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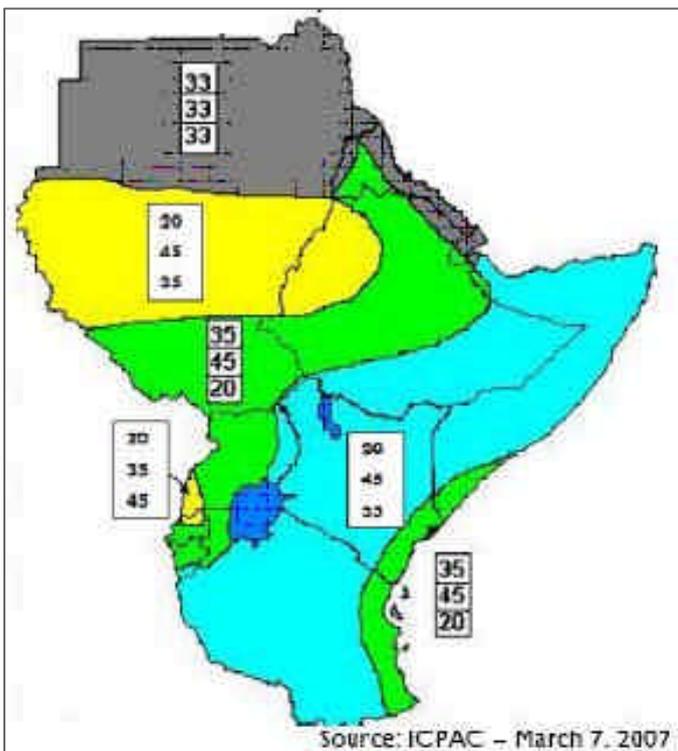
CROSS BORDER & REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Long Rains in the Horn

As forecasted in March by the IGAD Prediction and applications Centre (ICPAC), the heavy rains expected in many parts of the Horn of Africa are ongoing. According to Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), the water levels of rivers in Somalia are within the normal range expected at this time of the year. However, fears remain over the possibility of flooding in the Shabelle and Juba riverine areas as a result of increased rainfall in Ethiopian highlands.

Rehabilitation of priority infrastructure, such as the Duduble Canal, intended to avert flooding through diversion of flood water, remains critical as a means of ensuring resilience and recovery for the communities. Existing safe havens from flood prone areas in Jowhar have been affected by the increased number of IDPs as the result of conflict in Mogadishu. According to UNHCR, an estimated 365,000 people have been displaced from Mogadishu between 1 February and 27 April, including 147,000 in Lower and Middle Shabelle who are consequently at risk from floods, poor access and epidemics.

GHA - Consensus Seasonal Rainfall Forecast
March to May 2007



Green: increased likelihood of normal to wetter than normal rainfall performance

Blue: increased likelihood of normal to drier than normal rainfall performance

In this issue

- Cross border and regional highlights p. 1,2&3
- Focus: Civil-Military Relations p. 3 & 4
- Country Coverage p. 5 & 6

According to OCHA Somalia, agencies have stepped up preparedness levels and the Flood Working Group (FWG) has focussed on addressing hydro meteorological issues, early warning, contingency planning and flood situation reports, while the Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) is focussing on operational issues.

In Ethiopia, normal and above normal rainfall continued to fall in Belg areas of the south-western Ethiopian highlands. On 12 April, following heavy rainfall, the city of Dire Dawa experienced flash flooding. There were no reports of casualties as early warning messages allowed people to move to higher ground. In addition, substantial amounts of rainfall were recorded in the month of April, especially in Gedo region of Ethiopia, whose waters flow downstream into River Shabelle.

According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, the long rains season is at its 'peak' in key agricultural areas situated in western and south western Kenya, with most areas already experiencing slightly enhanced rainfall. Most affected so far are nine villages in Busia district that were recently flooded after the River Nzoia burst its banks; and areas in Baringo district where floods led to destruction of infrastructure and hindered the delivery of government relief aid. The Kenya Red Cross has warned that the heavy floods could lead to an outbreak of water-borne diseases. Measures to avert possible disease outbreaks are underway. The Kenya Red Cross has recorded the displacement of approximately 2,469 people (410 families) following flooding in Budalangi in Western Kenya and is currently distributing non food items (NFIs). The National Irrigation Board is undertaking activities to redirect water into Lake Victoria.

