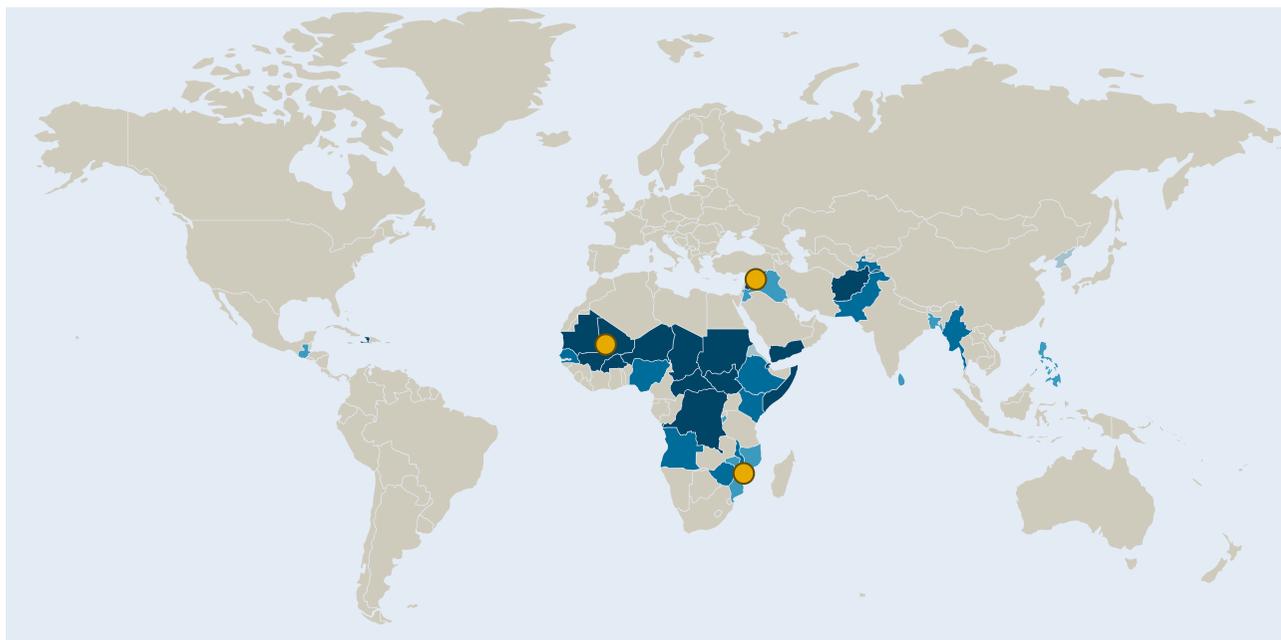




# GLOBAL OVERVIEW

February 2013



## Snapshot 28 January - 4 February 2013

The number of dead from the **Syria** conflict continues to rise after new clashes across the country. Two days of severe fighting on 30-31 January in the province of Idlib left 47 people dead. The offensive by the Syrian army against opposition strongholds has continued with attacks and fresh clashes in Southern Damascus, Aleppo, and the city of Homs. The number of Syrian refugees continued to rise over the past week, amounting to a total of 733,196.

The French-led ground offensive against Islamist rebels continued in **Mali** with French troops securing Kidal airport and entering the city of Kidal on 29 January. Aerial operations targeting Islamic militant training camps and arms depots around Kidal and Tessalit were initiated by the French troops on 2 February. Military progress in the centre and north of Mali has improved humanitarian access, although conditions remain unstable.

The recent floods in southern Africa have affected several countries in the region. In **Mozambique**, an additional 19,000 people have been temporarily displaced, bringing the total number of temporarily displaced to 169,000.

### Severe humanitarian crisis

Afghanistan	Mauritania
Burkina Faso	Niger
CAR	Somalia
Chad	South Sudan
DRC	Sudan
Djibouti	● Syria
Haiti	Yemen
● Mali	

### Humanitarian crisis

Angola	oPt
Ethiopia	Pakistan
Kenya	Senegal
Malawi	Tajikistan
Myanmar	Zimbabwe
Nigeria	

### Situation of concern

Bangladesh	● Mozambique
Burundi	Philippines
Guatemala	Samoa
Iraq	Sri Lanka
Jordan	

### Watch list

DPRK	Eritrea
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# AFRICA

## **BURKINA FASO** FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Burkina Faso has been affected by insecurity and the on-going military intervention in Mali. As of 4 February, around 43,629 refugees were registered with UNHCR in Burkina Faso. The refugees are residing at seven sites (Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, Ouagadougou) which are recognized as refugee camps by the Government, as well as at several spontaneous settlements. A contingent of 160 soldiers from Burkina Faso has further been deployed to Markala in central Mali, becoming the first West African troops to link up with French and Malian forces moving against al Qaeda-allied Islamist rebels occupying the north.

Burkina Faso is in addition suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition. According to a WFP/Government assessment, more than 2.8 million people are affected by food insecurity. Prolonged drought, high food prices, displacement and chronic poverty are the main causes for the crisis. As a result, the Government declared a national emergency on 1 March 2012. Despite average rainfall since July, household food security is expected to remain fragile in 2013.

In 2012, the national Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was 10.9%, compared to 10.3% in 2011, with the highest GAM rates in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. According to UNICEF, more than 100,000 children <5 suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Clashes between farmers and herders have erupted in January 2013 killing seven people in Sangou in the Central East region of Burkina Faso. Conflict between the two groups is common in Burkina Faso: according to official statistics, 55 people were killed in the clashes over the past four years and there is an average of 600 such conflicts each year.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

On 3 February the Central African Republic announced the formation of a new Government as part of a peace deal signed between the Government and Seleka rebels (a coalition of three rebel movements) on 11 January. Seleka rebels and democratic opposition were given 5 seats

each, civil society and other politico-military groups 4 each and 12 seats were awarded to Presidential majority. Seleka's leader, Michel Am Non Droko Djotodia, was named first Deputy Prime Minister in charge of national defence.

The Seleka took up arms against the Government on 10 December 2012. Seleka accused the Government of failing to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals under which fighters who laid down their arms were to receive compensation. This group took control of several towns across the country, including four prefecture capitals, and advanced as close as 75 km from the capital Bangui. Due to insecurity, humanitarian access to the affected population has been significantly reduced.

Several UN offices and warehouses were looted during the rebel offensive and the violence prompted temporary evacuations of humanitarian staff out of affected areas. The full extent of the humanitarian crisis is still unclear. According to OCHA an estimated 788,000 people, (17% of the CAR's total population of 4.6 million) are living in the affected regions. About 34,102 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been identified so far. This includes around 24,000 IDPs in and around Bria (34% of the town's population) and more than 10,000 IDPs in Damara and surroundings.

On 24 January the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations peace building office in the country until 31 January 2014.

