Severe humanitarian crisis
Afghanistan
CAR
DRC
Somalia
DRC
South Sudan
Eritrea
Sudan
Iraq
Syria
Niger
Yemen

Humanitarian crisis
Cameroon
Chad
Colombia
DPRK
Djibouti
Ethiopia
Gambia
Haiti
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Nepal
oPt
Pakistan
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Ukraine

Situation of concern
Angola
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Guinea
Honduras
India
Jordan
Madagascar
Myanmar
PNG
Philippines
Uganda

Snapshot 9–15 September 2015

Afghanistan: The number of severely food insecure has risen to 1.5 million people, according to a new assessment. 7.3 million people are moderately food insecure. Food security among IDPs is worsening, with around 200,000 people reported to be in need of immediate assistance.

Iraq: 827,964 people were internally displaced in August, making up one-quarter of the total IDP population. The proportion of IDPs living in critical shelter arrangements increased by 2% in the second half of August. Reports of forcible evictions are increasing, and many governorates are enforcing restrictions on IDP movement. Half of all health personnel have left Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Diyala governorates.

Dominican Republic: At least 1.6 million people are now reported affected by the drought that has been impacting the country since 2014. The breakdown in the production of hydroelectrical power has caused energy blackouts nationwide, and water rationing is being implemented. Crop losses amount to tens of millions of dollars.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 August: Reports indicate a gradual return of displaced people to their place of origin, thanks to increased presence of national and international peacekeeping forces reducing conflict intensity (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- The conflict has caused over 6,000 deaths and 1 million displaced (Enough Project, 02/09/2015).
- Over half of the 4.6 million people living in the country are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 31/08/2015).
- 1.5 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (OCHA, 31/08/2015).
- Only 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015).
- 369,490 IDPs, including 30,150 in Bangui (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).
- Less than 25% of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Health, protection, food, and WASH are priority needs, as continued violence, looting, and displacement cause further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country. Conflict has resulted in displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses.

Humanitarian needs in CAR continue to exceed available resources and delivery of aid is expected to decline because funding remains low. However, on 13 May, CAR was deactivated as a Level 3 emergency response.

Politics and security

The transitional government’s term has been extended until 30 December 2015; it had been due to end 17 August (AFP, 12/08/2015). The government was formed in August 2014, but was rejected by the ex-Seleka, which had proclaimed a de facto, independent, secular state in northeastern CAR in July (IRIN 23/09/2014; Government, 24/07/2014).

The 585 participants in the Bangui Peace Forum agreed on a Republican Pact for Peace in May. The pact sets a calendar for elections and revision of the constitution; a consensual disarmament model; the establishment of a criminal court; and an agenda of humanitarian and development priorities (BBC, 03/05/2015; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 12/05/2015). On 30 August, the transitional government adopted a new constitution limiting future presidents to two terms in office (AFP, 31/08/2015). Members and former members of the transition government will not be allowed to run for legislative and presidential elections in October (Mediapart, 30/08/2015).

A constitutional referendum will be held on 4 October. The first round of presidential and legislative elections will take place on 18 October, and the second round on 22 November (AFP, 19/06/2015). Many are concerned that CAR is not ready for elections, considering authorities have not created a representative voter roll; voter registration took place 26 June–27 July, but thousands of people lost identity documents during the conflict, which complicated the process (AFP, 29/07/2015; UNHCR, 24/07/2015). Moreover, the National Transitional Council did not authorise refugees to vote until August (AFP, 20/08/2015).
Ex-Seleka: Seleka was an alliance of factions created in 2012 and dissolved by President Djotodia in late 2013. However, many fighters remained active, and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. With the exception of 17,114 confined to three military camps in Bangui, most moved out of the capital and by January 2014 controlled much of central and northern CAR (IRIN, 17/09/2014). Bambari, Ouaka, reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May 2014. Between 10 and 15 commanders oversee 1,500 – 3,750 soldiers each, including Muslims from the northeast, and Sudanese and Chadians (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014; Enough, 17/06/2015). FDPC was formed around a decade ago and became part of Seleka in 2012. However it has since come into conflict with other Seleka members.

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

LRA: Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures remain most affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army, which increased attacks as the political crisis left a power vacuum (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA): MINUSCA officially took over operations on 14 September 2014, under a one-year mandate. In March 2015, the number of peacekeepers was increased by 1,000, to better protect infrastructure and senior officials in Bangui, bringing the total to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters, 26/03/2015). The UN Security Council has extended MINUSCA’s mandate by one year (UN, 28/04/2015). An international NGO reported that UN peacekeepers in Bangui’s PK-5 were responsible for the death of two civilians, as well as the rape of a 12-year-old girl, in August. The head of MINUSCA resigned and was replaced on 14 August (UN, 14/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; Aljazeera, 11/08/2015).

French forces: On 19 May, the French peacekeeping operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015). As of 21 May, 1,700 of 2,000 French troops were left in CAR (UN, 21/05/2015).

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

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

Conflict developments

As of 2 September, conflict in CAR has caused in total over 6,000 deaths and 1 million displaced (Enough Project, 02/09/2015). Ceasefires have been agreed by the warring parties, but never accepted by the transitional government nor fully enacted (USAID, 10/04/2015). More than 2,054 security incidents have been recorded since January 2014 (OCHA, 10/08/2015), with more than 96% of security incidents reported from January to end of July 2015 (OCHA, 24/07/2015). However, the number of reported incidents has decreased from 198 in February 2015 to 73 in July 2015 (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Attacks against civilians have been reported in Ouandago (Nana-Grebizi), Kobo (Ouham), Batangafo (Ouham) and the Bouca–Batangafo (Ouham) route (UNHCR, 25/06/2015). More than 6,000 people were killed between December 2013 and March 2014 (The Guardian, 21/07/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015).

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

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

Bangui: MINUSCA started a military operation in PK5 district of Bangui to arrest a former ex-Seleka leader in August. The violence caused an unknown number of casualties and displacement (ECHO, 03/08/2015). A UN peacekeeper was killed north of Bangui during clashes with armed groups on 2 August (OCHA, 04/08/2015).

Basse-Kotto: Fighting in Malegbassa over 2–4 August left up to 12 dead and several wounded. The first attack was against Fulani herders with the aim of stealing cattle. Fulani and ex-Seleka fighters retaliated (Reuters, 06/08/2015).

Nana-Mambere: On the border with Cameroon, an increase in violence has been associated with the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (Democratic Front of the Central African People, or FDPC), a member of Seleka (Reuters, 21/07/2015).

Ouaka: On 20 August, renewed clashes in Bambari between anti-balaka and ex-
Seleka left 20 people dead and 10 injured, including two humanitarian workers (Enough project, 27/08/2015; ECHO, 24/08/2015). Tensions remain high as negotiations are underway (ECHO, 24/08/2015). Humanitarian organisations fear the situation could deteriorate further (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

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Ouham: On 28 July, 26 people were killed as armed groups clashed over control of Markounda (03/08/2015).

Displacement

About 370,000 IDPs have been reported in CAR as of late August (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). On 31 August, reports indicate a gradual return of displaced people to their place of origin, thanks to increased presence of national and international peacekeeping forces reducing conflict intensity (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

IDPs

The number of displaced decreased from 399,270 in May to 369,490 in late August (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). 111,266 IDPs live in 72 sites outside Bangui, the rest are either in the capital or with host families (UNHCR, 29/07/2015). There are approximately 131,000 IDP returnees, mainly in Ouham-Pende, Ouham, Kemo and Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 28/05/2015). Priorities for IDPs include food security, healthcare, WASH, shelter, and basic households items (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Bangui: Relative improvements in security in some neighbourhoods outside Bangui have reduced IDP numbers in Bangui to 30,150 in 32 sites, from 33,070 in May (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). However, displacement has increased in the 2nd and 4th districts, with people arriving from Ouaka and Kemo (UNHCR, 29/07/2015).

On 28 August, the government announced the decision to close Mpoko IDP site by 15 September, in order to enable the building for use as Mpoko international airport. The Mpoko site is currently still hosting 2,210 families (UN, 02/09/2015; ECHO, 04/09/2015). 93% of households have been de-registered from the site and 90% registered to return to neighbourhoods in Bangui (UNICEF, 11/08/2015). 1,173 households have been registered in the 5th district of Bangui (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

Nana-Grebizi: Increased displacement has been recorded throughout the prefecture, with informal IDP sites being set up (UNHCR, 28/06/2015). Herding and farming communities are clashing over natural resources, causing displacement (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; OCHA, 21/06/2015).

Mambere-Kadei: IDPs are beginning to return to Berberati. 92 have returned and received one month’s assistance (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

Ouaka: Clashes in Bambari since 20 August between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka have caused 4,250 IDPs previously hosted in Notre-Dame-de-la-Victoire to flee to three other sites – Sangaris, Aviation and Site Alternatif. A spontaneous IDP site has formed inside MINUSCA’s Bambari compound, hosting about 3,000 people as of 25 August. Conditions are dire at the site, with no sanitation facilities and limited access to water and shelter (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). As of 4 September, 40,000 IDPs were reported in Bambari (ICRC, 04/09/2015).

Ouham: Herding and farming communities are clashing over natural resources, causing displacement (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; OCHA, 21/06/2015). Increased displacement has been recorded throughout the prefecture with informal IDP sites being set up (UNHCR, 26/06/2015). On 16 July, 2,253 people arrived in Markounda and are in need of WASH facilities, NFIs, health and food assistance (UNICEF, 11/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

8,260 refugees and asylum seekers from DRC, Chad, and Sudan are living in camps in Bangui, Bambari, and Zemio (UNHCR, 30/07/2015; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

1,859 Sudanese in Pladama Ouaka refugee camp are at risk of violence, being located 12 kilometres away from Bambari where renewed clashes have been taking place since the last week of August (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

Refugee returnees

Local sources report a return rate of 1,000 people per week from DRC to Kouango, Ouaka prefecture (OCHA, 08/07/2015).

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

As of end July, the number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries was reported to be 468,511: 248,788 in Cameroon, 91,054 in Chad, 99,182 in DRC, and 29,487 in Congo (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Over half of the 4.6 million people living in the country are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Crime hinders the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui. The total number of access incidents reported decreased from 96 in May to 68 in June; they were mainly violence against personnel, assets, and facilities (OCHA, 14/07/2015).
Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 20 August, one staff from the Red Cross Movement was reported to have been injured in an attack directed against humanitarian workers in Bambari (OCHA, 31/08/2015). 259 acts of violence have been recorded against humanitarian organisations since January 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). They include theft of humanitarian assets and facilities as well as threats to staff (USAID, 27/04/2015). UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). 18 humanitarian workers were killed and six wounded in 142 incidents in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014; USAID, 19/12/2014).

Truck drivers delivering food and supplies from Douala in Cameroon to Bangui are protesting the killing of 18 of their colleagues and refusing to work, amid increasing banditry on the Cameroon–CAR border (VoA, 21/08/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

As of 15 May, more than 36,000 people are trapped and at risk of violence and abuse in seven enclaves countrywide: in Bangui’s PK5 (24,000), Boda (9,000), Bouar (1,600), Carnot (522), Berberati (456), Yaloke (316), and Dekoa (105). Most belong to religious and ethnic minorities and have limited access to basic services (OCHA, 28/05/2015; USAID, 12/06/2015). The trapped Fulani population of Yaloke is being relocated to a new site – dozens have already left for Cameroon.

Food security and livelihoods

The lean season is ongoing and the food security crisis is expected to last until September 2015, in particular for IDPs and some host communities. On 31 August, 1.5 million people were reported to be food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2015). 1.28 million people will continue facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes through December 2015, particularly in central and western prefectures (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; 31/08/2015). Mbres and Bambari towns are facing Emergency food security outcomes, while 11 other prefectures are facing Crisis (IPC, 15/07/2015). Food assistance needs remain the same as last year, and are higher than the five-year average (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

An assessment of Ndjoukou, Kemo prefecture, indicated that 97% of households have less than a week of food stocks (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). About 19% of people in rural areas are in Crisis and 12% in Emergency (OCHA, 28/05/2015). Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids. The most insecure are households headed by women, displaced people or returnees, and those without financial resources (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015).

75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income, and food crop production in 2014 was 58% below pre-crisis levels in 2012, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock, but 11% higher than 2013 (FAO, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 04/03/2015). The supply on grain markets is in decline. Local rice is unavailable due to low production and imports from Cameroon are affected by insecurity (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Fish supply has fallen by 40% and cattle-breeding by 77% compared to pre-crisis levels, and insecurity and poor road conditions have disrupted market linkages and led to significant increases in food prices in 2014 (FAO, 26/01/2015; OCHA, 18/12/2014).

Food availability

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65% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 31/12/2014).

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Healthcare availability and access

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Health
Nationwide, 28% of health centres are completely or partially destroyed (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). Deficiency in antiretroviral treatment is reported in Ouaka due to lack of access (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

Malaria

Malaria remains the primary cause of mortality. 19,890 cases were reported between 4 May and 7 June (WHO, 30/04/2015; 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

As of 28 August, more than 12,000 children under five need treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). SAM prevalence stands at 1.9%, and beyond the 2% emergency threshold in some prefectures (UNICEF, 28/08/2015).

Based on a national survey, severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was at 6.5% at the beginning of the year (UNICEF, 08/01/2015). In 2014, 28,000 children were severely malnourished and 75,500 moderately malnourished (OCHA, 04/12/2014; 18/12/2014).

WASH

As of April-May, 1.4 million people were targeted for WASH assistance in 2015 but lack of funding was reported to be a significant constraint on WASH infrastructure support (OCHA, 29/04/2015; 28/05/2015). On 31 August, less than 25% of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

Muslim IDPs face limited movement due to tensions with surrounding communities. IDPs with host families face lack of space and tensions.

IDPs tend to move to rental housing after being in IDP sites or with host families but struggle to keep up with rent. Abandoned housing taken up by IDPs is mostly shelter left by Muslims, but only provides minimal protection after having been burned or pillaged (NRC 12/2014). Some returning IDPs find their homes destroyed or occupied. Disputes and tensions when IDPs relocate are a concern (NRC 12/2014).

NFIs

The need for NFIs is reported to be particularly high conflict areas (Solidarités International, 01/09/2015).

Education

Over 1.4 million children are in need of education (OCHA, 22/12/2014), and two out of three children in the county have never attended primary school (IRC, 17/07/2015).

Access and learning environment

An assessment of schools noted that as of end April 2015, 78–88% are open (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). However, four months later, only 50% of schools are believed to be open (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). The situation varies across the country: 25% were functioning in Nana-Grebizi in April, 50% in Ouaka, 63% in Sangha-Mbaere, 67% in vakaga, and 71% in Ouham. Classes, however, are not regular due to insecurity and absence of teachers (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Protection

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been reported. Ex-Seleka are listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Anti-balaka are listed for child recruitment, and killing and maiming (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014). On 8 January, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights concluded that violence towards Muslims by anti-balaka in 2014 constitutes ethnic cleansing (Government, 20/01/2015).

20 peacekeepers were sent home following an event 10 July involving excessive use of force on four people, killing two (Reuters, 09/07/2015).

Gender

The risks of sexual violence, early and forced marriage, and insufficient gender-based violence (GBV) response are highest in Bambari, Ouaka; Mbres and Kabo; Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi; Kabo and some villages in Nana-Mambere (OCHA, 28/05/2015). An increase in GBV has been reported in conflict-afflicted areas, with 45 cases of rape reported in Kaga Bandoro alone between 4 May and 7 June. Between January and June, 280 rape cases were recorded – an average of 46 per month (UNICEF, 09/07/2015).

On 3 August, a 12-year-old girl was raped by a UN peacekeeper in Bangui’s PK-5 district. There have been 11 cases of possible sexual assault by MINUSCA since the mission began in April 2014 (Reuters, 12/08/2015). New allegations of sexual misconduct by MINUSCA were reported on 12 August by three women, including one minor (UN, 19/08/2015).

Children
A new report of teenager’s rape by a member of the French military was received on 30 August by the United Nations (UN, 04/09/2015). The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 6,000–10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). Eight major militia groups have agreed to free child soldiers and children used as cooks, messengers, or for sexual purposes (Reuters, 05/05/2015). As of 30 August, 1,832 children have been released from armed groups, including 163 in Batangafo on 30 August (UNICEF, 11/08/2015; UN, 20/08/2015; UNICEF, 28/08/2015).

There has been an increase in marriage of 12-year old girls (IRC, 17/07/2015).

Refugees are at risk of statelessness because access to birth certificates is limited (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

Updated: 07/09/2015

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

OVERVIEW

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

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

Politics and security

President Kabila’s second full term ends in November 2016, and attempts to prolong his presidency beyond the two-term limit were met with violent protests in September 2014 and then January. The ruling party is thought to be using the scheduling of elections to extend Kabila’s time in office. In January, Parliament voted against a draft electoral law requiring that a census take place before elections (AFP, 27/09/2014; 25/01/2015). The majority is now pushing for local elections – which have never been held in DRC – to take place before the presidential poll, and decisions regarding the organisation of elections are being delayed. Parliament held a special session adopting a law on the allocation of seats in local elections in August – four months later than scheduled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (RFI, 10/08/2015). Local elections should take place on 25 October 2015 (local media, 11/08/2015).

In addition, the government has begun to accelerate the decentralisation process – the 2006 constitution provides for 26 provinces, as opposed to the current division into 11 (ICG, 05/05/2015). This is expected to aggravate ethnic and political tensions (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

DRC–Rwanda

At the beginning of September dozens of houses have been destroyed in Goma, in order to define a neutral area between DRC and Rwanda, and to avoid further territorial conflicts (AFP, 06/09/2015). Following rising tensions on 23 April, Rwandan soldiers reportedly crossed the border in Rutshuru in the Eastern part of DRC (News Central, 23/04/2015).

Stakeholders

At least 40 armed groups are operating in the east of the country (ECHO, 13/08/2015). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among them many Mayi-Mayi groups), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

12 September: 1,800 new refugees from CAR were reported in North Ubangi district, Equateur province (Caritas, 14/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).
- 2.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 01/06/2015; 17/06/2015).
- Over 2 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).
- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).
Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The UN has a peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), and an EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform has been in the country since 2005 (EU, 25/09/2014). Efforts to demobilise armed groups are ongoing. The UN and the Government have been discussing withdrawal of the UN mission (Radio Okapi, 06/04/2015).

**Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI)** was set up in November 2002 from among the Ngiti ethnic group (TRAC). Attacks increased in Irumu territory, Orientale, in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The FRPI was reportedly neutralised by the FARDC and MONUSCO in late June (AFP, 24/06/2015).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**North Kivu**

2.29 million people in North Kivu are affected by armed conflict (OCHA, 02/06/2015). FARDC began an offensive against the FDLR in February, and renewed its offensive against the ADF on 19 July (Radio Okapi, 20/07/2015; AFP, 26/02/2015). 2,960 incidents were recorded in the first half of 2015, including 519 incidents in June (International NGO Safety Organization, 20/07/2015).

**Beni territory**: At least nine people were killed in ADF attacks on two villages on 5 and 6 September (IRIN, 06/09/2015; Africa Time, 07/09/2015). 300 people were killed by ADF militants in Beni territory between March and July (Radio Okapi, 16/07/2015).

**Walikale**: Over 5–8 August, Raiya Mutomboki attacked villages in Walikale, trying to take back territory from the Kituafua Delphin armed group. MONUSCO deployed a temporary base of peacekeepers on 8 August (Radio Okapi, 10/08/2015).

**South Kivu**

In Lulingu, Shabunda territory, clashes between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki have been ongoing since mid-May. An unknown number of people have left the town, and flights to the region have been suspended (OCHA, 27/05/2015). On 15 June, Raiya Mutomboki kidnapped 28 people, including 11 women (OCHA, 09/07/215). As of 29 July, approximately 10,000 people from Shabunda territory were displaced to localities in Walunga (Radio Okapi, 29/07/2015).

**Orientale**

On 16 July, FRPI attacked an IDP camp in Katorogo, Bunia. This was the ninth attack on an IDP site in 2015 and the second in one week (OCHA, 22/07/2015). 35 people died, 52 were wounded and 36 captured alive in three weeks of FARDC–MONUSCO operations in June (AFP, 24/06/2015). On 8 June, 30 people were abducted in Dungu-centre, reportedly by LRA. 12 were released after FARDC intervention (local media, 12/06/2015).

**Katanga**

Since early 2015, Katanga’s triangle of death (Pweto, Manono, and Moba territories) has experienced a decrease in Mayi-Mayi attacks (Radio Okapi, 17/03/2015), but Luba (Bantu) and pygmies (Batwa) have frequently clashed in Kalemie, Manono, and Nyunzu territories, Tanganyika district (OCHA, 08/04/2015). In Nyunzu territory, conflict between Luba and pygmies has killed 200 people since January 2015; 60 women have been raped; 113 villages have been burned (Radio Okapi, 03/06/2015).

**Natural disasters**

**Floods**
On 13 September, heavy rains and wind caused severe damage in Kamituga, South Kivu. Three people were injured, and 650 houses were reportedly destroyed. Eight schools were damaged (Radio Okapi, 14/09/2015).

9,000 people were affected by flooding in Orientale prefecture on 12 August. Four died and more than 1,200 homes were damaged or destroyed (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

Forest fire

50,000 people have been affected by forest fires in Kabambare territory in Maniema province. At least 6,000 people are homeless and in churches, schools, or with host families. The fires also affected IDP shelters (AFP, 28/08/2015; Caritas, 26/08/2015).

Displacement

As of end of June, 1.5 million IDPs were reported in DRC (OCHA, 20/07/2015). More than half of them are in North Kivu province and the rest are mainly in South Kivu and Katanga provinces. In addition, DRC hosts more than 225,020 refugees (OCHA, 30/04/2015). IDPs

At 30 June, there were 1.5 million IDPs in DRC, a decrease of one million due to data cleaning (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Displacement can be short-term, but repetitive, depending on the security threats in the regions.

From March to June, 220,000 people were displaced due to insecurity in Beni, Rutshuru and Walikale territories (North Kivu), southern Irumu (Orientale), Kalehe (South Kivu), and Kalemie, Manono, and Pweto (Katanga) (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

121,000 were displaced between January and March 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 80% of IDPs are hosted by families and communities who are already facing chronic food insecurity and limited access to services and livelihood opportunities (FAO, 20/11/2014).

North Kivu

North Kivu hosts 604,560 IDPs as of 25 June (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). 26,880 were newly displaced in June due to violence in Beni, Rutshuru, and Walikale territories (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). 67% live with host families (OCHA, 15/07/2015). As of 25 August, approximately 178,000 live in IDP sites in North Kivu (CCCM Cluster, 06/09/2015). Near Goma, four sites host more than 16,000 IDPs: most people have relocated to Masisi, Nyirangongo, and Rutshuru territories (ECHO, 29/05/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015). 32,000 IDPs in Tongo (Rutshuru) and Bukombo (Masisi) are in need of WASH, health, NFIs, and shelter assistance. They were displaced due to clashes between the FARDC and the FDLR/Nyatura FPC coalition (OCHA, 21/07/2015). 275,360 IDPs returned home over the last 18 months (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Beni: 14,000 IDPs, primarily Pygmies, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance; medical assistance has been limited (Radio Okapi, 21/08/2015). There were 152,270 displaced people in Beni as of 25 June (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

Lubero: 127,630 people were displaced in Lubero as of 24 June (UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

Rutshuru: On 13 July, the Bwalanda/Katwe IDP site was set on fire by an armed group, causing the 800 IDPs residing there to take refuge in nearby community buildings (OCHA, 21/07/2015).

Walikale: There are 76,030 IDPs in Walikale as of 25 June (UNHCR, 15/07/2015). Hundreds of households are seeking refuge with host families, and lack food, clothes, and access to healthcare (Radio Okapi, 10/08/2015; 06/06/2015). 1,500 people returned to Ntoto after fleeing Mayi-Mayi clashes in December 2014 and are in need of assistance (Caritas, 21/08/2015).

South Kivu

At 30 June, 317,960 IDPs were in South Kivu, a 53% decrease since end March due to a purging of data that is awaiting verification (OCHA, 10/07/2015). 11,150 people were displaced between April and June, most by clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Kalehe territory (OCHA, 10/07/2015). More than 64,000 IDPs and former IDPs need assistance in northern Shunda territory but insecurity limits access (OCHA, 21/08/2015). After returning to their homes on 15 August, 1,960 inhabitants of Mutarule, north Uvira territory, were re-displaced on 19 August due to a Mayi-Mayi attack (OCHA, 21/08/2015). In western Walungu territory, approximately 8,500 people fleeing Raiya Mutomboki attacks were registered from 6-15 July (local media, 06/08/2015).

Orientale

As of end June, there were 130,850 IDPs in Orientale province (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Since 11 August, violence has displaced some 6,000 people from Djugu to Libi, north of Bunia, Ituri district (OCHA, 20/08/2015). During the week of 13 July, clashes over land displaced 3,000 people from the villages of Musekere and Linga in Djugu territory to Mokambo, Ituri district (OCHA, 22/07/2015).

1,375 people who returned to four villages in Walendu Bindi after fleeing FARDC and FRPI clashes in April 2014 are in urgent need of shelter, education and NFI assistance (Caritas, 21/08/2015).

An ADF attack on 14–15 July displaced 11,000 people from Kakuku, Beni territory, North Kivu, to Tchabi, Irumu territory (OCHA, 22/07/2015).

Katanga

Katanga hosts 316,875 IDPs as of end June (OCHA, 20/07/2015). 45,130 IDPs were
displaced between April and June 2015 due to clashes between Luba and pygmies in Tanganyika district (OCHA, 29/07/2015). This is a decrease from the January–April figure of 79,770. 73% of IDPs are living with host families and 27% in sites (OCHA, 21/04/2015).

17,800 former IDPs returning to Nyunzu territory do not have shelter: 43 of 50 villages that were evaluated had been burnt (OCHA, 24/07/2015). More than 74,000 former IDPs are in need of reintegration assistance (OCHA, 02/07/2015).

Maniema

Maniema hosts 121,525 IDPs as of 24 June (UNHCR, 20/07/2015); 24,950 of these are from South Kivu, and fled violence between April and June (OCHA, 20/07/2015). More than 6,000 IDPs, including 2,000 children under five, have arrived in Pangui territory in 2015, fleeing conflict in Shabunda, South Kivu. They are not currently receiving humanitarian assistance. Pangui territory also hosts approximately 25,000 former who need access to land and household items, as well as support to develop livelihoods (OCHA, 18/08/2015). 5,000 people displaced in Kasongo territory following intercommunal violence are staying with host families in villages near Mungomba and need assistance (OCHA, 22/07/2015; Caritas, 03/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

From CAR: As of early August, there were 97,000 CAR refugees in DRC (WFP, 06/08/2015). Approximately 3,000 are in four camps in Equateur and Orientale provinces. The newest camp, Bili, in Bosobolo territory, Equateur province, hosts 7,000 refugees and expects to receive 10,000 refugees (WFP, 06/08/2015). Around 1,800 new refugees reportedly arrived in North Ubangi district, Equateur province, on 12 September. Most are women and children, and are staying with host families and in churches (Caritas, 14/09/2015).

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

From Burundi: As of 1 September, 14,993 new Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). The majority are in South Kivu, 680 are in Katanga, and 230 are in Maniema (WFP, 03/09/2015). In July and August, more than 50% were living with host families and 7,332 were transferred to Lusenda site in Fizi territory (UNICEF, 03/08/2015; UNHCR, 22/07/2015; 08/07/2015; WFP, 19/06/2015). As of 2 September, no more refugees are being transferred to Lusenda as the capacity of the camp has reached its limit (WFP, 03/09/2015). FDLR presence in hosting areas is a concern (UNHCR, 05/06/2015; OCHA, 27/05/2015). Prior to the recent influx, there were 9,000 Burundian refugees in DRC (OCHA, 27/05/2015).

From Angola: 560 Angolan refugees are registered in DRC. Another 28,000 are undergoing voluntary repatriation: as of 23 April, at least 15,520 Angolan refugees had returned from DRC (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; Government, 30/04/2015).

Refugee returnees

Angola: Between 1 January and May, 29,881 DRC citizens were deported from Angola (Soyo and Cabinda provinces) (OCHA, 04/06/2015). Over 16-30 May, about 14,000 DRC nationals were expelled from Angola (Radio Okapi, 17/06/2015).

Central African Republic: The repatriation of 600 returnees who were in CAR began on 3 August. They had fled LRA violence six years ago and are being taken to Ango, Bas-Uele district in Orientale (OCHA, 20/08/2015; Reuters, 03/08/2015).

DRC refugees in neighbouring countries

There are around 442,440 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (178,220), Rwanda (73,560), Burundi (53,860), Tanzania (63,453), Congo (23,450), Kenya (23,091), South Sudan (14,630), and CAR (5,340) (UNHCR, 09/09/2015; 31/08/2015; 31/03/2015; 17/02/2015; 01/01/2015; 31/12/2014).

Since January, more than 4,500 people have fled to Uganda from eastern DRC (ACT Alliance, 05/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

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

Access of relief actors to affected population

North Kivu: There were two attacks on humanitarian organisations in Rutshuru and Walikale territories between 18 and 21 June (OCHA, 23/06/2015). Some 275,000 IDPs are hard to access due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Commercial flights are not serving the area (local media, 09/06/2015).

South Kivu: An increasing number of security incidents have been reported on the route between Bitale and Hombo (Kalehe territory) (OCHA, 10/06/2015). Two NGOs have temporarily suspended activities (OCHA, 10/06/2015). Insecurity has prevented humanitarian actors from accessing Lulingu (OCHA, 10/06/2015). At the end of July, Mayi-Mayi attacks were reported (Local media, 29/07/2015).

Oriental: Humanitarian activities have slowed in the south of Irumu territory (Bunia, Gety, Aveba and Bukiring) due to insecurity (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Since 16 May, five NGOs have suspended activities (OCHA, 10/06/2015). An INGO vehicle was attacked south of Bunia.
on 13 July (USAID, 21/07/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

**South Kivu:** In Lulingu, movement restrictions due to armed activity are preventing women from accessing their crops (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

**North Kivu:** Roads are inaccessible (local media, 09/06/2015).

**South Kivu:** 40% of the roads in South Kivu are impassable (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Traffic has been suspended on the Bukavu–Goma road since 7 June, after a bridge collapsed (local media, 09/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

**Food access**

6.6 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes as a result of armed group activity, inter-communal violence, and displacement (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015). Ituri (Orientale), Boende (Equateur), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (South Kivu), Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto (Katanga) are all in Emergency phase (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015).

**Food availability**

It is estimated that food production is currently 20–40% below national consumption (USAID, 21/07/2015).

Health

A lack of health services have been mainly reported in the Kivus. Twice as many malaria cases have been reported in Katanga in 2015, compared to 2014 (OCHA, 24/07/2015). Katanga also reported more than 20,000 measles cases during the first eight months of 2015.

Healthcare availability and access

**North Kivu:** 23,000 people in Masisi territory do not have access to health services (OCHA, 11/02/2015). More than 17,500 IDPs and their hosts in north Beni need health assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

**South Kivu:** 60% of the population in Uvira, Fizi, and Walungu territories do not have healthcare (OCHA, 29/06/2015). There is a lack of medical supplies in all five health zones (Lulingu, Tchonka, Milienda, Tchampundu, Lolo), especially rape kits (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Nutrition

**Maniema:** GAM is 10% and SAM 2%, with Kailo and Kabambare territories most affected
As of 30 August, in Bili camp, in Bossobolo territory, Equateur province, hosting CAR refugees, the SAM rate for children under five is 2.4% and GAM 6.5% (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

**WASH**

**North Kivu:** An estimated 4.3 million people require WASH assistance in North Kivu (OCHA, 20/05/2015).

**Orientale:** WASH coverage has decreased from 85% in 2014 to 43.5% in 2015. 12,600 IDPs in Badengayido, Orientale, lack access to WASH because the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) has opposed it (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

Only 22% of the population has access to drinking water (Bond for International Development, 31/07/2015).

**CAR refugees:** Bili and Boyabu camps have a supply of 19 L/person/day; Mole, 17.3 L/p/day; Mboti 17 L/p/d; and Inke, 12.7 L/p/day. These are all below the minimum standard of 20 L/p/day (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

A fire in Kalonda II IDP site, South Kivu, on 7 July, destroyed 300 homes. Witnesses report that pastoralists started the fire (OCHA, 08/07/2015).

**Education**

7.3 million children aged 5–17 — 28% of the school-aged population — are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015). Violence in South Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale is preventing access to education.

**Access and learning environment**

In South Kivu, on average, 12,300 students cannot access schools every month, due to conflict and natural disasters (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

In Orientale province, more than 2,000 children in six schools in Bili (Bossobolo territory, Equateur province) did not finish their school year due to LRA violence in December 2014 (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

**Teaching and learning**

There is a lack of school materials for the start of the academic year in Mboti camp, which hosts refugees from CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

**Protection**

Military, militias, and other armed groups are accused of abuse of civilians, including arbitrary arrest, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions.

In Orientale, 485 incidents were reported in Haut-Uele in the first three weeks of May (OCHA, 27/05/2015). 935 protection incidents were registered in Ituri district in May, and 1,983 in April (OCHA, 03/06/2015). 12,300 protection incidents against civilians were reported across the province in 2014, compared to 4,800 in 2013 (OCHA, 04/02/2015).

In Katanga, 1,620 protection incidents were recorded in June. These include cases of rape, aggression and arbitrary arrest (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

193 ex-FDLR militants and 601 of their families have accused the DRC government of starving them so that they return to Rwanda. They say they have not been provided food for a week in the state-administered camp where they are living (AFP, 20/08/2015). MONUSCO has announced it will stop providing food to 7,000 ex-fighters from September, sparking fears of renewed clashes (AFP, 26/08/2015).

**Children**

567 children were freed from the FDLR between January and June 2015 (RFI, 06/08/2015). 207 children left armed groups in Orientale province January–June 2015 (OCHA, 22/07/2015; 20/08/2015). 26 child soldiers surrendered in North Kivu on 20 July (UN, 18/07/2015).

**Gender**

Sexual violence has been a common element of warfare in eastern DRC since the early 1990s.

**Orientale:** 90% of the 2,900 SGBV cases reported in Orientale in 2014 occurred in Ituri, and the rest in Uele (OCHA, 08/04/2015; 19/04/2015). In Haut-Uele district, 110 SGBV incidents were reported in the first three weeks of May, and 138 in April (OCHA, 27/05/2015). 2,012 SGBV cases were reported in Orientale in 2014 (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

**Katanga:** More than 600 SGBV cases were reported January–March in Katanga; 50% from Nyunzu territory (OCHA, 22/04/2015). 1,680 SGBV cases were reported in 2014 (OCHA, 05/02/2015).

**Updated:** 15/09/2015
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 September: As of 1 September, there are 1,647 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority located in Nairobi (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million people, including 696,000 children under 18, are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access.

- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).

- Torture, arbitrary detention, and indefinite national service are the grave human right concerns reported in Eritrea (UNHRC).

- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every year. In March 2015, Ethiopia was hosting 133,348 Eritrean refugees (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

- Operations and maintenance of established humanitarian systems remain a significant challenge (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Political Context

Eritrea is a one-party state governed by President Isaias Afwerki and his party People’s Front for Democracy and Justice. No national elections have been held since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

1.2 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 696,000 children under 18 (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access.

Access

Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (ECHO).

Displacement

Refugees

As of May 2015, there were 2,802 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated to constitute more than 321,000 people (Guardian, 21/04/2015). UN estimates that some 5,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression and lack of basic freedoms. (OHCHR, 08/06/2015). Eritreans constitute the second biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat, after Syrians (Guardian, 17/08/2015; Reuters, 24/03/2015). In 2014, more than 37,000 Eritrean refugees sought refuge in Europe, the vast majority arriving by boat across the Mediterranean (UNHCR). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

Ethiopia: At the end of June, there were 139,039 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/06/2015), mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNICEF, 21/04/2015). Arrival rates spiked towards the end of 2014, with a total of 33,000 arriving by the end of the year (UNHCR, 09/02/2015). The influx has resulted in shortages of shelter in the camps (OCHA, 26/01/2015).

Sudan: Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR).

Djibouti: As of 1 January, there were 1,240 Eritrean refugees in Djibouti (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

Kenya: As of 1 September, there were 1,647 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority located in Nairobi (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Food security

A delayed onset and lack of rainfall has resulted in abnormal dryness across western Eritrea (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015). Very poor rainfall since February, including extremely sporadic rain since mid-March, has led to drought conditions in eastern Eritrea (FEWSNET, 30/05/2015).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may
be in need of food assistance. Due to extensive national service, farmers are routinely absent during harvest periods (Economist, 10/03/2014). In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to be high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The Government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid (ECHO).

Health and nutrition

According to FAO in 2013, over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported to be undernourished between 2011 and 2013.

Protection

According to a June 2015 report by the UN Human Rights Council, grave human rights violations are widespread. Eritreans are deprived of fundamental freedoms by the authorities, and are routinely and arbitrarily arrested, detained, and tortured. Disappearances or extrajudicial executions were also reported (UNHRC, 04/06/2015). Eritreans are subject to systems of national service and forced labour in which individuals are effectively detained indefinitely (UNHRC, 04/06/2015). Eritrea has the highest number of imprisoned journalists in Africa (22 known cases) and has not allowed international journalists into the country since 2007 (CPJ, 27/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

UNICEF reported in January 2015 that landmines and ERWs continue to have a serious impact on the population, including causing deaths, injuries and disabilities. Humanitarian mine action programmes in the country have been scaled down because of limited access (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

KEY CONCERNS

- 3.6 million people are expected to be food insecure, including 2.7 million severely food insecure, during the June–September lean season (WFP/FAO/Food cluster, 12/08/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).
- 219,746 acutely malnourished children, including 173,815 severely malnourished children. The nutrition situation is deteriorating in Diffa region with projections for SAM in 2015 having increased 30-fold since January (OCHA, 28/08/2015).
- More than 105,000 Nigerian refugees in Diffa region (UNHCR, 18/08/2015).

Politics and security

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Nigeria, Mali, and Libya. Terrorist threats from Boko Haram (BH), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are all of concern. A state of emergency was declared in Niger in February in response to BH attacks (WFP/UNCHR/ACTED, 08/09/2015; AFP, 27/05/2015; 26/02/2015).

Large populations were evacuated from the Lake Chad islands in May due to military operations against BH (OCHA, 11/09/2015; UNICEF, 16/07/2015). Sporadic BH attacks have since been reported in several villages in Diffa region: the withdrawal of Chad and Niger troops from northeastern Nigeria due to the rainy season has left Diffa more vulnerable to attack (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March (AFP, 14/03/2015). Niger soldiers have also been deployed to support a regional offensive against the group (BBC, 10/02/2015).

Elections

The first round of presidential election are scheduled to take place 21 February 2016, coinciding with legislative elections. Relations between the ruling party and the opposition are reportedly tense since the opposition accused President Issoufou of unilaterally forming a government of national unity in 2013 (AFP, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 15/09/2015).

Recent incidents

Two civilians were reportedly killed in the village of Dagaya, Diffa region (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). An overnight attack on Abadam village in Diffa region killed three on 27 August (Reuters, 27/08/2015). 16 people were killed and four injured in BH attacks near Bosso town in Diffa region on 15 July (AFP, 18/07/2015). Five civilians were killed in a BH attack in Dagaya on 10 July (AFP, 10/07/2015).
Multiple BH attacks and raids on villages in Diffa in June affected, killed 53 people, injured 16, and affected at least 7,000 people. 38 people were killed, three wounded, and 6,000 inhabitants after an attack on Lamana, Boulamare and Ngoumao villages on 18 June. 80% of houses were burnt in Lamana (OCHA, 03/07/2015; 26/06/2015; 19/06/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Floods since end July in seven central and southern regions have killed 22 people and affected 52,000. 7,450 people have been displaced and 5,019 buildings destroyed (OCHA, 04/09/2015). Niamey is at particular risk of further flooding (OCHA, 14/08/2015).

Displacement

Overall in Niger, there are 66,400 IDPs, 105,580 Nigerian refugees, and 52,445 refugees from Mali (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Boko Haram crisis

Overall, 105,580 Nigerians have fled the Boko Haram crisis and sought refuge in Diffa region since May 2013, including nearly 63,350 children (UNHCR, 18/08/2015). An estimated 48% of all Nigerian refugees fleeing BH are in Niger and up to 130,000 Nigerian refugees could be in Niger by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 09/09/2015; UNHCR, 01/07/2015).

At least 30,000 people in Diffa are entirely reliant on humanitarian aid: priority needs are for food, WASH, nutrition, health and protection (ECHO, 08/06/2015).

An estimated 10,000 Nigerians arrived in Gagamari and Chetamari areas of Diffa region from Damasak town in northern Nigeria, following the withdrawal of Chadian and Nigerian forces from the formerly BH-controlled town in late July (UNICEF, 18/08/2015). They are mostly staying in towns along the border (UNHCR, 19/08/2015). Gagamari and Chetamari were already hosting at least 1,000 refugees (OCHA, 22/07/2015; IRC, 21/07/2015). In recent weeks, Tchongourma town in Diffa is reported to have received an additional 3,990 Nigerian refugees, but the area is inaccessible to UN agencies (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

Boko Haram activities in Niger have led to several waves of internal displacement. After a 27 June BH attack on Assaga village close to the border in Nigeria, 3,771 people fled eight Niger villages surrounding Assaga (UNICEF, 18/08/2015; OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Around 3.6 million people are food insecure during the May–September lean season, including 2.7 million severely. 457,000 severely food insecure in Diffa region are targeted for monthly assistance, of which 53% (251,000 people) are currently being reached (UNHCR/WFP/ACTED, 08/09/2015). At least 200,000 people in Diffa region are likely to continue facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes until December (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Other areas of concern are Tillabery, Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, and Niamey regions (OCHA, 14/08/2015; 31/05/2015; WFP/FAO/Food Cluster, 12/08/2015).

Food availability

Irregular rainfall in June and July in areas affected by drought conditions in 2014 has led to a delay of up to 30 days in the growing season (WFP, 01/07/2015).

Insecurity in Diffa region is significantly hampering land preparation activities. As of May, 68% of villages in Diffa had a cereal deficit (OCHA, 20/05/2015).
In agropastoral areas of south Diffa, insecurity is disrupting production but also trade and food supply on markets due to access constraints; poor households will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

**Food access**

63% of displaced are estimated to have insufficient access to food, while the majority are deprived of livelihood means (FEWSNET, 28/05/2015; ACTED, 01/06/2015).

Cereal prices were stable in July, except in Agadez market, where sorghum and maize prices rose 10% and 9%, respectively (Afrique Verte, 18/07/2015).

**Livelihoods**

In pastoral zones of Tahoua and Tillabery, poor households will move from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes from August to December as a result of improved pasture conditions for livestock following the rainy season (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

In Diffa region, insecurity and poor rains in 2014 have led to a decrease in economic activities. This has particularly affected livelihoods of households growing pepper and maize in the valleys of Lake Chad and Komadougou Yobe. Other activities in the south of Diffa, particularly fishing and the sale of fish around Lake Chad, have stopped entirely, resulting in a loss of income for households dependent on these activities (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

**Health**

Health services are overcrowded in Diffa region with the arrival of new IDPs, and lack medicines and qualified personnel (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Diffa regional hospital is short of staff, as are 11 of 51 health centres in the region (WFP, 01/09/2015). Health facilities in Sayam Forage and Kablewa displacement camps are weak. Sayam Forage camp’s nearest hospital is 45km away (UNHCR, 09/09/2015). Predominant illnesses include parasitic diseases, eye infections, and respiratory infections (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Waterborne diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea are increasing among the displaced and refugee population during the rainy season (MSF, 21/08/2015).

Fire damage to UN warehouses in Niamey on 2 June destroyed most stocks intended for immediate use. Vaccines to counter the meningitis epidemic, as well as supplementary feeding programmes for at least 10,000 children in urgent need of support during the lean season, will be severely affected (ECHO, 05/06/2015).

**Cholera**

As of 28 August, 51 cholera cases have been recorded in 2015 (OCHA, 28/08/2015). Cholera outbreaks in Nigeria and Cameroon since June threaten to spread to Niger (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

**Measles**

As of 11 September, 5,546 measles cases, including at least 14 deaths, have been recorded in 2015 in all eight regions of Niger (OCHA, 11/09/2015). 60% of cases have been in Zinder region (OCHA, 12/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/05/2015).

**Meningitis**

As of 12 August, 8,520 suspected cases of meningitis, including more than 573 deaths, have been recorded in 2015; 2,182 new cases were recorded over 4–10 May, but incidence has since decreased. 13 districts crossed the epidemic threshold, including all five districts in Niamey (OCHA, 12/08/2015; WHO, 08/07/2015). At least 281,000 people are at risk of infection over the next October–April dry season. Low vaccine supply on the continent is a concern (WHO, 28/06/2015; MSF, 10/06/2015; IFRC, 02/06/2015).

**Mental health**

High mental health needs among the displaced, especially children (MSF, 27/08/2015).

**Nutrition**

173,815 children have been admitted for severe acute malnutrition between January and July 2015 (OCHA, 11/09/2015, 28/08/2015).

GAM is at 28% among Nigerian refugee children and pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women, exceeding the 15% crisis threshold; GAM within host populations is also critical, at 19.5% (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). Admissions of children suffering from SAM to therapeutic feeding programmes rose by 22% in Dosso and 129% in Diffa between 2014 and 2015 (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

**Shelter**

35% of households in Diffa live in shelters that do not meet minimum standards. Each host family hosts around 17 people. 60% of IDPs in sites are homeless (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Shelter issues are of increasing concern, as the rainy season began in June (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**WASH**

Displaced populations have limited access to safe water, and sanitation (MSF, 21/08/2015). In Diffa, 260,880 people are in need of safe drinking water, including 90,490 IDPs (WFP, 01/09/2015).
01/09/2015). 43% of recently displaced populations from Lake Chad are estimated to have insufficient access to water sources (ACTED, 01/06/2015).

### Education

37 schools are closed in Diffa due to insecurity, affecting 3,000 children (WFP, 01/09/2015).

### Protection

In Bosso department, a large number of displaced people have settled near military positions along the Komadougou River, where operations are ongoing (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

### Documentation

82% of 13,000 Nigerian refugees surveyed in Diffa did not have identity documents in a February assessment, which could impact their ability to access assistance (IOM, 23/02/2015).

**OVERVIEW**

Violence has displaced close to 1.6 million people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education. Some 9.7 million people, including IDPs, are staying in 34 areas worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; 4.6 million are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 09/07/2015).

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

### Politics and Security

Armed Islamist group Boko Haram’s (BH) insurgency in the northeast began to gain momentum in 2014, when 7,711 deaths were reported (ACLED, 11/01/2015). Between January and August 2015, more than 340 BH-related incidents and 7,330 deaths were reported (ACLED, 22/08/2015). As of 11 July, 69 suicide attacks had been recorded in 2015, compared to 38 in all 2014 (ACLED, 11/07/2015).

Since the end of 2014, the conflict with Boko Haram has taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force. With the engagement of regional forces, the Nigerian Government regained territory in early 2015, but insurgent attacks have since increased in the northeast (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

### Intercommunal violence

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

### Presidential handover

- 3.5 million people are expected to be in need of emergency food assistance between July and September (FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).
- 1.5 million are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children under five suffering from SAM (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- 2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance; 1 million in need of shelter and NFIs; 2.2 million in need of protection; and 3.5 million people in need of healthcare (OCHA, 06/2015).
Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in as President on 29 May, succeeding Goodluck Jonathan, whose party had led the country since 1999. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (local media, 29/05/2015; AFP, 02/04/2015).

### Stakeholders

#### Boko Haram (BH)

Boko Haram ("Western education is forbidden") is leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise numbers are not known, but BH's strength is estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 07/03/2015). The group is thought to hide in the Lake Chad region and the Sambisa forest (AFP, 31/07/2015).

#### Nigerian troops

Reports of low morale and defections persist among Nigerian forces. Failures to act on intelligence and abuse during the campaign against BH are also a problem, impacting relations with the civilian population (ACLED, 31/03/2015). In the past, Nigerian soldiers at times reportedly refused to deploy, or fled from operations (AFP, 22/08/2014).

#### Regional forces

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has reached 8,700 military and civilian personnel, including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (BBC, 03/03/2015). Deployment of the troops, which was expected in August, has been delayed (AFP, 31/07/2015; 13/08/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear. Failure to maintain control over liberated towns, such as Gamboru and Marte in Borno state in March and April, have suggested coordination problems. The force is led by a Nigerian commander (AFP, 11/06/2015; 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

### Conflict developments

July was the deadliest month since March, with 980 fatalities due to violence. 67% were related to BH; the highest proportion since January, and a significant increase from the 40% reported in June and 30% in May. The majority of fatalities were reported from Borno state (ACLED, 07/08/2015). In August, at least 224 deaths were reported in 21 Boko Haram attacks. The majority of attacks were reported in Borno state, followed by Yobe (ACLED, 22/08/2015).

Recent military operations are pushing insurgents further east and south in Borno state, and towards neighbouring Gombe, Yobe, and Adamawa (UNHCR, 17/08/2015). BH has been using guerrilla tactics including village raids, abductions, bombings and suicide attacks, increasingly targeting civilians (AFP, 23/03/2015; US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). The raids tend to follow a similar pattern, with houses set on fire, food and cattle seized, and a number of villagers killed. The attacks often lead to the displacement of residents (AFP, 20/07/2015). The number and range of attacks has increased since March–April, including in areas not previously targeted (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015).

#### Adamawa state: Adamawa state has been relatively peaceful in the last months. On 11 September, seven people were killed and 20 injured in an explosion at the Malkohi IDP camp outside of the state capital Yola (Reuters; AFP, 11/09/2015). On the same day, a suicide bomber on a bus stop in Madagali, southwestern Adamawa, killed five people (Reuters, 11/09/2015).

#### Borno state: On 29 August, BH killed 56 people in Baanu village of Nganzai local government area. Many residents fled to the bush (The Guardian, 31/08/2015). On 15 August, a suicide bombing near a market in Ramirgo village killed at least three people (The News Nigeria, 16/08/2015). On 12 August, 50 people were killed and 51 injured in a blast on the market of Sabon Gari village (AFP, 12/08/2015). On 11 August, six people were killed in Bale Mamman, outside of Maiduguri, during a BH raid for livestock (Reuters, 12/08/2015). On 9 August, suspected BH killed four people and injured two in an attack on their car on the road from Damboa to Biu (Reuters, 09/08/2015). On 5 August, nine fishermen were killed by BH on their way from Monguno to Baga. Following the attack, soldiers fought with the insurgents (AFP, 05/08/2015). On 2 August, BH killed at least 13 people in Malari village, close to Maiduguri. 27 people were injured and houses were set on fire. On 1 August, BH attacked Gamboru town, close to the border with Cameroon, causing residents to flee the town (AFP, 02/08/2015).

#### Yobe state: On 25 August, a suicide bomber killed six people at a bus station in Damaturu. 42 others were injured. A second suicide bomb on the outskirts of the city injured one person (AFP, 25/08/2015). Up to 160 people died in a Boko Haram raid on a remote village on 13 August, including 60 children (OCHA, 17/08/2015; ECHO, 20/08/2015). Nine people were killed in Tadagara and Dunbulwa villages on 6 August. Hundreds of villagers fled to Potiskum. Shops and houses were looted, then set on fire (AFP, 06/08/2015). In July, more than 50 people were killed in village raids and suicide attacks. Several attacks were carried out in Damaturu (AFP, 31/07/2015; 20/07/2015; 17/07/2015; 05/07/2015; Reuters, 27/07/2015).

### Inter-communal violence

Reports of inter-communal violence in the Middle Belt have decreased in recent months. On 18 June, eight farmers were killed in Wukari district of Taraba state (AFP, 18/06/2015). In May and April, at least 46 people were killed in inter-communal violence. Involved communities mainly include Fulani, Ologba, and Egba (AFP, 26/05/2015; 19/04/2015; 17/03/2015). In 2014, around 1,700 people died in inter-communal violence (ACLED, 2014; ICG, 01/10/2014).
Natural disasters

Floods

Adamawa: As of early September, an estimated 302,000 people are affected by floods in nine local government areas (LGAs) in Adamawa (OCHA, 04/09/2015). The floods were caused by a technological breakdown between Dadin Kowa dam in Gombe state and Kiri dam in Adamawa state, exacerbated by heavy rainfall (OCHA, 04/09/2015). Seven people have been killed (TCV News, 13/09/2015). Farmland, houses, and livestock have been lost (Premium Times, 30/08/2015).

Nasarawa: Floods caused by heavy rainfall have as of mid-September damaged farmland, roads, and an unknown number of houses (AllAfrica, 12/09/2015).

Gombe: Heavy rainfall has damaged farm produce, shelter, and property in four LGAs (Premium Times, 03/09/2015).

Heavy rains during the past weeks have caused flooding in Benue, Cross River, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kwara, Sokoto, and Yobe states. Over 15–16 August, more than 260 houses were destroyed and livestock drowned in Sokoto. In Yobe, at least 200 houses were completely destroyed, and 100 more were flooded in Benue. Heavy rains are forecast to continue in the first week of September (ECHO, 19/08/2015; FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

The rains are affecting living conditions in IDP camps, particularly in Maiduguri (OCHA, 19/08/2015).

Displacement

More than two million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict, including more than 2.1 million internally and more than 170,000 abroad. 57% of IDPs are children.

IDPs

As of early September, more than 2.1 million IDPs have been identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states, a drastic increase (58%) from 1.4 million IDPs in June (IOM, 03/09/2015). The increase is a result of increased Boko Haram attacks as well as increased access to areas in Borno state, enabling assessments in areas previously not covered by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM, 03/09/2015).

More than 1.9 million are staying with host families; the remaining are staying in 59 camps and camp-like sites. More than 1.6 million (77%) are in Borno, which is the state of origin for 81% of IDPs. 195,900 are in Yobe (9%) and 118,000 in Adamawa (5%). People displaced by inter-communal violence are mostly in Taraba and Nasarawa states (IOM, 03/09/2015).

About 67% of IDPs were displaced in 2014, and 31% in 2015. 58% of IDPs are children; half are under five (IOM, 03/09/2015).

IDPs report food as a priority need, followed by shelter and NFIs (IOM, 03/09/2015). Most basic needs are not covered (INGO Forum, 19/06/2015). 27% of registered IDPs are not receiving any assistance. This proportion is higher among IDPs living with host families (40%) than those in IDP sites (11%).

