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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

CROSS BORDER & REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

2nd allocation in 2007 from the Central Emergency Response Fund for under funded emergencies.

On the 1st August, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Homes, announced an allocation of \$ 40 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for life saving interventions in 16 countries. The grant is the second of two annual allocations for under funded emergencies. Of the \$ 40 million total, \$23 million has been designated for emergencies in the East and Central Africa Region.

<i>CERF grants to CEA region from the 2nd under funded emergencies allocation in 2007</i>	
Country	Amount \$
DRC	11 million
Kenya	3 million
Ethiopia	3 million
CAR	2.3 million
RoC	1.1 million
Eritrea	1 million
Chad	1 million
Total CEA region	22.4 million

Peace keepers to be deployed in Chad and Central Africa Republic (CAR)

The life of about 236,000 Darfur refugees and 173,000 internally displaced persons in Chad, plus around 10,000 refugees and 212,000 displaced in CAR may change for the better if the proposed EU peace keeping force is deployed as planned.

On 13 August, the UN Secretary-General (SG) recommended to the Security Council a multinational presence in Chad and CAR consisting of troops under EU command, providing security together with a multidimensional UN operation comprising police officers and a civilian component working with local police and gendarmes in eastern Chad and north eastern CAR. No deployment in border areas is foreseen. The SG also recommended a mandate including protection of civilians, protection of UN personnel, deterrence of armed conflict and movement through its presence, and the facilitation of humanitarian assistance. The EU force would operate for an initial 12 months and possible transition to a UN military component would be assessed after six months.

On 27 August, the UN Security Council adopted a presidential statement expressing readiness to authorise the deployments taking into account the positions of Chad and the CAR. The deployment has yet to be confirmed by EU Foreign Ministers, who are scheduled to meet in September. It is expected that France will provide most of the troops but the details of deployment are to be agreed between the EU, the UN and Chad including on the issue of a future transition from EU forces to a UN military component. According the SG's recommendations to the Security

In this issue

- Cross border and regional highlights p.1,3
- **Map: Floods in the CEA Region p. 2**
- **Focus: The Environmental face of the Darfur Crisis p.3**
- **Country Coverage p. 4 & 5**

Council as reported on the Security Council Report website (www.securitycouncilreport.org), three hundred UN police officers would screen, train, mentor, support and monitor about 850 Chadian gendarmes and police responsible for security in camps and associated areas, which would remain under the overall authority of the Chadian government.

There would be air mobility capacity for the police component, plus the possible deployment of UN formed police units to work with Chadian police and gendarmes. The multidimensional civilian component would play a major oversight role including in coordination, monitoring and human rights dimensions. It is also hoped that there will be coordination between the proposed EU presence, the UN mission in Darfur and regional monitors deployed along the Chad-Sudan border.

Earth tremors in Tanzania and Kenya

The earthquake tremors from the Lake Natron region continued to be experienced in parts of Northern Tanzania and Nairobi. The last recorded by the US Geological Survey, was a magnitude 5.2 shock on 20 August. Seismologists from the University of Dar es Salaam, with support from the French Government, have deployed 26 ground sensors to monitor the ongoing shocks.

The epicentre of the earthquakes has been located, not in the area of Oldonyo Lengai as earlier believed, but at Oldonyo Gelai, some 50 kilometres east of Lengai. The physical effects of the earthquake are a 1 to 1.5 metre wide surface rupture attributed to movement of the upper crust of the earth or tectonic activity. Seismologists briefing UN staff members of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha stated that earthquakes in the eastern arm of the East Africa Rift Valley have a 100 year return period for each basin. Therefore the earthquake and subsequent tremors occurring from Oldonyo Gelai are not likely to return in this locality for another 100 years.

However there could be other earthquakes from neighbouring basins also with their own 100 year return periods. The University of Dar es Salaam has embarked on a multi year project to map the earthquake hazards and plot the population densities to arrive at a country wide risk map. It is anticipated that earthquake oriented building codes could be drawn up from this exercise.

