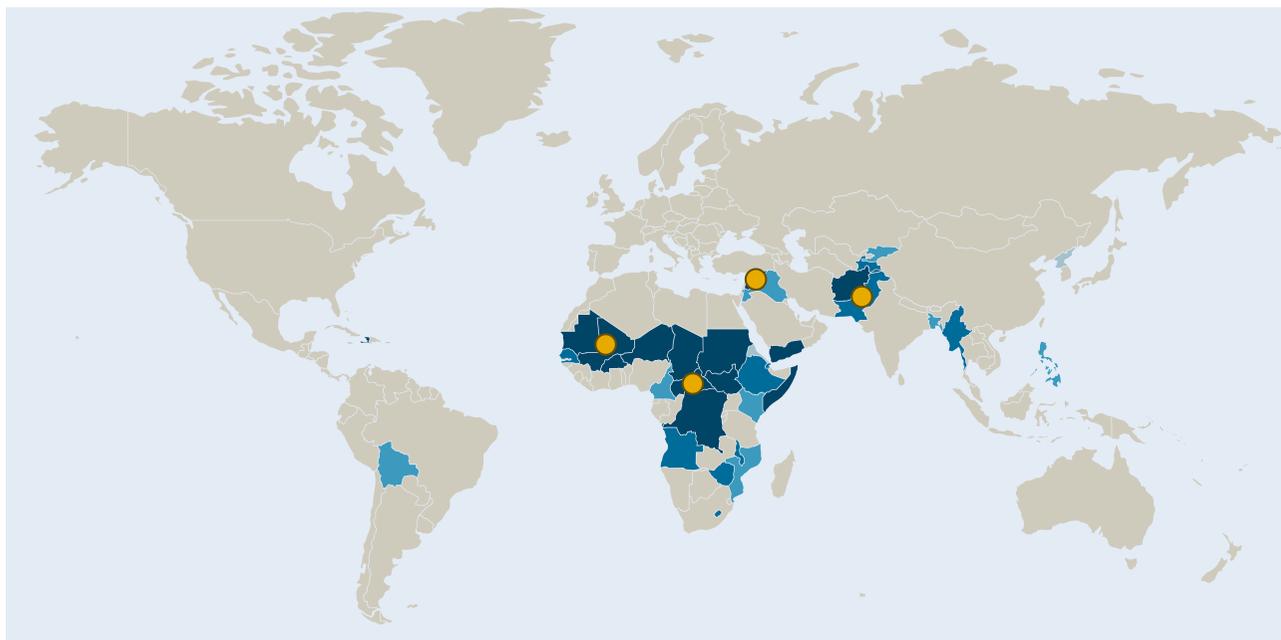




# GLOBAL OVERVIEW

April 2013



## Snapshot 25 March - 02 April 2013

Heavy fighting continued across **Syria** over the past week with increased fighting in the capital Damascus. Fierce fighting was reported from the eastern and north-eastern areas of the capital, as well as the Yarmuk Palestinian refugee camp and Qadam district. The month of March was the deadliest in Syria's two-year conflict, with more than 6,000 people killed. The number of Syrian refugees continued to rise, amounting to a total of 1,230,822 as of 2 April, according to UNHCR.

The risk of asymmetric attacks by Islamist militants remains high in the main northern towns in **Mali**. Islamist militants launched an attack on Timbuktu penetrating the city centre on 30 March. French forces have deployed to Timbuktu to repel the Islamist fighters.

In **Central African Republic**, the security situation is tense as the Seleka Rebel coalition took up arms against the Government and seized control of the capital. The security situation in Bangui is reported as unpredictable, with widespread looting and sporadic gunfire. According to the UN, an estimated 1.5 million people are estimated to be affected by the current crisis in the Seleka controlled areas, and have been without access to basic services for over two months.

### Severe humanitarian crisis

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

### Humanitarian crisis

Angola	oPt
Djibouti	● Pakistan
Ethiopia	Senegal
Lesotho	Tajikistan
Malawi	Zimbabwe
Myanmar	

### Situation of concern

Bangladesh	Kenya
Bolivia	Kyrgyzstan
Cameroon	Mozambique
Iraq	Philippines
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 18 March, some 48,731 refugees were registered with UNHCR in Burkina Faso. Between January 11 and February 22, more than 5,800 Malians fled to camps and spontaneous sites in Burkina Faso, primarily arriving from Bamako, Bambara Maoude, Dar es Salam, Douentza, Gossi, and Tombouctou. 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.

According to FEWSNet Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity persist across the country. In general, limited household recourse to the market to purchase food has kept cereal prices stable since January 2013 and at levels close to or slightly above (by no more than 12%) compared to the five-year average. These prices are helping to maintain good household food access.

The Government of Burkina Faso had declared a national emergency on 1 March 2012 due to food insecurity and malnutrition which affected 2.8 million people. Prolonged drought, high food prices, displacement and chronic poverty are the main causes. However, according to official production figures of last season's cereal production, from November to January, the total was close to 4.9 million metric, marking a 26.9 % increase compared to the five-year average. Likewise, production of cash crops was up 16.5 % and production of other food crops (cowpeas, yams, and sweet potatoes) was up 29.9 % compared to the five-year average, according to FEWSNet, contributing to the improved food insecurity across the country.

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.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

The security situation deteriorated over the past week as the Seleka Rebel coalition took up arms against the Government and seized control of the capital, Bangui, killing at least 13 South African soldiers deployed in support of the authorities and forcing the President Francois Bozizé to flee to Cameroon. Last reports indicate that the Seleka forces have continued their push towards the northwest and southwest of the country with a new presence in Paoua, Bouar and Nola. Michel Djetodia, leader of the Seleka and CAR's new President, confirmed Nicolas Tiangaye as Head of the Government, a position to which the latter had been appointed following the January peace agreement.

In the aftermath of the coup, the African Union suspended the membership of the Central African Republic and the UN Security Council threatened further measures. Against this backdrop, Uganda announced that it plans to continue to keep its African Union-mandated troops in CAR to fight the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Following the siege of the capital over the 23-24 March weekend, the atmosphere remained tense in Bangui where lootings continued amidst repeated power failures in the beginning of the week. Hundreds of people were reported to be roaming the streets, many in search of food, while medical facilities were already overloaded because of the large influx of injured soldiers. The Seleka Rebel coalition was even forced to appeal to peacekeepers from neighbouring central African states to help control gunmen looting houses, businesses, UN offices and hospitals.

The Seleka Rebels took up arms against the Government on 10 December 2012 due to claims that the authorities had failed to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals under which fighters who laid down their arms were to receive compensation. In January 2013, a tentative peace agreement was not able to put an end to violence between the two parties. On 11 March, fighters from the main Seleka rebel group, in a renewed breach of the achieved peace deal, took control of Gambo and Bangassou, two southern towns on the border with the DRC.

On 17 March the rebel's gave President Bozizé 72 hours to respond to their demands to free political prisoners and withdraw the foreign troops that were brought into the country to reinforce the army in response to the uprising. However, the rebel coalition considered the concessions made by the President to be insufficient, leading therefore to the resumption of the fighting. On 22 March, shortly before the capital was taken, the towns of Batangafo and Bouca, north of Bangui, were added to the areas under rebel control.

An estimated 1,500,000 people (34% of the population) are affected by the current crisis in the Seleka controlled areas, and have been without access to basic services for over two months, according to the UN. The security situation is volatile in large areas and attacks on civilians have been reported in the Mboki, Zemio and Obo regions. According to OCHA, the whole Seleka offensive has left 173,000 people internally displaced with some 32,000 others seeking refuge in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Following looting and insecurity in the country, some 2 million children remain without access to basic social services and are exposed to violence.

Since the beginning of December, humanitarian access has been limited to a third of the

Seleka controlled areas, due to physical and security constraints. The Seleka's advance on the southern town of Bangassou has cut off humanitarian actors' access to the southeast, affecting 300,000 people. Several UN offices and warehouses were looted during the rebel offensive in December, and the violence prompted temporary evacuations of humanitarian staff out of affected areas. Last week, Doctors Without Borders reported that violence has prevented critically wounded patients from getting proper treatment and that its offices had also been pillaged. As of May, access will be even more challenging for humanitarian actors due to the onset of the rainy season.