262,342 returning IDPs in northern Adamawa state are in urgent need of assistance (IOM, 03/09/2015). Shelter and food are reported as priority needs. Other priorities include restoration of WASH and transport infrastructure, and repair of schools and health facilities. Farming inputs, including equipment, fertiliser, and seeds, are also needed. The returnees continue to face protection issues as sporadic attacks continue in the returnee areas (UNICEF, 01/09/2015).

Military offensives have led to new displacement. Access to new IDPs is limited. Conditions in IDP sites are deteriorating, and needs are unmet in WASH, education, health, and shelter (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of May, there were 2,190 refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria (UNHCR, 27/05/2015).

Returnees

Around 15,000 undocumented Nigerian refugees have been forcibly returned from Cameroon, following BH attacks in the country. Most originate from Borno state and fled BH-related violence. They are arriving through Sahuda, Mubi South, in Adamawa (Government, 05/08/2015; IRIN, 21/08/2015). So far, 5,762 returnees have been transferred to IDP camps in Yola, Adamawa (Government, 10/08/2015). Others are staying in makeshift camps on the outskirts of Mubi (OCHA, 31/07/2015). More than 300 returnees are expected to arrive following recent suicide attacks in Chad (OCHA, 28/07/2015).

Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

There are more than 170,000 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries. 57,300 registered refugees are in Cameroon, 105,600 in Niger, and 14,600 in Chad (UNHCR, 17/08/2015; 04/08/2015; OCHA, 12/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian assistance is very limited in remote areas that are or were formerly under BH control (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Host communities receive very little assistance, as access remains difficult and needs are hard to assess (OCHA, 31/07/2015).
Access of affected populations to assistance

An estimated 2.3 million people do not have access to humanitarian aid and are in critical need of assistance (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The security situation in the northeast continues to impair access to affected populations. Those humanitarian actors who are present have difficulty accessing populations and assessing the extent of needs in remote areas (ACF, 30/06/2015). In Borno state, many domestic flights have been cancelled and fuel stations are running out of petrol (BBC, 25/05/2015).

Media access has also often been prohibited, with BH having destroyed communication and media infrastructure (Reporters without Borders, 05/02/2015). Infrastructure damage reaches 80% in some areas controlled by BH (IRIN, 05/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

4.6 million people are estimated food insecure. 3.5 million people are thought to be in need of food assistance in the northeast between July and September. An estimated two million people residing in Borno state and much of Adamawa and Yobe are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, and worst affected areas, including Maiduguri IDP settlements, are experiencing Emergency (Phase 4) outcomes. Availability of and access to food remain severely limited due to the conflict (OCHA, 08/06/2015; FEWSNET, 25/06/2015; 07/08/2015).

Boko Haram enforces rigid movement restrictions and some limitations on trade, negatively impacting people’s ability to obtain food and gain a livelihood (Amnesty, 13/04/2015; FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).

Across much of the country, food access and availability are seasonally low, particularly among poor households. However, most of the country will be facing Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes through December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Food availability

The October harvest will somewhat improve food security outcomes, but much of Borno and parts of Yobe and Adamawa will still continue to face Crisis outcomes between October and December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015). The main harvest in October is expected to be well below average for a third consecutive year, limiting market supply and availability of household production stocks (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Inter-communal conflict and conflict between farmers and pastoralists continues to disrupt agricultural activities in areas of Bauchi, Kaduna, Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, Katsina, FCT and Zamfara states. In some areas, markets are also negatively affected (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Health

3.5 million people need health support (OCHA, 09/07/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes severely hit, with polio vaccination campaigns limited to Maiduguri. There is an increased risk of malaria, measles, and diarrhoea due to the disruption of health services (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015).

Malaria is the most prevalent health problem among IDPs in camps (IOM, 30/06/2015).

A cholera outbreak is affecting 13 of 16 states. Most cases have been reported outside of northeastern states.

Healthcare availability and access

Most IDPs in host communities have limited access to health services (OCHA, 02/10/2014). Less than 40% of health facilities are operational in areas affected by the conflict (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015). 75 health facilities had been destroyed in Borno state as of May. Only half of the local government areas have access to healthcare facilities (USAID, 17/06/2015).
Cholera

As of early August, 3,329 cholera cases had been reported in 2015 in 13 of 16 states, with 151 deaths. Anambra, Kano, Rivers, and Ebonyi states are worst affected. Although the number of cases is significantly lower than the 28,193 over the same period in 2014, the case fatality rate has risen to 4.5% (IFRC, 09/06/2015; 22/07/2015; UNICEF, 24/08/2015; 10/08/2015).

Mental health

People displaced by violence have witnessed atrocities and often face post-traumatic stress. Families have been separated and people have lost their homes. Signs of depression are common, as well as sleeping disorders, severe emotional reactions and trauma-related anxiety (MSF, 27/08/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 1.5 million children and pregnant and lactating women will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2015; 32% children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (OCHA, 09/07/2015). In IDP camps, around 100,000 children are thought to be suffering from SAM (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Food insecurity and a lack of safe water and health services are likely to cause an increase in malnutrition in the northeast (OCHA, 19/08/2015).

In May, GAM in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe IDP camps was around 12% among children under five. Malnutrition is thought to be worse among IDPs in host communities, as they lack access to nutrition services. In April, a nutrition assessment found 29% GAM among IDPs under five in Borno state (USAID, 23/07/2015).

WASH

2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

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

More than 75% of IDP camps lack handwashing and drainage facilities. The number of people sharing a toilet far exceeds the Sphere standard (USAID, 23/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

One million people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

IDP sites are often overcrowded (IRIN, 05/06/2015). The number of IDPs in formal camps has been growing since April, and shelter and other basic needs have risen (OCHA, 08/06/2015). There is a reported need for shelter repair materials in half of IDP sites. 4% of IDPs in camps (some 4,450 individuals) are living in self-made tents, while others are staying in public buildings, such as schools and community centres, and government buildings (IOM, 30/06/2015).

16% of the IDP population have sought shelter in schools (OCHA, 19/08/2015).

45% of registered IDPs, report that their houses have been completely burned down or destroyed, while 24% report that their houses are partially burned down or damaged (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Education

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, including 60% in the northeast of the country (UNICEF, 04/2015). 300,000 children in Borno state have been unable to attend school for more than a year (USAID, 17/06/2015).

Resumption of school activities in September will likely be affected in the northeast, as many IDPs are staying in schools buildings (OCHA, 19/08/2015).

Low numbers of qualified teachers, scarcity of teaching materials, and fear of sending children to school are main concerns for IDP children’s access to education (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

Protection

2.2 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 09/07/2015). Top reasons cited for not feeling safe include the killing of civilians, armed encounters and destruction of property. The affected population in the northeast and north-central states indicates main protection concerns are destruction of housing, property and crops, land-related conflict, and forced eviction (UNHCR, 06/07/2015).

IDP camps are facing a significant threat from militant infiltration; some cases of BH militants disguised as IDPs have been reported from Maiduguri (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Young men are being forcibly recruited and executed (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). Cases of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture have been documented among Nigerian forces in the course of security operations against BH (Amnesty International, 03/06/2015). Amnesty has raised concerns about the tactics used by security forces in the offensive against BH. More than 8,000 people are said to have died in detention as of June (Reuters, 23/06/2015).
Gender

Women and girls have been trafficked, raped, abducted and forcibly married in areas controlled by BH. Women are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking in displacement sites (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

So far in 2015, women have carried out most of the largest suicide attacks. There are reports that BH is using mentally handicapped women to bomb civilian areas (Action on Armed Violence, 10/08/2015).

Children

Unaccompanied minors make up 1.7% of IDPs (23,550 individuals) and physical and emotional abuse of children is reported in many IDP sites. The majority of unaccompanied and separated children are in Borno state, followed by Yobe and Adamawa (IDMC, 16/04/2015; UNICEF, 13/04/2015; OCHA, 07/07/2015; Protection Sector Working Group, 17/07/2015). The increasing use of children and women for suicide bombings is of great concern (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Updated: 15/09/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

OVERVIEW

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

Politics and security

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Infighting between presidents and prime ministers is a recurrent problem. Vision 2016, the Federal Government’s policy covering constitutional revision, the establishment of regional administrations, and transition to multiparty democracy, is opposed by key figures in the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014). Government and parliament have agreed that for planned elections in 2016 it will not be possible to collect votes from all individuals, given current political and security conditions (AFP, 28/07/2015; UNSOM, 03/08/2015).

Security incidents such as suicide attacks, mine explosions, and armed confrontations continue in southern regions. Most incidents between January and May 2015 were reported in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Belet Weyne and Kismayo (FSNAU, 26/06/2015). Armed actors conducted more than 340 violent incidents targeting civilians and humanitarian personnel between 1 March and 20 April (USAID, 19/05/2015). Over 2,200 conflict-related deaths were reported between May and July 2015 (OCHA, 27/08/2015).
incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of 2014, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

**Stakeholders**

**Al Shabaab**

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

**SNAF-AMISOM offensive**

In November 2013, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and AMISOM started launching military operations against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014). New offensives started in July, affecting Bay, Gedo, Bakool, Galgaduud, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle regions (AMISOM, 19/07/2015; OCHA, 20/08/2015).

**Conflict developments**

Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. In June, at least 93 Al Shabaab attacks were reported, with 197 fatalities, compared to 92 attacks and 157 fatalities in May. However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed. The number of deaths from Al Shabaab-related violence is thus expected to be much higher (ACLED, 11/07/2015).

New offensives by SNAF-AMISOM since July and parallel operations by Ethiopian and Kenyan defence forces have affected areas of Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle, leading to new displacement (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

On 5 September, Al Shabaab captured two towns on the road between Mogadishu and Barawe in Lower Shabelle (Reuters, 06/09/2015). On 1 September, Al Shabaab attacked the AMISOM base in Janaale, Lower Shabelle. This is part of a shift in Al Shabaab’s tactics towards concentrated attacks on small and remote AU bases (CNN, 03/09/2015). On 26 August, dozens of government forces and personal were killed in an Al Shabaab attack on a convoy in Gedo region near the Kenyan border (01/09/2015).

On 22 August, a suicide bomber attacked a military base in Kismayo, killing at least 14 soldiers and wounding 20 others (AFP, 22/08/2015). On 21 July, at least 24 civilians were reportedly killed and 22 injured in Marka town, when AMISOM soldiers opened fire. AMISOM claims the victims were Al Shabaab fighters. Many residents fled the area (Al Jazeera, 21/07/2015).

**Mogadishu:** Al Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu mainly target political figures. On 22 August, four civilians were killed when a car bomb detonated near a police station. At least ten others were injured (AFP, 22/08/2015). On 26 July, at least 13 people were killed and more than 40 injured in a car bomb attack on a hotel that hosts several diplomatic missions. The attack was said to be in retaliation for the dozens of civilians killed by military forces in the south several days earlier (AFP, 27/07/2015; BBC, 26/07/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs by June 2015, 893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland. 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 02/09/2015). The same figures have been reported since December 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Conflict continues to cause displacement. An estimated 18,000 people have been displaced since mid-July due to the new military offensive in South-Central Somalia, particularly in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions (OCHA, 10/08/2015; 16/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015). The majority have moved to safer places within the affected regions, others have moved to Lower Juba and Mogadishu. Many are staying in settlements, particularly in Baidoa, Elwak, Luuq, and Mogadishu, while others are staying in host communities. Priority needs are protection, food, safe water, shelter, household items, and healthcare (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

Many IDPs returning to Bardhere and Dinsoor, in Gedio and Bay region, respectively, are in urgent need of support. Due to prolonged inaccessibility, these areas have received little assistance. Looting and burning of public facilities during recent military operations further increased the need for support. Priorities are food, safe water, and basic services (OCHA, 21/08/2015).

**Returnees**

Between 8 December and 30 August, 3,510 Somalis returned from Kenya: 2,301 to Kismayo, 788 to Baidoa, 329 to Banadir, and 87 to Luuq (UNHCR, 30/08/2015). Afgoye, Balacad, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, Mogadishu and Wana Weyne have been identified as new areas for return (OCHA, 20/07/2015). The original target for voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya was 10,000 in 2015 (UNHCR, 08/12/2014).

As of 2 September, UNHCR repatriated 33 Somali refugees from Eritrea to Hargeisa.
Further repatriations are anticipated in the coming months (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Returnees and refugees from Yemen

The number of new arrivals from Yemen has increased significantly since April. As of 11 September, 29,020 have been registered: at least 19,724 arrived in Bosaso, Puntland, and 9,189 in Berbera, Somaliland. July has seen the highest number of new arrivals, with 9,864. Nearly 500 people arrived in August. Following reported relative stability in Aden Port, Yemen, many Somalis who had previously set out to return, are now arriving in Aden (IOM, 11/09/2015; 01/09/2015; 27/08/2015).

Immediate needs of new arrivals include emergency health relief, food, protection, and WASH (Red Cross Movement, 02/07/2015). 89% of arrivals are Somali returnees, 10% Yemeni refugees, and 1% third-country nationals (IOM, 11/09/2015). 75% of arrivals are women and children (OCHA, 10/08/2015). More than half of returnees intend to continue to Mogadishu (UNHCR, 11/08/2015). Some already have returned, and they are staying in IDP settlements (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

There are 967,676 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, of whom 5,010 were registered in 2015; at least 421,789 in Kenya, 247,934 in Ethiopia, and 246,648 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Restricted humanitarian access continues to affect aid delivery to affected populations in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Even in areas where there is no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014). The new SNAF-AMISOM offensive may further restrict population movement, trade, and humanitarian access (USAID, 17/08/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Over 20 incidents of violence against aid workers were reported in May and June. In the first six months of 2015, there were more than 60 security incidents involving aid workers. Eight people were killed, 14 injured, five abducted, and 30 arrested or detained (OCHA, 16/07/2015; 20/07/2015). A 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers in May 2014 (UN).

Al Shabaab has cut off road access to towns controlled by AMISOM, including Rabhure and Wajid in Bakool (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). However, some goods are coming into these towns through community networks (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Hudur district in Bakool is largely inaccessible due to roadblocks and illegal checkpoints, and residents are lacking access to basic services such as food and medicine (Horseed Media, 15/07/2015; OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response difficult. Inaccessibility of major supply routes is disrupting markets and livelihoods (OCHA, 10/08/2015). The new military offensives have further complicated access to areas in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Hiraan. Non-state actors are blocking roads and limiting movement, as they are staying close to areas that have come under control of pro-government forces. Humanitarian actors and commercial transporters have suspended movement in affected areas, including in Wajaaj and Hudur (OCHA, 20/08/2015). Access to some areas in Bay region is extremely limited (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

The Puntland–Somaliland border is closed (OCHA, 24/04/2015; Logistics Cluster, 29/04/2015; OCHA, 12/05/2015). The indefinite closure of Bosaso Airport, Puntland, for renovation, has severely constrained humanitarian operations (PI, 08/01/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity has increased by 17% since February, with 855,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes through December. The increase is attributed to below-average cereal harvests, poor rainfall in agropastoral and pastoral areas in the north, trade disruption due to insurgent activities, and continued displacement. At least 61,000 people are facing Emergency outcomes as of July, of whom 75% are IDPs. IDPs make up around 80% of severely food insecure people. An additional 2.3 million people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes and are highly vulnerable to shocks. Most affected are Banadir, South Mudug, Bari, Awdal, Lower Juba, Woqooyi Galbeed, and North Mudug regions, and populations in areas affected by trade disruption due to insurgency in Bulo Burde, Hudur, and Wajaaj (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; FSNAU, 08/09/2015).

Food availability

Food security deteriorated in agropastoral areas in Awdal, Hiraan, Middle Juba, and Woqooyi Galbeed regions, following poor gu rains (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Households in northwest agropastoral zones will have to reduce food consumption between July and the next karan harvest in October due to poor crop yields (FEWSNET, 16/06/2015; FAO, 27/07/2015).

Harvesting of the gu crops is forecast to be below-average in south-central agropastoral areas, as well as in northwestern cropping areas. Off-season harvest in riverine areas of Lower and Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle and Gedo regions will be negatively impacted by below-average hagaa showers from July–September (FAO, 27/07/2015).

From July–December, a deterioration in food security is projected in agricultural livelihood
areas of Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Juba and Middle Shabelle, where reduced crop yields are expected (FSNAU, 26/06/2015; FAO, 27/07/2015).

Food access

In parts of Hiraan and Bakool that are affected by roadblocks and conflict, most households will face emergency food insecurity through September 2015, and the situation is likely to persist in the following months (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015; FSNAU, 26/06/2015; OCHA, 16/07/2015).

As expected, prices of staple crops increased seasonally in June in the south, including Mogadishu. Prices remain high due to consecutive below-average harvests and conflict-related trade disruptions (FAO, 27/07/2015; FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). In urban areas of Bakool and Hiraan regions, prices of food commodities remain high due to trade blockades throughout the past year (FSNAU, 26/06/2015). In Hudur, Bakool, price increases up to 28% were observed in June, compared to May. In Bulo Burde, Hiraan, prices remained relatively stable in June, but continue to be high due to insecurity (FSNAU, 27/07/2015).

Livelihoods

In most parts of Coastal Deeh pastoral livelihood zone in the central regions, pasture conditions deteriorated and water sources were only partially replenished. In most pastoral areas, depletion of water sources and deterioration of rangeland conditions have been faster than normal (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Pasture shortages are reported in parts of Bari, Sanag, Awdal, and Woonqi Galbeed regions in the north, and in parts of Galgaduud, Middle and Upper Juba, and Lower and Upper Shabelle regions in south-central Somalia (FAO, 27/07/2015).

In livestock-dependent livelihood areas, improvement in food security is likely due to favourable livestock prices, increased milk availability, and increased livestock herd size. However, in the areas with pasture shortages, deteriorating livestock conditions are expected during the dry hagaa season until October (FSNAU, 26/06/2015; FAO, 27/07/2015).

Health

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Middle Juba, and parts of Gedo. Children under five are a priority group (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Priority health concerns continue to be measles and acute watery diarrhoea (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

All IDP sites in south-central Somalia had a serious under-five mortality rate May–June (1–1.9/10,000/day) (FSNAU, 06/2015). The situation in Dhubley, Lower Juba, is considered a humanitarian crisis, with critical death rates (1.47/10,000/day), mainly due to acute malnutrition (FSNAU, 06/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

1.5 million people are without access to primary health services, including 300,000 children under five, due to funding shortfalls (OCHA, 16/07/2015). Ten hospitals have closed or majorly scaled down services since May. Basic health posts and clinics are struggling to meet primary health needs. Many aid agencies have withdrawn health workers due to lack of funds (WHO, 23/07/2015). Hospitals in Dhubley, Galkayo, Jowhar, and Kismayo risk having to suspend services. In 2014, 20 health facilities closed due to limited funding (OCHA, 16/07/2015).

Measles

From January to July, 5,350 cases of measles were reported (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Most cases come from the south-central region. Banadir, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle reported the highest number of cases. This reflects high measles transmission due to low vaccination coverage. Measles vaccination coverage in south-central Somalia is reportedly below 50% (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 214,700 children are acutely malnourished, including 39,700 severely. These numbers are expected to increase to 343,400 and 63,400, respectively, until December (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Nationwide, global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 13.6%, including 2.3% severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (FSNAU, 08/09/2015).

Highest malnutrition rates are reported in North Gedo pastoral livelihood area, with 20.3% GAM and 4.2% SAM. Other highly affected areas include North Gedo riverine areas, Mataban district, urban areas in Bari region, Coastal Deeh, and South Gedo pastoral areas (FSNAU, 08/09/2015). In accessible areas of Hudur town, 33% GAM and 19% SAM were observed in a MUAC assessment in July, representing a very critical situation (over 17% GAM). Boys are more affected than girls. Rates were at 16% GAM and 6% SAM in June (FSNAU, 27/07/2015). High malnutrition rates persist in Bulo Burde, with 24% GAM and 7% SAM in July, though SAM has improved from the 19% recorded in June (FSNAU, 27/07/2015).

IDPs

Malnutrition among IDPs is particularly critical. A May–June nutrition assessment found a significant deterioration among IDPs in Kismayo and Dhubley in south-central Somalia. Five sites have over 15% GAM: Baidoa, Dhubley, Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow. In the last three sites, acute malnutrition has been above the critical threshold over the past two years. Among Dhubley IDPs, GAM has nearly doubled since the last assessment (October –December 2014), from 11% to 20.7%. SAM levels are above 4% in Baidoa, Galkayo, and Dolow (FSNAU, 08/09/2015).
Serious malnutrition levels (10%–15% GAM) were reported among IDPs in Mogadishu, Qardho, Bossaso, Kismayo, Dhusamreeb and Hargeisa. Alert levels (5%–10% GAM) were only seen in the northwest, in Berbera and Burao (FSNAU, 06/2015).

**WASH**

2.75 million people are estimated to be in need of safe water. There is a need for maintenance of WASH infrastructure, particularly in displacement settlements and areas affected by drought. Newly displaced people, including those evicted in Banadir and Lower Shabelle, are in need of access to water and sanitation services (OCHA, 27/08/2015). In Bosaso reception centre, Puntland, latrines are very few, but there is no room to build additional latrines. Water storage capacity needs to be increased (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

**Shelter**

An estimated 937,000 people are in need of shelter. Needs have increased due to ongoing forced evictions and conflict (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 07/09/2015). Returnees from Yemen in south-central Somalia are in need of support for the rehabilitation of their shelters. Yemeni refugees arriving in Hargeisa are struggling to find and pay for accommodation (UNHCR, 11/07/2015).

IDPs in Mogadishu are living in makeshift shelters. The most pressing needs are in Aladala, Aslubta, Beelo and Maslac in Dayniile district, and Ikashi in Hodan (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

**Education**

1.7 million children are out of school. 78% are in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 30/07/2015). Children of displaced families remain the most vulnerable and neglected in access to education (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

**Access and learning environment**

At least 2,000 children in Tarebunka IDP settlements in Banadir region have no access to education. The few schools that are functional do not have the capacity to meet the needs. Other schools are used as accommodation for IDPs (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

**Teaching and learning**

There is a lack of teachers and learning materials, and learning facilities are inadequate (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

**Protection**

1.11 million people are considered in need of protection, mainly due to physical insecurity during the SNAF-AMISOM offensive and inter-clan fighting; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; killing of civilians (including children); separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014; OCHA, 02/06/2015). Protection of civilians living in areas affected by the new SNAF-AMISOM offensive remains a key challenge (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

AMISOM forces have been accused of killing civilians in their homes on several occasions. Human Rights Watch has called for an official investigation (HRW, 13/08/2015).

**Forced evictions**

Forced evictions of IDPs surged in 2015. In the first five months, 96,000 people were forcibly evicted, compared to 32,500 in the whole of 2014 (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Thousands more are at risk of eviction, mainly in Kismayo and Mogadishu (OCHA, 30/07/2015). The majority of those evicted from Mogadishu fled to settlements in the outskirts of the city. They are in need of shelter, safe water and latrines, access to food, and health services (Food Security Cluster, 23/03/2015). Human Rights Watch reported that authorities beat some of those evicted, destroyed their shelter, and left them without food, water, or assistance (HRW, 20/04/2015). Forced evictions have also been reported in Kismayo, Bosaso, Baidoa, and Luuq (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; ECHO, 25/03/2015; NRC, 18/05/2015; OCHA, 20/07/2015).

**Gender**

The lack of privacy for women and girls at the reception centre in Bosaso is a serious protection concern and poses an SGBV risk (UNHCR, 07/07/2015).

**Children**

167 grave child rights violations were recorded in June, compared to 125 in May. The majority of cases were related to abduction (UNICEF, 31/05/2015; 30/06/2015).

Both Somali forces and Al Shabaab have been accused of recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015). More than 1,000 grave violations were recorded January–April 2015. Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence (UNICEF). Boys are more affected than girls. 291 cases of child recruitment into armed groups and the national army were reported in the first four months of 2015 and 75 cases of sexual violence against children, compared to 370 and 30, respectively, during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

**Updated: 15/09/2015**
SOUTH SUDAN
CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 September: Reports suggest that persistent floods have displaced 2,000–3,000 households (14,000 –21,000 people) around Bor, Jonglei state (Sudan Tribune, 11/09/2015).

11 September: Humanitarian staff from several organisations have been evacuated from Katigiri, Central Equatoria due to clashes in the immediate vicinity between government and opposition forces (PI, 11/09/2015).

10 September: Global acute malnutrition is above emergency thresholds in Jonglei, at 24.8%. Severe acute malnutrition was recorded at 3.9% (UNICEF, 10/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 6.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015; 4.6 million people to be assisted by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015; UN, 12/06/2015).

- An estimated 3.6 million are predicted to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and a further 1 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes by the end of July (IPC, 27/05/2015).

- An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished (OCHA, 13/06/2015).

- 1.6 million IDPs since December 2013. 201,911 IDPs are sheltering in six sites on UNMISS bases (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; UNMISS, 19/08/2015).

- 265,296 refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, and CAR (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

- 620,762 South Sudanese refugees since December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Violence began to spread across eastern and northern South Sudan in December 2013. Fighting was focused in the oil-rich northeastern states during the first six months of 2015. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and the Nuer, loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

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

Politics and security

Sudan–South Sudan

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

On 2 July the UN Human Rights Council sent monitors to South Sudan, following an UNMISS report on atrocities in Unity state (AFP, 02/07/2015).

Border tensions

Sudan: Sudanese forces moved towards the border with South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states in July, reportedly in an attempt to protect Sudan’s interest in the oil-rich territory that straddles the border (World Bulletin, 13/07/2015). Reports of cross-border raids are not uncommon.

Uganda: The Ugandan army has allegedly occupied contested land involved in a border dispute, displacing 300 farmers from Eastern Equatoria state (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

Civil War

Since violence broke out in December 2013, President Kiir’s government forces (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, are pitted against a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek
Machar, the SPLM-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) along with ethnic Nuer militia forces. After several weeks of intense conflict, fighting calmed significantly in January 2014. However, violence persists, and escalates periodically. By November 2014, 50,000 people were thought to have died, although access restrictions made numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group, 15/11/2014). Fighting is concentrated in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states.

At least seven ceasefires have been signed and broken since the civil war started in December 2013 (The Daily Star, 29/06/2015). In March, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution setting out criteria for targeted sanctions on individuals or entities threatening security and stability in South Sudan (UN, 03/03/2015). In August, first Machar and then Kiir signed a peace deal, but fighting has continued, and some Machar allies split from him (Sudan Tribune, 05/08/2015). The government also appears to have reservations about the agreement (AFP, 25/08/2015).

The governors of Warrap and Central Equatoria, accused of criticising Kiir’s leadership, have been removed. Police have been deployed in anticipation of unrest following their removal (Sudan Tribune, 17/08/2015).

On 24 March, the South Sudanese Parliament voted to extend President Kiir’s term by three years, cancelling elections scheduled for June 2015 (AFP, 24/03/2015). On 29 May, the Government expelled the UN resident coordinator; no reason was given (The Guardian, 01/06/2015).

International military presence

The mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) expires on 30 November 2015. The UN Security Council voted to increase the number of peacekeepers from 10,000 to 12,500 in December 2013. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed personnel.

Conflict developments

Government forces have failed to retake ground they have lost (ACLED, 31/08/2015; Small Arms Survey, 01/07/2015). Clashes had intensified in the first months of 2015, with another significant escalation in March. In April, the capital of Unity state was transferred from Bentiu to Mankien, Mayom county (UNMISS, 15/04/2015). In late June–July, as the rainy season reached its peak, the number of violent clashes between the SPLM and SPLM-IO decreased. Fighting was even less intense in August, partly due to the rainy season, and partly due to the ongoing peace talks. Between 23 and 31 August, SPLM-IO and SPLM forces reportedly broke the ceasefire in Unity, Malakal, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, and along the White Nile (Sudan Tribune, 23/08/2015; 28/08/2015; 31/08/2015).

Central Equatoria: On 23 August, there were reports of government and opposition forces along the Juba–Yei road near Lainya. As of 10 September, clashes continue to be reported in the state (Sudan Tribune, 23/08/2015; 10/09/2015).

Unity: Clashes were reported in Nihaldiu and Payinjiar (Sudan Tribune, 23/08/2015; 28/08/2015). Opposition forces have accused government forces of killed 200 civilians in July in Leer county (Sudan Tribune, 12/08/2015).

Upper Nile: On 30 August, SPLM and SPLM-IO reportedly clashed near Malakal (Sudan Tribune, 30/08/2015). Six civilians were wounded after an attack by an armed group while travelling in a truck near Malakal in late July (Reuters, 23/07/2015).

EastEquatoria: On 22 August, there were reports of fighting along the River Acca (Sudan Tribune, 23/08/2015).

Inter-communal violence

Violence between difference communities, fuelled by ethnic rivalry and conflict over resources, is frequent. Ownership of cattle is a common source of tension, particularly among pastoralists. The displacement of people and cattle due to conflict has intensified inter-communal clashes, which are underreported (IRIN, 15/01/2015). In July and August, clashes were reported in Unity, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap, and Western Equatoria, killing over 50 people and displacing as many as 30,000. Inter-communal clashes also taken place in IDP camps (UNHCR, 08/2015; Sudan Tribune, 07/2015; 09/2015; Radio Tamazuj, 07/2015; 08/2015).

Humanitarian access

6.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015). The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. The rainy season and insecurity have led WFP and ICRC to deliver aid via air drops. For ICRC, this is the first use of air drops 20 years in some areas (ICRC, 30/06/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

27 aid workers have been killed since December 2013, according to the UN (Sudan Tribune, 25/07/2015). Since then, two aid workers from MSF were killed in two separate attacks in Wulu village and Payak, Leer, Unity, in the last week of August (MSF, 25/08/2015).

Assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention have all been reported in 2015. Most cases were reported in Juba (Central Equatoria), Bentiu (Unity), and Upper Nile
(OCHA, 01/07/2015). In June 2015, 36 cases of looting or destruction of humanitarian assets were reported, compared to 38 in May (OCHA, 30/06/2015). As of early September, a general deterioration in security has been reported in Juba, with an increase in the number of robberies targeting NGO staff and offices (PI, 11/09/2015).

### Access of affected populations to assistance

After fighting intensified between April and June, some organisations are returning to sites in Unity and Upper Nile state. UNICEF and WFP resumed operations in Malakal in August (OCHA, 31/08/2015; UNHCR, 15/07/2015). On 25 July, WFP was able to resume activities briefly in Dablual, Unity state before skirmishes in the area forced them to withdraw (WFP, 31/07/2015).

Humanitarian staff from several organisations have been evacuated from Katigiri, Central Equatoria (PI, 11/09/2015).

### Security and physical constraints

The security situation in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile remains volatile and continues to restrict humanitarian access following heavy fighting April–June.

Sporadic clashes between government and opposition forces continue to be reported around Bentiu and in Central Equatoria (IOM, 07/09/2015; PI, 11/09/2015). Armed attacks on vehicles on the Juba–Yei road are hampering humanitarian access, particularly to Lasu refugee camp. Reports of attacks in Lainya, situated along the road, as well as clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups along the road, led some humanitarian organisations to evacuate their staff to Yei (PI, 24/08/2015).

An estimated 11,500 people are only accessible by air drop in the swampy terrain surrounding Toch, Jonglei (ICRC, 03/09/2015). Heavy rains are preventing humanitarian actors from using the Rubkona airstrip in Unity (Logistics Cluster, 30/08/015). Malakal’s airstrip is back in use as of 7 August (WFP, 08/08/2015).

### Natural disasters

#### Floods

Reports from 11 September suggest that persistent floods have displaced 2,000–3,000 households (14,000–21,000 people) around Bor, Jonglei state (Sudan Tribune, 11/09/2015).

### Displacement

As of June 2015, around 2.5 million people have been displaced, both internally and to neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 11/06/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

### IDPs

There are approximately 1,606,400 IDPs in South Sudan: 451,900 in Jonglei, 554,700 in Unity, 50,500 in Central Equatoria, 292,500 in Upper Nile, 113,900 in Lakes, Western, 4,700 in Eastern Equatoria, 24,100 in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 1,700 in Warrap, and 8,310 in Abyei (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

While the majority of IDPs are sheltering outside Protection of Civilians sites (PoCs), as of 31 August, 201,911 civilians are in six PoCs on UNMISS bases, including 121,194 in Bentiu, 28,663 in Juba UN House, 48,840 in Malakal, 2,289 in Bor, 723 in Melut, and 202 in Wau (UNMISS, 31/08/2015). Nearly 100,000 more people are seeking shelter in PoCs in 2015 than in 2014.

There has been a decrease in new arrivals in Bentiu, from a total of 2,155 between 21 and 28 August to 1,237 the following week. 56% of new arrivals are women. This may be due to a decrease in the number of violent clashes in northern Unity, though fighting is continuing. 59% reported their displacement was due to food insecurity. 29% of new arrivals were from Koch county, 27% from Leer, 25% from Rubkona, and 15% from Guit (IOM, 07/09/2015). This follows an influx of 43,000 new arrivals in July and August to Bentiu PoC, driven by frontlines shifting northward from Leer towards Bentiu (MSF, 08/09/2015, UNMISS, 19/08/2015). 18,000 people arrived at Malakal PoC in the same period, mainly from within Upper Nile state. Most are women and children. None have shelter (MSF, 08/09/2015, UNMISS, 19/08/2015).

#### Refugees and asylum seekers

265,296 refugees are in South Sudan: around 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. 134,435 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 100,707 in Unity, 19,894 in Central Equatoria, 2,339 in Jonglei, and 8,921 in Western Equatoria (UNHCR, 15/08/2015). More than 10,000 refugees have arrived so far in 2015 (ECHO, 01/07/2015).

Most Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014). On 10 August, 1,547 Sudanese refugees arrived in northern Unity state (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

13,479 new refugees arrived in Yida, Unity state, between December 2015 and end June 2015, bringing the total to 70,007 (UNCHR, 30/06/2015). Refugees cited aerial bombardments, ground attacks and lack of livelihood and education opportunities as
reasons for leaving (OCHA, 21/02/2015; UNHCR, 30/01/2015). The number of people in Yida is fluid as Sudanese refugees move across the border, returning to the camp when they need resources or safety (PI, 03/07/2015). The South Sudan Government wants to close Yida camp and relocate refugees further from the border.

Tensions between refugees and the host community rose in June around Yida and local authorities subsequently banned refugees from leaving camps to fish and farm (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Food availability

A recent survey indicates early signs of a drought in parts of Unity state, based on the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (FAO, 02/07/2015). Due for conflict and below average rainfall throughout August, planting in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei (Greater Upper Nile) remains severely limited for the second consecutive year due to conflict. The harvest in some areas began in August, two months late, and are expected to have little positive affect on food security in Greater Upper Nile (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Poor and IDP households are expected to exhaust food stocks by December (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

At least six people are reported to have starved to death in a remote part of South Sudan’s Eastern Equatoria state due to drought-like conditions that began in July. Though no assessment has produced figures, Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes are likely in Ayod and Mayendit, where 10% of the population has been observed as severely food insecure (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015). There have been no update on these areas of others IPC rate since this assessment. In late July, local officials in Eastern Equatoria state warned of famine conditions due to drought and requested aid (Sudan Tribune, 28/07/2015).

Food stocks are depleting rapidly in Bentiu PoC camp, owing to a rapid population increase. Significant interruptions to the delivery of food assistance are expected after September due to funding constraints (WFP, 08/08/2015). 26,000 IDPs in Melut PoC are in dire need of food assistance.

On 5 August, UNHCR implemented a 30% reduction in food rations, starting in in Doro and Gendrassa refugee camps (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

Food access

The effects of the lean season, high level of trader uncertainty, fuel shortages and economic crisis continue to increase inflation. The consumer price index (CPI) is 51.9% higher than the same month in 2014. There has been a dramatic increase in fuel costs.

Compared to the same period in 2014, sorghum prices were 66% and 82% higher in Juba and Torit, respectively, and has more than doubled in Wau and Aweil (FEWSNET, 11/08/2015). Food prices are expected to continue increasing faster than normal (WFP, 31/08/2015). In Juba, an increase in the prices of both locally produced and imported cereals, vegetable oil, and sugar in the first quarter of 2015 had already made them 90–100% higher than the normal seasonal levels. Most households spend 80–85% of their income on food (FAO, 02/07/2015; IPC, 27/05/2015).

Food distribution in Lasu refugee camp, Central Equatoria, did not take place in July, as insecurity on the Juba–Yei road led to a shortage of food stocks (UNCHR, 15/08/2015). A halt on food deliveries by barge was lifted 3 August. This had

Refugees in neighbouring countries

620,762 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since December 2013, including 65,000 who have fled the country since the beginning of 2015. 31,000 have sought refuge in Sudan, predominantly in White Nile state. 68% of South Sudanese refugees are under 17 (UNHCR, 07/08/2015; 21/08/2015).

Sudan: As of 10 July, 191,625 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 221,376 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

Uganda: 161,196 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

Kenya: 46,566 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

Food security

Acute food insecurity in South Sudan peaked in June and July (FEWSNET, 11/08/2015). 3.6 million and 1 million people were projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, respectively, by end July (FEWSNET, 11/08/2015). The situation may be worse, as the conflict has cut off humanitarian access to communities in Upper Nile and Unity, and macro-economic conditions have deteriorated (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015).

Food insecurity in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei is not expected to improve due to insecurity preventing harvesting. Any improvement will be shortlived as food stocks have been depleted (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

Food availability

A recent survey indicates early signs of a drought in parts of Unity state, based on A halt on food deliveries by barge was lifted 3 August. This had
prevented WFP from delivering food to areas of the Upper Nile, including Malakal (WFP, 08/08/2015).

Food use

The affected population, particularly in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile state, have reportedly prepositioned supplies in case of displacement. However, increased use of coping strategies during 2014 due to fighting and a difficult lean season has diminished their effectiveness and long-term food security (PI, 01/07/2015). Reports suggest that Koch and Mayendit in Leer, Unity state, have completely exhausted their coping mechanisms (ICRC, 12/09/2015)

Livelihoods

The livelihoods of an estimated 610,000 people, more than half in Juba and Wau, are severely undermined (FAO, 02/07/2015).

Intensive and abnormal migrations due to insecurity has depleted the health and number of South Sudan’s cattle. The condition of cattle has a profound effect on the 65% of Southern Sudanese who are pastoralists (FAO, 17/08/2015).

Fuel and food prices continue to increase dramatically (FEWSNET 24/06/2015).

Health

4.6 million people need health assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Responders are unable to conduct the measures necessary to tackle preventable diseases. The response is further hampered as conflict hinders access to health facilities and hospitals are frequently damaged in attacks (international organisation, 24/07/2015). Malaria, acute respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhoea, and acute bloody diarrhoea are the main causes of illness among IDPs (WHO, 15/02/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

In Bentiu PoC, overcrowding is affecting health. 344 measles cases, including five deaths, have been registered since the beginning of 2015. An increased number of hepatitis E cases has been reported (WHO, 19/07/2015; USAID, 04/09/2015)

Malakal PoC’s population is also affected by a rapid influx of IDPs: health services are overwhelmed and health indicators are deteriorating. The weekly number of diarrhoea cases reported at facilities has doubled since June. Respiratory tract infections increased 80% from June to July (MSF, 21/08/2015).

Fashoda county, Upper Nile, reportedly has no drug stocks (Cordaid, 03/09/2015).

Malaria

The start of the rainy season in June has increased the risk of waterborne disease, particularly in IDP and refugee camps (UNHCR, 12/06/2015). There is concern that South Sudan may experience an unusually severe malaria season particularly in Warrap state, Northern Bahr Al Ghazal and Abyei. (MSF, 08/09/2015). In mid-July the case fatality rate for malaria was at 26.9%, compared to 18.3% in the same week of 2014 (WHO, 19/07/2015). As of 16 August, 117,314 cases and 59 deaths were reported from all IDP camps, compared to 87,778 cases and 49 deaths over the same period in 2014. Outside of camps, there were approximately 989,400 cases of malaria and 445 deaths from January to August 2015, compared to nearly 744,200 cases and 303 deaths during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The number of malaria cases recorded per week in Malakal PoC in August was almost triple the figures recorded in June June (MSF, 21/08/2015). The number of malaria cases per 10,000 people in Bentiu PoC rose from 113 in May to 820 by 16 August.

Cholera

The current cholera outbreak began on 18 May in Juba PoC. 1,743 suspected cases and 46 deaths have been recorded nationwide as of 4 September. 1,605 cases and 45 deaths were in Juba county alone (Central Equatoria) (WHO, 12/09/2015). Nationwide, 25 cases were recorded, compared to 37 in the week before (WHO, 04/09/2015). The case fatality rate is almost double the global average, at 2.64% (WHO, 12/09/2015).

Hepatitis E

Since late June, nine hepatitis E cases and three deaths have been reported in Bentiu PoC (USAID, 04/09/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 5–8% of citizens have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015). An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished, according to an OCHA representative (WFP, 09/09/2015). Malnutrition remains particularly high among pregnant and lactating women, with an average rate of 26.6% recorded in IDP camps (UNHCR, 26/06/2015), and above 15% in most parts of the country. Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap and Northern el Ghazal are the worst affected (WFP, 09/09/2015).

SMART surveys in Bentiu PoC show a GAM of 11.2%–11.4% with SAM at 1.7%–3.7%. In Malakal PoC, GAM was recorded at 18.9% and SAM at 4.6%. In Mingkamen IDP site GAM was at 14.1% and SAM at 3.2%. In Upper Nile, screening found 9.1% GAM and 2.8% SAM, with 24.8% GAM and 3.9% SAM in Jonglei (UNICEF, 10/09/2015).
WASH

Nationwide, 55% of people have access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/07/2015). 6.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UN, 12/06/2015).

Water

80% of people in Juba report a lack of access to clean water (OCHA, 01/07/2015). Due to the increasing cost of fuel, the price of water has dramatically increased, causing more people to resort to drinking water from unsafe sources (OXFAM, 31/07/2015).

Water coverage slightly deteriorated in the PoCs in July. In Melut, Bentiu, and Malakal PoCs 11, 9.4, and 12 L/person/day were available respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; 25/06/2015). In Yida refugee camp, crude water coverage was 14 L/p/d (UNHCR, 22/06/2015).

Sanitation

Over 80% of the latrines reported in Ajuong Thok camp (Unity state) lack roofs or doors, and are not gender-separated (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Sanitation provision nationwide has generally remained stable, with some slight improvement in Malakal PoC in July. Malakal PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Melut have 44, 21, and 55 people per latrine, respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; 25/06/2015).

Education

An estimated 2 million people are in need of education assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Only 6% of 13-year-old girls have completed primary school (Plan, 10/06/2015).

In Ajuong Thok, Napere and Makpandu refugee camps, the pupil: teacher ratio is 72:1, 52:1 and 43:1. All fall short of the UNHCR standard of 40:1 (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; 14/07/2015). The inability to pay teachers’ wages has limited education activities in displacement areas and, as of 15 August, teachers in Gendrassa and Batil refugee camp were on strike over pay (UNHCR, 15/08/2015; 26/10/2014).

Protection

In South Sudan, reports of torture, rape, censorship and targeting of civilians are widespread. Journalists and newspapers have been targeted by both the SPLA and SPLM-IO. Seven journalists have been killed in 2015 in allegedly targeted attacks. On 20 August a journalist was killed soon after President Kiir threatened journalists who reported “against the country” (Reuters, 20/08/2015; AFP, 05/08/2015).

Gender

Rape has been used as a weapon of war between government and opposition forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). An UNMISS report on 30 June accused SPLM troops of abducting at least 172 women and girls and raping an additional 79 during their April–May campaign in Unity state. Some were burned alive inside their homes after being raped (Al Jazeera, 30/06/2015; Radio Tamazuj 30/06/2015; Dabanga, 30/06/2015). Human Rights Watch has published evidence of rape and violence in Unity state by government and government-aligned forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). The abduction of IDP women from outside PoCs continues to be reported (UNHCR, 12/06/2015).

Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in and around PoCs (MSF, 08/09/2015). In Melut (Upper Nile), firewood collection remains a major safety concern for women and girls, with reports of GBV (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

It is difficult to obtain SGBV figures as people collecting information on SGBV face intimidation and threats. This was most recently reported in Central Equatoria (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Children

A UN Security Council report stated that all parties to the conflict since December 2013 were responsible for grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, and rape and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014). In the second quarter of 2015, there were at least 166 incidents of child rights violations, affecting 4,184 children (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

25,000 children have been separated from their families (UN, 16/06/2015). 13,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014 (OCHA Monitor, 16/06/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015
KEY CONCERNS

- 5.4 million people are in need of assistance (UNICEF, 11/09/2015).

- 4.4 million people in Darfur, more than half of the region’s population, need humanitarian assistance. This includes 2.5 million IDPs and 150,000 returnees (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

- 1.29 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and West Kordofan are worst affected (IPC, 01/07/2015; FSNWG, 26/05/2015).

- 1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 550,000 are estimated severely acutely malnourished (OCHA, 09/08/2015).

- 3.1 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to 2014, 401,000 displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

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

OVERVIEW

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

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

Politics and security

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

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held 13–15 April, and according to unofficial estimates President Omar al Bashir achieved a landslide victory. Voter turnout was reportedly extremely low (AP, 13/04/2015; international media, 19/04/2015). The Sudan Revolutionary Front, the National Umma Party, and other opposition groups boycotted the elections (Al Jazeera, 27/04/2015).

Sudanese forces moved towards the border with South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states in July, reportedly in an attempt to protect Sudan’s interest in the oil-rich territory that straddles the border (World Bulletin, 13/07/2015).

Water shortages in Khartoum and Omdurman have led to sporadic protests in August and September. On 9 September, police and protesters clashed in Omdurman. No casualties were reported (AFP, 09/09/2015).

Civil conflict

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba, persistent since South Sudan’s independence in 2011, increased when violence erupted in South Sudan in December 2013. The disruption of oil flow is a key concern for both countries.

The Sudanese Government has accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups, and the South Sudanese army (SPLA) has accused Khartoum of supporting the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement -in-Opposition (SPLM-IO). Both the opposition and Khartoum have denied the accusations. In 2014, South Sudanese officials accused the Sudanese Government of locations in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile states, where more than 220,000 Sudanese refugees are living (AFP, 14/11/2014).

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues an insurgency in Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule. Talks between Khartoum and the SPLM-N have repeatedly failed. On 20 August, President Omar al Bashir stated that his regime was willing to offer an amnesty to armed groups in South Kordofan and Blue Nile willing to join the
national peace negotiations, in addition to a possible two-month ceasefire if they. The SPLM-N alleges that, on 13 September, government forces bombed their positions in South Kordofan, jeopardising any talks (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Sudan Revolutionary Front

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

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

As of 26 August, the SRF and Alliance of the National Forces, an opposition alliance also part of the talks, declared that they were no longer willing to be part of the ongoing national peace negotiations with the government. The government has declared its intentions to continue without their participation. The government intends for talks to commence on 10 October (Sudan Tribune, 26/08/2015; ICG, 01/09/2015).

UN peacekeeping mission

Relations between the Government of Sudan and the UN peacekeeping mission deteriorated following the government’s refusal to allow an African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to investigate mass rape in North Darfur at the end of 2014 (AFP, 30/11/2014). Despite protests from the Sudanese government, the Security Council has extended UNAMID’s mandate until June 2016 (Firstpost, 29/06/2015). UNAMID consists of 17,750 personnel (UNAMID, 2015).

Conflict developments

August saw the lowest levels of political violence in 2015 in Sudan, partly due to the rainy season and ongoing peace talks. Nationwide, there were no reported attacks from government-aligned militias and opposition activity decreased over July—August, although attacks by unidentified gunman remain common (ACLED, 01/09/2015). At least six deaths and 22 injuries were recorded in June, similar to the figure recorded in the same period in 2014 (The Sudan Consortium, 06/2015).

Large-scale violence by pro-government militia against the IDP population in Darfur continues in 2015, and airstrikes by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF) remain frequent. Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain, as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone. According to Human Rights Watch and local media, the Government of Sudan continues to target civilian areas of South Kordofan’s Nuba Mountains. Fighting between SPLM-N and government troops intensified in March in Blue Nile and South Kordofan (SKBNCU, 03/2015).

With the start of the rainy season, attacks by the Sudanese government have fallen by more than 50% in South Kordofan, though homes and clinics continue to be targeted in bombing raids. On 13 September, the SPLM-N has accused the Sudanese army of bombing SPLM-N held areas in South Kordofan (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015).

Intercommunal violence

Conflict between communities over resources and due to ethnic tensions is common throughout Sudan. Tribal fighting intensified in Darfur and Kordofan regions in 2013 and 2014, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes (SKBNCU, 03/2015).

Unrest

Water shortages in Khartoum and Omdurman have led to sporadic protests in August and September. On 9 September, police and protesters clashed in Omdurman. No casualties were reported (AFP, 09/09/2015).

Darfur

Security in South Darfur is deteriorating. The frequency of robberies taking place near the IDP camps has been increasing (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015). On 13 August, clashes broke out between the Fellata and Salamat tribes in Buram locality, South Darfur. At least seven have reportedly been killed (Sudan Tribune, 13/08/2015; Radio Dabanga, 14/08/2015). Only 15 July, gunmen opened fire on a UNAMID patrol between Bowa and Turmes villages in North Darfur. No casualties were reported (UNAMID, 17/07/2015).

Khartoum state

On 28 July, four people were killed in clashes between al Hawaweer and al Gamoiya groups near Omdurman. There were weeks of tensions in July, in which one person was killed and several others injured (Sudan Tribune, 28/07/2015).

Natural disasters

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With the start of the rainy season, attacks by the Sudanese government have fallen by more than 50% in South Kordofan, though homes and clinics continue to be targeted in bombing raids. On 13 September, the SPLM-N has accused the Sudanese army of bombing SPLM-N held areas in South Kordofan (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015).
Since it began in June, heavy rainfall has destroyed or damaged over 1,000 shelters. In August, more than 20 people died, mainly as houses collapsed (Radio Dabanga, 11/08/2015). On 14 August, 2,600 people were affected or displaced in Tadamon locality, Blue Nile, when heavy rain damaged their shelters. An additional 13,300 people have been affected by rains throughout Ed Damazine and El Roseires localities in Blue Nile state since June (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

On 19 August, heavy rain severely damaged 150 homes in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur (ECHO, 22/08/2015). The camp is home to 163,000 IDPs. The rainy season has exacerbated already low levels of sanitation and food shortages. WFP has not been able to deliver aid in two months (Radio Dabanga, 30/07/2015). Some 100 houses were destroyed by heavy rains in Nyala IDP camp in South Darfur on 2 August (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015).

As of 31 August, there are 3,420 verified IDPs as being displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/12/2014). Over 22,000 IDPs remain displaced due to clashes between the Berti and Zayadia ethnic groups near Mellit in May (OCHA, 25/08/2015). Reports suggest the fighting has now ended. The displaced are in need of NFIs, shelter, health services, and psychological support (OCHA, 26/07/2015). IDPs’ conditions in North Darfur remain poor due to lack of basic services (Radio Dabanga, 27/07/2015).

Central Darfur: As of 31 August, 17,976 IDPs are verified and 47,712 have been reported as having been displaced in 2015. Another 24,985 have reportedly returned to their place of origin during 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Local media report that displaced people in Central Darfur state have rejected voluntary return due to insecurity in their area of origin although thousands returned in previous months (Sudan Tribune, 31/07/2015; OCHA, 28/06/2015). There were 74,000 verified IDPs at the beginning of January 2015 (OCHA 31/12/2014).

East Darfur: As of 31 August, there are 17,976 verified IDPs and 6,197 reported but not verified as being displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

West Darfur: As of 31 August, there are 2,250 reported but not verified IDPs as being displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

South Darfur: As of 31 August, are 3,420 verified IDPs as being displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The rainy season has exacerbated already low levels of sanitation and food shortages. WFP has not been able to deliver aid in two months (Radio Dabanga, 30/07/2015).

North Darfur: As of 31 August, 82,702 IDPs are verified and 16,197 are reported but not verified as having been displaced in 2015. Another 25,319 have reportedly returned to their place of origin during 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Over 22,000 IDPs remain displaced due to clashes between the Berti and Zayadia ethnic groups near Mellit in May (OCHA, 25/08/2015). Reports suggest the fighting has now ended. The displaced are in need of NFIs, shelter, health services, and psychological support (OCHA, 26/07/2015). IDPs’ conditions in North Darfur remain poor due to lack of basic services (Radio Dabanga, 27/07/2015).

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: Over 378,000 people are estimated displaced in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 03/02/2015). 50,000 people have been displaced in Blue Nile since the start of 2015 (OCHA, 21/09/2015; 15/06/2015).

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

There are over 310,000 refugees in Sudan (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). More than 191,000 are South Sudanese, most of whom have arrived since December 2013. At least 112,000 are from Eritrea and nearly 10,000 are from Chad (UNHCR, 19/08/2015; OCHA, 16/08/2015).

As of 19 August, 191,624 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since
As of 19 August, 191,624 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013: around 134,100 are children (UNHCR, 19/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). As of 19 August, 110,211 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile (approximate 9,952 in the host community), 34,059 in Khartoum, 22,221 in West Kordofan, 374 in North Kordofan, 20,982 in South Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile, and 164 in East Darfur (UNHCR, 19/08/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

The number of arrivals increased dramatically in June and early July following intense conflict in South Sudan’s Upper Nile and Unity states. Over 19–26 July, 4,814 refugees crossed into Sudan, more than double the arrivals of the previous week (OCHA, 26/07/2015; 19/07/2015). Camps in White Nile are unable to meet the needs of the refugees who arrived in the second quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 19/07/2015).

2,496 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (UNHCR, 05/08/2015).

Refugees in neighbouring countries

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

13,479 refugees from South Kordofan have fled to South Sudan (Yida, in Unity state) since December 2014 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is a major problem for international relief organisations. Humanitarian operations are hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions. The rainy season continues to hinder access, particularly South, West and Central Darfur (OCHA, 09/08/2015). Access to areas of active conflict in Darfur remains largely denied (Radio Dabanga, 10/09/2015). The government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

An increase in carjacking incidents targeting aid organisations has been reported in 2015 (OCHA, 24/05/2015). On 10 September, WHO staff were attacked while travelling in Kreinik locality, West Darfur. Two people were killed (UN, 10/09/2015). In July, healthcare facilities in Central Darfur were shut down after government forces allegedly beat and detained several workers (Sudan Tribune, 07/08/2015). 25 aid workers were abducted in Darfur in 2014, the highest number of abduction cases recorded since 2004 (OCHA, 22/01/2015).

August 2013 regulations ban foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies from working for human rights.