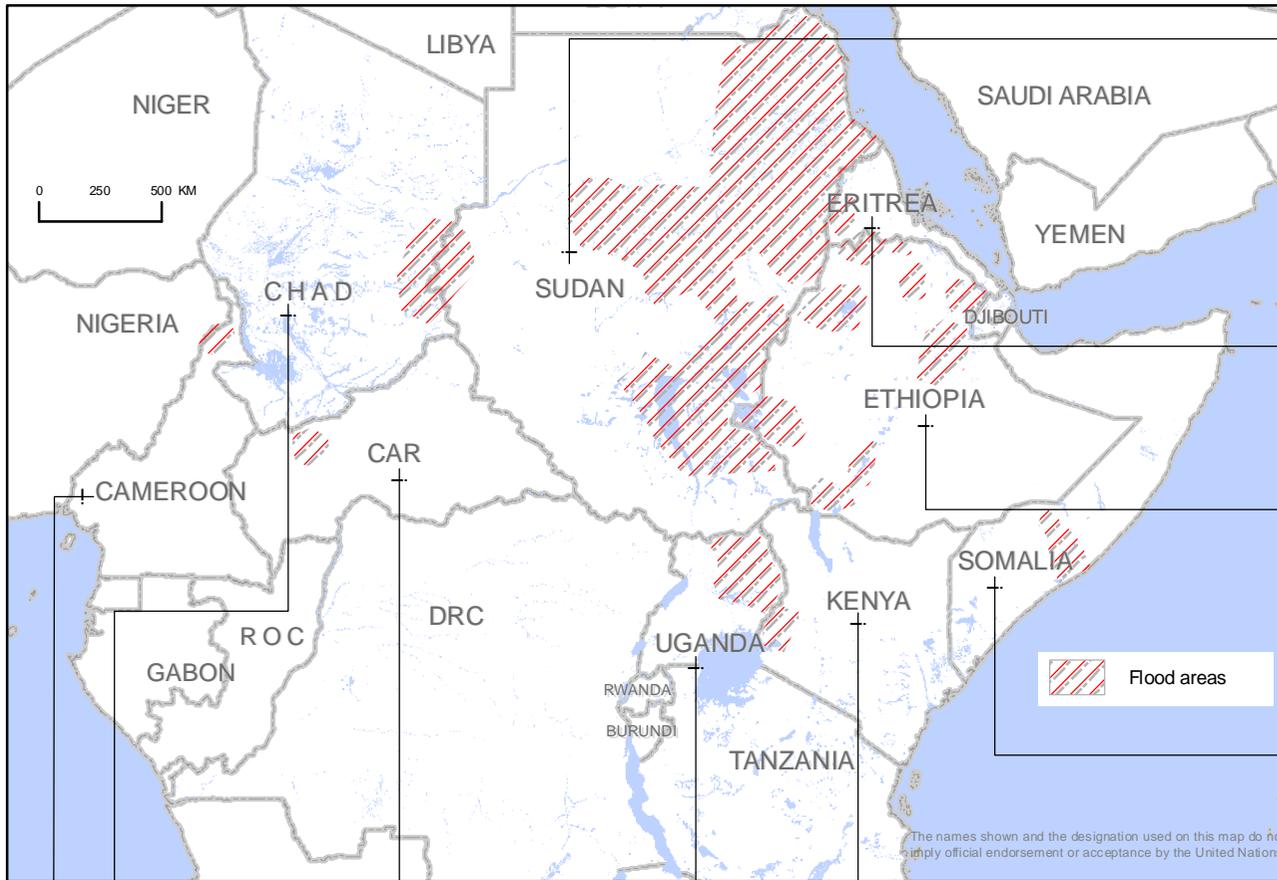


United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Floods in Central and East Africa

July through August 2007

Floods in Central and East Africa persist and have been wide spread in July and August 2007. Monitoring, assessment and response varies from country to country due to conflict, remote location and damage to infrastructure as a result of heavy rains. Some flooding is within the normal range of rains for the season, however some situations, such as in Sudan and Uganda have reached a critical stage. Exact figures for the affected population are difficult to provide as some areas have been rendered inaccessible. This summary is for overview of the situation, see County Office updates for details.



