Snapshot 20–27 May 2015

**Mali:** Gao and Timbuktu regions have been the scene of multiple clashes between the Azawad Movement Coalition and Malian forces, as well as the pro-government Gatia militia. At least 12 people have been killed, including nine civilians. About 31,500 people have been displaced from three districts in Timbuktu region. They are in urgent needs of water, food, NFIs, and shelter support, but access is limited.

**Yemen:** Violence increased after the ceasefire ended 17 May, and surged again after the postponement of peace talks on 25 May. Casualty numbers since the escalation of conflict in March have reached 1,870 dead and 7,580 injured. 490,000 people in Sa’ada can no longer be reached, and food items are no longer available in a number of governorates. The fuel crisis is making it even more difficult to meet basic needs.

**DRC:** A surge in ADF attacks in Beni territory, North Kivu, has displaced more than 15,000 people. In Orientale, 4,000 people have been displaced by an FARDC offensive. In Katanga, 400 cases of measles are being recorded per week in Malemba Nkulu territory.

Updated: 27/05/2015. Next update: 02/06/2015
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 May: 1,268,000 people are in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 20/05/2015).

30 April: During March and April, 150 cases of rape were reported in Bangui, Bimbo, Yaloke, Kaga Bandoro, and Bambari. Many more go unreported (WHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- More than 5,000 people have died in violence since December 2013 (Government, 16/09/2014, BBC, 07/01/2015).

- 2.7 million of 4.6 million people needed immediate assistance, half of them children (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

- 1.5 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (USAID, 13/03/2015).

- 27% of the health facilities in the country are damaged and 40% are unable to offer health services (WHO, 31/01/2015).

- 177,530 IDPs in displacement sites and 36,930 IDPs in Bangui (OCHA, 29/04/2015, 18/03/2015; UNHCR, 05/05/2015).

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

For more information on CAR, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

OVERVIEW

Health, protection, food, and WASH are top priority needs, as continued violence, looting, and displacement cause further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country. Violence between Muslim communities, perceived to have links with the ex-Seleka, and Christian communities, aligned with the anti-balaka militias, has resulted in displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses.

Political Context

Between the 4 and 11 May, the Bangui Peace Forum took place. Moderated by President of Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso, 585 participants agreed on a ‘Republican Pact for Peace’, which sets the calendar for next elections and revision of the constitution; a consensual disarmament model; the establishment of a criminal court; and an agenda of humanitarian and development priorities (Reuters, 22/04/2015; BBC, 03/05/2015; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 12/05/2015).

Conflict began in late 2012, when Muslim Seleka fighters advanced from the north, taking control of territory on their way to the capital Bangui, where they held power until December 2013. Seleka committed numerous abuses during their advance and rule, and self-defence militias composed of mainly non-Muslims, ‘anti-balaka’, began to carry out revenge attacks in late 2013. Most ex-Seleka members withdrew to the north at the end of 2013, but fighting persisted between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, Muslim and Christian communities, and pastoralists and farmers.

African Union forces, MISCA, backed by France, were deployed in December 2013 authorised by the UN. The African Union had already deployed troops to CAR prior to Seleka’s assumption of power, but was overwhelmed by the severity and scope of the conflict. In mid-September 2014, the UN peacekeeping force took over operations under the name MINUSCA.

A transitional government was formed in August 2014. It was rejected by the ex-Seleka, which had proclaimed a de facto, independent, secular state in northeastern CAR in July (IRIN 23/09/2014; Government, 24/07/2014). On 8 April, the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka agreed to a ceasefire. This was rejected by the transitional Government, just as it rejected an earlier ceasefire agreement (USAID, 10/04/2015).

Security Context

More than 5,000 people have been killed since December 2013 (BBC, 07/01/2015). Since January 2014, 1,460 security incidents have been recorded (OCHA, 31/03/2015; USAID, 10/04/2015). More than 1,820 security incidents have been recorded since January 2015 (OCHA, 12/05/2015).
Ex-Seleka: Seleka is an alliance of factions created in 2012 and dissolved by President Djotodia in late 2013. However, many fighters remained active, and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. With the exception of 17,114 confined to three military camps in Bangui, most moved out of the capital and controlled much of central and northern CAR by January 2014 (IRIN, 17/09/2014). Bambari, Ouaka reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May 2014. An estimated 12,000 fighters make up the armed ex-Seleka, including Muslims from the northeast, and Sudanese and Chadians (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014). Rival ex-Seleka groups have clashed on several occasions (Jeune Afrique, 27/10/2014).

Anti-balaka: The anti-balaka were formed in order to counter the Seleka; there are around 75,000 militants, though the numbers are contested, and their main leaders and political programme remain unknown (IRIN, 12/01/2015). After the coup and Djotodia’s resignation, many members of the former government army, the FACA, joined the anti-balaka. It is suspected that up to ten anti-balaka factions function in the vicinity of Bangui (IRIN, 12/02/2014).

LRA: Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures remain most affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army, which increased attacks as the political crisis left a power vacuum (OCHA, 10/11/2014). In 2015, LRA attacks increased after LRA militant Dominic Ongwen surrendered to US forces in January (BBC, 07/01/2015).

UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA): MINUSCA officially took over operations on 14 September 2014, under a one-year mandate. In March 2015, the number of peacekeepers was increased by 1,000, to better protect infrastructure and senior officials in Bangui, bringing the total to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters, 26/03/2015). On 28 April, the UN Security Council extended MINUSCA’s mandate by one year (UN, 28/04/2015).

French forces: As of 21 May, 1,700 of 2,000 French troops were left in CAR (UN, 21/05/2015); they will begin decreasing their presence as MINUSCA increases the number of peacekeepers to 13,000 by late April (USAID, 13/03/2015). On 19 May, the operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015).

EU advisory mission: The EU launched the EU Military Advisory mission (EUMAM RCA) on 19 January, with the objective of reforming the security sector (Government, 16/03/2015).

US military assistance: The US is providing logistical support, special forces, and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA in eastern and southeastern CAR.

Conflict Developments

Fighting is concentrated around six central and western prefectures: Mambere Kadei, Nana-Grebizi, Nana-Mambere, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Sangha-Mbaere (OCHA, 18/03/2015).

Priority areas for civilian protection are Ngaoundaye (Ouham-Pendé), Markounda (border area) and Batangafo (Ouham), Bambari and Kouango (Ouaka), Boda (Lobaye), Gamboula, (Mambéré-Kadéï) and Mbres (Nana-Grébizi) (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

Recent Incidents

Nana Grebizi: 300–400 people attacked a MINUSCA camp in Kaga Bandoro in early April, because UN peacekeepers failed to stop raids by Fulani pastoralists (UNHCR, 10/04/2015; Reuters, 10/04/2015). MINUSCA has set up a temporary base in Mbres, as clashes between ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka along the Kaga Bandoro–Mbres route persist. Mbres is currently under ex-Seleka control (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

Ouaka: A MINUSCA vehicle was attacked on the route from Bambari to Bangui, after alleged Muslims were arrested. Cars were battered and approximately 17 homes were burned (local media, 11/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of late April 2015, 2.7 million of 4.6 million people need immediate assistance, half of them children (OCHA, 29/04/2015). Delivery of aid is expected to decline because funding remains low (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Access

Violent attacks, threats against aid workers, and roadblocks hinder the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui (OCHA, 21/01/2015). A rapid assessment on the Niango–Kaga Nze route, in Bamingui-Bangoran province, found that exactions, theft and abuse were current practices in the region (Premiere Urgence – Aide Medicale International, 06/05/2015).

Trapped Communities

At end February, more than 36,000 people, mostly but not exclusively Muslim, were trapped in seven enclaves across CAR (WHO, 28/02/2015). As of 10 December, priority areas included Bangui’s PK5 neighbourhood, Yaloke in Ombella Mpoko, Berberati and Carnot in Mambéré Kadei, Boda and Boganangone in Lobaye, and Bouar in Nana-Mambere (USAID, 19/12/2014). They require urgent humanitarian assistance, particularly protection, health, and nutrition (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Since March, Fulani trapped in Yaloke (42 of whom have died since their arrival from other conflict areas in April 2014) have been able to travel into town and resume daily activities (UNHCR, 23/12/2014; Reuters, 25/03/2015; USAID, 10/04/2015). However, looting in Yaloke IDP site on 21 March raised tensions (OCHA, 02/04/2015). Since 4 March, over 130 IDPs have left Yaloke for Cameroon; at 17 April, approximately 330 Fulani IDPs were left in Yaloke enclave (UNHCR, 03/04/2015; 17/04/2015).

Security Constraints

Bangui: Security incidents in Bangui’s PK5 region have resulted in teachers fleeing their posts (OCHA, 04/03/2015). The police station in Bangui opened in March (Reuters, 25/03/2015).
232 acts of violence have been recorded against humanitarian organisations since January 2015 (OCHA, 12/05/2015). Attacks limiting access to humanitarian assistance increased from 76 in February to 112 in March. They include thefts of humanitarian assets and facilities as well as threats to staff (USAID, 27/04/2015); UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). In April, there were 21 security incidents against humanitarian workers (OCHA, 13/05/2015). On 25 March, a medical worker was killed at a health centre in Obokolobo village, Ouaka prefecture (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

18 humanitarian workers were killed and six wounded in 142 incidents in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014; USAID, 19/12/2014).

Ouaham: Solidarités International, DRC and Intersos have temporarily suspended activities due to looting and robbery in Kabo (07/04/2015). On 9 April, two cars from the Central African Red Cross were stolen (local media, 11/04/2015).

Ouaka: On 10 April, a MINUSCA convoy carrying food was attacked on the route from Bambari to Bangui (local media, 11/04/2015).

Disasters
Ouaham: On 23 April, a severe storm hit Moyenne Sido, affecting 3,500 individuals (IOM, 27/04/2015).

Mambere-Kadei: Storms in Berberati since 24 April have affected 1,110 people and destroyed 200 houses (Red Cross Movement, 14/05/2015).

Displacement
IDPs
As of 29 April, there are 426,240 IDPs in CAR (OCHA, 12/05/2015; 15/05/2015). Some 177,500 are living in 108 sites countrywide (including Bimbo and Bangui). 225,000 people with host families, and 35,700 people in the forest (OCHA, 07/01/2015; 04/02/2015; 29/04/2015; UNHCR, 03/04/2015; 21/04/2015).

Bangui: Relative improvements in the security conditions of some neighbourhoods outside Bangui have reduced IDP numbers in Bangui to 36,930 in 34 sites (UNHCR, 05/05/2015). Some suggest this drop may be due to the poor condition of IDP sites (OCHA, 04/03/2015; IOM, 02/03/2015; UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

The largest IDP sites in Bangui house the following numbers: Eglise des Frères Castors (1,375), Don Bosco/Damala (1,379), St Joseph Mukassa (2,352), Mission Carmel (2,731), and Seminaire St Marc (3,980) and Mpoko (under 18,000) (UNHCR, 05/05/2015).

As of 11 May, IOM has deregistered 3,440 people at Mpoko IDP site (IOM, 15/05/2015).

The transitional government has announced that the site will close by end May (OCHA, 14/04/2015). The 18,000 remaining are afraid to return home (Reuters, 25/03/2015; USAID, 10/04/2015; OCHA, 14/04/2015; 29/04/2015). A survey of all households previously found that 42% plan to resettle in new areas and 55% want to return to their place of origin (OCHA, 18/02/2015; USAID, 27/03/2015). AVICOM is an alternative site, but does not have adequate services and only 350 people surveyed agreed to move there (USAID, 13/03/2015; OCHA, 02/04/2015). Priority needs include shelter and NFIs, WASH, and health (IOM, 05/01/2015).

Nana Gribizi: 1,584 IDPs were identified on the Kaga Bandoro route in a rapid response assessment, having fled clashes between farmers and anti-balaka. Priority needs are NFIs, WASH, food security and education (Solidarités International, 02/04/2015).

Ouham: 3,600 IDPs are in Kabo and Moyenne Sido IDP sites; 5,200 are staying with host-families (IOM, 13/04/2015). Due to attacks in neighbouring villages, 1,060 IDPs in Kabo village, Nana-Bakassa subprefecture, are in need of NFIs, food, and access to education (Action Contre la Faim, 11/03/2015). 1,100 people fled to Markounda on 8 April, following the killing of two men in Manda village (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

Ouaka: Ouaka hosted 57,000 IDPs at 12 March (OCHA, 18/03/2015). In Bambari, there are 9,870 IDPs in Sangaris IDP site; 2,614 IDPs in MINUSCA site; 8,790 at Notre Dame de la Victoire; 9,400 in the Muslim neighbourhood Hadji and Bornu; and 7,900 at Aerodrome (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). 3,000–4,000 IDPs who arrived in Grimari in March, due to ex-Seleka and anti-balaka confrontations, need food, NFIs, and health assistance (OCHA, 04/03/2015; international organisation, 13/03/2015). Another 6,000 IDPs from the Grimari route and others from Lihoto Kouango subprefecture are living in Azengue-Mindou commune, in Kouango subprefecture (UNHCR, 03/04/2015). This area has suffered multiple clashes between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, resulting in displacement and NFI and WASH needs (ACTED, 19/03/2015). In a survey of IDPs in Lihoto, only 11% had access to safe water (the only borehole in the village has not worked in seven years), and the school has been closed for the past three years (ACTED, 19/03/2015).

Refugees in CAR
8,100 refugees and asylum seekers from DRC, Chad, and Sudan are living in camps in Bangui, Bambari, and Zemio (UNHCR, 26/03/2015; 17/04/2015; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries
As of April, there are 461,400 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries, 219,730 of whom have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 06/03/2015; 17/04/2015). 247,250 are registered in Cameroon, 94,020 in Chad, 94,130 in DRC, and 26,000 in Congo (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

The Chad–CAR border was officially closed in May 2014, but refugees continue to arrive at a number of border points (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Evacuees
At 8 December, there were 132,414 evacuees from CAR, including third-country nationals
and returning migrants (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

Returnees

There are approximately 94,500 returnees in CAR (OCHA, 31/03/2015). At the beginning of March, people were returning to their districts of origin from displacement sites in Bangui, but many believe this is due to the deteriorating situation of IDP sites and not to improved security (OCHA, 18/03/2015).

Mbomou: 2,980 returnees in Debissaka village, Rafai subprefecture, still fear Ugandan militant attacks. Needs include NFIs, safe water, and access to school (ACTED, 22/04/2015). A rapid assessment of Ndambissoua, Ouago and Zabe villages in Bakouma sub-prefecture determined that 660 returnees need humanitarian assistance, especially WASH as none of the villages have access to improved sources of water (ACTED, 11/05/2015).

Ouham: 10% of the IDPs had to return to Batangafo neighbourhoods to torrential rains (OCHA, 06/05/2015). Approximately 4,200 other IDPs have returned home from Kabo for lack of farming space. An estimated 7,000 people have returned to Kouki village, Nana Bakassa subprefecture (1,400 of the original 1,800 households). They are in need of NFIs, food, and health assistance. Child mortality is high (ACF, 22/04/2015). An assessment of Markounda town in April found that more than 3,300 returnees lacked access to health services and safe drinking water (USAID, 27/04/2015).

An assessment of Batangafo-Ouandago showed that 439 returnee households, 2,200 people, need NFIs and shelter reconstruction assistance (DRC, 21/03/2015).

Food Security

The lean season has begun and is due to last until August 2015. 1,268,000 people are under Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 20/05/2015). The most insecure being households headed by women, displaced people or returnees, and those without financial resources (OCHA, 04/02/2015; 04/03/2015; FEWSNET, 20/04/2015). Households in the north and northwest and IDPs throughout the country need assistance to prevent further negative coping mechanisms (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015). About 19% of people in rural areas are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 12% in Phase 4 (Emergency) (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Most IDPs were categorised as IPC Phase 3 in March 2015.

Outlook

Most of the population will face Crisis conditions, with a minority of households facing Emergency conditions until August 2015 (FEWSNET, 13/03/2015; 20/05/2015). This is worse than the five-year average and a result of insecurity and below-average crop production, food stocks, and household incomes (FEWSNET, 22/01/2015; 13/03/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Food access is restrained by reduced food production, lack of livelihoods, and high food prices (OCHA, 18/12/2014; FAO, 26/01/2015). Food crop production in 2014 was 58% below average, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids. Fish supply has fallen by 40% and cattle-breeding by 77% compared to pre-crisis levels, and insecurity and poor road conditions have disrupted market linkages and led to significant increases in food prices: prices from March to August 2014 increased 30–70% (FAO, 26/01/2015; OCHA, 18/12/2014).

Health and Nutrition

As of December 2014, two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 19/11/2014; OCHA 22/12/2014). 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 31/12/2014). Many health centres have been out of essential drugs for months due to access constraints. Shortages of drugs and qualified staff have been severe in Dekoa, Mala and Ndjoukou (Kemo) (IFRC, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 29/04/2015). There is a lack of access to health services in IDP sites and in the subprefectures of Mbres, Batangafo, and Kouango due to increased insecurity (WHO, 31/10/2014; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

More than 15,000 IDPs from Ngakobo in Ouaka prefecture and health district do not have access to healthcare services (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Malaria remains the primary reason for mortality (WHO, 30/04/2015). Due to shortage of funding, an NGO reduced its activities by 60% in Paoua and Markounda sub-prefectures, Ouham, where almost 150,000 receive free malaria treatment (OCHA, 13/05/2015).

Nutrition

Based on a national survey, the country has 6.5% severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF, 08/01/2015). In 2015, 22,700 children under five will suffer from SAM and 47,000 from MAM (OCHA, 29/04/2015). From January to end March 2015, 6,500 children have been admitted for treatment for SAM (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

In 2014, 28,000 children were severely malnourished and 75,500 moderately malnourished (OCHA, 04/12/2014; 18/12/2014).

More than 2% of children are malnourished in seven prefectures, compared to only two prefectures in 2012 (UNICEF, 17/02/2015). According to the preliminary results of a SMART survey, there has been a reduction in GAM in Bangui, from 8% in 2012 to around 5% in 2014, likely due to the concentration of humanitarian activities in the city (WFP, 23/09/2014).

WASH

2.3 million people do not have access to improved safe water or improved sanitation (OCHA, 23/09/2014; 22/12/2014). 1.4 million people are targeted for WASH assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

In Bambari, Sangaris site has 6.8L of water/person/day; MINUSCA has 10L/person/day;
Notre Dame de la Victoire 4.0L/person/day; and Muslim neighbourhoods have 2.2L/person/day (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

In Lihotom, Ouaka prefecture, only 11% of the households surveyed have access to potable water, and the only borehole in the village hasn't worked in seven years (ACTED, 19/03/2015).

Shelter and NFI

200 new IDPs in Notre-Dame de la Victoire IDP site in Bambari, Ouaka, need shelter and NFI assistance as well as 2,000 households in Nola, Sangha Mbaere, and Mala, Kemo (OCHA, 18/02/2015; IOM 02/03/2015).

Education

Over 1.4 million children are in need of education (OCHA, 22/12/2014). Only 6,000–10,000 children were enrolled in school 2012–2014 (IRIN, 12/01/2015).

Only 10% of school-aged returnees in Debissaka village, Mbomou prefecture, are attending school due to security threats and attacks (ACTED, 22/04/2015).

In Bangui’s PK5 district, teachers have been leaving due to insecurity, resulting in 60,000 school-aged children in need of safe learning spaces (USAID, 13/03/2015).

An assessment of schools noted that as of end April 2015, 78–88% are open (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). The situation varies across the country, with 25% functioning in Nana-Grebizi, 50% functioning in Ouaka, 63% in Sangha-Mbaere; 67% functioning in Vakaga and 71% in Ouham. Classes, however, are not occurring in a regular manner due to insecurity and absence of teachers. Student enrolment improved by 31% from 2013-2014 but is still 6% below pre-crisis levels (2011-2012) (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Protection

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been, and continued to be, reported. ExSeleka are listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Anti-balaka are listed for child recruitment, and killing and maiming (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014).

On 8 January, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights concluded that violence towards Muslims by anti-balaka in 2014 constitutes ethnic cleansing (Government, 20/01/2015).

21 Fulani herders who had been captured in Ombella-Mpoko in 2014 were freed by UN peacekeepers in Yaloke. At least 100 are still being held captive (Reuters, 19/04/2014; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

There were 150 reported rape cases in March and April in Bangui, Begoua (Bangui), Bimbo (Ombella-Mpoko), Yaloke (Ombella-Mpoko), Kaga Bandoro (Nana Grebizi), and Bambari, (Ouaka) with many more not reported (WHO, 30/04/2015).

Child Protection

432 children were killed or maimed by violence in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014). The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 8,000–10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (The Guardian, 18/12/2014; OCHA, 02/04/2015). Eight major militia groups have agreed to free child soldiers and children used as cooks, messengers, or for sexual purposes (Reuters, 05/05/2015). More than 350 children were freed from armed groups on 14 May (AFP, 14/05/2015). France is in the process of investigating allegations of child abuse by its peacekeeping forces that occurred between December 2013 and June 2014 (Reuters, 29/04/2015).

Updated: 26/05/2015

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 May: More than 15,000 people have been displaced to Beni territory from Mavivi and surrounding villages in the region following ADF attacks (OCHA).

15 May: 1,500 CAR refugees are in need of shelter in Inke camp due to lack of plastic sheeting (UNHCR).

8-12 May: 4,000 people were displaced to Sorodo and Gety Etat localities, Orientale province, following FARDC offensives toward FRPI (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

30 April: In Malemba Nkulu territory, Katanga, there is a confirmed measles epidemic with an average of 400 weekly cases (OCHA)

KEY CONCERNS

- Internal conflict in the eastern provinces of Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga.

- 7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

- 2.8 million IDPs (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

- Over 2 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).

- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).
OVERVIEW

Needs are highest in the conflict-affected regions of North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale, where there is large-scale, repeated displacement. IDPs, host populations, and those unable to flee are all vulnerable, as insecurity poses multiple protection risks and prevents access to basic services. Needs vary according to geographic area and conflict dynamics.

Political violence and inter-communal strife have persisted for decades, influenced by longstanding tensions with DRC’s eastern neighbours. Operations by DRC armed forces and UN peacekeepers and infighting between armed groups disrupt security and stability.

Political Context

National Political Context

Attempts to prolong the president’s term beyond the two-term limit in September and then January were met with violent protests (AFP, 27/09/2014). Although Parliament voted against the legislation to prolong the presidential term beyond 2016, there are doubts regarding the scheduling of elections (AFP, 25/01/2015). Parliamentary elections are due to take place in July 2015. In March and April, activists promoting political participation were arrested (Reuters, 16/04/2015).

Security Context

At least 40 armed groups are operating in the east of the country (ECHO, 22/10/2014). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among them many Mayi-Mayi groups), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from Uganda (LRA and ADF/NALU), Rwanda (FDLR) and Burundi (FNL). The UN has a peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), and an EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform (EUSEC) was extended until 30 June 2015 (EU, 25/09/2014). The UN and the Government are discussing withdrawal of the UN mission (Radio Okapi, 06/04/2015).

Front of Patriotic Resistance (FRPI) is an armed group established in November 2002 in Ituri from the Ngiti ethnic group (TRAC). Attacks increased in Irumu territory, Orientale, in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

300 FRPI militants disarmed to the FARDC on 17 May in Bunia, Orientale (Radio Okapi, 19/05/2015).

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are mainly Hutu Rwandans who were allegedly linked to the genocide. An estimated 1,400 fighters are active, primarily in the Kivu region (Reuters, 22/03/2015).

Mayi-Mayi: At least 20 Mayi-Mayi groups, formed by local leaders along ethnic lines, are active in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga. The number of fighters can range from 100 to 1,000 (AFP 2013).

Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) is a Muslim militant group founded in the 1990s. MONUSCO and the FARDC launched a second operation in North Kivu to neutralise the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 07/01/2015). ADF activity decreased in January, but by early February attacks against villages in Beni territory had increased (AFP, 04/02/2015; 20/03/2015).

Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), founded by Joseph Kony in Uganda in 1987, has spread to South Sudan and subsequently to DRC and CAR (IRIN).

National Liberation Forces (FNL) are Burundian militants based in South Kivu (AFP 2013).

The armed forces of the DRC (FARDC) comprise 120,000–130,000 fighters (Defence Web, 2013). Seven army and police officers were banned from receiving MONUSCO support in March 2015 because they pose a risk of committing human rights violations (Reuters, 11/03/2015).

The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) is made up of almost 18,000 troops, as well as military observers and police units (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The initial mission, MONUC, was established after the signing of the 1999 peace agreement between DRC and five regional states. In March 2014 its mandate was expanded, with the creation of an Intervention Brigade, charged with neutralising armed groups (RFI, 20/10/2014). MONUSCO’s mandate was extended for another year in March 2015, although its force was cut by 2,000 troops (Reuters, 26/03/2015; AFP, 26/03/2015).

Conflict Developments

An FARDC offensive on the FDLR began on 24 February in South Kivu, then moving to North Kivu territory, where most FDLR operate (AFP, 23/02/2015; 24/02/2015; 26/02/2015). Recent reports suggest that most FDLR are fleeing into the forest rather than risking combat (Reuters, 08/04/2015).

North Kivu

MONUSCO is preparing for voluntary disarmament of ADF and FDLR militants in Beni and Lubero territories (Radio Okapi, 24/04/2015). Since January, more than 60 people have been killed and around 80 kidnapped (OCHA, 23/04/2015). In Lubero territory, FDLR presence has been reported in the communities of Rusamambo, Bukumbirwa, Kasiki, Luhanga and Buleusa, where the FDLR accuses youth of collaborating with Mayi-Mayi militants (local media, 07/05/2015).

Beni territory: More than 300 people have been killed in Beni since October 2014 (international media, 09/05/2015). Investigations confirm that between 1 October and 31 December 2014, 237 civilians were killed, 47 were injured, 20 abducted and two sexually abused (UN, 13/05/2015).

The UN has deployed reinforcements to Beni after suspected ADF killed two peacekeepers and three civilians, and injured 13 others on 5 May near Eringeti town. Four peacekeepers are missing (Reuters, 06/05/2015; RFI, 06/05/2015; international media, 06/05/2015). In May, people left a dozen villages and were asked by authorities to move toward FARDC positions and the towns of Oicha and Beni city following the killing of 20 people (Radio Okapi, 15/05/2015). Schools, markets and shops have been closed due...
to insecurity (Radio Okapi, 13/05/2015). From 8-13 May, 66 people were killed around the periphery of Beni. More than 300 people have been killed in the past six months by ADF attacks in the region (OCHA, 20/05/2015). In April, 33 people were killed (AFP, 24/04/2015; OCHA, 23/04/2015). 200 Ugandan defence force soldiers were reportedly seen in Beni in April (Radio Okapi, 24/04/2015).

Lubero: The security situation in Banmate, Itala, Bunzoa, Ikobo villages, which lie between Lubero and Walikale territories, is tense due to FDLR attacks (Radio Okapi, 18/05/2015).

Masisi: Renewed fighting broke out mid-March between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and FARDC around Butemure (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). Communities in Masisi territory say they have seen FDLR activity despite the FARDC having pushed them out. Ten soldiers were killed on 6 April, including three officers (Reuters, 08/04/2015; local media, 08/04/2015).

Rutshuru: Tribal tensions between Hutus and Nande have halted social and economic activities in Nyamilima. Several families sought refuge in the church (local media, 04/05/2015). Armed men kidnapped more than 60 people on 15–16 April (OCHA, 23/04/2015). Six UN peacekeepers were injured in an ambush on the night of 8 April (10/04/2015).

Orientale: The Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI), LRA, and Mayi-Mayi Simba are all active in Orientale.

FRPI: FRPI has increased attacks on the civilian population in Irumu territory (Radio Okapi, 09/04/2015). 200,000 people are vulnerable to attack (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Armed groups have attacked IDP camps in Irumu territory seven times since the beginning of March, the last being on the night of 7–8 April (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Mayi-Mayi: On 12 April, the Mayi Mayi Simba attacked some localities in Mambasa territory dressed as FARDC, killing five, kidnapping others, and raping five women (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015).

Katanga: Active armed groups in Katanga include the Mayi Mayi Kata Katanga, the Mayi Mayi Gedeon, and the Corak Kata Katanga. Since January, the Luba and Pygmies (Batwa) have frequently clashed in Kalemi, Manono, and Nyunzu territories (OCHA, 08/04/2015). 55 people were killed in Pygmy attacks in February and March (Radio Okapi, 20/02/2015; AFP, 25/02/2015; Radio Okapi, 11/03/2015).

In Nyunzu, Luba burned several shelters in an IDP camp in May. Women and children are now hosted in a warehouse and require assistance (ECHO, 05/05/2015; OCHA, 06/05/2015). On 1 May, pygmy militants burned 28 Luba homes in Kazala locality, Manono territory. Following the attack, clashes between pygmies and Luba killed eight and injured 30 (local media, 07/05/2015).

On 14 April, Mujinya IDP site was pillaged by alleged FARDC, causing renewed displacement (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

Since early 2015, Katanga’s triangle of death (Pweto, Manono and Moba territories) has experienced a decrease in Mayi Mayi attacks (Radio Okapi, 17/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Access

The mountainous and volcanic terrain, and lack of tarred roads, limit access across DRC, and access worsens during the rainy season. Insecurity is a major constraint in the east.

North Kivu: Humanitarians are leaving areas of Masisi territory due to insecurity (Radio Okapi, 27/03/2015). Humanitarian groups are considering suspending their activities in Rutshuru and Beni territories due to increasing insecurity; other organisations have already suspended activities along the Oicha-Eringeti route north of Beni (Radio Okapi, 23/05/2015). Some 275,000 IDPs are hard to access in North Kivu due to insecurity, including 44,000 IDPs in sites in Rutshuru territory (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Katanga: 82% of the roads in Katanga are almost impassable (OCHA, 30/04/2015). An important trade route connecting the villages of Kabwela and Kakuyu in Katanga has reopened after being cleared of landmines (Mines Advisory Group, 17/03/2015). ACTED suspended its activity in Pweto after 14 April due to threats (OCHA, 29/04/2015). In Malemba-Nkulu territory, humanitarian assistance in restricted due to poor roads, especially during the rainy season (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers

From January to end March, 37 incidents against humanitarian actors were recorded (OCHA, 30/04/2015). There were 35 incidents against humanitarians in North Kivu alone over 14–30 April (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Six UN peacekeepers were injured in an ambush on the night of 8 April (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015). 200,000 people are vulnerable to attack (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Armed groups have attacked IDPs in Irumu territory seven times since the beginning of March, the last being on the night of 7–8 April (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Disasters

Floods

Katanga: 48,000 people were affected by floods due to heavy rains in January, including 30,000 who were left without shelter in Bukama, Kabalo, Kasaji, Kasenga, Mulono and Malemba Nkulu territories (OCHA, 12/02/2015; 18/03/2015). More than 5,000 homes were destroyed by rains in Haut Lomami.

Orientale: Heavy rains in Dumba on 3 April destroyed 85 homes, leaving more than 400
people without shelter (Radio Okapi, 03/04/2015).

**South Kivu:** Heavy rains have left approximately 9,700 people without shelter. 16 have died and 12 are missing. Humanitarian access is very limited due to poor road conditions and damage to Kamvimvira and Kawizi bridges, Uvira territory (OCHA, 10/04/2015). In Uvira, rains in March destroyed 1,230 homes, 14 schools, and 850 latrines. In Fizi, 20 died, and 2,300 homes, four schools, and 300 hectares of crops were destroyed (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

At end April, there were 2.8 million IDPs in DRC, including 121,000 displaced between January and March 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 37,800 were displaced between October and December 2014, 609,600 over all 2014 (OCHA, 19/04/2015). 80% of IDPs are hosted by families and communities who are already facing chronic food insecurity and limited access to services and livelihood opportunities (FAO, 20/11/2014).

**North Kivu**

North Kivu hosts 1,003,250 IDPs, including 60,450 newly displaced in March (OCHA, 14/04/2015; 23/04/2015). 78% live with host families and 22% in IDP sites, most of which are near Goma. Authorities are moving to close the sites down for security reasons (OCHA, 28/02/2015; AFP, 03/12/2014). The IDP breakdown per region is: 19,300 in Goma city; 172,500 in Beni; 158,500 in Lubero; 238,800 in Masisi; 103,500 in Rutshuru; and 249,800 in Walikale (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

**Buhimba and Nzulo IDP sites have closed; 700 IDPs returned to their place of origin and 128 were transferred to other sites (OCHA, 20/5/2015).**

**Beni:** More than 15,000 people have been displaced to Beni from Mavivi and other villages in the region following ADF attacks (OCHA, 20/05/2015). There are more than 5,500 new IDPs in Beni territory since early March (OCHA, 11/03/2015). An estimated 45,000 people remain displaced since operations against ADF/NALU began (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

**Lubero:** There are about 34,000 IDPs in Lubero territory (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

**Masisi:** Some 3,800 people fled their homes on 6 March because of the FARDC offensive against FDLR in Kitchanga and Bibwe (OCHA, 11/03/2015). 1,200 people have fled clashes between FARDC and APCLS (OCHA, 24/03/2015).

**Walikale:** 5,300 IDPs were reported in west Walikale and are living with host families (OCHA, 17/03/2015). Approximately 550 IDPs have been identified in Kibua centre (OCHA, 08/04/2015). Some 1,660 IDPs have been reported in Kalonge, Kibue and Limangi on the Mpofi–Kibua route (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

**South Kivu**

At 31 March, 661,400 IDPs were in South Kivu (OCHA, 30/04/2015). From January to end March 34,000 people were newly displaced with Mwenga and Shabunda territories being the most affected by the FARDC offensive against the FDLR (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Another 44,000 people have limited mobility. Poor access and limited humanitarian presence make it difficult to measure the impact of the offensive on the population, especially in Mwenga territory (OCHA, 19/03/2015). Approximately 6,500 people have been displaced following clashes between the FARDC and the Mayi Mayi Yakutumba in southern Fizi territory (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

**Orientale**

As of end March, there were 550,490 IDPs in Orientale province as well as 342,000 returnees (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 30/04/2015). **Around 389,230 people are displaced in Ituri district (OCHA, 22/05/2015). 80,000 people are still displaced due to FRPI activities (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).**

From 8 and 12 May 4,000 people were displaced to Sorodo and Gety Etat localities following FARDC offensives on armed groups, including the FRPI (OCHA, 22/05/2015). 1,200 families (approximately 6,480 IDPs) living in Komanda, Ituri territory, say necessary humanitarian assistance has not been provided (Radio Okapi, 23/04/2015). Some 1,620 people have left two villages in Ango territory due to LRA security threats (Radio, Okapi, 25/03/2015). 1,400 people were displaced from 8–12 April due to FRPI attacks (OCHA, 14/04/2015). More than 10,000 IDPs in CEBCA, Adventiste, Bolombola, and Ngombenyama IDP sites in Omanda locality refuse to be relocated. They were displaced by FRPI attacks in September 2013 from south Irumu, FAREDC and armed group clashes on May and June 2014, as well as ADF attacks in November 2014 (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

**Katanga**

Katanga hosts 460,600 IDPs, including 24,400 displaced in the first quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 15/04/2015; 21/04/2015). 73% are living with host families and 27% in IDP sites (OCHA, 21/04/2015). From January–March 2015, 84,500 people returned home (OCHA, 15/04/2015).

About 16,500 new IDPs were registered in March in Malemba Nkulu and Pweto territories (Radio Okapi, 27/03/2015). Escalated violence between the Batwa and the Luba has displaced an estimated 42,100 people towards Lwizi (Nyunzu) and Nyemba (Kalemie) (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). Approximately 15,000 IDPs, primarily women and children, are living in poor conditions in Nyemba territory, displaced by intercommunal violence in Manono and Kabalo territories (Radio Okapi, 20/04/2015). 10,000 were displaced from Kabumulo toward Kibumba, Malemba and Mwanza Seya in mid-March, fleeing Mayi-Mayi attacks (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

**Maniema** has 181,520 IDPs as of 30 March (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 21/04/2015).

More than 4,000 people arrived in Pagi and Kabambare territories from South Kivu January–March 2015 due to Raia Mutomboki attacks in Shabunda territory and clashes between FARDC and the Mayi Mayi Yakutumba in Fizi (OCHA, 08/04/2015). 2,700 people were displaced from Fizi territory in South Kivu to Kabambare following clashes on 23 March between the FARDC and the Mayi Mayi Yakutumba. On 25 and 26 March, clashes between...
Mayi Mayi Yakutumba caused further displacement in Munzanza, a mining site (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Refugees in DRC

DRC hosts more than 225,020 refugees (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015; OCHA, 19/04/2015; 30/04/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.

From CAR: As of 15 May there were 97,195 CAR refugees in DRC, 46,150 of whom had arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/04/2015; 15/05/2015). 30,000 arrived in Equateur province over December 2014 and January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 28/01/2015). Another 2,400 people arrived in Mobayi, Equateur, in mid-February (UNHCR, 24/02/2015; OCHA, 18/02/2015). A new refugee camp for 19,000 is being built in Bili, Bosobolo territory (Radio Okapi, 10/02/2015). The transfer of refugees to Bili started on 13 March and is expected to last 14 weeks (Radio Okapi, 14/03/2015). As of 15 May, 4,158 CAR refugees were registered in Bili camp (UNHCR, 03/04/2015; 15/05/2015).

From Rwanda: DRC is hosting 117,300 Rwandan refugees (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 30/10/2014; UN 30/12/2014).

From Burundi: New arrivals of Burundian refugees and returnees have reached 9,420 (OCHA, 20/05/2015; AFP, 24/05/2015). 8,310 are living with host families; 730 are living in Kavimvira transit centre; 130 are at Sange reception centre; and five at Monge Monge reception centre – South Kivu (UNHCR, 18/05/2015). Most are female and hosted by local communities (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Prior to the recent influx, there were 8,000 Burundian refugees in DRC (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

From Angola: There are 560 Angolan refugees registered in DRC, and 28,000 are undergoing voluntary repatriation (UNHCR, 28/02/2015). From 20 June 2014 until 23 April 2015, 15,520 Angolan refugees had been repatriated (2,970 in 2015 alone) (Government, 30/04/2015).

Returnees

North Kivu: In March, there were 445,610 returnees to North Kivu (OCHA, 06/02/2015; 14/04/2015; 30/04/2015). Some 13,000 people returned to Rutshuru territory between March and April due to a renewed peace, though this has slowed in May (OCHA, 30/05/2015).

Katanga: During the first quarter of 2015, 84,500 new IDP returnees were counted in Katanga (OCHA, 16/01/2015; 21/04/2015). At 31 December, Pweto territory had 65,700 returnees (OCHA, 18/03/2015). More than 5,300 returnees who arrived in Kasenga Ngayie locality, Moba territory, in February 2015 need multisectoral assistance (OCHA, 08/04/2015). Another 5,800 returnees in Kamena, south of Moba territory, who had fled Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga violence, arrived in September 2014 and are in need of health, nutrition, food and protection assistance (OCHA, 22/04/2015). As of 31 March, there are a total of 322,293 returnees in Katanga (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Maniema: As of 30 March, there were 181,520 returnees, including 1,200 since January 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Oriental: As of 31 March, there were 333,610 returnees (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 3,000 returnees are awaiting registration in Angola territory (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

South Kivu: At 31 March, there were 209,600 returnees from the past 18 months (OCHA, 23/04/2015). 325 DRC refugees previously in Burundi returned to Uvira territory (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

DRC Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are around 442,440 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (178,220), Rwanda (73,560), Burundi (53,860), Tanzania (55,870), Congo (23,450), Kenya (15,630), South Sudan (14,630), and CAR (5,340) (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 17/02/2015; 01/01/2015; 31/12/2014).

Food Security

6.6 million people are facing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or 4 (Emergency) food insecurity as a result of armed group activity, inter-communal violence, and displacement (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015). The food security situation in DRC is worsening due to low agricultural productivity, limited access to land, and frequent flooding, with an increase of about 523,000 people in the Emergency phase (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015).

The following areas are facing Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4): Ituri (Oriental), Boende (Equateur), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (South Kivu), Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto (Katanga) (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015). In Katanga, 1.3 million people are facing food insecurity from December 2014 until June 2015, 11% more than in the previous seasonal cycle (OCHA, 05/02/2015).

Oriental: Insecurity in Geti area, Irumu territory, is affecting food security, which was IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in December 2014; 260,000 IDPs, returnees and local communities are affected (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

North Kivu: Farmers are having difficulties accessing their fields because of movement restrictions imposed by the FARDC and the FDLR, who tend to ask for payment for passage (OCHA, 19/04/2015). An assessment of Mugunga 3 Camp showed that food insecurity increased from 48.7% in January to 60.4% in February. Households are adopting negative coping strategies (WFP, 28/04/2015).

South Kivu: The food security situation in South Kivu, where Burundian refugees are arriving, is worrying – especially given the presence of armed groups (WFP, 22/05/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Farmers in Kipushi, Katanga, are concerned about the upcoming harvests in May 2015 due to the current slow growth of maize and beans (local media 06/04/2015).
More than 3,000 hectares of rice crops have been damaged due to Whitefly infestation in Kibombo territory, Maniema (OCHA, 21/04/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

23,000 people in Masisi territory, North Kivu, do not have access to health services (OCHA, 11/02/2015). The health centre in Beni, North Kivu, has had a shortage of medicine since 23 February due to the rise in the number of IDPs (OCHA, 11/03/2015).

More than 17,500 IDPs and host-families in north Beni, North Kivu need health assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

576 cases of an unidentified disease similar to malaria has been recorded in Kayna health zone, Lubero territory, North Kivu. The number of deaths has not been recorded nor announced (Radio Okapi, 26/04/2015). 21 people have been paralysed by an unidentified disease in Sandoa, Katanga since end April. 200 people have fled places where the disease was recorded (Radio Okapi, 15/05/2015).

**Measles**

5,450 cases of measles have been reported since January 2015 (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

In Katanga, a measles epidemic has been confirmed in Malemba-Nkulu territory, with an average of 400 weekly cases, including ten deaths (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 4,426 cases of measles were reported from January to 26 April 2015, including 78 deaths. In the four weeks to 6 May, 30 children under five have died of measles (OCHA, 06/05/2015). 20 children died from measles in the span of two weeks in Malemba Nkulu, Katanga. One of the causes is thought to be the lack of medicine (Radio Okapi, 25/04/2015). Six children died on 12 May in Mukanga, Katanga (local media, 13/05/2015).

**Cholera**

5,290 cases of cholera, including 56 deaths, were recorded from January to mid-April 2015 (UNICEF, 18/05/2015).

In Katanga, 2,000 cases and 37 deaths were recorded between January and 2 April (UN 02/04/2015; OCHA, 18/03/2015). In South Kivu, 1,820 cases have been reported (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). In North Kivu, 880 cases were recorded from January to March 2015 (UNICEF; 31/03/2015; OCHA, 24/03/2015) and 321 cases were reported from 15 April –20 May (OCHA, 20/05/2015). As of 6 April, 75 cases of cholera and five deaths have been reported in Orientale (OCHA, 08/04/2015; 21/04/2015).

In 2014, there were 22,200 cases of cholera and 372 deaths, compared to 26,440 cases in 2013 (WHO, 31/12/2014; UNICEF, 24/12/2014).

**Nutrition**

Over two million children under five suffer from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014). At May 2014, three provinces were above the 10% emergency threshold: Maniema (22.7%), Bas-Congo (11%), and Bandundu (10%). In Maniema, SAM was recorded at 8.6% (Government, 05/2014).

**WASH**

Inke and Mole refugee camps, provide an average of 10.5L of water per person per day, significantly below standards (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

An estimated 4.3 million people require WASH assistance in North Kivu (OCHA, 20/05/2015). 5,000 IDPs in Bwalanda, Kashilira and Kikwikui sites in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu need urgent WASH assistance. There is a lack of humanitarian actors doing WASH in this area (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Access to water in Bunia, Orientale province, is limited (Radio Okapi, 25/03/2015). Only 40% of the population of Maniema province have access to potable water (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

The refugee site Lusenda, hosting Burundian refugees in Fizi territory, South Kivu lacks potable water (AFP, 25/05/2015).

Heavy rains in Uvira territory, South Kivu, have destroyed latrines (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

**Shelter**

More than 235 people in Yamwanda village, Equateur, lost their homes to fire during a month of intercommunal violence (Radio Okapi, 02/04/2015).

Heavy rains on 3 April destroyed more than 85 houses in Durba, Orientale (Radio Okapi, 04/04/2015). An estimated 9,670 people have been left without shelter in Uvira territory due to heavy rains and winds (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

1,500 CAR refugees are in need of shelter in Inke camp due to a lack of plastic sheeting. No shelters have been built in four weeks (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

**Education**

7.3 million children aged 5–17 – 28% of the school-aged population – are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).

Only 40% of school-aged children are attending school in Equateur (Radio Okapi 07/02/2015).

6,000 school-aged children are out of school in Kalemie, Manono, and Nyunzu territories due to clashes between Batwa and Luba, fires, and heavy rains in their localities (OCHA, 08/04/2015). Five schools have been closed since October 2014 in Manono territory, Katanga, affecting 950 students (Radio Okapi, 31/03/2015). More than 85% of the 2,000 school-aged children in Kasanga Nyemba, Kalemie territory, are not attending school (OCHA, 22/04/2015). A school was burned in Garenganze, Manono territory, following clashes between Luba and pygmies. 4,600 students are affected (Radio Okapi, 17/05/2015). More than 30 schools in Kaumulu, Malemba Nkulu territory, Katanga, have been closed since March 2015 due to clashes between the Mayi-Mayi and the
Attacks on schools in North Kivu in February are affecting education (OCHA, 24/02/2015). In Rutshuru territory, confrontations between the FARDC and the FLDR are compromising school activity (OCHA, 24/03/2015).

Protection

Military, militias, and other armed groups are all accused of repeated abuses against civilians, including arbitrary arrests, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions. In Orientale, for example, 12,300 protection incidents against civilians were reported in 2014, compared to 4,800 in 2013 (OCHA, 04/02/2015). An NGO report determined that 40% of Orientale’s surface contains mines (Radio Okapi, 04/04/2015).

Kidnapping

Between 8 and 17 March, 26 kidnappings were reported in North Kivu, including four INGO staff (OCHA, 17/03/2015). Around 30 people were kidnapped by the FDLR in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu on 15 April (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015).

Child Protection

4,500 child soldiers left armed groups to be reintegrated into society in 2014 (Radio Okapi, 03/03/2015). In Orientale province, 450 children are still active in armed groups (OCHA, 24/02/2015). From January to March 2015, 924 children were released from armed groups throughout the country, including 809 in eastern DRC (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

SGBV

Sexual violence has been a common element of warfare by the armed groups and soldiers in eastern DRC since the breakout of war in the early 1990s. 127 women reported being sexually abused after an attack by dozens of armed men in Kikamba town, South Kivu on 1 May (MSF, 15/05/2015).

Orientale: 2,860 cases of rape have been registered in Karibuni Wamama hospital in Bunia, Orientale province, since 2010. Due to insecurity, the number of rapes reported increases each year, particularly in Ituri territory (Radio Okapi, 05/04/2015).

In Orientale, FRPI are using sexual violence. In Bunia, Irumu and Mambasa territories, 42 cases of sexual violence were reported in February 2015 (OCHA, 19/03/2015). 90% of the 2,900 cases of SGBV reported in Orientale in 2014 occurred in Ituri territory, the others in Uele territory (OCHA, 08/04/2015; 19/04/2015). On 12 April, in Mambasa territory, the Mayi Mayi Simba attacked localities and raped five women (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015). On 10 May, 26 women were raped by FRPI in Apinjji and Mbulumbulu localities (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

Katanga: There were more than 600 cases of SGBV reported From January to end March in Katanga. 50% came from Nyunzu territory (OCHA, 22/04/2015). Approximately 100 minors were raped in January 2015 in Kalemie, Moba, and Pweto in Katanga province (Radio Okapi, 19/02/2015). In the past year and a half, rapes of young children and babies have been reported (AFP, 19/03/2015).

1,680 SGBV cases were reported in 2014 in Katanga and 840 in Kasai-Occidental (OCHA, 05/02/2015; Radio Okapi, 11/02/2015). 2,012 were reported in Orientale province, and 1,123 in Bas-Congo (OCHA, 10/12/2014, 03/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 27/11/2014).

Updated: 26/05/2015
- 1,831 cholera cases reported since January 2015, with 78 deaths (UNICEF, 18/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

Violence has internally displaced more than 1.5 million people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education.

Political Context

Incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan, whose party has led the country since 1999, lost to Muhammadu Buhari from the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) during March elections. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (AFP, 02/04/2015; 11/12/2014). Although irregularities have been alleged and protests reported, the elections did not spark large-scale violence or displacement (Guardian, 31/03/2015).

National organs were accused of aiding APC supporters in Abia, Imo, Plateau, and Zamfara states during the April state governorship and parliamentary elections (AFP, 04/04/2015). The APC won 21 of Nigeria’s 36 states. 66 violent incidents at polling stations were reported, mostly in Rivers and other southern states (BBC, 13/04/2015).

Security Context

5,825 fatalities were reported in nearly 240 violent events involving Boko Haram between January and May 2015 (ACLED, 07/05/2015). Since the end of 2014, the conflict with Boko Haram has taken on more regional dimension, with BH attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force. With the engagement of regional forces, the Nigerian Government regained territory in early 2015. Boko Haram’s insurgency gained momentum in 2014, when 7,711 deaths due to Boko Haram-related violence were reported by media sources, over half of those reported since May 2011 (ACLED, 11/01/2014). As of 26 May, 27 suicide attacks have been recorded in Nigeria this year, compared to 26 attacks in all of 2014 (UNICEF, 26/05/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

Inter-communal clashes fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions, as well as competition between farmers and pastoralists, flare regularly in the Middle Belt area (Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nassarawa, and Taraba states) (IDMC, 12/2014).

On 26 May, suspected Fulani herdsman killed at least 23 people in three villages in the Logo local government area in Benue state (AFP, 26/05/2015). On 19 April, at least 23 villagers died in inter-communal clashes between the Ologba and Egba communities in Benue state, reportedly over fishing rights (AFP, 19/04/2015). In March, 118 people were killed attacks by suspected Fulani herdsmen, which also caused injuries and displacement

Boko Haram (BH)

Boko Haram ("Western education is forbidden") has been leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise BH troop numbers are not known, but estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 07/03/2015).

Regional Forces

BH has repeatedly made cross-border attacks into the Far North region of Cameroon, and more recently, Diffa region, Niger. Chad has been providing military support for the fight against BH since January.

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has reached 10,000 military and civilian personnel, including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, in addition to Nigeria and Benin (UNHCR, 26/03/2015). About 2,500 Chadian troops withdrew from Nigeria mid-March, with indications they would be redeployed for fresh offensives elsewhere (AFP, 29/03/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear; failure to maintain control over liberated towns, such as Gamboru and Marte in Borno state in March and April, have also suggested co-ordination problems (AFP, 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

Conflict Developments

The renewed military offensives of early 2015 and territorial gains by regional forces (36 towns recaptured in Borno) have prompted BH to revert to guerrilla tactics of village raids, abductions, bombings and suicide attacks, with civilians increasingly targeted (AFP, 23/03/2015; US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). BH have carried out mass killings and destruction before leaving villages they have raided, such as in Bama in mid-March (AFP, 17/03/2015). Repraisal attacks against Arabic speakers in the northeast have also been reported over accusations of aiding Chad’s army (Reuters, 12/03/2015).

On 22 April, the military announced operations in Sambisa forest, thought to be BH’s last stronghold (Reuters, 22/04/2015). At the end of May, these operations were continuing (AFP, 23/05/2015).
Borno state: On 24 May, BH attacked Gubio town, north of Maiduguri, killing at least 37 people and setting fire to more than 400 buildings. Military forces later reportedly pushed BH out of the town (AFP, 26/05/2015; 24/05/2015). 55 people were killed in BH raids in two villages near Maiduguri on 13 May; another nine, including three soldiers, were killed as BH proceeded to the outskirts of Maiduguri outskirts on 14 May, where Nigerian troops pushed them back (AFP, 15/05/2015; 14/05/2015). Over 4–10 April, at least 30 people were killed after suspected BH raided Buratai, Kwajaffa and Kayamla villages (AFP, 10/04/2015; 06/04/2015; 04/04/2015). Hundreds of people have been found dead in Damasak after BH attacks in April (AFP, 27/04/2015).

On 23 May, the military claimed to have successfully launched an attack on a BH base in Sambisa forest and rescued more than 20 hostages (AFP, 23/05/2015). On 16 May, the military claimed to have demolished ten BH camps in Sambisa forest (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Adamawa state: On 19 May, eight people were killed and 14 injured in a suspected BH suicide bombing in Garkida village (AFP, 19/05/2015). The same day, BH attacked Sabon Gari Hyembula village in Madagali district, killing three people and abducting seven women (AFP, 19/05/2015). On 22 May, BH attacked Pambula-Kwamda village, also in Madagali district, and killed at least ten people (AFP, 25/05/2015). According to the military, BH had been pushed out of the state in March (AFP, 19/05/2015).

Gombe state: On 1 April, a suspected BH attack near a bus station killed ten people (AFP, 04/04/2015). On 28 March, BH was suspected of killing at least seven people in separate attacks, including at polling stations (Reuters, 28/03/2015).

Rivers state: In April, unidentified gunmen invaded Obrikom and Obor communities, killing six people and injuring two (AFP, 04/04/2015).

Yobe state: Seven people were killed and 31 injured in a suicide attack in Damaturu on 16 May (AFP, 16/05/2015). On 8 May, a suspected BH attack on a school in Potiskum wounded 12 students (AFP, 08/05/2015). On 24 April, BH killed 21 people returning to Bultaram village in Gujba district (AFP, 27/04/2015). On 20 April, a suspected BH suicide attack injured three outside a Shi’ite mosque in Potiskum (AFP, 20/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 9.7 million people are staying in 34 areas worst affected by the insurgency, including IDPs. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; 4.6 million are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 30/04/2015). The situation is compounded by limited international presence in the area.

Access

Humanitarian assessments are severely challenged as security concerns are preventing access to some areas near Sambisa forest (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

In Borno state, most routes to affected areas are inaccessible. The road from Damaturu, Yobe state, is the only route for bringing food and other basic commodities to Maiduguri and northern Borno state (OCHA, 13/01/2015). Maiduguri airport is closed to commercial flights.

Movement in BH-controlled areas is reportedly restricted, and the use of vehicles is forbidden, most likely to prevent residents from leaving (IFRC, 23/01/2015).

Media access has also often been prohibited, with BH having destroyed communication and media infrastructure (Reporters without Borders, 05/02/2015).

While the food security sector is 33% funded, health (0%), shelter and NFIs (0%), nutrition (10%), protection (14%), and WASH (13%) remain very poorly funded, severely constraining relief efforts (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Displacement

More than 1.4 million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict, including more than 1.2 million internally and 203,000 abroad. 56% of IDPs are children.

IDPs

There are nearly 1.5 million IDPs in six northeastern states, largely due to the insurgency, compared to 1.2 million in February. 64.5% of IDPs were displaced in 2014. The highest number is in Borno (939,290), followed by Adamawa (222,882), and Yobe (139,591). IDPs mainly come from Borno (68%), Adamawa (15%), and Yobe (11%). 57% are children, 28% of whom are under five; 90% live with host families, while the others live in 42 sites (IOM, 29/04/2015).

63% of IDPs in Borno state are in Maiduguri. In April, some 2,000 IDPs fled to Maiduguri from Gwoza and Bama, where all social services have been destroyed (OCHA, 30/04/2015; IOM, 29/04/2015).

12% of IDPs in Borno state are residing in 16 sites (114,360 individuals): ten are in Maiduguri. 10% of IDPs in Adamawa state (21,950) are living in 15 displacement sites, mainly in Yola south and Girei, while 10% of those displaced in Taraba state (6,300) are living in 10 sites (IOM, 29/04/2015).

Displacement sites are expected to be closed down in the coming months, and IDPs relocated (IDMC, 16/04/2015).

Returnees

Over 6–15 May, around 12,300 Nigerians arrived from islands on the Niger side of Lake Chad, as they were ordered to leave before planned military operations against BH. Up to 4,000 remain in two transit camps in Geidam in Yobe state (OCHA, 15/05/2015; 11/05/2015).

IDPs in northeastern Nigeria are increasingly returning home despite persistent insecurity and critical lack of access to basic services (OCHA, 28/04/2015). 800 IDPs were relocated from Pompomari site in Damaturu to Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe states. Returnees in Adamawa state are in urgent need of shelter, food, health, and education, as villages have been severely damaged by the insurgency. Concerns remain over mines,
improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance in locations where IDPs are planning to return (OCHA, 04/03/2015).

Refugees

As of 17 January, there were 2,120 refugees and asylum seekers of different nationalities in Nigeria (UNHCR, 08/04/2015).

Nigerian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Around 207,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries, mainly to Niger, Cameroon, and Chad (OCHA, 15/05/2015).

