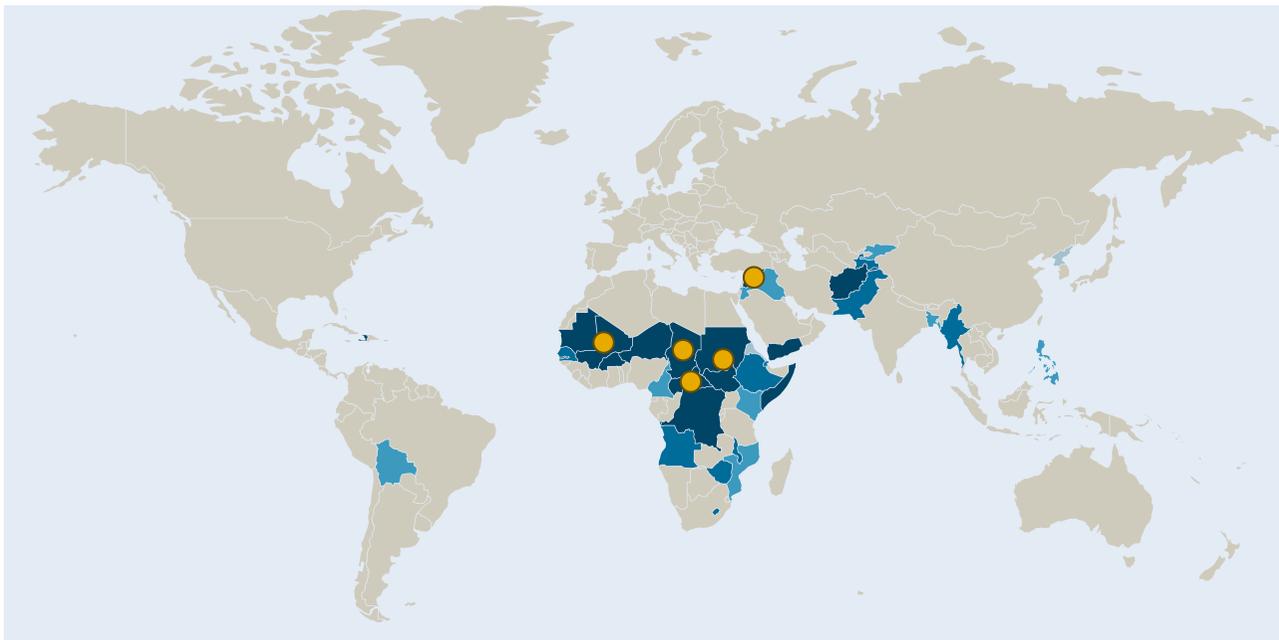




GLOBAL OVERVIEW

April 2013



SNAPSHOT 08 - 15 April 2013

Heavy fighting continued throughout **Syria**, with shelling reported from all but two of the Governorates in the country. The violence in densely populated places, including Aleppo, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and central Damascus remained intense. More than 400,000 people have fled Syria since 1 January, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries to around 1.32 million as of 14 April, according to UNHCR.

In the north of **Mali**, France led a major offensive on 9 April in an attempt to establish control over the northern territories before the deployment of UN peacekeepers and as French troops start withdrawing. Meanwhile, the security situation remains volatile with continued asymmetric attacks carried out by Islamist militants in the main northern towns.

Fresh tribal clashes in central and southern Darfur in **Sudan** erupted despite the signing of a peace treaty between leaders of the Misseriya and Salamat tribes on 10 April. Some 50,000 refugees arrived in **Chad** following the clashes in the past week alone, marking the largest influx of refugees from Sudan to Chad since 2005, according to UNHCR.

The humanitarian crisis linked to violence and the related power struggle in the **Central African Republic** is now

Severe humanitarian crisis

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

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 8 April, some 49,585 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, and 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 persists across the country. In general, limited household recourses to the market to purchase food have 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 maintain good household food access.

Overall, the food supply situation has significantly improved in 2012-13 across the country. According to official production figures of last season's cereal production, from November to January, the total was close to 4.9 million metric tons, 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, also contributing to improved food security in Burkina Faso.

Despite these indicators, the Government of Burkina Faso declared a national emergency on 1 March 2012 due to food insecurity and malnutrition affecting 2 million people (15% of the population) according to a March report by the FAO. According to the report, the food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel, North and East regions. Prolonged localized drought, high food prices, displacement, chronic poverty and the lingering effect of last year's food crisis are the main causes of remnant food insecurity. Over the last months, civil strife in northern Mali has also contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country, notably in the Udalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel regions, which face a massive influx of refugees from Mali.

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 120,000 children <5 suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Updated: 15/04/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

The leadership of the Central African Republic agreed to a regional plan to hold elections within 18 months on 4 April. Michael Djotodia, leader of the rebel forces which seized the capital Bangui in a coup last month, issued an order to set up a transitional council to lead the country until elections are held despite his initial plans of implementing a three-year transition to democratic rule. On 13 April, the transitional council elected him, the only candidate, President of the country by acclamation. Michael Djotodia has promised to not seek re-election at the end of the transition.

At a meeting of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in Chad on 03 April, regional leaders said they would not recognise the self-proclaimed Central African President Djotodia. There is yet no official reaction by the ECCAS to his confirmation as President by the transitional council. 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. Uganda has suspended the search for fugitive warlord Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army fighters, blaming hostility towards foreign troops by Central African Republic rebels.

The security situation had deteriorated over the past few weeks in CAR as the Seleka rebel coalition took up arms against the Government and seized control of Bangui. The offensive killed at least 13 South African soldiers deployed in support of the authorities and forced the President Francois Bozizé to flee to Cameroon. Michel Djotodia, 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.