In addition to conflict, CAR is facing a food and nutrition crisis. In December 2012, OCHA reported that an estimated 664,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in Vakaga, Haut-Mbomou, Nana-Gribizi and Mbomou. A recent IPC seasonal analysis classified the entire country in either Phase 3 (stressed) or Phase 2 (crisis). In 9 out of 16 prefectures, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition in children <5 is above the emergency threshold of 2%. Chronic poverty was identified as the general cause of food and nutrition insecurity with civil insecurity exacerbating conditions in the north and north-east. In Bangui, WFP reports that food prices have risen by 27% during the past month possibly due to stores closing in fear of looting and food becoming scarce with the main source of staples in Kaga Bandoro Dekoa, Grimari and Bambari seized by the rebels.

According to OCHA, around 99,000 people are displaced within CAR, including 47,000 returnees and 27,000 due to recent activities of the Lord's Resistance Army.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **CHAD** FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Two years of continued climatic shocks, including erratic rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012 and the beginning of 2013 in Chad. According to UN, 1.8 million people are food insecure. The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is at critical levels with a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in 9 out of 22 regions according to OCHA. The areas most affected are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22%), Salamat (22%), Beg (21%), and Kanem (21%). A pre-assessment of the 2012-2013 agricultural season indicates a 124% increase in grain production compared to 2011 due to favourable rains. Nevertheless, structurally deficient regions will continue to face a shortage of grain.

Despite the good harvest, an estimated 126,000 children will suffer from severe acute

malnutrition in 2013, according to UNICEF. Households have accumulated large debts during the lean period in 2012, which means that poor families have to sell much of their produce immediately after harvest.

In addition, southern Chad suffered from significant crop losses due to major flooding. At the start of December, 700,000 people were affected by floods following heavy rains in July and August this year. As a result of the floods, there is an increased risk of cholera.

Insecurity, particularly in eastern Chad and in certain areas in southern Chad, continues to limit humanitarian access.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** **CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

Despite expectations by Congolese rebels to sign a peace deal with the Government by the end of February, the Government of DRC reported that changing demands from the rebels could cause delays. Negotiations stalled and the plan to sign on 28 January was cancelled. Meanwhile, leaders from the African Union and the UN failed to reach an agreement on the deployment of a neutral force.

Congolese rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire on 8 January, ahead of a second round of peace talks with the Government. Negotiations between the Government and M23 rebels resumed in January, following two weeks of negotiations in December that ended without an agreement. The M23 rebel group turned against the Government in April 2012, citing poor conditions in the army and the Government's unwillingness to implement the 23 March 2009 peace deal. It later broadened its goals to include the "liberation" of the country and the removal of President Joseph Kabila. Although the rebels were persuaded to withdraw from Goma at the end of November, they are still in control of large stretches of territory in the eastern region of DRC. Since March 2012, the eastern provinces have seen an upsurge in violence, involving more than 30 different armed groups. As of 18 January, the UN estimates that 914,000 people have been displaced by violence in North Kivu, an increase from 500,000 in April. In South Kivu, in December 2012, more than 50,000 people were displaced due to clashes between the armed forces and militias. Since January 2, an estimated 35,000 have been displaced in Walangu, one of the most unstable provinces in South Kivu. However, according to OCHA on 1 February some IDPs have begun to return to their homes.

Nationwide, as of November, more than 2.4 million people were reported displaced as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups. An estimated 450,000 Congolese refugees are residing in neighbouring countries.

The country continues to be affected by food insecurity and disease outbreaks. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating and IPC reports that 6.3 million people are in urgent need of food assistance. With 70% of the rural population without access to drinking water, there is an increased risk of cholera. A cholera outbreak continues to affect 9 out of 11 provinces, with around 32,000 cases between January and December 2012. The west of DRC, although relatively stable compared to the east, faces chronic food insecurity due to isolation, the lack of social infrastructure and effects of several aggravating economic shocks.

Humanitarian access has been limited due to mountainous and volcanic terrain, coupled with

widespread and shifting insecurity. Tensions between the local population and international aid workers have escalated

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **DJIBOUTI** **FOOD INSECURITY**

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, some 150,000 people are affected by drought, of which 70,000 vulnerable populations in rural areas are currently at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity.

Conditions for urban poor households are expected to remain critical during the coming months due to on-going increases in food prices. High unemployment rates (48%) and high staple prices are causing urban to peri-urban migration to areas such as Balbala.

Successive years of poor rains have also eroded the coping mechanisms of pastoralists in Djibouti's rural regions, even as high food prices and unemployment rates afflict the country's urban areas.

The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase of humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. As of 14 December there were more than 18,000 Somali refugees in Djibouti.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **MALI** **CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

On 29 January French forces reportedly took control over Kidal airport and entered the city of Kidal without resistance from the rebels (Ansar al-Dine). Aerial operations targeting Islamic militant training camps and arms depots around Kidal and Tessalit were initiated by the French troops on 2 February. The ousting of rebels from Kidal marks a significant continuation of the French-led offensive which, to date, has secured the major cities in the north, i.e. Timbuktu, Gao, Konna and Kidal. The recent clashes and movements of troops have reportedly led to new displacement of thousands of people within Mali and to neighbouring countries.

With military progress in re-asserting control and security in the centre and north of Mali, humanitarian access is improving, according to OCHA. However, conditions remain volatile due to insecurity and restrictions posed on operations by armed groups. As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, UNHCR estimates that a significant number of displaced people will return to their homes, although considerable challenges and poor conditions remain for a large share of those returning.

France's involvement in the 12 month long conflict came after Islamist fighters moved to within 20 kilometres of Mopti, a strategically important town on the frontier between rebel-held and Government-held territories, taking control of the strategic town Konna on 10 December. With support from France's armed forces, the Mali Government started a counter-offence. After Tuareg-led rebels launched a bid to create an independent state in January 2012, fighting for control of northern Mali continues. On

11 November, ECOWAS committed to sending 3,300 troops to the northern area of Mali to support the Government. The UN has approved the plans but the majority of the African troops are not due to arrive until September 2013.

The current offensive in Mali fuels fears of a regional spill-over after Islamist gunmen cited France's intervention as their reason for attacking a desert gas plant in neighbouring Algeria, seizing hundreds and killing 60 hostages. On 21 January, the Mulathameen Brigade which claimed the mass hostage-taking in Algeria threatened to carry out more attacks unless Western powers ended its intervention in Mali.

The conflict in the north has affected around 1.7 million people. According to UNHCR, some 227,206 people are currently internally displaced as a result of the conflict; this signifies an increase of almost 30,000 compared to figures from December 2012. In addition, UNHCR reports that as of 1 February, more than 161,833 people have fled to neighbouring countries (around 64,805 in Mauritania, 53,353 in Niger and 43,629 refugees in Burkina Faso). UNHCR further anticipates up to 700,000 more people could be forced to flee their homes in the next few months.

