

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict and adverse climatic conditions continue to drive humanitarian needs in the region
- Acute sectoral needs continue to be reported in Ethiopia
- Flood preparedness in full swing as El Niño expected to cause serious flooding in the region
- Civilian death tolls and human rights violations on the rise in Burundi
- Urgent access needed to prevent food crisis in Unity State, South Sudan



Burundian children displaced into Tanzania. UNHCR estimates that 60 per cent of the Burundian refugees are children, the majority being unaccompanied. [Azad Essa/Al Jazeera]

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Regional humanitarian outlook¹

Resurgence of violence and worsening climatic conditions to remain a threat in eastern Africa

On 23 October humanitarian partners together with donors convened to discuss the humanitarian outlook for the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. The [report](#) presented a four-month trend analysis from June to September 2015 and a humanitarian outlook from October to December 2015. During this period, resurgence in violence in Burundi and South Sudan could lead to an increase in both internal and cross border movements. UNHCR is forecasting an additional 184,000 refugees by year-end, bringing the total number of refugees in the region to 3.37 million.

Climatic conditions are forecast to worsen over the coming months, leading to increased food insecurity. Drought conditions persist in South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and primarily Ethiopia where number of food insecure increased from 2.9 million people at the start of 2015 to a projected 15 million people in early 2016. Excessive rain could lead to flooding, directly affecting more than 2 million people especially in Kenya and Somalia. This could result in localised displacement and increased incidence of communicable diseases.

Consequently, funding requirements in the region have risen largely due to increased need due to El Niño and increased displacement. In Ethiopia, with the additional needs identified during the mid-year review, requirements increased from \$386 million to \$432 million. The Burundi regional refugee appeal was adjusted from \$207 million to \$306 million as the projected number of refugees was increased from 230,000 to 320,000 by the end of September 2015. Most appeals remain underfunded, with the majority being less than 50 per cent funded at year-end.

Climatic shocks exacerbate vulnerability

Ethiopia receives \$17 million (CERF) to battle worst drought in decades

The impact of the failed spring *belg* rains was compounded by the arrival of the El Niño weather conditions that weakened the *kiremt* rains that feed 80 to 85 per cent of the country. This greatly expanded food insecurity, malnutrition and devastated livelihoods

¹ OCHA Eastern Africa coverage extends to Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan; with a watching brief in Yemen and the Kivus in eastern DRC.

FIGURES

IDPs in eastern Africa	6.96 million
Refugees in eastern Africa	2.33 million
Food insecure population	15 million

FUNDING

Funding requirements for Great Lakes and Horn of Africa	\$5.7 billion (29% of combined global appeal)
Percentage funded	43 per cent

The level of acute need across virtually all humanitarian sectors in Ethiopia has exceeded levels seen in the Horn of Africa drought of 2011 and is projected to be far more severe throughout the first eight months of 2016

across six affected regions of the country. The level of acute need across virtually all humanitarian sectors has already exceeded levels seen in the Horn of Africa drought of 2011 and is projected to be far more severe throughout the first eight months of 2016. National levels of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions for September were 20 per cent higher than any other year recorded for the same month. Amhara region recorded the highest ever monthly SAM admissions of 6,489 cases in September.

The humanitarian response is worryingly underfunded. On 12 November, Ethiopia received US\$17 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support millions of Ethiopians affected by the El Niño-caused drought this year and complement on-going Government response. The money will be disbursed to the UN World Food Programme for the purchase and distribution of relief food supplies to some 1.37 million people, and provide supplemental feeding to at least 164,000 malnourished children under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding women. At least 8.2 million people need food assistance until the end of 2015.

Excluding the current CERF funding, donors have contributed more than US\$120 million since 30 September 2015 alone, but much more is urgently required to cover 2015 and projected 2016 needs. There is a funding gap amounting to more than US\$270 million for 2015 alone. With a three to five

month lead time, the window of opportunity to procure and preposition emergency food and nutrition supplies for early 2016 is rapidly closing.