Mt. Elgon Clashes affect Uganda

Clashes in the Mt. Elgon area (north western Kenya) since December 2006 have resulted in 158 deaths, over 120 seriously injured and the displacement of an estimated 66,816 people. With the escalation of the clashes, the current number of IDPs is expected to increase further. The clashes have taken a regional dimension with displacement reported across the border into Uganda. OCHA Uganda led inter-agency rapid assessment mission to Manafwa district at the border with Kenya on 16-17 April to assess the humanitarian situation in areas hosting the Kenyan population and to prioritize response activities. Preliminary reports following field visits to three of the four affected sub-counties - Bomoni, Bupoto and Bumbo - revealed an estimated 5,000 people have fled into Uganda as a result of the inter-communal clashes.

The overall food security situation remains precarious and

health facilities across the Kenyan-Ugandan border are either limited or strained beyond their capacity. The onset of the rains could further exacerbate the already poor living conditions in the host areas and contribute to the outbreak of diseases such as pneumonia and Malaria. Water and sanitation facilities are exposed to contamination.

The host population has little capacity to cater for further influxes. The majority of the displaced do not foresee their return to Kenya until after the December 2007 elections. They have also indicated their unwillingness to be formally registered by the authorities or as refugees as they are reluctant to move further away from their places of origin and property across the border. Comprehensive humanitarian response to the current situation therefore remains critical on both sides of the border.

Humanitarian Profile in Darfur-Chad-Central Africa Republic

The ongoing insecurity in Darfur, Chad and CAR is responsible for the death, injury and displacement of millions of civilians. Today, over 378,000 refugees are scattered through Darfur, Chad and CAR while about 2.5 million people remain internally displaced in the region. Almost 3 million people have, in one way or another, been affected by the conflict which started in Darfur in 2003 and later spread to Chad and CAR. The table below summarises the humanitarian situation of the people that have been caught in this conflict.

in all the sectors - coordination, education, food security, health, protection, human rights and Rule of Law, shelter and NFIs, water and sanitation. This is partly due to funding gaps and little presence of humanitarian actors.

On 4 April, Under-Secretary-General John Holmes briefed the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the Darfur-Chad-CAR region. Underlining the need to improve security and humanitarian access, Holmes suggested that, given Chad's reluctance, alternative options would include deploying a UN mission solely in the CAR for the time being, or strengthening of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)'s military operation deployed in the CAR (FOMUC). Sir John Holmes further underscored that "there are in each case national conflicts and national political issues which need to be resolved independently of whether there is a resolution in Darfur. We must not lose sight of that and the need to tackle those issues as well."

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org>

Country	Refugees	IDPs	Others affected	Humanitarian Funding requested CAP/Work plan 2007	Funding as of 24 March (Source:FTS)	Percentage of needs funded as of 24 March (Source:FTS)	No. of INGOs/ Red Cross
Sudan (Darfur only)	25,000 ¹	2,060,420 ²	1,784,718 ²	USD 1.2 billion	USD 431million	34.3%	84 ²
Chad	283,101 ³	140,000 ³	Data not available	USD 174 million		37%	45 ³
Central African Republic	70,000 ⁴	212,000 ⁴	1,000,000 ⁴	USD 54 million	USD 16 million	30.8%	10 ⁴

¹ UNHCR briefing note 20 April 2007

² Darfur Humanitarian Profile of 1 January 2007

³ UNHCR Chad Sitrep March'07. NGO presence according to OCHA Chad 3Ws map

⁴ Humanitarian Community Partnership Team CAR as of February 2007

NB. The humanitarian funding requested in the Sudan Work plan is not only for Darfur but for all the humanitarian needs in Sudan

In terms of humanitarian response, OCHA Sudan's Darfur Humanitarian Profile of January 2007 identified gaps in all the major sectors – food, shelter and non-food items (NFIs), water and sanitation and protection. Gaps in humanitarian response have also been identified in Chad. In March, OCHA Chad identified sectors with major gaps in humanitarian assistance in eastern Chad as education, food security, health and nutrition and NFIs. In the south where CAR refugees are located, protection and water and sanitation have been noted as major gap areas in addition to education, food security, health and nutrition and NFIs.

