

HIGHLIGHTS

- The African Development Bank has allocated \$140.5 million to resilience efforts.
- Peace agreements for DRC and Sudan/South Sudan have been signed amid continuing concerns.
- Refugees continue to flee DRC and Sudan. Some 12,000 Somalis left Kenya for Somalia despite challenging conditions.
- Food security has generally improved across the region, though 16 million people are still facing crisis and emergency conditions.
- Peace holds in Kenya voting despite some violence.

FIGURES

Total regional population	231 million
Range of HDI ranks (of 186)	145 to 181
Est. food insecure*	16 million
Total est. refugees	1.6 million
Total est. IDPs	4.4 million
Total est. returnees	685,102

Sources: Natl. Govts, DESA, UNDP, FSNWG, UNHCR. "Regional" refers to Sudan, S. Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti.
* IPC Levels 3 and 4, including CAR and DRC

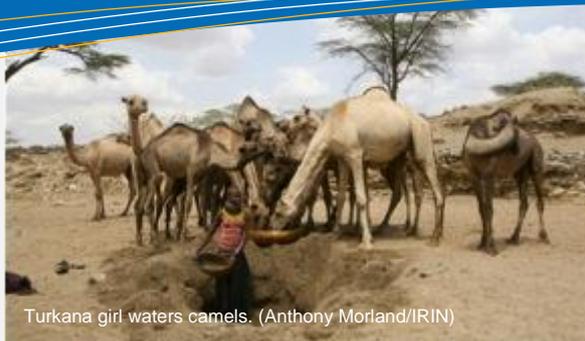
FUNDING

\$4.3 billion

Requested (US\$) in five individual country appeals

8.9% funded

Funding ranges from 5% to 11.6% in 5 country appeals



Turkana girl waters camels. (Anthony Morland/IRIN)

In this issue

Landmark regional agreements P.2

New refugees straining camps P.3

More support needed for returnees P.5

Food security and rainfall outlook P.6

Regional shift out of crisis creates opportunity

Support for resilience needed to consolidate improvements

As food security conditions continue to improve across eastern Africa, governments and regional bodies are moving away from cyclical drought crisis management to implement resilience-building initiatives to improve national food security. The number of people in IPC Crisis or Emergency Phase has dropped in most countries according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). At its peak in July/August 2011, the Horn of Africa drought crisis (2011-2012) had affected more than 22 million people in the region, with Somalia and Kenya each having more than 3.7 million food-insecure people. In responding to the crisis, humanitarian actors scaled up life-saving operations in affected areas but at the same time emphasized the need for resilience-building and holistic multi-sectoral livelihood-based approaches to avoid a fall back to a similar crisis in the future. Governments in the region have adopted a paradigm shift from reaction to resilience. The success of these interventions however requires more sustained support, hence the call to the international community to collaborate and share the means, including funding, for the implementation of comprehensive drought management policies.

Food insecurity in selected countries in 2011 and 2013 (people living in IPC Level 3 and 4 conditions)			
Country	July 2011	February 2013	Source (FSNWG 21 Mar 2013)
Djibouti	165,264	70,000	IPC/FSC Nov 12
Ethiopia	4,805,679	2,400,000	GoE
Kenya	3,754,585	0	KFSSG IPC Mar 13
Somalia	3,700,000	1,050,000	FSNAU Feb 13
South Sudan	-	1,000,000	LAF Nov 12
Sudan	4,400,000	4,253,112	IPC Mar 13
Uganda (Karamoja)	900,000	80,000	FSSG Feb13

IGAD seeking support for resilience programme targeting 4 million people

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has reportedly approved \$140.52 million for the first phase of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Programme in the Horn of Africa. The five-year (2013-2017) resilience initiative is intended to bolster the ability of states in the region to move beyond the cycle of crisis. The proposed project will focus on about four million beneficiaries in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya and also support the work of the IGAD Secretariat.