Access of affected populations to assistance

East Jebel Marra has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013. The ICRC has not been able to fully resume operations in Jebel Marra to 2014 levels (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Security incidents in El Fasher (North Darfur) and Zalingei (Central Darfur) reported in recent months have restricted operations in the area (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1,289,000 people are reportedly facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. This is a less severe situation than predicted for the lean season, which began in June, thanks to improved pasture conditions and abundant production of cereals (IPC, 01/07/2015). Food security is expected to deteriorate through September, when the lean season peaks (FEWSNET, 28/08/2015).

Food availability

Rainfall was at 25–80% of normal levels across some areas during May–July. Poor rainfall at the start of the 2015 cropping season is delaying planting and affecting crop quality (FEWSNET, 02/09/2015). As a result, the amount of land cultivated has decreased from 714,000 hectares in 2014 to 504,000 hectares in 2015 (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

Food access

The areas that remain the worst affected by food insecurity are those affected by conflict, which prevents food distribution. Nearly 80% of households in South Kordofan experienced severe food insecurity during the first quarter of 2015. 52,000 people living in the Nuba Mountains are among the worst affected (FEWSNET, 02/09/2015; 19/07/2015). Newly displaced households and IDPs without access to humanitarian assistance are facing Crisis food security outcomes (IPC, 01/07/2015).

A spike in food prices in White Nile during July was partially caused by the presence
A spike in food prices in White Nile during July was partially caused by the presence of refugees from South Sudan increasing local demand. Sorghum rose by 11% and millet by 12%. This can have a potent impact on poor households, whose food stocks are already depleted (WFP, 30/07/2015).

Local media reports suggest that displaced people in Zamzam camp, North Darfur, have not been provided with food for eight months (Radio Dabanga, 05/08/2015).

**Food use**

The ability of communities to cope has been depleted in South Kordofan, but those who are frequently affected by conflict and displacement in South Kordofan are reportedly pre-positioning supplies in case of displacement or damage by aerial attack. Cross-frontline trading is also believed to be continuing (PI, 03/07/2015).

**Health**

Mortality from acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and diarrhoea-related causes has increased in El Salam locality, White Nile state. 12 such deaths were reported between 10 and 24 July (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).

There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare and there are reports that the number of mosquitoes is increasing the risk of malaria infections (Radio Dabanga, 28/07/2015).

Mortality in health centres in Central Darfur, among children from Thur and Golo areas in North Jebel Marra, has increased. It is believed to be linked to an increase in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Thur and Golo. There is no humanitarian access to Thur and Golo, but nutrition screening of newly displaced children and pregnant and lactating women has found global acute malnutrition (GAM) exceeding emergency thresholds at 17.3% and SAM exceeding critical thresholds at 3.8% (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

**Healthcare availability and access**

In Darfur, 12 functioning health facilities are inaccessible as of late August. Another 190 facilities in Darfur lack essential staff and are operating at severely reduced capacity (WHO, 27/08/2015).

12 deaths recorded in Murnei IDP camp, West Darfur, were reported as being linked to a lack of funds to purchase medicines (Radio Dabanga, 03/09/2015).

The UN estimated in mid-December 2013 that 165,000 children in SPLM-N-controlled parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile do not have access to basic health services (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).

**Measles**

A measles outbreak began in late 2014. As of 9 August, 3,013 confirmed cases and 67 deaths (2.2% case fatality rate) have been reported in 2015, in all 18 of Sudan’s states. The states reporting the highest number of cases are West Darfur State (666) and Kassala State (520) (WHO, 09/08/2015).

In the week ending 9 August, 37 cases were recorded, which was less than the 80 recorded in the previous week. The most recent peak was recorded the week ending 25 July (110 new cases) (WHO, 09/08/2015). According to a 2014 survey, 39% of children have not been vaccinated against measles (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

**Nutrition**

National GAM is 16.3%, with 550,000 children believed to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), mainly in North Darfur, El Gezira, South Darfur, Khartoum and Gedaref. 51% of all SAM cases come from these states. SAM rates above 20% are recorded in three localities in South Darfur and Red Sea (OCHA, 09/08/2015).

500,000 children are severely malnourished in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan (ECHO, 01/07/2015). Among localities with IDPs, where 20% of the population face severe consumptions gaps, 2.2–7% of the population is severely malnourished (IPC, 01/07/2015). According to UNICEF, MAM is at 6% and SAM 2.6% in White Nile (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

**WASH**

WASH conditions inside refugee camps have deteriorated with the recent new influx of refugees from South Sudan (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

**Water**

Across Sudan, approximately one person in nine does not have access to a clean water supply (Kimse Yok Mu, 24/06/2015). All refugee camps, except Dabat Bosin, are below the standard of 20L of water per person per day (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

20 water pumps have stopped working in El Salam camp, South Darfur, in the past five months, affecting 80,000 people (Radio Dabanga, 04/05/2015). Kassab IDP camp in Kutum has been suffering from a severe shortage of drinking water since the beginning of May. Reports suggest that 11 of the 20 water pumps at the camp are non-operational (local media, 25/05/2015).
Reports suggest there has been no regular maintenance of hand pumps in South Kordofan for up to four years (PI, 03/07/2015).

Sanitation

All refugee camps, except Dabat Bosin have dangerously low levels of sanitation. The worst conditions are in El Redis II refugee camp, were the ratio is 186 people per latrine (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

In White Nile, 6,600 South Sudanese refugee families (46,200 individuals) are in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA, 26/08/2015).

Education

3 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan. 1.9 million are of primary-school age (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). The majority of the affected children are in Darfur, with high numbers also in Blue Nile and South Kordofan (Radio Dabanga, 14/07/2015). Schools are frequently used as shelters for IDPs (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

In some IDP camps in South Darfur, the average class size is 93 students, more than double the UNHCR maximum of 35–40 (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Reports suggest that fear of attacks by armed groups and the long distances between camps and schools restrict access to education for children from Darfur IDP camps (Radio Dabanga, 11/09/2015).

Protection

Human rights violations including torture, targeting of civilians, rape, censorship and arbitrary arrest are widespread in Sudan. One human rights organisation reports that in July, in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan, 56 specific incidents of human rights abuses were committed, mainly by largely pro-Government militias. 221 people were killed during these incidents. There were also 19 victims of abduction and cases of arrest and torture reported in the same month (SUDO, 31/07/2015).

Mines and ERW

On 2 August, one boy was killed and another injured when an ERW exploded in Tabit, North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015). 250 locations covering an estimated 32km² are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Gender

Four female IDPs were raped in two separate incidents by new settlers in abandoned villages in East Jebel Marra (Radio Dabanga, 10/08/2015). Sudan Social Development Organisation reports 35 incidents of rape in July (SUDO, 31/07/2015). Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014.

Vulnerable groups

On 4 June, 14 Eritrean asylum seekers were kidnapped as they were being taken to Shegarab refugee camp in eastern Sudan (AFP, 04/06/2015).

Documentation

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

Updated: 14/09/2015

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

5 September: 67,500 children are estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (OCHA).

4 September: Some 299 undocumented Nigerians, pending repatriation, are still living in IOM transit sites in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai in eastern Cameroon, on the border with CAR (IOM)

3 September: A double suicide attack in Kerawa, in the Far North killed at least 30 people and injured over 100 of the country. One attack struck an infantry camp, and the other struck a market. (IBI Times).

KEY CONCERNS
- 81,693 IDPs in the Far North region (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).
- 308,800 refugees (OCHA, 06/09/2015).
- 919,100 people are food insecure. 195,600 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 06/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

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

Politics and security

Boko Haram

The armed Islamist group Boko Haram (BH), based in Nigeria, began to intensify attacks in Cameroon in December 2014 (ECHO, 06/01/2015). At least 37 BH attacks took place in northern Cameroon between January and end July, and in the period since August up to the beginning of September, a spate in the attacks has been recorded in the area (ACLED, 27/07/215, BBC, 03/09/2015). Although they have been concentrated in the Far North region, attacks have spread south. Crossing from Lake Chad, BH has attacked towns, villages, and military vehicles, stealing livestock and food, and kidnapping individuals (AFP, 06/04/2015).

2,000 extra troops have been deployed to the Far North, bringing the total to 8,500 (AFP, 28/07/2015). Operations against BH so far have included air and ground offensives (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015; New York Times, 05/02/2015). A military force from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and Benin is planned for the end of August – delayed by a month – in response to the increase in cross-border attacks. The force will be based in Chad (international media, 30/07/2015). The United States is supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military, aiding its efforts to counter BH (VoA, 12/12/2014; Reuters, 17/02/2015).

Cameroonian authorities said on 1 September that over 600 Koranic schools will be closed, as will some mosques, in response to the surge in BH attacks (Cameroon Online, 01/09/2015).

Recent security incidents

In Far North, the situation was reported to be highly volatile and insecure as of 4 September, with incursions of insurgents causing heavy displacement, especially in Logone-et-Chari department (UNHCR, 04/09/2015). Two suicide attacks in Kerawa, in the Far North, on 3 September, killed at least 30 people and injured over 100. One attack struck an infantry camp, and the other struck a market (IBI Times, 03/09/2015).

On 11 August, Boko Haram insurgents killed two soldiers and eight civilians, and then burned several houses in Blame, close to Lake Chad (AFP/Yahoo News, 13/08/2015). In the night of 3 August, Boko Haram attacked Kangaleri, close to the Nigerian border. Twenty people were killed and several children abducted (OCHA, 13/08/2015).

Suicide attacks killed more than 40 people in July. Raids on villages left eight dead – 135 people were kidnapped (AFP, 08/08/2015). Authorities believe the militant group is opting for isolated but targeted attacks on villages or highways (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Central African Republic

On 21 August, Cameroon’s Minister of Transport reported that militants from Central African Republic have recently killed several Cameroonian truck drivers in CAR, on the road track connecting the Cameroonian seaport town of Douala and Bangui (VOA, 21/08/2015). Armed groups from CAR are reported to have conducted frequent incursions into Cameroon since the beginning of the crisis in Central African Republic, in March 2013: kidnappings and harassment of the local population have been reported (IFRC, 27/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Some 40,000 people were affected by floods in the cities of Douala and Yaounde in June and July. In Douala, heavy rains caused the flooding of 60,000 hectares of land, displacing 2,000 and directly affecting 30,000 (UNISDR, 08/08/2015; IRIN, 03/07/2015; Reuters 26/06/2015). As of 17 August, floods were still reported in Douala, together with an increase in the reported cases of Cholera (Pacja, 17/08/2015)

Displacement

308,800 refugees are reported to be in Cameroon as of 6 September (OCHA, 06/09/2015).

81,693 people are internally displaced in the Far North due to BH attacks (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).
33,900 IDPs are in Mayo-Tsanaga department, 32,680 in Logone-et-Chari, 12,480 in Mayo-Sava, and 2,630 in Diamare. 36% live with host families, 28% live in shared housing and the rest in improvised, damaged, or public buildings. Food security, WASH, and health are the priority needs. Nearly half of IDPs are displaced within the same department. 35,960 people have returned to their place of origin (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015; OCHA, 16/06/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Central African Republic: 253,042 refugees from CAR are reported to be in Cameroon, as of 7 September. 135,294 of these have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). As of December 2014 the number of CAR refugees in Cameroon was reported to be 124,958 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

Many refugees have not been registered.

55% live in camps, 45% are with host communities (UNHCR, 05/06/2015). More than 8,000 have settled in Timangolo, which previously had a population of 13,000; the influx is causing severe strain on food stocks. (IRIN, 11/08/2015).

The Cameroonian government is reportedly arresting refugees from CAR, putting them in camps, and instructing families not to host CAR refugees, on the grounds that some refugees have been involved in kidnappings and cattle theft (VOA, 13/08/2015).

Nigeria: At 7 September, 58,104 Nigerian refugees were registered in Cameroon (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). More than 53,000 have entered the country since July 2014. The rate of daily arrivals has fluctuated: from 400 per day in April–May, 60–70 daily in June, to 150-300 in August (FAO, 30/06/2015; IRIN, 12/08/2015).

An estimated 12,000–17,000 unregistered refugees are living in the immediate border areas, and the government has begun registration (UN, 31/07/2015). The number of registered refugees spiked recently – around 1,500 people sought registration in July – due to Cameroon’s decision to increase deportations of undocumented migrants (USAID, 21/08/2015). Cameroonian authorities forcibly repatriated around 15,000 Nigerians between the end of July and the end of August (IRIN, 21/08/2015). As of 4 September, some 299 Nigerians, pending repatriation, are still living in IOM transit sites in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai in eastern Cameroon, on the border with CAR (IOM, 04/09/2015).

Minawao camp is currently hosting 45,617 people, while 11,257 are located in Logone-et-Chari, 756 in Mayo-Tsanaga, 420 in Mayo-Sava, and 54 in Diamare. The allocation of new space is being discussed, due to the risk of overcrowding in Minawao posed by the continued influx of refugees (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

Refugee returnees

20% of people arriving from Nigeria are estimated to be returnees (UN, 21/07/2015).

Host communities

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

Humanitarian access

The limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response in the Far North has made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible.

Security and physical constraints

The deterioration of the security situation has made access to the Far North extremely difficult (OCHA, 10/04/2015). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014).

Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance. Heavy rains have prevented WFP trucks carrying food supplies from travelling between Zamai and Minawao (USAID, 21/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

919,100 people are reported to be food insecure: 195,600 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4 (OCHA, 06/09/2015).

Health

As of September 2014, 6.8 million people are in need of health services (IOM, 09/2014).

Healthcare availability and access

Cameroon’s Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. 46% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70%...
do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014).

Cholera

In Minawao camp, due to overcrowding and poor water and sanitation conditions, more than 100 people died in a cholera outbreak in April (IRIN, 10/08/2015).

Nutrition

2015 estimates indicate that 228,178 people will suffer acute malnutrition, including 194,919 in the priority regions of Far North, North, Adamaoua, and East. 33,259 are refugees (OCHA, 05/09/2015).

67,500 children are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), including 840 in Minawao camp, and 8,500 CAR refugees (OCHA, 05/09/2015). There were 40% more cases of severe malnutrition in January 2015 than January 2014 (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

WASH

IDPs face a high risk of water-related disease due to lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). In Minawao refugee camp, there are less than 30 borehole hand pumps and only 280 latrines. Overcrowding and the lack of water and sanitation increase the risk of disease. Cholera represents a significant risk;

Education

There are not enough classrooms or teachers nationwide (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Only 50% of primary school-aged children are enrolled in school.

151,831 children have suffered from interruption or disruption in education. In the Far North, 39,590 children are either out of school, or forced to attend a school outside of their own community (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

Primary school attendance in Minawao camp has increased from 44% to 63%. Secondary school attendance has dropped from 67% to 55%, despite advocacy with parents (UNHCR, 09/06/2015). There are only three primary schools – 21 classrooms – in the camp to accommodate more than 6,600 primary school-aged children (IRIN, 12/05/2015).

519 schools are open in the Far North, down from 737 before the conflict (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015). In 2014 over 70 schools on the northern border with Nigeria’s Borno state, were closed due to fear of attacks, and 100,000 students were relocated (VOA, 07/09/2015).

Protection

Children

Approximately 1,500 children have been abducted by Boko Haram in Cameroon since late 2014 (AFP, 04/06/2015). 84 children were illegally detained for six months in the Far North region, after authorities raided Koranic schools under allegations that they were training to join Boko Haram. They were released on 2 July (Amnesty International, 21/06/2015; 01/07/2015).

Vulnerable groups

The main protection issues among assessed IDPs are family separation, lack or loss of personal identity documentation, early marriage, and harassment or discrimination (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015).

Updated: 09/09/2015

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

3 September: The Senegalese court already trying former President of Chad Hissène Habré has filed an accusation of war crimes against the current President Idriss Deby (AFP).

31 August: in 2015, around 772,000 people have been affected by chronic drought throughout the country, and 206,000 people have been affected by floods mostly in eastern Chad (OCHA).

31 August: 3.4 million people in Chad are reported to be food insecure (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 3 million affected by humanitarian crisis (OCHA, 16/06/2015).
- 435,164 refugees are reported in Chad, including 327,237 from Sudan, 92,499 from CAR, and 13,956 from Nigeria (OCHA, 27/08/2015).
3.4 million people in Chad are food insecure: 660,000 are in need of food assistance (OCHA, 31/08/2015; ECHO, 19/08/2015).
- 97,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Politics and security

On 3 September, The Senegalese court already trying former President of Chad Hissène Habré has filed an accusation of war crimes against the current President Idriss Deby. Deby is accused of torture, crimes against humanity, and genocide, committed in the period before his rise to power (AFP, 03/09/2015, ENCA, 04/09/2015).

Nigeria and Central African Republic’s conflicts have affected stability in Chad: hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered the country, and Chad’s military is involved.

Chad also hosts 3,000 French troops, deployed to tackle the increasing insecurity in the Sahel region, and the capital Ndjamena serves as headquarters for a regional anti-Boko Haram force (Reuters, 11/07/2015).

Boko Haram

Boko Haram (BH) launched its first cross-border attack in Chad in February and has since carried out 14 attacks on civilians and soldiers in the Lake Chad region (ACLED, 07/2015). On 15 June, 23 civilians were killed and 101 were injured during two suicide bomb attacks on police stations in Ndjamena (AFP, 15/06/2015). On 11 July, a suicide bomber detonated in Ndjamena, killing 16, including the bomber, and injuring 80 (Reuters, 11/07/2015).

Chad first aided Nigerian security forces to reclaim several towns from Boko Haram in Borno state at the beginning of 2015 (AP, 03/02/2015; VoA, 01/02/2015). In March, Chad and Niger launched a joint army operation against BH in Nigeria (Reuters, 08/03/2015). Chad began military action in the Lake Chad area in May. In July, Chadian forces pushed BH back from the country’s islands (Vice News, 28/07/2015). They bombed BH positions in Nigeria in June, following the attacks on Ndjamena (AFP, 18/06/2015). The border with Cameroon was also closed, and 300 Cameroonians were expelled 26–27 June. On 28 June, 60 suspects were arrested and a cell was dismantled in Ndjamena (ICG, 01/07/2015). Security measures have been reinforced, and 395 people of 14 nationalities were arrested in July (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Ten Boko Haram members were executed at the end of August (The Guardian, 30/08/2015).

Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, and Benin have agreed to a joint force of 8,700 troops to fight Boko Haram (10/02/2015). It is planned to be set up end of August and will be based in Chad (International media, 30/07/2015).

Conflict developments

On 12 August, the President of Chad reported that Boko Haram’s leader Abubakar Shekau had been ousted and replaced by Mahamat Daoud, one of Shekau’s deputies, who may be more open to peace talks (The Telegraph, 12/08/2015). On 13 July, BH attacked Tetewa Island on Lake Chad (ACLED, 13/07/2015).

Recent security incidents

On 24 August, around 10 people died in clashes in the locality of Miski, in Tibesti, northern Chad, between members of the local Toubou tribe and gold prospectors from the Zaghaba community (AFP, 25/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Droughts

As of 31 August, around 772,000 people have been affected by chronic drought in Chad in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Floods

As of 27 August, heavy rains have been observed over eastern Chad, and sustained rains are forecast to continue in the following days. Although rains have mitigated the effects of dryness caused by the delayed beginning of the rainy season, excess of rainfall could cause severe damage to the crops (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015). As of the end of August, 206,000 people have been affected by floods, mostly in eastern Chad (OCHA, 31/08/2015; NOAA 26/08/2015).

Displacement

In total, around 750,000 displaced people are in Chad, including long-term refugees from CAR and Sudan in severe need of food assistance (WFP, 04/09/2015). Displacement is mainly caused by the Boko Haram conflict to the west and the CAR conflict to the east. As of August, the total number of internally displaced due to conflict is 111,500 (IDMC, 13/08/2015).

IDPs

75,000 people have been displaced around Lac region since 21 July (MSF,
75,000 people have been displaced around Lac region since 21 July (MSF, 27/08/2015). This includes tens of thousands evacuated from 65 villages, displaced by the ongoing conflict between the government and Boko Haram, spontaneously settled in 13 small sites in Bagasola, Boi, and surrounding areas, in the Lake Chad region. These people are reported to be in severe need of shelter, NFIs, WASH and food assistance (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

Nearly 85,500 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east, facing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities (IDMC, 02/2015; OCHA, 19/11/2013).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 27 August, the number of refugees in Chad was reported to be 435,164, almost 20,000 less than at the end of 2014 (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR 31/12/2014).

Central African Republic (CAR): As of 27 August 2015, there are 92,499 refugees from CAR (OCHA, 27/08/2015). 84,030 live in sites in Amboko, Belom, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondje and Moyo (UNHCR, 01/05/2015; 15/05/2015). 6,690 live in host communities (UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

Nigeria: As of 27 August, 13,956 Nigerian refugees are in Chad (OCHA, 27/08/2015). At 14 July, 7,140 Niger and Nigerian refugees were registered in Dar es Salam site (UNHCR, 14/07/2015; UNICEF, 06/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Estimates indicate that by December 2015 the number of Nigerian refugees could increase to 30,000 (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). Resources are limited for both refugees and host communities, especially food, shelter, and essential household items (OCHA, 12/01/2015).

Sudan: As of 28 August, since 2003, over 400,000 refugees from Sudan are reported to live in Chad, most of them staying in 12 camps in the east. Since many of these Sudanese have been living in Chad for many years, the camps have evolved almost into ‘villages’ (WFP, 04/09/2015; 28/08/2015).

Refugee returnees

239,854 returnees are reported to be in Chad: 130,000 from CAR, 100,000 from Libya, and 9,854 from Nigeria (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Additionally, there are between 5,000 and 15,000 unregistered returnees (ECHO 27/07/2015).

As of the end of August, around 75,000 Chadians have returned to the country since January 2015 (OCHA, 13/08/2015; 21/08/2015). Sido returnee site has been emptied and most of the 16,000 residents transferred to Maingama site, although 1,330 people who chose to settle in an area to the west of the original site lacked adequate shelter and sanitation facilities as of June (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Security and physical constraints

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

Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property. Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015). Severe issues reaching people in need of food assistance, including on islands, were reported end July–beginning August (WFP, 04/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The food security situation is reported to be worsening. 3.4 million people in Chad are food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Around 660,000 are in need of food assistance (ECHO, 19/08/2015).

External support is likely to be needed up to February 2016 (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015). Food assistance needs through January 2016 will be higher than last year and the five-year average (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food access

As of 6 August, Sudanese and CAR refugees are receiving 40% less food rations, due to reduced funding (WFP, 06/08/2015). Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad report that food prices have risen. INGOs and the UN have adopted a policy to make these refugees less dependent on food aid (local media, 10/06/2015).

Price spikes have been registered all over the country, although a particularly high seasonal increase in the price of sorghum has occurred in Hadjer (25%) and in Logone Oriental (30%), partly due to increased cross-border insecurity and the increase in refugees (WFP, 30/07/2015).

Livelihoods

As of 27 August, agricultural conditions are reported to be improving thanks to the increased rains fallen in the last weeks (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015). Livelihoods have
increased rains fallen in the last weeks (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015). Livelihoods have been affected by decreased inflows of remittances from family members in Libya due to conflict (IFRC, 30/05/2015). The closure of the Nigerian border, and the consequent reduction of export, has led to a drop of cattle prices (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Health

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

Child health

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

HIV/AIDS

An estimated 210,000 people are living with HIV in Chad, and prevalence has been stable, at 2.5%, since 2013. However only 30% of people with HIV have access to antiretroviral treatment. 12,000 people died due to AIDS-related illnesses in 2014, and 14,000 were newly infected with HIV (UNAIDS, 07/08/2015). As of April, HIV/AIDS prevalence in Lac region was 10.1%, more than four times the national average (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

Measles

Suspected measles cases continue to be reported in 12 health districts of the country (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Between 1 and 15 July, 122 new cases of measles, including two deaths, were registered in Abeche, eastern Chad; 189 cases and three deaths were reported in June (OCHA, 28/07/2015). The outbreak is related to the return of miners from Sudan, where there is a measles epidemic (OCHA, 08/07/2015).

Nutrition

As of 31 August, 97,000 children are reported to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (OCHA, 31/08/2015). In September 2014, 152,086 cases of SAM were reported (UNICEF, 30/09/2014).

499,000 children are reported to be suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

WASH

Water

As of the end of August, only 5% of displaced people in Lac region are reported to have access to clean drinking water (MSF 20/08/2015; IASC 21/08/2015).

Sanitation

There has been only a 9% increase in access to sanitation since 1990, with little or no improvement in the last year (UNICEF, 2015).

Protection

Gender

One in five women is a victim of physical violence. 35% of girls in Chad are married before the age of 15 and 44% undergo female genital mutilation (OCHA, 26/06/2015).

Children

On 30 June, the National Assembly of Chad ratified the law prohibiting child marriage (marrying before the age of 18) (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Chad has the third highest rate of child marriage in the world, with 68% of girls being married as children (Girls Not Brides, 2015).

Documentation

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

Updated: 07/09/2015

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

1 September: 120,000 people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity.

2 September: 140,000 people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity.
3) food security outcomes, mainly in Obock and Southeastern regions (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 300,000 people need humanitarian assistance, including more than 12,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014; UNICEF, 13/08/2015).

- Humanitarian organisations fear the influx of people from Yemen may worsen an already difficult humanitarian situation in Obock (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

Displacement

Conflict in Yemen has led to an influx of new arrivals from Yemen to Djibouti since March, in particular to Obock. As of early September, more than 24,000 people have arrived from Yemen – 2,600 of them have been registered as refugees. Djibouti also hosts more than 12,000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

Refugees and asylum seekers


Out of the new arrivals from Yemen, 2,603 have been registered as refugees; 1,967 of them are Yemeni nationals (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). The majority of registered refugees from Yemen are staying in Markazi camp in Obock (UNHCR, 15/08/2015). The UN expects to receive more than 15,000 refugees from Yemen in the next six months (AFP, 14/05/2015).

Returnees

1,845 of the new arrivals from Yemen are Djiboutian returnees (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Other

11,350 arrivals from Yemen since March are Yemeni nationals and 10,968 are third-country nationals (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Many who have not been registered as refugees are staying in Obock or Djibouti cities, often hosted by Djiboutian relatives. Humanitarian actors in the country are concerned about the strain on host communities’ resources (UNICEF, 13/08/2015).

IOM estimates that over 100,000 migrants, the majority from Ethiopia and Somalia, transit the country every year. Children account for 32% of the migrant population (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). Migrants arrive in dire conditions and vulnerable to a number of protection issues. Migrants report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock.

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 120,000 people, primarily in Southeastern and Obock regions, are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, which is likely to persist through December. Poor households in the Central Pastoral and Northwest Pastoral regions are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through December (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

One in 10 people in Djibouti are severely food insecure; 60% of the severely food insecure live in rural areas (FAO, 22/06/2015). In Obock, almost 60% of households are food insecure (FAO, 22/06/2015).

Food availability

Two consecutive poor rainy seasons (October–February and March–May) have resulted in below-average pasture availability, particularly affecting Obock region. The poor seasons have caused depletion of pasture and water resources, and have negatively impacted livestock productivity and milk production (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

Food access

The impact of two poor productive seasons have reduced household food access, as a result of limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate humanitarian assistance, and few available coping mechanisms (FEWSNET, 28/08/2015).

Health

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

In Markazi camp, Obock, cases of diarrhoea have increased. Women have also reported not receiving milk or diapers for their children (UNHCR, 10/07/2015).

Nutrition

The SAM rate is 6.1% (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 20/05/2015).

According to OCHA, 277,700 people were in need of nutritional aid in 2014, compared to 195,400 in 2013.

WASH
In Obock region, only 40% of the population have access to safe water and only 25% have access to adequate sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 17/04/2015). In Obock, emptying pit latrines is a challenge, as there is no functioning waste management system (UNHCR, 04/07/2015).

Education

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

Updated: 08/09/2015

ETHIOPIA

FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 August: Pastoralist households are reportedly killing and selling cattle to meet food needs, due to scarcity of livestock feed and drinking water (OXFAM).

KEY CONCERNS

- 4.5 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as of August 2015, a dramatic increase from the 2.9 million projected in February (Government, 18/08/2015).

- Ethiopia hosts some 704,800 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

- A majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity. Main concerns include overcrowding, malnutrition, and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid.

- Some 303,000 severely malnourished children are thought to require nutritional support; an increase of 14% since February (Government, 24/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Refugees in Ethiopia mainly originate from Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Eritrea. Though much of the displacement is protracted, with many being displaced for multiple years, a need for assistance remains. Malnutrition is among the main concerns in camps, as well as overcrowding. In addition, much of Ethiopia is facing drought, due to consecutive below-average rainy seasons. This is leading to high levels of food insecurity, particularly in Afar, in Sitti zone of Somali region, and parts of Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR. Malnutrition has increased significantly. Priority areas are mainly in Afar, Amhara, and Oromia. 4.5 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as of August 2015.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Politics and Security

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence persist. Two decades of deadly conflict in the southeastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian ethnic Somali population, especially after years of a relatively successful government counter-insurgency campaign. The Government has yet to address the root causes of the violence. However, weak political opposition, and the Government’s determination to accelerate economic growth all make continued stability likely.

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations in East Africa. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are taking place in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian troops are currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which has launched an offensive against Al Shabaab, together with the Somali National Army.

Natural Disasters

Drought

Far below average rainfall during both the March–May and July–September rainy seasons has led to very dry conditions (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015). Many planting activities have been delayed (NOOA, 23/07/2015).

Pasture and water availability have declined in eastern Amhara, Tigray, and Oromia (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015). Water availability improved in half of woredas in Amhara due to good rains in July. Heavy rain is expected to cause flooding in North Wollo and North Shewa. Drought conditions continue in parts of Arsi, Bale, East Shewa, East and West Hararge in Oromia; and in Mirab Abaya of Gamo Gofa zone and Humbo woreda of Wolayita zone in SNNPR (OCHA, 03/08/2015; FEWSNET, 24/08/2015).

Displacement

As of June, more than one million people are displaced in Ethiopia, including refugees, IDPs and returnees. The majority of refugees have been displaced by violence in neighbouring countries, such as Somalia, South Sudan and Eritrea. They are mainly
staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado and Shire regions. Many of them have been displaced for more than a year. IDPs are mainly displaced by conflict and flooding in Somali, Gambella and Oromia regions. Since April, nearly 5,000 people escaping the conflict in Yemen have arrived in Ethiopia; they are mainly returnees. Some 34,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers are in Kenya and Djibouti.

IDPs

As of June 2015, there are 470,261 IDPs in Ethiopia, a decrease from 505,150 in March 2015 (IOM, 09/07/2015). About 10% were displaced between April and June. The majority live in Somali, Gambella and Oromia regions, and were displaced mainly by conflict and flooding. Protracted displacement has arisen from inter-clan and cross-border conflict, and to a lesser extent natural disasters such as fires and flooding (PI, 06/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 June, Ethiopia hosts some 705,000 refugees; mainly South Sudanese, Somalis, Eritreans, and Sudanese. 36,733 refugees arrived in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado and Shire (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Environmental degradation in camps, the fragile ecosystem, and scarce resources have led to tensions between host communities and refugees in some locations (UNHCR, 20/01/2015).

South Sudan: As of 1 September, 27,722 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2014, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees in Gambella to 276,642. 67% are children. 71% of the adult population are women (UNHCR, 28/08/2015; 01/09/2015). With an additional 10,093 refugees in Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa, the total of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia reaches over 286,000 (UNHCR, 19/06/2015; 14/08/2015).

Around 3,760 people arrived in August, a decrease from the 7,260 arrivals in July, the highest number so far in 2015. On average 65 refugees continue to arrive per day (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). The majority are fleeing generalised violence and food insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile states. They are mainly arriving through Pagak, Matar, Akobo, Burbiey, and Raad entry points. At 1 September, more than 6,400 South Sudanese were awaiting transfer to camps at entry points (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). Gaps in food, water, shelter, and health services have been reported for new arrivals (OCHA, 27/07/2015).

The majority of South Sudanese are staying in camps: 62,957 refugees are in Pugnido, 52,232 in Tierkidi, 47,454 in Kule, 47,033 in Jewi, and 7,568 in Okugo. 45,342 people are staying with host communities (UNHCR, 28/08/2015). A new camp, Pugnido II, is being developed. It is expected to accommodate more than 75,000 people (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

Somalia: As of June, there are 247,700 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, including 2,285 who have arrived since January 2015 (UNHCR, 07/07/2015). Most are located in Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Eritrea: As of July, Ethiopia hosts 139,039 Eritrean refugees, including 33,000 arrivals in 2014 (ECHO, 17/04/2015; OCHA, 03/08/2015). In the week to 3 August, on average 157 new refugees arrived daily, the majority being students and unaccompanied or separated children. High levels of secondary movement are thought to have reduced the number of refugees to less than a third of those registered (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

Sudan: As of April, there are 36,606 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). As of 7 July, there were 31,023 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). 97 Ethiopians have returned from Yemen (IOM, 13/08/2015).

Refugee returnees

97 Ethiopians have returned from Yemen (IOM, 13/08/2015).

159 Ethiopian refugees have returned from Djibouti (IOM, 07/04/2015).

Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 7 July, there were 31,023 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 07/07/2015).

Humanitarian Access

Logistical constraints at the Djibouti port have delayed food and nutrition assistance, but are expected to ease in the second half of 2015 (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

Households in northeast Ethiopia are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015). As of August, 4.5 million people are estimated in need of food assistance, an increase from the 2.9 million projected in February, due to continued rain deficits and reduced harvests (Government, 18/08/2015).

Belg-dominant areas in SNNPR, northeast Amhara, southern Tigray, and central and eastern Oromia will be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes from July to September. Even with humanitarian assistance, in addition to the anticipated delayed and below-average belg and meher harvests, poor households in these areas will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from October to December. Poor pastoral households in southern Afar and Sitti zone of Somali region will to continue to face Crisis outcomes, even with the presence of humanitarian assistance, at least until December
Food insecurity is expected to persist in the coming months, as the ongoing El Niño phenomenon will continue to negatively affect rainfall throughout 2015 and in the first months of 2016 (OCHA, 24/08/2015).

**Food availability**

Delayed and poorly distributed belg rains have delayed the harvest, extending the lean season until September instead of August in SNNPR, northeast Amhara, south Tigray and areas of central and eastern Oromia (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015). Many sorghum and maize crops have wilted in eastern Amhara, Tigray and Oromia (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015). In SNNPR, maize production is also well below average. The region received 20-50% less rain than in a typical year, and the planted area is less than 60% (FEWSNET, 26/06/2015; 24/08/2015). The meher harvest is also anticipated below average (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015).

Increased pasture resulting from expected average to above average October–December deyr rains will increase livestock production and food availability among pastoral households (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015).

**Food access**

Income from agricultural activities has decreased, and stocks are depleting (FEWSNET, 27/06/2015). Staple food prices have been increasing since March, contrary to a usual seasonal decrease from June onwards, increasing the pressure on vulnerable households (ECHO, 10/07/2015). Due to high staple food prices, poor households in southeastern and southern pastoral areas do not have enough income to pay for essential non-food expenses. In southern Shebelle and Ader, and Liben zones of Somali region, and in the lowlands of Borena zone in Oromia, income from livestock and food access remain below normal (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015).

**Livelihoods**

In southern Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, two consecutive seasons of below-average rain and well-below average rain since March have led to very low pasture, browse and water availability, resulting in poor livestock body conditions and declines in productivity. In these drought-affected areas, unseasonal livestock migration and livestock deaths have been reported. Poor livestock conditions and productivity are also reported in eastern Oromia, and in eastern Tigray and Amhara. Household incomes have not increased as they normally would after the start of the rains (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015; 14/08/2015; ECHO, 10/07/2015). Due to scarcity of livestock feed and drinking water, people are forced to kill or sell their surviving cattle at a loss, further impacting their livelihoods (OXFAM, 31/08/2015).

**Health**

The majority of new South Sudanese arrivals in Gambella region are suffering from malaria, diarrhoea and skin diseases (MSF, 01/06/2015). Malaria is the main illness in refugee camps (UNHCR, 19/06/2015).

**Nutrition**

Acute malnutrition is rapidly increasing. In some areas, a more than 20% increase in acute malnutrition cases has been reported (ECHO, 10/07/2015). Priority areas are mostly in Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions. 348 woredas have been identified as high priority areas as of 15 May (OCHA, 04/06/2015). In February there were 90 priority areas (OCHA, 08/06/2015). As of August, a total of 302,600 children are expected to suffer from SAM in 2015, a 14% increase from February projections (Government, 18/08/2015).

As of early July, 21 of 97 priority 1 woredas have no ongoing nutrition intervention. The largest gaps are in Sitti zone of Somali region, south and east Oromia, Afar and Tigray regions (Nutrition Cluster, 16/07/2015). Priority 2 woredas, which are across the country, are expected to deteriorate into priority 1 areas in September without timely intervention, increasing the number of children in need of emergency nutritional support, due to continued water shortages and below-average and delayed harvests (OCHA, 30/06/2015; 06/07/2015). In May, more than 26,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were admitted across the country, compared to 18,300 in January (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Based on the number of admissions to therapeutic feeding programmes, the current situation has not yet reached the critical levels seen in the drought of 2011 (Nutrition Cluster, 17/06/2015).

**Refugees**

The nutrition situation has improved somewhat in Gambella, though it remains critical, with 20.9% GAM and 4.8% SAM in 2015, compared to 29.3% and 8.9%, respectively, in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). At Matar entry point in Gambella, an initial screening of 966 children under five showed 7.8% GAM and 2.6% SAM (UNHCR, 07/08/2015).

**WASH**

1.43 million people are estimated in need of WASH support, including provision and rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation services, and hygiene promotion (Government, 18/08/2015).

**Water supply**

Water shortages continue in parts of Oromia region, and 95,000 people in Sitti zone of Somali region are in need of immediate water trucking support. Many other people in the region continue to be at high risk of water shortage. In SNNPR, people have turned to
unprotected water sources as surface water has not been replenished (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

Water supply in most camps in Gambella is below the UNHCR standard of 20L per person per day: 22L in Okugo, 17L in Tierkidi, 16L in Kule, 17L in Pugnido, and 8L in Jewi (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). Water quality and quantity meet minimum standards in Gambella and Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Sanitation

Sanitation in Gambella has improved, and latrine to user ratios in the camps are better than the UNHCR standard of 1:50. Ratios are 1:26 in Tierkidi, 1:11 in Kule, 1:33 in Pugnido, 1:25 in Okugo, and 1:49 in Jewi (UNHCR, 07/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

Refugees in Jewi camp, who were relocated from Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps, still need shelter support. They are living in temporary shelters, which have a short life span. Other priority needs are food and security (NRC, 23/07/2015).

Protection

Children

There are more than 36,000 unaccompanied and separated minors in Ethiopia: 19,570 are South Sudanese children in Gambella (UNHCR, 21/07/2015; 01/09/2015).

Updated: 02/09/2015

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

- Over March-May, 412,000 people were in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 were in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

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

OVERVIEW

400,000 people face Crisis-Famine (IPC Phases 3-5) food security outcomes and 120,000 face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes over the lean season. At 2% of the requested USD 24 million, the humanitarian appeal for the Gambia is the least funded in the world (Financial Tracking System, 06/2015).

Displacement

Refugees in the Gambia

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

Food Security and Livelihoods

406,000 people are projected to be in Crisis–Famine (IPC Phases 3–5) and 126,000 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes over the June–September lean season. Over March–May, 101,000 were in Crisis–Famine, and 412,000 people were Stressed (FAO, WFP, 31/03/2015).

Food availability

Planting and livestock health have been affected by dry ground conditions caused by low levels of rainfall (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015).

2014–2015 cereal production was 16% lower than the previous year, which has increased food prices (FEWSNET, 03/04/2015; IFRC, 13/05/2015). The late onset and deficit of rains has also negatively impacted livestock production, which makes up 25% of annual agricultural GDP (IFRC, 13/05/2015).

Aggregate cereal production in 2014 dropped by 75% compared to 2013, due to irregular rains causing poor growing conditions. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is estimated to have declined by more than 80% (FAO, 05/11/2014).

Livelihoods

The Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries has led to a 60% decline in tourism, a
Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

During the lean season (June–August), 7.4 million are projected to be in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity across the Sahel and West Africa, and 26.6 million to be Stressed (Cadre Harmonisé, 04/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Nutrition

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

Protection

According to Amnesty International, journalists and members of oppositional parties are regularly subject to arbitrary arrests. Torture has been reported in prisons (Amnesty International, 24/07/2015).

Reviewed: 08/09/2015

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 August: In northern Isiolo and western Wajir, households will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through October, due to dry conditions and low water availability, and low milk production (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- Violence in the capital Nairobi, as well as northeastern and coastal areas; many attacks are attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.

- Inter-communal violence caused 310 deaths, 195 injuries, and displaced 216,294 people in the first six months of 2015 (OCHA, 04/08/2015).

- More than 590,000 refugees, including at least 420,000 Somalis and 90,000 South Sudanese (UNHCR 31/05/2015).

Politics and Security

Kenya is considered relatively stable in the Horn of Africa. However, the country remains ethnically polarised and affected by two decades of conflict in neighbouring Somalia. Cross-border attacks by Al Shabaab persist, particularly in the north of the country, and deadly inter-communal violence remains common in a number of areas, particularly in Turkana and Baringo.

The increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination. Muslims make up 11% of Kenya’s 40 million population. In addition, a devolution process and land reform all challenge stability in a country where institutions are perceived to be weak.

Al Shabaab

In 2011, Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia, after a spate of cross-border attacks by Al Shabaab. Since then, the number of attacks in Kenya has continued to rise. Al Shabaab has built a cross-border presence and clandestine support network among the Muslim population in the northeast, in Nairobi, and on the coast. Non-Muslims continue to be targeted. More than 400 people were killed by Al Shabaab in Kenya between April 2013 and May 2015 (Reuters, 26/05/2015; The Guardian, 26/05/2015).

The frequency of attacks spiked between April and June 2015, particularly in Garissa and Lamu counties, but also in Mandera and Wajir. 186 people died and 144 were injured in 39 incidents (OCHA, 04/08/2015). In July 2015, a new military offensive including Kenyan forces began in Somalia, targeting Al Shabaab in Somalia’s Gedo region (BBC, 22/07/2015).

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab-related violence

Fifteen Al Shabaab attacks have been recorded since February 2015 (ACLED, 27/07/2015). Most violence occurs in eastern and northeastern counties along the border with Somalia, including Wajir, Mandera, and Lamu. The deadliest attack so far was in April 2015 in Garissa, when 148 people were killed (BBC, 07/07/2015).

Since July, attacks have mainly occurred in Lamu county. Around 20 people have been killed (AFP, 07/07/2015; 14/07/2015). On 15 August, Al Shabaab militants stormed a village in Lamu county. No casualties or injured were reported, but many people fled to neighbouring towns (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

Inter-communal violence
In the first half of 2015, inter-communal violence caused 310 deaths and 195 injuries in 273 recorded incidents, and led to the displacement of 216,294 people. A comparable number of people were killed, injured and displaced between January and November 2014, indicating that the situation has since deteriorated. Reasons for the increase in violence include growth in the population of both people and livestock, as well as the availability of small arms. The northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions are most affected: Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo counties. Conflict occurs particularly between Pokot and Turkana communities, and between Samburu and Turkana (OCHA, 04/08/2015; 31/11/2014).

In Tana River county, clashes occurred between pastoralist Wardel and farmer Giriama communities in early August. Six people died, several were injured, and more than 2,000 were displaced. No major incident has been reported in the area since 5 August (OCHA, 21/08/2015). In Samburu county, four people were injured in a gunfight over an attempted livestock raid by Samburu on Turkana herders on 25 July. On 22 July, clashes in Garissa county killed two people. On 21 July, two people were killed in Wajir county in a dispute between Ajuran and Degodia clans. In Turkana, Pokot raiders attacked Turkana homesteads several times in July, leaving two killed, four injured and more than 2,100 livestock seized (CrisisWatch, 01/08/2015).

Displacement

Kenya’s refugee population is among the largest in the world, with nearly 600,000 refugees as of 7 July. The large majority have fled conflict in Somalia and South Sudan, and have been living in camps for several years. In 2015, some 8,000 new arrivals have been reported so far from Somalia and South Sudan. Other refugees originate from Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Uganda. In addition, more than 200,000 Kenyans were internally displaced due to inter-communal conflict in the first half of 2015.

IDPs

In the first half of 2015, inter-communal conflict led to the displacement of 216,294 people. The majority were in Mandera (103,000), Turkana (69,900), and Wajir (22,800).

Some 40 families (165 individuals) have fled Milimani and Mangai villages in Lamu, and are staying in Bodhai. They are in urgent need of food and water (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

Inter-communal conflict in early August displaced 2,191 people in Tana River county (OCHA, 21/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 1 August, Kenya is hosting 590,776 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 06/08/2015). 222,533 are in Dadaab, 126,747 in Alinjugur, 181,685 in Kakuma, and 57,351 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 01/08/2015; 31/08/2015; 30/08/2015).

From Somalia: As of 1 September, 420,283 Somali refugees are in Kenya. 6,206 new refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 02/09/2015). 13,162 arrived in 2014, representing a considerable drop in arrivals (UNHCR, 01/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab and Alinjugur refugee camp complexes, which host around 350,000 people (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Somali refugees remain entirely dependent on humanitarian aid (Institute for Security Studies, 31/08/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 30 August, 3,510 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

From South Sudan: Kenya hosts 92,757 South Sudanese refugees as of 1 August (UNHCR, 01/08/2015). 46,566 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). 5,018 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). They are mainly living in Kakuma camp. 64% are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The trend of daily arrivals remains low, with 71 people arriving over 14–20 August (UNHCR, 20/08/2015).

On 19 June, land for a new camp in Kalobeyei, some 20km from Kakuma camp, was officially handed over by the local government in Turkana county. The camp will be able to accommodate 80,000 people. Kakuma camp, which has far exceeded its capacity of 125,000, was hosting 184,527 refugees as of 25 June. 50% of Kakuma camp’s residents are South Sudanese (UNHCR, 26/06/2015; Reuters, 20/06/2015). The overpopulation and burden on services is causing friction among communities (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

7,518 refugees from Burundi are mostly living in Kakuma camp. The majority arrived before electoral violence began in Burundi in 2015 (UNHCR, 01/08/2015). 46,566 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). 5,018 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). 30,914 Ethiopian refugees, 10,234 Sudanese refugees, 1,639 Eritrean refugees, 1,796 Ugandan refugees live in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/08/2015).

Humanitarian Access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

So far in 2015, 33 security incidents involving NGOs have been reported, including one fatality, one abduction, and six injuries (INSO, 26/08/2015).

In May, two of four health posts in Dadaab were closed and some medical services, including antenatal care, were suspended as 42 MSF staff relocated from Dadaab to Nairobi, following a series of incidents (MSF, 27/05/2015). The Kenya Red Cross has moved staff from the camp to Dadaab town. International NGOs residing in Dadaab town temporarily suspended movement to the camps in June (OCHA, 15/06/2015).
Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access is constrained in northern, eastern, and coastal regions due to inter-communal violence and attacks by armed opposition groups, including Al Shabaab. Hilly terrain and poor roads increase insecurity and inaccessibility in some regions (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 04/08/2015).

People displaced by fears of Al Shabaab attacks in Bodhai, Lamu county, cannot be reached as militants are thought to have planted landmines on the road to the affected areas (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

Security in Dadaab and along the border with Somalia is volatile, with frequent incidents and implications for the safety of humanitarian workers (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

In northern Isiolo and western Wajir, drier conditions for livestock production, low water availability, and low mild production mean households will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through October. The situation will improve after the October short rains, which are forecast to be above average, but most households will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions until December (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

In most pastoral areas and southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, food security will continue to deteriorate until October, as the lean season peaks. The majority of households will face Stressed (Phase 2) food security outcomes. October rains will improve the situation, but the majority of pastoral areas will remain under Stressed (Phase 2) conditions (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

Food availability

Since June, refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab camps are receiving 30% less food assistance than required, as WFP is facing funding shortfalls. The ration cuts are expected to continue until December 2015 (UNHCR, 15/08/2015; WFP, 30/06/2015; Institute for Security Studies, 31/08/2015).

Food security is seasonally deteriorating in coastal agricultural areas. The majority of households depleted their stocks much earlier than usual, owing to a well below-average short rains harvest; there has been little demand for agricultural labour (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Food access

Insecurity is making pasture inaccessible in Samburu North (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Health

Insecurity in northern, eastern, and coastal regions has led to the departure of many health actors since December 2014, negatively impacting healthcare provision and nutrition assistance (OCHA, 04/08/2015). Eleven of 26 health facilities in Mandera have closed because staff have left the county (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

Cholera continues to affect 17 counties (Government, 21/07/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Access to healthcare is limited in counties affected by insecurity, as hundreds of health centres have closed due to a lack of staff, and presence of humanitarian actors is limited (IFRC, 02/09/2015).

Health posts are often overcrowded in the refugee camps, such as in Kambioos and Ifo camps in Dadaab, where minimum consultation times are negatively affecting the quality of services (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

Cholera

An ongoing cholera outbreak has affected 21 counties in Kenya. More than 5,560 cases and 113 deaths have been reported between December 2014 and August 2015. Counties at high risk include Turkana, Marsabit, Baringo, Siaya, Migori, Kajiado, Nairobi, Kiambu, and Kilifi. The overall case fatality rate (CFR) is 2% (IFRC, 02/09/2015). A cholera outbreak has been declared in Dadaab camp, after nine suspected cases were reported (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

WASH

Water supply

As of 24 July, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 17.5L of water per person per day – below minimum standards (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

The pastoral lean season started early in July, and availability of pasture and water is decreasing. Livestock body conditions remain good. In some pastoral areas, including northern Isiolo, western Wajir, eastern Mandera, eastern Samburu and parts of Marsabit, below-average rainfall has not improved food security or rangeland conditions as seasonally expected (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).
Dadaab refugee camps are overcrowded, and shelter inadequate. In Kambioos, many people are staying in tents that have a lifespan of 6–7 months. In Ifo camp, some shelters have not been replaced since the founding of the camp in 1991 (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

Education

465,000 children remain out of school due to drought, food insecurity, lack of access to safe water and conflict-related displacement (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Access and learning environment

More than 20 schools have reopened in Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu and Turkana counties due to improved security. They had been closed since May, due to violence along the borders between the counties (AllAfrica, 01/07/2015).

Teaching and learning

The absence of 1,600 teachers in conflict-affected counties leaves 80,000 children without access to education (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). Secondary schools are most affected, but primary schools along the Kenya–Somalia border are also without teachers (local media, 21/05/2015).

Protection

In January, Human Rights Watch issued a report highlighting serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detention, and torture by security forces (HRW, 29/01/2015). There are reports of Somali refugees being mistreated by security forces in operations to confront Al Shabaab (BBC, 01/06/2015).

Gender

In Dadaab, 533 cases of SGBV were reported between January and June 2015, compared to 623 during the same period in 2014. The majority of cases (96%) affected women, 9% affected children, and 4% men. Limited safe spaces are predisposing women and children to danger; poverty resulting from a lack of livelihood opportunities is a factor for abuse and exploitation; and long distances to basic requirements such as firewood expose women and children to heightened protection risks (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Children

30,892 unaccompanied minors are among the refugee population (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). In Kakuma camp, the cumulative number of separated and unaccompanied children is 15,507, including 2,836 from South Sudan (UNHCR, 23/07/2015; 25/06/2015).

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

Updated: 03/09/2015

LIBERIA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

KEY CONCERNS

- 10,672 cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,808 deaths, since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in March 2014 (IOM, 11/08/2015; WHO, 26/08/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014).
- Over 70,000 births were not registered during the Ebola crisis in Liberia, posing a protection concern (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).
- 640,000 people are food insecure; 200,000 are reported to be severely food insecure (LFSA, 30/06/2015).
- There is insufficient capacity to meet non-Ebola medical needs, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related morbidity and mortality

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

Politics and security

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

In mid-June, an armed group of 200 people crossed into Liberia from Côte d’Ivoire.
In mid-June, an armed group of 200 people crossed into Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire and seized control of an area in the heavily forested border region. They are reportedly from the Mossi tribe. Reports suggest they have displaced some 2,000 people (AFP, 12/06/2015).

Displacement

Refugees and asylum seekers

Liberia is hosting around 40,038 refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern, including 38,102 refugees from Côte d'Ivoire who fled electoral violence in 2010 (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). On 12 March, UNHCR, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire agreed to resume voluntary repatriation, after it was suspended due to Ebola (UNHCR, 23/04/2015; international media, 23/04/2015). Repatriation is scheduled to begin before elections take place in Côte d'Ivoire in October (international media, 23/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Liberia’s rainy season began in late May and is due to end in October (FEWSNET, 31/05/2015). The rainy season has made access to remote communities very challenging (UNICEF, 05/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

16% of Liberians – 640,000 – are food insecure. Some 200,000 are severely food insecure, according to a June assessment (LFSA, 30/06/2015). Severely food insecure households have very limited or no rice stocks, making them particularly vulnerable (LFSA, 30/06/2015). The southeastern region, particularly River Gee and Grand Kru, is among the areas most affected by food insecurity (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

Poor households will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity until September, and the end of the lean season. The situation is expected to improve between October and December thanks to regular imports and above-average harvest prospects, bringing the general situation to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

35% of households with access to farmland did not harvest last season. 21% have reported a decrease in rice production (LFSA, 30/06/2015). As of 31 August, cross-border flows of goods are reported to remain below average, due to Ebola-related fears (FEWSNET 31/08/2015).

Food access

Over 21% of respondents to a FEWSNET survey reported that the most important market in their area was operating at reduced levels. This has been attributed to high transport costs linked to the rainy season (FEWSNET, 08/07/2015). People in the southeastern region report restricted access to markets to purchase or sell surplus produce (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

The lean season is longer than usual due to the effects of the Ebola outbreak and still negatively affecting household purchasing power (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

33% of respondents of a FEWSNET trader survey reported less wage opportunities than average for yearend of July, beginning of August, although daily wage rates increased by an average of 2% between May and June (FEWSNET, 08/07/2015; WFP, 30/07/2015).

18% of households have reported using emergency coping strategies such as begging (LFSA, 30/06/2015). Areas in the southeast and in Bong county have increased the use of coping strategies as the lean season progresses (WFP, 30/07/2015).

Health

Nearly all health facilities in the country are open, but most are operating at reduced levels compared to before the Ebola outbreak. 378 health workers were infected with Ebola, 192 of whom died (WHO, 26/08/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

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

Maternal health

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

Mental health

A need for access to mental health and psychosocial support remains, especially for survivors, orphans, and the bereaved (UNMEER, 22/02/2015).
As of 28 August, at least 300,000 Liberians are reported to suffer from mental illness (Carter Center, 28/08/2015). There is only one psychiatrist and there are no psychologists in Liberia (PI, 21/03/2015).