In CAR, where up to 1 million people have been affected by the violence in the north west and north east, gaps exist

Cross border fight against malaria

To mark Africa Malaria Day on 25th April, a number of East African countries announced new measures to fight malaria including the use of more effective drugs and indoor spraying with DDT. In Tanzania the Government launched an anti-malaria combination drug, artemether-lumefantrine, at a ceremony in Bukoba in the north-west of the country. Health Minister David Mwakyausa said that between 16 and 18 million cases were reported every year leading to over 100,000 deaths. In Uganda the government shared plans to begin phased spraying of DDT in August with the

expected outcome of reducing the malaria burden by half in the course of the next two years; and in Southern Sudan, the Director General for preventable diseases announced .

According to the Kenyan Minister of Health, Charity Ngilu, 80% of Kenyans are at risk of malaria which has impeded economic development and contributed to current levels of poverty by incapacitating the working population. In response, the Kenya government launched the Indoor Residual Spraying Campaign that targets over 680,000 houses in 16 epidemic prone districts. Other measures include the distribution of insecticide treated bed nets to pregnant women and children under five.

Launch of the second Appeal for Building global Humanitarian Response Capacity

The application of the cluster approach is one of the key elements of the Humanitarian Reform Agenda and aims to ensure sufficient humanitarian response capacity, enhanced leadership, accountability and predictability in 'gap' sectors.

In 2006 the cluster approach was rolled out in four countries, three of which – DRC, Uganda and Somalia – are in the Central and East Africa (CEA) region. In order to take stock of the process, an Interim Self-Assessment was conducted at the end of 2006. The process allowed for a progress report and enabled analysis of the main trends, and lessons learned based on field experience. The responses from the field indicated that the cluster approach is demonstrating its potential to enhance humanitarian response but also highlighted a number of challenges. These include the need for clearer user-friendly checklists, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and operational guidance for field staff, as well as training for cluster leads.

At the end of 2006, the IASC Working Group agreed that the cluster approach should be implemented in all countries with Humanitarian Coordinators and integrated in contingency planning for new major emergencies necessitating multi-sector response.

Since the introduction of the approach significant developments have been made at both field and headquarter levels and considerable efforts continue to be devoted to ensuring the approach is applied to its greatest effect. In order to ensure sufficient resources and operational capacity to implement the approach, an appeal was launched in March 2006 – which was revised in May - for US\$ 38.6. The appeal, as of 31 January 2007, was 65% funded. A second and final appeal was launched for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 for US\$ 62.5 million.

In 2007, OCHA will launch the first of two phases of external evaluation of the clusters' impact, which will focus on the approaches' practical contribution towards a more effective humanitarian response.

FOCUS

Civil-Military Relations – striking the balance between principles and pragmatism

In the changing security settings of today's peace operations, the military is increasingly involved in the delivery of aid and direct support of humanitarian activities. Ongoing operations in Sudan (particularly in Darfur), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Somalia are cases in point. In the midst of some of these complex emergencies, there is also the challenge of responding to natural disasters – such as recent floods and droughts in the region - at the same time. This adds yet another dimension to civil-military coordination in crisis response. Some perpetually search for a *right* way to undertake civil-military coordination that can be applied across the board. However, there is no one-size-fits-all approach and on the ground humanitarian actors are continuously required to balance a pragmatic approach with safeguarding humanitarian principles.

In an effort to provide generic advice on what the humanitarian-military interface could look like, guidance documents have been established. Out of those, one of the most encompassing is the *IASC Reference Paper on Civil-Military Relationship in Complex Emergencies*, (June 2004). Although of a non-binding nature, it serves as a practical tool for civil-military interaction. While it has been primarily developed for humanitarian actors on the ground, it can equally serve as a useful reference guide and a shortcut to humanitarian principles for the military. The *Practical Considerations* of this document have been established based on some of the most pressing operational concerns of humanitarian-military relations in complex emergencies.