Sudan
 The states worst affected include the Blue Nile, Gedaref, Gezira, Jonglei, Kassala, Khartoum, North Kordofan, Red Sea, Unity, Upper Nile, and White Nile. Over 410,000 people have been directly affected, at least 200,000 of whom were rendered homeless. Floods have indirectly damaged livelihoods, including loss of atleast 12,000 livestock, and over 42,000 Ha of crops.

Floods are expected to continue into September. Rainfall may also continue to compound the impacts of civil insecurity and severely limit humanitarian access in Darfur and eastern Chad. Atleast 3.5 million people could be at risk of epidemics, such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

The Government of Sudan and UN and Partners have launched a flash appeal for \$ 20.2m (28 Aug) to provide assistance to those affected of which \$13.5m has been secured through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Pooled Funds. (UN and Partners, Flash Appeal, 28 Aug)

Eritrea
 Flash floods have affected Tesseney and Gash Barka region damaging infrastructure. An estimated 20,000 people do not have access to safe water.

The government and UNICEF responded with emergency supplies and repairs.(OCHA Eritrea, June/July 2007)

Ethiopia
 Increased dam and river water levels continue to pose flood risk with an estimated 103,000 affected and 20,000 displaced in Afar, Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR and Gambella regions. Floods have exacerbated the spread of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) in Amhara Region. Lake Tana water levels continue to rise and may lead to more displacement and flooding.

Emergency coordination taskforces have been put in place, early warning messages have been communicated and a contingency plan is being finalized. At risk communities and livestock have been evacuated to higher grounds. Government led joint verification assessment missions are being conducted in Amhara, SNNP and Afar regions. (OCHA Ethiopia, 29 Aug)

Somalia
 Localised flooding caused by a breach of the Shabelle river banks has affected 1,300 hectares of farmland in Middle Shabelle region. Rains persist in the Ethiopian highlands that flow into the Shabelle and Juba Rivers. (FAO/SWALIM, 31 Aug; Somalia Flood Working Group, 30 Aug)

Kenya
 Heavy rains in Western Province have flooded lowland areas and contributed to landslides affecting some 21,000 people. The flood situation is generally under control, although rains are expected to continue into mid September. Malaria and water borne diseases are of immediate concern, although no outbreaks have been reported.

The Government has responded to floods with contributions from Kenya Red Cross, MSF France and Spain, World Vision. (OCHA Kenya, 22 Aug)

Uganda
 Rains across eastern and central districts of Uganda have been the heaviest in 35 years. Initial reports indicate that at least 50,000 households have been affected by loss of first season crops and/or damage to homes, schools and other infrastructure and water and sanitation facilities. Flood damage to roads and bridges has hampered access to some districts, leaving some of the most severely-affected areas completely cut off.

Initial assessments are being followed up by teams working to provide initial response in the affected areas (OCHA Uganda, Aug 31).

Chad
 Floods have led to an unconfirmed number of deaths, displacement and some damage to land. A MSF assessment and humanitarian assistance have been hampered by poor road and air access. Floods at the Sudan/Chadian border have been reported and water levels are increasing on the Chadian side threatening the Habile IDP site (30,000).

The Government pledged \$ 623,000 to cover initial shelter, food and medicine and has appealed to the international community for assistance. (IRIN, Aug 27, OCHA Chad, Aug 14)

Central African Republic
 Bossangoa town, northwestern CAR experienced heavy rains and floods during August. 120 houses have been completely destroyed and 92 families have been displaced. The Red Cross and UNICEF are responding to the needs of the displaced populations.(UNICEF Update Aug)

Cameroon
 Rains in Mokolo, north Cameroon, started earlier than usual and with an unprecedented intensity seriously affecting 1,440 persons. The Floods have made 1,220 people homeless and destroyed 150 houses and 225 granaries.