Following the siege of the capital, the atmosphere remained tense in Bangui where lootings were reported amidst repeated power failures. Hundreds of people were reported to be roaming the streets following the offensive, many in search of food, while medical facilities were already overloaded because of the large influx of injured soldiers. Ten metric tonnes of emergency supplies that were intended for 30,000 of the most vulnerable people were stolen from UNICEF's main warehouse on 29 March, while a strict curfew remains in place. Utility services – including electricity and water – are still at least partially operable, but there are reports of food and fuel shortages.

A WHO report indicated that health needs in Bangui were still critical and the security situation remained precarious as of 9 April. Various sources are still reporting ongoing lootings of houses, businesses, international organizations' offices and healthcare facilities in the capital. On 14 April, 20 people were killed in the capital when fighting erupted between forces of the new authorities and armed youth still loyal to the former President.

Claiming 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, the Seleka rebels took up arms against the Government on 10 December. In January 2013, a tentative peace agreement was not able to put a lasting end to violence between the two parties. Throughout March, the Seleka rebels continued their advance and took control of Gambo and Bangassou, two southern towns on the border with the DRC, as well as of the towns of Batangavo and Bouca, north of Bangui. Addressing President Bozizé an ultimatum, the Seleka rebels demanded the release of political prisoners and the withdrawal of the foreign troops, brought into the country to support the Government military against the uprising. However, the rebel considered the concessions made by the President to be insufficient. In the aftermath, the resumption of fighting led to the seizure of Bangui by the Seleka.

According to UNICEF, the humanitarian crisis is now affecting the entire population of the Central African Republic, an estimated 4.6 million people of whom some 2.3 million children. Almost 1.2 million people have now been cut from access to basic services for almost four months. 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 almost 40,000 others seeking refuge in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo as of 5 April. On 11 April, a UN report indicated that renewed displacement was occurring in and around Bangui, as well as in the northwest of the capital, as the Seleka has expanded its presence throughout the country. This triggered a currently ongoing reassessment of the number of people displaced amidst difficulties of access for humanitarian actors.

Since the beginning of December, humanitarian access has been limited to a third of the Seleka controlled areas. The Seleka's advance on the southern town of Bangassou 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. Since mid-March, humanitarian access has therefore significantly decreased with the departure of many INGOs according to UNICEF. On 11 April, MSF reported that it was forced to evacuate the towns of Batangafo and Kabo due to widespread insecurity and uncontrolled armed groups spreading chaos in the area. The organization further noted that significant affected areas remain completely out of its reach because of the rampant insecurity. 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 Bando 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: 15/04/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

The influx of refugees from south-western Darfur to south-eastern Chad escalated over the past week. According to UNHCR, some 50,000 refugees arrived in Chad in the past week alone, marking the largest refugee influx from Sudan to Chad since 2005. In the last two months, clashes have displaced more than 74,000 people into Chad. Refugees are fleeing fresh tribal clashes in the Sudanese town of Um Dukhun. Most of the latest arrivals are women and children. The first movements of civilians who fled Darfur arrived in March to seek safety in the neighbouring town of Tissi in Chad.

In Chad, two years of continued climatic shocks, including erratic rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012 continuing into 2013. According to a March report by the FAO, 3.6 million people (32% of the population) are food insecure in Chad. The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is thus 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%).

Despite this, good 2012-13 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish their food reserves while market prices across the country remained mostly stable and were even occasionally trending downwards. According to FEWSNet, food security conditions will steadily improve with the rebuilding of the production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets. Nevertheless, structurally deficient regions will continue to face a shortage of grain.

According to UNICEF, despite the good harvest, an estimated 126,000 children will still suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2013. Across the country, many households have accumulated large debts during the lean period in 2012 and poor families will be forced 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 suffered also 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.

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

Updated: 15/04/2013

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

On 28 March, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the creation of a brigade of more than 2,500 troops with a mandate to conduct "targeted offensive operations" against rebels in eastern DRC. According to a statement by a military spokesman on 7 April, South Africa is thus preparing to send troops to the DRC as part of the UN mission. However, on 12 April, a spokesman for the M23 (March 23 Movement - a rebel military group based in eastern areas of the DRC) stated that the rebel group would retaliate if attacked by the peacekeeping brigade. The leader of the rebel group accused the UN of promoting war while peace talks are ongoing.

Violence in March in the Katanga province was marked when nearly 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 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. Over last week, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) have led to new population displacement in the Katanga province, according to OCHA.

Internal clashes between two factions of the rebel group M23 routed out the faction led by Bosco Ntaganda to Rwanda, with its fighters 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. Talks between the M23 rebels and the Government are scheduled to restart in the second week of April after they stalled in early February following dissensions in M23's top leadership.

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 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 25 March, the UN estimates that 920,784 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.

Over the past week, heavy rains have affected an estimated 2,500 people in Zongo, Province Orientale, according to OCHA

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: 15/04/2013

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

Despite good agricultural production in 2012 and good conditions for pastoralists, the situation in the Sahel remains critical, mostly due to the impact of the preceding crises such as food insecurity, floods and the Mali conflict. The Gambia continues to be affected by the Sahel food crisis after crop failure, resulting from poor rains.

According to a report by the FAO published 12 March, some 241,000 people are affected in the Gambia by the food crisis, accounting therefore for approximately 18% of the population of the country.

In November 2012, the Gambia declared an outbreak of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia threatening livestock in the country and neighbouring countries. Some 500 animal deaths were reported by the Ministry of agriculture.

There is a lack of data to exactly assess the situation with food supply in the Gambia.

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MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

France led a major offensive on 9 April, one of the biggest since the start of its intervention, in the north of the country, sweeping through a valley believed to be a logistics base for Al-Qaeda affiliated Islamists near the city of Gao. Notwithstanding this offensive, the aim of France is to reduce the number of troops in Mali to 2000 by July, as reported by a military official. Paris is therefore pushing Bamako to swiftly proceed with the country's presidential elections which are also scheduled for July.

The acting Malian Prime Minister openly voiced his concerns over the withdrawal asking France to maintain its presence. Meanwhile, a UN report, published on 9 April, indicated serious concerns regarding the possibility that the Malian conflict will spillover to western Sahara, an area largely controlled by Morocco.