In addition to conflict, CAR faces a food and nutrition crisis. In December 2012, OCHA reported an estimated 664,000 people 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 29% in January possibly due to stores and markets closing for fear of looting and food becoming scarce with the main source of staples in Kaga Bandoro Dekoa, Grimari and Bambari seized by the rebels. Cereal prices are about 30% above the five-year average due to low market supplies according to FEWSNET. Already, the annual consumer price inflation had surged from 1.5% in 2011 to 7% in 2012. According to OCHA, more than 80,000 people are estimated to be at risk of severe food shortages during the upcoming lean season, while 13,500 children under the age of 5 are at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

Severe wind storms hit the capital Bangui and nearby town of Bimbo on March 4, causing extensive material damage. A total of 1,006 houses were destroyed and some 8.710 people affected, according to IFRC.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

### **CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

Two years of continued climatic shocks, including erratic rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012 into the beginning of 2013 in Chad. According to the 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%).

However, good 2012/13 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish their food reserves and market prices across the country are stable and trending downwards. According to FEWSNet, food security conditions are steadily improving with the rebuilding of production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets. 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 2012, 149,963 children were admitted for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), well above the 127,300 forecast.

Southern Chad nevertheless suffered from significant crop losses due to major flooding. At the start of December 2012, 700,000 people were affected by floods following heavy rains in July and August. As a result of the floods, there is an increased risk of cholera.

On 18 February a yellow fever outbreak was confirmed by WHO in the town of Goz Beida, where 5,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived over the past two weeks as a result of recent tribal clashes in *North Darfur*. There were 139 suspected yellow fever cases and 9 deaths reported. A vaccination campaign against the disease was launched in Djabal camp for Sudanese refugees in the east of the country. Neighbouring Sudan is also experiencing a yellow fever outbreak in 35 localities in Darfur with 849 suspected cases and 171 deaths (case-fatality rate of 20.1%) as of 6 January 2013. Currently more than 288,450 Sudanese refugees reside in Chad.

As of 21 March some 12,500 Sudanese refugees from Darfur arrived in Tissi in south-eastern Chad.

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

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

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

Some 250 rebels from the separatist militia group Mai-Mai Kata Katanga attacked a military camp and the Provincial Governor's office in the country's southern mining hub of Lubumbashi in the Katanga Province on 22 March. At least 35 people were killed and 16 injured in the fighting, before the rebels forced their way into a UN compound and surrendered on 24 March, according to the UN.

Kata Katanga, is one of several local militias, or Mai Mai groups, operating in the province. While the insecurity is most extreme within an area between the towns of Manono, Pweto and Mitwaba, the humanitarian effects have spread to half of Katanga's 22 territories, according to OCHA.

Internal clashes between the two factions of the rebel group M23 routed out the faction led by Bosco Ntaganda to Rwanda, where its fighters were disarmed and its leaders arrested. The former DRC General Ntaganda, indicted by the ICC for war crimes, turned himself in and requested to be extradited to The Hague. Around 12,000 people are estimated to have fled the fighting between the M23 factions.

The defeat of the Ntaganda-affiliated faction of M23 came after weeks of infighting and could open the way for rival rebel leader Sultani Makenga to sign a peace deal with Kinshasa, bringing an end to a year-long rebellion in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Makenga reportedly seized control of the town of Kibumba, 30 km (19 miles) north of Goma, capital of North Kivu province on 16 March. According to the draft peace plan, M23 fighters will hand in their weapons ahead of a deployment of UN peacekeepers in their territory.

The dissension within M23 followed the ousting of the group's political chief. Old rivalries within the rebel faction have deepened since 11 countries signed an UN-brokered framework accord for peace in the east of DR Congo on 24 February, following talks in Addis Ababa.

In North Kivu Province, the conflict between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS), with clashes in Kitchanga in the Masisi Territory, has displaced an estimated 75,000 people according to IOM. After violence broke out on the 24-25 February, heavy fighting was reported in Kitchanga on February 27. As of 7 March, at least 85 people had been killed. On the 29 March, renewed clashes between national forces and an armed group occurred near Kitchanga killing 11 APCLS combatants and forcing the UN peacekeepers to provide protection to 1,500 civilians. In late January, the Kitchanga area hosted 80,000 internally displaced persons, more than half in camps and spontaneous settlements.

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 2012. 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 South Kivu's most unstable provinces. However, according to OCHA some IDPs began to return to their homes in early February. On 21 March, widespread looting in Mambasa (Province Orientale) has led to the displacement of an estimated 3,000 people according to local sources.

As of 20 March, an estimated 2.6 million people were reportedly displaced as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups in the Kivus, Maniema and Katanga provinces according to the UN. An estimated 450,000 Congolese refugees are residing in neighbouring countries

DRC is facing increasing numbers of refugees from the Central African Republic. Between February 7 and 11 March more than 22,000 refugees fled Mobaye in CAR for the DRC for fear of attacks by Seleka rebels. Mobaye is a Central African border town close to positions held by the rebel Seleka coalition. According to several sources, there are currently more than 15,000 Central African refugees in parts of North Ubang needing food and health assistance. As of 26 March, an estimated 35,000 CAR refugees have been registered in the Equateur and Orientale Provinces of the DRC according to reports of international organisations. The number of CAR refugees in DRC is likely to further increase while the Seleka is trying to secure control of the country.

The renewed conflict in eastern DRC has significantly contributed to the deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, according to WFP. The December 2012 IPC analysis reports that 6.4 million people are in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC phases 3 and 4). With 70% of the rural population without access to clean drinking water, there is an increased risk of cholera. A cholera outbreak continues to affect 9 of 11 provinces, with around 32,000 cases during 2012. As of 26 March, a cholera outbreak is suspected in Pweto where more than 300 cases have been registered over the last two weeks, resulting in 25 deaths, according to the UN. 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.

On 8 February, Southern African leaders agreed to allow a 4,000-strong regional peacekeeping force to engage directly with rebels fighting in the DRC; however no deployment date has been fixed.

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: 02/04/2013*

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

On 30 March 10 Islamist fighters were killed in an air raid by the French army on Timbuktu after a suicide attack killed 2 Malian soldiers in the first suicide attack there since French and Malian troops chased al Qaeda-linked militants from Timbuktu nearly two months ago.

Heavy fighting was reported in Gao between Islamist rebels and French and Malian forces on 23-24 March, in the third major offensive by Islamists since the town was retaken by the French-led military operation in late January. The clashes have left six people dead, according to Malian authorities. The risk of asymmetric attacks by Islamist militants remains high in the main northern towns, in particular Gao and Kidal. Militants have carried out several attacks in the past weeks, using landmines, IED's, suicide bombing attacks, and various guerrilla methods.

Meanwhile, French and African troops continued their offensive in the Adrar des Ifoghas Mountains in northern Mali, where rebels have regrouped after losing control of urban areas in northern Mali.

According to the UN, there has also been a significant escalation in retaliatory violence carried out by Malian soldiers against members of different ethnic groups, perceived to be supported by armed groups.

Humanitarian access continues to improve in central regions and parts of the north and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Aid activities in other parts of the north, are limited due to insecurity. The Douentza-Gao road has been opened but road traffic north of Douentza is discouraged. However, WFP and partners continue to supply the north of Mali from Niger.

The drawback of the French troops deployed in Mali has been postponed to the end of April, a month later than initially planned. Troops from neighbouring African nations, under the African Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), are meant to take over leadership of the operation when France begins to withdraw forces. In addition, the European Union has formally approved the launch of a 500-strong EU military mission to train the Malian army. In a report to the UN Security Council on 26 March, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed a 11,200- strong UN peacekeeping force in Mali working alongside a non-UN force that would be in charge of major combat and counter-terrorism operations. He also suggested, as a second option, to strengthen the UN's political mission in Mali while giving the African-led force responsibility for security and offensive combat operations. The Council will discuss Ban's in the coming weeks.

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 on 11 January.

According to OCHA, there are 270,765 IDPs in Mali as of 15 March, compared to 227,206 as of 31 December 2012. In addition, UNHCR reports that as of 15 March, some 177,637 people have fled to neighbouring countries (75,019 in Mauritania, 54,841 in Niger and 48,731 refugees in Burkina Faso). This marks an increase of almost 35,000 refugees since the beginning of the year.

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.