The IFRC requested \$28,836 to respond to the needs and to replenish stocks. The Government has donated \$ 65,318 to the response. (IFRC, 31 Aug)

DRC-Uganda refugee influx

On Tuesday 21 August some 10,000 displaced Congolese crossed the border from Rutshuru area in eastern DRC's north Kivu province into the Ugandan district of Kisoro in southwestern Uganda. While the majority numbering approximately 8,500 persons had returned home two days later on 23 August, approximately 1,500 Congolese remain in Uganda, the majority of them being women and children. Approximately 200 of the Congolese moved to the UNHCR concentration point at Nyakabanda, some 15 km from the border. The population is being provided with shelter, food and non-food items, water and sanitation and health assistance.

UN envoy visit to the region

In his ongoing task of addressing the regional ramifications of the 21-year Ugandan conflict, particularly its impact on neighbours such as Sudan and the DRC, as well as its root causes, United Nations Envoy for conflict affected areas of northern Uganda, Joaquim Chissano met with regional officials in late August. As part of his ongoing efforts to broker a durable peace agreement between the Government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the UN envoy met with the Central African Republic (CAR) President François Bozizé who was visiting Uganda and briefed him on his activities. Mr. Chissano then proceeded to the southern Sudanese town of Juba, the site of previous talks between the LRA and the Ugandan Government, for further consultations on the peace negotiations.

As part of his current mission to the region, the Special Envoy also visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Juba peace talks resumed on 26 April 2007, after UN Special Envoy Chissano and his team brokered a deal that ended the LRA's three-month withdrawal from the peace talks. The parties then reached basic agreements on comprehensive solutions and reconciliation and accountability. However neither agreement has been implemented or even fully concluded.

FOCUS

The Environmental face of the Darfur Crisis

Research findings by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) released on 22 June 2007 indicate that among the root causes of decades of social strife and conflict in Sudan are the rapidly eroding environmental services in several key parts of the country.

Researchers in Darfur found that extensive deforestation could be found as far as 10km from an IDP camp and in some the situation was being aggravated by brick-making. According to the UNEP report, "one large tree is needed to provide the fire to make around 3,000 bricks. In addition, the clay needed for brick-making can damage trees by exposing roots, and also create pits in which water collects and mosquitoes can thrive. It is possible that some camps in Darfur will run out of viable fuel wood supplies within walking distance, resulting in major fuel shortages."



Girl collecting firewood in Darfur

Photo: Refugees International

The link between humanitarian crises and the environment has been a subject of discussion and analysis in the recent past. For instance, the UK-based Overseas Development Institute (ODI) asserts that "competition for resources has been one of the main issues in the conflict, but undue emphasis on it, at the expense of other causes, is an attempt to simplify the crisis. The complexity of the

different factors driving Darfur's conflict need to be borne in mind in efforts towards its resolution and, therefore, oversimplification should be avoided." According to the July 16 issue of the *Scientific American*, the Darfur crisis which is almost always discussed in political and military terms has roots in an ecological crisis directly arising from climate shocks. Indeed, in an opinion piece for *The Washington Post* (June 16, 2007), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon wrote, "Amid the diverse social and political causes, the Darfur conflict began as an ecological crisis, arising at least in part from climate change."

A report on how climate change posed a threat to global security produced earlier this year for the US-based think-tank, *CNA Corporation* in Alexandria Virginia, by a group of former U.S. military officials, states that Darfur provides a case study of how existing marginal situations can be exacerbated beyond the tipping point by climate-related factors. It also shows how lack of essential resources threatens not only individuals and their communities but also the region and the international community at large.

In Darfur, the few pockets of good land have been the focus of intermittent conflict for decades between nomads and settled farmers. Unfortunately that competition will continue to intensify as the Sahara continues to advance steadily southwards covering soil with sand. One of the recommendations of the UNEP report is the integration of environmental factors in all UN relief and development projects. Among the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have taken an environmental angle to relief is Tearfund, which, with the support of DFID, has undertaken projects to examine the impact of both conflict and relief on the environment in Darfur.

The environmental initiatives are also meant to:

- address the unsustainable fuel wood harvesting practices that contribute to severe denudation of arid land,
- inhibit natural regeneration of vegetation,
- accelerate soil erosion and
- exacerbate overall land degradation.