Ebol

On 3 September, Liberia was declared free of Ebola virus transmission in the human population, as 42 days had passed since the second negative test, on 22 July, of the last laboratory-confirmed case. Liberia has begun a 90-day period of heightened surveillance (WHO, 03/09/2015). Liberia had been declared Ebola-free on 9 May, but a new case was confirmed post mortem on 29 June, and another six cases since then. Two people died (NYT, 29/06/2015; WHO, 26/08/2015). Altogether, 10,672 Ebola cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,808 deaths, since the beginning of the outbreak in March 2014 (WHO, 26/08/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014).

Sierra Leone has seen an increase in cases along the border of Liberia since June (USAID, 16/06/2015; International Media, 24/06/2015). As of 28 July, borders remain open, but regular checks at crossing points and in communities living on the border are maintained (IFRC, 28/07/2015). The whole region has recorded 27,748 cumulative Ebola cases, including 11,279 deaths (UN 26/03/2015; WHO, 29/07/2015).

Around 5,000 people are estimated to have survived Ebola in Liberia (International SOS, 13/08/2015). According to WHO, 25% of Ebola survivors experience changes in their vision, with rare severe cases reporting to have developed blindness (Reuters, 07/08/2015).

Nutrition

52,000 children are estimated to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Relative to trends observed from 1992–2012, malnutrition prevalence is forecast to increase by 2.8–5.3% between 2014 and 2016 (UN Development Group, 11/03/2015).

The six counties prioritised by responders for nutrition interventions are those who reported the highest Ebola case numbers during the height of the crisis: Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa (UNICEF, 15/04/2015). Between June and 22 July, 919 children from Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, and Nimba were admitted for severe malnutrition treatment (UNICEF, 22/07/2015).

WASH

Water

Only 62% of the Liberian population has access to improved drinking sources (Irish Aid, 18/08/2015). According to a recent assessment of health facilities, 50% do not have a protected year-round source of water, and 20% do not have any protected source on site. 49% do not have any bulk water storage on site (WASH Cluster, 10/04/2015).

Sanitation

Only 25% of the population in Liberia has access to improved sanitation. The number drops to 4% in rural areas. 32% don’t have access to an improved drinking water source (Irish Aid, 18/08/2015; WASH Cluster, 13/04/2015). Only 61% of facilities report hand-washing facilities at the toilet. 23% have a drainage system and only 45% have a functioning soak pit for liquid waste (WASH Cluster, 10/04/2015).

Protection

Many Ebola survivors have returned home to find their possessions destroyed to prevent the spread of the virus. Landlords have terminated leases and some people have lost their jobs (VOA, 30/03/2015; All Africa, 04/05/2015).

Children

401 of the 450 rape cases reported in Liberia since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak were against children under 17 years of age (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

Over 70,000 births were not registered during the Ebola crisis in Liberia, hindering access to services and increasing the risk of trafficking (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Social workers have raised fears of child trafficking and exploitation, after some children who had been placed into foster care and were receiving material support were claimed by strangers who failed to come forward previously (UNICEF, 31/12/2014).

5,794 children have been registered as directly affected (quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied, separated, in treatment, and discharged) by Ebola (UNICEF 19/08/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Approximately 20,000 former healthcare workers and volunteers who were associated with the Ebola response continue to face discrimination (IRIN, 11/06/2015). Ebola survivors are also facing difficulties: some survivors say traders are refusing to accept their money (All Africa, 04/05/2015).

Updated: 03/09/2015
LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

2 September: More than half of school-aged IDPs and returnees in the east of Libya do not attend school. Only 65 of 239 schools in Benghazi are functional (UNICEF).

28 August: More than 400 people died trying to reach Europe from Libya in August (IOM).

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.4 million non-displaced affected people (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
- 435,000 IDPs (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
- 250,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in need of assistance (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).
- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

OVERVIEW

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

Areas with highest humanitarian needs are Benghazi, in northeastern Libya; Ghat, Ubari and Sabha in the south, and Warshafana, Zlitn and Nalut in the northwest. Priority needs are health, protection and education for the northwest and northeast and health, food security, and shelter for the south.

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

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

Politics and security

Libya has had two rival parliaments and governments since mid-2014. The political crisis led to growing armed conflict, and a struggle over resources and a sharp drop in oil production exacerbated the crisis (Financial Times, 19/03/2015). Militias now exert much control on the ground. The deterioration of the political and security situation has enabled smugglers to take control over some areas, notably Sabrata and Zuwara towns near the Tunisian border west of Tripoli, making use of official ports for smuggling operations (BBC, 29/04/2015). Furthermore, Islamic State (IS) has exploited the volatile security situation (Asharq Al Awsat 04/05/2015).

The elected parliament, the House of Representatives (HoR), was voted for in June 2014, and moved to Tobruk in early August (AFP, 12/11/2014). The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of Representatives and never stood down, voted to replace the HoR on 25 August 2014. It is supported by an alliance of groups called Libya Dawn.

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

Peace talks

The rival parliaments held their first direct meeting in March 2015, led by the UN (AFP, 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). A new round of peace talks began on 26 June (Reuters, 29/06/2015). On 11 July, Libyan political parties agreed on a UN-proposed peace accord, but the GNC was absent (AFP, 12/07/2015). In August a new round of talks resumed in Geneva with the goal of drafting a version of the deal that the GNC will adopt (IRIN, 17/08/2015).

Stakeholders

Libya Dawn

The Libya Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces,
as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and Gharyan, these groups make up Libya Dawn. Some factions are wary of the threat of IS to regional and local interests; others are willing to cooperate with IS to defeat Haftar and the Libyan National Army (ACLED, 03/2015).

**Libyan National Army**

Former General Khalifa Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May 2014, in support of the House of Representatives. Operation Dignity and its supporters have since been renamed the Libyan National Army (LNA), with Haftar as army chief (ICG, 05/01/2014; Middle East Eye, 24/02/2015). Support comes from the Al Qa’qa’ and Al Sawai’q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (AFP, 05/01/2014).

**Islamic State and allies**

The Islamic Youth Shura Council has declared an Islamic emirate in the eastern city of Derna and pledged allegiance to Islamic State (Al Arabiya, 06/10/2014). The Battar Brigade, based in Derna, pledges alliance to Islamic State. They are not affiliated with either of the rival governments and have warned all governments and militia groups not to interfere with its activities. IS has set up training camps in eastern Libya, according to US officials (BBC, 04/12/2014).

**Regional involvement**

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

Islamist fighters pushed out of Mali are said to be hiding in Libya’s south. Experts see links between these groups and Islamist militias in northern and eastern Libya (AFP, 26/10/2014). Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015). Tuareg from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad, have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

**Conflict developments**

The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014). Over 1,800 deaths have been reported since the beginning of 2015 (ACLED, 01/08/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015).

While the beginning of May saw heightened tensions between Libya Dawn forces and Operation Dignity in the west, the second half of May witnessed a shift in violence, to the central city of Sirte and the eastern city of Benghazi. Libya Dawn alliance played a lesser role in violent conflict in May, reflected in several reconciliatory efforts and prisoner swaps in Zintan, Misrata, and Gharyan (ACLED, 05/06/2015).

**Tripoli and Western Libya:** Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. On 20 March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli (Reuters, 23/03/2015). IS was suspected to be behind attacks on the Spanish, South Korean, and Moroccan embassies in April (International Business Times, 13/04/2015; AFP, 21/04/2015).

**Sirte:** On 12 August, clashes broke out between IS and armed residents trying to push back against the group. IS reportedly shelled parts of the city and beheaded 12 opponents (ALJ, 17/08/2015). IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata reportedly seized control of Sirte in March (NYT, 10/03/2015). IS seized Sirte airport and the Great Man Made River water project, which supplies water to Libyan cities, in May (BBC, 29/05/2015).

**Benghazi and Eastern Libya:** New fighting broke out between the LNA and Islamic State-affiliated groups on 30 August, killing four and wounding six (Reuters, 30/08/2015). Operation Dignity began an offensive to take Benghazi from the Shura Council in October (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). The Libyan National Army claimed in January to have almost full control of Benghazi’s Laithi district, central Benghazi’s port area, as well as part of the neighbouring Suq Al Hout district (Libya Herald, 06/01/2015). IS appears to have entered Benghazi, joining the fight against the LNA (Reuters, 15/06/2015).

**Derna:** IS was reportedly pushed out of its stronghold in June and in August launched an offensive to retake Derna (Reuters, 13/08/2015). Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade, linked to Al Qaeda, are among the militias fighting IS, and they have been joined by civilians (VoA, 15/06/2015). On 9 August, a car bomb killed three people and wounded 13 (Reuters 09/08/2015). Derna has been hit by airstrikes several times, both by pro-HoR and Egyptian planes (Reuters, 05/05/2015; 23/02/2015).

**Inter-communal violence**

Intermittent violence in the south, linked to intra and inter-ethnic rivalries, has been exacerbated by geopolitics and shifting allegiances. Fighting has occurred between the Tebu and the Tuareg since last September. In July, 40 were killed in inter-ethnic clashes between the Tebu and Tuareg in Sabha, southern Libya (Reuters, 21/07/2015; AFP, 22/07/2015).

**Economic crisis**

The Libyan economy contracted over 23% in 2014, and is expected to contract an additional 10% in 2015, depending on domestic stability as well as international oil prices. Oil production is down to 500,000 barrels a day, compared to 1.6 million barrels...
before mid-2014 (AFP, 25/08/2015). Insecurity-induced supply chain disruptions are likely to contribute to increased inflation in 2015.

Displacement

IDPs

As of end June 2015, the IDP population is estimated at 435,000 in 35 locations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Most require support, including non-food items and medicine. Those staying in schools and other public facilities need alternative shelter (OCHA, 16/06/2015). At least 56,544 IDPs have been displaced since 2011 (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

IDPs’ physical security has been seriously threatened by indiscriminate shelling, attacks on IDP camps, and sieges.

Tripoli and its surroundings hosted 269,000 IDPs at end March (IDMC, 30/03/2015). Near Tripoli, an estimated 63,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

Benghazi hosts about 105,000 IDPs (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

More than 8,700 displaced Tawerghas, mostly women and children, are in nine camps in Qasr ben Ghashir, Abu Salim, Janzour in Tripoli, Ajdabiya, Bani Waleed, Tarhuna and Benghazi (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

18,492 people from Ubari are displaced in six towns: Sabha, Wadi Shati, Jufra, Ghat, Murzuq, and Lewenat (IDMC, 30/03/2015; UNHCR, 16/01/2015). Services have been severely disrupted by fighting: Schools, hospitals and markets are completely inaccessible (UNHCR, 16/01/2015; ALJ, 22/06/2015).

Refugees and asylum-seekers

As of June 2015, there were 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Libya in need of assistance (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Others

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country, as passage through Libya’s borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted. In January, IOM estimated at least 150,000 migrant workers were also in the country, 5,000 of whom might be vulnerable and in need of evacuation assistance, health services, and psychosocial support (IOM, 08/01/2015).

Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy. More than 300,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean so far in 2015, most of them using Libya as their starting point; 2,373 are believed to have died in the attempt (UNHCR, 28/08/2015; IOM, 25/08/2015; UNHCR, 06/08/2015). More than 400 people died trying to reach Europe from Libya in August (IOM, 28/08/2015). The Libyan Naval Coast Guard intercepts many boats, which has increased the number of migrants in need of urgent assistance in Libyan ports (IOM, 12/05/2015). In 2014, 170,000 migrants departed from Libya and arrived in Italy. An estimated 3,200 people died crossing the sea (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Armed groups lack knowledge of humanitarian organisations and restrict access. Most humanitarian agencies have left. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN, 07/08/2014). In particular, the humanitarian impact on the civilian populations within Benghazi is becoming catastrophic (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

Fuel shortages are further limiting access (AFP, 19/05/2015).

Security and physical constraints

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

Food Security and Livelihoods

Food availability

Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, including a substantial decline in food imports as foreign shippers fear making deliveries (Reuters, 31/07/2015). The HoR has reported it had started tapping into the country’s strategic wheat reserves to ensure bread supplies. Some bakeries in Tripoli and Benghazi have closed or reduced production (Reuters, 04/02/2015).

Food access

Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating the situation. The price of basic food items has tripled since the start of the crisis (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Basic food items in Benghazi are only available in areas controlled by the LNA (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Health

...
Healthcare availability and access

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

Many IDPs and migrants do not have access to health services (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Access to health services has become a major concern mainly in Benghazi. Fighting restricts movement for people and health workers in conflict areas (WHO, 24/11/2014).

WASH

Lack of adequate WASH facilities has been reported in detention centres in and outside Tripoli (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). Inadequate sanitation and hygiene conditions are reported in the nine displacement camps hosting Tawerghas (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

Education

Half of the children in Libya are without education. In Benghazi, 75% of boys and girls have no access to education (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Only 65 out of 239 schools are functioning (UNICEF, 02/09/2015). At December 2014, 21% of IDP school-aged children were not attending school due to insecurity, closed school and lack of space (UNICEF, 03/2015). More than half of school-aged IDPs and returnees in the east of the country do not attend school (UNICEF, 02/09/2015). Many of the schools in the northeast and south are occupied by IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Protection

Abductions, looting, burning of homes and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). In some districts of Benghazi, civilians are reporting that militants patrolling the area are not allowing them to leave (Human Rights Watch, 26/05/2015). Human rights defenders and justice sector officials are targeted, intimidated, and frequently attacked (UNSMIL/OHCHR, 25/03/2015).

626 people are reported to have been ab ducted between February 2014 and April 2015, including an estimated 378 whose whereabouts continue to be unknown. 508 of these abductions were in Benghazi (Amnesty, 04/08/2015). On 3 June, IS abducted 86 Eritrean Christian migrants from Tripoli (International Business Times, 05/06/2015). Throughout the first half of 2015, IS has kidnapped and executed Ethiopian Christians, Coptic Christians, and foreign oil workers (AFP, 19/04/2015; HRW, 24/02/2015; BBC, 09/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Vulnerable groups

Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture, including whippings, beatings and electric shocks, has also been reported (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). As of May, 16,000 people, mainly African migrants, were reported to be in detention, mainly in the Tripoli region and in Misrata (Reuters, 24/05/2015). There are 18 government-run detention centres and 21 operated by armed militias (PI, 05/2015; Save the Children, 18/06/2015). The centres are reported to be overcrowded and lack adequate WASH facilities (Reuters, 24/05/2015).

Updated: 03/09/2015

MALAWI FLOODS

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 August: Poor households in southern Malawi are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes between October and December, and will require humanitarian assistance to meet basic food needs (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- The maize production in the current agricultural season has been of 2,898,123 metric tons, representing a deficit of 28% (VOA, 19/08/2015).
- 100,000 people are living in 131 displacement sites as a result of January floods (UNICEF, 05/08/2015).
- Over 200,000 Malawians are expected to face an acute food situation (VOA, 19/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

High rainfall in January and February caused the Shire River to reach its highest level in...
30 years and led to severe flooding (IFRC, 30/06/2015). More than 1.1 million people were affected; 230,000 were displaced, 104 people died, and 645 were injured, with the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba most affected (ICRC, 17/07/2015). 1,220km of roads and 185 bridges have been damaged or destroyed. Private housing is the greatest need, followed by transportation, agriculture, and WASH. A 0.6% decrease in GDP is expected for 2015 because of flood damage (Government, 18/06/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Flood-affected: In August, around 100,000 displaced people were still being hosted in temporary sites in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts. 88% of IDPs have remained within their area of origin. NFIs, shelter, WASH and health needs persist (UNICEF, 05/08/2015; IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

21,768 refugees and asylum seekers are in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda, and residing in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi, or among host communities (UNHCR, 05/2015). On 27 July, district officials reported that 678 people, including 400 children, have arrived from Mozambique. They fled fighting between the army and RENAMO insurgents (ABC News, 27/07/2015). As of 13 August, the village of Kapise II, located in the southern district of Mwanza, was reportedly hosting 775 Mozambican refugees (VOA, 13/08/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

2.8 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity in 2015 as a result of the combined effect of floods and drought in 25 districts, according to the preliminary results of a VAC report (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Households that were affected by floods are considered particularly vulnerable.

The majority of households in southern Malawi will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through September. Poor households in southern districts, including Phalombe, Chikwawa, and Nsanje, are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes between October and December, and will require humanitarian assistance to meet basic food needs (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

The floods destroyed around 64,000 hectares of crops and 195,032 animals (ICRC, 17/07/2015; FAO, 09/08/2015). The maize production in the current agricultural season is at 2,898,123 metric tons, representing a deficit of 27.7%. Over 200,000 Malawians are expected to face an acute food situation (VOA, 19/08/2015).

Food access

Households in 49 displacement sites reported having no access to food in May (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015). In the harvest and post-harvest periods, from May through September, maize prices have increased by more than 10% (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). In the second quarter of 2015, maize prices almost doubled in Southern (+95%) and Central (+99%) regions. In the same period the cost of the minimum food basket increased more than 10% (WFP, 30/07/2015). Additional large price increases are expected, because large deficits in agricultural production are forcing the country to increase imports (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

Livelihoods

Between July and September poor households are expected to earn less from food and cash crop sales due to reduced production (FEWSNET, 17/08/2015). Almost half the districts in southern Malawi are experiencing limited agricultural labour opportunities, reduced income from crop sales, and reduced access to irrigated farming crops and income due to dry conditions since February. These are expected to diminish households’ purchasing power during the peak of the lean season in January and February resulting in food consumption gaps and unsustainable coping (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015; 30/06/2015).

Health

Malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhoea were the most prevalent health problems in IDP camps in May. The long distance to health facilities (over 3km) is a challenge in more than half of IDP sites (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

23 health facilities and significant medical supplies have been damaged or destroyed by floods (Government, 18/06/2015).

Nutrition

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children as a result of the floods and poor harvests. 25,313 children aged 6–59 months were admitted with SAM as of July 2014 (UNICEF, 27/09/2015).

WASH

2,990 boreholes and six water treatment plants have been damaged or destroyed by floods (Government, 18/06/2015). At end April, 35% of IDP sites reported that drinking water was still poor quality, while 8% reported less than 15L of water per person per day (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).
Shelter and NFIs

523,350 houses have been damaged or destroyed by floods, making this the largest recovery need (Government, 18/06/2015). Many on the east bank in Nsanje are waiting to be allocated land, but lack resources to rebuild their homes (Government/UN, 07/04/2015). 75% of IDP sites are spontaneous, while 22% of IDPs have sought refuge in planned displacement sites (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

Shelter

In 16 sites, 25% of IDPs live outside without shelter (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

NFIs

NFIs, including kitchen sets and blankets, remain a primary need among populations in IDP sites (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015). In 124 sites, no one has access to electricity (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

Education

508 schools have been damaged or destroyed by the floods, and 350,000 students have been affected; many schools are being used as camps (Government, 18/06/2015; IOM/Government, 29/04/2015). Ndione school in Nsanje remained submerged at 10 June (UNICEF, 10/06/2015).

Protection

Gender

23 of the 192 remaining open IDP sites do not have separate bathing areas for male and female IDPs, which may raise protection issues (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).

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

Children

On 30 July, police rescued 21 trafficked children in Blantyre while they were in transit to Mangochi from Mozambique (The Times Malawi, 30/07/2015).

Updated: 10/09/2015

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT
The stability of the Sahel region relies on the presence of foreign troops. In addition to Malian forces, there are French forces, MINUSMA, and the EU military training mission (EUTM), mainly in Bamako and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

MINUSMA’s mandate has been extended until 30 June 2016 (UN, 29/06/2015). Attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers have spiked since mid-August 2014 (AFP, 21/09/2014). Most have been carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. 41 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 and more than 150 have been wounded in close to 80 attacks (local media, 30/05/2015; AFP, 02/07/2015).

On 1 August 2014, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region. Based in Chad, Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (Local Media, 01/08/2014).

Conflict developments

In June, when the peace agreement (Algiers Accord) was signed, the number of recorded violent incidents and fatalities was significantly lower than in the previous months. Some 20–25 violent events and around 70 deaths were reported in April and May, whereas June saw around 10 events leading to some 30 fatalities (ACLED, 10/07/2015).

On 15–17 August, the first serious violation of the Algiers peace accord was reported in Kidal region, when fighting erupted between the pro-government Gatia and Tuareg armed groups. There are rumours of up to 15 people killed and many more injured, but numbers have not been confirmed. In response, MINUSMA declared a security zone around the city of Kidal (MINUSMA, 17/08/2015; AFP, 17/08/2015). Gatia militia have been present in Anefis, Kidal region, since the clashes, even though they announced their withdrawal from the town end of August. The situation remains tense, as CMA militia are still nearby (MaliWeb, 02/09/2015).

Local media report that insecurity in the north remains, with sustained presence of armed bandits in Dire, and taking of hostages, attacks on civilians and stealing of livestock in Goundam (MaliWeb, 16/07/2015). The security situation seems to be worsening particularly around Timbuktu, with an increasing number of attacks on villagers and people on the road to markets (Reuters, 09/08/2015). On 16–17 August, seven people were killed in violence between Tuareg and Sonrai communities in Tinassamede, Gao region (MaliActu, 19/08/2015). On 1 September, armed men killed two Malian soldiers at a checkpoint near Timbuktu (MaliWeb, 01/09/2015).

Security incidents in southern and central regions have increased since June, and some have been claimed by Islamist insurgent group Ansar Dine (AFP, 30/06/2015; 27/06/2015; UN, 29/06/2015; local media, 11/06/2015). On 7 August, 23 people were killed in an attack on a hotel in Sevare, Mopti region. Among the victims were UN soldiers, Malian armed forces, and insurgents. The attack was claimed by an Islamist group linked to Mokhtar Belmokhtar (AFP, 08/08/2015; 11/08/2015).

Natural Disasters

Floods
Since early August, heavy rains have caused flooding in all regions of Mali. Most affected are Nioro and Kita districts in Kayes; Kolokani district in Koulikoro; San, Macina and Bla districts in Segou; Mopti and Douentza in Mopti; Timbuktu and Rharous in Timbuktu; and Gao and Menaka in Gao region. Houses, wells, and latrines have collapsed, and agricultural losses have been reported. Poor households that are affected will face difficulties reconstructing their property and covering their basic food needs (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In Menaka, Gao, 1,000 people were affected by flooding on 7-8 August, and at least 750 are staying in school buildings. Flooding in Mopti affected schools, and displaced some 200 people (AFP, 09/08/2015; Education Cluster, 12/08/2015; OCHA, 13/08/2015).

Displacement

Nearly 80,000 people are internally displaced in Mali due to the conflict in the north, and more than 130,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso. The majority of displacement is protracted, as most people have been displaced since mid-2013, when the number of IDPs and refugees reached its peak. Since then, people have gradually returned, particularly IDPs, though a new surge in internal displacement occurred in April–May 2015, due to increased insecurity in the north. Those who have returned are often still in need of assistance.

IDPs

As of 31 July, there are 78,183 IDPs in Mali (OCHA, 31/07/2015). Between April and May, the number of IDPs in the country more than doubled. Since June, the majority of newly displaced in Timbuktu and Mopti have returned. Only in Goundam and Tonka in Goundam district, Timbuktu region, they are not yet returning home. As of 17 June, Goundam district had received 20,354 new IDPs (IOM, 17/06/2015; 03/08/2015; OCHA, 31/07/2015). Most are staying with host families, putting extra stress on already limited resources (ECHO, 27/05/2015; local media, 10/06/2015; CARE, 12/06/2015).

Returning IDPs are often still in need of assistance, as general conditions in the north have deteriorated, with infrastructure and houses destroyed due to a lack of maintenance (IOM, 03/08/2015).

As of April, 43,100 people remained displaced since the start of the conflict in 2012, a decrease from 61,000 recorded in December 2014 (OCHA, 08/06/2015).

Refugees in Mali

As of May, Mali hosts some 15,400 refugees, mainly from Mauritania and Côte d’Ivoire (UNHCR, 26/05/2015).

Returnees

Some 35,000 Malian refugees have returned: more than 10,000 from Burkina Faso, over 12,000 from Niger, around 7,300 from Mauritania, and 2,200 from Algeria (OCHA, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 14/08/2014).

Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are 137,789 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

As of 31 July, 51,400 Malian refugees are registered in Mbera camp, Mauritania; 52,445 were in Niger as of 31 July (UNHCR, 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015). Burkina Faso hosts 33,703 Malian refugees (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian Access

The security situation continues to hinder humanitarian assistance, particularly in the north. Tensions are spreading to previously unaffected areas near the borders with Mauritania and Côte d’Ivoire, and closer to Bamako (WFP, 37/07/2015). As of 31 July, OCHA has recorded 56 access constraints so far in 2015, an increase from 31 recorded until May. 40% were incidents of violence directed at humanitarian personnel or goods, 32% resulted from military operations. The majority (76%) was directed at international NGOs, 16% at UN agencies. Most incidents involved armed groups, often unidentified. In comparison, 22 constraints were reported in the whole of 2014 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Criminal activities in the north are affecting the humanitarian response. Looting of food from WFP and partners has been reported, both from warehouses and on the road. Incidents have reportedly increased since the signing of the peace agreement (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Since the signing of the peace agreement, main access constraints in the north come from Islamist armed group attacks and banditry. Several roads are controlled by these groups, hampering access to affected communities (IOM, 03/08/2015).

Humanitarian air services have been disrupted in Kidal region since January, due to insecurity and needs for repair (OCHA, 04/05/2015; 21/05/2015).

Food Security

2.86 million people are food insecure as of June, including 451,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes, according to the Cadre Harmonise. This corresponds to 2.8% of the population, and is an increase from the 410,000 severely food insecure projected in March (Government, 07/2015).
The majority of people facing Crisis or worse food security outcomes are in Timbuktu (143,000), Gao (104,000) and Mopti (85,000), mainly due to low levels of food stocks, an extended pastoral lean season, and insecurity. The most affected areas are Goundam and Gourma Rharous in Timbuktu, and Bourem and Ansongo in Gao (Government, 07/2015; 30/07/2015).

**Poor pastoral households in the north who have experienced decreased revenue and loss of livestock in the past months, will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes during September, but Minimal (Phase 1) starting October (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).**

**Food availability**

In agropastoral zones of Gao, Bourem, Niafunke, Rharous and Youwarou, households have had a prolonged dependence on markets due to reduced harvests. With the presence of humanitarian assistance they are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until September, but the situation will improve from October onwards, after the harvest (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

**Livelihoods**

Insecurity has led to trade ruptures in the north, disruption of agricultural and pastoral activities, and loss of livelihoods due to looting of livestock and other goods (Government, 30/07/2015).

**The use of coping strategies is limited for poor agropastoral households in riverine areas of Gao and Bourem districts (Gao region), the lake zone in Goundam, Haoussa in Niafunke (Timbuktu region) and the north of Youwarou (Mopti region), due to the presence of humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).**

**Health**

**Measles**

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Tessalit and Kidal districts of Kidal region, with 148 confirmed cases as of 28 May (OCHA, 15/06/2015). There is no permanent humanitarian health actor in the region (OCHA, 21/05/2015; WHO, 29/05/2015; UNICEF, 31/05/2015). People in remote villages cannot access health services (local media, 21/04/2015). The number of measles cases has also exceeded the epidemic threshold in Segou (OCHA, 15/06/2015). As of 23 July, 545 suspected measles cases have been reported nationwide, with no reported death (Government, 23/07/2015).

**Nutrition**

An estimated 71,300 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across the country and 534,000 are expected to suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in 2015. Preliminary results of a May 2015 SMART survey indicate 12.4% GAM and 2.8% SAM nationwide. In Timbuktu, the emergency threshold has been passed, with 17.5% GAM and 3.8% SAM (OCHA, 11/08/2015; 15/06/2015).

The nutrition situation has worsened in Kidal and Gao regions. According to the WHO classification, the situation is serious in Gao, with 11.3% GAM and 2.3% SAM. In Kidal, 5.7% GAM and 1.0% SAM indicate a critical situation (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). In Koulikoro, GAM is at 13%, including 2% SAM (MaliWeb, 02/09/2015).

**WASH**

**Water supply**

In flooded areas in Menaka, Gao region, floodwater has submerged wells, making the town’s usual source of drinking water unfit for use (AFP, 09/08/2015).

Several areas of Gao and Timbuktu regions are facing acute water shortages, as up to 75% of water points have dried up (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Nomad communities are putting additional pressure on remaining water sources. At least 7,660 households are affected (around 54,600 individuals) and some are losing their cattle. Worst affected are Bourem, Dorey and Ntillit in Gao; Tassik in Kidal; and Ebang Malane and Gossi in Timbuktu (OCHA, 11/08/2015; 31/07/2015).

The WASH situation among new IDPs in Gourma Rharous and Bourem districts is severe. 59% of households cite a lack of drinking water as a main concern. Between 67% and 88% of households use surface water as their main water source, increasing the risk of waterborne disease (NRC and Handicap International, 18/06/2015).

**Sanitation**

Among new IDPs in Gourma Rharous and Bourem districts, 71% of households have no access to latrines. More than 80% practice open defecation (NRC and Handicap International, 18/06/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**
Shelter

In Fatoma (Mopti region) and Menaka (Gao region) people displaced by floods are staying in school buildings. This is affecting at least 950 people (Education Cluster, 12/08/2015).

Education

281,690 children in Mali are in need of education (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

Access and learning environment

Resumption of hostilities in the north has led to the closure of schools. By the end of June, 430 schools remained closed, affecting 20,500 students (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). In Menaka district, Gao, up to 92% of schools are closed, with Tidermene commune most affected. In Kidal region, all schools are closed in four communes (Education Cluster, 30/06/2015).

Flooding in Mopti and Gao regions has affected at least 20 schools. As of 12 August, in Mopti, two schools have been damaged by a storm in Konna, six others in Mopti town have been submerged, and a school in Fatoma is hosting 200 people. In Menaka, Gao region, one school has been submerged, two others have sustained damage to classrooms, and nine schools are hosting some 750 people (Education Cluster, 12/08/2015).

Protection

Mines and ERW

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of casualties from ERW since 2015, but IED casualties are increasing. Since 2013, IEDs have caused 136 civilian casualties, nearly half of which were recorded in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Explosive remnants of war (ERW) caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Children

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are reportedly recruiting and using children, and are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015).

Gender

Since March 2015, 441 gender-based violence incidents have been reported. 90% of victims were female, and 34% involved minors. Victims often lack livelihood support services and safe accommodation. Survivors generally refuse referral to legal or protection services, in fear of retaliation or stigmatisation by their community (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Updated: 02/09/2015

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 26/08/2015. Last update: 19/08/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 458,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes in June. 795,000 are facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015).

- 33,760 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (IFRC, 01/07/2015).

- Malnutrition is rising in Mbera camp, due to interruption of food aid (MSF, 13/07/2015).

Displacement

Refugees and asylum seekers

Mauritania hosts 51,425 Malian refugees as of 31 July, including 49,888 in Mbera camp and 1,512 urban refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 12/08/2015; 13/07/2015). The increase of nearly 400 refugees in Mbera camp since the end of May is mainly due to the registration of newborn babies (UNHCR, 13/07/2015). 226 Malian refugees arrived in Mauritania in May due to fighting in Mali, the highest number since September 2014; 93 arrived in June (UNHCR, 31/05/2015; 13/07/2015). Mbera camp is a remote desert location on the border that has significant security challenges, and where food insecurity and malnutrition are high. According to UNHCR, 80% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Security problems and inaccessibility to areas of northern Mali make it difficult to obtain return figures, however UNHCR is reporting a small number of spontaneous returns to Mali (UNHCR 30/04/2015).

Food Security
As of June, 458,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. Seven out of 14 wilayas in the south and southeast are classified as Crisis. Households facing Crisis outcomes are in northern Gorgol and Brakna, western Assaba, southern Tagant, and in the central zone of the Senegal River valley (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

An additional 795,000 people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Cadre Harmonise, 06/2015). From October to December, the food security situation will improve, and poor households will be facing Stressed outcomes (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Food availability

As of late June, agricultural activities had only started in the Hodh regions; in normal years they would take place throughout zones relying on rain-fed crops (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

In northern Gorgol, the north of Brakna, west of Assaba, and south of Tagant, poor households have experienced two successive years of poor harvests. They have been depending on markets since February/March, two to three months earlier than in a normal year. Households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes until September, even in the presence of humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Pastoral conditions will improve starting in August, and early crops will be available in September. This will improve the food security situation from October to December (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Food access

Livelihoods

In the central zone of the Senegal River valley (the south of Boghe, Bababe, Mbagne, and the southwest of Kaedi), below-average revenues and increased dependence on markets for food supply, result in households facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Between October and December, increased agricultural activity will augment revenue and improve the food security situation. However, households will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until the next harvest in February/March 2016 (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Food Security in the Sahel Region

During the lean season (June–August), 7.5 million will be facing Crisis and Emergency (Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes across the Sahel and West Africa, of whom 4.5 million live in the Sahel, and 26.6 million to be Stressed (Cadre Harmonisé, 04/2015; CLISS, FEWSNET, WFP, FAO, 01/07/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Health

Nutrition

An estimated 129,760 children are expected to be acutely malnourished, including 33,760 severely, according to ECHO. As of March, there was 6.2% global acute malnutrition (GAM) countrywide. No region exceeded the 10% threshold, but Hodh El Chargui, Guidimakha, Brakna and Gorgol were the most affected regions (IFRC, 01/07/2015).

GAM rates are increasing in Mbera refugee camp. WFP has had to cut monthly food rations, due to a lack of funding. As of 10 August, rice and pulse distribution have resumed, but remain at reduced levels (WFP, 10/08/2015). Admissions for nutrition have increased more than 100% according to MSF, with 79 malnourished children admitted per month since the interruption of food aid, compared to 30 per month before (IRIN, 13/07/2015).

WASH

In Mbera camp, refugees have access to 30L of water per day. On average, a latrine is shared between 22 people (UNHCR, 13/07/2015).

Education

Lack of access to education has been reported in Mbera camp, in particular affecting girls and minorities (UNHCR, 30/04/2015; 13/07/2015).

Protection

Incidents of sexual violence have been reported in Mbera camp (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Reviewed: 26/08/2015

SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant developments this week, 09/09/2015. Last update: 26/08/2015.
KEY CONCERNS
- Over 3.8 million people were projected to be food insecure from June–August, including at least 639,709 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to erratic rains in 2014 (FAO, 09/07/2015).
- 332,300 children suffering from acute malnutrition, including 68,650 from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

OVERVIEW
4.3 million people are estimated in need of assistance in 2015 in Senegal (31% of the population), a 266% increase compared to 2013. Needs are mostly due to climatic conditions, a rise in food prices, and reduced cross-border exchange (UN, 16/02/2015).

Displacement
As of February, there are 17,085 refugees in Matam, Saint Louis, and Tambacounda, mostly from Mauritania. 52% are seeking naturalisation in Senegal (UN, 18/02/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods
3.8 million people are food insecure in Senegal (Red Cross, 02/06/2015).

Central areas of Senegal have experienced abnormal dryness, after a delayed start of the season that brought below-average rainfalls. Delayed planting has impacted the health of the livestock (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). The high mortality of the livestock has impacted pastoral households’ access to markets (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015). Poor agropastoral households in central and northern areas of Senegal, including Podor, Matam, and Tambacounda, will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In October the Crisis (IPC Phase 3) situation is likely to improve thanks to the harvesting of mais and cowpea expected to take place in late September (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015). The projected food assistance needs through January 2016 are lower than the five year average, even taking into consideration the lean season (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food availability
Below-average crop and animal production during 2014/15 have extended the lean season (FEWSNET, 01/07/2015). Aggregate 2014 cereal production was 20% lower than the five-year average and is expected to cover about 51% of needs in 2015 (FAO, 09/07/2015; Red Cross, 02/06/2015). Production of millet, the most important staple crop, is estimated to have dropped by 38% compared to the five-year average, while production of groundnut, the main cash crop, declined by 21%. This is reducing food availability (FAO, 31/03/2015; GIEWS, 08/05/2015).

In October, the harvest will provide sufficient food to improve food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015).

Food access
The price of food has fallen to its lowest level since 2009 (FAO, 30/06/2015). In October, the harvest will lower cereal prices, increasing household access to food (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015).

Livelihoods
Shortfalls in household incomes have contributed to the extension of the lean season (FEWSNET, 01/07/2015). Households in central and northern Senegal have adopted negative coping mechanisms, such as borrowing, cutting the number and size of meals, or selling livestock. Labour opportunities are low given the limited area of crops planted (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015; 24/07/2015).

Central areas of Senegal, already affected by drought in 2014, have received less than half the usual rainfall in 2015, resulting in abnormal dryness (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015). Only 25-80% of normal rainfall was recorded in July in central regions. This has negatively impacted livestock health (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Decreased pasture growth also slows down transhumance and presents the risk of conflict between herders and farmers (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

In the groundnut basin, the decline of peanut production, which is the main source of income for farm households, has contributed to a more than 30 percent decline of household income (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview
In the Sahel and West Africa about 7.5 million people will be in food and nutrition crisis between June and August, including 4.5 million in the Sahel, (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015). The El Niño phenomenon is due to last until the end of 2015, reducing rainfall (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition
332,300 children are acutely malnourished, including 68,650 suffering from SAM. Matam, Saint Louis (Podor department in particular), and Tambacounda regions are most affected (UN, 16/02/2015).

Updated: 09/09/2015

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

2 September: One new Ebola case was confirmed post-mortem in Kambia district along the border with Guinea, the first case in over two weeks. 48 high-risk contacts have been placed in quarantine, while other potential contacts are being identified (WHO).

31 August: In the most recent survey, 72% of respondents reported that weekly and daily markets were not functioning well, contributing to limited food access (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- As of 16 August, 13,609 cumulative Ebola cases reported, including 3,953 deaths. 28,073 cumulative Ebola cases reported across the region, including 11,290 deaths (WHO, 02/09/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.

- 43% of the population is food insecure, including 7% severely. This corresponds to around 420,000 people severely food insecure (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

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

Politics and Security

The state of emergency linked to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone has been extended for 90 days, despite calls from opposition to ease restrictions (international media, 12/06/2015). There are concerns that the state of emergency measures are being used by the ruling party against the opposition. Police have been accused of using excessive force, protests have been banned, journalists have been arrested for criticising the response, and political figures have been arrested (local media, 26/04/2015; Amnesty International, 04/05/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of February, there were nearly 2,430 refugees in Sierra Leone. They have been included in the Ebola response (UNHCR, 02/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Response activities are hampered by poor terrain and lack of transport (Doctors of the World, 04/05/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

Food security has deteriorated in Sierra Leone without distinction in both the Ebola affected and non-affected communities (WHO/OCHA, 12/07/2015). As of April, 2.58 million people (43% of the population) are food insecure, including 426,000 severely (7%). Kailahun, Kenema, Bo, Port Loko and Kono districts are most severely affected by disruptions to agricultural production and market activities due to the Ebola outbreak. In Kailahun, food insecurity among households has surged to 74%, compared to 13% in 2011 (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Households are expected to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September due to below-average food availability during the lean season and household’s affected livelihoods. Food security is expected to improve from October through December, as a result of the main harvest and the lifted ban on markets: food security outcomes are expected to be Minimal (IPC Phase 1) in most areas, and Stressed for poor households in Moyamba, Kenema and Kailahun districts, due to a slower recovery from Ebola-related shocks (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

In most areas, food stocks have depleted one to two months earlier than normal (BRAC, 21/05/2015; FEWSNET, 01/06/2015). Ongoing agricultural activities reportedly occur at below-normal levels due to Ebola containment measures (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food access
In the most recent survey, 72% of respondents reported that although currently open, weekly and daily markets were not functioning well, contributing to limited food access (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food use

Poor households in Crisis food security outcomes are continuing to reduce their food intake throughout the lean season, as food stocks have depleted (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). 45% of households have an inadequate diet, based on cereals, oil, some vegetables and a few other commodities (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

The economic slowdown due to Ebola has resulted in low income levels and weak household purchasing power (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). Typical livelihood activities remain below average due to reduced market activities caused by Ebola-related fears and reduced purchasing power (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015). An assessment in five districts indicated decreased income for 80% of respondents and increased unemployment as among the main effects of the Ebola outbreak in areas both infected or not by the disease (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

The use of coping strategies, such as a reduction in meal size and frequency, has increased across the country during the lean season; Kambia and Port Loko are most affected (WFP, 30/06/2015; 28/05/2015; BRAC, 21/05/2015). 32% of households use emergency strategies, such as begging, to cope with lack of income. Households’ high economic vulnerability translates into food purchases representing 65% of total expenditures for at least 45% of households (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Health

New Ebola cases are still reported, with weekly cases on the decline. No mass immunisation activities took place during the Ebola outbreak, which increases the risk of preventable outbreaks. Pockets of diseases are already reported (Government, 08/06/2015). The mortality and morbidity of other diseases have also likely increased during the outbreak.

Healthcare availability and access

As of May, the Ebola outbreak had caused a 5% reduction in the number of doctors and a 7% reduction in nurses and midwives (World Bank, 08/07/2015). 307 health workers have been infected with Ebola and 221 have died (WHO, 02/09/2015).

The health infrastructure is fragile and unresponsive in Sierra Leone. During the outbreak, many health facilities were temporarily closed and people were reluctant to seek healthcare due to fear of infection. It is likely there has been an increase in morbidity and mortality of other diseases, including malaria, diarrhoea, TB, and HIV (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Child health

Under-five mortality rates are estimated to have increased by 19% compared to before the Ebola outbreak, up to 191 per 1,000 live births (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Maternal Health

Delivery of maternal health services has improved in May: 89% of households report that a member gave birth in a clinic, compared to 64% in January–February, and 28% in November 2014 (World Bank, 15/06/2015). The loss of health workers is expected to have had an impact on maternal health. The World Bank estimates a maternal mortality ratio of 1,916 per 100,000 live births in May 2015, a 74% increase compared to 2013 (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Ebola

As of 30 August, 13,609 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported in Sierra Leone, including 3,953 deaths. One new case was confirmed from a post-mortem swab in Kambia district along the border with Guinea on 29 August, the first case in over two weeks. 48 high-risk contacts have been placed in quarantine, while other potential contacts are being identified (WHO, 02/09/2015).

The last Ebola patient was discharged on 24 August (WHO, 26/08/2015). Six new cases were reported over 20 July – 9 August, including three in Tonkolili district, which had been case-free for 150 days (WHO, 09/08/2015).

Fear, fatigue, and denial of the disease continue to allow the virus to spread (BBC, 18/07/2015). Some people still resist infection prevention and control measures, such as safe burials (BBC, 14/07/2015). Safe transportation of suspected Ebola cases and ambulance safety also remain priorities (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015).

Containment measures: Curfews in the worst-affected communities, including in Kambia and Port Loko districts, have been extended indefinitely. Military and police are in charge of enforcement (AFP, 08/07/2015; UNMEER, 12/06/2015). Some restrictions on public gatherings were eased on 8 August as a result of lower case incidence (AFP, 08/08/2015). Requests have also increased for humanitarian teams conducting safe burials to be scaled up in areas hard to reach during the rainy season (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Regional Outbreak

28,073 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,290 deaths (WHO, 02/09/2015). Challenges faced by Ebola survivors include adverse...
psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, diminished livelihoods, and persistent physical pain (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea are posing a challenge to surveillance, and empowering county authorities to improve surveillance at points of entry along the borders remains a priority (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015; UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have established screening and information sharing protocols at border points between areas of active Ebola transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015). Cross-border movements have increased to 2,100 per day as Sierra Leone lifted some Ebola restrictions, raising the risk of rapid spread of the virus (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Nutrition

It is predicted that, compared to observed trends from 1992 to 2012, the number of people who are undernourished during 2014–2016 could increase by 1.30–1.4% due to the Ebola outbreak (UNDG, 11/03/2015). A UNICEF assessment in 60 of 150 chiefdoms identified 273 (1.27%) children with SAM (UNICEF, 25/03/2015).

WASH

Health facilities along international borders are striving to comply with medical procedures and lack basic WASH facilities to ensure minimal hygiene conditions (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015).

Education

87% of households reported all children were attending school in May. Of those who were not attending, less than 2% cited the school was still closed or was unsafe due to Ebola (World Bank, 15/06/2015). In another survey, 46% of households who reported not sending a child to school cited inability to afford school as the main reason (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Protection

There have been allegations of beatings by police during the Ebola outbreak (Voice of America, 22/06/2015). Child protection issues have also emerged during and as a result of the Ebola outbreak.

Child Protection

Orphans are considered particularly vulnerable: 8,624 Ebola orphans have been registered as of 19 August (UNICEF, 19/08/2015). The Ebola outbreak has also had a significant impact on birth registration in Sierra Leone (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).

Due to limited household resources, children are predisposed and sometimes forced to engage in income-generating activities. There are reports of girls turning to sex work for income (The Guardian, 28/04/2015).

Updated: 02/09/2015

ANGOLA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 09/09/2015. Last update, 23/06/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- Prolonged dry conditions are affecting at 700,000 people in Cunene and Huila province (FEWSNET, 06/2015).

Displacement

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 May, nearly 8,130 irregular refugees in Soyo and Cabinda provinces have been expelled in 2015, including 1,846 women and 1,391 children (local media, 08/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 23 April, at least 15,520 Angolan refugees have returned from DRC since 20 June 2014 via voluntary repatriation (Government, 30/04/2015). The latest process, begun in February, was interrupted on 6 June due to organisational issues (Government, 08/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Households in Cunene, Huila, and Namibe provinces are expected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity between May and September due to the effects of the worst drought since 2011-2012 (FEWSNET, 22/06/2015). An estimated 700,000 people in Cunene and Huila are affected by prolonged dryness, through crop losses or livestock deterioration and death as of June (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, World Vison, OCHA, Oxfam 15/06/2015).

Food availability

Updated: 02/09/2015
Torrential rains in March/April caused around 40% loss of the planted area in Ganda and Cubal in Benguela province (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

Prolonged dryness has caused around 60–80% loss of the cereals planted in western Huíla and Cunene provinces (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015). Availability of preferred foods in some areas of Cunene is severely limited (FAO, 18/05/2015).

### Food access

Food prices have increased significantly, especially in Huíla, though this is also partly due to an increase in fuel costs late 2014 (FAO, 18/05/2015).

### Livelihoods

Dryness and an increased prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease has already led to an estimated 1,000 cattle dying in Cunene, and another 1,500 in Cuando Cubango, decreasing pastoralist income and coping strategies (FEWSNET, 23/06/2015). Other traditional income sources, including agricultural labour and sale of cereals, are affected (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

### Nutrition

An assessment conducted in April by the government and World Vision found 17% GAM among the children screened (World Vison, Government, 15/06/2015).

### Protection

The current regime has been accused of targeting outspoken journalists, arbitrary arrest, and the use of excessive force to stop reported peaceful anti-government protest (HREW, 2015).

### Mines and ERW

According to government sources, 42 areas in the municipalities of Cazengo, Cambambe, Golungo Alto, Samba Cajú, Ambaca, Ngonguembo and Quiculungo remain mined from the Angolan civil war (1975–2002) (Government, 05/07/2015).

Reviewed: 09/08/2015

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**BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**26 August:** The Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) has called for civil disobedience until the ruling preventing many of their candidates from participating in the elections is revoked (ICG, 01/09/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Long-term displacement of 34,030 Malian refugees continues to put pressure on the resources of host communities (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).
- More than 1.5 million people likely food insecure during the June–August lean season, and 499,000 children suffering from GAM (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015; UNICEF, 30/03/2015).
- 24,354 people affected by August floods; the Government is preparing for up to 122,000 by the end of the rainy season in September and appealed for international support (UNICEF, 4/08/2015; OCHA, 12/08/2015).

### Politics and Security

Burkina Faso is being ruled by a transitional Government until the beginning of October, when presidential and legislative elections will be held (AFP, 02/06/2015). A transitional Government was set up in November 2014, after demonstrations in October 2014 against President Blaise Compaoré and his Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) party’s attempt to pass a bill extending his term of office. Parliament was dissolved and Compaoré resigned.

Political tensions have risen since April, when authorities adopted a new electoral code that prevents supporters of Compaoré’s bill from participating in the next presidential elections (ICG, 24/06/2015). After the Presidential Security Regiment (PSR) accused the Prime Minister of inventing a kidnap plot against himself, they called for his resignation. President Michel Kafando decided to maintain him as Prime Minister but some positions were reshuffled within the transitional Government (ICG, 01/08/2015).

On 26 August, the CDP announced it will not patriciate in the elections. It called for civil disobedience until the ruling preventing their supporters from running in the presidential elections is revoked (ICG, 01/09/2015).

Unidentified gunmen attacked a police post in Oudalan province on 23 August, killing one policeman and injuring another; the incident is seen by some as linked to the growing insurgency in Mali (AFP, 25/08/2015).
**Natural Disasters**

**Floods**

Floods and heavy winds in eight regions of Burkina Faso early August affected 26,885 people, killed eight, and injured 54 (ACT, 29/08/2015). Bissighin and Kilwin neighbourhoods in the capital Ouagadougou (Centre region), Dallo (Centre Ouest region), and Bama (Hauts-Bassins) were most affected (OCHA, 12/08/2015). Food, health, WASH, rehabilitation and legal documentation support are priorities. The Government is planning for up to 122,000 people in need by the end of the rainy season in September, and has appealed for international support (UNICEF, 14/08/2015; ECHO, 07/08/2015).

**Displacement**

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

As of 30 June, there are 34,030 refugees in Burkina Faso. 33,700 are Malian refugees, more than half of them children. 76% of Malian refugees are residing in camps in Mentao, Goudebou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou in northern Burkina Faso; Saag-Nionio refugee camp was closed in March, with refugees relocated to other camps (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; WFP, 30/04/2015). Malian families mainly arrive from Gao and Timbuktu regions, fleeing political tensions and social unrest (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

During the June–August lean season, 371,000 people are likely in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 1.2 million in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, compared to 79,000 and 669,000 between March and May (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015). Poor households in Tin-Akoff commune in Oudalan province, and Nassoumbou and Koutougou communes in Soum province in the Sahel region, have faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes since April (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015). Abnormal dryness is expected to continue through the end of the year (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015).

**Food availability**

Floods in northern areas early August carried away more than 64 tonnes of cereal harvests and livestock, leaving households with few to no food reserves and prone to negative coping mechanisms (IRIN, 07/08/2015).

Planting has been significantly delayed in northern areas due to abnormal dryness in the first part of the year (OCHA, 27/07/2015). Rainfall in July and August will be essential for crops to recover from delays at the start of the growing season (WFP, 01/07/2015). A high de-capitalisation of livestock was also reported between April and June in Oudalan province, due to fodder deficits and lack of water points (WFP/FAO, 31/07/2015).

Food stocks of poor households in Tin-Akoff commune in Oudalan province, and Nassoumbou and Koutougou communes in Soum province in the Sahel region have been depleted since January due to below-average 2014 harvests and reduced livestock prices (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015).

**Livelihoods**

Pastoral conditions in the north have been affected by abnormal dryness, especially in Oudalan province, impacting in turn transhumance and increasing the risk of conflict over resources (OCHA, 27/07/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Disruptions in the functioning of the main drilling hole providing water to the Sahel region of Burkina Faso between April and May has caused the death of some 2,000 cattle, affecting the food security vulnerability of their owners (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Poor households in Tin-Akoff, Nassoumbou, and Koutougou communes have resorted to coping mechanisms such as selling part of their livestock (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015).

**Sahel food crisis: regional overview**

At least 7.5 million are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes across the Sahel and West Africa through August, and 26.6 million Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

**Nutrition**

In 2015, 499,000 children are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition (8.6% of the under-five population), including 149,000 from SAM (UNICEF, 30/03/2015). Two out of three children suffering from undernutrition receive inadequate medical assistance (WFP, 23/06/2015).

**WASH**

Mobile latrines and potable water are priorities following the August floods, as the worst-affected areas in Ouagadougou are non-planned areas of the city, where there is no proper sewage system (IRIN, 07/08/2015).
1,240 houses were destroyed and nearly 3,700 people rendered homeless by the floods in early August; 2,430 people have been temporarily rehoused in schools, however school is scheduled to start in mid-September (UNICEF, 14/08/2015; IRIN, 07/08/2015).

**Politics and Security**

Political instability and violence have persisted since April, when President Nkurunziza announced his intention to run for a third term (Reuters, 20/03/2015). The security situation deteriorated rapidly after Nkurunziza’s re-election at end July, and some say risks degenerating into a renewed armed conflict with possible repercussions in the sub-region and mass atrocities (WFP, 14/08/2015; UNSC, 10/08/2015). On 20 August President Nkurunziza was sworn in for his third term, ahead of schedule and with short notice (AFP, 20/08/2015). He has unveiled his new cabinet, which has been criticised as being dominated by loyalists, despite earlier assurances that he would put in place a government of national unity (AFP, 25/08/2015). On 26 August Nkurunziza announced the creation of special security committees, asserting that groups that threaten national security must be destroyed (ICG, 01/09/2015).

On 24 August, local elections were held across the country in an environment of relative calm (UN, 03/09/2015).

**Political instability**

Nkurunziza was re-elected President on 24 July, with 69% of the votes. The election was widely declared as not credible (UN, 27/07/2015; AFP, 27/07/2015). Three out of eight candidates had pulled out of the race (AFP, 19/07/2015; 18/07/2015). The ruling party also won a majority of seats in parliamentary elections on 29 June, condemned by the EU and AU for taking place in an inappropriate context; a boycott by 17 opposition groups kept the turnout low (AFP, 07/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 29/06/2015).

On 30 July, leaders of the opposition in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia met to form a coalition (AFP, 30/07/2015). Several top officials have fled the country, including the Vice President and head of Parliament at end June (AFP, 28/06/2015; 25/06/2015).

Large protests denouncing Nkurunziza’s candidacy for a third term were held between April and July, mostly in the capital Bujumbura, where military forces have been deployed, but also in some communes in Bujumbura Rural and Bururi provinces (OCHA, 12/05/2015; AFP, 05/06/2015; Reuters, 18/05/2015). A coup led by the former head of intelligence was attempted in May, but failed after two days of intense clashes in the capital (BBC, 13/05/2015).

**Recent incidents**

At least 96 people have been killed, including eight children, since violence began in April. Over 500 have been injured, while more than 600 have been arrested and detained, including minors (OHCHR, 14/08/2015; OCHA, 05/07/2015).

A number of figures in government and civil society have been killed in Bujumbura since
the start of the crisis (UN, 17/08/2015; Reuters, 05/08/2015; HRW, 04/08/2015; AFP, 02/08/2015). On 7 September, the spokesman for the Union for Peace and Democracy Party was killed by an unidentified gunman in Bujumbura. The former president of the party was similarly assassinated in May, and the current president has publicly blamed President Nkurunziza for the assassinations (AFP, 08/09/2015).