Food Security

Dry spells have been affecting southern Nigeria for the past few weeks and are expected to continue (FEWSNET, 24/04/2015). 4.6 million people are estimated food insecure (OCHA, 08/05/2015). The predicted mild El Niño this year is expected to further increase food security concerns (Guardian, 21/05/2015).

More than three million people are expected to be in need of food assistance in the northeast in the coming months (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015). The number of areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity is expected to increase in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states until the main harvest in October, as more households begin to face food consumption gaps (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015). Food security is expected to improve slightly during the harvest season, however limited harvests will cause households to experience continued food consumption gaps (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). Areas worst affected by conflict are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity in July (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015). Lack of access to IDPs for food distribution, mostly in urban areas, is a concern (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). IDPs have reported lack of food as their biggest concern (ICRC, 20/05/2015).

Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity is expected for most households outside the northeast through at least September (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015).

Agriculture and Livelihoods

Food prices are atypically high in Maiduguri, as food stocks within the host community are depleting rapidly. At least 350,000 farming households in Michika, Madagali, Hong, and Gombi in Adamawa state are in urgent need of agricultural support (OCHA, 04/03/2015).

Boko Haram enforces rigid movement restrictions and some limitations on trade, negatively impacting people’s ability to obtain food and gain a livelihood (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

3.5 million people need health assistance. There is a need to pre-position more emergency supplies in IDP camps and host communities, especially in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, as the IDP population increases with continued attacks (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes severely hit, with polio vaccination campaigns limited to Maiduguri.

IDPs emerging from captivity, including from Gwoza and Bama, require urgent psychological support (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Most IDPs in host communities have limited access to health services due to various constraints such as lack of information on services and transportation costs (OCHA, 02/10/2014). 3,000 health facilities in the northeast are closed or have been partially destroyed (OCHA, 08/10/2014). As of March 2014, only 37% of health facilities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states were still functioning.

Cholera

As of 19 April, 1,831 cholera cases have been reported in 2015, with 78 deaths (UNICEF, 18/05/2015). There has been a resurgence of cases in Kano and Kaduna states, and there is a risk the outbreak could spread further (UNICEF, 10/02/2015). 35,996 cholera cases, including 753 deaths, were reported in 2014.

Meningitis

As of 22 February, 479 cases of meningitis, with 38 fatalities (7.9% case fatality rate) were reported in four areas in Kebbi and Sokoto states (WHO, 22/02/2015).

Nutrition

1.5 million malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children suffering from SAM (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 04/03/2015). Around 100,000 children in camps are thought to be suffering from SAM (OCHA, 04/03/2015).

In the northeast, 12% of children suffer from GAM (UNICEF, 13/01/2015). 8.7% of children in Maiduguri and Jere, in Borno state, suffer from SAM, and 27.8% from MAM. The nutritional situation of the displaced and host communities is rapidly deteriorating (ECHO, 14/03/2015).

Poisoning

65 cases of lead poisoning, including 28 children deaths, have been reported in Niger state in 2015. Poisoning is suspected to be due to illegal gold mining. In 2010, lead poisoning in Zamfara state killed at least 400 children, and affected more than 2,000 (AFP, 14/05/2015).

Polio

The number of children missing out on polio vaccination because of insecurity increased from 778,000 in November 2014 to more than 1.1 million in January 2015 (UNICEF, 13/04/2015). In 2014, 30 type 2 polio cases were reported, and six cases of poliovirus type 1 (GPEI, 15/04/2015).

WASH

2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA, 04/03/2015).
WASH conditions in IDP host communities are critical, with reports of inadequate latrines and lack of access to safe water (IDMC, 16/04/2015). In the northeast, only 46% of the population have access to improved sources of drinking water and 21% to latrines (UNICEF, 13/01/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

1.9 million people are in need of shelter and NFIs; people in conflict-affected areas whose homes were damaged are particularly affected (OCHA, 04/03/2015).

In 14 IDP sites, up to a quarter of IDPs are living outdoors. Shelter repair is a priority need in 36 IDP sites, while blankets are reported as the most needed NFI (IOM, 29/04/2015). Only 10% of IDPs in the camp were reported to have a roof, WASH facilities were lacking, and many relied on relatives for food (MSF, 31/03/2015).

**Education**

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, including 60% in the northeastern part of the country (UNICEF, 04/2015).

More than 300 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed by insurgents in the northeast (OCHA, 30/04/2015). As of April, schools in 19 of the 27 local governments areas in Borno state remain closed, after having been shut down in March 2014 (UNICEF, 06/04/2015).

BH has repeatedly targeted schools and other educational institutions. More than 300 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed, and at least 196 teachers and 314 school children were killed between January 2012 and December 2014 (UNICEF, 13/04/2015).

**Protection**

2.2 million people are in need of protection assistance; women are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking in displacement sites, while separated and unaccompanied minors are also among the most vulnerable (OCHA, 04/03/2015; IDMC, 16/04/2015; UNICEF, 13/04/2015).

As parents fear sending girls to school due to insecurity, advocacy groups have raised concerns over increased rates of child marriage (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 20/05/2015).

Islamic scholars and clerics are often among the first targets during BH raids on towns and villages, as they are considered unbelievers because they do not adhere to BH interpretation of Islam (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). Indiscriminate killings by the group have also been reported once villages are recaptured: between 600 and 1,000 residents were killed in Gwoza mid-2014 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

**Abduction, Torture, and Forced Recruitment**

Kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue. More than 2,000 women and girls have reportedly been abducted by the group since January (AFP, 30/04/2015; BBC, 14/04/2015). Around 1,000 women and children rescued from BH over 28 April–4 May have been taken to Yola camp for rehabilitation (local media, 05/05/2015; AFP, 03/05/2015).

Women and girls have been trafficked, raped, abducted and forcibly married in areas controlled by BH (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Young men are also being forcibly recruited and executed (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

Since July 2014, nine incidents have been recorded of children used as suicide bombers (UNICEF, 26/05/2015).

Nigeria’s police and military is thought to practice routine torture (BBC, 18/09/2014).

**Updated: 26/05/2015**

**SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

17 May: In the week to 17 May, eight confirmed Ebola cases were reported from Urban Western Area, Port Loko and Kambia, an increase from two the previous week (WHO, 20/05/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- As of 24 May, Sierra Leone reported 12,706 cumulative Ebola cases, including 3,908 deaths (WHO, 26/05/2015).

- The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 27,013, including 11,134 deaths (WHO, 26/05/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.

- Between February and March 2015, 770,000 people (10% of the population) were in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) food insecurity. 1.32 million were in IPC Phase 2, Stressed. Numbers are projected to increase to 1.1 million in Phase 3 and 1.69 million in Phase 2 by the June–August lean season (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

- The national public health system is overstretched and struggling to deliver non-EVD care (UNICEF, 05/12/2014; ACAPS, 26/02/2015).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

**Political Context**
Unrest and Resistance to Ebola Response

There are concerns that the State of Emergency measures are being used by the ruling party against its opposition. Police have been accused of using excessive force, protests have been banned, journalists have been arrested for criticising the response, and political figures have been arrested (local media, 26/04/2015; Amnesty International, 04/05/2015).

Reports continue of people fleeing from response teams, hiding bodies, conducting secret burials, and occasional physical assaults on burial teams (Voice of America, 25/03/2015). Resistance to the Ebola response is still being reported in chiefdoms of Kambia and the Urban Western Area, including people not seeking treatment (UN, 08/05/2015). The town of Barmoi and the surrounding chiefdom has seen an influx of soldiers and the closure of markets, reportedly in response to resistance to containment measures (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

All response activities are restricted by poor terrain and a lack of transport (Doctors of the World, 04/05/2015). Poor coordination between agencies and road access issues, particularly in rural areas, can render it impossible to reach communities within 24 hours of being placed under quarantine (UNMEER, 16/03/2015). In addition, poor mobile phone coverage is impeding disease surveillance in Koinadugu, Kailahun, and Pujehun (UNMEER, 29/03/2015).

Food Security

Between February and March 2015, 770,000 people (10% of the population) were in Phase 3, or Crisis, food insecurity. 1.32 million were in Phase 2 (Stressed). This is projected to increase to 1.1 million in Phase 3 and 1.69 million in Phase 2 in the June–August lean season (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

Less access to food and decreased farming output are among the main effects of the Ebola crisis (BRAC, 21/05/2015). 95% of respondents reported in a survey that the food security situation is worse than before the EVD crisis. EVD survivors, quarantined households, people with chronic illness and people from poor and very poor households are most affected. Unmet food needs are higher in areas with high EVD exposure (78%) than low EVD exposure (54%) (ACAPS, 04/2015).

About 76% of Ebola-related food-insecure individuals live in rural areas (FAO, 17/12/2014; WFP, 05/01/2015). Kambia and Port Loko have seen the highest uptake of negative coping strategies, although food prices have remained stable or decreased (WFP, 30/04/2015). The majority of households reports a decrease in frequency of meals, particularly among Ebola-affected, rural and larger households; and smaller meals (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Following the opening of the border with Liberia, there are signs that markets and trade are recovering across Sierra Leone. Prices of local/imported rice and palm oil are still above average, but mostly stable (WFP, 25/03/2015). In a FEWSNET survey, 53% of respondents reported that the most important market in their area operated at reduced levels in early March, and 10% reported market closures. 35% of traders reported reduced market supply compared to other years. Most cited travel restrictions as the main reason (FEWSNET, 03/04/2015). 32% reported that rice cultivation activities were below-average in April (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015).

Livelihoods

In February 2015, 95% of informants described the livelihoods situation as worse than in February 2014. Unemployment, loss of income opportunities and death of caregivers were the main reasons (ACAPS, 02/04/2015). An assessment in five districts indicated decreased household incomes and more unemployment were among the main effects of the Ebola outbreak, in households with and without members being infected. More than 80% of respondents reported a decreased income compared to before the outbreak (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The already weak health infrastructure is very fragile and unresponsive. An estimated 3.5 million people are at risk due to unmet health needs (ACAPS, 04/2015). A health facility survey by UNICEF and MoHS show that the majority of health facilities are open, and utilisation trends have increased in all except the heavily affected districts, but usage of health facilities remains lower than before the Ebola outbreak (UNMEER, 13/04/2015).

Only 50% of the population is seeking healthcare, compared to 80% before the crisis. Reported consequences of the crisis include increased mortality, self-medication, increased morbidity, and under-resourced health facilities. There is a correlation between EVD exposure and the severity of the health situation (ACAPS, 04/2015).

The highly affected areas of Western Area, Port Loko and Bombali have seen a 28% decrease in health service attendance as of April 2015, compared to October–January 2013 (UNICEF, 07/04/2015). Most districts showed an initial drop in primary healthcare visits at the onset of the Ebola outbreak in June, and a further decline as the epidemic reached its peak in November–December. Kenema, Port Loko, and Kailahun districts recorded the greatest decrease in use. Services related to malaria and diarrhoea are most affected (ACAPS, 25/03/2015).

In Moyamba, analysis of burial data indicates that as many deaths were recorded in four months as in previous one-year periods. 40% of deaths are children under five. In the same district, only 12% of primary health units have facilities to diagnose and treat TB. HIV cases are believed to be almost completely undiagnosed in the area. A substantial increase in both HIV and TB is very likely, in Moyamba at least (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

Ebolas

As of 24 May, 12,706 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported in Sierra Leone, including 3,908 deaths (WHO, 26/05/2015).
Eight confirmed cases were reported in the week to 17 May, compared with two the previous week. Four cases were reported from Freetown, three from Port Loko district and one from Kambia district. Only one case came from an unknown chain of transmission (WHO, 20/05/2015). Over 19–21 May, three more case were confirmed: two in Urban Western area and one in Port Loko (UNMEER, 22/05/2015).

Nine of 14 districts have been declared Ebola-free, having gone 42 days without reporting any new cases (WHO, 13/05/2015).

**Healthcare provision:** 304 health workers have been infected. 221 have died of Ebola; approximately one in ten of the country’s health workers. On 14 May, the first health worker infection in five weeks was confirmed (WHO, 13/05/2015; 20/05/2015).

**Containment measures:** Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea are posing a challenge to surveillance (UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have agreed to share information on population movement and established screening protocols at border points between areas of active EVD transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015).

A three-day stay-at-home was enforced across Sierra Leone from 27 to 29 March. Ten new cases were found. There were several security incidents (AFP, 29/03/2015; Reuters, 29/03/2015; AFP, 01/04/2015). In the Kaffu Bullom chiefdom of Port Loko, a group of health workers came under attack, and in Freetown residents and security forces clashed over food distributions.

In August, legislation was passed imposing a jail term of up to two years for anyone concealing an Ebola-infected patient, and of up to six months for anyone entering or leaving Ebola-affected areas without medical authorisation (AFP, 22/08/2014; international media, 30/08/2014).

**Regional Outbreak**

The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 27,013, including 11,134 deaths (WHO, 26/05/2015).

**Maternal Health**

Ebola has had a large impact on maternal and newborn health in all districts, but Kailahun seems to be the most affected. Nationwide, there were an estimated 2,948 maternal deaths from May 2014 to April 2015 – 735 more than is usual in a year. Newborn deaths are estimated to have reached 9,867 – 2,562 more than is usual in a year (UNFPA, 30/03/2015).

Delivery of services has improved: the percentage of women giving birth in a clinic increased to 64% in April, compared to 28% in November. The percentage of women who received at least one prenatal visit increased from 56% to 71% in the same period (World Bank, 16/04/2015). Fear, misinformation, mistrust of health workers and facilities, and desertion of already understaffed health facilities are among the main reasons preventing women from accessing maternal and reproductive health services (UN WOMEN, 27/03/2015; UNFPA, 30/03/2015; Government, UNFPA, DFID and Irish Aid, 25/05/2015).

Family planning services in health facilities have been interrupted (IRIN, 04/02/2015).

**Malaria**

Since the Ebola outbreak the impact of malaria has almost certainly increased due to reduced and or delayed access to treatment. In December 2014, the number of suspected malaria cases had decreased by half compared to December 2013, and only 20% of those cases were receiving treatment (ACAPS, 25/03/2015). Paediatric malaria admissions decreased by 80% in Moyamba; this is likely to have led to greater under-five mortality (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

**Mental Health**

There is a high need for grief counselling as a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey found that at least 50% of respondents knew someone who had died from Ebola (UNMEER, 15/02/2015). According to an assessment, reduced access to community support systems and normal coping strategies means that trauma due to the Ebola crisis is putting people at risk of mental health problems (International Medical Corps, 09/01/2015).

**Nutrition**

It is predicted that, compared to observed trends from 1992 to 2012, the number of people who are undernourished during 2014–2016 could increase by 1.30–1.39%. This increase has been linked to the Ebola outbreak (UNDG, 11/03/2015). A UNICEF assessment in 60 of 150 chiefdoms identified 273 (1.27%) children with SAM (UNICEF, 25/03/2015).

**WASH**

According to a UNICEF survey, about 14% of primary health units have no access to water. This is most widely experiences in Tonkolili, Pujehun, and Kambia districts, where 35%, 27% and 26% of primary health units lack water access, respectively (UNICEF, 04/2015). Furthermore, 54% of all schools do not have access to water year-round (UNICEF, 11/03/2015).

Concerns have been raised about waste from Ebola facilities being dumped in waste collection sites. This poses a risk for health, especially to waste pickers (PI, 20/03/2015). Nationwide, there were an estimated 2,948 maternal deaths since the outbreak because of school closures (ACAPS, 02/04/2015). Schools reopened on 14 April, nine months after they were closed (UNMEER, 15/04/2015).

About a third of the population live without latrines (UNMEER, 20/11/2014). From May 2014 to April 2015 – 735 more than is usual in a year. Newborn deaths are estimated to have reached 9,867 – 2,562 more than is usual in a year (UNFPA, 30/03/2015; Government, UNFPA, DFID and Irish Aid, 25/05/2015).

**Education**

Respondents in all districts have said the educational situation has worsened since the outbreak because of school closures (ACAPS, 02/04/2015). Schools reopened on 14 April, nine months after they were closed (UNMEER, 15/04/2015). 46% of households who reported not sending a child to school cited inability to afford school as the main reason (BRAC, 21/05/2015).
Protection

Discrimination and stigmatisation of Ebola survivors is still widely reported (UNMEER, 29/03/2015). 47% of people surveyed indicated that stigma and discrimination exist in their communities: social and family exclusion were the main issues. Fear of Ebola was cited as the main reason for discrimination and stigma (ACAPS, 02/04/2015).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

According to the Government, gender-based violence and sexual assault dramatically increased over 2014 (international media, 09/01/2015; IRIN 04/02/2015). Stigmatisation and discrimination have resulted in abuse and mistreatment of especially women. Many female survivors reported being afraid of experiencing gender-based violence as a result of Ebola (Ministry of Social Welfare, Oxfam, UN Women, 27/02/2015).

Many sexual assault and domestic violence clinics have been closed during the epidemic, and there is a lack of doctors. Consequently, there is almost no treatment and counselling available, or expertise to provide evidence for trial (IRIN, 04/02/2015).

Child Protection

More than 2,000 cases of sexual abuse against children were recorded in 2014 – a record high. Many more cases have likely gone unreported (Ebola Deeply, 14/03/2015).

Due to limited household resources, children are predisposed and sometimes forced to engage in income-generating activities. Long-term consequences include possible school drop-outs. There are reports of girls having turned to sex work for income. Orphans are considered particularly vulnerable (The Guardian, 28/04/2015). Visibly pregnant girls will not be allowed to return to school, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Education (Ebola Deeply, 14/03/2015; Voice of America, 13/04/2015).

According to UNICEF, as of 29 April, 8,619 children have lost one or both parents to Ebola and 742 are unaccompanied or separated from their caregiver (UNICEF, 29/04/2015). Other sources reported as many as 12,023 registered orphans, with Port Loko the most affected district (Street Child, 02/2015).

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

OVERVIEW

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region. Almost half the population of Somalia, around 3.2 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacking access to basic goods and services, with an estimated 1.5 million people living in seven regions affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba.

Political Context

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Infighting between presidents and prime ministers is a recurrent problem. Vision 2016, the Federal Government’s policy covering constitutional revision, the establishment of regional administrations, and transition to multiparty democracy, is opposed by key...
figures in the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014).

Security Context

About 1.5 million people live in areas that could be directly affected by the Somali–African Union offensive on Al Shabaab (OCHA, 19/09/2014). UNICEF reported in January that the security situation in south-central Somalia significantly deteriorated in December 2014 (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

On 15 May, Al Shabaab attacked and took control of the towns of Mubakar and Awdeegle in Lower Shabelle, reportedly killing between six and 15 Somali soldiers. Several militants also died (international media, 15/05/2015; 17/05/2015). On 13 May, Al Shabaab seized a boat carrying at least ten foreign nationals was near the town of Diirka in Galgaguddu region. All passengers were detained (International media, 13/05/2015). On 12 March, Al Shabaab attacked a fortified area in the central town of Baidoa, where a number of regional government headquarters and a United Nations compound and airport are located (AFP, 12/03/2015).

On 28 February, AMISOM forces attacked Al Shabaab bases in El Bar, in Bakool region. 11 people were reported killed, although details of the attack are still unclear (local media, 28/02/2015). A drone strike in southwestern Somalia on 2 February, targeting an Al Qaeda base affiliated with Al Shabaab, killed several, including at least four civilians (AFP, 01/02/2015).

Mogadishu: Al Shabaab attacks in the capital, mainly targeting political figures, have persisted since the beginning of the year, killing 76 in the first three months (local media, 19/01/2015; 16/02/2015; AFP, 22/01/2015; 16/02/2015; 28/03/2015; 18/04/2015; 21/04/2015; PI, 22/01/2015; BBC, 09/02/2015; 28/03/2015; 14/04/2015; Reuters 11/03/2015). On 6 May, a government official was shot dead and an AU troop convoy was bombed outside the capital. The number of casualties has not been verified (Reuters, 06/05/2015).

Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab, a militant Islamist group and off-shoot of the Islamic Courts Union, took over most of southern Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Numbering 7,000 –9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common. Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014.

Al Shabaab has carried out a number of attacks in Kenya. On 2 April, Al Shabaab attacked in Garissa University in Kenya: 147 people were killed and 79 injured (BBC, HRC, 02/04/2015). Kenyan fighter jets then destroyed two Al Shabaab camps in Gedo, although this information has not been independently confirmed (BBC, 06/04/2015). Local eyewitnesses reported that three civilians were injured (Reuters, 06/04/2015). Al Shabaab carried out several attacks in in Mandra and Wajir, Kenya, in March, which left nine dead and ten injured (Reuters, 18/03/2015; AFP, 13/03/2015; AP, 15/03/2015). It was seen as retaliation for the death of the alleged leader of the Westgate mall attack in Kenya in a US drone strike in March (international media 13/03/2015).

SNAF-AMISOM Offensive

In November 2013, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and AMISOM launched a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014). The second phase of the offensive began in late August. Bakool, Gedi, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions are all affected.

Over 2,200 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of 2014, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014). The number of attacks and fatalities had decreased between 2010 and 2013.

Inter-communal Violence

On 21 March, gunfire between Hawadle and Suer tribes in Deefow district, in Belet Weyne, left 12 people dead and dozens injured. The conflict began last year, over land (local media, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Between March and 20 April, 343 violent incidents impacting humanitarian operations and protection of civilians were recorded across the country (OCHA, 24/04/2015). Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response difficult (OCHA, 21/11/2014). Al Shabaab has cut off road access to towns controlled by AMISOM, including Rabhare and Waajid in Bakool (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). Even in areas where there has been no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014). Bulo Burde in Hiraan is only accessible by helicopter; Belet Weyne–Mogadishu and Mogadishu–Baidoa–Dolow are most affected. The Puntland–Somaliland border is closed (OCHA, 24/04/2015; Logistics Cluster, 29/04/2015; OCHA, 12/05/2015).

The indefinite closure of Bosaso Airport, Puntland, for renovation, has severely constrained humanitarian operations (PI, 08/01/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

On 20 April, at least six UN workers were killed in Garowe, Puntland, when Al Shabaab attacked their bus (AFP; BBC, 20/04/2015). On 13 April, several Somali aid workers were reported missing in Gedo region (local media, 13/04/2015). Somali officials have not confirmed the reports.

Over 40 security incidents involving aid workers have taken place so far in 2015: eight people have been killed, 14 injured, seven abducted and 20 arrested or detained (OCHA, 24/04/2015). In May 2014, a 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a
mandate to protect aid workers (UN).

Disasters

Floods

Floods damaged about 6,600 hectares of crops and displaced around 16,500 people in southern and central Somalia in April–May: 8,250 in Jowhar—Mahaday, 3,900 in Sablaale, 2,700 in Galkayo, 1,530 in Wanla Weyne and 120 in Buur Hakaba (OCHA, 12/05/2015). The Juba and Shabelle Rivers have overflowed, damaging crops and property in Middle Shabelle (FAO, 28/04/2015; FEWSNET, 04/05/2015).

The middle and lower Shabelle river basin remains at high risk of flooding, particularly in and around Jowhar town and in Balcaad and Kurtunwaarey in Lower Shabelle. No risk is foreseen along the Juba (FAO, 12/05/2015; international organisation, 07/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs by February 2015, 893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland. 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Figures show little to no change in the past year: 80,000 were displaced due to the SNAF-AMISOM offensive in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Returnees

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes a legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home (UNHCR 15/08/2014). Luuq, Baidoa, and Kismayo have been designated to receive returnees. 3,000 refugees have registered to return, compared to the original target of 10,000. (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). As of 21 April, 2,060 returnees had arrived; 1,497 in Kismayo, 513 in Baidoa, and 39 in Luuq (UNHCR, 22/03/2015; local media. 21/04/2015). Somali refugees in Kenya cite insecurity and lack of earning opportunities as their main uncertainties regarding a return to Somalia (UNHCR, East African, 02/08/2014; UNHCR, 11/08/2014).

After the attack on Garissa University, Kenyan officials said that they had asked UNHCR to repatriate the estimated 350,000 Somali refugees living in Dadaab camp complex by July. However, they have since softened their position (AFP, 12/04/2015; IRIN, 13/04/2015; Guardian, 30/04/2015).

Refugees and Returnees from Yemen

As of 12 May, 4,826 arrivals from Yemen have been registered in Somalia. 1,038 people arrived in the first week of May. Since March, Somaliland has registered 1,550 arrivals from Yemen; Puntland has received 3,276 (IOM, 12/05/2015). On 13 May, 1,500 more arrived and were transferred to makeshift camps. The camps are overcrowded and there is not enough capacity to meet the new arrivals’ needs (local media, 13/05/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015). So far, 57% are migrants; the remainder are refugees (IOM, 30/04/2015).

An estimated 236,000 Somali refugees are in Yemen; humanitarian actors in Somaliland are preparing for a major influx of returnees (ECHO, 01/04/2015). They are also making contingency plans to receive up to 100,000 refugees over the next six months (OCHA, 15/04/2015).

Somali Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

972,020 Somalis are refugees in neighbouring countries: at least 423,153 in Kenya, 246,603 in Ethiopia, and 244,204 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania. 3,107 new Somali refugees were registered in 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 731,000 people are in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity and nearly 2.3 million additional people are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until June 2015 (OCHA, 10/03/2015).

About 76% of those who face acute food insecurity are IDPs: the situation is Emergency in Dolow and Crisis in the 12 other IDP settlements (FSNAU, 05/03/2015). Among non-IDPs, 12% of food insecure live in rural areas, and 12% are the urban poor: poor households are in Crisis and a significant number of the poorest are in Emergency (FSNAU, 05/03/2015; FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). With a fourth consecutive below-average harvest in agropastoral areas, both agropastoral and urban households are expected to remain in Crisis unless trade resumes and humanitarian access increases (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

At the end of March, the main planting season began as the gu rains started. The rainfall estimate was moderate in the most of the north in early May. However, little to no rain fell in the northeastern pastoral areas of Bari and Nugal Valley of Garowe. Pasture is therefore less available. Well-distributed normal to above-normal rainfall in south and central regions is increasing livestock and crop prospects (FEWSNET, 04/05/2015; 13/05/2015).

Blocked roads and intensified fighting during the past six months in Hiraan and Bakool has further limited trade, decreased the demand for labour, and increased food prices dramatically (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). Urban communities in Xudur and Waajid in Bakool, and Bulo Burde in Hiraan face acute insecurity because of trade disruptions (FSNAU, 05/03/2015).

Livelihoods

Following the Al Shabaab attacks on Garissa University in Kenya, the Central Bank of Kenya revoked the licences of 13 money remittance providers based in Nairobi in an effort to curb the financing of terrorism. Studies have shown that money received in Somalia from overseas is used to meet basic needs, including water, healthcare, and education...
In early February, a number of banks in the US, UK and Australia also broke ties with money transfer operators in Somalia (Inter Press, 06/02/2015). USD 1.3 billion in annual remittances, representing 25–45% of Somalia’s GDP, will stop entering the country (OXFAM, 19/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services (OCHA, 12/03/2015). As of November, 1.5 million people in south-central Somalia no longer have access to primary health services, and 300,000 children under five no longer have access to primary health services and free immunisation (UNICEF, 31/10/2014). Between January and March, central regions reported 691 measles cases, 1,094 malaria cases, and 692 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (WHO, 17/05/2015).

Nutrition

1.3 million people are in need of nutritional support (OCHA, 12/03/2015). Current GAM levels are 12% and SAM 1.9%, a decrease from previous levels (which were 14.9% and 2.6%, respectively) (FAO, 05/03/2015). The situation is very critical (over 15% GAM and increasing) among Riverine livelihoods in Gedo and Shabelle regions, in urban districts of Belet Weyne and Bulo Burde in Hiraan region, as well as in urban Burao in Togdheer region (FSNAU, 29/04/2015).

A survey conducted October–December 2014 indicates that 203,000 children under five are acutely malnourished. 38,000 of these are severely acutely malnourished, a slight decrease from previous surveys (OCHA, 19/02/2014). The number of acutely and severely malnourished children has declined by 7% and 13%, respectively, since July 2014 (UNICEF, 31/01/2015). This is thought to be a normal seasonal variation.

Education

1.7 million children are out of school. Children of displaced families remain the most vulnerable and neglected in access to education. 78% of children in south-central Somalia have no access to education. (OCHA, 12/03/2015).

WASH

2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 27/03/2015). On 24 March, ECHO reported that water shortages in Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, and Middle Shabelle had led to displacement. Ten children died of dehydration in Yagley village in Middle Shabelle.

Protection

The major protection issues in Somalia are physical insecurity during the SNAF-AMISOM offensive; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; killing of civilians (including children); separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction. The areas most affected are Middle and Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014).

Forced Evictions

Reports indicate that over 25,700 IDPs were forcibly evicted from public and private land and buildings in January and February 2015 (UNHCR, 28/02/2015). Another 19,250 IDPs were forcibly evicted from Mogadishu over 3–5 March. The majority fled to settlements in the outskirts of the city. An assessment found more than half in need of access to shelter, 80% in need of access to safe water and latrines, 70% lacked access to food, and 60% are in need of health services in the new locations (Food Security Cluster, 23/03/2015). Human Rights Watch reported that authorities beat some of those evicted, destroyed their shelter and left them without food, water or assistance (HRW, 20/04/2015).

Over 32,500 people were forcibly evicted in 2014. The majority moved to the outskirts of the city, particularly Sarakustra and Tabelaha. Others sought refuge in nearby IDP settlements. Forced evictions have also been reported in Kismayo, Bosaso, and Luuq (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; ECHO, 25/03/2015).

SGBV

In September 2014, a Human Rights Watch report stated that AU forces have been raping and sexually exploiting women and girls in their bases in Mogadishu, sometimes using humanitarian assistance to coerce them into sexual activities (HRW, 08/09/2014).

Children

197 grave violations against children were recorded in January 2015 (UNICEF, 31/01/2015). Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence (UNICEF). In Tayeglow, Lower Shabelle, an estimated 115 children have been abducted by Al Shabaab, 80 of whom are still held (OCHA, 21/11/2014). 4,314 cases of child exploitation and abuse were reported January–November 2014 (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Updated: 18/05/2015

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 May: The South Sudanese Government claims it has retaken Malakal, Upper Nile state (Al Jazeera, 26/05/2015).

19 May: In Melut Protection of Civilians camp (PoC), two mortar bombs killed four (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

18 May: The suspension of aid operations has cut 650,000 people in need from relief in Unity and Upper Nile states (MSF, 18/05/2015; ICRC, 18/05/2015)
15 May: 13,000 children were reportedly recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014 (R2P Monitor, 15/05/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Frequent fighting between government and opposition forces continues in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile states.
- 6.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015; 4.1 million people to be assisted by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015).
- Between 3 and 2.5 million people are in Crisis or Emergency food insecurity in April 2015, including nearly half of the population of Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile (FEWSNET, 04/2015, WFP, 15/05/2015).
- 1.55 million IDPs since December 2013 (UNHCR, 08/05/2015). Almost 117,000 are in UNMISS bases (UNMISS, 13/04/2014). 68% of IDPs are estimated to live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 08/2014).
- 260,000 refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, and CAR).
- 525,000 South Sudanese refugees since December 2013 (UNHCR 04/2015).

**OVERVIEW**

Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity are priority states, and the priority sectors are food security and livelihoods, health, NFIs and shelter, nutrition, and WASH. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians.

Violence has spread across eastern South Sudan since December 2013. Fighting is most intense in the oil-rich northeastern states. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and the Nuer, loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

**Political Context**

Sudan–South Sudan

Relations between Sudan and South Sudan have been poor since South Sudan gained independence in 2011. The violence in South Sudan since December 2013 has exacerbated tensions, with additional concerns in Khartoum regarding an influx of refugees and arms, as well as disruption of oil flow. Sudan has accused South Sudan of using Sudanese militia groups to fight insurgents. South Sudan has made similar accusations.

National Context

Since violence broke out in December 2013, President Kiir’s government forces (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, are pitted against a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar (SPLM-in-Opposition, or SPLM-IO), along with ethnic Nuer militia forces. Despite a significant reduction in intensity from January 2014, violence persists.

Peace talks, mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional bloc, collapsed on 5 March, as two parties failed to meet a deadline for an agreement on power sharing and security issues in the final round of peace talks held in Addis Ababa (international media, 6/03/2015). IGAD said it plans to resume talks between the two parties in April (local media, 11/03/2015). Just before the deadline, on 3 March, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution setting out criteria for targeted sanctions on individuals or entities threatening security and stability in South Sudan (UN, 03/03/2015).

On 24 March, the South Sudanese parliament voted to extend President Kiir’s term by three years, thereby cancelling elections scheduled for June 2015 (AFP, 24/03/2015).

**Economic Crisis**

Following a 60% drop in oil production and widespread inflation, the central bank of South Sudan is allegedly printing money to meet a budget shortfall. The UN has warned of hyperinflation in the coming months (AP, 22/03/2015). The South Sudanese currency depreciated by approximately 26 percent from December 2014 to March 2015. Although the official Bank of South Sudan exchange rate remains pegged at 3.1 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to 1 U.S. Dollar (USD), the informal exchange rate reached 8.5 SSP for 1 USD in mid-April (FEWSNET, 18/04/2015).

**New Insurgent Groups**

According to reports, part of the South Sudan Democratic Movement (SSDM) Cobra faction, based in Pibor, Jonglei, has splintered from SSDM and allied with SPLM-in-Opposition. However, a senior member of the Greater Pibor Area Administration denied these reports (local media, 15/02/2015).

South Sudan Resistance Movement/Army

Brigadier General Lul Ruai Koang, former military spokesperson for the SPLM-in-Opposition, left SPLM-IO and announced the formation of the South Sudan Resistance Movement/Army, consisting of members from the Lou-Nuer ethnic group. He declared a unilateral ceasefire with the government forces. According to local media, all three commissioners of counties in Greater Akobo, a Lou-Nuer territory,
have dismissed his claims of a new movement (local media, 08/03/2015).

**REMNASA**

On 29 January, the South Sudanese Government acknowledged the formation of a new armed opposition movement, the Revolutionary Movement for National Salvation (REMNASA), in Western Equatoria state. REMNASA is estimated to have 100–200 soldiers (local media, 29/01/2015).

**Security Context**

Most violence is occurring in the oil-rich northeastern states of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei. Clashes have intensified since January, with a significant escalation since March.

At least 50,000 may have died since December 2013, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group, 15/11/2014). On 3 April 2014, according to local media, representatives of the Nuer community stated that over 17,000 Nuer had been killed by pro-government forces since December.

**International Military Presence**

The UN Security Council voted in December 2013 to increase the number of peacekeepers in the country from 10,000 to 12,500. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed personnel. The current mandate is up to 30 May 2015.

**Border Tensions with Sudan**

On 8 April, the South Sudanese government accused Sudan of carrying out air raids against villages near the border in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. Four civilians were killed and nine injured, according to local media reports (local media, 9/04/2015; 10/04/2015).

Clashes between the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition

The heavy fighting around Leer, which began in April, has begun to subside (ICRC, 25/05/2015). Renewed heavy fighting between government and opposition forces has been reported in Bentiu and Rubkona since the end of the rainy season in late October (AFP, 10/11/2014; Reuters, 04/01/2014; OCHA, 12/02/2015). Widespread violence, including burning, looting, and rape, are being reported in Rubkona, Mayom, Guит, Koch, and Mayendit counties as of mid-May (International media, 15/05/2015). On 15 April, government officials temporarily transferred the capital of Unity state from Bentiu to Mankien, Mayom county, due to insecurity (UNMISS, 15/04/2015). In mid-March, fighting was reported north of the Bentiu PoC site (OCHA, 19/03/2015).

On 29 March, a grenade exploded in Bentiu PoC site, injuring ten civilians. According to NGOs operating at the PoC site, the incident occurred during clashes between two groups of civilians.

**Upper Nile**

On 26 May, South Sudanese government forces claim to have retaken Malakal (Al Jazeera, 26/05/2015). On 19 May, two mortar bombs landed in Melut PoC, killing four (UNHCR, 22/05/2015). Heavy fighting between government and opposition forces started in Malakal on 22 April. Separate skirmishes were reported on 23 April in Gelachal, a town between Malakal and Nasir (local media, 22/04/2015; 23/04/2015).

In March, heavy fighting, including heavy shelling, between government and opposition forces was reported in Duk Duk, Renk county, and Manyo county (OCHA, 06/03/2015; local media, 09/03/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

Inter-clan animosity stems from competition over water resources and grazing land. Deaths from inter-communal fighting have increased since the second Sudanese civil war (1983–2005), as have attacks, abductions, and population displacement.

**Lakes**

Inter-communal violence has been reported in counties across Lakes state since September 2014. In March, more than 100 people were reportedly killed and 36 wounded, as more than 1,400 cattle were looted from six cattle camps in Rumbek Centre and Rumbek East counties (OCHA, 19/03/2015).

**Unity**

On 29 March, a grenade exploded in Bentiu PoC site, injuring ten civilians. According to NGOs operating at the PoC site, the incident occurred during clashes between two groups of civilians.

**Upper Nile**

On 20 May, in Melut PoC, following a dispute at a water point, a grenade went off, injuring five (UNHCR, 22/05/2015). In early April, fighting was reported between armed youth from Dinka and Shilluk communities in Akoka county, Upper Nile state (local media, 2/04/2015). According to unconfirmed reports, 23 people were killed (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

**Juba**

One person was killed and around 60 injured in inter-communal clashes within the PoC site. Local media reports 3,500 IDPs left the PoC (local media, 13/05/2015; 11/05/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**
Access

6.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015). The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. In March 2015, 64 access-related incidents were reported, including cases of violence against humanitarian personnel and assets, suspension of activities, and detention of humanitarian staff. A third of these cases were reported in Unity state (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

The suspension of aid operations has cut off 650,000 people in need from relief in Unity and Upper Nile State (MSF, 18/05/2015; ICRC, 18/05/2015). Humanitarian actors have evacuated staff from Leer, Koch, Nyal, Ganyiel and Mayendit in Unity State, as well as around Melut in Upper Nile, due to heavy fighting. Since late April, some 151 staff from 22 organisations have been relocated (OCHA, 15/05/2015). UNMISS PoCs are still operating in the area. A surge in violence, including the disappearance of three WFP staff members, has led to the suspension of all WFP operations in Akoka and Fashoda counties, Upper Nile state (OCHA, 30/05/2015).

Administrative Constraints

On 13 May, Parliament passed an ‘NGO Bill’, which requires that organisations sign a ‘country agreement’. Similar agreements have been used before to control organisations in Sudan. The bill would also ban the formation of forums for international NGOs (which could hinder coordination), and allow the Government the right to impose unspecified fees (IRIN, 13/05/2015).

Security Constraints

Incidents against humanitarian personnel and assets reported in January and February 2015 included assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention. Most cases were reported in Juba (Central Equatoria), Bentiu (Unity), and in Upper Nile state (OCHA, 18/03/2015). On 17 February, a British aid worker was shot in Juba (international media, 18/02/2014). In February, eight access incidents related to insecurity were reported in Lakes state (OCHA, 18/03/2015). A WFP staff member and one UNMISS contractor are still being held after their abduction in Malakal in October 2014 (UNMISS, 17/10/2014; WFP, 17/10/2014). Two WFP staff members and a WFP-contracted driver have been missing from Upper Nile state since 1 April (WFP, 10/04/2015).

Displacement

As of 31 December 2014, over 1.55 million South Sudanese had been displaced internally and over 551,636 South Sudanese refugees had moved across borders since December 2013 (UNHCR, 13/04/2015; 21/05/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

IDPs

There are approximately 1,55,059 IDPs in South Sudan: 595,500 in Jonglei, 437,600 in Unity, 74,100 in Central Equatoria, 244,900 in Upper Nile, and 125,400 in Lakes (OCHA, 15/05/2015). Since the beginning of May, fighting south of Bentiu has displaced up to 100,000 more people (UNHCR, 08/05/2015; 21/05/2015).

An estimated 802,120 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). Displacement patterns remain fluid, driven by violence, floods, and the search for emergency assistance (IOM, 03/09/2014).

The South Sudanese Government has rejected a UN plan to relocate 100,000 IDPs to places of their choice, which included areas under SPLM-IO control (local media, 10/05/2015).

Since January 2015, an estimated but unverified 13,800 people have been displaced due to inter-communal violence in Lakes state (OCHA, 19/03/2015).

Over 120,000 IDPs are sheltering in six Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites on UNMISS bases including 60,000 in Bentiu, 34,000 in Juba UN House, 26,000 in Malakal, and 2,600 in Bor (UNMISS 20/04/2015; 21/05/2015). Bentiu PoC site received approximately 2,400 new IDPS between the 4 and 11 May (UNMISS, 24/02/2015; OCHA, 15/05/2015) By 30 April, 8,955 new IDPs had arrived in the Malakal PoC site (UNMISS, 23/04/2015).

Refugees in South Sudan

259,232 refugees are in South Sudan: 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. Over 134,000 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 96,500 in Unity (UNHCR, 07/05/2015; 19/04/2015; 30/04/2015). Most of the Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

Since 23 December, 11,554 new refugees arrived in Yida (UNCHR, 18/05/2015). Arrival rates have increased sharply in 2015. Of the new arrivals in Yida between 20 and 26 February, 65% were women and children (OCHA, 21/05/2015). Refugees cited aerial bombardments, ground attacks and lack of livelihood and education opportunities as reasons for leaving (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

The South Sudanese Government wants to close Yida camp by June 2015 and relocate refugees to other camps. The South Sudan Government and UNHCR have agreed to expand Ajuong Thok refugee camp to accommodate up to 40,000 people. 520 were transferred from Yida in early May (UNCHR, 06/05/2015). Pamyr, a new site 8km from Yida, has been identified as a potential refugee camp (UNHCR, 19/02/2015).

Returnees
As of 28 August 2014, 186,000 people had returned since the beginning of the crisis: 70,000 in Jonglei, 109,000 in Unity, and 5,000 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (OCHA, 28/08/2014).

Earlier reports indicated a total of 1.9 million returnees from Sudan since 2007.

South Sudan Refugees in Other Countries

551,636 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict, 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

Sudan: 143,363 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 15/04/2015; 21/05/2015). Between 9 and 24 April, 5,000 more refugees arrived from Upper Nile state (UNHCR, 24/04/2015). There have been unverified reports of large movements of people towards West Kordofan state, at the border with Sudan (UNHCR, 18/05/2015).

As of late March, the Sudanese Government has refused to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 208,177 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

Uganda: 154,244 refugees (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

Kenya: 45,852 refugees (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

Food Security

Between 3 and 2.5 million people were in food security Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels in April 2015. The worst affected areas include southern and central Unity State, western Jonglei, and southern Upper Nile state (FEWSNET, 20/04/2015; WFP, 15/04/2015).

Food security is expected to reach to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in several counties in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile state during April (FEWSNET, 23/02/2015). An early onset of the lean season is expected, and an estimated 3.5 to 4 million people will be in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity in May and June (Oxfam, 18/05/2015).

The food security situation has worsened in Warrap and Lakes states, as they experienced above-normal flooding in 2014, which affected crop harvests, livestock migration, and disease patterns. In Lakes state, increased inter-clan fighting and cattle raiding has affected the stability of livelihoods (IPC, 02/2015). According to WFP’s Vulnerability Analysis Mapping, 15% of households in Warrap state are severely food insecure, the highest percentage in South Sudan (WFP, 12/2014).

Livestock are moving into agricultural areas, rather than conflict-affected pastoral zones. This has destroyed crops, heightened the risk of livestock disease transmission, increases competition for natural resources, and is likely to have an impact on local power structures (FAO, 12/2014). Conflict has also affected trade flows and market infrastructure, and weakened financial systems (WFP, 02/2015). The country depends on food imports, and a de facto devaluation of the national currency between 2011 and 2013, the reduction in oil exports, and the increase in imports, all have a negative impact on households’ purchasing power.

Health and Nutrition

5.8 million people need health assistance. Waterborne diseases in flooded areas, as well as kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) in Jonglei, are the most pressing health concerns (WHO, 10/2014). Malaria, acute respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhoea, and acute bloody diarrhoea are the main causes of illness among the IDPs (WHO, 15/02/2015).

Due to fighting in Unity, a hospital in Koch has been destroyed. It provided healthcare to around 35,000 people (international media, 12/05/2015).

Measles

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Bentiu PoC, with 130 cases of measles reported as of 9 April (OCHA, 13/04/2015)

An estimated 10% of new refugees arriving in Yida suffer from measles (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

Nutrition

As of 4 February, at least 229,000 children are estimated severely malnourished (UNICEF, 04/02/2015). Malnutrition screening of 22,917 children in January and February in the three conflict-affected states found GAM levels above the emergency threshold of 15% in Upper Nile (17.2%), Unity (18.9%) and Jonglei (26%) (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). In the traditionally high burdened states in non-conflict affected areas, the GAM rates were highest in Warrap (17.2%) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (14.6%) (WFP, 12/2014). The highest GAM rates were recorded in Leer county (34.1%) and Panyijar (32.8%), Unity state; Akobo East, Jonglei State (31.8%) and Uror (27%), Jonglei; and Aweil South, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (26.1%) (UNICEF, 20/11/2014).

In the town of Leer, at least 1,400 children were reported malnourished, and are no longer receiving treatment (MSF, 09/05/2015; Medair, 13/05/2015). In Bentiu PoC site, screening of 9,288 children under five revealed a SAM rate of 1.8%. In Jonglei state, 10,865 children under five were screened: 4.8% were severely malnourished. In Upper Nile 4,899 children under 5 where screened, and 0.6% were identified as SAM (UNICEF, 21/05/2015).
The screening of over 600,000 children across the country in 2014 found an SAM rate of 6.7% and an MAM rate of 12.6% (UNICEF, 19/08/2014). Twice as many needed treatment for SAM in 2014 than in 2013 (UNICEF 15/07/2014).

Visceral Leishmaniasis

1,316 cases of visceral leishmaniasis, including 39 deaths (case fatality rate 3.18%), have been reported in Lankien, Ulang, Walgak, and Chuil (Jonglei) since the beginning of 2015. Of these, 837 were new cases, 188 were relapses, and 18 did not complete treatment (WHO, 15/02/2015; 29/03/2015).

7,204 cases and 199 deaths were recorded in 2014, compared to 2,992 cases and 88 deaths for all 2013 (WHO, 08/01/2015). Most cases were reported in Jonglei (OCHA, 30/10/2014). Kala azar is a chronic and potentially fatal parasitic disease transmitted by the bite of infected sandflies.

WASH

Water coverage in the IDP sites of Melut PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Malakal PoC was only 12.9 litres/person/day, 7.6, and 10, respectively. This is below the minimum UNHCR recommended standard of 20 (UNHCR, 10/04/2015; IOM, 14/05/2015).

There have been 1,085 cases of acute watery diarrhoea in Maban county’s four refugee camps (UNHCR, 08/05/2015). Malakal PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Melut have 56, 207 and 55 latrines per person IOM, 14/05/2015).

Education

1.7 million children and adolescents are in need of emergency education, including 400,000 who have dropped out of school (UNICEF, 16/01/2015).

Children are not attending school in 70% of IDP sites (CCCM, 17/04/2014). The inability to pay teachers’ wages has limited education activities in displacement areas (OCHA, 26/10/2014). 83 schools are occupied by armed groups or IDPs (OCHA, 27/03/2014). Many schools remain closed in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile. Rising insecurity has disrupted education in remote villages in Lakes state: Yirol West, Cueibet, Rumbeek North, Rumbeek East and Rumbeek Central counties are most affected. The state ministry of education has relocated 19 primary schools from remote areas into Rumbeek town for safety reasons (local media, 20/03/2015).

Protection

Children

A UN Security Council report stated that all parties to the conflict since December 2013 were responsible for grave violations against children in 2014, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, and rape and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014).

13,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014 (R2P Monitor, 15/05/2015). On 21 February, an unidentified armed group abducted at least 89 boys, some as young as 13, from their homes in the town of Wau Shilluk, near Malakal (Upper Nile). According to UNICEF, the number may be in the hundreds and the children have been recruited as child soldiers. The Shilluk militia, allied with SPLA, is believed to be responsible (UNICEF, 28/02/2015). Since January, UNICEF has released 1,757 children who had been recruited as child soldiers by the Cobra faction (UNICEF, 24/04/2015).

UNICEF has identified over 5,830 unaccompanied and separated children since the conflict began in December 2013 (UNICEF, 02/09/2014).

SGBV

According to the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, rape has been used as a weapon of war between government and opposition forces (international media, 23/10/2014). In May, 12 rape cases have been reported in a series of attacked in southern Unity state (UNICEF, 20/05/2015). Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in Maban refugee camps (Batil, Doro, Gendrassa and Kaya) (OCHA, 16/10/2014). In Melut (Upper Nile), firewood collection remains a major safety concern for women and girls, with reports of GBV (OCHA, 26/10/2014). Gang rape and forced marriage are increasing in Cuibeit county, Lakes state, and Magwi and Torit counties, Eastern Equatoria state, as a result of inter-communal violence (OCHA, 09/02/2015).

Updated: 26/05/2015

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10–11 May: Reports suggest up to 24,000 households (168,000 individuals) in Abu Karinka, East Darfur State, have been affected by fighting between the Southern Reizeigat and Maaliya tribes. An unknown number of residents have been cut off from water, food and fuel aid. Over 650 houses have been reported destroyed (local media, 17/05/2015; international media, 11/05/2015; OCHA, 14/05/2015).

3 May: 4,127 suspected measles cases, 2,336 confirmed cases, with 35 deaths reported so far in 2015. West Darfur is worst affected (653 confirmed cases, nine
KEY CONCERNS

- Protracted insurgencies by armed groups are occurring across Darfur, and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The conflict in South Sudan has also raised tensions.

- 6.6 million people (20% of the population) need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 17/11/2014): 4.4 million in Darfur and 980,000 in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 11/2014).

- 1.2 million children under five acutely malnourished, an estimated 550,000 are severely acutely malnourished (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

- Renewed fighting between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese army in Darfur since March.

- 3.1 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to the latest clashes (OCHA, 03/2015), and 431,000 displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 12/2014) and 43,000 newly displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 02/2015).

- Humanitarian access remains a significant problem due to insecurity, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), logistical constraints, and restrictions placed by the authorities.

OVERVIEW

Several regions of Sudan are facing large-scale internal displacement due to violence, widespread food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to basic services, and recurrent natural disasters. Humanitarian access to conflict zones is severely restricted.

Numerous, protracted insurgencies are being waged by several armed groups across Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Darfur has been the scene of inter-communal clashes and conflict between the government and armed opposition for over a decade, and fighting intensified in March 2014. Violence in Blue Nile and South Kordofan grew significantly after South Sudan won independence in 2011. Tensions also continue to run high between Sudan and South Sudan.

Political Context

Profound divisions within Sudanese society have persisted since independence in 1956, and the Government’s exploitation of intercommunal differences has aggravated the situation.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held 13-15 April, and according to unofficial estimates as of 20 April, President Omar al-Bashir has achieved a landslide victory. The voter turnout was reportedly extremely low (AP, 13/04/2015; international media, 19/04/2015). The Sudan Revolutionary Front and the National Umma Party had previously announced they would not participate in the elections.

Sudan–South Sudan

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba, persistent since South Sudan’s independence in 2011, increased when violence erupted in South Sudan in December 2013. The disruption of oil flow is a key concern for both countries. In November 2014, South Sudanese officials accused the Sudanese Government of bombing Raga county, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, and Maban county, Upper Nile state, where more than 220,000 Sudanese refugees are living (AFP, 14/11/2014).

The Sudanese Government has accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups, and the South Sudanese army (SPLA) has accused Khartoum of supporting the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement -in-Opposition. Both the opposition and Khartoum have denied the accusations.

Sudan Revolutionary Front

The Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), formed in 2011, is seeking a comprehensive peace process covering the whole country. The Government is only willing to discuss the conflict in Darfur.

The SRF is made up of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), mainly active in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, as well as Darfur’s three largest opposition groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM); the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur (SLM-AW); and the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Arkou Minnawi (SLM-MM).

In March 2015, the Sudanese government and a number of Darfur opposition-group commanders led by Mohamedain Ismail Basher, formerly the SLM-MM operations commander, signed a peace agreement in N’Djamena, Chad.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues an insurgency in Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule. Talks between Khartoum and the SPLM-N have repeatedly failed, and negotiations last collapsed in April 2014, reportedly over the SPLM-N’s demand for a comprehensive peace process.

Security Context

Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South
Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013. Tribal fighting also intensified in Darfur and Kordofan regions in 2013 and 2014, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes. Large-scale violence by pro-government militia against the IDP population in Darfur continues in 2015.

UN Peacekeeping Mission

Relations between the Government of Sudan and the UN peacekeeping mission deteriorated following the Government’s refusal to allow a UNAMID investigation of mass rape in Tabit, North Darfur at the end of 2014 (AFP, 30/11/2014). A working group of UN, AU and Sudanese officials reached an agreement on the terms of reference for UNAMID’s exit strategy in February and held a four-day meeting 16–19 April (local media, 8/03/2015; 20/04/2015).

Darfur

Security in Darfur has reportedly deteriorated significantly since late December 2013, with numerous airstrikes by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF). Attacks by pro-government militia on IDPs and villagers, their shelters, and commercial convoys, are frequent.

On 1 April, Sudanese army warplanes dropped ten bombs in an airstrike on Rowata, Central Darfur, killing 14 civilians and injuring 18 (local media, 7/04/2015).

In early January, 15 villages were burned and another 30 abandoned during fighting between government forces and armed groups in Tawila and Um Baru localities, North Darfur (OCHA, 08/01/2015; local media, 06/01/2015).

In early January, government and opposition forces were reported to be fighting for control over Fanga area, Jebel Marra region (AFP, 02/01/2015). 21 villages in Fanga were burned (local media, 29/01/2014). On 1 February, 11 bombs were reportedly dropped in Golo locality, but no one was killed (local media, 02/01/2014).

Inter-communal violence: Following weeks of tension, fighting erupted between the Southern Reizeigat and Maaliya tribes in East Darfur on 10 and 11 May near Abu Karinka, East Darfur State. Approximately 100 tribesmen were killed and around 24,000 households (166,000 individuals) are believed affected (local media, 09/05/2015; OCHA, 10/04/2015). Over 650 houses have been destroyed (local media, 17/05/2015; international media, 11/05/2015).

On 22 March, clashes between Falata and Salamat tribes in South Darfur left more than 36 dead and more than 70 wounded (local media, 26/03/2015). On 20 March, clashes between Berti and Al Zayadia tribes killed or injured an estimated 30 people near El Fasher, North Darfur. Several villages were also reported burned (AFP, 20/03/2015; local media, 20/03/2015).

In 2014, there were serious clashes between Misseriya and Salamat in Central Darfur, between Misseriya clans in West Darfur, and between Maaliya and Rizeigat in East Darfur (local media, 20/08/2014).

Kordofan and Blue Nile

Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone.

Fighting between SPLM-N and government troops intensified in March, with SPLM-N claiming they captured the garrison town of Habila on 28 March. According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), aerial bombardment and shelling increased significantly from the last week of March (SKBNCU, 03/2015). On 4 April, SPLM-N claimed that they had captured a truck in South Kordofan, which was carrying ballot boxes for nationwide elections to be held on 13 April (AFP, 05/04/2015). On 25 April, the SPLM-N claimed that they attacked the Sudan Air Force (SAF) from Kululu hills, south of Kadugli town (local media, 27/04/2015).

According to a Human Rights Watch report, the Government of Sudan dropped cluster bombs on civilian areas of South Kordofan’s Nuba Mountains between February and March 2015. The Sudanese Government has denied possession of any stockpiles of cluster bombs, which are prohibited by the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (Human Rights Watch, 16/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

6.6 million people (20% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance; more than half are in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA 17/11/2014).

In October, 4.4 million people in Darfur, more than half of the region’s population, needed humanitarian assistance (OCHA). This includes 2.4 million IDPs, 1.9 million non-displaced severely affected by violence, and 136,000 returnees or refugees from neighbouring countries.

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 749,000 need assistance in government-controlled areas and 378,000 are estimated displaced by conflict in SPLM-N territory. Limited access to non-government areas makes verification impossible.

Access

Humanitarian access for international relief organisations is a major problem. The Humanitarian Aid Commission has been accused of impeding the distribution of food, water, and shelter materials to IDPs in South Darfur (local media, 09/05/2015). Humanitarian operations are heavily hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions.
A significant portion of Abu Karinka, East Darfur was destroyed in May. An unknown number of residents are in need of water, food and fuel; electricity has been cut off (OCHA, 14/05/2015). In South Kordofan, all towns in Habila, Dilling and Al Qoz localities were inaccessible after fighting in March, with the exception of Dilling town (OCHA, 29/03/2015).

Administrative and Logistical Constraints

August 2013 regulations ban foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies from working for human rights, and the Government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups.

East Jebel Marra has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. Access to IDPs in Darfur is constrained by militia checkpoints and insecurity.