An estimated 4.3 million people in Mali are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. Following a Food Security Assessment conducted in August-September 2012, the figure of people at risk of becoming food insecure has been revised from 4.6 million in 2012 to two million for 2013. This includes 747,000 people who are in need of food assistance. A large part of this food insecurity is related to the conflict in the northern regions. An estimated 660,000 children <5 will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY**

The number of Malian refugees in Mauritania continues to increase. As of 4 February, the total number of Malian refugees in the country amounts to 64,805. Around 8,468 new arrivals were registered between 11-27 January. 90% of the Malian refugees are women and children.

Hodh Ech Chargui hosts the majority of the Malian refugees fleeing the armed conflict in northern Mali. Food insecurity and malnutrition is chronic in Mauritania: the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate for children <5 has been around 12% since 2008. In 2013, similar to other years, an estimated 122,719 children will be acutely malnourished. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in Hodh Ech Chargui (16% GAM), Guidimaka, Gorgol and Assaba regions in the south-east of the country.

Around 700,000 people are affected by food insecurity as a result of last year's drop in cereal production and require urgent food and nutrition assistance. However, the outlook for the 2013 harvest is above average, and cereal prices have started their seasonal fall.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

Niger is coping with four concurrent disasters: the Sahel food crisis, the Malian refugee crisis, flooding and a cholera outbreak. According to OCHA, 6.4 million people were affected by food insecurity in 2012, due to consecutive poor harvests, drought and rising food prices. The number of food insecure is expected to decrease to 2.5 million in 2013 as a result of a surplus cereal harvest. In spite of the nationwide production surplus, certain areas affected by localized shocks saw below-average harvests, particularly in Ayorou, Tillabéri, and Torodi departments where 700,000 people will be unable to meet their food needs without assistance, compared with the norm of 300,000 to 400,000 people in these areas.

The number of Malian refugees residing in Niger decreased in December, from 62,000 Malian refugees at the end of November to around 50,000 as of 1 February. However, the refugees continue to place a large strain on the country with the large majority settling in the regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis. New arrivals are expected due to the ongoing military intervention in Mali. Around 2,000 Malian refugees entered Niger since 11 January.

In the west of the country, more than 700,000 people were affected by flooding in December 2012, of which around 175,000 are displaced. The regions of Tillabéri and Dosso have been most severely affected. A surge in malaria and cholera cases was reported in most of the affected areas. As of 9 December, around 5,000 cholera cases have been reported (CFR 2.1%). Floods rendered refugee camps inaccessible in Tillabéri, an area which hosts an estimated 36,000 Malian refugees.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

OCHA reports that an estimated 2.1 million people in Somalia are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. However, the general food security situation has improved. Recent harvests have resulted in improved access to food and declining market prices. The positive impact of the 2012 *Deyr* rains, as well as favourable and continued humanitarian response, is expected to continue in the first half of 2013. Yet, regular seasonal deterioration of food security conditions, starting in early 2013, is expected with the onset of the long dry season. Climate predictions point towards abnormally hot and dry conditions in early 2013.

Although most livelihoods in Somalia are likely to be classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2), Critical to Very Critical nutrition situations (IPC Phase 3 and 4) are expected to remain in most IDP settlements of the north and central regions and in other parts of the south, north and central regions. The epicentre of the crisis continues to be in the south, largely due to the long-term effects of conflict, drought and famine, as well as the short-term effects of this year's poor *Gu* rainy season. As a result of the lack of health infrastructure, poor feeding practices and possible outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and measles during the April to June rainy season 236,000 children <5 are expected to remain severely malnourished.

Conflict is still widespread in Somalia. Military operations by Somali forces, supported by African Union peacekeepers, against militants forced a large number of al-Shabaab rebels out of their strongholds in the southern and central regions. As a result of the food crisis and conflict, between 1.1 million and 1.36 million people are currently internally displaced according to UNHCR estimates. Another one million Somali's are living as refugees outside of the country.

At the end of November 2012, flooding affected more than 120,000 people in areas of northern and southern Somalia. Flooding has increased the risk of cholera, with suspected cholera cases continuing to be reported from Somaliland, southern and central zones. In December 2012 ten alerts or 254 cases of suspected cholera were reported in southern Somalia's Bay and Lower Juba regions. These regions also suffer from measles and malaria outbreaks.

Humanitarian access continued to improve slowly with the number of attacks on aid workers reducing from 13 in October to 4 and 5 in November and December, respectively. The withdrawal of al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increase in the international presence in some of these areas.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

On 19 January negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan came to a renewed halt on how to reach an agreement on the withdrawal of troops from 2,000 kilometre long disputed border area and Abyei. The talks have been postponed until 13 February, although South Sudan had initially reported on 17 January that it will begin withdrawing its army from the border. The leaders already agreed in September to end hostilities and withdraw from the border regions, but the two sides failed to implement the agreement. The countries came close to war in April 2012 in the worst border clashes since South Sudan declared independence from Sudan in 2011.

South Sudan continues to face a severe food security crisis, insecurity and an influx of Sudanese refugees. Although favourable rains have improved the food security situation in the western, central and eastern regions of the country, 4.6 million people will remain in need of food or livelihoods support in 2013 according to the UN. Food insecurity is caused by a series of factors including diminished cross border trade with the Sudan, inter-communal clashes, increasing number of IDPs, returnees and refugees, fuel scarcity and high food prices. Inflation rates nearly doubled, from 22% in October to 41% in November, according the South Sudan Bureau of Statistics. The cost of food increased by 43% in 2012 compared to 2011

During 2012, around 170,000 people have been internally displaced due to conflict, inter-communal fighting and insecurity. Since late August, there has been an intensification of hostilities between the South Sudan Army and non-state armed actors in Jonglei. On 27 January a clash between two factions of the same armed group in Pibor town, Jonglei State caused the temporary displacement of thousands of people. Approximately 2,500 people reportedly spent the night inside the UN mission (UNMISS) compound due to insecurity. While the affected people returned to their homes, the situation remained tense

and unpredictable.

The influx of Sudanese refugees from North Kordofan and Blue Nile state continues, with over 204,000 Sudanese refugees currently present in South Sudan, primarily in Upper Nile and Unity state. An outbreak of Hepatitis E was reported in four refugee camps with the Batil refugee site in Upper Nile State being the worst affected. 742 new suspected cases of Hepatitis E were reported in the first two weeks of January.

By 24 January, around 137,000 South Sudanese had returned from Sudan since the start of the year.

As of 21 November, 313,000 people in 44 of 79 counties have been affected by floods caused by heavy rain during the rainy season. The 2012 rainy season, from June to November, was heavier than in 2011, with more than three times the number of people impacted. Jonglei was the worst affected state where floods displaced over 220,000 people, destroyed crops, houses and basic infrastructure. The seasonal flooding is expected to significantly impact the performance of crops and livestock.

Insecurity, poor infrastructure and seasonal rains severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**

Fighting between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLM-N forces in parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan states started in June 2011 and has since affected an estimated 908,000 people. There is no humanitarian access to 420,000 people affected in rebel held areas in the two states. Fighting in South Kordofan has escalated in recent months with insurgents shelling the capital of South Kordofan, Kadugli. It is reported that the Sudanese army is dispatching heavy reinforcement into the area in order to defeat the rebellion and increase security. According to UNHCR, some 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily.