**Bujumbura:** Clashes occur nightly during police patrols in areas where people have been protesting Nkurunziza’s third term (WFP, 14/08/2015). Four people were killed in overnight clashes in Bujumbura on 1 September and the sounds of gunfire and grenades could be heard in the districts of Jabe, Nyakabiga, and Musaga (AFP, 02/09/2015; RFI, 02/09/2015). Three were killed on 13 August (AFP, 13/08/2015).

**Kayanza:** 31 gunmen died and 221 were captured in clashes with government troops near the border with Rwanda on 11 July. Some see the clash as a precursor to an insurgency by a section of the army that backed the failed May coup (OCHA, 16/07/2015; Press TV, 13/07/2015).

**Makamba:** Clashes between the Burundian army and unidentified armed groups on 25 July displaced an unconfirmed number of people, who have returned home (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

**Economic**

Foreign aid has significantly decreased since the onset of the crisis; following Nkurunziza’s re-election, a number of countries declared that trade and political and development aid cooperation would be reviewed (UNICEF, 26/08/2015; AFP, 24/07/2015).

**Displacement**

The political crisis since April has led to limited internal displacement, but displaced more than 189,773 Burundians to neighbouring countries. There are 77,600 protracted IDPs in Burundi, mostly ethnic Tutsis, and 79,000 returnees going through a reintegration process. Burundi also hosts 54,800 refugees from DRC, mainly in border regions.

**IDPs**

Internal displacement has been minimal since April: some people have moved to different neighbourhoods of Bujumbura or to their home villages (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015). It is estimated that up to 250,000 people could be displaced in the first six months of an election crisis and related violence in Burundi (HCT, 24/04/2015; START Network, 05/05/2015).

As of January, Burundi had 77,600 IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi (IDMC, 31/01/2015).

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

As of June, Burundi is host to 54,800 refugees from DRC, mainly in the border regions of Ngozi, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Cankuzo, and Bubanza (UNHCR, 03/06/2015). Since the beginning of the political crisis, refugees have been requesting relocation (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

**Refugee returnees**

79,000 Burundian returnees were going through a slow reintegration process in April, including 43,000 who had been forcibly repatriated from Tanzania. Most have not been registered due to a lack of reception facilities, while tensions have risen with host communities over land ownership issues (IOM, 01/2014; HCT, 24/04/2015).

**Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries**

As of 8 September, 189,773 Burundian refugees have been registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania since early April (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). Around 10,450 Burundians fled the country between 19–27 July, because of the presidential elections (UNHCR, 27/07/2015). Cross-border movement increased at a rate of 2,000 per week in July. The majority are women and children (WFP, 13/07/2015).

**Tanzania:** 90,838 Burundian refugees have been registered since April. Nearly all of them are in Nyarugusu refugee camp, which is overcrowded and where protection, health and WASH conditions are critical (ECHO, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 08/09/2015). New camp locations have been identified to ease overcrowding and officials hope to move refugees before the rainy season begins in October (WFP, 02/09/2015).

**Rwanda:** 70,649 Burundian refugees have been registered in Rwanda since April (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). The majority are in Mahama camp – where lack of safe water and latrines is of great concern (IFRC, 01/09/2015). The overall population of the camp increased by 28% during the month of August, further straining resources. Remaining Burundian refugees are in Kigali, Huye district, Bugesera and Nyanza reception centres, and Nyagatare transit centre (ECHO, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 26/08/2015).

**DRC:** 14,322 Burundians have been registered in DRC since April, and are being relocated from host communities to Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu (UNHCR, 10/08/2015). As of 3 September, 8,000 have been relocated, nearing the camp’s capacity (WFP, 03/09/2015). New influxes could destabilise volatile relationships between ethnic groups (Cordaid, 20/07/2015).

**Uganda:** 13,964 Burundian refugees have been registered since April (03/09/2015). The majority are in two sites in Mbarara (Nakivale camp) and Misiera villages (UNHCR, 26/08/2015). Access to safe drinking water is a concern in new settlement areas (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).
Access

UN agencies have been unable to access many parts of the country due to violence. In particular there have been restrictions on the delivery of food supplies from warehouses to distribution sites (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

About 100,000 people affected by political instability require urgent food assistance between mid-June and mid-September. Kirundo, Muyinga, Makamba, and Bujumbura are priority areas (WFP, 31/07/2015; 16/06/2015). Poor households are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Needs are also expected to grow in southern and western provinces, even if the political situation is resolved (WFP, 15/06/2015).

Food Availability

Production from the June Season B harvest in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces was significantly affected by the political crisis and late rains in the first half of the year (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015, 31/07/2015). 50,000 people in Kirundo are newly food insecure owing to these failed harvests; the province is facing an alarming humanitarian situation (WFP, 03/07/2015; OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015; WFP, 30/07/2015).

Food Access

Food prices declined significantly during the mid-June through July post-Season B harvest period across the country, but remained higher than the five-year average, particularly in Bujumbura, Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Gitega markets (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015). In these areas, prices have risen and household income has been significantly reduced; in Bujumbura and Kirundo provinces, food prices rose by 32% and 21% on average, respectively (WFP, 31/07/2015; Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015).

Livelihoods

Slowed economic activities in Bujumbura during the protests, with most businesses and banks closed, hampered an already fragile economy (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Health

Psychological needs have increased as a result of political instability. A cholera outbreak was ongoing, but has reportedly been contained as of end of July.

Healthcare availability and access

A shortage of hospital beds is reported during periods of mass casualities in Bujumbura. Emergency services are hindered by the small number of ambulances venturing out at night (MSF, 26/08/2015). There is risk of a shortage of essential medicines in the coming months (UNICEF, 26/08/2015).

Mental health

Children are increasingly in need of psychological care as a result of the prolonged crisis (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

Cholera

As of 28 July, 181 cases of cholera have been reported, including five deaths, in Nyanza Lac commune of Makamba province. The outbreak has reportedly been contained, but the prevention campaign in Nyanza Lac commune was delayed due to insecurity. Prevention coordination is required, as cholera is endemic in September and October (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; 15/07/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition is a key concern in Kirundo province: below-average rainfall in the past months have taken GAM rates to 6%, including 1.5% SAM (OCHA, 29/06/2015). Malnutrition has also increased in Nyanza-Lac health district in Makamba province, a transit area for many Burundians fleeing to Tanzania, reaching 8.3% GAM, including 1% SAM (UNICEF, 12/08/2015). Reduction of household income is reportedly starting to impact nutrition levels (Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015).

WASH

WASH has been identified as a priority in the context of the political crisis and cholera outbreak.

Hygiene

Non-availability of soap, in part due to high prices, is a barrier to handwashing for households and a concern in the context of cholera (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; 15/07/2015).

Education

Access and learning environment

Many schools in Bujumbura closed during the protests; in July, where schools were open, attendance was low due to fear of insecurity (Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015). Cases of exclusion from secondary school on the grounds of students’ political affiliation have been reported from Muyinga province (UNICEF,
Protection

Police and intelligence services have reportedly responded to demonstrations with a pattern of excessive and disproportionate force (Amnesty, 22/07/2015). At least 148 cases of arbitrary arrests and ill treatment by intelligence officials, police and members of the Imbonerakure were documented between April and July (HRW, 06/08/2015). Burundians are reporting harassment and disappearance of family members associated with the political opposition (ICG/UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

In addition, more than 32 Rwandan nationals have been arrested in Burundi on accusations of spying since the start of the crisis (AFP, 08/09/2015).

Imbonerakure is accused of severe abuse including torture, threats, and intimidation, including toward refugees (Amnesty, 24/08/2015).

Increasing violations and incidents affecting the exercise of public freedoms, including the rights of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, is a major concern (UNSC, 07/07/2015). Privately owned media remain closed (RSF, 15/07/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (CPJ, 26/08/2015, RSF, 30/04/2015; HRW, 22/01/2015).

Children

Following fighting in Kayanza province in July, 52 children have been arrested and charged with involvement in armed groups (UNICEF, 26/08/2015).

Many children caught up in protests have been detained (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

70% of the refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries are under 18 and a significant number have been separated or are unaccompanied (UNICEF, 12/04/2015; IFRC, 10/06/2015).

Updated: 09/09/2015

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

2 September: Two new Ebola cases were confirmed from Conakry and Dubreka prefectures in the week to 30 August, including one from an unknown infection source (WHO).

1 September: A new survey shows that more than 306,000 people are acutely malnourished (8% of the population), including nearly 76,700 severely, compared to an earlier SAM projection of 36,000 (WHO/OCHA; OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- As of 30 August, 3,792 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,529 deaths. The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 28,073, including 11,290 deaths (WHO, 02/09/2015). Numbers are largely inaccurate.

- 7.5 million people are living in areas worst affected by the Ebola crisis, including 4.3 million children. Priority needs include health, food security, and nutrition support (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 09/07/2015).

- 1.9 million people are food insecure, including 59,000 severely (WFP/FAO/IFAD/Government, 01/07/2015). More than three million chronically malnourished, including 306,000 acutely (WHO/OCHA, 01/09/2015).

- Resistance to the Ebola response continues to be reported and is complicating case detection.

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

Politics and security

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

Political instability

Presidential elections are scheduled for 11 October (BBC, 25/07/2015). In January, and again in April and May, the opposition staged violent protests, demanding the revision of the electoral calendar. Local elections, which could galvanise support for the opposition, have been scheduled for March 2016, after planned presidential elections (local media, 10/05/2015; ICG, 01/02/2015). At least two protestors were killed and 146 injured in the April-May protests (HRW, 30/07/2015). The opposition has indicated new protests might be...
staged in the coming months (L'express Guinee, 08/07/2015; Africa Guinee, 21/07/2015).

Resistance to Ebola Response

The Prime Minister has announced measures against resistance to the Ebola response, including prosecution of those who hide patients from medical teams or those who hold medical teams hostage (international media, 12/01/2015). Security forces are enforcing penalties, including imprisonment, for disobeying burial policies (BBC, 25/05/2015).

Natural disaster

Floods

Heavy rains caused severe flooding in Conakry and six other prefectures (Telimele, Macenta, Siguiri, Beyla, Forecariah and Coyah) over 24 July – 3 August. Around 29,600 people have been affected, nine killed, 624 displaced, and 6,181 houses destroyed or damaged. Significant damage to WASH facilities has also been reported, increasing the risk of a deterioration of the health situation in these areas (IFRC, 12/08/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of February, there were nearly 8,850 refugees in Guinea, mostly from Ivory Coast. Voluntary returns of Ivorians from Guinea came to a standstill during the Ebola outbreak (UNHCR, 02/03/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

As of May, 1.9 million people were food insecure, including 59,000 severely. The highest rates of food insecure households are in Telimele (43.2%), Koubia (41.3%), Fria (35.5%) and Faranah (40.6%) (OCHA, 24/07/2015; IFAD/WFP/FAO/Government, 01/07/2015).

Most households will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until the main harvest in October, particularly those directly affected by Ebola. In areas that remain unaffected by Ebola, food insecurity is mainly due to effects of the outbreak on economic activities, productivity and livelihoods (WFP/FAO/IFAD/Government, 01/07/2015). Food security is expected to improve between October and December, when most households will face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Households are using more negative coping strategies than in Sierra Leone and Liberia, including due to lack of information or misinformation (UNMEER, 26/06/2015; USAID, 25/02/2015).
also elevated in Boke, Faranah and Kankan. Conakry reported the lowest level of negative coping strategies. Perceptions of food security are lowest in western areas of Guinea, but better than in the other Ebola-affected countries, according to a June remote WFP assessment (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Health

The availability and accessibility of health services has fallen as resources have been redirected to the Ebola response; many health workers have also been lost during the outbreak. Ebola cases are still reported, as well as continuing risks of hidden transmission, including due to inadequate contact tracing. Measles and malaria cases remain high, while prevention around cholera remains critical to protect Guinea from an outbreak.

Healthcare availability and access

Availability and accessibility of maternal health services and child vaccination programmes have been most affected (OCHA, 09/07/2015). A 31% decline in maternal, newborn and child health service outpatients was reported between October-December 2013/2014, particularly in hospitals (PLOS, 04/08/2015).

The loss of health workers due to Ebola represents a decrease of around 1.8% (from the 5,395 registered before the outbreak), and could result in a 38% increase in maternal mortality rates (AFP, 08/07/2015; World Bank, 08/07/2015). 196 Ebola cases have been reported among health workers, including 98 deaths (WHO, 26/08/2015).

Ebola

As of 30 August, 3,792 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,529 deaths, have been reported in Guinea. In the week to 30 August, two new cases were confirmed from Conakry and Dubreka prefectures, including one from an unknown infection source. 410 contacts remain under follow-up across Conakry, Dubreka and Forecariah prefectures (WHO, 02/09/2015).

Inadequate management and detection of new cases, including due to a lack of trust in the response, and incomplete contact tracing (particularly due to reports of contacts travelling to other prefectures to evade surveillance) have been reported. This increases the risk of hidden transmission (WHO, 08/07/2015; ECHO, 30/06/2015). As of 16 August, 45 contacts have been lost to follow-up, including high risk contacts (WHO, 19/08/2015).

Containment measures: Authorities have deployed 600 trained police officers to monitor traffic in the capital and surrounding areas to ensure that drivers are not transporting dead bodies, and to ensure that burials are conducted safely (WHO/OCHA, 18/08/2015). On 20 July, a quarantine targeted 90 households that included high-risk contacts in Matam and Ratoma communes of Conakry (USAID, 21/07/2015). Four infection hotspots in Conakry, Dubreka, and Boke are also under quarantine (WHO, 01/07/2015; Reuters, 24/06/2015). Although improvements in infection-control behaviors have been reported, many staff remain untrained on Ebola infection control (PLOS, 04/08/2015).

Regional Outbreak

28,073 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,290 deaths (WHO, 02/09/2015). Challenges faced by Ebola survivors include adverse psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, diminished livelihoods, and persistent physical pain (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea are posing a challenge to surveillance, and empowering county authorities to improve surveillance at points of entry along the borders remains a priority (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015; UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have established screening and information sharing protocols at border points between areas of active Ebola transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015). Cross-border movements have increased to 2,100 per day as Sierra Leone lifted some Ebola restrictions, raising the risk of rapid spread of the virus (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Malaria

Untreated malaria has surged, due to fear from the Ebola epidemic, and has probably caused many more deaths than Ebola. At the height of the outbreak (December 2014), the number of malaria patients receiving oral and injectible medication compared to 2011 decreased by 24% and 30%, respectively. The decrease was largest in Ebola-affected areas. Extrapolation of the results indicates an estimated 74,000 malaria cases have gone untreated (AFP, 23/06/2015).

Measles

As of 14 June, 2,029 suspected measles cases have been reported in 2015, including ten deaths (ALIMA, 03/07/2015). Peaks have been observed in Lola, Macenta, and Nzerekore prefectures. 80% of confirmed cases are among children under five, and 14% of confirmed cases have been vaccinated (WHO, 20/05/2015). 266 cases were reported in 2014 (WHO, 11/02/2015).

Nutrition

Preliminary results of a nutrition survey show that more than three million people are stunted in Guinea (25.9% of the population), including 306,000 acutely (8%). Of these, nearly 76,700 are suffering from SAM, compared to a 36,000 caseload projected for the end of 2015 in July (WHO/OCHA, 01/09/2015; OCHA, 09/07/2015). GAM is most severe in Kankan region with 9.3%, followed by Faranah (8.7%) and Boke (8.3%) (OCHA, 01/09/2015).
Protection

Protection issues have emerged with the Ebola outbreak, including linked to children, health workers and survivors, and gender-based violence.

Excessive use of force by Guinea’s security forces when responding to election-related opposition protests in April and May has also been reported (HRW, 30/07/2015).

Children

As of 19 August, 6,179 children have been identified as having lost one or both parents to Ebola (UNICEF, 19/08/2015).

Vulnerable groups

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

Gender

Increases in cases of SGBV have been reported in certain areas with a high Ebola caseload, particularly in Nzerekore, where the number of reports increased four-fold, and Kankan, where rape specifically had doubled in 2014, compared to 2013 (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Updated: 02/09/2015

MADAGASCAR DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

Food Security and Livelihoods

579,000 people are severely food insecure in seven southern regions, according to a food security assessment. 200,000 people require immediate food assistance, particularly in the drought-affected regions of Androy and Anosy.

Severe drought conditions, low food availability and reduced effectiveness of coping strategies are causing an increase in food insecurity. The food security situation will deteriorate for many households between August–February if current trends continue. An increase in the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity outcomes is expected, particularly in Tsihombe and Ambovombe (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Food availability

The worst drought conditions in six years have led to below-average crop production, and early exhaustion of food stocks (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015). Agricultural production fell, due to a prolonged dry spell from mid-January to May. This is the third consecutive annual decrease, with production now at a five-year low: 9% less rice has been produced than average, 11% less maize, and 13% less cassava (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Most households’ stocks will not last beyond August–September.

Food access

In markets, staple food prices have doubled in the worst-affected regions of Androy and Anosy, and have increased 40% nationally (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Livelihoods

Poor households are engaging in some atypical coping strategies, such as increased consumption of cactus fruit in the post-harvest period, and some are starting to borrow to access food (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Reduced effectiveness of coping strategies because of last year’s lean season is further deteriorating food security (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

August 17–30: Pneumonic plague has emerged in Moramanga district. As of 30 August, 14 cases and 10 deaths have been reported (WHO, 06/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 579,000 people severely food insecure; 200,000 require immediate food assistance

See the methodology note for details.
On 17 August, pneumonic plague was recorded in Moramanga district. As of 30 August, 14 cases and 10 deaths have been reported (WHO, 06/09/2015). Plague is endemic in Madagascar. The last major outbreak began in August 2014 in Tsiroanomandidy district and peaked in November 2014 and killed 81 people. There were 482 cases in total in 2014 (WHO, 05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of March, Uganda has 30,136 IDPs (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 12 August, Uganda is hosting more than 480,000 refugees (WFP, 12/08/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kampala, Moyo, Nakivale, and Arua districts (UNHCR, 24/11/2014). Refugees from Burundi and South Sudan are expected to remain in need of assistance up to February 2016 (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Burundi: As of 28 August, there are 24,886 refugees from Burundi: 13,694 have arrived since 1 January 2015 (UNHCR, 28/08/2015). However, reports indicate that the majority of Burundians entering Uganda do not cross at official border points and therefore have not been counted (UNICEF, 12/08/2015). As of 28 August, overall daily arrivals have fallen to an average of less than 100 people (UNHCR, 21/07/2015; 28/08/2015). 10,420 refugees are in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Southwestern Uganda, 223 in Kyaka II (Kyenjojo district in Western Uganda), 130 in Oruchinga in Southern Uganda, 206 in Kisoro Transit Centre in Southwestern Uganda, and 2,715 are reported to be hosted in Kampala’s urban areas (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). As of 10 August, estimates indicate 30,000 Burundian refugees likely to arrive up to December 2015 (UNHCR 10/08/2015).

South Sudan: As of 28 August, 161,196 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013 (UNHCR, 28/08/2015). The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is 186,196 and is expected to reach 210,000 by the end of 2015 (WFP, 11/08/2015; UNHCR 28/08/2015). 67% of these are children (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015)

4% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are identified as people with specific needs and include elderly, disabled, single women caregivers, etc. (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015; JOAC, 15/08/2015). Priority needs are NFIs, livelihoods, and psychological support. Refugees cite continued insecurity, economic hardship, and
lack of food as their reason for fleeing (UNHCR, 03/07/2015; WFP, 26/06/2015; ACT, 15/04/2015).

Somalia: As of 2 September, the total number of Somali refugees in Uganda is 29,053 (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

DRC: As of 30 July, 187,809 refugees are from DRC: 18,479 arrived in the first half of 2015 (UNHCR 31/07/2015).

Humanitarian access

A proposed new law would give Ugandan authorities the right to supervise, approve, inspect, and dissolve all NGOs working in Uganda, in addition to imposing severe criminal penalties for violations (IRIN, 10/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

According to Human Rights Watch, NGOs working on politically sensitive issues have reportedly been subject to intimidation and threats (HRW, 02/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

20% of poor households will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September, as a result of limited purchasing power (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). The cost of the minimum food basket has increased by more than 10%. The depreciation of the national currency, together with an increase in fuel prices and in maize exports to South Sudan led to an increase in seasonally adjusted prices for cassava flour (+10%), maize flour (+4%), millet (+9%) and beans (+19%) (WFP, 30/07/2015).

Poor households do not have sufficient income to maintain adequate food consumption in Kaabong, Moroto, and northern parts of Nakapiripirit (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Food availability

Crop production in Karamoja is expected to suffer a three-month delay and to be 20–30% of the normal average. The harvest is likely to start in September, however it will not adequately refill households’ stocks. Early depletion and poor food access are likely to occur through December (FEWSNET 31/08/2015).

Food access

Based on the current status of funding, Uganda is expected to face a breakdown in the provision of food and humanitarian assistance after August 2015 (WFP, 11/08/2015).

Projections indicate that prices will remain stable, ensuring the households preserve some purchasing power, however many households are likely to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) throughout December (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Health

The rapid expansion of refugee camps has strained health services (UNFPA, 16/02/2015). Health centres affected by the refugee influx require immunisation support, as well as medical infrastructure and supply support, especially in Arua (UNICEF, 15/04/2015; UNHCR, 20/01/2015).

Cholera

Disaster-prone areas of East Africa, including the Kasese district in Uganda, are expected to have a high incidence of cholera this year due to flooding caused by El Niño (local media, 22/08/2015). As of 11 August, a cholera outbreak with 29 confirmed cases has been reported in Arua district; the refugees in the area were not affected (WFP, 11/08/2015). As of 15 July, 246 cumulative cholera cases had been reported in Kasese district since March, including two deaths (CFR 0.8%). In the week to 4 July, ten new cases were reported (Government, 20/07/2015).

Malaria

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a malaria outbreak, which is affecting ten districts in the north (AllAfrica, 16/07/2015). One source indicates 375,000 cases in total and 165 deaths over May–July (New Vision, 23/07/2015). In 2014, the number of confirmed Malaria cases in Uganda has been 1,502,362 (WHO, 2014)

In Gulu district, 76,904 patients were diagnosed with malaria between April and July: 3,398 were hospitalised and 62 died. In the district, the number of malaria cases per day per medical facility rose from 40 in May to 100 in July (Acholi Times, 30/07/2015, The Independent – Uganda, 10/08/2015). Kitgum district has reported 5,382 cases (AllAfrica, 16/07/2015).

Malaria is still reported as the leading cause of morbidity among refugees, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment for malaria receive it (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

Measles

The number of measles cases is increasing in Kampala and Kamwenge. Kamwenge has confirmed a measles outbreak. Both districts reported more than ten cases in the
has confirmed a measles outbreak. Both districts reported more than ten cases in the week to 4 July (Government, 20/07/2015).

Typhoid

More than 10,230 cases of typhoid have been confirmed in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, due to consumption of contaminated water. Six deaths have been reported. The outbreak was declared under control on 16 June (local media, 16/06/015). The number of cases continues to decline, with 2,245 reported in the week to 4 July, compared to 2,400 cases the previous week. Kampala reported the highest number of cases, with 421 cases in one week (Government, 20/07/2015).

Nutrition

Food availability is not a major issue in Uganda, however the use of food or food access can be inadequate in some areas. Acute malnutrition is at 5%, but 7% in Karamoja because households’ capacity to provide adequate food has been disrupted by drought (WFP, 21/08/2015; The Monitor, 14/08/2015).

As of 28 August, SAM among Burundian refugee children in Kabazana refugee reception centre is 2.3% and GAM 6.4% according to a recent assessment. These are lower than the rates registered in the previous week, when GAM was 14.2%, and SAM 3.5% (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Urgent food, NFIs, and shelter needs have been identified within the new Mahiga site in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. There are 11,200 refugees in Mahiga and new arrivals continue to overstretch capacities (ACT, 05/06/2015).

Nakivale reception centre lacks separate cubicles for men and women: men, women, and youth share shelter space. Adolescent girls reported being sexually harassed in their sleep (UNICEF, 12/08/2015)

Education

In Isingoro district, the influx of Burundian refugees to Nakivale refugee settlement is expected to strain the resources of local schools (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

58% of South Sudanese children refugees in Uganda are enrolled in primary school, and 7% in secondary school (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015)

Language barriers make it difficult for refugee children to access education (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

Protection

Children

Among Burundian refugees, child labour is very common, with the majority of child workers employed in bricklaying, fish farming and stone quarrying.

Some children have reportedly been sexually abused during the flight from their country of origin (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

Updated: 03/09/2015

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES, DISPLACEMENT

- 947,870 IDPs in Afghanistan. Significant new displacements in Kunduz province since 83
April (IDMC, 16/06/2015). Numbers are expected to exceed those of 2014 (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

- As of 7 August, the number of reported civilian casualties from complex and suicide attacks launched by anti-government elements was 1,523, including 282 dead and 1,241 injured, almost double the same period in 2014 (UNAMA, 11/08/2015).
- 5.9% of people (1.5 million) report severe food insecurity compared to 4.7% in 2014. Over 200,000 are in immediate need of food assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015).

OVERVIEW
Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection.

The Afghan Government faces internal and external challenges to its capacity, legitimacy, and stability. The security environment is highly volatile and expected to deteriorate as international troops gradually withdraw from the country.

Politics and security

Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan’s President and Prime Minister, respectively, in September 2014 (Reuters, 29/09/2014). Rival presidential candidates in disputed elections, they have been struggling to maintain a unity government (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Leaders of ethnic groups have criticised Ghani for filling key government posts with Pashtun kin (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2015 were postponed because of security concerns and disagreements over vote procedure. The current Parliament’s mandate has been extended until a vote can be held (Reuters, 19/06/2015; local media, 01/04/2015).

Conflict developments

Afghan officials and Taliban met in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 8 July, but the confirmation of Taliban leader Mullah Omar’s death in 2013 brought the group to pull out of talks. Informal talks had not brought any breakthrough (AFP, 24/07/2015; 08/07/2015; The Telegraph, 30/07/2015). On 30 July, the Taliban communicated that Mullah Akhtar Mansour had been appointed leader (BBC, 30/07/2015). Mansour is considered to be in favour of peace talks, although some factions remain opposed (The Telegraph, 30/07/2015). On 13 August, Ayman al Zawahiri, leader of Al Qaeda, reportedly delivered a audio message containing his pledge of allegiance to the Taliban’s newly elected leader (The Guardian, 13/08/2015).

At 8 August, 1,523 civilian casualties (282 dead, 1,241 injured) have been reported so far in 2015, specifically from complex and suicide attacks launched by anti-government elements – almost double the same period in 2014 (UNAMA, 11/08/2015). The total reported number of conflict-related casualties so far in 2015 is 4,921 (1,592 dead, 3,329 injured), 99% of them civilians (UNAMA, 05/08/2015). 3,699 civilians were killed and 6,849 injured in all 2014 (UNAMA, 18/02/2015). Incidents in 2015 have been concentrated in Helmand and Kabul, although intense fighting between Afghan forces, the Taliban, and other anti-government groups has also been reported in northern provinces in recent months, including Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan, and Nuristan (Cordaid, 07/07/2015; RSF, 07/07/2015; local media, 16/07/2015).

Kunduz: On 8 August, a bomb attack killed at least 29 people in Khanabad district (BBC, 08/07/2015). On 10 August, at least five people were killed and 16 injured by a suicide bomb at a checkpoint on the road towards the airport (BBC, 10/08/2015). On 7 August, at least 44 people were killed and hundreds injured by three attacks, following the change of leadership in the Taliban movement (ABC News, 07/08/2015). This was the highest number of civilian casualties caused reported in Afghanistan in one day, since the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) began recording such data in 2009 (UNAMA, 08/08/2015).

Kunduz: On 8 August, a bomb attack killed at least 29 people in Khanabad district (BBC, 08/08/2015). Intense fighting has been reported between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the province in recent months. An explosion in Kunduz city killed two and wounded four on 12 July (AFP, 12/07/2015).

Faryab: A suicide attack killed 19 people and injured at least 28 in Almar district on 22 July (UNAMA, 22/07/2015). Since early July the Taliban has seized more than 100 villages in Gasyar, Almar, and Shirin Tagab districts (local media, 16/07/2015). 40 houses in Almar were set on fire (UNAMA, 15/07/2015).

Baghlan: At least 20 people were killed and eight wounded in a gunfight at a wedding ceremony in Deh Salah district on 27 July (International Media, 27/07/2015). At least 40 civilians were wounded by a bomb attack targeting a mosque in Baghlan province on 13 July (UNAMA, 14/07/2015).

Other incidents: On 14 September, Taliban fighters stormed a prison in the city of...
Ghazni, in Ghazni province. 355 prisoners were freed, including 148 that were charged with national and international security crimes (The Guardian, 14/09/2015). On 5 September, 13 people belonging to the Shi’ite Hazara minority were killed by gunmen in the Zari district of Balkh province (DAWN, 05/09/2015). 12 Hazaras have been kidnapped and four killed in Balkh in the past month (Reuters, 05/09/2015). On 3 September, hundreds of schoolgirls had to be admitted to hospital after inhaling a poisonous gas. Officials suspect foul play. This was reportedly the third such incident in the province in the first week of September (Voice of America, 03/09/2015). On 8 August, six people were killed and 24 were injured by a truck-bomb at a police compound in Pul-i-Alam, Logar province (Reuters, 06/08/2015).

Stakeholders

Taliban

Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. The group has intensified attacks since April, especially in the north, in particular in Badakhshan and Faryab (local media, 16/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 13/06/2015). It is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal mining, and kidnapping (UNSC, 02/02/2015).

Islamic State (IS)

Militants fighting under the IS banner in Afghanistan, including an unknown number of Taliban defectors and foreign fighters, have reportedly seized territory from the Taliban in at least six of Nangarhar’s 21 districts. Uncertainty remains regarding their links with IS in the Middle East (Reuters, 29/06/2015).

International military presence

NATO formally ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, moving to the Resolute Support mission, comprising some 6,800 US troops and more than 6,300 soldiers from other member states as of June 2015. The focus of the mission is on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (Reuters, 01/01/2015; NATO 06/2015).

Afghan National Security Forces

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are composed by around 350,000 personnel, including soldiers, police, and air forces personnel. The ANSF includes: the Afghan National Army (ANA), the Afghan National Police (ANP), the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP), the Afghan Border Police (ABP), and the Afghan Highway Police (British Army, 2015).

Pro-Government Militias

In Khanabad district, Kunduz province, the membership of pro-government militias has grown to 3,000 this year, 1,000 more than last year, according to the district governor Hayatullah Amiri. Civilians reported a rise in abuse by these groups, including extortion, theft, and assault (IRIN, 07/09/2015).

Natural disasters

The proportion of households affected by natural disasters has decreased to 6% in 2015, from 10% in 2014 (Food Security Cluster, 31/08/2015). 107,451 people have been affected by floods, landslides and heavy snowfall in 2015, mostly in February; 513 people were killed, and 14,460 houses damaged or destroyed. Badghis, Faryab, and Nangarhar provinces were most affected (OCHA/IOM, 02/07/2015). In July, 33 disaster events triggered by natural hazards were reported in 18 provinces, with around 17,700 individuals affected (IOM & USAID, 01/08/2015).

Floods

Floods in July affected several areas. Many households in remote districts of Badakhshan province were impacted and river water, due to river bank erosion, displaced 3,830 people. Floods also damaged roads, agricultural land and irrigation canals affecting 1,297 families (around 9,470 people). In the north, the Amu Darya River overflowed, causing severe flooding that damaged cultivable land, houses, and irrigation canals. In Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, and Nuristan provinces, in eastern Afghanistan, more than 200 hectares of agricultural land and 10 irrigation canals were washed out by floods (Food Security Cluster, 06/08/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Increasing insecurity has led to a rise in internal displacement. As of end June, 947,070 IDPs were recorded, compared to 805,409 in December 2014. 223,280 are in the south, 220,430 in the west, and 169,960 in the centre. At 8 August, 103,000 people have been displaced by the conflict so far in 2015, an increase of 43% compared to the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 18/08/2015). It is expected that the number of people displaced in 2015 will exceed that of 2014, and IDPs and returnees from Pakistan will not have access to enough humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Priority needs are for water, food, housing, and employment (IDMC, 16/06/2015; UNHCR 31/12/2014). The security context challenges access and identification of IDPs (UNCHR, 24/05/2015).
Fighting in the north of Kunduz province since May has displaced more than 134,000 people, including 32,960 to Kunduz city, and significant numbers to Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh and Faryab provinces (OCHA, 25/06/2015; 28/05/2015). As of 25 July, over 8,900 people were displaced in Kunar, Nuristan, and Nangarhar, by ongoing clashes between Daesh fighters and Taliban (Food Security Cluster, 06/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014 and the beginning of military operations in Pakistan’s FATA region. As of 8 June, these provinces were hosting around 205,440 refugees from Pakistan, the majority in Khost (including 10,210 families in Gulan camp) (UNHCR, 11/06/2015). There are concerns about the host communities’ ability to support the refugee population, in particular in terms of food, shelter, and education (UNHCR, 15/06/2015). Between June 2014 and 23 August 2015, over 200,000 people resettled in Gurbuz district, in Khost province (UN, 23/08/2015).

An additional 600,000 Baloch refugees who have fled insurgency activities in Pakistan since 1986 are living in precarious conditions, notably in Nimroz (AAN, 31/12/2014).

Refugee returnees

As of 1 September, since January 2015, around 90,000 Afghan refugees have been forced to return from Pakistan due to lack of documentation. This is almost six times the number of returnees reported in the same period of 2014 (RFE/RL, 30/08/2015).

Returns have increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the December 2014 Taliban attack in Peshawar. Returnees report an increasing number of protection issues as the main reasons for return: eviction notices by authorities, discrimination, movement restrictions, settlement closure, and harassment (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

The eastern region hosts almost 40% of undocumented returnees (Food Security Cluster, 31/07/2015). 30–40% of them are vulnerable and in need of assistance; 80% of Afghanistan is reportedly not safe for people to be sent back to (BBC, 16/07/2015; OCHA, 15/07/2015). In 2014, only 17,000 people returned from Pakistan (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Refugees from Afghanistan in other countries

Each day, an estimated 7,000 Afghans are reported to apply for passports. Considering that in Afghanistan the passport is not regularly used for internal identification, but mostly as a document for travel, around 200,000 Afghans each month are estimated to plan on leaving Afghanistan (VOA, 07/09/2015).

At the end of August, around 2.5 million Afghan refugees are reported to be in Pakistan. Over 1 million of these are unregistered (RFE/RL, 30/08/2015). In Sindh, only 67,000 of an estimated one million Afghan refugees are reported to be registered (DAWN, 31/08/2015). Some Afghan refugees have reported harassment in Pakistan, and not being any safer condition than in Afghanistan. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have recently deteriorated, after Afghani officials accused Pakistan of supporting terrorist activities on Afghan territory. This deterioration is being highlighted by the reported increase in issues with Afghan refugees (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 03/09/2015). In August, the government of Afghanistan requested that Pakistan allow 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees to stay on its territory for another two years (ALHASAN, 24/08/2015).

Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees have crossed into Europe in 2015, most via Greece, where 32,414 Afghan asylum seekers are reported to have entered in 2015 (IOM, 20/08/2015). Of these, many were pregnant women, and new-borns (IOM, 04/09/2015). Thousands are blocked on the border between Macedonia and Greece, as Macedonia has declared a state of emergency due to the refugee crisis (Amnesty International, 24/08/2015). As of 7 September, 3,596 Afghan refugees have already reached Macedonia since 19 June (IOM, 11/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Planning figures are for 6.9 million Afghans in need of humanitarian aid in 2015, including 2.6 million children, compared to 7.4 million in 2014 (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). Humanitarian access is a key operational concern: tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped in conflict zones as of end June (USAID, 02/07/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Since the beginning of the year, as of 17 August, 33 aid workers were reported to have been victims of attacks in the country: 20 national aid workers were killed, two were wounded, and seven were kidnapped. Four international aid workers were also kidnapped in 2015 (Aid Workers Security Database, 17/08/2015). 14 aid workers were killed in 27 incidents against national and international organisations in June, including nine national NGO workers in Balk province on 2 June, and five incidents involving health facilities and health staff (OCHA, 15/07/2015; Reuters, 02/06/2015). 11 aid workers were killed in 21 incidents involving violence against humanitarian staff or damage to NGO facilities in May (USAID; 02/07/2015).
In 2014, 57 aid workers were killed in Afghanistan (Reuters, 17/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Deteriorated security conditions in Helmand significantly hamper the delivery of assistance (OCHA, 15/07/2015). Journalists have had to withdraw from Badakhshan and Nangarhar due to insecurity (RSF, 07/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

A May-June seasonal food security assessment indicated worsening food security among urban households. 13% of households indicated food insecurity as a primary issue, compared to the 3% of 2014 (Food Security Cluster, 31/08/2015). 5.9% of people (1.5 million) report severe food insecurity compared to 4.7% in 2014. 7.3 million people are reported to be moderately food insecure. Additionally, female-headed households are reported to be 50% more likely to be food insecure than others, due to the generally much lower income and consequent poorer diet. The food security situation for IDPs is also worsening, with around 200,000 people in need of immediate assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015).

Some households suffering major crop losses and most IDPs displaced by recent floods are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). In the northern Balkh, Faryab, Samangan and Saripul provinces, 80,654 people are in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) (Food Security Cluster, 06/08/2015). An estimated 500,000 to 990,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security or worse by November 2015 (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food availability

Severe food gaps are reported in 14 villages in Arghanjkhah district of Badakhshan, affecting 17,940 people (Food Security Cluster/USAID, 14/07/2015). The 2015 wheat harvest is expected to be better than the last two years, except in Ghazni, Bamyan, Daikund, Kandahar, Hilamand, Zabul, Uruzgan, Paktya, Paktika, and Khost (FAO, 03/07/2015; FEWSNET/WFP, 07/06/2015).

Livelihoods

Refugees in Khost and Paktika have exhausted short-term coping mechanisms and need livelihood opportunities to face long-term displacement (UNHCR, 26/08/2015).

Below-average precipitation and high temperatures have made pasture conditions worse than normal, impacting pastoral livelihoods (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

Maternal health

As of 28 August 2015, the Maternal Mortality Ratio in Afghanistan is reported to be still very high, with an average of 400 deaths per 100,000 live births (WHO, 28/08/2015).

Mental health

Women have reduced access to education, health and livelihood activities and face significant unmet mental health needs (NRC, 23/03/2015).

Measles

In the first quarter of 2015, 445 laboratory-confirmed cases of measles were reported, compared to 581 cases in all of 2014 (WHO, 26/04/2015). So far, 12 confirmed outbreaks have occurred in 2015, according to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (SalamWatandar, 25/07/2015).

Polio

In the week between 22 and 28 August, a new case of polio was confirmed in the Achin district of Nangarhar (GPEI, 26/08/2015). Eight cases have been recorded so far in 2015, as many as in the same period in 2014 (GPEI, 31/08/2015). 28 cases were reported altogether in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to 14 in 2013 and 37 in 2012 (WHO, 26/04/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 25/02/2015). As of September 2015, Afghanistan is starting to implement the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV), because the virus contained in the Oral Polio Vaccine is a live virus that can still, in very rare cases (one in 2.7 million), cause paralysis. The weakened virus contained in the OPV, in low coverage areas, can also mutate and keep on spreading among the population. The IPV vaccine instead, is the safest vaccine available, however, it is five times more expensive than the oral polio vaccine, and requires trained health workers with adequately sterilised injection equipment. (WHO, 24/08/2015; GPEI).

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is a high burden for Afghanistan, but many new cases were missed in 2014 due to lack of close monitoring (Government, 24/03/2015).
Nutrition

48,000 children under five die of malnutrition each year (Government, 04/08/2015).

Assessments performed in Golan refugee camp in Khost province found that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) is 12.3%, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is 3.8%. In the province of Paktika, a SMART in May 2015, found 7.8% GAM and 0.8% SAM in five districts (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). In 2012, the Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) found that the GAM rate was around 18% and the SAM was around 11.3% (OCHA, 30/06/2012).

WASH

1.9 million Afghans are in need of better access to safe WASH facilities (UNICEF, 21/01/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

A growing number of IDPs live in informal settlements in major Afghan urban centres, in substandard and crowded accommodation, with insufficient WASH facilities, food, education, and employment opportunities (NRC, 23/03/2015).

Shelter

1,300 people in informal settlements in Kabul received eviction warnings for end June. 40,000 people remain in 50 informal settlements in Kabul (USAID, 02/07/2015).

Education

Access and learning environment

In provinces most affected by fighting, schools have closed over the fear that students might get caught in crossfire. In northern Baghlan at least 18 schools were closed in May (Reuters, 31/05/2015). As of 24 July, over 100 education facilities were reported closed in Helmand due to security threats (Tolonews, 24/07/2015).

Teaching and learning

Educational facilities in Khost are overstretched, with 344 schools employing 6,000 teachers and teaching around 360,000 children. There are 50,000 school-aged refugee children in Khost (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 05/11/2014). Refugees have language barriers (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Protection

Afghan local police have reportedly been involved in intimidation, physical abuse or violence, bribe-taking, salary fraud, and theft. Incidents of rape, drug trafficking, drug abuse and the selling or renting of local police weapons and vehicles have also been reported (ICG, 05/06/2015). In the first six months of 2015 UNAMA reported a 23% increase in the casualties among women and a 13% increase in the casualties among children, compared to the previous year (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Mines and ERW

According to a UNAMA report, in the first six months of 2015, 22% of civilian casualties in Afghanistan were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (US Ministry of Defense, 04/09/2015).

559km² (4,321 hazardous areas) are contaminated by minefields and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In 2015, a monthly average of 103 total casualties from mines, IEDs, and ERW are reported (UNMAS/MAPA, 30/06/2015).

Gender

Sexual violence is underreported because of resulting social stigma as well as lack of access to Taliban-controlled areas. UNAMA registered 44 cases between January 2014 and January 2015 (UN Security Council, 15/04/2015).

Women have particularly reduced access to education, health, and livelihood opportunities (NRC, 23/03/2015).

Children

40 reports of sexual violence against children, involving in all 27 boys and 24 girls, were registered by UNAMA between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

The Afghan national and local police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015). Between September 2010 and December 2014, 2,302 children were killed and 5,047 wounded. In the same period, 560 children were recruited for support and combat roles (UNAMA, 24/08/2015). Children have also been used as suicide bombers by armed groups (UNSC, 15/05/2015). Between September 2010 and December 2014, 20 boys were killed carrying out suicide attacks (UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015
The Islamic State insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Priority needs are food, water, shelter, fuel, and access to healthcare. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in IS-controlled areas, are of major concern.

### Politics and security

Political instability and insecurity and the rise of Islamic State are the main drivers of the crisis in Iraq. In June 2014, IS seized Iraq’s second largest city, Mosul, in less than 24 hours, and went on to capture swathes of Anbar, Nineveh, and Salah al Din governorates.

More than 15,185 conflict-related casualties have been recorded in 2015; in August more than 1,325 civilians were killed and 1,811 injured (UNAMI, 29/08/2015). More than 35,400 casualties, including 12,280 deaths, were recorded in 2014, in the worst violence since 2006–2007 (OHCHR, 13/07/2015; UNAMI, 01/01/2015). An increasing number of civilian casualties caused by IEDs were reported in the last weeks of July, while reports of possible use of chemical weapons by non-state actors in August are a serious concern (OPCW, 17/08/2015; OHCHR, 28/07/2015). Casualty numbers are hard to verify in conflict areas.

### Political instability

The perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups by former President Maliki’s Government is considered one of the main drivers of the current conflict. Maliki stepped down in August 2014 after losing support from regional and international allies and from members of his own party. A unity government, led by Prime Minister Abadi and with former President Maliki as Vice President, was formed in September 2014, and a plan for national reconciliation is under consultation (UNAMI, 22/07/2015). While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking international support in the fight against Islamic State (IS) (Foreign Affairs, 16/01/2015).

Widespread protests against perceived corruption and rising unemployment took place in July amid record temperatures and electricity cuts. The protests led to a number of government reforms, including the elimination of certain senior government positions, ending sectarian party quotas at the regional level, and reopening corruption investigations (ALJ, 11/08/2015). On 9 September, Abadi dismissed 123 senior officials (ISW, 10/09/2015).

### Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I):

KR-I President Masoud Barzani’s extended term expired on 20 August, however he continues to rule, leaving KR-I in a legal vacuum that parties are still trying to resolve. Opposition parties are reasserting objections to the political dominance of Barzani’s Kurdistan Democratic Party (ISW, 20/08/2015; AFP, 20/08/2015).
Ongoing tensions between KR-I and the Iraqi Central Government around oil revenues since late January have affected infrastructure works, public sector salaries, and market stability (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; UN, 13/07/2015; local media, 26/04/2015).

**Stakeholders**

**Islamic State (IS):** In June 2014, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS now controls nearly 300,000km² of territory in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 01/06/2015). It has attracted more than 20,000 foreign fighters (ICSR, 21/01/2015; NBC, 02/2015).

**Government forces:** Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), numbering around 48,000 troops, are involved in offensives around Baghdad and in central governorates (Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). Falling global oil prices have led to significant budget deficits, hampering the government’s capacity to undertake military operations and finance basic services for affected populations (Deutsche Welle, 11/06/2015).

**Shi’a militias:** Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF): Asa’ib, Kita’ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. PMF number around 100,000 fighters, including 30,000 reportedly backed by the Iranian Government (Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015).

**KR-I forces:** The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counter-offensive against IS. Kurdish fighters receive training and equipment from multiple countries, including the United States (AFP).

**International forces:** In August 2014, US forces started airstrikes on IS locations. On 15 September, 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight IS. Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guard and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014).

**Conflict developments**

Violent clashes are ongoing, particularly in Anbar province, where IS is battling to take Haditha, and ISF is fighting to regain control of Ramadi and Falluja (IBT, 01/09/2015). ISF and Peshmerga forces regained territory in early 2015, recapturing populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghdadi in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk.

Baghdad saw a spike in attacks in July, with 76 people killed and 188 injured in attacks, some, but not all of which were claimed by IS (AFP, 22/07/2015; 12/07/2015; Reuters, 04/07/2015). Explosions and attacks since July have been less frequent, however two IS bombings in Sadr City on 13 and 15 August killed at least 65 and wounded 168 (AFP, 16/08/2015; 13/08/2015) and three IED explosions killed seven people and injured 20 on 7 September (Middle East Monitor, 07/09/2015).

**Anbar:** Iraqi forces and associated militias launched a second, large-scale military operation to retake Anbar from IS on 12 July, supported by coalition airstrikes. Fighting around Falluja quickly reached a stalemate, with IS planting booby traps around the city. ISF has made little progress in attempts to back Ramadi, but clashes were ongoing as of 3 September (ISW, 10/09/2015, 03/09/2015; ICG, 01/08/2015). On 25 August, ISF reportedly dislodged IS from Jubbah town in Bagdhad subdistrict (ISW, 25/08/2015). Up to 40 civilians were reported killed and 30 wounded in an airstrike on Rutba district on 31 July (UNAMI, 03/08/2015).

**Diyala:** Two IS suicide attacks on Shia areas in and around Baquba killed at least 57 and wounded more than 80 on 11 August (Al Jazeera, 11/08/2015). An explosion on 27 July killed four and wounded ten in Abu Saida (AFP, 27/07/2015). A bombing in Mandali killed at least four on 21 July (AFP, 22/07/2015). At least 10 were killed and 16 wounded in attacks in Houdale village on 20 July. 13 people have been reportedly kidnapped in the area a few days before, including a Sunni tribal leader (Reuters, 20/07/2015). An IS attack targeting Shi’ite militias in Khan Bani Saad killed at least 90 people and wounded 120 on 17 July, as people were celebrating the end of Ramadan (AFP, 18/07/2015).

**Kirkuk:** Advances by Peshmerga in southwest Kirkuk displaced over 11,000 people in late August (IOM, 13/09/2015). Peshmerga and PMF began operations to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk in February (ISW, 18/03/2015). ISF asked residents to leave Al Riyadh subdistrict on 2 July, ahead of military operations (ECHO, 03/07/2015).

**KR-I:** On 2 August, ten civilians were reportedly killed in Turkish airstrikes targeting militants of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Zarkel village (AFP, 02/08/2015).

**Nineva:** IS enjoys support in swathes of Nineva and continues to carry out operations south of Mosul, to control resistance and safeguard one of its most important areas of control (ISW, 06/07/2015).

**Salah al Din:** On 26 August PUK forces seized seven villages south of Daquq previously under IS control (ISW, 27/08/2015). At the end of August, IS retook Baiji oil refinery, which it had lost months before (AFP, 02/09/2015, ISW, 20/08/2015; 08/05/2015).

**An attack in Touz district killed 12 and wounded 45, mostly Shi’ites,** on 25 July (Reuters, 25/07/2015). Abductions of people on their way from Kirkuk to Tikrit have been reported (OCHA, 26/07/2015). IS maintains control over supply routes from unliberated areas to Mosul and other areas in northern Iraq (UN, 13/07/2015).

**Displacement**

There are more than 3.1 million IDPs and 251,690 Syrian refugees.
As of 27 August, there are 3,182,736 IDPs in 3,430 locations in Iraq. Anbar hosts 584,748 IDPs, Baghdad 567,186, and Kirkuk 408,162. 26% of all IDPs were displaced in August (IOM, 09/09/2015).

69% of IDPs are living in private settings. 21% are in critical shelter arrangements, a 2% increase since mid-August. 22% of the IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are in Anbar, 18% in Dahuk, and 10% in Najaf. 8% of IDPs are in camps, mainly in KR-I (IOM, 09/09/2015). 35% of IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are under 15 years of age (IOM, 30/06/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance.

Anbar: More than 500,000 people were displaced from Anbar between April and August; nearly half are displaced within the governorate (IOM, 09/09/2015).

IDP returnees: As of 27 August, 358,866 IDPs have returned to their place of origin, most since mid-June. 51% returned to Salah al Din governorate and 36% to Tikrit district, primarily to Merkaz, Tikrit (IOM, 09/09/2015). Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, mines, insecurity, and lost documentation increase risks for returnees (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

249,463 Syrian refugees are registered in Iraq and 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 29/08/2015, 23/04/2015).

Syrian refugees: As of 29 August, children make up 42% of all Syrian refugees in Iraq. KR-I hosts an estimated 97% of refugees, with 112,853 in Erbil, 98,274 in Dahuk, and 30,022 in Sulaymaniyyah; 4,513 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,581 in Nineva (UNHCR, 29/08/2015). A reduced number of arrivals has been reported since 2 June due to changes in admission procedures into KR-I (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

38% of refugees live in nine camps; over half are in Domiz camp in Dahuk (47,110), 10,142 in Kawergosk, and 10,380 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 29/08/2015). 851 Syrian refugees were last reported in Al Obaidy camp, in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar, but access constraints limit information; information on the fate of some 2,800 urban refugees in Al Qa'im is also lacking (UNHCR, 31/07/2015; 15/03/2015).

Approximately 15,500 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria in 2015 – 3,747 in August – in part because of the high cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries

Around 180,000 Iraqi refugees are thought to be residing in neighbouring countries, mostly in Turkey and Jordan (UNHCR, 04/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Access to the estimated five million people in areas under armed opposition groups’ control is limited (OCHA, 12/08/2015). Several INGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, or provide emergency assistance through local partners. Long delays in obtaining clearance from Iraqi authorities also hinder access (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

Anbar remains largely inaccessible due to ongoing military operations. Only three UN agencies and eight organisations are operating in Anbar, along with government ministries (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Nineva: Access to Mosul is impossible for humanitarian actors and communications with areas outside the city are allegedly cut off. Conditions have dramatically deteriorated since IS took control (OCHA, 02/03/2015; WFP, 02/02/2015).

Salah al Din: Humanitarian presence remains limited. Roads are only usable from the south through Baghdad and Samarra (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

IDP movement restrictions: New IDPs from Anbar face serious restrictions accessing neighbouring provinces: Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, and Diyala have implemented strict security policies. Bzibz bridge to Baghdad remains officially closed to IDPs and 60 families affected by closures in Dahuk are currently stranded at the checkpoint, unable to cross. At Daquq checkpoint, an estimated 800 families fleeing military operations in Daquq are awaiting approval to enter Kirkuk district (OCHA, 01/09/2015). On 23 August, local authorities in Kirkuk asked all IDPs from Diyala to leave the governorate within one month (31/08/2015). Some tens of thousands of Kirkuk’s 410,754 IDPs are believed to be from Diyala. An estimated 71,000 IDPs returned to Diyala in the month of August, despite ongoing insecurity. An unknown number of these returns are thought to be coerced (OCHA, 01/08/2015). IDPs attempting to enter KR-I by land require a local guarantor policies (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Border crossings: Syrian refugees’ access to safety and asylum remains a concern following changes in exit and admission procedures into KR-I (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). Most refugees enter via the Peshkabour crossing (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; 08/2015). Insecurity prevents most civilian movement at the IS-controlled Al Qa’im and Al Waleed crossings, as well as at Rabia (Reuters, 23/11/2014; UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 15/01/2015).

Anbar: Tens of thousands of people are reportedly trapped in Falluja and Ramadi districts, as many routes are blocked or closed (OCHA, 11/08/2015). The situation is also worrying
for more than 80,000 people who have limited access to services and commodities in Haditha, including food, safe water, health and electricity (OCHA, 25/08/2015, 18/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) hinder access to affected populations (OCHA, 05/12/2014). IEDs are also a concern for returnees to recaptured areas (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

4.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 27/08/2015). Food security is deteriorating, particularly for IDPs.

Food availability

The October–November 2014 and April–May 2015 agricultural seasons were significantly affected by conflict, especially in major producing areas such as Salah al Din, Ninewa, and Anbar; government seed distributions were delayed end 2014, impacting planting (FAO, 27/05/2015). Below-average wheat production is expected in 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). IS controls major wheat storage silos in Ninewa and Salah al Din (FAO, 10/02/2015).

Food access

In a June assessment, 21% of IDP households reported poor or borderline food consumption, a 5% increase on May, compared to 4% of non-displaced households (WFP, 29/07/2015). In Anbar, the percentage of households reporting poor and borderline food consumption rose from 6% to 18% between April and June; food supply in Haditha district in Anbar is extremely limited (WFP, 01/08/2015; 29/08/2015).

Food prices are high in Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to conflict and blocked supply lines. As of June, prices in Anbar were 58% higher than in Baghdad (WFP, 01/06/2015). Government support via the Public Distribution Centre is limited in conflict areas; 80% of households reported having received no rations in April (WFP, 01/06/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015).