There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Three national aid workers have been killed in Blue Nile state and two attacks on aid organisations have been reported between January and February 2015 (ECHO, 10/02/2015; MSF, 22/01/2015). 25 aid workers were abducted in Darfur in 2014, the highest number of abduction cases recorded since 2004 (OCHA, 22/01/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of February 2015, there are 3.1 million IDPs in Sudan, 2.5 million of whom are in Darfur (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

2.4 million IDPs reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements in Darfur (82,530 orphans, 34,099 widows, and 52,352 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014. OCHA reported in June that government policy to prevent the creation of new camps is an obstacle to the verification and registration of IDPs.

67,000 people have been displaced by fighting between Berti and Zayadia tribes in Mellit, North Darfur late February early March (OCAH, 03/05/2015).

457,000 people were displaced in Darfur January–December 2014, more than in any year since 2004: 141,000 have reportedly returned (OCHA 31/12/2014; 20/07/2014).

Over 121,000 people have been displaced in North and Central Darfur, including Jebel Marra, since early January. 41,304 have been verified in North Darfur. OCHA, 05/02/2015; 15/02/2015; 01/03/2015; 31/03/2015).

Jebel Marra: More than 3,000 displaced arrived at areas controlled by the Sudan Liberation Movement, led by Abdel Wahid El Nur (SLM-AW) in Jebel Marra, which is in both North and Central Darfur states. According to SLM-AW, the displaced had fled attacks by government forces on Golo and the neighbouring villages in January (local media, 15/03/2015).

North Darfur: 148,000 total IDPs as of March 2015. 107,000 IDPs; 124,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 31/12/2014). OCHA has verified another 41,304 newly displaced: 4,458 in Rwanda camp; 10,888 in Shagra A, B, C, Behir, and Um Hajaleed towns; 4,587 in Tawila town; 1,645 in Kino and Midasis villages; 4,000 in Guldo town; 6,189 in Argo camp; 418 in Dali camp; 7,450 in Um Baru UNAMID site; 1,031 in Majdob town; and 624 in Nifasha camp (OCHA, 22/02/2015).

South Darfur: According to HAC, 2,500 people from the Salamat tribe fled Al Nadeef village for Katila locality, in South Darfur’s Buram locality following fighting between the Salamat and Falata on 21 March (OCHA, 29/03/2015). 105,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/12/2014). 736 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

Central Darfur: 74,000 verified IDPs as of the beginning of January 2015; 68,000 IDPs; 5,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 31/12/2014). In the week ending 10 May, 344 people came to Zalingei camp, Central Darfur, after their homes were burned down by militia groups (OCHA, 10/05/2015). In March and April 2015, an estimated 16,300 IDPs arrived in Guldo town from central Jebel Marra locality, fleeing fighting between government and militia, as well as lack of humanitarian assistance. Of these, 6,200 people are from Golo, Jebel Marra, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

East Darfur: 35,000 IDPs as of end November 2014 (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

West Darfur: 1,300 IDPs were reported by OCHA in December 2014, in stark contrast with an earlier local government figure of 373,000 (OCHA, 07/09/2014; DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 378,000 people are estimated displaced in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 03/02/2015). With no presence in the SPLM-N territory, the UN is unable to verify these figures (OCHA, 19/05/2014). Between 9 and 18 March, an estimated 23,600 people fled fighting between SPLM-N and government troops and arrived in Al Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha and Rah Abu Jubaiha and Rashad towns as well as surrounding villages in South Kordofan state, according to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). Almost 60% were women and children under five. An estimated 19,000 were in Al Abassiya and Abu Jubaiha localities (OCHA, 23/03/2015).
According to HAC, nearly all people who fled their homes in Habila due to fighting at the end of March returned in early April (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

West Kordofan: More than 52,000 people were reported displaced in September (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

Abyei: According to an inter-agency mission, nearly 800 IDPs were confirmed to have fled Marialahak village to Rummamier village, following attacks by armed Misseriya (OCHA, 12/04/2015).

Refugees in Sudan

There are 314,101 refugees in Sudan (OCHA, 10/05/2015). As of 13 May 2015, more than 146,493 are South Sudanese nationals who have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). Between 8 and 19 March, more than 5,000 refugees arrived from Upper Nile state, South Sudan, fleeing fighting between government and opposition forces (UNHCR, 19/03/2015; OCHA, 03/05/2015).

Approximately 80,324 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile, 33,145 in Khartoum, 11,566 in South Kordofan, 17,633 in West Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile and 164 East Darfur (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). 66% (85,240) are children (UNICEF, 02/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

All sites in White Nile state are beyond capacity. Access for aid workers is a concern (ECHO, 23/09/2014).

It is estimated that over 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin are in Sudan (OCHA, 30/04/2014). 6,800 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Sudanese Refugees in Other Countries

As of January 2015, OCHA reported 367,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad, 233,000 in South Sudan, 35,000 in Ethiopia, and 1,880 in Central African Republic (UNHCR, 23/02/2015; OCHA, 03/02/2015).

10,000 refugees from South Kordofan are reported to have fled to South Sudan (Yida, in Unity state) since 23 December 2014. At 500 people a week, the rate of arrival is double that of the same time period in 2013 (UNCHR, 30/01/2015).

Food Security

Despite improved food security conditions, acute food insecurity persists among 3.5 million IDPs and host communities in conflict-affected areas. An estimated 20–30% of IDPs in Darfur are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through June 2015. The current most food insecure areas are Darfur (70%) and South Kordofan (15%) (OCHA, 03/05/2015).

The number of food insecure will increase to 4 million in June and peak at 4.2 million in August/September (FEWSNET, 01/02/2014; OCHA, 03/05/2015). An estimated 25 –30% of IDPs in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 03/2014). Hundreds of families in Graida, South Darfur, are facing food shortages after clashes between Falata and Massalit tribes destroyed more than 165 homes (local media, 22/02/2015).

Food availability has otherwise improved. Harvests in North and West Darfur are above-average due to good rains and increased cultivation in some areas. The preliminary findings of the joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) estimates that 2014/15 national production will be 50% above the five-year average (FEWSNET, 12/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The UN estimated in mid-December 2013 that 165,000 children in SPLM-N-controlled parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile do not have access to basic health services.

There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare.

Measles

A measles outbreak began in late 2014. 167 confirmed measles cases were reported in the week ending 3 May, compared with 101 cases during the previous week. At 3 May, 4,127 suspected measles cases, 2,336 confirmed cases, and 35 deaths have been reported in 2015. West Darfur is worst affected (653 confirmed cases, nine deaths). Kassala has had 397 confirmed cases and five deaths, while in Red Sea state, there have been 352 cases and five deaths (WHO, 03/05/2015).

Nutrition

1.2 million children under five were estimated to be acutely malnourished as of April 2015. This revision of the planning figures resulted in a drop from 2 million estimated at the end of September 2014 (OCHA, 23/04/2015). An estimated 550,000 were severely malnourished in 2014 (UN, 05/05/2015).

WASH

A fall in the water level in the White Nile River is affecting water supply to Jouri and El Redis refugee camps in White Nile state, where water intake dropped to 9L per person per day in both camps (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

There are currently only two functioning handpumps in Guldo town, Central Darfur where 16,300 new IDPs have arrived (OCHA, 12/04/2015).
20 water pumps have stopped working in El Salam camp, South Darfur in the past five months, affecting 80,000 people (Radio Dabanga, 04/05/2015).

Water supply problems were reported in Tawila, North Darfur, Kereinik locality, West Darfur, and El Jeer district, South Darfur and Abu Kershola, South Kordofan, in March (OCHA, 01/03/2015). Drinking water crises have also been reported in (local media, 22/02/2015; 14/05/2015).

Education

3 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan. 1.9 million of these are primary school aged children (UNICEF, 14/04/2015).

Protection

Mines and ERW

250 locations covering an estimated 32km² are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by the local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014. Reports in early November suggested that more than 200 women and girls had been raped by Sudanese soldiers in Tabit area in North Darfur. Sudanese troops denied UNAMID access to assess the situation (Reuters, 17/11/2014).

Legal Status

As of March 2014, the Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). All foreigners in Sudan had to register with the immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared this constitutes an obstacle to humanitarian assistance.

Updated: 18/05/2014

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update 24/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).
- 311,000 refugees have arrived from CAR and Nigeria (OCHA, 31/03/2015).
- An estimated 1.08 million people are food insecure in 2015 (OCHA, 10/03/2015).

Overview

Conflict in both Nigeria and CAR continues to displace vulnerable refugees to Cameroon, and the spillover from the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria in particular threatens security in Cameroon. Some 2.1 million people, 10% of the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in the Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions.

Security Context

Boko Haram Attacks

The armed Islamist group Boko Haram (BH), based in Nigeria, has intensified attacks in Cameroon since end December (ECHO, 06/01/2015). Throughout December, BH militants crossed into the Far North region from Lake Chad, attacking towns and villages, military vehicles, kidnapping individuals, and attempting to control army bases (AFP, 06/04/2015; Reuters, 18/12/2014; VoA, 13/12/2014; BBC, 29/12/2014; AFP, 29/01/2015). Cross-border raids continued into January in Kolofata. An increase in attacks to obtain supplies like food and livestock was recorded in the north in March–April. While attacks are still concentrated in the Far North region, they have spread southward. (AFP, 06/04/2015).

The United States is supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military to aid its efforts to counter BH campaign (VoA, 12/12/2014, Reuters, 17/02/2015). Both Cameroon and Chad pledged to support Cameroon in fighting BH, and have launched air and ground offensives (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015; New York Times, 05/02/2015).

Recent Incidents

There have been at least 18 BH attacks in northern Cameroon since January 2015 (AFP, 12/05/2015). On 16 April, Boko Haram attacked the villages of Bia and Blaberi in Kolofata district, Far North region, killing 19 people and later that night attacked Amchide, an army position (Reuters, 17/04/2015; AFP, 17/04/2015). Armed militants from CAR killed three people and kidnapped seven in Mbeng village on 24 April. Two more people were kidnapped on 25 April (Reuters, 25/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).
The limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response in the Far North has made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible.

Logistical Constraints

The delivery of aid is complicated by the low presence of humanitarian actors in Cameroon (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance.

Security Constraints

The deterioration of the security situation has made access to the Far North extremely difficult. Although the Cameroonian army retook the border towns, the area remains insecure with the presence of armed groups (OCHA, 10/04/2015). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014). Organisations like UNHCR do not have access to certain localities where refugees are present, due to heightened insecurity (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

Disasters – Heavy rains

The fishing and tourism industry is threatened by heavy rains and surging tides in southern Cameroon. In 2014, tourism dropped by 60% (Reuters, 30/03/2015).

Displacement

At April 2015, there were 417,000 displaced people in Cameroon, including 311,000 refugees from CAR and Nigeria and an estimated 106,000 IDPs in northern regions due to the spillover of the Nigerian conflict (OCHA, 10/04/2015; UNICEF, 23/04/2015; UNHCR, 29/03/2015). As attacks increase, people are moving toward central Cameroon (OCHA, 06/01/2015).

IDPs

In the Far North, there are 39,850 IDPs in Logone-et-Chari department, 20,200 IDPs in Mayo Sava department, and 26,989 IDPs in Mayo-Tsanaga department (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

Refugees from the Central African Republic

As of April 2015, 247,250 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: 140,820 have arrived since December 2013 (OCHA, 24/03/2015; UNHCR, 21/04/2015; 03/04/2015). Many refugees have crossed without being registered. A reduced flow of refugees indicates an improved situation in CAR, but many people are reluctant to go home because they are concerned about food security and livelihoods (VoA, 16/03/2015).

Refugees from Nigeria

74,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to northern Cameroon since May 2013 (UNHCR, 20/04/2015; OCHA, 09/04/2015). Cameroonian authorities say there are 25,000 refugees living along the Nigerian borders (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

34,370 Nigerian refugees have been registered in Minawao camp, in the Far North region (UNHCR, 03/05/2015). The camp’s maximum capacity is 15,000, and the population was only 6,000 in August 2014. The needs among refugees are largely WASH, shelter, health and education (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). Local residents from Marwa village in northern Cameroon reported that around 60,000 victims of BH attacks from Borno and Adamawa, Nigeria, are taking refuge in the area (local media, 06/04/2015).

25,000 refugees who arrived between late February and early March refuse to be relocated to Minawao camp and have signed documents stating their intention to return to their localities (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

People living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern. Moreover, relocation from Kousseri transit site is slowed because individuals want to go back to their villages (UNHCR, 25/03/2015).

In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceeds the local population. Host communities and refugees are competing over already inadequate resources and living conditions have become very difficult for host communities (FAO, 11/12/2014).

Returnees and Third-Country Nationals

At least 17,500 third-country nationals are currently living in Garoua Boulai and Kentzou transit sites, or in host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014 and IOM, 25/07/2014; 19/02/2015).

Food Security

As of March, 1.08 million people are food insecure, mostly in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions, with 244,000 in severe food insecurity (OCHA, 10/03/2015; 17/12/2014). 54% of households in the Far North and North regions face shortages. An estimated 34.4% of refugee households from CAR are food insecure (FAO, 11/12/2014).

There are 108,000 people facing acute food and livelihood crisis in areas affected by BH violence (WFP, 07/05/2015).

70% of farmers in the Far North region have deserted their farms and missed out on planting (AFP, 28/01/2015). Dryness in the Sahel belt and the strain of hosting so many refugees are also affecting food security (ECH0, 06/01/2015).

In the Sahel, between March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4, Crisis and Emergency, food security across the Sahel. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2, Stressed, food security. During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonise, 04/2015).

Food insecurity affected 24.7 million people in 2014, compared to 11.3 million in 2013 (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Between March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4, Crisis and Emergency, food security across the Sahel. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2, Stressed, food security. During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonise, 04/2015).
As of September 2014, 6.8 million people are in need of health services (IOM, 09/2014).

Cameroon’s Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. The concentration of health staff in wealthier areas leaves around 40% of Cameroonians without access to healthcare. 46% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014).

Acute respiratory infections and malaria are the leading causes of death in refugee camps (UNHCR, 01/03/2015).

CAR refugees mostly suffer from malnutrition, malaria, and respiratory infections, according to an ECHO needs assessment. A number of measles cases have been reported among child refugees.

Nutrition

There were 40% more cases of severe malnutrition in January 2015 compared to the start of 2014 (OCHA, 30/01/2015). There are 39,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) among children under five in the Far North region (UNICEF, 23/04/2015) and 132,000 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/01/2015; UNICEF, 08/2014). The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the Far North is 2.0%, while the global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence is 9% (UNHCR, 29/03/2015).

WASH

Regions hosting CAR refugees have particularly poor access to drinking water (East: 54% and Adamawa: 70%) and basic sanitation (East: 22% and Adamawa: 64%) (UNICEF, 05/08/2014). The quantity of water provided per day to refugees in Minawao stands at 14 litres per person (UNHCR, 03/05/2015). The water supply in Gado and Mbile camps, at 15 litres and 17 litres, respectively, is below standard (UNHCR, 26/03/2015). In East and Adamawa regions, only two out of seven refugee sites have the standard daily 20L of water per person (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

Education

Almost 30,000 children internally displaced by BH are deprived of education (AFP, 12/05/2015).

During the 2014-2015 academic year, 120 schools had to close in the Far North region and 33,163 children were either left out of school or were forced to seek education in other communities (UNHCR, 29/03/2015). (UNICEF, 28/02/2015; UNHCR, 29/03/2015). Students have been moving toward the country’s interior and the government has been assisting in moving populations to more secure areas after BH destroyed or occupied schools (VoA, 25/11/2014).

School attendance in camps remains low, 44% for primary and 66.9% for secondary school, despite education advocacy with parents (UNHCR, 01/03/2015).

In Minawao camp, there are only three primary schools with 21 classrooms to accommodate more than 6,600 primary school-aged children (IRIN, 12/05/2015). The majority of people residing in Minawao camp have no formal education or profession (UNHCR, 21/03/2015).

Protection

Witnesses report that hundreds of young people are joining Boko Haram in the Far North region due to lack of access to education and employment. 6,000 troops have been sent to protect the region and prevent further recruitment of young men (IRIN, 05/03/2015).

The Cameroonian Government is refuting allegations by a regional human rights organisation that it is treating suspected BH fighters inhumanely. The allegations emerged following the death of 25 prisoners in December (Reuters, 13/03/2015).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update 07/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 5.5 million affected by humanitarian crisis, including 2.2 million children (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

- At least 515,000 refugees in Chad, including 94,000 from CAR (OCHA, 10/02/2015; UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

- 2.4 million Chadians are food insecure (OCHA, 10/02/2015).

Security Context

Regional Military Involvement

In January, the Chadian Government pledged to support the fight against Boko Haram (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015). Between 31 January and 2 February, Chadian forces aided Nigerian security forces to reclaim several towns in Borno state (AP, 03/02/2015; VoA, 01/02/2015). On 8 February, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Benin agreed to send a joint force of 8,700 troops to fight Boko Haram (10/02/2015). On 8 March, Chad and Niger launched a joint army operation against Boko Haram militants in Nigeria (Reuters, 08/03/2015). On 12 March, Chadian troops fighting BH withdrew to Cameroon and redeployed further south (Reuters, 12/03/2015). On 31 March, Chad and Nigerian soldiers drove BH militants from a border town, Malam Fatori, which has been a stronghold of the group (31/03/2015).
President Idriss Déby met with former Nigerian president Goodluck and his successor Muhamadu Buhari on 11 May to discuss improved troop coordination in the fight against Boko Haram (AFP, 12/05/2015).

In May, the Chadian government has been preparing military actions against militants in the Lake Chad area, potentially resulting in a higher number of IDPs (UNHCR, 11/05/2015).

Chad withdrew its troops from the African Union Peacekeeping Force in CAR in April 2014, after accusations of violence against civilians. Chad denies the charges.

International Presence in Chad

In August, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region based in Chad. Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (local media, 01/08/2014).

Boko Haram Attacks

Boko Haram launched its first attack in Chad in February, killing at least ten and burning Ngouboua, by Lake Chad, where some 7,000 Nigerians had taken refuge (Aljazeera, 14/02/2015). From 28 February to 1 March, Boko Haram attacked Kaiga village, Lake Chad region, targeting Chadian soldiers (ECHO, 03/03/2015). On 15 March, BH attacked Djagagourou village, in the Lake Chad region, killing one person and burning two houses (Reuters, 12/03/2015). On 2 April, an attack on Maidogo, an island on Lake Chad, killed seven (AFP, 06/04/2015). On 3 and 7 April, Boko Haram attacked Ngouboua and the Lake Region, respectively (UNHCR, 07/04/2015).

Security measures have been heightened in Tchoukoutalia following BH attacks on 7, 9, and 13 April (UNHCR, 14/04/2015). Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property. Additionally, navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, have been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

5.5 million people are affected by humanitarian crisis, including 2.2 million children; 3.2 million need humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 10/11/2014; OCHA, 28/01/2015).

Access

Chad’s President Idriss Déby announced in May 2014 that the southern border with CAR would be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved. Concerns over reports of refusal of refugee entry have been raised. The Government deployed additional security forces to the border, after expressing concern that armed fighters might be infiltrating refugee populations in the area.

Two main roads in Chad, which run through Cameroon and Nigeria and are vital to Chad’s economy, remain insecure and mostly blocked due to violence (AFP, 02/03/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Nearly 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east, facing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities (OCHA, 19/11/2013). The arrival of CAR refugees since December 2013 is further increasing competition for scarce resources (IDMC, 24/10/2014).

Some 1,300 IDPs are in the south of N’djamena (UNHCR, 21/03/2015). There are an estimated 14,500 IDPs in the Lake Region (OCHA, 21/02/2015; UNICEF, 20/03/2015; 08/04/2015).

At IDP camps Bagasola and Bol, there were 3,398 and 1,494 IDPs respectively, based on recent profiling (UNHCR, 14/04/2015; 30/04/2015).

Refugees

As of 14 April, Chad hosted 515,000 refugees from Sudan, CAR, Nigeria, and DRC (OCHA, 10/02/2015). Of those, 367,200 are Sudanese (OCHA, 31/01/2015), 94,000 are from CAR (UNHCR, 03/04/2015), 18,100 are Nigerian (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; IOM, 23/02/2015), and 36,500 from DRC.

Most refugees are in Wadi Fira (157,500), Ouaddai (114,350), Sila (84,650), and Logone Oriental (47,500), while 22,750 are in Dosseye camp and 26,420 in Belom camp, Moyen Chari; 4,900 in Dar es Salam camp, and around 18,100 in Lake region (UNHCR, 14/04/2015; 25/03/2015; 21/03/2015; 28/01/2015; 02/11/2014; OCHA, 20/03/2015; 08/02/2015; WFP, 06/03/2015; UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

CAR Refugees

There are 94,020 refugees from CAR in Chad, including 17,080 who have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/04/2015; 01/05/2015). Of these, 83,030 live in sites in Chad islands to the Dar Es Salam site remains a priority (UNHCR, 08/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015). On 5 May, 5,470 Niger and Nigerian refugees were registered in Dar Es Salaam. At 11 May, about 2,000 Nigerian refugees who had been stranded on Lake Chad islands arrived in Chad (UNHCR, 11/05/2015).

Resources are limited for both refugees and host communities, especially food, shelter, and essential household items (OCHA, 12/01/2015). At end March, at least 68,000 people in host communities in five prefectures had been affected by the influx of refugees (OCHA,
There are approximately 257,000 returnees in Chad, including 130,000 from CAR (OCHA, 10/02/2015; UNHCR, 21/03/2015). Some 64,220 Chadian returnees are living in seven sites in N’Djamena and the south of the country (IOM, 27/04/2015). There are 8,500 Chadian returnees from Nigeria in Lake region, including 2,010 who have been registered (IOM, 21/04/2015; OCHA, 21/02/2015).

On 2-3 May, an international organization helped 179 stranded migrants in Cameroon relocate home. They are currently in Djako transit site (IOM, 05/05/2015).

There are 130,000 returnees from CAR (UNHCR, 21/03/2015). As of 11 May, 1,910 are in Djako site; 11,446 in Danamadja Site; 6,449 in Kobiteye; 8,418 in Logone Oriental villages; 8,513 in Mandoul villages; 16,879 in Sido; and 16,074 in Maingama (IOM, 11/05/2015; OCHA, 28/03/2015). Some 30,000 returnees have returned to their homes in Chad (IOM, 05/05/2015).

The Government has increased the maximum stay in transit centres from ten days to one year to allow the restoration of family links and better prepare relocation (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Over 25,000 people who entered Chad since the CAR crisis are living in small villages and remote communities throughout the south, including 22 villages in Mandoul and Logone Oriental hosting around 15,000 returnees (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Pressure on resources is high and conditions are poor, with urgent need for shelter, food, health, WASH and livelihood support (UNHCR, 30/11/2014).

2.4 million people in Chad are food insecure (OCHA, 10/02/2015). The number of severely food insecure people have increased from 339,000 to 552,000 in six months (UNICEF, 15/05/2015). Those in moderate and crisis food insecurity are mainly in central Chad (WFP, 31/12/2015). In areas affected by Boko Haram 45,000 people face an acute food and livelihood crisis (WFP, 07/05/2015).

Between April and June, the lean season will be early in Bahr el Gazel, Kanem, and the Lake Region. Livestock prices are below normal, milk availability will fall and the food security situation, currently in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) will progress to Phase 3 (Crisis). There is no aid programme planned for this period (FEWSNET, 04/2015). People in the Lake Chad region may face higher food insecurity if they do not receive humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 03/2015; 20/04/2015).

Due to the closure of the border and the population influx, the price of food in some communities has increased by 50%. The border closure also forced markets for cattle and farming products to shut down (OCHA, 21/02/2015; UNICEF, 15/05/2015).

Cereal harvest is improving food reserves for poor households and thus food security. Beginning in April, food stocks will run out one month prior to other years in Kanem, Bahr El Ghazal and Guera regions, leading to IPC Phase 3 food insecurity (Crisis) from April until June (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015). Conflicts in neighbouring countries limit food exports (Government, 20/11/2014).

Refugees and returnees are putting pressure on household demand, consumption, and spending in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, and Salamat (WFP, 07/2014).

Between March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4, Crisis and Emergency, food security across the Sahel. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2, Stressed, food security. During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonise, 04/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically, affecting 24.7 million people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

2.5 million people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Due to the influx of refugees, there is an urgent need to strengthen healthcare activities in host communities and to recruit more qualified medical personnel (UNHCR, 06/03/2015).

Only 34% of children under-one have been vaccinated in returnee sites in eastern Chad (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

21 children in Darfuri refugee camps in eastern Chad died of an unidentified disease during the last week of March 2015 (local media, 30/03/2015). The HIV/AIDS prevalence in the Lake Region is 10.10% compared to the national prevalence of 2.7% (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

The number of severely food insecure people have increased from 339,000 to 552,000 in six months (UNICEF, 15/05/2015). Those in moderate and crisis food insecurity are mainly in central Chad (WFP, 31/12/2015). In areas affected by Boko Haram 45,000 people face an acute food and livelihood crisis (WFP, 07/05/2015).
An assessment on child refugees from Nigeria showed that 72% of the 296 school-aged children identified had never been to school (OCHA, 21/02/2015; 20/03/2015).

The number of students in Dar Es Salam camp has decreased from 848 to 269, due to insufficient food rations, heat, and distance (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

**Protection**

**Child Protection**

Family reunification is a major protection challenge (OCHA, 25/10/2014). Over 600 unaccompanied minors and separated children and 44 children associated with armed groups were reported among the CAR returnee population between December 2013 and August 2014, according to UNICEF (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Only 59% of identified unaccompanied and separated children had been reunited with their families as of mid-November (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

A survey found that two out of three girls are married before the age of 18 in Chad (UN, 24/03/2015).

**Legal Status**

Second and third-generation Chadians from CAR have been recognised as de facto nationals by the Government, and UNHCR is working with authorities to formalise recognition and avoid statelessness. The Government will provide birth certificates to every child born in a transit site (UNHCR, 07/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Stress on rural livelihoods has triggered movement from rural to peri-urban areas of the capital, putting pressure on the delivery of basic services (UN, 12/06/2014).

**Access**

A lack of access due to insecurity, on top of reductions in assistance, has placed Obock in a particularly precarious situation (FEWSNET, 25/08/2014).

**Displacement**

**Migrants**

IOM estimates that over 100,000 migrants, the majority from Ethiopia and Somalia, transit the country every year. Children account for 32% of the migrant population (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). Migrants arrive in dire conditions and vulnerable to a number of protection issues. A large number need medical assistance, which strains health facilities in Dikhil, Tadjourah, and Obock (IOM, 21/11/2014). Migrants/refugees continue to report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock (UNHCR, 12/2014).

**Refugees in Djibouti**

**Refugees from Yemen**

11,180 new arrivals from Yemen were reported between end March and 13 May, comprising 47% transiting third-country nationals, 38% Yemenis and 15% Djiboutians (IOM, 15/01/2015; 12/05/2015; 07/05/2015; AFP, 14/05/2015). Only 1,000 of the new arrivals have chosen to stay at Obock camp (AFP, 14/05/2015). The refugees are housed at two transit centres in Al-Rahma before transfer to Markazi, where construction of a new camp is underway (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

The UN expects to receive more than 15,000 refugees in the next six months (AFP, 14/05/2015). Humanitarian organisations fear that the influx of people from Yemen may worsen an already difficult humanitarian situation in Obock (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

**Non-Yemeni refugees**

Prior to the recent influx of refugees from Yemen, Djibouti was hosting more than 23,700 refugees, the majority of Somali origin (ECHO, 17/04/2015). 70% are women and children who depend entirely on humanitarian assistance and protection services (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There are also 4,220 asylum seekers, 3,275 of whom are from Ethiopia. The refugees are living in two camps: Holl Holl and Ali Addeh, where there is a reported lack of shelter, sanitation facilities and essential non-food items (ECHO, 15/04/2015).

**Food Security**

14.5% of households in the country are food insecure and 32% are vulnerable to food insecurity. As of January, 14,200 people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity, while 56,000 were Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (WFP, 13/01/2015).
Below-average rainfall throughout 2014 has limited pasture regeneration and the food security situation is expected to deteriorate in the Southeast Pastoral Border Zone and in the rural Obock region. Most pastoral households are expected to remain at Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions between April and September (28/04/2015). A combination of high food prices, water scarcity, and reduced pasture is further deteriorating food insecurity (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

2.15 million people in the Horn of Africa are in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) at 15 April (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

In 2014, OCHA reported that 300,000 people are in need of health services. Rates of communicable diseases are high, including diarrhoeal disease. A lack of medicine is reported at health facilities (WHO, 27/04/2015).

Nutrition

According to OCHA, 277,000 people are in need of nutritional aid, compared to 195,400 in 2013.

In Obock region, the global acute malnutrition rate has been estimated at 29.9 per cent and severe acute malnutrition at 12.1 per cent (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

WASH

In Obock region, only 40% of the population have access to safe water and only 25% have access to adequate sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

Education

As of January 2015, 41.6% of girls and 33.3% of boys aged 6–10 are out of school (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Updated: 20/05/2015

ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

- 2.9 million will require food assistance in 2015. The most affected regions are Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Tigray, and Afar (OCHA, 09/03/2015).
- 1.2 million people are in need of improved access to safe water and water sources (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).
- Ethiopia hosts some 689,100 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).
- A majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity. Main concerns include overcrowding, malnutrition, flooding and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid.
- 264,500 SAM cases require assistance in 2015; 446,800 pregnant and breastfeeding women need nutrition interventions (OCHA, 15/03/2015; 20/04/2015).

Political Context

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence persist. Two decades of deadly conflict in the southeastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian Somali population, especially after years of a relatively successful government counter-insurgency campaign. The Government has yet to address the root causes of the violence.

However, weak political opposition, and the Government’s determination to accelerate economic growth all make continued stability likely.

Elections are scheduled for 24 May (VOA, 19/05/2015). Government special forces are reportedly present in opposition constituencies (VOA, 19/05/2015). In January, opposition parties reported roadblocks obstructing their efforts to register for the elections (VOA, 14/01/2015). In September 2014, Amnesty International reported violations of civil and political rights.

Security Context

Participation in Regional Military Operations

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations in East Africa. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are taking place in Addis Ababa.

In January 2014, the Government pledged that Ethiopian troops, currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) would remain in Somalia until durable peace and security is achieved. The Somali militant group Al Shabaab has repeatedly threatened Ethiopia since Ethiopian troops arrived in Somalia.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

South Sudanese refugees are arriving only through Pagak and Akobo, as reception centres
in Matar and Pamdong have been closed (IOM, 07/01/2015).

Disasters

Floods

Around 600 people have been displaced by floods in the highlands of Amhara region after the Kebena River overflowed. 300 are in temporary shelters. A flood assessment reported that the population is at high risk of water-related disease outbreaks (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 11 February, Ethiopia had 495,680 IDPs (IOM through OCHA, 11/02/2015), who mostly live in Somali region (USAID, 2014). About 60% are in protracted displacement (OCHA, 2014).

Refugees in Ethiopia

As of 30 April, Ethiopia hosts some 689,100 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). South Sudanese account for the biggest refugee population (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Environmental degradation in camps, the fragile ecosystem, and scarce resources have led to tensions between host communities and refugees in some locations (UNHCR, 20/01/2015).

South Sudanese refugees: As of 15 May, 205,127 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2013. 12,721 of them arrived after 15 December 2014. 3,542 are awaiting transfer to camps (UNHCR, 12/05/2015; 15/05/2015). 67% are children and about 23% are women (UNHCR, 05/05/2015). They are arriving in a critical nutritional condition (UNHCR, 28/02/2014). 58,000 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before December 2013 (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

The current arrival rate averages 406 per day (UNHCR, 12/05/2015). However, Pagak entry point saw a spike in new arrivals in April, with an estimated 7,000 arriving in four days (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). More than 1,800 arrived in the first week of May. 4,200 refugees were registered in April, compared to an average of 1,000 per month in the first quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 11/05/2015).

Leitchur and Nip Nip camps were so damaged by flooding in 2014 they are not suitable for the settlement of refugees. They currently host 48,755 and 1,110 refugees, respectively (UNHCR, 08/05/2015). Relocation to Pugnido camp is ongoing. Pugnido now hosts 62,154 refugees (UNHCR, 12/05/2015). Refugees from Leitchur and Nip Nip are also being relocated to Jewi, a new camp near Gambella, which has a capacity of 50,000 (OCHA, 16/03/2015). By 10 May, more than 4,200 people had been relocated to Jewi (UNHCR, 11/05/2015). Relocation has slowed as refugees are unwilling to leave their communities (WFP, 01/04/2015). Other refugees have self-relocated in different parts of Nyinyang and along the Nip Nip–Jakawo corridor and Gambella–Matar highway (UNICEF, 15/08/2014; UNHCR, 10/11/2014). More land is needed to accommodate new arrivals from South Sudan (OCHA, 20/04/2015). As of January, two other sites, Kobe, with a capacity of 50,000, and Cholan, with a capacity of 20,000, have been identified and approved for development as refugee camps (UNHCR, 09/01/2015, 15/01/2015). 31,461 refugees are living within host communities (UNHCR, 12/05/2015).

Eritrea: As of April, Ethiopia hosts 135,665 Eritrean refugees, including 33,000 arrivals in 2014 (ECHO, 17/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015). There was a spike in daily arrivals in the last quarter of 2014: about 8,588 refugees arrived in October and November (OCHA, 24/11/2014). New refugees are transferred to Hitsat camp, which hosts about 27,560 people (OCHA, 24/11/2014).

Somalia: As of April, there are 246,600 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, including 1,755 who have arrived since January 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Most are located in Dollo Ado camps (UNHCR, 28/02/2015).

Sudan: As of April, there are 36,478 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Ethiopian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 1 January there were 3,275 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

As of 1 March there were 30,630 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

Returnees

159 Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti have returned to Ethiopia (IOM, 07/04/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 2.9 million people will require food assistance in 2015, including 381,000 people in need of assistance in April (Government, 31/01/2015).

Poor households in northeastern Afar and in the lowlands of Borena zone in Oromia will remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) until June. A joint assessment in mid-March identified an additional 10,000 people requiring food assistance in Borena, on top of the 106,000 identified in December 2014. In southern Afar, food security is expected to decline from IPC Phase 2 to IPC Phase 3 from May to June (FEWSNET, 15/03/2015).

Areas of particular concern are belg/gu/ganna/sugum rain-receiving areas in the lowlands of Afar region, Waghimra zones of Amhara region, Oromia region, areas of SNNPR, and Fafan and Site zones in Somali (OCHA, 11/05/2015). After a delayed onset the seasonal gu rains gradually improved in most of the country, but most of the country, except the southwest and southeast, received below-average rainfall in April. Food insecurity and water and pasture shortages continue to worsen in areas reporting inadequate rainfall (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 04/05/2015).

Outlook

...
Belg crop production is likely to be well below average in June–July. Low production and labour demand will deteriorate food security in eastern Amhara and Tigray, SNNPR and eastern and central Oromia from July–September.

Due to seasonal staple food price increases and the approach of the dry season and secondary lean season in August, households in Borena will move from IPC Phase 2 to IPC Phase 3 July–September (FEWSNET, 15/03/2015; 30/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Malaria remains the main public health concern in all refugee camps, followed by respiratory tract infections and diarrhoeal diseases (IFRC 30/12/2014). Monitoring in Gambella region in 2014 showed critical gaps in medical personnel and supplies, as well as funds for public health clusters (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

An outbreak of acute jaundice syndrome was reported in Pugnido refugee camp, in sections of the camp that are relatively congested. 29 cases have been reported (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Measles

A nationwide measles outbreak is ongoing. As of 13 April, 10,121 suspected measles cases have been reported, of which 4,529 confirmed. 88% of cases are in Oromia region, mainly West Wellega, West Hararge, and Guji. 131 outbreak sites have been reported, with more than 4,000 confirmed cases in 2015. The most affected age group is 5–15 years (42%) (OCHA, 27/04/2015; 30/04/2015; 04/05/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition rates at the start of 2015 decreased in comparison to previous months, except in woredas that received poor kiremt rains, in North Gonder and Washmira zones of Amhara region (OCHA, 16/02/2015). An estimated 264,500 SAM cases will require assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 20/04/2015). 446,800 pregnant and breastfeeding women need nutrition interventions (OCHA, 15/03/2015).

An increasing number of moderate acute malnutrition cases were reported in Arero, Bule Hora, Melka Soda and Miyo woredas in Oromia, and more complicated SAM cases reported in Abaya and Gelana woredas in Oromia (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

Spikes of malnutrition were reported in April in Arsi, West Arsi, the lowlands of Bale, East and West Hararge zones of Oromia and parts of SNNP, especially Sidama and Wolayita (OCHA, 04/05/2015). Further spikes in malnutrition are expected during the April–June lean season (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Refugee camps: In Gambella, the nutrition situation has improved somewhat overall, with 20.9% GAM and 4.8% SAM in 2015, compared to 29.3% and 8.9%, respectively, in 2014. The situation remains critical according to the WHO classification in Tierkidi (28.3% GAM and 8.8% SAM), Kule (21.9% and 5.2%) and Pugnido (24.2% and 4.8%). In Okugo camp, the nutritional situation is classified as serious, with 10.1% GAM and 0.8% SAM (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

WASH

Seasonal short rains have been uneven, erratic and delayed throughout the country. Increasing water shortages reported in Somali, SNNP, Oromia, Amhara, Afar and Dire Dawa regions are affecting 950,000 people. Water trucking is ongoing, but critical gaps remain. Additional water shortages are anticipated in Tigray (UNICEF, 21/04/2015; OCHA, 18/05/2015).

In SNNP region, belg rains were more than two months late. 332,000 people in 22 woredas are facing acute water shortages. Children have dropped out of school to support water collection. Water trucking is ongoing, but is insufficient in some areas (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

In Somali region, many areas are experiencing third consecutive failed rains, as gu rains were poor. 24 non-functioning boreholes have been identified in Fafan and Sitti zones. A least 73,000 people in Sitti are affected by drought. Families are leaving to search for water and 10,000 children have dropped out of school: 36% of schools in the area have closed (OCHA, 18/05/2015). Water shortages continue in Legahida and Salahad woredas of Nogob zone, Somali region (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

In Amhara region, groundwater sources have been depleted due to poor belg rains. In affected areas, people are travelling 10–20km in search of water. Households are moving with their cattle in search of pasture and water (OCHA, 18/05/2015). In April, 13,000 people in Minjar Shenkora and East Belessa woredas in Amhara region were reported in immediate need of water trucking support (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

In Gambella, water supply per day has deteriorated. It is below the UNHCR standard of 20L per person per day in most camps: 20L in Okugo, 18L in Tierkidi, 16L in Kule, 17.8L in Leitchuor, 15L in Pugnido, and 9L in Nip Nip (UNHCR, 15/05/2015; 01/03/2015). Sanitation has improved, and latrine ratios in some camps are lower than the UNHCR standard of 1:50:1:38 in Tierkidi, 1:19 in Kule, 1:43 in Leitchuor and 1:6 in Okugo (UNHCR, 27/02/2015). Water quality and quantity meet minimum standard in Gambella and Dollo Ado camps. But in Gambella, inadequate sanitation services and poor hygiene practices continue to negatively affect the nutrition status of refugees (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Protection

As of 24 March 2015, 18,379 unaccompanied minors and separated children were identified among the refugee population (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

Child protection

18,924 South Sudanese unaccompanied and separated children have been identified in Gambella (UNHCR, 01/05/2015).

Vulnerable Groups and Minorities

The Kwegu, a small tribe in Ethiopia’s Lower Omo Valley, are in need of humanitarian
assistance due to the destruction of their land to make way for the Gibe III dam and associated large-scale irrigation. Reports indicate no consultation took place with the indigenous peoples in Lower Omo Valley about projects on their land, and some tribes were forcibly settled by the Government in a process called “villagisation” (Survival International, 10/03/2015).

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 14/05/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- Over March-May, 412,000 people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity. Numbers are projected to increase over June-August 2015 (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

- 10,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 10/02/2015; 13/02/2015).

Political and Security Context

On 30 December 2014, an attempted coup was reported as gunfire was heard outside the presidential palace in the capital Banjul while President Yahya Jammeh was out of the country (UN, 01/01/2015). The situation in Banjul has since calmed.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Refugees in the Gambia

As of September 2014, around 9,500 refugees, mostly Senegalese from the Casamance region, live in the Gambia (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Smaller numbers of refugees come from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, and Togo.

Food Security

Over March-May, 412,000 people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity. Numbers are projected to rise to 406,000 and 126,000, respectively, over June-August 2015 (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

Aggregate cereal production in 2014 dropped by 75% compared to 2013, to about 57,000 metric tons, due to irregular rains causing poor growing conditions. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is estimated to have declined by more than 80%. Access to food will be further constrained by high cereal prices and depreciation of the national currency, which has increased domestic prices of imported food commodities (FAO, 05/11/2014). The Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries is further aggravating food insecurity, as the crisis has led to a 60% decline in tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

Between March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency) across the Sahel. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonise, 04/2015).

Agricultural Outlook

Over June-August 2015, below average precipitation is very likely over Gambia (African Regional Climate Centre, 30/04/2015).

Health

Nutrition

10,220 children are severely malnourished as of February 2015, an increase compared to 8,000 severely malnourished in mid-2014 (OCHA, 02/2015; 09/2014).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 May: Community resistance continues to be reported as the main challenge to containing Ebola in Forecariah (IFRC).

11–17 May: 27 Ebola cases were reported, from Boke, Dubreka, and Forecariah prefectures, compared to seven the previous week (UNMEER, 18/05/2015).

13 May: 1,802 suspected measles cases reported since January, including seven deaths (UNMEER, 18/05/2015).
KEY CONCERNS

- The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 26,885, including 11,117 deaths. As of 16 May, 3,626 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,405 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 18/05/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.

- Between February and March 2015, 1.35 million (15%) of Guinea’s population were in Phase 2 food insecurity, and 275,000 in Phase 3 (5%). These figures are expected to reach 1.5 million in Phase 2 (20%) and 395,000 in Phase 3 (5%) in the lean season between June and August 2015 (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

- Resistance to the Ebola response continues to be reported.

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

Political Context

Presidential elections are due in 2015, but in 2014 President Condé suggested delaying them because of the Ebola crisis (International Crisis Group, 01/11/2014). The opposition held protest rallies in January, demanding electoral commission reform (International Crisis Group, 01/02/2015). On 24 February, the Government replaced the minister charged with organising this year’s presidential election with an army general on 24 February, saying the move was necessary to strengthen the fight against Ebola (Reuters, 01/03/2015). In April, the opposition again staged protests, demanding the revision of the electoral calendar. Local elections, which could galvanise support for the opposition, have been scheduled for March 2016, after planned presidential elections (local media, 10/05/2015).

The Ebola response has increased tensions between President Condé’s ethnic group, the Malinke, who make up about 35% of the population, and the Fulani ethnic group, about 40% of the population, who mainly support the opposition (local media, 18/10/2014).

Security Context

Unrest

Political protests began in mid-April, after announcements that local elections would be delayed until March 2016. Violent clashes between protesters and security forces occurred on 13 and 20 April, and on 4 May. Several people were reportedly shot by security forces, and at least 29 were arrested. Other towns with opposition strongholds remained quiet, but a rally was staged in Nzerekore city (Daily Mail, 04/05/2015). On 7 May, security forces clashed with protesters in Conakry. Following this, the opposition chief cancelled scheduled talks with the President (international media, 07/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Poor road infrastructure means many communities outside the capital are extremely difficult to reach (OCHA, 16/09/2014). Rains have started already in some areas and become heavier in May, making some areas inaccessible by car (Plan, 07/04/2015). Community resistance, especially in Forecariah, also challenges relief activities, as the community does not want to receive support associated with the response to the Ebola epidemic (WFP, 13/02/2015).

Resistance to the Ebola response

Though there are indications of improved access in certain communities, resistance to the Ebola response continues to be a challenge in Forecariah (IFRC, 14/05/2015). Between 30 March and 12 April, IFRC only reported one incident in Conacry (IFRC, 20/04/2015). During the three-day stay-at-home in Coyah prefecture over 24–27 April, several incidents were reported. Two involving threats by armed locals (UNMEER, 29/04/2015).

A measles vaccination campaign in Gueckedou has faced some resistance, which was typically passive and due to persisting fear of Ebola (IRIN, 29/04/2015).

A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice study concluded that 75% of resistance stems from lack of information or misinformation, with some people doubting the sincerity of EVD-related messages, in part due to its resemblance to other diseases in Guinea. The interventions which most frequently trigger resistance are safe burials, disinfection of public places (schools), and contact tracing activities (USAID, 25/02/2015). Some still believe Ebola is a myth and sick relatives continue to be hidden. Traditional practices, such as washing of the dead body, are still conducted (IRIN, 23/03/2015; Voice of America, 24/03/2015).

The Prime Minister has announced measures against resistance, including prosecution of those who hide patients from medical teams or those who hold medical teams hostage (International media, 12/01/2015).

Food Security

Between February and March 2015, 275,000 people (5% of the population) are in Phase 3, or Crisis, food insecurity. These figures are expected to climb to 395,000 in Phase 3 and 1.5 million in Phase 2 in the June–August lean season (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

Almost 90% of the Ebola-driven food insecure live in rural areas (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014). Those who have not been able to harvest their crops, due to rupture of activities and containment measures related to the Ebola outbreak, have already entered the lean season (PI, 18/02/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

All agricultural sectors have been hit by the crisis. In the Forest region, Ebola-related fears have reduced the availability of agricultural labour, resulting in reduced yields. Prices of local/imported rice and palm oil remained have remain above average, but generally stable (WFP, 25/03/2015). Off-season harvesting and large private grain stocks are reducing local price increases (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Based on commercial forecasts, Guinea...
has a rice import gap of about 44,000 metric tons, of an estimated 340,000 metric tons to be imported from October 2014–September 2015 (WFP, 05/01/2015).

Daily and weekly markets are open, but functioning at reduced levels in April 2015 compared to April 2014. This is due to Ebola-related fear, low household purchasing power, limited cross-border flows and a reduced demand for export (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Livelihoods

Typical livelihood activities, including vegetable and cassava harvests and agricultural and mining, have resumed and are providing rural households with income. Income from other sources, such as petty trade, handicrafts and casual labour remain limited due to reduced market activity (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

National attendance at health facilities fell sharply from August 2013 to August 2014. Primary medical consultations dropped by 58%, hospitalisations by 54%, and vaccinations by 30% (UNDP, 19/12/2014).

There has been an almost 50% reduction in the number of children vaccinated due to Ebola (UNICEF, 17/12/2014).

Ebola

As of 16 May, 3,626 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,405 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 18/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable due to a lack of a comprehensive contact tracing, timely case investigation, and rapid Ebola testing (UNICEF, 06/09/2014).

Over 11–17 May, 27 new confirmed cases were reported from Boke, Dubreka and Forecariah prefecture, compared to seven cases reported the previous week (UNMEER, 18/05/2015). 18 of the 25 affected prefectures have not reported any Ebola cases in more than six weeks (WHO, 13/05/2015).

Containment measures: The need for improved contact tracing continues (UNMEER, 18/05/2015). There are several reports of losing contacts in Conakry, Coyah, Boke, and Forecariah (UNMEER, 20/04/2015). Insecurity due to the electoral protests in the week of 13 April decreased contact tracing by 50% in Conakry. Burial teams were unable to attend some funerals (Ebola Deeply, 20/04/2015). There are still concerns about the number of cases arising from unknown contacts and the Ebola-related deaths that continue to be confirmed in the community post mortem (IFRC, 20/04/2015).

The recent spike in Ebola cases has led to the launch of a second awareness-raising and case finding campaign in Forecariah, from 16 May–5 June (UNMEER, 18/05/2015). In March, the President announced a 45-day ‘health emergency’ in Forecariah, Coyah, Conakry, Kindia, Boffa, and Dubreka. Health facilities where Ebola cases have been reported recently are closed, all burials should be carried out by the Red Cross or security forces, and stay-at-home periods are implemented in these prefectures to enhance case-finding and community awareness (Al Jazeera, 28/03/2015; BBC, 29/03/2015; international media, 29/03/2015; UNMEER, 01/04/2015).

The risk of cross-border transmission has increased as market days in Koinadugu, Sierra Leone, and family ties in Kono, Sierra Leone, have led to an increase cross-border traffic (USAID, 07/04/2015). Officials from Guinea and Sierra Leone have agreed to share information on cross-border movement and intend to establish screening protocols (UNMEER, 07/04/2015).

On 25 February, Liberia reopened its border with Guinea (UNMEER, 26/02/2015). Guinea opened its border with Liberia at Ganta in the week of 13 April. Yekepa border post is open, as is the checkpoint in Kondadou Lofa prefecture. IPC protocols are in place. (UNMEER, 15/04/2015).

Healthcare provision: As of 6 May, 187 health workers have been infected, 94 of whom have died (UNICEF, 06/05/2015).

Regional Outbreak

26,885 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,117 deaths (WHO, 18/05/2015).

HIV

About 130,000 people have HIV, and 28,000 received antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2014. From April to December 2014, the proportion of defaulters among patients receiving ART increased from 0% to 42% because of the pressure on the health system due to the Ebola outbreak (The Lancet, 11/04/2015).

Malaria

About five million people are affected by malaria each year; the disease kills at least ten people every week (international media, 14/11/2014). The reduced usage and capacity of health services caused by the Ebola crisis likely contributed substantially to malaria-related morbidity and mortality. Complete interruption of malaria care could have resulted in a 45% increase of untreated malaria cases in Guinea in 2014 and several thousands of malaria-attributable deaths in the region (The Lancet, 23/04/2015). Malaria mortality had been reduced by 50% over the previous decade.

Maternal Health

Medical studies have shown that Ebola mortality rate for pregnant women and newborn babies can be as high as 95%. Fear and misinformation about the impact of Ebola on health services have made women reluctant to access maternal and reproductive health services, as well as prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (UN WOMEN, 27/03/2015). A 10–25% decline in antenatal consultations has been reported, as well as a 7–20% drop in births attended by the health service (UNDP, 19/12/2014).

Measles
The number of suspected measles cases continues to increase. As of 13 May, 1,802 suspected measles cases were reported in 2015, including seven deaths. Recent peaks have been observed in Lola, Macenta and Kankan prefectures (UNMEER, 18/05/2015; WHO, 29/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Difficulty reaching children in remote areas hampered a measles vaccination campaign in Gaoval and Koundara prefectures (UNICEF, 16/03/2015). A nationwide measles vaccination campaign only achieved 39% participation in Nzerekore prefecture by the third day, far below the target of 95% by the end of the campaign (UNMEER, 24/04/2015).

Meningitis

180 suspected meningitis cases and 16 deaths have been reported, with the most recent cases coming from Kankan (WHO, 06/05/2015).

Nutrition

Relative to trends between 1992 and 2012, the prevalence of undernourishment during 2014–2016 could increase by 0.49%, to 1.72% (UNDG, 11/03/2015).

Education

Some parents are reportedly refusing to send their children to school, or students are declining to attend classes due to EVD fears (USAID, 28/01/2015). A reported 159 primary and secondary schools remain closed in February, notably in Forecariah, Boffa and Farah (UNICEF, 11/02/2015; international media, 19/01/2015; Government, 11/02/2015). In Farah and Forecariah, a lower percentage of schools have reopened, because of community resistance and a lack of teachers (UNICEF, 04/02/2015).

Protection

A UNDP study suggests women have been disproportionately affected by the Ebola virus, especially in certain regions. In Gueckedou, women represent 62% of the infected, and in Télémilé, women make up 74%. This could be explained by women's role in family and resulting increased exposure. (UNMEER, 11/02/2015; UNDP, 30/01/2015).

As of 22 April, 5,596 children have been identified as having lost one or both parents to Ebola (UNICEF, 22/04/2015). All 773 children who lost both parents have been placed with extended family (UNICEF, 06/02/2015).

Health workers and survivors are stigmatised (MSF, 26/01/2015). There are reports of recovered patients not being accepted into their communities, despite awareness-raising in the community (USAID, 18/03/2015).

Updated: 19/05/2015

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severity</td>
<td>minimal</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the methodology note for details.
NGO working in Dadaab refugee camp in Hagadera, Garissa county, killing one person and injuring three (local media, 01/04/2015).

On 2 April, Al Shabaab gunmen launched an attack on the campus of Garissa University in Garissa, leaving 148 people dead and 79 people injured. Some Muslim students were set free while Christians were held hostage and executed (AFP, 02/04/2015; HRW, 03/04/2015). This is the deadliest attack by Al Shabaab in Kenya since the 1998 bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi. In response, the government ordered the recruitment of 10,000 individuals to boost the police force. On 6 April, Kenyan fighter jets bombed positions held by Al Shabaab in Somalia (Reuters, 04/04/2015; BBC, 06/04/2015).

The April attacks follow several months of escalating Al Shabaab activity and military response in Kenya. Health workers, teachers, and civil servants fled the area of Mandera after attacks. Attempts to hire new health workers have failed, as perceptions of insecurity remain high (Kenya Daily Nation, 27/11/2014; local media, 26/03/2015). Al Shabaab launched further attacks in Wajir and Mandera in early December, killing 37 in total and injuring 12 (AFP, 01/12/2014; AFP 02/12/2014).

On 14 April, the Kenyan government offered a ten-day amnesty to youths who had joined Al Shabaab and now wish to disassociate themselves. The Government stated they would consider granting amnesty and appropriate reintegration support (Government of Ethiopia, 15/04/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

A growth in the population of both people and livestock has led to more frequent cattle raiding and violence, fed by the availability of small arms. As of the end of November 2014, inter-communal violence in Kenya had caused 310 deaths, 214 injuries and displaced 220,200 (OCHA, 31/11/2014). The areas most affected by inter-communal violence are the northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions. Displacement resulting from ethnic fights, cattle rustling and other crime is making voter registration difficult for affected communities in Laikipia, Samburu, and Baringo counties (local media, 06/05/2015).

On 9 March, a group of 30 armed men raided the village of Suyian in North Samburu, stealing cattle, and killing two people and injuring two (local media, 10/03/2015). A clash over land between Mwimbi and Tharaka people on 10 March left one dead in Meru, eastern Kenya (local media, 10/03/2015).

Conflicts in Baringo and Turkana

Raids in Baringo in December 2014 displaced tens of thousands. The Government has since stepped up efforts to evict Pokot herders from North and South Baringo in order to ensure security in the area (local media, 19/03/2015). All the police reservists in Kaisogeteg village, Turkana, have been killed, either while guarding herders at grazing fields or helping recover stolen animals. Most herds have been stolen, severely impacting livelihoods (local media, 23/03/2015).

At least 46 people were killed and many injured in Nadome village on the Turkana –East Pokot border during a raid by Turkana on 4 May. Armed Pokots had earlier stolen more than 100 goats from a village in Baringo North (local media, 04/04/2015).

Some 75 people were killed in four days of cattle raids and revenge attacks between tribes in Turkana and East Pokot, and in Marsabit, Sambutu, and Baringo in early May (international media, 06/05/2015).

Late April, hundreds of families fled Lorogon and Nakwamorou villages in Turkana county after raids by suspected Pokot herders. The displaced have no access to food or medical care (local media, 28/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Floods

Nearly 1,500 people were affected by floods in Kisumu county in early April. Breached banks in Muhoroni destroyed crops and houses. A recent assessment indicated that most children and the elderly were more likely to contract diseases because of the lack of food (Kenya Red Cross, 11/04/2015). Cholera and water-borne diseases have affected Kisumu almost every year due to water scarcity and floods (local media, 11/04/2015).

Following rains on 15 April, many areas of Kakuma refugee camp were flooded. While most of the roads and some blocks were flooded, there were no signs of displacement or collapsed houses (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

Floods in Narok town, Narok county, killed nine people end of April. Nine were missing and five injured, when the Enkare-Narok River overflowed (local media, 29/04/2015).

In the week of 8 May, torrential rains led to flooding across Nyanza and Nairobi provinces (FEWSNET, 07/05/2015). On 11-12 May, at least 11 people were killed and many others injured after a building collapsed in Nairobi due to heavy rains. Several roads were also reported flooded (ECHO, 13/05/2015; local media, 19/05/2015). More than 400 people had their house damaged by heavy rain and strong wind in Kaereni village, Nairobi province (local media, 06/05/2015). In Mombasa, heavy rains on 4 May rendered roads impassable by flooding and forced shops to close. Residential areas were most affected (local media, 04/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

On 11 February, Kenya had 309,200 IDPs (OCHA, 11/02/2014).

As of 30 November 2014, inter-communal violence had caused the displacement of 125,107 people in Mandera, 84,980 in Wajir, 4,920 in Lamu and 1,730 in Turkana in 2014. Conflicts in Baringo in December caused the displacement of at least 17,600 people. Mid-January reports indicate that the displaced are facing acute food shortages and are still in need of shelter support (local media, 25/01/2015). The Government has provided aid to facilitate the return of 5,000 of the displaced (local media, 19/03/2015).
Heavy rains on 6 April displaced 1,500 in Kasese village and more than 350 people in Achuodho village, in Kisumu County, western Kenya. Roads to the villages have been rendered impassable. Residents were forced to leave their homes for higher ground, while others sought refuge in churches and schools (local media, 06/04/2015).