As of 31 January, an estimated 3.5 million people in Sudan face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity, compared to 4.6 million people in July 2012. Some 80% of the food insecure population is in the conflict-affected areas of Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei. FEWSNET reported that 200,000-250,000 people in areas of southern Blue Nile and South Kordofan are facing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity due to severe insecurity. Food insecurity will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels in conflict-affected areas in North Darfur until at least March 2013.

Recent clashes between Reizegat and Beni Hussein tribes in North Darfur have led to a mass displacement of 100,000 people, according to OCHA. The villages of Saraf Omra, Kabkabya and El Sereif are the most affected. OCHA reports that according to local community leaders, there are up to 20,000 people displaced in Abu Gamra, an area that humanitarian actors have not been able to access and verify.

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and an armed movement in the Jebel Marra area in Darfur, as well as conflict between some farmers and pastoralists in Masteri in West Darfur has in addition displaced more than 15,000 people over the past few weeks. Around 1.4 million displaced people live in camps across Darfur, dependent on aid rations, according to the United Nations.

Nationwide, over two million people are currently displaced due to food insecurity and conflict.

The Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan met on 5 January to discuss security, oil and border and the contested deals. On 27 January, the two Presidents committed themselves to implement the cooperation agreement they signed in September of last year.

On 29 October 2012, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health declared a yellow fever outbreak in seven localities in Central and South Darfur. As of 6 January, the total number of suspected cases has reached 849, including 171 deaths (CFR 20.1%). The majority of cases are reported from Central Darfur, North Darfur and West Darfur. An emergency mass vaccination campaign targeting 3.4 million people is currently being implemented. In addition, on 12 December, the Ministry of Health of West Darfur announced the outbreak of Hepatitis D in the state.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY**

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At the beginning of November, OCHA reported that more than 1.8 million people in Angola have been affected by a food security crisis, caused by a prolonged drought. The Ministry of Agriculture reported a 60% decrease of average rainfall over the planting season resulting in 30% drop in crop production. Ten coastal and central highland provinces have been affected. In some areas, families are sharing limited water sources with livestock, leading to contamination of these sources. Consequently, the possibility of outbreak of water related diseases is very high. There have been media reports of a cholera outbreak in the south, but these have been refuted by WHO. In addition, an estimated 533,000 children suffer varying levels of malnutrition. At the same time, the country is still recovering from decades of civil war which lasted until 2002.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY**

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The Ethiopian Government announced that, as of 30 October 2012, 3.8 million of its citizens will require humanitarian assistance, up from 3.2 million in January 2012. In the Harerge and Ormomia regions, the food security situation is reportedly deteriorating due to poor seasonal rains. Reduced yields are likely in most lowland areas of East and West Harerge (up to 25%) and some parts of West Shewa zones (Oromia Region), parts of eastern Tigray and the lowlands of eastern Amhara due to early withdrawal of the kiremt rains, reduced land planted with Meher crops, and localized hailstorms, flash floods and pest infestations. From January to March 2013, significant increases in grain prices are expected, which will reduce the purchasing power of the

market-dependent poor and the very poor. These areas are expected to face crisis (IPC 3) levels of food insecurity through March 2013.

In the meantime, in the central, western and north-western areas, the Meher harvest (October to December) is estimated to be slightly above-average despite reduced production of maize and sorghum due to irregular rainfall received in June to September. The good harvest should have a positive impact on market supply and staple food prices during the first quarter of 2013. Ethiopia's year-on-year inflation dropped sharply in December, down more than 2.5 points from 15.6% in November to 12.9%, according to Ethiopia's Central Statistics Agency. December inflation was the lowest monthly rate in 2012; overall, the inflation rate has been declining gradually since February 2012, when it peaked at 36.3 per cent (47.4 per cent for food and 21.4 per cent for non-food).

Ethiopia continues to receive Somali refugees and a total of 6,164 new refugees arrived in the Dollo Ado area of Somali region in December 2012. This is the highest number of new arrivals registered per month in 2012. The total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 228,645 as of 23 January.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY**

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More than 118,000 people are estimated to have been displaced in 2012 as a result of violence, linked to a combination of ethnic, political and economic factors.. Whereas fighting between various tribes and ethnic groups has taken place before, tensions have intensified in the past few months, rising to their deadliest level in years. According to observers, the increasing levels of violence are linked to the run-up to the March 2013 general elections. Some of the worst-affected areas are North Eastern, Rift Valley, Coast and Nairobi provinces, where cattle-rustling is common and competition over scarce resources is high.

The food insecure population in Kenya amounts to 2.1 million people in total. Almost one million people are expected to face crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity through March, primarily in the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming livelihood zones. This is largely due to the below average performance of the October to December short rains.

The long drought in late of 2012 was followed by heavy rains in the first two weeks of January, resulting in floods in the capital Nairobi, as well as Nyanza and North Rift regions, since the parched land was not able to absorb the large volumes of water. The floods have resulted in devastation of large agricultural stretches. Moreover, according to the UN, the floods resulted in 20 deaths and a total of 2,156 households were affected, of which 1,217 households are situated in Rift Valley and 939 households in Nyanza (West Kenya). In addition, as of January 29, a total of 13 people have lost their lives to mudslides in the North Rift region and 765 displaced.

The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues, with 209 new arrivals since the beginning of January. According to the UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 509,870. A large part of these - 425,000 - reside in Dadaab camps and have limited access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, water and

sanitation. Moreover, since the beginning of December, heavy rains have caused floods in the camps. According to the UNHCR, eleven epidemic outbreaks were reported in 2012. Between November and December 2012, the number of children admitted to the MSF hospital for severe acute malnutrition doubled. The situation is expected to deteriorate due to an influx of new arrivals following the Government's decision to transfer Somali refugees from urban areas to camps around Dadaab.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY**

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According to recent assessments, flooding has displaced some 33,000 people in southern Malawi since the start of the rainfall season. The hardest-hit areas are Mangochi, Phalombe and Nsanje districts, all in the south of the country and in the same region that was previously suffering from rain shortages and drought.

Floods and droughts negatively impact the food security situation of communities in Malawi. An estimated 1.97 million people are classified as food insecure, indicating a significant increase since June 2012. Some areas have experienced four consecutive poor harvests, indicating a deteriorating situation. As many as 15 out of 28 districts are affected by the crisis, with the southern (Mulanje and Chikwawa Districts) and central parts (Balaka District) of the country most severely affected. Even before the current crisis, 40% of the population was living below the poverty line.

The situation is compounded by the devaluation of the local currency and the increasing price of maize, the staple food, which already far exceeds the purchasing power of most rural households. The national inflation rate continues to rise, with 33.3% price inflation in December. Historical seasonal trends indicate that maize prices will continue to climb until April 2013, when new supplies from the harvest will supplement market stocks. The persistent high maize prices prompted the Government to maintain a maize export ban.