In Uganda for instance, UN Agencies had no other choice but to rely on Government forces for armed escorts when assessing areas in the North. This raises the question of perceived neutrality. In Southern Sudan, ambushes in several towns created the dilemma of whether to have military teams inside the compound. A solution was found by having a military team-site not far from the compound, thus ensuring security without compromising the principle of neutrality of the agencies. In DRC, the MONUC mandate to protect civilians against violence has coincided with the concern and efforts of humanitarian actors. In Somalia, the humanitarian community is currently under-going serious challenges of association with military forces and the use of military assets to support humanitarian relief operations, since operating without armed escorts is almost impossible. Yet mere perception can hamper the safeguarding of humanitarian principles and the safety of humanitarian workers.

It is a challenge in itself that the operational context is different from conflict zone to conflict zone and that coordination models can rarely be transposed. Civil-military liaison structures look different in MONUC than they do in UNMIS, for example. Joint planning and working groups might be possible in some of the quieter regions in Southern Sudan, whilst not in Somalia.

To address these dilemmas, country-specific guidance has been developed in several UN peace missions. Based on the *IASC Reference Paper*, MONUC has developed its

own civil-military guidance (*Guidelines for Interaction between MONUC military and humanitarian organizations*, December 2006). The same has been done in Liberia (*Guidance for Civil-Military Coordination in Liberia*, December 2006). In Sudan, efforts to develop such guidelines are ongoing. The different contexts and mandates prevailing in the country have delayed negotiations between military and humanitarian actors to find a common denominator. The Somalia context brought the humanitarian community together to try to establish *Joint Operating Principles for Humanitarian and Development Agencies in Somalia* outlining, amongst other issues, ways of interacting with the military. In addition, there is the issue of response to natural disasters. A set of integrated guidelines to civil-military relations in both a complex emergency and natural disaster response is yet to be written.

Overall, it is important to remember that, while the *IASC Reference Paper* and the country-specific guidelines try to provide generic guidance on some key challenges in regional civil-military relations, they are tools which have been created as living documents. As such they are to be interpreted on a case-by-case basis and by their nature are subject to constant revision as the contexts in the operational areas evolve.

All of the mentioned documents have been established as the result of efforts to provide guidance on finding the right balance between safeguarding humanitarian principles and making pragmatic choices on the ground. A fundamental factor and a first step towards striking this balance is a better comprehension of both the military and humanitarian actors around us in the field and their mandates. This includes an on-going dialogue, to allow us to build on existing competencies on the ground. Mutual awareness and understanding is important in facilitating constructive and coordinated action.

IASC Reference Paper on Civil-Military Relationship in Complex Emergencies, June 2004

Practical Considerations:

A. Liaison Arrangements: clear lines of communication and liaison arrangements with the military should be established at the earliest possible stage and at all relevant levels, to guarantee the timely and regular exchange of relevant information;

B. Information Sharing: which information can be shared when and how;

C: Use of Military Assets for Humanitarian Operations: assets should provide a unique capability, be used with a sense of timeliness; have a clear humanitarian direction and be time-limited in usage;

D. Use of Military or Armed Escorts for Humanitarian Convoys: the decision to use and armed convoy should be taken on a case-by-case basis;

E. Joint Civil-Military Relief Operations: depending on the scale of the crisis there is more or less room for these operations;

F. Separate Military Operations for Relief Purposes: these may jeopardize or seriously undermine the overall humanitarian efforts by non-military actors and lastly

G: The General Conduct of Humanitarian Staff.



UN peace keepers on security patrol in Burundi

Credit: ONUB / Martine Perret

UN Guidelines on Civil-Military Coordination

Generic:

Civil-Military Relationship in Complex Emergencies – an IASC Reference Paper, June 2004.

Thematic:

Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies, March 2003;

Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief, Oslo Guidelines, 1994, revised in 2006;

Use of Military or Armed Escorts for Humanitarian Convoys – Discussion paper and Non-Binding Guidelines, September 2001;

DPKO Directive on Civil-Military Liaison in UN Integrated Missions, Draft Nr. 7, September 2006.

Country-specific in Africa:

Guidelines on Interaction between MONUC Military and Humanitarian Organizations, December 2006;

Guidance for Civil-Military Coordination in Liberia, December 2006.