The education of some 700,000 Malian children has been disrupted, and some 200,000 still lack access to school both in the north and south of the country, according to UNICEF. In the regions of Gao and Kidal, only 47,000 out of 217,000 students have access to education.

Recent assessments warn of a looming food security crisis in northern Mali. According to FEWSNet, food security will decline in the first quarter of 2013, with Crisis levels (IPC Level 3) in large areas of the north by April. Shut down of key markets, restrictions on movements of people and food, and the beginning of the lean season are drivers behind this trend. As of January 2013, WFP estimates that 585,000 people are food insecure in northern Mali, with another 1.2 million vulnerable to food insecurity.

In total, an estimated 4.3 million people in Mali are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. As of January 2013, WFP estimated that 585,000 people were food insecure in the north, with another 1.2 million vulnerable to food insecurity. According to FEWSNet, food security will decline in the first quarter of 2013, reaching crisis levels (IPC Level 3) in large swathes of the north by April. An estimated 660,000 children <5 will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY**

According to FAO, one million people are affected by food insecurity in Mauritania as of January 2013, and more than 105,000 children <5 suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition, compared to 90,000 in 2011. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate for children <5 has been around 12% since 2008. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in the Hodh Ech Chargui (16% GAM), Assaba (16.4%), Brakna (17%) and Tagant (18.2%) regions in the south-east of the country.

Poor agro-dominant agro-pastoral households in north-western agro-pastoral areas and south-eastern rainfed agriculture zones are expected to move into Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2) between March/April and June, along with northern households impacted by the protracted drought in that area since last year. According to FEWSNET,

from 27 February an estimated 5,000 farm households (25,000 people) are already experiencing Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2). Potential threats to food security include high prices for millet, an essential dietary staple. However, sorghum prices in December 2012 were 17 % below their levels of a year earlier.

The number of Malian refugees has levelled off over the last weeks. As of 21 March, the latest figures remain at 75,109. Some 13,359 new arrivals were registered between 11 January and 22 February. 90% of Malian refugees are women and children. Hodh Ech Chargui hosts the majority of the Malian refugees fleeing armed conflict in northern Mali.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **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. According to FAO, there are currently some 3 million people food insecure nationwide, but the number is expected to decrease to 2.5 million in 2013, as a result of a surplus cereal harvest. However, recent estimations suggest that in spite of the nationwide production surplus, certain areas have experienced 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.

Compared to the five-year average, the prices of dry cereals are rising on most markets, with millet (17% to 41%), sorghum (5% to 39%) and maize (2% to 21%) displaying the largest increases.

The number of Malian refugees residing in Niger has decreased from 62,000 Malian at the end of November to around 53,871 as of 15 March according to UNICEF. Some 2,451 new Malian arrivals were registered in Niger between 11 January and 6 February, with a decreasing trend over the past week. 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 on-going military intervention in Mali.

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%). In addition, 655 cases of measles have been reported in 2013, marking a significant increase compared to 341 cases during the same period in 2012.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), an estimated 1.05

million people in Somalia are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. This marks a 50% decrease from 2.1 million in August 2012. Nevertheless, 1.65 million remain in Stressed food security conditions and malnutrition rates in Somalia remain among the highest in the world.

The improved situation is linked to recent harvests which have resulted in improved access to food and declining market prices. The positive impact of the 2012 *Deyr* rains, as well as of the on-going humanitarian response, is expected to continue through the first half of 2013.

Results from the Somalia post-Deyr seasonal assessments carried out by the FSNAU and FEWSNET in December suggest that current acute food insecurity levels may be upheld from January to June. An estimated 1,346,000 million rural people are at the Stressed (IPC Phase 2), 127,000 in the Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 108,000 in the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) phases of acute food insecurity. Nearly 80% of the nearly 1.34 million rural people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) reside in southern Somalia and are only able to meet their food needs by compromising non-food expenditures.

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. **According to OCHA, a steady increase in cases of acute watery diarrhoea in Banadir and Lower Shabelle regions has been registered with 565 cases in February alone.**

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia. Military operations by Somali forces, supported by African Union peacekeepers, against militants forced a large number of al-Shabaab rebels from their strongholds in the southern and central regions.

Marking one of the deadliest attacks in Mogadishu in recent months, a car bomb exploded near the Presidential palace on 17 March, killing at least 10 people in a blast that appeared to target senior Government officials, according to the Somali police. Although security in Mogadishu has improved, since its lowest point in August 2011, bombings and assassinations occur often.

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 Somalis are living as refugees outside of the country.

Somali Government troops and African Union forces seized the formerly Islamist-held town of Burhakaba from the Al-Qaeda linked Shabaab fighters on 27 February. The capture of Burhakaba marks a key stage in efforts to open up the main highway from the capital Mogadishu running northwest to Baidoa, a major town wrested from the Shabaab by Ethiopian troops last year. Burhakaba lies some 160 kilometres (100 miles) northwest from Mogadishu, leaving some 60 kilometres (40 miles) unprotected until AU troops can reach Baidoa by road.

Humanitarian access has remained challenging in most of southern and central Somalia. According to OCHA, four incidents against humanitarian personnel, or their assets, and three cases of interference of aid delivery were recorded in the reporting period – similar levels to the last three months where attacks on aid workers reduced from 13 in October to

4 and 5 in November and December, respectively. The Lower Shabelle region has been more volatile than the Middle Shabelle region, though access in both regions remains extremely challenging. The withdrawal of al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increase in the international presence in some areas.

On 6 March, the UN Security Council decided to maintain deployment of the African Union Mission until 28 February 2014, reshape the UN presence there, and partially lift its 20-year weapons ban for one year to boost the Government's capacity to protect areas recovered from Al-Shabaab and stave off fresh attempts by such groups to destabilize the country.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

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

Continued fighting between the South Sudanese Army (SPLA) and the rebel group of David Yau Yau in Pibor County, eastern Jonglei State, was reported over the last week. According to South Sudanese officials, as of 21 March at least 20 soldiers were killed and 30 others wounded in the latest confrontations. The latest fighting reportedly took place in a village near Gurmuk, the base of David Yau Yau's rebellion.

The continued violence follows the military operation by SPLA against the insurgents, which was initiated on 5 March. The military operation is part of a wider disarmament campaign in the region ahead of the upcoming rainy season. The Government has called on civilians in the area to evacuate their villages and move into main towns to be better protected. On 6 March, over 2,500 civilians sought refuge at the UNMISS compound in Pibor, following brief clashes between the SPLA and an armed group. Efforts to reach out to Yau Yau as part of mediation in peace talks were unsuccessful at the end of last week.

South Sudan has struggled to assert control over remote territories awash with weapons after the 1983-2005 war with the north as well as characterized by ethnic rivalries. According to the UN, more than 1,500 people have been killed in Jonglei since the country's independence.

Violence and cattle-raiding in South Sudan has affected some 23,350 people in Akobo East, Akobo West in Jonglei State and Ulang in Upper Nile since 8 February, according to inter-agency assessments and OCHA. Related clashes in Dilule Payam, Jonglei State, on 10 February caused the displacement of some 4,000 people. Another cattle-raiding incident in Gogrial East, Warrap State, on 23 February caused displacement of about 1,000 people and left about 23 people dead, according to OCHA.

Clashes between South Sudan's army and militiamen broke out on 9 February in the volatile borderland between Sudan and South Sudan, according to the southern army. South Sudan accused Sudan of supporting the militia, and reported that the clashes had left at least 24 people dead. In separate clashes on the Sudanese side of the border, rebels from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) accused a militia supported by South Sudan of having attacked a village, allegedly killing 17 people.

According to UN as of 22 March, South Sudanese forces have begun withdrawing troops from a safe demilitarized border zone. South Sudan's President Salva Kiir reportedly

ordered the army to pull out on 11 March, following the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism in Addis Ababa on 9 March.

On March 19, Sudan and South Sudan agreed to form a new mechanism to deal with accusations of supporting or harbouring of rebel groups in the two countries. The new agreement follows the recent progress between the countries to demilitarize the border zone.

The countries signed the technical agreement establishing a safe demilitarized border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms. The two states also agreed on an overall implementation plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all 27 September 2012 agreements. This includes the resumption of oil production by 24 March and the withdrawal of troops from the border areas to be completed by 5 April.