Refugees: 860 Syrian refugees in camps are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 31/07/2015). Vulnerability-based assistance to Syrian refugees was introduced in August: 50,000 previously assisted refugees will no longer receive food vouchers; the monthly voucher value will reduce to USD 10 per person for over 47,000 moderately vulnerable refugees, while 1,000 considered the most vulnerable will continue to receive USD 19 (WFP, 06/08/2015).

Livelihoods

At least 14 major hospitals and more than 170 other health facilities are non-functional or destroyed. In some areas, 80% of health facilities are non-functional. 50% of health personnel have left Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Diyala governorates (Health Cluster, 13/09/2015).

Anbar: Health capacities are severely strained in Haditha city and al Baghdadi subdistrict, with at least six out of 14 primary health care centres not functioning due to damage in Haditha city, and two out of three in al Baghdadi (WHO, 11/08/2015). Most health facilities in Khalidiya are reported closed since the departure of health workers in June (WHO, 07/06/2015). Ramadi’s main hospital came under IS control on 16 May, and the city hospital in Hit district is no longer accessible for civilians (OCHA, 17/05/2015; 05/05/2015). Shortages of fuel have affected healthcare delivery, leading to critical shortages of medicine.

Ninewa: The majority of health facilities in Sinjar remained closed end June due to infrastructure damage, and lack of staff and medical equipment (WHO, 28/06/2015).

Refugees: 20% of the non-camp population has difficulty accessing health services, due to cost and perceived availability. Access to specialised primary services, including mental healthcare and control of communicable diseases, remain priorities, especially outside camps (WHO/UNHCR, 30/06/2015; 28/02/2015).
Measles

980 suspected measles cases have been recorded so far in 2015, including 544 in Baghdad and 115 Babylon; 493 cases were suspected during the same period in 2013, and 563 in 2014 (WHO, 28/08/2015; 01/08/2015).

WASH

7.1 million people need WASH support, including 4.1 million in critical need (OCHA, 14/07/2015). Extreme temperatures are aggravating the already critical water access problem in areas affected by conflict or controlled by armed groups (OCHA, 11/08/2015). At least 30% of WASH programmes supported by humanitarian agencies have shut down, leaving 1.8 million without access to WASH services (UN, 27/07/2015).

Urgent WASH support is required for at least 26,100 IDPs in Habbaniya and 6,000 in Rahilaya in Anbar, 39,000 returnees in Tikrit and Samarra in Salah al Din, and for 5,300 returnees to Muqdadiya district in Diyala; shortages of fuel and chlorine are reported in Falluja, undermining efficient water supplies to displaced populations (OCHA, 18/08/2015; 11/08/2015; 14/07/2015).

Refugees:
The operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, and the delivery of WASH services in camps remain challenges. Transition to safe water supply and sanitation in Qushtapa, Kawergosk, Darashakran, and Basirma camps is ongoing, but challenged by funding (UNICEF/UNHCR, 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015).

Water

The rate of water flow in the Euphrates River has more than halved since IS took control of the dams in Ramadi and Falluja in early June. This is threatening access to drinking water in Anbar and in Kerbala, Babylon, Najaf, and Qadisiyah (WHO, 28/06/2015). Defects in Khaljdiya’s water network in Anbar have been reported (OCHA, 18/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Around 2.9 million people require shelter and NFI support, mainly in non-camp settings in central and southern Iraq (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015). The growing number of IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are of highest concern and are particularly affected by high summer temperatures (UNHCR, 31/07/2015; IOM, 30/06/2015).

13 camps are under construction in twelve governorates for an additional capacity of 346,995 people (UNHCR/CCCM, 11/08/2015).

Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniya hosts 13,000 people instead of the planned 4,800; access to basic services is of major concern. Close to 3,700 people have been relocated to the new Ashti IDP camp, and an additional 2,500 will be relocated in August (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Refugees: Refugees are increasingly seeking to move to camps due to the high cost of living in KR-I and lack of livelihood opportunities for low to medium-skilled workers (DRC/UNDP, 31/07/2015). 26% of shelters in refugee camps in KR-I are unimproved. Six of nine camps’ capacities are exhausted; 3,134 new improved shelter plots are required in Gawilan, Kawergosk, Basirma and Qushtapa camps (Government/UNHCR, 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015).

Education

More than three million children did not attend the full 2014/2015 school year, a more than 650,000 who have received no schooling at all (UN, 03/06/2015). 55% of school-aged IDP children in camps are not enrolled in schools, and 70% of children out of camps (Education Cluster, 10/06/2015). Challenges include lack of teachers (OCHA, 04/07/2015).

Anbar: More than 1,500 schools have been damaged or destroyed by conflict in the province (AFP, 03/08/2015).

Refugees: 68% of school-aged refugee children are attending school, including 74% in camps and 62% outside camps. Attendance in primary school in camps varies from 67% in Arbat to 95% in Kawergosk. Challenges include overcrowded classrooms, shortages of Syrian teachers, increasing demand for schooling, and insecurity. At least 50% of Syrian teachers have been unpaid since at least April, due to KR-I’s limited budget (UNICEF/Save the Children, 31/07/2015).

Protection

IS has committed targeted attacks, killings, torture, rape, forced religious conversion, and child conscription. Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015). As many as 3,000–3,500 people, predominantly from the Yazidi community and other ethnic and religious groups, remain in IS captivity (UN, 13/07/2015). ISF and associated militias have allegedly carried out looting, killing, torture, and abduction during their counter-offensives against IS (Reuters, 04/04/2015; 21/03/2015; Amnesty, 02/04/2015).

Increasing violence and intimidation against media workers has been reported in IS-controlled areas, particularly in Ninewa governorate (UNESCO/UNAMI 01/09/2015). In Mosul alone, 40 journalists have been assassinated since IS took the city in June 2014 (IJS, 16/08/2015).

Children

Around 2.4 million children are living in the most affected governorates of Iraq. Grave
violations against children, including sexual violence, maiming, and forced recruitment, are prominent (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 20/06/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, is using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 08/06/2015; OCHA, 06/02/2015). The group abducted 400 children in Anbar during the last week of May (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Child marriage is increasingly used as a strategy by families to protect young girls from sexual violence and deprivation (OCHA, 12/08/2015).

Refugees: Child labour is affecting 16-30% of Syrian refugee children in Dahuk (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Documentation

IDPs: Lack of documentation among IDPs is a key concern, especially as it is a prerequisite for residency permits and difficult to obtain outside a person’s area of origin: many children born in displacement lack birth registration, while up to 50% of IDP families are reportedly missing at least one important personal identity document (OCHA, 14/07/2015). There are reports of IDPs from Diyala and Kirkuk having their documentation confiscated and being forced to return to their province of origin (OCHA, 04/07/2015). Reports also highlight arrests of IDPs without documentation in Kirkuk (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Refugees: Residency permits in KR-I are only issued for 3-6 months, which has limited access to legal employment (DRC/UNDP, 31/07/2015). Many of the 37,500 Syrian refugee children aged 0–4 lack birth registration documents because their parents do not have any (UNHCR, 25/05/2015). Refugees in Al Obaidi camp in Anbar continue to lack access to legal documentation and assistance due to inaccessibility of government services (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Gender

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuse across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and forced recruitment of women. IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

The Government estimates more than 1,730km² of land is contaminated by landmines and UXO. IS is reportedly planting more (MAG, 07/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015

SYRIA

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 September: Russia confirmed it had delivered military equipment to Syria. US officials claim an estimated 200 troops, including military advisers and technicians, have been deployed to Lattakia (Reuters, 10/09/2015; 11/09/2015; SOHR, 13/09/2015).

9 September: Fighting between Islamic State and other armed groups continues in and around Mare town, Aleppo. The area has not been reached by humanitarian assistance since late August (ECHO).

August: Government used barrel bombs on more than 1,500 occasions over August (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 07/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- In the first six months of 2015, 11,000 people were killed (SNHR, 01/07/2015). Over 240,000 deaths documented March 2011–August 2015, including over 70,000 civilians, 12,000 of them children (SOHR, 06/08/2015).

- 12.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children (OCHA/UNICEF, 12/2014).

- 7.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 28/12/2014).

- 4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA, 12/2014).

- 4 million Syrians refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

OVERVIEW

Some 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children. The humanitarian situation appears most critical in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor (SNAP, 28/01/2015).
For more information, see the SNAP project’s reports.

Politics and security

The conflict in Syria has been ongoing since 2011, when fighting broke out between pro-government and opposition forces. More armed groups then became involved, in particular Jabhat al-Nusra (JAN), Islamic State (IS), and Kurdish armed groups such as People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC, 23/06/2015). Civilians have been subject to direct and indiscriminate attacks, including the widespread use of barrel bombs and other explosives in populated areas (UNSC 18/06/2015). In August, government forces used barrel bombs more than 1,500 times (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 07/09/2015).

Over the first six months of 2015, 11,090 people were killed, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights. Government forces are believed to be responsible for 77% of the deaths, including 6,928 civilians (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/07/2015). 2,040 people were reported killed in August. These figures do not include casualties among government or IS forces (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/09/2015; 01/08/2015).

2014 saw the highest annual death toll since the war began, with 76,000 people killed in conflict, including 18,000 civilians (SOHR, 02/01/2014). More than 240,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disability (SOHR, 06/08/2015; UNICEF, 03/2015).

On 17 August, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a statement on a Syrian peace initiative set to begin in September. It is the first time in two years that the Security Council has agreed on a statement on Syria (AFP, 17/08/2015).

Stakeholders

Government forces have control of an estimated 20–30% of Syrian territory: Aleppo city, Damascus city, Homs city and surroundings, Tartous governorate, parts of As-Sweida, Dar’a, Hama, Lattakia, and Quneitra governorates, and some areas in Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib governorates (Al Jazeera, 01/09/2015; ISW, 19/06/2015).

Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People’s Protection Units (YPG): Syrian Kurds have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in the north since government forces withdrew mid-2012. This includes large areas of the northern parts of Al Hasakeh, Ar Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates (Al Jazeera 01/09/2015; ISW, 19/06/2015).

Opposition alliances: The Al Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra (JAN) controls areas in Idlib governorate (ISW, 19/06/2015). In March, JAN joined forces with several other Islamist groups to create the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room, mainly active in Idlib governorate (ISW, 03/2015). In April, Ahhr al Sham, Jaysh al Islam, and five other Aleppo-based opposition groups announced the formation of the Aleppo Conquest Operations Room in Aleppo city, which later expanded to Hama and Idlib governorates (ISW, 20/05/2015; 28/04/2015). In early July, JAN and 13 other Islamist groups formed the Ansar al Sharia Operations Room in Aleppo governorate (BBC, 03/07/2015).

International intervention: As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in September 2014. More than 2,500 people have been killed by coalition airstrikes so far, the vast majority of them IS fighters, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR, 23/05/2015). Turkey began airstrikes in Syria on 24 July (BBC, 24/07/2015). On 10 September, Russia confirmed it had delivered military equipment to Syria (Reuters, 10/09/2015). Reportedly, Russia has sent planes, military advisers, experts, and technicians to Lattakia in September (SOHR, 13/09/2015). US officials claim around 200 Russian forces are in the governorate, reportedly involved with preparing Hmeymim military airport to accommodate larger planes (SOHR, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 11/09/2015).

Conflict developments

As of mid-September, fighting and airstrikes have intensified in almost all governorates over recent months, and frontlines continue to shift (UNHCR, 08/09/2015).

In June 2015, opposition alliances launched offensives against both Dar’a and Aleppo cities. According to analysts, if opposition groups seize control over either city, the stalemate that has long characterised the conflict could be overturned (ISW, 09/07/2015). Government forces are struggling to secure and hold terrain (ISW, 24/06/2015).

The YPG, supported by other armed groups and coalition airstrikes, are challenging IS in the north (ISW, 25/06/2015). According to analysts, with the exception of the takeover of Palmyra in May, IS has been losing ground since February (AFP, 29/07/2015). IS lost Tal Abyad in Ar-Raqqa governorate to YPG in mid-June, considered a significant defeat (AFP,
Two temporary ceasefires (78 hours and 48 hours) were held in Zabadani town, Rural Damascus, and al Foua and Kefraya towns in Idleb governorate in August, as talks were held to end fighting in Zabadani and the siege of al Foua and Kefraya. No agreement has been reached (AFP, 29/08/2015; BBC, 12/08/2015).

Aleppo: Clashes between IS forces and opposition groups have escalated around Mare town: villages and roads have changed hands repeatedly during the first two weeks of September (ECHO, 09/09/2015; BBC, 05/09/2015). Fighting continues in Aleppo on a daily basis (UNSC, 20/08/2015). In early August, IS forces seized the village of Umm Housh in northern Aleppo, which lies along a key supply line from Turkey. Clashes continue in the area (AFP, 09/08/2015). On 27 July YPG forces seized control of Sarrin town, after weeks of fighting with IS forces. The capture cuts off IS’s main access route to other parts of Aleppo governorate (AFP, 30/07/2015).

Damascus: In mid-August, bombings intensified in the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta; an estimated 3,000 people have been injured. In early September, Jaysh al Islam reportedly made some significant gains in the areas surrounding Eastern Ghouta (BBC, 14/09/2015; MSF, 10/09/2015). New areas north of Damascus have come under siege, with a population of 600,000 (MSF, 10/09/2015). Douma, Jobar, and Darayya have been under continuous government airstrikes since early August (ECHO, 09/09/2015).

Hama: In late July, the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room launched a major offensive in government-held areas (AFP, 01/08/2015). Intense fighting continued in early August in the Sahel al Ghab region, with forces from the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room taking control over several villages and moving closer to the Government’s regional military headquarters in Jureen (AFP, 09/08/2015; Reuters, 09/08/2015).

Homs: In early September, IS forces seized Jazal oil field, the last oil field under government control. Clashes are ongoing in the desert zone (SOHR, 07/09/2015). On 6 August, IS forces seized the town of Al Qaryatain in their first major offensive since May (BBC, 06/08/2015). The takeover means IS forces are moving closer to the M5 highway, a crucial supply route for government forces (IRIN, 13/08/2015).

Lattakia: Clashes are continuing in areas north of Lattakia (SOHR, 13/09/2015). As of early September, JAN and aligned groups have advanced closer to Lattakia city, a key government stronghold (BBC, 02/09/2015).

Rural Damascus: After the end of a 48-hour ceasefire, fighting resumed in Zabadani end August (AFP, 29/08/2015). On 5 July, government forces, supported by Lebanese Hezbollah, entered Zabadani town, considered the final JAN stronghold in Qalamoun region (Al Jazeera, 05/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA, 31/08/2015; 25/11/2014).

As of 31 July, 1.2 million people have been internally displaced so far this year. Many of them have been displaced several times since the conflict broke out (OCHA, 31/08/2015). In June, 120,000 people were newly displaced in Al Hasakeh governorate, 28,000 in Aleppo governorate, 30,000 people in Dar’a, and 50,000 people in Ar-Raqqa (WFP, 17/07/2015; UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

In late July, an estimated 30,000 people were displaced in Idleb governorate following a government campaign of intense airstrikes (ECHO, 31/07/2015). At least 150,000 people have reportedly been displaced in the governorate since late March (WFP, 17/07/2015).

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): 560,000 Palestinian refugees are currently registered in Syria. Of these, 80,000 have fled to other countries. Over 95% of the 480,000 Palestinian refugees that remain within Syria are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/08/2015).

Iraqi refugees: There are an estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

4,088,099 Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of 6 September; a million more than in September 2014 (UNHCR, 06/09/2015). Since the war began, 350,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe; more than 175,000 arrivals from Syria were registered in Greece between 1 January and 31 August 2015 (UNHCR, 08/2015; IOM, 11/09/2015).

Turkey: 1,938,999 registered refugees (UNHCR, 25/08/2015).

Lebanon: 1,113,941 refugees (UNHCR, 25/08/2015).

Jordan: 629,266 refugees (UNHCR, 06/09/2015).

Egypt: 132,375 refugees (UNHCR, 05/07/2015).

Iraq: 249,463 refugees (UNHCR, 29/08/2015).

PRS: 42,000 have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan (UNRWA, 02/03/2015) and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA, 28/10/2014).
4.6 million people are living in 137 hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNICEF, 12/2014; UNFPA, 31/05/2015). Delivery of aid continues to be hampered by ongoing insecurity and lack of access for humanitarian organisations to government and opposition-held areas (AFP, 28/08/2015).

Local and international NGOs are reporting a lack of staff due to Syrians fleeing the country, in particular affecting NGOs that provide health services (IRIN, 07/09/2015).

Armed clashes and restrictions imposed by armed groups are hampering assistance, particularly in Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and rural Hama (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). Al Hasakeh remains inaccessible by road (ICRC, 18/06/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Ten aid workers have been killed and three injured since the beginning of 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Aid Worker Security Database, 20/04/2015). 77 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 27 UN staff (including 24 UNRWA staff) have been detained or are missing (UNSC 21/11/2014).

Access of affected populations to assistance

4.6 million people live in hard-to-reach communities; an estimated 2.7 million of these live in IS-controlled areas where humanitarian access continues to deteriorate (OCHA, 27/08/2015; 30/04/2015). 422,000 civilians are living in besieged areas (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

UN agencies only reached 1% of the population in besieged areas with food assistance in the first half of 2015, and only 2% with health supplies. In July, they reached none of the besieged areas. Only 12% of people living in hard-to-reach areas were reached with food assistance in the first half of 2015, only 3% of them with health supplies (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Aleppo: The town of Mare and surrounding areas have been out of reach of humanitarian actors since late August due to heavy fighting (ECHO, 09/09/2015).

Damascus: 600,000 people living in Al Tal, Al Hameh, and Qudssaya in northern Damascus have come under siege since late July. No humanitarian supplies are reaching the areas (MSF, 10/09/2015). Eastern Ghouta remains under siege; the population is in urgent need of assistance after weeks of intense bombing and hospitals are overwhelmed (MSF, 10/09/2015). The siege of Moaddamiyah has tightened: humanitarian assistance cannot reach the town, and people cannot enter or leave (MSF, 10/09/2015). The UN has removed Yarmouk from its list of besieged areas, despite UNRWA not having been able to deliver aid within the camp for four months (IRIN, 24/07/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege since February: minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Homs: IOM reached areas in Homs governorate in late August, however report that access is very limited (IOM, 01/09/2015).

Idleb: Lack of access due to insecurity continues to significantly hamper tracking of population movement, safe registration of IDPs, identification of lifesaving needs and provision of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015). Al Foua and Kefraya towns are besieged by JAN forces and cannot be accessed (AFP, 29/08/2015)

Rural Damascus: Zabadani town has not been accessed by humanitarian actors since 2012, and lack of food and medical supplies is reported, with fighting worsening the situation (OCHA, 07/07/2015). 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services in Moaddamiyah town, which has been cut off for several months. Little to no food or water is available; access to healthcare is lacking; and there is no electricity (ICRC, 18/06/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict. Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities, including water supply and electricity (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Electricity is only available for two–four hours a day, or not available at all, in most parts of Syria (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). In northern Syria, fuel shortages are severely limiting transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

9.8 million people require food, agriculture, and livelihoods-related assistance, according to the Food Security and Livelihoods sector. Of these, around 6.8 million people live in high-priority districts and need critical food assistance (WFP, 26/03/2015). High food prices have caused households to reduce the number of meals and eat lower quality and less nutritious food (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

Food availability

While weather conditions have been generally favourable, the conflict continues to impact agricultural output (FAO, 30/07/2015). Wheat production in 2015 is estimated to be 40% lower than pre-conflict levels, although higher than in 2014. It is the smallest estimated harvested wheat area since the 1960s (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

Crop production has been adversely affected by high prices or lack of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and fuel); damage to agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, and storage facilities; disruptions in electricity supply; and destruction of standing crops...
Food access

Food prices increased sharply in early 2015 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Since 2011, the average monthly prices of wheat flour and rice have increased 301% and 629%, respectively. In besieged areas, wheat flour and rice prices have risen by 669% and 560%, respectively. Subsidised bread prices have risen by 180%, and commercial prices by 220% (WFP, 05/2015).

Livelihoods

More than half of Syria’s population are estimated to be living in extreme poverty (ECHO, 09/09/2015). Unemployment stood at 57% the last quarter of 2014; an 8% increase since early 2014 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFPB, 02/12/2014). Insecurity is hampering transportation (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

Health

Over 2.4 million people are in need of health assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014).

Healthcare availability and access

25% of hospitals are not functioning, and 32% of hospitals are only partially functioning, due to shortage of staff, equipment, supplies, or damaged infrastructure (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Health services in Aleppo, Dar’a, Homs, Hama, Idleb and Al Hasakeh governorates have been the most affected by conflict (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). The number of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels (WHO, 27/03/2015). Local production of medicines has fallen by 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO, 27/03/2015).

Populations living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas have limited access to healthcare (ICRC, 27/08/2015). Health needs are growing in northeastern Syria, and humanitarian actors struggle to access Al Hasakeh governorate due to insecurity (ICRC, 27/08/2015).

Since 2011, Physicians for Human Rights has recorded the killing of 633 medical personnel and 271 attacks on 202 medical facilities. Government forces were found to be responsible for 90% of attacks on medical facilities – including 51 attacks with barrel bombs – and 97% of medical personnel deaths – including 142 deaths by torture or execution (PHR, 18/06/2015).

Waterborne diseases

As of July 2015, 105,866 cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported since the beginning of the year. Children are particularly at risk. The number of diarrhoea cases increased by more than 40% over May–July (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). In the first weeks of July, at least 3,000 cases of diarrhoea were reported among children in Aleppo city (UNICEF, 22/07/2015).

In the first five months of 2015, 1,000 hepatitis A cases were recorded per month (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Significant increases in hepatitis A and typhoid cases were reported over May–July in Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and Rural Damascus (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).

In late August, 26 cases of typhoid were reported in Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus (UN News Centre, 21/08/2015).

WASH

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report major problems in the WASH sector (MSNA, 30/10/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on water and sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Water

Syria’s water infrastructure has been severely affected by the conflict: an estimated half of the total production capacity has been lost or damaged (ICRC, 02/09/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced and the quality of drinking water cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of testing facilities. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Deliberate disruptions to water supply systems are increasingly being used by various parties to the conflict as a tactic of war (UNICEF, 19/08/2015). 18 deliberate water cuts have been recorded in Aleppo city so far this year (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). Water from the main water distribution system in Aleppo was cut for the first two weeks of August (UNICEF, 19/08/2015). During August, water prices in Aleppo increased as much as 3,000% (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

In and around Damascus, water cuts in the last weeks of August affected at least five million people. Water supplies have been restored, but not to adequate levels (ECHO, 21/08/2015).

Water pumping stations in Idleb governorate are operating only two hours a day (UNICEF 10/07/2015).

Sanitation

One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).
Shelter and NFIs

In late 2014, 1.6 million people were estimated to be in need of shelter and NFI assistance (2015 Syria SRP, 17/12/2014).

Shelter

Limited information is available on shelter needs of the 7.6 million IDPs (Shelter Cluster, 29/07/2015).

More than one million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Many IDPs are staying in unfinished buildings, or in schools and other public buildings. The buildings are often overcrowded and the IDPs lack access to basic services (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Education

Between 2.1 and 2.4 million school-aged children are currently out of school (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

Between 5,000 and 14,000 schools have been damaged, destroyed or occupied since March 2011 (Save the Children, 03/2015).

In areas of prolonged active conflict, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6% (Save the Children, 03/2015). The primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support the family. Around 90% of schools in Idlib city have stopped functioning due to violent conflict (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Protection

Non-state armed groups and pro-government forces continue to commit human rights violations. Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted directly (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). Human and organ trafficking are reported (UNHCR 20/11/2014). Chemical weapons attacks have been reported (Reuters, 18/07/2105; HRW, 03/06/2015).

Both government and opposition forces have reportedly carried out arbitrary detention and abduction (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 30/08/2015).

Since the start of the conflict, 11,500 people have died from torture while in detention; government forces were responsible for 99% of cases (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 26/06/2015).

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted. Since the conflict began in 2011, 84 journalists have been killed, more than 90 abducted, and 25 remain missing (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 12/08/2015).

Mines and ERW

Large quantities of unexploded ordnance and many booby-trapped houses in the eastern sector of Kobane city and the surrounding countryside are preventing return (OCHA, 17/02/2015). Since late January, there have been 45 explosions and 66 people killed, the vast majority of them civilians, according to a demining NGO (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

Children

Various opposition groups, including JAN, Kurdish groups, and IS have been found to recruit children (NOREF, 16/02/2015). In 2015, IS has trained over 400 children as fighters (AFP, 24/03/2015). 52 children recruited by IS have been killed so far in 2015 (31 in July alone), including 16 who were used in suicide bombings (SOHR, 15/07/2015). The YPG has recruited 59 children since June 2014 (HRW, 15/07/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015

Yemen COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 September: Government forces have launched a military offensive with the aim of regaining control over Sanaa, Marib and Al Jawf governorates (AFP).

13 September: The Hadi government has withdrawn from UN-brokered peace talks expected to begin in Oman this week. It requires the Houthis to withdraw from the territory they have seized during the conflict before joining the peace talks (AFP, 14/09/2015).

8 September: The Saudi-led coalition has deployed an estimated 10,000 troops to Yemen (Reuters).

August: Yemen is dependent on fuel imports, however in August only 12% of Yemen’s monthly fuel needs were met (ECHO, 14/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS
- 21.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.2 million people directly affected by the conflict (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.9 million people are food insecure (IPC Indicative Analysis, 18/06/2015). Six million are estimated to be severely food insecure (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- More than 15 million people lack access to healthcare (OCHA, 03/06/2015).
- 1.6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 400,000 potential SAM cases (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 12/06/2015).
- At least 20 million people lack access to clean water. Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- 1.4 million IDPs in Yemen (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Yemen's political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the government. Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and Islamic State activity throughout the country compound the security and political challenges. Access to safe drinking water, healthcare, and other basic services continues to decline. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has declared Yemen a Level 3 emergency based on the severe humanitarian situation.

Politics and Security

Instability and violence continue across the country. As of end August 2015, 21 of Yemen's 22 governorates are directly affected by airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Several ceasefires have failed to hold (AFP, 27/07/2015; 13/07/2015). Equally, peace talks have not brought any agreement. The last round of UN-led talks including government and Houthi representatives concluded in Geneva on 19 June (AFP, 19/06/2015). A new round of UN-brokered peace talks including Houthi and government representatives was expected to begin in Oman mid-September. However, on 13 September, President Hadi announced that government representatives would only attend talks if the Houthis recognise UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and withdraw their forces from all territory they have seized during the conflict (AFP, 14/09/2015; 10/09/2015).

Conflict between Houthi and government forces escalated significantly from late March 2015.

In September 2014, Houthi forces advanced to the capital and took control. In February 2015, the Houthis dissolved Parliament, and President Hadi fled to Aden. In March, Houthi forces advanced further south, and President Hadi escaped to Saudi Arabia. On 25 March, a Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces. Islamist groups, including AQAP and Ansar al Sharia, have exploited the power vacuum to take control of large areas in southeastern Yemen (International Crisis Group 2015; Al Jazeera 27/03/2015; CNN 27/03/2015; New York Times 25/01/2015; UNHCR 26/06/2015). As of August 2015, Houthi forces have lost control over much of southern Yemen, but remains strong in northern governorates (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015).

As of 27 August, 4,513 conflict-related deaths and 23,509 injuries have been registered since March (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Civilians account for almost half of those killed: 2,112 deaths as of end August (OHCHR, 01/09/2015). These numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (OHCHR, 01/09/2015).

Stakeholders

The pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, are aiming at regaining control over Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. President Hadi is in charge of government forces from his exile in Saudi Arabia. Several ministers have returned to Aden as of late July (Al Jazeera, 23/07/2015). The Yemeni army is deeply divided, with units loyal to President Hadi fighting pro-Houthi units (ABC 15/04/2015).

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are based in Sa’ada governorate. They have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009). Certain factions in the Yemeni army have allied themselves with the Houthis against President Hadi, including members of the former central security force, a unit seen as loyal to former President Saleh (Reuters, 12/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015). Estimates put the number of Houthi militants at around 20,000–30,000 (Al Jazeera, 04/03/2015).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia: AQAP is based in the south and east of the country. Ansar al Sharia has gained a foothold in the south and is believed to be a local branch of AQAP (ICG, 27/02/2015). According to the national security service, there are around 1,000 Al Qaeda militants in Yemen, from 11 Arab and non-Arab countries (AFP, 17/01/2015).

International involvement: A Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-Hadi forces on 26 March. UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt are also members of the coalition (CNN, 29/03/2015). The coalition has deployed an estimated 10,000 ground troops in Yemen (Reuters, 08/09/2015). Saudi Arabia claims that Iran backs Houthi militants financially and materially, a claim the Iranian government denies (Amnesty 26/03/2015).
In mid-September, government forces launched a new offensive aiming to regain control of Sanaa, as well as Marib and Al Jawf governorates (AFP, 14/09/2015).

Aden was taken by pro-government troops on 17 July. Over July and the first weeks of August, pro-government forces made significant gains in southern Yemen: as of 17 August, Houthi forces had reportedly lost all the territory they held in southern governorates, but maintained their stronghold in the north (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015). As of 21 August, pro-government forces have gained control over Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Lahj and Al Dhalee governorates (WFP, 21/08/2015).

Aden: On 22 August, Al Qaeda militants took control of a western district in Aden (Reuters, 23/08/2015).

Abyan: On 12 August, pro-government forces took control of Abyan governorate (WFP, 21/08/2015). In early August, intense fighting was reported in the capital, Zinjibar. Abyan governorate had been relatively quiet until the capture of Aden by pro-government forces in July (ECHO, 04/08/2015).

Lahj: On 3 August, pro-government forces retook the Al Anad airbase from Houthi forces – a significant strategic loss for the Houthis (AFP, 04/08/2015; BBC, 04/08/2015). Houthi forces have reportedly lost most of their presence in Lahj governorate (Reuters, 05/08/2015).

Marib: Fighting in Marib continues. Government forces launched a new offensive mid-September to regain control of the governorate (AFP, 14/09/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has deployed ground troops to eastern Marib, reportedly to prepare a push further north (ICG, 01/09/2015; UNHCR, 26/08/2015). 1,000 troops from Qatar have reportedly been deployed as of early September (Al Jazeera, 07/09/2015).

Sanaa: Saudi-led coalition airstrikes have increased in Sanaa and other northern governorates since early September, in retaliation against a Houthi attack on 4 September that killed 60 coalition soldiers (ECHO, 09/09/2015). Ground fighting is moving closer to the capital, and analysts expect pro-government forces to launch an offensive in Sanaa city in the coming weeks (ECHO, 13/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015). IS has claimed responsibility for bombings targeting Shi'ite mosques in June, July and September (AFP, 03/09/2015).

Taizz: Clashes in and around Taizz continue (ECHO, 09/09/2015). The coalition has reportedly deployed ground troops (UNHCR, 26/08/2015). During August, Houthi forces regained some territory in Taizz (ICG, 01/09/2015).

Displacement

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement make it difficult to estimate displacement figures and needs. More than 1.4 million people are thought to have been displaced in Yemen since March – adding to an estimated 800,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in need of assistance (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 12/06/2015).

IDPs

As of early August, 1.4 million people have been internally displaced since the escalation of conflict, a 12% increase since early July (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015). This includes 299,000 in Hajjah, 236,000 in Al Dhalee, and 195,000 in Aden governorate. IDPs originate mainly from Aden, Al Dhalee, and Lahj governorates (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015).

Most IDPs are staying with friends and family, and host community members are in need of assistance themselves (OCHA, 19/06/2015; OCHA, 10/06/2015). IDPs and host communities urgently need food, shelter, health services, and fuel in several governorates, including Hadramaut, Al Mahwit, and Taizz (IOM, 23/07/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

There are 257,645 registered refugees in Yemen: most are Somali (236,803); 5,934 are Ethiopian (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015). At least 2,000 Syrian refugees have been registered in Yemen since August 2014: more than 10,000 Syrians are thought to be in the country (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

Conflict in areas close to refugee-hosting sites have resulted in further displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, loss of livelihoods, and a breakdown in basic services (OCHA, 19/06/2015). In Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate, food rations have run out, the school is closed, health facilities are shutting down, and a general lack of basic services is reported (UNHCR, 19/06/2015).

Other people of concern in Yemen

Estimates indicate that over 883,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in Yemen currently require assistance, including Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

10,500 people have arrived in Yemen since March, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Many new arrivals reported they were unaware of the security situation in Yemen before arriving. Others reported they were aware of the situation, and still preferred it to the situation in their country of origin (UNHCR, 03/07/2015).

Arrivals from Yemen in other countries

Since March 2015, more than 102,000 people, consisting of Yemenis, returnees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (UNHCR, 02/09/2015). As of 11
September, 24,748 have arrived in Djibouti and 29,020 in Somalia (IOM, 11/09/2015). 3,000 Yemenis and Somalis have arrived in Ethiopia; 5,000 arrivals have been recorded in Oman. 30,000 Yemenis and 10,000 TCNs have arrived in Saudi Arabia; all but 5,000 have since left Saudi Arabia for other countries (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Checkpoints, insecurity, and the reluctance of transporters to access volatile areas are hampering the delivery of assistance via both road and sea (WFP, 29/07/2015). Fuel shortages are further hampering humanitarian operations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). The arms embargo on the Houthis and commercial shipping restrictions have also impacted the supply of humanitarian relief (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Humanitarian access constraints are particularly severe in Sa’ada, followed by Lahj, Aden, Al Dhalee, Taizz, Abyan, Shabwah, Marib, and Al Jawf (OCHA, 19/06/2015). As of end August, humanitarian access to Taizz governorate is extremely limited due to ongoing fighting (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Other northern governorates such as Hajjah and Amran also have limited access (OCHA, 29/05/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 2 September, two local ICRC staff members were killed in Amran governorate while travelling between Sa’ada and Sanaa (ICRC, 02/09/2015; OCHA, 02/09/2015). On 24 August, the ICRC office in Aden city was attacked by unidentified gunmen (ICRC, 25/08/2015). In late July, a Yemen Red Crescent ambulance was attacked; two people were killed (ICRC, 29/07/2015). Four Yemen Red Crescent volunteers have been killed since March (ICRC, 13/09/2015).Humanitarian workers in Taizz governorate are increasingly being targeted, harassed, and abducted by armed groups (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Many aid agencies have suspended activities and evacuated their staff (IRIN, 27/03/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The closure of airspace over Yemen is severely restricting air operations, as are limitations in neighbouring airspace zones (Logistics Cluster, 06/07/2015). Sanaa and Seiyun are the only airports operating international flights (Logistics Cluster, 07/09/2015). Aden airport has reopened but requires repair and is not fully operational (Logistics Cluster, 07/09/2015).

The Yemeni government-in-exile has formally banned ships from entering the country’s waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). Hudaydah port has reopened after airstrikes mid-August, however the cranes and container terminal continue to be non-operational (Logistics Cluster, 07/09/2015). Aden port is accessible, but land transportation from Aden to northern governorates remains restricted (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Roads in and around Aden are either inaccessible or difficult to access due to insecurity (Logistics Cluster, 06/07/2015). Roads connecting Sanaa to Aden, Taizz, Al Dhalee, and Lahj have become inaccessible (WFP, 27/04/2015).

Yemen imports the vast majority of the fuel it uses, but in August, fuel imports reached only 12% of Yemen’s monthly fuel needs (ECHO, 14/09/2015). Diesel prices are 1,056% higher than before the conflict escalated (OCHA, 13/07/2015). The fuel shortage is creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, and the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015). On average, Yemenis have less than one hour of electricity per day, due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

12.9 million people are food insecure, 2.3 million more than before the escalation of the crisis in March (FAO, 31/08/2015). 6.1 million people (22.7% of the population) face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, mainly in Sa’ada, Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, and Al Bayda, while 6.8 million people (25.7%) are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), according to the June 2015 IPC Analysis. This is a 21% increase in food insecurity since last year (FAO, 31/08/2015; Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015). The situation is expected to further deteriorate as long as insecurity continues to severely constrain access and household purchasing power falls (Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Food availability

While Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Cooking gas is unavailable in Aden and Taizz and only sparsely available in 13 other governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015). The price of cooking gas has increased by more than 300% since March (OCHA, 17/06/2015).

Wheat and meat products are unavailable in Aden and only sparsely available in 14 other governorates (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015; MSF, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 13/07/2015). Grain milling has ceased for lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Most bakeries in Aden have shut down due to wheat and fuel shortages (OCHA, 30/06/2015). It is increasingly difficult to store and transport fruit and vegetables due to fuel shortages. Fuel shortages have also affected transportation of livestock (FAO, 23/06/2015).

95% of local supermarkets are reportedly closed, affecting in particular people in urban settings (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

In addition, a 30% reduction in harvest is expected in the key cropping regions (central highlands, southern uplands, and western coastal plain) compared to previous years (FAO, 31/08/2015).
The ongoing conflict, malfunctioning markets, high cost of fuel and other inputs, high operating costs for irrigation, and below-average rainfall during the planting season have all disrupted the cropping season. Land preparation, irrigation, weeding, and access to farmlands have been disrupted by ongoing insecurity, and agricultural infrastructure and facilities have been damaged or destroyed (FAO, 31/08/2015).

A 75% reduction in fish production is estimated in Taizz, Aden, Lahj, and Abyan governorates, while in other governorates the reduction is estimated to be around 50% (FAO, 31/08/2015).

Food access

Food prices have increased by 40–100% since the start of the crisis, with the highest prices in southwestern governorates (FAO, 08/07/2015). Acute fuel shortages have affected food prices (WFP, 10/04/2015).

Airstrikes have reportedly targeted local markets and trucks carrying food (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Livelihoods

More than 2.5 million people have lost their source of income due to the suspension of basic services and social safety nets. Livelihoods have also been affected by the closure or downsizing of companies: only three percent of businesses were reportedly functioning normally by May 2015 (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). In areas affected by ground conflict, many people have not received public salaries since March, due to insecurity and disruptions to transfer systems (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). Aden, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, Abyan, Hajjah and Sa’ada are most affected (FAO, 31/08/2015).

An assessment carried out in Hudaydah governorate found that 70% of households had lost some or all of their monthly income since March (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

People are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling their belongings, to meet everyday needs (OCHA, 10/06/2015). Already in June, many families could no longer afford sufficient or nutritious food (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Farmers are struggling to sustain their income due to high input costs and low output prices (FAO, 23/06/2015). 65% of fishermen have lost their job and income, as a result of insecurity, lack of fuel causing spoilage, and market disruption (FAO, 31/08/2015; OCHA, 06/07/2015; FAO, 08/07/2015). Electricity shortages have affected all economic sectors.

Health

About 15.2 million people lack access to basic healthcare, 40% more than in March (OCHA, 03/06/2015; 14/06/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Out of 5,642 health facilities in Yemen, 754 (13%) are non-functional and 559 (10%) partially functional as a result of the conflict (WHO, 30/07/2015). 39 health facilities have been damaged since March, including 27 hospitals (WHO, 15/08/2015).

Health staff are increasingly unable to report to work. Qualified medical staff were already in short supply before the crisis, and the evacuation of non-Yemeni health staff, who made up at least 25% of health workers, has added to shortages (WHO, 27/04/2015). Health professionals who continue working have not been paid in months (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

In Sanaa, Al Sabeeh hospital, which serves an estimated three million people, is reportedly facing imminent closure, due to critical fuel shortages and lack of medical supplies (Save the Children, 30/08/2015). Yemen’s national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is reportedly close to closing, due to fuel shortages and shortage of blood bags and other supplies (WHO, 04/09/2015).

Taizz governorate’s health system has collapsed. All 11 public health facilities have been closed; limited emergency services are only provided by two hospitals. Half of private facilities have also closed (UNICEF, 01/09/2015).

The remaining private health facilities are overwhelmed by the large number of severely injured, and a dengue outbreak (OHCHR, 01/09/2015). Humanitarian organisations are struggling to deliver medical and surgical supplies due to insecurity (ICRC, 28/08/2015). Taizz International Hospital is occupied by armed groups (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

In three months following the escalation of conflict, nine incidents of violence against staff and in health facilities and care workers and 65 incidents against health facilities were reported (OCHA, 14/06/2015).

Ambulance services are non-functional in most areas heavily affected by conflict due to fuel shortages and security threats (OCHA, 14/06/2015). There have been reports of ambulances being commandeered by militias (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are no longer available and there are acute shortages in critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA, 12/06/2015). The only oxygen-generating plant in Yemen ceased to function in April due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Outbreak response, including surveillance and early response, is no longer functioning (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 14/06/2015). 25% of Yemen’s health facilities are no longer conducting routine vaccination (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). 87 out of 333 districts lack a functioning cold room to store vaccines (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

Dengue and malaria
In Taizz governorate, a spike in dengue cases has been reported: from 145 suspected cases in early August, to 432 cases by 25 August (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

By mid-August, 8,000 cases of dengue fever had been reported in Aden since March (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). The number of new cases had declined significantly from mid-June to end-July (WHO, 30/07/2015).

Some cases of malaria have been reported (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). Insecurity is preventing vector control (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Lack of electricity and medical supplies make laboratory testing for dengue and malaria challenging (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

**Measles and rubella**

Over 365 cases of measles and over 90 cases of rubella were diagnosed in Yemen between mid-2014 and mid-2015 (OCHA, 14/06/2015). 12 cases of measles were reported between 3 and 9 July (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

**Nutrition**

Around 1.8 million children are likely to suffer from malnutrition in Yemen in 2015 – one million more than in 2014. Of these, a projected 537,000 will be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 19/08/2015).

There was a 150% increase in hospital admissions for malnutrition between March and June (WHO, 19/06/2015). 1.6 million children and pregnant or lactating women are in need of services to treat or prevent acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

An assessment in Hudaydah governorate found a global acute malnutrition (GAM) to be at 31% among children under five, 9% of whom have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) – a significant increase from 18% GAM in the governorate in 2014 (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

**WASH**

At least 20 million people lack access to clean water (WHO, 19/06/2015). Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Diesel needed to deliver public water and sanitation is either not available or only sporadically available in 20 of 22 governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Lack of drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities have been reported in sites hosting IDPs in Al Jawf and Marib governorates (OCHA, 23/05/2015).

**Water**

Public water networks are at risk of collapse in eight major cities (OCHA, 19/06/2015). In the south, the lack of power combined with damaged water pumps has forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Water trucks do not have fuel to make deliveries (OCHA, 22/05/2015). The price of water doubled between July and August, with some families spending one-third of their income on water (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). In Sanaa, the price of water has tripled since the escalation of conflict (WFP, 19/08/2015).

The water network in Taizz city, which previously served 300,000 people, has been severely damaged and stopped pumping water on 18 August (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

**Sanitation**

Solid waste collection has been suspended and sewage treatment plants have reduced operations in several major cities (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Garbage has been accumulating on the streets (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). In Taizz city, solid waste has not been collected since mid-August (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

1.2 million people are in need of emergency shelter or essential household items (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

**Shelter**

The majority of IDPs are hosted by relatives. Some families are reportedly hosting up to six or seven displaced (IOM, 22/05/2015).

IDPs staying with host families are reporting overcrowding, lack of food, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Many IDPs are staying in public buildings, such as schools or health facilities, open spaces or makeshift shelters (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Refugees who were previously self-reliant are now dependent on humanitarian assistance and unable to afford adequate shelters in urban areas, leading to overcrowding (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

**Education**

Over 1.8 million children have lost access to school since the escalation of conflict in March (UNICEF, 11/08/2015). Prior to the conflict, an estimated 2.5 million children were not in school (OCHA, 04/2014).

**Access and learning environment**

3,584 schools have closed since March (UNICEF, 18/08/2015). An estimated 600,000 children in grades 9 and 12 have not been able to take their National Certification Exams,
exams meant to facilitate transition into higher levels of education (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

More than 400 schools have been damaged: 315 partially damaged and 114 destroyed (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). Some 68 schools are occupied by armed groups, and 360 are hosting IDPs (UNICEF, 25/08/2015; 21/07/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has stated that schools are legitimate targets if used for military purposes, and have targeted school buildings claimed to be hosting military equipment (Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 11/06/2015).

In schools hosting IDPs, classroom equipment, such as desks and benches, is being used for firewood (UNICEF, 23/06/2015).

Protection

11.4 million people are in need of protection assistance, including about 7.3 million children (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, increased recruitment of children, and attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported since the conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Armed groups have detained children, carried out extrajudicial executions, and subjected detainees to general ill-treatment (Human Rights Watch, 02/09/2015).

Mines and ERW

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in northern governorates. Cluster munitions have been used by Saudi-led coalition forces (Cluster Munition Monitor, 03/09/2015). Since March, incidents of civilians wounded in cluster munition attacks in Sa’ada governorate have been reported (Human Rights Watch, 31/05/2015). In Lahj, local partners report that AQAP has placed landmines in Al Hamra area of Al Hawta district in order to guard against any Houthi advance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Houthi forces reportedly laid antipersonnel landmines in Aden before withdrawing (Human Rights Watch, 06/09/2015).

Children

7.3 million children are in need of protection assistance (Save the Children, 02/09/2015). As of 25 August, 402 children have been reported killed and 606 injured (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

Up to 30% of fighters in armed groups are children (OCHA, 22/12/2014). 377 children have been recruited by armed groups since the escalation of the conflict (UNICEF, 28/07/2015). Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and state forces are reported to be recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/10/2014).

Vulnerable groups

Due to their marginalisation, the Muhamasheen minority have greater humanitarian needs than the average population (UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015

DEMONCATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

FLOODS, FOOD

INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 August: 40 people have been killed and 11,000 people affected by flash floods and landslides in north Hamgyong province (ECHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. An estimated 18 million people (70% of the population) are dependent on government rations. 1.8 million people are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015).
- DPRK is disaster-prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods, and droughts.
- Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN, 01/04/2015).

Politics and security

Tensions between DPRK and South Korea increased after a landmine at the border injured two South Korean soldiers in early August (Guardian, 04/08/2015). On 20 August, the tension resulted in a brief exchange of fire at the border – no casualties were reported. On 24 August, DPRK and South Korea agreed on a deal to reduce tensions (BBC, 25/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions are further complicating assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).
Natural disasters

Tropical Cyclone Goni

Tropical Cyclone Goni passed off the coast of the Korean peninsula late August, causing floods and landslides in north Hamgyong province (ECHO, 27/08/2015). 40 people were killed in flash floods in Rason city, 153 houses were completely destroyed, and 849 houses were partially damaged (IFRC, 26/08/2015).

Floods

Heavy rain over 1–5 August caused flooding in South Hwanghae, South Hamgyong, and North Hamgyong provinces. As of 10 August, 21 people have been reported dead, and nine are missing. 3,400 people have been affected by the floods, with more than 900 houses destroyed, and more than 4,000 hectares of crops damaged (IFRC, 12/08/2015; ECHO, 12/08/2015).

Drought

A prolonged dry spell during the planting season, which lasted from April to early June, has adversely affected crops and the yield potential of 2015 food crops (FAO, 17/06/2015). So far in 2015, all provinces have experienced less rainfall than the yearly average (OCHA, 01/07/2015). The provinces of North and South Hwanghae, which contribute to the largest share of the national cereal output, have been most affected (FAO, 17/06/2015). According to South Korean officials, June rainfall has alleviated the drought in other areas (AFP, 10/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.8 million children, older people, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015). An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are dependent on government rations and highly vulnerable to shortages in food production (UN, 01/04/2015). These food rations were reportedly reduced from 410g per person per day in June to 310g in early July. In mid-July the rations were reportedly further reduced to 250g. Though reductions are normal, this year’s reductions have come a month earlier than in previous years (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Most households are estimated to have borderline and poor food consumption rates (FAO, 01/06/2015). Decreased production of vegetables and soybeans, a major source of protein, contributes to a lack of food diversity for the general population (UN, 01/04/2015).

The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets, is a fundamental challenge for food production (UN, 01/04/2015).

Food availability

Potato, wheat, and barley crops could be reduced by up to 40–50% in drought-affected areas, compared with normal levels. Rice planting was significantly affected by reduced rainfall in 2014, and output is forecast to be 12% lower than last year. Maize output is expected to be 15% lower than last year. In 2015, 31% of rice crops suffered from serious water shortages during planting and 6% of rice crops were not planted (OCHA, 11/08/2015). Soybean production is also expected to be affected (FAO, 13/07/2015).

9% of agricultural land is unarable since the 2014 drought; in North and South Hwanghae 33% of land is considered unusable for agricultural purposes (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Health

An estimated six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and lifesaving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of disease (UN, 01/04/2015).

Waterborne diseases

Indicators suggest that health facilities are stretched by an increase in cases of diarrhoea, as access to safe water is diminishing during the drought (OCHA, 01/07/2015). A joint field observation mission in June found a general increase in waterborne diseases (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

Nutrition

According to FAO, 10.5 million people were undernourished in 2014 (FAO, 27/05/2015).

Food shortages peak during the lean season, between July and September, and households resort to coping mechanisms such as receiving support from families on cooperative farms; reducing meal sizes; gathering wild foods; and diluting meals with water (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). In 2012, the National Nutrition Survey reported 4% acute malnutrition among under-fives (National Nutrition Survey, 03/2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are of particular concern (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

WASH

An estimated seven million people need access to clean water and sanitation. There is a notable lack of adequate sanitation in rural areas and in social care institutions and
education facilities (UN, 01/04/2015).

Water

The quality and availability of water in domestic water wells, which many communities rely on, has been impacted by the drought. According to reports, wells are dry and water levels in reservoirs are 20–30% of 2013 levels (NRP, 18/07/2015). Irrigation activities have been disrupted by the April–June dry spell (FAO, 17/06/2015). Rainfall in 2014 was also 40–60% below 2013 levels (Reuters, 30/05/2015).

Education

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

Protection

Forced labour is a major concern. According to Human Rights Watch, DPRK authorities arbitrarily arrest and unfairly prosecute citizens (Human Rights Watch, 08/06/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

-1,113,941 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon (UNHCR, 25/08/2015).
- The Government instructed the temporary suspension of refugee registration with UNHCR, beginning 6 May, 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, and employment. Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

Politics and Security

The Lebanese Parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, claiming that elections would present too much of a security risk (Daily Star, 12/11/2014). Lebanon has been without a president since President Sleiman’s term expired in May 2014. Parliament has failed to elect a president 24 times in the last year (Daily Star, 17/06/2015).

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, has raised destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

Civil Unrest

Following the closure of Beirut’s main landfill, and the subsequent build-up of solid waste in the street, rioting broke out in Beirut, mainly outside government buildings. As of 26 August, at least one protester has been killed, tens have been wounded and
As of 26 August, at least one protester has been killed, tens have been wounded and four are missing (Daily Star, 26/08/2015; Al Jazeera, 24/08/2015). Hezbollah has declared its support for the ‘You Stink’ movement organising the protests. Both You Stink and Hezbollah have called for the current government to resign (AFP, 25/08/2015). Protests continue in Beirut.

Conflict Developments

Bekaa Valley: The presence of JAN militants continues to be suspected on the outskirts of Arsal (Daily Star, 26/06/2015). There have been no major security incidents in the area involving JAN since June.

Palestinian refugee camps: The security situation in many Palestinian refugee camps is tense. A Palestinian joint security force deployed to the southern refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in late March, less than a year after a similar security plan was implemented in Ain al Hilweh (Daily Star, 24/03/2015).

Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon’s largest Palestinian refugee camp, is a site of frequent tensions and armed clashes. Tensions between Fatah and Islamist groups in the camp have been increasing. Between 22–27 August, up to four people were killed and more than 15 wounded in two separate clashes between Fatah and other Islamist armed groups in the camp. This is the highest rate of casualties in a single week since May. An unconfirmed number of people, believed to be in the thousands, were displaced (UN, 25/08/2015; Daily Star, 27/08/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

Since 6 May, registration has been temporarily suspended. As of 25 August, 1,113,941 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. Bekaa is hosting 390,727 refugees; Beirut 328,504; North Lebanon 266,246; and South Lebanon 128,464. This is a significant decrease of nearly 60,000 from the figure reported in early July (UNHCR, 25/08/2015). The lower figure is partly due to the decision to deregister refugees who originally registered after 5 January, according to new Government regulations. It may also be due to cross-border migration, meaning that those who obtain work in Syria are losing their registration status.

26% of refugees are women, and 53% children (UNHCR 09/2014). 16% of Syrian refugee households are led by women (Equal Access Monitor, 30/06/2015). The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

In July, an estimated 5,000 individuals residing in 50 informal tented settlements (ITS) were evicted following an order issued by the Lebanese Army in the Sahel area of Akkar (UNICEF, 27/08/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,185 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (UNHCR, 28/02/2015) PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An increasing number of PRS remain in Lebanon illegally, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 01/09/2014).

Recent fighting in Ain al-Hilweh may have displaced up to 3,000 camp residents, although numbers are not confirmed (UN, 25/08/2015).

Host Communities

Host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities (OCHA 09/2014).

Humanitarian Access

Access of affected populations to assistance

Registration with UNHCR has been temporarily suspended since early May, upon government instruction. The Government formally decided to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases. The policy raises serious protection concerns (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNCHR, 20/04/2015).

Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP, 03/12/2014).

Food Security and Livelihoods

As of 6 May, 1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (WFP, FAO, Food Security cluster, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). In total, 24.5% of people are in moderate to severe food insecurity, compared to 12.8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015). The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP, 01/07/2015). As of September, WFP will cap assistance at five members per household because of a funding shortfall (OCHA, 21/08/2015).
Livelihoods

700,000 people are in need of livelihood assistance (UNDP, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). 49% of refugee households live below the Lebanese extreme-poverty line (USD 3.84/person/day) (WFP, 07/07/2015). A third of the refugee population is living with under USD 2–3 per day, unable to meet their basic needs (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

Reduced assistance to Syrian refugees due to funding shortfalls has caused families to adopt negative coping strategies (WFP, 16/06/2015). In 2015, 15% rely on loans as a main source of income compared to nearly 0% in 2014. This year 11% are in need of emergency coping strategies, compared to 8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 75% of PRS have reported cash assistance as their main source of income (UNRWA, 15/05/2014).

Health

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). In the Bekaa Valley, there has been a 20% increase in summer morbidities compared to 2014. This includes respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea and dermatological problems. The rise has been attributed to a heatwave combined with poor living conditions (MSF, 20/08/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Health services are available, but costly. Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access (WHO, 01/2015).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lacked sufficient essential drugs, 67% lacked sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lacked sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014).