Country-specific outside Africa:

Guidance on Use of Military Aircraft for UN Humanitarian Operations During the Current Conflict in Afghanistan, 2001;

Relationships with Military Forces in Afghanistan – Guidelines for UNAMA Area Coordinators and other UN personnel, 2002;

General guidance for the interaction between United Nations Personnel and Military Actors in the Context of the Crisis in Iraq, 2003;

Guidelines for Humanitarian Organizations on interacting with Military and other Security Actors in Iraq, 2004.

Country coverage

Somalia

Ongoing clashes between a combined force of Ethiopian and Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) troops, and insurgents continued to claim lives and cause serious destruction to property and infrastructure in Mogadishu. The number of IDPs has soared, with the latest UNHCR statistics indicating that approximately 365,000 people were displaced from Mogadishu between February and the end of April. The IDPs are living in deplorable conditions in different parts of the country, with some reportedly sheltering under 'rented' trees. Despite a cessation of the conflict since 27 April, and some return, the large majority of IDPs are not attempting to return due to fears of renewed fighting.



A displaced family return to Mogadishu. Conflict-related displacement in Somalia has forced people to leave their lands several times.

Credit: Awes Osman-IRIN

Humanitarian response to the recently displaced IDPs in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Galgadud and Mogadishu is ongoing. Priority responses include water and sanitation, shelter and non food items, food, and health services.

Kenya

In the run up to elections in late 2007, political tension between rival ethnic groups continues to escalate in different parts in Kenya. In Meru and Tana River Districts, violent political clashes during the last week of April led to the death of nine people, the burning of more than 300 houses, and affected some 381 families. At the same time, clashes in Mt. Elgon have displaced an estimated 66,816 people. Humanitarian response is being strengthened

and UNICEF, MSF Belgium and World Vision International have joined the Kenya Red Cross Society and Kenya Government line ministries to deliver much needed food and non-food items. The Kenya Government has further enhanced security and is considering instituting an amnesty policy for the armed militia to complement planned disarmament and ongoing conflict resolution initiatives.

Eritrea

An Eritrean government proclamation on 4 April, declared it illegal for anyone to subject a person to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or provide tools to anyone who intends to carry out the practice. In a legal notice banning FGM, the government ordered that failure to inform authorities on intended plans to subject anyone to FGM also constituted an offence. Similar campaigns to ban FGM are also on-going in Kenya with members of the Muslim communities holding mass protests against the practice. At least 16 African countries have banned the practice. The Maputo Protocol, an African regional document that prohibits and condemns FGM, came into force in November 2005.

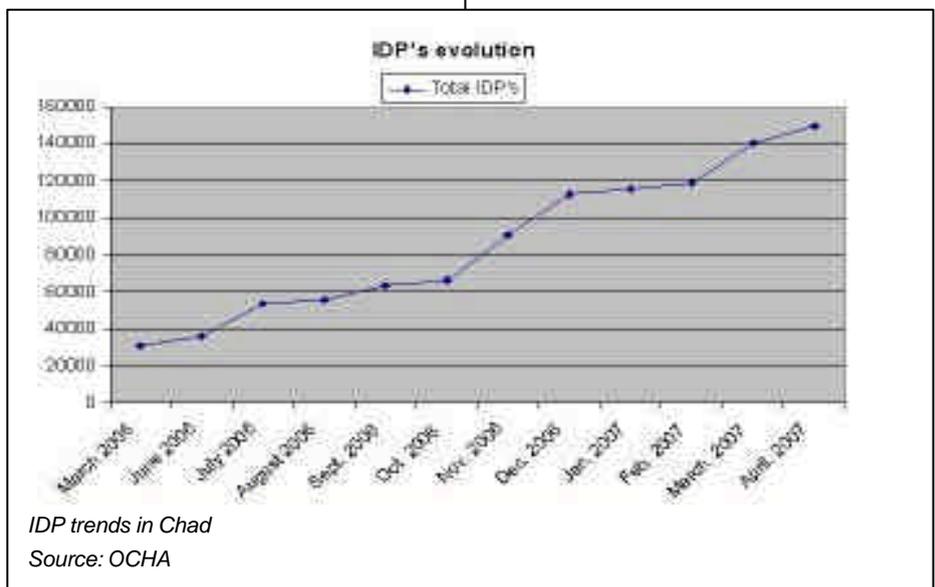
Chad

Humanitarian partners in CHAD have elaborated an inter-agency IDP Emergency Strategy to assist the 140,000 IDPs in the east of the country. The strategy requests funding amounting to US\$ 22.2 million in order to address