In addition, according to the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), armyworm outbreaks infesting maize crops and pasture have been reported in Ntcheu, Dedza, Kasungu and Mchinji districts of Kasungu and in Rumphi district of Muzuzu. This could further affect maize prices and availability.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **NIGERIA FLOODS, INSECURITY**

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Outbreaks of violence are common in Nigeria's north and central regions, including sectarian violence and attacks by armed groups and Boko Haram. 250 people have been killed in Boko Haram attacks in 2013, adding to the total death toll of 935 since 2009. Boko Haram's violence remains focused mostly on security forces in the northeast, although its attacks have spread across the north and to the capital Abuja. The conflict has displaced a significant number of people, restricted population movement, disrupted food inflow and restricted agricultural activities. The effects of the Boko Haram conflict will likely cause increasing households to face stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity from January to March 2013.

By 10 December, around 7.7 million people have been affected by floods which occurred between June and October 2012. 2.3 million people have been internally displaced and 618,000 homes were destroyed. As flood waters currently have receded, the large majority of IDPs returned. Suspected cholera cases have been reported as the flooding increased the risk of cholera outbreaks.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **SENEGAL FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

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Suspected separatist rebels in Senegal's Casamance region killed three people including a French citizen in an attack on a bank, on 2 February. Two of the assailants were killed in a subsequent clash with Senegalese troops. The attackers are suspected to be members of the Casamance Movement for Democratic Forces (MDFC) striving for independence since 1982. The long-term conflict between the MDFC and the Senegalese Government has defied several peace initiatives. The Senegalese Government began new peace negotiations with rebel representatives in October 2012.

Over 740,000 people have been affected by a food security crisis in Senegal due to the poor 2011/2012 agricultural harvest, high cereal prices and falling remittances. Although the 2012 harvest is reported to be good, the agricultural production has been affected by the floods in August and September in the Senegal River Valley and western regions of the country. As a result, it is likely that a food crisis in 2013 will persist among vulnerable families which have depleted their livelihoods and do not have the means to restore them. While 20,000 children were estimated to be severely malnourished in 2012, this number is expected to double in 2013.

A SMART survey in July showed that Global Acute Malnutrition rates are above the 15% critical threshold in Podor, Ranerou and Kanel departments and above the 10% serious threshold in 13 of 45 departments.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY, UNREST**

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Heavy rains in January caused massive flooding affecting some 8,490 people, which are reported to be in need of assistance. The worst affected provinces are Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Midlands. While the rains are slowly subsiding, February is the peak rainy season and large areas remain under threat of major flooding. However, below-normal rainfall is forecast for the southern regions of Zimbabwe throughout the coming season. Despite recent heavy rains in most parts of the country, most districts in Matabeleland South province suffer from drought conditions.

The acute food security crisis in Zimbabwe is currently reaching its peak period with an anticipated 1.6 million people in need of food assistance in the period leading up to the April 2013 harvest, according to the UN. Late and erratic rains, poor agricultural practices, limited access to agricultural inputs, and a reduction in planted area have all contributed to a 33% decrease in the harvest in Zimbabwe compared to 2011. In the most affected areas

maize prices are reported to be between 12% and 47% higher compared to prices in maize surplus areas. Prices of cereal and flour are likely to remain high compared to last year making food accessibility difficult for affected households.

3.7 million (29% of the population) people are chronically food insecure. Chronic and acute child malnutrition stands at 32% and 3% respectively. Masvingo, Matabeleland North and South, and parts of Mashonaland, Midlands and Manicaland provinces are the worst-affected areas. A recent armyworm outbreak threatens to exacerbate the food insecurity in the country. The outbreak has so far hit five of the country's eight farming provinces. It is reported to have destroyed hundreds of hectares of the staple maize crop in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Manicaland, the country's top food-producing provinces. The food security crisis is also exacerbated by the high HIV-prevalence rate, which is 14% compared to 5% for the rest of the southern Africa region (as % of the total population aged 15-49).

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

an increased influx of refugees fleeing the violence in North and South Kivu, straining the capacity of the existing refugee camps in Bwagiriza, Musasa and Gasorwe. In August, the Tanzanian Government declared that Burundians in Tanzania are no longer considered as refugees and are required to leave the country before the end of the year. As of 1 January 2013 any former Burundian Refugee found in or outside the Mtabila refugee camp will be classified as an illegal migrant and will therefore be subjected to the Tanzanian immigration law, which includes deportation. A total of 1,673 former Burundian refugees are currently in Tanzania with their whereabouts unknown. These refugees will likely be illegally living in Tanzania after 2012 and subject to forced deportations.

As of 11 December 2012 around 34,000 former Burundian refugees have returned. 60% of the returnees are children. The main areas of return are Nyanza-Lac, Giharo, Rumonge and Kayogoro.

The fragile peace, following a 12 year civil war that ended in 2005, is being threatened by repression of political opposition and retaliatory attacks by anti-Government groups. However, overall violence has reportedly declined in recent months.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY**

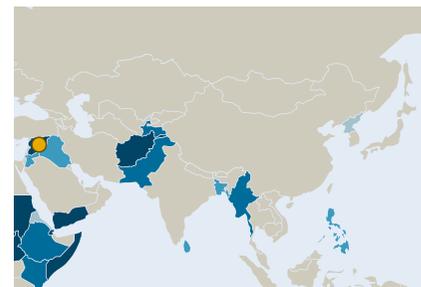
On 21 January, dissident Eritrean soldiers with tanks laid siege to the information ministry and forced state media to call for the release of high-profile political prisoners to be and demanding the implementation of the constitution which was never enacted by Parliament. However calm reportedly returned to the capital Asmara on 22 January. No further information is available on the events.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in the country of about 6 million people. The United Nations human rights chief has accused Eritrea of torture and

summary executions.

An estimated six million people in Eritrea are food insecure (98% of the population). Local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on vulnerable groups' coping mechanisms. The Government of Eritrea officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid. There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access and a ban on humanitarian organisations assessing needs. No confirmed data on the food security situation or

*Updated: 04/02/2013*



# ASIA

### **AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

In addition deadly attacks on the civilian population as well as national and international authorities continue: the Taliban claimed responsibility for attacks on the Kabul traffic police attacks in northern Kunduz as well as attacks on policemen in Kandahar between 26 and 27 January. This raised the possibility that insurgents are increasingly focused on testing Afghan security forces in Kabul. This marks a change from the series of high-profile attacks on Western targets last year. Humanitarian access has been increasingly compromised in Afghanistan due to insecurity, with 24 attacks against humanitarian personnel and assets reported in October 2012. Around 85,000 international troops are currently supporting the Government in its fight against the Taliban. However, all international combat troops are preparing to withdraw by the end of 2014 and more than 75% of the country is expected to be under national security control by July 2013.

According to UN reports in November, more than nine million people (34% of the total population) are food insecure in Afghanistan, of whom two million are severely food insecure. Despite a bumper harvest in 2012, wheat prices have been increasing since June 2012, and Afghanistan is experiencing minimal (IPC Phase 1) levels of food insecurity. In some areas however food insecurity is expected to be stressed (IPC Phase 2) between February and March.