IGAD Member States, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, are currently developing initiatives aligned with Country Programming Papers and creating national coordination mechanisms for harmonization, alignment and coordination of resilience activities. The IGAD Secretariat has called on Member States and development partners to support the initiative, which will be implemented jointly by IGAD and the African Development Bank (AfDB). More information on the project is available at www.afdb.org/en/documents/project-operations/project-appraisal-reports/

Ethiopia's ultimate aim is to build resilience to recurrent crises and reduce the need for emergency humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia sets the pace in building resilience in the region

Partners in Ethiopia are using safety net programmes and early warning systems to help boost agricultural production and reduce dependence on food aid. Chronic food insecurity is a significant feature of rural Ethiopia and its urban poor, exacerbated by drought, flooding, disease outbreaks, inter-communal conflict and refugee influxes from neighbouring states. The Ethiopian Government adopted the Productive Safety Nets Programmes (PSNP) in 2005. The PSNP seeks to provide transfers to chronically food insecure people as a way to keep families from depleting all their assets and empowering communities to create productive assets. The ultimate aim is to build resilience to recurrent crises and reduce the need for emergency humanitarian assistance. The Ethiopian Government has committed to shifting away from a disaster management-based system to a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) one, in keeping with the [Hyogo Framework](#). The national DRM policy is yet to be approved. A 20-member European Union delegation is in Ethiopia to extract lessons from the country's efforts of building resilience to recurrent crises.

UN Conference encourages governments to develop drought management

UN agencies and partners are promoting resilience as a way to empower drought-prone areas to move beyond aid dependence. A high-level conference met in Switzerland from 11-15 March to discuss how governments can advance from passive crisis management to pro-active risk-management in order to improve resilience to drought. The meeting called on all actors, including local, regional and national governments, to participate and coordinate efforts to develop and implement sustainable resilience policies.

In its Final Declaration, the UN meeting urged developed countries to assist developing countries, especially the least developed ones, with the means of implementation towards the comprehensive development and implementation of National Drought Management Policies in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The meeting further encouraged the promotion of international cooperation, including north-south cooperation, complemented by south-south cooperation, as appropriate, to foster drought policies in developing countries.

Experts on disaster management observed that the paradigm shift from crisis management to disaster-risk reduction (DRR) has been successfully embraced for hazards such as tropical cyclones and floods, hence the possibility for doing likewise for drought. More information on the conference and its conclusions is available at www.hmndp.org.

Landmark regional agreements signed

Peace and security agreements depend on concerted engagement

Regional leaders have signed peace and security agreements over the last month in an attempt to address insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan/South Sudan, where conflict continues to threaten regional stability, development, and food security. The conflicts have displaced people internally and across regional borders with significant humanitarian implications.

The success of these frameworks however calls for a collaborative engagement by all the leaders of the region in addressing the root causes of the conflict, especially in the Great Lakes region. The international community is therefore called upon to support these efforts as robustly as possible, including the need to ensure funding is sustained throughout the peace building process.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Mary Robinson of Ireland as his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to support the recent peace agreement.

Peace agreement in DRC raises hopes, concerns

The [Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC](#) and the region was signed on 24 February in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the Chairperson of the 14-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Chairperson of the 11-country International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). On 19 March, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Mary Robinson of Ireland as his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to support the Framework's implementation. Among her more than four decades of political and diplomatic experience, she served as President of Ireland from 1990 to 1997 and as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002.

[Analysts](#) expressed reservations about the agreement, observing it did not include civil society and armed groups of eastern DRC (notably the M23 movement). For its part, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) wondered if the process would be hindered by the excessive multilateralism in the mechanism. "Too many cooks may spoil the broth, especially considering that these countries and bodies became involved in the DRC for very different reasons," ISS wrote in an [8 March brief](#). "This also raises the question as to whether all the signatories truly agree on the framework, and may explain why the framework is so vague." And while the Framework draws attention to the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the region, details were scarce as to what would be done to address this. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his hope that the Framework would "lead to an era of peace and stability for the people of the [DRC] and the Great Lakes region", stressing that the signing was only the beginning of a "comprehensive approach that will require sustained engagement".

Sudan and South Sudan move to de-militarize border and resume oil flows

On 8 March in Addis Ababa, the Ministers of Defence of Sudan and South Sudan agreed on a timetable to activate stalled plans to create a demilitarized border zone and resume oil flow between the two countries. This is an important development for the plight of thousands of pastoralists who have recently been unable to move with their livestock to South Sudan. Ten border crossings are also expected to re-open allowing the passage of tens of thousands of South Sudanese currently stranded in Sudan. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the agreement between the two countries and said there should be no further conditions for the implementation of the cooperation agreements. Observers meanwhile expressed [concern](#) that Sudan will continue to face an insurgency in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States as the agreements do not address domestic causes of war or envisage talks with the SPLM-N.

The South Sudan – Sudan agreement will see the opening of ten border crossings, thus allowing South Sudanese stranded in Sudan to cross the border.

