported by Human Rights Watch. An average of 8,000 Syrians cross into Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey every day, according to the UN, putting an increasingly heavy economic, political and social burden on these countries.

On 8 July, the new Egyptian government imposed new visa requirements for Syrian refugees, under which Syrian nationals are required to apply for a visa and security clearance prior to travel to Egypt. UNHCR voiced concerns that the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus does not have the capacity to issue visas at this time. On the same day, Egypt denied entry to 276 people arriving from Syria, including a plane with Syrian nationals on board, who were then flown back to the Lattakia. The new policy has also left several Syrians stranded in Alexandria's international airport.

Access: Humanitarian needs across Syria continue to far outweigh 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 the permission from the Syrian Government. On 16 July, she again stressed that some locations remain inaccessible due to active fighting or insecurity and other areas, including Damascus and Homs, are outside of UN agencies' authorization to enter.

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 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 on 7 June, requesting over 5 billion USD to fund humanitarian operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

Food Security and Economy: 4 million Syrians will need 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, an estimated 40% decrease from the average annual harvest of more than 4 MT in the 10 years before the conflict, according to WFP and FAO.

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

Health: The health situation is worsening with basic services becoming more inaccessible to growing numbers of people. The Ministry of Health reported that, at the end of April, around 60% of public hospitals were partially damaged or out of service. During an assessment in the seen northern areas of the country in March, health was consistently mentioned as a 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: 22/07/2013

Highlights

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

Political and Security context

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

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 Sana'a and the Aden governorate. The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum announced on 28 June that a referendum for the new Yemeni constitution will be held on 15 October and will be followed by general elections. This is seen as a success following the discussions achieved so far by the National Dialogue Conference.

Tribal clashes were reported on 24 June at the border between Al Shabwa and Marib Governorates involving members from the Balharith and the Al Abu Tuhaif tribes. In total, six people were killed and 10 wounded in fighting 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. Meanwhile in Sana'a, the trend of electricity pipeline sabotages, which resulted in prolonged blackouts, 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 nine 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 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 the Islamist militants was allegedly to set up an Islamist State in the east of Yemen. To date, available information on the offensive remains limited.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: On 5 July, Yemen asked IOM to assist 200,000 Yemeni migrant workers forced to leave Saudi Arabia since April as part of a crackdown on undocumented migrants. Although a Saudi amnesty for undocumented migrants previously scheduled to expire this week was extended until November, it is expected that the Yemeni migrants will have to leave by 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 344,000 people remain internally displaced in the north of the country, including Sana'a, as of early July according to UN sources. Meanwhile, some 162,000 internally displaced people have so far returned to areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate and in neighbouring areas thanks to improved security. Further returns are ongoing, according to UNHCR, however authorities are struggling to meet the needs of the returnees.

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

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

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

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, Yemen's general inflation was 14% while that of food inflation stood at 16.5 %.

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

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

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

Reviewed: 22/07/2013

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Highlights

15 July: The President Thein Sein stated that, for the first time in six decades, a nationwide ceasefire was possible. He promised that all political prisoners would be released by the end of the year. Over the past months, the central authorities made significant progress toward the pacification of the country, managing to sign several ceasefire agreements with various insurgent groups representing ethnic minorities across the country.

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

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 between Muslims and Buddhists. The security forces allegedly managed to restore order the following day. On 28 June, a violent incident in the Kyein Ni Pyin IDP camp in Pauktaw Township in Rakhine State resulted in the killing of 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.

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

Meanwhile, over the past months, the central authorities made significant progress toward the pacification of the country, managing to sign several ceasefire agreements with various insurgents groups representing ethnic minorities across the country. On 15 July, the President Thein Sein even stated that, for the first time in six decades, a nationwide ceasefire was possible and promised that all political prisoners would be released by the end of the year.

On 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: 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).

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

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

In June, UNCR reported that some 28,000 Rohingya Muslims were registered as refugees

in Malaysia. However, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and has surged this year because of the violence.

Some 440 people remained displaced as of 2 June in Lashio, following the inter-communal violence at the end of May, while some 6,800 people remain displaced in June as a result of the clashes in Meikhtila.

Disaster: Despite being moderately affected by the May's tropical storm Mahasen, 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: 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.

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.

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.

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX

Highlights

19 July: An initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations, was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington. Following the announcement, Israel has indicated readiness to release some Palestinian prisoners in an effort to revive the Middle East peace process.