For now, France has only proposed to maintain a permanent limited force of 1,000 troops in Mali to continue fighting armed Islamist militants according to diplomatic sources. It has been agreed that UN peacekeepers would fill the gap in support of the 7,000-strong regional African force and the Malian army. The announced withdrawal of French forces raises serious concern regarding the evolution of the security situation in Mali while doubts remain on the ability of the remaining troops to effectively fight rebels that seem to be switching to asymmetric and terrorist tactics.

After French withdrawal, troops from neighbouring African nations, under the African Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), are due to take over leadership of the operation. 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 the deployment of 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 proposition in the upcoming weeks, although, Chad's leadership has already voiced its displeasure over the possibility that a non-combatant international force instead of fighting units would be deployed to Mali.

By the end of 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.

According to the UN, there has also been a significant escalation in retaliatory violence carried out by Malian soldiers against members of different ethnic minorities who are perceived as backed 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 and ongoing military operations. 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.

According to IOM, there are an estimated 282,500 IDPs in Mali as of 20 March, compared to 261,000 as of late January. 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.

Recent assessments warn of a looming food security crisis in northern Mali. The depletion of household food stocks, a decline in livestock sales (due to low demand), and the lack of income-generating opportunities for most residents of conflict-affected areas in northern Mali are severely curtailing household food access. 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.

In total, an estimated 4.6 million people (32% of the population) in Mali are food insecure as of March according to FAO. According to FEWSNet, food security has declined in the first quarter of 2013, reaching crisis levels (IPC Level 3) in large swathes of the north in April. An estimated 660,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

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.

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MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

According to FAO, close to 1 million people (30% of the overall population) are affected by food insecurity in Mauritania as of March 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 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, as of 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 75,019, according to the UNHCR. 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. According to Médecins Sans Frontières, the living conditions of Malian refugees in Mauritania remain “deplorable” while humanitarian actors have been slow to respond.

Updated: 15/04/2013

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 a March report from FAO, 6.4 million people were affected by food insecurity (42% of the population), due to consecutive poor harvests, drought and rising food prices. 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 the 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. In February, the average price of millet and maize showed a slight increase of 4% and 3% respectively compared to the previous month. According to OCHA, this rise of prices for all cereals, except for imported rice, was confirmed in March. Although prices followed a similar dynamic last year, the scale of the increase was smaller.

The number of Malian refugees residing in Niger has decreased from 62,000 at the end of November to around 53,841 as of 15 March, according to UNICEF. However UNHCR reports that some 5,600 new Malian refugees have crossed into Niger during the first week of April. 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 the 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 had 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.

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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 people will remain in Stressed food security conditions as malnutrition rates in Somalia remain among the highest in the world.

The improved situation is linked to recent harvests that 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 suggested that current acute food insecurity levels may be upheld from January to June. An estimated 1.34 million rural people were classified 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. Almost 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.

On 14 April, at least 34 people were killed when two car bombs successively exploded outside the law courts in Mogadishu and 9-man suicide commando attacked the building before fighting with security forces besieging the compound erupted. In the aftermath, the attack, one the deadliest in recent months, was claimed by al-Shabaab militants affiliated to al Qaeda. This last attack came less than a month after a car bomb exploded near the Presidential palace, 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 suggested by UNHCR in early April, the revival of al-Shabaab activity in Mogadishu and nearby regions is likely to continue.

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 1 million Somalis are living as refugees outside of the country. According to UNHCR, at least 4,553 people were displaced between the 15th and 22nd of March, from different areas in Puntland and South Central, mainly due to insecurity, IDP evictions in Mogadishu, lack of livelihood opportunities, drought and IDP returns. Following the Ethiopian Defence Force's withdrawal from Xudur town, Bakool region in south-western Somalia, Al-Shabaab militants seized control of the town. As of 21st March 2013, approximately 2,500 people were displaced to Ceel Barde.

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 marked a key stage in efforts to open up the main highway from the capital Mogadishu running northwest to Baidoa. On 2 April the AU and Somali Government forces cleared the final 60 kilometres (40 miles) from Burhakaba and with it opened the key route after months of fighting, reaching the former Islamic stronghold of Baidoa by road for the first time. This will not only allow for free movement of the population, but also open up this key supply route for the provision of humanitarian aid.

For southern and central Somalia, humanitarian access has remained challenging. 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. 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 the 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. On April 8, President Barack Obama determined that Somalia was now again eligible to receive defense articles and defense services under US arms export and foreign aids laws. This may be seen as a tangible illustration of the improving relations between Washington and Mogadishu and of the help the U.S. is ready to extend to a country struggling to contain armed groups linked to al-Qaeda.

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SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Ethnic clashes, unrest and violence continue to affect large parts of the troubled Jonglei state. On April 9, two hundred attackers raided a UN convoy in Gumuruk in Pibor County state, killing five Indian peacekeepers and at least seven UN civilian workers while nine others were injured. The motives and identities of the attackers remain uncertain as of 15 April, but allegations forwarded by the South Sudanese Army (SPLA) identified the rebel group of David Yau Yau as guilty.

The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group and the South Sudanese Army (SPLA) has escalated since the beginning of March 2013, following a military operation by SPLA against the insurgents initiated on 5 March. The operation was part of a wider disarmament campaign in the region ahead of the upcoming rainy season. According to OCHA, clashes between the SPLA and Yau Yau rebels were still ongoing in Jonglei State as of the first week of April. Fighting was primarily reported from the Kalbat area of Pibor County and in Kelo in Pochalla County.

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

Cattle raiding is a recurrent issue that continues to affect people in several regions of South Sudan. Some 23,350 people have been affected by cattle raiding and linked violence in Akobo East, Akobo West in Jonglei State and Ulang in Upper Nile since 8 February, according to inter-agency assessments and OCHA. On 8 April, cattle raiding incidents were also reported in Tonj East county of South Sudan's Warrap state.