Innovative environmental initiatives including fuel efficient stoves provided by NGOs like CHF International have reduced the number of times women have to venture outside the camps to collect fuel wood which exposes them and children to incidents of abuse and rape.

<http://www.chfinternational.org/section/darfurstoves>.

COUNTRY UPDATES

DRC

Resumption of armed combat in the District of Masisi (60 km northwest of Goma) in north Kivu between pro-Government and pro-Nkunda elements of the 'mixed' brigades (a less comprehensive army integration process) due to resistance by the pro-Nkunda units to undergo 'brassage' (comprehensive and defined troop integration process), has triggered the displacement of more than 10,000 civilians since 27 August. As both sides try to consolidate their positions through troop reinforcements and relocations within Masisi and Rutshuru territories, clashes continue and are currently concentrated primarily around Sake town 20 km north-west of Goma.

According to OCHA DRC, the lack of access by humanitarian workers has limited an exact assessment of the situation outside Goma thereby hampering the deliverance of assistance. Access is more restricted in the north or west of Sake. Most of the population from Sake and Ufumandu (Masisi territory) has moved east towards Mugunga, and south along the Kivu Lake shore and Minova in South Kivu. Humanitarian organisations have full access to displaced families currently in Mugunga and Bulengo areas, about 15 km west of Goma, where relief aid is underway.

UN agencies and NGOs are delivering relief assistance consisting of food aid, non-food items, water and sanitation, and basic health and nutritional care to the most vulnerable people who arrive in Mugunga and Bulengo. UNICEF/Solidarités, WFP/Caritas, UNHCR/Norwegian Rescue Committee, WHO/International Medical Corp, Save the Children and World Vision are present in the field. Violent clashes in the eastern North Kivu province since December 2006 has led to the displacement of more than 224,000 people. According to OCHA DRC, cases of sexual violence are also on the increase. In the first six months of this year, 4,500 cases have been reported in south Kivu alone.

Uganda

Uganda's Food Security Outlook for July to December 2007 indicates that food security in northern and north-

eastern Uganda is improving due to gradual increases in food production in the north and early harvests in Karamoja. However, about 2.1 million people remain food insecure in these areas. In the rest of the country, food security is generally good following the first-season harvests in June. (www.fews.net/uganda)

Chad

An agreement between the Chadian government and political opposition was signed on 13 August providing for power-sharing and wide reforms in the Chadian electoral system to be followed by parliamentary elections in two years and not later this year as had initially been scheduled. Concern about inclusiveness in the political reconciliation process continues as the agreement does not include rebel groups. As the humanitarian situation in Chad is linked to political disagreements, the continued lack of a political solution to the conflict spells uncertainty for the refugees, the displaced and host populations who are affected.

CAR

In August, the numbers of IDPs in CAR remained stable at around 30,000 in the northeast and 180,000 in the northwest of the country while the refugee figure was over 8,500. The situation along the border with Cameroon, where some 26,000 refugees are located remained unpredictable due to insecurity on the CAR side of the border. Fears of resumption of hostilities between the government and the rebel *Front démocratique pour le peuple centrafricain* (FDPC) were heightened when FDPC leader Abdoulaye Miskine in early August refused the post of presidential advisor, citing lack of progress in the implementation of the peace agreement signed in February.

Ethiopia

A volcanic eruption on 12 August in the Danakil Depression of Ethiopia's Afar region left five people dead and led to the displacement of more than 2,000 people. In addition the eruption, which opened a 10km long crack in the ground, is reported to have killed 1,370 camels and goats. The State Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency provided assistance to

the affected people. Mount Erta Ale, Ethiopia's only active volcano, last erupted in 2005 displacing thousands of nomadic herders inhabiting the area. According to a 1996 National Census, the region's population was estimated to be 1,106,383, with an estimated density of 14.36 people per square kilometer¹. The estimated total area is 96,707 square kilometers.

Ogaden Region

International aid access to the remote and arid region bordering Somalia, where government troops are cracking down on the rebel Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), continues to be limited due to insecurity and the suspension of humanitarian operations by some organisations. These organisations include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who was asked to leave the Somali region in early August, bringing its humanitarian programmes to a halt. The ICRC has been present in the Somali Regional State for over 12 years.