Households in the extreme northeast, central highlands and low income households across the country remain vulnerable to food insecurity due to the increase in prices. 18% of children <5 nationwide suffer from malnutrition while acute malnutrition rates in the south are as high as 29.5% for children <5. The humanitarian crisis is exacerbated by winter temperatures, dropping

to as low as -10 Celsius at night in Kabul. During the winter of 2011/2012, a reported 214 people died due to the cold.

Overall, 5.4 million people are affected by the on-going conflict. In the month of November 2012, 317 civilians were injured or killed in security incidents. The displacement crisis in Afghanistan continues to grow, with more than 445,000 people currently internally displaced. Since 2001, UNHCR has supported the return of 4.7 million Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries. However, nearly three million registered Afghan refugees are still living in exile in Pakistan and Iran.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **SYRIA CIVIL WAR**

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This week, intensified fighting in the northwestern province of Idlib entailed two days of severe clashes on 30-31 January, killing 47 people. Large areas of Idlib have slipped out of army control and are to date controlled by rebels. The offensive by the Syrian army against opposition strongholds has continued, with attacks and fresh clashes in Southern Damascus on 1 February, as well as army shelling in Aleppo on 31 January, and attacks on rebel enclaves in the city of Homs on 1 February.

While the intensity of the violence in Syria continues to increase, the civil war is increasingly turning into a sectarian conflict with Sunni rebels fighting against Government forces supported by the country's religious and ethnic minorities. The UN anti-genocide envoy warned that minority groups are at risk of major reprisal attacks. The use of cluster munitions and incendiary bombs by the Government has been reported in Damascus, Idlib and Homs. In addition, rebels reported the use of "bombs containing gases" in Homs. On 6 January, during his first public statement to an audience in six months, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad rejected peace talks in a speech that his opponents described as a renewed declaration of war.

Recent analysis by the UN Human Rights Office has shown that the death toll is at least as high as 60,000, a significant increase from previous estimates of 45,000 people killed. The UN estimates that four million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, including an estimated two million internally displaced people. Access to food remains limited due to increased prices and reduced availability. The prices of staple commodities have risen by 80% to 100% in some areas. WFP recently reported that they are unable to access more than one million out of 2.5 million people in need of emergency food assistance. According to FAO, Syria's wheat and barley production dropped from 4-4.5 million tonnes in normal years to 2 million tonnes in 2012 due to the on-going conflict.

As of 4 February, around 733,196 refugees have been registered or are awaiting registration by UNHCR, with around 242,266 refugees in Lebanon, 233,062 in Jordan, 163,161 in Turkey, 81,034 in Iraq and 14,878 in Egypt. The actual size of the refugee population is believed to be much larger, as an unknown number of refugees are unable or unwilling to register. Large-scale displacement is resulting in over-crowded shelters and host communities' capacity to support is overstretched. The situation is exacerbated by low temperatures during the on-going winter. The large refugee influx risks destabilisation of host countries and fears of regional spill over of the conflict

remain.

Humanitarian access remains limited, with assessments and relief operations being hampered by the widespread insecurity, violence against humanitarian personnel and impediments to entry.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

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An estimated 13 million people (55% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, according to OCHA. Violence and insecurity continues with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates. As a result, some 385,000 people are currently internally displaced. In the south, more than 100,000 internally displaced people have returned to their areas of origin in Abyan governorate and further returns are on-going, according to UNHCR.

In addition, Yemen currently hosts more than 237,000 refugees, virtually all of them of Somali and Ethiopian origin, according to UNHCR. The number increased significantly during 2012, which saw record high levels of new arrivals, amounting to 107,532 people in one year.

Approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure, according to OCHA. 970,000 people suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). The emergency threshold for GAM >15% is exceeded in six Governorates: Hajjah, Al-Jawf, Al Hudaydah, Taiz, Aden and Lahj. The situation is serious (GAM 10-14%) in six other Governorates (Raymah, Ibb, Abyan, Amran, Al-Mahwit, and Al Dhale'e).

A collapse of public services following the civil unrest in 2011 has severely disrupted access to health services, clean water and basic sanitation. As of January 28, an estimated 13.1 million people lack access to safe water and sanitation.

Epidemics are re-occurring, with 170 children having died from measles in 2012. Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain due to insecurity.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS**

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On 2 February the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) reportedly agreed to hold talks in China with Myanmar's Government in the coming week, to try to end the conflict which has intensified in the past two months. As recently as 28 January fighting over a key outpost near the KIA headquarters was reported.

Despite the Myanmar military announcing a ceasefire to the conflict on 18 January, Kachin rebels reported continued fighting on 19 January. Fighting between the Government and KIA re-ignited in June 2011, when a 17-year ceasefire between the Government and KIA rebels broke down and intensified at the end of December and beginning of January with

the Government using air strikes in the rebel territories. KIA is seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people residing in Myanmar. As a result of the fighting, an estimated 100,000 people have been displaced. Around 20,000 residents and 15,000 displaced people are thought to be in Laiza. According to the UN nearly 2,000 people were newly displaced from Northern Shan State, as a result of the latest fighting.

In June and October 2012, Rakhine State in Myanmar experienced wide-spread inter-communal violence between predominantly Muslim and Buddhist communities. By 24 December, more than 115,000 people were still displaced across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung). Despite the presence of soldiers and police, security across Rakhine remains tense. Access to the affected population in Rakhine state is difficult as campaigns have taken place based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the Rohingya.

The rice harvest in 2013 is expected to be significantly affected by heavy flooding at the beginning of September as the rains have inundated around 250,000 hectares of crops.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX**

Between 7 and 10 January intensive rain and snow storms generated floods in several parts of the territory affecting 12,500 people and killing two persons. Some 200 homes were severely damaged or destroyed and 650 people were temporarily displaced. Most affected were Tulkarem and Qalqilia, in the northern region. The weather conditions exacerbated pre vulnerabilities stemming from movement, access and planning restrictions faced by Palestinian communities.

In November 2012, eight days of violence between Israel and Hamas affected 3,000 people, killing 140 Palestinians and five Israeli's. A peace deal brokered by Egypt took hold on 21 November.

On 29 November, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine a non-member observer State status at the United Nations, while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians moving towards a permanent two-State solution. Direct negotiations between the two sides have been on hold since September 2010, with the Palestinians insisting on a settlement freeze before returning to the negotiating table and the Israelis insisting on no preconditions. President Mahmoud Abbas has warned that he will disband the Palestinian Authority if there is no Israeli movement toward renewing peace talks after Israel's elections on January 22.