The tensions between Sudan and South Sudan are reportedly easing following the agreements reached on border security and oil exports in March. Sudan and South Sudan have withdrawn their troops from the border and are finalising the activation of the demilitarised zone. On 12 April, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir visited South Sudan for the first time since the split in 2011, pledging his commitment to peace and to normal relations with the neighbouring country once again. In early April, South Sudan resumed oil production.

The recent progress between the countries follows the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism in Addis Ababa on 9 March and a meeting on 19 March, where 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 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.

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 an increasing concern across refugee camps in these regions, in particular in Maban County, in 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.

Jonglei State is particularly affected by food insecurity. In parts of the 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. In Jonglei state, there have been repeated attacks against humanitarian workers, with the raid on a UN convoy on 9 April being the latest. On 4 April a relief convoy was attacked on the road between Pibor and Bor and on 12 March a UN peacekeeper was shot and wounded by gunmen. Several humanitarian organisations reportedly restricted their operations in the area in March.

In general, 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: 15/04/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

On April 12, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir visited South Sudan for the first time since the split in 2011 pledging again his commitment to peace and to normal relations with the neighbouring country.

The countries had 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 elements of the 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. In early April, South Sudan re-launched crude oil production and the first oil cargo is expected to reach Sudan's Red Sea export terminal at Port Susan by the end of May.

On 4 April, Sudan released seven political prisoners, a day after President Omar Hassan al-Bashir ordered the release of all such detainees. The amnesty came under the framework agreement signed between South Sudan and Sudan in March.

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. 3.7 million people face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity and 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 slight 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.

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, an estimated 2.5 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) which erupted in March in South Darfur have claimed military and civilian casualties and caused displacement (unconfirmed reports suggest that some 4,000 people were displaced due to aerial bombings in the area while an additional 3,000 were displaced because of ongoing violence at the end of March). On 9 April, according to official reports, the Sudanese forces managed to retake part of southern Darfur after clashes with the SLM-MM killed 15 people and airstrikes resulted in 4 civilian victims. In a separate incident, the SLM faction led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur claimed to have dealt a major blow to the Government forces in north Darfur.

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. In South Darfur, over the past two weeks, some 2,000 additional people were also displaced from Edd El Fursan to Al Safia as a result of fighting between the Gimir and Beni Halba tribes according to the UN.

In Umm Dukhun, central Darfur, despite the signing of a ceasefire treaty to end the war by the leaders of the Misseriya and Salamat tribes on 10 April, violence continued and spread to South Darfur.

After an estimated 10,000 people were displaced at the beginning of April, tribal clashes led to the displacement of another 50,000, mostly women and children, over the past week to the town of Tissi in neighbouring Chad, according to the UNHCR. Over the past two months, violence in central Darfur has displaced an estimated 74,000 people into Chad including Sudanese and Chadians – who lived as refugees in the conflict zone. The UNHCR is currently concerned that the number of refugees will increase as clashes continue in central Darfur. It is already the largest influx of refugees from Sudan into Chad since 2005.

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.

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 end 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. According to the ICRC, as of 4 April, 34,000 people are still in need of humanitarian assistance in Saraf Omra.

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

According to OCHA, there are currently an estimated 1,430,000 IDPs in camps in Darfur as of 31 March.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

The Government of Sudan for the first time stated on March 20 that it was ready to engage in talks with the rebel group SPLM-North (SPLM-N), who have been fighting for almost two years in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. However, on April 12, the SPLM-N shelled Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan, killing three people and injuring 10 others.

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.

An estimated 158,000 IDPs remain in Blue Nile, according to OCHA as of 31 March. In South Kordofan, an estimated 907,000 IDPs are also in need of humanitarian assistance as of 31 March. On 4 April, the UN WFP reported a breakthrough as it managed to deliver food aid to the state for the first time since conflict began there 18 months ago. According to reports, the malnutrition rates among children under five in the region are 30 %, double the emergency threshold.

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ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

At the beginning of November 2012, OCHA reported that more than 1.8 million people in Angola are in a food security crisis, caused by prolonged drought. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture reported a 60% decrease of average rainfall during the planting season which resulted in a 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 from varying levels of malnutrition in a country that is still recovering from decades of civil war that lasted until 2002.

According to reports from local media, torrential rains left nine people dead and flooded hundreds of homes in the Angolan capital Luanda on April 7.

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DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

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-eastern 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. According to the April WFP report, food insecurity in Djibouti has increased since November 2012 while households' own food production has decreased from 14.6% to 5.1% due principally to delayed rainfalls and persisting cold.

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 the 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 in humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. As of 11 February, there are some 18,324 Somali refugees in Djibouti, of which 211 arrived since the beginning of 2013.

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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 OCHA, the delayed belg (mid-February to May) rains in most belg-receiving

parts of the country, including SNNP, north eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray and central and eastern Oromia Regions, have led to late planting of belg crops. The late onset of the seasonal rains and subsequent late planting will have an impact in lowering crop production. According to FEWSNET, poor households in affected areas will not be able to meet their food needs through the next harvest without depleting their livelihoods asset. Most households have already turned to the market to access food (as early as January), as their food stock from the 2012 belg and meher harvest is already exhausted.

The Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) released on February 28, stated that about 2.5 million people are food insecure and need humanitarian assistance 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. 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).

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 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 unknown as refugees in the area remain unregistered.

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LESOTHO FOOD INSECURITY

Lesotho's food security deteriorated significantly for the second year in a row. As a result of the impact of consecutive droughts and late rains in the cropping season 2011-12, around 725,500 people are food insecure (40% of the population) in Lesotho as of the beginning of March 2013. Last year, the agricultural production dropped 70%, resulting in Lesotho's worst harvest in ten years. This situation is compounded by maize prices increasing 60% since the beginning of the year. On 9 August 2012, the Government declared a food crisis situation and called on development partners to assist.