More than 300 families (1,200 people) were displaced to higher ground by floods in Kisumu and Homa Bay counties. Flooding destroyed houses and hundreds of acres of crops. Displaced are from Kabogo village, Nyando, in Kisumu and the worst-affected areas of East Kagan, West and East Kochia. in Homa Bay (local media, 27/04/2015).

Refugees

As of 1 April, Kenya is hosting more than 586,224 refugees and asylum seekers. 223,970 are in Dadaab, 127,476 in Aminjuku, 181,821 in Kakuma and 52,957 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 1/04/2015).

From Somalia: As of April, 423,153 Somali refugees are in Kenya. 13,162 arrived in 2014, indicating a considerable drop in arrivals (UNHCR, 01/04/2015; 06/05/2015). 1,362 refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab refugee camp complex (UNHCR, 15/03/2015). Additionally, there are 2,620 asylum seekers (UNHCR, 24/03/2015). Security in Dadaab and along the border with Somalia is volatile, with frequent incidents being reported and implications for the safety of humanitarian workers (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOR, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 21 April, 2,060 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 21/04/2015). On 12 April, Kenyan officials had asked UNHCR to close Dadaab camp and repatriate all Somali refugees within two months (Al Jazeera, 12/04/2015). Following numerous statements from humanitarian organisations, Kenyan officials announced on 21 April that the plans would be put on hold, as it was too expensive. The Kenyan government is now requesting resources from partners and donors for the repatriation of refugees (MSF, UNHCR, DRC, 17/04/2015; local media, 21/04/2015).

From South Sudan: As of 14 May, 45,846 South Sudanese refugees had crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border since mid-December 2013 (OCHA, 09/04/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015). 64% of these are children (UNICEF, 2015/05). The total population of South Sudanese refugees in Kenya had reached 90,714 in February 2015 (UNHCR, 01/02/2015).

There is a critical need for land. Kakuma camp has exceeded its capacity of 125,000 by over 56,000 refugees (UNHCR, 19/03/2015). The overpopulation and burden on services is causing friction among refugees communities, and security forces are finding it more difficult to manage situations (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). New arrivals average less than 100 people per week (UNHCR, 07/05/2015). The number of new refugees arriving has decreased in May compared to April due to heavy rains in Kapoeta (IOM, 06/05/2015).

From Ethiopia: As of 24 March, There are 30,478 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

From DRC: As of 24 March, There are 17,303 DRC refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

From Sudan: As of 24 March, there are 9,631 refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

From Eritrea: As of May, 1,563 Eritrean refugees reside in Kenya (UNHCR, 12/05/2015).

Kenyan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

1,350 Kenyans have been living in Kiryandogo, Uganda, for seven years. Ugandan and Kenyan authorities have reached an agreement to return all refugees in 90 days. So far, 950 had registered and were returned on 5 May (local media, 01/05/2015).

Access

Humanitarian workers on the ground have reported that poor roads, hilly terrain and protection concerns along the northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions hamper the delivery of aid (OCHA, 31/11/2014).

Food Security

Due to below-average rains, constrained food access and high food prices, over 1.6 million people, mainly in the northern pastoral areas, are food insecure. The food insecure population is 75% larger than in 2013 (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

On 10 February, authorities reported that 25 constituencies in Mandera need emergency food. WFP, the leading food supplier in the area, is said to have stopped supplies in the region (local media, 10/02/2015). An estimated 400,000 people in North Rift are in dire need of food relief (local media, 01/03/2015).

Hotter-than-normal conditions from January through March are likely to lead to a more severe deterioration of rangeland. Livestock productivity is continuing to decline (APC, 14/05/2015). From South Sudan: As of 14 May, 45,846 South Sudanese refugees had crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border since mid-December 2013 (OCHA, 09/04/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015). 64% of these are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The total population of South Sudanese refugees in Kenya had reached 90,714 in February 2015 (UNHCR, 01/02/2015).

There is a critical need for land. Kakuma camp has exceeded its capacity of 125,000 by over 56,000 refugees (UNHCR, 19/03/2015). The overpopulation and burden on services is causing friction among refugee communities, and security forces are finding it more difficult to manage situations (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). New arrivals average less than 100 people per week (UNHCR, 07/05/2015). The number of new refugees arriving has decreased in May compared to April due to heavy rains in Kapoeta (IOM, 06/05/2015).

From Ethiopia: As of 24 March, There are 30,478 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).
On 7 April, the Central Bank of Kenya closed 13 remittance firms, in an effort to curb the financing of terrorism. This has affected Somali refugees in Kenya, as families are unable to receive funds from abroad. 30 remittances outlets work in Dadaab, all of which have suspended their businesses for fear of police harassment (IRIN, UN, 10/04/2015).

Pronounced rainfall deficits in March, the early stage of the long rains, has put pressure on the livelihoods of pastoralists in semiarid lands. However, widespread and above average rain was received in April (WFP, 08/05/2015).

Many food kiosks have closed in Ahero, Kisumu county, in response to an increase in cholera cases, in order to reduce the spread of the disease (local media, 14/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Lack of medical staff was reported in Kakuma camp is creating a gap in consistent service delivery. Insufficient supply of condoms, vaccines, and associated materials were also reported (UNHCR, 28/01/2015). The ratio of hygiene promoters to refugees in Kakuma camp is 1:2,500, well below the UNHCR standard of 1:500 (UNHCR, 09/01/2015). The rainy season has brought an increase in cases of watery diarrhoea and malaria (UNHCR, 14/05/2015).

Eleven of 26 health facilities in Mandera have closed because staff have left the county (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

Cholera

Since late December 2014, a cholera outbreak has affected eleven counties. It is still ongoing in eight: Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa, Muranga, Baringo, Kiambu, Emby and Kirinyaga. As of 19 May, 3,223 cases had been reported, including 65 deaths. In Migori, Homa Bay, and Bomet, the outbreak is under control. Nearly 320 cases including six deaths were reported in the week to 19 May, compared to 226 the week before (Government, 05/05/2015; local media, 30/04/2015; 14/05/2015; 19/05/2015).

Acute watery diarrhoea and suspected cholera cases have increased rapidly in the Kenyan-Somali border town Dhobley, where 129 people had been admitted to the hospital and five people had died as of 17 May (IOM, 19/05/2015).

Nutrition

Around 310,000 pastoral children in northern Kenya suffer from acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 29/01/2015).

SAM rates among South Sudanese refugees arriving in Kakuma camp in February were 11.1%, a decrease from 15.4% in October 2014. GAM was at 20.5%, a decrease from 29.3% in October 2014 (UNHCR, 23/10/2014, 28/02/2015).

WASH

As of 7 May the average amount of water supplied to residents in Kakuma 4 camp was at 18.75 litres per person per day, an increase from 13.4 the previous week. As rainfall destroyed the main water supply pipeline for two days, the supply was intermittent (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

Education

Sexual offences have been on the rise in Kwale county, eastern Kenya, and this has forced girls to drop out of school (Kenya Daily Nation, 07/02/2015).

Access to education has been disrupted for 9,000 schoolchildren in Mandera, because non-local teachers were advised by their unions not to report to duty in 2015 (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). Authorities are having great difficulties in hiring new local staff (local media, 26/02/2015).

More than 20 schools have been closed in Baringo North and South due to insecurity. An attack on a primary school in Baringo South, where armed raiders shot dead a security guard, has further aggravated the situation (local media, 21/01/2015). More than 1,000 teachers have refused to go back to Baringo since January and a number of schools failed to open for the second term on 4 May (international media, 06/05/2015).

Protection

Following Al Shabaab attacks in Mandera in late November, a new security bill was introduced limiting the rights of people who are arrested and accused, adding harsh criminal penalties, and restricting freedoms of expression and assembly. On 23 February, Kenya’s High Court discarded key aspects of the law, including those which curb media freedom and introduce a refugee cap (BBC, 23/02/2015). In January, Human Rights Watch issued a report that highlighted the government’s efforts to tackle insecurity have been marred by serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions and torture by security forces (HRW, 29/01/2015).

Child Protection

14,619 South Sudanese refugee children are unaccompanied or separated minors (UNHCR, 31/01/2015). Trafficking of separated South Sudanese children is a growing phenomenon in Kenya. Traffickers find the children on their way to or inside refugee camps and take them to southern Africa, often Malawi, where they use or sell them as slaves (Jesuit Refugee Service, 14/01/2015).

Updated: 20/05/2015

LIBERIA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the methodology note for details.
No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 12/05/2015.

KEY CONCERNS
- The last confirmed Ebola patient died on 27 March (WHO, 15/04/2015). As of 9 May, Liberia was declared Ebola-free. 10,666 Ebola cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,806 deaths (WHO, 09/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014).
- 1.23 million people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, and 190,000 are in Crisis (Phase 3). Crisis food insecurity is projected to increase to 720,000 people (15% of the population) in the lean season (June–August), particularly in Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Margibi, and Montserrado counties (Cadre Harmonisé 03/2015).
- There is insufficient capacity to meet non-Ebola medical needs, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related morbidity and mortality.

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

International Presence

The Security Council has extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia until 30 September 2015, in light of the consequences of the Ebola outbreak for national reform (UNSC, 15/12/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

The rainy season in Liberia begins in May. It will be difficult to reach hospital and clinics, electricity will not be available for long periods, and water and sanitation infrastructure will be disrupted (Plan, 07/04/2015).

Refugees in Liberia

Liberia is hosting 39,843 refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern, including 37,907 refugees from Côte d’Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but on 12 March UNHCR, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire agreed to resume repatriation (UNMEER, 15/03/2015; UNHCR, international media, 23/04/2015).

Food Security

As of March, 1.23 million people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, and 190,000 Crisis (Phase 3). Rates of negative coping strategies remain highest in Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount counties (WFP, 31/03/2015).

The end of the harvest has improved the situation in rural areas since March, but food insecurity has increased in urban areas (World Bank, 15/04/2015). Nonetheless, WFP reports that urban households tend to use fewer coping strategies than rural ones (WFP, 31/03/2015). Increased unemployment rates are likely contributing to reduced household food access (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Cadre Harmonisé projects 720,000 people, equal to 15% of the population, will reach Crisis (IPC Level 3) food insecurity in the June–August lean season, as poor and very poor households in Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Margibi, and Montserrado counties will have insufficient purchasing power (Cadre Harmonisé 03/2015; WFP, 31/03/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Surveys indicated that local and imported rice prices remained stable in March, but are still well above average. Imported rice, local rice and palm oil prices rose significantly in Lofa county in April (WFP, 08/05/2015; World Bank, 15/04/2015).

Over 26% of respondents to a FEWSNET survey reported that the most important market in their area was operating at reduced levels (FEWSNET, 05/05/2015).

65% of agricultural households report a smaller harvest than last year (World Bank, 15/04/2015). In April, 21% of traders reported that rice cultivation was taking place at below-average levels (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Decreased agricultural production is of particular concern in Bomi, Bong, and Lofa counties, where the impact will become clear during the October 2015 harvest (ACAPS, 04/2015). Agricultural sector growth will decline by over 2% due to the Ebola outbreak, according to a recent recovery report (UN, 26/03/2015).

60% of Liberians rely on imported staple crops, and a rice import gap of 90,000 metric tons is exacerbating food insecurity, based on commercial forecasts (FAO, 05/01/2015; 22/01/2015).

Livelihoods

Two-thirds of respondents in a nationwide multisectoral assessment considered the income generation situation worse in April 2015 than before the Ebola outbreak. Access to income generation is prioritised over health and education (ACAPS, 04/2015). More than 39% of people surveyed in April reported fewer wage opportunities compared to the same period in the previous year (FEWSNET, 05/05/2015). In March, 45% of respondents who were employed between February and August 2014 reported that they were currently out of work (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Women are particularly vulnerable since they work disproportionately in non-farm self-employment. 95% of women who were engaged in small business have
lost their markets and are accumulating debt, which they will struggle to repay (UN, 26/03/2015). Microcredit, one of women’s main sources of funding, has decreased to negligible amounts (Cadre Harmonisé, 03/2015).

In a World Bank survey, 85% of participants reported having sold assets, sold or slaughtered livestock, borrowed money, sent children to live with relatives, spent savings, or delayed investments since the start of the Ebola crisis (World Bank, 24/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Nearly all health facilities in the country are open, but most are operating at reduced levels compared to before the outbreak. A recent assessment of non-Ebola health facilities in Montserrado county showed 40% had a functional triage system (WHO, 11/03/2015). Between August and December 2014, the number of outpatient visits decreased by 61% compared with the same period in 2013 (UN 26/03/2015).

The Ebola outbreak has significantly reduced vaccination rates. DTP3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccinations have decreased by 53% since 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015; Save the Children, 02/03/2015).

Ebola

On 9 May, the outbreak of Ebola in Liberia was declared over (WHO, 09/05/2015). As of 9 May, 10,666 Ebola cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,806 deaths (WHO, 09/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014). No new cases have been confirmed since 27 March (WHO, 29/04/2015).

Over 3% of health workers have been infected by Ebola; 2% of health workers have died of the disease (UNICEF, 29/04/2015).

Containment measures: The Government has threatened to shut down all schools and restaurants that lack WASH facilities (All Africa, 30/04/2015).

The Government reopened its borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea in February (UNMEER, 23/02/2015). Thousands of people are now crossing daily through official and unofficial crossing-points, although the Sierra Leonean side of the border remains officially closed. More border points with Guinea are opening officially on both sides, although there are concerns about critical gaps in infection control supplies, particularly on the Guinean side (UNMEER, 15/03/2015; UNMEER; 15/04/2015).

Infection prevention and control challenges persist in border areas, according to a CDC assessment in March, including a lack of safe drinking water at health centres; inadequate WASH facilities; insufficient fuel for incineration; and inconsistent access to and storage and use of personal protective equipment (USAID, 25/03/2015).

Regional Ebola Outbreak

26,933 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,120 deaths (WHO, 20/05/2015).

Maternal Health

In the three most affected countries, deliveries in health facilities and the number of assisted births have decreased. Antenatal consultations decreased by between 40% and 43%, while institutional deliveries decreased by 37% to 38% by the end of 2014 compared to 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015, MoH, 07/04/2015).

Measles

As of 1 May, there have been 400 confirmed measles cases across ten counties. 67% of the cases were among children under five. Grand Bassa (160), Margibi (85), and Montserrado (65) reported most cases (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

There are reports of people suspected to have measles abandoning their homes to avoid specimen collection and testing (UNMEER, 27/03/2015).

Different reports suggest measles vaccination coverage has decreased by between 45% and 58% by December 2014, compared to 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015; Save the Children, 02/04/2015). A mass vaccination campaign took place between 8–14 May, targeting around 700,000 children for both measles and polio (UNICEF, 11/03/2015; All Africa, 24/04/2015).

Mental Health

A need for access to mental health and psychosocial support remains, especially for survivors, orphans, and the bereaved (UNMEER, 22/02/2015).

There is only one psychiatrist and there are no psychologists in Liberia. 143 mental health clinicians are meant to be attached to wellness units, but these are yet to be established. There are no long-term treatment facilities for mental health in Liberia. There is one facility with approximately 80 beds for short-term patients (PI, 21/03/2015).

Nutrition

The six counties prioritised by responders for nutrition interventions are the counties that reported the highest Ebola case numbers during the height of the crisis: Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa (UNICEF, 15/04/2015). 52,000 children are estimated to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). There is a need for nutritional support for infants and young children in
Ebola-affected households (UNMEER, 15/03/2015). However, there is no nutritional status information post-Ebola, since the “no-touch” policy has prevented screening. Relative to trends observed from 1992–2012, malnutrition prevalence is forecast to increase by 2.8–5.3% between 2014 and 2016 (UN Development Group, 11/03/2015). Global acute malnutrition was 6% before the Ebola crisis (PI, 24/03/2015).

WASH

According to a recent assessment of health facilities, 50% do not have a protected year-round source of water, and 20% do not have any protected source on site. 49% do not have any bulk water storage on site. Only 61% of facilities report hand washing facilities at the toilet. 23% have a drainage system and only 45% have a functioning soak pit for liquid waste (WASH Cluster, 10/04/2015).

17% of Liberians have access to improved sanitation. The number drops to 4% in rural areas. 32% don’t have access to improved drinking water source (WASH Cluster, 13/04/2015).

An estimated 2,800 schools need improved access to water (PI, 26/03/2015). According to the Ministry of Education, 55% of schools do not have access to functional water supply and 43% lack access to functional latrines. Only 18% of schools have hand-washing facilities. In schools with functional sanitation facilities, there is an average of 118 boys or 113 girls per latrine (MoE, 26/02/2015). According to an Education Cluster assessment, 31% of schools do not have functional latrines, while schools that do average one latrine for every 123 students. Only 60% of the schools had safe drinking water within 500m, 40% of schools had soap and water for hand washing, and 39% had functional hand-washing facilities (Education Cluster, 17/03/2015).

Education

According to self-reported data, enrolment since schools re-opened in February is at 92% of the 2014 level according to the schools assessed recently by UNICEF (UNICEF, 08/04/2015). However, private sources have suggested the figure is closer to 66% and the World Bank found only 75% of people with primary school-aged children reported that at least one child had returned to school, with over 80% of parents citing a lack of money as the main barrier to education (World Bank, 16/04/2015; PI, 20/04/2015). Many schools are reportedly not in compliance with hygiene protocols (UNICEF, 18/03/2015). Fear of Ebola transmission continues to be of concern countrywide, preventing people from sending their children to school (ACAPS, 04/2015).

Protection

Families of victims and survivors are experiencing physical and verbal abuse and lack access to health facilities, food, and water sources (UNMEER, 30/11/2014; UNMEER, 11/01/2015). Some survivors say marketers are refusing to accept money for transaction (All Africa, 04/05/2015). Healthcare workers who were in ETUs face similar discriminatory attitudes (Mercy Corps, 02/04/2015).

Best estimates suggest there are currently around 2,000 survivors in Liberia (VOA, 30/03/2015). Many return home to find their possessions have been destroyed to prevent the spread of the virus. Landlords have terminated leases and some people have lost their jobs (VOA, 30/03/2015; All Africa, 04/05/2015). Women and girls, who have poorer access to jobs and education, are especially vulnerable (UNFPA, 03/02/2015).

Child Protection

It is reported that 401 of the 450 rape cases reported in Liberia since the beginning of the EVD outbreak were committed against children 0–17 years (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

As of 6 May, 3,323 children have lost one or both parents to Ebola since the outbreak began in March 2014 (UNICEF, 06/05/2015).

Social workers have raised fears of child trafficking and exploitation, after some children, who have been placed into foster care and are receiving material support or onetime cash grants, have been claimed by strangers who failed to come forward previously (UNICEF, 31/12/2014).

Updated: 20/05/2015

LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**19 May:** IS suicide bombing in Qubbah in eastern Libya was met with airstrikes (Reuters).

**18 May:** Heavy fighting erupted again in Benghazi between pro-HoR armed forces and Islamist groups (Reuters).

**16 May:** 172 Tunisians were captured in Tripoli by Libya Dawn allied group (Reuters).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 400,000 IDPs in 35 cities and towns (IDMC, 30/03/2014). More than 150,000 people have sought refuge abroad (UNHCR 10/10/2014).
- Over 331,000 people are at risk and in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 08/10/2014).
- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).
- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

OVERVIEW

It is estimated that two million people have been affected by the conflict, which has generated shortages of food, fuel, water, medical supplies, and electricity, as well as reduced access to healthcare and public services.

The rapidly deteriorating security situation has caused waves of displacement, particularly in the western outskirts of Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi. The prices of food and basic items, such as cooking fuel and wheat flour, have doubled.

Most displaced people are living in schools and host communities are under growing strain. Access is difficult, with blocked roads preventing the delivery of food and medical supplies to areas most affected by conflict.

Political Context

Libya has two rival parliaments and governments, with militias exerting much control on the ground. The political crisis led to worsening armed conflict over 2014. Struggle over the control of resources and a sharp drop in oil production have exacerbated the crisis, and worsened the economic situation (Financial Times 19/03/2015). Islamic State (IS) has exploited the volatile security situation; the Eastern coastal town of Derna is now controlled by groups pledging allegiance to IS (Asharq Al Awsat 04/05/2015). Profiting from the deterioration of the political and security situation, smugglers have also taken control over some areas, notably Sabrata and Zuwarra towns near the Tunisian border west of Tripoli. They make use of official ports for smuggling operations (BBC, 29/04/2015).

The House of Representatives was elected in June. It moved to Tobruk in early August (AFP, 12/11/2014). The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of Representatives and had never stood down, reconvened and voted to replace the House on 25 August.

Prime Minister Al Thani’s Government, from the House of Representatives, was sworn in September. In October, the House of Representatives officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity (now known as the Libyan National Army) against Islamist militias. On 6 November, Libya’s Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Certain members of the House of Representatives declared they did not recognise the ruling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Economic Crisis

Oil production, which pays for 95% of government expenditure, has plummeted, leading to a USD 22 billion deficit in 2014. Forecasts for the 2015 deficit are even worse, as a drop in global oil prices compounds the shortfall in production. Unless the political crisis is resolved, these increasing financial constraints could pose serious risks to Libya’s ability to provide essential services (UNICEF, 03/2015).

Peace Talks

The House of Representatives suspended participation in talks on 23 February, citing the GNC’s alleged failure to condemn a recent Islamic State (IS) attack (AFP, 11/02/2015; BBC, 23/02/2015). Over 6–8 March, the rival parliaments held their first direct meeting, led by the UN (AFP, 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). Talks continued in April. Libyan parties are reviewing a UN-proposed draft agreement (UN, 29/04/2015).

Security Context

The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014). The rival governments have been carrying out tit-for-tat airstrikes in east and west Libya, respectively (Libya Herald, 01/04/2015). Since the beginning of 2015, over 1,100 violent deaths have been reported (ACLED, 18/05/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015).

An abundance of weapons from the NATO-backed uprising against Gaddafi are sustaining warring factions (AFP, 14/07/2014). The United Nations Stabilization Mission for Libya (UNSMIL) left the country in mid-July 2014.

Main Stakeholders

Libya Dawn

The Libya Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces, as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR), a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and Gheryan, these groups make up Libya Dawn.

Some factions are wary of the threat of IS to regional and local interests; others are willing to cooperate with IS to defeat Haftar and the Libyan National Army (ACLED, 03/2015).

Libyan National Army

Former General Khalifa Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May 2014, aiming to break the strongholds of Islamist forces. Operation Dignity and its supporters are now called the Libyan National Army (LNA), and Haftar is army chief (ICG, 05/01/2014; Middle East Eye, 24/02/2015). Support comes from the Al Qa’qa’ and Al Sawai’q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli, as well as units of Libya’s regular armed forces. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (AFP, 05/01/2014).

Islamic State and Allies

An abundance of weapons from the NATO-backed uprising against Gaddafi are sustaining warring factions (AFP, 14/07/2014). The United Nations Stabilization Mission for Libya (UNSMIL) left the country in mid-July 2014.
The Islamic Youth Shura Council has declared an Islamic emirate in the eastern city of Derna and pledged allegiance to Islamic State (Al Arabiya, 06/10/2014). The Battar Brigade, based in Derna, pledges alliance to Islamic State. The group is not affiliated with either of the rival governments and has warned all governments and militia groups not to interfere with its activities.

Regional Involvement

In October 2014, Prime Minister Al Thani announced that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army. In February, Egypt carried out airstrikes on Derna (Reuters, 23/02/2015).

Islamist fighters pushed out of Mali are said to be hiding in Libya’s south. Experts see links between these groups and Islamist militias in northern and eastern Libya (AFP, 26/10/2014). IS has set up training camps in eastern Libya, according to US officials (BBC, 04/12/2014).

Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015). Bangladeshi workers have also been banned from entering Libya (Reuters, 16/05/2015).

Tuareg from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad, have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

Conflict Developments

Tripoli and Western Libya

Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. On 20 March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli (Reuters, 23/03/2015). On 15 April, as peace talks were starting, forces loyal to the HoR carried out airstrikes on Mitiga airport and other targets in western Libya (Reuters, 15/04/2015). On 17 April, 21 people died and 24 were wounded in fighting in Tajoura, 30km east of Tripoli, as pro-HoR forces launched a failed attempt to retake Tripoli from Libya Dawn (AFP, 18/04/2015). According to local officials, IS were behind attacks on the Spanish, South Korean, and Moroccan embassies in April (International Business Times, 13/04/2015; AFP, 21/04/2015). On May 16, 172 Tunisians were captured by a militant group loyal to Libya Dawn, after a high level Libya Dawn commander was arrested in Tunis (Reuters, 18/05/2015). Reports are varying as to whether the captives have been released or remain in captivity.

Sirte: Renewed clashes between Libya Dawn-affiliated Misrata militants and IS fighters began on 18 April (Libya Herald, 23/04/2015). On 14 May, eight people, including seven children, were killed, and 11 wounded when a rocket hit a residential building. On 12 May, four children were killed by a mortar round (Reuters, 14/05/2015). As of 13 May, clashes are ongoing (Libya Herald, 13/05/2015). In early March, it was reported that IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata, controls the city of Sirte (NYT, 10/03/2015). The GNC has sent forces from Misrata and from bases near oil ports to recapture Sirte; fighting is ongoing (Reuters, 25/03/2015; 28/03/2015).

Oilfields and Terminals

In December 2014, Libya Dawn announced a campaign for the control of oilfields and terminals (The Telegraph, 14/12/2014). The Libyan national oil company has declared 11 oilfields non-operational because of theft, looting, sabotage, and destruction by unidentified armed groups (NYT, 05/03/2015). The withdrawal of troops from Ras Lanuf and As Sidr terminals (The Telegraph, 14/12/2014). The Libyan national oil company has declared 11

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Indiscriminate fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people trying to flee conflict areas. Violence and checkpoints along the route to Zawia from Tripoli are preventing people from reaching the Tunisian border. The Salloum border crossing between Libya and Egypt has been closed indefinitely (Libya Herald, 21/01/2015).

Access to areas most affected by conflict is difficult. Armed groups lack knowledge of
humanitarian organisations and restrict their access. Most humanitarian agencies have left. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN 07/08/2014).

Infrastructure

Significant damage and destruction has been reported to public installations in Tripoli’s southern and western suburbs (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). In October, power outages were reported in Tripoli (IRIN, 01/10/2014). Fuel shortages have been reported (AFP, 19/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

IDPs’ basic needs for shelter, food, and medical services remain grossly unmet. Their physical security has been seriously threatened by indiscriminate shelling, attacks on IDP camps and sieges. There is serious concern for tens of thousands of displaced migrants who are trapped in Libya and particularly vulnerable (IDMC, 30/03/2015).

As of 30 March, there were an estimated 400,000 IDPs in 35 cities and towns in Libya (IDMC, 30/03/2015; UNHCR, 14/11/2014), including approximately 290,000 women and children (UNICEF, 03/2015). Additionally, at least 56,544 IDPs are still displaced from the 2011 conflict (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

269,000 IDPs are in and around Tripoli (IDMC, 30/03/2015). Near Tripoli, NGOs and the local council estimate some 83,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings (UNHCR, 16/01/2015). In Benghazi, the local council is reporting around 90,000 people unable to return home. The displacement has been centred around Benghazi, Derna, and near the Gulf of Sidra, in Ben Jawad and Ras Lanuf (UNHCR, 16/01/2015; IDMC 30/03/2015).

Around Ubari, local crisis committees in the southeast confirm 18,492 people from Ubari are displaced in six towns: Sabha, Wadi Shati, Jufra, Ghat, Murzuq, and Lewenat (UNHCR, 16/01/2015; IDMC, 30/03/2015). Services have been severely disrupted by fighting: Schools, hospitals and markets are completely inaccessible (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

In the west, civilian groups report that 38,640 people have been displaced by fighting in Kikla (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). 100,000 people became displaced in the area around Warshefana between September and October 2014 (UNHCR, 10/10/2014).

As of early October, most displaced people were living with local families (UNHCR, 10/10/2014). However, many IDPs are now reported to be living in schools. Some local councils have stopped registering new arrivals due to limited response capacity.

According to UNSMIL, the Benghazi Local Council has registered some 34,000 IDPs in need of basic assistance (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Al Marj, near Benghazi, has had to close its schools to accommodate people unable to stay with host families. Al Bayda and Tobruk are also under pressure.

An estimated 35,000 of Tawergha IDPs have been sheltering in temporary camps in Tripoli and Benghazi since 2011. No aid has been provided to the Tawergha camps since February 2014. While 10,000 Tawergha who had fled Tripoli have mostly returned, in the east, where the community is estimated to be 18,000-strong, many families are still displaced (IRIN, 10/12/2014).

Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Libya

Prior to the crisis, Libya was supporting a growing population of refugees and asylum seekers using the country as an exit point to Europe. At the end of December 2014, 36,984 refugees were in Libya (OCHA, 28/12/2014). In addition, IOM estimated at least 150,000 migrant workers, 5,000 of whom might be vulnerable and in need of evacuation assistance, health services, and psychosocial support (IOM, 08/01/2015).

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country as passage through Libya’s borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted (IOM, 14/09/2014). Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy aboard unseaworthy vessels. More than 36,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean so far in 2015, most of them using Libya as their starting point, and nearly 1,800 are feared to have died in the attempt (Reuters, 22/04/2015). The Libyan Naval Coast Guard intercept many boats, which has increased the number of migrants in need of urgent assistance in Libyan ports (IOM, 12/05/2015). Reportedly, the coastguard Migrants of the city of Zuwara, Nuqat al Kams governorate, disposes of only one boat to rescue migrants at sea (AFP, 07/05/2015). Over 2014, 170,000 migrants departed from Libya and arrived in Italy. An estimated 3,200 people died crossing the sea (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Some 20,000 Egyptians, many of them from Sirte, have fled Libya since 15 February (AP, 25/02/2015).

Food Security

Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, with some estimates indicating a substantial decline in food imports into eastern Libya. Food prices in Tripoli remain volatile, reducing the purchasing power of the poorest households (WFP, 18/12/2014). The HoR has reported it had started tapping into the country’s strategic wheat reserves to ensure bread supplies. Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating the situation.

Livelihoods

People in Benghazi and Tripoli specifically, and in other cities in general, have been facing regular electricity cuts, plus interruptions to the internet and wider communications. In Tripoli, fuel shortages and water cuts have affected livelihoods (IFRC, 12/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Large numbers of expatriate medical personnel have left Libya, and such staff make up...
80% of all medical personnel, according to the Ministry of Health.

Access to health services has become a major concern mainly in Benghazi. Ongoing fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people and health workers in the conflict areas (WHO, 24/11/2014).

The hospitals that remain operating in Tripoli and Benghazi have been overstretched dealing with casualties. Many national medical personnel have not been able to work due to insecurity. Tripoli hospitals have been hit by shelling, leading to suspension of services. Ambulances have been stolen. In Warshefana, fighting has disrupted health services (ICRC, 17/09/2014).

WASH

In the Zawiya detention centre for migrants, only five showers are available for the more than 400 inmates (Deutsche Welle, 28/04/2015).

Protection

Abductions, looting, burning of homes and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). With some exceptions, civilians have not been given the chance to evacuate before hostilities commenced and severe fighting has taken place in and around houses and other places of refuge (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Human rights defenders and justice sector officials are targeted, intimidated, and frequently attacked (UNSMIL/OHCHR, 25/03/2015). In Benghazi and nearby Derna, there were at least 250 politically motivated killings in 2014 (HRW, 24/09/2014). Armed militias controlling Derna are reported to have carried out summary executions, public floggings, and other violent abuse (HRW, 27/11/2014).

Abduction and Detention

According to estimates by the European Commission, nearly one million people are waiting in Libya to make their trip to Europe. Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture and ill-treatment have also been reported (Reuters, 22/04/2015; UNSMIL, 15/05/2015). As of May, 5,000–7,000 people were reported to be detained mainly in the Tripoli region and in Misrata (AFP, 04/05/2015). Currently, there are 12 government-run detention centres and 21 operated by armed militias (PI, 05/2015).

On 19 April, IS released a video showing the beheading of 12 Ethiopian Christians and the execution of 16 more Ethiopian Christians by gunshot (AFP, 19/04/2015).

On 9 March, nine foreign oil workers were reportedly kidnapped by IS, during an attack on Al Ghani oil field in which several guards were killed (BBC, 09/03/2015).

In mid-January, a group claiming affiliation with IS claimed to have 21 Coptic Egyptians seized from various places in Tripoli province (Libya Herald, 14/01/2015). Militants pledging allegiance to IS on 15 February beheaded 21 Coptic Christians, 20 of them Egyptian (HRW, 24/02/2015).

In addition to the detention of fighters or suspected fighters, dozens of civilians remain missing (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Mines and ERW

Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). According to Islamist militias, approximately 600 anti-personnel mines have been cleared since they seized Tripoli airport on 24 August (HRW, 05/11/2014).

Updated: 20/05/2015

MALAWI FLOODS

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 13/05/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 146,500 people remain displaced in 192 displacement sites as a result of January floods (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).
- 620,000 people affected by floods and heavy rainfalls are at Crisis level of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3). Households in districts affected by abnormal dryness since February are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Food security is likely to worsen as the 2015 harvest is projected 30–40% lower than 2014 (FEWSNET, 17/05/2015).

Disasters: Floods

Heavy rains in January and February have led to severe flooding across Malawi. Around 638,000 people have been affected overall, 104 have died and 645 have been injured. Floods have caused great damage to crops, livestock, food stocks, and infrastructure, with the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba most affected (Government/UN, 02/03/2015; 11/02/2015).

Displacement

Flood-affected IDPs
As of 29 April, 147,500 people remained displaced in 192 open sites. 76% have been displaced within their areas of origin. 42% of IDPs are in 31 sites in Nsanje, and 21% in 19 sites in Chikwawa. NFIs, shelter, WASH and health needs persist (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

People displaced by flooding continue to return to their places of origin. Shelter support, especially in Nsanje, are priorities for returnees (Government/UN, 07/04/2015; 02/03/2015).

Returnees

As of 23 April, around 400 Malawian refugees had returned from South Africa and 3,200 had been registered in displacement sites awaiting repatriation, following a wave of xenophobic attacks in the country (Government/UN, 23/04/2015).

Refugees

At August 2014, there were 19,923 refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, residing in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi or among host communities (UNHCR, 30/08/2014).

Food Security

620,000 people in 17 districts affected by floods and heavy rainfalls in January are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity until September, due to a reduction or total loss of livelihoods. Households in districts affected by abnormal dryness since February are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 17/05/2015; 20/04/2015). Food security will likely worsen during the lean season as a result of the reported agricultural outlook (WFP, 04/05/2015).

53 IDP sites report no access to a market; 29 report having difficulties accessing food, including through distributions (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

Agricultural Outlook

Around 64,000 hectares of land was submerged in the floods, including 42,000 hectares of cropland, affecting 116,000 farmers (Government/UN, 03/02/2015).

Dry conditions in the highly productive northern and central regions since mid-February have reportedly caused some wilting and drying of crops. Several areas have received less than 50% of their normal rainfall accumulation (UNICEF, 08/04/2015; FEWSNET, 17/04/2015). Due to the combined impact of floods and drought, the 2015 harvest is expected to be 30-40% lower than last year. Current estimates indicate that maize production is 28% lower than 2014, and staple food prices have significantly increased as a result of these conditions. Food security will likely worsen in affected areas during the lean season (WFP, 04/05/2015; 10/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Cholera: As of 10 May, 620 cases of cholera, including ten deaths, have been confirmed since the outbreak began mid-February, mostly in Nsanje. The case fatality rate is at 1.8%, above the regional average of 0.8% (UNICEF, 13/05/2015; OCHA, 28/04/2015). The outbreak was linked to a cholera outbreak in Mozambique (UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

Health facilities and medical supplies have been significantly damaged by floods. In IDP camps, diarrhoea and malaria continue to be reported as the most prevalent health problems. Long distances to health facilities (>3km) is a challenge for more than half of IDP sites (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

Protection

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children as a result of the floods and poor harvests. Only 35 IDP sites report availability of supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women, while 62% report availability for children (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015; Government/UN, 08/03/2015).

25,313 children aged 6–59 months were suffering from SAM as of July (Government/UN, 08/03/2015; UNICEF, 27/09/2014).

WASH

Water sources have been damaged or contaminated, and pit latrines damaged, during the January floods (Government/UN, 03/02/2015). By end April, 35% of IDP sites report they still have poor quality drinking water, while 11% report having less than 15L of water per person per day. WASH needs are greatest in Chikwawa and Nsanje, where the current sanitation ratio is one drop hole for 170 people (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

WASH activities are all the more important as cholera cases continue to rise (Government/UN, 13/03/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFIs remain primary needs among populations in IDP sites. 76% of IDP sites are spontaneous; around 430 families in Chapinga camp in Nsanje are living without a single tent (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015; Government/UN, 07/04/2015). On the east bank in Nsanje, many are waiting to be allocated land to rebuild their homes, but lack the resources to build them (Government/UN, 07/04/2015).

Education

Education has been affected by displacement, lack of school materials, and damaged classrooms, in particular in Nsanje and Phalombe (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). 415 schools and 350,000 students have been affected, including 191 schools still used as camps (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015). School enrolment for boys in Nsanje has reportedly dropped by 32% (UNICEF, 01/04/2015).

23 of the 192 remaining open IDP sites do not have separate bathing areas for male and
female IDPs, which may raise protection issues (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

Reports of rape and cross-border trafficking between Malawi and Mozambique are a concern (Government/UN, 07/04/2015).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 May: About 31,500 people have been displaced by violence in the past two weeks in Goundam, Gourma Rharous and Timbuktu districts of Timbuktu region. The displaced are in urgent need of water, food, NFIs and shelter support. Access is limited (OCHA, 21/05/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015).

21 May: A measles outbreak was confirmed in Tessalit and Kidal districts, Kidal region, with 16 cases. No permanent humanitarian health actor is present and access is limited (OCHA).

17–22 May: Multiple clashes between the Azawad Movement Coalition and Gatia militia and Malian armed forces occurred in Gao and Timbuktu regions. At least 12 people were killed, including nine civilians; 19 soldiers were captured and two others were injured (multiple sources).

KEY CONCERNS

- Security, particularly in the north, remains volatile, and access is limited for aid workers. The security situation in Segou and Mopti has deteriorated, and clashes between rival groups and government forces have increased in north and central Mali since April.

- 181,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 10/02/2015).

- An estimated 241,000 people are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 and 4) and 2.4 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015).

- 690,000 million people are in need of health assistance and 840,000 are in need of WASH (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Political Context

The state lost control of the north of the country in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d’état further destabilised the country. However, the fragile alliance between Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key northern cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013, with the aid of French and African Union troops, and a UN mission, MINUSMA, was set up, but Mali continues to face security and political challenges. The truce in the north remains fragile, and key government institutions need strengthening. Limited access to basic social services and the poor capacity of public administration are key drivers of the crisis.

Since the Algiers Declaration in June 2014, the Government and the Azawad Movement Coalition – comprising the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) – have been engaged in further peace talks. The Government, representatives of pro-government militias, and two minor members of the AMC signed the Algiers peace accord on 15 May. However, the MNLA, HCUA and MAA did not sign (international media, 15/05/2015).

Security Context

Attacks by and clashes between rival armed groups, including separatist Tuareg movements, government forces and Islamist militants, continue to hamper security in the country. In addition to the northern provinces of Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu, security incidents have been reported in the southern regions of Mopti and Segou since January, and in Bamako in March. Landmines and improvised explosive devices (IED) are a particular threat. Attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers have spiked since mid-August 2014 (AFP, 21/09/2014). It often remains unclear who is responsible for the attacks.

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011, and Ansar Dine, are among the main Islamist groups active in northern Mali, carrying out attacks on pro-government and international forces.

International Presence

The stability of the Sahel region relies on the presence of foreign troops. In addition to Malian forces, there are French forces, MINUSMA, and the EU military training mission (EUTM), mainly in Bamako (53% of forces) and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (28%) (OCHA, 31/05/2014). MINUSMA’s mandate expires on 30 June 2015. 34 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 (UNSC, 06/01/2015; international media, 17/01/2015).

On 1 August 2014, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region. Based in Chad, Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (Local Media, 01/08/2014).

Security Incidents

Since late April, the security situation is deteriorating as clashes between government forces, pro-government armed groups and separatist Tuareg groups have increased. On 22 May, nine civilians were killed after AMC attacked Tin Hama town, close to Menaka, Gao region. They were reportedly executed by Malian soldiers. MINUSMA is
investigating the case for human rights violations (international media, 22/05/2015). On the same day, AMC captured 19 Malian soldiers after clashes in Tessit, Gao region, and took temporary control of the town. Government forces regained control the next day (local media, 25/05/2015). On 21 May, AMC clashed again with Malian armed forces near Menaka, in Tin-Fadimata, Gao region. Gatia has reportedly taken control of the town (local media, 21/05/2015).

On 18 May, armed men attacked a Malian army checkpoint on the road between Timbuktu and Douentza, killing three soldiers and injuring another and a civilian. The same day, militants stormed the village of Zorho Djinde, Timbuktu, burning houses and grain stocks. Residents had already fled the town and no casualties were reported. On 17 May, armed men wounded two civilians in Tamachkoyt village, Tonka district, Timbuktu region (UN, 20/05/2015). On 11 May, a Malian army supply convoy was ambushed on the road from Goundam to Timbuktu. Nine were killed and 14 injured (local media, 12/05/2015). On 5 May, AMC carried out an attack on Tenenkou, Mopti, in which one Malian soldier and ten AMC militants died (local media, 05/05/2015). On 1 May, militants stormed Bintagoungou town, Timbuktu region. One person was killed, six taken hostage, and several shops were raided. The attack was blamed on the AMC (international media, 01/05/2015).

Attacks on MINUSMA by AMC and Islamist groups continue to be reported. Most are carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. On 22 May, the MINUSMA camp in Ber, Timbuktu region, was shelled while ten people who had been held captive by AMC were being released. There were no casualties (UN, 22/05/2015). On 16 May, a suicide vehicle attacked a MINUSMA convoy near Almoustarat, Gao region, injuring one person (UN, 20/05/2015). On 10 May, two peacekeepers were injured after their vehicle hit a mine near Tenenkou, Mopti (UN, 11/05/2015). On 6 May, the MINUSMA camp in Kidal was attacked by mortars. No casualties or damage was reported (local media, 06/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Deterioration of the security situation and hostilities between parties of the conflict in 2015 continue to hamper humanitarian access in the north of Mali. All transportation companies have suspended activities on the route between Sevare (Mopti region) and Gao because of the absence of escorts by security forces and increased security risks, threatening the rupture of supplies to the region and displacement to the south (local media, 27/04/2015). The road between Goundam and Timbuktu is only open to army vehicles (local media, 12/05/2015).

Humanitarian actors have limited access to areas affected by violence in Gourma Rharous district, Timbuktu region, due to insecurity (OCHA, 21/05/2015). ACF Spain has suspended its activities in northern Mali; an ACF worker was killed in Tin Hama town on 22 May (international media, 22/05/2015).

Humanitarian air services have been disrupted in Kidal region since January, due to insecurity and needs for repair (OCHA, 04/05/2015; 21/05/2015).

Since the beginning of 2015, OCHA has recorded 31 access constraints, compared to 22 in the whole of 2014. 50% of constraints were related to violence against humanitarian personnel, assets or facilities, and 50% were linked to the conduct of hostilities or military operations. At least 14 humanitarian organisations have had to temporarily suspend activities or relocate staff between February and April (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

About 31,500 people have been displaced by violence in Timbuktu region since mid-May. Attacks by armed groups have continued in Gourma and Gourma Rharous districts, leading to the displacement of at least 15,240 people from Rharous and Serere commune and 8,050 from Goundam district. An additional 3,690 have fled Timbuktu district. People are staying in temporary shelters, camping, or with host families. They are in urgent need of water, food, NFIs, and shelter support (OCHA, 21/05/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015).

As of December 2014, 61,621 people were internally displaced as a consequence of the 2012 conflict and continued insecurity, a decrease from 86,000 reported in October. 53% are women and 56% are children under 18. About half reside in northern Mali, with 11,990 in Kidal, 10,348 in Timbuktu and 7,245 in Gao. In the south, 14,386 IDPs were identified in Bamako, and 10,456 in Koulikoro. Mopti and Segou regions also host several thousand IDPs (Government, USAID, IOM, 06/04/2015).

IDPs in Bamako live under precarious conditions. Most are affected by poverty and food insecurity and have limited access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

Refugees in Mali

As of 31 July 2014, Mali hosts over 14,525 refugees from countries including Mauritania (12,900) and Côte d’Ivoire (1,110) (OCHA, 16/09/2014). Planning figures for January 2015 from UNHCR do not indicate a large change in the number of refugees (UNHCR, 01/12/2014).

Returnees

In December 2014, 394,655 returnees were registered in Mali; most in Timbuktu, followed by Gao and Mopti. The increase confirms the trend of return observed through the decrease in IDPs. 39% of returnees came from Bamako (Government, USAID, IOM, 06/04/2015).

Some 35,000 Malian refugees have returned: more than 10,000 from Burkina Faso; over 12,000 from Niger; around 7,300 from Mauritania; and 2,200 from Algeria (OCHA, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 14/08/2014).
As of April, 53,849 Malian refugees are registered in Mberra camp, Mauritania, and 48,752 in Niger (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Burkina Faso hosts 33,125 Malian refugees as of 31 March (UNHCR, 31/03/2015).

Food Security

As of end of March, the food security situation is generally acceptable across the country. An estimated 240,880 people are in Crisis food security (IPC Phase 3), most in Timbuktu, Mopti, and Gao. In Timbuktu and Gao, some 7,000 people are in Phase 4, Emergency (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015). The situation in Kidal has improved thanks to food security programmes. 2.4 million people are in Phase 2, Stressed food security (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015).

The total number of people in IPC Phase 3 and above is projected to increase to more than 400,000 from April to August 2015 (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015). Poor households’ prolonged dependence on markets in Timbuktu and Gao is leading to increased use of coping strategies such as borrowing and decreasing food expenditure. They will face Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) as of July (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015; OCHA, 28/04/2015).

169 communes in Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti, and Kidal have insufficient forage, leading to early transhumance and unusual herd movements to areas already under pressure, which could lead to tensions. Pastoral populations are losing their principle source of income and food, risking a deterioration of the food security and nutritional situation (Food Security Cluster, 03/05/2015).

Market prices in Segou and Sikasso have increased. Mopti and Gao regions observed some declining prices, and in Bamako and Kayes market prices have remained stable (international organisation, 21/04/2015). Insecurity is negatively affecting the functioning of markets and limiting household access to markets. Otherwise, markets are generally well supplied with cereals and prices are more or less stable (WFP, 28/02/2015). The impact of staple food prices was low overall between January and March 2015, but high in Timbuktu region (WFP, 29/04/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

Over March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency), food security across the Sahel and West Africa. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2, Stressed, food security. During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonisé, 04/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013 when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

690,000 people are estimated to be in need of health assistance (OCHA, 31/01/2015). High vigilance is observed in southern Mali for meningitis cases due to climatic conditions (ACMACD, 02/04/2015).

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Tessalit and Kidal districts of Kidal region, with 16 confirmed cases. There is no permanent humanitarian health actor in the region (OCHA, 21/05/2015). There is a lack of medication, qualified personnel, and means for emergency evacuation. People in remote villages cannot access health services (local media, 21/04/2015).

Nutrition

As of 10 February, 181,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 534,000 suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 04/05/2015). SAM rates are highest in Mopti (3.7%), Segou (3.4%) and Koulikoro (2.7%). MAM rates are highest in the northern provinces (FEWSNET, WFP, FAO, 28/02/2015; ACF, 31/12/2014).

In Gao region, a SMART survey showed 11.3% GAM and 2.3% SAM. Malnutrition is more severe in urban than in rural areas. Priority districts are Gao and Bourem, with 2.9% and 2.1% SAM, respectively (UNICEF, 31/03/2015; OCHA, 16/04/2015).

In Kidal, malnutrition rates have been stable since 2011, with 5.7% GAM and 1.0% SAM (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

WASH

About 840,000 people are in need of WASH assistance, the majority of whom live in the northern regions of Gao, Kidal, Timbuktu, Mopti, and Segou, and are IDPs, returnees, and host families without access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/01/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Some 378,000 people are in need of NFIs and 137,000 in need of shelter. Those of concern are mainly IDPs and returnees (OCHA, 15/01/2015).

Education

In early May, following fighting in Tenenkou and Youwarou, Mopti region, all 147 schools were closed, affecting 19,000 students and 400 teachers. 26 schools had been closed in these areas before then (UNICEF, 07/05/2015).

Community initiatives led to the reopening of 27 out of 62 schools in Kidal, providing access to education for 1,800 students. In Kereri town, Mopti, and Nampalari, Segou, 1,100 students remain affected by the closure of schools since January, following attacks. Teachers are absent due to insecurity. 193,000 children in 57 communes remain out of school because of insecurity (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

More than 430 schools are closed due to insecurity in Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu regions. The situation is worsening in the central regions and in areas near the Mauritanian border (UNICEF, 15/05/2015).

Protection

About 860,000 people are in need of protection, including 313,000 non-displaced in the north (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Explosive remnants of war (ERW) caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).
Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are reportedly recruiting and using children, and are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence. According to the International Medical Corps, 75% of cases of gender-based violence are not reported by victims. Of those who do report, only 5% refer to legal structures (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

For IDPs living in Bamako, destruction or loss of official documents, such as birth certificates, is a major challenge (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

Updated: 26/05/2015

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Security problems and inaccessibility to areas of northern Mali make it difficult to obtain return figures, however UNHCR is reporting a small number of spontaneous returns to Mali (UNHCR 30/04/2015).

Food Security

As of 31 March, 723,000 were in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) and an additional 264,000 people were in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine). The projected numbers are 851,000 and 465,000 people affected, respectively, during June to August (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015). This includes 21,000 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 443,000 people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) (WFP, 31/03/2015). Poor households in affected areas of the Senegal River Valley (near the border between Mauritania and Senegal) and western agro-pastoral zones (southwestern Mauritania) will be particularly vulnerable, a result of declines in seasonal income and food consumption gaps (FEWSNET, 19/03/2015). Due to funding gaps, 188,700 severely food insecure people are not reached by assistance (WFP, 31/03/2015).

In areas of Mauritania that experienced poor rainfall last year, 2014/15 crop production was between 30 and 80 percent below average, causing household food stocks to deplete earlier than normal and lengthening the period when households depend on market purchases to meet their food needs. Cereal production, predominantly millet, sorghum and maize, decreased by 36.5% in 2014 compared to 2013, which is a 61% decrease compared to the average of the last five years (IFRC, 15/05/2015). Below-average incomes from crop sales and reduced milk availability are also limiting food access. To cope, households are selling additional livestock, increasing debt levels, engaging in increased levels of wage labour, migration, fishing, and forestry product sales, and reducing the quantity and quality of their meals (FEWSNET, 04/2015).

Erratic rains have affected pasture regeneration and level of water points in several pastoral areas, particularly in Hodh el Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Gorgol, Brakna and Tagant regions (WFP, Government of Mauritania, 28/04/2015). Declining prices for sheep and cattle will affect poor pastoral households between April and May (FEWSNET, 03/2015).

The food situation for livestock, the main source of income of households in rural areas, is currently difficult because of the low availability of pasture and water in the southeast of Mauritania (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015; IFRC, 15/05/2015).

Food Security in the Sahel Region

Between March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency) across the Sahel. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonise, 04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition

91,300 children are acutely malnourished as of February 2015, of which 24,100 children...
suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 02/2015).

A nutrition survey carried out in Mbera camp in November 2014 showed a significant decrease in both global acute malnutrition (from 11.8% to 9.9%) and severe acute malnutrition (1.4% to 0.8%) (UNICEF, 12/2014).

WASH

Due to harsh climatic conditions, maintenance and rehabilitation of adequate WASH facilities in Mbera camp is challenging (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Education

Lack of access to education has been reported in Mbera camp, in particular affecting girls and minorities (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Protection

Incidents of sexual violence have been reported in Mbera camp (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 May: As of 12 May, 6,180 suspected cases of meningitis, including 423 deaths, were recorded in 2015; cases have tripled in the past three weeks (WHO).

6 May: Access to displaced populations in the Lake Chad area remains limited due to insecurity and lack of military escorts for humanitarian workers. Field missions have been suspended since 1 May (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 2.5 million people are food insecure (410,297 severely food insecure) in 2015 (AFP, 17/04/2015).

- 1.3 million acutely malnourished children, 366,858 of whom are severely malnourished (OCHA, 01/2015).

- More than 150,000 Nigerian refugees have fled to Niger since May 2013 (OCHA, 22/01/2015).

- Cases of meningitis have tripled over 24 April–15 May. 11 districts have crossed the epidemic threshold, including all five districts in Niamey, raising risk of rapid spread (WHO).

Security Context

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Nigeria, Mali and Libya. Terrorist threats from Boko Haram, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are all of concern.

On 30 April, Niger authorities ordered populations out of the Lake Chad islands in order to launch military operations against Boko Haram (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). In February, Niger declared a state of emergency in response to Boko Haram attacks. It has been extended until 25 May (AFP, 24/02/2015; AFP, 26/02/2015). Niger's Parliament has also authorised the deployment of 750 Niger soldiers in a regional offensive against BH (BBC, 10/02/2015).

Boko Haram Incidents

On 7 May, a Boko Haram attack on a village near Dosso killed five; militants looted homes and shops before crossing back to Nigeria (Reuters, 07/05/2015). An assault by the group on Karamga Island on 25 April left at least 74 people dead (AFP, 01/05/2015). Boko Haram launched its first attack in Niger on 6 February, on Bosso town, in Diffa. Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March (AFP, 14/03/2015). By 30 March, Chad and Niger troops had pushed BH back to Nigeria (international media, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Access to displaced populations in the Lake Chad area remains limited due to insecurity and lack of military escorts for humanitarian workers. All field missions have been suspended since 1 May (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

Movement within Diffa, northern parts of Zinder, Tahoua, and Tillabery regions is possible only with military escorts (OCHA, 16/02/2015). The presence of landmines along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially around Komadougou River, is preventing access to certain areas (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Displacement

Boko Haram Crisis

As of 7 May, there are 105,580 Nigerian refugees in Niger (OCHA, 07/05/2015).

25,700 people have been displaced from islands around Lake Chad to Nguigmi and Bosso towns, in Diffa, over 30 April – 7 May, after warnings over possible Boko Haram attacks in the region. 75% are Nigerians and third-country nationals. 47% are women and 37% children. Priority needs are for food, shelter, and WASH (OCHA, 07/05/2015). Another 14,000 Nigerian refugees reportedly returned to Nigeria (OCHA, 08/05/2015).
About 50,000 of Nigerian refugees living in the border areas of Diffa region have been displaced since the start of the year, as cross-border violence intensified in February (WFP, 07/05/2015). As of February, more than 2,800 had settled in Zinder region (OCHA, 02/2015).

New arrivals have settled in 106 sites (UNICEF, 03/03/2015). Refugees who arrived earlier in the year are becoming host families for new arrivals, adding to the burden on families with very limited resources (IFRC, 03/10/2014).

Mali Crisis

As of 30 April, 50,530 Malian refugees are in Niger, including 14,500 in Intikane camp, and 12,840 in Abala camp in Tillabery region. 62% of refugees are children (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Food Security

2.5 million people are estimated to be food insecure in 2015, compared to 5.3 million in 2014. 410,297 are severely food insecure (AFP, 17/04/2015; OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Around 200,000 people in Diffa region are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security (WFP, 07/05/2015). Security constraints have forced food assistance programmes to be scaled back (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015). Nigerian refugees are also Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Diffa (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Pastoral zones of Nguieni in Diffa region will remain in Crisis until September due to limited trade opportunities and high food prices.

Agriculture and Markets

Boko Haram-related market disruptions have limited trade flows towards Diffa and increased marketing costs (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). Moreover, the new wave of internal displacement came when farmers should have been preparing to plant crops. This has raised concerns about the long-term economic impact of the violence (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

Cereal stocks are expected to significantly decrease by September, as well as overall food stocks in May-June in Ouallam, Tanout, Abalak, and Tchintabaraden departments. Poor households in these departments will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until September (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Poor resource availability in parts of the northern Sahel will begin to stress pastoral households from June to September 2015 (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

Livelihoods

In Diffa region, insecurity has led to a decrease in demand for workers and lowered wages. This has particularly affected livelihoods of households growing pepper, who are also unable to sell because of insecurity (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Cholera

As of 19 April, 51 cases of cholera and four deaths have been registered in Niger in 2015 (UNICEF, 18/05/2015). 25 cases were registered in Tillabery region, and 26 in Diffa region (OCHA, 02/2015).

Measles

3,080 measles cases, including two deaths, were recorded from 1 January to 23 April in all eight regions of Niger. 77% of cases were in Zinder region. 12 out of 44 health districts have epidemic outbreaks (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Meningitis

As of 12 May, 6,180 suspected cases of meningitis, including 423 deaths, have been recorded in 2015; cases have tripled in the past three weeks. 11 districts have crossed the epidemic threshold, including all five districts in Niamey, raising risk of rapid spread (WHO, 15/05/2015). 70% of those infected are 2–15 years old (international media, 22/04/2015). The whole country is under quarantine.