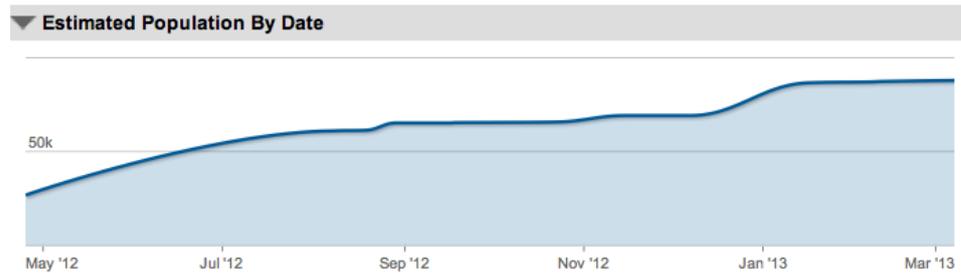
New refugees continue to strain camps

Violence in Sudan forces thousands from home

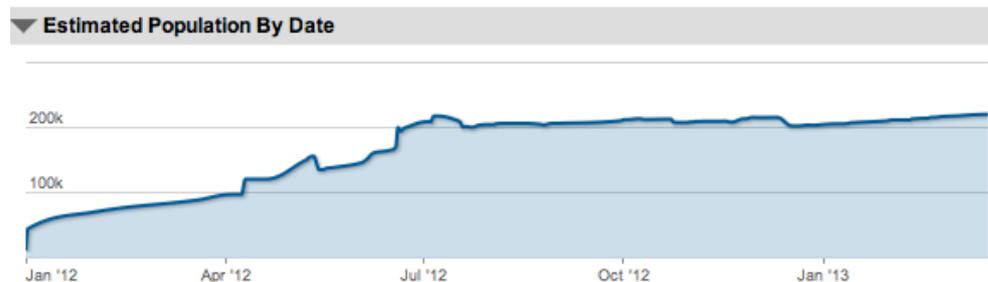
Renewed fighting in Sudan's Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states continues to displace people internally and into neighbouring Ethiopia and South Sudan. The situation in Darfur's Jebel Amir and humanitarian access have improved as aid agencies coordinate with the Government and peacekeeping missions to deliver medical supplies and evacuate wounded people. Despite these efforts, tens of thousands of people remain in need of vital humanitarian assistance. In the first week of March, humanitarian agencies registered close to 900 Sudanese refugee arrivals into Upper Nile State (South Sudan). These refugees reported aerial bombings and shelling in their homeland of Blue Nile State. Altogether, over 300,000 Sudanese refugees are currently living in camps in Ethiopia and South Sudan, with at least 87,585 in Ethiopia, and at least 219,000 in South Sudan. An estimated 1.4 million people are receiving assistance in Darfur.

Preparations are underway for a new camp in Ajuong Thok, South Sudan, to deal with the influx from Yida refugee camp.

Number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR)



Number of Sudanese refugees in South Sudan (UNHCR)



Violence in Yida camp highlights threats facing refugees in South Sudan

Sustained gunfire broke out in Yida refugee camp on 16 March in South Sudan's Unity State, close to the border with Sudan's South Kordofan State, forcing hundreds of people to flee. The situation raises serious concerns over the presence of armed groups in border camps. UNHCR and their humanitarian partners continue [preparations](#) to open a new camp in Ajuong Thok in South Sudan to deal with new influxes of refugees. Further south in Jonglei State, aid organizations are concerned about the possible humanitarian consequences of rising insecurity following a military build-up and escalation of clashes in the area. While no large scale humanitarian impacts have yet been reported, firefights are restricting aid delivery to several parts of Pibor County and its surrounding areas.

Violence persists in eastern DRC, with consequences for the region

It has been an eventful month for the Great Lakes region, with a major peace agreement signed and renewed outbreaks of violence in North and South Kivu Provinces. Recent fighting has displaced thousands within the DRC and into neighbouring countries. And Bosco Ntaganda, wanted by the International Criminal Court for a string of atrocities in the DRC, surrendered on 18 March to the US embassy in Kigali, Rwanda.