Political and Security Context

On 19 July, an initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington. Following the announcement, Israel has indicated readiness to the release of Palestinian prisoners in an effort to revive the Middle East peace process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

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

Updated: 22/07/2013

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

Highlights

20 July: At least 4 people were killed and 7 others wounded in two separate bomb explosions in the port city of Karachi.

14 July: A new U.S. drone strike killed 2 suspected militants in North Waziristan, northwest of the country, the third such attack since Nawaz Sharif came to power. Seeing these U.S.-led attacks as a breach of Pakistani sovereignty, the new Prime Minister has repeatedly called for an end to U.S. drone strikes against Taliban militants.

14 July: According to official sources, the Pakistan Air Force bombed several alleged militant hideouts and killed at least 17 people in a mountainous tribal area between Orakzai, Khyber and Kurram that is seen as on the Taliban-linked militants' main

Political and Security Context

On 14 July, a new U.S. drone strike killed 2 suspected militants in North Waziristan, northwest of the country, the third such attack since Nawaz Sharif was sworn in on 5 June. On 3 July, a U.S. drone strike had already killed 17 people in Pakistan's Waziristan region. Seeing these U.S.-led attacks as a breach of Pakistani sovereignty, the new Prime Minister has repeatedly called for an end to U.S. drone strikes against Taliban militants, although one such attack killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali Ur-Rehman, in North Waziristan on 29 May.

Since the victory of his party Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) on 11 May, N. Sharif has also repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Taliban even if it is yet unclear if the Pakistani army would welcome such negotiations. 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). 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 20 July, 4 people were killed and 7 others wounded in two separate bomb explosions in the port city of Karachi. On 11 July, 2 people were killed and 5 others wounded in a bomb explosion on the highway between the towns of Kohat and Hangu, a NATO supply route, in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a separate incident in the same area, 2 people were killed and dozens injured in an explosion in front of a mosque. On 10 July, one of Pakistani President's aides was killed in a suspected suicide bombing in the eastern port city of Karachi. On 8 July, 6 people were killed and 11 wounded in an explosion in Doaba, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On 6 July, 5 people were killed and almost 50 injured in a bomb explosion in Lahore in the eastern Punjab province. Over the previous week, at least 51 people were killed in various insurgents' attacks, notably hitting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan regions, and Karachi.

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

Meanwhile, 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: OCHA reported at the end of May that 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 Jalozei in Nowshera District. An estimated 60,000 additional people began to flee their homes in Kurram Agency in mid-May due to the Government's security operations against armed non-state actors. As of 6 June, 51,582 people had been registered in New Durrani camp.

In late June, the thousands of displaced families from Parachamkani area in Kurram Agency have allegedly 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. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in the host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees' stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces.

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.

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

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 the 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: 22/07/2013

BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

Highlights

17 July: A war crimes tribunal sentenced a second top Islamist politician of the JI to death for crimes – genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction – committed during the 1971 war of independence to break away from Pakistan. The conviction coincided with the third day of nationwide protests that started after the conviction of a first JI leader on 15 July. Numerous clashes were reported between the protesters and the police in cities countrywide. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least 9 people were killed during the protests.

Political and Security Context

On 17 July, a war crimes tribunal sentenced a second top Islamist politician of the country's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-I Islami (JI) to death for crimes – genocide,

conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction – committed during the 1971 war of independence to break away from Pakistan. On 15 July, the conviction of another JI leader triggered a nationwide 3 days strike enforced by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh's main opposition political party, and JI, in support of the convicted. Across the country, shops and businesses were closed and main roads were largely deserted of cars in the capital Dhaka.

According to local reports, activists of the JI party threw homemade bombs at the security forces that fired rubber bullets at the crowd. Numerous clashes were reported between the protesters and the police in cities countrywide. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least 9 people were killed during the protests. According to the authorities, five more JI leaders and two from the BNP are on trial. The tribunal is due to deliver verdicts in their cases soon.

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

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

Over the past months, the authorities had also to deal 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 significant destruction, including 49,000 completely destroyed and 45,000 partially destroyed houses, mostly in Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna districts. 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.

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

20 July: A wave of bombings killed 65 and wounded 190 people in twelve car bombs and roadside bombings in Baghdad and in Madain, south of the capital.

17 July: The number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 161,652 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees.