A shortage of vaccines is reported, as stocks were used in response to an outbreak in Nigeria earlier in the year (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

Nutrition

In Diffa, a critical shortage of nutrition products is expected to affect displaced and hosting populations as of May (WFP, 30/04/2015). GAM is at 26% among Nigerian refugee children and pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women, exceeding the 15% crisis threshold (WFP, 07/05/2015).

1.3 million children are acutely malnourished in Niger; 366,858 of them are severely malnourished, and 9,629 of these are in Diffa (OCHA, 14/04/2015; 22/12/2014). As of August 2014, GAM among children under five is at 14.8% nationwide, and exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Maradi region (OCHA, 09/2014). Other regions of concern are Agadez (14.0%), Tahoua (14.7%), Tillabery (13.4%), and Diffa (13.8%).

WASH

Access to safe water remains limited in certain sites hosting IDPs. Hygiene and sanitation conditions are precarious in some areas (OCHA, 20/03/2015).
Education

On 17 April, the government of Niger ordered all schools to be shut in the region around Niamey following the meningitis outbreak. Schools are scheduled to reopen on 27 April 2015 (Reuters, 21/04/2015).

In Diffa region, dozens of schools were closed due to or occupied by refugees in December (OCHA, 12/12/2014). Several schools reopened in March, but attendance levels are low (OCHA, 20/03/2015).

Protection

82% of 13,000 Nigerian refugees surveyed in Diffa did not have identity documents, according to an IOM assessment (IOM, 23/02/2015). Unaccompanied children have been reported arriving from Nigeria (OCHA, 28/11/2014).

Updated: 20/05/2015

SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY

4.3 million people are in need of assistance in 2015 in Senegal (31% of the population), corresponding to a 266% increase on 2013. The needs are mostly due to climatic conditions, a rise in food prices, and reduced cross-border exchange (UN, 16/02/2015).

Displacement

As of February, there are 17,085 refugees in Matam, Saint Louis, and Tambacounda, mostly from Mauritania. 52% of refugees have declared they are seeking naturalisation in Senegal (UN, 18/02/2015).

Food Security

3.8 million people are food insecure. An estimated 640,000 people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and higher during March-May 2015 (GIEWS, 08/05/2015). Poor livestock conditions in the north and centre of the country led to incomes below average for livestock rearers. In Thiès, Louga, Matam, and northern Tambacounda, households rely on negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets and reducing food intake, to compensate for the early exhaustion of their food stocks – which normally occurs in June (FEWSNET, 27/02/2015; 29/01/2015; 21/04/2015).

Under current conditions, approximately 1.25 million people are will face Crisis until September 2015 in the affected areas of Mauritania and Senegal (FEWSNET, 05/05/2015). In October 2015, 100,000 to 490,000 people are expected to be in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2), and less than 100,000 are expected to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3) (FEWSNET, 20/04/2015).

Pastures

Satellite data collected by ACF highlights a deficit in the production of biomass in Northern Senegal. This deficit could have a negative impact on the pastoral environment (ACF, 14/04/2015).

Erratic rains have caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points’ level in the major pastoral areas (GIEWS, 08/05/2015). Availability of pastures has been far below average, leading to shortages in food for livestock (FEWSNET, 14/04/2105). Pasture deficits affects animal production and reduces breeders’ purchasing power; there is also a high risk of increased livestock mortality from April (FEWSNET, 29/01/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

The aggregate 2014 cereal production was an estimated 1.3 million tonnes, similar to the previous year’s harvest, but a 16% drop relative to the five-year average. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, is estimated to have dropped by 38% compared to the five-year average, while production of groundnut, the main cash crop, declined by 21%. This drop in production is reducing food availability and purchasing power. (FAO, 31/03/2015; GIEWS, 08/05/2015).
Between March–May 2015, 4.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (Crisis and Emergency) across the Sahel. In addition, 23 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). During the lean season (June–August), these figures are projected to increase to 7.4 and 26.6 million, respectively (Cadre Harmonise, 04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Climate conditions are favourable to meningitis. High vigilance is advised over eastern Senegal and moderate vigilance over western Senegal (ACMAD, 02/04/2015).

Nutrition

322,300 children are acutely malnourished, including 68,650 suffering from SAM. Matam, Saint Louis (Podor department in particular), and Tambacounda regions are most affected (UN, 16/02/2015). 319,000 were acutely malnourished in 2013.

Reviewed: 19/05/2015

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 March: 79,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security and 669,000 are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). These numbers are projected to rise to 371,000 and 1.2 million, respectively, between the June–August lean season (WFP/FAO).

KEY CONCERNS

- Long-term displacement of 33,000 Malian refugees continues to put pressure on the resources of host communities (UNHCR, 04/2014).
- More than 1.5 million people are at risk of food insecurity between the June–August lean season (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015).
- 499,000 children suffer from acute malnutrition, of whom 149,000 are severely malnourished (UNICEF, 30/03/2015).

Political Context

Burkina Faso is ruled by a transitional Government until the October 2015 presidential and legislative elections (UNICEF, 30/03/2015). Internal political tensions in Burkina Faso reached crisis point in October 2014 when then President Blaise Compaoré attempted to pass a bill extending his term of office. Nationwide demonstrations culminated in the dissolution of Parliament on 30 October and the resignation of the President. The transitional government was set up in November 2014.

Burkina Faso is also vulnerable to instability and unrest in Mali, Niger and Côte d'Ivoire.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Refugees

As of 30 April, there are 33,125 Malian refugees in camps in Bobo-Dioulasso, Goudehou, and Mentao in northern Burkina Faso; more than half the refugees are children. Saagni Ma NEG refugee camp was closed in March, with refugees relocated to other camps (WFP, 30/04/2015).

Food Security

Between March and May, 79,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security and 669,000 are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). These numbers are projected to rise to 371,000 and 1.2 million, respectively, between the June–August lean season (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015).

Poor households in Tin-Akoff commune in Oudalan province, and Nassoumbou and Koutougou communes in Soum province in the Sahel region, moved from Stressed to Crisis in April; food stocks in these areas have been depleted since January due to below-average 2014 harvests and reduced livestock prices (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015).

Nutrition

In 2015, 499,000 children are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition (8.6% of the under-five population), including 149,000 from SAM (UNICEF, 30/03/2015).

Updated: 21/05/2015

BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18 May: President Nkurunziza fired the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs (Le Point)

18 May: Military forces were deployed in the capital’s centre to contain protests (Reuters)

17 May: President Nkurunziza returned to the capital (Reuters)

16 May: Protests resumed against President Nkurunziza running for a third term (Reuters)
KEY CONCERNS

- Since the beginning of April, nearly 105,000 Burundians have sought asylum in DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda ahead of the 26 June presidential election. The region may face a refugee crisis (UNHCR).
- As of September, Burundi has 78,940 IDPs (UNHCR, 31/11/2014).

Political Context

The 25 April announcement that President Nkurunziza will be allowed to run for a third term sparked political demonstrations in the capital, Bujumbura. On 26 April, the party speaker of the National Liberation Forces, the opposition group, was kidnapped (ICG 30/04/2015). On 13 May, Major General Godefroid Niyombare, former head of intelligence, announced that a national salvation committee had been set up to run the country; President Nkurunziza was in Tanzania (BBC, 13/05/2015; Reuters, 13/05/2015). After two days of intense clashes in the capital, leaders of the coup admitted their defeat, although protests resumed in some areas of Bujumbura on 16 May (AFP, 15/05/2015; Reuters, 16/05/2015). President Nkurunziza has returned to Bujumbura and fired the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers (Reuters, 17/05/2015; Le Point, 18/05/2015).

Under the Burundian constitution and the terms of the peace deal, no leader is supposed to hold power for more than ten years. President Nkurunziza’s supporters argue that his first term does not count, as he was selected by lawmakers in 2005, and not voted in (Reuters, 20/03/2015). On 5 May, the country’s constitutional court approved his bid for the elections, scheduled on 26 June (AFP, 05/05/2015). The Vice President of the Constitutional Court fled to Rwanda before the Court approved the bid, reporting death threats (AFP, 05/05/2015). Scores of political killings, intimidation of the opposition, and a crackdown on media freedom have been reported since President Nkurunziza’s re-election in 2010. Observers stated concerns about restrictions on civil and political rights after a series of violent acts by the ruling party’s increasingly militant youth wing, Imbonerakure.

The Government, the National Independent Electoral Commission, and all political parties and actors signed the General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections in June 2014 (UN, 10/06/2014). The UN Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) is mandated to follow and report on the presidential, parliamentary, and local elections scheduled between May and September 2015, though the Government has stated that MENUB’s mandate is limited, and does not cover validating the results (UN, 03/01/2015; AFP, 12/01/2015). Western countries, including the US and UK, have warned that Nkurunziza’s bid is unconstitutional and urge parties to find a political solution to the conflict (local media, 05/05/2015; Reuters, 04/05/2015). The US, EU, and Kenya have called to delay elections. A presidential communiqué has mentioned delaying the communal and legislative elections, planned for 26 May (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

Security Context

As of 12 May, at least 17 individuals have been killed in election-related violence (including 14 civilians), 200 injured, and at least 600 arrested. Protests are mainly taking place in the capital but some communes in Bujumbura Rural and Bururi provinces also reported demonstrations on 12 May (OCHA, 12/05/2015). Reports of unrest and violence targeting unarmed civilians are increasing (OCHA, 12/05/2015; local media, 05/05/2015; local media, 05/05/2015; AFP 02/05/2015; OCHA 04/05/2015). On 17 May, heavy gunshots were heard although details are not available. Military forces were deployed in the city centre to contain protests (Reuters, 18/05/2015).

Few international actors on the ground have prepared contingency plans should violence worsen during and after elections (Burundi Red Cross, 04/03/2015). Eight provinces have been identified as potential ‘hot spots’ (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Makamba, Kirundo and Muyinga) (ICG 30/04/2015; HCT, 24/04/2015). Since the attempted coup, the UN Security Council stated that it was ready to respond to violent acts (UN News Service, 17/05/2015)

Earlier army reports had suggested that a major offensive had been planned to destabilise the country ahead of the elections (AFP, 05/01/2014; 06/01/2014). In January, the Burundian army claimed it killed 100 armed fighters who had crossed from DRC. The fighters were reportedly trying to reach Kibira forest, an area used as a base by opposition groups in the past. A Human Rights Watch report published in February asserted that during this attack, the Burundian National Defense Forces and police committed at least 47 extrajudicial executions, adding that armed members of the Imbonerakure also participated in the killings (Human Rights Watch, 12/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters: Landslides

Torrential rains in late March caused landslides south of Bujumbura, which killed 20 people; ten more are missing. Crops have been severely damaged (local media, 30/03/2015; Caritas, 01/04/2015). Around 1,800 people were staying with family. Roads, bridges, and schools were seriously damaged (Burundi Red Cross, 01/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of January 2015, Burundi has 77,600 IDPs (IDMC, 31/01/2015). They are mostly ethnic Tutsis, located in and around 120 sites across northern and central Burundi, who were displaced by inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence (IDMC).

According to national and international organisations, in the first six months of an election crisis and related violence in Burundi, 250,000 people could be displaced. People have been seen fleeing the capital but no numbers are available (HCT, 24/04/2015; START Network, 05/05/2015).

Refugees

As of September, Burundi is host to 49,800 refugees, mostly from DRC (UNHCR, 31/11/2014). Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (north, alongside
Burundian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 15 May, nearly 105,000 Burundians have sought asylum in Rwanda, DRC and Tanzania (UNHCR, 26/04/2015; 05/05/2015; 15/05/2015). Humanitarian actors on the ground are warning of a potential refugee crisis in the region as a result of election-related displacement into Rwanda, Tanzania and DRC.

Rwanda: Daily arrivals have been as high as 1,000 in Rwanda, falling to 300 in the first days of May. (UNHCR, 26/04/2015; 05/05/2015). Unconfirmed reports suggest most of those who are fleeing are Tutsi and Twas (WFP, 28/04/2015). Refugees started arriving in Rwanda and DRC in mid-April (local media, 12/04/2015).

Tanzania: The number of Burundians to have arrived in Tanzania has increased dramatically in May: from nearly 7,000 on 6 May, to 48,288 by 13 May, and 70,187 as of 15 May (UNHCR, 06/05/2015; 13/05/2015; 15/05/2015).

53,000 refugees/asylum seekers are waiting in Kagunga village in Tanzania, which has a resident population of 12,000, and limited WASH facilities (UNHCR, 18/05/2015). There has been a confirmed outbreak of severe watery diarrhoea on Kagunga, with seven deaths and 300 people being treated (UNHCR, 17/05/2015). There have also been two confirmed cases of cholera (Reuters, 18/05/2015). Kagunga village is surrounded by mountainous terrain. As of 18 May, the main way for Burundians to travel to established refugee camps is a ferry, which can carry a few hundred passengers at a time. This has made the relocation of people difficult and slow. Those that are able are encouraged to walk, using a path that is normally used by villagers of Kagunga (UNHCR, 18/05/2015).

Uganda: As of 1 September 2014, 14,367 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers were residing in Uganda. Most Burundian refugees are located in Nakivale and Oruchinga (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

DRC: Between early April and 15 May, 9,183 asylum seekers arrived (UNHCR, 15/05/2015). As of 30 September 2014, 9,233 Burundian refugees were residing in DRC (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Kenya: As of 1 March 2015, 6,619 Burundian refugees were residing in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/03/2015), most of them in Kakuma camp.

Health and Nutrition

The Health Ministry confirmed 11 cholera patients under treatment in Nyanza Lac health centre, Makamba province, bordering Tanzania (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

Loyalist forces entered in a hospital in the western part of Bujumbura to find soldiers affiliated to the coup. Violent clashes resulted in the death of one soldier and severe damage to the A&E department of the hospital (AFP, 17/05/2015).

Food Security

As the lean season progresses, household food stocks and purchasing power have declined. Food security for the poor is expected to deteriorate to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until the beginning of Season B in June. The rest of the households will remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security through June (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015).

Livelihoods

Economic activities in Bujumbura are significantly hampered by protests, with most businesses and banks closed, raising concern for the impact on an already fragile economy (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Markets

Most staple food prices are roughly 25% above the five-year average, particularly in Bujumbura, Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Gitega markets (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015).

Education

Schools in many parts of Bujumbura have been closed since 26 April, owing to movement restrictions in the city. The University has also been closed (START Fund, 05/05/2015; OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Protection

Prominent human rights activists have been arrested (ICG 30/04/2015). Burundians are reporting incidents of harassment and disappearance of family members who are associated with the political opposition (ICG, UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Many people reported difficulties while trying to leave Burundi, such as threats of sexual violence by armed men and roadblocks (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

A presidential communiqué warned that the ban on protests would be valid throughout the electoral period and that protesters would be considered as “accomplices” of the coup perpetrators (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

Violence against Journalists

Independent radio stations have closed and social media networks have been blocked (ICG 30/04/2015). Isanganiro and Bonesha FM have been restricted from broadcasting outside Bujumbura. The national telecommunications company ONATEL has also
A high number of separated and unaccompanied children are crossing into neighbouring countries, raising protection concerns for unaccompanied minors (UNICEF, 12/04/2015).

**Updated: 18/05/2015**

**NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of concern</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 15/05/2015.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 2015 crop production is estimated to be 30% lower than in 2014 and 33% lower than the five-year average due to prolonged dry spells since January, affecting 28,000 people in Omusati region (FNS working group, 29/04/2015; local media, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security**

Large parts of the country, including the main producing regions of Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati, have received well below-average rains since January. At least 28,000 people from Ruacana in Omusati region are in need of food aid as a result of poor crops (NOAA, 08/04/2015; local media, 31/03/2015). Mitigation measures have been put into place by the Government until the June harvest (local media, 27/04/2015).

At July 2014, 117,660 people were affected by a food security crisis and around 557,900 people in rural areas were at risk of food insecurity and requiring assistance. Kunene, and parts of Omahke, Otjozondjupa, Omusati, and Erongo regions, were most affected (SADC, 08/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Crop production is estimated to be 30% lower than 2014 and 33% lower than the five-year average; grazing conditions for livestock are also poor (Southern African FNS working group, 29/04/2015; FAO, 28/04/2015; 11/03/2015; WFP, 03/03/2015). Farmers are in need of livestock support (local media, 24/03/2015). Price increases were reported in February, a result of fewer imports from neighbouring countries also affected by dry conditions (FAO, 28/04/2015).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015

**UGANDA DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 15/05/2015.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 146,251 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013 (IOM, 15/04/2015).
- In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM remains above 3%. The food security situation has declined since then, with potential implications on malnutrition (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).
- Rapid expansion of refugee camps has strained health services (UNFPA, 16/02/2015).

**Security**

Tensions around unexplained killings of Muslim leaders in Busoga sub-region are rising (Government, 09/03/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

As of March, Uganda has 30,140 IDPs (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

As of March, there were 433,030 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, the majority children. The refugees and asylum seekers are mainly from DRC and South Sudan; numbers are also from Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi (OCHA, 19/05/2015; 11/02/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kampala and Arua districts (UNHCR, 24/11/2014). As camps are overwhelmed, preparation of new land in Maaji, Moyo district, is ongoing (UNHCR, 04/02/2015).
As of 15 April, 146,251 South Sudanese refugees had fled to Uganda since December 2013, including 65% children (IOM, 18/03/2015; ECHO, 13/04/2015). Refugees continue to arrive at Elegu border point in Amuru district at a rate of 124 per day. Priority needs are for NFIs, livelihood and psychological support (ACT, 15/04/2015).

Ugandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

At 1 April, there were 1,669 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/04/2015). At 30 June 2014, there were 1,211 Uganda refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/05/2014).

Food Security

In Karamoja, food access and availability continue to decline. About 180,000 people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until at least next the harvest in August, which is four months later than usual, especially in Moroto and Kaabong districts, where food stocks have depleted 2-3 months earlier than usual (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FAO, 27/04/2015). The lean season began in January, four months earlier than normal. Below-average rainfall since January has decreased labour demand and lowered incomes. 700,000 people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2) as of end 2014 (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).

Harsh climatic conditions and poor yields have deteriorated the food security situation in Arua camp. (UNHCR, 20/01/2015). A general food shortage has been reported in Arua district, which has led to increased cost of food items (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

Prices of food crops rose by 20–40% in March, mainly due to reduced stocks; maize prices increased by about 15%, reflecting a high import demand from Kenya (FAO, 27/04/2015). In bimodal areas, mostly in central and western Uganda, staple food prices increased in March. Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity is expected to last through July (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The rapid expansion of refugee camps has strained health services (UNFPA, 16/02/2015).

Health centres affected by the refugee influx require immunisation, as well as medical infrastructure and supply support, especially in Arua (UNICEF, 15/04/2015; UNHCR, 20/01/2015). Health education related to HIV counselling and testing among refugees is also needed (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

Nutrition

In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM prevalence remains above 3% (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).

SAM levels of 1.5% have been reported among South Sudanese refugees in Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo districts, compared to 4.1% in January (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

Typhoid

As of 14 April, more than 12,000 cases of typhoid have been confirmed from Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, more than double the 19 March figure of 4,949 cases (CDC, 20/04/2015).

WASH

Boreholes have dried up, so water trucking has been necessary in Adjumani. In Arua, the water supply in March was 13.8L per person per day, and in Kiryandongo, 16L per person per day, both below the UNHCR standard of 20L (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

The number of community-based hygiene promoters remains limited, with a ratio of 1:873 (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

No accurate or verified data relating to food security of general humanitarian needs is available, therefore Eritrea is not included in the GEO prioritisation.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 11/02/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million people, including 696,000 children under 18, are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).
- Torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea (UN, HRW).
- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every year. In March 2015, Ethiopia was hosting 133, 348 Eritrean refugees (OCHA, 20/04/2015).
- Operations and maintenance of established humanitarian systems remain a significant challenge (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Political Context

Eritrea is a one-party state governed by President Isaias Afwerk and his party People’s Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). No national elections have been held since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

1.2 million people need humanitarian assistance as of 15 January 2015, including 696,000 children under 18 (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).
There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access. Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (ECHO, 10/2013).

In November–December 2013, several projects in partnership with the UN and the Government began; the Government had previously ordered the end of all operations by non-state development partners by the end of 2012 (IFRC, 30/05/2014).

Displacement

Refugees

As of March 2015, there were 2,758 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 08/04/2015).

Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated to constitute more than 321,000 people (Guardian, 21/04/2015). UN estimates that some 4,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression and lack of basic freedoms (UN, 05/06/2014). Eritreans constitute the second biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat, after Syrians (Reuters, 24/03/2015). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

Ethiopia: At the end of April, there were 135,655 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/04/2015), mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNICEF, 21/04/2015). Arrival rates spiked towards the end of 2014, with a total of 33,000 arriving by the end of the year (OCHA, 24/11/2014; UNHCR, 09/02/2015). The recent influx has resulted in shortages of shelter in the camps (OCHA, 26/01/2015). During March, Ethiopia registered 3,636 new arrivals from Eritrea (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

About 90% of those who arrived in October were between 18 and 24 years old, and cited intensified mandatory recruitment into military service as their reason for flight (local media, 15/11/2014).

Sudan: Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees. Eastern Sudan received an average of 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012.

Djibouti: As of 1 January, there were 1,240 Eritrean refugees in Djibouti (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

Yemen: Reports indicate hundreds of Eritrean refugees are scattered across the streets of Al Safeyah in Sana’a, without proper shelter or livelihood. Refugees have informed UNHCR that many are imprisoned upon arrival in Yemen, on the grounds of security concerns (Yemen Times, 19/08/2014). Several NGOs have called on the Yemeni authorities to stop deporting Eritrean political refugees (UNHCR).

Kenya: As of 1 May, there were 1,563 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority located in Nairobi (UNHCR, 07/05/2015).

Chad: On 6 February, the Chadian Government announced plans to deport a dozen Eritrean refugees from Chad. Humanitarian organisations have protested the move, as the returnees will most probably face indefinite detention in Eritrea (local media, 06/02/2015).

Food Security

Very poor rainfall since February, including five consecutive weeks without rain since mid-March, has led to drought conditions in eastern Eritrea (FEWSNET, 07/05/2015).

A positive rainy season between June and September 2014, may improve the food security situation in highland areas, but not in the coastal lowland regions (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. Due to extensive national service, farmers are routine absent during harvest periods (Economist, 10/03/2014). In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to be high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The Government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid (ECHO).

Health and Nutrition

According to FAO in 2013, over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported to be undernourished between 2011 and 2013.

Protection

Indefinite national service, and arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention and inhumane prison conditions, were the focus of a March 2015 UN human rights report (UN Human Rights Council). The UN human rights chief has accused the government of torture and summary executions (UN Human Rights Council, 05/02/2014).

In September 2014, the UN Human Rights Council set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights abuses in Eritrea; however by January 2015 it had still not been granted direct access to the country (Human Rights Watch, 24/09/2014; UNHRC, 16/01/2015).

Mines and ERW

With only 25% of minefields cleared, UNICEF reported in January 2015 that the impact of landmines and ERWs continue to have a serious impact on the population, including causing deaths, injuries and disabilities. Humanitarian mine action programmes in the country have been scaled down due to limited access (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There are 995 dangerous areas, 914 mined areas and 702 minefields in Eritrea (UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea).
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 May: Refugees in Khost and Paktika have exhausted their short-term coping mechanisms and need livelihood opportunities to face long term displacement (UNHCR).

19 May: Four people were killed and 24 wounded by a suicide attack in a parking lot of the Ministry of Justice, Kabul (AFP).

25 May: Two Taliban attacks, in the provinces of Zabul and Kandahar: 70 people, including women and children, were injured in Zabul and six civilians were killed by a roadside bombing in Kandahar province (AFP, 25/05/2015).

16 May: Between 1 April and 15 May, natural disaster events affected 44,823 people (6,690 families) (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Between January and March 2015, 1,810 civilian casualties; casualties from ground engagements and from mortars and rockets rose 8% and 47%, respectively, compared to the same period in 2014. Women and children casualties continue to increase (UNAMA, 12/04/2015).

There were 1,810 civilian casualties between 1 January and 31 March (655 killed, 1,155 injured). Civilian casualties from ground engagements rose by 8%, casualties from mortars and rockets by 47%, and women and children casualties continue to increase. The sustained use of indiscriminate weapons and IEDs is of concern (UNAMA, 12/04/2015).

3,699 civilians were killed and 6,849 injured in 2014, a 22% increase in casualties on 2013 (UNAMA, 18/02/2015).

**Taliban**

Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. Taliban numbers have increased by 15% since the beginning of 2013, and the group has intensified attacks. The Taliban is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal ruby and emerald mines, and kidnapping (UNSC, 02/02/2015).

**International Military Presence**

NATO formally ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, moving to the Resolute Support mission made up of 9,800 US troops and 3,000 soldiers from other member states. The mission will focus on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (Reuters, 01/01/2015). The number of US troops remaining in Afghanistan until end December is significantly higher than the 5,500 initially planned, and has been denounced by the Taliban (Le Monde, 24/03/2015).

**Conflict Developments and Incidents**

**Kunduz:** Taliban offensives took place simultaneously in five districts on 2 and 3 May (Afghanistan Analyst Network, 3/05/2015). The Taliban, supported by foreign fighters, has come close to the provincial capital, cutting it off (Trust.org, 06/05/2015; 07/05/2015; BBC, 07/05/2015; AFP, 08/05/2015). The Government launched a major offensive on 7 May near the city. 100 people, including ten elders, have been killed since an estimated 50 foreign fighters from an unidentified group settled in the province. Residents have been asked for money, girls’ education is regulated, and meetings with government officials are subject to authorisation.

**Other incidents:** A Taliban suicide attack targeting a government building injured 70, including women and children, on 25 May in Zabul province. The same day in Kandahar province, six civilians were killed by a roadside bombing (AFP, 25/05/2015). Taliban insurgents abducted 27 people in Paktia province on 16 May but released 25 of them the next day (AFP, 16/05/2015; 17/05/2015). Dozens of Taliban fighters attacked local government buildings in Badghis and may have captured the whole area on 10 May (Reuters, 10/05/2015).

During April, security incidents, mainly bombing, gun attacks and fire exchanges, in Laghman, Nimroz, Ghazni, Balkh, Baghlan, Uruzgan and Logar killed at least 46 people and injured dozens (AFP, 25/04/2015; 23/04/2015; 10/04/2015; 09/04/2015; 06/04/2015, 03/04/2015; Trust.org, 26/04/2015).

Suspected Taliban gunmen abducted 31 members of the country’s Hazara Shi’ite Muslim minority on 23 February in Zabul province. As of 11 May, 12 are still held hostage and one had been killed (BBC, 11/05/2015; Trust.org 20/04/2015; AFP, 24/03/2015; 17/03/2015).

**Helmand:** Four civilians were killed and seven people wounded in the attack in Lashkargah on 13 May (Reuters, 13/05/2015). On 20 April, Taliban militants attacked a police station in Lashkargah, killing three officers (Trust.org 20/04/2015). Three Taliban attacks in March, targeting provincial officials and a police station, killed 20 people and wounded 69 (AFP, 18/03/2015; 11/03/2015; 03/03/2015).

**Kabul:** Four police were killed and 24 wounded by a suicide attack in a parking lot of the Ministry of Justice (AFP, 19/05/2015). Three people working with the EU police were killed on 17 May in a Taliban car bombing (AFP, 17/05/2015). 14 civilians, most of them foreigners, were killed in a Taliban attack targeting a guesthouse (AFP, 14/05/2015). A Taliban suicide bomber struck a government bus on 10 May, killing three and wounding at least 16 others (AFP, 10/05/2015). A suicide car bombing of a bus carrying civil servants in West Kabul on 4 May killed one and wounded 15 (Trust.org, 04/05/2015). Bombing and suicide attacks targeting mainly government and foreign officials have killed 24 and wounded at least 32 in March and April (AFP, 10/04/2015; 06/04/2015; 25/03/2015; 17/03/2015; 07/03/2015; 26/02/2015).

**Nangahar:** A suicide attack killed 33 people and wounded 115 others in Jalalabad on 18 April. President Ghani said Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility, making this its first major attack in the country (AFP, 18/04/2015). A suicide attack targeting a NATO convoy killed three and wounded four (AFP, 10/04/2015).

**Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers**

Violence against health workers is a public health risk. In April, one health staff was seriously injured in Kandahar province (WHO, 18/05/2015). In Paktia province, 19 mine clearance workers were abducted and released two days later (Trust.org, 20/04/2015; 21/04/2015). Five members of an NGO’s national staff were killed by their abductor on 10 April in Uruzgan (UN, 11/04/2015).

In March, there were 19 incidents against national and international NGOs. Four people were wounded, ten abducted, and two arrested (OCHA, 19/04/2015). There were 293 incidents against aid workers in 2014, including 57 killed (UN, 11/04/2015; OCHA,
Disasters

Between 1 April and 15 May, natural disaster events including avalanches, flooding, heavy rainfall, landslides and mudflows affected 44,823 people (6,680 families). 125 were killed or injured and 6,062 houses destroyed or damaged. The most affected provinces are Badakhshan, Baghlan and Faryab (OCHA, 16/05/2015). Accessibility and security challenges due to road closures and areas controlled by non-state armed groups are hampering needs assessment and aid provision in some provinces. Priority needs are for food, NFIs, and emergency shelter (ECHO, 15/04/2015; IOM/USAID, 15/03/2015; IFRC, 18/03/2015; IFRC; 11/05/2015).

Displacement

There are 866,000 IDPs in Afghanistan and 205,113 refugees from Pakistan in Khost and Paktika provinces; returns from Pakistan are increasing since December 2014, while around 2.5 million Afghans have taken refuge in neighbouring countries.

IDPs

As of end of April, there were 873,000 IDPs in Afghanistan, including half displaced in April, and 24% displaced by conflict in 2014. Nearly 220,000 IDPs are in the south, 216,000 in the west, 145,000 in the east and 121,000 in the North Afghanistan (UNHCR, 24/05/2015).

Armed conflicts between armed groups and government continued to be the most cited reason for displacement across the country. Food and NFIs are the most urgent need but the security context challenges access. Another challenge is the identification of genuine IDPs, while host communities sometimes wrongly claim displacement (UNCHR, 24/05/2015).

Fight in Kunduz has reportedly displaced 14,000 families as of 8 May (AFP, 08/05/2015).

Military operations in Helmand have triggered displacement since February and by 31 March, the Kandahar Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) had reported 1,896 displaced families. Priority needs are food and NFIs; health needs also emerged in the south (UNHCR, 28/02/2015, 31/12/2014, OCHA 19/04/2015).

Refugees

Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014. As of 13 May, these provinces were hosting around 205,113 refugees (32,543 families) from Pakistan, 75% of them in Khost (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). Funding shortfalls limited response to the most urgent needs, which persist for shelter, nutrition, and WASH (UNHCR, 08/04/2015; 01/04/2015; OCHA; 24/05/2015).

Spontaneous returns of refugees to Pakistan have been reported, although the number is unknown (UNHCR, 14/04/2015; 08/04/2015).

An additional 600,000 Baloch refugees who have fled insurgency activities in Pakistan since 1986 are living in precarious conditions, notably in Nimroz (AAN, 31/12/2014).

Returnees

Returns of Afghans from Pakistan have increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Decembre Taliban attack in Peshawar. Returnees report an increased number of protection issues and cite eviction notices by authorities as the primary factor that influenced their return (UNHCR, 24/05/2015). As of 13 May, 60,000 Afghans have returned home voluntarily since early 2015, including 21,505 through UNCHR. 6,000 have been expelled (AFP, 13/05/2015; UNHCR, 24/05/2015). 30–40% of undocumented returnees are vulnerable and in need of assistance (OCHA, 28/02/2015; IOM, 13/02/2015). 25,000 people returned in 2014 (AFP, 13/05/2015).

Afghan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 September 2014, there were 2.5 million Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries (USAID, 01/10/2014).

Food Security

As of April, Badghis province is in IPC Phase 3, Crisis. Badakhshan, Nuristan, Ghor, Daykundi and Bamyan are in IPC Phase 2, Stressed (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). IDPs and households affected by heavy rains and snowfall in 2015 are expected to remain in Phase 2 through June (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015). By November 2015, it is estimated that 500,000 to 990,000 people will be in IPC Phase 3 or higher (FEWSNET 20/05/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Floods and avalanches since 23 February have destroyed farmland and orchards across the country (Government, 28/02/2015).

2014 wheat production was 64% lower than 2013, and January 2015 wheat grain and flour prices have increased 12% on average compared to 2014, leading to excess sales of livestock; Badghis province is most affected (FEWSNET, 11/02/2015).

Livelihoods

Refugees in Khost and Paktika have exhausted their short term coping mechanisms and need livelihood opportunities to face long term displacement (UNHCR, 26/05/2015). Political uncertainty during 2014 led to decreased investment in many sectors including construction and trade, which are key employers of casual labour. Faryab province saw the largest decline in casual labour wages: rates were 43% lower in September than in 2013 and the five-year average (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014). Decreased prices for some cash crops in 2014 compared to 2013 limited income (FEWSNET, 01/12/2014).

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has risen by 7% in a year, from 209,000 hectares in 2013 to 224,000 hectares in 2014 (UN, 12/11/2014).
Health and Nutrition

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Nearly 80% of maternal and reproductive health needs are unmet (WHO, 10/12/2014). Tuberculosis is also a high burden for Afghanistan, but many new cases were missed out in 2014 due to lack of close monitoring (Government, 24/03/2015).

Measles

29 measles outbreaks were reported in April 2015 (WHO, 18/05/2015). 445 laboratory-confirmed cases of measles were reported in the first quarter of 2015, representing a significant increase from last year’s total of 581 cases (WHO, 26/04/2015).

Nutrition

517,596 children suffer from SAM (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). In Uruzgan, Nuristan, Khost, Paktia, Wardak, Kunar, and Laghman provinces, GAM rates were breaching the emergency threshold of 15% in mid-2014 (National Nutrition Survey, OCHA 31/07/2014).

An estimated 45% of all child deaths in refugee and IDP camps are linked to malnutrition (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). The presence of common animal diseases in areas of Khost and Paktika have reduced the availability of meat and milk products to Pakistani refugees and host communities (FEWSNET, 11/02/2015). Fewer than 20% of moderately and severely acute malnourished children received the treatment they needed in 2014 (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

Polio

One case of polio has been reported so far in 2015, from Helmand province. 28 cases were reported in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to 14 in 2013 and 37 in 2012 (WHO, 26/04/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 25/02/2015; 14/01/2015).

WASH

1.9 million Afghans are in need of better access to safe WASH facilities (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). Refugee influxes have stretched already limited water and hygiene resources and infrastructure in Khost and Paktika; lack of solid waste management and latrines are major challenges (UNHCR, 08/04/2015).

Shelter

A growing number of IDPs live in informal settlements in major Afghan urban centres, in substandard and crowded accommodation, with insufficient WASH facilities, food, education, and employment opportunities. Women are particularly at risk, with reduced access to education, health, and livelihood opportunities, and facing significant unmet mental health needs (NRC, 23/03/2015). As of 11 December, 40,629 refugees were in 52 informal settlements in the capital. The most populated is Charah Qamber (7,436 people) (OCHA, 17/12/2014). Overall numbers on people in informal shelters across Afghanistan are missing.

Education

Educational facilities in Khost are overstretched, with 344 schools employing 6,000 teachers and teaching around 360,000 children. There are 50,000 school-aged refugee children in Khost (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 05/11/2014).

Protection

Child Protection

The Afghan national and local police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children, which was criminalised in December 2014 (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015).

Detention

35% of visited detainees in national facilities have experienced ill-treatment or torture, including 42% of child detainees, in a United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) study conducted between February 2013 and December 2014. The same type of study over 2011–2012 showed 49% of detainees had experienced ill-treatment or torture (OHCHR, UNAMA, 25/02/2015).

Mines and ERW

4,271 minefields and battlefields remain in Afghanistan, corresponding to almost 536 km² in 255 districts of 33 provinces (MAPA/MACCA, 06/04/2015). There is an average of 38 civilian casualties every month and another 61 civilian casualties are recorded due to improvised explosive devices (IED) (MAPA, 18/05/2015).

As of 23 April, 919,546 m² in Gulan camp has been cleared as well as 1,276,870 m² around the camp, where refugees have settled more recently (UNHCR, 23/04/2015; 13/05/2015).

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is underreported because of the social stigma attached to it and lack of access to Taliban-controlled areas. Between January 2014 and January 2015, UNAMA registered 44 cases (UN Security Council, 15/04/2015).

Updated, 26/05/2015

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

For the latest Briefing Notes, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.
For information relating to the Syria crisis, see SNAP’s latest reports.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 May: Eight bombs exploded in Baquba and Baladruz, Diyala Governorate. Reports suggest 14 people were wounded (AFP, 24/05/2015).

24 May: Islamic State (IS) executed 16 Iraqi traders taking food from Baiji to the government-controlled city of Haditha (AFP, 24/05/2015).

8 April–24 May: 180,000 people are believed to have been displaced by fighting in Anbar. 69,000 have fled fighting in Ramadi since 15 May (OCHA, 25/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 810 deaths recorded by UNAMI in April, including around 535 civilians. Approximately 12,000 people were killed in 2014, corresponding to the worst levels of violence since 2006–2007 (UNAMI, 02/05/2015; 01/01/2015).

- Around 8.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.9 million IDPs and 2.2 million beyond the reach of aid agencies (ECHO, 12/12/2014; IOM, 30/04/2015; 25/05/2015).

- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din (UN, 01/05/2015).

- 248,203 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 64% are women and children (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

- Protection is a key concern, particularly in areas directly affected by conflict and under Islamic State (IS) control.

OVERVIEW

The IS insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Priority needs are food, water, shelter, fuel, and access to healthcare. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in IS-controlled areas, are of major concern. There are large information gaps on the situation of affected populations outside of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Political Context

National Political Context

The perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups by former President Maliki’s Government is considered one of the main drivers of the current conflict. A unity government, led by President Abadi, was formed in September 2014. While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking to garner international support for the fight against Islamic State, including from neighbouring Sunni Arab states (Foreign Affairs, 16/01/2015).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I)

Masoud Barzani’s Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have ruled the autonomous KR-I through a coalition government since 2005. Barzani’s term has been extended to 2015, a move denounced as illegal by the opposition. In mid-November 2014, Baghdad and Erbil reached a budget agreement around oil revenues, which was incorporated into Iraq’s 2015 national budget law late January; political relations are developing positively, as both sides honoured their part of the deal end March (local media, 26/04/2015; UN, 02/12/2014).

Security Context

Around 810 people were killed in acts of violence in April, including 535 civilians, with Baghdad most affected (UNAMI, 02/05/2015). At least 12,000 people were killed and more than 23,000 injured in 2014, in the worst violence since 2006–2007. Reported casualty numbers are hard to verify in conflict areas (UNAMI, 01/01/2015).

Stakeholders

Islamic State (IS)

In June, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS has taken over large areas of northern and eastern Syria, and parts of northern and central Iraq. It has attracted more than 20,000 foreigners, out of a total fighting force of as many as 31,000 (ICSR, 21/01/2015; NBC, 02/2015).

Government Forces

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), made up of around 48,000 troops, are involved in offensives around Baghdad, and in central governorates (Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). The Prime Minister declared in January that falling global oil prices could lead to possible budget deficits, hampering capacity to undertake military operations (Reuters, 22/01/2015).

Shi’a militias
Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces: Asa‘ib, Kita‘ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. The Popular Mobilisation Forces are made up of around 100,000 fighters, including 30,000 reportedly backed by the Iranian Government (Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015).

**KR-I Forces**

The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counteroffensive against IS. Kurdish fighters receive training and equipment from multiple countries, including the United States (AFP).

**International Involvement**

In August 2014, US forces started airstrikes on IS locations. On 15 September, 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight IS. Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guards Corps and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014).

**Conflict Developments**

ISF and Kurdish forces have regained territory in 2015, recapturing populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghda’i in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk. IS made important gains in Anbar in April.

**Recent Incidents**

Anbar: IS captured Ramadi on 17 May, killing at least 500 people in the operation against ISF and associated militias. ISF had launched operations to retake Anbar on 8 April (AFP, 17/05/2015; OCHA, 26/04/2015; ISW, 15/04/2015). Clashes have been ongoing in and around Falluja since 25–26 April, and a curfew is reportedly in place in the southeast of the city (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Three people were killed and 11 wounded by indiscriminate shelling in Falluja on 10 May (AFP, 10/05/2015). On 24 May, IS executed 16 Iraqi traders taking food from Baiji to government-controlled Haditha (AFP, 24/05/2015). IS has begun moving east towards Khalidiyah (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Baghdad has seen nearly daily bombings and shootings since November 2014. At least ten people were killed in attacks targeting Shi’ite worshippers marching to a Baghdad shrine over 12–14 May (AFP, 14/05/2015; 12/05/2015). At least 11 people were killed and 18 wounded in separate attacks in the governorate on 10 May (AFP, 10/05/2015). On 28 April, eight IDPs were reportedly killed in Baghdad, raising concerns over growing anti-IDP sentiment due to fears of IS infiltration (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

Diyala: An IS attack on a Shi’ite mosque in Baladruz district killed 19 and wounded 15 on 8 May (AFP, 08/05/2015). On 24 May, eight bombs exploded in Baquba and Baladruz. Reports suggest 14 people were wounded (AFP, 24/05/2015).

Kirkuk: Peshmerga forces began operation to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk in February; by 18 March, Peshmerga and Popular Mobilisation forces had retaken Bashir and surrounding villages (ISW, 18/03/2015). Both forces, with the support of ISF, are planning an operation in Al Hawija in the coming months. This cooperation is significant, as visible tensions between Kurdish and Shi’ite rivals over control of Kirkuk city are raising fears that IS will exploit the divisions to advance (ISW, 13/03/2015; Ekurd Daily, 17/02/2015; The Daily Beast, 17/02/2015).

Ninewa: IS continues to carry out security operations south of Mosul, to control tribal resistance and safeguard one of its most important areas of control.

Salah al Din: On 12 April, IS launched three suicide attacks on Baiji oil refinery, the fiercest since ISF recaptured the area in November. Clashes were accelerating as of 5 May, as IS cut off supply routes and occupied positions within the facility (ISW, 08/05/2015). As of 31 March, Iraqi forces and supporters had reportedly recaptured Albu Ajil, Tal Ksaiiba, Al Alam, Al Dour, and Tikrit from IS (local media, 31/03/2015; WSJ, 13/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 08/03/2015). Tensions then rose between government forces and allied militias (Reuters, 04/04/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

As of end March, 8.3 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including 3.85 million children, compared to 5.2 and 2.6 million, respectively, reported at end February (UNICEF, 31/03/2015; 28/02/2015). As of 5 May, Iraq’s 2015 appeal is only 8% funded, leading to serious response cutbacks, particularly affecting the food, health and education sectors (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

**Access**

Around 2.2 million people in need of emergency assistance are beyond the reach of aid agencies, and access to the estimated 3.6 million people in areas under control of IS and affiliated armed groups is limited (ECHO, 12/12/2014). Several INGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, or provide emergency assistance through local partners. High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) also hinders access, as do long delays in obtaining clearance from Iraqi authorities (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

**Border crossings**

The Ibrahim Khalil border crossing has been closed to Syrians from Kobane since 2 March; most refugees have entered via the Peshkabour crossing (UNHCR, 15/03/2015). Insecurity prevents most civilian movement at the IS-controlled Al Qa’im and Al Waleed crossings, as well as at Rabia (Reuters, 23/11/2014; UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 15/01/2015).
IDP movement restrictions: Over 30% of IDPs are forced to stay within their governorate, due to movement restrictions imposed by neighbouring governorates; restrictions have been reported in Baghdad, Salah al Din, and Anbar (IOM, 15/01/2014; Protection Cluster, 15/01/2015). Access to and in KR-I remains challenging for certain IDPs, particularly those of Arab ethnicity (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 28/02/2015; OCHA, 23/01/2015).

Anbar remains largely inaccessible. One-fifth of Falluja’s population was left in the city in January, and prevented from leaving (ISW, 18/03/2015; REACH, 27/01/2015). IS checkpoints have proliferated in Hit district, preventing civilian movements outside the city (OCHA, 05/05/2015). The three main roads linking Haditha to other cities in Anbar are closed (OCHA, 23/03/2015). Access to new IDPs from Ramadi in Hababaniyah, Khalidiyah district, has been very limited due to insecurity (OCHA, 17/05/2015). Control of the roads toward Al Baghdadi continues to shift between ISF and IS, which has delayed transportation of food and medical supplies to both Al Baghdadi sub-district and Haditha district (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Restricted access into Baghdad, Babylon, Najaf, Wassit, Sulaymaniyyah and Kerbala has been reported for IDPs from Anbar; IDPs were asked to provide a sponsor for their admission into Baghdad from Bzabz bridge (OCHA, 17/05/2015; 22/04/2015; 21/04/2015). At least six IDPs have died from lack of care while waiting at Bzabz bridge. Restrictions have since eased (AFP, 20/05/2015) Hostilities have prevented UNHCR from delivering any supplies to Al Obaidy refugee camp near the Syrian border (UNHCR and ACTED, 30/04/2015).

Diyala: UN staff members were abducted by unidentified gunmen end April, and have not been located since (UN, 08/05/2015).

Kirkuk: Inaccessibility is hampering the delivery of essential medical supplies, equipment, and vaccines, especially access to Al Hawija and Debes districts, where a significant displaced population is reported (WHO, 12/03/2015; IOM, 24/02/2015).

Nineawa: Access to Mosul is impossible for humanitarian actors and communications with areas outside the city are allegedly cut off. Civilians are prevented from leaving the city. Conditions have dramatically deteriorated since IS took control (OCHA, 02/03/2015; WFP, 02/02/2015).

Displacement

At early April, there are 2.67 million IDPs, 247,860 Syrian refugees, and 1.5 million people in need of assistance in host communities.

IDPs

As of 25 April, more than 2,966,844 IDPs are in 3,387 locations in Iraq. 31% are in KR-I (868,960) including 452,496 in Dahuk and 247,878 in Erbil. Anbar hosts 422,586 IDPs, Kirkuk 375,120, and Baghdad 412,200. 239,440 or 8% are in 31 IDP camps (mostly in KR-I), 27% in critical shelter arrangements (mostly in Dahuk and Nineawa), and 65% in private settings. Priority needs are for shelter, NFI, income, and food support (IOM, 26/04/2015; 25/05/2015; UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance (IOM, 02/12/2014).

Anbar: 180,000 people are believed to have been displaced by fighting in Anbar between 8 April and 24 May to 15 governorates, including 62% to Baghdad and 18% within Anbar. Priority needs are WASH, food, and NFI (IOM, 25/04/2015; OCHA, 25/05/2015). 69,000 people have fled fighting in Ramadi since 15 May. 24,000 fled to Falluja and Khalidiyah, with 39,500 remaining in Anbar (OCHA, 25/05/2015). Nearly 47,260 people were displaced by fighting in Karmah district in early May: 94% to Fallujah, and 6% to Abu Ghraib in Baghdad (OCHA, 05/05/2015). Many of the civilians have not been able to flee to safer areas due to ad hoc entry restrictions and ongoing violence (NRC, 21/05/2015).

Erbil: 150 Sunni IDP families originally displaced from Anbar are reportedly arriving in Shaglawa district from Baghdad each week, due to insecurity. The majority live in poor conditions, mostly in unfinished buildings (OCHA, 03/04/2015).

Salah al Din: 1,300 people have been displaced from Baiji to al Alam subdistrict due to military operations, and are in urgent need of food and NFI (OCHA, 12/05/2015). Nearly 30,000 people fled operations between ISF and IS in Tikrit in March for areas in and around Samarra. The majority are living in 127 collective shelters. Priority needs are for food, shelter, health, and WASH (ECHO, 11/03/2015).

The humanitarian situation for IDPs in Najaf, Karbala, Babel, Qadissiya, and Wassit in public buildings or collective shelters, with significant food, WASH, and livelihood needs, is also critical (WFP, 27/01/2015; REACH, 27/01/2015).

IDP Returnees

Between 27 March and 8 May, 145,764 IDPs have returned to their place of origin, mainly in five governorates: Diyala (32% of identified returnees), Nineawa (28%), Salah al Din (21%), Anbar (17%), and Kirkuk (2%) (IOM, 25/05/2015). As of 8 May, around 14,330 IDPs have reportedly returned to Ramadi district in Anbar, and 35,000 to the rest of the province. One reason for the returns is lack of sponsor to enter Baghdad. Families lack basic services and feel unsafe (OCHA, 12/05/2015; 08/05/2015; 05/05/2015).

Around 116,850 IDPs returned to their areas of origin over 26 March–28 April, including 37% to Diyala, 26% to Salah al Din and 26% to Nineawa. 19% returned to unfinished or abandoned buildings (IOM, 25/04/2015). Returnees in Diyala are in need of legal and basic services support (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, property destruction, mines, IEDs, insecurity, and lost documentation all increase the risks for returnees (UNHCR,
As of 15 May, 248,203 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq; 43% are women and 41.5% children. KR-I hosts an estimated 97%, with nearly 110,464 in Erbil, 99,951 in Dahuk and 29,859 in Sulaymaniyah; 4,520 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,310 in Ninewa (UNHCR, 30/04/2015; 19/05/2015). Refugees from Aleppo continue to arrive at the Peshkhabour border; 560 arrived 27 April. In total, 19,029 individuals have arrived since January (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Around 33,810 Syrian refugees have arrived in KR-I from Kobane since 25 September (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

37.5% of refugees live in nine camps; over half are in Domiz camp in Dahuk (47,940), 10,060 in Kawergosk and 9,750 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy camp in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar significantly decreased January–March, to 851; understanding the trend is difficult due to access constraints (UNHCR, 15/03/2015, 04/03/2015).

More than 37,660 Syrian refugees returned to Syria over January 2014–March 2015. Reasons for return include high living cost in the KR-I, lack of job opportunities and family reunification (UNHCR, 15/04/2015; 31/12/2014).

There are also 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 23/04/2015).

Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of end 2014, there were around 254,000 Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries, including 200,000 in Turkey, 47,000 in Jordan (the Government estimated 58,000), 8,700 in Lebanon, and over 3,000 in Yemen (PI, 07/01/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015; 30/04/2015).

2.8 million people urgently need food assistance. Needs are particularly high, especially for IDPs, in Anbar (Al Baghdadi, Hit, and Haditha districts), Salah al Din (Tikrit, Baiji and Samarra), Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa, and Baghdad governorates. Food supply needs also persist for IDPs in the southern governorates of Qadissiya (Diwaniya district), Najaf, Kerbala, Thi-Qar and Missan (OCHA, 12/05/2015; 05/05/2015).

Agriculture

Many farmers and rural households have abandoned their fields (FAO, 11/2014). Some 120,000 farmers in host communities need agricultural inputs for the winter planting season (OCHA, 06/02/2015). IS controls major wheat storage silos in Ninewa and Salah al Din (FAO 10/02/2015). The prospects for the 2015 winter crop are uncertain in conflict-affected parts of Anbar, Salah Al Din, and Diyala (WFP, 11/03/2015).

Refugees: Reduced access to basic feed is posing a significant risk to refugees’ livestock, especially in Ninewa and Dahuk (FAO, 10/02/2015; UNHCR, 18/02/2015).

Livelihoods

800,000 people are in need of livelihood support in Iraq (UN, 18/02/2015). The need for livelihood support is increasing as IDPs’ financial conditions are deteriorating, and unemployment is rising in IS-controlled areas (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 02/03/2015). In conflict-affected areas, casual labour opportunities are limited and wage rates are low (WFP, 11/03/2015). KR-I’s poverty rate increased from 3.5% to 8.1% between 2013 and 2014. GDP growth in Iraq declined by five percentage points to 3% in 2014 (World Bank/Government, 12/02/2015).

In Anbar, Diyala, and Ninewa, purchasing power has fallen by a quarter since February. Food prices are high in Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to conflict and blocked supply lines (WFP, 08/04/2015; 03/2015). In Salah al Din, rice and flour prices have doubled, and increased fivefold in some areas (WFP, 11/03/2015). The conflict in Anbar has dramatically affected agricultural livelihoods.

Refugees: Refugees resort to a rising range of negative coping mechanisms in Dahuk due to high food prices (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). The ability to find sustainable job opportunities is still severely limited, and hampered by competition. As of February, only 5% of refugees targeted for access to wage employment in 2015 had been reached (DRC/UNDP, 28/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

5.2 million people need health support in Iraq (WHO, 16/03/2015). Acute diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and scabies remain a leading cause of morbidity among refugees and IDPs (Government/WHO, 29/03/2015).

A number of health facilities have been damaged by bombing and shelling. None of the three hospitals in Tikrit, Salah al Din, are functioning; in Kirkuk, some 23% of health facilities are not functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Recurrent shortages of essential medicines and other supplies remain a challenge, especially in Anbar, Salah al Din, and Ninewa (WHO, 27/04/2015). Difficulties in import and clearing of supplies through customs are reported (OCHA, 23/03/2015). Health professionals are in short supply in KR-I and conflict areas, while insecurity hampers access to healthcare in some areas (WHO, 16/03/2015). The influx of under-vaccinated Syrian refugees into KR-I also increases health risks (WHO, 11/2014).

Limited or unavailable treatment for tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, and hepatitis are major concerns in Salah al Din and Kirkuk (WHO, 16/03/2015).
Anbar: Ramadi’s main hospital came under IS control on 16 May (OCHA, 17/05/2015). The city hospital in Hit district is also reportedly no longer accessible for civilians (OCHA, 05/05/2015). Critical shortages of essential medicines are reported by functioning health structures (ECHO, 16/02/2015). Shortages of fuel affecting healthcare delivery has been reported in one hospital in Anbar, while contact has been lost with facilities in western Anbar (WHO, 16/03/2015). Increased acute illnesses and chronic diseases are reported from Al Baghdadi district, while health concerns are rising in Habbaniya in Anbar due to lack of reproductive health services and safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/05/2015; 05/05/2015). Khalidiya emergency hospital has suffered direct mortar hits; most staff have been evacuated to Amiriyat al Falluja general hospital (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Erbil: Handicap International have interrupted transportation services for people with chronic diseases (OCHA, 21/04/2015).

Mosul: Only two units of the main hospital remain functional, staffing levels are down to 30–50%, and severe medicine shortages have been reported (AFP, 12/2014).

Sulaymaniya: Overcrowding in Arbat IDP camp has reportedly led to referrals to medical facilities in Sulaymaniya city, putting additional pressure on the health infrastructure (OCHA, 23/03/2015).

Refugees: 20% of the non-camp population has difficulty accessing health services, due to cost and perceived availability (WHO/UNHCR, 28/02/2015). Access to specialised primary services, including mental healthcare and control of communicable diseases, remain priorities in camps (WHO/UNHCR, 31/03/2015).

WASH

Five million people need WASH support, while many essential operations face suspension due to funding constraints (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Access to safe water is a critical problem in areas affected by conflict or controlled by armed groups. Power cuts, disruption of supply routes, shortage of chlorine, and broken pipelines have left communities without safe water (WHO, 01/02/2015). IDP sites in Baghdad, Anbar, and Salah al Din, as well as in Babylon and Najaf, urgently need WASH support (OCHA, 28/04/2015).

Refugees: Drainage, waste disposal and water quality remain pressing issues in Darashakran, Akre, Basirma, and Domiz camps (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). In Basirma, the latrine ratio is 23:1, while garbage collection remains an issue in camps in Erbil (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; UNICEF and UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Around 1.7 million people require shelter and NFI support, mainly in non-camp settings in central and southern Iraq; IDPs in informal, unmanaged settlements are of highest concern (UNHCR/Shelter Cluster, 02/05/2015).

Most camp facilities and services do not meet minimum Sphere standards (REACH 31/10/2014). Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah is overcapacity and access to basic services is of major concern, as it hosts 19,500 individuals instead of the planned 7,160 (OCHA, 02/03/2015; CCCM, 01/03/2015). Overcrowded Laylan camp in Kirkuk also needs support (OCHA, 03/04/2015). Eleven camps are under construction for an additional capacity of 384,235 IDPs (CCCM, 02/03/2015).

Many IDPs in Ninewa reportedly live in critical shelter conditions (OCHA, 05/05/2015). 75% of returnee houses in Al Alam in Salah al Din have been demolished (OCHA, 27/03/2015).

Refugees: In refugee camps, 24% of households live in unimproved shelters (Gol and UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Basirma, Kawergosk, Akre, Darashakran, and Domiz camps’ capacities are exhausted; overcrowding in camps in Erbil is an increasing concern (Government/UNHCR, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 15/04/2015; Gol and UNHCR, 30/04/2015). In Sulaymaniyah, refugees renting houses are facing eviction due to the pressure on accommodation (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

Education

65% of school-aged IDPs across Iraq are out of school (1.7 million children); IDP children residing among host communities are most affected (OCHA, 05/05/2015; 21/04/2015). Over 500 schools, including 376 in Anbar, remain occupied by IDPs, and an estimated 130 by the military, affecting 39,000 children.