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 05/05/2015). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements and in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north (UNHCR, 07/2014). WASH conditions are often below standards in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, where many Syrian refugees have settled (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Sanitation

Informal settlements in the Bekaa valley and in the north have limited or no sanitation facilities (MSF, 20/08/2015).

Environmentally friendly and safe disposal of wastewater is a huge challenge in Lebanon, especially for the majority of locations across the country that are not connected to functioning treatment plants. This is exacerbated in Arsal, where security concerns have prohibited the provision of services (WASH Cluster, 04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (UNHCR, 05/05/2015).

Refugees are spending up to 90% of their monthly income to live in substandard housing such as garages, sheds, and in unfinished buildings (NRC, 18/06/2015). An assessment found that 50% of refugees live in poor conditions, including accommodation without adequate WASH facilities, or adequate protection against weather. An additional 18% were found to live in temporary shelters without access to basic services (NRC, 18/06/2015).

A large number of refugees are forced to live in tents or haphazard shelters in ITS with 900 in the Bekaa Valley alone (MSF, 20/08/2015). The ITS are usually substandard. Humanitarian agencies are unable to make substantial improvements to the sites, as they are located on private land (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camp areas, where shelter conditions are often substandard (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: The Palestinian population has increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 44,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014; 01/2015). PRS households are residing in overcrowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 people per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%) reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge. The USD 100 housing assistance for more than 43,000 PRS was suspended in July 2015 (UNRWA, 22/05/2015).

Lebanese returnees: As of 6 May, 50,000 Lebanese nationals had returned from Syria since the beginning of the crisis (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

Education
750,000 children are in need of education assistance (UNICEF, UNHCR, 31/01/2015, 06/05/2015).

Access and learning environment

One in five households with school-aged children have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP, 02/06/2015).

Protection

Main protection concerns include the presence of ERWs; child labour; lack of documentation for refugees, impacting their ability to access services and move freely; and forced evictions.

Mines and ERW

15.23 square kilometres remain in need of clearance for ERW. 19 incidents of ERW related injuries or deaths have been recorded in 2015 as of August, compared to 24 in all of 2014. The increase may be related to the presence of refugees in dangerous areas (Al Jazeera, 13/08/2015).

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. A significant number of landowners and workers still enter contaminated areas, stating they have no choice (Mine Advisory Group, 01/06/2015).

Children

According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). Social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees, and organised crime and exploitation are all leading children to live or work on the streets (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Undocumented refugees: Increasing numbers of refugees are undocumented, as they are unable to renew legal residence due to unaffordable fees and complicated administrative procedures. Rental agreements are required to obtain legal residence, however only about 15% of refugees have rental contracts (NRC, 18/06/2015).

Registered refugees are not allowed to work, which further deters refugees from seeking legal status. Concern is raised over undocumented refugees’ ability to freely move and access services, and an increased risk of abuse and harassment (ECHO 20/06/2015; NRC, 18/06/2015).

Forced evictions: By February, the Lebanese army had ordered 17,000 refugees in eastern Bekaa Valley to vacate informal tented camps, reportedly to prevent infiltration by militants (Daily Star, 07/02/2015). In the Bekaa, as of 1 May, 5,981 people had been evicted and relocated from 61 sites; 6,422 individuals remain at risk of eviction (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Another 5,000 were evicted from ITS in Akaar district, in northern Lebanon, in July (UNICEF, 27/08/2015).

Documentation

De-registration of refugees: As of 24 April, refugees who entered after 5 January and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered according to new Government regulations. As of 31 May, 2,626 persons have fallen into this category. In May, the Ministry of Social Affairs further notified UNHCR that all new registrations should be suspended until a mechanism to deal with those who seek registration is established (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees were born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014).

Updated: 02/09/2015

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 10/09/2015. Last update, 26/08/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.9 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.3 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 31/03/2015).
- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the people in oPt, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA, 05/02/2015).

- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

### Politics and Security

The Palestinian unity government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, resigned in June, a year after its formation in 2014. Its mandate was to arrange a general election, which never materialised. Hamas remains dominant in the Gaza Strip and Fatah in the West Bank (Al Jazeera, 17/06/2015).

On 16 January, the ICC launched a preliminary examination of the events of the 50-day war (ICC, 16/01/2015). Palestine became an official member of the ICC on 26 March (AFP, 26/03/2015). An Amnesty International report found evidence of war crimes committed by Israel during Operation Protective Edge in the Rafah area of Gaza, and that Hamas used torture during the same conflict against its enemies (Amnesty, 29/07/2015; 27/05/2015).

### Stakeholders

**Hamas**: is an Islamist organisation that was established in 1987 in the first Palestinian Intifada – The Uprising (1987–1993), with the aim of resisting the Israeli occupation. It provides some social welfare programmes, and uses its military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, to fight against Israel. In 2006 Hamas won political office in Gaza; tensions between its secular rival Fatah eroded in 2007, when Hamas set up a rival government in the Gaza strip. Hamas has regularly fired rockets into Israel and conducted attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets.

**Fatah/PLO**: was founded in the late 1950s for the purpose of launching commando raids on Israel. Despite being expelled from Jordan, and then Lebanon, it eventually became the controlling power behind the Palestinian Authority (PA), which was founded in the 1990s after the first intifada. Fatah lost control of Gaza in 2007 to Hamas. Fatah has greatly reduced the number of violent attacks in last two decades, with the exception of the second intifada (2000–2005). It remains the dominant party in the West Bank and within the PA.

Israel: Since 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Since then Israel has been accused of pursuing a policy of illegal ‘settlement construction’ in the West Bank and forcibly displacing Palestinians from territory recognised by the UN as Palestinian. Israel withdrew its forces and removed its settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005, but imposed a strict blockade in 2007 to control the flow of goods and materials. Israel and Hamas has been involved in three major conflicts since its withdrawal in 2008, 2012 and 2014. In each, Israel has been accused of the disproportionate use of force.

### Incidents Developments

Incidents between Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers against Palestinians gradually increased during the second quarter of 2015. In the West Bank, the majority of injuries and fatalities are caused by protests at Israeli settlements and checkpoints. In Gaza, injuries most frequently occur in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), caused by Israeli forces opening fire on groups accused of entering the restricted area. There are growing tensions between actors within oPt, particularly between Hamas and various smaller armed groups or ‘brigades’ in Gaza (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

On 30 June, Islamic State (IS) declared its intentions to replace Hamas as the main power in Gaza. No action followed, but Sinai, the Egyptian territory adjacent to Gaza, has been the site of major clashes between Egyptian army and armed groups allied to IS. Armed groups in Egypt have allegedly been supplied by armed groups in Gaza who are sympathetic to IS (Independent, 01/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 01/07/2015).

As of 22 June, 13 people have been killed and 993 wounded by Israeli forces in oPt so far in 2015 (OCHA, 01/06/2015). An average of 40 Palestinians are injured by Israeli forces every week (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

### Gaza

Palestinian armed groups continue to test-fire rockets into the sea and fire rockets towards Israel. On 7 August, a retaliatory Israeli airstrike, targeting the Hamas military wing, injured four policemen (Dunya News, 07/08/2015).

There has been an increase in rocket firing by groups other than Hamas (UNRWA, 04/08/2015). From 30 July to 3 August, militant groups not associated with Hamas fired 11 rockets towards Israel from inside the Gaza strip. All either failed to launch or landed inside Gaza. Hamas intervened and stopped several of the launches. On 16 July, a rocket was fired into Israel, who responded with airstrikes (Jerusalem Post,
16/07/2015). One Palestinian was injured. In early June, four rocket attacks on Israel were claimed by the Salafist group Supporters of the Islamic State. Israel responded with airstrikes. No casualties were reported on either side (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; AFP, 25/05/2015).

Tensions are rising between Hamas and other armed groups inside Gaza. On 19 July, six bombs believed to be targeting Hamas and Islamic Jihad, an armed group associated with Hamas, detonated in northern Gaza (Al Jazeera, 19/07/2015). It is suspected that IS or groups who support IS, may be responsible; this has not been confirmed (Al Jazeera, 21/07/2015).

Incidents of inter-communal violence are also increasing. On 30 July, two people were injured during such violence (UNRWA, 04/08/2015). In two separate incidents on 7–8 July, three people were killed and one other injured in clashes (UNRWA, 14/07/2015).

It was reported on 9 July that two Israeli citizens are believed to be held in the Gaza Strip by Hamas (BBC, 09/07/2015). Hamas has demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for two Israelis (AFP, 17/07/2015).

Israeli forces injured three Palestinians in the week ending 27 July: two fisherman in the Access Restricted Area (ARA) and one in an airstrike (OCHA, 27/07/2015). There has been a consistent trend of Israeli forces firing into the ARA in 2015, and the number of injuries and fatalities resulting from these incidents increased in the second quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 08/06/2015). Israeli and Egyptian naval forces have also repeatedly fired at fishermen at sea (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

On 31 July, Israeli forces killed one Palestinian and injured another in the ARA (UNRWA, 04/08/2015).

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Two Palestinians were killed on 15 August and 17 August respectively following an incident at Zatara checkpoint when an Israeli soldier was stabbed. Over 11–18 August, 27 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces (OCHA, 22/08/2015). Two Palestinians were killed and three wounded in an arson attack by Jewish settlers on two homes in the West Bank. The event sparked an increased in the number of protests across oPt (AFP, 31/07/2015).

On 3 July, a senior Israeli military officer shot and killed a Palestinian near Qalandiya checkpoint (AFP, 03/07/2015). Over 13–27 July, three Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces, mainly during search and rescue operations in the West Bank. There have been 17 fatalities due to Israeli forces in 2015, compared to 19 in the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 27/07/2015).

On 29 June, an armed assailant shot at a car north of Ramallah, killing one Israeli settler and injuring three (Middle East Eye, 30/06/2015). This pattern of ‘lone-wolf’ attacks on Israeli security personnel and settlers is growing, with three incidents recorded in mid-to-late June (Al Jazeera, 21/06/2015; AFP, 19/06/2015). In response to these ‘lone–wolf’ attacks, Israel cancelled all permits granted to Gazans to visit Jerusalem for Ramadan, while narrowing the age-criteria allowing access from the West Bank (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Settler-related violence

In the week ending 31 August, there were four Israeli settler attacks resulting in damage to Palestinian property. 142 incidents of settler-related violence have resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in 2015, less than 2014, when tensions escalated following the conflict in Gaza (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

As of 31 August, 441 structures have been demolished so far in 2015, with 505 people subsequently displaced. If the current trend continues, the demolitions will roughly match the number recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Displacement

As of 19 June, 215 IDPs remained in UNRWA Collective Centres. Around 100,000 people remain displaced following the 2014 July-August conflict. Many are believed to be staying within the host community but their exact location and shelter requirements, and other needs are unclear (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; IFRC, 06/03/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Humanitarian Access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Following attacks in the Sinai by IS-affiliated groups, Israel has closed the Kerem Shalom border with Gaza (Jerusalem 02/07/2015). Material for reconstruction in Gaza continues to be restricted and delayed, but the situation has improved in recent weeks (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Rafah Crossing was open in both directions on 17 August. It had been closed since 25 June. 949 people entered and 474 exited (OCHA, 22/08/2015). 7,504 Palestinians exited the Gaza Strip in the first half of 2015 compared to 19,806 in the same time period in 2014.
In late June, increased restrictions were placed on people crossing the Israel–Gaza border due to rocket attacks (AFP, 25/06/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

1.45 million, or 33% of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza require food aid (UNRWA, 01/06/2015).

Food availability

Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration.

Food access

Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Livelihood

Unemployment in oPt was at 29.1% in December 2014. Unemployment in the West Bank was 17%, and Gaza 44% (UN, 08/05/2015; 21/04/2015).

The Israeli navy limits fishing to a three nautical-mile zone off Gaza’s coast, negatively impacting livelihoods (Inter Press Service, 08/06/2015).

Health

Child Health

The infant mortality rate in Gaza has risen for the first time in more than five decades, from 20.2 per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 22.4 in 2013, the last date with available information (UN, 09/08/2015).

Mental health

Between 300,000 and 400,000 children are in need of mental health support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Water

More than 70% of households in Gaza are being supplied with piped water for 6-8 hours once every two to four days, due to insufficient power supply (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Sanitation

90% of the water in Gaza fails WHO standards for safe drinking water (UNWRA, 24/03/2015). Up to 90 million litres of partially treated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean Sea every day, partially due to electricity and fuel shortages (OCHA, 06/07/2015). This is exacerbating the contamination of the aquifer.

Waste Management

Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Rebuilding of the 9,161 Palestine refugee houses considered totally destroyed by Operation Projective Edge began in late June (AFP, 24/06/2015). As of 13 July, 51,039 families are yet to begin the first phase of repair works on their homes (UNRWA, 13/07/2015).

NFIs

There is currently a 55% energy deficit within Gaza (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Fuel shortages and infrastructure restrictions mean 12–18 hours of blackout per day (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). As of 1 July, the power supply in Rafah governorate in the south of the Gaza strip has diminished as power cables from Egypt have been damaged by fighting in the Sinai area (OCHA, 06/07/2105).

Education

Teaching and Learning

Teachers working at UNRWA schools in Gaza have gone on strike on the first day of the new academic year. They are protesting an increase in average class size to between 40–50 pupils and pay being halted during annual leave. The cuts followed UNRWA’s attempt to open schools despite a reduction in available funds. Public sector workers in Gaza announced they would join the strike on Friday in solidarity. This would mean nearly all public services in Gaza would not be able to function (Al
This would mean nearly all public services in Gaza would not be able to function (Al Jazeera, 24/08/2015; The Times of Israel, 26/08/2015).

In the previous academic year, 90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza ran on a double shifts, and some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

Protection

The Israeli authorities are accused of detaining individuals, including children, without trial, forcibly displacing communities, as well as legalising the use of force feeding of prisoners, building on and claiming Palestinian land (Al Jazeera, 30/07/2015). To date, the Israeli government has approved plans to build Jewish settlements on 26% of Area C in the West Bank (HRW 24/08/2015). Both Israeli and Palestinian armed groups have been reported as targeting civilians (HRW, 2015).

It has been alleged that an increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes, due to a policy change. Rubber bullets and live ammunition have been used. Palestinian journalists have been the most affected (AFP, 08/04/2015). At least seven journalists have been injured since May (international media, 16/05/2015; OCHA, 06/05/2015; local media, 02/05/2015).

Mines and ERW

Palestinian civilians and security forces continue to be killed and injured by ERW. On 6 August, an ERW exploded, killing four people and injuring more than 40 in Rafah. Ten houses were damaged (The Guardian, 06/08/2015). In May, 84 people were injured in several incidents involving ERW (UNRWA, 11/05/2015; OCHA, 18/05/2015).

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured (UNRWA, 23/09/2014).

Children

Approximately 30 children were injured by live ammunition in the first quarter of 2015 (Defence for Children International, 23/03/2015).

The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW, 20/07/2015). As of December 2014, a monthly average of 185 Palestinian children were in Israeli detention (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

Vulnerable Groups

The Israeli military continues to demolish houses. Over 17–18 August, 39 structures were destroyed, displacing 126 people. This is the largest demolition and displacement event in the West Bank in three years (HRW, 24/08/2015). Four Bedouin communities in Areas C of the West Bank were affected. They are part of around 7,450 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, some 60% of them children, who have demolition orders pending against their homes, and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home demolition (OCHA, 12/01/2015).

Reviewed: 10/09/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 September: Two new polio cases were reported, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), bringing the country’s total caseload so far in 2015 to 32 (DAWN News).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in 2014 (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).
- 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (OCHA, 07/05/2015).
- 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2014; 649 civilians have been killed so far in 2015 (SATP, 23/08/2015).

OVERVIEW
Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. IDPs and Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are of particular concern. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Politics and security

As of 23 August, 649 civilians have been killed in conflict-related violence in 2015 (SATP, 23/08/2015). 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in Pakistan in 2014, and 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).

The military offensive against the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) that began in 2014, and continued attacks by TTP, have had a severe humanitarian impact. Elsewhere, sectarian violence continues, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. Balochistan is also affected by a prolonged separatist insurgency. Pakistan’s conflict with India over Kashmir continues, with violence flaring in August.

On 16 August, 14 people, including Punjab’s Home Minister, were killed in two suicide attacks in the village of Shadi Khan in Attock district, Punjab. 23 people were injured in the attacks. No one has claimed responsibility (AFP, 16/08/2015).

Kashmir

India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri insurgent groups have fought over control of the disputed region of Kashmir since the Indo-Pakistan War. While thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. Tensions have been increasing since mid-August when eight civilians – six in India-controlled Kashmir and two in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, were killed in several incidents of shelling (AFP, 16/08/2015). On 29 August, another incident of border fire killed at least ten civilians – six in Punjab province and four in India-controlled Kashmir (AFP, 29/08/2015). Talks between Pakistan and India late August ended with no agreement (AFP, 26/08/2015).

Balochistan

Several armed groups, including the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence, which has persisted in 2015. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also increasing.

Quetta has seen a rise in targeted killings and bomb explosions in the last months, and in early July security forces launched a crackdown on militants both within and outside the city (DAWN, 07/07/2015). Twelve police officers were killed in Quetta in June and July. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks (DAWN, 27/07/2015; 14/07/2015; 11/06/2015; 06/06/2015). On 25 August, two police officers were killed in two separate attacks in Quetta and Jhal Magshi districts (DAWN, 25/08/2015).

On 24 August, two people were killed and two injured in a grenade attack by suspected militants in Gwadar city (DAWN, 24/08/2015). On 30 August, an unknown armed group attacked Jiwani airport, Gwadar district, killing at least two people (DAWN, 30/08/2015).

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The first phase of government operations against the Taliban in North Waziristan were completed by July 2015. The operations began in June 2014, after the Taliban vowed to start all-out war on the government. Operations in in Khyber Agency are also reported to be over (Alhasan Systems, 22/07/2015; DAWN, 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015)

On 31 August, one person was killed and four injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Bajaur Agency, the third in two weeks - three tribal elders were killed earlier (DAWN, 31/08/2015; 24/08/2015; 22/08/2015).

On 1 September, six people were killed and 56 injured in a suicide attack in Jamrud, Khyber Agency. Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack (DAWN, 01/09/2015; AFP, 01/09/2015).

At least 94 incidents of terrorism were reported in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the first five months of 2015: 31 civilians and six members of security forces were killed (DAWN, 05/06/2015).

Sindh

A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan highlights that in Sindh, killing, including both terror attacks and other crime, fell 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (DAWN, 21/04/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

The heavy rainfall that has hit the areas across Sindh has ended the drought conditions also in Southwestern parts of Balochistan. Western Balochistan, however, hasn’t still received any rainfall, and drought conditions in the area worsened. Dalbandin, Nokundi, Musakhel, Kharan, and adjoining areas, are still experiencing moderate drought conditions (AlHasan, 31/08/2015).
Floods

As of 8 September, 1,635,525 people had been affected by monsoon-related floods that began in June, causing 238 deaths, and 232 injuries. 234,893 people have been displaced and are hosted in camps. The most stricken areas were Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh (OCHA, 09/09/2015; Government, 07/09/2015).

More than 4,000 villages have been affected, and close to 10,000 houses damaged across the affected areas (Government, 31/08/2015). Hundreds of thousands of hectares of standing crops have been destroyed (DAWN, 10/08/2015). Priority needs are reported to be food, access to emergency health services, clean drinking water, and emergency shelter (ICRC, 28/08/2015).

Displacement

1.8 million IDPs and 1.6 million Afghan refugees are registered in Pakistan. An unknown number of unregistered Afghan refugees also live in Pakistan – Pakistani authorities estimate the number may be as high as one million.

IDPs

As of 30 June, there were 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in 2014. The largest IDP populations are located in Bannu (85,147 households), Peshawar (59,415 households), and Dera Ismail Khan (44,083 households) (OCHA, 30/06/2015; UNHCR, 05/06/2015). The majority of IDPs live in host communities, with only 2% living in camps (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March. As of 27 August, 590,400 people (84,343 households) have returned: 54,599 families to Khyber Agency, 26,506 to North Waziristan, and 3,238 to South Waziristan (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Needs include food security, WASH, and livelihood support (OCHA, 25/05/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

As of August, 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The majority live in host communities (DAWN, 31/08/2015; UNHCR, 29/12/2014; OCHA, 07/05/2015).

Registration of undocumented Afghan refugees, which was due to begin in July, is now set to begin in September (DAWN, 31/08/2015). According to Pakistani officials, about a million unregistered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan (DAWN, 20/06/2015). As of 31 August, 2800 suspected CNIC (Pakistani computerized identity cards) issued to Afghan nationals, are being verified by Pakistani authorities. This verification was triggered by the discovery of money transfers to anti-state organizations that had been performed by some Afghans in Pakistani territory. Discussions are ongoing on whether to confine Afghan refugees in camps for the whole duration of their stay in Pakistan (Alhasan Systems, 31/08/2015).

The number of undocumented Afghans returning home has increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack in Peshawar last December. Pakistani authorities have included the repatriation of refugees in a new anti-terrorism action plan (AAN, 09/03/2015). The number of reported Afghan returnees varies between 50,000 and 140,000 (OCHA, 15/07/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015). So far in 2015, UNHCR has assisted 50,000 registered Afghan refugees with returning to Afghanistan (UNHCR, 28/08/2015).

Refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 8 June, Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan are hosting 205,434 refugees from Pakistan (UNHCR, 11/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Several security incidents involving aid workers have been reported so far in 2015.

A peace committee volunteer was killed by an improvised explosive device in Mohmand Agency on 7 May (DAWN, 11/05/2015). Three peace volunteers in Khyber Agency and two bomb disposal technicians in South Waziristan lost their lives in bomb blasts in February and April, respectively (DAWN, 03/02/2015; 06/04/2015).

Attacks on polio vaccination teams have killed nine and injured one in 2015, mainly in Balochistan (DAWN, 20/05/2015; 05/02/2015; AFP, 17/03/2015; 18/02/2015; 04/02/2015; OCHA, 03/03/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Ten districts are facing Emergency (Phase 4) food security outcomes, 28 are in Crisis (Phase 3), and 67 are Stressed (Phase 2). Crisis and Emergency districts are mostly in Balochistan, Sindh, and FATA provinces (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015). As of February, 1.83 million people were in need of food assistance (Food Security Cluster, 04/02/2015).

Health
1.1 million IDPs are in need of basic health and quality maternal and child health services (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

People displaced by flooding are reporting fungal and skin infections, diarrhoea, and respiratory problems (ICRC, 28/08/2015).

Dengue

As of 17 June, 544 cases of dengue, including 192 deaths, have been reported so far this year in Sindh, the vast majority in Karachi (DAWN, 17/06/2015).

Polio

On 8 September, two new polio cases were reported, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), bringing the country’s total caseload so far in 2015 to 32. There were 306 cases in 2014, including 179 in FATA, and 68 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN News, 08/09/2015).

Hundreds of health workers (LHWs) and health supervisors (LHSs) demonstrated on 4 September in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, demanding the release of their salaries, which had been withheld for the last few months. These health workers threatened to boycott the anti-polio vaccination schedule that was planned for September (AlHasan, 07/09/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 2.86 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are undernourished in Pakistan, including one million IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). In FATA, GAM reaches 16% and SAM 5.6% (Nutrition Cluster, 30/04/2015).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH, including 500,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

In flood-affected areas, sources of safe drinking water are limited, as hand pumps, boreholes, and tube wells are either damaged or submerged. Due to a lack of sanitation facilities, rates of open defecation have increased (ICRC, 28/08/2015).

Water shortages in Karachi are forcing people to rely on expensive water trucking (local media, 05/06/2015). In Punjab, water reserves are low and have been declining for years (Reuters, 10/06/2015).

Over 80% of water resources in Pakistan’s southern Tharparkar district are unsafe for drinking due to the drought (Reuters, 02/02/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.1 million people are in need of emergency shelter, including 530,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Inadequate shelter, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for the displaced (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Education

450,000 children lack access to education, including 205,000 displaced children. Educational supplies are a major gap in the education response (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

In Balochistan, schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are also reported to lack adequate education (DAWN, 22/06/2015). Around 33% of children in the province are out of school (DAWN, 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015).

The majority of school-aged Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan are unable to attend school after sixth grade (around age 11) due to lack of means (Inter Press Service, 22/12/2014).

Protection

Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Updated: 09/09/2015

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 September: WFP has stopped providing food assistance in Jordan to around 229,000 Syrians, due to lack of funding, however food provision will be temporarily maintained for another 211,000 Syrian refugees (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS
- 628,867 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).
- Jordanian authorities are reported to have tightened controls along the borders. Several hundreds of asylum seekers are stranded and in deep need of humanitarian assistance in the ‘no-man’s land’ on the border, in Jordanian territory (ECHO, 19/08/2015, Physicians for Humanity, 19/08/2015).
- As of August 2015, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015).
- A growing number of Syrian refugees living outside of camps are entering camps to receive medical attention, straining the already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015).

Politics and Security

Concerns over spiralling crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September 2014, and then reinforced its participation after the assassination of a captured Jordanian pilot on 3 February (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015). Tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014).

On 13 August, six people in Ramtha, along Jordan’s northwest border, were injured by an illuminating shell fired during clashes in Syria (ABC News, 13/08/2015). On 25 June, one person was killed and another four injured when mortar shells from southern Syria fell into Ramtha, a town in Jordan close to the border. The mortar shelling is believed inadvertent, resulting from clashes inside Syria (Kuwait News Agency, 25/06/2015).

Displacement

As of 31 July, 686,501 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The average number of Syrians able to enter Jordan has dropped significantly since 2013 (RRP6, 2014–2015). The number and accessibility of entry points has been limited, and entry restrictions have increased, forcing Syrians to travel to remote informal crossing-points in the eastern desert (IOM, 2014).

Syrian Refugees

As of 31 August, there are 628,867 Syrian refugees in Jordan. 50.7% are female, 49.3% are male. 520,127 are reported to be hosted in urban areas, while 108,740 are staying in camps. The breakdown by age is: 16.8% are aged 0-4, 21.6% are 5-11, 13.4% are 12-17, 29.3% are 18-35, 15.4% are 36-59, and 3.5% are older than 60 years (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

The Government of Jordan claims that the actual number of Syrian refugees hosted in Jordan is around 1.5 million (AFP, 25/08/2015). Jordanian authorities are reported to have tightened controls along the borders. Several hundreds of asylum seekers are stranded and in deep need of humanitarian assistance in the ‘no-man’s land’ on the border, in Jordanian territory (ECHO, 19/08/2015, Physicians for Humanity, 19/08/2015).

175,965 refugees live in Irbid governorate, 142,632 in Amman governorate, 76,751 in Mafraq governorate, and 50,404 in Zarqa governorate (UNHCR 16/08/2015). There were 6,263 new arrivals in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). In June, the majority of refugees arrived from Aleppo, rural Damascus, Dara’a, and Raqqa (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

About 86% of the refugees in urban areas live below the Jordanian poverty line of $95 per person per month (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015).

Some 22,643 Syrian refugees live in Azraq camp (UNHCR, 31/08/2015), an 88% increase since January. 56% of these refugees are children, including 205 identified separated and unaccompanied minors. There are 367 people in the camp living with disabilities, 35% of these are children. Three households in 10 are headed by women and 1,158 women are reported to be at risk (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). In the first half of 2015, 3,658 people returned to Azraq camp from urban areas, compared to 738 in the second half of 2014 (UNHCR, 28/07/2015). At end of July, in Mafraq governorate 74,878 Syrians and non-Syrians reside in urban areas.

There are 79,709 Syrian refugees in Zaatari camp (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). In 2015, significant numbers of refugees have been returning to Zaatari from urban areas as a result of increased economic vulnerability.

Jerash hosts 10,725 refugees, and Ajloun, 9,625. There are 673 refugees in King Abdullah camp and 304 in Cyber City camp (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

As of 13 August, around 100 people are returning to Syria every day, mainly to Dara’a, a Syrian town along the border with Jordan (EU, 13/08/2015). Drivers include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability with reduced aid, lack of livelihood opportunities, and a desire to continue education (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

UNRWA have recorded 14,736 PRS who have approached the agency for support since the start of the Syrian conflict, 82% of whom are vulnerable or extremely
Since late 2012, the Government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, 04/07/2012). As of 15 May, 41 forced returns to Syria have been reported to UNRWA since January 2015. UNRWA reports 106 cases of PRS deported in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013, but warns the actual number of deportations is likely much higher (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015).

Non-Syrian Refugees

As of 31 August, there are 50,340 registered Iraqi refugees. 48.4% of these are female, and 51.6% are male. The breakdown by age is: 9.1% are aged 0-4, 14.9% are 5-11, 9.9% are 12-17, 31.2% are 18-35, 25.5% are 36-59, 9.4% are over 60 years of age. 89.9% of Iraqi refugees are being hosted in Amman governorate (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Many Iraqis may have entered without a legal permit, or overstayed a regular period, and estimating the actual number of Iraqis in Jordan is challenging (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015). A surge in the registration of Iraqi refugees was reported between September and December 2014, but new registration numbers have significantly decreased in 2015 (UNHCR, 23/09/2014; PI, 11/03/2015).

Only 1% of Iraqi refugee needs are funded. The most urgent issues are lack of access to schooling (34% of Iraqi refugees are of school age), lack of access to healthcare and, for the most vulnerable refugees, heavy reliance on cash assistance (UNHCR, 13/08/2015). The unemployment rate of Iraqi refugees in Jordanian host communities is reported to be very high (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015).

Humanitarian Access

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan’s already-strained public services. Public health and education services are particularly affected (Government, 12/2014).

Accessing Syrian refugees in the “no man’s land” on the border, in the Jordanian territory, is very difficult (Physicians for Humanity, 19/08/2015).

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the Government, which can be a lengthy process. Aid agencies assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014).

Tension between humanitarian agencies and the Government may increase, as the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2015–16 attempts to channel the bulk of international assistance to Syrians through government institutions, rather than humanitarian actors (JRP, 12/2014). On 23 July, only 11% of the funding for the JRP has been secured (Government, 23/07/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

Food insecurity among refugees in the country has risen in 2015. As of August 2015, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in the previous year (NRC, 03/08/2015).

Within host communities, there has been a 37% increase in the number of food insecure compared to 2014, and 68% live below the poverty line, representing a 24% increase since 2014. 67% of households are using negative coping strategies, a 32% increase since 2014 (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57% (ILO, 11/05/2015). 86% of Syrian refugees in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 96 per month and 10% are below the abject poverty line of USD 37. More than 80% are resorting to reducing their food intake, sending family members out to beg, or engaging in high risk or illegal activities to earn money. Over 60% of refugee families outside camps are in debt (VAF, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 15/06/2015). An estimated 1,750 Syrians are reported to be living in extremely poor conditions on the eastern border of Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

As of May, the labour force participation rate for Jordanians is similar to before the Syrian crisis, but unemployment has increased from 15% to 22% (ILO, 11/05/2015). A study suggests that Syrians may have crowded Jordanians out of the construction sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Food Availability

Funding shortfalls have resulted in a series of cuts to food assistance for Syrian refugees. WFP food vouchers to Syrian refugees outside camps have been almost halved since the last quarter of 2014, due to funding shortfalls (WFP, 31/05/2015). As of the first week of August, provision of food assistance to around 200,000 Syrian refugees was cut by half (Pulitzer Center, 10/08/2015). On 4 September, WFP
confirmed it has stopped providing food assistance in Jordan to around 229,000
Syrians, due to lack of funding; however, food provision will be temporarily
maintained for another 211,000 Syrian refugees (AFP, 04/09/2015). Negative coping
mechanisms assessed after previous reductions in assistance include reducing the
number of meals, borrowing food or relying on help from relatives and friends, and
sending children to work (Inter-sector working group, 19/05/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for refugees in
November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public
healthcare. This reduction is partly compensated by an increased reliance on NGO
and Red Crescent facilities (Inter-sector Working Group, 19/05/2015). However, cuts
in healthcare have led to a growing number of Syrian refugees entering camps to
receive medical attention, straining already limited resources. An increasing number
of Syrians are reported to be repatriating because of the reduction in assistance
(ECHO, 19/08/2015).

Three in ten families could not access healthcare services when needed between
October and March due to financial reasons (CARE, 06/04/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015).
There is a lack of vaccinations (UNHCR, 10/03/2015).

Maternal Health

Maternal health is of particular concern: half of pregnant women have been unable to
afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care.
Refugee women in Zaatari camp are reported to be in particular need of better
postnatal care (EU, 14/08/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Mental Health

High needs for psychosocial support have been reported (EU, 14/08/2015).

WASH

Water

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas with
high concentrations of Syrians (Government, 17/03/2015).

Sanitation

Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are under stress (REACH,
12/11/2014). Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one
in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected
(UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

About 75% of registered Syrian refugees (520,000 people) live among host
communities in Jordan (NRC, 03/08/2015). Most refugees are concentrated around
the major urban areas of the northwest, such as Amman and Irbid. Syrian refugees
now constitute 38% of the population of Mafraq city and Ba’lama subdistricts
(UNHCR, 31/05/2015, 13/07/2015).

Shelter

Lack of adequate shelter is the main concern for Syrian refugees. Available shelter is
often not adequate, affordable or secure (NRC, 17/06/2015). An assessment in
northern Jordan showed that one in five refugee households live in accommodation
that does not provide basic protection from the elements. Housing is often
overcrowded, and half of the families assessed share accommodation with at least
one other family to save costs (NRC, 17/06/2015). Threat of eviction is another
concern (NRC, 17/06/2015).

NFIs

In Mafraq governorate, almost half of refugee households have no heating and a
quarter have unreliable electricity (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Education

40% of Syrian school-aged children in Jordan, approximately 80,000, are not
receiving formal education (International Peace Institute, 28/05/2015). Over 65% of all
school-aged children in Zaatari camp attend school; 57% of children in Azraq camp
are not attending school (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). 37.5% of Iraqi refugees were not
enrolled in schools in 2014, with financial issues reported as the main reason for
non-attendance among 40% of those enrolled (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

Access and learning environment

Barriers to attendance and reasons for dropping out include distance; overcrowding;
safety in and on the way to school; lack of resources to pay for school material; and
need to working for household income (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015). A
survey showed that 60% of Syrian refugees over 15 have never completed basic
schooling; only about 15% have completed secondary education (ILO, 11/05/2015).
Over 3.3% of children in Zaatari camp are reported to have at least one form of disability or chronic disease. Two-thirds are not attending school due to their condition (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Protection
There was increasing evidence in the second part of 2014 that the Government is returning screened refugees to Syria. Jordanian officials maintain that the border is open to refugees, and that Jordan is simply instituting security measures to exclude people connected to “terrorist organisations” (Al Ghad, 14/12/2014; Jordan Times, 11/12/2014). Refugees report a waiting period of up to two months and lack of sufficient shelter, sanitation, and medical support (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). The most vulnerable refugees likely include those without identity documents, or with forged documents, and those who had previously returned to Syria (PI, 29/09/2014).

Gender
Many among the Syrian refugee community face domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual violence. 32.7% of all marriages were child marriages in 2014 and in 2013 13% of marriages involved girls younger than 18. In 2014, 50.7% of people seeking support services for physical assault and physiological abuse report the harm was caused by a spouse or primary caregiver (UN, 02/07/2015).

Children
The prevalence of child labour, often resulting in children withdrawing from school, raises concerns (UNHCR, 28/04/2015). 8% of the boys aged 9-15 are economically active and 3% are employed. In the 15–18 age group, 37% are economically active and 14% are employed (ILO, 11/05/2015). Child marriage is a concern.

Vulnerable groups
Since early 2014, the Government appears to have been implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Significant numbers of refugees are being forcibly returned to camps (NRC-IRC, 13/11/2014; PI, 03/12/2014, 12/11/2014). This has often resulted in separation of family members between camp and urban settings (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Documentation
Refugees in camps and who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. However, large numbers of refugees have left the camps without obtaining bail. The Government has asked UNHCR not to issue asylum-seeker certificates to Syrians in urban areas who left the camp after 14 July 2014 and who did not obtain bail (PI, 16/07/2014 R1; PI, 07/2014 R1).

Only about 10% of employed Syrians have obtained formal work permits, and almost all Syrian refugees working outside camps do not have work permits. Since the beginning of the crisis, Jordanians have faced deteriorating work conditions. However on average, Syrian workers are still paid less, work longer hours, and have poorer contracts compared to Jordanians in the same sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps and the reissuing of key documents, has been ongoing since 15 February. As of 27 April, 54,794 Ministry of Interior (MoI) cards had been issued, covering 11% of the urban refugee population (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). A lease agreement is one of the preconditions for registration and for the issue of the MoI card, yet many Syrians outside of camps lack rental contracts (NRC, 17/06/2015). The card is required to access basic health and education services or register marriage, births, or deaths. The Government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have service cards. There is no sign this decision has been enforced, but it creates a vulnerability, also considering that, according to several agencies, between 15-30% of the refugees (100,000-200,000) in Jordan may not be fully registered (PI, 08/01/2014; 03/12/2014; IFRC, 04/08/2015).
- Floods linked to Cyclone Komen began on 26 July and continued until 10 August. 1,615,000 million people have been affected, up to 385,000 households were displaced at its peak, and 117 killed. 12 out of 14 states and regions have been affected (ECHO, 23/08/2015).

- An estimated 540,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly due to conflict between the government and ethnic armed groups, as well as between ethnicities (USAID, 16/06/2015).

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

- 244,000 IDPs, resulting from years of internal conflict, including 146,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim IDPs in Rakhine state (OCHA, 27/02/2014).

Politics and Security

Myanmar’s first democratic election in 25 years will take place on 8 November 2015 (Myanmar Times, 08/07/2015). Foreign observers will be invited to monitor the election (Reuters, 24/03/2015). A 25 June referendum on changes to the constitution, which could have lifted Aung San Suu Kyi’s ban from the presidency and reduced the military’s power in parliament, did not reach the 75% majority needed to carry the motion (BBC, 25/06/2015).

Peace Negotiations

In 2013, the Government made peace deals with a number of ethnic groups involved in armed insurgency. The Government and 16 ethnic opposition groups are yet to agree on a draft text for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which was due to be completed in March (ICG, 01/07/2015). The Government has made clear that the agreement will only apply to those armies taking part in negotiations, but participants have said they will not sign unless other groups are also permitted to sign (AFP, 11/05/2015; ICG, 01/07/2015). On 9 September, the President met with representatives from ethnic armed groups in Naypyidaw for ceasefire talks (AFP, 09/09/2015).

On 17 March, the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) met with the President and affirmed its commitment to the peace process (Government, 17/03/2015). On 6 July the Tang National Liberation Army (TNLA) declared a unilateral ceasefire and its intention to join the national ceasefire agreement (Democratic Voice of Burma, 06/07/2015).

Despite peace negotiations, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. The Myanmar Peace Monitor recorded 28 armed clashes in June and 31 armed clashes in July. Most of these were in Shan and Kachin states (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/06/2015; 31/07/2015). Between February and May, 554 people were killed in clashes between separatist groups and Myanmar forces. In April and March, the Myanmar Armed Forces and MNDA engaged in 28 recorded battles, with 281 fatalities ion Shan state alone (ACLED, 16/06/2015).

In December 2014, the United Nationalities Federal Council, the largest coalition of ethnic armed organisations, announced the establishment of the Federal Union Army. The status of the army is unclear, but it has said it will not interfere with the national elections in November 2015 (Democratic Voice of Burma, 16/07/2015).

Kachin State: The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and there are intermittent clashes between its army (the KIA) and the Myanmar army (local media, 06/10/2014). Security incidents have been reported regularly since fighting resumed in April 2014 (OCHA, 16/05/2015). On 6 September, the Myanmar army clashed with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) between the Kachin towns of Bhamo and Shwegu. Fighting was ongoing as of 9 September (Democratic Voice of Burma, 10/09/2015). Fighting continues around Sumptra Bum Township after intensifying in mid-July. Armed forces in the area will not grant humanitarian access to over 1,000 people displaced by the fighting (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015).

Sagaing Region: Indian forces began attacks on positions in Myanmar’s Sagaing region on 9 June, after armed groups associated with the Naga ethnic group in Myanmar carried out cross-border attacks on Indian army patrols and convoys (BBC, 19/06/2015). After parallel Indian and Myanmar army operations, the armed Naga ethnic group and the Indian army signed a peace agreement on 4 August (Time, 04/08/2015).

Disasters

Cyclone Komen

Floods linked to Cyclone Komen began on 26 July and continued until 10 August. 1.6 million people have been affected, up to 385,900 households being displaced at its peak, and 112 killed. Twelve out of 14 states and regions have been affected (ECHO, 23/08/2015). The highest numbers of people affected were in Ayeyarwaddy (505,761), Sagaing (399,567) and Magway (308,046). However, Rakhine and Chin states suffered perhaps the severest impact because of their higher baseline poverty rate (Government, 23/08/2015). The On 31 July, Rakhine state, Chin state, Sagaing region
and Magway region were declared natural disaster zones (ECHO, 17/08/2015; AFP, 06/08/2015; 10/08/2015). The flooding has left hundreds of thousands in need of food and shelter assistance, as well as access to potable water.

The 130,000 Rohingya displaced in Rakhine are considered to be particularly vulnerable, as already inadequate shelter was damaged by the flooding (BBC, 02/08/2015; OCHA, 01/08/2015).

The monsoon season continues until October, though tropical storms can be expected until November (HEWS).

Other Flooding

On 3 September, the Chindwin River overflowed with heavy rains in northern Sagaing Region, affecting over 100 villages. Up to 870 people were affected in Homalin township. 600 homes were submerged in Khandi township, affecting an estimated 3,000 people (New Light of Myanmar, 06/09/2015).

Displacement

385,000 households were reported displaced at the height of the recent flooding. As water began receding in mid-August, people have returned home, with an unconfirmed number remaining in temporary shelters. At least 10,000 in Chin are reported as currently displaced, and a further 1,800 remain displaced in Myatheindan Pagoda in Sagaing (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 04/09/2015).

Prior to July and August flooding, 662,400 people were estimated in protracted displacement nationwide, primarily due to conflict. There were around 97,000 displaced people in Shan and Kachin states as of May (OCHA, 21/06/2015) and 147,000 displaced in Rakhine as of April (OCHA, 23/06/2015). About 20,000 people were newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan (OCHA, 16/06/2015). Approximately 2,000 people were displaced in July by conflict (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 31/07/2015).

IDPs

Chin: Some 10,000 are displaced by recent flooding (ECHO, 23/08/2015).

Magway: Reports suggest about 6,200 people have been displaced from Pwint Phyu Township to nine temporary shelters as of 4 August (IFRC, 04/08/2015).

Rakhine: Flooding in July and August displaced at least 18,000 people around Buthidaung Township (UNHCR, 04/08/2015), and over 6,000 displaced people in Minbya are sheltering in 23 monasteries (MSF, 04/08/2015).

Around 130,000–140,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are in protracted displacement in Rakhine (USAID, 16/06/2015; The Diplomat, 17/06/2015). Many live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Sagaing: Local media reports that 10,000 residents of Kalay Township have displaced to eight temporary shelters (Myanmar Times, 05/08/2015).

Shan and Kachin: 1,000 people have been displaced to avoid forced recruitment by the KIA in Shan (local media, 01/06/2015).

Fighting intensified between the KIA and government troops on 11 July around Sumpra Bum Township, Kachin state. As of 21 August, the fighting has continued, and 1,400 civilians are reported displaced (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015).

Refugees in neighbouring countries

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: Between January and February 2015, around 60,000 people are believed to have fled to China. Refugees move back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 30/05/2015; RFA, 23/03/2015).

Bangladesh: An estimated 30,000 Rohingya refugees live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014). An additional 300,000–500,000 Rohingya reside either in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuses. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status (UNHCR, 12/06/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015).

Malaysia: 40,700 Rohingya registered with the UN were in Malaysia at end December 2014. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered. Rohingya migrants are frequently kept in smugglers’ camps along the border, where they are held for ransom, tortured, and raped (AFP, 30/11/2014: international media, 30/12/2014, Reuters, 01/06/2015).

Thailand: In July, biometric verification found around 110,000 refugees from Myanmar in nine camps in Thailand, along the Thailand–Myanmar border (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Other sources place the number as high as 150,000 (US Government, 2015). Since June 2014, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced;
Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving camps, confined to their homes 1800–0600, and threatened with deportation if they do not comply (Refugees International, 29/08/2014). Authorities have pledged to send about 100,000 refugees back to Myanmar. Thai officials have been accused of tugging boats carrying Rohingya out to sea, away from their coast (CNN, 20/05/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015). Rohingya are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

Rohingya in the Bay of Bengal: The Thai Government began a major operation to shut down human trafficking along its border with Myanmar in April, leading people smugglers to abandon migrants at sea (Reuters, 02/06/2015). 27,154 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal in 2015 (IOM, 16/06/2015). An estimated 300–1,000 have died during the journey (USAID, 19/06/2015; Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015). As of 12 July, Myanmar authorities have collected and returned more than 1,000 Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi migrants to the mainland (VICE, 14/07/2015; AFP, 08/06/2015; local media, 18/06/2015). As of 16 June, an estimated 5,354 people have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in 2015 (IOM, 16/06/2015). 1,000 people remain unaccounted for and may have disembarked unofficially (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian Access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Fighting around Hpakant and Sumpra Bum has prevented access to around 1,400 people who have reportedly been inaccessible since 11 July. Some reports suggest armed groups are actively denying access to humanitarian groups (Irrawaddy, 17/06/2015; 20/07/2015). Frequent conflict, predominately in Kachin and Shan state, also prevents access to people in need.

Access of affected populations to assistance

There has been little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. Some 50,000 IDPs have had little to no humanitarian access since September 2014 (local media, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Security and physical constraints

In Myanmar’s highland areas access is restricted by difficult terrain and poor infrastructure, and further limited during the monsoon season (May–October). Many areas are heavily mined, mainly Kachin and northern Shan states, and particularly eastern Bago region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015; UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

Access to areas affected by recent flooding and landslides is severely restricted. Although water has receded from some areas since 10 August, access, particularly in Chin State, remains very difficult (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015). Roads, bridges, and other transport infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. The government reports that 868 road sections and 831 bridges were damaged (Government, 24/08/2015). There have been blackouts in certain areas and communication with some areas, including Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine state, has been cut off from the national grid (WHO, 03/08/2015).

Chin state: Landslides triggered by torrential rain have blocked major roads and severely restricted access to 40,000 people in Hakha, the state capital (Democratic Voice of Burma, 04/08/2015).

Kachin state: Fighting around Hpakant and Sumpra Bum has further restricted access to over a thousand people in need of assistance (Irrawaddy, 17/06/2015; 20/07/2015). Active conflict between the Myanmar army and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) between the towns of Bhamo and Shwegu were ongoing as of 9 September (Democratic Voice of Burma, 10/09/2015).

Sagaing region: Access to the city of Kalay – 400,000 residents – has been entirely cut off due to flooded roads, with air travel the only viable means of reaching people in need (BBC, 02/08/2015).

Shan state: In July, UN teams were able to access the Kokang region in northeastern Shan state for the first time since February due to going conflict in the area. Suspended humanitarian operations, such as WFP distributions which stopped in May, are yet to fully resume (Myanmar, 15/07/2015; WFP, 31/05/2015).

Estimates suggest that 60,000 people around Laukkai are in need of humanitarian assistance, but cannot be reached due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Roadblocks and border closures are restricting the movement of civilians fleeing fighting between government troops and MNDAA. Chinese government officials have increased border controls (Radio Free Asia, 25/02/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

Some 200,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance due to flooding in late July and early August (WFP, 05/08/2015). Prior to flooding, 429,000 people were in need of food assistance (OCHA, 01/2015).
At the height of the flooding (July-August), approximately 566,560 hectares of farmlands were flooded across 12 affected regions and states, though the waters are now receding. At least 229,280 hectares of farmland are believed damaged or destroyed. Most negatively affected agricultural land is in the north and west (ASEAN, 18/08/2015; Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015; FAO, 10/08/2015).

Livelihoods

The harvest of some crops, including beans and pulses – some of Myanmar’s biggest agricultural exports – will be delayed by at least 60 days, affecting food security and livelihoods (Irrawaddy, 04/08/2015).

Health

Access to healthcare is a major challenge in Rakhine (OCHA, 30/09/2014). If Rohingya camp residents wish to leave their camp to see a doctor, they must first obtain a referral by a government doctor and reportedly must also often bribe the security guards (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital.

Healthcare availability and access

July and early August flooding has damaged health facilities and further diminished access to healthcare nationally. 242 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed in July and August and drug stocks have been lost in some areas (UNICEF, 20/08/2015; ECHO, 17/08/2015).

Dengue Fever

As of 17 June, the number of dengue fever cases in 2015 has reached 8,475, causing 37 deaths – more than double the number during the same period in 2014. Incidence has been increasing since April. Mon state, Yangon, and Irrawaddy regions are the most affected (Eleven, 18/06/2015; local media, 22/06/2015).

Nutrition

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas. In June 2014, 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under five screened in Rakhine (UNICEF, 01/02/2015).

WASH

People from Rakhine and Chin states and Sagaing and Magway regions are reportedly without access to portable water due to July and Augusts flooding (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015).

Sanitation

131,000 people need access to adequate sanitation facilities in temporary evacuation sites following July and August flooding (OCHA, 05/08/2015). The poor WASH situation in camps in Rakhine prior to flooding elevates the risk of waterborne diseases (USAID, 16/06/2015).

Vector Control

Cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported in Rakhine, Sagaing region, and Magway region. This rise in cases is partially attributed to the lack of potable water, as well as around 1,000 pounds that is reportedly contaminated by waterborne diseases in Rakhine and 250 pounds contaminated in Sagaing region (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Around 17,000 homes were completely destroyed in July and August’s flooding. 10,000 were in Rakhine alone. The government reports that 430,000 additional homes damaged (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 16/08/2015; Government, 24/08/2015).

SHELTER

Prior to the flooding, only 52% of IDP shelters met minimum humanitarian requirements (USAID, 19/06/2015), and approximately 120,000 protracted displaced were without access to improved shelter across Myanmar (USAID, 16/06/2015).

NFIs

Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine already had limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages have been using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, exchanging food rations for fuel, and over-exploiting surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Education

In total, 250,000 children have had their academic year disrupted by the flooding in July and August (UNICEF, 20/08/2015). 1,200 schools have been damaged or destroyed.
Protection

The KIA continues to forcibly recruit people from villages in Shan state (local media, 11/11/2014; local media, 01/06/2015). Local media has accused government troops of rape, beatings, and shooting of unarmed civilians in the Kokang region, Shan state (RFA, 25/03/2015). The Rohingya ethnic minority continues to face discrimination from the government and is vulnerable to human trafficking.

Mines and ERW

Around five million people live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). Eastern Bago is believed to be the most contaminated region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015).

An assessment in Kachin and northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Most accidents happened while people travelled on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014).

Gender

Rape has been repeatedly used as a weapon by armed groups, including the Myanmar army. In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report that documented more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 26/11/2014).

Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents during an assessment (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Children

549,000 children were affected by flooding in July and August linked to Cyclone Komen (UNICEF, 20/08/2015). Children not in flood shelters are extremely vulnerable and less likely to receive assistance, as they are harder to identify and harder to reach (SC, 2006).

On 4 June, 51 children were discharged from the Myanmar Armed Forces, bringing the total of children discharged since the beginning of 2015 to 93 (UNICEF, 04/06/2015). From 2013 to January 2015, a total of 723 cases of underage recruitment by the Myanmar Army were reported to the UN (Child Soldiers International, 01/2015). The number of children that remain within the ranks of the Myanmar army, or within other armed ethnic groups, is unclear.

Rohingya: Massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported. Myanmar states that the Rohingya are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. Myanmar authorities have started the process to send Rohingya to Bangladesh (AFP, 08/06/2015). Over 400 were repatriated to Bangladesh between May and late August (New Light of Myanmar, 27/08/2015; Irrawaddy, 19/07/2015). Bangladeshi officials state that Rohingya are citizens of Myanmar and that Rohingya living in Bangladesh should be sent to Myanmar (Reuters, 02/06/2015).

Documentation

Over 800,000 people – mostly Rohingya – are estimated without citizenship in northern Rakhine (UNHCR). In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards, expired end March, from people without full citizenship, including Rohingya (international media, 18/06/2015). In June, the Government began offering two-year ‘green cards’ to some Rohingya, but they have to provide documentation, which the majority do not have, and renounce their Rohingya identity (international media, 18/06/2015). For those who refuse registration or lack adequate documents, the plan was for Rakhine authorities to construct temporary camps (local media, 12/10/2014). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention. The damage to shelters resulting from the flooding in July and August may have exacerbated as documentation may have been destroyed.

Updated: 10/09/2015

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

9 September: Four people injured in clashes between MILF and villagers in Sultan
On 9 September, four people were injured in clashes between MILF members and armed villagers in Lutayan town in Sultan Kudarat province (PhilStar, 10/09/2015).

On 1 September, three people, including two community leaders and a school director, were killed by suspected paramilitary forces in Surigao del Sur, eastern Mindanao. The paramilitary forces had accused those killed of having links with the NPA (PhilStar, 06/09/2015).

In Masbate, one soldier and four militants belonging to the New People’s Army (NPA) were killed in clashes on 5 August. Another five NPA insurgents were killed in clashes with the military on 19 August (International Crisis Group, 01/09/2015).

On 7 August, suspected Abu Sayyaf bombings killed two soldiers in Basilan, in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). In Sulu, in the ARMM, two soldiers were killed in an ambush on 10 August. On 20 August, seven soldiers and 15 militants were killed in a firefight in Sulu (International Crisis Groups, 01/09/2015; GMA Network, 07/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

As of 31 August, an ongoing dry spell in Ilagan, Isabela, is reported to have affected over 61,000 hectares of cornfields, and caused crop losses for 705 million PHP (over 15 million USD). Projections indicate that the drought might last until October (Government, 31/08/2015).

Floods and landslides

As of 13 August, the Habagat, or southwest monsoon, has affected 112,555 people in Maguindanao. Heavy rains affected another 57,145 people in Soccsksargen, Northern Mindanao, and Western Visayas. 2,438 people were reported in three evacuation centres in Negros Occidental (the Negros Island Region), Bukidnon (Northern Mindanao), and North Cotabato (Soccsksargen Region) (DSWD, 13/08/2015). 126,340 people in Mindanao were affected by moderate to heavy rainstorms between late June and early July. 235 houses were damaged (Government, 05/07/2015). Several dikes, bridges, and more than 1,900 hectares of agricultural land have been damaged (ECHO, 27/06/2015).