1 July: Tension and violence are currently at the highest levels since the departure of US troops, illustrated by the UNAMI report released on 1 July which shows that 761 people were killed and 1,771 were wounded by violence in June, representing a 60% increase from the same month a year ago.

Political and Security Context

On 17 July the UN envoy to Iraq, Martin Kobler, warned that escalating violence in Iraq can no longer be separated from the war in Syria due to the increased active presence of Iraqi armed groups in Syria. Fighting between Iraqi groups within Syria is also reported to have increased.

Deadly violence is continuing across Iraq with several major attacks in Baghdad and in Diyala province this week. Diyala province is a religiously mixed province and saw fierce sectarian fighting in the years after the US-led invasion in 2003. On 20 July, a wave of bombings killed 65 and wounded 190 people in twelve car bombs in Baghdad and roadside bombings in Madain, south of the capital. Iraq struggles to contain its worst violence since 2008, in which over 520 have been killed so far in July.

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 reportedly at their highest since US troops left the country two years ago. The civil war in neighbouring Syria further contributes to the volatile relations between Sunni, Shi'ite, and Kurdish communities. UNAMI figures, released on 1 July reported 761 people killed by violence in Iraq and 1,771 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 Iraq since the beginning of the year, the number of casualties was lower than those reported for May which so far is the deadliest month recorded in Iraq since June 2008.

Attacks on Shia communities have increased during Ramadan. There has been no claim of responsibility for the latest attacks but many are attributed to groups linked to al-Qaeda, which has traditionally escalated attacks during the holy month. 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 inter-sectarian strife was at its height in 2006-07, Anbar was reportedly a stronghold of al-Qaeda's Iraqi wing which has reportedly regained strength in recent months.

On 20 June, 2.8 million voters in Anbar and Nineveh, in Iraq's west and north respectively, voted for 69 provincial council seats. Voting was carried out under heavy security measures including a 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 Iraq. Officials cited security concerns to explain the postponement of the Anbar and Nineveh polls, though critics saw the delay by Shi'ite-led authorities as politically motivated. Nine candidates were in the run-up to the vote in Mosul city and Nineveh province according to the UN. Localized attacks were reported during voting, though the elections were relatively calm.

On 20 April, Iraq held its first provincial elections since the departure of US 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 three provinces that comprise 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. However on 30 June, the Kurdish Regional Government delayed presidential elections to 2015, extending the term of Kurdish leader Barzani. Kurdish opposition denounced the extension as illegal. 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 over two years. The trip may be seen as another attempt by both sides to promote dialogue and not let tensions build further. According to local reports, 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 pressure on Iraq's Shi'ite leadership which is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on 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. The withdrawal began on 14 May, but the Turkish government has stated that to date only 15% of PKK fighters have left Turkey. The arrival of former PKK insurgents may be further straining the already tense relations between the authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan and Baghdad. Both sides have reported disappointment with the slow pace of the process. On July 4, 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 the March ceasefire.

In Iraq, Kurdish militants warned that the fragile peace process is endangered by increased military activity in the area, a lack of co-operation from Baghdad, and the continued detention of Kurdish politicians. Increased military surveillance and the construction of new

army posts in the mainly Kurdish southeast are seen as undermining the rebels' withdrawal from Turkey to Iraq.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 17 July, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 161,652 with Kurdistan hosting over 90% of the refugees. UNHCR notes that daily arrivals to Iraq average 700-750 people. The total number of refugees is expected to double by the end of this year despite informal border crossings in the Kurdish region being closed a month ago.

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

OCHA and NRC have reported that Iraq's appeal for financial support to host the Syrian refugees has been heavily underfunded. Only 14% of the money required for the humanitarian response in Iraq this year has materialized as of July.

Many Iraqis residing in Syria have also returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, UNHCR has cited 68,122 returnees since mid-July 2012. However, updated information is lacking. Baghdad receives the largest number of returnees.

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

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. The security situation in Anbar province remains unstable with underlying internal conflict, risk of terrorism and spillover of the Syrian crisis. Access to Al Qa'im refugee camp remains difficult though missions can now be carried out by helicopter.

Health: 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 has been reported amongst new camp arrivals.

Updated: 22/07/2013

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

18 July: Some 501,057 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis according to UNHCR.

Political and Security Context

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

In addition, Jordan's army said it had foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of arms from Syria into Jordan.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

As of 18 July, some 501,057 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. The Government of Jordan estimated that 600,000 Syrian refugees were currently hosted in Jordan as of 4 July. Recent reports warn of signs of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, in particular in communities that host large numbers of displaced Syrians. Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp has become the equivalent of an entirely new city that would be the country's fifth largest with over 120,000 residents.