In **North Kivu**, the days following the signing of the new peace agreement saw the M23 split into two rival factions, further complicating efforts to reach a much hoped-for agreement with the Government of the DRC and resulting in fighting between the two factions in Rutshuru Territory of North Kivu. Meanwhile, to the south-east, in neighbouring Masisi Territory, fighting that erupted on 24 February in the town of [Kitchanga](#) and its surroundings between the national army of the DRC and elements of the *Alliance des patriots pour un Congo libre et souverain* (APCLS) left at least 80 dead and some 100,000 people affected. Humanitarian assistance was not spared by the violence: warehouses were burned down, medical facilities were destroyed and the city's water supply system was affected. The humanitarian community called for "unimpeded and complete access" and called on all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers. In Shabunda Territory of **South Kivu** Province, over 10,000 people were displaced by fighting between the national army and the Raia Mutomboki mai-mai group, according to an [assessment mission](#) conducted by NGOs and OCHA from 27 February to 1 March. The mission found that access to healthcare, school and food supplies were among the primary challenges faced by the displaced.

The unpredictability of displacement from DRC has compelled aid agencies to adjust their responses. UNHCR has launched an appeal for an extra \$69.6 million for displaced Congolese.

Some 4,500 DRC citizens flee to Uganda, with most already back home

The aforementioned inter-faction M23 clashes forced some 4,500 Congolese civilians to flee into **Uganda** on 1 March. By 4 March, some 70 per cent were able to return to their villages, when calm returned. UNHCR registered and assisted some 1,260 Congolese who opted to seek asylum in Uganda. Many others found refuge in homes of relatives residing in Uganda. In addition to escaping fighting, refugees say they were also fleeing night robberies, general extortion, looting, sexual assault and fear of forced recruitment by armed rebel groups. Many arrive weak, having walked for four to six days to reach safety in Uganda. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in new arrivals are at 12 per cent and current food pipeline remains constrained at 50 per cent ration, reports UNHCR. While UNHCR, the Government of Uganda and partner agencies provide protection, material and food assistance to the newly arrived, the unpredictability of the influxes has left aid agencies having to constantly adjust their response, sometimes leaving them stretched beyond capacity. By mid-March, Congolese continued to arrive in Uganda, albeit in smaller numbers.

Kigeme surpasses capacity with continued arrival of Congolese in Rwanda

In **Rwanda** as of 28 February, UNHCR counted 23,269 individuals (17,464 people in Kigeme Camp and 5,805 people in Nkamira Transit Centre) who had fled the DRC. Kigeme, designed for 16,000 people, has now far exceeded its capacity. As the return of Congolese refugees hosted in Rwanda cannot be considered at present due to insecurity, and as local integration cannot be considered as a durable solution because of land scarcity, UNHCR is calling for urgent additional support. On 5 March, the UN Refugee Agency launched an [appeal](#) for an extra \$69.6 million to help hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced Congolese civilians, both within the DRC and in neighbouring countries. The supplemental funding includes \$22.6 million for the DRC, \$7 million for Burundi, \$17.7 million for Rwanda and \$22.3 million for Uganda (on top of the \$282.4 million budget for 2013 for all operations in these four countries).

More support needed to assist returnees

People who have been displaced by conflict and insecurity attempting to return to their home countries need increased humanitarian assistance and reintegration support from their governments. Hundreds of thousands of stranded and vulnerable returnees are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance across the region in the form of medical care, education, water, sanitation, food assistance, nutrition, transportation or protection. Of vital importance is to strengthen the preparedness and the capacity of national actors to effectively and efficiently manage the returns and reintegration process, including through the provision of training programmes, data collection and profiling of returnees.

Burundian returnees in need of integration support

In Burundi, over 33,000 Burundian refugees formerly living in Mtabila camp in Tanzania returned through an organized return scheme. Returnees with no place to go are provisionally sheltered in temporary accommodation shelters and are in need of further integration support. Many of the returnees have temporarily resettled in the south, an area where there is limited access to clean water and risk of cholera outbreaks. UNHCR has been assisting the returnees with reintegration packages comprising a six-month food ration, non-food items, insurance medical card (valid for one year), and \$42 cash grant per person.

Nearly 45,000 South Sudanese returnees stranded in open areas in Sudan

An estimated [40,000 people](#) of South Sudanese origin are still living in open areas in and around Khartoum waiting to travel to South Sudan. Many have been there for more than two years and are living in poor conditions. A further 3,500 people of South Sudanese origin are in a similar position living at Kosti railway station and have had no or little access to basic services for two years.

Of 16 million people facing crisis and emergency food security conditions in the region, 78 per cent are in Sudan and DR Congo.