the humanitarian needs of IDPs and to reinforce the ongoing activities as the prospects for a durable solution in the near future appear unhelpful. The strategy envisages the implementation of an efficient coordination mechanism based on the cluster approach; a ninety-day plan defining activities to be undertaken or achieved within three months and related financial requirements; advocacy activities to promote the protection of civilians; and the preparation of a contingency plan for 30,000 IDPs in case of a sudden-onset emergency

Sudan

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Margareta Wahlström, in a statement on 17 April, confirmed that the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda and parts of Southern Sudan has improved significantly in the past year with people returning to their homes and re-establishing their livelihoods. Following a meeting on 13 and 14 April between the Government of Uganda and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), chaired by United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Joaquim Chissano, a renewed commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the resumption of peace talks and the assembly of LRA forces at Ri-Kwangba in Southern Sudan were announced.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

The security situation in eastern DRC continues to be extremely volatile. Fighting in March and April between the newly mixed brigade of the *Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) and the *Forces démocratiques de la libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) has left about 113,000 displaced in the province of north Kivu alone. In addition, the death toll among the FDLR fighters was reported as 48 while 5 men were killed from the FARDC contingent.

The recently intensified FARDC operation to rout out the FDLR and Mai Mai rebels has displaced thousands of civilians since January. The Kanyabayonga-Kirumba axis West of Rutushuru is one of the points for the recent displacements in north Kivu. According to MONUC, the combined operations of the FARDC and MONUC, in south Kivu east of Nindja forest have ended and the camps that were occupied by the FDLR/Rasta are now under FARDC control. No large scale displacement has been reported in the area however MONUC report an increase in inaccessibility and instability due to the absence of FARDC troops and the transit of the FDLR elements who are retreating to the West. There remains a high risk of additional displacements in the coming weeks if military operations against the militia increase. UNHCR has dispatched 25 monitoring teams to identify human rights problems and is working closely with WFP, UNICEF and OCHA to assess the needs of the local populations.

Uganda

Over the course of the previous month, there have been significant developments towards resolving the 20 year northern Ugandan conflict. These include the resumption of peace talks on 26 April and the successful review of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CHA) between the Government of Uganda (GoU) and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) on 14 April. The CHA

which has been extended to 30 June was first signed in August 2006. In addition, the Ugandan Government and the LRA on 3 May signed another agreement on Comprehensive Solutions to the Northern Uganda conflict which is the second phase of the peace deal.

The agreements are strong indications of the willingness of both parties to address the long term stalemate in the peace process and the humanitarian crisis in the north. An estimated 1.4 million people remain displaced in camps. Continued negotiations are however required in order to finalise the peace deal. The Comprehensive Solutions agreement intends to look at various issues including equal opportunities, Internally Displaced Persons and the reconstruction of Northern Uganda, as well as land and cattle restocking in the war affected areas.

Ethiopia

During March and April, Gambella Region experienced and intensification of cross border incursions from the Sudanese Murle causing deaths, injuries and widespread displacement. A Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) led verification assessment mission in six woredas indicated that a total of 30,000 people who have been affected by security incidents and flooding require emergency food and non-food assistance. In addition, the team recommended immediate peace building activities and protection for civilians.

Djibouti

Djibouti is facing a severe food crisis in three out of six rural zones as a consequence of three consecutive failed rainy seasons and worsening drought conditions. Pastoralists are reported to be in dire situations as a result of pasture and browse being overgrazed and exhausted in most rural grazing areas. All water catchments in the northwest and southeast pastoral zones are practically dry. Over 5,000 severely malnourished children need supplementary feeding. An estimated 5,000 people require mobile health services. An estimated 50,000 heads of livestock are in need of emergency veterinary care. H5N1 virus in chickens have been confirmed and Djibouti is now in Phase III of the global pandemic/confirmation of a human case of avian influenza.

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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