In April, UNHCR reported that Syrians were opting to return home for a number of reasons, including improved security in border villages and to protect their property. Some were also returning to reunite with family members or reunite with left-behind relatives and bring them to Jordan. Nearly 9,000 refugees in Jordan left for Syria in June, bringing the number of returnees to more than 68,000 in the past two years. In the past week, the numbers of Syrians going home has dropped to zero due to Syrian troops engaged in heavy shelling around border towns.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As a result of the refugee influx, Jordan's economy, water and energy resources remain strained. The prices of commodities are higher in Jordan than in Syria and the purchasing power of refugees to cover basic needs keeps decreasing.

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

schemes.

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

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

Health: New cases of waterborne and water-related diseases are appearing in the Za'atri camp on a weekly basis, including diarrhoea, scabies, leptospira, rotavirus and hepatitis A. Other communicable diseases related to hygiene conditions have also been reported, including acute jaundice syndrome, chicken pox, lice and measles. While these diseases are often seasonal or endemic in the region to begin with, and are normal for the camp's population size, there have been alerts issued for measles - one case of which constitutes an outbreak - and higher-than-usual levels of jaundice, scabies and lice.

Updated: 22/07/2013

KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Reviewed: 22/07/2013

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

Highlights

18 July: Close to 626,000 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR in Lebanon or are awaiting registration since the beginning of the conflict.

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

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 inter-sectarian strife reported in Tripoli, fears are arising that the Syrian conflict may eventually turn into a regional opposition between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

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

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

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

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, inter-communal have been a long existing problem since the Lebanese civil war.

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: As of 18 July, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached almost 626,000 people, an increase of 20,000 people compared to last week. UNHCR reports that more refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no camps in the country, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Vulnerable Syrian families have begun to settle in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, the green spaces between major roads, etc.). Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in makeshift camps, half-finished buildings and cramped apartment blocks, often in unhygienic conditions and with little access to food, water and medical care.

The Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Wael Abou Faour stated that 2.2 million Syrians currently reside in Lebanon including both registered and unregistered refugees as well as long-standing workers in Lebanon. The population of Lebanon has grown by 25% in less

than two years; 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 Lebanon. Within the plan, the Lebanese Government requested an additional 500 million dollars to provide aid to Syrian refugees and host communities.

Updated: 22/07/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

Highlights

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

Political and Security Context

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

In June, the Philippine Government had announced its plan to resume talks with the Muslim rebels of the MILF 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: 22/07/2013

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

Highlights

22 July: North and South Korean officials began a fifth round of talks on reopening a joint industrial complex, after previous meetings failed to agree on a framework for resuming operations.

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

On 16 June, the 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 the following week.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: 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: 22/07/2013

INDIA **FLOODS**

Highlights

20 July: Protesters and government troops clashed in Indian-administered Kashmir, northwest of the country, for the second straight day, notably in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least 57 people were

injured during the protests. The unrest initially started in response to the fatal shootings by government troops of 4 people who were among the crowd protesting the alleged desecration of the Quran by border guards of the Border Security Force (BSF) in a remote village in the region on 18 July.

19 July: Christian Aid reported its concerns regarding the possibility that acute hunger will hit communities devastated by floods in Uttarakhand that have also destroyed food supplies and livelihoods. While rains are ongoing in the area, some 1335 remote mountain communities remain cut-off, with many roads still inaccessible and relief organisations struggling to reach those in need.

15 July: As the huge rescue operations gradually wended down, there is however no final death toll for what has been dubbed the "Himalayan tsunami" by officials and media. Some 580 people are now confirmed dead. However, according to the authorities and following weeks in which the numbers of missing varied significantly in local media, some 5,748 are now considered missing based on tallies of missing persons from around the country.

Political and Security Context

On 20 July, protesters and government troops clashed in Indian-administered Kashmir, northwest of the country, for the second straight day, notably in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar. According to the authorities, defying the imposed curfew, protesters went into the streets throwing rocks at the security forces. Police and paramilitary forces used batons, tear gas and fired warning shots of live ammunition to control the crowds. Although information on casualties remains limited, more than 100 people were injured during the protests. On 21 July, curfew was lifted by the authorities in Kashmir Valley.