12,000 Somalis returned from Kenya in 2013 despite challenges in Somalia

The number of returnees moving from Kenya to Somalia, where conditions are not yet viable for large-scale voluntary return, continued to increase in February, according to UNHCR. The movements from Kenya into Somalia increased more than eight-fold between November-December and January-February. In the first nine weeks of the year, about 12,000 people reportedly crossed the border. People stated that the Kenyan Government's decree to relocate urban refugees to Dadaab camp led to their return, as well as perceived fear of election-related violence, insecurity, robbery, rape, and harassment. Refugee stakeholders have jointly filed a petition in court challenging the Government's directive to relocate all urban refugees to the camps. The court has issued conservatory orders stopping the Government from enforcing the directive until the petition is heard and determined. The case is fixed for mention in late March 2013.

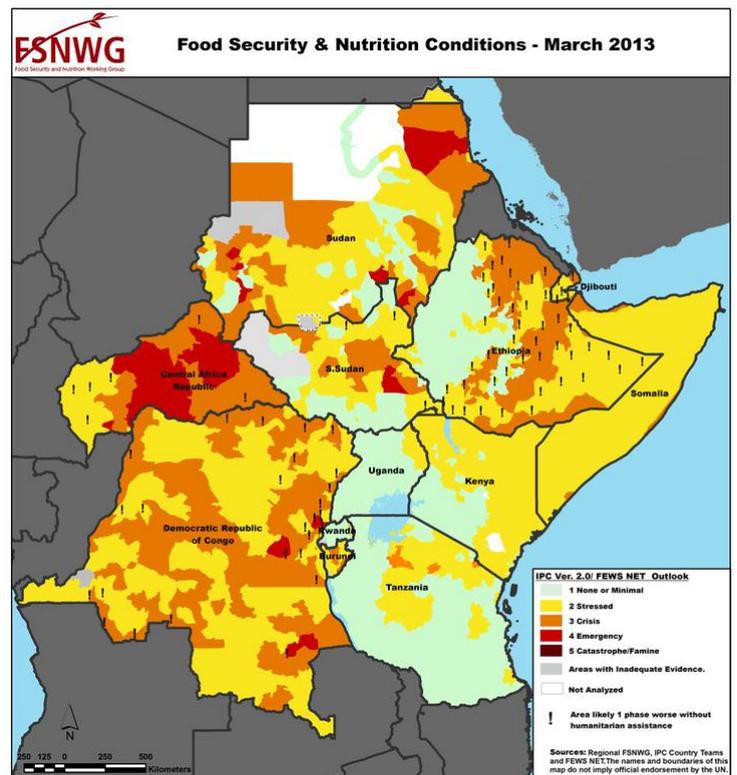
Meanwhile, the number of Somali returnees from Ethiopia decreased from 917 in November-December to 623 in January-February. People arrived in Doolow before moving further to their places of origin located mostly in Bay and Bakool regions. These people stated they travelled to visit relatives left behind in Somalia and some reportedly intend to cross back to the Dollo Ado refugee camps shortly, according to UNHCR.

Regional food security continues to improve

Despite improvements, 16 million people face crisis and emergency conditions in the region (including DRC and CAR)

The food security situation is generally favourable across the region, according to the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG). Overall conditions are relatively good as a result of consecutive good seasons, normal to above-normal harvests, stable food prices and good livestock conditions throughout 2012. Food prices have generally decreased from their 2011/12 levels (but remain above their five-year averages). The number of people in IPC Crisis or Emergency (Phase 3 and 4) has dropped, with countries such as Kenya shifting from 3.7 million people food insecure in 2011 to zero (country in Phase 2) currently. To watch however are **DRC and Sudan**, which have an estimated 6.4 million and 4.3 million people respectively in Phase 3 and 4.

In **Ethiopia**, *meher* grain production is up by five per cent from last year and food prices are declining but still above the five-year average. The 2013 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) for Ethiopia covering the first half of the year indicates that 2.48 million people will require relief food assistance nationwide in the first half of 2013. The



Sources: Regional FSNWG, IPC Country Teams, FEWS NET.

FAO and WFP warn that in South Sudan, about 4.1 million people are facing food insecurity; of these, over 1 million are severely food insecure.

performance of *belg* rains and the rains in the east of the region will be critical to watch in the coming months, observes FAO.

Most of **Somalia** has been classified as Stressed (Phase 2). Livestock prices are significantly higher than in 2012. Food prices, especially for maize and sorghum, remain relatively low and stable.