A December 2012 Food Security Assessment reports that people having lost an income source due to the conflict in November will need several months or years to replace it, and as a result may need to be supported by longer-term emergency food assistance. Before the start of the latest violence, 1.8 million Palestinians were in need of humanitarian assistance.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS**

Continued attacks by insurgency groups is fostering an increasing trend of violence in Pakistan since December 2012. On February 2, a suicide bomber targeted a Shiite Muslim mosque in northwest Pakistan, killing 21 people and wounding up to 50, according to officials. Another suicide attack was carried out on a military checkpoint in Peshawar, killing 13 soldiers and 11 civilians. Militant group Lashkar-i-Islam strengthened its control over the northern part of Takhtaki area in Tirah valley of Khyber Agency over the weekend 2-3 February, after clashes that left more than 20 persons dead and several others injured from both sides.

Insecurity remains fragile in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt on the Afghan border in the northwest, where Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants have carved out strongholds. The escalating violence has raised fears of a renewed Taliban campaign that could threaten the upcoming national elections.

Government operations against non-state armed groups as well as sectarian violence have caused significant population movement since July 2008. According to OCHA, more than 758,000 people remain displaced in KP due to complex emergency as of 31 January.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September caused destruction across Pakistan. According to the Government of Pakistan, the flooding had affected around 4.8 million people in Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces as of 31 January, with around 142,000 people residing in camps. Many of the affected districts, particularly in Balochistan and Sindh, were already struggling to recover from the floods of 2010 and 2011. Areas still inundated may remain under water for several more months due to lack of drainage and slower evaporation during the winter months. The winter season is causing a deterioration of the humanitarian situation, particularly for those residing in makeshift shelters.

Malnutrition rates in some of the flood affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the current floods and are predicted to worsen. In addition, 60% of the population in Pakistan is food insecure and inflation, rising fuel prices and stagnating domestic productivity are pushing up food prices. Seven districts are classified as facing IPC phases three ('Crisis') and four ('Emergency').

In addition, 1.64 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan require humanitarian assistance according to OCHA.

Measles cases in 2012 surged by almost five times compared to 2011, leading to the deaths of more than 300 children, up from 64 deaths in 2011. Sindh province, the area hardest hit by the measles outbreak, is also most affected by the current floods. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported 94 measles outbreaks throughout the country in the first three weeks of January alone. The WHO report has described the situation in Pakistan as alarming due to a steady increase in measles cases and deaths.

Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity, standing flood waters and visa delays. More than 15 polio vaccinators have been killed in targeted attacks in December and January.

*Update: 04/02/2013*

## TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

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Since the beginning of January 2013 over 2 million people (32% of the population) in Tajikistan are estimated by WFP to be at risk of food insecurity due to a prolonged lean season and depleted winter stocks. In the first half of 2012 IPC declared a humanitarian emergency in one district and warned of a dire situation in others. Most of Tajikistan's territory then was classified as an acute food and livelihoods crisis.

In November 2012, the national average price for wheat flour stabilised but is 27% higher compared to the same period in 2011. The year on year rise for the commodity in region's markets was 36 %. High prices are likely to continue and place pressure on vulnerable families to meet food needs due to high and increasing prices in Kazakhstan and as households deplete their own stocks and rely more on market purchases. However, market dependence could occur a few months later than usual, in February or March 2013, due to high local production levels in 2012. The inflation rate since the beginning of the year was 6.3%, according to the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT). The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) predicts inflation for 2012 to be at around 7.5 %.

In January, there is a high likelihood of heavy snowfall, freezing temperatures and avalanches. Above average precipitation projected for January-February may increase the likelihood of heavy snowfall and avalanches. Precipitation is expected to be above averages nationwide in January and February.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

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A suicide car bombing and an assault by grenade-throwing gunmen on a police headquarters in Kirkuk killed 30 people and wounded 88 on 3 February. The violence was a continuation of the surge in unrest that has left 246 people killed in January, the highest number since September 2012. The unrest and attacks are linked to the country's long-running political dispute, with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki facing hardening opposition against his rule, and demanding an end to allegedly sectarian policies of the Shia-led Government. Tens of thousands of Sunni Muslims have taken part in demonstrations. The rallies were sparked by the arrest on December 20 of bodyguards of Iraq's finance minister and have spurred allegations that the Government was using anti-terror legislation to target the Sunni minority.

As of 4 February, the number of Syrian registered refugees in Iraq stands at 81,034 with the autonomous region of Kurdistan hosting the large majority of refugees. Measles have been reported amongst new arrivals in Domiz refugee camp. In addition, a large number of Iraqis residing in Syria have returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, the total number of Iraqi returnees from Syria since mid-July 2012 is 68,122, according to UNHCR. Baghdad continues to be the governorate to receive the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

An estimated 1.2 million were displaced inside Iraq by 11 June 2012. There is a lack of updated displacement figures. Although humanitarian access has become less restricted, security threats for international staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, north/central

governorates and the Disputed Territories.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

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Average daily arrivals of Syrian refugees have steadily increased in the past 30 days. Over 26,500 Syrian Refugees have crossed into Jordan since 1 January. According to UNHCR on 23 January over 6,000 Syrians entered the country in less than a 48-hour period, less than a day after officials reported a record one-day influx of 3,600 new arrivals.

As of 03 February, 181,793 Syrian refugees have been registered by UNHCR in Jordan and another 51,269 await registration. These figures do not include Syrians that have not registered or await registration. As a result, Jordan's economy, as well as water and energy resources, is strained. The prices of commodities are higher in Jordan compared to Syria and the purchasing power of the refugees to cover basic needs is rapidly decreasing. Furthermore, food prices in Jordan have increased by nearly 50% due to the reduction of food imports and increased demand from new arrivals from Syria.

Jordanians voted on 23 January in the country's first parliamentary election since the Arab uprisings although without the participation of the main Islamist party which is demanding an end to official corruption and a louder voice for the urban poor. Turnout was 56.6% when polls closed after voting had been extended for an extra hour. Islamists accused the authorities of trying to inflate a low turnout to disguise the impact of their boycott. Preliminary results suggest that tribal coalitions and independent candidates loyal to King Abdullah won around 90% of the seats in Jordan's lower house of parliament.

On 9 and 10 January Jordan experienced snow, low temperatures and torrential rains sparking widespread flooding. The main road between the Jordanian capital and the northern city of Zarqa was closed as sections were swamped by up to a metre (three feet) of water, and flash floods overwhelmed Amman's drainage system, forcing the closure of most road tunnels and gridlocking traffic.

The flooding also affected the Zataari refugee camp in northern Jordan, which hosts 62,000 Syrian refugees. Widespread flooding has swamping tents, and overwhelmed the camp draining system. Relief workers distributing aid to Syrian refugees were injured in a "stampede" in a camp where hundreds of tents have been destroyed by the rains. Several demonstrations have taken place in the camp since it was opened in July. On 28 November, the police dispersed a demonstration by Syrian refugees at Zaatari camp in northern Jordan protesting over living conditions after power was cut in the camp hosting 62,000 refugees. An influx of over 10,000 refugees over the past few weeks has pushed the Zaatari camp over its 60,000-person capacity, and a second, 30,000-capacity camp near Zarqa is expected to open by the end of the month.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

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Four consecutive days of rains combined with the tail-end of a cold front has led to rising water levels in Mindanao. As of 26 January, there were more than 507,700 people affected by, the majority of them, 369,000 people, in Davao Region. 53,748 people are still in evacuation centres. This number has decreased significantly from 100,000 on 24 January.