Refugees: 61% of school-aged refugee children in camps are attending school, compared to 43% of those out of camps (UNICEF/Save the Children, 31/03/2015). Challenges include limited capacity in schools with an Arabic curriculum, shortages of Syrian teachers, increasing schooling demand, and insecurity (UNHCR, 31/12/2014; 12/02/2015). Syrian refugee teachers have not received salaries since the start of 2015, due to the KR-I’s limited budget (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Protection

5.2 million people are in need of protection support (OCHA, 28/02/2015). Widespread abuses committed by IS, including targeted attacks, killings, torture, rape and sexual slavery, forced religious conversion, and child conscription, may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015).

Violations allegedly carried out by ISF and associated militias during their counter-offensives against IS, including killings, torture and abductions, also amount to war
Eviction

An increase in detention of IDPs is reported, due to growing mistrust from local authorities and communities (OCHA, 19/12/2014).

Eviction concerns remain for urban families in Kirkuk, where arrests and evictions have been reported (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 27/03/2015).

Documentation

Around 10% of IDPs have no documentation, which is a prerequisite for obtaining residency permits and difficult to obtain outside a person’s area of origin. Up to 50% of displaced families report that at least one family member is missing one or more civil documents (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 28/02/2015).

Refugees: Refugees are in need of targeted legal responses and services including registration and documentation. Residency in urban areas is reportedly being denied to Syrian asylum-seekers lacking original ID documents (UNFPA, 31/03/2015; Protection Cluster 15/01/2015).

SGBV

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuses across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abductions, trafficking, and forced recruitment towards women. In particular, IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yezidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015). Due to stigmatisation, many survivors are reluctant to seek assistance (UNAMI, 08/03/2015).

Child Protection

Around 1.3 million children are internally displaced in Iraq, while 561,000 live in areas under IS and affiliated armed groups’ control (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Concerning issues include harmful practices targeting girls, discrimination of children from ethnic minorities, and children born of rape, who risk being stateless (UN, 07/05/2015; OCHCR, 22/01/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (OCHA, 06/02/2015; Radio Liberty, 10/2014).

ERW and Mines

Iraq is heavily mined, with up to 1,838m² of contaminated territory; IS is reportedly planting more (Landmine Monitor/ICBL, IRIN, 06/11/2014).
The conflict has killed over 220,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. Protection concerns are widespread. WASH and access to food are high priorities, as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege are particularly high because access is obstructed.

**Overview**

The conflict has killed over 220,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. Protection concerns are widespread. WASH and access to food are high priorities, as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege are particularly high because access is obstructed.

**Political Context**

A new round of Russia-mediated peace talks started on 6 April. The National Coalition did not participate (Al Jazeera, 06/04/2015). On 27 March, main opposition parties inside Syria, Building the Syrian State Party and National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change (NCCDC) announced formal participation in the Russia-peace talks (AFP, 27/03/2015).

On 4 May, the Geneva III conference began. UN envoy de Mistura will hold separate consultations the Syrian Government, some opposition groups, and regional powers such as Turkey and Iran. Opposition groups have criticised the invitation to Iran, which they consider signals that de Mistura is too close to the Government (BBC, 05/05/2015).

**Security Context**

Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC 21/11/2014). High frequency conflict locations are Aleppo, Idleb, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, and Dar’a governorates (SOHR in SNAP, 03/2015). Central governorates have witnessed an increase in airstrikes and the use of barrel bombs, especially Rural Damascus.

In 2014, 76,000 people were killed in the conflict, the highest toll since the war began. 18,000 civilians, including at least 3,500 children, were among the victims (SOHR, 02/01/2014). At least 6,550 civilians died during airstrikes, half of them in Aleppo. More than 220,000 people have died since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disabilities (SOHR, 02/12/2014, 07/02/2015, UNICEF, 03/2015).

**Stakeholders**

**Government forces:** Government forces have control of several areas near Aleppo, in and around Homs city, and several areas in the Qalamoun region in Rural Damascus. Government forces control As-Sweida governorate, Tartous, parts of Dar’a and Lattakia, several areas in Idleb, and positions in predominantly IS or Kurdish controlled areas in Al Hasakeh. Increased Iranian involvement in generating irregular forces to augment pro-Government ranks appears to be fraying government command-and-control structures and challenging direct Syrian state control (ISW, 24/03/2015).

**Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) declared an Islamic caliphate on 30 June, defining the group's territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad. IS has been in full control of Ar-Raqqa governorate, its stronghold in Syria, since October 2014. It holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor, and is fighting in Rural Damascus, Damascus, and Homs.

**Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People’s Protection Units (YPG):** Syrian Kurds, repressed by the current Syrian Government, have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in the north since Government forces withdrew mid-2012. Kurdish leaders from the PYD formed an armed wing, the YPG, aiming to secure control over predominantly ethnic Kurdish areas in northern and eastern Syria (ISW 19/09/2014). Media has reported the YPG has 65,000 fighters (Today’s Zaman, 04/01/2015).

**Jabhat al Nusra (JAN),** linked to Al Qaeda, is increasingly consolidating its control in northwestern Syria, previously held by the collapsing moderate opposition. JAN has turned against other opposition factions, which are considered mainstays of the Free Syrian Army (FSA). In contrast, mainstream Islamist groups have begun to strengthen relations with JAN. The dissolution of the Hazm Movement in western Aleppo governorate cements JAN gains in the area (ISW, 02/03/2015).

**Opposition alliances:** The Sham Front, a military command made up of five major factions, including Ahrar al Sham, Jaysh al Mujahideen, and Harakat Nour al Din al Zenki, was dissolved on 14 April (ISW, 30/12/2014). On 26 April, Ahrar al Sham, Jaysh al Islam, and five other Aleppo-based opposition groups announced the formation of the Aleppo Conquest Operations Room in Aleppo city (ISW, 28/04/2015). On 14 May, the Aleppo Conquest Operations Room extended its membership to include 31 opposition groups, including factions based in Idlib and Hama (ISW, 20/05/2015).

**Christian militias:** Christian militias in northeastern Syria, in alliance with Kurdish forces and other armed opposition groups, are attempting to counter IS advances. Reportedly, they number up to 450 (The Guardian, 03/03/2015).

**International intervention:** As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in mid-September. Jordan has carried out 56 airstrikes on IS targets in three days in February (BBC, 08/02/2015). More than 2,500 people have been killed by coalition airstrikes so far, the vast majority of them IS fighters, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR, 23/05/2015).

**Conflict Developments**

Since the seizure of Palmyra on 21 May, IS in control of more than 50% of Syrian territory (SOHR, 21/05/2015). However, IS has come under pressure on four fronts in...
Syria (ISW, 17/03/2015). The YPG, supported by other armed groups, and coalition airstrikes have considerably challenged IS in the north (ISW, 02/03/2015). IS appears to have shifted the main effort of its military campaign to target the Government in central Syria (ISW, 24/03/2015). On 15 May, US commandos killed senior IS official Abu Sayyaf in Deir-ez-Zor (BBC, 17/05/2015).

Over 1–12 April, the Government carried out almost 1,500 airstrikes, killing 183 civilians and injuring more than 1,300 people (SOHR, 13/04/2015).

The increasingly Islamist and jihadist composition of militant ranks in northern Syria strengthens JAN’s position in northern Syria, and these groups are increasingly coordinated. The fall of Jisr al Shughur to JAN and allied forces is a key indicator of the Government’s inability to defend terrain without the assistance of Iranian proxies such as Hezbollah (ISW, 26/04/2015).

Aleppo: Over 17-18 May, IS seized two government-held villages in the outskirts of the Sheikh Najjar Industrial District, northeast of Aleppo city (ISW, 20/05/2015). On 30 April, US coalition airstrikes on Ber Mahil village near Seren killed 64 civilians, 31 of whom were under 16 (SOHR, 04/05/2015). Clashes between IS and regime forces continue in north Aleppo (SOHR, 07/04/2015). Kurdish forces, backed by Ar-Raqqa armed groups, have gained control over 242 villages around Kobane as well as the city area (SOHR, 19/02/2015).

Al Hasakeh: YPG forces, supported by US airstrikes, took control of Abd al Aziz Mountain over 18-20 May (ISW, 20/05/2015). Clashes continue between YPG and IS in the Tal Tamr countryside (SOHR, 01/05/2015). Following a joint YPG and Syrian Military Council offensive on IS positions, IS began an offensive on Assyrian positions in February (Long War Journal, 24/02/2015; AFP, 07/03/2015). On 11 April, YPG forces pushed IS back from Tal Tamr town (AFP, 12/04/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: Kurdish forces made gains against IS, taking over three villages near Ain Issa on 12 April, a town less than 60km from Ar-Raqqa city. Over two days, Kurdish forces took seven villages from IS (AFP, 12/04/2015; SOHR, 12/04/2015).

Damascus: Over 18–20 May, Jaysh al Islam launched an offensive against the government-held Brigade 39 military base in the Eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus (ISW, 20/05/2015). JAN is now the main group inside Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp; IS had seized large parts of the camp on 5 April but had largely withdrawn ten days later, after expelling their main rival group, Hamas-linked Aknaf al Maqdis (Reuters, 15/04/2015). Government forces have shelled the camp and dropped barrel bombs on it, according to the SOHR (AFP, 05/04/2015; UN, 29/04/2015).

Dar’a: Sustained fighting has been recorded since mid-February, when opposition groups launched a large-scale campaign, seizing control of several strategic locations in the governorate (WFP, 31/03/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: In March, pro-government forces made their first attack deep into IS-controlled Deir-ez-Zor countryside since IS’s occupation of the province in July 2014 (ISW, 10/03/2015).

Homs: IS seized Palmyra on 21 May (BBC, 21/05/2015). Unconfirmed reports from Syrian state TV claimed that IS has killed more than 400 people since taking the city (Guardian, 24/05/2015). According to SOHR, IS has killed 217 people, including 67 civilians, in and around Palmyra since 16 May. 600 people are believed to be held captive by IS (SOHR, 25/05/2015). On 25 May, the government carried out air strikes on Palmyra (SOHR, 25/05/2015). IS continues to expand westward, and on 22 May seized the Suwannah area southwest of the city (ISW, 22/05/2015). On 22 May, IS seized the last remaining border crossing under government control, at Tant (ISW, 22/05/2015). On 14 May, IS seized the government-held town al Sukhna, cutting off government communication lines to positions in western Deir-ez-Zor (ISW, 20/05/2015).

Idleb: Over 19–20 May, the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room advanced south of Idlib city, isolating the remaining government stronghold Ariha (ISW, 20/05/2015). JAN and other militant groups seized Jisr Al Shughur, one of the Government’s last strongholds in Idlbe governorate, on 24 April. The city has since been targeted by at least 20 air strikes (AFP, 26/04/2015). On 10 May, JAN and other militant groups stormed a hospital complex in southwestern Jisr Al Shughur. 250 people, including 150 government troops, were in the complex (AFP, 10/05/2015). On 8 May, at least three chlorine-filled barrel bomb attacks were reported: on a hospital near the town of Kansafra, and on the towns of Al Janudiyah and Kafr Beteekh (Syrian American Medical Society Foundation, 08/05/2015). JAN and Ahmar Al Sham, backed by other opposition groups, seized Idlib city on 29 March (ISW, 24/03/2015; AFP, 29/03/2015; Syria Comment).

Rural Damascus: Maydaa buffers a crucial opposition supply line into the partly besieged Eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus (ISW, 04/05/2015). The Syrian Government targeted Maydaa on 3 May, but Jaysh al Islam regained control over 5–9 May (ISW, 12/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children. The humanitarian situation appears most critical in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor (SNAP, 28/01/2015). Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities. Water cuts in Aleppo, rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Idlib are frequent and deliberate (UNICEF, 15/02/2015). Syria experienced severe drought conditions in 2014, impacting the availability of drinkable water and the health status of the population, as well as reducing agricultural output and local food production.

The UN’s response efforts are chronically underfunded: As of 30 March, 90% of the Strategic Response Plan for 2015 has not been funded (OCHA, 07/04/2015).
4.8 million people are living in hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (UNICEF, 12/2014).

There is a trend of tit-for-tat blocking of access between IS and its opponents, making IS-controlled areas hard to reach, particularly from northern Al Hasakeh, underlining the importance of cross-border access (OCHA, 16/01/2015). Similarly, stakeholders do not allow assistance to reach people perceived to be affiliated with opposing parties, for example in government-controlled areas of Lattakia, Hama, and Idleb. Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict.

83% of lights in Syria have gone out since the beginning of the conflict, indicating the impact on infrastructure and supplies (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, Islamic Relief, et al., 16/03/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

69 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011. 27 UN staff (including 24 UNRWA staff) have been detained or are missing (UNSC 21/11/2014). Five aid workers have been killed and three injured since the beginning of 2015 (Aid Worker Security Database, 20/04/2015).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

440,000 civilians are besieged (OCHA, 21/04/2015). An estimated 228,000 civilians are under siege in Deir-ez-Zor (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 212,000 people remain besieged in Nubul and Al Zahra in rural Aleppo; Eastern Ghouta, Daryya, and Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus; the Old City in Homs; and Yarmouk camp in Damascus (UNSC 21/11/2014; UNICEF, 12/2014).

Aleppo: February saw an increase in clashes on the fronts inside Aleppo city, especially on the Salamiyah and Sheikh Hilal roads that are used by the UN (UNFPA, 10/03/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: As of end January, persistent insecurity continued to render Ar-Raqqa governorate completely inaccessible (WFP, 04/03/2015). IS has closed the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and several small local charities, and appropriated warehouses and equipment. Several INGOs continue to operate cross-border into Ar-Raqqa (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

Damascus: At 6 April, a significant percentage of the 18,000 civilians in Yarmouk camp were in the area controlled by armed groups, according to UNRWA. There are no operational hospitals or medical facilities for the civilian population trapped inside the besieged camp (Save the Children, 07/04/2015; WHO, 10/04/2015). UNRWA has been unable to provide assistance to Yarmouk camp since fighting broke out in early April (UNRWA, 17/05/2015).

Rural Damascus: It was estimated in March that close to a quarter of a million people in Ghouta were in urgent need of assistance (WFP, 04/03/2015). Over February–March, an escalation of violence and attacks were reported in several besieged locations of Eastern Ghouta (OCHA, 18/03/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege since February: minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along access routes have prevented WFP deliveries since May 2014 (WFP, 31/12/2014).

Homs: As of 21 April, three inter-agency convoys have reached Homs governorate (Talbiseh, Al Wa’er and Ar-Rastan). Ar-Rastan was last reached in March 2014 (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Under partial siege since October 2013, over half of Al Wa’er’s 350,000 residents are IDPs, who are mostly living in substandard accommodation (WFP, 22/10/2014).

Idleb: As of 14 April, lack of access due to insecurity continues to significantly hamper tracking of population movement, safe registration of IDPs, identification of lifesaving needs and provision of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015). 20,000 predominantly Shia in Foah and Kefraya towns in Idleb are cut off and surrounded (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

Border Restrictions

Border closures or tight restrictions by neighbouring countries are dissuading people in life-threatening situations from seeking refuge abroad. Humanitarians have voiced concern over the inconsistent application of regulations at border crossings. Palestinian refugees are particularly affected by closed borders and forced returns from neighbouring countries (UN 24/11/2014).

Turkey: Only Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salam border crossings are open as of 24 April (OCHA, 24/04/2015). Restrictions since 1 January 2015 mean that refugees crossing between Turkey and Syria can only spend three out of every six months in Turkey. Those without a valid passport or travel document will be turned back (IRIN, 14/01/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA 25/11/2014). There are 147 IDP camps in northern Syria, and 175,520 IDPs are sheltering in camp settlements (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

1,755,000 people are displaced in Aleppo; 1,388,000 in Rural Damascus; 918,000 in Idleb; 584,000 in Lattakia; 493,000 in Homs; 464,000 in Deir-ez-Zor; 453,000 in Hama; 437,000 in Damascus; 391,000 in Da’ara; 249,000 in Al-Hasakeh; 202,000 in Tartous; 168,000 in Ar-Raqqa; 73,000 in As-Sweida; and 57,000 in Quneitra (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Multiple displacement has increased, due to changed conflict dynamics, ongoing violence, the depleted capacity of host families, depletion of savings, and the search for better livelihoods (MSNA 30/10/2014; OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).
In Idleb, at least 133,831 people have reportedly been displaced by fighting since late March, including 35,000 to government-controlled areas (OCHA, 11/05/2015). JAN and allied forces’ capture of Jisr al Shughur on 25 April displaced 40,000 people (OCHA, 11/05/2015). At least 11,000 people have fled Palmyra since IS’s takeover on 21 May (UNHCR, 22/05/2015). Many civilians have reportedly not been allowed to flee to government-controlled areas (OCHA, 11/05/2015).

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria: There are 560,000 Palestinian refugees (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 470,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA are in need of assistance (UNRWA, 21/04/2015). Over 50% have been displaced within Syria (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

Iraqi refugees: There are an estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

3,978,851 Syrians are registered as refugees outside of Syria as of 26 May (UNHCR, 26/05/2015). Children make up 51.6% of the refugee population.

Turkey: 1,759,846 registered refugees (UNHCR, 04/05/2015). The Government suspended pre-registration in October to focus on the full biometrical registration process (UNHCR, 05/01/2014).

Lebanon: 1,183,327 refugees (UNHCR 07/05/2015). Lebanon’s borders have been closed to Syrian refugees since 24 October. Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (BBC, 05/01/2015).

Jordan: 627,287 refugees (UNHCR 06/05/2015).

Egypt: 134,329 refugees (UNHCR 06/05/2015).

Iraq: 248,367 refugees (UNHCR 05/05/2015).

PRS: 42,000 have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan (UNRWA, 02/03/2015) and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

Returns

Almost 30,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin (mostly in Dar’a) in March (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Reportedly, around 70,000 people have returned to Kobane (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

Food Security

9.8 million people require food, agriculture and livelihoods-related assistance, according to the Food Security and Livelihoods sector analysis. Of these, around 6.8 million people live in high priority districts and need critical food assistance (WFP, 26/03/2015). IDPs outside formal camps are most susceptible to food shortages (MSNA, 10/2014).

Food dispatches continue to be hindered by worsening security, particularly in the northeast and south (WFP 25/11/2014).

The food aid basket for 4.2 million Syrians was cut by 40% in October (AFP, 10/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

According to FAO estimates, Syria’s overall cereal production in 2014 was approximately 25% below total 2013 production (FAO, 05/03/2015). Drought and conflict have both impacted production.

Since August 2014, the price of 1kg of rice has increased by 26%. Between August 2014 and February 2015, the average retail price of bread rose by approximately 33%, while the price of diesel rose by 92% (WFP, 28/02/2015). Since 2011, the average monthly price of wheat flour increased 197%; rice has gone up 403% (WFP, 31/01/2015).

Livelihoods

More than half the population lived in extreme poverty at the end of 2013. Unemployment is at 54% (3.39 million people) (Syrian Centre for Policy Research/UNDP, 19/10/2014). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFP, 02/12/2014). Official diesel prices increased by 102% from January 2014 to February 2015, while petrol prices increased by 30% over the same period (WFP, 27/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Over 2.4 million people are in need of health assistance, with highest numbers reported from Ar-Raqqa (627,600), Aleppo (475,270), and Al Hasakeh (356,200).

Diarrhoea is one of the main causes of death for children under 12 months old (IFRC, 11/05/2015). Tuberculosis, typhoid, hepatitis A and scabies have become endemic in northern Syria (AFP, 28/11/2014).

The number of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels and there are severe shortages of surgeons, anaesthesiologists, laboratory professionals, and female health professionals (WHO, 27/03/2015). Local production of medicines has been reduced by 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO, 27/03/2015). Hospitals are unable to cope with the demand for surgery, due partly to the increase in the number of injured – averaging 25,000 each month (PHR, 10/2014).

Since the start of the conflict, some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to lack of access to treatment and medicines.

Only 43% of hospitals are fully functioning (UNICEF, 29/01/2015). 711 of 1,921 primary health care centres are out of service (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA, 11/2014). Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Dar’a, and Deir-er-Zor have the highest number of non-functional public hospitals. As of end February, only four public hospitals remained operational in Aleppo governorate, and only 132 primary health care centres (WHO, 22/02/2015).
Sakhour hospital in Aleppo suspended all activities after being bombed on two consecutive days at end April. Two medical facilities have been targeted since mid-April (MSF, 04/05/2015).

In Ar-Raqqa, no obstetric, gynaecological, or paediatric services are reportedly available for the 1.6 million people living there (PHR, 27/02/2015). Little to no mental health services are available (PHR, 27/02/2015).

In Idlib governorate, the escalation of conflict since 26 March has rendered all three Ministry of Health-run hospitals either non-functional or inaccessible. All pharmaceutical warehouses have been destroyed (OCHA, 14/04/2015). Ishan hospital in Saraqab was damaged in an airstrike on 18 April, rendering it non-functional (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

Attacks on Health Workers and Facilities

Since 2011, Physicians for Human Rights has recorded the killing of 615 medical personnel and 242 attacks on 187 medical facilities. At least 36 attacks were carried out with barrel bombs. Government were found to be responsible for 88% of attacks on medical facilities – including the 36 attacks with barrel bombs – and 97% of medical personnel deaths – including 141 deaths by torture and execution (PHR, 17/04/2015).

Hepatitis A

Some 31,400 cases of hepatitis A were reported in 2014. Since January 2015, 1,000 have been recorded per month (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Hepatitis A is linked with lack of safe water and poor sanitation.

Maternal Health

Three million women and girls of reproductive age are in need of assistance in Syria, including around 432,000 pregnant women. 26 of 41 basic emergency obstetric care centres are reported as non-functional (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA, 30/11/2014).

Mental Health

More than 350,000 individuals in Syria are estimated to suffer from severe forms of mental illness; over two million people suffer from mild to moderate problems such as anxiety and depression disorders, and a large percentage suffer from moderate to severe psychological/social distress (WHO/UNHCR, 19/10/2014).

Nutrition

In areas with high IDP concentration, 2.3% SAM – above the 2% crisis threshold – and 7.2% GAM rate has been reported (UNICEF, 21/10/2014). It is estimated that four million women and children are in need of preventative and curative nutrition assistance (UNICEF, 15/02/2015).

WASH

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report major problems in the WASH sector.

The availability of safe water is at a third of pre-crisis levels (WHO, 27/03/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced and the quality of drinking water cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of testing facilities. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF, 15/02/2015). One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

1.6 million people are in need of shelter assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014). 1.2 million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Only IDPs in government-controlled areas receive shelter response, through collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade (UNHCR, 20/11/2014).

Dar’a, Lattakia, and Quneitra have acute needs, followed very closely by Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al Hasakeh and Rural Damascus. 40% of people identified in need of shelter are located in Aleppo governorate, as are 34% of people identified in need of NFI assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014). Satellite imagery analysis indicated that fighting in Kobane affected 3,250 structures, destroying 1,200 (UNOSAT, 06/03/2015).

2.7 million people are in need of NFI assistance. The dispatch of non-food items (NFIs) has fallen significantly since April 2014 (MSNA, 30/10/2014).

Education

The estimated number of children enrolled in basic education increased from 2.9 million in the 2012/13 academic year to 3.6 million in 2014/15. Likewise, the gross enrolment ratio in basic education rose from 66% in 2012/13 to 79% in 2013/14 (UNICEF, 15/02/2015). In areas of prolonged active conflict, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6% (Save the Children, 23/03/2015). The primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support the family.

Continued conflict and the recent closure of some schools in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates and parts of rural Aleppo in Syria are believed to have disrupted education for 670,000 school-aged children (Syrian Interim Government/OCHA, 07/11/2014). Around 90% of schools in Idlib city have stopped functioning due to violent conflict (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

In 2014 there were at least 68 attacks on schools across Syria, killing at least 160 children and injuring over 340 (UN, 06/01/2015). 4,000 Syrian schools have been destroyed, damaged, or used to house IDPs. 76 UNRWA schools – more than two-thirds – have become unusable.

Protection

Non-state armed groups continue to commit violations, including summary executions. Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted directly (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). IS executed 1,429 people in Syria during June - November, the majority civilians (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014; SOHR/AFP, 17/11/2014). On 21 February, it was reported that the Syrian Government had executed at...
least 48 people, including ten children – the families of opposition fighters – in Rityan village, north of Aleppo (AFP, 21/02/2015). Human and organ trafficking are reported (UNHCR 20/11/2014).

In Aleppo governorate, barrel bomb attacks killed 3,000 civilians in 2014 (Amnesty, 05/05/2015).

Children

In 2015 alone, IS has trained over 400 children as fighters (AFP, 24/03/2015). Non-state armed groups and the Government’s Popular Committees are increasingly recruiting children: over 120 cases – more than half by the Free Syrian Army – were documented between 1 January and 19 August 2014, including girls, and some as young as eight (UNSC, 08/2014). In Ar-Raqqa, IS is using education to foster a new generation of recruits (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014).

Chemical Weapons

There have been allegations of chlorine attacks. On 8 May, at least three chlorine-filled barrel bomb attacks were reported in Idlib: on a hospital near the town of Kansafra, and on the towns of Al Janudiya and Kafir Beteekh (Syrian American Medical Society Foundation, 08/05/2015). In March 2015, a chlorine gas attack in Idlib governorate, reportedly carried out by government forces, killed six and poisoned over 70 people (MSF, 18/03/2015). A chlorine gas attack was reported on the town of Kafir Zeta on 28 August (OPCW, 09/2014). An OPCW commission found confirmation that a toxic chemical was used in three villages of northern Syria earlier in 2014.

In May 2015, OPCW inspectors reported having found traces of VX and sarin nerve agents at an undeclared site (AFP, 08/05/2015).

Mines and ERW

Large quantities of unexploded ordnance and many booby-trapped houses in the Eastern sector of Kobane city and the surrounding countryside are preventing return (OCHA, 17/02/2015). Since late January, there have been 45 explosions and 66 people killed, the vast majority of them civilians, according to a demining NGO (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

In 2013, there were 2,403 civilian casualties from landmines, victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cluster munition remnants, and other explosive remnants of war (International Campaign to Ban Landmines/Cluster Munition Coalition, 19/11/2014).

Abduction and Detention

200,000 people are estimated to be in government detention, including 20,000 detainees who are unaccounted for (SOHR/HRW, 02/12/2014). 13,000 people have died in Government detention since March 2011, including more than 100 children, reportedly from torture (SOHR, 13/03/2015).

Some 7,000 government troops held by opposition forces are unaccounted for (SOHR, 07/2014). Another 1,500 IS, other opposition, and Kurdish fighters have been kidnapped during battles in the first half of 2014 (AFP, 07/2014).

IS are holding at least 50 civilians hostage after a raid on Mabujeh village, Hama governorate, at end March (AFP, 10/04/2015). On 24 February, IS abducted between 220 and 300 Assyrian Christians from Tal Tamr, Al Hasakeh governorate. By 2 March, 21 had been released (Al Jazeera, 02/03/2015).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

IS has sought to exclude Syrian women and girls from public life. Forced marriage of girls to IS fighters and the selling of abducted girls into sexual slavery have been reported (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014).

Media

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted.

Updated: 26/05/2015

YEMEN COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 May: 1,870 people have been killed and 7,580 injured since conflict escalated in March (OCHA).

25 May: UN-sponsored peace talks planned for 28 May were postponed indefinitely (AFP).

22 May: 490,000 estimated people in Sa’ada cannot be reached by humanitarian assistance (OCHA).

22 May: Basic food items are no longer available in Aden, Abyan, Al Dhale’e, Al Bayda, Lahij, and Sa’ada, (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 15.9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 28/12/2014).
- 10.6 million are food insecure, including 5 million severely food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey 2014; WFP, 31/12/2014). Levels of food insecurity have doubled since 2009 (FAO, 06/2014).
- 8.6 million have no access to healthcare (OCHA, 09/10/2014).
One million children under five are acutely malnourished; 280,000 are severely malnourished (OCHA, UNICEF 06/2014).

13.1 million do not have access to safe water and improved sanitation; 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 09/10/2014). Open defecation remains the practice for more than 20% of the population (UNICEF 2014).

546,000 IDPs and 258,000 refugees in the country (OCHA, 16/05/2015).

Extreme access constraints prevail in Hadramaut, Shabwah, and Marib governorates. The governorates with the highest severity of needs are Aden, Abyan, Amanat Al Asimah, Al Jawf, Sa’ada, Hajjah (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

OVERVIEW

The highest priority humanitarian needs include protection, food and nutrition assistance, access to healthcare, shelter— primarily for conflict-affected people, and provision of water and sanitation.

Yemen’s political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the Government. Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) activity throughout the country, and recent Islamic State attacks compound the security and political challenges.

Political Context

Instability and violence continue across the country, and attempts at political transition have been upended. In February 2015, the Shia Houthis dissolved Parliament and replaced the Government with a presidential council they claimed will fill the presidential vacuum for two years. The move was condemned as a coup by other parties and Yemen’s neighbours.

President Hadi fled to Yemen in February and called for troop mobilisation in the south (AFP, 21/02/2015). In March, members of the cabinet were released from almost two months of house arrest (NYT, 16/03/2015). On 25 March, Hadi fled Yemen for Saudi Arabia (Huffington Post, 25/04/2015).

On 12 April, President Hadi appointed for Prime Minister Khaled Bahah to Vice President, a move apparently aimed at improving the chances of a peaceful settlement (Reuters, 12/04/2015).

On 25 May, planned UN-sponsored peace talks were postponed indefinitely (OCHA 25/05/2015). Houthis have demanded the complete cessation of coalition airstrikes and lifting of the naval blockade as conditions for UN-sponsored peace talks (AFP, 24/05/2015). President Hadi has demanded the complete withdrawal of Houthi forces from seized territory before he will begin peace talks (AFP, 23/05/2015). Over 17–19 May, talks led by President Hadi were held in Riyadh between various Yemeni parties. The Houthis boycotted the conference (Al Jazeera, 17/05/2015).

Members of the Southern Movement who represented the group at the National Dialogue Conference of 2013 and 2014 called for an end to hostilities and a return to dialogue on 7 April (Yemen Times, 07/04/2015). Various leaders of southern provinces had announced their secession following events in Sanaa at the beginning of the year (Reuters, 25/01/2015; Yemen Times, 19/10/2014; AFP, 01/01/2015).

Economic Crisis

Oil production represents over 70% of total government revenue. Production was suspended in the major oil-producing governorates of Shabwah and Hadramaut in January, and is likely to be disrupted in Marib (FEWSNET, 18/02/2015).

Oil revenues had already declined almost 30% between January 2013 and January 2014 (Yemen Central Bank, 02/2014). Observers have warned that the economy will continue to decline if the Government cannot protect pipelines. Attacks on oil pipelines are regularly reported (Al Jazeera).

Security Context

Conflict has escalated significantly since 23 March, affecting 20 of Yemen’s 22 governorates (IOM, 22/05/2015). As of 25 May, over 1,870 people have been killed and 7,580 injured since conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 25/05/2015). Half of those killed were civilians. These numbers are expected to be much higher, due to underreporting (OCHA, 25/05/2015). A humanitarian pause was agreed by warring parties between 12–17 May, however sporadic fighting continued, and airstrikes resumed on 17 May (AFP, 17/05/2015).

The end of the humanitarian pause on 17 May has been followed by increased numbers of airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition combined with increased Houthi attacks (WFP, 25/05/2015). Violence escalated even further on 25 May, following the indefinite postponement of peace talks (AFP, 25/05/2015).

Fighting is ongoing in Marib, Taizz, Al Dhalee, Al Jawf, Al Bayda, Aden, Lahj and Abyan governorates. Street fighting persists in Abyan, Al Dhalee, Aden, and Lahj, between groups supporting members of the popular committees affiliated with the Houthis and local armed groups (AFP, 17/05/2015).

On 21 April, Saudi Arabia announced the immediate end of Operation Decisive Storm, its airstrike campaign supported by a coalition, to be replaced with Operation Renewal of Hope, meant to introduce a shift to a political process (NYT, 26/04/2015). Daily airstrikes have continued (AFP, 01/05/2015).

Stakeholders

Pro-Hadi Forces

Hundreds of young men have been recruited since Hadi called for 20,000 new troops from the south (Yemen Times, 16/03/2015). On 19 April, 15,000 troops in Hadramaut province, on the border with Saudi Arabia, pledged allegiance to President Hadi. There are now ten divisions that back Hadi (Al Arabiya, 19/04/2015).
The Houthis, also referred to as Ansarullah, are based in Sa'ada governorate. Houthis control Sa'ada, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amran, Sanaa, Al Jawf, Dhamar, and Ibb governorates. They occupied much of the capital in September 2014. The Houthis have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009). Certain factions in the deeply divided Yemeni army have allied themselves with the Houthis against President Hadi, including members of the former central security force, a unit seen as loyal to ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh (Reuters, 12/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia

AQAP, based in the south and east of the country, and backed by Sunni tribesmen, has fought to halt the Houthis’ advance (AFP, 20/10/2014). AQAP has expanded its presence in Hadramaut, and according to analysts, the Houthis advance has bolstered support for AQAP and Ansar al Sharia (Reuters, 09/11/2014). According to the national security service, there are around 1,000 Al Qaeda militants in Yemen from 11 Arab and non-Arab countries (AFP, 17/01/2015).

AQAP regularly targets army and security forces, foreigners for abduction, and oil pipelines. In late December and early January, AQAP targeted several members of the security forces, including in Al Bayda and Shabwah. Yemeni authorities blame AQAP for a campaign of targeted killings in which up to 350 senior army officers have died in the past three years (Reuters, 04/01/2014).

International Involvement

Saudi Arabia firmly backs President Hadi. UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar are providing some of the 100 fighter jets (Washington Post 26/03/2015). Egypt, Jordan, and Sudan have said their forces are involved in the operation, with Sudan pledging ground troops as well as warplanes (Reuters 27/03/2015). The US Government stated it had authorised the provision of logistical and intelligence support to the Saudi Arabian coalition’s military intervention (Amnesty 26/03/2015).

Saudi Arabia has mobilised 150,000 troops (NBC 26/03/2015; IRIN 26/03/2015). Although on 3 May, Saudi Arabia stated there were no non-Yemeni forces fighting in Yemen. It said it was retraining Yemeni troops, after 40–50 soldiers arrived in Aden (Reuters, 03/05/2015). On 4 May, approximately 120 soldiers of Yemeni descent arrived in Aden from UAE (Stratfor, 04/05/2015). Senegal will send 2,100 troops to Saudi Arabia for the Saudi-led ground invasion (Washington Post, 05/05/2015).

Iran has been accused of backing Houthi militants financially and materially, a claim the Iranian Government denies (Amnesty 26/03/2015). Iran temporarily deployed a war ship near Yemen (Huffington Post, 08/04/2015), but also presented a peace plan to the UN calling for a ceasefire and the formation of a unity government (AFP, 25/04/2015).

Security Incidents and Conflict Developments

Cluster munitions have been used by the Saudi-led coalition in air strikes on Sa'ada governorate (Human Rights Watch, 03/05/2015). According to the coalition, over 2,000 air strikes have been carried out since the start of the campaign (AFP, 20/04/2015). Clashes and airstrikes have continued.

Sanaa: As of 22 May, airstrikes continue (International Medical Corps, 22/05/2015). On 22 May, IS claimed responsibility for a bomb outside a Shi'ite mosque, which wounded 13 (BBC, 22/05/2015). On 28 April, airstrikes damaged the runways of Sanaa airport (AFP, 29/04/2015). On 20 April, a Saudi airstrike on a missile depot killed 46 people, injured at least 300 more, and destroyed a large number of houses, according to officials (Los Angeles Times, 20/04/2015). On 20 March, three suicide attacks on mosques in Sanaa, targeting Shi'ite worshippers, killed 142 people and wounded at least 351. Islamic State claimed responsibility (AFP, 21/03/2015).

Aden: Intense fighting continues in several areas (AFP, 25/05/2015). The Saudi-led coalition resumed airstrikes over Aden on 17 May following the end of the ceasefire (AFP, 17/05/2015). There are reports of indiscriminate shelling of houses (OCHA, 04/05/2015). On 19 April, forces loyal to Hadi regained control of part of the coastline that had been held by Houthis forces and Saleh loyalists (Al Jazeera, 19/04/2015).

Al Bayda: Even before the recent escalation of the conflict, fighting between Houthis and AQAP and affiliated tribes was ongoing. Clashes have involved attacks on schools and hospitals used by the warring parties (AFP, 17/10/2014; 20/10/2014; 08/11/2014).

Al Dahlee: Clashes continued during the humanitarian pause (UNICEF, 19/05/2015).

Al Hudaydah: Multiple airstrikes have reportedly hit Hudaydah airport and the surrounding area in Hudaydah city (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Al Jawf: Airstrikes and clashes continue (OCHA, 23/05/2015). Clashes between tribesmen and militants have been reported (OCHA, 21/05/2015).

Abyan: Clashes were reported on 25 May (AFP, 25/05/2015). On 9 March, AQAP militants overran the city of Maftad, a former AQAP stronghold, and held it for eight hours before they were driven out by the Yemeni army (Gulf News, 10/03/2015).

Hajjah: On 30 March, an airstrike killed 45 people and wounded 65 in Mazraq refugee camp (Reuters, 30/03/2015).

La'h: Lahj governorate was seized by Houthi militants on 25 March (Washington Post, 26/03/2015). In Al Hawtah, Lahj, clashes were reported near the Ibn Khaldoon hospital, health office and the Central Security Forces camp (OCHA, 19/04/2015). On 20 March, IS claimed responsibility for an attack that killed 29 police (ABC, 23/03/2015).

Marib: On 21 May, clashes between tribesman and loyalists were reported in Saraw district (OCHA, 22/05/2015). On 22 May, multiple airstrikes were reported (International Medical Corps, 22/05/2015). Sunni tribes, pro-Hadi security forces and Houthis are fighting, despite a ceasefire agreed in the Qania area on 25 March (Huffington Post, 12/04/2015; Yemen Times, 25/03/2015). According to tribal sources, upwards of 30,000 armed tribesmen are stationed in Sahil area (Yemen Times, 12/01/2015).
**Sa‘ada:** As of 18 May, airstrikes, shelling, and clashes continued in Sa‘ada City, Al Dhaher and Razih districts, resulting in more casualties and displacement (Reuters, 18/05/2015). Sa‘ada city has been experiencing indiscriminate aerial bombardment. Civilian infrastructure, including the post office, bank, main market area and phone network have been hit, and civilians have fled the city.

**Taizz:** Violence escalated again on 24 May with increased airstrikes, shelling, and clashes (OCHA 25/05/2015). Clashes between Houthi and pro-Hadi forces continued during the humanitarian ceasefire (17/05/2015). Houthi forces seized part of Taizz city and its military airbase in 23 March (BBC, 22/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

An estimated 15.9 million people, over 60% of the population, are in need of humanitarian aid. Children under 18 years old represent 50% of people in need (OCHA, 05/03/2015).

Civilians’ private homes are being directly affected by airstrikes and armed clashes, particularly in the south (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

**Access**

No humanitarian assistance has been delivered to Al Dhalee (OCHA, 13/04/2015). Lifesaving services and supplies are no longer available for the people in Sa‘ada, and the Government is unable to provide any assistance (OCHA, 22/05/2015). An estimated 490,000 people in Sa‘ada cannot be reached by humanitarian assistance, most of whom have limited or no access to medical services, clean water, food, and communication (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Humanitarian access to Aden, Lahj, and Taizz is intermittent as front lines shift (WFP, 29/04/2015). Due to access constraints in Abyan, no humanitarian aid can be transported from Aden to Abyan. In Al Dhalee, an estimated 9,000 households have been left with no assistance to date (OCHA, 19/04/2015). Many aid agencies have suspended their activities and evacuated their staff (IRIN, 24/04/2015). Reports have also been received of damage to local markets, power stations, and WASH infrastructure in Aden, Hajjah and Sa‘ada (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

**Displacement**

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement all make it extremely difficult to estimate new displacements and needs.

**IDPs**

An estimated 545,719 people became displaced in Yemen between 26 March and 7 May (OCHA, 16/05/2015). In mid-May, 100,000 people were displaced from Sa‘ada governorate over the course of three days (Yemen Times, 11/05/2015).

As of 4 May, local authorities in Aden reported that 98% of Khormaksar’s 62,870 residents had left the district. Remaining families are trapped and awaiting secure conditions to leave. The majority of the residents in Al Muala district were also reported to be leaving. Families are fleeing to Al Mansura, Ash Shaikh Outhman, and Dar Sad districts, which are already reportedly experiencing strained resources and overcrowding.

As of 22 May, there were 153,659 IDPs in Hajjah, 90,206 in Al Dhalee, 49,944 in Amran, 40,437 in Abyan, 35,439 in Lahj, 34,552 in Dhamar, and 28,177 in Taizz (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

**Refugees and Migrants**

Around 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants require humanitarian assistance. There are 257,645 registered refugees, most are Somalis (236,803); 5,934 are Ethiopians (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015).

In 2014, nearly 91,600 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants arrived in Yemen, a 40%

Since violence escalated, three volunteers with the Yemen Red Crescent have been killed (OCHA, 07/04/2015).

**Critical Infrastructure**

The fuel shortage is creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, in addition to the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015). Fuel prices have increased by an average of 344% across the country since the conflict escalated (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

Telephone networks and electricity continue to be subject to extended cuts or outages across the country (UNICEF, 19/05/2015). Phone networks and internet have been disconnected in Al Dhalee (OCHA, 13/04/2015). Water processing plants in Sanaa city have closed (Logistics Cluster, 30/04/2015). The Marib central electricity network has been damaged, causing total disruption of the electricity supply to the city of Sanan and most governorates (WHO, 13/04/2015; 27/04/2015). In Marib, the telecommunications network has been brought down (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

At least 64 public buildings have been destroyed either partially or completely by fighting (IRIN, 24/04/2015). Reports have also been received of damage to local markets, power stations, and WASH infrastructure in Aden, Hajjah and Sa‘ada (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

**Communication**

No commercial aircraft has landed or departed from Yemen since 26 March (IOM, 22/05/2015). As of 14 May, Sanaa and Hudaydah airports continue to be non-operational (Logistics Cluster, 14/05/2015).

The Yemeni government-in-exile has formally banned ships, including those carrying fuel and food, from entering the country’s waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). As of 30 April, Hudaydah Port, Aden Oil Port, Saleef Port, Mokha Port and Mukalla Port are operating, whereas Balhaf Port, Malla Container Port, and Ras Isa Port are closed (Logistics Cluster, 30/04/2015).

The arms embargo on the Houthis has also impacted the supply of humanitarian relief (AFP, 02/05/2015).
increase compared to 2013, according to IOM. They have reported abduction, torture, physical assault, and rape as common forms of abuse (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015).

Somali refugees are living in precarious conditions either in the only refugee camp, Kharaz, or in urban areas. One million undocumented Ethiopian migrants also live in Yemen (ECHO, 27/08/2014: UNHCR, 12/2014: ECHO, 09/02/2015).

At least 2,000 Syrian refugees have been registered in Yemen since August 2014. The total number of Syrians in Yemen is estimated to be more than 10,000 (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

Yemeni Refugees and Migrants in Other Countries

Since end March, the UN reports the arrival of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti and in Somalia, in a reversal of migration dynamics (ECHO, 05/04/2015). As of 22 May, 28,712 Yemenis have left Yemen for the Horn of Africa or Gulf countries (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Of these, 12,989 have arrived in Djibouti and 8,119 in Somalia (IOM, 21/05/2015).

Yemeni migrants in Saudi Arabia will be given reprieve, with eligible Yemenis being allowed to work and six-month visa renewals available to Yemenis in Saudi Arabia (AFP, 04/05/2015).

Food Security

WFP estimates that the number of food insecure people in Yemen has increased to 12 million – a 13% rise since the start of the crisis (WFP, 15/05/2015). Prior to the escalation of the conflict, five million people were estimated to be severely food insecure (WFP, 31/12/2014). Most areas of Yemen are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through June 2015, with increased needs for humanitarian assistance as the lean season and political crisis continue (FEWSNET, 03/2015).

In the governorates of Aden, Abyan, Al Dhale'e, Al Bayda, Lahj, Sa'ada, basic food items are reportedly no longer available. In other governorates, food items are only sporadically available (OCHA, 22/05/2015). If conflict and market disruption continue, and humanitarian access remains limited, the worst affected areas of Yemen could fall into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the coming months (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). Most key household income sources are likely to be affected by the conflict, including formal salaries, agricultural wage labour, petty trade, and livestock sales (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015).

Severe food concerns for IDPs in Amran governorate have been reported. IDPs have relied on food offered to them by local communities, however resources are scarce and diminishing (OCHA, 23/05/2015). Food security among IDPs in Al Jawf, Marib, Al Bayda, and Shabwab governorates has also been found to be a major concern, due to decreased resources of host families and limited food availability in general (OCHA, 23/05/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Shortages may worsen if the current political tension in Marib deteriorates, as this governorate supplies cooking gas to Sana’a and other central and northern governorates (FEWSNET, 18/02/2015). In many areas, wheat flour is only available on the black market (WFP, 22/05/2015).

95% of local supermarkets are reportedly closed, affecting in particular people in urban settings (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The country’s health system is at imminent risk of collapse due to shortages of medical supplies and fuel for generators. Hospitals have been closed due to lack of fuel to run generators (UNICEF, 12/05/2015). Ambulances are also reported to be out of service (WHO, 12/05/2015). Fuel shortages are jeopardising the in-country vaccine stock, worth nearly USD 10 million (WHO, 18/04/2015). Health staff are increasingly unable to report to work. On 18 April, the Ministry of Public Health and Population said the only oxygen generating plant in Yemen had ceased to function due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015). 23 hospitals have been attacked since the beginning of the conflict.

Non-Yemenis make up at least 25% of health workers and their evacuation has added to shortages. In areas where violence is ongoing, staff are fleeing health facilities that in the past were relatively safe (WHO, 27/04/2015). There are shortages of medicines on local markets and prices of available essential medicines have increased by more than 300% (WHO, 17/04/2015).

Prior to the escalation of the crisis, an estimated 8.6 million people had limited access to health services (OCHA, 09/09/2014). Qualified medical staff was already in short supply, as was medical equipment.

Cases of bloody diarrhoea, measles, and suspected malaria have increased (OCHA, 23/04/2015). The collapse of access to healthcare has facilitated the spread of diseases, with 44 alerts of suspected outbreaks including measles, dengue fever, and meningitis (WHO in AFP, 01/05/2015).

According to WHO, 200,000 women require urgent health assistance, including an estimated 27,200 pregnant women (WHO, 18/04/2015; 19/04/2015).

At least 153 health facilities have been closed since March (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Aden’s main hospital Al Jumhouria has been out of service for several weeks, and
Basaheeb Military Hospital is reportedly no longer operating (UNICEF, 12/05/2015). Mobile health teams in Amran, Al Baydah, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf and Sa’ada governorates are unable to operate due to continued conflict and fuel shortages (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

Nutrition

The number of acutely malnourished children under the age of five has fallen from an estimated one million at the end of 2013 to just over 840,000 in 2014, according to the Nutrition Cluster. In the same period, the number of severely acutely malnourished children declined from 279,000 to about 170,000. However, more than one in ten children is still acutely malnourished, with boys more affected than girls (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

National GAM had slightly improved: 12.7% of under five children are malnourished compared to 13% in 2011 (OCHA, 31/08/2014; FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). The Comprehensive Food Security Survey shows that GAM had improved considerably in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhalee, Hadramaut and Al Bayda; but severely deteriorated in Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah, due to various factors including poor water and sanitation conditions, poor food consumption habits, and scarce health facilities. In early February, 61 out of 333 districts in Yemen were reported to have critical levels of GAM (over 15%) and another 105 serious levels (10–14.9% GAM) (OCHA, 14/02/2015).

WASH

Prior to the escalation of the crisis, an estimated 13.1 million people did not have access to safe water (OCHA, 09/09/2014), 12.1 million are without access to improved sanitation, and 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Millions of people are receiving less than an hour of uninterrupted water supply per day. The lack of power combined with damaged water pumps in the south have forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Cases of waterborne diseases are rising as temperatures increase and hygiene deteriorates, with unverified reports of acute diarrhoea resulting in a number of child deaths in Mualla, Aden governorate (UNICEF, 22/04/2015). Lack of water has been exacerbated by fuel shortages, because water trucks have stopped deliveries (OCHA, 22/05/2015). The price of water has also increased significantly (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

Lack of fuel to run generators and water pumps might lead water and sanitation systems to collapse (IFRC, 20/05/2015).

An estimated 68,000 IDPs, many of whom are in protracted displacement, and their host communities in Hajjah require WASH assistance. About 9,000 people (1,500 families) affected by conflict in Al Jawf over August–September need WASH assistance (OCHA, 14/02/2015). Open defecation remains standard practice for more than 20% of the population and appears to be higher for young children (UNICEF 2014).

Lack of drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities have been reported in facilities hosting IDPs in Al Jawf and Marib governorates (OCHA, 23/05/2015).

Shelter

An inter-agency assessment in Hajjah found that shelter was one of the three greatest needs (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

The majority of displaced people are hosted by relatives. Some families are reportedly hosting up to six or seven displaced (IOM, 22/05/2015). In southern Yemen, IDPs are staying in schools or health facilities. In Abyan, displaced families have been reported in open spaces or makeshift shelters (IOM, 22/05/2015).

In Sana’a, displaced people in Amanat Al Asimah area staying with host families are crowded, without adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 22/05/2015). In Amran, many IDPs are reported to be living in the open; fear of airstrikes is preventing them taking shelter in public buildings (OCHA, 10/05/2015).

IDPs in Al Jawf and Marib governorates are primarily staying with host families or in abandoned facilities, including schools. Overcrowding and lack of food and adequate WASH facilities have been reported (OCHA, 23/05/2015).

In Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Abyan governorates, around 3,500 families are living in open spaces or in tents and other improvised shelters. Many lost all their belongings. Shelter is a major problem in Lahj and many families have now moved into schools and health facilities where they feel safer. These families lived in mud houses that are now destroyed by the conflict (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Education

3,584 schools remain closed due to conflict, affecting 1.83 million children (OCHA, 22/05/2015). According to unconfirmed reports, 332 schools have been directly affected by conflict. Of these, 86 have been damaged by airstrikes or clashes and 246 are hosting IDPs or have been occupied by armed groups (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Schools are increasingly used as shelter for the displaced population (UNICEF, 12/05/2015).

Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million children are not in school (OCHA, 04/2014). 69% of the estimated 1.14 million 6–14 year-olds not in school are girls (UNICEF cited in Yemen Times, 04/11/2014).

Protection

In Aden, militants were using tanks to fire at residential buildings in Al Ahmadi as well as Crater and Mualla districts (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Protesters against the Houthi takeover have been illegally detained and tortured, according to several reports. One protester was reported dead on 14 February, after sustaining severe injuries while being detained by Houthi militias (AFP, 14/02/2015; Amnesty, 16/02/2015).

Over January, 1,490 migrants and refugees arriving in Yemen were reportedly abducted. 234 were women. A further 243 migrants and refugees reported being physically assaulted...
and 63 reported robbery or extortion (RMMS, 31/01/2015).

Due to their marginalisation, the Mumasheen minority has higher humanitarian needs than the average population (UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

Children

Up to 30% of fighters in armed groups are children. In December, the UN estimated that in 2015, an estimated 3.9 million children are living in areas where violations of their rights constitute a serious risk. Of these, an estimated 2.6 million are in need of child protection services (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and state forces are all recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/10/2014). Armed children guard checkpoints throughout Sa‘ada, Ibb, Hudaydah, and Amran (UNICEF, 31/12/2014; 20/01/2015).

SGBV

About 100,000 women are predicted to require support related to gender-based violence in 2015. GBV in Yemen remains critically under-reported (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Mines and ERW

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in the northern governorates.

In Lahj, local partners report that AQAP has placed landmines in Al Hamra area of Al Hawta district in order to guard against any Houthi advance (OCHA 31/03/2015).

The Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) believes areas in north-western Hajjah governorate are contaminated with cluster munition remnants, but it has been unable to survey them due to insecurity. YEMAC has confirmed the presence of cluster munition remnants in four districts on the border between Sada’a governorate and Saudi Arabia (Cluster Monitor, 04/12/2014).

Updated: 26/05/2015

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT

OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, and employment. The number of poor living in Lebanon has risen by nearly two-thirds since 2011, to 2.1 million, and Lebanese unemployment has doubled (UNHCR 18/12/2014).

Political Context

The Lebanese Parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, on the grounds that elections would present too much of a security risk. The Reform and Change bloc boycotted the extension vote and said it would challenge the extension at the Constitutional Council (Daily Star, 12/11/2014).

The Government was formed in February 2014 after ten months of political stalemate. It brings together the Hezbollah movement and its allies, and the Future Movement bloc, who back opposing sides in the Syria war. Neither side has veto power over the other.

Former president Michel Sleiman’s term expired on 25 May 2014. The March 8 bloc, which includes Hezbollah, has boycotted voting for the new president, arguing that the sessions are futile until rival groups agree on a consensus candidate. Lebanon has now been a year without a president (L’Orient le Jour, 22/05/2015).

Security Context

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and the Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, raises destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

The Government of Syria continues to conduct cross-border air raids (UN Security...
Council, 22/04/2015). Cross-border incidents decreased between October and April, but there were at least 45 shooting incidents, seven shelling incidents, and 16 rocket attacks from the Syrian side of the border.

**Bekaa Valley:** Along its northern and northeastern border with Syria, Lebanon is engaged in a battle against armed groups reportedly affiliated to IS and JAN. The Lebanese army has maintained a near-daily pattern of attacking militant positions on the outskirts of Ras Baalbek. Several militant positions were seized in March (Daily Star, 15/03/2015; 28/03/2015). **As of 22 May, there are concerns about the possible infiltration of JAN in Arsal. The military has not yet taken further action than being present in the area (l’Orient le Jour, 22/05/2015).**

Tensions have soared between residents of Arsal and the adjacent Syrian village of Qara amid a spate of tit-for-tat killings and kidnappings (Daily Star, 02/04/2015). Previous violence in Arsal, and sporadic incidents across the country, have been followed by an increase in raids and arrests by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) (OCHA, 15/01/2015).

**Tripoli:** On 10 January, a JAN attack killed nine people and wounded 37 in an Alawite neighbourhood (AFP, 11/01/2015; OCHA, 15/01/2015). Bouts of fighting took place late in 2014 between Sunni groups sympathetic to armed opposition groups in Syria, and Alawite groups supporting the Syrian Government. Fighting was recurrent before the alleged presence of IS and JAN, and is mostly a manifestation of longstanding socio-economic grievances and sectarian tensions (SNAP 06/11/2014).

**Palestinian refugee camps:** The security situation in many Palestinian refugee camps is tense. A Palestinian joint security force deployed to the southern refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in late March, less than a year after a similar security plan was implemented in Ain al Hilweh (Daily Star, 24/03/2015). Security forces have reported that 46 people from Ain al Hilweh have joined jihadi groups in Syria. Fighters reportedly transit back and forth between Syria and the camp (Daily Star; AFP, 07/04/2015).

**South Lebanon:** On 13 May, Hezbollah moved part of its military infrastructure to villages in South Lebanon. Israel is accusing Hezbollah of using civilians as human shields and said it will strike villages if necessary (L’Orient le Jour, 13/05/2015). On 12 March, shooting was reported between Israel and Lebanon in the disputed Shebaa Farms. The same day, an Israeli soldier was wounded in a shooting incident near Quneitra in the Golan Heights (Daily Star, 10/03/2015; 12/03/2015). There were a number of incidents between Hezbollah and Israeli Defence Forces at Shebaa Farms and the Golan Heights in January. 13 were killed, including a UN peacekeeper and a General of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard (UNIFIL/Daily Star, 28/01/2015; NYT, 28/01/2015; Washington Post, 19/01/2015; BBC, 19/01/2015; Middle East Monitor, 21/01/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

**Access**

Conditions in urban locations are better than in rural communities (OCHA 09/2014). Most refugees come from Homs, Idleb, and Jebel Saman (Aleppo) (UNHCR 09/2014). Most refugees are women, and 53% children. 32% of registered families are headed by women. Over 38% of households include at least one person with specific needs (UNHCR 09/2014). 26% of refugees are women, and 53% children. 32% of registered families are headed by women. Over 38% of households include at least one person with specific needs (UNHCR 09/2014). Most refugees come from Homs, Idleb, and Jebel Saman (Aleppo) (UNHCR 30/11/2014). More than half of refugees coming to Lebanon moved at least once before crossing the border; one in ten has moved more than three times (UNHCR 01/09/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,185 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (UNHCR, 28/02/2015).PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An increasing number of PRS remain in Lebanon without legal stay, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 01/09/2014).

**Border Restrictions**

Since 6 May, registration with UNHCR has been temporarily suspended as per the Government’s instruction such that refugees awaiting registration are not counted anymore. The Government formally agreed to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases. The policy raises serious protection concerns and had already resulted in a drop of monthly refugee registrations by close to 80% compared to a similar period in 2014 (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNCHR, 20/04/2015).

Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa. The visa policy and other new regulations make legal stay more complex for refugees (UNHCR, 25/01/2015; BBC, 05/01/2015; Daily Star, 14/01/2015). An average of 13% of registered refugees have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularisation fees. Those who entered through official crossings often have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees (UNHCR 10/2014).

**Displacement**

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP 03/12/2014).

**Refugees in Lebanon**

Since 6 May, registration has been temporarily suspended. 1,183,327 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. Bekaa is hosting 415,803 refugees; Beirut 344,533; North Lebanon 283,728; and South Lebanon 139,263 (UNHCR 07/05/2015). The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

26% of refugees are women, and 53% children. 32% of registered families are headed by women. Over 38% of households include at least one person with specific needs (UNHCR 09/2014). Most refugees come from Homs, Idleb, and Jebel Saman (Aleppo) (UNHCR 30/11/2014).

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**Host Communities**

All 446 host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities. Conditions in urban locations are better than in rural communities (OCHA 09/2014).

86% of Syrian refugees are living in Lebanon’s 242 most vulnerable locations. Competition...
for scarce income-generating opportunities, more expensive goods and services, and less affordable accommodation, are the main drivers of tensions (UNHCR 09/2014; REACH 08/2014).

**Food Security**

As of 6 May, 1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (WFP, FAO, Food Security cluster, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). As of end January, significant funding shortfalls resulted in a 30% reduction in the value of the food for targeted displaced Syrians (WFP/FAO, 31/01/2015). Since February, food vouchers have a value of USD 19, down from USD 27 for Syrian. **Palestinian refugees from Syria receive USD 27 from UNRWA as of April** (WFP, 31/03/2015; UNRWA, 15/05/2015). After a vulnerability analysis, some 3,017 households (15,291 individuals) have been informed they will no longer be receiving WFP assistance as of 1 May 2015 (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

41 focus group discussions confirmed that families had already been forced to prioritise their needs and adopt various negative coping strategies, notably reducing the frequency and quantity of meals, prioritising children’s food needs and increasingly relying on debt (WFP, FAO, FS cluster, 31/03/2015). The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP 18/12/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

A severe drought has resulted in a substantial decline in agricultural production throughout the country (FAO 11/2014). Aid workers say much of the suffering due to water shortages could be alleviated by repairs to infrastructure (VOA, 23/12/2014).

An increased number of livestock have been crossing from Syria into neighbouring countries and potentially spreading animal diseases (FAO, 17/03/2015).

**Livelihoods**

700,000 people are in need of livelihood assistance (UNDP, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). An ongoing assessment indicates that 36% of refugees are severely or moderately economically vulnerable (UNHCR, 04/03/2015). 78% of refugee households are not able to generate an income, citing a lack of work as the main issue. Newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable: 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon (UNHCR 09/2014).

88% of the employed are paid 40% less than the minimum wage. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers (UNHCR 09/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria: 75% of PRS have reported cash assistance as their main source of income (UNRWA, 15/05/2014)**. The majority of employed PRS cannot rely on wages to ensure a decent standard of living. Only 11% of PRS households were able to rely on previous savings and remittances.

**Health and Nutrition**

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). Health services are available, but are costly. Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access. (WHO, 01/2015).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lack sufficient essential drugs, 67% lack sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lack sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014). In early 2013, a nationwide survey among refugees aged over 60 was carried out. Two-thirds of the sample described their health status as poor or very poor. Most reported at least one non-communicable disease, physical limitation and needs for medical aid. Difficulties in affording medicines were reported by 87%. (Biomed centre, 20/04/2015).

**WASH**

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 05/05/2015). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements, in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north, and PRS (UNHCR 07/2014). Informal settlements have limited or no sanitation facilities. Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) do not have access to a place for washing. Of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 people or more (VASyR 08/2014).

Only 8% of wastewater in Lebanon is treated, and the increase in the population has led to an 8–14% increase in the amount of wastewater generated (Ministry of Environment; 06/05/2015). An ongoing assessment indicates that 36% of refugees are severely or moderately economically vulnerable (UNHCR, 04/03/2015). 78% of refugee households are not able to generate an income, citing a lack of work as the main issue. Newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable: 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon (UNHCR 09/2014).

Data collected in early 2013 showed that 61% of older refugees reported feeling anxious, and significant proportions reported feelings of depression, loneliness, and believing they were a burden to their families (Biomed centre, 20/04/2015)

**Waste management**: Waste management remains poor in most places where refugees live. Diminishing funding has reduced waste management activities in Bekaa and the north, and municipalities do not have the capacity to collect (UNHCR 09/2014).

**Shelter and NFIs**

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (UNHCR, 05/05/2015). 55% of Syrians are living in poor shelter conditions compared with 32% in 2013; 36% are sharing accommodation with other families (UNHCR 24/04/2014).

The number of refugees forced to move to tents in informal shelters continues to grow (MSF, 26/01/2015). As of 1 September, 1,392 informal settlements house 186,240 refugees; in June 2012, there were 282 informal settlements (UNHCR 09/2014, 07/2014). Their populations are highly dependent upon assistance and loans (UNHCR/ REACH 11/2014). In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camps.
where WASH and shelter conditions are often substandard (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** The PRS population has increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 44,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014; 01/2015). PRS households are residing in alarmingly crowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 persons per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%) reportedly paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge.

**Lebanese returnees:** As of 6 May, 50,000 Lebanese nationals had returned from Syria since the beginning of the crisis (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure: 27% live in single-room structures, warehouses, garages, or unfinished buildings; 4% live in informal settlements and collective shelters; 4% are classified as homeless (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

**Education**

750,000 children are in need of education assistance (UNICEF, UNHCR, 31/01/2015, 06/05/2015). A total of 502,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children in Lebanon (aged 3-18 years) are registered by UNHCR (31/01/2015). According to ILO estimates, 300,000–400,000 refugee children of school age are not being educated (VoA, 23/01/2015). According to UNHCR, 106,795 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in public schools as of end March, which is around 21% of Syrian children who need access to a full, formal quality education (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Less than 3,000 refugees are currently enrolled in secondary and vocational schools (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

Enrolment rates in Beirut are far higher than in Bekaa, where school location and transportation are major issues (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Countrywide, the biggest barrier to schooling is financial. Language barriers and safety concerns contribute to a high drop-out rate among refugee children (REACH 11/2014; UNHCR 09/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** About 6,600 PRS students have enrolled in 60 UNRWA schools for the 2014/2015 school year (UNRWA 03/12/2014). School enrolment rates have doubled since the previous academic year, to 64%. Enrolment rates are lower for PRS living outside camps, and decrease as children grow older (even within the same household): children aged 13 years and older are facing difficulties adjusting to UNRWA’s Lebanese curriculum, taught in English or French.

**Protection**

Members of the Lebanese army have committed serious violations, including violations of the rights of detained refugees, evictions, and threats of eviction. 45 Lebanese municipalities have imposed curfews on Syrian refugees, which violate international human rights law and appear to be illegal under Lebanese law (HRW 10/2014). As of February, the Lebanese army has ordered 17,000 refugees in eastern Bekaa Valley to vacate informal tented camps, according to UNHCR, reportedly to prevent infiltration by militants (Daily Star, 07/02/2015). As of 1 May, 61 sites have been impacted and 5,981 individuals evicted and relocated. 6,422 individuals remain at risk of eviction (UNHCR, 10/05/2015).

**Statelessness:** Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014). Norwegian Refugee Council, identifies that 65% of the interviewees lacked information on birth registration and 43% of refugee parents did not have a valid residency visa (UNHCR, 06/05/2015)

**Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

The mobility of refugee women in Lebanon is reportedly restricted due to fear of sexual harassment and exploitation (UNFPA 13/08/2014). 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age. A weak legal framework, limited resources, and social barriers prevent refugees at risk of SGBV, or victims, from seeking and receiving adequate protection. Other challenges include lack of documentation and growing tension between refugees and host communities.

There are no official statistics on child marriage, which exists in some areas; the rate has risen with the influx of Syrian refugees (UNICEF, AFP 08/2014).

**Child Protection**

Only 30% of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates (UNHCR 10/11/2014).

According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school, are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). The main factors that cause children to live or work on the streets are social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon, as well as organised crime and exploitation of children (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

According to UNHCR, consultations with refugees confirmed increased trends in child labour and early marriage. Young people reported security concerns and fear of harassment. (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 20/04/2015).

**Mines and ERW**

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. In March 2014, refugees were living within 10–20m of known minefields in West Bekaa and Rashaya (Mine Action Group).

On 27 March, eight children were wounded when a landmine exploded in Zebqin, Tyre region (AFP, 27/03/2015).

**Updated:** 22/05/2015

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**
14 May: In the Gaza Strip, 74 members of the Palestinian security forces were injured in an attempt to defuse unexploded ordnance near Beit Lahia (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.9 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.3 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the people in oPt, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA, 05/02/2015).

- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

Political Context

The Palestinian reconciliation Government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, was sworn in before President Abbas in June, ending seven years of division (AFP, UN, 02/06/2014). It had a six-month mandate, but no formal announcement regarding the passing of the six months was made (UNRWA, 14/12/2014).

On 27 March, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation ended its security cooperation with Israel, in response to the Israeli Government withholding the Palestinian Authority’s tax revenue (Reuters, 05/03/2015). The PA had threatened to appeal to the International Criminal Court (ICC) (AFP, 05/04/2015; BBC, 06/03/2015) but the Israeli Government has now released the funds (AFP, 20/04/2015). The PA announced they will now pay the salaries owed to public employees, which has been a source of unrest for months (AFP, 20/04/2015).

On 16 January, the ICC launched a preliminary examination of the events of the 50-day war (ICC, 16/01/2015). Palestine became an official member of the ICC on 26 March (AFP, 26/03/2015). The United States and Israel opposed the move, citing that oPt is not a sovereign state.

On 28 February an Egyptian court declared Hamas a terrorist group, increasing tension along the Gaza border (UNRWA, 06/03/2015).

Security Context

Gaza

Israeli forces opened fired into the Access Restricted Area approximately 20 times in the week ending the 18 May, which is consistent with previous weeks (OCHA, 18/05/2015). In recent weeks, Israeli forces firing into the ARA has rarely caused injury. On 20 April, Egyptian patrol boats fired towards Palestinian boats west of Rafah, southern Gaza (UN, 23/04/2015). Between March 31 and 13 April, members of an armed group fired on Israeli forces and communities in southern Israel and along the border (OCHA, 14/04/2015). There were no casualties.

Palestinian armed groups continue to test-fire rockets into the sea and fire rockets towards Israel. In 2015, none have causes any casualties so far; many have landed within the Gazan side of the border (OCHA, 11/05/2015).

West Bank and East Jerusalem

In the week ending 18 May, 87 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces. The majority were linked to Palestinians’ protests in commemoration of ‘Nakba Day’ clashing with Israeli forces and far-right Israeli groups simultaneously celebrating ‘Jerusalem Day’ from the 15 to 17 May. Two Israeli police officers were injured, as well as two journalists (international media, 15/05/2015; 16/05/2015; 17/05/2015; OCHA, 18/05/2015). On 24 and 25 April, two Palestinian men were shot and killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, one after stabbing a police officer. Between 31 March and 13 April, Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

In the week ending 18 May, seven Palestinian attacks resulting in Israeli injuries or property damage were reported (OCHA, 18/05/2015). On 25 April a Palestinian allegedly rammed his car into a crowd of police officers, injuring three, in the third deliberate car ramming this year (AFP, 18/04/2015; BBC, 06/03/2015). The same day, a bus in the West Bank was hit by a petrol bomb (AFP, 25/04/2015).

On 26 March, three Palestinian children were injured during clashes between
Palestinian security forces and gunmen in Balata refugee camp near Nablus (AFP, 26/03/2015).

Settler-related Violence

In the week ending 18 May, ten Israeli settler attacks resulted in five Palestinians being injured or property damaged (OCHA, 18/05/2015). There have been two hit-and-run incidents so far in 2015 (OCHA, 09/02/2015). 184 structures have been demolished and 227 people displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

There have been two hit-and-run incidents so far in 2015 (OCHA, 09/02/2015). 184 structures have been demolished and 227 people displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/03/2015). 590 buildings were destroyed and 1,177 people displaced in 2014. 330 incidents of settler-related violence resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in the West Bank and 237 incidents resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage in 2014 (OCHA, 16/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Border Restrictions

On 14 April, Israeli authorities allowed Palestinian medical staff working in Israel to enter from the West Bank with their own vehicles for the first time in 15 years (AFP, 14/04/2015).

Material for reconstruction in Gaza continues to be restricted and delayed (UNRWA, 31/03/2015). On 14 April, it was reported that the delivery of wood would be heavily restricted. Israeli authorities believe Hamas may use it to construct tunnels to launch attacks on Israel (Gisha 14/04/2015).

Egyptian authorities last opened the Rafah crossing in both directions on 9 and 10 March. It has only opened for 13 days since October 2014 (OCHA, 16/03/2015). Around 30,000 people are registered to cross through Rafah, but are as yet unable to do so (OCHA, 11/05/2015).

A European Union delegation was denied access to the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities in March (UNRWA, 24/03/2015).

Critical Infrastructure

The Gaza Power Plant shut down between 22 and 25 April due to the closure of Kerem Shalom crossing during Israeli holidays (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Fuel shortages and infrastructure restrictions mean 12–18 hours of blackout per day (UNICEF, 26/03/2015).

Displacement

As of 6 March, 100,000 people remain displaced since the July–August conflict, and are residing in schools or temporary shelters (IFRC, 06/03/2015).

Food Security

1.45 million, or 33% of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza require food aid, including 65% of the registered refugee population (UNRWA, 14/04/2015).

Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Livelihood

The unemployment rate in December 2014 in oPt was 29.1%. Unemployment in the West Bank was 17%, and Gaza 44% (UN, 08/05/2015; 21/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Child Health

Between 300,000 and 400,000 children are in need of direct and psychosocial support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

90% of the water in Gaza fails WHO standards for safe drinking water (UNWRA, 24/03/2015). The groundwater level is declining, and the aquifer is infiltrated by seawater and wastewater.

Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). As of 30 April, 9,161 Palestine refugee houses are still considered totally destroyed by Operation Protective Edge. 5,066 have suffered severe, 4,085 major, and 124,782 minor damage. UNRWA has only received funding to construct 200 homes (UNRWA, 30/04/2015). As of mid-April, none had been built yet (UNRWA, 14/04/2015). In total, approximately 16,000 new housing units are needed to replace homes destroyed or rendered uninhabitable during Operation Protective Edge (Washington...
Education

90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza run on a double shift basis, and some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

Protection

18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home demolition (OCHA, 12/01/2015). Most of the around 7,000 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, some 60% of them children, have demolition orders pending against their homes, and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks. (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 23/09/2014).

Child Protection

Approximately 30 children were injured by live ammunition in the first quarter of 2015 (Defence for Children International, 23/03/2015).

Up to 1,500 orphaned children need sustained physiological and social support (OCHA, 04/09/2014; UNICEF, 02/01/2015).

As of December 2014, a monthly average of 185 Palestinian children were in Israeli detention (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

On 14 May in the Gaza Strip, 74 members of the Palestinian security forces were injured in an attempt to defuse unexploded ordnance near Beit Lahia, while two civilians were injured in another ERW incident southeast of Gaza city (OCHA, 18/05/2015). On 6 May, two children were injured by ERW in Gaza City. In April and March, 11 Palestinians were injured and one killed by ERW across oPt (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 16/04/2015; 02/03/2015; UNRWA, 11/05/2015; 12/03/2015).

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured (UNRWA, 23/09/2014). In 2014, ERW killed 31 civilians and injured ten in Gaza, and injured 18 in the West Bank (UNICEF, 23/10/2014; 27/10/2014; OCHA, 02/02/2015).

Journalists

From 15 to 17 of May, two journalists were injured by Israeli forces during Nakba Day protests (international media, 16/05/2015). On 2 May, five journalists were injured by Israeli forces during a march marking World Press Freedom Day near Bethlehem (OCHA, 06/05/2015; Local media, 02/05/2015). It has been alleged that an increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes, due to a policy change. Rubber bullets and live ammunition has been used. Palestinian journalists have been the most affected (AFP, 08/04/2015).

Updated: 21/05/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT, EARTHQUAKE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 May: A militant was killed while assaulting a polio vaccination team in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN).

15–17 May: Heavy rain and hail in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA killed at least seven people (ECHO).

15 May: 17 suspected militants were killed and three hideouts of militants were destroyed in targeted airstrikes by security forces in North Waziristan (local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- Nearly 860,000 displaced by military operations in Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency (UNHCR, 16/03/2015). There were already 1.1 million IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013.

- Ongoing chronic drought conditions in Tharparkar in Sindh. As of 23 March, 211 children have died from malnutrition in Thar in 2015 (local media, 23/03/2015; USAID, 04/12/2014).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Security context

Militant attacks continued in the first quarter of 2015, including in Balochistan. In
March, however, militant attacks declined by 23% compared to February, with up to half taking place in FATA (DAWN, 02/04/2015; ACLED, 26/03/2015). Sectarian violence is mounting against Shi‘ites, especially in Sindh.

Government military operations in tribal areas have escalated, notably since the Taliban attack on an army-run school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in December 2014, which 141 people, in retaliation for government operations in the region (ICG, 05/01/2015; BBC News, 17/12/2014).

On 21 January three Islamic State (IS) recruiters were arrested in Lahore, raising fears of an IS infiltration in the region (Le Monde, 21/01/2015). In September 2014, a new branch of Al Qaeda was announced, covering Pakistan (Financial Times, 03/09/2014).

1,781 civilians were killed in terrorist violence in Pakistan in 2014, compared to 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).

Balochistan

The Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) has opposed the alleged annexation of Balochistan since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also a problem in the state. 13 people, including the Baloch Republican Army commander, were killed in May in an operation by the Frontier Corps (local mediaal, 15/05/2015).

Three people were killed and 20 injured by an explosion on 16 April (AFP, 26/04/2015). BLF gunmen killed 20 workers from outside the province on 11 April (local media, 11/04/2015). On 13 April, 13 suspected BLF militants were killed in a raid by security forces (local media, 21/04/2015). One person was killed and one severely injured by a landmine explosion and an attack in Kech district on 11 March. Both attacks were reportedly targeting military administrative staff (DAWN, 11/03/2015).

Gilgit Baltistan

Taliban claimed responsibility for the helicopter crash in which seven people died, including the ambassadors of Norway and the Philippines; Pakistani officials’ investigation points towards engine failure (international media, 08/05/2015; local media, 11/05/2015). Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In June 2014, the Taliban vowed to start an all-out war against the Government, and the Government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan Agency. A second operation began on 18 October in Khyber Agency, and was expanded mid-March 2015 to cover Landi Kotal, Jamrud and Bara districts. The military claims to have cleared two-thirds of the tribal regions (local media, 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015). At least 44 suspected militants were killed on 2 May in government airstrikes in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency (local media, 05/05/2015). 17 suspected militants were killed and three hideouts were destroyed in airstrikes by security forces on 15/05/2015). On 16 April, militant group Islamic State’s (IS) commander-designate for Pakistan was killed along with two others while planting a bomb in the Toor Dara area in Khyber Agency. IS has not confirmed this (local media, 21/04/2015).

At least six people, including a pro-government tribal elder, died in a bomb blast in Bajaur tribal district on 11 May (AFP, 11/05/2015). One person was killed and three injured when two suicide bombers were stopped from entering a school (local media, 11/05/2015). A roadside bomb targeting security forces killed one and injured one in Peshawar at end April (AFP, 28/04/2015). Three people were killed, including two children, after a bomb concealed inside a toy went off in the Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 17 March (AFP, 17/03/2015).

At least 47 people died and 25 were injured in May, in a gunfight between two Pakistani tribes over disputed mountain territory close to the Afghan border (AFP, 09/05/2015).

Punjab

At least seven police were kidnapped on 2 May near Rahim Yar Khan by members of Chooto Bakhrahi and Shilto gang (local media, 05/05/2015). 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured in twin Taliban suicide attacks on churches in Lahore in Punjab on 15 March, sparking protests which led to three more deaths, including two suspected militants (AFP, 16/03/2015). A Taliban attack near police headquarters in Lahore on 17 February killed five and injured 17; the attack was in retaliation for the execution of imprisoned Taliban members (AFP, 17/02/2015).

Sindh

At least 43 killed and 30 injured in a gun attack targeting a bus carrying members of the Shi‘ite Ismaili minority on 13 May. This is first attack in Pakistan officially claimed by Islamic State (AFP, 13/05/2015). A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan highlights that killing, including both terror attacks and other crime, dropped 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (local media, 21/04/2015). Two people were killed and 13 wounded in an explosion targeting police in Karachi on 27 March (DAWN, 27/03/2015). An explosion targeting a Shi‘ite mosque killed at least two people and wounded another seven in Karachi on 20 March (AFP, 20/03/2015). A bombing targeting a Shi‘ite mosque in Shikarpur on 30 January killed more than 60 people (AFP, 30/01/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Access in Balochistan remains challenging due to insecurity (ECHO, 20/10/2014). Pakistan’s top disaster management authority is facing serious staff and funding shortages, which limit their ability to reach people affected by disasters (local media, 19/05/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

A peace committee volunteer was killed by an improvised explosive device blast in Mohmand Agency on 7 May (local media, 11/05/2015). An explosion in South Waziristan on 4 April killed two bomb disposal technicians (local media, 06/04/2015). At least three
peace volunteers were killed and a further two injured on 2 February in a bomb blast in Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency (DAWN, 03/02/2015).

On 19 May, a militant opened fire on a polio vaccination team and injured a policeman in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The militant was killed during retaliation (DAWN, 20/05/2015). A member of a polio vaccination team and a police guard were killed on 17 March during a vaccination campaign in Sheikhabad in Balochistan (AFP, 17/03/2015). Five people were killed in attacks on polio vaccination teams in Balochistan in February (AFP, 18/02/2015; AFP, 04/02/2015; DAWN, 05/02/2015). Three polio workers were attacked in January, including two killed (OCHA, 03/03/2015).

In 2014, 79 aid workers had been attacked as of November, in 71 incidents mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA, and Sindh, 51 of which were linked to polio (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Disasters

As of 23 March, 211 children have died from malnutrition in Thar in 2015, as the area continues to suffer food shortages due to chronic drought conditions (local media, 23/03/2015). The drought situation is expected to worsen in the coming months (Government, 19/03/2015).

Drought in Tharparkar affected nearly 1.74 million people (259,946 families) in 2014 and killed 650, mostly children. Many families have migrated (USAID, 04/12/2014; Inter Press Service, 03/01/2015; DAWN, 16/02/2015). 50,585 hectares have been damaged in Dadu district, affecting around 50,000 people (DAWN, 21/01/2015).

Rains and Storms

On 15–17 May, heavy rain and hail affected some areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. Media reported damage to houses and at least seven deaths (ECHO, 18/05/2015). Four people were killed in house collapses during rains in Larkana, Sindh province (local media, 13/05/2015).

In Peshawar, storms at the end of April killed 49 people and injured 26. The information minister for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa declared a state of emergency at all hospitals in the province (Government, 01/05/2015; Al Jazeera, 26/04/2015). Initial assessment indicated damage to housing, electricity and communication infrastructure, crops, and orchards. The highway was also damaged. Urgent food needs were reported for 12% of interviewees, severe damage to houses for 32%, tents were required for 15%. Charsadda, Nowshera and neighbouring areas were also affected (local media, 05/05/2015; Government, 30/04/2015).

Between early March and early April, at least 15 people were killed and 33 injured in Balochistan, Sindh and FATA due to rain-related incidents and landslides (local media, 16/03/2015; 05/04/2015; 03/04/2015; 02/04/2015)

Displaced populations in FATA are also still vulnerable due to insecurity (FAO, 20/03/2015). Most conflict-related IDPs rely on negative coping mechanisms and require

IDPs

As of 30 April, there were 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in 2014. 31% of IDP families are in Bannu (86,023), another 26% in Peshawar (70,916), and 16% in Dera Ismail Khan (44,236). **2% are in three IDP camps** in Khyber, Orakzai, and Kurram agencies in FATA (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 30/04/2015). Lack of identification documents, education facilities and psychological support were reported as priority needs, according to a 2014 assessment (Protection Cluster, 31/12/2014).

Returns

The phased return of people displaced in FATA started mid-March. As of 30 April, approximately 146,060 individuals have returned, including 122,878 individuals in Khyber, 1,487 in North Waziristan and 21,695 in South Waziristan (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Returning families require reconstruction support (DAWN, 30/03/2015; local media, 23/03/2015). A FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy has been put into place for the first time to ensure safe and sustainable returns of IDPs (UN, 07/04/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

Returns of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan have increased in 2015 following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack in Peshawar in December. As of 13 May, 60,000 people have voluntarily returned and another 6,000 undocumented Afghans were expelled (AFP, 13/05/2015). Another 15,000 holding a Proof of Registration card have also reportedly returned between January and March (DAWN, 15/04/2015). Government aims at finalising a return policy by end of August (local media, 11/05/2015).

As of 7 May, 1,6 million Afghan refugees are estimated to live in Pakistan, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, although numbers are difficult to ascertain. The majority live in host communities (UNHCR, 29/12/2014; OCHA, 07/05/2015). In addition, there are 600,000 non-Afghan registered refugees (OCHA, 7/05/2015).

Pakistani Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

At 8 April, nearly 242,732 refugees (35,252 families) from Pakistan had arrived in Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces since mid-June 2014 (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Food Security

67 districts are in Phase 2 food insecurity, 28 are in Phase 3, and ten in Phase 4. Phase 3 and 4 districts are mostly in the Balochistan, Sindh, and FATA (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015). **As of February, 1,83 million people were in need of food assistance** (Food Security Cluster, 04/02/2015).

Almost half of returnees in FATA (49%) reported taking loans to meet their basic needs in a recent assessment. Overall, only 28% of returnee households had acceptable food consumption (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015).
Health and Nutrition

1.1 million people, including displaced populations, are in need of basic health and quality maternal and child health services (OCHA, 31/01/2015). The influx of IDPs has severely strained health facilities and the lack of medical staff to provide care for displaced women is a critical challenge (UN Population Fund, 03/10/2014). Concerns are rising over shortages of vaccines against tuberculosis (DAWN, 26/02/2015).

Several health facilities in the city and in many districts of Sindh have been closed because of changes in human resources allocation (DAWN, 20/05/2015).

Polio

23 new polio cases have been reported so far in 2015 from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khyber Agency, FATA, and Sindh (Alhassan Systems, 21/04/2015; 19/05/2015; local media, 21/04/2015). In 2014, 306 polio cases were confirmed, the previous peak was 199 cases in 2000 (WHO, 24/04/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 15/01/2015; DAWN, 01/01/2015).

Over 16,400 families across the country refused to get their children vaccinated and 610,333 children were missed during the first two days of the third round of the 2015 National Polio Campaign initiated on 16 March (DAWN, 19/03/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 2.86 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are undernourished in Pakistan, including one million IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). In Sindh, 1.1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 400,000 of them are suffering from SAM (ECHO, 20/10/2014). In Dadu district, Sindh, 3.8% of children under five were found to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in December 2014 (ACF, 03/02/2015). In FATA, GAM reaches 16% and SAM 5.6% (Nutrition Cluster, 30/04/2015).

In Balochistan, maternal mortality rates have been increasing due to malnourishment and anaemia (DAWN, 29/11/2014).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH, including 500,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Over 80% of water resources in Pakistan’s southern Tharparkar district have become unsafe for drinking due to the drought (Reuters, 02/02/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.1 million people are in need of emergency shelter, including 530,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Inadequate shelter services, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for the displaced (OCHA, 15/08/2014). 50% of the population in Tirah valley in FATA has been living in makeshift shelters after having been displaced in 2013 (IOM, 14/11/2014).

An Afghan refugee camp that was built on valuable land was demolished in Peshawar on 1 May. The district administration demolished around 1,200 houses after the deadline to evacuate the camp, 30 April, had passed (local media, 05/05/2015).

Education

450,000 children are in need of education, including 205,000 displaced children. Educational supplies are a major gap in the education response (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Almost 275 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are non-functional, including 40 in Mansehra and 37 in Swat districts, due to lack of staff, land disputes, and security issues. Around 33% of children in Balochistan are also out of school (DAWN, 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015).

The majority of school-aged Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan are unable to attend school after sixth grade due to lack of means to attend private schools (Inter Press Service, 22/12/2014).

Protection

An estimated 1.08 million people are in need of protection, including 500,000 displaced people. This group largely consists of IDPs and returnees in KP and FATA. Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Sabeen Mahmud, a rights activist, was killed on 24 April, shortly after hosting an event in Karachi, on disappearances in Balochistan: 2,825 people are missing to date (Al Jazeera, 25/04/2015).

SGBV

421 incidents of violence involving 534 women and girls were reported in Karachi province during the third quarter of the year (DAWN, 11/10/2014).

In areas where the Taliban is active, over 500 girls’ schools have been bombed. In the south and southwest of the country, ethnic violence continues to curtail women’s freedom of movement.

Updated: 21/05/2015

INDIA INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Situation of concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>minimal</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update 14/05/2015.
KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 616,140 people are displaced due to armed conflict and inter-communal violence (IDMC, 20/04/2015).

- Heavy rains and storms: landslides and floods in Jammu and Kashmir affected 1.9 million people in September 2014. Cyclone Hud Hud in October affected close to 1 million people. In March 2015, fresh landslides in the area destroyed buildings (Times of India, 30/09/2014; OCHA, 20/10/2014; Government, 30/03/2015). End April, 65 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured in Bihar state (Government).

- 35,077 cases of swine flu and 2,172 deaths have been confirmed nationwide since the outbreak began in mid-December (local media, 11/04/2015).

Political Context

Despite general stability, pockets of the country experience insecurity and conflict. The Government of India, the Government of Pakistan, and Kashmiri insurgent groups have fought over control of the disputed region of Kashmir since the Indo-Pakistan War. Pakistan controls the northwest portion, India controls the central and southern portion and Ladakh, and China controls the northeastern portion (Aksai Chin and Trans-Karakoram Tract). Although thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. UNHCR-supported elections in 2008 resulted in the creation of a pro-India Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, which formed a state government.

Security Context

Kashmir

During violent protests in Srinagar over 17–19 April, a 16-year-old boy was killed by security forces, and around 30 police officers were injured (AFP, 19/04/2015). Between August 2014 and January 2015, cross-border fighting between India and Pakistan left 23 dead, the majority civilians (AFP, 08/10/2014, 29/10/2014, 27/11/2014, 03/01/2015). More than 10,000 villagers were displaced and are receiving assistance from the government for rehabilitation (Times of India, 07/01/2014; local media, 28/04/2015).

Chhattisgarh

Tensions are rising in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh after several attacks by the Communist guerrilla Naxalites in mid-April. In the first major Naxalite attack of the year, seven police were killed and ten injured on 11 April in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. According to police, up to 20 militants were also killed in the attack (Reuters, 14/04/2015). On 12 April, one police officer was killed in a firefight between border security forces and suspected Naxalites in Kanker district. On 13 April, five police were killed and eight injured in an explosion in Dantewada district (local media, 12/04/2015; 13/04/2015). On 15 April, a police officer was found dead in Bastar district; he had been abducted by Naxalites on 7 April (local media, 15/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of April 2015, an estimated 616,140 people were displaced in India due to armed conflict and inter-communal violence. 251,000 of these are in Jammu and Kashmir, and around 113,000 in Assam. At least 346,000 of the IDPs were newly displaced between January 2014 and March 2015, with the majority fleeing inter-communal violence in Western Assam (IDMC, 20/04/2015).

The majority of the IDPs live in camps, where they often have limited access to food, clean water and adequate sanitary facilities (IDMC, 20/04/2015).

Disasters

Drought

Nine million farmers have been affected by drought in Maharashtra, particularly Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, following a delayed and inadequate monsoon season (Times of India, 06/02/2015). Farmers have been using negative coping mechanisms such as selling bullocks and committing suicide and have asked for crop loans and food assistance (Times of India, 17/03/2015; local news, 08/03/2015).

Earthquake

At least 20 people have been killed and 60 injured after tremors from a second earthquake in Nepal on 12 May affected Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh states (Government, 13/05/2015). Aftershocks from the 25 April earthquake killed 67 people in and injured 288, mainly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states (Government, 27/04/2015).

Floods

At least 30 people were killed by heavy rains and thunderstorms in Uttar Pradesh on 29 April (ECHO, 29/04/2015).

At least 65 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured in a storm affecting eight districts in Bihar state over 22–23 April; Purnia district was worst hit (Government, 23/04/2015; local media, 23/04/2015). Thousands of hectares of standing crops of maize, wheat and pulses were destroyed (local media, 22/04/2015).

At least 35 people died and crops were damaged in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, due to heavy rainfall early April (local media, 07/04/2015).

Heavy rainfall in late March caused landslides in Kashmir. As of 31 March, 17 people have been killed (local media, 31/03/2015). Access is reportedly very difficult as some roads have been destroyed (AFP, 30/03/2015).

In September, more than 1.9 million people were directly affected by flooding in Jammu and Kashmir (Caritas India, 25/09/2014). In October, severe cyclonic storm Hud Hud made landfall on India’s east coast. 920,000 people were affected, 41,200 houses and buildings were damaged in Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, and Chhattisgarh (OCHA, 20/10/2014).
Health and Nutrition

Swine Flu

As of 11 April, 35,077 cases of swine flu have been confirmed nationwide; 2,172 people have died since the outbreak began in mid-December (local media, 11/04/2015). 6,563 cases, including 439 deaths have been reported in Gujarat, 6,675 cases and 430 deaths in Rajasthan, and 4,259 cases and 12 deaths have been confirmed in Delhi (local media 11/04/2015). Public gatherings in Ahmedabad, the largest city in Gujarat, have been restricted (local media, 25/03/2015). Government restrictions and licensing issues have made it difficult for hospitals to obtain adequate quantities of antivirals (Al Jazeera, 23/02/2015).

Protection

A landmine explosion on 4 April in the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir’s Rajouri district killed three civilians and injured one (Government, 04/04/2015).

Updated: 20/05/2015

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

**KEY CONCERNS**
- 628,676 Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 18/04/2015). Another 100,000–200,000 may be unregistered (PI, 12/11/2014).
- Syrians continue to face increasing difficulty accessing Jordan. Official border points have closed or become inaccessible, and entry restrictions have increased (RRP6, 2014-2015).
- Since early 2014, a more rigorous approach to the encampment policy of Syrian refugees has reportedly been implemented (PI, 08/01/2014).
- An estimated 52,000 other refugees are registered with UNHCR, mostly Iraqis (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

19 May: 33,466 refugees were removed from food assistance in April and 240,773 had their assistance reduced. 35,000 appeals are being reviewed (Inter-sector Working Group).

11 May: 8% of boys aged 9 to 15 years are economically active and 3% are employed. Among boys aged 15 to 18 years, 37% are economically active and 14% are employed (ILO).

11 May: Jordanians are experiencing higher unemployment and deteriorating work conditions. Syrians usually face worse conditions than Jordanians working in the same sector (ILO).

**Security Context**

Concerns over spiralling crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September, and reinforced its participation since the assassination of a captured Jordanian pilot on 3 February. Jordan may increasingly be the target of asymmetrical attacks against its civilians or security services, and social divisions amplify (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015).

Jordan has a substantial home-grown extremist movement. Thousands of Jordanians are reportedly fighting for opposition groups with links to Al Qaeda, particularly Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and IS, despite the military’s tight control of cross-border movements (NYT, 12/04/2014). The country is also home to several prominent extremist religious leaders of an older generation, linked to Al Qaeda ideology and who generally support JAN (Al Jazeera, 07/07/2014). Jordan has increased pressure on the Muslim Brotherhood, arresting one of its prominent leaders in November (Jordan Times, 22/11/2014).

Social tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014). Despite few notable incidents, refugees report widespread discrimination and harassment (The Guardian, 01/12/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan’s already-strained public services. Public health and education services, which Syrians can access, are particularly affected, and water infrastructure, waste collection, and the cost to the national budget of subsidised goods are significant issues (Government, 12/2014).

**Access**

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the Government, and frustration persists among NGOs about the lengthy approval process, and lack of clear guidelines. Aid agencies assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014).

Tension between humanitarian agencies and the Government may increase, as the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2015–16 attempts to channel the bulk of international assistance to Syrians through government institutions, rather than humanitarian actors (JRP, 12/2014). At 17 March, only 5.5% of the funding for the JRP has been secured (Government,
As of 6 May, 627,287 Syrian refugees were registered in Jordan; 52% are children and 3.5% are aged over 60. Around 83% live in urban areas and the remainder in three camps (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 14/04/2015; 27/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Another 100,000-200,000 refugees may be unregistered (PI, 12/11/2014).

76,000 Syrian refugees have reportedly returned to their country since the beginning of the crisis (Jordan Times, 10/02/2015). As of 27 April, 100–150 people are returning to Syria every day. Drivers include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability with reduced aid, lack of livelihood opportunities, and a desire to continue education. (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

An additional 33,466 refugees living above Jordan’s absolute poverty line were removed from food assistance in April; 240,773 living between the absolute and abject poverty lines saw the value of their assistance halved to USD 14 per pers/month; 191,248 refugees living under the Jordan abject poverty line, received full assistance of USD 28 per pers/month (WFP, 19/03/2015). Negative coping mechanisms following this reduction in assistance include relying on less preferred, less expensive food (89% of respondents to the survey); reducing the number of meals (62%); borrowing food or relying on help from relatives and friends (55%); debt (61%); reducing other essential expenditures (24%); sending children to work (13%). For this round of targeting, 35,000 appeals were filled. So far 656 were reviewed, 9% were approved for full assistance and 27% for partial assistance (Inter-sector working group, 19/05/2015).

Beneficiaries have been informed that further cuts in assistance are expected in the coming weeks (PI, 17/05/2015)

Livelihoods

More than 40% of employed Syrians outside camps in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq work in construction, while 23% work in the wholesale, retail trade and repair sector and 12% in manufacturing. 60% of refugees in Zaatari camp earn some form of income within the camp (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

The unemployment rate within active Syrian refugees is as high as 57% (ILO, 11/05/2015). Two in three refugee households live below the poverty line and one in six lives in abject poverty (UNHCR, 27/04/2015). One in five Syrians in Jordan is supported by the social safety network (Government, 17/03/2015). With an average expenditure 1.6 times greater than income, refugees increasingly resort to a range of coping strategies (UNHCR, 15/01/2015; UNICEF, 10/03/2015). 69% of refugee households surveyed in a December 2014 multi-agency assessment had had to sell their assets or borrow money in the three months prior to assessment (international organisations, 31/12/2014).

Impact on Jordanian economy

As of May, the labour force participation rate for Jordanians is similar to what it was before the Syrian crisis, but the unemployment rate increased from 15% to 22% (ILO, 11/05/2015). An ILO study in May suggests that Syrians could have crowded Jordanians out of the construction sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for refugees in November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public healthcare. This reduction is partly compensated by an increased reliance on NGO and Red Crescent facilities (Inter-sector Working Group, 19/05/2015). Three in ten families could not access healthcare services when needed between October and March due to financial reasons. Maternal health is of particular concern: half of pregnant women were unable to afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care (CARE,
60/04/2015). Mental health services, including severe emotional disorders and lack of vaccination among many Syrian children are also an issue (IMC, 16/03/2015; UNHCR, 10/03/2015).

SHELTER AND NFIs

Refugees in Host Communities

Most of the 83% of Syrian refugees living outside camps are concentrated around the major urban areas of the northwest, such as Amman and Irbid. While 91% are renting homes, over half live in substandard shelter, and many are struggling to pay the bills (UNHCR, 01/2015). A December 2014 multi-agency assessment showed that 25% of refugee households outside camps were living in overcrowded shelters (international organisations, 31/12/2014).

In Mafraq governrature, half of refugee households have no heating, a quarter have unreliable electricity (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps and the reissuing of key documents, has been ongoing since 15 February. As of 27 April, 54,794 Ministry of Interior cards had been issued, covering 11% of the urban refugee population (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). Non-participation could affect refugees’ legal status and limit their access to government services (PI, 24/02/2015).

Camps

Zaatari camp hosts 82,841 people of concern (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Since the beginning of 2015, significant numbers of refugees have been returning to the camp from urban areas, probably linked to cold weather and cuts to food and health assistance in urban areas. Since the camp was established in 2012, at least 320,000 refugees have left the camp through both official and unofficial channels (including returns to Syria).

As of 6 May, Azraq camp hosts 17,967 refugees and the Emirati-Jordanian Camp (EJC) 5,779 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). The EJC has received extensive support, primarily from the UAE Red Crescent; however, refugees have complained about limited freedom of movement in the camp (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; Financial Times, 2014).

WASH

While Jordan has an effective public water system, reports suggest these facilities are under significant strain in areas with high concentrations of Syrians. The per capita water share in the northern governorates has dropped from 110 litres/day to 84 litres (Government, 17/03/2015). Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are also under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014). Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected (UNHCR, 14/01/2015; 27/04/2015).

EDUCATION

59% of the roughly 220,000 Syrian school-aged children in Jordan are enrolled in the public school system. An additional 30,000 are attending informal forms of education, while the remaining 60,000 are not attending any form of education (UNICEF, 19/03/2015). The highest attendance rates were found across the younger age groups (6-11) in all governorates – 70% of boys and 70.4% of girls, compared to 47.2% of boys and 54.5% of girls aged 12-17 (REACH, 03/2015).

Barriers to attendance and reasons to drop out include distance; overcrowding; safety in and on the way to schools; lack of resources to pay for school material, and needing to work for household income — especially boys aged 12-17 (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015).

A survey from ILO showed that 60% of the Syrian refugees above 15 have never completed basic schooling, and only about 15% of the refugees have completed secondary education (ILO, 11/05/2015).

37.5% of Iraqi refugees were not enrolled in schools in 2014, and non-attendance was reported among 40% of those enrolled, mostly for financial reasons, fear of bullying, and level differences (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

PROTECTION

Entry restrictions

The average number of Syrians able to enter Jordan on a daily basis has dropped significantly since 2013 (RRP6, 2014–2015). The number and accessibility of entry points has been limited, and entry restrictions have increased, forcing Syrians to travel to remote informal crossing-points in the eastern desert (IOM, 2014).

The border crossing leading to Syria’s Dar’a governorate was closed in March for reasons of insecurity (AFP, 01/04/2015). By early April an estimated 2,500 Syrians had gathered at the Rukban and Hadalat borders (UNHCR, 31/03/2015, updated early April).

There was increasing evidence in the second part of 2014 that the Government is returning screened refugees to Syria. Jordanian officials maintain that the border is open to refugees, and that Jordan is simply instituting security measures to exclude people connected to “terrorist organisations” (Al Ghad, 14/12/2014; Jordan Times, 11/12/2014). Numbers are hard to estimate. The most vulnerable refugees likely include those without identity documents, or with forged documents, and those who had previously returned to Syria (PI, 29/09/2014).

Encampment

Since early 2014, the Government appears to be implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Significant numbers of refugees are being forcibly returned to camps (NRC-IRC, 13/11/2014; PI, 03/12/2014, 12/11/2014). This has often resulted in separation of family members between camp and urban settings (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Refugees living in urban areas are required to obtain a service card from the Ministry of Interior in order to access public health and education services, or register marriages,
births or deaths. The Government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have service cards. There is no sign this decision has been enforced, but it creates a vulnerability (PI, 08/01/2014, 03/12/2014).

Refugees in camps and who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. However, large numbers of refugees have left the camps without obtaining bail. The Government has asked UNHCR not to issue asylum-seeker certificates to Syrians in urban areas who left the camp after 14 July 2014 and who did not obtain bail (PI 16/07/2014 R1, PI 07/2014 R1).

**Child Protection**

There are reports of recruitment of child soldiers in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan (Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, 16/02/2015).

The prevalence of child labour, often resulting in children withdrawing from school, raises concerns (UNHCR, 28/04/2015). 8% of the boys aged 9-15 are economically active and 3% are employed. In the 15-18 age group, 37% are economically active and 14% are employed (ILO, 11/05/2015).

**Women and Girls**

Early marriage is perceived as a form of security among Syrian refugees, but also as a way to circumnavigate government restrictions, such as the bailout rules in camps (which require a close relative for sponsorship). In the first quarter of 2014, about 32% of all registered Syrian marriages were classified as early marriages, compared to 25% in 2013 and 11% in 2011.

**Workers protection**

Only about 10% of employed Syrians have obtained formal work permits, and almost all Syrian refugees working outside camps do not have work permits. Since the beginning of the crisis, Jordanians have faced deteriorating work conditions. However on average, Syrian workers are still paid less, work longer hours, and have poorer contracts compared to Jordanians in the same sector. (ILO, 11/05/2015).

**SGBV**

Forced marriage (33%), physical assault (25%) and psychological/emotional abuse (26%) are the most commonly reported SGBV incidents among refugees, according to research in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and the three camps from 1 May to 31 December 2014. Women and girls make up 90% of people reporting SGBV. 82.1% of incidents disclosed were perpetrated by members of nuclear families (GBVIMS Task Force, 28/04/2015).

**Updated: 20/05/2015**

**MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**15 May:** The President requested and Parliament approved a three-month extension to the martial law period in the Kokang region until 17 August 2015 (local media, 14/05/2015).

**Mid-May:** Between 6,000 and 8,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi are thought to be at sea, some for months. Most flee from the Myanmar coastline due to protection concerns. Many are adrift, in severe need of water and food (OCHA, 18/05/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015; international media, 11/05/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

- 244,000 IDPs, resulting from years of internal conflict, including mainly Rohingya Muslim 146,400 IDPs in Rakhine state (OCHA, 27/02/2014).

**Political Context**

Myanmar’s first democratic elections in 25 years will take place in October or November 2015 (local media, 21/10/2014). Foreign observers will be invited to monitor the election (Reuters, 24/03/2015). On 12 February, the President approved a law allowing a referendum on changes to the constitution. This move could lift Aung San Suu Kyi’s ban from the presidency (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

**Peace Negotiations**

In 2013, the Government made peace deals with a number of ethnic groups involved in armed insurgency, with the exception of the Kachin Independence Army (the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation, or KIO), and the ethnic Ta’ang army (TNLA). In February 2015, four ethnic armed groups signed a Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation, agreeing to build a union based on democratic and federal principles and a nationwide ceasefire, ahead of the elections (local media, 13/01/2015). On 17 March, the KIO met with the President and affirmed its commitment to the peace process (Government, 17/03/2015). The Government and 16 ethnic opposition groups agreed on draft text for the ceasefire agreement at the end of March (AFP, 30/03/2015). The Government has made clear that the ceasefire agreement will only apply to those ethnic armies taking part in negotiations (AFP, 11/05/2015).
Security Context

Despite peace negotiations, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. In January, there was fighting in Kachin state. Serious clashes broke out in Shan state in February, and fighting began in Rakhine in mid-April. The Government came under criticism in October 2014, for what has been perceived as a series of offensives against ethnic armed groups in Kachin, Karen, Mon, and Shan states (local media, 20/10/2014).

In early December, the United Nationalities Federal Council, the largest coalition of ethnic armed organisations, announced the establishment of the Federal Union Army, an umbrella group that has been trying to negotiate a nationwide ceasefire between ethnic minorities and the national military. It is unclear if this establishment will help or hinder the peace process (VoA, 02/12/2014).

Kachin State

The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and clashes between its army (the KIA) and the Myanmar army are intermittent (local media, 06/10/2014). Security incidents have been reported regularly since fighting resumed in April 2014 in Man Win Gyi, in southern Kachin state (OCHA, 16/05/2015). In January, there was fighting in the area of Hpakant (AFP, 15/01/2015; local media, 20/01/2015; local media, 27/01/2014).

Kayah State

As conflict between the Government army and the Karen National Progressive Part continues, civilians find their movement further restricted as both forces have bases within various villages (local media, 18/05/2014; 17/05/2015). Both government forces and armed groups continue to occupy land and deny farmers access to farmland.

Rakhine State

The Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic insurgent group, has been fighting with government troops in Rakhine (formerly Arakan) state’s Kyauktaw township since 17 April. The insurgent group has opened a new front in western Rakhine state. Its aim is to pressure the government to include it in peace talks. The group has joined forces with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Kokang region, Shan state (Reuters, 23/04/2015).

Shan State

Fighting broke out in early February between Myanmar’s army and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), an insurgent group in Kokang area of Shan state near the Chinese border, displacing tens of thousands of people (AFP, 10/02/2015; Radio Free Asia, 23/02/2015).

On 18 February, the President declared a 90-day state of emergency and imposed martial law in Kokang region. This is the first time military rule has been invoked under Myanmar’s 2008 constitution (Reuters, 18/02/2015; AP, 21/02/2015). On 15 May, the President requested and Parliament approved a three-month extension to the martial law period which was due to expire on 17 May (local media, 14/05/2015).

On 15 May, the government forces reported another major offensive near the Chinese border (local media, 15/05/2015). On 8 May, five Chinese were injured, two after artillery shells fired from Myanmar landed in their village in Yunnan province (local media, 14/05/2015). On 12 April, renewed fighting was reported between the MNDAA and government troops, with the MNDAA claiming that 35 casualties were reported among government troops and four casualties among MNDAA soldiers (local media, 09/04/2015). The KIA, the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, the Arakan Army and the Shan State Army-North, as well as former Chinese soldiers, are all involved in the conflict (Deutsche Welle, 13/02/2014; Al Jazeera, 21/02/2015).

Prior to the most recent fighting, clashes between the same parties had been reported in July, October and December 2014. In 2009, serious clashes between MNDAA and the army almost wiped out the MNDAA (Deutsche Welle, 13/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

According to local NGOs, the delivery of aid to conflict-affected communities in remote areas within Shan and Kachin states is hampered by the categorisation of some areas as “black zones” by the Myanmar army, restricting foreign groups’ access (IRIN, 08/10/2014). Insecurity also impedes access.

Kachin state: There continues to be little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. In December, more than 50,000 IDPs were living in camps under KIO management (local media, 05/12/2014).

Rakhine state: Access to services is impeded by tension and restrictions on freedom of movement. As of mid-July 2014, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 Rohingya Muslims in 113 isolated villages in Rakhine state have no or limited access to basic (OCHA).

Local relief workers in Kyauktaw Township said that military checkpoints in the township were preventing access to displaced persons (local media, 22/04/2015).
Many displaced in Laukkai are fleeing to China (Xinhua, 9/03/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

In February, attackers on aid vehicles in the Kokang area of Shan state wounded seven (Reuters, 17/02/2015). Government troops blamed MNDAA for both the attacks; the group has denied responsibility (AFP, 22/02/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 244,000 people are displaced and living in camps in Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin states (OCHA, 27/02/2015). As of February 2015, more than half of the 98,500 IDPs in Kachin and Shan states were living in areas where government services are not available (OCHA, 12/2014; OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Shan: An unconfirmed but estimated 62,000 people are internally displaced from Kokang region; about 13,000 have fled to central Myanmar through Lashio; another 40,000 people from Kokang and other ethnic minorities have fled to areas near the border (OCHA, 27/02/2015; AFP, 18/02/2015; WFP, 03/2015). An unknown number of IDPs have since returned home.

Rakhine: 450 people in Rakhine have fled the villages of Pinglong, Aung Lan Chaung, Dan Chaung and Kalakya to the village of Zapazeik, Kyauktaw Township, following clashes between Arakan Army and government troops (local media, 22/04/2015). On 29 April, 300 people were reported to have fled Pyingso village for Kywaytaung village, Paletwa township (Radio Free Asia, 29/04/2015).

146,000 Rohingya Muslims live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Kachin: Armed clashes in Kachin and northern Shan states displaced 20,000 IDPs between January and April 2015, though many are believed to have returned home (OCHA, 30/05/2015).

Returnees

Land taken by the military, the state, and companies close to the Government impedes the orderly future return of refugees, particularly from Thailand, and the resettlement of IDPs to their home communities or new sites (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014).

Refugees from Myanmar

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar. In early November, UNHCR reported that an increasing number of people, mainly Rohingya, are setting out to sea on smuggling boats; many capsize. As of end November, the number of Rohingya to have fled since early October was thought to have reached 19,000 (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: Between January and February 2015, around 60,000 people are believed to have fled to China (OCHA, 30/05/2015). Refugees are moving back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (RFA, 23/03/2015). Recent clashes between the Myanamar government forces and armed groups spilled over the border into China in mid-April and pushed around 700 refugees further into China for fear of being caught up in fighting (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Bangladesh: 200,000 Rohingya reside in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuse. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status by the Bangladeshi authorities. An estimated 30,000 Rohingya Muslims live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014).

Malaysia: As of end November, over 40,000 Rohingya registered with the UN are in Malaysia. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered (AFP, 30/11/2014).

Thailand: Since June 2014, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced; Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving camps, confined to their homes 1800 –0600, and threatened with deportation if they do not comply (Refugees International 29/08/2014). In July, the Thai authorities pledged to send about 100,000 of the 120,000 refugees living in border camps back to Myanmar (UNHCR has registered 76,000 refugees). According to senior Thai military officials, measures are in place to deter boats from approaching the country's shores (Reuters, 15/11/2014). Rohingya Muslims are reportedly subject to human trafficking in Thailand (international human rights organisations, 12/2013).

Food Security

Overall, the food security situation has improved, although recurrent inter-communal tensions have negatively impacted the situation, mainly for IDPs (FAO, 24/09/2014). 70,000 people are food insecure in Rakhine state (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

More than 1,000 people in Rakhine state are facing food shortages, as fighting between the Arakan Army and government forces is cutting off access to commercial centres (local media, 04/05/2015).

Livelihoods

The trend for poppy cultivation in Shan state, which was on course to be wiped out ten years ago, has reversed. Poppy cultivation has tripled since 2006, with close to
60,700 hectares of poppy farms, according to UN surveys (NYT, 03/01/2015).

Rohingya fishermen of Maungdaw township, Rakhine state, have been barred from fishing since 7 November (local media, 10/11/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Access to healthcare is a major challenge in Rakhine (OCHA, 30/09/2014). If Rohingya camp residents wish to leave their camp to see a doctor, they must first obtain a referral by a government doctor and reportedly must also often bribe the security guards (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital.

Nutrition

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas (UNICEF, 01/02/2015). In June 2014, 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under five screened in Rakhine, indicating a deterioration in parts of the state since March. Severely malnourished children are being referred to Sittwe hospital; fewer referral services, high transportation costs, and fear of travelling to Sittwe are preventing many children from receiving medical care (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

In Rakhine state, 15,000 people are in urgent need of assistance to repair shelters. In Kachin, there is a major need to scale up maintenance and repair work (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine have limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages are using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, the exchange of food rations for fuel, and over-exploitation of surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

WASH

In Rakhine state, a general deterioration in the WASH situation in camps is aggravating health problems and increasing the risk of waterborne disease (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

Education

In Rakhine state, 28,000 vulnerable children require education support. 60,000 adolescents in isolated communities are without any education opportunities (OCHA, 08/2014).

Protection

About 200 Shan people are alleged to have been forcibly recruited into the Kachin Independence Army since the start of armed clashes with the army in June 2011 (local media, 11/11/2014). Local media has accused government troops of rape, beatings, and shooting of unarmed civilians in the Kokang region, Shan state (RFA, 25/03/2015).

Legal Status of Rohingya Muslims

In the west, massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported.

In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards issued to those without full citizenship, including Rohingya Muslims, which expired at the end of March 2015. As of 6 April, 40,000 cards were collected, according to local media (local media, 07/04/2015). These identity cards were part of a citizenship application process. This move came after dozens of protesters gathered in Yangon to call on the Government not to allow people without full citizenship to vote in the referendum on amending the constitution (AFP, 11/02/2015).

Over 800,000 people are estimated to be without citizenship in the northern part of Rakhine state, mostly Rohingya Muslims (UNHCR). Myanmar continues officially to state that the Rohingya Muslims are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. The Government has drafted a plan which would force Rohingya Muslims either to register as Bengalis or be detained. Rakhine authorities would construct temporary camps for people who refuse to be registered or who are without adequate documents (local media, 12/10/2015). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention. Accepting the term Bengali could leave the Rohingya vulnerable if authorities class them as illegal immigrants and attempt to send them to Bangladesh (Reuters, 27/09/2014).

Rohingya in Bay of Bengal

The Thai Government began a major operation to shut down human trafficking operations along its border with Myanmar in April. Neither Thailand, Malaysia, nor Indonesia are accepting thousands of people who are seeking refuge. They have cited the Myanmar Government as primarily responsible for the Rohingya. Approximately 3,000 people arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in mid-May, but between 6,000 and 8,000 people are thought to still at sea (AFP, 17/05/2015; OCHA, 18/05/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015). Some have been at sea for months. They are in severe need of water and food (international media, 11/05/2015; 14/05/2015).

Children

42 children were released from the armed forces on 24 January. In 2014, 376 children
were released (AFP, 24/01/2014).

SGBV

In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report that documented more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 26/11/2014).