The Government is now covering humanitarian hotspots that were previously covered by humanitarian partners and is distributing both food items from its food reserve to areas with the worst humanitarian indicators. Emergency livestock and water interventions are also underway as water shortages increase during the dry season. In addition, the Government of Ethiopia also manages large scale social safety net programmes which support up to 8 million people. Donors are urgently requested to provide additional funding, bring funds forward and review options to re-programme development funding to ensure timely critical lifesaving interventions, including repositioning for early 2016.



A farmer counts his losses in Saharti Samri districts, Tigray region, where crops have been damaged due to shortage of rains (OCHA/ Zelealem Letyibelu)

Flood preparedness in full swing as serious flooding is expected in the region

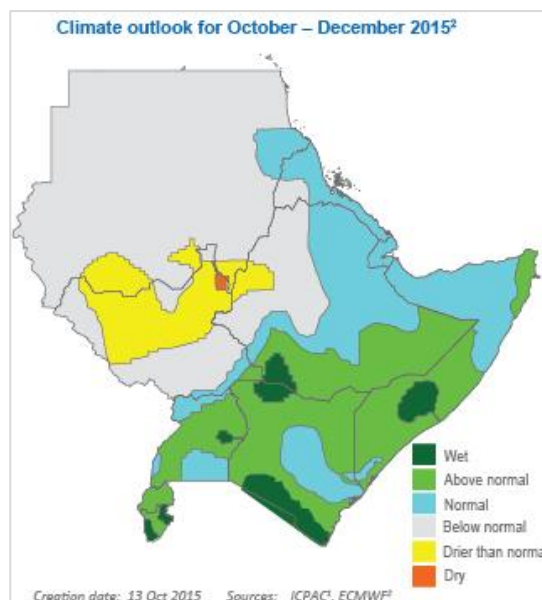
IGAD has called on Member States to commit adequate resources both financial and human, to effectively prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from the impacts of El Niño.

With the current El Niño event expected to be the strongest on record, there is serious concern about flooding in the region. Based on meteorological data, large parts of the eastern Africa region have a 60 per cent chance of seeing above average rainfall over the coming months. During the last five El Niño events in the region, an average of one million people were affected by floods (source: EMDAT). Government and UN planning figures estimate that some 1.7 million people could be affected by floods in the eastern Africa region this year alone, of which Kenya and Somalia would see the largest impact. To date, some 90,000 people have been affected by floods in Somalia alone.

On 20-21 October the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) convened IGAD and East Africa Community Member States, donors and humanitarian partners in Naivasha, Kenya, to discuss the El Niño climatic event, the likely humanitarian consequences and required preparedness actions.

Member States were called upon to commit adequate resources both financial and human, to effectively prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from the El Niño impacts.

Governments and partners in eastern Africa are racing against the clock to prepare for and mitigate flood impact. Aid supplies and boats are being prepositioned in flood-prone areas. Humanitarian partners are working with local authorities and community leadership to strengthen local response capacity, reinforce river embankments and raise awareness. In Kenya a National El Niño Task Force was established to operationalize the national contingency plan and activate a national mass communication plan. The absence of a disaster management policy has however complicated coordination between the national and sub-national levels, leading to lack of clarity on stockpiles and capacity to respond. In Somalia, lack of access, the absence of a government coordination forum and funding constraints are potential impediments to an effective response. Disaster risk reduction, preparedness and early warning programming should continue beyond this current El Niño period, as the region is historically prone to floods and drought even outside El Niño years. Historic patterns also show that a La Niña event sometimes follows an El Niño, with an even greater overall humanitarian impact as coping capacities are eroded. A La Niña event occurring immediately after the current El Niño, could lead to a further deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the region.



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Persisting protection and access concerns

Burundi: civilian death toll and population displacement on the increase

Six months after the Presidential elections, Burundi continues to experience post-election tensions especially in Bujumbura. The political and security context remains tense and unpredictable. A security operation launched by the Government to recover illegal weapons in some of Bujumbura's volatile neighbourhoods and other provinces has been marred with violence resulting in the death of both civilians and security officers. The security situation has been made worse by the persisting political impasse in the country, marked by a lack of dialogue among Burundian stakeholders. The situation in Burundi has the potential to undermine the significant gains achieved through the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of August 2000 and threatens to destabilize the lives and livelihoods for both Burundians and the region as a whole.