The 2012-13 harvest is also likely to be below average, though better than last year. In early January 2013, the area planted was 40% below the five-year average. Poor rainfall performance in December delayed planting. Other reasons that have negatively impacted on production include the late start of the season, the early frost in the mountains, a mid-

season dry spell and severe armyworm infestations that have affected 25% of the estimated cropped area. Many poor households experienced stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security levels until the delayed green harvest starts in April. According to FEWSNET, minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity outcomes are projected during the April to June period because many households are expected to harvest enough food to take them through the first three months of the 2013-14 consumption period, and some poor households plagued by food insecurity will be receiving humanitarian assistance during this period.

Lesotho's population is extremely vulnerable – the country has the world's third highest prevalence of HIV (23.5%) and 39% of children <5 are stunted. Lesotho suffers from widespread poverty with the proportion of households living below the poverty line exceeding 55%, out of which about 40% are extremely poor.

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MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

An estimated 2 million people are classified as food insecure in Malawi, marking 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 being the 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. As harvests begin countrywide in April, prices are expected to stabilize and decrease, but are likely to remain above last year's levels. The reported resumption of informal maize imports from Mozambique and the start of harvests have dampened maize price increases in the affected districts in the south.

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.

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.

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SENEGAL FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Nationwide, an estimated 739,000 people (6% of the population) are affected by food insecurity, according to FAO. Preliminary results from a joint mission (Government/ActionAid/Senegalese Red Cross/FAO/WFP) carried out in late December 2012 showed 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.

According to WFP, as of 3 April, the prices of cereals remained high in Senegal, demonstrating, depending on the region and local speculation, up to a 30% increase when compared to the five-year average.

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ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY, UNREST

The food security situation in Zimbabwe has temporarily improved, after reaching a peak period during the lean season with an estimated 1.6 million people in need of food assistance in the period leading up to the April 2013 harvest, according to the UN. According to FEWSNET, as of the beginning of April, food insecurity in most of the country is Minimal (IPC Phase 1) because of the steady food imports and of the continued distribution of humanitarian assistance. This level is expected to persist as poor households start to consume green foods and harvests between April and June. Significant problems with food supplies remain, however, in the southern, south-eastern and south-western parts of the country, notably in the Matebeleland South and Masvingo Provinces, where dry spells have resulted in moisture deficits which have compromised crop yields, further diminishing harvest expectations in affected districts.

The acute food crisis in Zimbabwe up until April occurred after late and erratic rains, poor

agricultural practices, limited access to agricultural inputs, and a reduction in planted area contributed to a 33% decrease in last year's harvest if compared to 2011. In the most affected areas, maize prices were reported to be between 12% and 47% higher compared to prices in maize surplus areas. In the remaining affected parts of the country, prices of cereal and flour are likely to remain high making food accessibility difficult for poor households.

Ongoing drought in the southern part of the country has increased food security needs. Large numbers of labour-constrained individuals and decreased purchasing power have significantly contributed to the number of people who require seasonal targeted food assistance. A large percentage of vulnerable rural farmers depend on NGO and Government-subsidized agricultural inputs. In light of this, food insecurity in Zimbabwe in 2013 is still 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 on their own.

In Zimbabwe 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.

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.

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 were Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Midlands. During the first week of April, an additional 900 people have been affected by heavy rains in the Midlands province.

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CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY

Some 350,000 people (23% of the population) are affected by food insecurity due to production shortfalls in northern Cameroon as of 12 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.

In addition, as of March 31, a total of 1,140 refugees from the Central African Republic have arrived in East region.

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KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

At the end of March, several parts of the country were affected by floods following heavy downpours countrywide. The Coast and Western Kenya are the most affected, where a combination of heavy rains and inadequate flood mitigation measures have destroyed homes, infrastructure and educational facilities. The floods have also resulted in devastation of large agricultural areas. According to Government and local Red Cross estimates, some 20,000 people have been displaced from their homes and at least 35 people have died. The affected population is at risk of contracting water borne diseases.

Previously during the first weeks of January, the long drought of late 2012 was followed by heavy rains, resulting in floods in the capital Nairobi, as well as Nyanza and North Rift Valley regions. According to the UN, the January floods resulted in 20 deaths and a total of 2,156 households were affected.

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 influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues, with 277 new arrivals since the beginning of January as of 11 April. According to the UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 507,540. 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. 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.

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MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

An outbreak of violence at the end of last week, has suggests a worrying possibility that the country may face sustained political violence before next year's elections. On 4 April, the Mozambique police raided the headquarters of the opposition Renamo party, arresting at least 12 people and fuelling tensions. The following day, opposition militiamen from the Renamo party carried out an attack on a provincial police station to try to free the people arrested during the raid on their headquarters, killing four policemen in the process. On 6 April, armed men attacked a bus and a truck in central Mozambique, near the opposition stronghold of Muxungue, killing three people in the process. Renamo denied being behind the assault that was the first such attack on a civilian vehicle in Mozambique in a decade. Following on, Mozambique's President Armando Guebuza stated that he would respond firmly to the deadly attacks against civilian vehicles blamed on armed members of the former rebel group Renamo. The latter opposition group has seats in the country's parliament, but is effectively excluded from power.

Despite flooding at the beginning of March 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. According to FEWSNET, the food situation has recently improved and the current food insecurity outcomes are Minimal (IPC Phase 1) for the majority of the rural households since food is more readily available through harvests and targeted food assistance in mid-April.

The floods in Mozambique displaced some 186,238 people and cumulatively affected 478,892 people as of 11 March, according to OCHA. 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 was the worst hit 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 were 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.

An UN-led assessment of the agriculture sector at the end of March indicated that an estimated 267,000 ha of agricultural land 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.

However, despite this, 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.

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

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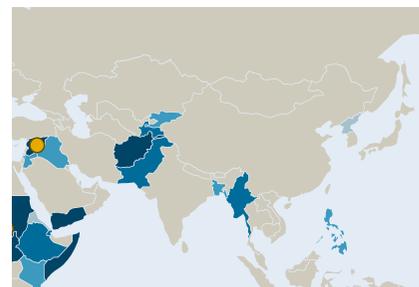
ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

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.