Monitors are to verify the withdrawal of Sudanese and South Sudanese forces from the buffer zone, 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) on each side of the 1956 border.

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.

Cases of Hepatitis E are increasing across refugee camps in Maban County, Upper Nile. According to the Ministry of Health and UNHCR, 6,000 suspected cases of Hepatitis E have been reported, of which 126 people have died as of 17 February.

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 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 2012, according to the South Sudan Bureau of Statistics. The cost of food increased by 43% in 2012 compared to 2011. Planted area has increased in all states, except in Jonglei where more than 315 000 people have been displaced either by floods or by conflict with negative impact on planted area.

In parts of Jonglei state, households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity driven by insecurity, high prices and restricted access to wild foods and income sources such as collection and sale of firewood, charcoal and grass. In Unity, Warrap, and Lakes states, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity is expanding to counties previously Stressed (IPC Phase 2) due to fighting and insecurity.

Insecurity, poor infrastructure and seasonal rains continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide. A UN peacekeeper was shot and wounded by gunmen on 12 March in Jonglei State, and several humanitarian organisations have reportedly restricted their operations in the area in March. Over the course of 2012, there was a 48% increase in access incidents compared to 2011. The overall spike in access constraints is largely attributed to increased interference in humanitarian operations, hostilities and the physical environment. Inhospitable terrain also remains extremely challenging in South

Sudan, with more than 60% of the country cut off during the rainy season.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

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

On March 19, Sudan and South Sudan agreed to form a new mechanism to deal with accusations of supporting or harbouring rebel groups in the two countries. The new agreement follows the recent progress between the countries to demilitarising the border zone. According to recent reports, Sudan Armed Forces troops have withdrawn from south of the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone.

The countries signed a new technical agreement on the establishment of a safe demilitarized border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms. The two states also agreed on an overall implementation plan with timelines for the coordinated implementation of all 27 September 2012 agreements. This includes the resumption of oil production by 24 March and the withdrawal of troops from the border areas to be completed by 5 April.

Monitors are to verify the withdrawal of Sudanese and South Sudanese forces from the buffer zone, 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) on each side of the 1956 border.

Localised violence and fighting between armed groups and the Government continue across Sudan.

Nationwide, the Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) levels for children under-five stands at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. The national inflation rate in February was 46.8 %, a 3.2 % increase since January. The food price inflation rate has increased from 43.6 to 45 during the same period and non-food inflation has increased by about 12% (57% in February). The rising cereal prices are likely to reduce access to food for low income households, but are not expected to bring significant changes to food security in relatively secure areas of Sudan.

As of 15 March, an estimated 4.3 million people are facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity in Sudan, according to OCHA. While 3.7 million people face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity some 560,000 people are experiencing Emergency (IPC 4) 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. The decrease is mostly attributed to a good harvest this year. The total area planted during the 2012-13 season is more than double the previous year's figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher than last year due to favourable rainfall and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected. In spite of the good harvest, Stressed and Crisis levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and Abyei due to the impacts of conflict on production, market access, and livelihood options. FEWSNET reported that 200,000-250,000 people in areas of southern Blue Nile and South Kordofan face Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity.

WFP nutrition surveys in South Sudan show poor nutrition situations in all states (except

WES) with global acute malnutrition rates ranging from 17.5 % to 30.2 % above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 %. According to FEWSNet, in parts of Jonglei state, households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity outcomes driven by insecurity, high prices and restricted access to wild foods and income sources such as collection and sale of firewood, charcoal and grass. In Unity, Warrap, and Lakes states, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity is expanding to counties previously Stressed (IPC Phase 2) due to fighting and insecurity.

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 had 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.

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

#### Darfur

Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi (SLM-MM) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) erupted on 16 March in South Darfur, allegedly killing more than 200 soldiers. Related air strikes carried out by SAF on 18 March killed at least two and injured 13 at Hadra in Dalami, South Kordofan. Unconfirmed reports suggest that some 4,000 people have recently been displaced due to aerial bombings in the area. The SLM-MM rebels claimed to have attacked a Government convoy near Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state. On 14 March, clashes were also reported in Bielel. On 22 March, armed men kidnapped 31 Darfuris on their way to a conference for people displaced by the region's decade-long war according to international sources. According to UN reports, some 3,200 people had to flee their homes because of inter-tribal fighting over the past week.

According to OCHA, the situation in the Jebel Amir Gold Mining area in northern Darfur has stabilised. On 2 March, the Beni Hussein and Northern Rezeigat tribes reportedly agreed to stop fighting following a reconciliation meeting in Saraf Omra. In addition, leaders of the two tribes have agreed to open all roads to El Sireaf in the Jebel Amir gold mining area. The parties have also agreed that the mining area should be under Government control and all mining activities should be suspended pending the outcome of a peace conference scheduled to take place on 15 April. Following the reconciliation, access for humanitarian agencies has improved and, as of 29 March, assistance to over 100,000 conflict displaced people in Serief Saraf Omra and Kebkabiya localities has been delivered.

Disputes over land ownership in South Darfur have allegedly led to violent tribal clashes that killed four people, wounded another seven and left six villages burnt on 28 February. Fighting ceased following the deployment of the Sudanese army to the area, but the situation remains tense and civilians were evacuated to nearby villages. According to OCHA, an estimated 7,000 people were displaced.

There are currently 37,500 reported Umbararo nomads in South Darfur who are unable to cross into South Sudan because the border between the two countries is closed. These nomads have settled in 13 locations in Tullus and Dimso localities.

Fighting also broke out between Government forces and rebels in central Sudan, in a possible escalation of violence that has hitherto been concentrated closer to the African country's borders. Rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) from the western region of Darfur allegedly launched an attack on the army in North Kordofan state. JEM and two other Darfur rebel groups formed an alliance with a rebel group from southern Sudan, the SPLM-North, in 2011 to try to topple veteran President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

On 11 February the Sudanese Government signed a ceasefire accord with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the main rebel group in Darfur.

#### Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

The Government of Sudan stated on March 20, for the first time, that it was ready to engage in talks with the rebel group SPLM-N, who have been fighting for almost two years in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLM-N forces in parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan has been ongoing since June 2011 and has affected an estimated 908,000 people since it started. 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 Kadugli. According to UNHCR, an estimated 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

### 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: 02/04/2013*

### DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

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Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, some 70,000 vulnerable people are at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The northwest and south-eastern Pastoral

Border livelihood zones are the worst affected. A poor March to June Diraac/Sugum season in the south-east Pastoral Border livelihood zone is likely to cause further deterioration in food security. In addition, poor households in the rural areas near Obock town in the Northeast, situated in the Central Pastoral Lowland livelihood zone, are experiencing severe water shortages and critical malnutrition levels.

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. Wholesale prices of wheat flour, which had been stable at low levels since the beginning of 2012, increased from November to December 2012 by 17%. However, prices are still about 25% below the high levels recorded in 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable during second semester of 2012. These prices depend heavily on the availability of food aid on markets of the interior regions.

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 28 February, there were more than 18,463 Somali refugees in Djibouti, of which 211 arrived since the beginning of 2013.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY**

Recent reports indicate that East and West Hararghe Zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average Meher harvest in October-November 2012. According to FEWSNET, food security outcomes are unlikely to significantly improve until June 2013 when consumption of green Belg crops begins. In the sweet potato-producing areas of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), the sweet potato harvest is already below normal. Sweet potatoes are an important bridge crop from March to June. Households without sweet potatoes may face food consumption gaps during the April to June lean season, which may extend by few weeks due to late Belg planting, keeping these areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through June.

According to the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) released on February 28, about 2.5 million people are food insecure and need humanitarian assistance between until June. However, estimates of the number of people affected by food insecurity in 2013 vary between 3.5 and 2.4 million people.

Households requiring assistance are concentrated in Afar, Oromia, and Somali Regions. Below normal to normal March to May Belg/Gu/Genna/Sugum rains are forecasted over much of northeastern and southeastern regions. Poor rains in pastoral areas means that pasture availability will remain lower than usual and water sources will not fully refill, leading most pastoral areas to be classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April to June. Following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a well below average Meher harvest in October/November 2012, the East and West Hararghe Zones have

deteriorated into Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

With below average rainfall already setting in since the beginning of March, this is already expected to have an impact on agriculture activities, as planting is nearing its close for the Belg season in parts of southern Ethiopia. Increasing water shortages are reported across the country. In Somali, immediate water trucking needs were identified. Some 720,500 people require water trucking as of 11 March.

