CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In April, 35 incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or property were reported. The security situation remained very tense in several areas, such as Batangafo, Birao, Kaga-Bandoro and Ndélé. This led to movement restrictions for humanitarian organizations and hindered the delivery of critical aid. At the end of April, during the onset of armed clashes in Ndélé, properties belonging to humanitarian organizations were looted and three vehicles stolen. Since the beginning of 2020, two humanitarian workers have been killed and eight injured; over 121 incidents have been reported.

NIGERIA

Scores of civilian commuter vehicles were ambushed by non-state armed group (NSAG) fighters along the Damaturu-Babangida road in northeastern Yobe State on 6 May. Six civilians were abducted and their whereabouts are still unknown. Babangida Town, in Tarmuwa LGA, was repeatedly targeted in February by NSAGs who torched several schools, hospitals and telecommunication infrastructure. A nutrition center at the General Hospital, the only public health facility in the town, was looted during one of the attacks. Tarmuwa LGA records high rates of malnutrition and partners have scaled up health and nutrition response. These incidents affect humanitarian access and aid delivery. Illegal checkpoints often target aid workers and security officials who are either killed on the spot or abducted.

West and Central Africa: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot

REGIONAL

CONFLICT AND COVID HIT CENTRAL SAHEL

A rapid deterioration of the Central Sahel crisis is driving humanitarian needs to unprecedented levels. Escalating conflict and the spread of COVID-19 risk devastating the border areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. More than 3 million people are severely food insecure and the number of displaced has increased more than four-fold in one year. The rise in armed violence is forcing people to flee their homes and depriving them of critical services. The virus transmission risks are heightened in densely populated areas, such as displacement sites that do not have adequate access to shelter, clean water, hygiene and basic sanitation. This year, 7.5 million people in the affected regions need urgent assistance. The UN and humanitarian partners remain on the ground to deliver life-saving assistance, but urgent resources are needed. As of late April, only 12 percent of the $US 988 million required for the humanitarian response had been received.

The United Nations is seeking an additional $4.7 billion to protect millions of lives and stem the spread of coronavirus in fragile countries. The appeal is the second iteration of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 (GHRP). In West and Central Africa, the GHRP includes all countries with existing humanitarian response plans (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, Mali, Niger, Nigeria) as well as Benin, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo. The amount required in the 12 countries amounts to $1.23 billion. The funds raised will be used to launch information campaigns, provide hand-washing stations, buy medical equipment and establish humanitarian airlifts. The new call for contributions also aims at developing new programmes to better combat the growing food insecurity resulting from the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

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