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 the 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: 15/04/2013



ASIA

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

As the impact of the cold winter recedes, Afghanistan is now witnessing a surge in violence with the arrival of spring and the start of the so-called “fighting season”. Humanitarian access has therefore been increasingly compromised due to ongoing hostilities in the majority of provinces. The issue is particularly acute in Badakhshan Province where a protracted ground offensive of the Government forces, supported by international air power, against anti-Government elements is hampering humanitarian access. The offensive, started in late March, has already led to the displacement of some 1,500 people and will continue until, at least, mid-April. In Maidan Wardak Province, in central-eastern Afghanistan, military operations have led to the displacement of an estimated 4,500 people as of the beginning of April.

On 12 April, 13 Afghan soldiers from the Army’s Third Battalion were killed when 200 Taliban combatants assaulted an outpost in the eastern province of Kunar. This last Taliban attack has a strong symbolic significance since the Third Battalion is one of only a small number of Afghan units rated as fully self-sufficient by the US military. The attack stressed again the difficulty for the local forces, which are suffering disproportionately high casualties if compared to international troops, to face the insurgents without international backing.

Deadly attacks on the civilian population as well as on national and international authorities continue. On 8 April, a roadside bomb exploded under a bus in the Wardak Province, southwest of Kabul, killing nine people and injuring 22 others. On 3 April an attack against a Government compound in the south-western province of Farah resulted in 44 deaths and 100 injuries. Most of the victims were civilian Government workers. The attack was the deadliest for Afghan civilians since December 2011. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that they intended to target civilian Government employees, in particular workers in the courts and prosecutors’ offices. This marks a change from the series of high-profile attacks on western targets that were characteristic of last year. In addition six people, including a US diplomat – the first State diplomat killed in Afghanistan since the 1970s – died on 6 April in a car bomb attack in Zabul province.

On April 4, gunfire from a helicopter operated by NATO forces killed four Afghan police officers in the eastern province of Ghazni. On April 7, eleven children and a woman were killed in an airstrike during a NATO operation targeting Taliban commanders in eastern Afghanistan. These incidents have put even more strain on the already complicated relationship between Kabul and its international backers.

Around 85,000 international troops are currently supporting the Government in its fight against the Taliban. However, all international combat troops are preparing to withdraw by the end of 2014 and 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 and an estimated 450,000 people are currently internally displaced in Afghanistan. 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.

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.

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SYRIA CIVIL WAR

A team of United Nations-led experts is waiting for permission from the Syrian Government to investigate allegations of chemical weapons attacks in Syria. In December, the White House warned that any use of chemical weapons by Syria would be crossing a “red line” that would prompt a swift U.S. response.

On 9 April, the al-Nusra Front declared its allegiance to al-Qaeda and announced they would now operate together with the Iraqi wing of al-Qaeda, under the name of ‘the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant’. The Front, which the U.S. last year blacklisted as a terrorist organisation, has been playing an increasingly strategic fighting role in the battle against Government forces.

Fighting continues throughout the country and this week, shelling has been reported from all governorates in Syria, apart from Tartous and As-Sweida. Heavy fighting in densely populated areas continues, including in Aleppo, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor and Idlib. The conflict has reached the centre of Damascus, with shelling on the central Umayyad Square and several suicide attacks in central areas. On April 8, at least 15 people were killed by in a suicide car bomb attack in the financial area of the capital. The bombing was the third of its kind in less than three months.

ECOWAS estimates that 1 in 3 Syrian houses have been damaged by the conflict, with over 400,000 houses completely destroyed. Livelihoods are disrupted and civilians have been cut off from water, electricity and medical supplies, especially in rebel-held areas targeted by air strikes and ballistic missiles. The UN estimates that countrywide over 4 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, while a joint rapid assessment in parts of six northern governorates identified over 5.8 million people in urgent need of assistance. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent estimates that over 3.6 million people have been displaced. Although people are being displaced throughout the country, the scale of displacement is greater in northern and central governorates.

The influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries continues and more than 400,000 people have become refugees since 1 January 2013 alone. According to UNHCR, around 1.3 million refugees have been registered or are awaiting registration as of 14 April, with around 425,000 in Jordan (Government estimates 470,000 Syrians in total), 417,000 in

Lebanon (Government estimates 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), over 294,000 in Turkey (Government estimates 400,000), over 129,000 in Iraq and more than 60,000 in Egypt and other countries in North Africa. The actual number of Syrians residing in neighbouring countries is believed to be much higher as an unknown number of Syrians are unable or unwilling to register. Host communities' capacity to support is overstretched, with over 75% of the registered refugees living with host communities. A second camp has been opened in Jordan on 10 April to host the refugees.

The conflict increasingly spills over to neighbouring countries. Israel has reported a number of incidents of small arms fire directed at its units in the Golan Heights and has fired back across the border multiple times, most recently on 12 April. Over the last months, the Syrian Government has withdrawn large numbers of its troops from the military sensitive area, a move which has increased the risk of an intervention by Israel in the conflict. Lebanon's border region is experiencing regular shelling and gunfire. Jordan has tightened security along its border with Syria.

Humanitarian access remains limited, with assessments and relief operations being hampered by the widespread insecurity, violence against humanitarian personnel, insufficient funds and impediments to entry. WFP reports that reaching certain areas of Rural Damascus, Quneitra, Der'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo and Idlib remains particularly challenging. The UN has evacuated 50% of its international staff presence in Damascus due to the deteriorating security situation.

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YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Unrest in Yemen's south continued on 8 April as seven people were killed in clashes between army deserters and tribesmen. In a separate incident, two Yemeni Government soldiers were killed and two other injured in fighting with tribesmen who had blown up the main Maarib oil pipeline in south Yemen only two weeks after it was repaired, according to reports from Government sources. Two days prior, clashes between the army and southern separatists in the town of al-Hawat, in al-Lahej Province, resulted in one Yemeni soldier killed and four people wounded after separatists tried to close the marketplace. Yemen remains a strategic spot for the U.S. and its Gulf allies who need to contain threats from al-Qaeda affiliated militants and separatist tribes to Saudi Arabia and to nearby sea lanes where oil tankers pass.