The food security situation continues to be poor or deteriorating in parts of SNNP, Tigray, Somali, Oromia, eastern Amhara, and northern Afar Regions. The number of Somali refugees in Ethiopia as of 20 February stood at 231,327 with 3,654 new arrivals in 2013. The total refugee population has risen slightly by 1.3% to 381,722 refugees hosted in Ethiopia. The increasing rate of new arrivals is expected to place additional pressure on the already limited refugee food pipeline.

UNHCR is preparing to relocate thousands of South Sudanese refugees currently settled in the border Wanthowa district to the existing Pugnido camp in Ethiopia's Gambella region. Although 16,000 South Sudanese are estimated to currently reside at the border with host communities, their exact figures are not yet known as refugees in the area remain unregistered.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY**

Flooding in southern Malawi continues to affect the population. More than 1200 families are stranded in houses in the town of Chikhwawa alone – as heavy rains hit more than 110,000 people nationwide.

According to OCHA, as of 15 February the flooding had displaced some 33,000 people in southern Malawi. In total, 86,000 people have been affected by floods and storms since the onset of the rainy 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. Humanitarian access has been hampered by persistent rains resulting in the destruction of roads. More rainfall is expected over southern Malawi, which could exacerbate flood conditions, according to OCHA.

An estimated 2 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 food 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 Rumphu district of Muzuzu. This could further affect maize prices and availability.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **SENEGAL FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

Nationwide, an estimated 739,000 people are affected by food insecurity, according to FAO. Preliminary results from a joint mission (Government/Action Aid/Senegalese Red Cross/FAO/WFP) carried out in late December 2012 show critical levels of food insecurity in areas of Bakel (65%), Matam (64%), Medina Yoro Foula (63%) and Linguere (55%). Food insecurity is low in all areas of the regions of Fatick and Kaffrine where it is less than 15%, while it is moderate in the departments of Dagana and Podor. The results indicate that food insecurity currently affects more than 230,000 people in some villages and rural communities in St. Louis, Louga, Matam, Kolda and Sedhiou, and in the regions of Fatick, Kaolack and Kaffrine. According to UNICEF, in 2013, four out of fourteen regions are estimated to surpass the emergency threshold of 10% of Global Acute Malnutrition: Tambacounda, Kaffrine, Matam, Saint Louis.

According to UNICEF, the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) caseload for children under five more than doubled the expectations of 2012. For 2013, the SAM burden is estimated at 63,323 children under five, and the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 255,675 cases.

Although the 2012 harvest was generally good, the agricultural production has been affected by the floods in August and September 2012 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.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY, UNREST**

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.

Ongoing drought in the southern part of the country will continue into 2013, according to meteorological forecasts, and is expected to further increase food security needs. Large numbers of labour-constrained individuals and decreased purchasing power has

significantly contributed to the number of people who require seasonal targeted food assistance. A large percentage of vulnerable rural farmers still depend on NGO and Government-subsidized agricultural inputs. Poor weather patterns reduced the national cereal harvest by 33% this year. In light of this, food insecurity in Zimbabwe in 2013 is projected to be comparably worse than any period over the past three years. Almost one in five people living in rural areas will be unable to meet basic food requirements.

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. An armyworm outbreak further threatened food insecurity levels, hitting five of the country's eight farming provinces. The full extent of the impact on overall agricultural production has not yet been assessed. The food security crisis is also aggravated by the high HIV-prevalence rate, which is 14% compared to 5% for the rest of the southern Africa region.

On 16 March, Zimbabweans voted on a new constitution which would introduce presidential term limits, abolish presidential immunity after leaving office, bolster the power of the courts, strengthen parliament's powers and set elections to decide whether President Mugabe will remain in power. Almost 95% of Zimbabweans voted in favour of the new constitution, results showed.

Although the run-up to the referendum remained peaceful, the UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights have received an increasing number of reports about acts of intimidation and harassment, physical violence and arrests against civil society actors, mostly working on human rights issues.

In recent weeks, the police have reportedly conducted a crackdown on NGOs and human rights groups, raiding offices, confiscating files and arresting employees. Although President Mugabe has called for peaceful conduct during and after the referendum and national elections, violence continues to be reported across the country.

Heavy rains in January caused extensive flooding affecting some 8,490 people as of 15 February, according to OCHA. The worst affected provinces are Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Midlands.

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## **CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY**

Some 400,000 people are affected by food insecurity due to production shortfalls in northern Cameroon as of 07 March, according to FAO.

A SMART Nutritional post-harvest season survey conducted in November and December in five regions of Cameroon show a prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at 6.3% in Far North region and 5.5% in the North.

Widespread flooding in August to November 2012 in the North and Far North districts of Cameroon has exacerbated the food insecurity situation, with crops being destroyed. Some 88,640 (50,824 people in the North and 37,816 in the Far North region) were

displaced, and the effects of the flooding continue to cause extreme hardship for the local populations.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

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

Uhuru Kenyatta was declared winner with a narrow victory in Kenya's presidential election, securing 50.07% of the votes. Raila Odinga has filed his official challenge to the Supreme Court maintaining that the election was marred by fraud. Kenya's Supreme Court ordered a recount of votes cast at 22 polling centres on 25 March. Results are still outstanding.

By and large, the elections on 4 March passed peacefully, with only isolated security incidents. The elections marked the country's first general elections since December 2007, when a disputed outcome led to serious violence that caused over 1,300 deaths and displaced around 600,000 people.

The food insecure population declined to 1.1 million in February 2013 from 2.1 million in August 2012 according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) 2013 short rains assessment. This was attributed to near average short rains crop production and improved grazing conditions compared to the 2012 August to September lean season.

However, there is a remaining risk, that the number of food insecure could increase from the current level due to the poor performance of the October-to-December Short Rains in parts of the south-eastern and coastal marginal mixed farming zones.

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 Valley regions, since the parched land was not able to absorb the large volumes of water. The floods have resulted in devastation of large agricultural areas. Moreover, according to the UN, the floods resulted in 20 deaths and a total of 2,156 households were affected. In addition, as of January 29, a total of 13 people have lost their lives to mudslides in the North Rift Valley 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: 02/04/2013*

## **MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS, EPIDEMIC**

On 12 March the Council of Minister cancelled the institutional red alert in the flood

affected areas of Gaza and Zambezia provinces. The lift marks an improvement of the situation but humanitarian needs remain high for large parts of the flood affected population, according to OCHA.

The floods in Mozambique displaced some 186,238 people and cumulatively affected 478,892 people as of 11 March, according to OCHA. This represents a significant increase in numbers of affected population from 243,671 people as of 22 February. An estimated 117 people died in the floods, including cases due to secondary causes such as electrocution. Thousands of households have been damaged; road infrastructure, electricity, and drainage systems have been interrupted. The southern Gaza Province is the most impacted with around 175,700 people affected and 172,600 temporarily displaced followed by Inhambane and Maputo provinces, and the central province of Zambezia where 33,956 people have been affected and 10,522 temporarily displaced.

A cumulative total of 1,352 cholera cases and 5 deaths were reported between 28 January and 10 March, of which 482 cases and 2 deaths were reported in Nampula City, the most recently affected province. As of 21 February, 413 cases and two deaths were reported in Cabo Delgado Province, northern Mozambique. Already endemic in the region, cholera could be exacerbated by the current floods. According to OCHA, in Gaza province there was a marked increase of cases of severe malaria requiring in-patient services/referral in Chokwe.

As of 20 March, an UN-led assessment of the agriculture sector indicated that an estimated 267,000 ha of were affected by floods of which approximately 211,000 ha with diverse cultures (maize, rice, beans and vegetables) were lost, representing about 4% of the total area sown in the country. The Gaza province was the worst affected with 30% of crop area lost, followed by Inhambane (9%) and Maputo (4%). It is estimated that some 128,000 producers were affected in the 10 provinces (39 districts) according to OCHA.