Previously, tropical storm Wukong (Quinta) made landfall over the island of Leyte on 26 December, resulting in the displacement of estimated 60,000 people. As of 31 December, more than 240,000 people were affected by the tropical storm. Flood-affected towns in Capiz were placed under state of calamity on December 28.

The Philippines frequently experiences natural disasters, particularly tropical storms and cyclones. On 4 December 2012, Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) struck the Philippines causing extensive damage across the island of Mindanao. As of 16 January, 6.2 million people were affected by Bopha, 835,934 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and 7,524 are displaced inside evacuation centres. A total of 216,817 households have been totally or partially damaged. Humanitarian access to those affected is hampered by the remoteness of the affected areas, heavy rain, as well as the wide-scale impact.

The impact of Bopha prompted the Government to declare a state of emergency in the affected regions on the island of Mindanao. The affected region of Mindanao is still recovering from four decades of conflict between the Government and rebel groups fighting for independence.

On 27 November, the Department of Health reported over 3,700 dengue cases since 1 January 2012, which is a 45% increase compared to the same period last year. A 1.15% Case Fatality Rate (CFR) has been recorded, with the highest CFR in General Santos City.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **SRI LANKA FLOODS**

Heavy rain and flooding in Sri Lanka at the beginning of January has affected 355,000 people with 50,000 displaced as of 28 January. The rain and floods hit six of the country's nine provinces. The worst affected districts are Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam and Kilinochchi.

Flooding and heavy rains are common in Sri Lanka: by the end of November, 210,000 people were affected by floods and landslides and 137,000 people were affected by cyclone 'Nilam' in October.

Just prior to the November rains, much of the country had been hit by a 10-month-long drought with 1.3 million people facing (severe) drought conditions in the north of Sri Lanka. This area is recovering from a civil war which lasted until 2009 and left more than one million people food insecure.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## **DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

According to WFP, some three million people are estimated to face food deficits and remain vulnerable to under nutrition in five provinces in the north-east of the country.

Some 57% of households have 'borderline' food consumption. Chronic food insecurity in DPRK continues to affect two-thirds of the country's 24 million people. However, acute malnutrition rates seem to have improved this year due to better food rations and a consistent food assistance pipeline. According to the UN, the main 2012 harvests and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier and the production is expected to reach 5.8 million metric tons.

DPRK still requires international assistance. Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August further affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaged health facilities and reduced access to primary and secondary health care. The floods further aggravated the impact of a severe dry spell in southwest and central provinces: a 30% decline in soybean production due to the dry spells in the first half of 2012 has been reported.

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution condemning DPRK's long-range rocket launch in December. The announcement was met by DPRK with vows of strengthening military capacities and nuclear deterrence.

Humanitarian access is limited. No current data on child mortality, the food security situation, food price levels and general magnitude of humanitarian needs is available. Therefore, DPRK is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*



# **NORTH AMERICA**

## **HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE**

2.1 million people in Haiti are living in severe food insecurity and risk facing a nutritional crisis, according to the UN. An estimated 81,600 children under five suffer from acute malnutrition, of which 20,400 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Rural populations are especially affected. Haiti is likely to face a second, consecutive harvest below average due to early season dryness and flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy in November 2012. Large parts of the country face Stressed levels of food security (IPC Phase 2). Projections of the food security situation indicate that the poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-est, Ouest and Nord-est departments will enter IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) between

January and March 2013.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases amounts to 643,443, with 118,000 potential new cholera cases in 2013. As of 31 January, 7,994 deaths have been reported. The number of cholera cases has shown a downward trend. The average monthly infection rate in 2012 was 150 cases, compared to 200 in 2011, and mortality rate decreased from 2.4% to 1.2%. WHO/PAHO estimates that 118,000 people may be at risk of contracting the disease in 2013.

Torrential rain caused by Hurricane Sandy led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grande-Anse and Sud were the provinces most affected by Hurricane Sandy. Recent surveys show that 119 out of 140 municipalities were severely affected by the drought, Tropical Storm Isaac and/or Hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people in total.

In addition, almost three years after the earthquake, around 358,000 people remain in 496 IDP camps. The number of IDPs outside camps is undetermined.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

### **GUATEMALA FOOD INSECURITY, EARTHQUAKE**

On 7 November, an earthquake of 7.2 magnitude struck the pacific coast of Guatemala. The epicentre was located 15 miles off the coastal town of Champerico and about 100 miles southwest of Guatemala City. An estimated 44 people were killed and 3.4 million people affected. According to the Government, 127 municipalities (38% of the country) in 11 departments were hit by the earthquake. On 6 January, the Government officially extended the rule of public calamity by 30 days in the eight departments most affected by the earthquake.

In addition, an extended drought has affected more than 260,000 people in Guatemala with an estimated 100,000 people in need of food assistance. Poverty and malnutrition are widespread and 51% of the population lives below the poverty line. Illiteracy, infant mortality and malnutrition are among the highest in the region and the country is frequently affected by disasters, including flooding, drought and recently a volcano outbreak.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*



### **SAMOA CYCLONE**

On 13 December, flash floods and power cuts hit Samoa as tropical cyclone Evan struck the island-state with high winds and heavy rain. On 14 December, the Government declared a state of disaster, which expired on 21 January. Close to 17,000 people were affected. Substantive damages to power lines, roads, infrastructure and homes have been reported and the Alao area could be without water for up to four months. In Upolu, electricity services are not expected to be restored until the end of January 2013. In addition to a disruption of water and sanitation schemes, livelihoods and crops and plantations have been severely affected. South-West, Central and Southern parts of the central highlands on Upulo Island were worst affected.

The International Monetary Fund has indicated that the country's economy will be as hard hit as it was by the tsunami in 2009.

*Updated: 04/02/2013*

## Introduction to the Global Overview Update

The Global Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global Overview collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media sources, and displays this information in a manner that allows for quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. The primary objective of the Global Overview is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. 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? (Highlights and snapshot)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

### The Global Overview consists of three main sections:

Firstly, the **world map** provides an overview of how the countries are prioritised, indicated by different shades of blue. The countries are subdivided by four **priority levels**: "on watch", "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 <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 on-going crisis, a country is **highlighted** by a yellow dot on the map.

Secondly, the **snapshot** briefly describes what has happened in the last seven days from the date of publication, by outlining the crises that have occurred in the different highlighted countries.

Thirdly, **narratives** for each country included in the Global Overview reflect recent major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country. Narratives are written based on secondary data.

### The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acaps.acaps>

### Update

The Global Overview will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Monday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an on-going 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 alternate 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.

More information on the Global Overview Methodology can be found in the [Global Overview Methodology Brief](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).