In addition, in late August the government of Ethiopia denied MSF access to the five zones of the Somali region under military operation, often referred to as the Ogaden region. The organisation is therefore unable to respond to the escalating health and nutritional needs and overall deteriorating humanitarian conditions. Clashes between the Ethiopian forces and the ONLF began following an ONLF attack on a Chinese oil project in April that left 77 people dead, including several Chinese workers. A Humanitarian assessment mission to some of the zones affected by the insurgency and current military operations in the Ogaden area of the Somali Region is being planned for the first week of September. The objective of the mission is to obtain a better understanding of the current overall humanitarian situation in the region.

Kenya

Heavy rains in Western Province in mid August had a devastating effect in the adjacent lowland areas of Kakamega, Busia and Trans Nzoia districts causing flooding and landslides. On the 11th August a landslide

in Khusavili village killed eight people and displaced 49 families. The Kenya Red Cross provided assistance to affected families along with the district authorities. On the 15th August the Nzoia River broke its banks leading to substantial flooding in lowland areas of Busia, particularly Budalangi.

The flooding led to 5 deaths and the displacement of 18,000 people as well as leaving 9 sub-locations inaccessible except by helicopter and canoe. In addition considerable damage to infrastructure including roads, bridges schools and health centres has been Disaster Operations Centre led the response with implementation by the Red Cross, MSF-France, MSF-Spain and World Vision International. In Nzoia district flooding led to the displacement of over 2,600 people after the Sabwani River burst its banks on 18th August.

Kenya usually experiences a bi-modal rainfall pattern with long rains between March and May and short rains in October and November. In recent years, these patterns have been disrupted considerably with delayed rains, prolonged rains and erratic spatial distributions. Although these areas in western Kenya have a history of seasonal flooding, this is the third incidence of flooding in 2007 and the unusual rainfall patterns have had a devastating effect. The resulting impact on farming in an area that contributes significantly to the country's food resources may also have serious consequences for national food security.

Eritrea

The 2007 *azmera* rains (March-May) are reported ² to have been poor and unevenly distributed. These rains are essential for planting long cycle crops such as maize, finger millet, taff and sorghum as well as for fodder and surface water for livestock. However the Kremti season (June-September) commenced well and maintained above average rain levels. Government officials are optimistic that if good levels are maintained to the end of September, the subsequent harvest should reach bumper level.

Somalia

The findings of the Food Security Analysis Unit (FAO/FSAU) and Part-

ners, 2007 Post *Gu* Assessment indicates that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased by 50% from 1 million to 1.5 million. Of this number 295,000 are classified, under FSAU's Integrated Phase Classification system, as being in a state of Humanitarian Emergency and in need of life saving assistance and 490,000 are classified as being in Acute Food Security and Livelihood crisis (AFLC) requiring livelihood support. In addition there are 325,000 people who have been displaced from Mogadishu since February requiring both life saving interventions and livelihood support.

The assessment notes the rapidly worsening food security and nutrition situation in the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions which have been affected by multiple shocks - including generalised insecurity, a high concentration of displaced populations from Mogadishu, below normal rainfall, and a deterioration in health conditions following an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD). Populations in these areas are experiencing alarming levels of acute and severe malnutrition. It is estimated that 600,000 people in Lower and Middle Shabelle and in Mogadishu require urgent humanitarian assistance or livelihood support. In addition the assessment has identified a continuation in the food security situation among riverine and agropastoralists in Hiran region. However improvements have been noted in parts of Middle and Lower Juba and in Gedo as communities continue to recover from the effects of the 2005/6 drought and the Deyr floods in late 2006 and early 2007.

¹According to a 1996 Census by the Central Statistical

²OCHA Eritrea: Humanitarian Update

Disclaimer: The information in this document is consolidated from reports and field information from a variety of sources including OCHA field staff, United Nations agencies, humanitarian partners, NGOs, news agencies, and others. The articles provided are subject to availability of data and do not claim to be either exhaustive or fully verified.

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