High demand for grain in **Uganda** is pushing up prices, especially for maize, but benefitting farmers who have reported normal second season harvests in 2012. Generally good food security conditions have been reported across the country.

In **Djibouti**, food prices are stable and below average, according to FEWS NET. There are however food insecurity concerns for pastoral communities and poor urban households. Poor *heyir/dada* rains have affected rangelands conditions and water availability in south-eastern areas and the Obock region.

In **South Sudan**, an [FAO/WFP assessment mission](#) published on 22 February found that 2012 production was about 35 per cent above 2011 estimates and about 6 per cent above the average of the previous five years. However, in 2013, about 4.1 million people are estimated to be facing food insecurity (of a total estimated population of 10.4 million people); of whom just over 1 million are severely food insecure. An estimated 224,000 tons of food will be required to assist the most food insecure rural households, vulnerable children, IDPs, refugees and returnees.

In **Sudan**, favourable rainfall has led to surplus 2012/13 harvests, and decreasing cereal prices, although these remain higher than in 2012. Of concern are areas in South Kordofan and Darfur where restricted livestock migration may negatively impact food security in the area.

Prices for staples in **Rwanda** and **Burundi** are decreasing following improved food availability and access for poor households during the 'Season A' period. Most households in Burundi are in Minimal/None food insecurity (IPC Phase 1) through June 2013. Of concern during the coming rainy season are floods in the western region following a prediction of normal to above-normal rainfall in the coming season.

In **Kenya**, substantial improvements to the food security situation have occurred in many places, according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) March Report. The favourable conditions are largely due to three successive good seasons in agro-pastoral zones and north-western pastoral areas, and to the above-average crop production across the south-eastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas. Commodity prices in most monitored markets were largely constant. With the exception of Moyale, livestock prices have declined due to increased supply.

Seasonal deterioration in food security expected in coming months

Despite the good 2012 agro-climatic conditions, a seasonal deterioration in food security and nutrition conditions is expected in the coming months due to abnormally higher than normal temperatures. Dry season conditions, including global acute malnutrition rates of 15-30 per cent and low levels of food consumption are anticipated until the arrival of the

Current est. food insecurity by country (Mar 2013)

Country	People living in IPC Phases 3 and 4	Source: FSNWG-Feb 2013
Burundi	76,450	GTT Aug 12
CAR	664,000	GTI Feb 13
Djibouti	70,000	IPC/FSC Nov 12
DRC	6,400,000	GTT Dec 12
Ethiopia	2,400,000	GoE (require food aid) Mar 13
Kenya	0	KFFSG IPC Mar 13
Somalia	1,050,000	FSNAU Feb 13
S Sudan	1,000,000	LAF Nov 12
Sudan	4,253,112	IPC Mar 13
Uganda	80,000	FSSG Feb 13
TOTAL	15,993,562	
Source: FSNWG		

March-to-May rains, according to FEWS NET. Stable food prices, labour opportunities and small-scale commercial activities are particularly important during this period.

The 33rd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum forecast normal to below-normal rainfall for the eastern parts of the region, through northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, across Sudan and the north of South Sudan. FAO however warns that the rains will be erratic in space and time hence a high likelihood of mixed food security outcomes over the coming months. This therefore calls for continued monitoring of rainfall performance and water regeneration during the rainy season.

In brief

Kenyan elections pass with minimal humanitarian implications

Over the duration of Kenya's elections, localized outbreaks of violence were contained with minimal humanitarian implications. OCHA Eastern Africa worked with over ten humanitarian and development organizations in the field to monitor the situation before, during and after Election Day. The situation on the ground will be continually monitored as election-related issues are contested in the courts. Outcomes of the Kenyan elections, including the presidential results, are currently being contested at the Supreme Court.

UNSG's Special Report on the DRC and Great Lakes region

On 6 March UN Secretary-General Ban presented his [Special Report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region](#) to the UN Security Council, laying out his vision for a variety of measures aimed at improving the situation in the eastern DRC, including the deployment of an international intervention brigade, under the auspices of the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), with a robust mandate of containing, neutralizing and disarming armed groups.

For further information, please contact:

Gabriella Waaijman, Deputy Head of Office – OCHA Eastern Africa, waaijman@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732600012

Matthew Conway, Public Information Officer – OCHA Eastern Africa, conwaym@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732500010

Truphosa Anjichi-Kodumbe, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, kodumbe@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732500018

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