On 23 March, gunmen in the capital killed three guards of a leader of the Huthi Shiite rebels. The violence was reportedly linked to the country's troubled national dialogue, in which the leader was participating. 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.

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 OCHA, 255,000 children <5 are severely acutely malnourished.

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.

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MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Three days of violent riots and clashes between Muslims and Buddhists erupted in the town of Meikhtile in central Myanmar on 20 March. As a result, an estimated 12,846 people were displaced, according to a rapid interagency assessment. 10,834 people still remain displaced in 11 locations as of the beginning of April. According to the Government, as of 2 April, the death toll stood at 43 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 by the end of March, in particular to 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 were reported in Yangon. According to the UN, attacks on religious buildings and shops in the townships of Nattalin, Thegon, and Zigon were reported on 27-29 March.

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. Talks between the KIO and the Myanmar Government are scheduled to resume by mid-April.

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 2012 as the rains inundated around 250,000 hectares of crops.

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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 9 April UNRWA reopened their relief and distribution centres in Gaza, which provide

food to around 25,000 people a day. The centres were closed on 4 April, after demonstrators stormed one of its compounds in an allegedly preplanned action. The incident was a further escalation in a series of demonstrations and protests that have occurred since the end of March.

On 28 March Israel lifted a series of restrictions on Gaza that 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.

However, on April 2, Israel launched air strikes on the Gaza strip. The strikes threatened to end the Egyptian-mediated ceasefire between Israel and Hamas that was achieved after the brief November 2012 cross-border conflict when some 170 Palestinians and six Israelis were killed. On April 3, clashes broke out in the West Bank, particularly Hebron, between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians protesting over the death of a Palestinian prisoner serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail. Further clashes in the West Bank occurred during the funeral of three Palestinians, including two teenagers killed by the Israeli army.

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.

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PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

Government operations against non-state armed groups, as well as sectarian violence, have caused significant population movement in Pakistan since July 2008. According to OCHA, as of mid-April, an estimated 992,562 people remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) due to protracted conflict. Since mid-March, intensifying Government military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militants groups in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency (FATA) have led to additional massive population movements.

According to the Government's FATA Disaster Management Authority, an estimated 48,000 people, including 22,000 children, were displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the camps of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalozai camp in Nowshera District as of 9 April. According to OCHA, a significant increase of the estimated number of people displaced in the area may be expected in the upcoming days. Overall, up to 60,000 people were affected by the protracted conflict in the Tirah Valley.

Meanwhile, continued attacks by insurgency groups are fostering an increasing trend of violence in Pakistan since December 2012. While general elections are scheduled for the

11 May, the continuing series of attacks emphasizes the enduring security concerns in Pakistan and the rising sectarian violence. As the date of the elections approaches, more attacks are to be expected. On 7 April, General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's former military ruler who seized power in a military coup in 1999 and was forced to step down almost a decade later, managed to register to run for the national assembly after returning from exile a month prior. His comeback may raise additional tensions within the Pakistani society during the election period.

Dozens of suspected militants attacked an electricity plant on 2 April near the northwestern city of Peshawar, killing seven people in the process. The high profile assault destroyed the biggest power station in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, suspending electricity supply to at least 100,000 people overnight. The city is especially 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. On 9 March, a bomb blast inside a Sunni Muslim mosque had already killed five people and wounded 28 others in Peshawar

Some 17 soldiers were killed and dozens wounded when, a car packed with explosives exploded next to a pair of fuel tankers at an army check post in north-western Pakistan on 23 March. A car bomb also hit Jalozai refugee camp, killing 15 people and wounding another 40 on 21 March. Jalozai is home to tens of thousands of people displaced from violence in the tribal belt on the Afghan border.

Karachi was also affected by the latest wave of violence. On 3 March, a car bomb killed 50 people in a mainly Shiite Muslim neighbourhood of the city, the fourth in a series of major attacks on the minority Shiite community since January 10 that has 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 that left at least 64 people dead and some 200 injured. Baluchistan has increasingly become a flashpoint for sectarian violence between Sunni Muslim and Shi'ites.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September 2012 caused destruction across Pakistan. According to the Government, the flooding was still affecting around 4.8 million people in Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces as of 31 January, with around 142,000 people 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.

Malnutrition rates in some flood affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the recurrent floods in 2012 and were 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: 15/04/2013

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 2.4 million people are classified as being 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 at the end of 2012, 12% higher than during the 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 imports, the price 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%), and bread. 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 at as high the 2008 peak prices.

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BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

On 9 April, protestors supporting the 18-party alliance led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) enforced a new nationwide *hartal* (or strike) during 36 hours, resulting in clashes with police in several locations across the country. The clashes reportedly left one dead and dozens injured. The strike came only a day after some 20 people were injured in south-western Bangladesh as another general strike was enforced. The demonstrations

were the last of a long series of protests and counter-protests that have occurred in the country since the beginning of 2013.

The wave of demonstrations started in January 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. The clashes that broke out following the sentencing to death of a senior Islamist leader on 28 February marked the bloodiest period of violence since the country's independence four decades ago. The Islamic Alliance is also protesting to pressure the Government to restore a constitutional provision that requires a neutral caretaker administration to supervise the next general election expected in early 2014. To date, at least 96 people have died during protests, although local media reports suggest a higher number of at least 150 killed.

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.

The recurrent *hartels* called by the JI or the main opposition political party (BNP) are reportedly causing significant disruption to business and commerce and the current losses to the economy are vast.