Many people took to the streets to protest against a possible third term of President Nkurunziza (Reuters/T. Mukoya)

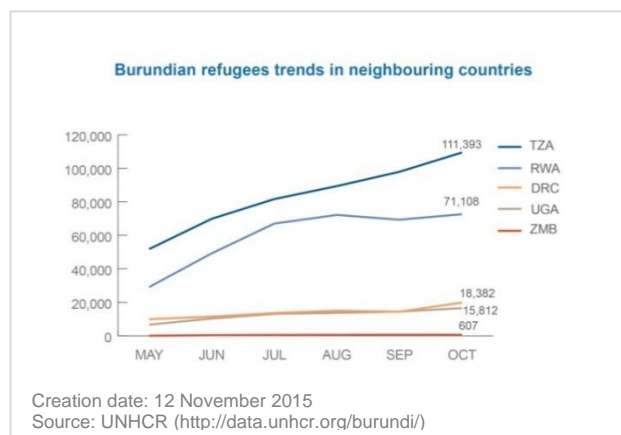
Thousands of Burundians have been forced to flee both internally and across the border, facing serious protection risks, including family separation and sexual exploitation whilst in flight. According to UNHCR, as of 4 November 2015, some 209,831 Burundians have been registered as refugees in Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC and Uganda since April 2015.

The UN Human Rights Office reports that at least 240 people, including 17 children, an IOM and a UNDP staff have been killed in Burundi since 26 April 2015

An estimated 210,000 Burundians are living as refugees across the region, while the number of those displaced internally remains unknown

Inside Burundi, statistics on the internal displacement situation remain unknown due to the challenges in identifying IDPs who are scattered across the country, predominantly living with host families and unwilling to register. Results of a preliminary survey conducted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Burundian Red Cross indicate that some 14,000 people displaced in Kirundo and Makamba, the two provinces suspected to have the highest number of IDPs. The lack of a clear picture on the general humanitarian situation, including on number of people displaced subsequently complicates humanitarian agencies' efforts to assess and respond to prevailing needs among the affected people.

Prior to the elections in May 2015, the government estimated that some 78,000 people were internally displaced since the civil war and were awaiting durable solutions.² This is besides the more than 80,000 returnees who arrived in Burundi in 2013 after the closure of Mtabila refugee camps in Tanzania and some 50,000 refugees in Burundi, mostly from neighbouring DRC. Reintegration of the returnees, who are reliant on humanitarian assistance, continues to be hampered by a lack of access to land.



Violations and abuses of human rights and acts of unlawful violence by both the security forces and other armed groups in the country are reportedly on the increase, according to reports by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Gunfire exchange, grenade attacks and targeted assassinations in civilian populated areas are symptomatic of the current political and security context in Burundi. On 10 November, the UN Human Rights Office reported that at least 240 people have been killed in Burundi since 26 April 2015, including 15 children. The killings include the close range shooting on 13 October in Bujumbura of nine people, including an IOM staff and a cameraman for Burundi State radio and television, his wife and two teenage children in their home. A week later, a UNDP national staff was killed when armed men attacked a bar in Bujumbura.

OHCHR has also reported of an increased number of arbitrary arrests and detentions, including some 740 arrests registered by the organisation since the beginning of September alone. "Young adults seem to be particularly targeted, with many of them alleging they were accused by the authorities of intending to join rebel groups based in neighbouring countries", according to the statement.

The six-month post-election contingency plan seek to provide protection and assistance to an estimated 400,000 Burundians affected by the current crisis

The international community adopts measures to assist and protect Burundians

Humanitarian agencies have adopted a six-month (September 2015–February 2016) [preparedness and response plan](#) to prepare and respond to the emerging humanitarian needs. The plan seeks to provide protection and assistance to an estimated 400,000 Burundians, including 50,000 IDPs and host communities; 50,000 Burundian returnees

² Government of Burundi profiling exercise 2011

and another 300,000 Burundians whose living conditions have deteriorated further due to the political and security crisis in the country.