Assessments in northern Shan state indicate that domestic violence is prevalent in IDP camps. Drug consumption and other negative coping mechanisms among men were identified by the women as a contributing factor. Adolescent girls are exposed to particular protection risks, according to the assessment findings. Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Mines and ERW

Around five million people in Myanmar live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). In Kayah state, around 15–20 people are injured annually, although the number of fatalities is unknown. More than 34,000 IDPs are at greatest risk due to their being in unfamiliar areas.

An assessment in Kachin and Northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Most of the accidents registered happened while people were travelling on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields. More than 25% of landmine victims knew the area was dangerous before entering it (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014). Myanmar has previously denied this practice, while Bangladesh has claimed to have found and removed mines in the border area.

Updated: 18/05/2015

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

10 May: Typhoon Noul made landfall in Cagayan province, Northern Luzon. 4,500 people were affected; pre-emptive evacuation kept casualties to a minimum. Damage to houses and infrastructure was limited (multiple sources).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 26,000 people remain displaced ten months after Typhoon Haiyan and more than two million lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014).
- 30,000 people who fled fighting in Zamboanga in September 2013 are still displaced (AFC, 20/03/2015).
- The Philippines is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world, experiencing several large-scale natural hazards a year.
- 43,900 remain displaced as of 24 April, after a month-long military campaign against BIFF in Maguindanao in March (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

OVERVIEW

A series of natural disasters, most significantly Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, has caused widespread damage across the Philippines and affected millions. The overall political situation had been relatively stable until January 2015, when fighting broke out in Maguindanao. Although tensions remain high, the peace deal with MILF has not derailed.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Political Context

Since October 2012, the Government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country’s largest Muslim separatist group. Draft legislation for the 2014 March Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro was submitted to Congress in September 2014 (AFP, 10/09/2014). The agreement paves the way for the creation of a new Muslim autonomous entity called Bangsamoro, replacing the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The government aims to set up the region by 2016. The agreement allows for a Muslim self-rule area in southern Philippines in exchange for the decommissioning of MILF forces.

The disarmament process for Philippine Muslim opposition groups started in September 2014. The decommissioning of a first batch of firearms was scheduled for late 2014 (AFP, 28/09/2014). The parties met on 30 January and signed the protocol for its implementation (Government, 28/01/2015; local media, 31/01/2015). The Independent Decommissioning Body has not yet reported on the process.
Security Context

Various armed groups in Mindanao, among them Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), who split from MILF in 2008, and New People’s Army (NPA), continue their violent opposition against the state. Thousands were displaced by fighting between the Philippine army and BIFF in 2014 (IRIN, 22/07/2014; OCHA). Increased violence between the Philippine armed forces and opposition groups was reported in November and later in January as a consequence of government efforts to capture militants.

On 25 January Philippine security forces entered the remote village of Mamasapano, in Maguindanao, which is held by MILF. However, they had not coordinated with MILF beforehand, as required under the ceasefire agreement. In the worst fighting since the peace agreement of 2014, 44 police officers, 11 militants and two civilians were killed (AFP, 26/01/2015, ECHO, 28/01/2015; OCHA, 02/02/2015).

In the aftermath of the 25 January clashes, the national army launched a military offensive against BIFF in Mindanao (local media, 22/02/2015). On 26 February, troops were sent to Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao. On 30 March the Philippines military chief announced that the offensive had ended. 139 insurgents were killed, 12 captured, and bomb-making bases seized during the five-week campaign (AP, 30/03/2015). As of 31 March, government reports indicated that 132,870 people have been affected (Government, 31/03/2015). On 12 April, BIFF detonated a roadside bomb in a town in Maguindanao as military vehicles were passing through the district. No one was injured in the blast (local media, 13/04/2015). On 12 April, the military reported that a substantial military presence will remain in affected areas and that the armed forces will continue to conduct operations against militant groups (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

On April 21, an IED exploded in a shopping centre in Surigao City in northeastern Mindanao. No one was hurt in the explosion (local media, 21/04/2015).

On April 20, a roadside bomb was detonated in Makilala, North Cotabato. NPA is suspected to be behind the explosion, in which two people were injured (local media, 20/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access. Concurrent natural disasters have hampered further aid delivery to affected populations.

Disasters

Typhoon Maysak, locally known as Chedeng, weakened into a tropical storm as it made landfall on 5 April in Dinapigue municipality, Isabela province in north Luzon, with no reports of casualties (OCHA, 06/04/2015). 2, 140 people that were pre-emptively evacuated in Isabela and Aurora provinces have returned home. (OCHA, 06/04/2015).

Category 5 Typhoon Hagupit, locally known as Ruby, made landfall on 6 December 2014 in Eastern Samar province (Eastern Philippines) (GDACS, 06/12/2014). 3.8 million people were affected across nine regions (WFP, 15/12/2014). Around 38,100 houses were destroyed and 203,600 partially damaged (OCHA, 15/12/2014).

Dry Spell

In southern and central Philippines the drought is intensifying and has already started to affect agriculture production, in particular in Mindanao (local media, 21/04/2015). Affected crops include corn, rice, high-value crops, and vegetables (Government, 22/04/2015).

On 1 April, Zamboanga declared a state of emergency to mobilise funds in order to mitigate the effects of the dry spell (OCHA, 30/04/2015). In Zamboanga, 15 of 25 irrigation dams are below the critical water level; nine of these have completely dried up. Drought and bushfires have damaged some 8,900 hectares of agricultural land around the city (OCHA, 30/04/2015). The dry spells are expected to affect even more provinces over the next months (local media, 20/04/2015).

Displacement

As of February 2015, reports suggest that nearly 500,000 people are displaced. Around 80% of the 3 million displaced in 2014 fled natural disasters. An estimated 95,000 fled conflict and violence in Mindanao. The total number of people displaced by conflict and violence reached its lowest level since 2011 (IDMC, 10/02/2015).

Maguindanao

Fighting in Maguindanao between January and March caused the displacement of 125,000 people. As of 24 April, about 60% have returned home, while 43,900 remain in 32 evacuation centres across six municipalities, deterred from returning by insecurity (OCHA, 30/04/2015; ICRC, 20/04/2015). Food, emergency shelter, clean...
water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, health assistance, and psychosocial and protection support have been identified as priority needs (OCHA, 31/03/2015; ACF, 28/04/2015). The prolonged dry season is further affecting the health and incomes of the IDPs (ICRC, 20/04/2015).

Typhoon Haiyan

Little information is available about progress towards solutions for the approximately four million people who have returned home, although it is believed that livelihood, food, and housing needs remain considerable in Haiyan-affected areas (IDMC, 10/02/2015). Longer-term assistance is required, such as supporting self-recovery, assisting households in no-build zones, helping with safer reconstruction, and enabling access to healthcare, schools, public transportation, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Larger shelter gaps persist in Western Leyte (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

Zamboanga

18 months after fighting in the city, more than 30,000 people remain displaced, including 15,000 who are staying with host families. The rest are in evacuation centres or transit sites (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Those in evacuation centres are in tents or makeshift huts made of wood and tarpaulin (ACF, 20/03/2015). Protection concerns remain critical; women and children in particular are at risk of abuse and exploitation (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

Fires

Almost 50,000 people have been affected after a number of fires broke out in Parola compound in Tondo, northwest Manila, on 2 March. 800 houses have been severely damaged. Around 25,000 people are being housed in six evacuation centres (IFRC, 08/03/2015).

Food Security

Food remains a priority need for people affected by typhoon Haiyan, more than a year after the event. Food prices are inflated and thousands of people still do not have the means to buy food or have sufficient access to markets (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

WASH

Due to the dry spells, water levels in dams in southern Philippines have been reduced. In Tampakan town in South Cotabato, 70% of households have reportedly lost sources of drinking water (Government, 22/04/2015).

Severe water shortages are particularly affecting IDPs in Zamboanga city and sanitation facilities are difficult to maintain, especially in Mampang transition sites.

Water trucking is temporarily improving the water supply for IDPs (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Health

Dengue: Since the beginning of 2015, the Department of Health has recorded 19,946 suspected cases of dengue and 53 deaths, a 6.5% increase in cases from the same time last year (local media, 17/04/2015; WHO, 05/05/2015). Since mid-February, the weekly number of dengue cases reported in the country has declined (WHO, 08/04/2015).

According to the Health Cluster, diarrhoea cases have been rising in several areas of Ormoc and Leyte since 30 November 2014 (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

Nutrition

A SMART survey of displaced communities of Zamboanga indicated high malnutrition rates among children under five (ACF, 20/03/2015).

Education

Schooling in Pagalungan (Maguindanao province) and Pikit (Cotobato province) has been suspended following the fighting (ECHO, 24/02/2015). Almost 50 schools, and 20,630 children, have been affected (Government, 13/03/2015).

Protection

BIFF continues to actively recruit and train child soldiers (international media).

Updated: 19/05/2015

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

No accurate or verified data relating to food security of general humanitarian needs is available, therefore DPRK is not included in the GEO prioritisation.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update: 16/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. An estimated 18 million people (70% of the population) are food insecure (WFP).
According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey, the chronic malnutrition rate is 27.9% and the acute malnutrition rate is 4% of children under five (WFP).

DPRK is disaster prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods and droughts (UN).

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN).

**Political Context**

In November 2014, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution condemning DPRK for human rights abuses and recommending the prosecution of its leaders for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court.

DPRK is subject to sanctions by the UN, EU, and the US, amongst others. The most recent UN sanctions were implemented in a 2013 Security Council resolution following DPRK nuclear threats against South Korea and the US.

**Security Context**

**DPRK–South Korea**

In early March, following the annual joint US-South Korean military exercises, DPRK officials reiterated nuclear threats against the US. According to South Korean officials, that same week DPRK fired two short-range missiles off the coast (Reuters, 03/03/2015).

In February 2014, Seoul and Pyongyang held their first high-level talks in seven years, in the Panmunjom truce village. Relations subsequently deteriorated. In April 2014, South Korean officials said that DPRK had completed all steps required prior to a potential nuclear test, as Pyongyang conducted a scheduled military exercise near the border.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions are further complicating assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).

**Food Security**

An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are considered food insecure and are highly vulnerable to shortages in food production. Of these, 1.8 million children, elderly, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015).

The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizer and plastic sheets, is a fundamental challenge for food production (UN, 01/04/2015). According to FAO, food production remained stagnant in 2014, after an improvement of the harvest in previous years. FAO estimates that the food security situation for 2015 is likely to remain similar to 2014 (FAO, 12/02/2015).

In August 2014, the official Public Distribution System food rations were cut by almost half, from 400 to 250 grams per person per day. The rations have since increased, however there is concern that the decreased ration size reflects general food scarcity (WFP, 25/03/2015).

**WASH**

Seven million people need access to clean water and sanitation. There is a notable lack of proper sanitation in rural areas and in institutions such as nurseries, kindergartens and orphanages (UN, 01/04/2015).

**Education**

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge in providing education to six million school-aged children (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

More than six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and life-saving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Furthermore, health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of diseases (UN, 01/04/2015).

Tuberculosis and malaria are considered major health challenges, with 2,500 people dying of TB every year (UN, 01/04/2015).

**Nutrition**

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey, among children under the age of five, the chronic malnutrition rate is at 27.9% and the acute malnutrition rate is at four per cent, a small reduction from previous years (UN, 01/04/2015). Decreased production of vegetables and soybeans, a major source of protein, contributes to the lack of food diversity for the general population (UN, 01/04/2015).

Reviewed: 20/05/2015
EUROPE

UKRAINE  CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 May: Authorities in self-proclaimed Donetsk Republic issued a draft humanitarian law requiring foreigners to be accredited by local authorities, further impacting access (UNICEF).

8 May: Reconstruction support is needed for 60% of schools in non-government areas of Luhansk, which 35% of teachers have fled (OCHA).

7 May: Ukraine’s GDP is down 17.6% in the first quarter of 2015; inflation rose 61% on April 2014, with food and medical prices having risen by 54% and 46% (Les Echos).

KEY CONCERNS

- Five million people are affected by the crisis, and more than 1.6 million need humanitarian support. The situation is most severe in non-government areas (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

- Nearly 1.3 million people have been displaced internally and more than 840,000 externally. It is difficult for civilians to escape contested areas (OCHA, 15/05/2015).

- Bureaucratic, security and financial restrictions are impeding access and response (OCHA, 26/12/2014; MSF, 23/01/2015).

- Access to food, health and WASH are key concerns (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Political Context

Ukraine and pro-Russian separatist forces signed a peace roadmap on 12 February, introducing a full bilateral ceasefire from 15 February, the establishment of a buffer zone around the frontline, the release of hostages and illegally detained prisoners, and the restoration of social and economic links with affected areas (BBC, 12/02/2015). The ceasefire has been broken repeatedly. The presence and use of heavy weapons continues to be reported along the frontline. On 14 April, the February deal was extended to smaller-calibre arms (Le Monde, 14/04/2015; OSCE, 21/03/2015).

A law granting special status to non-government-controlled areas was approved by Parliament, but rejected by leaders of the two self-declared Republics (local media, 17/03/2015). The list of areas beyond government control was extended end April, with all budgetary payments terminated, raising major concerns among the local population (OCHA, 01/05/2015). On 15 November, Ukraine’s President ordered the withdrawal of all state services from regions held by armed groups, as well as the evacuation of state workers (international media, 15/11/2014). State allocations to these areas have been halted since 1 December, including social payments (UN, 15/12/2014).

Security Context

As of 8 May, at least 6,255 people had been killed in the conflict and 15,700 wounded, though the death toll may be higher, since access to conflict-affected areas is restricted (OCHA, 08/05/2015).

Armed groups control most of eastern Donetsk region, including Donetsk’s airport and Debaltseve, and a small area of southern Luhansk region (Government, 13/01/2015; international media, 22/01/2015). Non-government forces reportedly comprise around 35,000 to 40,000 fighters, including up to 10,000 Russian fighters (AFP, 23/03/2015).

Despite the February roadmap, fighting has continued in certain locations, notably in and around Donetsk airport and to the east of Mariupol. Intensive fighting has been reported in Shyrokine and around Donetsk city since 11–12 April; casualty numbers are unspecified, as access to the areas is severely constrained (OSCE, 16/04/2015; 12/04/2015). The OSCE mission was involved in several incidents over 2–3 May (OSCE, 01/05/2015; 03/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Five million people are affected by the crisis in Ukraine, including 1.7 million children. 3.6 million are affected in non-government-controlled areas, 954,000 in government-controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, and 310,000 in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaparizhia regions, the main IDP reception areas. More than 1.6 million are in need of humanitarian support (UNICEF, 01/05/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Access

Getting in and out of the conflict zone is becoming more difficult (MSF, 23/01/2015). Lack of available and affordable transport, insecurity along exit routes and administrative barriers are preventing civilians from reaching safety (UNHCR, 10/03/2015). Only four international humanitarian organisations are operating in conflict zones (OCHA,
Corruption allegations led to the dismissal of key government representatives end March, including members of the emergency services, putting additional pressure on the delivery of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 27/03/2015).

Administrative Constraints

Administrative requirements are increasingly complicated to cross the lines separating government- from opposition-controlled areas. Obligatory permits have been enforced since 21 January, and are negatively affecting citizens on both sides of the line in accessing services and reuniting families. The permit is not easy to acquire and corruption is reported (UNHCR, 20/03/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015). Entry in non-government areas is most difficult for humanitarian organisations (Logistics Cluster, 06/03/2015). Since the ceasefire, many instances of extensive delays or refusal of permission for aid trucks to enter non-government areas have been reported (UNHCR, 20/03/2015). Volunteer organisations working in both self-declared republics have made similar reports (HRW, 13/03/2015).

Government authorities in Luhansk region further restricted civilian movements across the contact line on 1 May; humanitarian organisations are exempt, but potentially impacted (OCHA, 01/05/2015). Authorities in self-proclaimed Donetsk Republic also issued a draft humanitarian law in May, requiring foreigners to be accredited by local authorities (UNICEF, 15/05/2015).

Logistical Constraints

The Government has decided to halt public transport in non-government areas, hampering humanitarian access (OCHA, 09/01/2015). Months of conflict have severely damaged Donetsk international airport (international media, 01/12/2014).

Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated road conditions, UXO and IEDs, and damage to the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, which can now only support small vehicles (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Bus connections and private vehicles crossing the administrative border to and from Crimea are often delayed for several days (UNHCR, 06/02/2015). International shipping has been prohibited from the ports of Yevpatoria, Kerch, Sevastopol, Theodosia, and Yalta, on the Crimea peninsula, since 15 July (GARD, 17/07/2014).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

Many civilians remain stranded in hard-to-reach areas in conflict and non-government-controlled areas. 500,000 people are living in underground shelters in conflict areas, with little or no access to humanitarian aid (OCHA, 16/03/2015). 150,000 remain in non-government-controlled Horlivka in Donetsk (OSCE, 17/03/2015). 5,000 civilians are estimated to be trapped in Debaltseve as of 20 February. Some 4,000 people remain in 21 institutional care facilities in hard-to-reach areas not controlled by the Government (ICRC, 22/02/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015). 3,000 people remain in Kulybashyevski district in Donetsk city and have not been reached by humanitarian aid; priority needs are for shelter, water and health support (OCHA, 22/03/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

By 15 May, more than 1.28 million IDPs have been registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014, including 161,360 children and 52,000 disabled people. 60% are pensioners; the proportion rises to 72% and 74% in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, respectively. Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (470,730) and Luhansk regions (176,110), and Kharkiv (188,710). Zaporizhzhia (90,530), Kyiv (90,520), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (73,530) (OCHA, 15/05/2015; 07/04/2015; UNICEF, 15/05/2015). 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014).

A discrepancy between the real and registered numbers of IDPs is significantly hampering delivery of assistance (OCHA, 30/01/2015). Many pensioners have registered as IDPs solely to be able to access their pension payments, and then moved back home (UNHCR, 06/02/2015). Other IDPs and affected populations continue to commute to their areas of origin, to receive assistance or scope out damage to their homes (OCHA, 22/03/2015).

IDPs need information, notably regarding evacuation, safe roads, travel permits, markets, laws and regulations, and where to access humanitarian aid (IO, 02/2015).

The Government is encouraging IDPs to move west, to ease pressure on accommodation, but coordination is lacking (OCHA, 13/02/2015; UNHCR, 06/02/2015).

Returnees

Some IDPs are reportedly returning to conflict areas, as the devaluation of the national currency has limited their ability to afford basic living expenses, including rent and food (OCHA, 06/03/2015).

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

840,220 Ukrainians are seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries, including 699,390 in Russia and 81,065 in Belarus (OCHA, 15/05/2015). Since July, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status (IO, 09/12/2014).

Food Security

More than 1.3 million people are in need of food assistance, including nearly 1.1 million in non-government areas, and 200,000 in government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. 673,290 people with a poor food consumption score should be prioritised for assistance (MSNA, 30/03/2015). Food shortages have been reported especially in Luhansk, significantly affecting IDPs (OCHA, 10/04/2015; FAO, 26/01/2015). IDPs in Kharkiv are also in need of food and nutrition support (OCHA, 24/04/2015).
A 36% year-on-year rise in the national food price index was reported in February (WFP, 31/03/2015). In Donetsk region, fruit and vegetable price increases range from 60% to 383% (OCHA, 01/05/2015). Increased food prices, disrupted transport systems, high insecurity, remoteness and lack of hard currency limit access to markets for at least 20% of the population in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaparizhia regions (HNO, 12/2014). Populations in non-government areas are particularly affected (OCHA, 24/04/2015).

HIV/AIDS

HIV-related needs are a concern in non-government areas with reports of interruption of antiretroviral treatment for adults and children (UNICEF, 15/05/2015). Over 16,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in non-government areas, including over 7,000 people receiving antiretroviral therapy (HRW, 13/03/2015). Over 800 babies born to HIV-positive mothers in non-government areas are in need of replacement food (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST)

Restrictions on the delivery of narcotic drugs since December 2014 for people undergoing OST in Donetsk and Luhansk regions has resulted in discontinuation of treatment for more than 300 of the 899 patients residing in the area (OCHA, 23/01/2015).

Mental Health

Children are showing signs of stress and anxiety in all areas; 200,000 kindergarten and school-aged children are affected, especially in Donetsk region (UNICEF, 03/04/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Tuberculosis (TB)

At least 2,400 people in non-government areas with TB, including 530 people with multidrug-resistant TB, lack consistent treatment provision and follow-up, and are at risk of treatment interruption (HRW, 13/03/2015). In areas under government control, stocks of drug supplies for HIV and TB patients were used up in March 2015 (OCHA, 23/01/2015).

New TB cases are estimated to have increased by 5% in non-government areas of Donetsk, mainly among the elderly and combatants (OCHA, 06/02/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Nearly 600,000 people are estimated to be in need of shelter assistance, including 270,000 in government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, 179,000 in non-government areas, and 148,000 in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaparizhia regions (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

IDPs

Housing solutions are provided to only 3–5% of IDPs in temporary collective centres (UNHCR, 20/03/2015). 95% of IDPs are in private accommodation and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 24/02/2015; UNHCR, 06/02/2015). The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa. A likely increased influx of IDPs to Kyiv could further increase social tensions (OCHA, 16/03/2015).
Conflict Areas

Repair needs are high along the conflict line (UNHCR/Shelter cluster, 30/04/2015). 60% of Shyrokyne’s buildings have been destroyed by shelling, while shelter and food support remain urgent priorities in Debaltseve, as reconstruction has not yet started (MSF, 21/04/2015; OSCE, 27/03/2015). People in cities where shelling is ongoing are living in underground shelters, in acute need of basic NFIs (OCHA, 30/01/2015; MSF, 03/03/2015).

In Luhansk region, more than 10,000 houses need emergency repair (OCHA, 13/03/2015). 30,000 in Donbas are without electricity (OCHA, 03/04/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-government areas (MSNA, 30/03/2015). More than 2,000km of pipelines have reportedly been damaged in Donbas, significantly hampering water supply; inability to conduct repairs or provide drinking water by water trucks in non-government areas further hampers access (UNICEF, 15/05/2015; OCHA, 10/04/2015). Over 100,000 people in non-government areas in Luhansk are without access to safe water as the main water treatment station was destroyed; drinking water is urgently needed in Pervomaisk, Brianka, and Stakhanov (OCHA, 01/05/2015; UNICEF, 15/05/2015).

Education

600,000 people in Donetsk and Luhansk need education support (OCHA, 24/02/2015). The education cluster plans for a total of 1.2 million learners affected by the crisis, including 300,000 children in 2015 (Education Cluster/UNICEF, 15/05/2015). Lack of transportation, mines, and overcrowding are main barriers to school attendance in Donetsk, where 523 facilities need repair (OSCE, 22/04/2015; UNICEF, 20/03/2015; 09/01/2015). Reconstruction support is also needed for 60% of schools in non-government areas of Luhansk (OCHA, 08/05/2015).

50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas, including 35% in Luhansk (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 27/03/2015).

Protection

Human rights abuses by armed groups continued to be reported, including abduction, torture and ill-treatment, unlawful detention, execution, forced mobilisation of civilians, and seizure and occupation of public buildings (Amnesty, 09/04/2015; OHCHR, 15/11/2014).

IDPs

The requirement to register as an IDP in government-controlled areas is to be eligible for social payments and pensions is causing displacement and confusing overall IDP numbers. People who have not registered are at risk of financial and other hardship (UNHCR 31/12/2014; 23/01/2015). IDPs from Crimea are particularly vulnerable, as transport communications to Crimea have ceased (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

An increasing number of unlawful refusals of registration and financial assistance, violations of employment rights, and limited access to social benefits is reported among IDPs (OCHA, 13/03/2015). A mechanism for verifying current IDP addresses could lead to 20–30% IDPs losing their status and benefits (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). The self-proclaimed Luhansk People’s Republic is increasingly issuing documentation, which might limit people’s access to certain rights and entitlements for IDPs (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Discrimination and stigmatisation of IDPs on political grounds has been reported (IOM, 22/10/2014). There are also concerns that military-age men are not registering as IDPs for fear of being drafted to the army (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Minorities

Minority issues have become highly politicised since the start of the unrest. The situation of minority communities in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, among others, is of concern, while there has been an apparent escalation of anti-Roma sentiment in the country (UN, 27/01/2015). An estimated 260,000 Roma live in Ukraine. Roma report living with restricted water and electricity supply, as well as unequal access to healthcare (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

In Crimea, at least nine people have reportedly been abducted; intimidation and restrictive laws have been used to silence the media – including almost all Crimean Tatar media outlets – and NGOs, and public protests have been banned since annexation (UNHCR, 31/01/2015; Amnesty, 17/03/2015; local media, 01/04/2015).

Vulnerable Groups

The 48,000 disabled people in eastern Ukraine constitute the most vulnerable in the population (MSNA, 30/03/2015; UNHCR, 20/03/2015).

50% of state and municipal institutions for the care and guardianship of minors in Donetsk and Luhansk regions are not functioning (international media, 07/10/2014). There are also concerns over militarisation of children in non-government areas (Protection Cluster, 04/03/2015).

The situation for older people in Donetsk and Luhansk is worsening, and particularly alarming in remote rural areas and areas with active military conflicts. Lack of pension income means they cannot meet basic needs. Access to food and medicine is almost non-existent for many who are not mobile (OCHA, 20/02/2015). Members of armed groups have also reportedly not been allowing their evacuation from nursing institutions to government areas (Help Age, 25/02/2015).

Mines and ERW

At least 109 children have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and UXO in Donetsk and Luhansk regions since March 2014 (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). Contamination of agricultural land is a major concern as the planting season begins: 30,000 hectares of land along the frontline in Novoazovskyi and Artemivskyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

Updated: 20/05/2015
31 March: The upward trend in cholera incidence continues in 2015, with 11,720 new cases reported, including 113 deaths, from January–March, almost double that of the same period in 2014. 55 communes are in need of targeted assistance (UNCT).

KEY CONCERNS

- An increase in basic food prices due to depleted stocks from the below-average October-December 2014 harvest, combined with erratic rains since January, is expected to increase food insecurity in Haiti (FEWSNET, 08/05/2015).
- A spike in cholera cases was reported over the September–November 2014 rainy season, and has continued over January-March (OCHA, 31/03/2015; PAHO, 02/12/2014).
- 64,680 IDPs remain in 66 camps as a result of the 2010 earthquake. 59% of camps are tents and make-shift sites (IOM, 31/03/2015).

OVERVIEW

An estimated three million Haitians have both chronic and acute humanitarian needs, and are facing displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Haiti’s political and economic situation is extremely fragile, and the country is vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

Disasters

Heavy rainfall leading to flooding in Ouest and Grande Anse departments over 4-5 April killed six and affected nearly 50,000 people. 8,800 houses were damaged, including 85% in Cité Soleil in Ouest department (OCHA, 20/04/2015; UN, 15/04/2015).

Political Context

President Martelly appointed a unity government on 19 January, and on 22 January the new Prime Minister set up a new electoral council (AFP, 22/01/2015). A calendar for legislative, presidential, and local elections was formally presented on 12 March; the first round is scheduled to start on 9 August. Elections have been delayed since 2011, leading to tensions and opposition demonstrations in the country, most significantly in January (AFP, 20/04/2015; UN, 18/03/2015).

Armed criminal violence is reportedly increasing in Haiti (Alter Press, 24/02/2015). While the UN stabilisation mission, MINUSTAH, maintains police in regions, the Haitian National Police is not yet fully capable of dealing with civil unrest (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

A UN peacekeeper was killed on 14 April near Ouanaminthe in Nord-Est department, during a violent protest to authorities’ lack of solutions for the recurring lack of electricity (UN, 14/04/2015).

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 147 by the end of 2014, and government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). The UN launched a Transitional Appeal Process in March, requiring USD 401 million, in an effort to address basic development challenges that result in persistent humanitarian needs and risks (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015). Between 20 April and July, the UN peacekeeping force will be cut in half again, to 2,350 (AFP, 20/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 31 March, 64,680 IDPs remain in 66 camps following the 2010 earthquake, including 43% in Delmas (27,914), 16% in Croix des Bouquets (10,636), and 9% in Port au Prince (6,114). Some 56 camps are targeted for closure, affecting 16,760 IDPs (CCCM, 27/01/2015). 39 IDP sites closed between 1 Jan - 31 March (IOM, 31/03/2015)

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation. Only one-third of camps have access to water and access to healthcare is problematic due to lack of infrastructure and funding (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). As of end 2014, priority needs included the provision of minimum basic services, protection monitoring, and promotion of durable solutions (OCHA, 03/11/2014).
Food Security

Basic food prices have reportedly increased since January, up 30-40% for some, as a result of depleted food stocks. The combined effect of food prices, erratic rains, and lack of investment in the agricultural sector may shift poor households in Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest and Artibonite from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity between May and June (FEWSNET, 08/05/2015).

As of end 2014, 605,000 Haitians were food insecure, including 165,000 in Crisis due to early exhaustion of food stocks as a result of the drought (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

The rainy season in most of the country is late. In parts of Grand-Anse, Sud, Sud-Est, and Ouest departments it is 1-2 weeks late; it is up to four weeks late in the Nord-Est department, and hasn’t started at all in Artibonite department. This has delayed planting activities in some areas (FEWSNET, 20/04/2015). Urgent agricultural support is required in Cap-Haitien, Gonaives, Ouanaminthe, Thomazeau, and Plateau Central (Alter Press, 25/03/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Some hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated since the earthquake (MSF, 08/01/2015). Lack of mental health support is also reported (Alter Press, 10/01/2015).

Cholera

The upward trend in incidence continues in 2015, with 11,720 new cholera cases reported, including 113 deaths, from January–March, almost double that of the same period in 2014. January was the worst, with 4,321 suspected cases and 36 deaths (UNCT, 31/03/2015). Ten communes in Nord, Ouest, Artibonite, Centre and Nippes departments were placed on red alert in April (Alter Press, 13/04/2015). Overall, 55 communes across the ten departments are in need of assistance, including access to healthcare, water sources, and vaccinations (UNCT, 31/03/2015).

Nearly 736,380 suspected cholera cases and 8,770 deaths have been reported since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (UNCT, 31/03/2015).

Nutrition

At March, 85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

WASH

Populations in Belladere in Centre Department have lacked access to safe drinking water for the past six months due to drought and technical issues, causing children to miss school, and rising tensions (Alter Press, 15/05/2015).

More than 3.4 million Haitians lack access to safe water (one-third of the total population and 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 38% do not have access to improved water sources and 69% lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets and more than three-quarters lack access to water (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Shelter

The majority of remaining IDP sites are in Port au Prince (21), Delmas (15), and Leogane (11). 59% of sites are tents and make-shift centres, 9% are mixed sites and 32% transitional shelters (IOM, 31/03/2015).

96% of people left homeless by the 2010 earthquake have been relocated outside camps (IOM, 31/03/2015). Overall, 3.5 million Haitians live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas where they suffer from socio-economic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impacts, and forced eviction. Around a third do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Protection

Children

Five years since the earthquake, many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

Risk of Deportation

Hundreds of Haitians living irregularly in the Dominican Republic, and more than 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent, are at risk of forced expulsion beginning 16 June, when the regularisation process will end (OCHA, 26/03/2015). Some 6,680 irregular migrants were repatriated to Ouanaminthe commune in the first four months of 2015, more than half of them in April alone. Some 5,570 irregular migrants were repatriated in total in 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

In total, an estimated 600,000 Haitian nationals or people of Haitian descent face an elevated risk of forced expulsion and deportations from countries of the Caribbean region. Most of them are unable to obtain birth certificates (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

The number of rapes reported in the first half of 2014 was double that of the same period in 2013. More than two-thirds of the rapes reported involved minors (OHCHR and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014). Gender-based violence continues to be of great concern in IDP camps (OHCHR/MINUSTAH/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).
KIRIBATI CYCLONE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

May: Arorae Island no longer requires assistance. Key priorities on Tamana Island remain fresh water and sanitation, due to contamination of wells and destruction of latrines (Red Cross Movement, 15/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster

Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam caused severe bad weather on the islands of Kiribati. 4m waves and heavy rain 11–13 March caused widespread coastal flooding, with damage in the capital, Tarawa (UNICEF, 15/03/2015; Red Cross Movement, 16/03/2015). The southern islands, including Tamana and Arorae, were especially affected by high tides exacerbated by strong winds (FAO, 23/03/2015; international media, 16/03/2015). The storm hit after several weeks of severe flooding (international media, 16/03/2015).

The southern island of Arorae no longer requires assistance, as public buildings have been restored and communities are repairing damaged houses. Tamana Island was most affected; homes were completely destroyed or inundated. Key priorities on Tamana Island remain water, NFIs, and sanitation (Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015; 15/05/2015). Assessments are still underway on Onotoa and Nonouti Islands.

Access

Power and mobile phone networks have been fully restored (Red Cross Movement, 15/05/2015).

Food Security

Seawater has heavily impacted food crops and other valuable plants, and salinization means large areas cannot now be cultivated. Food crops at the shoreline were uprooted or wiped out. The impact on food security is significant, as most families cultivate fruit trees and food plants around their homes (FAO, 23/03/2015).

Health

In the week to 19 April, 126 cases of diarrhoea were reported in the country (WHO, 19/04/2015). An outbreak of chikungunya virus was declared in most of the outer islands. Two of the islands have reported more than 200 cases (international media, 27/04/2015).

On Tamana island, six children under five have been reported with diarrhoea and vomiting (Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

On Tamana, around 65 houses were reported destroyed and most household items lost. Affected families have been staying with host families and relocating inland. By mid-April, the majority IDPs indicated they were planning to return (UNICEF, 24/03/2015; Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015; 15/05/2015).

WASH

Local sources report the main concerns on Tamana Island are fresh water and sanitation (international media, 24/03/2015). A number of wells have filled with seawater or been contaminated with E. coli, particularly in Bakarawa and Bakaka. 51 wells were severely damaged and require rehabilitation (UNICEF, 22/04/2015; 08/04/2015; Red Cross Movement, 15/05/2015). Toilets and latrines have been destroyed on Tamana island, leaving those rebuilding their houses without sanitation. Many people are practicing open defecation. (UNICEF, 08/04/2015; Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015).

Education

Schools are open but lack of transportation means a lot of children cannot reach school (UNICEF, 17/03/2015).

Updated 19/05/2015.

VANUATU DISPLACEMENT, CYCLONE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 May: The Government of Vanuatu has indicated a need for telecommunications
technology assistance beyond May, when funding for telecommunication projects will become a challenge (WFP).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 188,000 people on 22 islands were affected by the Category five Tropical Cyclone Pam and are in need of assistance (Government, 17/04/2015).
- 11 people died as a consequence of the cyclone (Le Monde with AFP, 20/03/2015)

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disasters**

Category five Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in the evening of 13 March 2015, with winds of more than 250km/hr. It has affected the entire country, but particularly the central and southern provinces. 188,000 people on 22 islands were affected by the cyclone and are in need of assistance (Government, 17/04/2015). 11 people died (Le Monde with AFP, 20/03/2015). Damage is widespread and severe. The worst impacted provinces include Shefa, Tafea, Malampa and Penama (Government, 16/03/2015). Other reports also indicate that Tanna Island has been severely hit. (Radio New Zealand, 01/04/2015). Preliminary estimates place the total economic value of effects caused by Cyclone at nearly US$400 million or nearly 50% of Vanuatu’s GDP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, 06/05/2015).

**Access**

The chair of the New Zealand Disaster Relief Forum says transport and communication challenges have prevented aid from reaching some communities (Radio New Zealand, 09/04/2015). The Government of Vanuatu has indicated it needs telecommunications technology assistance beyond May and has requested the three currently deployed British Telecom satellites. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster partners provide critical internet connectivity for the humanitarian community on Tanna Island but so far funding is not secure to maintain the services beyond May. (WFP, 14/05/2015).

**Food Security**

Food shortages are a serious concern for the majority of the population. In all provinces, much of the population will be without local staple food supply until at least mid-June, when fast-growing crops can be harvested if replanting starts immediately (FAO, 23/03/2015). Efate Island and southeast Pentecost have been prioritised for full food rations (WFP, 15/05/2015).

**Agriculture**

In Vanuatu, around 80% of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods; 70% of the rural population depends on subsistence farming (OCHA, 02/04/2015; WFP, 31/03/2015; FAO, 23/03/2015).

Cyclone Pam destroyed approximately 96% of crops in the country (OCHA, 02/04/2015). In the affected areas, such as more than 75% of coconut, 80% of coffee, 80% of leaf vegetables, 70% of taro and 65% of kumala was irretrievably damaged. Agricultural equipment and assets worth over VT 34,500,000 (USD 330,400) were damaged or destroyed. Pigs (69%), poultry (26%), fishing equipment and bee hives (5%) were all significantly affected, with a devastating impact on the availability of protein for households (Government, 17/04/2015).

Tafea, Shefa and Malampa provinces were the most impacted. 90–95% of farming and fishing equipment has been destroyed in the Shepherd Islands and the outer islands surrounding Efate (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

On affected islands, 70 of the 71 health facilities (not including first aid posts) were assessed and 54 had minor or no damage; six were destroyed and ten severely damaged. As of 17 April, 64 facilities are functioning, partially or fully. The Tafea and Shefa provinces are most affected (Health cluster, 11/04/2015, Government, 17/04/2015).

In the week ending 10 May, the number of watery diarrhoea cases and influenza like illness (ILI) cases were mostly stable but some areas, in particular Penama, witnessed an unusual increase of ILI (Health Cluster, 18/05/2015). 45 cases of acute fever and rash (AFR) on Erromango were diagnosed as chicken pox. AFR numbers are stabilising after the increase. Cases of the rare mosquito-borne Zika virus have been confirmed (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 28/04/2015; Health Cluster, 11/05/2015). Symptoms of Zika virus are relatively mild.

It is expected that at least 50% of children under five (17,000 children) will be at risk of worsening childhood illnesses and nutritional status (OCHA 15/03/2015). Measles is present in Vanuatu, and a breakdown in sanitation could facilitate transmission. Cases were reported on Efate between May 4-10. (UNICEF 15/03/2015; Health Cluster, 18/05/2015). Immunisation and child nutrition are priorities (OCHA 15/03/2015).

**Nutrition**

Adequate nutrition is required for over 160,000 affected people, in particular nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women and children under five years (OCHA, 03/04/2015). As of 11 May, 35 children, aged 6-59 months, were admitted for inpatient treatment for severe acute malnutrition in Santo, Tanna, and Port Vila (Health Cluster, 02/05/2015; Health Cluster, 11/05/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

Approximately 13,574 houses were damaged (Government 17/04/2015). More than 70% of houses on Tanna, Erromango and Emae have been destroyed or seriously damaged. Between 40% and 70% of houses have been destroyed or seriously damaged in East Ambrym, Paama and the Shepherd Islands (WFP, 31/03/2015). As of 1 April, OCHA estimates that 75,000 people are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 01/04/2015). As of
17 April, the Government highlights that gaps remain on Tanna and urban Port Vila (Government, 17/04/2015).

WASH

A second harmonised assessment released 17 April showed that two-thirds of the communities surveyed had severe WASH needs requiring immediate attention (Government, 17/04/2015).

Water

110,000 people are in need of clean drinking water (OCHA, 03/04/2015). A tenfold increase in WASH supplies will be needed for the next 2–3 months (OCHA, 15/03/2015). More than 50% of the communities reported access to less than three litres of drinking water a day. An estimated 68% of the rainwater harvesting catchment structures are broken, 70% of the wells have been contaminated, and piped water systems have been damaged.

The provinces of Tafea and Shefa have much less access to water than Penama and Malampa. In particular, north Tanna and the Shepherd Islands (Mataso, Tongariki, Puninga) have poor access to fresh water (Government, 17/04/2015; Logistics Cluster, 28/04/2015). Water quality is poor everywhere except Port Vila, but only half of the households reported using water treatment methods. Health risk is high (Government, 17/04/2015).

Sanitation and hygiene

68% of the sanitation superstructures have been destroyed, such that open defecation was reported to be up to 45% in Tafea. Open defecation presents urgent health, protection and dignity risks to children, women, and vulnerable groups (Government, 17/04/2015).

Nearly half of the households have access to soap, but less than 30% are using it. Use of soap was as low as 7% in Penama. Two-thirds of communities did not have access to sanitary protection materials for girls and women, especially in Malampa (Government, 17/04/2015).

Education

After a recent monitoring visit to Tanna, the Provincial Education Office reported that up to 90 per cent of primary school children have returned to school. However, most of the Early Childhood Care and Education centres (ECCE) in Tafea Province were damaged by the cyclone and reconstruction was not completed as of 16 May. On Tanna island, as of 16 May, only 10% of the primary school children were out of school (UNICEF, 16/05/2015).

Protection

Displacement continues to be a concern with some people still in unofficial temporary shelters. There are gaps in communication and a lack of information about remote affected communities. Physical security for the affected population is at risk with increased crime rates in the aftermath of the cyclone. Assessment identified a gap in attention towards housing, land and property issues. Reporting mechanisms and support services for survivors of gender-based violence or child abuse are inadequate. Targeted assistance is needed for persons living with disabilities, female headed households and older persons (Government, 17/04/2015).

Updated: 19/05/2015

COLOMBIA

CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 20/05/2015. Last update 30/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/05/2015).
- 5.7 million cumulative IDPs, including 224,300 in 2014 (IDMC, 10/2014; HDMX, 2015).
OVERVIEW

Five decades of armed violence coupled with the country’s frequent natural disasters have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement, landmine contamination, and gender-based violence are among the major concerns. For rural communities, movement restrictions by armed groups limit access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the country’s Pacific region.

Political Context

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government against armed groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). Created by landless peasants, the FARC-EP stated aim is to “end social, political, and economic inequalities”. The ELN was founded on Marxist-Leninist ideals (In Sight Crime). Attempts at peace negotiations in the 1980s and 1998-2000 failed. The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba. Agreements have been reached on agrarian reform, political participation, and illicit drugs. Negotiations resumed on 2 February and will focus on the end of the armed conflict (World Bulletin, 20/01/2014; AFP, 02/02/2015).

Another round of peace talks began on 25 February prior to the arrival of former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to Cuba (international media, 25/02/2015). On 3 March, the FARC-EP declared a peace agreement wouldn’t be signed if its members were to be tried and jailed (AFP, 03/03/2015).

Security Context

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since peace negotiations began in 2012. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes have been operational since 2003: 56,903 people have been demobilised from armed groups, including 47,770 people who have gone through reintegration programmes with the Colombian Reintegration Agency (Government, 16/12/2014).

Nonetheless, violence and insecurity persist, including kidnappings and extortion by armed groups and BACRIM.

On 20 December 2014, FARC-EP announced a unilateral ceasefire (Washington Office on Latin America, 2014). On 7 February, the FARC-EP stated that it would be ready to give up its arms and become a political party if the Colombian Government meets its side of recent agreements, which include a bilateral ceasefire, the suspension of investments in mining projects, and the reform of armed forces and state security (El Espectador, 07/02/2015). A month later, the Colombian Government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, with a target of 2025 to complete demining (Reuters, 09/03/2015). On 10 March, the Colombian Government declared it would halt bombing raids against FARC-EP for one month (Al Jazeera, 11/03/2015; BBC, 11/03/2015). On 15 March, the FARC-EP threatened to end the unilateral ceasefire unless the President called off all attacks, stating that air raids had stopped but other offensive manoeuvres had continued (Reuters, 19/03/2015). On 9 April, the President announced an extension to the suspended air strikes against the FARC-EP. The suspension was lifted, however, following an attack by the FARC-EP, which left eleven soldiers dead and eighteen wounded in Cauca department (local media, 15/04/2015).

Despite the recent attack on the Colombian armed forces by the FARC-EP, both the government and the armed group remain committed to continuing the peace negotiations (Reuters, 21/04/2015; Colombia Reports, 21/04/2015).

Stakeholders

FARC-EP: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) is the oldest left-wing militant group in Colombia. It was formed in 1964 by the Colombian Communist Party as a result of rural unrest from fighting between the liberal and conservative parties. Approximately 7,000 fighters make up the FARC-EP today, which allegedly makes between USD 500 and 600 million in profits from the illicit drug trade (UNRIC 2013; BBC 29/08/2013). The FARC-EP has been active throughout the country, but especially in Arauca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca and Antioquia. In November 2012, the group joined peace negotiations with the Government.

ELN: The National Liberation Army is a left-wing militant group formed in 1965 and composed of 1,500 fighters. On 7 January, it stated that it intended to join the peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). The ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca Departments (Kienyke, 2013).

Government forces: The Government of Colombia’s strategies to combat non-state armed have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finance the armed groups.

BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups: Criminal gangs (bandas criminales) under the names Black Eagles, Erpac, and Rastrojos, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters and another former armed group, the United Armed Forces of Colombia (AUC). They are involved in drug-trafficking and extortion throughout the country and in Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, as well as the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

Conflict Developments

During the fourth quarter of 2014, Antioquia, Cauca, Arauca, Meta, and Norte de Santander departments were the most affected by armed activity (OCHA, 07/01/2015). Following the FARC-EP’s unilateral ceasefire in mid-December, the number of violent incidents related to the armed conflict has dropped to levels not seen since the 1980s (Missionary International Service News Agency, 12/01/2015).

Recent Incidents

On 14 April, an attack by the FARC-EP left 11 soldiers dead in Cauca department; in
nearby Suarez municipality five civilians were killed by an unidentified group (local media, 15/04/2015; 16/04/2015). The FARC-EP recommitted to the unilateral ceasefire in the days following the attack in Cauca department (international organisations, 21/04/2015).

On 6 April, three police officers were killed by an unidentified armed group in Norte de Santander department, bordering Venezuela (Colombia Reports, 06/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia, including 1.3 million affected by natural disasters, 1.3 million people in areas with confinement and access constraints, 900,000 IDPs, and 1.1 million people in host communities (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

As of January 2015, 262,000 people are in trapped communities, primarily in Chocó department and made up mostly of indigenous communities and Afro-Colombians (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Access

Trapped Communities

As of May, OCHA reports 1.3 million people are affected by confinement and access constraints (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

From January-March, 186,390 people have been affected by access and mobility constraints, including 28,790 who were affected by access constraints in March (OCHA, 18/04/2015). Since end February, movement has been restricted and humanitarian assistance blocked for 1,200 members of indigenous and farming communities in Caceras, Antioquia department, due to fear of potential clashes between ELN and a ‘demobilised’ armed group (OCHA, 11/03/2015). A community of 912 Eperera Siapidara, an indigenous people, are confined to a rural zone in Timbiqui, Cauca department, due to security threats – school was cancelled and daily activities ceased (OCHA, 19/03/2015). Some 990 people are confined to their homes in Bagado, Choco department, due to a military offensive on the ELN from end March to 19 April (OCHA, 27/04/2015). In Catatumbo, Norte de Santander department 24,000 people have been affected by confinement in 2015 (OCHA, 17/05/2015).

Disasters

From January 2014 to February 2015, 1.3 million people were affected by natural disasters (OCHA, 24/02/2015). In March, 22,370 people were affected by natural disasters (OCHA, 18/04/2015).

Drought

Six forest fires have been reported in the department of Antioquia (Ituango, Anzá, Urrao, Caicedo, Itagui and Medellin municipalities). 24 of the southwestern municipalities are on red alert (PAHO, 13/03/2015). As of early April, more than 600 emergencies have been recorded due to forest fires in southern Atlantic department (Manatí, Candelaria, Suan, and Campo de la Cruz municipalities). On 23 April, an emergency was called in Santa Marta, Magdalena department, due to a drought caused by El Niño that will last until June (El Espectador, 24/04/2015; El Colombiano, 18/04/2015).

Floods

Heavy rains led to a landslide in Salgar, Antioquia department in northwestern Colombia on 18 May. It affected 18,000 people, killed 78 and injured 40. Some 500 people had damaged or destroyed homes (Reuters, 20/05/2015; ECHO, 19/05/2015). In Condoto municipality, Choco department, heavy rains and strong winds affected 500 homes on 15 May (ECHO, 19/05/2015).

Floodings, winds and landslides affected more than 20,000 people in April, including 4,000 in the Amazonas (OCHA, 17/05/2015).

2,000 people were trapped when heavy April rains caused the San Juan, Taparto and Santa Rita rivers to overflow, destroying buildings and bridges in Antioquia department (PAHO, 14/04/2015). Nariño department has been one of the most affected by heavy rains in terms of damaged infrastructure and livelihoods; more than 400 people have been left without shelter (El Espectador, 21/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Colombia has 5.7 million IDPs (IDMC, 10/2014). In 2014, there were 224,300 new IDPs (OCHA, 20/01/2015), compared to 228,526 in 2013 (Reuters, 25/02/2015). 39% of the IDP caseload between 2012 and June 2014 was concentrated in the Pacific region. In 2014, new displacement was primarily concentrated in Cauca and Chocó (OCHA, 07/01/2015). 79,989 people below the age of 18 were displaced during 2014 (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

The total number of people displaced by armed violence from January-March 2015 was 3,040, including 1,470 who were displaced in March. This is an 8% reduction compared to September-December 2014 (OCHA, 18/04/2015). OCHA reports that those responsible are primarily the ELN, post-demobilised armed groups and other unidentified armed groups (OCHA, 18/04/2015).

Chocó: 655 people were displaced at end February from rural communities in Bajo Baudó, Chocó department due to clashes between the ELN and a post-demobilised armed group. Those affected include five indigenous Embera communities and three Afro-descendant communities. More than 1,000 others are trapped and at risk of displacement. Access to the region is difficult, and populations have limited access to food, water, education, and health services (OCHA, 04/03/2015; 06/04/2015). 711 indigenous people from five communities in Bagado, Choco department were displaced due to a military offensive against the ELN from end March to 19 April (OCHA, 27/04/2015).

Guaviere and Meta: Two minority groups, the Nukak (120 people), at risk of extinction, and the Jiw (136 people), who were displaced from 2001–2005, are in Guaviere and Meta departments, respectively, and require assistance with shelter, WASH, and education. The Jiw community in Puerto Concordia, Meta, also needs seeds for food security and

Guaviere and Meta: Two minority groups, the Nukak (120 people), at risk of extinction, and the Jiw (136 people), who were displaced from 2001–2005, are in Guaviere and Meta departments, respectively, and require assistance with shelter, WASH, and education. The Jiw community in Puerto Concordia, Meta, also needs seeds for food security and
livelihoods (OCHA, 21/03/2015; 31/02/2015).

**Antioquia:** 145 people from Angostura municipality, Antioquia department were displaced due to clashes between armed forces and armed groups (Instituto Popular de Capacitacion, 23/04/2015). On 11 May, clashes between a post-demobilized armed group and the ELN displaced 529 people in rural Zaragoza. Most IDPs are staying with host-families (OCHA, 15/05/2015).

**Cauca:** 909 indigenous people have been displaced due to the presence of an unidentified armed group on the reserve Calle Santa Rosa, Timbiqui municipality, since 3 March (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

**Returnees**

206 Embera Katio, an indigenous people, will return to Pueblo Rico municipality in Antioquia department (Government, 19/03/2015).

**Colombian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

400,000 Colombians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

**Food Security**

1.2 million people are food insecure, due to in part to low food production, poverty and internal displacement from conflict (OCHA, 20/01/2015; USAID). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño are among the most affected (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

Only 30% of victims of armed conflict have access to healthcare (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**Chikungunya**

At least 213,000 people have been infected with chikungunya, including 90,000 who are predicted to suffer from long-term arthritis as a side-effect of the disease. The outbreak began in September 2014 (local media, 19/03/2015; 12/03/2015). The Caribbean region is the most affected (local media, 19/03/2015). 30,230 cases of chikungunya were reported from November 2014 until April 2015 in the Valle del Cauca department (local media, 07/04/2015).

**WASH**

1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

 Attacks on the petroleum industry in Putumayo department in 2014 are still affecting nearby communities, who have little access to water. Some companies have taken charge by providing each family with 20-40L of water per week, which is below standard (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

The indigenous communities on the reserve Calle Santa Rosa rely on four water tanks that do not meet their needs, resulting in use of river water contaminated by mining activity (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

916,000 people need shelter (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes when they return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlantico and Magdalena in northern Colombia, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

**Protection**

Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be trapped by conflict (NRC, 09/2014).

According to the World Organisation Against Torture, torture and ill-treatment in various forms are being practiced abundantly in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either very limited or ineffective, resulting in impunity for those crimes. These include: abuses by paramilitary and criminal gangs; extrajudicial killings; sexual abuse in conflict; child soldiers, mass arrests; mass detentions by law enforcement officers, enforced disappearances; extradition and diplomatic assurances, trafficking in persons, and the detention of women in male detention facilities. Overcrowding in prisons had reached dire levels, where detainees on average had sleeping areas of 50 to 60 square centimetres (World Organisation Against Torture, 01/05/2015).

In 2014, there were 626 registered attacks against human rights defenders, a 147% increase compared to 2013. 73% of attacks were carried out by post-demobilised armed groups. Many local NGOs are concerned that successful peace negotiations may not result in a decrease in such attacks (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

**From November 2012 – March 2015, the duration of the peace negotiations, there were 789 victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, an average of 27 people per month (OCHA, 17/05/2015).**

**Child Protection**

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in the FARC. The government is urging for their release (Reuters, 15/04/2015).

Reports show that since peace negotiations began in 2012, 76% of children fighting with the FARC-EP and 18% with the ELN have been reintegrated into society (UNICEF, 2014).

**Sexual and Gender-based Violence**
52% of displaced women have suffered some type of sexual violence after displacement, according to a study by OHCHR. Women in the Pacific region are particularly affected (NRC, 09/2014).

Updated: 20/05/2015

BOLIVIA  DROUGHT, FLOODS

![Situation of concern](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 May: There has been no water in Sucre, Chuquisaca, for five days due to rockfalls that damaged the supply system (Government, 19/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 159,203 people affected by heavy rains, 32 people have died and six are missing (ECHO, 14/04/2015).
- Around 130,000 people affected by drought (Government, Media, 10/12/2014).
- A series of natural disasters has affected Bolivia since the beginning of the rainy season in October 2013 and has had a severe impact on livelihoods and food security.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

On 27 February, a bridge connecting Cochabamba to Santa Cruz was destroyed. Reconstruction of this bridge will take six months, and metal bridges will be set up in the meantime (Government, 05/03/2015). Heavy rains on 27 March required the temporary bridge to be blocked (local media, 28/03/2015). As of 27 March, there were three routes closed to traffic: Siles-Paraiso in Beni department; Route 4 in Espiritu Santo II and Villa Tunari in Cochabamba department; and Route 25 Abra Poea-Licoma in La Paz department (local media, 28/03/2015). In Chuquisaca department, heavy rains and landslides have damaged numerous roads in the Heredia stretch of San Juan del Pirai (Government, 09/03/2015).

Disasters

Drought

Around 130,000 people have been affected by drought, including an estimated 20,000 farmers (Government, 05/01/2015).

Heavy Rainfall and Floods

159,203 people have been affected by heavy rains since October 2014. The three provinces with the most people affected are Chuquisaca, with 38,585 people affected; Cochabamba, 39,508; and La Paz, 38,442. A total of 20,846 hectares of land have been affected. The rains have had an impact on 119 municipalities in 9 departments. 32 people have died and six are missing (Government, 22/04/2015, ECHO, 14/04/2015).

Hailstorms have damaged 400 families’ (1,600 individuals) agricultural production in Potosi as well as 42.75 hectares in Cochabamba (Local media, 28/04/2015; Government, 28/04/2015).

On 21 April, flooding in Guanay, La Paz province, affected 150 people and damaged 15 houses (local media, 21/04/2015). As of 5 May, flooding is reported in Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, Pando y Chuquisaca, where an orange alert declared. 1380 families (5,934 individuals) and 30 hectares of crop have been affected (local media, 05/05/2015; Government, 08/05/2015).

The floods in Bolivia’s Amazon valleys, lowlands, and plains during the October 2013 –March 2014 rains were the worst in 60 years, affecting an estimated 325,000 people (OCHA 06/2014; ACT Alliance, 24/09/2014).

Landslides

In Cochabamba, 66 people were evacuated due to the landslide risk where their homes are located (Government, 09/04/2015).

Two rockfalls have damaged the water system of Sucre in Chuquisaca (Government, 19/05/2015)

Food Security

In Azurduy municipality, Chuquisaca department, more than 2,000 families have missed the planting season due to heavy rains and crops were severely impacted (local media, 02/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

As of 9 May, 3,500 cases of chikungunya have been confirmed in Santa Cruz. No state of emergency has been declared. In April, 15 cases were imported in Cochabamba and one.
Between January and April 2015, 100 cases of dengue were reported in Beni department and there were 206 suspected cases (Government, 24/02/2015; 08/05/2015). As of 21 April, 6,542 cases of respiratory infections have been reported, reaching the epidemic threshold. Some 49,000 cases were reported during the same period last year (international media, 21/04/2015).

WASH

Rock falls have damaged the water system supplying the city of Sucre. As of 19 May, there has been no water in the city for five days (Government, 19/05/2015).

Updated: 22/05/2015
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The world map and the table provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: “watch list”, “situation of concern”, “humanitarian crisis”, and “severe humanitarian crisis”.

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the under-5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an ongoing crisis, a country is highlighted by a yellow dot on the map.

The snapshot briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The latest developments for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and key concerns highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.

To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.

Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternative sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.