Limited access to food due to 2011/12 production shortfalls of almost 19%, high food prices and the restricted movement of goods due to heavy rainfall and flooding has Stressed (IPC phase 2) the food security situation for households in areas including parts of Cahora Bassa, Mutarara, Macossa, Machanga districts in the central zone, and Chigubo, Chókwe and Funhalouro in the south.

However, despite the flooding, this season's national crop production prospects are reported to be good, with substantial contributions expected from the central and northern regions and the food security of most rural households across the country and outside the flood affected areas is expected to be favourable through June.

The country already suffers from high chronic food insecurity, affecting nine million people (39% of the population).

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## **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 and demanded the implementation of the constitution which was never enacted by Parliament.

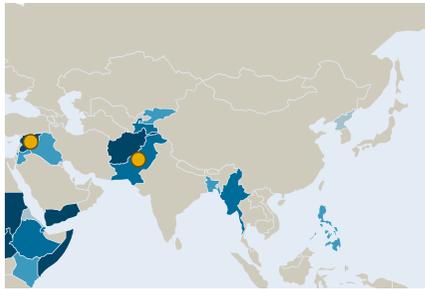
However, calm reportedly returned to the capital Asmara on 22 January. No further information is available on the events.

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.

Eritrea is currently dealing with a locust infestation: according to FAO on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea in Sudan, four small immature and maturing swarms and groups of adults were reported and treated near the border of Eritrea.

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 food price levels is available. Therefore, Eritrea is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*



## ASIA

### AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

According to FAO, more than nine million people (34% of the total population) are food insecure in Afghanistan, of whom 2.1 million people are severely food insecure. Although most households entered the lean season more food secure than last year, those in northern Badakhshan and the Wakhan corridor are currently in Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2). In February, the wheat flour prices were 25% higher compared with the same time last year and 26% higher compared to the 5 year average price.

Households in the extreme northeast, central highlands and low income households across the country remain vulnerable to food insecurity due to inflation, loss of livestock and reduced remittances from Iran. Some 18% of children <5 nationwide suffer from

malnutrition, while acute malnutrition rates in the south are as high as 29.5% for children <5. In late March, according to the IOM, as a result of heavy rainfall, 475 families have been reportedly affected by flooding in Afghanistan with the provinces of Kabul, Parwan, Kunar, Zabul and Hilmand being the most heavily hit.

Deadly attacks on the civilian population as well as on national and international authorities continue. On 26 March, five Afghan policemen were killed by Taliban suicide bombers in an attack in Jalalabad that coincided with a visit to the country by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. In addition, on 26 March, 10 British troops were injured in a suicide bomb attack in Helmand province. The surge of violence may indicate that insurgents are increasingly testing Afghan security forces countrywide. It marks a change from the series of high-profile attacks on western targets that were characteristic of last year.

Humanitarian access has been increasingly compromised due to the active hostilities and access constraints related to winter. January saw 27 security incidents involving humanitarian workers in 15 provinces of Afghanistan. An annual polio vaccination campaign in the remote Nuristan province was allegedly halted last week by Taliban forces.

The NATO-led force in Afghanistan said on 26 February that it had incorrectly reported a 7% drop in the number of attacks by Taliban insurgents last year, acknowledging that there had been no decline in the closely watched statistic. The accurate number for insurgent attacks in 2012 showed the assaults had remained at the same level as in 2011, at more than 3,000.

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 end 2014 and with over 75% of the country expected to be under national security control by July 2013.

Overall, 5.4 million people are affected by the on-going conflict. The displacement crisis in Afghanistan has over 450,000 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 remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

### SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Fierce fighting was reported from the eastern and northeastern areas of the capital, as well as the Yarmuk Palestinian refugee camp and Qadam district. Fighting has reached the centre of the capital as well, with clashes next to Abbasiyeen square, one of the capital's main squares. Mortar fire struck Damascus University on 25 of March and the compound of the state news agency SANA in the heart of the city on 26 March.

Clashes also raged on a main road linking the southern Damascus area of Yarmuk to Al-Hajar Al-Aswad.

Syrian rebels have seized a key town on a main highway between Damascus and the south in their latest advance in Dar'a and have reportedly seized large parts of the

governorate.

In Aleppo, regime troops have stormed parts of the mostly Kurdish neighbourhood of Sheikh Maksood area. Rebels took over parts of the neighborhood late last week and heavy clashes continue since then, forcing hundreds of residents to flee. Clashes are on-going throughout Aleppo and much of the city has been destroyed during the conflict.

On 19 March, alleged chemical weapons hit the town Khan al-Assad south-west of Aleppo. Neither the rebels nor the Government admitted being responsible for the attack, which left an estimated 25 people dead. The UN is currently investigating whether chemical weapons have been used.

Air raids were reported in Raqqa province in northern Syria, where rebels seized control of Raqqa City earlier in March, as well as in the central province of Hama. Approximately 200,000 Syrians have fled the city of Ar-Raqqa to Dayr Azour following the ensuing fighting and insecurity in the area.

The fighting in the area between Damascus and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights continued over the past week, where rebels seized an air defense base near Syria's strategic southern international highway on 23 March. The rebels also reportedly took control over several military sites along the Jordanian-Syrian border.

The concerns for a regional spillover were further raised in the past week as shells and missiles from Syria reportedly landed in Lebanon. The Syrian Government denied claims of being behind the damage. In addition, Israel fired into Syria and destroyed a machinegun position in the Golan Heights from where shots had been fired at Israeli soldiers.

On 24 March, the leader of the Syrian National Coalition, Ahmed Moaz al-Khatib, resigned, reportedly out of frustration over the lack of international support. Meanwhile, the Free Syrian Army publicly refused to acknowledge the authority of Ghassan Hitto, the coalition-appointed Prime Minister for rebel-held areas in Syria.

During an EU summit, Britain and France pushed for lifting the current arms embargo on Syria, to allow for the arming of anti-Government groups.

The massive influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries continues. According to UNHCR, a total of 1,175,915 refugees have been registered or are awaiting registration by UNHCR as of 24 March, with 367,596 refugees in Jordan (Government estimates 420,000 in total), 375,236 in Lebanon (Government estimates one million in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), 260,000 in Turkey (Government estimates 400,000), 117,851 in Iraq and an 43,000 in Egypt (Government estimates 100,000). 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 UN estimates that over 5.5 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, while a recent joint rapid assessment in parts of six northern governorates identified over 5.8 million people in urgent need of assistance. According to recent statistics from the Syrian Ministry of Local Affairs, 3.6 million people are internally

displaced. Access to food remains limited due to increased prices and reduced availability. In some areas, the prices of most essential items have risen by 200%, and the Syrian pound has been devalued by around 80 percent WFP reported that they are unable to access more than one million out of 2.5 million people in need of emergency food assistance. Waterborne diseases are on the rise, with an outbreak of Typhoid reported in the north of the country. WHO stated that shortages of life saving medicines are of major concern.

Humanitarian access remains limited, with assessments and relief operations being hampered by the widespread insecurity, violence against humanitarian personnel and impediments to entry. The UN has started to reduce international staff presence in Damascus by 50% due to the deteriorating security conditions.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

Unrest continued in Yemen as gunmen killed three guards of a leader of the Huthi Shiite rebels in the capital on 23 March. The violence was reportedly linked to the country's troubled national dialogue, in which the leader was taking part. Related clashes between Yemeni police and southern separatists killed two civilians and wounded six people on 13 March. The clashes erupted in Aden's Mansura district, a stronghold of the pro-independence movement. Police opened fire on Southern Movement activists who had blocked roads with rocks and burning tyres as part of a campaign of civil disobedience they began less than a month ago. Some 12 people have been killed since the protests began on 23 February.

The crackdown on the protesters has inflamed tensions in Yemen. Unrest intensified across southern Yemen last month when protesters, marking the first anniversary of the ousting of former strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh, clashed with police in Aden.

National Dialogue sessions started on 18 March, after numerous delays since November 2012, in order to start drafting a new Yemeni constitution, agree on other reforms, and begin paving the way for elections. The constitution is expected to set out the groundwork for presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 2014.

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 remain internally displaced. In the meantime, 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.

Yemen currently hosts more than 237,000 refugees, virtually all 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 2012. As of 31 January, 7,518 new arrivals were reported, the majority of whom are (6,231 people) Ethiopian.

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).