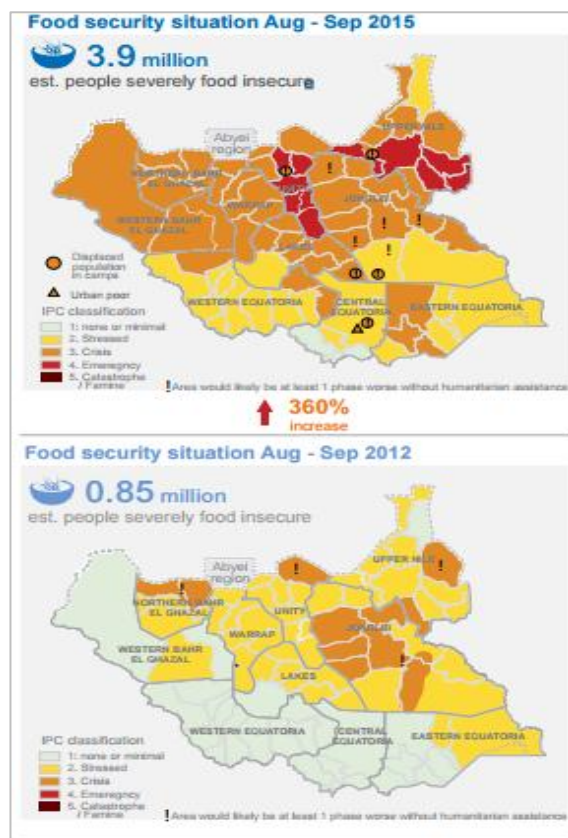
Mediation efforts led by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda on behalf of the East African Community and endorsed by the African Union are currently at a stalemate. The African Union Peace and Security Council has in the meantime joined the European Union in [announcing](#) that it will impose targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freeze, against all Burundian actors whose actions and statements contribute to the perpetuation of violence and impede the search for a solution in Burundi. A detailed version of the African Union Communique of 17 October can be found at <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/psc.551.burundi.17.10.2015.pdf>

South Sudan: Urgent humanitarian access needed to prevent a food crisis in parts of Unity State

Compounding the dire humanitarian situation in South Sudan is the diminishing humanitarian access, especially in the conflict-affected areas of Unity, Upper Nile and to a lesser extent, Jonglei states. The lack of humanitarian access due to insecurity and lack of infrastructure could lead to extreme food insecurity in the country. Conflict, market disruption, economic downturn, insecurity and localized crop failures left an estimated 34 per cent of the population in South Sudan - about 3.9 million people - severely food insecure in September 2015, according to the results of the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) released in October. This represents an 80 per cent increase in the number of severely food insecure people, compared to the same period last year, and a 360 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2012, a year prior to the conflict, according to the IPC analysis.

The 80 per cent increase reportedly includes “people living in states not directly affected by the conflict but who have had to struggle with its long-term effects, erratic rainfall, depleted livelihood options, high food prices, fuel costs and inflation, in a generally degraded economic environment,” according to [WFP reports](#). For the first time since the IPC process began in South Sudan, the results show a large deterioration in the Greater Equatoria region, previously considered as relatively food secure. The dire economic situation in the country is contributing to record-high food prices that significantly affect families’ purchasing power and worsening levels of food insecurity, hence the negative impacts in areas that were previously unaffected. An estimated 40,000 people in southern and central Unity may be facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity and malnutrition from October to December 2015, according to the IPC analysis.

Humanitarian partners have alerted that unless unrestricted humanitarian access is urgently granted, food insecurity could deteriorate to famine in parts of Unity State, such as Leer, Guit, Koch and Mayendit, where humanitarian assistance has been hampered by the dreadful violence and lack of access in recent months.



