DR CONGO

Armed assailants on 10 March raided an Ebola treatment centre in Butembo, wounding health workers and killing a policeman. The same MSF-run centre was attacked on 27 February, three days after another MSF treatment centre was set on fire, forcing the organisation to suspend services. The 24 February attack forced the transfer of 10 patients – four confirmed and six suspected to be infected with the virus – to another treatment centre. As of 10 March, there were 921 confirmed and probable cases, and 582 deaths since the outbreak in north-east DRC erupted in August 2018.

SAHEL

Growing insecurity in the Sahel has impaired or forced the closure of nearly 2,000 schools in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, affecting more than 400,000 children and 10,050 teachers, UNICEF reported on 28 February. The number of schools closed is twice as many as in 2017. The authorities in Burkina Faso have adopted a strategy for catch-up classes conflict-affected children, integrating displaced children in other schools, strengthening school security and reconstructing destroyed schools. The three countries have endorsed the “Safe Schools Declaration” to protect children and ensure their education during armed conflict.

BURKINA FASO

The Governor of Burkina Faso’s Est region has imposed a night-time curfew from 7 March – 20 April as a security operation is underway in Est and Centre-Est regions. The authorities plan to reopen schools in the Est region before the end of the academic year. Over 1,300 schools are currently closed in Burkina Faso. Mounting insecurity and armed attacks have sparked an unprecedented population displacement and humanitarian emergency. Around 900,000 people need humanitarian assistance and over 115,000 have been uprooted from their homes, more than half of whom since the start of the year.

MALI

The humanitarian community and the Government on 27 February appealed for US$296 million to assist 2.3 million people needing humanitarian aid in 2019. Fifty-six per cent of the budget is earmarked for food and nutrition assistance. The number of people internally displaced in Mali has nearly tripled over the past year due to growing insecurity and adverse weather. Around 7.2 million – over 35 per cent of the population – live in conflict-affected central and northern regions.

NIGERIA

Around 2,800 measles cases and nine deaths were reported in 19 localities in Borno state between January and February, according to the health authorities and aid organisations. Some 80 per cent of the infections are among under 5 children. Surveillance and rapid response teams have been dispatched to worst-hit locations. Vaccination and public awareness are being ramped up.

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