According to WFP, the food security outlook for 2013 is slightly worse than in 2012, when an estimated 10.5 million people were considered food insecure. The causes of food insecurity will likely persist and be aggravated by poor prospects for the local agricultural production, estimated to be roughly 8% lower than in 2012.

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 throughout the country remains difficult to ascertain due to insecurity. Humanitarian access in Yemen is hampered by insecurity across the country. Kidnappings and attacks against humanitarian actors persist.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS**

Three days of violent riots and clashes between Muslims and Buddhists erupted in the town of Meikhtile in central Myanmar in the past week, starting on 20 March. An estimated 12,846 people have been displaced according to a rapid interagency assessment. According to OCHA, as of 29 March, the death toll stood at 40 people with 61 more being injured. The Government declared a state of emergency and deployed military to the riot-hit town on March 22, and calm was reportedly restored on 23 March.

According to Government officials, the violence had also spread to other townships in the region over the weekend, in particular the Yamethin Township where 40 houses and the mosque were destroyed. Sporadic acts of arson also spread from Meikhtila to Okpho and Gyobingauk in Bago Region and minor disturbances in Yangon.

The violence between Buddhists and Muslims marks the deadliest inter-communal unrest since the violence between the ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya shook western Rakhine state last year, killing hundreds of people and displacing more than 100,000 people. As of late December, between 115,000-138,000 people were still displaced across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung).

A second round of peace negotiations between Myanmar's Government and the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) and its armed wing, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), started on Monday 11 March in Ruili, China. On 12 March, the Government of Myanmar and Kachin rebels opened discussions on establishing a new frontline between

their armies. Kachin leaders rejected calls from the Government for an immediate ceasefire during the negotiations saying they needed more assurances from the Government.

Fighting between the Government and KIA had re-ignited in June 2011, when a 17-year ceasefire with the KIA rebels broke down. 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.

Access has improved as major highways in Kachin state – closed since the outbreak of hostilities between the Government army and KIA in 2011 – were reopened on 17 March, following the renewal of talks between the two sides. However, access to the affected population in Rakhine state remains difficult as campaigns have taken place based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the non-Rakhine Muslim minorities.

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: 02/04/2013*

## **OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX**

According to OCHA, some 1.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, with protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement as highest priorities.

On 8 March, clashes broke out between Israeli security forces and Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and at a holy site in Jerusalem after the funeral of a Palestinian who died after being shot by Israeli soldiers during a confrontation two weeks ago. Some 35 protestors were wounded.

Clashes between Jewish settlers, Palestinians and Israeli soldiers had previously broken out in the occupied West Bank on 23 February. The clashes came a week after a wave of violent protests in solidarity with four Palestinian hunger-striking prisoners, coupled with the death of another Palestinian in detention. At least six Palestinian protesters were shot and badly wounded in the violence.

According to the OCHA December 2012 Food Security Assessment reports, people having lost an income source due to the conflict in November, which affected some 12,000 people, will need several months or years to replace it, and as a result may need to be supported by longer-term emergency food assistance.

On 28 March Israel lifted a series of restrictions on Gaza which were imposed after militants fired two rockets across the border. Border crossings were reopened after one week and travel restrictions into and out of the territory via Erez, which had been limited to medical emergencies only, were lifted. The limitations were imposed after militants fired

two rockets at southern Israel on 21 March, during the three-day visit by US President Barack Obama.

On 29 November 2012, 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.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS**

Continued attacks by insurgency groups are fostering an increasing trend of violence in Pakistan since December 2012. On 23 March, a car packed with explosives exploded next to a pair of fuel tankers at an army check post in north-western Pakistan, leaving 17 soldiers dead and wounding dozens, according to Pakistani officials. A car bomb also hit Jalojai refugee camp, killing 15 people and wounding another 40 on 21 March. Jalojai is home to tens of thousands of people displaced from violence in the tribal belt on the Afghan border.

A bomb blast inside a Sunni Muslim mosque on 9 March killed five people and wounded 28 others in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar. Peshawar is vulnerable to bomb blasts and Taliban attacks as it runs into the semi-autonomous tribal belt, considered a safe haven for Taliban, Al-Qaeda and other insurgents fighting both in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The attack came six days after a car bomb killed 50 people in a mainly Shiite Muslim neighbourhood of Karachi, the fourth in a series of major attacks on the minority Shiite community since January 10 that have killed more than 250 people.

These recent attacks follow in addition, a bomb attack on 16 February in Quetta in the Baluchistan Province in southwest Pakistan which left at least 64 people dead and some 200 injured. The group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the attack. Baluchistan has increasingly become a flashpoint for sectarian violence between Sunni Muslim and Shi'ites.

Pakistan's Parliament is due to be dissolved in less than two weeks in preparation for elections on 11 May, but rising sectarian violence has raised serious questions about security.

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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) due to protracted conflict as of 31 January. According to the Government's FATA Disaster Management Authority, up to 60,000 people could be affected in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), over the past two weeks due to renewed conflict following an escalation of hostilities between rival militant groups. At least 43,000 people were displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the

camp of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalojai camp in Nowshera District.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September caused destruction across Pakistan. According to the Government, the flooding affected around 4.8 million people in Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces as of 31 January, with around 142,000 people now residing in camps. Many of the affected districts, particularly in Baluchistan and Sindh, were already struggling to recover from the 2010 and 2011 flooding. 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 further causing a deterioration of the humanitarian situation, particularly for those residing in makeshift shelters.

Malnutrition rates in some 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, with rising fuel prices and stagnating domestic productivity, pushing up food prices. Seven districts are classified as facing IPC phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency). In Pakistan, prices of wheat and wheat flour have been steadily increasing since June 2012 reaching record levels in most markets in February 2013, underpinned by higher producer support prices

Measles cases in 2012 surged by almost five times compared to 2011, leading to the deaths of more than 485 children, up from 64 deaths in 2011. Some 175 deaths have been reported since the beginning of 2013 alone. 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 141 measles outbreaks throughout the country since the beginning of the year. The HO 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. Attacks against aid workers in Pakistan continue to threaten the provision of life-saving assistance. According to OCHA in January alone, 20 aid workers were attacked, which is nearly 50% of last year's total figure of 42. More than 15 polio vaccinators were killed in targeted attacks in December and January.

*Update: 02/04/2013*

## **TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY**

Since the beginning of January 2013, over 3 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. According to WFP, around 870,300 people in 12 livelihood zones are classified as being in Crisis food security conditions (IPC Phase 3). Another 2,381,800 people are classified to be in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2). Overall however, the food security status of the analysed zones has relatively improved in the reporting months compared to the previous year thanks to increased remittances received, good rainfall and good cereal production reaching 1.2 million tons, by end 2012, by 12 % higher than in last season. Spring rainfall in March has been temporally well distributed, and it is expected to continue at its current, regular pace.

In Tajikistan, which heavily depends on import, prices of wheat flour remained stable or

showed some declines in December 2012, though still 33% higher than a year earlier. During 2012 an increase in food prices was recorded on other staple food products such as potatoes (by 19 %), beef (by 15%), bread and other staple products. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices

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.

Prices of wheat and wheat flour in local currency terms are at or near record highs. However, when accounting for exchange rates, the current prices are not as high the 2008 peak prices.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST**

A tornado swept through 15 villages in the Brahmanbaria district, more than 100 km southeast of the capital, Dhaka, on 22 March. At least 20 people were killed and another 300 injured, according to the Government of Bangladesh. The tornado caused material damages, tearing roofs off houses and uprooting trees and power pylons. More than 500 houses suffered damage.

Clashes and violence continued over the past week, following the sentencing to death of a senior Islamist leader on 28 February. On 19 March, opposition supporters clashed with police and pro-Government activists in several locations across the country during a nationwide *hartal* (or strike). Violent protests were also reported on 22 March, in Monirampur village in western Bangladesh. To date, more than 85 people have died due to the violence since 28 February.

The clashes on 28 February, when an estimated 34 people were killed in clashes in 15 districts across the country, marked the bloodiest session of violence since the country's independence four decades ago.

In addition, violent attacks against Bangladesh's minority Hindu community have continued since the sentencing of the Islamist leader. Around 50 Hindu temples and at least 700 Hindu houses have been attacked since late February.