Heavy rains in July led to flash floods and landslides affecting more than 42,500 people in Luzon and Visayas. Central Luzon and Calabarzon, North Capital Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, and Ilocos are particularly affected. As of 21 July, 21 people had died, two had been injured, and six were still missing (Government, 11/07/2015; 14/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015; 14/07/2015).

Tropical storms

As of 13 August, Typhoon Koppu affected 163,971 people in the Philippines, of which 41,808 were displacement camps. The total number of affected persons was 740,516 (PhilStar, 13/08/2015).

Politics and security

Since October 2012, the Government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country’s largest Muslim separatist group. The proposed 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro, which is yet to be passed in Parliament, paves the way for the creation of a new Muslim autonomous entity, replacing the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. On 16 June, MILF began the first phase of the decommissioning process, in an attempt to encourage the passing of the bill in Parliament (AFP, 16/06/2015). However, various armed groups, among them the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which split from MILF in 2008, IS-affiliated Abu Sayyaf, and the Maoist New Peoples’ Army (NPA) continue their violent opposition. The NPA has increased its attacks since July.
Typhoon Goni, known locally as Ineng, made landfall on 22 August, affecting Luzon, Visayas, Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Zambales, and Bataan (Government 25/08/2015; IFRC 26/08/2015). 318,359 people were evacuated, 188 houses were destroyed and 5,554 were partially damaged. 27 people were killed (NDRRMC, 30/08/2015).

On 4 July, Tropical Storm Linfa (locally known as Egay) made landfall over Palanan, Isabela province, northern Luzon, affecting 11 coastal towns. The storm caused four landslides and 16 flooding incidents, which made major roads impassable. No casualties were reported. 48,310 individuals were affected and 95 houses damaged (Government, 08/07/2015; ECHO, 06/07/2015; AFP, 05/07/2015).

Displacement

As of May 2015, there are at least 119,000 IDPs in the Philippines (IDMC, 06/2015). About half are from conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. In 2015, the total number of people displaced by conflict and violence has reached its lowest level since 2011 (IDMC, 10/02/2015). In 2014, 3 million people were displaced, around 80% by natural disasters.

IDPs

**Maguindanao:** As of July, around 10,000 people remain displaced because of the ongoing conflict. Some 8,500 are in evacuation centres, the others are staying within host communities (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Water, shelter, and protection are priority needs (OCHA, 01/06/2015; IOM, 22/05/2015). The prolonged dry season is further affecting the health and incomes of the IDPs (ICRC, 20/04/2015). Many of the IDPs who have returned home (125,000 were displaced initially) still require assistance (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

**Zamboanga:** As of August, more than 17,000 people remain in transitional sites after fighting between Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and government forces in September 2013 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The majority of the IDPs belong to the indigenous groups Tausug and Sama Badjao (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Some of the transitional sites, including Mampang, which hosts 7,000 IDPs, are disconnected from livelihood opportunities and have irregular and insufficient access to water and electricity (OCHA, 31/05/2015; 22/06/2015).

**Typhoon Haiyan:** Little information is available about the needs of the approximately four million people who have returned home since the typhoon hit in November 2013, although it is believed that livelihood, food, and housing needs remain considerable in Haiyan-affected areas (IDMC, 10/02/2015). Around 38,100 houses were destroyed and 203,600 partially damaged (OCHA, 15/12/2014). Less than 20% of households indicate that their lives have returned to normal. 32% of returned households are able to provide for their basic needs, and 74% have experienced a decline in their livelihood situation (Brookings Institute and IOM, 24/06/2015). Shelter support continues, as thousands of people are still restoring their homes, but remoteness and isolation of affected communities make assistance difficult (international media, 21/07/2015).

Other

2,700 people fled their homes in Surigao del Sur, eastern Mindanao, due to attacks by suspected paramilitary forces in the first week of September. They are now staying at the provincial sports centre in Tandag city and struggling to meet their basic needs (ICRC, 10/09/2015).

In Davao Region, southern Philippines, 700 indigenous people are being hosted in churches after being displaced by conflict between the New People's Army and Government forces (UN, 31/07/2015).

Humanitarian access

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access.

Food security and livelihoods

For 85% of IDPs in Maguindanao, food security is a main concern, and they are in need of livelihood support (IOM, 22/05/2015).

In August, September, and October, the Philippines are expected to receive less rain than normal (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Drought alerts were already dispatched in May, stating that below-normal rainfall, due to El Nino, are likely to affect the Philippines up to the first months of 2016 (OCHA, 07/08/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

In nine of the 62 return sites that saw conflict in early 2015 in Maguindanao, health and nutrition facilities have been partially damaged, and one completely destroyed (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

Main health concerns among remaining IDPs in Maguindanao are influenza, skin diseases, and diarrhoea (IOM, 22/05/2015).

Dengue

From 1 January to 18 July, 40,593 cases of dengue, including 134 deaths, were reported nationwide, representing very slight decrease compared to the same period in 2014 (WHO, 29/07/2015). Antique province has seen a 28% increase in cases on last year, with 349 cases reported to 26 August, compared to 273 in the same period of 2014 (Government of Philippines 27/08/2015).
WASH

Water

Only 29 of 62 return sites that saw conflict recently in Maguindanao have access to water as of 1 June, compared to 59 before the conflict (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

Sanitation

37 return sites in Maguindanao have access to toilets post-conflict, compared to 46 before (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

Education

Conflict and displacement in Maguindanao since February–March continue to affect the education of over 14,000 students (OCHA, 03/07/2015).

Protection

Gender

In Zamboanga, IDPs' dependency on food assistance has increased tensions and the risk of SGBV. Women and children are particularly exposed to harassment, threats, and theft (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Children

Many armed groups are accused of recruiting children. The Philippines army has identified some 340 child soldiers currently fighting with the NPA, though the number may be higher in reality. BIFF and Aby Sayyaf are also reported to recruit children and teenagers (IRIN, 20/05/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Protection is a critical concern for IDPs in Maguindanao, particularly those in Datu Salibo and Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipalities, where the presence of military forces and militant groups is threatening security (OCHA, 31/05/2015). In almost all IDP sites, protection services, including referral pathways, psychosocial services, and legal documentation support are still not available (IOM, 22/05/2015).

Updated: 11/09/2015

EUROPE

UKRAINE

CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 September: Government leaders and separatists began peace talks (AFP, 07/09/2015).

28 August: WHO confirmed two cases of polio among children in Zakarpatskaya region, southwest Ukraine (WHO, 01/09/2015).

15 August: Humanitarian supplies have been unable to enter non-government areas since 21 July (WFP, 15/08/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Five million people are affected by the crisis, including two million in non-government areas and two million along the contact line (OCHA, 17/08/2015).

- More than 1.4 million people have been displaced internally and nearly 1.07 million externally (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

- Conflict, administrative and logistical constraints are impeding access and response. Access to food, health, and WASH are also key concerns (OCHA, 17/08/2015).
As of 25 August, more than 6,900 people have been killed and more than 17,000 wounded since the beginning of the conflict (AFP, 25/08/2015).

Pro-Russian separatists control most of eastern Donetsk region, including Donetsk’s airport and Debaltseve, and a small area of southern Luhansk region (Government, 13/01/2015). Their forces reportedly comprise around 35,000 to 40,000 fighters (AFP, 23/03/2015). All budgetary payments to areas the government considers to be out of its control were halted late 2014; the number of locations to which these measures applied was extended in 2015 (OCHA, 01/05/2015; international media, 15/11/2014; UN, 15/12/2014).

Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists signed a peace roadmap on 12 February, introducing a full bilateral ceasefire and the establishment of a buffer zone along the frontline (BBC, 12/02/2015). The ceasefire has been broken repeatedly, with fighting intensifying along the frontline since May. Several attempts at mediation have failed (AFP, 03/08/2015). Government leaders and separatists began new peace talks on 8 September (AFP, 07/09/2015).

End July, Ukraine’s highest court allowed parliament to vote on Western-backed constitutional amendments that would give pro-Russian insurgents in the eastern cities of Donetsk and Luhansk three years of partial autonomy (AFP, 31/07/2015). This decision follows changes to the constitution granting more power to regions, which have been denounced as insufficient by opposition groups (AFP, 16/07/2015). The high court’s decision led to the worst riots in Kiev since 2014. Three police were killed by a grenade attack, and over 140 security forces and civilians have been injured in clashes between Ukrainian nationalists and security forces (AFP, 01/09/2015).

The conflict is having a significant affect on Ukraine’s economy. GDP fell by 17.6% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014, while inflation rose 61% compared to April 2014 (Les Echos, 07/05/2015). Damage to industrial plants is affecting economic output (Reuters, 24/05/2015).

Conflict developments

The number of casualties decreased between February and April due to the ceasefire, but has risen again since May (AFP, 25/08/2015; 03/08/2015). Sporadic violence has been reported around Donetsk city and airport since April and has intensified and spread to other areas since May.

An intensification of ceasefire violations has been reported along the Donetsk –Mariupol corridor in Donetsk region since 15 August, as pro-Russian forces seek to gain control of a strategic highway linking the two cities, as well as in northwest Luhansk. At least 13 people have been killed (AFP, 25/08/2015; OSCE, 17/08/2015; AFP, 17/08/2015).

Shelling was reported in Donetsk city on 19 July, for the first time since the February ceasefire. Clashes on 3 June left at least 34 people dead and 180 wounded, mainly around Maryinka and Krasnoshorivka, Donetsk oblast, in one of the worst outbreaks of violence since February (OSCE, 19/06/2015; 04/2015; AFP, 04/06/2015; 19/07/2015).

On 2 September two civilians participating in anti-smuggling operations with armed forces were killed in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk on 2 September (AFP, 02/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are increasingly complicated. These, combined with significant logistical challenges, severely constraint both aid delivery and populations’ ability to reach safety, services and reunify with their families (UNHCR, 08/06/2015; 20/03/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are severely affecting aid delivery. Foreign organisations working in non-government areas of Donetsk region need to be accredited. Obligatory permits have been enforced since 21 January, but they not easy to acquire and corruption is reported. In non-government areas of Luhansk region, a local decree on 1 May effectively closed all crossing points (UNICEF/Protection Cluster, 25/05/2015; IMC, 24/07/2015). Almost all humanitarian cargo has been unable to enter non-government areas since 21 July (WFP, 15/08/2015). A dedicated entry point for humanitarian cargo and facilitated procedures to reach non-government areas will reportedly be made available in the context of the “green corridors initiative” (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Since mid-June, humanitarian convoys had only been able to conduct cross-line operations along the contact line at Horlivka and Volnovahka (OCHA, 17/08/2015).

Several aid workers and OSCE monitoring mission patrols have been caught in crossfire or directly targeted near the contact line or in non-government areas since June (OSCE, 09/08/2015; 27/07/2015; 26/07/2015; OCHA, 26/06/2015).

Lack of capabilities and insecurity are also hampering evacuation operations by humanitarian actors in conflict areas (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 15/06/2015).
Access of affected populations to assistance

Lack of available and affordable transport, insecurity along exit routes, and administrative barriers are preventing civilians from reaching safety and access aid (UNHCR, 10/03/2015). Protocols have been established to allow individuals facing an emergency to leave non-government areas without a permit, however they are not yet institutionalised (UNICEF/Protection Cluster, 28/08/2015; OCHA, 26/06/2015). The pass system introduced in June to facilitate crossing also remains unable to quickly process large numbers of requests; civilians are waiting for hours at checkpoints with no access to basic services, and are exposed to high levels of risk as checkpoints are often targeted by shelling (UNICEF/Protection Cluster, 28/08/2015; OCHA, 14/08/2015; USAID, 12/08/2015).

Many civilians remain stranded in hard-to-reach conflict and non-government areas. People who fled Krasnohorivka village in Donetsk region during the fighting have returned, fearing their abandoned homes would otherwise be seized. They are hiding in basements and living in desperate conditions (UNHCR, 26/06/2015). As of March, 500,000 people were living in underground shelters in conflict areas, with little or no access to aid (OCHA, 14/08/2015; USAID, 12/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The Government has halted public transport between government and non-government areas, which limits the ability of people without vehicles to cross the contact line. There are increasing reports of civilians travelling via the Russian Federation to reach government areas and facing an administrative fine when re-entering Ukraine (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2015).

Railway transport out of and into the non-government area of Luhansk region has been interrupted, limiting civilian travel to pedestrian traffic, and restricting the vehicle transport of commercial goods (USAID, 25/06/2015). Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated roads and bridges, and Unexploded Ordinance and Improvised Explosive Devices (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Displacement

More than 2.4 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the conflict, including nearly 1.45 million internally. Many who have left the country are not seeking asylum and have not been registered as refugees.

IDPs

At 21 August, nearly 1.45 million IDPs have been registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014: 60% are elderly, 13% are children and 4% people with disabilities (OCHA, 28/08/2015). 35,200 people were displaced in August. Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (539,500) and Luhansk regions (213,800), and Kharkiv (186,700), Kyiv (106,000), Zaporizhzhya (99,800), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (72,400) (UNHCR, 26/08/2015; 03/08/2015). 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014). IDPs are in need of livelihood, employment, and psychological support (UNHCR, 03/08/2015).

IDPs are required to register in government areas in order to be eligible for social payments and pensions, causing displacement and confusing overall IDP numbers (UNHCR 31/12/2014; 23/01/2015). There are also concerns that military-age men are not registering as IDPs for fear of being drafted to the army (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Some IDPs have reportedly returned to conflict areas, as the devaluation of the national currency has limited their ability to afford basic living expenses (OCHA, 06/03/2015). Returns decreased in May, when fighting intensified (OCHA, 25/05/2015).

Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries

More than 1.12 million Ukrainians are seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries, including 911,500 in Russia, 126,400 in Belarus and 71,300 in Poland; the number has almost doubled since early January. A spike in violence in late July–early August led to a spike in refugees feeling eastern Ukraine. Over 4–11 August, more than 147,300 people were recorded as seeking refuge abroad, compared to 3,200 over 24 July–4 August (UNHCR, 26/08/2015; 08/08/2015; 24/07/2015; OCHA, 09/01/2015).

Since July 2014, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status (IO, 09/12/2014).

Host communities

Social fragmentation and tensions between IDPs and host communities have increased as a result of the conflict, especially in the Donbas region (UN/World Bank/EU, 08/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Nearly 1.8 million people need food assistance, including 670,000 in conflict areas; 1.3 million people were in need support at the end of March (WFP, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 28/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015). In a mid-2015 assessment, 40% of interviewed...
beneficiaries were found to be food insecure, compared to 14% in March (WFP, 31/07/2015). Food insecurity is increasing for IDPs and populations in non-government areas, mostly as a result of high food prices, limited food supply due to restricted movement of commodities, and few livelihood opportunities.

Food availability

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by limited food supply due to the restricted movement of commodities, both for humanitarian and commercial cargo (WFP, 31/07/2015). Food shortages have also been reported among IDPs in Luhansk and Kharkiv (OCHA, 24/04/2015; 10/04/2015; FAO, 26/01/2015).

Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activities in many conflict areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015). 13% of wheat, barley, and maize, and up to 30% of sunflower crops were not harvested in 2014 due to displacement, corresponding to losses of 530,000 and 400,000 metric tons (FAO, 31/01/2015).

Food access

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by high food prices due to the restricted movement of commodities: as of July, they were 70% higher than the national average (WFP, 31/07/2015). Price increases, disrupted transport systems, high insecurity, remoteness, and lack of hard currency limit access to markets for at least 20% of the population in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnepropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhya regions (OCHA, 12/2014).

Livelihoods

Households’ poor financial situation is the main driver of need (MSNA, 30/03/2015). 2.7 million people are in need of livelihood support (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Food expenditure is now a larger share of households’ final consumption, which suggests higher incidence of poverty (UNDP, 02/07/2015). Only 20% of 38,000 IDPs registered at government employment agencies have found jobs (IRIN, 22/06/2015).

Health

Nearly 4.5 million people are in need of health support, compared to 1.5 million reported end March, due to increasing access constraints (OCHA, 25/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies in eastern Ukraine, especially in conflict areas in Donetsk region, and many people in non-government areas cut off from care. More than 100 health facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been destroyed or damaged, while 30% of health workers in Donetsk and 70% in Luhansk are no longer at their posts (OCHA, 21/03/2015; WHO, 16/01/2015).

Medicine price hikes are affecting treatment for chronic illnesses (IMC, 24/07/2015; OCHA, 16/05/2015; MSF, 04/03/2015). Up to 143,000 people are at higher risk of developing severe complications from lack of cardiovascular medication. 400 people have reportedly died from diabetes due to lack of medication (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Significant vaccine shortages are also reported; only 7–10% of required quantities are available in non-government areas of Donetsk region (OCHA, 26/06/2015; UNICEF, 01/05/2015).

HIV/AIDS: HIV-related needs are a concern in eastern Ukraine, with some 8,000 people under antiretroviral treatment facing a critical risk of treatment interruption if access to non-government areas does not improve. Over 14,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in non-government areas (UNICEF/Global Fund, 18/08/2015).

Mental health

At least 100,000 parents and children in conflict areas need psychological support after months of shelling (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). Older people, men, and children are at particularly high psychological risk (IMC, 10/07/2015).

Polio

Two cases of polio among children in Zakarpatskaya region, southwest Ukraine, were confirmed 28 August. These are the first cases of polio in Europe since 2010. In 2014, only 49% of children in Ukraine were immunised against polio, and only 14.1% of children under one have been vaccinated in 2015 (WHO, 01/09/2015).

Tuberculosis (TB): At least 2,400 people in non-government areas with TB, including 530 people with multidrug-resistant TB, lack consistent treatment provision and follow-up (HRW, 13/03/2015). Stocks of medicines for drug-resisting TB are insufficient and further shortages are expected (Global Fund, 24/07/2015). New TB cases were estimated to have increased by 5% in February in non-government areas of Donetsk, mainly among the elderly and combatants (OCHA, 06/02/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in
More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-government areas (OCHA, 25/08/2015). Access to safe water in non-government areas is of particular concern.

**Water**

Damage to water supply lines has affected access to safe water for 1.3 million people. Three million are at risk of acute water shortages if repairs are not conducted (OCHA, 17/08/2015). More than 2,000km of pipelines have been damaged in Donbas and conflict hampers agencies’ ability to conduct repairs (OCHA, 10/07/2015; 10/04/2015). Populations in non-government areas of Donetsk region are significantly affected by damage to the Donbas canal: Mariupol is receiving only 10% of its normal water intake and is relying on a secondary source of water, which may be exhausted by October (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, compared to 600,000 end March. Government and non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as high IDP reception areas are most affected (OCHA, 25/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

**Shelter**

Housing solutions are provided to only 3–5% of IDPs in temporary collective centres; 9-10% of IDPs in government areas along the conflict line receive solutions, compared to less than 1% in western and central Ukraine (UNHCR/Shelter Cluster, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 20/03/2015). The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or with volunteers and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance (UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

Repair needs are high along the conflict line (UNHCR/Shelter cluster, 30/04/2015). 60% of Shyrokyne’s buildings have been destroyed by shelling (MSF, 21/04/2015).

**Documentation**

There are significant barriers to obtaining or replacing official documentation, including for newborns in non-government areas, as it is difficult to reach government areas where documentation is provided. Common instruction to local authorities on how to address this issue is lacking (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2015).

**Disabled people**

Support is lacking for the 54,000 disabled people in eastern Ukraine, who constitute the most vulnerable population (UNICEF, 22/06/2015; UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The conflict has deprived more than 300,000 people with disabilities of almost all their legal rights (OHCHR, 20/08/2015).

**IDPs**

Difficulties in the registration of new IDPs and re-registration of IDPs with government areas where documentation is provided. Common instruction to local authorities on how to address this issue is lacking (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2015).

50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas, including 35% in Luhans (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 27/03/2015). At least 225,000 school-aged children still need access to school supplies and quality education (UNICEF, 11/06/2015).

**Protection**

5.1 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Human rights violations and abuses persist in eastern Ukraine, including shelling, arbitrary and illegal detention, human trafficking, and deprivation of economic and social rights in conflict areas (UN, 01/06/2015). An increase in cases of human trafficking of women and IDPs has been reported; in previous years, the majority of victims were men for labour exploitation (OCHA, 17/08/2015).

**Children**

Around 1.7 million children are in need of support (local organisation, 03/08/2015). There are continued reports of minors unable to register for IDP status and receive aid as they fled violence unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 08/06/2015). There are also significant concerns over the militarisation of children in non-government areas (AFP, 24/06/2015; Protection Cluster, 04/03/2015).

Partners continue to report that a significant number of minors have fled the violence with relatives but are not accompanied by their parents. Ambiguity in legislation excludes these children from registration as IDPs and therefore from financial support and protection (Protection Cluster, 18/08/2015).

**Vulnerable groups**

Disabled people: Support is lacking for the 54,000 disabled people in eastern Ukraine, who constitute the most vulnerable population (UNICEF, 22/06/2015; UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The conflict has deprived more than 300,000 people with disabilities of almost all their legal rights (OHCHR, 20/08/2015).

IDPs: Difficulties in the registration of new IDPs and re-registration of IDPs with government areas where documentation is provided. Common instruction to local authorities on how to address this issue is lacking (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2015).
IDPs:
Difficulties in the registration of new IDPs and re-registration of IDPs with expiring certificates continue to be reported (UNHCR, 26/06/2015). A mechanism for verifying IDP addresses was introduced in April, raising concerns that IDPs with temporary addresses might lose their status and associated benefits (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). Unlawful refusals of registration and financial assistance, violations of employment rights, limited access to social benefits, discrimination and stigmatisation have been reported among IDPs (OCHA, 13/03/2015; IOM, 22/10/2014).

Minorities:
The situation of minority communities in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, among others, is of concern. Anti-Roma sentiment has also apparently increased (UN, 27/01/2015). Roma report living with restricted water and electricity supply, and unequal access to healthcare (OCHA, 01/05/2015). In Crimea, intimidation and restrictive laws have been used to silence the media – including almost all Crimean Tatar media outlets – and NGOs, and public protests have been banned since annexation (UN, 01/06/2015; UNHCR, 31/01/2015; Amnesty, 17/03/2015; local media, 01/04/2015).

Older people:
The situation for older people in Donetsk and Luhansk is worsening, and particularly alarming in remote rural areas and areas with active conflict. Access to pension income and therefore to food and medicine is almost non-existent for many who are not mobile (OCHA, 20/02/2015).

Landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near conflict areas (OCHA, 10/07/2015). 30,000 hectares of land along the frontline in Novoazovske and Artemivske districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

Updated: 08/09/2015

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

9 September: An estimated 400,000 children do not attend school, 10% of the total population of school-aged children in Haiti (AFP).

8 September: Reports indicate that the coalition of governmental and non-governmental entities tasked with assisting people arriving from the Dominican Republic does not have the means to meet their needs (AlterPresse).

1-3 September: Three days of protests in Arcahaie (Ouest department) against a presidential decree to re-zone the communes in the area (local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- Erratic rains since January have led to 3.8 million food-insecure Haitians, including 180,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015). Basic food prices have increased since January, up 30–40% in some areas (FEWSNET, 08/05/2015) and as much as 60% since April (Reuters, 26/08/2015).

- Continued cholera incidence, with 20,043 suspected cases and 170 deaths between January and July (PAHO, 12/08/2015; OCHA, 31/07/2015).

- 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps as a result of the 2010 earthquake. 40% of camps are tents and makeshift sites (IOM, 30/06/2015).

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian needs in Haiti stem from displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. The situation is compounded by an extremely fragile political and economic situation, and a significant vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

Politics and security

Parliamentary elections took place on 9 August, after having been delayed since 2011. However, 26 of 1,508 polling stations were closed due to violence, and voter turnout...
reached only 18% (AFP, 21/08/2015; OAS, 10/08/2015; Reuters, 10/08/2015). Following demonstrations in several parts of the country and sharp criticism from international observers and Haitian human rights groups, the Provisional Electoral Council announced that a revote will take place in 25 of 119 constituencies (Alter Press, 11/08/2015; 12/08/2015). 16 candidates were disqualified over suspected involvement in election violence. Clashes in the days leading up to the elections killed five people and injured 34 (Reuters, 10/08/2015; AFP, 10/08/2015). National police were mobilised and MINUSTAH forces put on standby in case of further violence (AFP, 21/08/2015).

The current situation is relatively stable, however tensions persist. On 1 September, protests broke out in Arcahaie in Ouest department, against a presidential decree to re-zone the communes in the area. The protests blocked part of National Highway 1 and lasted three days (local media, 04/09/2015). On 8 September, the Vérité party, one of the leading political parties, pulled out of the second round of legislative elections, claiming it was the primary target of violence during the first round of voting (NYT, 08/09/2015).

Local and presidential elections are due to take place on 25 October 2015.

Natural disasters

Tropical storm

Tropical storm Erika killed four people and injured 12 on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince and in Leogane on 29 August (AlterPresse, 29/08/2015).

Drought

Around one million Haitians have been affected by prolonged drought conditions since the beginning of the year. The most affected departments are Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, Centre, and Nord-Est (OCHA, 03/07/2015). 80% of Haiti is currently affected by El Niño conditions, with seasonal rainfall about 50% lower than average (FEWSNET 07/08/2015). The drought is expected to continue until at least December (FEWSNET, 20/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June, 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps following the 2010 earthquake: 47% in Delmas (27,340), 17% in Croix des Bouquets (10,760), and 10% in Tabarre (5,750) in Port-au-Prince (IOM, 03/06/2015). 21 IDP sites were closed between 1 April and 30 June (IOM, 30/06/2015). Information management and service delivery in camps has been severely constrained due to lack of funding (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). Absence of a protection-sensitive approach, lack of coherent urban planning, and instability, in part due to poor rule of law, are major obstacles to durable solutions for IDPs (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

Humanitarian access

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 146 by March 2015, and government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (UN, 28/03/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

As a result of below-average rainfall in 2015, 3.8 million Haitians are food insecure, including 180,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, compared to 605,000 and 165,000 in 2014 (local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Poor households in Sud, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est and Artibonite are expected to face Crisis through January 2016, due to the combined effect of food prices, erratic rains, poor autumn harvest prospects, and lack of investment in the agricultural sector. The situation for some others will worsen to either Crisis or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015).

Food availability

60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of Haiti as a result of the drought and overall agricultural production for this year is estimated to be 50% lower than last year (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015). Sud-Est (Grand Gosier, Anse-à-Pitres and Belle-Anse communes), Nord-Ouest, Artibonite (Gonaïves), Plateau central, Nord-Est, and Ouest (Grand-Gôave) are most affected (FEWSNET, 17/08/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015). Prolonged dryness until December will likely lead to a second below-average output for the August–December season harvest (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

Food access

Basic food prices have increased 30–40% compared to 2014 as a result of lower supply from the spring harvest (OCHA, 27/07/2015). Local maize prices rose significantly in Centre and Sud departments between April and June (19% and 15% respectively), and an alert was raised for Jeremie and Port-au-Prince communes in June (WFP, 30/07/2015). An estimated 600,000 Haitians rely on international food aid to survive (Reuters, 26/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Extended dry spells have reduced available jobs in the agricultural sector, which is
estimated to provide 50% of all jobs in Haiti (Reuters, 26/08/2015; OCHA, 27/07/2015). Livestock has been severely affected by the drought, and pressure has been put on fishing activities, significantly impacting households’ purchasing power (ECHO, 27/05/2015).

Health

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Cholera continues to affect Haiti, driven mainly by poor WASH conditions. The total number of cases in the first half of 2015 was triple that of the same period in 2014.

Healthcare availability and access

Some hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated since the earthquake (MSF, 08/01/2015).

Haitian migrants are returning from the Dominican Republic to poor living conditions, especially in Anse-à-Pitres; cases of bacterial conjunctivitis and skin diseases have been reported (Alter Press, 24/06/2015).

Cholera

As of 12 August, 20,043 suspected cases and 170 deaths have been reported in 2015, compared to 7,739 cases and 56 deaths during the same period in 2014 (PAHO, 12/08/2015; OCHA, 31/07/2015). From January to April 2015, the incidence rate was nearly 400% higher than during the same period in 2014 due to the unusually early start to rainy season this year and the associated spike in waterborne bacteria (NPR, 28/05/2015). **Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, Artibonite and Nord departments** (OCHA, 31/07/2015). January recorded the largest number of cases, with 4,321 suspected cases and 36 deaths (HPN, 01/06/2015).

Nearly 744,698 suspected cholera cases and 8,826 deaths have been reported since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (PAHO, 12/08/2015).

Nutrition

At March, **85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance** (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

WASH

Water

Populations in Belladere and Fonds-Verrets in Centre and Ouest departments, as well as in several areas of Port-au-Prince, have lacked access to safe drinking water for the past six months, mainly due to drought, causing children to miss school and increasing social tensions (Alter Press, 01/07/2015; local media, 22/05/2015).

As of late 2014, more than 3.4 million Haitians lacked access to safe water (one-third of the total population; 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools lack toilets and 40% do not have drinking water (local media, 31/08/2015).

Sanitation

69% of Haiti’s population lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

The majority of Haiti’s 45 IDP sites are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince – including 12 in Delmas and four in Croix des Bouquets – and Leogane (11). 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% transitional shelters (IOM, 30/06/2015). Conditions in the camps are deteriorating as humanitarian actors withdraw due to lack of continued funding (IOM).

In total, 3.5 million Haitians (one-third of the total population) live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas where they suffer from socio-economic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impact, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Education

An estimated 400,000 children do not attend school, 10% of the total population of school-aged children in Haiti (AFP, 07/09/2015).

Protection

Children

Many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress since the earthquake, and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

Documentation

Around one-third of people relocated outside camps after the 2010 earthquake do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Vulnerable groups
Haitian migrants

Up to 200,000 Haitians and people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic are at risk of forced expulsion as a regularisation process ended on 16 June (AFP, 21/06/2015). Many are at risk of statelessness, as the Haitian government has indicated it will refuse to accept non-national deportees onto its territory (AlterPresse, 19/08/2015). In the Dominican Republic, violence by locals against Haitians and people of Haitian descent has been reported in Monte Cristi province (AlterPresse, 24/08/2015) and raids targeting Haitians have been reported in Santiago de los Caballeros (local media, 25/08/2015).

Some 60,000 people arrived in Haiti between 17 June and 6 August, including 25 unaccompanied children (IOM, 11/08/2015). An estimated 20% were forcibly deported (IOM, 11/08/2015). 30% claim to have been born in the Dominican Republic (IOM, 14/07/2015). 246 cases of forced repatriation and 623 voluntary returns were reported between 1 August and 20 August (GARR, 26/08/2015). Arbitrary deportations and racial profiling have been reported by the Haitian Government, but denied by Dominican authorities (UN HRC, 28/07/2015; OCHA, 21/07/2015).

Some of the deportees and returnees are thought to be settling with relatives or in places of origin, but many are staying in spontaneous camps springing up in the south of the country. Anse-à-Pitres reported 1,000 voluntary returns up until July 2015. The majority are in Ouanaminthe (Nord-Est) and Belladère (Centre) communes, and some in four spontaneous camps in Anse-à-Pitres, where conditions are critical (GARR, 20/08/2015; IOM, 11/08/2015; Alter Press, 26/06/2015).

5,570 people were repatriated from the Dominican Republic in the whole of 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

Updated 09/09/2015

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DROUGHT, EPIDEMIC

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Situation of concern</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Severe</td>
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 September: Prolonged dryness is reported to be still negatively impacting ground conditions, especially in the north, and in the south of the country, despite the rains brought by the Tropical Storm Erika (NOAA).

2 September: 7,345 people are reported displaced by Tropical Storm Erika in the eastern regions of the country. They are being hosted by family or friends (REDLAC).

2 September: At least 1.6 million people are now affected by drought conditions that have persisted since 2014 (REDLAC).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.6 million people affected by drought (RedHum, 02/09/2015).
- 4,858 cases of dengue in 2015, including 53 deaths (RedHum, 11/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

At least 1.6 million people in Dominican Republic have been affected by persistent drought conditions since 2014 (REDLAC, 02/09/2015). The drought is expected to last up to December 2015 (RedHum, 02/09/2015).

The drought that has been ongoing since 2014 is reported to be the worst in the last 15 years. As of 23 July, it has caused a severe deficit in the country’s water production bringing it to 75 million gallons daily, from the average 325–400 million (Dominican Today, 23/07/2015). National authorities are regulating distributions by water truck, working to ensure the prioritisation of affected neighbourhoods (OCHA, 27/07/2015). On 10 September, the prolonged dryness is reported to be still negatively impacting ground conditions, especially in the north, and in the south of the country, despite the rains brought by the Tropical Storm Erika in the beginning of the month. The Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI), and Vegetation indices remain generally very poor (NOAA, 10/09/2015). The severe shortage of water is reported to be particularly affecting the Jiguay and Valdesia dams, in the province of San Cristobal in the south of the country, , and consequently reducing the provision of water to Santo Domingo, San Cristobal, and Bani. Authorities were forced to start rationing the water for irrigation (Dominican Today, 23/07/2015). Rice production in Montecristi has been severely affected by the ongoing drought. Over 8,614 hectares of rice-cultivated land have been lost, causing economic damage worth tens of millions of dollars, and affecting hundreds of people (RedHum, 22/08/2015).

Tropical Storm

7,345 people are reported displaced by Tropical Storm Erika, in the eastern regions of the country, and were being hosted by families or friends. As of 2 September...
many are reportedly returning home. 823 houses were damaged and 201 people were hosted in official shelters (REDLAC, 02/09/2015).

Displacement

As of August, 524,000 foreigners, including 450,000 Haitians, were reported to be living in Dominican Republic (PanamPost, 25/08/2015; US News, 10/07/2015). The government of Dominican Republic has said it will deport all those who failed to meet the 17 June deadline for a new “regularisation plan” (CNN, 21/06/2015). Over 100,000 people are expected to be affected (NPR, 17/06/2015). On 17 August, the number of Haitians that have spontaneously left Dominican Republic after the beginning of the deportations is reported to be 66,000 (REDLAC, 17/08/2015).

Deportations were interrupted in 10 June, because of growing international pressure over concerns of possible infringements of human rights, but resumed on 25 August (US News, 10/07/2015; PanamPost, 25/08/2015).

In 2013, the article that guaranteed citizenship to those born in the Dominican Republic was removed from the Constitution, and applied retroactively to all those born after 1929 (US News, 10/07/2015).

Health

Dengue

As of 11 September, 4,858 dengue cases have been reported so far in 2015, including 53 deaths. There were 3,142 cases and 23 deaths in all of 2014 (RedHum, 11/09/2015; 03/07/2015).

Protection

Haitian migrants

Around 288,500 unregistered migrants in the country have registered for a residency permit, following the decision of the Dominican government to deport illegal immigrants after the deadline for applications to “regularization plan” (PanamPost, 25/08/2015; US News, 10/07/2015). Certification of citizenship and employment are necessary to apply for regularisation, but 96% of those who have applied do not have passports, and many employers are refusing to produce employment certificates (CNN, 21/06/2015).

Additionally, deportations put those born in the Dominican Republic to Haitian parents at risk of statelessness, due to the widespread lack of documentation (PanamPost, 25/08/2015). Reports indicate that in the last weeks violent incidents involving young Haitians and Dominican soldiers occurred on the border, but no casualties have been registered so far (NPR, 31/08/2015).

Arbitrary arrests and denial of human rights for Haitians nationals within Dominican Republic have been reported in 13 communes (Human Rights Watch, 01/07/2015).

Updated: 14/09/2015

GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 August: Nearly one million people are facing acute food insecurity, as drought has led to decreased harvest. 900,000 people have no food stocks left (Reuters).

KEY CONCERNS

- Nearly one million people are facing acute food insecurity due to drought (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

- Acute malnutrition rates are on the rise (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to several years of below-average harvest and food insecurity (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Natural Disasters

Drought

The El Niño phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America’s “dry corridor”, which runs through Guatemala (Reuters, 14/08/2015). According to forecasts, the drought will continue until the end of the postrera season in November, with well below-average rainfall and a likely early end to the rains in the second half of October (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

This year’s drought is exceptionally long, with more consecutive days without rain than in 2014 and smaller amounts of cumulative rainfall reported. In August, the lack of rainfall reached 95% in the departments of El Progreso, Zacapa, Baja Verapaz, and some areas of Chiquimula and Jalapa, with up to 27 days without rain that month (FEWSNET, 08/2015). In May and June, areas in the dry corridor went 25 days without rain (OCHA, 25/08/2015).
The dry spell is expected to last at least until March 2016, drastically reducing harvest as staple crops such as beans and maize are destroyed by drought (Reuters, 14/08/2015; FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Guatemala is reported to be the most affected country by the regional drought, followed by Honduras and El Salvador (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

**Floods**

Floods caused damage to 34 communities in the cities of Livingston and El Estor in early August, affecting 8,290 people. At least four people died. As of 10 August, 109 people were still staying in shelters (OCHA, 10/08/2015).

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

Nearly one million people are facing food insecurity, as drought has led to a third consecutive year of decreased harvest (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

In the east, households receiving emergency food assistance are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, while those that do not receive assistance will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes until September. From October onwards, seasonal wages will improve household revenue and lead to Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes in the east (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Municipalities in the highlands receiving assistance will continue facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes until September. Without continued assistance, households affected by agricultural losses and a fungus epidemic will move to Crisis (Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

**Food availability**

900,000 people have no food reserves left, due to three consecutive years of below-average harvests (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The unusually long dry spell has caused a 75-100% loss of subsistence production in the dry corridor. The latest harvest has not replenished food stocks as usual. There is a high risk that the bean harvest will also be well below-average due to continued El Nino effects (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Some 350,000 people are suffering losses in corn crops (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Areas most affected by agricultural losses are in the east and west of the country, and some areas in the departments of Suchitepequez and Retalhuleu, on the southern coast.

**Food access**

Thousands of families cannot afford food due to a lack of income from seasonal work (Reuters, 14/08/2015). Households in poor, rural communities have resorted to eating only one or two meals a day (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

**Livelihoods**

An ongoing fungus epidemic that affects coffee plants is leading to a reduction in seasonal employment and lower wages (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

**Health**

On 24 August, the government declared a health emergency in the health districts affected by epidemics of dengue fever and chikungunya, in central, south, northeast and northwest Guatemala, Santa Rosa, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Peten Norte, Escuintla, and Zapaca (Government, 24/08/2015). Between January and August, more than 2,500 suspected chikungunya cases have been reported, and 650 cases of dengue. Vector control is a priority to prevent further spread of the disease (Redhum, 28/08/2015).

**Nutrition**

Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to consecutive years of extended dry spells (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

There are indications that the nutrition situation is deteriorating in areas affected by a rain deficit. An initial nutrition screening among children under five in Huehuenango, Quiche, Chiquimula, Quetzaltenango, Alta Verapaz, and Baja Verapaz municipalities indicated 5.7% acute malnutrition. Initial results of an assessment in July in Tucuru and Santa Catarina La Tinta, indicated 3.3% acute malnutrition (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

**HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY**

**Situation of concern**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of concern</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the methodology note for details.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**7 September:** 350,000 people are reported to be in need of food assistance related to drought that has affected over 1 million people (REDLAC).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Over 1 million affected by drought in 13 departments (REDLAC, 07/09/2015).
- 682,000 people are affected by moderate and severe food insecurity (OCHA, 08/2015).
OVERVIEW

Yearly droughts have deteriorated the food security situation in Honduras, affecting crop production, livelihoods, and food availability. Consecutive droughts do not give households sufficient time to build up food stocks or adapt, creating a need for humanitarian assistance.

Natural Disasters

Drought

Over 1 million people have been affected by the 2015 drought, in 170 municipalities across 13 departments (REDLAC, 07/09/2015). A state of emergency has been declared in twelve departments. 146 municipalities - half of the country’s municipalities - are affected in the southwestern part of the country (OCHA, 03/08/2015). El Niño, which has decreased the amount of precipitation, is expected to continue throughout 2015, if not until February 2016 (OCHA, 04/07/2015; El Heraldo, 03/07/2015).

81 municipalities, home to 332,920 people, are considered to be severely affected and 65 municipalities, home to 312,670 people, moderately affected (OCHA, 24/08/2015). Lempira, Intibucá, and La Paz are the most affected departments (OCHA, 24/08/2015). Other affected departments include Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Ocotépeque and Copán (El Heraldo, 14/08/2015).

In 2014, 930,000 people in 165 departments were affected by drought (Government, 13/01/2015). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, and Lempira departments were most affected (ECHO, 20/08/2014).

Food Security and Livelihoods

As of February, 682,000 people were affected by moderate and severe food insecurity (OCHA, 23/02/2015). Most of the country will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, including in the March-August lean season (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Parts of Honduras are projected to be at Crisis food security (IPC Phase 3) over April–September 2015, higher than the same period in 2014 and the five-year average, due to a lack of food reserves and an increase in grain prices (FEWSNET, 13/03/2015).

The effects of El Niño coupled with the drought are expected to result in damage or complete loss of crops in the primera, postrera and apante harvests (FEWSNET, 06/2015). The drought caused by El Niño has damaged parts of the maize, bean, and coffee crops in southern Honduras. Two consecutive poor growing seasons will add to the effects of the 2014 drought (WFP, 01/07/2015; FEWSNET, 24/07/2015). As of 7 September, 350,000 people are reported to be in need of food assistance (REDLAC, 07/09/2015).

Basic grain crops will be severely affected due to the drought, putting populations in the western region at risk (OCHA, 04/07/2015). Additionally, below-average rainfall in the central and western region has led to losses in maize and bean crops (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Farmers are reporting that low levels of rainfall and lack of seeds are the two main challenges for the postrera planting season. The drought may cause increased migration to urban areas as labour opportunities in rural areas are affected (El Heraldo, 13/08/2015).

Small-scale farming households are projected to need assistance because of crop losses in the current primera season (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Health

Limited access to water due to drought is having a negative impact on hygiene, in turn increasing health risks, especially acute diarrhoeal diseases. Health services in rural areas do not have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the affected population (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

Chikungunya

56,983 cases of chikungunya have been confirmed so far in 2015 (El Heraldo, 29/07/2015).

Dengue

31,405 cases of dengue have been confirmed so far in 2015; 648 of which were confirmed to be cases of the more serious dengue haemorrhagic fever (El Heraldo, 29/07/2015).

Nutrition
In 2014, 3.4% of children under five were suffering from acute malnutrition. At least 19,559 children were malnourished as a direct consequence of the drought (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

**Updated: 09/09/2015**

**OCEANIA**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**DROUGHT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of concern*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-crisis vulnerability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% population affected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
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<td>Critical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Papua New Guinea has been categorised a Situation of concern even though a high number of the population is affected, due to the nature of the disaster and inconclusive figures regarding the number of affected.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

7 September: Enga and Southern Highlands provinces have declared a state of emergency, due to the impact of drought and frost (WFP).

4 September: Coffee plantations and inland fisheries have been affected by drought, disrupting the farmers’ livelihoods (IOM).

**OVERVIEW**

Prolonged drought and frost have affected 1.8 million people in the Highlands region; 1.3 million are living in areas considered severely affected. Food and WASH are reported as priority needs.

**Politics and security**

Inter-communal violence in Papua New Guinea displaces thousands of people every year. Between May and August 2015, nine people were killed in incidents of inter-communal conflict in the Eastern Highlands province. According to the local police, about 30 conflicts are ongoing in the province (Inter Press Service, 14/08/2015). Tribes in Western Highlands have been engaged in armed conflict for more than 30 years (Radio New Zealand, 17/07/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

An estimated 22,500 people are internally displaced in Papua New Guinea, as a result of inter-communal violence or natural disasters. 1,200 were estimated displaced in 2014, although the real number is most likely higher. The majority of the displaced live in Madang and Morobe provinces in northern Papua New Guinea. Around 85% of the displaced live in government-run camps (IDMC, 11/12/2014).

**Refugees, asylum seekers and detainees**

Papua New Guinea hosts an estimated 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 12/2014). About 1,000 people seeking asylum in Australia are detained in an Australian-run transit centre on Manus Island. Overcrowding, inadequate WASH facilities, and health concerns including outbreaks of malaria and typhoid have been reported, however conditions have reportedly improved in the last year (The Sydney Morning Herald, 10/09/2015; The Guardian, 08/09/2015; 18/02/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

Only 3% of roads in Papua New Guinea are paved; travel between provinces is mostly by air or boat (WFP, 07/09/2015).

**Natural disasters**

**Frost and drought**

The impact of several months of drought and frost over recent weeks has now reached 1.8 million people in the Highlands region. Of the people affected, 1.3 million are living in the most severely affected areas (Government, 24/08/2015). As of 2 September, 24 people have reportedly died from related causes (Radio New Zealand, 02/09/2015). The most affected provinces include Chimbu, Southern Highlands, Enga, Eastern Highlands, and Western Highlands (OCHA, 24/08/2015). Enga and Southern Highlands provinces have declared a state of emergency (WFP, 07/09/2015). Some people in the Highlands region have reportedly moved to lower altitudes to live with relatives (ABC, 19/08/2015). Bushfires have also been reported in several drought-affected areas (ECHO, 01/09/2015).

**Food security and livelihoods**
Frost has destroyed crops in the most affected areas, and food is reported as a priority need (AFP, 24/08/2015). Provinces where sweet potato is the staple crop are expected to be severely affected, while provinces which mainly depend on sago and banana are likely to be less affected in terms of food availability (Government, 24/08/2015). Livestock such as pigs and fish are at risk (The Pacific Islands News Association, 19/08/2015). Frost in Tambul, the main agricultural district in the Highlands, has damaged sweet potato and potato gardens (CARE, 31/08/2015). Livelihoods have been affected by damage to coffee plantations, one of the main cash crops in the Highlands (IOM, 04/09/2015). Inland fisheries have also been affected (IOM, 04/09/2015).

Market access is extremely limited in rural areas in the Highlands, and the rural population is therefore expected to be the most vulnerable to the impact of the drought (WFP, 07/09/2015).

Health

Water shortages have caused hospitals and health centres in the affected provinces to scale down operations (UNDP, 26/08/2015). An increase in typhoid cases has been reported in Eastern Highlands and Chimbu provinces (CARE, 31/08/2015). Rural health centres lack the capacity to deal with any potential large disease outbreaks (IOM, 04/09/2015).

WASH

Water

With water sources drying up, the population has resorted to using less reliable water sources, including the Warongoi River, which may be contaminated following a suspected cyanide spill at a nearby mining site in July (ABC, 18/08/2015). Reportedly, dead fish have been sighted in the river, and people have fallen sick after eating them (ABC, 18/08/2015).

Education

Water shortages have caused several schools in the affected provinces to close (Radio New Zealand, 10/09/2015; OCHA, 24/08/2015).

Updated: 11/09/2015
4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia, including 1.3 million affected by natural disasters, 1.3 million people in areas with access constraints, 900,000 IDPs, and 1.1 million people in host communities (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Five decades of armed violence coupled with the country’s frequent natural disasters have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement and landmine contamination are among the major concerns. For rural communities, movement restrictions by armed groups limit access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the country’s Pacific region.

Politics and Security

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government against armed groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Attempts at peace negotiations in the 1980s and 1998–2000 failed. The latest FARC-EP –Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba. The newest round of these peace talks began in Havana 20 August (Reuters, 18/08/2015). As of end August, the talks have reportedly advanced significantly (Reuters, 31/08/2015; El Espectador, 30/08/2015).

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since peace negotiations began in 2012. Since the start of the FARC-EP’s four-month unilateral ceasefire on 20 July and the government suspension of air raids thereafter, military activity between the two parties has almost completely ceased, and is at its lowest since the 1970s (Colombia Reports, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015; 13/07/2015). On 20 August, FARC-EP announced the ceasefire would be extended; the length of the extension is not known (AFP, 20/08/2015).

The ELN has been involved in informal peace talks with the Government since June 2014, and in late August 2015 the parties are reportedly close to reaching an agreement on beginning formal talks (Colombia Reports, 25/08/2015).

On 21 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia indefinitely after an attack at the border injured four Venezuelan border guards (AFP, 22/08/2015). On 27 August, Venezuela and Colombia each recalled their ambassadors (AFP, 28/08/2015).

Stakeholders

**FARC-EP:** The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) is the oldest left-wing militant group in Colombia. It was formed in 1964 by the Colombian Communist Party, as fighting between the liberal and conservative parties led to rural unrest. Approximately 7,000 fighters make up the FARC-EP today, which allegedly makes USD 500–600 million profit from the illicit drug trade (UNRIC 2013; BBC 29/08/2013).

FARC-EP has been active throughout the country, but especially in Arauca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca, and Antioquia.

**ELN:** The National Liberation Army is a left-wing militant group formed in 1965 and composed of an estimated 2,000 fighters. On 7 January, it stated that it intended to join the peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). The ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca Departments (Kienyke, 2013).

**Government forces:** The Government of Colombia’s strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finance the armed groups.

**BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups:** Criminal gangs (bandas criminales) under the names Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters and another former armed group, the United Armed Forces of Colombia (AUC). They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout the country and in Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, as well as the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

Conflict developments

FARC-EP has allegedly violated the ceasefire on three occasions since 20 July, and the group has admitted to the killing of a community leader in Nariño in early August (Colombia Reports, 24/08/2015). FARC-EP has claimed that the military has carried out airstrikes, however this has not been verified by observers (Colombia Reports, 17/08/2015).

The military has since the FARC-EP ceasefire began reportedly mainly focused on other armed groups, including EPL in the northeast, and the Urabeños (Colombia Reports, 21/08/2015).

Natural disasters

In the first six months of 2015, more than 319,000 people were affected by disasters caused by natural hazards (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

Floods

The El Niño phenomenon is considered the strongest in 18 years and due to last through December, resulting in an increase in rainfall and flooding throughout Colombia (ECHO, 08/08/2015). In early August, heavy rainfall damaged over 1,000 houses, public offices, and some schools in Puerto Boyacá, Department of Antioquia, and affected around 6,000 people (OCHA, 03/08/2015; RedHum, 01/08/2015).

Displacement
224,300 IDPs were displaced in 2014; 79,989 were under 18 years of age. 39% of the IDP caseload between 2012 and June 2014 was concentrated in the Pacific region (OCHA, 01/05/2015; OCHA, 20/01/2015). Estimates indicate that around 190,000 people will be displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

**Antioquia:** Between 5 and 13 August, 460 people of the Embera Eyabida indigenous groups were displaced in Chigorodó, due to fear of clashes between security forces and the armed group Urabeños (OCHA, 13/08/2015). 380 people belonging to the Embera Eyabida indigenous groups were previously displaced in Urrao due to fear of FARC-EP and military clashes (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

**Cauca:** Five attacks since 12 July have displaced 66 people and restricted the movement of 160 in Argelia (OCHA, 14/07/2015). 521 Afro-Colombian families in Guapi have restricted movements and daily activities due to fear of military operations against FARC-EP (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

**Meta:** Between 24 and 28 August, 247 people belonging to the Jiw indigenous group were displaced in Puerto Concordia, after the abductions of two members of the community (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

**Norte de Santander:** At least 300 people were displaced in Catatumbo in late August, following military operations against the leader of a drug trafficking group (Colombia Reports, 21/08/2015). During the first six months of 2015, 2,186 people in the Catatumbo area were displaced due to insecurity (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

**Valle del Cauca:** Over 10–17 June, 142 Wounaan were displaced from Papayo-Litoral de San Juan to Buenaventura. 515 of the indigenous group have been displaced in Buenaventura since 2014. They live in inadequate housing, lack NFIs, and have limited access to food (OCHA, 21/07/2015).

**Returnees**

As of 27 August, 1,088 Colombians, including 244 children, have been repatriated from Venezuela following the closure of the Venezuelan border on 21 August. Most are staying in the Colombian border towns of Cúcuta and Villa del Rosario (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 25/08/2015). An additional 4,200 Colombians are also believed to have returned to Colombia during the same period, but have not been registered. Lack of registration of the last group is causing challenges to the provision of assistance (OCHA, 27/08/2015). A government shelter in Cúcuta is reportedly overwhelmed by the influx of new arrivals (AP, 26/08/2015). Food, water and NFIs, including hygiene kits, clothes, tents, and blankets, are reported as immediate needs (OCHA, 23/08/2015).

**Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries**

360,000 Colombians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries (Colombia Reports, 22/06/2015). Costa Rica: 16,620 refugees and 210 asylum seekers; Panama: 15,550 refugees and 800 asylum seekers; Venezuela: 5,000 refugees, 168,500 unregistered refugees and 250 asylum seekers; and Ecuador 121,320 refugees and 11,580 asylum seekers. 800–900 Colombians arrive in Ecuador each month (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Most refugees come from Norte de Santander, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, and Nariño (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

Between January and June 2015, conflicts, natural disasters, and mass protests restricted humanitarian access for around 2 million people (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

On 21 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia indefinitely after an attack at the border injured three Venezuelan guards (AFP, 22/08/2015).

**Food security and livelihoods**

1.2 million people are food insecure, due to in part to low food production, poverty, and internal displacement (OCHA, 20/01/2015). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño are among the most affected (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**Health**

Only 30% of the population living in areas affected by armed conflict has access to healthcare (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**WASH**

1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**Water**

Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Attacks on the oil industry in Putumayo department in 2014 are still affecting nearby communities, who have little access to water. Some oil companies are providing families with 20–40L of water per week, which is below standards (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**
916,000 people need shelter (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes when they return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlantico and Magdalena in northern Colombia, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

**Education**

370 students have not been able to attend school due to mobility restrictions in Teorama, Norte de Santander (OCHA, 18/07/2015).

**Protection**

Torture and ill-treatment in various forms are reportedly common in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either very limited or ineffective. As of June 2015, 72,544 people have been reported missing (Red Cross, 04/06/2015).

**Mines and ERW**

Over November 2012–March 2015, there were 789 victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, an average of 27 people per month (OCHA, 17/05/2015). In March, the Colombian Government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters, 09/03/2015).

There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in Cauca and Caqueta (BBC, 17/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015).

**Gender**

52% of displaced women have suffered some type of sexual violence after displacement, according to a study by OHCHR. Women in the Pacific region are particularly affected (NRC, 09/2014).

**Children**

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in FARC (Reuters, 15/04/2015). By 2014, reports showed that 76% of children fighting with FARC-EP and 18% with ELN had been reintegrated into society (UNICEF, 2014).

**Vulnerable Groups**

Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be cut off by conflict (NRC, 09/2014).

In 2014, there were 626 registered attacks against human rights defenders, a 147% increase compared to 2013. 73% of attacks were carried out by post-demobilised armed groups (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

*Updated: 01/09/2015*
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The world map and the table provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: “watch list”, “situation of concern”, “humanitarian crisis”, and “severe humanitarian crisis”.

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the under-5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an ongoing crisis, a country is highlighted by a yellow dot on the map.

The snapshot briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The latest developments for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and key concerns highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.


To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.


Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.