On 22 March a tornado swept through 15 villages in the Brahmanbaria Naogaon, and Natore districts, more than 100 km southeast of the capital, Dhaka, affecting an estimated 31,600 people, according to the Government. At least 38 people were killed and another 414 injured. The tornado caused material damages, tearing roofs off houses and uprooting trees and power pylons. More than 500 houses suffered damage.

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.

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IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

On 8 April, UNAMI released figures estimating the number of casualties in Iraq for March with at least 229 civilians killed and 853 injured in acts of terrorism and armed violence in the country. An estimated 207 members of the Iraqi forces have also been killed with another 300 having been injured. The areas most affected by attacks from terrorist groups remain Baghdad, the governorates of Anbar, Salahuddin and the disputed areas of Ninewa and Kirkuk according to UNAMI. The released figures confirm the surge in violence that has been observed in Iraq over the past weeks along growing intersectarian strife.

Further illustrating this trend, a new deadly series of attack hit Iraq when successive car bombs and attacks on cities resulted in at least 20 people dead and more than 200 wounded on 15 April. The previous day two moderate Sunni Muslim candidates had been killed less than a week before local elections which are viewed as an important test of the country's political stability following the departure of US troops more than a year ago. The

recent surge in violence has already led the authorities to postpone the elections in the two Sunni dominated provinces of Anbar and Nineveh.

On 12 April, bomb attacks in Baghdad and in the town of Dyala, north of the capital, had killed 12 people and injured 30 others. The attacks targeted a Sunni Mosque and Sunni worshippers who were returning from mid-day prayers. The series of attacks underscored once again the profound division in the Sunni constituency on how to manage power sharing with the Maliki Government.

On 6 April, a coordinated attack at an open-air election campaign meeting in central Iraq killed 25 people and wounded 60. The meeting was of supporters of Muthanna Ahmed Abdulwahid, a Sunni Arab candidate for the Azimun Ala al-Bina (Determined to Build) party, which had convened in Baquba, 60 kilometres (35 miles) north of Baghdad.

March also saw a surge of violence as a series of car bombs, suicide attacks and shootings struck Baghdad. A total of at least 20 explosions and multiple shootings left 52 people dead and more than 170 wounded, while 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 latter attacks. Eight more people were killed in the capital on 15 March in an attack on police recruits.

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 6 April, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 126,440, with the autonomous region of Kurdistan hosting 90% of the refugees where daily arrivals have reached 800-900 people per day – double the rate of just three months ago.

The situation at Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, is especially worrying. The Domiz camp is currently housing around 35,000 Syrian refugees and is critically overcrowded. Thousands of families are sharing tents with newly arrived refugees as almost 3,500 families do not have their own shelter.

The overcrowding is in turn having an impact on sanitation, which is already below humanitarian standards. Congestion and warmer temperatures are increasing vulnerability to outbreaks of diseases as well as to tension between camp residents.

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.

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.

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JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

The number of Syrian refugees crossing the border to Jordan continues to increase. As of 11 April, 360,731 Syrian refugees have been registered by UNHCR in Jordan, and an additional 64,040 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 if 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: 15/04/2013

KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

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.

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PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

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.

Previously, 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.

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.

According to the Department of Health, 1,528 dengue cases have been reported in the first quarter of 2013 in the Soccsksargen region. Some 669 or 41% of the victims are children 10 years old and below.

On 3 April, Government representatives and Philippines' largest Muslim separatist group began talks aiming to finalize the four annexes to the peace deal signed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in October. The landmark agreement should put an end to 40 years of conflict and set up an autonomous structure to run the poor, but resource-rich, south. By 2014, the Transition Commission will need to devise a framework for Bangsamoro, the Muslim-dominated region made up of five provinces. The new envisioned autonomous area is to have a larger territory, expanded jurisdiction and greater powers to generate taxes, with an administration extending beyond the main southern island of

Mindanao.

Updated: 15/04/2013

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

Tensions have continued to mount over the past weeks on the Korean Peninsula. On 3 April, Pyongyang officially stated that it has "ratified" an attack against the United States, potentially involving a "diversified nuclear strike" according to an official governmental statement. On 7 April, the United States postponed a planned intercontinental missile test in the region in an attempt to adopt a more restrained policy toward the DPRK. At present, the international community is principally looking toward China to push Pyongyang toward a less bellicose stance. The (re) appointment of Pak Pong-ju, an economic reformer and allegedly a pragmatist, as Prime Minister has also created some hope within the international community that the DPRK will show more restraint.

The increase of tensions began after the DPRK conducted its third successful nuclear test, after 2006 and 2009, in February. In response, on 7 March, the UN Security Council, benefitting from quick Chinese support on the matter, voted to tighten financial restrictions on DPRK and crack down on its attempts to ship and receive banned cargo in breach of UN sanctions. The sanctions came as an ultimate international diplomatic effort after the European Union Governments had already agreed on 18 February to tighten sanctions against North Korea, restricting the country's ability to trade following the recent nuclear test. The EU sanctions expanded those approved by the UN Security Council in January, adding measures preventing trading in North Korean Government bonds, gold, precious metals, and diamonds.

In December 2012, the UN Security Council had previously unanimously approved a resolution condemning DPRK's long-range rocket launch. The announcement was met by DPRK with vows of strengthening military capacities and nuclear deterrence in January.

According to WFP, some 3 million people are estimated to face food deficits and remain vulnerable to under nutrition in five provinces in the northeast 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 humanitarian assistance. Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 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: 15/04/2013



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI **FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE**

Some 2.1 million people in Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis, according to OCHA as of the beginning of April. An estimated 82,000 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). Reports on the food security situation indicate that the poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-est, Ouest and Nord-est departments are already in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) despite the implementation of irreversible survival strategies, according to FEWSNET. 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 beginning of April, 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 320,050 IDPs in Haiti

according to the IOM as of mid-April. Since the beginning of the year, the number has decreased by 27,230 people.

Updated: 15/04/2013



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 8 April, the current rainy season has affected more than 32,000 families (some 160,000 people) 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 were 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 by the current rain season and floods. 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.

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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](#).