The unrest initially started in response to the fatal shootings by government troops of 4 people who were among the crowd protesting the alleged desecration of the Quran by border guards of the Border Security Force (BSF) in a remote village in the region on 18 July.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, both of which claim all of the territory. The two neighbors have fought two of their three wars over the region and India accuses Pakistan of supporting separatist rebels fighting its rule in its part of Kashmir since 1989. Over the past two decades, the insurgency has however been largely curbed by Indian troops.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

While India is still struggling to recover from the deadly floods in Uttarakhand state in mid-June, renewed heavy rainfall hit various parts of the country, including Uttarakhand, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh states, in late June and July. On 19 July, the Uttarakhand Disaster Management Centre announced that more heavy rains are expected to hit the state in the coming days.

Disaster: As the huge rescue operations gradually wound down, the death toll for what has been dubbed the "Himalayan tsunami" is still unknown. As of 15 July, 580 people were

confirmed dead. However, according to the authorities and following weeks in which the numbers of missing varied significantly in local media, some 5,748 are now considered missing based on tallies of missing persons from around the country. Earlier, in an official statement, the Uttarakhand state's chief minister had indicated that those who have not been found by 15 July would be declared dead, entitling their families to compensation. As remote locations that have been cut off by the floods become accessible again, it is likely that the death toll may further increase.

As reported by local media on 11 July, rains continued to lash parts of Uttar Pradesh state, where swollen rivers have flooded 600 villages in 12 districts, killing 5 people over the past week. Flood and rains have so far claimed 124 lives in the state since June 15. Ongoing heavy rains were also reported in the neighbouring Himachal Pradesh state with little information on the number of affected available to date.

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, over 60,000 people were affected as of 8 July while new heavy rainfall hit the state later during the week. As of 8 July, the situation had allegedly improved in the area according to local sources.

In June, the monsoon that came 20 days in advance this year hit the state of Uttarakhand, notably the five districts of Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Chamoli, Tehri and Pithoragarh, in northern India. This resulted in increasing water levels and flow of two main rivers, the Alaknanda and the Bhagirathi, leading to floods that were the heaviest and deadliest in 80 years of history. 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 breakdown 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 that hit the state in July are severely affecting reconstruction and rehabilitation work.

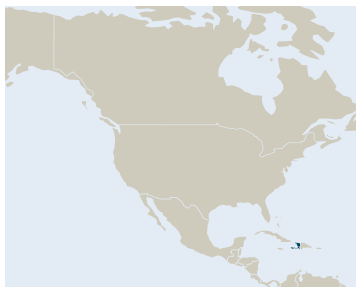
Overall in Uttarakhand State, the floods have affected approximately 500,000 people across 13 districts and over 100,000 have been displaced from their homes and around 10,000 people have been injured. Reports by other organisations indicated that more than 150,000 people, almost half of them children, 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.

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.

Food Security: On 19 July, Christian Aid reported its concerns regarding the possibility that acute hunger will hit communities devastated by floods in Uttarakhand that have also destroyed food supplies and livelihoods. While rains are ongoing in the area, some 1335 remote mountain communities remain cut-off, with many roads still inaccessible and relief

organisations struggling to reach those in need.

Updated: 22/07/2013



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Highlights

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: In early June, OCHA reported that 1.5 million people in Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis. A further 6.7 million people are struggling to meet their own food needs on a regular basis according to WFP. A total of 44 out of 140 municipalities have been 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, Haiti 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). FEWSNET reported 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. In addition, the planting of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and the first half of February. Poor seed availability due to increasing prices, which are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average, is also threatening this year's crop yields.

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

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

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

Reviewed: 22/07/2013



OCEANIA

MARSHALL ISLANDS DROUGHT

Highlights

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

5 July: The Republic of the Marshalls Islands is still affected by the effects of 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.

Reviewed: 22/07/2013



SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA FLOODS

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 27/06/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

On 19 June, the Government of Bolivia issued a National Emergency Decree due to drought affecting the four Departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, El Chaco, notably Santa Cruz, and southern Cochabamba. 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 have been lost. Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle with 29,357 dead.

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

After declining in the last few months, the price of wheat flour, which is mostly imported,

rose sharply in the first half of June, increasing by 19% and 36% in the major cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz respectively, and remaining significantly higher than a year ago.

According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the March torrential rains in the south of the country, but the Ministry has discounted the possibility of food security risks.

However, according to a WFP report, at least 25,000 people were in need of 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: 22/07/2013

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.