Creation date: 09 November 2015

Source: IPC Technical Working Group, South Sudan, September 2015

In brief

OCHA Director of Operations calls for continued solidarity with victims of conflict in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia

OCHA Director of Operations, Mr. John Ging visited the region from 18 to 25 October. He was accompanied by senior donor representatives from the US State Department, USAID, DFID, ECHO and The Netherlands. After the visit, Mr. Ging remarked that while all countries were facing overwhelming challenges requiring continued humanitarian support, there was also reason for hope for each of them. In Sudan, the Government indicated a new willingness to allow humanitarian workers to access those in need of assistance. In South Sudan, the signing of a new peace deal provides a prospect for an end to the violence. Somalia is currently seeing its best chance for lasting peace in 25 years. In Nairobi, the delegation met with UN, NGOs and donors to discuss the outlook for the Horn of Africa.

Pledging conference raises USD 105 million for repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya

A [pledging conference](#) hosted by the European Commission and UNHCR in Brussels on 21 October raised USD 105 million towards the \$500 million Somalia Plan of Action for the safe and voluntary return of Somali refugees from the Dadaab camps in Kenya. As at 20 October, Kenya was host to 44 per cent (over 420,000 Somalis) of the more than 967,000 Somalia refugees hosted in the region. Female refugees represent half of the total population and 58 per cent of the population is children. Over 2 million Somalis remain displaced in the region, including some 1.1 million IDPs in Somalia; nearly 250,000 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, an estimated 240,000 in Yemen, over 29,000 in Uganda and nearly 12,000 in Djibouti. UNHCR reports that more than 5,400 refugees have returned to Somalia from Kenya since December 2014 when the process began.

Food and Agricultural Agency (FAO) raises alert over a looming locust plague in the region

A [news release](#) issued by FAO on 11 November warns that the impact of El Niño in Africa and the unprecedented back-to-back tropical cyclones Chapala and Megh in the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa could favour desert locust breeding.

The unusually heavy and widespread rains reportedly provide moist soil for the insects to lay their eggs and also allow vegetation to grow, which provides the locusts with food and shelter. Desert locusts have in the past devastated harvests in Eritrea, Ethiopia and northern Kenya.

FAO has called on all stakeholders to undertake increased monitoring and appropriate preparedness measures, including field surveys after heavy rains, to assess breeding conditions and possible locust infestations.

For more information on this and other food security issues visit the FAO website [@www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org).

African Union to commemorate the third anniversary of the Kampala Convention

The 6th of December marks the third year anniversary of the entry into force of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, commonly known as the Kampala Convention. The treaty is the world's first continental instrument on internal displacement that legally binds governments to protect the rights

and wellbeing of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, natural disasters and large-scale development projects.

To date, 40 of the 54 member states of the African Union have signed the Kampala Convention and 24 of those have ratified the convention. However, further commitment and leadership by African states is required to implement provisions, such as putting in place national frameworks on internal displacement and mechanisms for durable solutions.

To support this process, the African Union Commission, in partnership with the Global Protection Cluster's Task Team on Law and Policy and with support from ECHO will conduct a workshop for selected AU member states on '*The Kampala Convention: from ratification to domestication and operationalization – Developing national laws and policies on internal displacement*', from 30 November to 2 December 2015 in Addis Ababa.

For more information contact OCHA EA Senior Protection Advisor, Natasha Emerson on emerson@un.org

IGAD and partners to develop a common regional analysis

The IGAD Experts and Partners' Consultation on the Regional Analysis was held on 27 October in Djibouti. The objective of the meeting was to agree on the way forward in developing an IGAD-led common regional analysis that will influence the engagement of member states, humanitarian and development partners. There is currently a challenge of standardizing and validating the different methodologies and indicators used. The meeting however saw this as an opportunity to better link the findings of the various analyses to develop a joint narrative to influence engagement and programming.

The common regional analysis will seek to examine the context and drivers of vulnerability and resilience in the region, how regional trends influence vulnerability and resilience and recommend appropriate action. The analysis will be used as a framework for Country Programming Papers and in general as an evidence-based prioritization tool for programming interventions pathways and entry points for response.

For more information contact john.kabayo@igad.int

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) private sector platform initiative

World Vision International, Save the Children, OCHA-EA and various actors from the private sector and the media are consulting on the establishment of a partnerships platform, which will facilitate further engagement with the private sector in the region. The outcomes of this process will be presented at the WHS Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, together with other documented best practices from the WHS Regional Consultation Forum for Eastern Africa held in March 2015.

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