Demonstrations over the trial and sentencing of senior political leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) party, the country's largest Islamic party, including the party's leader and deputy leader over their role in the 1971 independence war, have resulted in numerous clashes between the police and protesters since January. In addition to the violence, *hartels* called by the JI or the main opposition political party (BNP) are reportedly causing significant disruption to business and commerce. With elections scheduled for late 2013 there is concern that the political disruption will continue.

Some 40% of the population is food insecure and this is aggravated by rising food prices and disasters destroying infrastructure and inundating land. Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard prone countries and is often subject to floods. In 2012, the affected north-western region was hit by floods three times.

*Updated: 25/03/2013*

## **IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY**

A series of car bombs, suicide attacks and shootings struck Baghdad on 19 March, which marked ten years since the start of U.S.-led invasion in 2003. A total of at least 20 explosions and multiple shootings left 52 people dead and more than 170 wounded.

On 14 March coordinated blasts killed at least 25 people in an attack on the Iraqi Ministry of Justice in central Baghdad near the heavily fortified Green Zone, where several Western embassies are located. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), an umbrella group for al Qaeda-linked Sunni Muslim insurgents claimed responsibility for the attacks. Eight more people were killed in the capital on 15 March in an attack on police recruits. On 17 March nine people were killed in a car bomb in Garmat Ali in Iraq's predominantly Shi'ite Muslim south.

The violence is a continuation in the surge in unrest that left 246 people dead 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.

As of 23 March, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 117,851, with the autonomous region of Kurdistan hosting the majority of refugees.

Measles cases 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 was 68,122, according to UNHCR. Baghdad continues to receive the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa.

*On 3 March, Iraq shut a border crossing with Syria after Syrian rebels seized the other side of the frontier post from the Syrian army. On 11 March, Al-Qaida's branch in Iraq claimed responsibility for the killing of 48 Syrian soldiers and nine Iraqi guards in western Anbar province, who sought refuge in Iraq after the attack on the border post. The attack suggests possible coordination between the terror network's Iraq affiliate and its ideological allies in Syria who are fighting on the side of the rebels against President Bashar Assad's regime. According to the UNHCR, an estimated 121,320 Syrian refugees are currently registered in Iraq as of 27 March.*

An estimated 1.2 million were displaced inside Iraq by 11 June 2012; updated displacement figures remain lacking. 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: 02/04/2013*

## **JORDAN DISPLACEMENT**

The number of Syrian refugees crossing the border to Jordan continues to increase. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 330,896 Syrian refugees have been registered by UNHCR in Jordan, and an

additional 63,980 await registration.

These figures do not include Syrians that have not registered or await registration, and the Government of Jordan estimates that there are in total some 470,000 Syrian refugees in the country. As a result of the refugee influx, Jordan's economy, water and energy resources remain 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.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY**

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In March an estimated 25% of the population of Kyrgyzstan – about 1.3 million people – were considered food insecure compared to 18% in March 2012. The highest levels of food insecurity were found in Jalalabad (48%), Osh (38%) and Batken (38%) oblasts. The situation of currently food-insecure and vulnerable households is likely to further deteriorate during spring when stocks of food from the previous harvest will be depleted and additional inputs are required for the spring planting campaign. A WFP assessment from September 2012 also revealed that another 13% of households – some 547,000 people – are at risk of becoming food insecure should they be affected by an additional shock, such as further rises in food prices. In February 2013, the retail price of wheat flour did not change on a month-on-month basis and remained at high levels. Since June 2012, the price has increased by 56% in rural and 48% in urban areas, and by an average of 52% across the country. The domestic retail price of wheat flour in February was 32% higher than in the same month of last year and only 4% lower than the peak level of early 2011.

The 2012 wheat production was affected by delayed planting due to a long cold winter, followed by a hot summer. The latest estimate puts cereal production at about 1.3 million tonnes, which is some 19% lower than last year's level.

In 2010, 34% of the population was living below the national poverty line.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## **PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON**

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Continuous rains caused floods in Agusan del Sur in the Province of Pampanga in late February. Some 49,073 people were affected as of 27 February, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. The Municipality of San Luis has the highest number of affected, amounting to 19,577 across 11 barangays (villages), followed by the municipality of Veruela with 12,125 persons affected across 12 barangays. Several municipalities have suffered damages on large agricultural stretches.

On 19 February, Tropical Depression "Crising" made landfall on the southern tip of Davao del Sur and moved northwest towards southern Palawan before moving away from the

country on 21 February. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Control (NDRRMC), some 52,325 households, or 262,880 persons, were affected in 137 barangays of seven regions. 39,406 of these were previously affected by Typhoon Bopha. As of 25 February, 223,134 receive assistance inside and outside of evacuation centres.

Four consecutive days of rain combined with the tail-end of a cold front led to rising water levels in Mindanao in January. As of 26 January, there were more than 507,700 people affected, the majority of them, 369,000, in Davao Region.

The Philippines frequently experiences natural disasters, particularly tropical storms and cyclones. Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) struck the Philippines on 4 December 2012, causing extensive damage across the island of Mindanao. As of 13 February, 6.2 million people were still affected by Bopha, 925,412 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and 8,925 are displaced inside evacuation centres. A total of 233,163 households were 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.

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 affected region of Mindanao is still recovering from four decades of conflict between the Government and rebel groups fighting for independence.

On 27 November 2012, 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: 02/04/2013*

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

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In response to the country's third nuclear test after 2006 and 2009, the UN Security Council voted on 7 March to tighten financial restrictions on DPRK and crack down on its attempts to ship and receive banned cargo in breach of UN sanctions. On 11 March DPRK cut off a Red Cross hotline with South Korea as the tensions escalated. Pyongyang has also threatened to cut off a hotline with UN forces in South Korea, at the border "truce village" of Pammunjom in a reaction to the newest round of sanctions.

European Union Governments agreed on 18 February to tighten sanctions against North Korea, restricting the country's ability to trade following the recent nuclear test. The sanctions expand those approved by the UN Security Council in January, adding measures preventing trading in North Korean Government bonds, gold, precious metals, and diamonds, EU diplomats said.

The UN 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 in January.

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 2012 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.

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: 02/04/2013*



## NORTH AMERICA

### HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Some 2.1 million people in Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis, according to the UN. An estimated 81,600 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, of which 20,400 have Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Rural populations are especially affected. 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. In addition, sowing of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and first half of February.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases amounts to 645,964, with 118,000 potential new cholera cases in 2013. As of 19 February,

8,020 deaths have been reported. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, approximately 8,643 new cholera cases and 126 deaths were reported between 15 December 2012 and 15 January 2013. This represents a 40% decrease over the previous month but still represents a 65% increase over the same period last year. Artibonite department is the most affected area with 817 new cases of cholera (compared to 619 new cases for the same period in December) recorded during the first two weeks of January, due to contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions and inadequate sanitation.

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 most affected. As of 15 February, 71,400 victims of Hurricane Sandy still need humanitarian assistance according to OCHA. Recent surveys show that 119 of 140 municipalities were severely affected by drought, Tropical Storm Isaac and/or Hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people in total.

Almost three years after the earthquake, there remain some 358,000 IDPs in Haiti.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*



## SOUTH AMERICA

### BOLIVIA FLOODS

Torrential rain and floods continued to cause damage across Bolivia. Five of the country's nine departments are under a state of emergency for floods and eight of nine have been affected. As of 25 March there are 145,000 people affected in 80 municipalities (more than 25% of Bolivia's municipalities). The department of Cochabamba is one of the worst hit with 40,000 (8,000 families) affected in between 18 and 25 March.

According to Civil Defense reports, the rainy season has caused 24 casualties and destroyed 12,000 hectares of crops. To date, an estimated 25,000 peoples are in urgent need of food assistance

The southern departments are the most affected, especially Chuquisaca, Potosi, Tarija and Cochabamba. The department of Cochabamba was declared a state of emergency on 20 March. In total, 36,500 people have reportedly been affected since December 2012. In La Paz, more than 4,120 families are affected in 26 municipalities, some 1,160 hectares of crops are damaged and several roads are blocked.

Bolivia experiences floods every year during the January-March rainy season. Heavy rains typically flood major rivers and cause mudslides and devastation of roads and infrastructure in the Andean region, and the Amazon lowland plains consistently suffer from floods every year during the rainy season.

*Updated: 02/04/2013*

## 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](#).